



Akshaya Patra hosts inspiring meet

► Details on page 10

iPhone exports from India to US surge 76 pc

► Details on page 16



Sameera Reddy champions body acceptance

► Details on page 30

INDIA POST
SURVEY
survey@indiapost.com

This week's question

Are countries that support Pakistan terrorists equally guilty?

Last week's result

Should India have taken over POK?

YES 77% NO 23%

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

For 75 years, we tolerated proxy wars: PM Modi



All-Party Delegation led by BJP MP Bajajant Jay Panda meets Naif Arab University for Security Sciences President Abdulmajeed Albanyan for Operation Sindoor global outreach, in Riyadh. The delegation includes BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey, Phangnon Konyak, Satnam Singh Sandhu, Rekha Sharma, Former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi. (ANI Photo)

GANDHINAGAR: On the second day of his Gujarat visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued hammering Pakistan over its support to terrorism and said that for 75 years India has tolerated proxy wars but not any more.

PM Modi said this while attending the celebrations commemorating 20 years of Gujarat's Urban Growth Story at Gandhinagar's Mahatma Mandir, marking two decades of structured and sustainable urban transformation in the state.

As part of the occasion, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of development projects worth Rs 5,536 crore. These include housing, health, urban planning, and infrastructure initiatives aimed at boosting the state's future readiness.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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Cont'd on page 5



Aishwarya Rai stuns Cannes with 'sindoor'

► Details on page 28

Absolutely crazy: Trump slams Putin, Zelenskyy

► Details on page 6

'IMF's \$2 billion loan will be used by Pak military'

► Details on page 8

CONTENTS

Bollywood	30-31
Classifieds	26
Community Post	10-14
Cover/Top Stories	5-8
Edit Page	27
Immigration Post	20-21
Info/Highlights	4
Life Style	28
OP-ED	24
TechBiz Post	16-17
Real Estate	22-23
Travel & Hospitality Post	25
Wellness Post	18-19



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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Akshay Kumar on Paresh Rawal's exit




Akshay Kumar, who will be seen in the upcoming 'Housefull 5', has spoken up on Paresh Rawal's exit from 'Hera Pheri 3'

30

Lifestyle:

Aishwarya Rai stuns Cannes




Former Miss World decided to walk the Cannes red carpet this year as a perfect Indian married woman in saree and sindoor

28

Cover Story:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued hammering Pakistan over its support to terrorism and said that for 75 years India has tolerated proxy wars

5

Techbiz:

iPhone exports from India



According to latest estimates by market research firm Omdia, nearly 3 million 'India-made' iPhones were shipped to the US in April

16

Community:

Akshaya Patra's inspiring meet




The gathering presented an opportunity for past and current youth ambassadors - fondly called "Yappies" - to come together, share their journeys

10

Travel

Tadoba National Park



Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is definitely one of India's most exciting and best protected Tiger Reserve, with most visible tiger sightings

25

Immigration:

USCIS deploys common sense tools



State and local authorities can input Social Security numbers to help verify U.S. citizenship and prevent aliens from voting in American elections

20

Wellness:

Covid cases not severe: ICMR



Covid-19 infections are increasing in India but nothing to worry about as these are not severe, ICMR DG Dr Rajiv Bahl said

18

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

For 75 years, we tolerated proxy wars: PM Modi

GANDHINAGAR: On the second day of his Gujarat visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued hammering Pakistan over its support to terrorism and said that for 75 years India has tolerated proxy wars but not any more.

PM Modi said this while attending the celebrations commemorating 20 years of Gujarat's Urban Growth Story at Gandhinagar's Mahatma Mandir, marking two decades of structured and sustainable urban transformation in the state.

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Beginning his address with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", the Prime Minister reflected on his recent visit across Gujarat: "Yesterday I was in Vadodara, Dahod, Bhuj, Ahmedabad and today in Gandhinagar. I could feel the patriotic fervor everywhere -- every hand held a Tri-

color and every heart was filled with nationalism. It was an unforgettable sight, not just in Gujarat but across the nation."

In a significant and emotionally charged

night, the first terror attack began in Kashmir. A part of our nation -- PoK -- was taken away under the cover of terrorism. Sardar Patel had wanted the

found a chance, they attacked. Tell me, should we keep tolerating this? 'Goli ka jawab gole se dena chahiye' (Or should we respond to bullets with bombs)?"

Reinforcing India's commitment to peace, the Prime Minister added, "We believe in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- the world is our family. We want peace for our neighbors too. But when provoked repeatedly, India has to remind the world that this (India) is also a land of warriors."

Among the key announcements was the e-foundation laying of a 1,800-bed hospital in Ahmedabad's Civil Medical campus, to be built at a cost of Rs 588 crore, significantly enhancing healthcare capacity in the region.

Additionally, health infrastructure worth Rs 672 crore was inaugurated, including a satellite center of the U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Gandhinagar.

The Rs 84 crore facility, located within the Gandhinagar Civil Hospital campus, will serve patients from North Gujarat and neighboring regions with state-of-the-art cardiac and neurocare services.

The event in Gandhinagar reinforced PM Modi's long-term vision of inclusive, modern, and resilient urban development -- integrating infrastructure, health, and heritage while responding to the evolving challenges of the nation. *IANS*



Gandhinagar, May 27 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the gathering during the Launch of Urban Development Year 2025, in Gandhinagar. (ANI Photo)

portion of his speech, PM Modi addressed the long-standing issue of terrorism stemming from Pakistan.

"In 1947, when Maa Bharati was divided, the chains of colonial rule should have been broken, but instead, the country was split into three parts. On that very

army not to stop until PoK was taken back. But no one listened to him," he said.

PM Modi sharply criticized decades of tolerance towards terrorism, saying: "For 75 years, we tolerated proxy wars. Tourists, pilgrims, civilians -- wherever they

"We want to stand with India in the campaign for peace": Panama Assembly President pledges support

PANAMA CITY: Panama Assembly President, Dana Castaneda expressed solidarity with India in its fight against terrorism after she held a meeting recently with Congress MP Shashi Tharoor-led delegation.

Speaking with ANI, Assembly President Castaneda said, "We very clearly understand the message that they have conveyed. Panama wants to stand with India in this campaign for peace, and we hope that we can defeat terrorism. We have spoken about these issues in detail, and this will help us understand each other better in India's fight against terrorism,"

Tharoor informed ANI that the delegation presented a Kashmiri shawl to Assembly President Castaneda and in return the Panama Assembly President gave a symbol of the warriors of Panama, sym-

bolizing strength to fight against terrorism.

"When we presented the president with a shawl from Kashmir, where the tragedy (Pahalgam terror attack) happened. She, in turn, gave us a symbol of the warriors of

Panama, saying she hopes that we will fight against terror with that strength and that I thought was an excellent message to leave the National Assembly with," Tharoor said.

Tharoor, during the meeting, conveyed India's resolute position against terrorism while informing the other about Pahalgam terror attack.

"We all come from different political backgrounds and different parts of India, but we are united in national purpose... After the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, we waited to see whether the Pakistan government would take any action against the perpetrators of the terrible crime. When nothing was clearly being done, two weeks later, on the 7th of May, we attacked the known headquarters of terrorist bases inside Pakistan," he said.

The all party delegation led by Tharoor arrived in Panama City for a three-day official visit after concluding their visit to Guyana. *ANI*



The All-party delegation leader, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, presents a Kashmiri Shawl to the President of the National Assembly of Panama, Dana Castaneda, in Panama City. (ANI Photo)

When it comes to national security, I stand firm beyond politics: TMC's Abhishek Banerjee in Singapore

SINGAPORE CITY: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Abhishek Banerjee has emphasized that national security and sovereignty transcend political differences.

Speaking on the opposition's stance, Banerjee said, "Where I might differ with the ruling dispensation or the political party, I will fight with them tooth and nail. But when it comes to the national security of my country, I will stand firmly and serve towards what is in the best interest of my nation. I will not let my political interests come in the way of my national interest."

Banerjee further pointed out evidence of cross-border terror support, highlighting the presence of high-ranking Pakistani military officials at funerals of labeled terrorists.

"You have so much evidence in the public domain

"You have so much evidence in the public domain where you see high-ranking Pakistani military general officials attending the funeral of labeled terrorists, where else do you see this? I mean, what else can we offer you as evidence?"

where you see high-ranking Pakistani military general officials attending the funeral of labeled terrorists, where else do you see this? I mean, what else can we offer you as evidence?" he questioned.

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee highlighted the power of social media in spreading key messages on national security, saying it moves faster than traditional diplomacy.

Echoing the importance of strong connections, Indian High Commissioner Shilpak Ambule marked 60 years of

India-Singapore ties, reflecting deepening relations in a fast-changing world.

Speaking about the significance of this year, which also marks Singapore's 60th anniversary, Ambule pointed to key high-level engagements, including President Tharman Shanmugaratnam's state visit to India in January.

While speaking to ANI, Ambule said, "India and Singapore are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic ties this year. It is also Singapore's 60th birthday. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam paid a very successful state visit to India in January. We do expect some more high-level visits to take place later in the year. We have a very unique mechanism with Singapore called the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, where 10 ministers

meet every year. They have identified six pillars of collaboration -- collaboration in digital space, skilling, health, maritime and air connectivity, advanced manufacturing and sustainability."

Ambule further underscored the expanding col-

laboration, particularly in the defense and security sectors.

He added, "Last year also marked the 10 years of our strategic partnership, so we felt that the relationship has grown so much and so widespread and deep that we need to elevate it to a comprehensive strategic partnership and we are also doing a lot in the defense and security space and that is the understated part of the relationship. There are also areas of collaboration, and different sectors are ongoing." ANI

Absolutely crazy: Trump slams Putin, Zelenskyy for escalating Russia-Ukraine war

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump slammed Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, claiming that the ongoing war between the two countries would never have erupted had he been in office at the time.

Trump's remarks come in the wake of Russia's latest massive air assault on Ukraine over the weekend, which resulted in several civilian casualties, including children.

In a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump lashed out at Putin, labeling him "crazy" despite claiming they once shared a good relationship.

"I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY! He is needlessly killing a lot of people, and I'm not just talking about soldiers. Missiles and drones are being shot into cities in Ukraine, for no reason whatsoever," Trump wrote.

He further added, "I've always said that he wants ALL of Ukraine, not just a piece of it, and maybe that's proving to be right, but if he does, it will lead to the downfall of Russia!"

"I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY! He is needlessly killing a lot of people, and I'm not just talking about soldiers"

Trump didn't spare Ukrainian President Zelenskyy either, responding to the latter's recent statement accusing "America's silence" of emboldening Putin.

Trump criticized Zelenskyy's rhetoric, saying, "Likewise, President Zelenskyy is doing his country no favors by talking the way he does. Everything out of his mouth causes problems, I don't like it, and it better stop. This is a war that would never have started if I were President."

The US President had remained silent on Russia's airstrike until last Sunday evening, when he finally addressed the matter while speaking to reporters.

"He's killing a lot of people. I don't know what's wrong with him. What the hell happened to him, right? He's killing a lot of people. I'm not happy about that," Trump said, referring to Putin.

Trump attempted to distance himself from the conflict, reiterating that the responsibility lies with Zelenskyy, Putin, and his predecessor, former President Joe Biden.

"This is Zelenskyy's, Putin's, and Biden's war, not 'Trump's.' I am only helping to put out the big and ugly fires that have been started through gross incompetence and hatred," Trump asserted. IANS

EAM Jaishankar speaks to Canadian counterpart Anita Anand, discusses India-Canada ties

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar spoke with his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand through a telephonic conversation for the first time and discussed strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

Anand made the announcement recently on her social media account on X, thanking EAM Jaishankar for the "productive discussion" on Indo-Canadian ties.

"Thank you Minister @DrSJaishankar for the productive discussion today on strengthening Canada-India ties, deepening our economic cooperation, and advancing shared priorities. I look forward to continuing our work together," she wrote on X.

Soon after, EAM Jaishankar confirmed the conversation with Anand on his official X account, saying he discussed prospects of the relations between the two countries.

"Appreciate the telecon with FM @AnitaAnandMP of Canada. Discussed the prospects of India-Canada ties. Wished her a very successful tenure," he wrote on X.

Canada's new Prime Minister Mark Carney is pushing for deepening economic cooperation with India.

Canada will be hosting the G7 Summit from June 15 to 17.

Indian-Canadian lawmaker Anita Anand, 58, was appointed as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs earlier this month in a Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney almost two weeks after his Liberal Party won the parliamentary elections.

On May 14, EAM Jaishankar congratulated Anand on her appointment as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Anand was the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry before the Canada elections and in the past has served in several roles, including Defense Minister. She replaced Melanie Joly, who is now the Minister of Industry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had congratulated Carney on being elected as the Canadian Prime Minister after his predecessor Justin Trudeau stepped down from the role.

In his message, PM Modi had stressed strong people-to-people ties between the two countries while saying he was looking forward to "unlocking greater opportunities".

With Carney, it looks like India wants to turn a new leaf in bilateral ties that had nosedived under Trudeau amid unsubstantiated allegations against New Delhi related to the killing of pro-Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023.

Even during his campaign, the Canadian Prime Minister said rebuilding ties with India was a priority for his government, describing it as an "incredibly important relationship".

He had said Canadians have deep personal, economic and strategic ties with India. IANS

"Bharat kisi ko cheddta nahi, cheddhta hain toh chodhta nahi:" BJP MP Anurag Thakur

JOHANNESBURG: BJP MP Anurag Thakur, member of all-party delegation led by NCP-SP MP Supriya Sule, stated that India's launch of Operation Sindoor to attack nine terrorist locations in Pakistan was a message that India would not stand anyone who provoked them.

He further stated that to get freedom from terrorism, India would have to rein in terrorism, and added that Pakistan's acts of terrorism should be exposed before the world.

"We carried out a precise and decisive attack on 9 terrorist locations in Pakistan, we should that Bharat kisi ko chhedta nahi par agar Bharat ko koi chhedta hai to Bharat chhodta nahi... Today, we want freedom from terrorism; we have to rein in terrorism. What Pakistan did in Pahalgam should be exposed before the world, that the land of Pakistan gives birth to terrorism, nurtures it and exports it around the world. India has given a clear message that talks and terror can't go together, trade and terror can't go together, blood and water can't flow together..." Thakur told ANI.

He further stated that the third generation belonging to the land of Nelson Mandela gave the message similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi which spoke about peace and non-violence.

"We can see Tirangan in the hands of young children. If we talk about the third generation, they are giving a message that coming to the land of Nelson Mandela from the



All-party delegation led by Nationalist Congress Party – Sharadchandra Pawar MP Supriya Sule in a meeting with Chairperson of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Supra Obakeng Ramoetsi Mahumapelo and other members for Operation Sindoor global outreach, in Cape Town. The delegation includes Rajiv Pratap Rudy (BJP), Vikramjeet Singh Sahney (AAP), Anurag Singh Thakur (BJP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), V. Muraleedharan (BJP) and former Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin. (ANI Photo)

land of Mahatma Gandhi, both spoke about peace and non-violence..." he added.

Thakur also thanked the Indian diaspora of Johannesburg for their warm welcome.

"I extend greetings to the Indian diaspora for the warm welcome," Thakur said.

The delegation aims to brief international partners on India's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack

and its broader fight against cross-border terrorism. Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Indian Armed Forces targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), leading to the elimination of over 100 terrorists affiliated with terror outfits like the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen. ANI

Discussions on further procurement 'ongoing', confirms Russian Ambassador after 'exemplary' S-400 showing during Op Sindoor

NEW DELHI: Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov recently said that discussions between India and Moscow on the procurement of more S-400 air defense system units are "ongoing" as both countries continue to solidify the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

In an exclusive chat with IANS, Alipov, while citing various Operation Sindoor reports, termed the performance of the S-400 system and jointly-manufactured BrahMos missiles as "exemplary".

"From what we know, India has clearly stated the goals and undertook actions after having identified the targets and the terrorists it promised to do. As far as we know, during the operation, the S-400 system was used and the BrahMos missiles were engaged. Judging by the reports available, the performance of these weapons was exemplary," Alipov told IANS.

India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defense. The cooperation is guided by the IRIGC-M&MTC mechanism, headed by the Defense Ministers of both countries.

Longstanding and time-tested partners, both countries have been involved in several bilateral projects, including the supply of S-400, licensed production of T-90 tanks and

Su-30 MKI, supply of MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya (formerly Admiral Gorshkov), production of Ak-203 rifles in India and BrahMos missiles.

New Delhi and Moscow acknowledge that the military technical cooperation has evolved over time from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research and development, co-development and joint production of advanced defense technology and systems.



As the Indian Armed Forces successfully retaliated and also inflicted significant losses on Pakistan earlier this month, the S-400 air defense system has been credited with shooting down several incoming mis-

siles from across the border.

Sources indicate that considering the strategic planning and military preparedness, New Delhi may soon procure more S-400 air defense systems soon.

"Our discussion, on this particular topic, as on many others, is ongoing. It is a continuous one, but it would be incorrect for me and also premature to speak about the results of it at the moment," confirmed Alipov.

He mentioned that Moscow is also "very satisfied" with the 'Made in India' BrahMos missiles, a product of joint collaboration with Russia. (IANS Exclusive)

Environment for international students in US is quite worrying: Foreign policy expert

NEW DELHI: Amid growing concerns over mass deportations by the US and its fresh warning to Indian and other foreign students that skipping classes or dropping out of their courses may lead to the risk of losing their visa status, a foreign policy expert has expressed concern over the prevailing sentiment there.

Robinder Sachdev said that while the warning is technically valid, the broader environment in the US has become increasingly hostile to immigrants.

"On one level, what America is saying is correct. Students on visas are expected to attend classes regularly, maintain good academic standing, and continue their studies. If they don't, they are violating the terms of their visa. So, America's warning is understandable from that perspective," Sachdev told IANS.

However, he emphasized a deeper concern.

"The atmosphere in the US has turned anti-immigrant. There's a growing sentiment that no immigrant - whether a student or an H1B tech worker - should be allowed in. During the Trump administration, there has been particular scrutiny of students, especially those involved in political activities or demonstrations. Even minor infractions, like a traffic violation, are being used as grounds for visa cancellation," he said.

He added that universities have been directed to report any charges or concerns involving international students. "Any student with even a minor charge against them is being flagged. IANS

FS Misri in US, discusses boosting strategic tech ties, trade dialogue

WASHINGTON: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri recently met with US Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler to discuss the early convening of the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and explore ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

The engagement marked a significant step toward advancing high-level collaboration between New Delhi and Washington in areas of strategic importance.

The meeting, held in Washington, focused on strengthening existing frameworks and building momentum on key tech and trade initiatives between the two nations.

The Indian Embassy in Washington took to X, stating, "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler to advance India-US cooperation in critical & emerging technologies. They also discussed early convening of the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue to deepen tech & trade collaboration."

Misri is currently on a three-day visit to the United States, during which he is scheduled to meet senior officials of the Trump administration.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), his visit comes as a follow-up



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the US in February 2025, where both leaders launched the 'India-US COMPACT -- Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology' -- a framework designed to enhance strategic cooperation for the 21st century.

During that visit, PM Modi and US President Donald Trump jointly unveiled the 'US-India COMPACT for the 21st Cen-

tury', which aims to catalyze transformative progress across military, commercial, and technological domains.

This was PM Modi's first official trip to the US since President Trump's second inauguration in January 2025. Notably, PM Modi was among the earliest world leaders to be invited to the US following the new administration's formation, with the visit occurring within just three weeks of Trump's swearing-in.

This visit follows President Trump's recent claims that his administration brokered the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan earlier this month.

New Delhi, however, has consistently maintained that the ceasefire understanding was the result of Pakistan's urgent appeals to end hostilities, after sustained and intense Indian military strikes on Pakistani air bases during Operation Sindoor.

Indian authorities have stressed that Islamabad was compelled to seek a ceasefire due to the pressure it faced from the precision offensive.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had also clarified last week that while the US had reached out to India between May 7 and 10, it was not the only country to do so. *IANS*

"Great honor": Vishva Vidya Gurukulam founder Jonas Masetti expresses gratitude on being conferred with Padma Shri award

NEW DELHI: Jonas Masetti, founder of Vishva Vidya Gurukulam in Brazil, expressed gratitude to the Indian government on being conferred the Padma Shri award.

Speaking to ANI, Jonas Masetti said that it is a "great honor" for him and stated that he used to work as a mechanical engineer with top companies in Brazil. Masetti stated that he felt "empty" and was looking for a "meaning of life".

The latter mentioned that he learned the Vedic culture and ended up in Swami Dayananda's ashram in Tamil Nadu. Masetti added that he had to go back to Brazil and spread the message of the Vedas.

"I was not expecting this. It's a great honor... Many people in Brazil are studying Vedanta, and this is an honor not just for me but for our family striving for this tradition... I used to work in the stock market. I'm a mechanical engineer. I used to work with the biggest companies in Brazil. But I felt empty and was looking for meaning in my life. Then I learned about the Vedic culture and ended up in Swami Dayananda's

ashram in Tamil Nadu... I understood that I had to go back to the place I came from and spread the knowledge and message of the Vedas... There are so many teach-



President Droupadi Murmu presents Padma Shri to Vishva Vidya founder and Director Acharya Jonas Masetti during the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. (ANI Photo/Shrikant Singh)

ers in India that a Westerner doesn't need to come here and teach their own culture. I see a lot of youngsters losing the opportunity to value their culture and being so enchanted by the Western way of thinking", he said.

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday (28 May) presented Padma Awards to the recipients across a diverse range of disciplines and fields at the second Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, Union Ministers Amit Shah, S Jaishankar, Pralhad Joshi, Jitendra Singh, G Kishan Reddy and several other ministers and dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Padma Awards--one of the country's highest civilian Awards--are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.

The Awards are given in various disciplines/activities -- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. *ANI*

"IMF's \$2 billion loan will be used by Pakistani military": All-party delegation member Asaduddin Owaisi

KUWAIT CITY: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who is part of the all-party delegation led by BJP MP Baijayant Panda, has strongly called for Pakistan to be brought back to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list.

Owaisi has strongly advocated for Pakistan's re-inclusion on the FATF grey list, and said tighter financial scrutiny is needed against Pakistan as it might use the \$2 billion IMF loan to support its military and terror groups.

During an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Kuwait, Owaisi said, "Pakistan must be brought back in the FATF grey list. The importance of the FATF grey list is that there will be huge scrutiny on that nation when you do money transactions."

Owaisi highlighted Pakistan's involvement in sponsoring terror groups against India through money laundering and hawala transactions in the Middle East

"It is a fact that Pakistan uses the Middle East hawala or money laundering to sponsor terror groups against India...bringing Pakistan in FATF is very important because...the 2 billion loan which the IMF is giving will be used by the Pakistani military..." Owaisi said. *ANI*



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Ranking top 100 cities on urban parks

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Urban parks are more than just places for relaxation or recreation, though those benefits are important. A groundbreaking new poll reveals that parks also serve as essential spaces for connection, where people from diverse backgrounds interact in ways that are increasingly rare in today's polarized society. More than half of Americans say they've spoken with someone they didn't know, and who came from a different social or economic background, while visiting a park. The data also show that cities with strong park systems tend to have higher rates of volunteering, more civic organizations per capita, and greater success in developing community leaders.

Details on page 12

Asian American heritage month of May celebrated

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month of May is being celebrated in Chicago and the whole USA with many traditional, artistic, foods, festivals, social, cultural, educational and political activities.

"Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) is one of the oldest organizations with a mission to unite the Asian American communities for their common causes for the last five decades," said Rajinder Singh Mago, Executive Secretary of AACC.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly to many facets of American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports and recreation, government and politics, and activism and law.

Asian American Heritage Month of May is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of people of Asian, Native Hawaiian.

Details on page 14

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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May 30, 2025

Ask NAPCA

When people turn 65, many face a shift in their health insurance coverage. Some may feel unsettled or frustrated to find out that their Medicaid coverage ends. In this month's column, we will explain why this happens and what options may still be available.



Details on page 13



Akshaya Patra Chicago Chapter hosts inspiring meet

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: On May 24, the Chicago Chapter of Akshaya Patra hosted a special Meet & Greet event for its Youth Ambassadors in Hinsdale, Illinois.

The gathering presented an opportunity for past and current youth ambassadors - fondly called "Yappies" - to come together, share their journeys, and strengthen their connection to the Akshaya Patra mission.

The event provided a warm, informal setting where students

spoke about their motivations for joining the Youth Ambassador Program and how their experiences have shaped their awareness of global hunger issues.

Anubha Panchal, the chapter's Youth Coordinator, welcomed the families and gave a presentation about the many ways youth can stay actively involved with Akshaya Patra's work. She outlined current and upcoming volunteer opportunities.

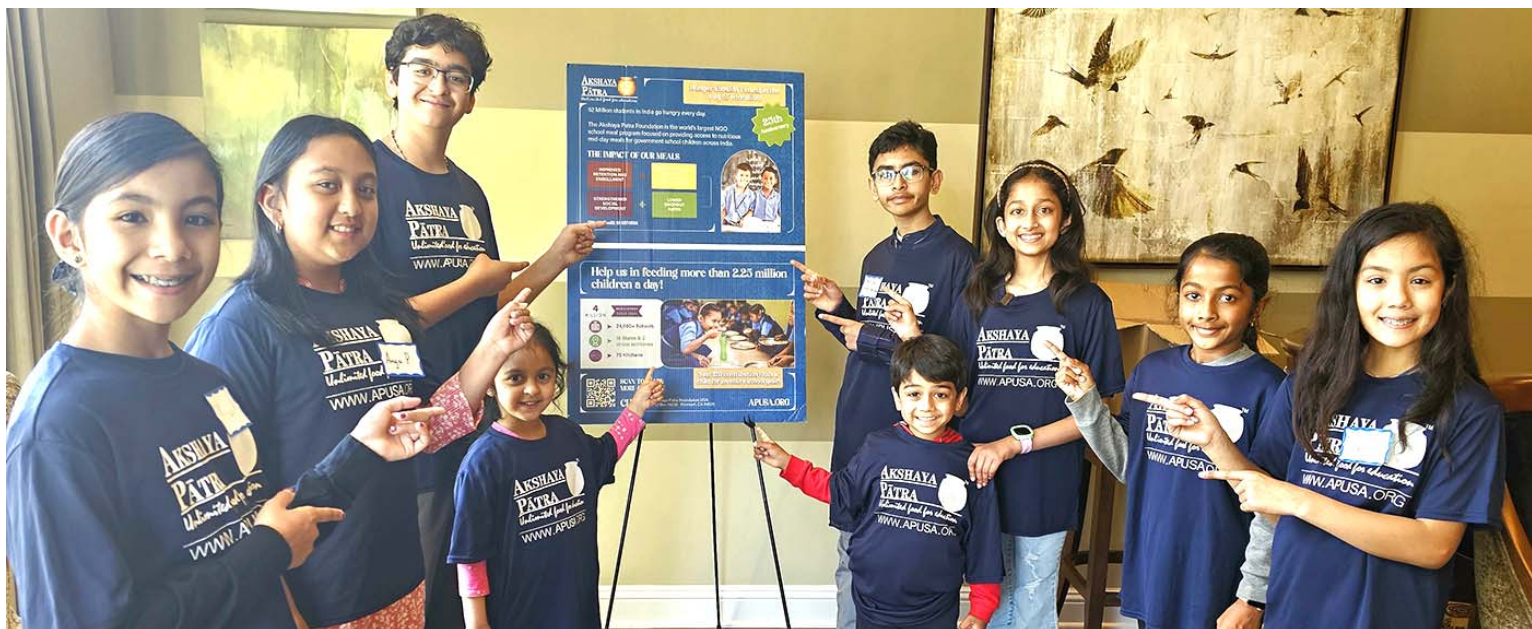
A key highlight of her message

was the encouragement to families planning trips to India to visit one of Akshaya Patra's kitchens. "Seeing the work on the ground has a profound impact," Anubha emphasized.

Youth ambassadors spoke candidly about how the program helped them grow as leaders and citizens. Many shared touching stories about the moment they realized One ambassador Anya Panchal shared how her first fundraiser, though small, taught her the joy of giving and working

for something bigger than herself. Another spoke about the pride he felt when he explained Akshaya Patra's motto friends at school. For newer ambassadors, the event served as a source of inspiration

The evening was a celebration of youth leadership, service, and the power of community. The Akshaya Patra Chicago Chapter continues to be a vibrant hub for young change-makers who are passionate about making a difference - one meal at a time.



AAPI gains membership to the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities

We are thrilled to share with you all today as the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has accomplished a major milestone in our mission to elevate the role and recognition of Indian medical professionals across the globe," said, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI. "The International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) has formally accepted AAPI's application for Partner membership."

With this acceptance, AAPI joins an influential global network that includes regional, national, and international medical boards of leading medical regulatory bodies, including organizations such as the AAMC, ECFMG, FSMB, and numerous U.S. state medical boards, as well as the national medical boards from India such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi, and the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

Currently IAMRA has 116 member organizations from 44 countries, united by a shared vision: "Everyone around the world is treated and cared for by safe and competent doctors."

IAMRA's mission is to promote effective medical regulation worldwide by fostering best practices, encouraging innovation, enabling collaboration, and supporting

knowledge-sharing to ensure public safety and enhance global healthcare quality.

"We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Lokesh Edara, past Chairman of the AAPI Board of Trustees, for his initiative and leadership in this endeavor."

According to Dr. Lokesh Edara, who

and its members to strengthen our shared mission and ensure that the voices of Indian-origin physicians are heard and respected worldwide."

"This achievement reaffirms AAPI's commitment to collaborating with international medical regulatory authorities;

The AAPI Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Regulation has been established to provide expert insight and guidance on matters related to medical licensing and regulatory standards across the United States. Chaired by Dr. Srini Gangasani, Chairman of the Georgia Medical Board, the committee will serve as a resource for evaluating current regulatory frameworks and proposing recommendations to ensure consistency, transparency, and efficiency in the medical licensing process. This initiative reflects AAPI's continued commitment to supporting high standards in medical practice and ensuring a fair and effective regulatory environment for healthcare professionals.

Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high-flying jobs, shaping the policies and programs, and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world.

Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for the physicians of Indian origin. For more information on AAPI and its programs and initiatives, please visit: www.aapiusa.org



Dr. Satheesh Kathula



Dr. Lokesh Edara

has been leading the efforts for AAPI's Global Medical Education Initiatives, AAPI has been collaborating with the Government of India on efforts with "the objective of making every MBBS graduate from India to be the best in the world through programs and activities on AAPI platform. We now look forward to working closely with IAMRA

Bridging professional gaps between Indian and global healthcare systems; Building stronger platforms for Indian-origin physicians; and advocating for policy harmonization and mutual recognition of qualifications. Thank you for your continued support as we take this proud step forward," said Dr. Kathula.

Indian-American Akshay Bhatia moves up to tied-4th in Charles Schwab Challenge

FORT WORTH: Akshay Bhatia shot a third round of 69, which included a rough finish with three bogeys in four holes towards the end on the third day of the Charles Schwab Challenge here in Texas, the USA. Yet, he moved up one place to be tied for fourth and is five shots behind co-leaders Ben Griffin and Matt Schmid, who, for the third straight day, shot identical scores. After 66-63 on the first two days, they added a 68 each to be 13-under.

Bhatia was tied for fourth alongside Robert MacIntyre (64) and Nick Hardy (67). All three players have a total score of eight under par. In between in sole third place was Rickie Fowler (67) at 9-under.

World No.1 Scottie Scheffler made a big jump as he shot 6-under 64 and rose to Tied-seventh and is now seven shots behind the leading duo. Scheffler is looking to win for the third time in as many starts after the CJ Cup and the PGA Championship.

Bhatia had a strong start to the round on the front nine and with consecutive birdies on the first two holes. He dropped a shot on the sixth hole and started the back nine with another set of birdies on the 10th and 11th holes.

Bhatia was 3-under at that stage. From the 14th to the 17th, Bhatia struggled to close the round as he dropped two shots on the 14th and 15th holes. He did manage to gain one of those shots back on the 16th hole, only to bogey the 17th for a score of one under par for the day.

Griffin had a roller-coaster start on the front nine with three birdies to begin his round, only to drop shots with a double bogey on the fifth and a bogey on the sixth. He recovered with a birdie on the eighth and one more on the 10th hole and kept a clean sheet for the last seven holes.

Matti Schmid, like his co-leader, started the round with three birdies and kept it

clean for the front nine. On the back nine, Schmid had his first stumble with a bogey on the 11th hole. He was able to gain back that shot on the 16th hole, only to drop it on the 17th and close the round with a score of two under par.

Fowler carded a strong round of three under par on the third day to move into third place and is currently four shots behind the leaders. Fowler had one bogey

and three birdies in his round.

Scheffler surged through the field on the third day as he moved up 42 places into tied seventh in the standings with his round of 64, six under par. Scheffler started the round with a great showing on the front nine as he made four birdies. On the back nine, he continued with his impressive display with a birdie on the 10th and an eagle on the 11th to go 6-under. *IANS*

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Ranking top 100 cities on urban parks

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Urban parks are more than just places for relaxation or recreation, though those benefits are important. A groundbreaking new poll reveals that parks also serve as essential spaces for connection, where people from diverse backgrounds interact in ways that are increasingly rare in today's polarized society. More than half of Americans say they've spoken with someone they didn't know, and who came from a different social or economic background, while visiting a park. The data also show that cities with strong park systems tend to have higher rates of volunteering, more civic organizations per capita, and greater success in developing community leaders.

The briefing on May 23 explored which cities have made the most progress in improving their parks and which still have work to do. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, interest in green spaces has surged, and many cities have increased investments. Yet, despite this momentum, funding remains uncertain, and budget cuts loom. Panelists discussed the latest ParkScore report, highlighted key findings from the poll, outlined strategies that are working, and spotlight the cities leading the way in building more inclusive, impactful park systems.

Will Klein, Director of Parks Research, Trust for Public Land pointed out that the top ten cities in the nation's park systems this year include Washington, D.C., Irvine, California, Minneapolis and Cincinnati. Among them, Washington has ranked first for five consecutive years, which is attributed to the long-term planning of including park land in the early stages of the city's construction. Washington, DC, scored well on all ParkScore rating factors. Twenty-one percent of land in the District of Columbia is reserved for parks, among the highest in the United States. The District also outperformed ParkScore's park access metric. More than 99 percent of District residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Guillermo Rodriguez, California State Director and VP-Pacific Region, Trust for Public Land pointed out that Los Angeles'

park system has fallen from 49th to 90th in the United States in the past five years, reflecting multiple problems such as uneven distribution of resources, long-term lack of planning updates, and insufficient investment. He said that currently about 1.5 million residents in Los Angeles cannot walk to nearby community parks, and the situation is especially serious in low-income and non-white communities. In contrast to other cities' standards of updating park master plans every five to 10 years, Los Angeles has not updated its park master plans since 1973. Rodriguez pointed out that in addition to chronic underfunding, uneven allocation of re-

The briefing on May 23 explored which cities have made the most progress in improving their parks and which still have work to do. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, interest in green spaces has surged, and many cities have increased investments

sources is also a core problem. According to the survey, the city's natural reserves and large parks are mostly concentrated in affluent areas such as the WestSide of Los Angeles. However, South Los Angeles and the East Side, which are densely populated and inhabited by ethnic minorities, are severely lacking in green space, forming the so-called "green space inequality."

Justin Cutler, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, City of Atlanta shared that the city is working with school districts to promote the "School Playground Opening Plan" to make school playgrounds open to community residents after school, greatly improving residents' accessibility to parks. He pointed out that starting from 2024, Atlanta's coverage of parks within a 10-minute walk will increase from 79% to 82%, and the overall ParkScore ranking will also rise from 25th to 21st.

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma, Greening America's Cities Fellow, Community Partners, a community partnership organization, further explained the progress of the assessment plan. She emphasized that parks are the lifeline of the community.

They are not only recreational spaces, but also infrastructure for many social welfare services such as food distribution, childcare, and disaster response. "In communities lacking green space, residents' life expectancy is shortened by an average of 10 years."

PARKSCORE METHODOLOGY AND RANKINGS

The annual ParkScore® index ranks park systems in the 100 most populous U.S. cities and is widely considered the gold standard for park evaluation. ParkScore rankings are based equally on five factors:

- Park access measures the percent-

age of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park.

• Park equity compares per capita park space and 10-minute-walk park access in

communities of color vs. white communities and in low-income neighborhoods versus high-income neighborhoods. Park systems score higher if disparities are minimal or non-existent.

• Park acreage is based on a city's median park size and the percentage of city area dedicated to parks.

• Park investment measures park spending per resident.

• Park amenities assesses the availability of seven popular park features: basketball hoops; off-leash dog parks; playgrounds; splash pads and other water-play structures; sports fields; recreation and senior centers, and restrooms.

According to Trust for Public Land, the 10 highest-ranking park systems in the United States are:

Rank City ParkScore (Max 100)

1. Washington, DC 85.5
2. Irvine, CA 84.3
3. Minneapolis, MN 83.6
4. Cincinnati, OH 82.0
5. St. Paul, MN 81.8
6. San Francisco, CA 80.2
7. Arlington, VA 77.9
8. Seattle, WA 77.4
9. Portland, OR 76.0
10. Denver, CO 75.1

Diaspora in Singapore backs Operation Sindoor as Indian delegation briefs on anti-terror policy

SINGAPORE CITY: Members of the Indian diaspora in Singapore voiced strong support for India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, as the all-party parliamentary delegation led by JD (U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha continued its diplomatic outreach under Operation Sindoor.

Vaishali Bhatt, a member of the Indian diaspora, recalled being in Pahalgam just before the April 22 terror attack. "... I was in Pahalgam when the attack happened. I went there with my husband for a vacation and we had a good time. On 20 April, 48 hours before the attack, we were in Baisaran... We were getting to know the news in bits and pieces but the gravity of the situation was unknown... We are very happy that our government retaliated in this way through Operation Sindoor. It was much needed. Now we are giving a message that whoever promotes, propagates, or supports terrorism, we are at war with them..."

Another diaspora member, Akanksha, said, "The coming of this delegation is very important because we are able to keep our side of the story before the world. India had the right to retaliate and it was much needed..." after attending the inter-action.

As part of their schedule, the delegation also held a closed-door session with scholars and academics from Singaporean universities and think tanks. The event was organized in association with the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

In a post shared by the Indian Embassy in Singapore on X, the mission said, "All-Party Parliamentary Delegation interacted with scholars and academics from Singaporean universities and think-tanks at a closed-door session organized in association with the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. ANI

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When people turn 65, many face a shift in their health insurance coverage. Some may feel unsettled or frustrated to find out that their Medicaid coverage ends. In this month's column, we will explain why this happens and what options may still be available.

Q1. Why did I lose Medicaid after enrolling in Medicare at 65, even though my income hasn't changed?

When you turn 65 and enroll in Medicare, your eligibility for Medicaid may change-even if your income stays the



same. This is due to how Medicaid rules differ for people under and over the age of 65.

If you were previously covered under Expanded Medicaid-available in states that cover low-income adults under 65 earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL)-you may lose eligibility once you turn 65. In 2025, that limit is a monthly income of \$1,800 for an individual or \$2,432.25 for a couple.

Once you turn 65, you are evaluated under Medicaid for a senior, which uses stricter criteria. In addition to income, this program considers your assets (e.g., savings accounts, retirement funds). So even if your income hasn't changed, having too much in assets can disqualify you from Medicaid.

It's also important to note that Medicaid eligibility rules and limits for seniors vary by state and are updated annually.

Q2. Can I keep my Medicaid after enrolling in Medicare at age 65?

Yes-if you meet your state's income

and asset limits for seniors, you can still receive Medicaid alongside Medicare, making you a "dual eligible."

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you generally qualify for full Medicaid benefits. In 2025, the federal SSI limit is:

Individual: Monthly income under \$967 and assets under \$2,000

Couple: Monthly income under \$1,450 and assets under \$3,000

Some states offer State Supplementary Payments (SSP) or have higher income limits. For example:

California: A couple may qualify with income up to \$2,432.25/month, and California does not count assets.

Washington State: Limits match federal SSI-\$1,450/month income and less than



\$3,000 in assets for a couple.

If you qualify, Medicaid can help pay for: Medicare Part A and B premiums Deductibles and co-pays

Additional services not covered by Medicare, such as dental, vision, and long-term care

You may also qualify for Extra Help, a program that lowers prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D. In many states, enrollment in Extra Help is automatic if you have Medicaid for seniors, but some states require a separate application.

Ask NAPCA

Q3. If I no longer qualify for full Medicaid coverage with Medicare, what other programs or assistance might be available to me?

If you're not eligible for full Medicaid, you may still qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). This program helps pay for: Medicare Part B premiums Part A premiums (if applicable) Sometimes other out-of-pocket costs Enrollment in MSPs also makes you automatically eligible for Extra Help with Part D costs.

and assets under \$35,130

To find out what programs you're eligible for, contact your state Medicaid office or call our Helpline for assistance.

If you have questions about public benefits, there are three ways you can reach us today:

Call our Helpline at: (English) 1-800-336-2722, (Korean) 1-800-582-4259, (Chinese Mandarin) 1-800-683-7427, (Cantonese) 1-800-582-4218, (Vietnamese) 1-800-582-4336 Email: askNAPCA@napca.org



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There are three types of MSPs, based on income level, and eligibility varies by state. Even if you don't qualify for an MSP, you may still be eligible for Extra Help on its own.

In 2025, you may qualify for Extra Help if: Individual: Monthly income up to \$1,956 and assets under \$17,600

Couple: Monthly income up to \$2,643

Mail: NAPCA Helpline, 1511 3rd Avenue, Suite 914, Seattle, WA 98101

Established in 1979, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated empowering older adults through advocacy and access to resources essential to their well-being and independence, regardless of language or culture.

Indian-origin leader Adhin set to play key role as Suriname votes for historic change

PARAMARIBO: As Suriname gets ready to have its first female President in National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, former Vice President and academic Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin - a noted Hindu leader of Indian origin - is expected to hold a key cabinet position in the new government.

Born in 1953 in Paramaribo, the country's capital and largest city, Simons would succeed sitting President Chandrikapersad Santokhi of United Reformed Party VHP after NDP's won 18 of the 51 seats in the

General Elections held last Sunday, thus ushering in a new political direction for the South American republic.

The 71-year-old, who has served in Suriname's National Assembly since 1996, has reportedly got the backing of leaders from other political parties in the country to form a coalition and push Santokhi's VHP, which won 17 seats, to opposition benches.

Meanwhile, Adhin, who served as the youngest Vice-President of Suriname from 2015 to 2020, is expected to join Simons' cabinet and play a key role in the new government. IANS

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ITServe Alliance members, across the nation, honor fallen heroes, donate funds to veterans on Memorial Day

ITServe Alliance members representing several Chapters, led by the national and Chapter leadership, honored our Veterans and the fallen Heroes on the occasion of Memorial Day in various towns and cities across the nation on May 26, 2025.

Initiated and driven under the banner of ITServe Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) local CSR Teams of Austin, Dallas, Houston, New Jersey, and, Raleigh were some of the chapters that led the Memorial Day events in their respective states.

Thanks to the initiatives of Chapter Presidents, Vineeth Reddy Amaram, Austin; Abhishek Boyanapally, Dallas; Srinivas Mettu, Houston; Subramaniyam Osuru, New Jersey; and, Praveen Chakravaraj, Raleigh, hundreds of ITServe members joined these events, honoring those who have sacrificed their lives for Freedom.

ITServe Alliance Team Dallas had the distinguished honor of having Raghu Chittimalla, Governing Board Chair; Anju Vallabhaneni, National President; and Jagadeesh Mosali, Immediate past President of ITServe during the ceremony, where the Dallas Chapter members gathered at the DFW National Cemetery, placing National Flags for the Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day.

Raghu Chittimalla said, "Founded in 2010, ITServe's vision has been to empower local communities by creating, retaining, and fostering employment opportunities within the United States. ITServe has an active membership of 2,400 + members, and 24 Chapters established across the United States, who are small & medium-sized companies that create local employment and fulfill the growing demand for highly skilled professionals in America."

"ITServe and its member community is committed to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and actively contributing to local communities nationwide," said Anju Vallabhaneni. "We recognize the sacrifices of our veterans and first responders, who selflessly serve our nation. Supporting them and their families is of utmost importance to us, as we express our gratitude for their unwavering dedication and bravery."

As part of their continued commitment to community service, ITServe Alliance Austin Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Sons of the American Revolution during

the Memorial Day Flags Ceremony. This gesture is a small token of our deep gratitude for those who served and sacrificed for our nation.

"Thank you all for joining today and representing ITServe Austin Team in honoring our Veterans on the occasion of Memorial



Day. Proud to be part of ITServe always at forefront in serving the community," said Vineeth Reddy Amaram.

"A heartfelt thank you to all our members and volunteers who joined us in this meaningful tribute. Let us all participate and encourage everyone to participate in similar event. These kind of events will be very helpful to ITServe and gives us tremendous satisfaction," said Srinivas Mettu.

"It was a great event, and every Chapter needs to do this at their cities - nothing can explain or feel good unless you attend personally - everyone attended felt proud



to be part of this event today - Thank you entire CSR team - and Dallas Chapter President and core team for arranging this event," said Abhishek Boyanapally.

"Great giving back to heroes efforts by #TeamRaleigh," said Praveen Chakravaraj. "A heartfelt thank you to all our members and volunteers who joined us in this meaningful tribute."

ITServe Alliance - New Jersey Chapter President, Subramaniyam Osuru after the event honoring the Veterans with Memo-

rial Day Donation on May 26, 2025 said, "We remember our veterans with deep gratitude and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of their services."

"ITServe CSR team has embarked on a remarkable journey in the realm of CSR," said Tanuj Gundlapalli, Managing Director

for ITServe Alliance CSR. Gundlapalli expressed his "deep gratitude to all the members, volunteers, Chapter Presidents, the 10 Chairs, and our partners who are passionate and have contributed to the many CSR efforts over the past years. Your dedication and support are the driving forces behind our success. As we look to the future, I am optimistic about the positive impact we can achieve together."

Dinesh Movva, CSR Secretary said, "Come, Join us in our journey as we strive to make a meaningful difference. Together, we can transform lives, inspire change, and leave a lasting legacy of compassion and service. Let's stand united and make our communities stronger, one step at a time." For more details about the many noble initiatives of ITServe, please visit: www.itserve.org

Asian American heritage month of May celebrated

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month of May is being celebrated in Chicago and the whole USA with many traditional, artistic, foods, festivals, social, cultural, educational and political activities.

"Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) is one of the oldest organizations with a mission to unite the Asian American communities for their common causes for the last five decades," said Rajinder Singh Mago, Executive Secretary of AACC.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly to many facets of American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports and recreation, government and politics, and activism and law.

Asian American Heritage Month of May is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of people of Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. AAPI Heritage Month of May.

The month of May was chosen for AANHPI Heritage Month because it commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843.

From 1980 to 1990, each U.S. president passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.

In 1990, Congress expanded the observance from a week to a month. May was

annually designated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in 1992 under the George H. W. Bush administration.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was renamed as AAPI Heritage Month in 2009.

Dalip Singh Saund, born in the village of Chhajjal Wadi, Punjab, India. He served for 3 terms. Before serving, he helped change a law so that Indians and other Asians could become U.S. Citizens.

In 2021, Kamala Harris became the first Asian American Vice President of the United States. Currently Usha Vance, another Indian/Asian American is the second lady of the United States. Many other Indian Americans are highly successful entrepreneurs and serve at top leadership positions in business, technology, government, military, medicine and academia.

According to the Bering Land Bridge Theory, Asians first migrated to what is now known as North America over 15,000 years ago through a land bridge between Asia and North America.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the United States.

As of the 2020 U.S. Census, there were about 20.6 million people of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. Asian Americans make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, rhetoric about the origins of the virus led to a spike in anti-Asian racism and violence.



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Close to the finish line on breakthrough India-US trade deal: Kevin Hassett

NEW DELHI: India is nearing the finish line to clinch a breakthrough trade deal with the US, National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said recently.

Hassett's comments came as the Donald Trump administration signals readiness to slash tariffs to 10 percent or lower for nations offering robust trade proposals.

Hassett, the White House economic advisor, told CNBC that a trade and tariff deal between the US and India is "close to the finish line."

He also said that the Trump administration does not want to "harm Apple" with tariffs. "In the end, we'll see what happens, we'll see what the update is, but we don't want to harm Apple," he was quoted as saying.

India and the US have made progress on concluding a mutually beneficial trade agreement, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said last week, amid talks with the US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick towards the first tranche of Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

India presents a compelling case to the US for a bilateral trade deal, given the outlook on growth and demography. *IANIS*



India-made cars gain traction in Japanese market

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki and Honda Cars India have clocked a robust increase in exports to the Japanese market, reflecting the improving quality and acceptance of India-made cars in developed markets.

According to figures compiled by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India's car exports to Japan jumped to \$616.45 million in the first nine months (April-December) of 2024-25, which represents a close to 3-fold jump over the \$220.62 million worth exports in full financial year of 2023-24. *IANIS*

iPhone exports from India to US surge 76 pc at 3 million units in April

NEW DELHI: As Apple ramps up its India manufacturing plans, iPhone exports from the country to the US surged 76 percent (year-on-year) in April, according to a new report.

According to latest estimates by market research firm Omdia, nearly 3 million 'India-made' iPhones were shipped to the US in April.

In comparison, iPhone shipments from China plummeted by a massive 76 percent to just 900,000 units.

This marks the first time India has consistently outpaced China in supplying iPhones to the American market, according to a report by CNBC, citing the data.

"Apple has been preparing for this kind of trade disruption for years. The April spike likely reflects strategic stockpiling ahead of tariff hikes," Le Xuan Chiew, research manager at Omdia, was quoted as saying in the report.

The demand in the US for

iPhones is around 20 million per quarter at the moment.

A 'Made in US' Apple iPhone can cost a whopping \$3,500 (more than Rs 2,98,000) in absence of a fully integrated supply chain in the country.

Dan Ives, global head of technology research at Wedbush Securities, told the CNN recently that the idea of fully domestic

iPhone production is a "fictional tale."

Ives also warned that replicating Apple's complex Asian supply chain in the US would result in massive cost increases.

Moreover, it would take Apple at least three years and a massive \$30 billion just to shift 10 percent of its supply chain to the US, according to market watchers.



Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the company's latest quarterly earnings call that "the majority" of iPhones shipped to the US for the June quarter will come from India.

US President Donald Trump has threatened a 50 percent tax on all imports from the European Union as well a 25 percent tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in the US.

However, according to informed sources, India's competitive edge makes it a natural choice for tech giants like Apple, and the tech giant has assured the government of its commitment to manufacture its products and boost the 'Make in India' initiative.

India has become a key hub for Apple's global supply chain in recent years. Global tech giants such as Apple see a lot of economic sense in setting up manufacturing facilities in the country. *IANIS*

India pips China as top investment country for global family offices

NEW DELHI: Global family offices are most likely to increase their exposure in their investment portfolios to India and China over the next 12 months and India has scored far better on the list, according to the '2025 Global Family Office' report by UBS.

More than a quarter (28 percent) of family offices are planning to increase their exposure to India over the next 12 months while almost a fifth (18 percent) are planning to increase exposure to China, the report mentioned, clearing indicating the robust macro-economic indicators and strong domestic growth in India.

"Middle Eastern family offices were the most likely to increase exposure to India," the report further stated. Middle Eastern fam-



ily offices, followed by those in Europe, were the most likely to increase exposure to India.

The report captured the views of 317 UBS family office clients. The average net worth of participating families was \$2.7 billion,

with their family offices managing \$1.1 billion each.

"Some of the most notable

changes based on the latest survey include a shift toward developed market equities, with family offices likely seeking to access structural growth opportunities," said the report.

They also increased investments in private debt, possibly in search of extra yield, and some indicated that they are planning to increase developed market fixed income allocations, perhaps in a bid to diversify.

"Family offices are most likely to have clear investment strategies for healthcare and/or medicine, and electrification. But they're keen to understand the promise of a range of emerging technologies, seeing

opportunities in both public and private markets," the report explained.

Within operations, they're most likely to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for financial reporting/data visualization and text analysis over the next five years.

Another report last month said that in the Asia Pacific region, single-family offices have grown to 2,290 (surged by 28 percent since 2019) and the region is expected to outpace North America moving forward, growing 40 percent to reach 3,200 offices by 2030, adding that India is undergoing a similar evolution. *IANIS*

Microsoft joins India's Yotta Data Services to boost AI innovation in country

NEW DELHI: Microsoft and Yotta Data Services, India's leading sovereign cloud infrastructure and platform services provider, have recently partnered to accelerate artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in India.

The partnership enables Microsoft and Yotta to engage with IndiaAI Mission participants, government agencies, IITs, startups, enterprises, and software development companies to leapfrog AI innovation.

Microsoft said it would bring its AzureAI services to Shakti Cloud, Yotta's AI cloud platform, to offer cutting-edge AI capabilities to developers, startups, enterprises, and public sector organizations across India.

"Our partnership with Yotta to power Shakti Cloud will

posals for developing indigenous AI models.

Shakti Cloud customers will benefit from a rich ecosystem and vast catalogue of foundational LLMs and SLMs available on Azure AI Foundry to develop, deploy and scale at the speed of AI.

Built-in safety tools, content filters, groundedness detection, and copyright protection will empower organizations to build and scale AI responsibly. As a global provider of software, infrastructure, and cloud services, Microsoft runs on trust and enables trustworthy AI by prioritizing security, privacy, and safety.

"This partnership is a key step forward towards India's AI self-reliance and digital transformation, and we are ex-



help unlock AI innovation at scale. Microsoft is honored to play its part in helping the country realize its AI ambitions through innovation that reflect India's unique needs and priorities," said Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India and South Asia.

India is already among the top global markets on AI adoption and return on investment. Together with Yotta, we will continue to help India become an AI-first nation, securely and responsibly, he added.

As of May, IndiaAI Mission has received over 500 pro-

posed to be able to support Indian enterprises in their journey towards AI excellence with a full gamut of offerings," said Sunil Gupta, Co-founder, CEO and Managing Director, Yotta Data Services.

The combined strength of Microsoft's services backed by Yotta's infrastructure gives access to some of the best capabilities to support AI development in the country.

"It will make cutting-edge AI capabilities accessible for Indian enterprises of all sizes and give a huge boost to driving the nation's AI ambitions," Gupta noted. *IANS*

Govt pushing for quality standards to help more Indian products go global: Nidhi Khare

NEW DELHI: The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) said it is pushing for better quality standards in trade and manufacturing to make Indian products more competitive globally.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the 'Bharat Quality Mission' event here, Nidhi Khare, Secretary of DoCA which is under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, highlighted the importance of quality in both exports and the domestic market.

She said that in any sector, whether it's trade or commerce, being globally competitive is essential.

"We must understand that for any sector, be it trade or commerce, being globally competitive is essential and therefore, adherence to quality is fundamental," Khare told IANS.

For this, maintaining high quality is a must. "Consumers today expect assurance of good quality products. It's not just about exports; even for our domestic market, quality matters," Khare noted.



Nidhi Khare

Since a large part of India's manufacturing sector is driven by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the government is focusing on working closely with them.

"Assurance of good quality is not only important for exports but also for the domestic market. As consumers, people expect the assurance of high-quality products," Khare said.

"Since MSMEs are major manufacturers in our country, we have initiated close engagement with them to understand their challenges and address any grievances they may have," she mentioned.

Khare further said that they are actively engaging with MSMEs to understand their challenges and resolve any issues related to quality standards.

"Ultimately, any nation which rises has to ensure credibility of its goods and services. There cannot be any abstinence or there cannot be any free passes to the concern of quality," she stated. *IANS*

Bengaluru storms into top 12 global tech powerhouses: Report

NEW DELHI: Bengaluru has been ranked among the top 12 global tech powerhouses, alongside leading markets in the US, according to a report released this week.

The report by real estate consulting firm CBRE stated that Bengaluru is the largest tech talent market in the Asia-Pacific region, along with Beijing and Shanghai, with its tech workforce exceeding 1 million. This makes the city a critical node in the global technology and innovation landscape.

Bengaluru joins cities like Beijing, Boston, London, New York Metro, Paris, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and Toronto.

The report underscores Bengaluru's leadership in AI development talent, stating that it has the most AI-related professionals in India, placing it on par with established US clusters like San Francisco and New York.

In terms of demographics, the Indian city ranks 4th among the 12 tech powerhouse markets in share of working-age population, with 75.5 percent of its population falling in the working-age bracket.

Moreover, the city recorded a 2.4 percent growth in working-age

Bengaluru joins cities like Beijing, Boston, London, New York Metro, Paris, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and Toronto

population between 2019 and 2024, making it one of the fastest growing, globally, in this segment.

The city's startup ecosystem, supported by 28 unicorns, benefits from favorable business regulations and strong

institutional support. A key driver of its growth is the presence of leading educational institutions and Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which contribute to a steady pipeline of skilled talent and anchor high-value functions in AI, data science, engineering, and product development.

These factors have powered a 12 percent increase in tech employment between 2018 and 2023, aligning with global growth trends. This robust foundation, backed by the growth of the tech industry, higher tech proliferation, long-term growth prospects and tech talent demand translated into significant VC funding inflows, the report states.

In 2024, Bengaluru attracted 140 VC deals worth \$3.3 billion, including 34 deals in AI, solidifying its status as a top global destination for AI innovation and investment. The city's blend of cost competitiveness, deep talent pool, and long-term growth potential continues to attract both global investors and tech majors, it further stated. *IANS*

'3 sleepless nights may raise your risk of heart disease'

NEW DELHI: People with poor sleep for just three nights may be at an increased risk of developing heart diseases, according to a study.

With chronic lack of sleep growing as a public health concern, researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden found that disturbed sleep may raise inflammation, increasing the risk of heart disease.

"Many of the larger studies that have been done on the link between sleep deprivation and the risk of cardiovascular diseases have generally focused on slightly older individuals who already have an increased risk of such diseases. That is why it was interesting that the levels of these proteins increased in the same way in younger and previously perfectly healthy individuals after only a few nights of sleep deprivation. This means that it's important to emphasize the importance of sleep for cardiovascular health even early in life," said Jonathan Cedernaes, a physician at Uppsala University.

The team analyzed 16 healthy young men of normal weight -- all with healthy sleep habits.

The participants spent time in a sleep laboratory where their meals and activity levels were strictly controlled in two sessions.

In one session, participants got a normal amount of sleep for three consecutive nights, while during the other session, they got only about four hours of sleep each night. During sessions, morning and evening blood samples were taken, and following high-intensity exercise lasting 30 minutes. IANS

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

18 India Post

www.indiapost.com

May 30, 2025

Covid cases increasing, but nothing to worry about as infections are not severe: ICMR chief

NEW DELHI: Covid-19 infections are increasing in India but there is nothing to worry about as these are not severe, Indian Council of Medical Research Director General Dr Rajiv Bahl said on 26 May.

Bahl also assured that the government is actively monitoring the cases.

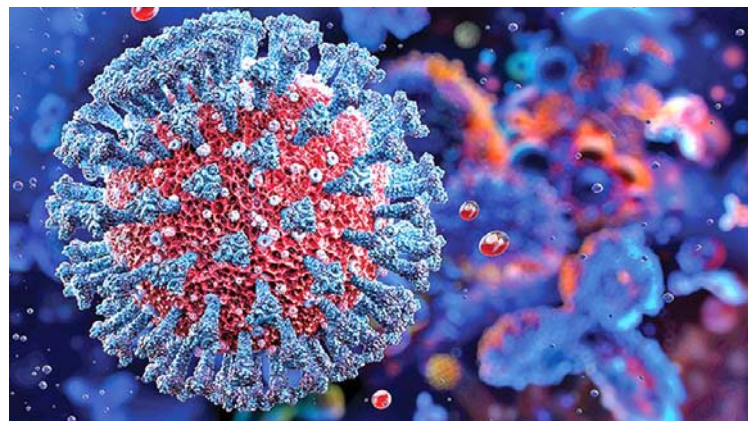
As per the latest data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India has 1,009 cases of Covid, with Kerala (430), Maharashtra (209), and Delhi (104) reporting the highest number of cases. Seven deaths have also been reported from Maharashtra (4), Kerala (2) and Karnataka (1).

The Director General stated that the seriousness of the situation depends on "how transmissible the virus is -- that is, how quickly the cases are increasing". While previous cases used to double in a day or earlier, this time it doesn't look like that.

But, "there is an increase in the number of infections. And we are keeping a close eye on it", Bahl said, while speaking to reporters.

He stated that although the

numbers are rising, "there is nothing to worry about, as so far the percentage of severe cases, among all Covid cases,



Bahl noted that these subvariants can "evade previous immunity whether natural or vaccine-induced". However, their potential is less than the previous Omicron and other variants, he said

is generally low".

As per the latest data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 -- descendants of JN.1 Covid variant in the country -- are responsible for the rise in SARS-

CoV-2 cases in the country.

Bahl noted that these subvariants can "evade previous immunity whether natural or vac-

cine-induced". However, their potential is less than the previous Omicron and other variants, he said.

At the same time, he stressed the need for "increasing vigilance, and to be prepared" in case of a surge in cases.

He informed that the Union

Health Secretary, Punya Salila Srivastava, took a meeting to review the Covid situation. It was attended by the DGHS and ICMR, and "we are and will continue to monitor the situation very closely".

Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that guidelines have been issued to all hospitals and that the government is closely monitoring Covid cases.

"We have analyzed the scenario and there is no panic situation," said CM Gupta.

Last week, the Delhi government issued an advisory on the Covid-19 disease, asking hospitals in the national capital to ensure the availability of beds, oxygen, medicines, and vaccines.

All health institutions have been asked to send all positive Covid-19 samples for genome sequencing to Lok Nayak Hospital.

"The hospitals must ensure preparedness in terms of availability of beds, oxygen, antibiotics, other drugs and vaccines. All equipment such as ventilators, Bi-PAP, oxygen concentrators, and PSA, must be in functional condition," the advisory stated. IANS

Yoga ancient art of healthy living interconnecting mind and body: Prataprao Jadhav

NEW DELHI: Yoga is an ancient art of healthy living interconnecting mind and body, and not just a form of exercise, said Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush.

Jadhav said this while inaugurating the 25-day countdown event to mark the International Day of Yoga 2025 in Puducherry.

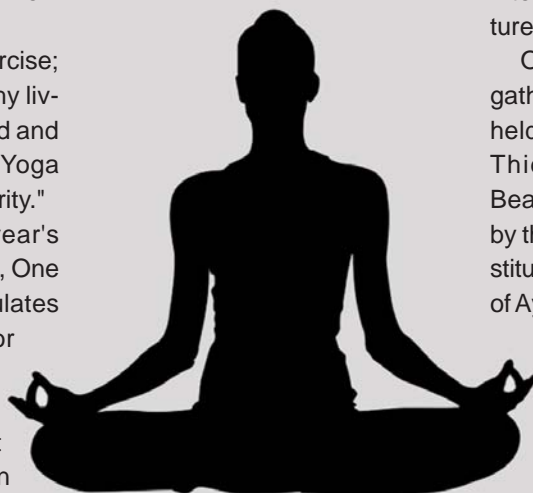
Highlighting the transformative power of Yoga, Jadhav stressed its relevance in pro-

moting physical and mental well-being.

"Yoga is not just an exercise; it is an ancient art of healthy living that interconnects mind and body. Those who adopt Yoga feel peace, power, and clarity."

He stated that "this year's theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health,' perfectly encapsulates our collective aspiration for a healthier planet and a healthier humanity.

"Yoga is an important need of the present and an



integral part of our healthy future," the MoS said.

Over 6,000 Yoga enthusiasts gathered at the Yoga Mahotsav, held at the picturesque Gandhi Thidal on Goubert Avenue, Beach Road. It was organized by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Ministry of Ayush.

"Yoga is a very ancient science of our nation. It signifies the union of body and mind. It is a way of life that integrates mental forti-

tude and physical well-being. Our ancestors have preserved and passed it down to us for many thousands of years," said Thiru. K. Kailashnathan, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

International Day of Yoga, observed annually on June 21st, has grown into a global cultural and wellness movement since its inception by the United Nations in 2015, following India's proposal in 2014. IANS

Daylight can boost immune system's ability to ward off infections: Study

NEW DELHI: A team of researchers has discovered how daylight can boost the immune system's ability to fight infections.

The finding paves the way for development of drugs that target the circadian clock in neutrophils to boost their ability to fight infections, said the study led by scientists at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

The team focused on the most abundant immune cells in our bodies, called 'neutrophils', which are a type of white blood cell. These cells move quickly to the site of an infection and kill invading bacteria.

The researchers used zebrafish, a small freshwater fish, as a model organism, because its genetic make-up is similar to ours and they can be bred to have transparent bodies, making it easy to observe biological processes in real time.

"In earlier studies, we had observed that immune responses peaked in the morning, during the fish's early active phase," says Associate Professor Christopher Hall, from the Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathol-

ogy.

"We think this represents an evolutionary response such that during daylight hours the host is more active so more likely to encounter bacterial infections," Hall added.

However, the scientists wanted to find out how the immune response was being synchronized with daylight.

With this new study, published in Science Immunology, neutrophils were found to possess a circadian clock that alerted them to daytime, and boosted their ability to kill bacteria.

Most of our cells have circadian clocks to tell them what time of day it is in the outside world, in order to regulate the body's activities. Light has the biggest

influence on resetting these circadian clocks.

"Given that neutrophils are the first immune cells to be recruited to sites of inflammation, our discovery has very broad implications for therapeutic benefit in many inflammatory diseases," Hall noted. Current research is now focused on understanding the specific mechanisms by which light influences the neutrophil circadian clock. IANS



'Tallest man' undergoes surgery to treat pituitary tumor at PGIMER

CHANDIGARH: In a significant milestone, Chandigarh-based PGIMER's Department of Neurosurgery has treated over 100 pituitary tumor cases, comprising one of the tallest recorded patients at 7 feet 7 inches.

Acromegaly, a hormonal disorder caused by functional pituitary adenomas, is treated through the endoscopic transnasal approach -- a minimally invasive technique that avoids any incision on the head.

The neurosurgery team, led by Dr Rajesh Chhabra, Dr Apinderpreet Singh, and Dr Shilpi Bose, performed 100 intricate procedures with support from the neuroanaesthesia team led by Dr Rajeev Chauhan and assisted by Dr Ikjot and Dr Drishti Parekh.

The operation theatre team, including OT technician Gurpreet Singh, played a crucial role in ensuring these smooth and safe surgeries, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) said recently.

Prof Vivek Lal, PGIMER Director, lauding the collaborative effort, stated, "The successful treatment of over 100 complex pituitary tumor cases, including one of the tallest recorded patients at 7 feet 7 inches, is a testament to the clinical excellence, precision, and teamwork at PGIMER. IANS



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US withdrawal of Finnish scholar's grant sparks concerns

HELSINKI: The US Department of State has cancelled a Fulbright scholarship awarded to a Finnish researcher, citing political misalignment with policies under President Donald Trump -- a move condemned in Finland as an affront to academic freedom, media reported.

Saara Loukola, a doctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki (HY), had been set to travel to the US in September to conduct interviews for her dissertation on how American teacher education programs address racism. She had planned to adapt the findings for Finnish teacher training.

However, in early May, US authorities informed her that the \$36,000 grant had been withdrawn and her visa denied, Xinhua news agency reported last week.

According to Loukola, the US State Department determined that her research topic was incompatible with executive orders issued by Trump.

"I had a bad feeling when I heard the applications were being re-evaluated," Loukola told Finnish News Agency STT.

"It wasn't a surprise, but it was still a shock."

She added that the loss of on-site access had rendered her original research plan unviable.

Despite the setback, Loukola said she would not alter her study to fit political expectations. IANS

Immigration

POST

20 India Post

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May 30, 2025

"For years, states have pleaded for tools to help identify and stop aliens from hijacking our elections," said USCIS Spokesman Matthew Tragesser

USCIS deploys common sense tools to verify voters

WASHINGTON: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services updated the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to ensure a single, reliable source for verifying immigration status and U.S. citizenship nationwide. State and local authorities can input Social Security numbers to help verify U.S. citizenship and prevent aliens from voting in American elections.

"For years, states have pleaded for tools to help identify and stop aliens from hijacking our elections," said USCIS Spokesman Matthew Tragesser. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, USCIS is moving quickly to eliminate voter fraud. We expect further improvements soon and remain committed to restoring trust in American elections."

This new partnership with the Social Security Administration allows cases to verify citizenship or immigration status to be created using Social Security numbers rather than a DHS identifying number, which most state and local agencies do not collect.

Also, for the first time, agencies can submit more than one case at a time, making the process more efficient.

This advancement comes shortly after the DHS, USCIS,

USCIS will continue to improve and add more capability and functionality to SAVE. Providing more tools within SAVE ensures state and local governments have robust and reliable access

can Elections.

SAVE, a critical tool for verifying lawful U.S. citizenship and immigration status operated by USCIS, provides federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies with U.S. citizenship and immigration status information to help ensure the eligibility of individuals applying for certain public benefits and licenses, including voter eligibility verification.

All state and local governments are encouraged to register to use SAVE for lawful voter eligibility verification. Effective April 1, 2025, USCIS eliminated all charges for state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies to use the service. States interested in participating in the SAVE program can learn more and register.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov. USCIS



and DOGE SAVE optimization announcement and builds on efforts to remove roadblocks to securing the country's election process by working to eliminate voter fraud.

to federal databases to confirm the U.S. citizenship of individuals on their voting rolls and registering to vote, in support of Executive Order 14248, Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of Ameri-

121 Illegal Bangladeshi nationals detained in Delhi; deportation process underway

NEW DELHI: As part of an ongoing crackdown on illegal immigration, the Delhi Police have detained 121 Bangladeshi nationals from Outer North Delhi for residing in the country without valid documentation.

DCP Outer North Nidhin Valsan said, a wider drive targeting undocumented foreign nationals across the capital. The individuals were part of a larger list of 831 suspected illegal residents. "Many have already been verified. Last week we detained 121 individuals. They were handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) after verifi-

cation. Following document checks, their illegal stay was confirmed and deportation orders have been issued,

"The majority of the detainees were living in slum clusters.

those detained have roots or connections there," DCP Valsan added.

He further stated that five people had been interrogated by the Special Investigation Team.

"The majority of the detainees were living in slum clusters. Background checks are also being conducted to rule out any criminal links"

Background checks are also being conducted to rule out any criminal links. "Verification is ongoing for the remaining individuals. We have dispatched teams to West Bengal, as many of

"Since the drive has been started against Bangladeshis living in India illegally, 831 people have been kept on the suspicious list for verification. ANI

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Harvard sues Trump administration over ban on international students

WASHINGTON: Harvard University has sued the administration of US President Donald Trump for a second time; one day after the Homeland Security Department said it would block the prestigious university from enrolling international students.

"The revocation continues a series of government actions to retaliate against Harvard for our refusal to surrender our academic independence and to submit to the federal government's illegal assertion of control over our curriculum, our faculty, and our student body," Harvard University President Alan Garber wrote in a letter to members of the Harvard community last week.

"We condemn this unlawful and unwarranted action. It imperils the futures of thousands of students and scholars across Harvard and serves as a warning to countless others at colleges and universities throughout the country who have come to America to pursue their education and fulfill their dreams," Garber said.



The Harvard president said the university has just filed a complaint, and a motion for a temporary restraining order will follow. "As we pursue legal remedies, we will do everything in our power to support our students and scholars," he added.

US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the decision on Thursday (22 May), reports Xinhua news agency.

'Dreams and futures under threat': Raghav Chadha hits out at Trump's Harvard ban

NEW DELHI: In a swift response to the Trump administration's controversial move to bar Harvard University from enrolling international students, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has voiced strong support for the Ivy League institution and its global student body. Chadha, himself an alumnus of Harvard, condemned the decision, warning that it endangers academic freedom and the futures of thousands of students.

The US Department of Homeland Security, at the behest of Secretary Kristi Noem, announced last week it was revoking Harvard's ability to enroll students under the F-1 visa program. Hours after this move of the Trump administration, Chadha took to X to share his solidarity with the institution.

"President Trump's recent move threatens the dreams and futures of international students at Harvard and beyond. As a proud member of the Harvard community, I wear my colors to show support for inclusion and academic freedom. I stand with @Harvard and all international students whose dreams and futures are under threat. We must defend academic freedom and global collaboration." IANS



Raghav Chadha

"Let this serve as a warning to all universities and academic institutions across the country," Noem said in a statement. "Enrolling international students is a privilege - not a right -- and that privilege has been revoked due to Harvard's repeated failure to comply with federal law."

The secretary noted that in addition to barring enrollment of future international students, "existing foreign students must transfer or lose their legal status."

On April 11, Trump administration officials sent a letter to Harvard, demanding that the university make "meaningful governance reform and restructuring."

The administration's main demands include eliminating what it describes as anti-Semitism on campus and dismantling diversity initiatives that favor certain minority groups.

On April 14, Harvard University rejected the Trump administration's demands to make sweeping changes to its governance, hiring and admissions practices.

Just a few hours later, the Trump administration announced a freeze on 2.2 billion US dollars in multi-year grants and 60 million in multi-year contract value to the university.

On April 16, Noem demanded that Harvard University share information about the foreign student visa holders' illegal and violent activities by April 30, or risk losing its authorization to enroll international students.

On April 21, Harvard University said that it has filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration's funding freeze, calling the action "unlawful and beyond the government's authority".

As of the fall 2023 semester, international students made up over 27 percent of Harvard's student body, according to university data. IANS

Germany Opportunity Card 2025: A New Gateway for Indian Skilled Professionals

NEW DELHI: Have you been looking forward to building a career in Germany, but the visa processes are giving you sleepless nights? Germany has now introduced an Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) specifically tailored to your needs.

This new visa is groundbreaking as skilled professionals from India now can travel to Germany only with the visa and can search for a job even if they do not have a prior offer. This is a step towards welcoming talent from around the world.

What is the Germany Opportunity Card?

Germany opportunity card is a new initiative by Germany in 2024 where it has introduced a new points-based visa system. It allows non-EU qualified professionals to apply for the card and permits them to stay in Germany for a period not exceeding 12 months for job-hunting which is a new concept among developed countries.

This policy unlike the rest does not require a job offer in prior. It enhances competition as it allows top-tier professionals to explore Germany and engage with companies to land a job.

Who Qualifies for Germany Opportunity Card?

To apply, candidates need to have no less than 6 points, earned for:

- * Recognized educational qualifications
- * Minimum 2 years of work experience related to your degree.
- * Age (applicants below 35 years earn more points)
- * Language skills (English or German)
- * Prior stay or links to Germany

In addition to the above, the applicants should be able to support themselves financially during their stay.

Why is Germany Welcoming Global Talent?

Given the advanced economy in the EU, Germany hosts one of the most developed economies, along with an aging population meaning sapping the currently available workforce resources. Germany is now turning into profession-need-based preparation with analytic IT, engineering, complex finance, logistics, healthcare, hospitality, and trained skilled professions.

Opportunity Card is prepared to meet this requirement very sharply by giving authority to highly motivated, skilled experts wishing carefully skilled integration into the workforce.

Common Obstacles for Indian Professionals Moving to Germany

For many Indian professionals, moving to Germany was not a walk in the park because of the following challenges:

- * Remote job visibility barriers
- * Securing a role in India becomes troublesome.
- * Endless barriers to basic functions flexible visas

SRQ+

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Kalyani Developers: 2 new towers at its residential project in Bangalore

DHWANI MEHARCHANDANI

Real estate development company, Kalyani Developers, on May 22, 2025 announced the launch of two new towers at its flagship, residential project, Kalyani LivingTree, located in Bangalore's KIADB Aerospace Park. The newly launched towers will introduce 525 premium 3 BHK apartments, ranging from 1,300 sqft to 1,600 sqft. Moreover, the towers will add over 7.5 lakh sqft of built-up residential area to the project.

Positioned as the most exclusive towers of Kalyani LivingTree, their apartments are priced from Rs 1.2 crore onwards and feature pool and landscape views. They also offer access to two clubhouses spanning 1 lakh sqft and over 80% open spaces. Spread across 25 acre, Kalyani LivingTree will feature ten premium towers of 23-24 floors. It offers Vastu compliant homes and over 60 lifestyle amenities, including a futsal field, squash court, pet park, cricket maidan, swimming pools, mini golf, co-working spaces, and reading nook. www.housing.com

Real Estate POST

22 India Post

www.indiapost.com

May 30, 2025



'Ensure all infra projects are completed on time', PM Modi reviews mega infra projects

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the PRAGATI meeting, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving the Centre and state governments, where projects worth over Rs 62,000 crore were reviewed. IANS

India becomes strategic hub for global corporations in Asia-Pacific: Report

MUMBAI: India accounted for 47 percent of all Asia-Pacific (APAC) office-leasing volumes in 2024 -- up from 36 percent in 2015 -- underlining the country's strategic relevance amid trade shifts, supply chain diversification and macroeconomic headwinds, a recent report showed.

India's office transaction volumes reached a record 6.68 million square meter (7.19 million square feet) in 2024, led by robust demand from Global Capability Centers (GCCs), multinational occupiers, and third-party IT service providers, according to a Knight Frank report.

The report positions India as a long-term, stable hub for occupiers seeking cost efficiencies, talent depth, and infrastructure readiness, particularly in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad,

Pune, and Delhi-NCR.

"India's share of Asia-Pacific's office leasing volumes rising to 47 percent is a testament to the country's robust fundamentals and growing appeal

"As global corporates seek operational resilience amid ongoing trade realignments, India's real estate sector stands well-positioned to play a pivotal role in the regional growth narrative," he

trial hubs such as Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru have maintained balanced vacancy levels, backed by sustained leasing activity.

The build-to-suit formats and



as a strategic hub for global corporations," said Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

added.

While several APAC markets face oversupply challenges (Shanghai, Beijing), Indian indus-

flex leases are gaining traction in India, reflecting a shift toward customization and operational agility.

India sits in the 'low exposure, moderate resilience' quadrant. This indicates relatively low external trade dependence and a strong ability to absorb global shocks.

In contrast to export-heavy economies like South Korea or Singapore, India's large domestic consumption base, prudent fiscal management, and diversified services sector buffer it against external volatility-making it a reliable anchor in the region, said the report.

India's consistent performance is underpinned by rising domestic demand, digital transformation, and supply-side readiness across Grade A commercial assets.

As businesses recalibrate real estate portfolios to withstand volatility and tap new markets, India's evolving real estate landscape offers both scale and stability, the report mentioned. IANS

Star Housing Finance partners with Vastu Housing Finance to Empower 5,000+ First-Time Homebuyers

MUMBAI: Star Housing Finance Ltd (BSE: 539017), a retail-focused housing finance company specializing in low-ticket home loans, has kick-started its co-lending partnership with Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited, India's leading affordable housing finance company. This collaboration aims to assist over 5,000 first-time homebuyers across multiple Indian states, with a focus on semi-urban and rural markets.

The partnership reflects both organizations' shared mission of advancing financial inclusion by offering accessible and affordable home financing to economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG), particularly those traditionally excluded from the formal credit system.

Through this co-lending model, Star HFL will be responsible for loan origination, underwriting, and servicing in line with all extant regulations. Vastu HFC will contribute capital support, participate in co-underwriting, and offer a robust technology platform and risk-sharing framework - enabling both institutions to scale operations while man-

aging risk efficiently.

"This partnership marks a significant milestone in Star HFL's growth journey," said Mr. Kalpesh Dave, Director & CEO of Star Housing Finance Ltd. "We deeply value the trust Vastu HFC has placed in us and look forward to leveraging their decade-long expertise and institutional capabilities. This alliance enhances our value proposition and supports our goal of delivering home ownership opportunities to underserved communities."

Mr. Sujay Patil, Chief Financial Officer of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., added, "We are excited to collaborate with Star HFL to drive financial inclusion and foster a sustainable affordable housing ecosystem. By sharing technology infrastructure and risk management frameworks, we aim to collectively fast-track progress on India's affordable housing agenda."

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PM Modi holds roadshow in Gandhinagar, to launch Rs 5,536 crore development projects

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently held a grand roadshow in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, drawing thousands of supporters and locals ahead of inaugurating a slew of development projects worth Rs 5,536 crore during a special ceremony at Mahatma Mandir.

The streets of Gandhinagar came alive with chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", "Indian Army Zindabad", and "Hindustan Zindabad" as more than 30,000 BJP workers and countless residents lined the route to greet the Prime Minister.

Many waved the national flag, captured the moment on their phones, and enthusiastically welcomed PM Modi back to his home state.

Smiling and waving at the crowd, the Prime Minister was greeted with cultural performances and colorful dance sequences. Some participants wore costumes honoring the Indian Armed Forces and the Prime Minister's leadership during the recently conducted Operation Sindoor. Among them were two women dressed as Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi.

This was PM Modi's first visit to Gujarat since India's military strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kash-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during the Launch of Urban Development Year 2025, in Gandhinagar. Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and State CM Bhupendra Patel also seen. (ANI Photo)

mir on May 7.

Throughout the roadshow, patriotic songs praised the Indian Armed Forces, PM Modi, and Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, adding to the high-spirited atmosphere.

Following the roadshow, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for multiple development projects at Mahatma Mandir.

Among the highlights will be the inauguration of 22,055 houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, worth

Rs 1,006 crore. He will also lay the foundation for Phase 3 of the Sabarmati Riverfront, which carries an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore.

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Urban Development Year 2005 -- an initiative he launched as Gujarat's Chief Minister -- PM Modi will announce the beginning of the Urban Development Year 2025. The new phase aims to further strengthen urban infrastructure and planning across the state.

In line with Gujarat's renewed focus on

clean and sustainable cities, the Prime Minister will launch the State Clean Air Program and will announce the release of Rs 3,300 crore to urban local bodies under the Swarnim Jayanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to transforming urban living standards in Gujarat.

Earlier, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for a slew of development projects in Dahod, Gujarat, collectively valued at Rs 24,000 crore.

The projects include key railway infrastructure and multiple initiatives under the Gujarat government's development agenda. PM Modi also flagged off the Vande Bharat Express connecting Veraval and Ahmedabad, along with an express train linking Valsad and Dahod.

He also inaugurated the Loco Manufacturing Shop-Rolling Stock Workshop in Dahod and flagged off the first electric locomotive produced at the facility, marking a significant infrastructure milestone for Indian Railways.

Dedicating the Dahod locomotive manufacturing unit to the nation, PM Modi highlighted the importance of the workshop, which has been built with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore. *IANIS*

Eyeing Gen Z, commercial real estate players ramp up projects in Tier II-III Indian cities

NEW DELHI: Real estate developers in India are rethinking their business strategy, keeping in mind the aspirations of the youth, especially the Gen Z segment.

Regional commercial real estate players, particularly in tier II and tier III cities, are ramping up projects to meet that emerging demand, say executives.

Luxury cafes, fine dining restaurants, gaming centers, salons, malls, and exhibition centers are booming in tier II and tier III cities, with the growing demand for such amenities. Real estate players are cashing in on these opportunities.

The executives say that the commercial real estate sector is undergoing a generational transformation, as the baton passes from baby boomers, Gen X, and millennials to the tech-savvy, environmentally conscious, and entrepreneurial Gen Z.

The real estate players are closely monitoring the lifestyle of Gen Zs, the term coined for those individuals who were born between 1997 and 2012, as the demands



of this generation are different from other generations.

"Gen Z culture is far more mature today. Thanks to the world of technology, we are far more mature. Today, the youth of Punjab, apart from good families, think that even in the middle-income group, the children are studying all across India and the

world. They're coming back, and they have huge aspirations. Their lives, if you come and see, are really world-class," said Adish Oswal, CMD, Oswal Group.

His Vardhman Amrante group recently announced it would invest Rs 1,350 Crores in Punjab's real estate, focusing on Ludhiana and other cities. The invest-

ment will be distributed across multiple real estate segments, including commercial, residential, hospitality, industrial, and other allied sectors.

Observing the trends in non-metro cities, Santosh Agarwal, Executive Director and CFO at Alpha Corp, said, "Gen Z is reshaping the commercial real estate landscape, particularly in Tier 2 and 3 cities like Amritsar, Karnal, and Meerut. These emerging hubs are benefiting from better infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, and a growing appetite for modern, tech-enabled workspaces."

According to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), the real estate sector shows promise with a projected 9.2 per cent CAGR from 2023 to 2028.

Shrinivas Rao, FRICS, CEO, Vestian, said that regional developers have ramped up activity in these emerging locations, delivering customized commercial assets that meet the evolving needs of the new workforce. *ANI*

Philosophy

J. KRISHNAMURTI

It is one of the most difficult things in the world to look at anything simply. Because our minds are very complex, we have lost the quality of simplicity. I don't mean simplicity in clothes or food, wearing only a loin cloth or breaking a record fasting or any of that immature nonsense the saints cultivate, but the simplicity that can look directly at things without fear - that can look at ourselves as we actually are without any distortion - to say when we lie, we lie, not cover it up or run away from it.

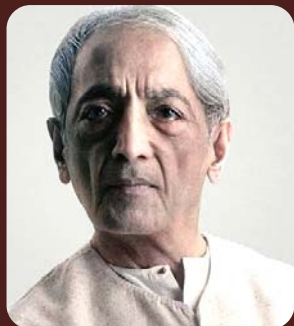
Also in order to understand ourselves we need a great deal of humility. If you start by saying, 'I know myself', you have already stopped learning about yourself; or if you say, 'There is nothing much to learn about myself because I am just a bundle of memories, ideas, experiences and traditions', then you have also stopped learning about yourself.

tioned.

Are you aware that you are conditioned? That is the first thing to ask yourself, not how to be free of your conditioning. You may never be free of it, and if you say, 'I must be free of it', you may fall into another trap of another form of conditioning.

So are you aware that you are conditioned? Do you know that even when you look at a tree and say, 'That is an oak tree', or 'that is a banyan tree', the naming of the tree, which is botanical knowledge, has so conditioned your mind that the word comes between you and actually seeing the tree?

To come in contact with the tree you have to put your hand on it and the word will not help you to touch it. How do you know you are conditioned? What tells you? What tells you you are hungry? - not as a theory but the actual fact of hunger? In the same way, how do you discover the actual fact that you are conditioned?



J. Krishnamurti

A confident man is a dead human being

The moment you have achieved anything you cease to have innocence and humility

The moment you have achieved anything you cease to have that quality of innocence and humility; the moment you have a conclusion or start examining from knowledge, you are finished, for then you are translating every living thing in terms of the old.

Whereas if you have no foothold, if there is no certainty, no achievement, there is freedom to look, to achieve. And when you look with freedom it is always new. A confident man is a dead human being.

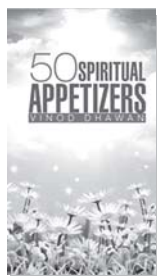
But how can we be free to look and learn when our minds from the moment we are born to the moment we die are shaped by a particular culture in the narrow pattern of the 'me'? For centuries we have been conditioned by nationality, caste, class, tradition, religion, language, education, literature, art, custom, convention, propaganda of all kinds, economic pressure, the food we eat, the climate, our family, our friends, our experiences - every influence you can think of - and therefore our responses to every problem are condi-

Isn't it by your reaction to a problem, a challenge? You will be able to see for yourself how you are conditioned only when there is a conflict in the continuity of pleasure or the avoidance of pain. If everything is perfectly happy around you, your wife loves you, you love her, you have a nice house, nice children and plenty of money, then you are not aware of your conditioning at all.

Excerpted from 'Freedom from the Known'. The 130th birth anniversary of J. Krishnamurti was observed on May 11

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keeffe

Spirituality teacher based in USA.

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Does Shashi Tharoor have a future in the Congress party?

MAYANK CHHAYA

Popular Indian parliamentarian Shashi Tharoor's above the partisan fray stance in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist killings and the subsequent near warlike India-Pakistan conflict has a political trajectory that could eventually land him outside his own Congress Party.

Even though Tharoor, a former UN diplomat, a junior minister in a previous Congress government, an author of 22 books and a versatile public speaker, continues to profess his commitment to Congress, the party does not seem to be in the mood to return the love. It is obvious that he is at a political crossroads as he leads a multi-party delegation of Indian lawmakers to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States as part of the Indian government's outreach across the world.

He said before embarking on the five-

ing out and not interfering in the process. They chose not to take that good advice."

Gandhi latched on to those comments immediately and said on his official X handle, "Informing Pakistan at the start of our attack was a crime. EAM has publicly admitted that GOI did it. 1. Who authorized it? 2. How many aircraft did our air force lose as a result?"

Gandhi's explosive allegations ignited a political firestorm with his critics within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and elsewhere saying that he was speaking "the language of Pakistan".

Rather than backtracking or nuancing his response, Gandhi doubled down again posting on X on May 19, "EAM Jaishankar's silence isn't just telling - it's damning. So I'll ask again: How many Indian aircraft did we lose because Pakistan knew? This wasn't a lapse. It was a crime. And the na-

Even though Tharoor, a former UN diplomat, a junior minister in a previous Congress government, an author of 22 books and a versatile public speaker, continues to profess his commitment to Congress



Shashi Tharoor

nation tour that India needs to "speak up with clarity and conviction for our country, our response and to give the world the message that we will not be silenced by terrorism and we don't want the world to look away either."

Gandhi-Jaishankar spat

While the Congress Party generally and its most public face Rahul Gandhi particularly stood by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam attack and the military strikes that New Delhi carried out on Pakistan-based terrorist bases, the mood has soured dramatically in the past few days.

Gandhi posted on X saying that External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar had publicly admitted that New Delhi had informed Islamabad in advance about the first Indian military strikes against terrorist infrastructure in that country.

In his comments to the media on May 17, Jaishankar said, "At the start of the operation we had sent a message to Pakistan saying we are striking at terrorist infrastructure. We are not striking at the military. So the military has an option of stand-

tion deserves the truth."

Those comments contrast sharply with Tharoor's nonpartisan comments, which he said, are prompted by the larger concerns about India's national security. With such a gaping divide between Tharoor and Gandhi coupled with signs of mounting disaffection for the MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, it is anybody's guess whether he would last in the Congress Party and for how long.

Tharoor has been a four-term MP since 2009 and is one of the most reliable performers for his party. And yet he finds himself increasingly out of step with his leadership over crucial national security and ideological issues. There are critics of Tharoor's within and outside the party who say that his often-pleonastic erudition may dazzle a certain segment of the Indian middle class, but it barely hides the fact that he is frequently at odds with his party. That is where the rub lies.

(The writer is a Chicago-based journalist, author and commentator) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



Tadoba National Park

"THE LAND OF TIGERS IN MAHARASHTRA"

Famous for its natural heritage, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is definitely one of India's most exciting and best protected Tiger Reserve, with most visible tiger sightings in the state of Maharashtra

Tadoba national park is located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. This place is an ideal weekend gateway for wildlife and nature lovers. Spotted in this region are rare species of flora and fauna, soothing your very being. Tadoba is famous for Tadoba national park, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Tadoba Lake, Erai dam, Moharli and Khosla village. These attractions serve the tourists of an enchanting wildlife experience.

PLACES TO VISIT IN TADODA NATIONAL PARK

Moharli: Another village whose border also serves as an entry gate for the Moharli zone of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. It is located at a distance of around 6.9 km

from the Tadoba region. One can also avail Jungle safari facility from the entry gate of this region.

Khosla: The beautiful village is located in the district of Chandrapur. It is situated near Tadoba which is by far the largest national park in the country and is also given the name of 'Jewel of Vidarbha'. The park is spread over an area of 1727 square km and is home to a variety of species of plants and animals. It is heaven for the nature-lovers and should be a sure shot place to be visited with family and friends. It came into existence in the year 1995.

Tadoba lake: The lake is located in the middle of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Around 200 species of birds are found near the lake, including the water birds.

Erai Dam: The Erai dam is situated across river Erai and is gravity filled dam. It is 1620m in length and 30 m above the lowest foundation in height. The water storage

capacity and volume content of the Erai dam are 226, 500 cu km and 985 cu km, respectively.

BEST TIME TO VISIT TADODA NATIONAL PARK

The best time to visit Tadoba National Park is between October and June. You can expect to spot most tigers between March and June. The Park remains closed between July and September.

HOW TO REACH TADODA NATIONAL PARK

You can easily reach Tadoba through road, air and rail transport. Tadoba does not have its own railway station or an airport, but the nearest railway station is Chandrapur Railway Station and the nearest airport is Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur. For road transport, Chandrapur and Chimur are the nearest bus stands. They are well connected with major cities of India. www.holidify.com



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

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The Third Eye: Unpredictable President Trump accepts 'course correction'

D.C. PATHAK

President Donald Trump on his return for a second term was apparently creating a reputation for 'unpredictability' and even 'arbitrariness' by issuing a large number of Executive Directives many of which were being questioned in courts and evoking adverse reactions from the international community as well.

India continues to believe that India-US relations are rooted in a natural strategic friendship, that the two largest democracies of the world must come together to deal with the grave threats of faith-based terrorism and the doings of dictatorial regimes like China's and that any trade disparity issues affecting them should be settled through negotiations.



which was the hallmark of democracy, and acceptance of the need to 'course correct' in suitable cases.

Trump's clear emphasis on the economic advancement of the US is traceable to his shrewd observation that America's main rival, Communist China, had drawn lessons from the demise of the USSR and consciously taken the economic route to becoming the second superpower, at a time when the American economy had dipped in terms of the balance of trade and budget deficit.

Trump has, therefore, focused his attention on the cost-effectiveness of federal administration enforced through lay-offs where necessary, cutting down on the funding of projects that did not

Musk ordered large-scale lay-offs and reorganization of many wings of the federal government.

Through a Presidential order on March 20, Trump dismantled the Department of Education alleging that it was 'wasteful and polluted by liberal ideology'.

Federal actions were initiated against Columbia, Harvard and Princeton universities for permitting anti-Semitic activities on the campus.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHH) was reorganized to bring down its Divisions from 28 to 15 through internal mergers and its workforce of 82,000 was reduced by 25 percent resulting in a saving of \$1.8 billion a year.

Meanwhile, a striking example

India as a major power has to constantly evaluate how Trump's approach to this country impacted the bilateral relations but it does not have to be swayed by the criticism that others at home or abroad might be leveling against Trump's actions

India as a major power has to constantly evaluate how Trump's approach to this country impacted the bilateral relations but it does not have to be swayed by the criticism that others at home or abroad might be leveling against Trump's actions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done well to broadly adopt this line, believing in the logic that both the US and India needed each other.

There is no particular reservation any country should have against President Trump's declared doctrine of 'America First' and its application in the spheres of diplomacy and trade as also in regard to the US stakes in the ongoing military conflicts in some parts of the world. Two aspects of President Trump's readiness to issue Executive Directives attract attention- his willingness to face judicial scrutiny of his decisions,

yield any direct benefit to the US and bringing back manufacturing and other sources of employment to America.

A new department- Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)-under Elon Musk, a close confidant of President Trump, is driving the campaign for downsizing federal agencies, unearthing systemic corruption and reorganizing various wings of the federal government.

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness go together since the number of persons doing a job in the given time ought to be reduced to the optimal minimum and similarly, a task should be completed in time, in the minimum number of operational steps. Following Trump's mandate of providing 'minimum government maximum governance,' PM Modi had already set this objective for India- Elon

of bureaucratic corruption unearthed by DOGE was its discovery that 12.3 million people aged 120 years or more, were still continuing to be on 'social security' record. Their names were struck off by DOGE at one go.

Another form of serious bureaucratic irregularity became evident when Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) discovered that thousands of Pounds of ready-to-eat frozen chicken products were being sold without food inspection by a New Jersey-based Brazilian Corporation using the brand 'Snack Mania'. They were ordered to be withdrawn as they were likely to result in serious health consequences.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau) IANS

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PACK-KISS-STAN

India launched a four-day military operation on May 7 to retaliate against Pakistan support for terrorists who killed 26 tourists on April 22 in India-administered Kashmir. On the first day of strikes by India, 26 civilians were killed and 46 wounded, according to reports and eyewitnesses.

India's airborne strikes appear to have been calibrated to show its military could hit multiple targets rather than inflicting overwhelming damage on any. India operates 36 Rafale jets in its air force and on April 28 signed a \$7.4 billion deal for 26 more, for its navy. The more interesting lessons may be learned at a lower level than jet-on-jet combat, according to a pair of analysts, who both pointed to the use of drones.

War analysts around the world note that India's air defense appears to have "performed remarkably well." The core of that system is the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), a networked command and control system, designed to tie together as many relevant sensors and communications as possible, to identify and target threats.

According to information, by looking at the kind of projectiles that were launched towards India, whether drones, missiles, or other munitions, it's remarkable how little damage India suffered and how its air defenses managed to hold this, which once again proved that India's air defense system is far superior than Pakistan's. India has also set a new benchmark for military response to terrorism, which would be difficult to lower if and when the next attack of terror occurs.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself heaped praise on IACCS and its related systems during a visit to the Adampur airbase in Punjab recently.

At the strategic level, India appears to have lowered the bar for attacking Pakistan, perhaps trying to increase the deterrence effect, according to the analysts. It is now certain that any act of terrorism by Pakistan or its affiliates, will be considered an act of war. Although both Pakistan and India possess nuclear weapons, India would not be worried about Pakistani nuclear blackmail anymore.

It seems, for the last few years, India's strategy to engage with terrorist attacks towards its citizens or military, has changed drastically. Modi government had the opportunity to completely finish Pakistan's defense establishment and ISI headquarters, if it so wanted but maintained a posture to execute a measured response.

Since the partition of India, Pakistan has never won any war or conflict with India but chose to use terror as its offensive against India. It continues to use religion at its root, not realizing that India has the largest population of Muslims besides Indonesia.

Israel seems to be the only country that whole-heartedly supported the action taken by India this time. Israel on the other hand has totally annihilated not only Hamas but also warned Iran against any misadventure.

India without doubt missed the opportunity this time but in future, with the advancement of modern warfare technology and air superiority it possesses, one would not be surprised at what kind of actions India could take in the future.

If Pakistan makes another terror attack, India would Pack-kiss and send them to 'Stan' forever.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

In the wake of India's 'Operation Sindoor', Aishwarya Rai stunned at Cannes with 'sindoor' accentuating her hair parting

MUMBAI: Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been the face of true Indian beauty internationally for decades now. Going back to her roots, the former Miss World decided to walk the Cannes red carpet this year as a perfect Indian married woman in saree and sindoor.

The 'Guru' actress left everyone stunned as she appeared in a classic ivory handloom saree with golden embellishment, which she paired with a matching full sleeved blouse, and a drape style dupatta.

Aish matched the saree with a red choker, accompanying it with a stunning ruby neckpiece and matching earrings. We could also see a complimentary ring in her hand as she waved at the cameras on the red carpet.

She was seen wearing a dark lipstick with a red tint, along with some light blush, eyeshadow, and thick eyeliner. Aishwarya kept her hair open, with a thick layer of sindoor in the parting.

Designer Manish Malhotra shared some pictures of Aish from Cannes on his Instagram handle and wrote, "The OG Indian Queen of Cannes @aishwaryaribachchan_arb embraces Classic White Handloom in a handwoven kadwa ivory Handloom Banarasi saree with a handwoven tissue drape and imperial heirloom of rubies from @manishmalhotrajewellery #mymmsaree."

With her latest appearances, Aishwarya has successfully paid tribute to her Indian roots. Some online users also commented that Aishwarya's sindoor is a tribute to India's 'Operation Sindoor'.

The "Dhoom 2" actress has managed to set trends with her Cannes appearances over the years. *IANS*



KTR demands probe into allegations by Miss England

HYDERABAD: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao has demanded a thorough investigation into allegations of Miss England Milla Magee, who has withdrawn from the ongoing Miss World 2025 pageant in Hyderabad, citing personal and ethical concerns.

The former minister took to 'X' to condemn victim gaslighting and demand a thorough probe.

"It takes a lot of guts to stand up and call out misogynistic mentality, especially on international forums like the Miss World. You are a very strong woman, Milla Magee, and I am truly sorry you had to go through this in our state of Telangana. Telangana has a rich culture of respecting women. We revere them, respect them, and provide equal opportunities for growth. *IANS*



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AKSHAY KUMAR ON 'HERA PHERI 3' CONTROVERSY, PARESH RAWAL'S EXIT

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, who will be next seen in the upcoming tentpole 'Housefull 5', has spoken up on the controversy surrounding Paresh Rawal's exit from 'Hera Pheri 3'.

The superstar attended the trailer launch of 'Housefull 5' in Mumbai recently, where he was asked to comment on the issue. It was reported that Akshay had sued Paresh for INR 25 crore after the latter announced his exit from the film over his lack of inspiration, and novelty in the character of Babu Bhaiyya, which is the central piece of the 'Hera Pheri' franchise.

When the media asked Akshay to comment on the matter, using the word "foolish" in the question, Akshay took offence at the word being used for such a senior actor.

He told the media, "Let me first tell you, using this kind of word, like 'foolish' for my co-star, I would not appreciate that. That's not right. I have worked with him for 32 years. We are very good friends, and he is a great actor. I admire him a lot".

The superstar also said that he would refrain from speaking too much on the film and Paresh's exit as the matter is now subjudice.

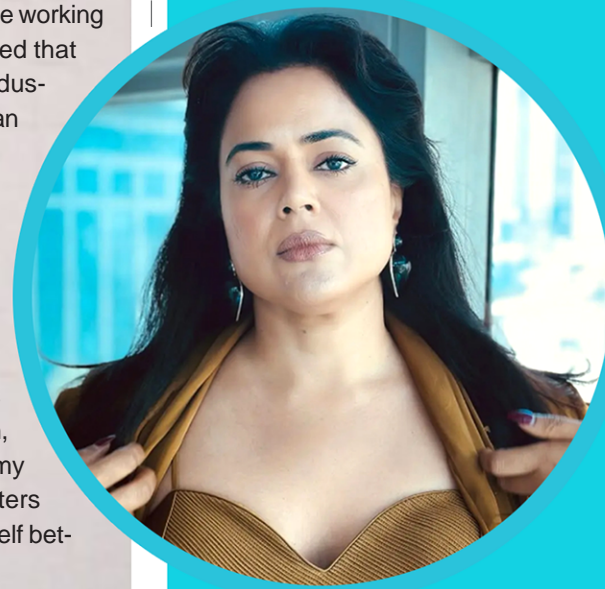
"Jo bhi kuch hai (whatever it is), I don't think this is a place to talk about this. Whatever has happened is a serious matter and it will be handled by the court.

So I don't think I will speak about this", he added. *IANS*

Seerat Kapoor on working in Tollywood & Bollywood

Actress Seerat Kapoor has managed to prove her mettle in both Tollywood and Bollywood with her powerful performances. When asked about her experience working in both industries, the diva shared that the uniqueness of both these industries has helped sharpen her as an artist.

Looking back at her journey in both Tollywood and Bollywood, Seerat said, "Each industry has sharpened a different part of me as an artist. The South film industry has given me opportunities to play characters charged with emotional depth, in turn, encouraged me to experiment with my screen presence and chose characters that have helped me understand myself better as an actor. *IANS*



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

SAMEERA REDDY CHAMPIONS BODY ACCEPTANCE

Sameera Reddy took to social media to champion body acceptance with a powerful message of embracing oneself without shame.

In her latest post, the actress urged everyone to honestly acknowledge the parts of their bodies they've struggled to accept-whether it's flabby arms, a loose belly, stretch marks, or any other perceived imperfection-while promoting self-love and positivity. Reddy highlighted how common it is for many to focus on flaws first thing in the morning, often criticizing themselves before the day even begins. But she urged her followers to try something different: to show love and acceptance toward their bodies, even if just for a moment.

Sharing a couple of her photos, the 'De Dana Dan' actress Sameera invited her followers to share their experiences in the comments, emphasizing that there should be no shame in acknowledging these feelings. *IANS*

Raveena Tandon didn't want to be an actress

Bollywood star Raveena Tandon revealed that she didn't want to be an actress and instead wanted to be a director like her father Ravi Tandon.

Raveena was in conversation with Farah Khan on the latter's Youtube channel. Farah introduced the actress as the "most beautiful heroine."

Farah said: "I met Raveena when she was 16 years old. I have known her since then. She was very beautiful. I told her You will be a heroine. She said 'I will sweep in the studio'... But I want to be in films."

To which, Raveena added: "But this story is a bit wrong. I didn't want to be a heroine. I wanted to be a director like my father. I wanted to make ads. I never thought of being a heroine."

Farah then went on to speak about Raveena's father and said: "I want to tell you His father was my favorite director In Khel Khel Mein, Majboor, Jhuta Kahin Ka... So many classes."

Raveena chimed in: "Baghban was a remake of his film Baghban was also a remake of Zindagi Ki." *IANS*

Saiyami Kher to make her debut in Malayalam cinema

Actress and fitness enthusiast Saiyami Kher is all set to step into the world of Malayalam cinema with a yet-to-be-titled film and will be seen sharing screen space with actor Roshan Mathew once again.

A source close to the project said: "Saiyami has been keen on doing a Malayalam film for a while. She's always been drawn to cinema that prioritizes strong storytelling, and this script immediately stood out to her. Pairing with Roshan Mathew in a performance-driven role felt like the perfect next step."

Saiyami, who has previously worked with superstar Nagarjuna in Telugu films, has previously worked with Roshan in the 2020 drama film "Choked: Paisa Bolta Hai" directed and co-produced by Anurag Kashyap.

The film also stars Amruta Subhash and Rajshri Deshpande appearing in supporting roles.

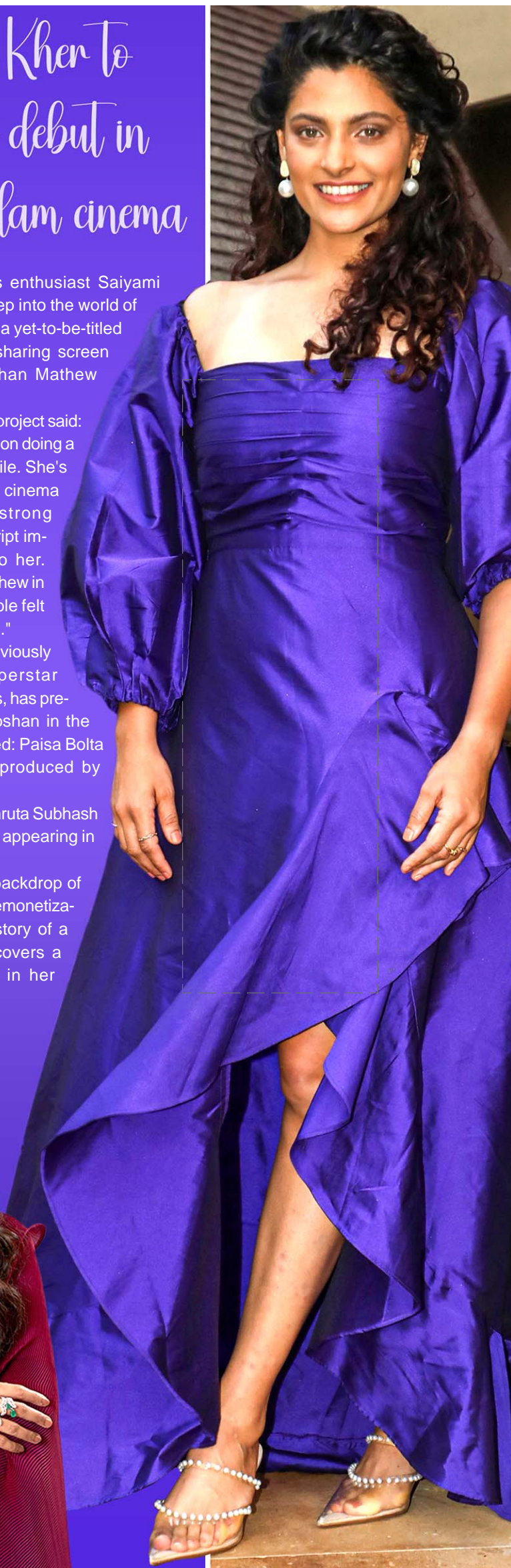
It is set against the backdrop of 2016 Indian banknote demonetization, the film tells the story of a bank cashier who discovers a stash of cash hidden in her kitchen sink. *IANS*

Geeta Basra on leaving Bollywood

Former actress Geeta Basra opened up about her decision to step away from the film industry.

Reflecting on her journey, the actress shed light on the challenges she faced as an outsider in Bollywood, revealing that the absence of a strong backing led to missed opportunities, including four major film projects. In a recent conversation with IANS, Basra spoke about the early phase of her Bollywood journey, revealing how prevailing mindsets at the time impacted her career.

She shared that soon after meeting her husband, cricketer Harbhajan Singh, perceptions in the industry shifted abruptly. Producers and filmmakers, influenced by conservative thinking, assumed she was headed for marriage and began distancing her from potential projects. *IANS*





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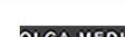
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