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Americans4Hindus hosts landmark series of events

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Indictment against Adani: Forbes article

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INDIA POST SURVEY
survey@indiapost.com

This week's question
 Should US get involved in Gaza?

Last week's result
 Will Trump address human rights abuse of Hindus in Bangladesh?
 YES 22% NO 78%

US SUSPENDS PAK AID

US temporarily suspends aid to Pakistan; several projects on pause

KARACHI: The United States has paused Pakistan's foreign assistance for re-evaluation, Geo News reported citing after an official at the US Consulate in Karachi confirmed the news to them.

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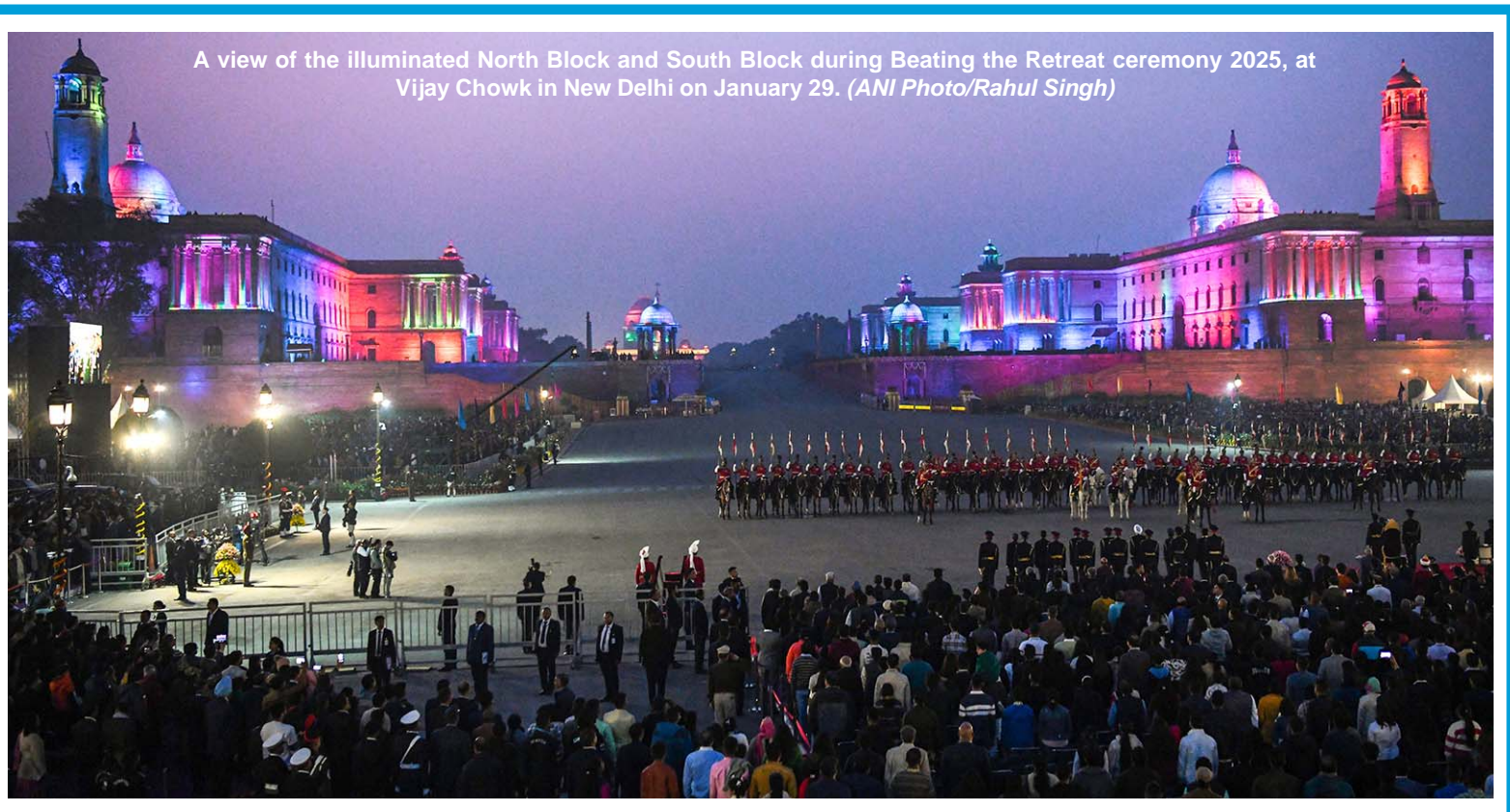


Modi & Trump discuss 'mutually beneficial' ties

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Putin greets Prez Murmu, PM Modi on R-Day

▶ Details on page 7



A view of the illuminated North Block and South Block during Beating the Retreat ceremony 2025, at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on January 29. (ANI Photo/Rahul Singh)

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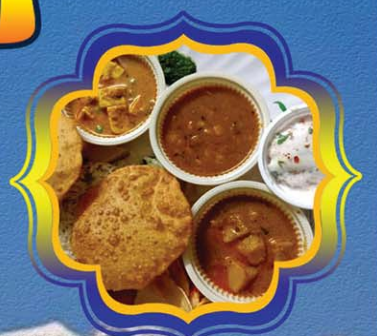
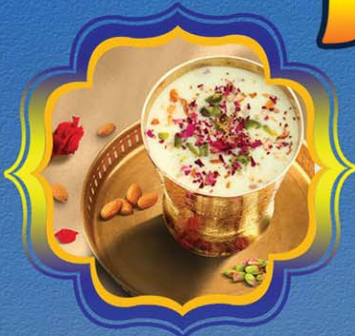
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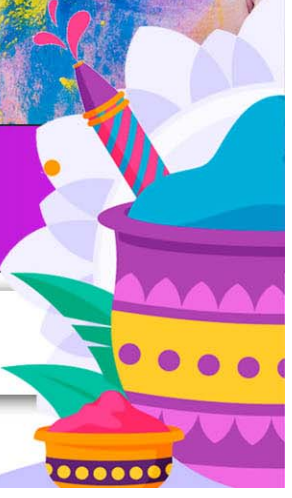
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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Kajol urges: 'make laughing cool'



Kajol posing in a lovely black ensemble penned, "Let's make laughing as cool as the color black!", along with a black heart emoji

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Shanaya Kapoor at AMIRI, Paris



Shanaya attended the AMIRI Autumn-Winter 2025-2026 Fashion Show in Paris. The diva made quite a wave as the only Indian representative at this prestigious event

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US SUSPENDS PAK AID



United States has paused Pakistan's foreign assistance for re-evaluation, Geo News reported citing after an official at the US Consulate in Karachi confirmed

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'Indictment against Adani'



The US Department of Justice's indictment of Indian billionaire Gautam Adani a strategic blunder with severe geopolitical consequences, Forbes said

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A4H hosts landmark events



A series of high-profile events hosted by Americans4Hindus in the nation's capital underscored the growing political and cultural influence of the US Hindu community

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Mathura: Lord Krishna's Hometown



Mathura is a small town dotted with temples from various ages and attracts a confluence of pilgrims from all over the world

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Crackdown on immigration



US Vice President JD Vance, endorsed immigration raids on schools, and said he hoped they would have a "chilling effect on illegal immigrants"

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Suresh Soni conferred with Padma Shri



Gujarat-based Sahyog Leprosy Trust and its staff are overwhelmed with happiness, the reason being its founder Suresh Soni conferred with Padma Shri.

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The move has instantly stopped several USAID projects in Pakistan, including the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), which is the flagship program to promote cultural heritage preservation and protection.

Additionally, five projects related to the energy sector have also come to a halt as a result of this decision. As per Geo News, these include the Power Sector Improvement Activity, Pakistan Private Sector En-

ergy Activity, Energy Sector Advisory Services Project, Clean Energy Loan Portfolio Guarantee Program and Pakistan Climate Financing Activity.

Notably, economic growth-related four

projects are also hit. Among them, Social Protection Activity was the only program supposed to end in 2025.

Others include Investment Promotion Activity, Pakistan Private Investment Initiative and Economic Recovery and Development Activity. Geo News noted that the USD 24.8 million FATA Economic Revitalization Program, implemented by the United Nations Development Program has already been completed.

In the agriculture sector, the Gomal Zam Command Area Development Project was completed in 2024. However, two of the five programs were expected to end in 2025.

They include Water Management for Enhanced Productivity and Pakistan Agriculture Programs II. Yet, Livelihood and Food Security Activity for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Flood Affected Districts of Pakistan, Climate Smart Agriculture and Recharge Pakistan are also affected, Geo News said.

Projects Democracy, Human Rights and Governance funds are also hit by Trump's order.

As per Geo News, four of these 11 projects were expected to be completed in 2025. However, a USD 19.1 million project to strengthen Electoral and Legislative Processes was just completed in 2024. ANI



President Donald Trump

"Consistent with President Trump's Executive Order on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid, Secretary Rubio has paused all US foreign assistance funded by or through the State Department and US Agency for International Development (USAID) for review"

Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's pick for Director National Intelligence to appear before Senate Intelligence Committee for confirmation hearing

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump's pick for Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, will face what could be the toughest confirmation hearing of any of his top nominees as Democrats and some Republicans have been preparing to question Gabbard about her visit to Syria in 2017, her statements in support of Russia and her concerns regarding domestic surveillance powers, The Washington Post reported.

According to two congressional officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Trump's nominee, said her approval by the Senate Intelligence Committee to be director of national intelligence is far from assured.

A Senate aide said, "She definitely doesn't have the votes right now" to advance out of the intelligence committee."



Tulsi Gabbard

The panel comprises nine Republican and eight Democratic members, implying a single Republican "no" vote could hinder

Gabbard's chances, The Washington Post reported.

Gabbard, who is a former Army Reserve lieutenant colonel, Democratic congresswoman and presidential candidate in 2020 who turned Republican last year, has at times called the tens of thousands of

Democrats, led by committee vice chair Senator Mark R Warner, are expected to ask Gabbard about her visit to Syria in 2017, where she met then-Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while he was placed under sanctions by the US and accused of widespread human

The panel comprises nine Republican and eight Democratic members, implying a single Republican "no" vote could hinder Gabbard's chances, The Washington Post reported

intelligence personnel she would oversee as members of "deep state." She has also raised questions over the US intelligence findings on the former Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons on its own people, and has echoed Kremlin's views about the cause of Russia launching war in Ukraine.

rights abuses.

Some Republicans, including Senator Susan Collins, have concerns regarding Gabbard's past opposition to a powerful intelligence surveillance tool under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. ANI

Tahawwur Rana not yet on plane to India, US 'evaluating' options

WASHINGTON: The United States' State Department is "evaluating next steps" in regard to Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India that was upheld last week by the country's Supreme Court, clearing the way for him to finally face justice for his alleged role in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

Rana is of Pakistani descent like David Coleman Headley, who is serving a long prison sentence in an US jail after pleading guilty for his complicity in the 2008 terrorist attacks in a deal with American authorities that protects him from extradition.

"In view of the recent Supreme Court decision, and consistent with applicable US law, the Department of State is currently evaluating next steps in this case," a spokesperson for the agency said in response to an IANS request for information on the next steps following the court order and when is he likely to be dispatched to India.

"We have long supported India's efforts to ensure the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks face justice," the spokesperson added.

The US has indeed been supportive of Indian efforts to bring the perpetrators of the attacks that left 167 people dead, including six Americans, and hundred wounded.

It has pushed Pakistan, where the terrorists of the

Lashkar-e-Toiba were based and where they had been trained by the country's Intelligence service, to punish the perpetrators.

The US also helped India's case before the UN Security Council for designating Masood Azhar, the founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, an international terrorist, leading a group of permanent members to stymie Chinese attempts to block the effort.

For now, however, it seems unclear how soon Rana will be on a plane to India.

Rana was arrested by the US police in October 2009, just two weeks after Headley's arrest, on three counts: Conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism in India, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism in Denmark, and providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization, according to a US court document.

Rana was convicted in June 9, 2011 by a jury of the terrorism conspiracy-charge related to Denmark and providing material support to Lashkar, but he was acquitted of the terrorism conspiracy related to the Mumbai attacks.

He was sentenced by the district court in 2013 to 14 years in prison. But after serving half of the sentence he applied for and was granted compassionate release in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. IANS

Rana is of Pakistani descent like David Coleman Headley, who is serving a long prison sentence in an US jail after pleading guilty for his complicity in the 2008 terrorist attacks

"Thankful for Mahadev to give chance for being here": Foreign devotees express joy on attending Maha Kumbh mela

PRAYAGRAJ: As devotees and tourists continue to gather in Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh Mela, several visitors from across the world expressed their gratitude for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of the grand celebrations.

Elena from Kazakhstan told ANI, "We have come to the Kumbh Mela because it was our dream and we are so thankful for India. I'm thankful for Mahadev that he gave me this chance to be here today. It's very nice for me".

Yelena from Moscow, Russia told ANI that she enjoyed attending the Maha Kumbh Mela with her friends and described Prayagraj as a "beautiful place."

Another tourist said, "We are here in this very beautiful place as a group and have a wonderful feeling. We are very grateful to India for such a nice festival, for such nice people. India is the best country for me".

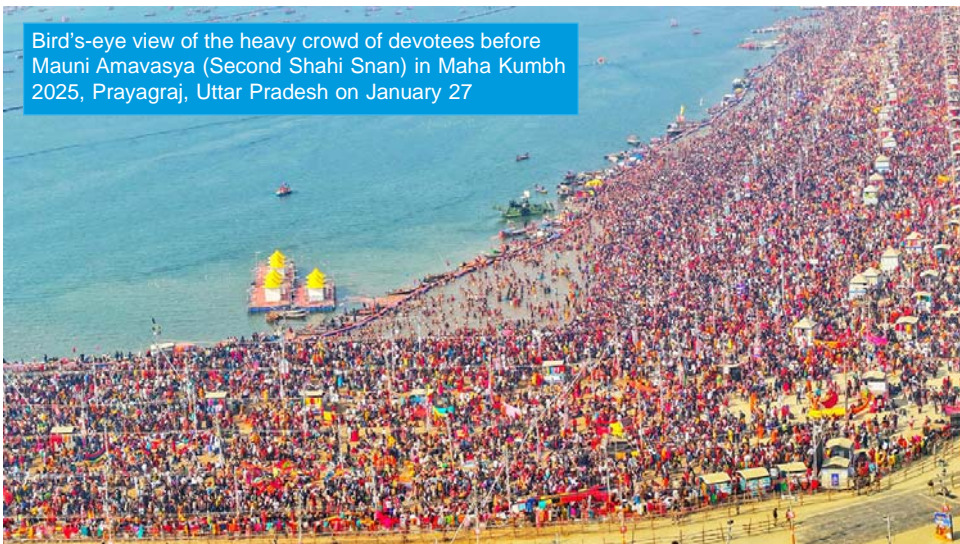
Valeria from Moscow, who traveled with a group, shared her excitement, saying, "It's amazing. We made a long trip here. We will stay for two days, and we appreciate so much for this opportu-

nity to see this amazing festival. Thank you so much. It has taken for us a long way to come to our Father, Lord Shiva".

A tourist from Germany praised the celebration and added that the Maha Kumbh celebrations are beautiful. "I love india, it's so good", she chimed.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, held every 12 years, is taking place in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025. According to tradition, pilgrims gather at the Sangam--the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the now-extinct Saraswati rivers--to take a holy dip, which is believed to absolve sins and grant moksha (liberation). ANI

Bird's-eye view of the heavy crowd of devotees before Mauni Amavasya (Second Shahi Snan) in Maha Kumbh 2025, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on January 27



Thrilled to see bonds grow between India, US: Satya Nadella

NEW DELHI: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has said he is thrilled to see bonds grow between India and the US.

Speaking at the 76th Republic Day celebration in Seattle, US, Nadella said the bond is strong because of shared democratic values by both countries. The event was organized by Indian Consulate in Seattle.

"Looking forward, I am, again, very thrilled to see the bonds between the two countries continue to grow, both because of the community here, but also because of the shared bonds of being two democracies that are grounded in their constitutions," Nadella said.

"I think what happens at the end of the day is people who get elected have to serve all the constituents and to us to have the privilege to build technology that allows these leaders to then pursue what then gets them elected is perhaps the best virtual cycle of a democracy," he added.

The Microsoft CEO said that he hopes "the role model of both the countries doing are what is best in their best interest for each country". This will also "create the model for the world to be able to sort of emulate and thereby build a better world for everybody," he said.

Earlier this month, Nadella announced a \$3 billion investment to boost AI and cloud infrastructure in India. The investment aims to accelerate AI innovation in the country, which is pivotal for achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of becoming a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. IANS



Satya Nadella

Trump freezes USD 50 million for 'condoms in Gaza'

WASHINGTON DC: In her first press briefing recently US Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) found that about USD 50 million was used to fund 'condoms in Gaza'.

Calling the funding "preposterous", Leavitt said that the government is focused on being good stewards of American Dollars.

"DOGE and OMB also found that there was about to be 50 million taxpayer dollars that went out the door to fund condoms in Gaza. That is a preposterous waste of taxpayer money. So that's what this pause is focused on - being good stewards of tax dollars," she said.

DOGE Leader Elon Musk expressed his doubts on the huge amount of money.

In a post on X, he said, "My guess is that a lot of that money ended up in the pockets Hamas, not actually condoms," adding, "Yes, even in the unlikely event that the money was actually spent on condoms, we should NOT be sending US taxpayer money to buy condoms for foreigners." ANI

Putin greets Prez Murmu, PM Modi on occasion of India's 76th R-Day

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the country's 76th Republic Day.

The Russian leader in a message said: "Honorable Mrs President, Honorable Mr Prime Minister, Please accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday - the Republic Day."

Putin said: "India's achievements in the economic, so-

cial, scientific, technological and other spheres are widely known. Your country is making a substantial contribution to ensuring international stability and security and to addressing vital issues on the regional and global agenda."

The message mentioned that "the Constitution that came into force 75 years ago laid the foundation for building effective state institutions and a free democratic development of India".

India and Russia have enjoyed and maintained healthy and strong bilateral relations since the Soviet era.

Speaking of his country's relation with

India, Putin said: "We set a high value on the relations of privileged strategic partnership between our states. I am confident that by working together we can ensure the continued growth of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in all areas. This undoubtedly meets the fundamental interests of the friendly peoples of Russia and India."

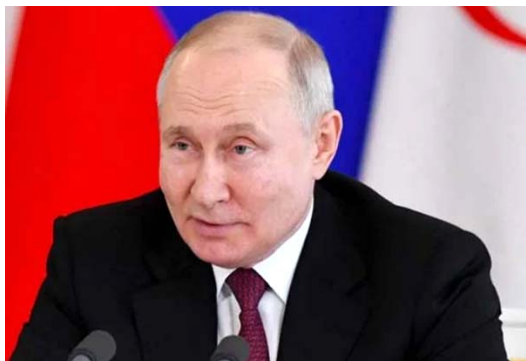
The Russian President concluded his message by saying: "Sincerely wish the best of health and every

success to you as well as happiness and well-being - to all Indian citizens."

Colorful programs marked the 76th Republic Day celebrations in the national capital's Kartavya Path.

India's rich cultural heritage and its military might on full display, with the country's top leadership as well as thousands of delegates in attendance.

More than 30 tableaux from 16 state governments and Union Territories, Central ministries, Tri-services and veterans participated in the celebrations, highlighting this year's theme of 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'. IANS



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Madonna calls out Trump administration for "slowly dismantling all the freedoms we have"

WASHINGTON: Singer-songwriter Madonna has called out Donald Trump's administration for "dismantling all the freedoms we have been fighting for," reported Variety.

In a post on X, she posted a selfie and wrote, "It's so sad to watch our new Government slowly dismantling all the Freedoms we have been fighting for and WON over the years," adding, "Don't give up the Fight!"

"In the first week of Trump's second term as president, he issued executive orders to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion positions at executive branch departments and agencies; repealed directives preventing government discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation and allowing transgender people to serve in the



Madonna

military; and required the government to recognize only two genders -- male and female -- on passports and other official documents," as per the outlet.

Madonna, a long-time supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, has previously also spoken out against Trump. After he won the 2016 election, she delivered an impromptu speech at the Women's March on Washington.

"Welcome to the revolution of love, to the rebellion, to our refusal as

women to accept this new age of tyranny, where not just women are in danger but all marginalized people, where being uniquely different right now might truly be considered a crime. It took this horrific moment of darkness to wake us the fuck up," she said, as per the outlet. ANI

PM Modi & President Trump discuss 'mutually beneficial' ties

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently spoke with U.S. President Donald Trump, saying both leaders are committed to a 'mutually beneficial and trusted partnership'.

"Delighted to speak with my dear friend President @realDonaldTrump @POTUS," PM Modi wrote on X.

The Prime Minister said that he also congratulated President Trump on his historic second term.

"We are committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership. We will work together for the welfare of our people and towards global peace, prosperity, and security," PM Modi wrote on X.

There was no word yet from the White House, which, as is the practice, will release readout of the conversation shortly.

This was the second phone conversation between the two leaders after President Trump's re-election; the first took place just after Trump won the election in

November.

The two leaders have shared a close personal relationship going back to President Trump's first term from 2017 to 2021.

The U.S. President jointly addressed a rally hosted for Prime Minister Modi in Houston in 2019 called the "Howdy Modi" rally and then he travelled to India in February 2020 for a "Namaste Trump" in PM Modi's home state Gujarat.

The two leaders will meet personally sometime this year. According to a report

"We are committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership. We will work together for the welfare of our people and towards global peace, prosperity, and security,"

PM Modi wrote on X

officials of the two countries are trying to arrange for a meeting in February but neither side has made any announcements to that effect yet.

They will meet most certainly when President Trump travels to India for a summit of the Quad countries. It's India's turn to host the summit and likely this year. IANS

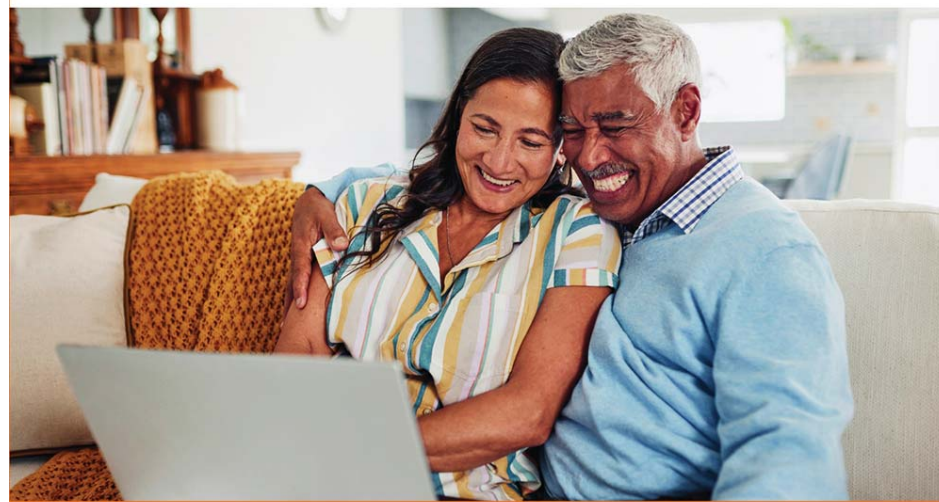
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'Made in India' Jimny 5-door SUV debuts in Japan

NEW DELHI: The 'Made in India' Jimny 5-door was unveiled in Japan, marking the debut of the second-most exported model from Maruti Suzuki in FY 2024-25 in another major market.

The Jimny 5-door is exclusively manufactured at Maruti Suzuki's manufacturing facility in Gurugram on the outskirts of Delhi. It has a strong legacy as a global off-roader and is exported to almost 100 countries, according to a company statement.

The introduction of this 4WD SUV in Japan marks an important step in Maruti Suzuki's export journey as it becomes the second SUV after Fronx to be supplied to the home market of Suzuki Motor Corporation in FY 2024-25, the company said.

Speaking on the occasion, Maruti Suzuki managing director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said, "The introduction of 'Made in India' Jimny 5-door in Japan is a testament to the global level of



excellence in our manufacturing capability. After its resounding success in markets like Mexico, Australia, and South Africa, we are confident that it will delight customers in Japan. The export of Jimny reaffirms our commitment towards 'Make-in-India for the world'."

Suzuki has sold more than 3.5 million units of Jimny worldwide, in 199 countries and regions. The 3-door version of Jimny was already on sale in the Japanese market. The 5-door version is expected to further add to the popularity of the model.

"With India as a production base for Jimny 5-door, Suzuki aims to leverage Maruti Suzuki's global production stature to meet the growing demand for the iconic off-roader brand," the company statement added. IANS

TechBiz POST

Manufacturing as a great place to work in India rises to 87 pc: Report

MUMBAI: Manufacturing sector employees at the best workplaces in India are 2.7 times more likely to stay in psychologically healthy environments, and the overall view of manufacturing as a great place to work has risen to 87 percent in 2025, according to a recent report. As India's manufacturing industry advances toward Industry 5.0, the need for companies to prioritize not just technological innovation, but also the well-being of their workforce, has never been more critical, said the report by Great Place To Work. IANS



US DoJ indictment against Adani a 'strategic blunder,' risks damaging India-US ties: Forbes article

NEW DELHI: The US Department of Justice's (DoJ) indictment of Indian billionaire Gautam Adani is a strategic blunder with severe geopolitical consequences, leading American publication Forbes has said.

In an article titled "The US Harms The West's Alliances With A Far-Flung Indictment In India", the author, Melik Kaylan, argued that the indictment, which alleges bribery and financial misrepresentation, "risks damaging India-US relations at a time when Washington is actively seeking stronger alliances to counter China's rising influence".

The article highlighted that India is a pivotal partner for the West, especially in initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe

Economic Corridor (IMEC) - a transformative infrastructure project designed to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



The DoJ's action, however, undermines economic collaboration and trust at a critical juncture,

potentially pushing India closer to Russia and China. In doing so, the US inadvertently weakens its own geopolitical positioning, al-

Moreover, the piece argued that this indictment represents another example of Western overreach, where American extraterritorial legal actions disrupt vital global partnerships.

The broader concern is that while the US and Europe undermine their own allies with such moves, their adversaries continue advancing - economically, militarily, and technologically. As the author bluntly puts it, "They must be laughing in Beijing."

In essence, the DoJ's action against Adani is not just a legal decision but a diplomatic miscalculation that risks isolating India at a time when its alignment with the West is crucial for global stability, according to the article. IANS

US Fed pauses rate cut as RBI likely to go for steps to spur growth

NEW DELHI: As the US Federal Reserve paused the rate cut cycle, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started with liquidity easing and the rationale for 25bps rate cut in February is compelling, industry watchers said.

seable future due to prevailing uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's policies and their impact.

"A resilient labor market and a steadily growing economy give the Fed ample elbow room to as-

search, Axis Securities.

That's in line with how traders are thinking - the first rate cut for this year is not priced in before June with a total of two cuts aggregating 50 bps expected for the full, he mentioned.

Fed's expectation is to deliver two rate cuts in 2025 and that could

Angel One.

According to brokerage firm Jefferies, the RBI's monetary policy committee meeting, scheduled on February 7, is likely to spring some positive surprises with a growth-favored approach.

The recent move by the



The Fed held rates as was widely expected at 4.25 percent-4.50 percent, with Fed Chair Jerome Powell saying that the US central bank is in "no hurry" to move rates lower in the fore-

sess incoming data as it comes, with the FOMC of the view that material declines in inflationary pressures need to be seen for the next bout of rate cuts," said Akshay Chinchalkar, Head of Re-

begin in the late Q2 of the year.

On the domestic front, the Central Bank has started with liquidity easing and the rationale for 25bps rate cut in February is compelling, said Ankita Pathak, Chief Macro and Global Strategist at Ionic Wealth by

central bank to provide liquidity is a positive indicator, the report said. It was referring to the RBI's announcement this week that it would inject Rs 1.5 lakh crore liquidity into the banking system in the coming weeks till the end of February. IANS

On the domestic front, the Central Bank has started with liquidity easing and the rationale for 25bps rate cut in February is compelling, said Ankita Pathak, Chief Macro and Global Strategist at Ionic Wealth by Angel One

India likely to launch its own safe, affordable AI model within 6 months: IT Minister

NEW DELHI: India is likely to launch its own safe and secure indigenous artificial intelligence (AI) model within six months at an affordable cost, Union Minister for Railways and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said recently.

The Indian AI model is a timely step as India is a trusted nation and, therefore, it will help the country emerge as a more reliable technological powerhouse of ethical AI solutions in the days to come, the minister told media here.

Backed by a high-end common computing facility, the IndiaAI mission is now closer to customizing indigenous AI solutions for the domestic context using Indian languages.

Scientists, researchers, developers and coders are working on multiple foundational models in this regard and with the given pace, the Union Minister expressed hope that the Indian AI model is likely to be ready within six months.

The AI model is beginning with the computation facility of roughly 10,000 GPUs. Soon, the remaining 8693 GPUs will be added. It will largely benefit researchers, students and developers in the beginning.

Government has decided to give it to the users for less

than Rs 100 per GPU after subsidizing the 40 per cent of the cost.

Compared to global models costing \$2.5 to \$3 per hour usage, India's AI Model will cost less than less than Rs 100 rupees per hour after 40 per cent government subsidy.



Ashwini Vaishnaw

The attractive half yearly and annual plans will further make it more affordable, it was informed.

It is about nine times of what open-source model China's DeepSeek has and about two third of what ChatGPT has.

Safety and ethical deployment of AI Model remains top priority for the government. Expressing this commitment, the Union Minister announced that India is estab-

lishing an AI Safety Institute, adopting a techno-legal approach.

The Indian AI model will help promote innovation and develop citizen centric better governance tools including many industrial uses having humongous potential to harness technological benefits for the people at large.

Over the past one and a half year, India has been developing a robust AI ecosystem framework to support its own foundational AI model. IANS

National Critical Minerals Mission to cut dependence on imports, support Net Zero goal: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said the National Critical Minerals Mission, approved by the Cabinet, aims to reduce import dependence, strengthen domestic value chains and support India's 'Net Zero by 2070' goal.

Responding to an article written by Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), PM Modi posted on X: "Union Minister Shri @kishanreddybjp elaborates on how the National Critical Minerals Mission aims to reduce import dependence, strengthen domestic value chains and support India's 'Net Zero by 2070' goal."

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCCM) is being launched with an outlay of Rs 16,300 crore and expected investment of Rs 18,000 crore by public sector undertakings (PSUs).

It will encompass all stages of the value chain, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas. It also aims to create a fast-track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects, according to an official statement.

Additionally, the mission will offer financial incentives for critical mineral exploration and promote the recovery of these minerals from overburden and tailings.

Critical minerals such as lithium, chromium, nickel, graphite, cobalt, titanium and rare earth elements are essential raw materials for sectors like electronics, electric vehicles, renewable energy, defense and high-tech telecommunications.

Currently the extraction of these minerals is dominated by a few countries such as China which makes the supply chain vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainties.

India is viewed as part of the alternative supply chain that needs to be developed to break China's dominance in this crucial segment. India at present relies mainly on imports to meet its demand. It is also exploring opportunities for min-

ing abroad.

The country has entered into collaboration with Australia, the world's top producer of Lithium accounting for as much as 47 percent of the mineral. A government-to-government agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Mines and DSIR, under which five projects of Lithium and cobalt have been selected where project feasibility is being carried out. IANS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

iPhones gain 7 pc India smartphone market share in 2024, grow 23 pc YoY

NEW DELHI: Apple iPhones registered 7 percent India smartphone market share in 2024, rising on robust local production and growing premiumisation trend in smaller cities, a recent report showed.

On year-on-year basis, iPhones registered 23 percent growth and iPads an impressive 44 percent growth in the country, according to data shared by CyberMedia Research (CMR) to IANS.

"Apple's strong growth momentum in CY2024, fuelled by double-digit expansion in both iPhones and iPads, was driven by favorable tailwinds from smartphone premiumisation, alongside a robust push by Apple in domestic manufacturing and retail expansion," said Prabhu Ram, VP-Industry Research Group, CyberMedia Research (CMR).



India's aspirational middle class is increasingly investing in premium devices, not only as lifestyle statements but also for their advanced technological capabilities.

"The enduring aspirational appeal of iPhones and iPads continues to be a key driver of market growth for Apple, with sufficient headroom to grow in CY2025 and beyond. It is still early days for Apple in India," he noted.

In the October-December quarter (Q4) of 2024, Apple, with its aspirational image and rising footprint, entered the top 5 smartphone players in India for the first time, garnering nearly 10 percent market share by volume.

Last year, the tech giant made new exports as well as domestic sale records, driven by the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and aggressive retail expansion.

The company's strategic approach in India over the past year has resulted in significant achievements and increased market importance.

Apple's India shipments were set to cross 11 million marks in 2024.

Apple's growth in India is expected to continue with significant momentum in the coming year, driven by aggressive retail expansion, targeted marketing strategies, and a deeper penetration into the aspirational Indian market, said Ram.

This growth is fuelled by the strong demand for both the latest and previous generation iPhones, he noted. IANS

New Zealand relaxes visitor visa rules to allow tourists' 'workcation'

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand government is relaxing visitor visa rules to allow tourists to work remotely for their foreign employers while visiting New Zealand in the latest effort to boost tourism and economic growth.

The government is making the country more attractive to "digital nomads," people who work remotely, while travelling, such as IT specialists, which will boost New Zealand's attractiveness as a destination, Economic Growth Minister Nicola Willis said recently, as reported by Xinhua news agency.

Tourism is New Zealand's second-largest export earner, generating revenue of almost 11 billion NZ dollars (6.26 billion US dollars) and creating nearly 200,000 jobs, Willis said.

"The change will enable many visitors to extend their stays, which will lead to more money being spent in the country," said Immigration Minister Erica Stanford.

Visitor visas will allow people to work remotely for a foreign employer while they are holidaying in New Zealand, she said, adding that anyone who intends to work remotely for more than 90 days should look at possible tax implications.

Tourism Minister Louise Upston said many countries offer digital nomad visas, and New Zealand aims to be an attractive destination for people who want to "workcation" abroad, as ways of working become increasingly more digitized and flexible. *IANS*

Immigration

POST

"If you have a person who is convicted of a violent crime, whether they are an illegal immigrant or not, you have to go and get that person to protect the public safety,"

US intensifies crackdown on immigration; Vice President Vance, Trump's Border Czar defends raids on schools, churches

WASHINGTON DC: The Donald Trump administration's crackdown against illegal immigration continues to intensify, as the US Justice Department said it had begun making arrests in Chicago as part of a multi-agency enforcement operation, the New York Times reported.

US Vice President JD Vance, has also endorsed immigration raids on schools, and said that he hoped they would have a "chilling effect on illegal immigrants coming to our country."

Vance said immigration raids in religious buildings and schools should not be ruled out. "If you have a person who is convicted of a violent crime, whether they are an illegal immigrant or not, you have to go and get that person to protect the public safety," he said. "That's not unique to immigration."

Trump's Border Czar Tom Homan has said that immigration officials will need at least 1,00,000 beds to support Trump's sweeping deportation efforts. He called on the US Congress to "come to the table quick and give us the money we need."

On being asked whether immigration enforcement agents would search for people in churches or schools, Homan re-

plied that ICE would act on a "case-by-case basis." But he seemed to suggest that high-school-aged children could be

Regarding deportation funding, Tom Homan said he would "leave it up to Congress," The Hill reported. Homan was speaking

voted on," Homan said. "And I think Congress has a mandate to give us money."

The US official said there needs to be 'pressure' on national security. Referring to the death of Georgia student Laken Riley, who was allegedly killed by a migrant, he said the incident has become the face of the Republicans' immigration plan.

In another major development last week, US officials also shut down an app that allowed asylum-seekers to schedule appointments for admission at a port of entry.

Homan apparently dismissed the app, which had been set up by the Biden administration, as an 'illegitimate method' for migrants to use.

"Go to the embassy, go to the port of entry, do it the legal way," Homan said as quoted by the New York Times. "You shouldn't come to this country and ask to get asylum, and the first thing you do is break our laws by entering illegally." *ANI*



US Vice President JD Vance

affiliated with gangs and represented legitimate targets.

Homan said that deportations would "steadily increase" as the administration moved to "open up the aperture" to target anyone in the country illegally -- not just those with a criminal record.

about the Trump administration's broad immigration plan, including specifics about how they plan to fund the costly mass deportation idea.

"The Congress, I think the president has a mandate. This is the number one issue that people

Mexico blocks US deportation flight amid tensions over Trump's immigration policies

WASHINGTON, DC: Mexico refused to permit a deportation flight from the United States to land, marking an obstacle in US President Donald Trump's intensified immigration enforcement measures, the New York Post reported.

The denial followed Trump's renewed efforts to strengthen border security, conduct mass deportations, and execute raids since returning to the White House.

The blocked flight came after two US Air Force C-17 flights successfully transported approximately 160 deportees to Guatemala earlier that day.

However, Mexico's refusal to accept the plane raised questions, with no immediate clarification provided.

The White House attributed the issue to an administrative mix-up. A White House official

The denial followed Trump's renewed efforts to strengthen border security, conduct mass deportations, and execute raids since returning to the White House

stated via text that "the flights thing was an administrative issue and was quickly rectified." Separately, Fox News' Bill Melugin cited a senior State Department official who clarified that the mis-

understanding was related to the Department of Defense flight manifest.

"Per the official, Mexico was full steam ahead to accept the deportations - and would have if there hadn't been a misunderstanding

regarding the paperwork," Melugin said in a post on X.

This incident occurred amid heightened tensions between President Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum *ANI*

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Colombia buckles: Trump shows how tariff threats will work if nations shun illegal migrants' deportation

NEW YORK: As the US has intensified its campaign of rounding up illegal migrants and deporting them on military planes, it overcame opposition from Colombia with threats of tariffs in a preview of how President Donald Trump will enforce his campaign promise.

After Colombia refused to let two aircraft carrying its nationals apprehended in the US as illegal migrants land, Trump announced on Truth Social a 25 percent tariff on imports from that country, which, he threatened, would double in a week.

However, by Sunday night, Colombia's resistance crumbled, and the White House said it had agreed to "unrestricted acceptance of all illegal aliens from Colombia" including those coming on military planes.

In a show of force, federal agents fanned out across the US rounding up criminal illegal migrants.

Trump had promised mass deportations in his Day 1 agenda, but the logistical impossibility of rounding up millions of people has made his administration moderate it by prioritizing those who had committed crimes, reinvigorating enforcement of laws that were followed tepidly.

Brazil, meanwhile, protested the handcuffing of deportees who arrived there on US planes calling it "degrading treatment".

Mexico temporarily refused to let US military planes carrying deportees land last week, but quickly rescinded the orders and let them back in.

Sikh community leaders deny reports of immigration raids at New York's Gurdwaras

NEW YORK: Sikh community leaders have said that there have been no raids on Gurdwaras contradicting reports in some Indian media.

Sukhjinder Singh Nijjar, who was at New York's Richmond Hill Gurdwara, a major Sikh center, said the prayer services were conducted reverently and there was no interference by anyone.

There were no raids or any law enforcement actions at other Gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey either, said Nijjar who is with the Sikh Cultural Society representing the Coastal Northeast and was the chairman of its public and media committee.

He attributed the misreporting to "some sort of misunderstanding and miscommunication" and "just basically word of mouth type of thing that" gets spread with no basis in fact.

Rajwant Singh, the chairman of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education, discounted the reports of the raids or visits to the temples by immigration or other agencies.

The Sikh community in New York and New Jersey has good relations at "all levels of government representatives, including the Justice Department and the White House", he said. *IANS*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, "It is the responsibility of each nation to take back their citizens who are illegally present in the United States in a serious and expeditious manner".

After a meeting between Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the US said that they had discussed "irregular migration" and the minister said that India was open to taking back illegal migrants.

Reports said that about 20,000 Indians would be taken

After Colombia refused to let two aircraft carrying its nationals apprehended in the US as illegal migrants land, Trump announced on Truth Social a 25 percent tariff on imports from that country, which, he threatened, would double in a week

back. While that meshes with Trump's goal of ridding the country of illegal migrants, it also deals with India's concern over Indian criminal gangs and extremists operating from the US.

There are an estimated 11 million illegal migrants in the US and, according to the Pew Research Centre about 725,000 of them are Indians.

The rounding up of illegal immigrants, particularly those with criminal histories, has been ongoing, even under former President Joe Biden, but has been reinvigorated with a dash of publicity after President Trump declared a national emergency over illegal migration last Monday after he was sworn in.

Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove said that several federal agencies were being deployed to help the Department of Homeland Security in rounding up illegal migrants in order to "secure the border, stop this invasion".

He and Border Czar Tom Homan were in Chicago, where the enhanced operations have been launched.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the prime agency for the deportations announced "enhanced targeted operations" in Chicago to keep "potentially dangerous criminal aliens".

Chicago is one of the places that have declared themselves sanctuary cities that claim to be protective of illegal migrants and forbidding their police and other agencies to cooperate with the immigration authorities.

Operations were also afoot in other places, including Colorado where about 50 people were arrested in a raid at a nightclub, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

DEA said in post X that many were members of Tren de Aragua, a dreaded Venezuelan criminal gang declared a terrorist organization by President Trump.

The agency said it was participating in raids in Los Angeles, Savannah in Georgia, Omaha in Nebraska, and Arizona State.

On Friday, raids were carried out in Newark, New Jersey. Homan has threatened legal action against those impeding immigration operations.

Despite Chicago's claim to be a sanctuary city, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker said in an interview to CNN that the state would cooperate in deporting criminal illegal migrants or those under deportation orders, while ruling out participation in raids. *IANS*

Kristi Noem voted as US Homeland Security Secretary, will be crucial for Trump's crackdown on immigration

WASHINGTON DC: The US Senate voted to confirm Kristi Noem as the Homeland Security Secretary in the new Trump administration.

The installation of a longtime Trump ally at the helm of an agency is poised to play a central role in the president's promised immigration crackdown, according to CNN.

The vote cast last Saturday, was bipartisan, 59-34, confirming Noem's appointment.

Noem, who has been serving as Governor of South Dakota since 2019, is a former state legislator and four-term congresswoman. She will now be tasked with leading Homeland Security, a sprawling department that oversees agencies such as US Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the US Secret Service.



Kristi Noem

The White House in a post on X said that Noem's confirmation as Secretary of Homeland Security underscored Trump's commitment to strengthening their security.

"Kristi Noem's confirmation as Secretary of Homeland Security underscores President Trump's commitment to strengthening our nation's security."

Following Saturday's vote, Noem in a statement, said she will prioritize securing the southern border and fixing "our broken immigration system," as reported by CNN.

"I will work every day to keep all Americans safe and secure. One of my top priorities is achieving President Trump's mandate from the American people to secure our southern border and fix our broken immigration system," she stated.

"The Trump Administration will once-again empower our brave men and women in law enforcement to do their jobs and remove criminal aliens and illegal gangs from our country," Noem added.

In addition to immigration, Noem addressed a range of other issues during her confirmation hearing.

In response to questions from Democrats, she said that under her leadership "there will be no political bias" when it comes to disaster relief and there must be a focus on domestic terrorism, saying that "homegrown terrorism is on the rise," as she called the deadly New Year's truck attack in New Orleans "a horrific event", CNN reported. *ANI*

Study shows new drug can be a game changer for restoring vision

NEW DELHI: US researchers have found a promising drug candidate that could potentially help repair vision in people with multiple sclerosis (MS) and other neurological conditions.

Researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus showed that the drug, LL-341070, can boost the brain's ability to repair damaged myelin - the protective sheath around nerve fibers.

Damage to myelin is a hallmark of diseases like MS. Ageing also causes damage to myelin -- resulting in vision loss, loss of motor skills, and cognitive decline.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed that LL-341070 can boost the repair process of the brain. Mice studies showed it also improves brain function related to vision, even after severe damage.

"This research brings us closer to a world where the brain has the capacity to heal itself," said Ethan Hughes, Associate Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the CU School of Medicine. 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)

Gujarat's Suresh Soni conferred with Padma Shri honor for serving leprosy patients

NEW DELHI: Gujarat-based Sahyog Leprosy Trust and its staff are overwhelmed with a wave of happiness, the reason being its founder Suresh Soni conferred with Padma Shri award for his altruistic and tireless service to hundreds of leprosy patients for decades.

Sahyog Leprosy Trust in Gujarat is apparently the only center in the country, looking after more than 1,000 leprosy patients under one roof.

The driving force behind this remarkable initiative is the Trust director Suresh Soni, who has been picked by the Centre for the Padma Shri honor.

Suresh Soni, who dedicated his life to the welfare of leprosy patients spoke to IANS last Sunday and shared his joy on being bestowed with the country's fourth highest civilian honor.

Suresh Soni said, "Me and my family are moved by the gesture and thank the Central government for acknowledging and rec-



Suresh Soni

ognizing our service towards leprosy patients."

Suresh Soni has earned the status of a 'revered' figure in the

locality because of his 37 years long service to the disabled and destitute people. His Sahyog Leprosy Trust, situated on Na-

The Trust, established in 1978 was built on 31 acres of land in Raigarh village near Himmatnagar. Suresh Soni founded this Trust after quitting his job as a professor. He made a conscious decision to abandon the comforts of life and rather work for the most weak and destitute section of people.

Suresh Soni's wife told IANS that the charitable organization doesn't take any funding from the government and rather survives on donations from people.

When someone gets leprosy, the family and society abandon them. Sahyog Trust has become a center of hope for such people.

Currently, there are more than 1000 people, which include 436 disabled people, 250 leprosy patients, 80 mentally ill (suffering from schizophrenia) and 26 HIV+ patients. Not just Gujarat, people from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Bengal are also living here.

Suresh Soni may have turned octogenarian today but his resolve towards social service remains as strong as it was earlier.

Years ago, while being a professor in Vadodara, Suresh Soni chose a life partner for himself who accepted all his conditions. He wrote a 17-page letter to his wife before marriage, in which he preferred her not to wear gold jewelry, live a village life and do something for society.

His wife Indiraben supported him in every endeavor. He and his wife themselves served leprosy patients in their early days. Today, Indiraben plays an active role in all works of the trust started by her. The Trust is also home to some people who failed to clear competitive examinations like IAS but turned victims of mental stress due to failure, leading to severe cognitive diseases. IANS

Asia-pacific healthcare market to hit \$5 T by 2030, Indian CDMOs to shine globally: Report

NEW DELHI: The Asia-Pacific healthcare market is on track to hit \$5 trillion by 2030, driving 40 percent of global sector growth, according to a recent report.

The report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) noted that the unprecedented expansion is fuelled by rapid demographic shifts, investment influxes, and groundbreaking technology applications.

The expansion also includes advancements in new therapies and modalities by Indian contract development and manufacturing organizations (CDMOs).

"Innovation is emerging as a key driver of growth in Asia's healthcare landscape. Indian CDMOs are scaling globally, leveraging their cost efficiencies but also starting to make early strides into complex and cutting-edge modalities such as ADCs and oligonucleotides, enhancing their global competitiveness," said Smruthi Suryaprakash, Partner, BCG.

"At the same time, decades of investment in biotech across the

region are starting to pay off, with advancements in India and Singapore driving localized breakthroughs in new therapies and modalities. These complementary trends, as highlighted in our report, showcase Asia's potential to lead both global and regional healthcare innovation," Suryaprakash added.

Further, the report comprehensively explores the Asian healthcare market from multiple perspectives and identifies key factors driving transformation.

It noted that Asia accounts for only 22 percent of global healthcare spending, despite being home to 60 percent of the global population.

With chronic conditions such as diabetes and cancer affecting Asia disproportionately, the report suggested finding its own healthcare models to manage the disease

burden. Of the top five prevalent cancers in Asia, liver and stomach cancer have a lower prevalence in the West, which means that Asia will need to invent its own solutions. IANS



This weight loss app can track fiber, protein content in meals

NEW YORK: Researchers have developed a weight management program that helps individuals plan meals with the assistance of a web application and support from a registered dietitian, including tracking fiber and protein content in meals.

Many people struggle to maintain a healthy weight, and choosing the optimal meals for weight loss can be challenging. Most dieting apps available are usually macronutrient calculators, according to the study published in the journal JMIR Formative Research.

"But we want people to focus on finding foods that have a high protein and fiber density to get them to their meal goals. It's less about counting calories and more about finding the foods that will satisfy us and provide the protein we need to maintain muscle mass as we lose weight," said Ashleigh Oliveira, a doctoral student at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the US.

"Foods that are high in fiber also have

all the micronutrients we need, so we're not missing out on vitamins and minerals as we're eating less food," Oliveira added.

The program's first iteration, the Individualized Dietary Improvement Program (iDip), was an in-person program where



participants received education and feedback from registered dietitians.

Subsequently, iDip was converted to a

fully online program, EMPOWER, to increase accessibility. The researchers tested the program's efficacy with individuals in rural Illinois.

"The overall goal is to develop an online weight loss program that can be used as

prevention as well as treatment in a clinical setting," said co-author Manabu Nakamura, associate professor in the Department of

Food Science and Human Nutrition and the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

EMPOWER has three components: Educational materials about nutrition; an online app where participants can design meals for weight loss and monitor their progress; and personalized support from registered dietitians, who are available for online chats.

The research team developed MealPlot, an interactive feature that charts protein and fiber content in food.

People enter the food they want to eat into a chart that plots fiber and protein content. The goal is to ensure each day's overall food intake falls within a specific protein/fiber target range.

The MealPlot app is freely available and anyone can register for an account, but to get the full benefit you should work with a dietitian, the researchers said. The researchers are now fine-tuning the application and plan to launch the full program by spring 2026. *IANS*

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Jan Aushadhi Kendras open in Mahakumbh, provide affordable medicines to pilgrims

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: Hundreds of devotees are benefiting from the recently opened 'Jan Aushadhi Kendras' at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

As lakhs of devotees and pilgrims arrive in the holy city on a daily basis, they have got access to essential medicines at highly affordable rates.

Hundreds of devotees are benefiting from these Jan Aushadhi centers on a routine basis.

At least 5 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened in the Kumbh mela ground by the Central government. These centers remain open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A prominent center has been set up at Namami Gange Camp behind Kalagram while the other four are located at Sector-7 Ganga Ghat, Sector-23 Arail Ghat, Sector-14 Pipa Pul and Sector-4.

Several devotees spoke to IANS and shared details of



is doing very good work under PM Modi, providing housing, toilets, electricity and water facilities to the poor and marginalized," he said.

Sonu Chauhan, who came from Jhansi, also expressed gratitude to PM Modi and said: "Cheap medicines are available here. A lot of benefits are being derived from this center."

Jugal Kishore Mishra said that it is very good to have Jan Aushadhi Kendras in such a big event.

"People are coming from very far away locations, there was no treatment facility. But, due to the existence of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, cheap medicines have been made available," he stated.

Purushottam Tripathi, director of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, said that the devotees are getting a lot of benefits from this center and the purpose is being duly served.

"Every day, two-three thousand devotees come here to buy medicines. Most of these devotees ask for medicine for body pain," he disclosed. IANS



the concessions made available to them in the holy city.

Dinesh Tiwari, who came from Bahraich, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the launch of Jan Aushadhi Centre at Kumbh mela ground.

"I had pain in my leg, I got medicines at the cheaper rate here. Medicines are available for Rs 10. The Centre

Rise of Ayush increasingly making India a health tourism hub

NEW DELHI: With the rise of the AYUSH system (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) India has emerged as a premier destination for medical tourism over the years.

The Ministry of Ayush has been instrumental in promoting traditional medicines. As a result in 2024, Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy were integrated into mainstream health systems worldwide.

In 2023, the government implemented medical visa provisions to facilitate the entry of international tourists seeking health and wellness treatments in the country.

It has led to significant growth in medical tourism resulting in about 123 regular Ayush visas and 221 e-Ayush visas issued to foreigners seeking treatment in India, between July 2023 and December 2024, according to the Ministry.

During the same period, 17 e-Ayush attendant visas have also been issued.

Ayush Visa is available under four sub-categories namely: Ayush visa; Ayush attendant visa; e-Ayush visa and e-Ayush attendant visa. An Ayush Visa is granted to a foreigner whose sole purpose is to seek treatment

through Ayush systems.

India currently has more than 755,780 registered Ayush practitioners, 886 undergraduate and 251 postgraduate colleges with an annual intake of 59,643 UG students and 7,450 PG students.

About 3,844 Ayush hospitals and 36,848 dispensaries have also been set up, while over 43,000 studies are hosted on the Ayush Research Portal, emphasizing evidence-based healthcare.

Ayush has also seen digital transformation through initiatives like Ayush Grid, e-Sanjeevani telemedicine, and AI integration. Further, Ayush Telemedicine has brought quality healthcare to remote regions.

Outside India, Ayush Information Cells are currently operational in 39 locations across 35 countries. These serve as vital hubs for disseminating knowledge and building global awareness.

The Ministry has also collaborated with over 103 countries to promote Ayush systems. It established the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar and led to the recognition of traditional medicine in WHO Disease Classification Series ICD-11 in 2024. IANS

Indian scientists develop nano-formulation to bring safer treatment for Parkinson's

NEW DELHI: Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, recently announced a targeted nano-formulation that will enable safer treatment method for people suffering from Parkinson's disease.

The new nano-formulation helps in the sustained release of a hormone called 17beta-oestradiol which is crucial for managing Parkinson's. Many neurodegenerative and psychiatric malignancies like Parkinson's disease originate from an imbalance of 17 beta-oestradiol (E2) in the human brain.

However, the peripheral side effects of the usage of E2 for Parkinson's therapy and less understanding of the molecular mechanism hinder establishing its neurotherapeutic potential, said the team. In the study, published in the journal Carbohydrate Polymers, the team noted using Dopamine Receptor D3 (DRD3) conjugated to 17beta-oestradiol-loaded chitosan nanoparticles that led to sustained release of 17beta-oestradiol (E2) to the brain.

"The targeted nano-formulation inhibited the mitochondrial translocation of calpain, thereby protecting neurons from rotenone-induced mitochondrial damage," the researchers said.

Furthermore, in a rodent model, the targeted nano-delivery system alleviated behavioral impairments. In addition, the study reveals for the first time that BMI1, a member of the PRC1 complex that regulates mitochondrial homeostasis, is a substrate of calpain.

The targeted nano-formulation restored BMI1 expression by inhibiting its degradation through calpain. Calpain is a protein that breaks down proteins in cells in response to calcium.

The study "has helped in understanding the role of hormone (E2) in regulating oxidative stress in Parkinson's patients. With the continued exploration of long-term safety profiles and better-targeted delivery, this can establish itself as a safer drug to improve the lives of Parkinson's patients," the researchers said.

Earlier, INST researchers showed that nano-formulation of melatonin -- the hormone produced by the brain in response to darkness -- could provide a therapeutic solution for Parkinson's. IANS

The new nano-formulation helps in the sustained release of a hormone called 17beta-oestradiol which is crucial for managing Parkinson's. Many neurodegenerative and psychiatric malignancies like Parkinson's disease originate from an imbalance of 17 beta-oestradiol (E2) in the human brain

MUMBAI: Shanaya Kapoor recently attended the AMIRI Autumn-Winter 2025-2026 Fashion Week Show in Paris. The diva made quite a wave as the only Indian representative at this prestigious event.

Shanaya Kapoor opted for a stunning burgundy blazer, along with matching trousers for the event. She tied up the sleek look with black boots. Shanaya Kapoor's makeup was flawless, with a clean, glowing finish, enhancing the entire look. As for hair, the stunner decided to tie them in a neat bun. Adding a hint of glamour, she also wore silver studs in her ears.

Making the evening even more special, Shanaya Kapoor also met Mike Amiri, the creative director and founder of the eponymous label. These two were seen indulging in a lively conversation during the event. She even expressed her admiration for AMIRI's innovative designs.

Speaking about her experience at the AMIRI Autumn-Winter 2025-2026 Fashion Week Show in Paris, Shanaya Kapoor was quoted saying, "Attending the AMIRI show in Paris

Shanaya Kapoor becomes the only Indian to attend AMIRI Autumn-Winter Fashion Show in Paris

was a memorable experience. Meeting Mike Amiri felt so special - his vision and creativity are truly inspiring, and it was amazing to see his work come to life on the runway."

For the unversed, the event took place at Pl. de la Porte de Versailles, Paris, on 23rd January 2025.

In the meantime, Shanaya Kapoor will soon be making her highly anticipated Bollywood debut with the upcoming drama, "Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan". She will be seen romancing Vikrant Massey in her debut drama. The film is based on a short story by Ruskin Bond. "Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan" has been shot in multiple locations including Mumbai, Mussoorie, and Europe. Bankrolled by Mini Films, the movie is slated to reach the cinema halls in 2025.

In addition to this, Shanaya Kapoor is also reported to have other projects in her kitty which are expected to be announced shortly.

Meanwhile, Shanaya Kapoor was originally slated to make her debut with Karan Johar's "Bedhadak". The film was announced back in 2022, however, the project later got shelved due to unknown reasons. IANS



Aditi Govitrikar to represent India at 40th anniversary of Mrs World, 'life comes full circle'

MUMBAI: Back in 2001, Aditi Govitrikar created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win the prestigious Mrs. World title. Now, the actress and former model will be representing India at the 40th anniversary of the prestigious Mrs World pageant. Turning back the clock, she will once again be gracing the global stage on 30th January 2025, at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort.

Aditi Govitrikar revealed that this latest opportunity feels like life coming full circle for her. She revealed, "It feels like life has come full circle. Mrs. World holds a very special place in my heart, and every time someone remembers that victory, it's overwhelming. The love and respect I've received over the years are beyond words, and I'm so grateful. I can't wait to relive those memories and celebrate this incredible journey."

Aditi Govitrikar termed her 2001 victory a collective effort. Her exact words were, "Thank you to everyone who has supported me through this incredible journey. You've made it possible for me to stand here today, with my head high and my heart full. This isn't just my story-it's ours."

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Aditi Govitrikar last appeared on the third season of the popular Netflix series "Mismatched". She essays the role of Rishi Singh Shekhawat's (Rohit Saraf) mother, Kalpana Singh in the series. IANS

Good News for Music Lovers

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76th Republic Day of India celebrated in Seattle

India Post News Service

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: The 76th Republic Day of India Reception was hosted in Seattle at the Bell Harbor Conference Centre on 26 January 2025. Mr. Bob Ferguson, Governor of the State of Washington, along with Mr. Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft joined the evening Reception as Guest of Honor.

Addressing the nearly 500 plus Indian American community members, the newly elected 24th Governor of Washington State Mr. Bob Ferguson acknowledged "the incredible contribution the Indian society makes not just for India but for the entire world". He added that as a new Governor of the state of Washington, he looked forward to building on the relationship with the Consulate General of India in Seattle.

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CGI Chicago celebrates India's 76th Republic Day

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Consulate General of India, Chicago celebrated the 76th Republic Day of India on Sunday, 26 January 2025 in the Consulate.

The event began with Consul General Shri Somnath Ghosh unfurling the National Flag, followed by the rendition of India's National Anthem.

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Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be served by Emirates



India Post News Service

DUBAI: The Emirates A350 will make its debut in India on 26 January to Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The Airbus A350 now serves five destinations in the airline's network.

Details on page 20

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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January 31, 2025



Americans4Hindus hosts landmark series of events in Washington D.C., empowering and uniting the Hindu community

DR. ABHILASH MAROJU



WASHINGTON D.C.: A series of high-profile events hosted by Americans4Hindus (A4H) in the heart of the nation's capital underscored the growing political and cultural influence of the Hindu community in the United States. These events, designed to empower American Hindus politically and promote the values of Sanatana Dharma, came to life under the visionary leadership of Dr. Romesh K. Japra, the Founder and Chairman of A4H. A renowned cardiologist, philanthropist, and community leader, Dr. Japra has spent years dedicating his life to political advocacy, community outreach, and cultural preservation. Through A4H, Dr. Japra continues to champion his mission of engaging with American Hindus politically, empowering democracy with Hindu values, and fostering multi-ethnic alliances across various faiths and communities.

creating a unified voice for the community.

National "Rajneeti Conference" - January 19, 2025

The prestigious Rajneeti Conference, held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Rajaji Indian Restaurant in Washington D.C., marked the beginning of a series of impactful gatherings. The event saw an enthusiastic crowd of over 200 attendees, including prominent community leaders, dignitaries, and members of the A4H Board of Trustees.

Dr. Romesh K. Japra warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, highlighting the vital role of political engagement for the Hindu community.

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Indian tricolor unfurled at the iconic Gadar Memorial, SFO on 76th Republic Day



VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

While India celebrated its 76th Republic Day at Rajpath in New Delhi with élan and in tight security with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as the Chief Guest, Bay Area Indians too came in large numbers to celebrate India's Republic Day. The iconic Gadar memorial, reverberating with the chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and drenched in the hues of saffron, white and green, as the Indian tricolor was unfurled. The official flag hoist-

ing ceremony was held at the iconic venue with participation of the consulate staff and Bay area Indian community. Consul General Ambassador Dr Srikar Reddy unfurled the flag, which was followed by the playing of the Indian national anthem. As is the tradition, the Consul General then read out the address of the Honorable President of India. As part of the celebrations, attendees at the ceremony also viewed the televised speech of India's President, Droupadi Murmu.

In her speech, President Murmu highlighted the role of the diaspora, stating,



"Our brothers and sisters living abroad have taken the best of our culture and civilization to different parts of the globe and have made us proud with their achievements in diverse fields. They have always considered themselves to be a part of the India Story." Reflecting on her earlier address during Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Odisha, President Murmu expressed confidence in the diaspora's enthusiastic participation in building a "Viksit Bharat," or a developed India, by 2047.

CG Dr Reddy welcomed the guests and shared the importance of this day and the



role of NRIs in the development of India. CG mentioned the US-India bilateral relationship is better today than it ever has been. "I look forward to continuing the partnership between our two countries and bolstering our shared democratic values," he said.

The program included a special Bharatnatyam performance on students of School of Indian Dance and Natyalaya kuchipudi.

Quinoa, Avocado & Chickpea Salad

MADHUMATI TYAGI

Protein-rich quinoa and chickpeas salad recipe adds power to the zesty and healthy life. Is such a simple dish to make, but so flavor-packed and fresh. This is tasty and packs a nutritious punch. You can add red peppers and marinated, quartered artichoke hearts.

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup quinoa
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons oil
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 cup boiled chickpeas
- 1 medium carrot, shredded (1/2 cup)



- ½ avocado, diced
- 1 (5 ounce) mixed greens, such as spring mix or baby kale-spinach blend or Methi or Muli/radish or green onions

Directions

1. Bring water to a boil in a small saucepan. Stir in quinoa. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until all the liquid is absorbed, about 15 minutes. Use a fork to fluff and separate the grains; let it cool for 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, sprinkle salt over garlic on a cutting board. Mash the garlic with the side of a spoon until a paste forms. Scrape and add it into a medium bowl. Whisk in lemon juice, oil, and pepper. Transfer 3

Tbsp. of the dressing to a small bowl and set aside.

3. Add chickpeas, carrot, and avocado to the bowl with the remaining dressing; gently toss to combine. Allow 5 minutes for flavors to blend. Add the quinoa and gently toss to coat.

4. Place greens in a large bowl and toss with the reserved 3 Tbsp. dressing. Divide the greens between 2 plates and top with the quinoa mixture.

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76th Republic Day of India celebrated in Seattle

Washington State Governor Hon'ble Bob Ferguson and Chairman and CEO of Microsoft, Mr. Satya Nadella joins celebrations; Washington State Passes Senate Resolution 8604 welcoming the 76th Republic Day of India



Dignitaries at 76th Republic Day of India Reception in Seattle (from R-L: Consul General of India in Seattle; Microsoft CEO Mr. Satya Nadella; Secretary of State Steve Hobbs; US Rep Michael Baumgartner; US Rep. Suzan K Delbene; US Rep Kim Schrier; Governor of Washington Bob Ferguson; Mayor of Seattle Mr. Bruce Harrell; Attorney General Nick Brown and Chair of Puyallup Tribes Bill Sterud) - (26 January 2025, Seattle)

India Post News Service

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Addressing the nearly 500 plus Indian American community members, the newly elected 24th Governor of Washington State Mr. Bob Ferguson acknowledged "the incredible contribution the Indian society makes not just for India but for the entire world". He added that as a new Governor of the state of Washington, he looked forward to building on the relationship with the Consulate General of India in Seattle.

Mr. Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft, addressing the gathering, acknowledged that he "was a product of the bond that exists between the two countries (India and USA)," and praised the leadership of both the countries for their "focus on how to use technology to leverage education outcomes, health outcomes, public service efficiency, competitiveness and productivity of small businesses".

It may be noted that in a unique first, several members of the US Congress also joined in the evening celebrations. These included Rep. Suzan DelBene, Rep. Adam Smith, Rep. Michael Baumgartner, Rep. Kim Schrier, who welcomed India's achievements as the world's largest democracy. Other distinguished participants included Washington State Attorney General Nick Brown, Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, along with Mayors of TEN cities of Seattle, Bellevue,

Renton, Auburn, Tacoma, Mercer Island, Monroe, Kent and Sammamish. Several Washington State Senators and Representatives, along with King County and Bellevue City Council elected members also participated at the evening celebrations.

In a special recognition, Washington

of India and the United States of America.

In another special gesture by Seattle city, several iconic buildings in Seattle, including the Seattle Great Wheel, Seattle Convention Center and Columbia Center were also lit up in tricolors to mark the India Day celebrations.

The Republic Day Reception in Seattle

also showcased several unique exhibits on display, which included a) ODOP (One District, One Product) - featuring one unique cultural heritage product from each state and union territory of India, along with c) A Photo Exhibit: India through Tim's eyes, which put on display some of India's most iconic tourism sites, that were photographed by ace photographer Tim Durkan, during his re-



Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO, Microsoft addressing India's 76th Republic Day reception

Washington, along with Mr. Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft joined the evening Reception as Guest of Honor.



Hon'ble Bob Ferguson Governor of Washington State addressing India's 76th Republic Day reception

State Senate in Olympia also passed a State Senate Resolution 8604, moved by State Senator Manka Dhingra and supported by Senator Vandana Slatter, welcoming the 76th Republic Day of India and the strong friendship between the people

cent visit to India in September last year. The Evening Reception also featured a specially curated dance performance showcasing the various dance forms of "Bharat titled Natyam" - which was extremely well received by the gathering.



Attendees at India's 76th Republic Day reception

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CGI Chicago celebrates India's 76th Republic Day



India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Consulate General of India, Chicago celebrated the 76th Republic Day of India on Sunday, 26 January 2025 in the Consulate.

The event began with Consul General Shri Somnath Ghosh unfurling the National Flag, followed by the rendition of India's National Anthem. Consul General then read out the address of the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, highlighting the significance of Republic Day and the country's priorities and achievements. Consul General spoke about the strong India-US strategic partnership and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the Indian diaspora in strengthening ties between the two nations. A cultural program was also organized as part of the celebration.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including State Representative Dave Vella of the 68th District of Illinois, Alderwoman Shweta Baid and other elected representatives. Also in atten-



dance was Mrs. Najma Heptullah, former Vice Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of India's Parliament) and former Governor of the State of Manipur, along with prominent members of the Indian diaspora.



Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be served by Emirates A350 from 26 January



India Post News Service

DUBAI: The Emirates A350 will make its debut in India on 26 January to Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The Airbus A350 now serves five destinations in the airline's network.

The roll out of Emirates' A350 aircraft to India, featuring the airline's latest interiors, industry-first technologies and innovations, reinforces Emirates' commitment to customers in India and beyond, and offers exceptional levels of comforts onboard.

Emirates' A350 services to both Mumbai and Ahmedabad will operate daily as follows (all times are local):

Mumbai: The Emirates A350 will operate daily on EK502 and EK503. EK502



departs Dubai at 1315hrs, arriving in Mumbai at 1750hrs. The return flight, EK503 leaves Mumbai at 1920hrs, arriving in Dubai at 2105hrs.

Ahmedabad: The A350 aircraft will op-

erate the route daily on EK538 and EK539. EK538 will depart Dubai at 2250hrs, arriving in Ahmedabad at 0255hrs (next day). EK539 will depart Ahmedabad at 0425hrs to arrive back in

Dubai at 0615hrs.

The highly-anticipated launch of Emirates' A350 services to the two Indian points follows the launch of operations to Edinburgh, Kuwait and Bahrain.

The airline also currently serves Mumbai and Bangalore with daily services on its flagship A380 aircraft, offering customers a choice of four cabin classes, including the signature Premium Economy experience. Emirates services nine points in India with 167 flights per week.

For more information or to book tickets, visit emirates.com. Tickets can also be booked on Emirates App, Emirates Retail stores, Emirates contact center, or via travel agents.

Could rebuilding LA upend plans to deport millions of Immigrants?

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Immigrants are the backbone of the American economy and are key to many sectors, including construction and other services relevant to the reconstruction after a disaster. Experts and advocates discussed on Jan 24 whether this effort will go anywhere and what steps are being taken to confront the issue and ensure workers' rights.

In post-apocalyptic fires in LA, as has happened in every disaster in the United States, immigrants are already hard at work doing the cleanup as the area emerges from its worst disaster ever. Many of these workers are undocumented. An effective recovery will be key not just for the people who lost their homes but also for the insurance indus-

try and the economy at large.

Pablo Alvarado, Co-Executive Director of NDLON, the National Day Laborers Organizing Network explained the contribution of immigrant gig workers in this wildfire. There is a community work center in Pasadena near the wildfire. There are many immigrant workers here to help clean up debris. The working environment of these odd jobs is

harsh and they lack effective protective tools. Pablo Alvarado said, "Los Angeles cannot be rebuilt without these immigrant workers." Now that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is arresting undocumented immigrants in large numbers, many parents in Southern California are afraid to send their children to school.

Nik Theodore, Distinguished Profes-

sor, Department of Urban Planning and Policy University of Illinois Chicago said reconstruction requires a lot of manpower and often has to hire third-party contractors. These workers generally face a harsh situation of low wages and insufficient protective tools. The government's deportation order for undocumented tourists will make the manpower shortage even more severe.

Jennie Murray, President and Chief Executive Officer at National Immigration introduced a poll of Democrats and Republicans conducted in December last year. The results showed that 76% supported deportation of criminals rather than immigrant labor. Jennie Murray said that even among Republicans, many people support that it should be criminals who are deported.

Pablo Alvarado, Co-Executive Director of NDLON, the National Day Laborers Organizing Network explained the contribution of immigrant gig workers in this wildfire. There is a community work center in Pasadena near the wildfire. There are many immigrant workers here to help clean up debris

Community Seva Inc. hosts MLK Day of Service to support the Unhoused in Santa Clara County



India Post News Service

SAN JOSE, CA: Community Seva Inc. marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a powerful day of service in honor of Dr. King's legacy of community and service. On January 20, 2025, over 21 volunteers came together to support unhoused individuals across Santa Clara County, distributing essential items to those in need. The event spanned multiple locations, including San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Gilroy, focusing on encampments and safe parking lots.

- The day's activities included:
- Preparing and serving a hot, nutritious lunch for more than 300 individuals
 - Packing and distributing 300 backpacks filled with blankets, beanies, gloves, socks, rain ponchos, and hygiene kits
 - Distributing shoes, socks, and winter essentials to those in need
 - Delivering blankets and warm meals to 60 individuals staying in overnight

warming centers across two locations "Today, we are reminded of the power of community and how we can all come together to make a difference. The efforts



of our volunteers and partners are truly a testament to Dr. King's belief in serving others," said Nathan Ganeshan, President

and Founder of Community Seva Inc. Several local advocates for the unhoused community lent their expertise and support during the distribution, assisting in outreach and ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals were served. Their collaboration was crucial to the success of the event and helped amplify the impact of the day's efforts.

Elected officials also visited the event to show their support and recognize the importance of giving back to those in need. State Senator Dave Cortese, Assembly Member Ash Kalra, County Supervisor Board President Otto Lee, and Supervisor Sylvia Arenas's representative all stopped by to commend the work of Community Seva and its volunteers - "MLK Day is an

important opportunity to give back and make a meaningful impact in our communities," "Community Seva's commitment to helping the unhoused is inspiring, and I am proud to be part of today's efforts,"

This impactful day of service is part of Community Seva's ongoing mission to provide assistance to underserved populations and promote the spirit of volunteerism in the region.

About Community Seva Inc. Community Seva Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger, homelessness, and poverty in the Bay Area. Through a variety of programs and volunteer-driven initiatives, Community Seva works to uplift vulnerable communities and create lasting positive change.

For more information about Community Seva Inc. or to get involved in future volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://communityseva.org> or contact media@communityseva.org



Americans4Hindus hosts landmark series of events in Washington D.C., empowering and uniting the Hindu community

Cont'd from page 16

His speech set the tone for the event, emphasizing the need for youth empowerment through the Hindu Rajneeti Academy-an initiative aimed at training the next generation of political leaders in the United States. His address was met with resounding applause, with attendees praising the clarity of his vision and the depth of his commitment to bringing Hindu values into American politics.

The conference was graced by several prominent political leaders, each of whom shared their strong support for A4H's mission:

• Shri Thanedar, U.S. Representative from Michigan's 13th District expressed his firm commitment to economic development and immigration advocacy, emphasizing that his support for the Hindu community would always remain unwavering. "Americans4Hindus represents the kind of political engagement that will ensure our community's voice is heard at the highest levels," he remarked, receiving



later as a state legislator-Suhas has long advocated for women's healthcare, responsible gun ownership, and environmental protection. "The work that A4H is doing to engage with American Hindus politically is vital for the future of our nation," he said, pledging his support for A4H's efforts.

about the future of our community; it is about the future of America itself," she said, reinforcing her unwavering support for the organization.

Key figures from A4H, including Rajiv Sharma (A4H PAC President, Virginia

President, Michigan Chapter), Hema Rachmale (A4H PAC Vice President, Michigan Chapter), Seema Lokre (A4H PAC President, Kansas Chapter), Neeraj Kashalkar (A4H PAC President, California Chapter), Sartaj Singh Sekhon (A4H PAC



widespread applause from the audience.

• Suhas Subramanyam, U.S. Representative for Virginia's 10th Congressional District, was another highlight of the event. Having dedicated his career to public service-first as an EMT and firefighter, and

• Haley Stevens, U.S. Congresswoman from Michigan's 10th District, captivated the audience with a powerful speech focused on the intersection of technology, manufacturing, and community development. "The work A4H is doing is not just



Chapter), Navneet Sharda (A4H PAC Vice President, Virginia Chapter), Akhil & Madhu Govil (A4H PAC Vice President, Virginia Chapter), Pramod Thanedar (A4H PAC

President, Sacramento Chapter), Amar Upadhyay (A4H PAC President, Illinois Chapter),

Cont'd on page 23



Americans4Hindus hosts landmark series of events in Washington D.C., empowering and uniting the Hindu community

Cont'd from page 22

Vidya Mishra (A4H PAC Executive Vice President, Maryland Chapter), Raman Sood (A4H PAC Chief Advisor, Maryland Chapter) Sandeep Deswal (A4H PAC Official Spokesperson & Media Chief), Dr. Abhilash (A4H Associate Director), along with other Trustees and members, played an instrumental role in making the event a resounding success. Their active participation and shared enthusiasm left a lasting impact on the attendees.

Hindu & Latino Gala - January 19, 2025 (Evening)

The evening of January 19, 2025, saw the grand collaboration of Americans4Hindus and the American Hindu Coalition (AHC) at the Hindu & Latino Gala, held at the prestigious Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C. This gathering brought together an eclectic mix



of cultures, uniting over 1,500 attendees from various ethnic backgrounds, including Hindus, Latinos, and other multi-ethnic communities. The Gala was a celebration of unity, culture, and shared values, showcasing the rich diversity that makes up the fabric of American society.

Attendees were treated to a dazzling array of performances, including traditional songs, dances, and cultural exchanges that highlighted the event's theme of inclusivity. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by a delectable selection of food, bringing together a perfect blend of Indian and Latin American cuisines.

Throughout the evening, members of A4H stood out in their branded tags, scarves, and badges, serving as a beacon of unity and community strength. The event was an excellent platform for A4H to extend its outreach, with many attendees showing interest in joining the organization and supporting its initiatives. The Gala

was a clear testament to the collective spirit of the Hindu community, and it underscored the growing support for A4H across various ethnic and cultural lines.

Presidential Inauguration - January 20, 2025

The pinnacle of the series of events took place on Monday, January 20, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol with the Inauguration of President Donald J. Trump. This prestigious event, held within the Capitol Building, witnessed thousands of dignitaries, politicians, and citizens in attendance, with

a heightened sense of excitement and anticipation.

Despite the tight security measures, which included protocols discouraging self-driving and cab services, the ceremony was flawlessly executed. A4H members were present in full force, proudly displaying their branded attire, and greeting participants throughout various locations in Washington D.C.

Dr. Romesh Japra, along with other A4H leaders like Sandeep Deswal, was interviewed by several prominent news channels, including Aaj Tak and international outlets from Europe, Asia, and the

Americas. Dr. Japra spoke with pride about the ongoing support the Hindu community has received from President Trump and the importance of continued collaboration between India and the United States. "The bond between India and the U.S. is not just political but rooted in shared values, and it is through this unity that we can support our community here in America," Dr. Japra stated.

A4H members also attended Congressman Shri Thanedar's inauguration, showing their continued support for his leadership and his work on behalf of the Indian-American community.

The inauguration ceremony, which was broadcast globally, was a momentous occasion not only for the U.S. but also for A4H, as it provided yet another platform to showcase the strength and unity of the Hindu-American community.

In Conclusion:

The series of events organized by Americans4Hindus in Washington D.C. in January 2025 was a resounding success, blending political engagement with cultural celebration. Dr. Romesh K. Japra's leadership continues to inspire and mobilize American Hindus, forging new alliances and empowering the community in ways that will leave a lasting impact on U.S. politics. With initiatives like the A4H Rajneeti Academy, A4H is ensuring that the voice of the Hindu community is heard and that its values are preserved and promoted for generations to come.

The events in Washington D.C. were a clear demonstration of the power of unity and the potential of political empowerment for the Hindu community in America. As Dr. Japra so eloquently put it, the time to Protect, Engage, and Empower is now-by embracing both cultural values and political participation.

Dr. Japra spoke with pride about the ongoing support the Hindu community has received from President Trump and the importance of continued collaboration between India and the United States. "The bond between India and the U.S. is not just political but rooted in shared values, and it is through this unity that we can support our community here in America,"



Union Budget: PMAY holds key to affordable housing for millions

NEW DELHI: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban) has made steady progress since it was announced in mid-2015 in providing affordable housing and going forward, adaptable, sustainable and low-cost construction technologies can be used to rapidly develop large mass housing projects, according to a recent report.

Data by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs indicates 118.64 lakh homes have been sanctioned as of January 20, 2025.

Nearly 90.22 lakh units have been completed, and nearly 112.50 lakh have been 'grounded'. In terms of the financials, nearly Rs 200,000 crore of central assistance has already been committed.

"PMAY must be made accessible to more people, and awareness about it also needs a big shot in the arm," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group.

An important aspect of PMAY is interest subsidy on home loans, and direct subsidy for individual house construction or enhancement.

"Any announcements that Union Budget 2025-26 will make in context with affordable housing will doubtlessly involve PMAY. Creative solutions and strong political will can bring this vitally important program back to center stage, which is where it belongs," Puri added.

Nationally, rising prices have led to a gradual tapering down of luxury housing, and this may trigger an inflection point where the cycle can once again turn positive for the affordable segment (units priced under Rs 40 lakh).

Any substantial announcement for the affordable housing segment in the upcoming Union Budget can strengthen the trend and give affordable housing a seriously needed leg-up, according to the report.

"Even if such measures don't initiate a full-blown revival, they can at least improve this segment's overall prospects. Finally, a healthy housing market caters to a broad range of buyers and doesn't favor just one segment," said Puri. IANS

Decoding India's Housing Future: Trends Driving Residential Real Estate in 2025

NEW DELHI: India's residential real estate market is on the brink of a transformative era, with an ambitious vision to achieve a \$40 trillion GDP by 2047, thereby positioning the sector as a crucial engine of economic growth. Further, with the nation poised to build 100 million homes by the end of this decade, 2025 will mark a critical juncture for housing development. Some key trends that will dominate the sector in 2025 will include the adoption of technology and organized construction practices that will drive quality, personalization, timeliness, sustainability, affordability, and transparency.

Government Policies Driving Housing Development.

India's ambition to achieve a \$40 trillion GDP by 2047 places the housing sector at the core of national economic growth. Initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which aims to provide affordable housing for all, are pivotal in driving homeownership. Additionally, tax benefits and infrastructure development projects, such as smart cities; create favorable conditions for buyers and developers. The government's focus on urban renewal and sustainable infrastructure is also encouraging investments in eco-friendly housing, aligning with modern buyer preferences and environmental priorities.

The Rise of Customized

Housing

One of the defining trends for 2025 is the rising demand for customized housing solutions. Unlike cookie-cutter apartments, customized homes offer flexibility in design, privacy, and the ability to align with homeowners' unique needs. This shift is driven by a growing segment of affluent buyers and multi-generational families seeking personalized spaces. This trend is particularly pronounced among the growing

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affluent class, with India's super-rich households expected to increase fivefold by 2030.

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fivefold by 2030, demand for homes tailored to individual preferences is only set to grow.

Customized housing solutions are further bolstered by advancements in modular construction, digital design platforms, and virtual reality tools, enabling homeowners to participate in the design process actively. According to a report by Knight Frank, consumer preferences for bespoke living spaces are on the rise, with a significant

percentage of homebuyers prioritizing individuality, functionality, and premium finishes in their housing choices. These trends are a testament to how customization is redefining urban living standards, offering homeowners a seamless blend of aesthetics and practicality.

Sustainability Takes Centre Stage

Sustainability has become a key driver in the residential real estate sector. With growing awareness about environmental issues, both developers and

homeowners are prioritizing green construction practices. This includes using renewable materials, integrating energy-efficient technologies, and designing homes with lower carbon footprints.

Additionally, custom-built homes are particularly well-suited to incorporate environment-friendly and sustainable features, from rainwater harvesting systems to solar panels, creating long-term value for homeowners while reducing environmental impact.

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Authored by: Jayesh Rajpurohit, Co-Founder & CEO Of Brick&Bolt.

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Mumbai, Delhi among top cities in Asia Pacific for FDI in real estate: CBRE report



NEW DELHI: Mumbai and New Delhi rank among the top 10 most preferred markets for cross-border real estate investment in the Asia Pacific region, as per recent report.

While Mumbai ranked fifth after Tokyo, Sydney, Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City, New Delhi was tied for the eighth spot along with Seoul, Osaka and Hanoi, according to the report by property consulting firm CBRE.

In India, the total net buying intentions reached 3 percent, with developer, owner, operator, real estate fund, and institutional investors displaying the strongest buying intentions.

The report further pointed out, investor sentiment in India is driven by asset classes, including office, residential, industrial and data centers, the report states.

India recorded robust foreign equity investment inflows in 2024 calendar year, with countries like Singapore, the United States, and Canada dominating the foreign equity investments. These three countries cumulatively contrib-

uted more than 25 percent of the total equity investments in the country's real estate in 2024, the report said.

Singapore accounted for nearly 36 percent share of the total foreign equity investments, followed by the United States (29 percent) and Canada (22 percent).

Investments from the UAE also witnessed a significant uptick throughout 2024 compared to 2023. Total equity investment in Indian real estate recorded an all-time high of \$11.4 billion in 2024, increasing by 54 percent year-on-year, according to the report.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa, CBRE, said, "Investment in India's real estate market reached a record high in CY2024. While the landscape was primarily dominated by domestic investors, foreign equity investments and a significant resurgence of capital deployment across asset classes

by overseas investors stand as a testament to India's growing prominence as a global real estate destination.

"This trend is anticipated to continue with consistent capital flowing into both established and new sectors of the real estate market," he added.

Investors who are investing in Delhi and Mumbai are more inclined to look at value-added and opportunistic strategies which involve a higher risk/return profile than core and core-plus strategies.

Those chasing value-add strategies in India will potentially explore core office products in tier-1 cities such as Mumbai and Delhi, while those looking at more development plays across these markets, with some examples including the acquisition of land sites for either residential (build-to-sell) development or data center development, the report added. IANS

62 pc HNIs and UHNIs plan to buy luxury properties in India in next 12-24 months

NEW DELHI: Confidence in India's economic growth remains strong and 62 percent of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) and ultra high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) have expressed desire to buy luxury properties in the country in the next 12-24 months, according to recent report.

Affluent buyers believe that India will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy, with GDP growth projected to hover between 6 percent and 6.5 percent, said the annual 'Luxury Residential Outlook Survey 2025' conducted by India Sotheby's International Realty (ISIR).

The steady confidence underscores real estate's enduring appeal as a wealth-building asset. The number of ultra high-net-worth individuals in India has reached 13,600 in 2024, with projections of a 50 percent increase by 2028.

HNIs and UHNIs remain primarily motivated by capital appreciation, with 55 percent citing it as their main reason for investing in luxury residential real estate in 2025, up from 44 percent in 2024.

Nearly half of respondents expect real estate investments to deliver returns between 12 percent and 18 percent, while 38 percent anticipate returns below 12 percent. IANS

The ROI of luxury: Why investing in luxury homes in NCR is a smart move

DELHI NCR: The luxury real estate market in NCR is constantly growing, offering investors and end-users numerous opportunities. With unique advantages such as significant appreciation potential, stable rental income, and the prestige associated with owning premium real estate, luxury homes offer a fascinating investment opportunity. Since luxury properties gain value faster, properties located in prime areas provide several benefits.

As tracked by CBRE, Delhi-NCR recorded the maximum sales of luxury homes at 10,500 units in 2024, compared to 5,525 units in the preceding year. The region's market reflected a strong 90% y-o-y growth, largely driven by a growing number of affluent buyers seeking spacious homes with premium amenities that cater to their multifaceted lifestyles. The region's robust infrastructure development, including the Dwarka Expressway, Jewar Airport, and RRTS, ensures future growth potential and continued demand.

Rajjath Goel, Managing Director, MRG Group, says, "Luxury homes in NCR are now beyond mere aesthet-

ics; they are strategic investment assets with growth potential. The high ROI in this segment is driven by strong market demand, infrastructural advancements, and the ability of luxury projects to deliver long-term value. For us, the focus is on creating value-driven offerings that combine modern amenities, prime locations, and sustainable designs. These elements resonate with today's buyers who are seeking exclusivity and quality. Hence, we look forward to contributing to this growth and crafting projects that stand out with every detail."

Luxury homes in NCR have consistently delivered strong capital appreciation and rental yields. Areas like Golf Course Road in Gurugram, Dwarka Expressway, SPR corridor, Noida Sector 150, and Siddharth Vihar in Ghaziabad are emerging as hotspots, offering significant ROI due to increasing demand and healthy supply of premium properties.

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Philosophy

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

The great abstraction of ideas in the world is what we call God. Each thought has two parts - the thinking and the word; and we must have both. Neither idealists nor materialists are right; we must take both idea and expression.

All knowledge is of the reflected, as we can only see our face in a mirror. No one will ever know his own Self or God; but we are that own Self, we are God. In Nirvana you are when you are not. Buddha said, "You are best, you are real, when you are not" - when the little self is gone.

The Light Divine within is obscured in most people. It is like a lamp in a cask of iron, no gleam of light can shine through. Gradually, by purity and unselfishness we can make the obscuring medium less and less dense, until at last it becomes as transparent as glass.

Shri Ramakrishna was like the iron cask transformed into a glass cask through which can be seen the inner light as it is. We are all on the way to become the cask of glass and even higher and higher reflections. As long as there is a "cask" at all, we must think through ma-

because they denounce and criticise, pulling at one string to mend it until two or three others are out of place. Love never denounces, only ambition does that. There is no such thing as "righteous" anger or justifiable killing. If you do not allow one to become a lion, he will become a fox. Women are a power, only now it is more for evil because man oppresses woman; she is the fox, but when she is no longer oppressed, she will become the lion.

Ordinarily speaking, spiritual aspiration ought to be balanced through the intellect; otherwise it may degenerate into mere sentimentality.

All theists agree that behind the changeable there is an Unchangeable, though they vary in their conception of the Ultimate. Buddha denied this in toto. "There is no Brahman, no Atman, no soul," he said.

As a character Buddha was the greatest the world has ever seen; next to him Christ. But the teachings of Krishna as taught by the Gita are the grandest the world has ever known. He who wrote that wonderful poem was one of those rare souls whose lives sent a wave of regeneration through the world. The hu-

*No impatient one
can ever succeed*

*No one will ever know his
own Self or God; but we
are that own Self*



Swami Vivekananda

terial means. No impatient one can ever succeed.

Great saints are the object-lessons of the Principle. But the disciples make the saint the Principle, and then they forget the Principle in the person. The result of Buddha's constant inveighing against a personal God was the introduction of idols into India.

In the Vedas they knew them not, because they saw God everywhere, but the reaction against the loss of God as Creator and Friend was to make idols, and Buddha became an idol - so too with Jesus.

The range of idols is from wood and stone to Jesus and Buddha, but we must have idols.

Violent attempts at reform always end by retarding reform. Do not say, "You are bad"; say only, "You are good, but be better."

Priests are evil

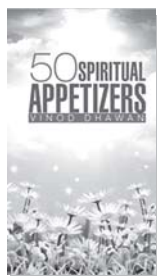
Priests are an evil in every country,

man race will never again see such a brain as his who wrote the Gita.

Excerpted from a lecture delivered in America on Sunday, June 30, 1895 as recorded by Miss S. E. Waldo, a disciple; and published in 'Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda'. The 162nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was observed on January 12.

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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Jac O'Keefe

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Hidden hand behind opposition to Adani wind power project in Sri Lanka?

A. JATHINDRA

Amid the much-hyped joint statement 'Fostering Partnership for a Shared Future' of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayaka, the JVP-led National People's Power government has decided to appoint a committee to review the Adani Group's energy projects in Sri Lanka which was approved by the previous Ranil Wicramasinge-led government. The joint statement also underscored the importance of timely implementation of ongoing energy cooperation projects between India and Sri Lanka.

Adani's investment in Sri Lanka is the first major foreign investment since the country declared bankruptcy following the historic economic crisis. India was playing a pivotal role in rescuing the nation during the crisis. Under the ambitious goal of generating 70 percent of Sri Lanka's total energy from renewable sources and a vision for a

project in northern Sri Lanka cannot be avoided, as a similar Indian project in the strategically important Trincomalee faced the same interference.

Opposition to Indian projects

Indian projects facing setbacks are nothing new in Sri Lanka-in fact, one could even refer to this as the country's model of blocking Indian investments. It is common for the government to grant approval and then withdraw it citing local opposition. The Gotabaya Rajapaksa government, which signed a tripartite agreement with India to jointly develop the strategic Colombo Port's Eastern Container Terminal, arbitrarily cancelled the agreement citing opposition from labor unions.

In retrospect, India's coal-fired power project also faced the same obstacle under the name of environmental concern. Amid the war-torn situation in Sri Lanka, in 2006, the Sri Lankan government and India's National Thermal Power Corporation

(NTPC), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a 500-megawatt (MW) coal power plant at Trincomalee, Eastern Province. However, 10 years later,

Adani's investment in Sri Lanka is the first major foreign investment since the country declared bankruptcy following the historic economic crisis. India was playing a pivotal role in rescuing the nation during the crisis

low-carbon future, the Board of Investment approved a \$422 million project in Mannar and Pooneryn in Sri Lanka's Northern Province in January 2023. The proposed project is one of the largest green energy projects in Sri Lanka; it is expected to generate a total of 484 megawatts of electricity.

However, as the 250 MW Mannar project was planned to be implemented, the Bishop of the Diocese of Mannar, Rev. Emmanuel Fernando, and three environmentalists filed a fundamental rights petition in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. The petitioners have questioned the credibility of the environmental assessment report and have stated that the project will cause financial losses to the country.

But according to the Colombo-based Sunday Times, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including Birds and Bat Studies, it was carried out by the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), led by Devak Weerakoon, a senior professor at the Department of Zoology and Environment Sciences, University of Colombo. Based on this, doubts about environmental interference in Adani's major investment

with all the initial arrangements completed, the project was cancelled.

A similar intervention is happening now with Adani's project in northern Sri Lanka. The Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL) filed a fundamental rights case against the Sampur project. Just as the Bishop of the Diocese of Mannar and some other locals in Mannar opposed Adani's project, the people living in villages near the area chosen for the coal power station in Sampur were also encouraged to oppose it. However, China successfully implemented the 900 MW coal power project in Norochcholai. No environmental organization in Sri Lanka has tried to sue it. Based on this, doubts about environmental interference in Adani's major investment project in northern Sri Lanka cannot be avoided, as a similar Indian project in the strategically important Trincomalee faced the same interference.

(The author is Executive Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, Trincomalee (CSST), Sri Lanka. Views expressed are personal) South Asia Monitor

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Mathura

"HOMETOWN OF LORD KRISHNA"

One of Hinduism's seven sacred cities, Mathura is the birthplace of the beloved Lord Krishna. Located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Mathura and Vrindavan are often considered twin cities (located only 10km away from each other). Mathura is a small town dotted with temples from various ages and attracts a horde of pilgrims from all over the world.

One side of Mathura is stretched across the Yamuna River, lined with 25 ghats, which are best visited during dawn when you can witness locals and tourists taking a holy dip, and at dusk (just after the sunset) when hundreds of diyas are floated during the daily aarti. Mathura is flooded with tourists and pilgrims during the two main festivals - Janmashtami (Lord Krishna's birthday) in August/September, and Holi in February/March.

Shri Krishna Janmabhumi is the most famous tourist attraction in Mathura, as this place is believed to be the exact place where Lord Krishna was born, and the prison where he was born is now on display for tourists to see. Mathura has many temples, both big and small, dotting the entire city, with many of these temples being dedicated to Lord Krishna. The two most important temples in town are the Dwarkadheesh Temple and the Gita Mandir.

If you are looking for more than just the standard tourist fare, then the best way to explore Mathura is by taking a walk around the streets of the city. Every nook and cranny of this religious town still retains an old-world charm that belies the urbanization the city has kept up with. There is a lot of history to Mathura that you can experience only by exploring the old-fashioned architecture; the crumbling ruins of old houses, and the genial amiability of the locals who are always willing to show you around.

It is not possible to think of a city as old as Mathura and imagine it

not having a delicious history of street food! Don't forget to try out local snacks like kachodis, aloo-puri and chaat, which are available at any and all eateries lining the streets. Jalebis and gulab-jamuns are also very popular local street food items that are available at all shops throughout the day.

Places to visit in Mathura

Krishna Janmasthan Temple Complex: Shri Krishna Janmasthan Temple is located in the holy city of Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. It is built around the prison cell in which Lord Krishna's parents, Mata Devaki and Vasudeva, were imprisoned by his evil uncle Kansa. The temple has great significance for the Hindus as it is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna.

Dwarkadhish Temple: The Dwarkadhish Temple, considered amongst the holiest temples in Mathura, is famous all over the country for its elaborate architecture and paintings. Built in 1814, the temple is relatively new but is highly revered. The temple is dedicated to Lord

Dwarkadheesh, a form of Lord Krishna known as Dwarkanath, depicted in a black marble idol.

Gita Mandir: Located on the Vrindavan - Mathura Road is the famous Birla Mandir, also popularly known as Gita Mandir. It is a prominent Hindu pilgrimage site dedicated to Lord Lakshmi Narayan - an avatar of Vishnu. The architecture of the temple speaks of its magnificence and the exquisite carvings and paintings of its grandeur.

Govardhan Hill: Govardhan Hill or the Giri Raj is situated at a distance of 22 km from Vrindavan. It has been stated in the Holy Bhagwat Gita that according to Lord Krishna, Govardhan Parvat is not different from him. 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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India in a challenging neighborhood: Need to reach non-confrontational equilibrium with China

MAJ GEN S.G. VOMBATKERE (RETD)

New US President Trump took office on 20 January 2025 and immediately issued executive orders, in pursuance of his central policy to "Make America Great Again". These orders - with more to follow - are widely viewed as "disruptive". Their implementation will have immediate and long-term effects within and between nations, affecting economic and political (including military) processes and events, worldwide.

India is currently the world's fifth largest economy. India needs to do much, both domestically and with other nations, near and distant, to rise to number three by 2030 as envisaged. The policies and executive actions of the U.S administration,

Coco Islands); in the north Indian Ocean (Sri Lanka's Hambantota) and Maldives; and Pakistan's Gwadar in the north Arabian Sea, also makes China our most powerful ocean neighbor. This has been dubbed as China's "string of pearls". This is without mentioning China's economic influence in these countries, and in other Indian Ocean littoral states.

What India does militarily, diplomatically, economically and politically affects China and vice versa. This could be in terms of policy, diplomacy, trade-business-commerce, military deployment and capability, status and operation of the domestic economy, social integrity, etc., both in India and in China.

What affects India's other less powerful neighbors due to their

sound scientific-technological infrastructure of yesteryears, and the availability of hardware and software in the recent past. We have especially excelled in the aerospace industry, launching successful missions to Moon, Mars, and Sun, with more under planning, and becoming the fourth nation to achieve unmanned docking of spacecraft. Apart from an assured share in the \$400-billion global space market, this capability leverages India's military capability and political heft.

Even with comparative shortfall in defensive and offensive cyber capability, India's military has become more technologically advanced, although with dependence for semiconductor chips and processors, and for cyber security software on international vendors. Very recently, the government announced the starting of India's first commercial semiconductor fab unit as a joint venture between Tata Electronics and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp, to produce 50,000 wafers/month using (albeit not indigenous) 65, 40 and 28-nanometer technology, in 3-4 years. It is not yet clear in what manner and to what extent, this capability may enhance India's cyber-military capability.

Building upon the legacy policy of indigenization, Indian Navy has advanced in increasing its blue-water capability. Indian Air Force remains dogged by depletion of its fighter aircraft with inadequate fresh inductions. How India's drone capability may compensate for this remains to be seen.

(The author is an Indian Army veteran settled in Mysuru, Karnataka. His areas of interest are developmental and strategic affairs. He has over 900 published articles in these areas, and over 80 published papers in niche areas of interest) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

India is currently the world's fifth largest economy. India needs to do much, both domestically and with other nations, near and distant, to rise to number three by 2030 as envisaged. The policies and executive actions of the U.S administration, will impact India's challenging South Asia neighborhood

will impact India's challenging South Asia neighborhood, including the spectrum of India-China relations. [Ref. 1]

This article attempts to appraise the situation in South Asia, as India and its neighbors increasingly engage in military diplomacy and military engagement in furtherance of their respective strategic interests.

India and its neighbors

India has several immediate neighbors. We have land borders with Pakistan and, going clockwise, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. Separated by varying distances of ocean, we have Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Pakistan.

China's naval, economic and commercial power projected into the Bay of Bengal (Myanmar's

own internal or external events also affects both India and China, although perhaps less directly. The effects of China's interactions with its land and ocean neighbors apart from India, also reflects on India's actions, reactions and expectations and diplomacy, on the world stage.

Thus, it behooves us to place China at the center of the "picture", certainly inasmuch as territorial-economic-political sovereignty and security, are concerned. But first, it is best to take a look at India as an emerging political-diplomatic-military-economic power in South Asia and in the international community.

India - an emerging global power

India has made tremendous technological strides across diverse fields, by building on the



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75 YEARS OF BEING REPUBLIC

As India celebrates its 75 years of being a republic and the world largest democracy, it is now ready to take on the challenges no other country can comprehend. However, India has to steer very carefully with the changing world scenario, especially after the new US administration headed by President Donald Trump. India has continually supported legal immigration to US and to other nations across the world. Regardless of change to US administration, India has collaborated with all administrations. The current problem is not the illegal Indians who may be deported but skilled professionals who came to US legally, sacrificing well paying jobs in India to immigrate to US for better and more challenging opportunities.

Trump's return to the White House after a four-year gap threatens to upend international political, economic and strategic landscape, to a much larger degree than what happened during the first term of Donald Trump as President. In an interdependent world, what the sole superpower does, affects all regions of the world in varying degrees. Trump's tough stand on China, launching an economic cold war against China's trade practices; revival of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue among the US, India, Japan and Australia; strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities coincided with robust growth in US-India defense and security cooperation. Differences over trade, tariff and investment issues remained but failed to derail the US-India strategic partnership, strenuously built since the early years of the 21st century.

Seen in a broader geopolitical perspective, Trump 1.0 administration's policies towards South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region were, by and large in keeping with the national interests of India. Can India expect the same scenario during Trump 2.0 administration?

Soon after the Presidential Inauguration signaled that President Trump will continue to give priority to developments in the Indo-Pacific region to ensure no single country takes unilateral measures, to alter the geopolitical status quo in the region, to the detriment of the interests of other countries and, play a proactive role in ensuring freedom of navigation and uninterrupted trade and commerce in the region. The joint statement reiterated the shared commitments of the Quad member countries to uphold the "rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity" in the Indo-Pacific and cautioned against changing the status quo by coercive means.

Seeing the large contingent of Indian business tycoons attending the inauguration ceremony surely reflects good and harmonious relations may be on cards with the new administration. Companies of corruption announced their shutdown days before Trump's inauguration. Around the same time, Breon Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, who had led the indictment against Gautam Adani, also announced his resignation. These events indicate that industrial cooperation between India and the US may witness better days ahead.

However, no one should take Trump for granted, as he may change his stand anytime, and surprise everybody. India on the other hand should be ready to deal with patience and tread carefully, without making harsh comments or take negative steps that may jeopardize our good relations built over the past two decades.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Aside from her acting prowess, Kajol also keeps the fashion police on their toes with her impeccable sense of style. Adding another example, the 'My Name Is Khan' actress took to her official IG and shared some pictures of her posing in a lovely black ensemble.

Kajol looked absolutely breathtaking in a black velvet gown. The monochrome pictures show her accessorizing her outfit of the day with hoop earrings and a messy bun. Along with her look, her caption also caught our attention. Kajol penned, "Let's make

Kajol urges: 'make laughing cool'

laughing as cool as the color black!", along with a black heart emoji.

Netizens were quick to comment on the post. An Insta user wrote, "Or cooler than the black color".

Another one commented, "How can you look so sassy every time".

The third comment read, "Awww she is so pretty".

A cybercitizen shared, "Uufff dat side profile...".

Earlier, Kajol took to her Instagram account and dropped a throw-back pic of herself as Anjali from "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai". The diva was seen posing in her iconic bridal look from the film from her engagement sequence with Aman (Salman Khan). "Is it bridal season still? Hey I got married onscreen quite a few times and ditched as well!

Which did I do more of??", the actress wrote as the caption.

On the other hand, Kajol was last seen in the spine-chilling thriller, "Do Patti", with Kriti Sanon and Shaheer Sheikh in the core cast. *IANS*



Malavika onboard Mohanlal-starrer 'Hridayapoorvam'

Actress Malavika Mohanan, who made heads turn with her powerful performance as Aarthi in director Pa Ranjith's Thangalaan, featuring Vikram in the lead, has now been roped in for the Mohanlal-starrer Hridayapoorvam.

One of Malayalam cinema's iconic directors, Sathyan Anthikad, known for his heartwarming dramas, is directing this film. Hridayapoorvam will mark a significant milestone in Malavika's flourishing career. Anthikad's collaboration with Mohanlal has delivered timeless classics and the addition of Malavika to this stellar team has heightened expectations.

The film's shooting is slated to begin on February 10 in Kochi with a traditional pooja ceremony, while Mohanlal will join the sets on February 14. *IANS*



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

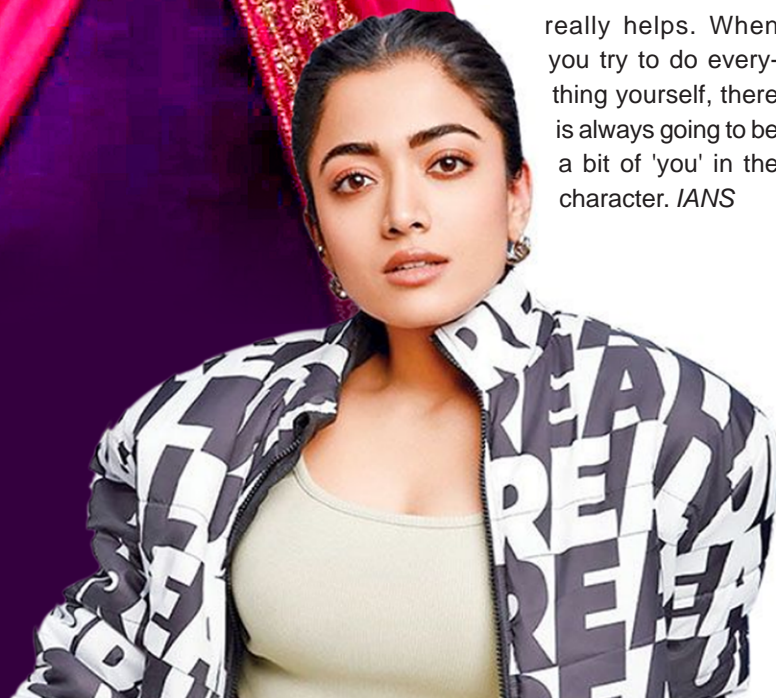
- 1 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 2 Tauba Tauba: **Bad Newz**
- 3 Zaroorat Se Zyada: **Vedaa**
- 4 Tainu Khabar Nahi : **Munjya**
- 5 Sajni: **Laapataa Ladies**
- 6 Soulmate: **Ek Tha Raja**
- 7 Khoobsurat: **Stree 2**
- 8 Ishq: **Ishq**
- 9 Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam: **Bad Newz**
- 10 Taras: **Munjya**

Rashmika Mandanna:

'Switching personas is tricky'

Asking in the success of "Pushpa 2: The Rule", Rashmika Mandanna will next be seen as Maharani Yesubai in the highly awaited "Chhaava" opposite Vicky Kaushal. As the actress is receiving a lot of appreciation for her portrayal in the historical movie, Rashmika Mandanna opened up about her process of characterization.

Speaking about adapting a certain character, Rashmika Mandanna said, "Switching personas is tricky, especially when I'm doing three to four films at the same time. I've realized that surrendering myself to my directors and co-actors really helps. When you try to do everything yourself, there is always going to be a bit of 'you' in the character. *IANS*





Sakshi Agarwal on her STUNTS IN 'BESTY'

Actress Sakshi Agarwal, who has performed action stunts in 'Besty', which incidentally marks her debut in Malayalam, says that "every punch, every leap and every move" of hers in the film was a test of her strength and determination.

The actress, who plays a character called Shahina in the film, has performed a series of stunts including a gripping bike chase on a Bullet. Posting a few pictures shot on sets on social media, Sakshi wrote, "Bringing the action to life! Here's a glimpse of the stunts I got to perform in Besty! Playing Shahina pushed me to explore new challenges, and these action sequences were some of the most thrilling moments on set."

The actress further said, "Every punch, every leap, and every move was a test of my strength and determination-and I couldn't be prouder of the final result. A huge shoutout to the amazing stunt team who made this possible!"

Produced by Benzy Productions's Abdul Nasser and directed by Shanu Shamanth, the film has Sakshi playing Shaheena, a bold and fearless Malayali Muslim woman. *IANS*

Kajal Aggarwal kicks off shooting for 'The India Story'

Actress Kajal Aggarwal has begun shooting for her highly anticipated project, "The India Story."

Marking the start of the film's first shooting schedule in Pune, Kajal took to social media to share her excitement with fans, as she embarks on this new journey. She recently posted an image of her holding a clapboard and captioned it, "Kickstarting our first schedule in Pune, for The India Story. Excited to bring this untold, impactful story to life. Mark your calendars- 15th August 2025 - see you in the cinemas!"

"The India Story," a gripping drama, also stars Shreyas Talpade and Murali Sharma. Directed by Chetan DK and produced by Sagar B. Shinde under MIG Production and Studios, the film, which delves into the dark side of pesticide scandals, will also include key schedules shot in Kolhapur. *IANS*



Richa Chadha on a break; TRYING TO BREATHE FOR NOW

Bollywood actress Richa Chadha recently shared a heartfelt post on her social media, opening up about her brief hiatus and the whirlwind of changes in her life.

In an Instagram post, the actress revealed that she took a small, "un-declared break" from social media, explaining that it was necessary for her to focus on her new role as a mother. She described the period as "bananas," acknowledging the challenges of balancing motherhood with rediscovering herself.

Richa wrote, "I took a small un-declared break of sorts from SM. Sigh! Had to. Needed to. Now back. Somewhat. Between becoming a new mom and trying to remember who I was, it's been bananas. I feel like giving birth is also birthing a new me."

Expressing gratitude to her followers for their patience during her time away, She added, "But first, thank you to those who stayed through my hiatus. I know I don't owe you updates, but I like to chat with you all sometime... kinda like a big WhatsApp group. I am trying to breathe for now. Lots of ."

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal first crossed paths on the sets of "Fukrey," and their bond has only grown stronger since then. The couple made headlines in September 2022 when they announced their plans for an eco-friendly wedding. They tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony in Lucknow. *IANS*



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