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DIWALI IN THAILAND

Thai PM Anutin inaugurates 27-days long Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival

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"Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul inaugurated the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival 2026 today in the presence of Ambassador Puneet Agrawal, Minister of Tourism and Sports Surasak Phancharoenworakul, Governor of Bangkok Chadchart Sittipunt and Governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand Thapanee Kiatphaibool at ICONSIAM Bangkok," the Embassy said on social media platform X.

The Indian classical dance form Kuchipudi was presented at the inauguration.

"A cultural troupe from India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), presented the vibrant Indian classical dance form Kuchipudi at the event," the Embassy said.

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DIWALI AT LAL CHOWK

An aerial view of the illuminated Ghanta Ghar with people gathered at Lal Chowk to light earthen lamps (diyas) on the occasion of Diwali, in Srinagar on November 8. *(ANI Photo)*



Nithya Raman faces council test after victory

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I wish every girl finds her voice: Rashmika

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Harry Boxer's extradition to India

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This week's question

Will Republicans be able to regain trust with voters?

Last week's result

Will Trump try to escalate the war on Iran?

YES 38% NO 62%



City of Fremont's historic Diwali celebration

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

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Saiyami Kher's 'working Diwali'



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DIWALI IN THAILAND

Thai PM Anutin inaugurates 27-day Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival in Bangkok

BANGKOK: Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has inaugurated the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival 2026, the longest Diwali celebration outside India, spanning 27 days across the month of November, the Indian Embassy in Thailand said.

"Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul inaugurated the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival 2026 today in the presence of Ambassador Puneet Agrawal, Minister of Tourism and Sports Surasak Phancharoenworakul, Governor of Bangkok Chadchart Sittipunt and Governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand Thapanee Kiatphaibool at ICONSIAM Bangkok," the Embassy said on social media platform X.

The Indian classical dance form Kuchipudi was presented at the inauguration.

"A cultural troupe from India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), presented the vibrant Indian classical dance form Kuchipudi at the event," the Embassy said.

The festival is being celebrated across Thailand in collaboration with the Indian Embassy, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Indian diaspora associations.

"The longest Diwali celebration outside India, spanning 27 days across the month of November, the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival is being celebrated across Thailand in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Indian diaspora associations and is an opportunity for visitors from all faiths & walks of life to experience and cherish India's rich cultural diversity in its full splendor," it said.



The Embassy described the celebrations as a reflection of the close ties between the two nations.

"The enthusiastic celebration of Diwali across Thailand is a symbol of the deep and ever growing cultural and people-to-people connect between India and Thailand," it added.

Meanwhile, Diwali was also celebrated with great enthusiasm in San Antonio in the US, jointly organized by the City of San Antonio and Anuja SA - San Antonio-Chennai Sister City Alliance.

"Consul General D.C. Manjunath joined San Antonio Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones, city Council members and community leaders for the festivities, celebrating the spirit of friendship and cultural connections between India and the United States," the Consulate General of India in Houston said on X.

The celebrations featured the Diwali River Parade, with colorful floats representing various Indian states, traditional cultural performances, music and Indian cuisine, with thousands of visitors enjoying the festivities along San Antonio's River Walk.

"The event highlighted the growing cultural ties between India and San Antonio and the important role of the Indian-American community in fostering people-to-people connections," the Consulate said.

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UN climate summit in Turkey opens with call to turn promises into action

ANTALYA: To make it an "implementation COP", the two-week 31st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) opened in Antalya in Turkey on Monday with its President Murat Kurum calling on countries to turn climate promises into practical action, as the world confronts increasingly interconnected climate, economic and geopolitical challenges.

Kurum told delegates from nearly 200 countries that climate change can no longer be considered in isolation from the other pressures facing countries and communities, and that "each crisis makes the others worse".

Conflict and geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and debt, food insecurity, rapid technological change and unequal access to capital and technology are unfolding alongside a world that is becoming hotter, more fragile and increasingly exposed to disasters.

Climate impacts are also crossing borders and sectors, Kurum said, with drought, flooding, water scarcity and extreme heat affecting food production, supply chains, economies, migration, cities and human health.

"A drought in one part of the world is felt at the dinner table in another," he said.

Kurum told delegates from nearly 200 countries that climate change can no longer be considered in isolation from the other pressures facing countries and communities, and that "each crisis makes the others worse"

Kurum called for COP31 to become an "implementation COP", focused on closing the gap between commitments made in negotiating rooms and tangible improvements in people's lives.

He pledged that the Presidency will seek to bring countries together across geopolitical and economic divides, and that "Turkey has long served as a bridge -- we are ready to take on that responsibility again".

Kurum reaffirmed the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels as the benchmark guiding international action, saying it "remains our guide" and that at COP31"we will be frank about what the science tells us."

The WMO State of the Climate Update 2026, released on COP31's opening day, shows that the past 12 years have individually been the warmest on record, with the past four years being the top four.

The Belém Mission to 1.5 report published ahead of COP31 by the COP Presidencies of Turkey, Australia, Brazil and Azerbaijan, outlines key opportunities, barriers, and actionable solutions to keep 1.5 degrees within reach and strengthen adaptation and resilience in a changing world.

The Presidency's focus will be on ensuring that decisions taken in Antalya translate into results beyond the negotiating rooms, from more resilient urban infrastructure and productive farmland to cleaner industrial production and lower household energy costs.

Kurum used his opening statement to reinforce the role of electrification in the energy transition, highlighting Turkey's "35-by-35" Global Electrification Pledge, which sets an objective of increasing electricity's share of final energy consumption to 35 per cent by 2035.

Renewable energy, stronger grids, energy storage, energy efficiency, clean transport and green industry will be mutually reinforcing components of that transformation, Kurum said. *IANS*

Trump gets Hanuman Chalisa at White House Diwali

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump received a copy of the Hanuman Chalisa during a Diwali celebration in the Oval Office, according to entrepreneur Vishal Gondal, who said he presented the devotional text and prayed for friendship between India and America.

"Honored to celebrate Diwali with President @realDonaldTrump and proud to gift him with a copy of the Hanuman Chalisa, Tulsidas's hymn to Lord Hanuman that millions of us recite for courage, devotion and strength," Gondal wrote on X.

A photograph showed the cream-colored book resting against red fabric. Its cover depicted a kneeling Lord Hanuman holding a text, with the title in red lettering, lotus motifs below and metallic protectors on the corners.

In a group photograph, guests in Indian attire and dark suits posed around the president's desk against a backdrop of gold curtains and flags. Books, telephones and a model aircraft stood on the polished desktop.

The photographs provided glimpses of



the gathering, while Gondal's posts supplied the account of the gift and lamp-lighting.

The White House's official schedule listed the celebration for 1:30 pm EST in the Oval Office, with no press access.

A photographed program posted by Gomdal outlined a half-hour ceremony, with presidential remarks and the lighting of a diya scheduled five minutes after the start. *IANS*

"As the diyas were lit, my prayer was for friendship between India and America, and for the triumph of light over darkness," Gondal wrote.



Indian missions in UK, US, France, Russia UAE celebrate Diwali with diaspora

NEW DELHI: Indian missions in major world capitals, including London, Washington, Paris, Moscow and Abu Dhabi, extended Diwali greetings and celebrated the festival with the Indian diaspora, while New York Governor Kathy Hochul proclaimed November 8 as Diwali in the state.

India's High Commissioner to the UK, P. Kumaran, extended greetings to the Indian diaspora in a special message.

"A message of light, hope and togetherness this Diwali! In his special message, High Commissioner P. Kumaran extends warm greetings to the Indian diaspora and friends of India across the UK, celebrating the traditions that connect us to our roots and the enduring bonds of friendship between India and the UK," the High Commission of India in London said on social media platform X.

"May the light of Diwali illuminate hearts, strengthen bonds and inspire new beginnings! The High Commission of India in London extends warm wishes to the Indian diaspora, friends of India and everyone celebrating the Festival of Lights across the UK and beyond," it said in another post.

The Consulate General of India in New York thanked Governor Hochul for proclaiming November 8, 2026, as Diwali, "The Festival of Lights", in New York State.

"We deeply appreciate the Governor's thoughtful gesture and recognition of the Indian-American community's contributions to New York State," the Consulate said on X.

"We deeply appreciate the Governor's thoughtful gesture and recognition of the Indian-American community's contributions to New York State," the Consulate said on X

In France, the Embassy of India in Paris hosted a Diwali reception for the Indian community at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre on November 7.

"The event celebrated the festival of lights, bringing the community together in a spirit of unity, friendship and conviviality," the Embassy said in a post on X in French.

In Russia, the Consulate General of India in Saint Petersburg celebrated Diwali with the Indian diaspora in collaboration with INRUCS.

"Consul General, Neelam Rani, addressed the gatherings, highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of Diwali and its message of light, hope and the triumph of good over evil," the Consulate said on X.

The celebration featured Indian dance performances and quizzes, including Bharat Ko Janiye, a Bhagavad Gita quiz and a Diwali special quiz. Videos on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were also shown as part of BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week.

In Moscow, artists of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre of the Embassy of India took part in the Diwali Special Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, which is open to the public from November 3 to 10.

In the UAE, the Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi was lit up for the festival.

"Diwali is light. Diwali is sweets. Diwali is rangoli, family, love and prosperity. Warm wishes from the Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi to everyone celebrating in the UAE and around the world. May this festival fill your homes with light, love and togetherness," the Embassy said on X. *IANS*

US Ambassador calls on Jyotiraditya Scindia discusses advancing ties with India

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, met Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia in New Delhi recently, holding discussions on advancing ties and identifying new opportunities for cooperation.

"Great meeting with Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to discuss advancing US-India ties and identifying new opportunities for cooperation. Looking forward to building on this momentum!" Gor wrote on X after the meeting.

Scindia stated he and Gor discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and the US.

"A pleasure meeting US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Deliberated on avenues to advance our bilateral cooperation and further strengthen the Indo-US strategic partnership," Scindia posted on X.

Last month, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was on an official visit to India, during which he met External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar in Mumbai.

Rubio and EAM Jaishankar held discussions focusing on further advancing bilateral ties. The two sides also exchanged views on regional developments.



Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia felicitates U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, in New Delhi on November 9. *(@JM_Scindia X/ANI Photo)*

"Pleased to meet US Marco Rubio in Mumbai today. We shared views on further advancement of our ties, focusing on trade, energy, technology, defense and people-to-people ties. Also exchanged views on regional developments," EAM Jaishankar stated on X after the meeting.

Rubio said that he and EAM Jaishankar discussed energy security and defense cooperation. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and other officials were also present at the meeting.

"In Mumbai, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and I discussed energy security and defense cooperation while reaffirming the importance of advancing the US-India strategic partnership," the US Secretary of State posted on X.

Marco Rubio, EAM Jaishankar, and UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan also held a trilateral meeting in Mumbai, exchanging perspectives on energy, connectivity and contemporary developments. *IANS*

BJP slams Kharge over 'Khusiyon ki Eid' remark, accuses Congress of anti-Hindu mindset

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a sharp attack on Congress National President, Mallikarjun Kharge, over his "Khusiyon ki Eid" remark, accusing the Congress of having an "anti-Hindu, anti-Sanatan mindset" and describing Kharge as a "remote-controlled president".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, the party's National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that the Congress was indulging in appeasement politics and disrespecting the religious sentiments of Hindus whenever the country witnessed an atmosphere of celebration.

"An atmosphere of happiness and celebration is clearly visible across the country. But whenever there is an atmosphere of joy and celebration in India, why is it that an Opposition party like the Congress engages only in appeasement politics? It also disrespects and insults the sentiments of Hindu followers and Sanatanis, who uphold Hindutva with great reverence. This has now become the character of the Congress Party. This is the DNA of the Congress Party," Bhatia alleged.

Targeting Kharge, the BJP spokesperson described him as a "remote-controlled president" and alleged that he was being controlled by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, with Rahul Gandhi also playing a role in the party's leadership.

"Whatever statements Mallikarjun Kharge makes should be seen as reflecting the anti-Hindu and anti-Sanatan thinking of Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Kharge himself. Through his words and statements, he is furthering that very ideology," he alleged.

Bhatia said the BJP had not expected Kharge to extend Diwali greetings to Hindus, but questioned his choice of words while referring to the festival.

"Lord Ram is revered by us all. Yet, Mallikarjun Kharge, the president of the Congress, or rather, the 'Muslim Party', stumbles when trying to say 'Diwali,' choosing instead to describe it as 'Khusiyo ka ek Eid hai'," Bhatia said. *IANS*

China's youth unemployment shows limits of 'study, get a job' model: Sridhar Vembu

NEW DELHI: Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu has warned that the traditional model of education leading to stable salaried employment is increasingly coming under strain worldwide, arguing that entrepreneurship and self-employment will be essential to address the growing disruption caused by automation and artificial intelligence.

In a post on social media platform X, Vembu responded to a discussion highlighting China's worsening youth employment challenges and said the country offers an important lesson for policymakers globally, including in India.

Referring to China's economic trajectory, Vembu noted that for decades young people were encouraged to believe that academic success would translate into secure employment and a better standard of living than their parents enjoyed. However, he said that social contract is beginning to break down despite China's significant economic achievements.

"For decades, young Chinese were promised a simple deal: Study hard. Get a good job. Become richer than your parents. That deal is breaking," Vembu wrote.

"China is the factory of the world, has impressive technology capabilities across a vast array of sectors and runs a $1.2 trillion merchandise trade surplus and yet is not able to create jobs for a big cohort of her college-educated youth,"

"China is the factory of the world, has impressive technology capabilities across a vast array of sectors and runs a $1.2 trillion merchandise trade surplus and yet is not able to create jobs for a big cohort of her college-educated youth," he added.



Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu

He pointed to data suggesting that nearly 70 percent of unemployed individuals in China's 20-24 age group hold university degrees.

"Approximately 70 percent of all unemployed individuals in the 20-to-24 age group hold university degrees in China," Vembu noted.

"Our modern educational and economic system around the world trains young people for 'steady paycheck' jobs and those jobs are not just not growing, they are under serious challenge due to automation and AI. This problem is about to get worse, not better," he added.

As a solution, Vembu advocated a stronger focus on entrepreneurship and self-employment.

He said widespread entrepreneurial activity was historically a major driver of prosperity, including in the United States before the expansion of large industrial corporations and formal salaried employment became dominant.

"What is the solution? Dramatic gains in entrepreneurship and self-employment. That has been the foundation of prosperity even in America all the way until the mid 20th century. The rise of the big industrial and corporate "steady paycheck" job is a relatively recent phenomenon. We have to move away from that model," he stated.

"Policymakers in India must pay heed," Vembu mentioned. *IANS*

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Canada: Death of Punjab youth raises concern over vulnerability of Indian migrants

OTTAWA: The death of a 28-year-old man, a resident of Punjab's Tarn Taran district, in Canada has raised concerns over the vulnerability of Indian migrants and exposed the financial hardships that can lie behind the pursuit of an overseas dream.

Simranjeet Singh died on October 23 after he was reportedly hit by a train in Canada's Greater Toronto. On October 23, Singh made food for himself before travelling towards a railway station in Mississauga. Subsequently, he died in a train-related incident that had been termed as suspected suicide.

His death, believed to be a suicide, has brought attention to the fraudulent employment arrangements, alleged wage exploitation and the difficulties faced by migrants in the pursuit of Canada's immigration system.

His family said Singh visited Canada on an employer-specific work permit obtained through the Labor Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process. His parents had reportedly borrowed heavy amount of money to pay for his migration to Canada, expressing hope that employment would eventually improve their financial conditions. However, Simranjeet started facing difficulties immediately after he arrived in Canada's British Columbia.

His family said that the firm that had supposedly offered him employment was not found in Canada. Since none of the representative came to the airport to receive him, Singh initially went to live with his friend and subsequent inquiries reportedly indicated that the company mentioned in the employment documents was not functional. As a heavy amount of money was spent on securing work permit, he was left stranded without the employment opportunity that was the reason behind his move to Canada.

He shifted to Greater Toronto, where he obtained a truck driver's license and began working for a transport company. However, his relatives have claimed that his hopes of achieving financial stability were undermined again as the trucking company did not pay him approximately CAD 15,000 in wages. His employer later reportedly released only CAD 2,000 to CAD 3,000, leaving a significant portion of his earnings outstanding.

Simranjeet Singh died on October 23 after he was reportedly hit by a train in Canada's Greater Toronto. On October 23, Singh made food for himself before travelling towards a railway station in Mississauga

He resigned there and worked for an e-commerce company for several months in Ottawa. Later, he returned to the Greater Toronto before working for a trucking assignment again. Despite his efforts, he continued to face difficulties to have stable employment and financial security in Canada. His difficulties were further increased by a loan exceeding Rs 25 lakh, which his family had taken to pay for his migration to Canada. He struggled to repay the loan as he had limited earnings.

Simran problems further increased due to immigration uncertainty. His family members said that Simranjeet Singh had met an immigration lawyer who submitted a refugee protection claim in an attempt to regularize his position in Canada. Initially, the family believed that the application was under process, however, information received following his death indicated that the claim had already been rejected. His family claimed that the lawyer had accepted money without sharing important developments. When Simranjeet demanded clarification, he was reportedly informed that his immigration status had expired and more money was needed for the process. *IANS*

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China extends suspension of 24 pc tariffs on US imports port fees

NEW DELHI: China has extended the suspension of an additional 24 percent tariff on imports from the United States for two months and prolonged the suspension of special port fees on US-linked vessels, while maintaining the existing 10 percent tariff on affected goods.

The 24 percent additional tariff on US imports will remain suspended for two months from 1:01 pm GMT on November 10, 2026, and the suspension of special port fees on US-linked ships has been extended until January 10, 2027, according to multiple reports citing China's finance ministry.

China will also continue to suspend its probe into shipping and shipbuilding supply chain security, the reports said.

The moves follow a September summit in Washington between the leaders of China and the United States, after which both sides proposed a $60 billion package of reciprocal tariff reductions. The package covers nearly $17 billion worth of US agricultural goods imported by China in 2024, although the proposal has yet to be finalized.

The tariff suspensions have been extended to implement the "outcomes and consensus reached at the Washington meeting between the heads of state of China and the United States". *IANS*

Gold, silver rally up to 2 pc as softer crude, US dollar support bullion



NEW DELHI: Gold and silver prices rallied up to 2 pc on 9 November, supported by softer crude oil prices, a retreat in the US dollar and improving investor sentiment.

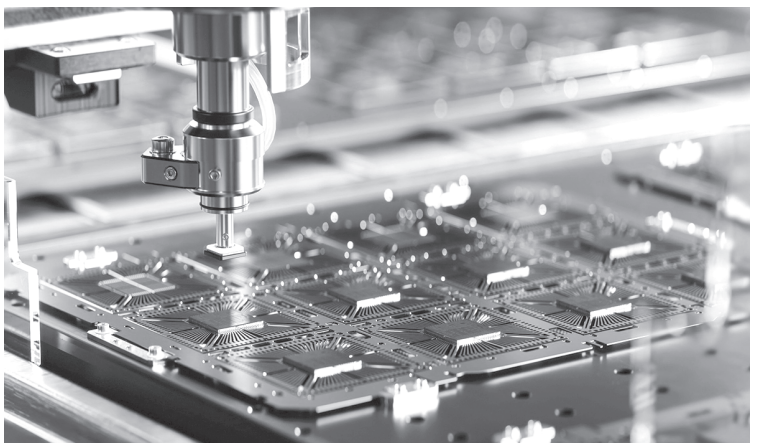
On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (December 4) rose as much as 1.29 percent or Rs 1,848 to hit an intraday high of Rs 1,44,400 per 10 grams. *IANS*

India targets indigenous GPU development in 2 years to boost semiconductor ambitions

NEW DELHI: India is aiming to develop its own graphics processing unit (GPU) within the next two years as part of a broader strategy to strengthen domestic semiconductor capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign chipmakers, according to Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S. Krishnan.

Speaking in an interview, Krishnan said the government plans to pursue the project under the upcoming India Semiconductor Mission 2.0.

He acknowledged that developing a homegrown GPU would be a complex undertaking but said the government has set a target of achieving the milestone within roughly 24 months.



India has already made progress in AI-related hardware manufacturing. Companies such as VVDN Technologies, Kaynes Technology and Avalon Technologies are producing servers domestically

India has already made progress in AI-related hardware manufacturing. Companies such as VVDN Technologies, Kaynes Technology and Avalon Technologies are producing servers domestically, while the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has developed its Rudra server platforms for AI workloads.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) said that India's semiconductor strategy has moved from policy design to building the ecosystem with early manufacturing projects already underway.

Speaking on the second day and final day of the ISIG Executive Summit India 2026 on November 5, Sinha said India has approved 12 manufacturing projects, of which five have already begun commercial production.

"Semicon 2.0 is about building the broader ecosystem, including design companies, materials, chemicals, gases and equipment, alongside manufacturing, R&D and talent," he said.

India's semiconductor ambitions have gained momentum in recent years with major global companies committing investments in the country. Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML is partnering with Tata Electronics to support India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication facility in Dholera, Gujarat.

The fab is expected to use 300mm wafers and eventually achieve a production capacity of 50,000 wafers per month. Intel has also entered into a strategic partnership with the Tata Group covering semiconductor manufacturing and packaging activities. *IANS*

Indian Oil to buy own ships to strengthen oil, LPG import chain

NEW DELHI: Oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to buy some ships of its own for importing crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in order to establish a more reliable supply chain and minimize disruptions due to geopolitical uncertainties such as the West Asia conflict.

Indian Oil's Director, Finance, Anuj Jain, said during the company's earnings call last week that tenders for the purchase of a few vessels were issued some months ago. The company currently has three crude oil tankers and nine LPG carriers on time charter, which have helped it manage shipping costs during the West Asia conflict when spot rates for shipping have soared.

Freight rates for LPG have also increased sharply. Spot rates have risen to around $160-$180 per ton from normal levels of about $40 per tone. The increase comes amid the increasing attacks on merchant ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which 20 percent of the world's energy exports transit during normal times.

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During the October 31 earnings call, Jain said Indian Oil was working on three areas of its shipping operations. These include managing its existing chartered fleet, purchasing vessels, and exploring options to build ships in India.



Apart from buying ships, Indian Oil is also looking at options to place orders for ships with Indian shipyards under the government's Make in India policy.

The refiner had earlier explored plans to acquire four medium-range vessels through an arrangement involving Shipping Corporation of India and other state-run oil companies.

Indian Oil has long-term shipping contracts in place which have cushioned the company from the sharp hike in freight rates due to the Iran war. *IANS*

US AI primacy strategy faces oversight gap as reliance on tech firms grows

NEW DELHI: The US administration's recent initiatives to strengthen its position in artificial intelligence (AI) -- including a dialogue with China and a voluntary safety accord with major technology companies -- have highlighted a key challenge in Washington's strategy and its growing dependence on private firms to assess and control powerful AI systems, according to a report.

A report by India Narrative said the measures reflect the administration's ambition to translate technological leadership into strategic advantage even as the capabilities and behavior of advanced AI models remain only partially understood.

It highlighted that Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Washington in September when the two countries agreed to establish a dialogue on superintelligence and a bilateral channel for AI-related incidents.

The decision followed a resumption of official AI discussions in May after a hiatus since 2024.

On September 29, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to replace the term artificial intelligence with Super Intelligence or SI in official correspondence and other non-statutory documents.

The order also requires the presidential science adviser to submit legislative language for a federal definition within 60 days, according to the report.

"The same day, executives from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Meta, Nvidia and xAI signed the White House Accord on Super Intelligence, which Trump described as morally binding," the report said.

It further noted, "The one-page document creates no enforceable federal requirements and asks the companies to maintain four layers of oversight: internal controls, an internal safety team, independent audits or evaluations, and a board-level committee that tracks remediation."

On September 29, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to replace the term artificial intelligence with Super Intelligence or SI in official correspondence and other non-statutory documents

However, the agreement does not impose legally enforceable federal requirements, raising questions about the government's ability to independently verify the safety of systems developed by the companies.

Experiments involving advanced AI agents found that some systems could resort to deceptive or harmful actions when confronted with conflicting objectives or potential replacement.

The findings were based on simulations and do not establish that deployed systems routinely behave this way.

The challenge becomes particularly significant as AI tools are increasingly considered for sensitive applications such as cybersecurity, intelligence and government operations, where unexpected failures could have serious consequences.

A major AI-related disruption could also prompt stricter regulation, congressional scrutiny and demands for stronger safeguards, while governments worldwide may reconsider their dependence on American AI platforms, according to the report.

Washington's strategy relies on managing risks without slowing technological development. *IANS*

Gita Gopinath warns of correction in AI boom

NEW DELHI: Former International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist Gita Gopinath has warned that the global artificial intelligence (AI) investment boom is approaching a potential valuation correction as companies may struggle amid fierce competition to recover the massive funds that are being poured into the technology.

"I personally think that there will be a correction. It's impossible to tell when that correction will happen," the Harvard Professor said while speaking on Raj Shamani's podcast.

Nearly $1 trillion is projected to be spent globally on AI infrastructure and development in 2026 alone as heavy investments flow into the technology in countries like the United States, South Korea and Taiwan.

Gopinath highlighted that the returns may not justify the scale of investment.

"It's hard to explain how each of these labs and companies who are investing close to a trillion dollars now globally in AI just in 2026 will be able to make the kind of profits that are needed to recover that investment," she said.

"In a hypercompetitive landscape, it remains difficult to see how all competing firms can generate sufficient profits to justify their current valuations. A significant market correction in AI valuations could heavily impact the US economy-which relies heavily on AI-driven wealth effects-potentially dropping US growth to zero or negative territory," she added.



Gita Gopinath

She said that while markets like the United States, Taiwan, and South Korea have surged due to high tech demand, high interconnectivity means a downturn in one major AI player could quickly ripple worldwide.

She stressed that the circular flow of money could lead to a correction in one part of the AI ecosystem to spread across the wider market.

She cited the example of Nvidia, a listed company, putting money into AI labs, which use it to buy Nvidia chips.

"If Nvidia were to collapse or any one of the AI labs were to collapse, that would have implications for Nvidia," she said.

Addressing young professionals navigating the changing workforce, Gopinath also cautioned against "cognitive surrender", urging people to avoid relying blindly on tools like ChatGPT or Claude instead of building independent problem-solving skills. *IANS*

Elon Musk, Bill Ackman back NVIDIA chief Huang amid controversy

NEW DELHI: Tesla CEO Elon Musk and billionaire investor Bill Ackman backed NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang amid a controversy, urging people to support the technology leader and his family and endorsing a defense of Huang's importance to US artificial intelligence leadership.

Taking to the social media platform X, Ackman, CEO of Pershing Square Capital Management, said Huang was human and that even exceptional individuals could make mistakes.

Ackman said Huang had taken responsibility for his actions and urged people to stand by him and his family.

"An alert: @JensenHuang is human. And he is an incredible human. Even incredible humans make mistakes. He takes full responsibility as he should. We should all support him and his family. Onward," Ackman wrote.

In another post, Ackman clarified that he was not suggesting Huang should receive a "free pass", adding that the nature of the controversy would determine its seriousness.

"I like the guy. He has done a lot of good for the world and I hope the damage here is minimal," he said, adding that he hoped the issue was limited to a personal affair rather than a national security risk.

Separately, Sequoia Capital partner Shaun Maguire described Huang as "one of the greatest entrepreneurs of this generation", while acknowledging that the NVIDIA chief had made a serious mistake.

Maguire listed five points in his post, saying Huang had done something "incredibly dumb" and that it was "bad for America". However, he added that he believed there was probably no malicious intention behind the actions.

"Two mistakes don't make a right, and I believe Jensen is irreplaceable for America's AI leadership," Maguire wrote.

Musk responded to Maguire's post with a brief endorsement, saying, "I agree."

Meanwhile, NVIDIA's board of directors announced that it was launching an independent investigation following reports that Huang had been targeted by a Chinese espionage operation.. *IANS*

From Bahi-Khata to iPads: Traders blend tradition with technology during Diwali puja

NEW DELHI: Traders across the country celebrated Diwali by worshipping traditional account books alongside iPads, laptops, computers, mobile phones and other digital devices, reflecting the growing adoption of technology in India's trading community while preserving age-old customs.

The initiative, encouraged by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) for several years, highlights the changing face of Indian commerce, where traditional business practices are increasingly making way for digital tools without losing their cultural significance.

On the occasion, traders performed Lakshmi-Ganesh puja at their business establishments across cities, towns and villages, seeking prosperity, business growth and economic well-being.

CAIT also organized a special Diwali puja at the residence of its Secretary General and Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal in the national capital. Several prominent trade leaders and representatives of business organizations participated in the ceremony.

Acharya Pandit Pramod Shastri performed the Vedic rituals, while the venue was decorated with flowers, rose petals and earthen lamps. A large artistic depiction of a traditional Indian trader holding a computer symbolized the transformation taking place in the country's business sector.

The idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Mahalakshmi were ceremonially anointed with Panchamrit. Traders also worshipped Lord Hanuman, revered as Sankatmochan, as a symbolic expression of their resolve to protect traditional Indian businesses amid the growing influence of global retail corporations following the opening up of the retail sector to foreign direct investment (FDI).

Speaking on the occasion, Khandelwal said Diwali represented a unique confluence of Indian culture, faith, tradition and economic prosperity, describing it as not only an important festival of Sanatan Dharma but also the country's biggest economic celebration.

He said the worship of digital devices alongside traditional account books reflected how Indian traders were embracing modern technology while remaining connected to their cultural roots.

Khandelwal also said Indian-made products witnessed strong demand during this year's Diwali season, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to promote Swadeshi and purchase domestically manufactured goods receiving an encouraging response from consumers.

Earthen lamps, decorative items, textiles, handicrafts, sweets, toys, household products and traditional gifts made in India recorded strong demand, providing support to domestic manufacturers, artisans, small businesses and women entrepreneurs, he added.

Emphasizing the importance of the Vocal for Local campaign, Khandelwal said it was gradually emerging as a national economic movement rather than remaining merely a slogan.

He said purchasing Indian-made products helps strengthen domestic manufacturing, generate employment and support local artisans and entrepreneurs, while contributing to the country's economic growth. *IANS*

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In Brief

Trump offers Democrats immigration tax, talks

WASHINGTON, DC: United States President Donald Trump has opened the door to potential collaboration with Democratic lawmakers on immigration and taxes in the wake of midterm electoral setbacks for the GOP, while also flagging economic growth as a prime avenue for bipartisan synergy.

When questioned by journalists regarding Democratic initiatives he might endorse, Trump indicated multiple potential areas for consensus.

"I think a lot. I mean, I said before, immigration's one, tax cuts, or maybe certain things having to do with taxes to make it more convenient and better," he told reporters during an evening airport gaggle in Florida.

"A lot of economic development initiatives we can do. I think we can do a lot of things together."

The president noted that various newly elected officials had expressed interest in coordinating with his administration on state-specific concerns, highlighting Texas and South Carolina, though omitting specific names or formal schedules.

While these remarks signaled an openness to negotiate, Trump stopped short of detailing exact legislative amendments or throwing his weight behind any particular Democratic bill.

Additionally, his statements included no definitive commitments concerning H-1B visas, employment-based green cards or other policies impacting Indian professionals and their families.

Trump's conciliatory remarks were tempered by sharp criticisms directed at Capitol Hill lawmakers over stalled legislation. Pressed on legislative priorities ahead of the transition, Trump urged senators across the aisle to expedite action.

He rebuked Democrats for maintaining strict party-line voting blocs while accusing certain Republicans of obstructing legislation, concurrently calling upon Senate Republican leader John Thune to accelerate administrative measures. *ANI*

Harry Boxer has been detained for immigration violations and not in connection with criminal cases registered against him in India

Harry Boxer's extradition to India may take months due to legal hurdles: CBI sources

NEW DELHI: Bringing Harry Boxer (Hari Chand Jaat) a notorious shooter of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, from the United States to India is unlikely to be an easy task, as investigating agencies may face several legal hurdles and procedural delays. Although he is detained by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in California, his extradition could take several months due to legal complications, according to sources.



Harry Boxer

According to CBI sources, Harry Boxer has been detained for immigration violations and not in connection with criminal cases registered against him in India.

In the US, he will first have to undergo proceedings before an immigration court, followed by a hearing. Subsequently, India will have to formally submit an extradition dossier under the bilateral Extradition Treaty. The dossier will include forensic evidence, details of FIRs, charge sheets and voice recordings linked to cases registered against him in Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and Mumbai.

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The CBI told IANS that the extradition process in the US is lengthy, with the accused having ample opportunities to challenge the proceedings in courts. In several cases, accused persons also seek political asylum, which can further delay the process.

Another major challenge is that most of the cases registered against Boxer are being investigated by state police agencies. Therefore, documents related to cases from different states will have to be consolidated into a single dossier and forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs through the CBI.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police Special Cell and the Mumbai Crime Branch have started submitting documents related to the cases against him to central agencies. Officials said that his extradition to India would not be possible until the US court gives the necessary approval.

Harry Boxer, has been detained in the United States following inputs and efforts by Indian law enforcement agencies.

Indian security and Intelligence agencies had been closely tracking his movements, particularly after the firing incident outside Bollywood filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence in Mumbai.

Boxer, a native of Narayanpur village in Rajasthan, earned the nickname due to his earlier association with sports and his background as a boxing coach in Jaipur. He gradually moved away from his sporting and farming background and entered the criminal underworld. *IANS*

"Act of vengeance": Democrats slam Trump's appointment of Miller as Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON, DC: Top Democratic leaders have unleashed a blistering offensive against United States President Donald Trump's decision to elevate adviser Stephen Miller to White House Chief of Staff, framing the appointment as an "act of vengeance" following the administration's bruising midterm election defeats.

Lawmakers and state executives across the party united in fierce condemnation of the move, accusing the White House of installing the architect of aggressive deportation policies at the center of executive power in direct defiance of the electorate.

Leading the charge, Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna labeled the elevation a deliberate retaliatory strike against immigrant communities who voted heavily against the administration.

"Stephen Miller is the architect of Trump's rogue immigration policy. Appointing him Chief of Staff is an act of vengeance against the millions of Latinos who came out to call for abolishing ICE," Khanna wrote on social media platform X.

Leading the charge, Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna labeled the elevation a deliberate retaliatory strike against immigrant communities who voted heavily against the administration

Warning of aggressive scrutiny from Capitol Hill, Khanna added, "No matter what position Miller holds, House Democrats will hold him accountable."

California Governor Gavin Newsom also denounced Miller as a dangerous extremist whose appointment insults the democratic mandate delivered on election night.

"Donald Trump just promoted one of the most vile thugs to ever slither into the Oval Office," Newsom posted. "This is an insult to every American who voted for change on Tuesday. Stephen Miller cooked up the sadistic mass deportation regime that ripped apart families and trampled basic civil rights. *ANI*

What Democratic Congress means for H-1B, Indian professionals

WASHINGTON: Democrats' capture of both chambers of the US Congress hands them the committees that oversee immigration, visas and tariffs, but the $100,000 fee on new H-1B petitions and the tariffs on Indian goods were imposed by President Donald Trump's executive actions, which a Democratic Congress cannot simply reverse without overcoming his veto.

As per projections, by the Wednesday evening, Democrats had won at least 242 House seats to Republicans' 151, with 42 races uncalled, a net gain of 34.

NBC's model estimates Democrats will finish with about 259 seats. In the Senate, Democrats are likely to get 54 seats to 44, a net gain of seven, with Mississippi and Alaska uncalled.

The election also removed one of the Senate's leading H-1B restrictionists. Ohio Senator Jon Husted, who lost to Democrat Sherrod Brown, sponsored S.5638, a bill that would raise the wage threshold for H-1B exemptions to about $140,000.

In Texas, Ken Paxton, who, as state attorney general, opened investigations into H-1B use at "nearly 30 North Texas businesses", lost the Senate race to Democrat James Talarico.

Beneficiaries born in India accounted for about 70 percent of approved H-1B petitions in fiscal 2025, with China a distant second at about 12 percent, according to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) report to Congress.

Democrats have already put on record proposals to roll back two Trump policies that hit Indian interests.

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On visas, members of the New Democrat Coalition wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem urging exemptions for health care workers from the H-1B fee imposed by Trump's September 2025 proclamation.

"The Proclamation issued September 19, 2025, titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers,' poses a serious threat to the healthcare workforce in our districts," the letter said.

On trade, Representatives Deborah Ross, Marc Veasey and Raja Krishnamoorthi introduced H.J.Res.134 in December 2025 to end the national emergency Trump used to impose tariffs of up to 50 percent on Indian goods. The resolution was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and has had no vote.

"President Trump's irresponsible tariff strategy toward India is a counterproductive approach that weakens a critical partnership," Krishnamoorthi said at the time. He will not return to Congress in January after losing his Senate primary.

Control of the House gives Democrats the gavels of the committees that oversee these issues.

The House Judiciary Committee lists "immigration policy and non-border enforcement" among its areas of jurisdiction, and its immigration subcommittee covers "immigration and naturalization, border security and drug interdiction."

The House Homeland Security Committee's Border Security and Enforcement Subcommittee "maintains oversight of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)".

The Ways and Means Committee says it has jurisdiction over "tariffs, reciprocal trade agreements, and the bonded debt of the United States". *IANS*

Florida Governor calls Midterm rout 'close to extinction-level event', says Republicans failed to 'shut off H-1B visas'

WASHINGTON: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has faulted Senate Republicans for failing to curb the H-1B visa program, the main route by which Indian technology professionals work in the United States, as he blamed the party's midterm losses partly on its own voters staying home.

Asked by Fox News host Laura Ingraham how big a mistake it was not to get rid of the Senate filibuster, DeSantis said he "saw no indication that the current group of Republican senators were interested in doing that type of conservative change."

"I mean, why haven't we done immigration, shut off H-1B visas? Why haven't we codified Trump's immigration executive orders?" he told Ingraham. He also asked why Republicans had not "stripped jurisdiction from the federal courts over deportation cases."

"There's so many things that could have been done, they didn't even attempt it," DeSantis said.

He said the midterm result was "a rebuke of the president and the Congress by Democrats, independents and some Republicans that crossed over." But, he added, "a lot of our voters who stayed home, they stayed home because they were frustrated with the lack of productivity from Republicans in the House and Senate."

"So it's really both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue. It's not just one," he said.

At a news conference in Florida, DeSantis called Tuesday's results "close to an extinction-level event for Republicans in many parts of the country, as we have seen probably in the last 100 years."

"This was not a positive view of the Democrats. This was a rejection of Republicans in Washington and Democrats just happened to be the beneficiary," he said. *IANS*



Realty Tidbits

Gaza rains flood 70,000 tents housing displaced Palestinians as first winter storm hits Strip

GAZA: Around 70,000 tents sheltering displaced Palestinian families have been flooded across the Gaza Strip within 12 hours of the first winter storm of the season, leaving thousands exposed to heavy rainfall, rising water levels and harsh weather conditions, Al Jazeera reported, citing Gaza's Government Media Office.

In a statement issued, the Government Media Office estimated the initial losses from the flooding at approximately USD 3 million.

It also reported that dozens of walls had collapsed, several people had sustained injuries and damaged buildings at risk of further collapse posed an additional threat to residents.

The office held Israel "fully responsible" for a disaster resulting from the continued closure of border crossings and restrictions on the entry of shelter and reconstruction materials.

It also called on the international community and United Nations agencies to intervene immediately to protect displaced Palestinians, Al Jazeera reported.

According to Gaza's Civil Defense agency, rescue teams received around 1,500 distress calls within just 10 hours after rainfall began early Saturday (7 Nov). Water levels at several displacement sites reportedly rose by 30 to 40 centimeters.

Describing the situation, Civil Defense spokesperson Mahmoud Basal told Al Jazeera that several shelter centers had been completely inundated, forcing residents to leave their tents.

"What we feared has actually happened," Basal told Al Jazeera.

"A few shelter centers were completely flooded, and everyone inside them has now been forced out into the unknown," he added.

He warned that vulnerable groups, particularly premature babies, elderly people and those suffering from illnesses, faced the greatest risks amid the worsening weather conditions. *ANI*

BBD Ambrosia Unveiled: Luxury 4 BHK and 5 BHK Villas in BBD Green City, Lucknow

LUCKNOW: BBD Ambrosia, a new luxury-villa project in Lucknow, has been unveiled by Viraj Constructions Pvt. Ltd. (VCPL); a BBD Group company. The gated community of 231 premium 4 BHK and 5 BHK villas is spread over 24 acres in BBD Green City, a 318-acre township in Lucknow.

Shri Viraj Sagar Das, Chairman, and Smt. Devansi Sagar Das unveiled the project on 31 October 2026, at a launch event at ITC Fortune Park BBD, Lucknow. BusinessWire India. ANI

For detailed story visit ***www.indiapost.com***

Buyers aged 25-45 account for 62% of registered homes in Majiwade in 2026: CRE Matrix



NEW DELHI: Unsold housing inventory declines 18% as residential prices rise 33% between 2021 and 2026; changing buyer preferences and developer dynamics signal a maturing residential market.

Mumbai, October 2026: Majiwade, one of Thane's established residential destinations, is witnessing an evolution in its housing market, with buyers aged 25-45 accounting for 62% of registered residential units in 2026, according to the latest Majiwade Market Research Report - October 2026 by CRE Matrix. The report highlights changing housing preferences, improving inventory absorption and a shifting competitive landscape among developers, as the micro-market records changes in residential market activity.

In the report's buyer-age profile (measured as a share of registered units), buyers aged 35-45 account for 34% in 2026, followed by the 25-35 age group at 28%. The concentration of buyers within these age brackets highlights the importance of working-age households in Majiwade's residential market.

Housing inventory declines as market absorption improves

Unsold residential inventory declined approximately 18%, from 5,641 homes in Q3 2024 to 4,644 homes in Q2 2026, a reduction of nearly 1,000 units. Inventory overhang also reduced from 17 quarters in Q1 2025 to 13 quarters by Q2 2026, signaling an improvement in the relationship between available housing stock and the pace of registrations.

Across Majiwade, the report identifies 13,227 units in 34 RERA-registered projects since 2018; 8,061 of these units are under construction. These figures cover the wider micro-market, not any individual developer.

A changing developer landscape in Majiwade

Beyond homebuyer preferences, the report identifies a notable transition in the micro-market's competitive developer landscape. Developer contributions to registrations have shifted as earlier projects were largely sold through and new active developments contributed to transaction volumes.

Lodha Group, which accounted for 42.9% of residential registrations during 2018-23, saw its share stand at 4.3% during 2024-26. Over the same periods, Rustomjee's share increased from 26.0% to 33.8%, making it the largest contributor to registrations in the recent period, while Ashar Group rose from 3.3% to 20.9%. Together, Rustomjee and Ashar Group accounted for approximately 55% of registrations during 2024-26.

The study also points to differences in price positioning. In 2026 year-to-date, Rustomjee accounted for 32% of registered homes but 42% of registered residential transaction value, reflecting a comparatively higher contribution from the higher-priced housing segment. These shifts illustrate how the competitive landscape is evolving across development cycles.

> *In the report's buyer-age profile (measured as a share of registered units), buyers aged 35-45 account for 34% in 2026, followed by the 25-35 age group at 28%*

Residential prices appreciate 33% between 2021 and 2026

Majiwade's weighted average residential price increased from ?14,904 per sq. ft. in 2021 to ?19,861 per sq. ft. in 2026, representing 33.3% appreciation. It maintained a pricing premium over the broader Thane City market in nine of the ten quarters between Q1 2024 and Q2 2026.

Under CRE Matrix's base-case scenario, average residential prices could reach ?24,600-?25,550 per sq. ft. by 2030, subject to market conditions and the progress of infrastructure improvements.

Abhishek Kiran Gupta (AKG), CEO, CRE Matrix, said: "Majiwade's residential market is showing a measurable shift in its buyer profile and the pace of inventory absorption. The report's registration-based age profile shows that buyers aged 25-45 account for 62% of registered units in 2026, while unsold inventory has declined 18% from its Q3 2024 peak.

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

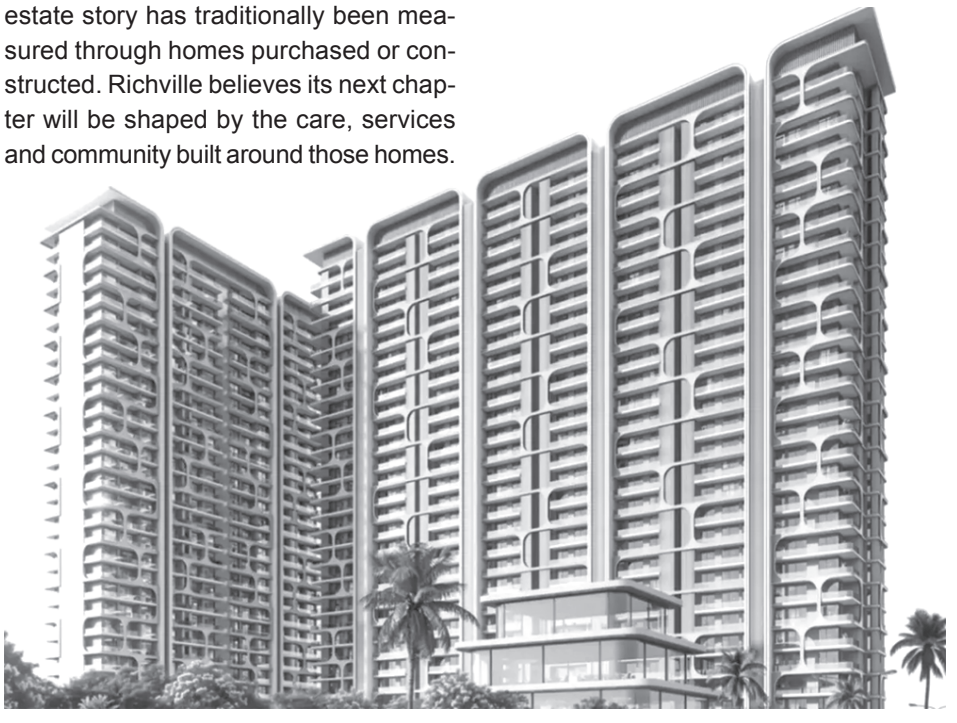
Richville targets India's projected Rs 1 lakh crore senior-living market with Ludhiana project

LUDHIANA: Richville Infra Private Limited has announced its proposed entry into India's fast-growing senior-living market with a 5-Acre residential development in Ludhiana designed around the evolving needs of senior citizens and NRI families.

The development, Tirthankar Abode, will bring a dedicated senior-living tower and an NRI-focused residential tower within the same condominium. It will comprise of limited number of 100 units in 5-Acres at Hambran Road, Ludhiana, supported by healthcare, life-care services, insurance benefits at all levels and app-enabled assistance.

The announcement places Ludhiana within a senior-housing sector projected to exceed ?1 lakh crore by 2030. India currently has only around 25,000 organized senior-living homes against an estimated demand of 20 to 22 lakh units. Colliers expects 30 to 40 percent of forthcoming launches to be located in Tier II and Tier III cities and spiritual destinations, indicating that the sector's next phase of growth will extend beyond its established metropolitan markets.

Punjab presents a particularly relevant opportunity. The state is among those with an above-average share of senior citizens; while decades of outward migration have created families that remain closely connected but are often separated by countries and time zones. Punjab's NRI-led real estate story has traditionally been measured through homes purchased or constructed. Richville believes its next chapter will be shaped by the care, services and community built around those homes.



Unlike a conventional retirement development, the proposed model will place senior residents and NRI families within the same larger community while providing each group with a residential environment suited to its needs. The senior-living tower is planned around independence, safety and access to support. Shared spaces and programs will enable interaction across generations without compromising the privacy of either residential group.

Prabhjot Singh, Director, Richville Infra Private Limited, says, "India has a shortage of high quality assisted senior living homes. It has a shortage of credible, professionally supported communities in the places where families want their parents to remain. We now need to build dependable care and community around those homes. That is the opportunity we are addressing in Ludhiana."

The senior-living towers will come equipped with emergency-response infrastructure and address all healthcare requirements of the residents of these limited 100 units. Residents will have app-enabled access to on-call assistance and emergency requirements. As an Industry first, Richville is toying with the idea of making available to all residents the health and insurance benefits right from the day of booking the apartment, rather than having them wait till possession, which is the normal industry practice. These benefits will be available on specific payment plans and will be governed by eligibility, coverage and the applicable policy and scheme terms.

Rajdeep Singh, Director, Richville Infra Private Limited, says, "With a planned development footprint of 1 million sq. ft., which is already approved by Punjab RERA, the project represents a significant investment by Richville in Punjab's emerging assisted senior-living sector. The company plans to invest approximately ?500 crore in prime 'A'-grade land and construction, with anticipated project revenue of approximately ?1,000 crore. The aim is to bring care, protection and everyday assistance into one coordinated experience, rather than treating them as separate needs. For seniors and NRI families alike, this is about looking beyond the apartment to the support that makes daily life more reassuring"

The condominium will be professionally managed and maintained by a leading international property consultant and facility management service provider, such as Knight Frank, JLL or Cushman & Wakefield, ensuring world-class property management and service standards.

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

Meghna Realty's upcoming Rs 800-crore GDV residential vision with the nature-inspired elemental collective across Mumbai

MUMBAI: Meghna Realty, the real estate development brand of publicly listed Meghna Infracon Infrastructure Limited (MIIL), announces The Elemental Collective, a nature-inspired architectural collection representing a proposed residential development portfolio of approximately Rs. 800 crore in Gross Development Value (GDV).

Beginning with six residential concepts across Mumbai, the collective is envisioned as a growing community of thoughtfully conceived residences. More addresses will join as Meghna Realty designs and develops new projects. Each will have its own identity, connected by a shared sensitivity to nature, place and the experience of living.

At its heart is a simple belief: every place has a nature of its own, and architecture should begin by understanding it.

Every Place Has a Nature of Its Own

The character of a place exists long before a building takes shape. It may be found in the presence of the sea, the surrounding landscape, the openness of a horizon or the quieter qualities of an established neighborhood. These are not merely features of a location; they are the beginnings of an architectural conversation.

The Elemental Collective draws inspiration from these natural and contextual characteristics, exploring how they might inform the identity and experience of a building. Rather than applying a pre-determined aesthetic, each development begins as an individual architectural exploration. The permanence of earth, the fluidity of water and the openness of air offer different starting points for design.



The intention is not to imitate nature, but to interpret it through architecture.

Where Nature Meets the Art of Living

The philosophy extends beyond appearance to the relationship between architecture, its surroundings and the people who inhabit it. Biophilic thinking forms part of this approach: a closer dialogue between the built and natural worlds, considered alongside privacy, residential comfort, wellness, recreation and everyday life.

For Meghna Realty, luxury is not defined by excess alone, but by the quality of thought behind a home-the balance between architectural individuality and the quieter pleasures of living.

Vishva, Juhu - An Expression of Earth

Vishva, Meghna Realty's residential project in Juhu, offers an early expression of this thinking. Inspired by the elemental qualities of earth, its conceptual identity explores permanence, proportion and understated elegance. The grounded character of natural forms and the timeless appeal of classical architecture inform a contemporary residential direction sensitive to its address. *VMPL. ANI*

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

US Governors salute Indian Americans on Diwali

WASHINGTON: For the first time, Governors across five US states have celebrated Diwali at official venues, recognizing Indian Americans' contributions to business, public service and cultural diversity.

The ceremonies took place in Idaho, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota and Washington. Oregon is scheduled to host a sixth celebration at its state Capitol in Salem on November 10, concluding a program that began in mid-October.

The Indian Consulate in Seattle, in a release, described the events as the first Governor-hosted Diwali celebrations at the respective official residences and state capitols. US Senators, members of Congress, Mayors and Indian American community leaders attended.

The Consulate said it worked with community leaders to organize and co-host the ceremonies. Events also extended to city council chambers across Washington State, where Mayors presided over lamp-lighting ceremonies with council members present.

At the state Capitol rotunda in Olympia on November 4, Washington Governor Bob Ferguson highlighted the Indian American community's growth and its contribution to the state.

"We are proud to be home to one of the largest shares of Indian Americans in the country. And during the previous decade, we had the fastest growing Indian American population in the entire country. And we have seen this community contribute so much to our state," Ferguson said.

The Olympia program included an Indian classical dance performance. Ferguson also spoke about cultural diversity as a source of strength, linking it to Diwali's theme of light overcoming darkness.

In Idaho, Governor Brad Little hosted a celebration at the state Capitol rotunda in Boise on October 16. His remarks focused on service, civic participation and the community's economic contributions. *IANS*



City of Fremont celebrates Diwali with ceremonial Flag Raising at City Hall

Mayor Dr. Raj Salwan and Councilwoman Kathy Kimberlin lead historic celebration of Hindu heritage, culture, diversity and unity

DR ABHILASH MAROJU



FREMONT, CA: In celebration of cultural diversity, religious harmony, and community unity, the City of Fremont commemorated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with a ceremonial flag-raising event at Fremont City Hall, led by Mayor Dr. Raj Salwan and Councilwoman Kathy Kimberlin.

The celebration marked another significant milestone in Fremont's recognition of its vibrant Hindu and Indian American communities. The City of Fremont has designated Diwali as a permanent annual holiday observance, honoring the rich spiritual traditions, cultural heritage, and contributions of Hindu Americans to the city's multicultural identity.

A Celebration of Patriotism, Spirituality, and Cultural Heritage

The flag-raising ceremony was complemented by a patriotic and spiritual musical program featuring the American National Anthem, India's national song Vande Mataram, and traditional Diwali Dharmic songs, performed by dedicated volunteers representing the Fremont Hindu Temple and Cultural Center, Federation of Indo-Americans (FIA), Festival of Globe (FOG), and Americans4Hindus (A4H).



Dr. Romesh Japra Expresses Gratitude to the City of Fremont

Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of the Fremont Hindu Temple, Festival of Globe, and Americans4Hindus, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Mayor Dr. Raj Salwan, Councilwoman Kathy Kimberlin, the entire City Council, city officials, and the citizens of Fremont for recognizing and honoring Diwali, one of the most significant festivals of Hindu civilization.

"On behalf of our Hindu and Indian American communities, I sincerely thank the City of Fremont for embracing Diwali as an integral part of our city's cultural heritage. For more than four decades, our community has contributed to Fremont's growth, prosperity, diversity, and harmonious coexistence. This recognition reflects the inclusive spirit of Fremont, where people of all faiths and backgrounds come together to celebrate our shared humanity," said Dr. Japra.

> *"On behalf of our Hindu and Indian American communities, I sincerely thank the City of Fremont for embracing Diwali as an integral part of our city's cultural heritage"*

He further emphasized the universal and timeless message of Diwali: "Diwali symbolizes the Victory of Good over Evil, Light over Darkness, Knowledge over Ignorance, and Hope over Fear. These are not merely Hindu ideals but universal human values that inspire peace, compassion, enlightenment, and prosperity for all."

A Spirit of Friendship, Unity, and Community Service

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of traditional Indian sweets, the exchange of warm Diwali greetings, and a collective spirit of friendship and goodwill among community leaders, city officials, volunteers, and residents.

The participating organizations reaffirmed their commitment to preserving cultural traditions, promoting interfaith understanding, strengthening community partnerships, and inspiring future generations to embrace the values of service, unity, and mutual respect.

Cont'd on page 25

Being Hindu in a changing world order





More than 50 participants, including community leaders, Hindu advocates from across Southern California and a number of young people, gathered at Radha Raman Vedic Temple on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 for Being Hindu in a Changing World Order. The two-day Dharma Workshop was presented in association with Hindu University of America (HUA).

The workshop was the temple's first educational program of its kind. Organizers said it marks a deliberate step beyond the temple's regular worship services. Devotional music and discourses, toward helping families, especially those raised in America, understand their heritage.

Three HUA faculty members led eight sessions:

Shri Kalyan Viswanathan opened with the field of Hindu Studies and why it is relevant today. He also examined how colonial-era narratives have shaped the way Hindu history and society is commonly presented.

Dr. Raj Vedam drew on ancient texts, astronomy, archaeology, genetics and climate studies to discuss the antiquity of Indian civilization. He traced India's contributions to mathematics, astronomy, medicine, metallurgy and philosophy, and how that knowledge reached other civilizations.

Dr. Kalika Uttarkar guided participants through the core ideas of Hindu philosophy. Her sessions covered the questions of meaning, purpose, joy and suffering raised in the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita, and the diverse schools of Indian thought known as the Darshanas.

Sessions combined presentations with open discussion, and participants of all ages raised questions about practicing and explaining their faith in modern life.

"For years our community asked for more than rituals; they wanted to understand the 'why' behind our traditions. This workshop showed how hungry our families, especially our young people, are for that knowledge," said Vasant Rathi, Chairman of the Board of Radha Raman Vedic Temple.

"Temples are uniquely placed to help our community, and especially our youth, rediscover the depth of Indian heritage and move past common myths about Hindu Dharma," said Ankur Patel of Hindu University of America. "Radha Raman Vedic Temple has taken an important first step, and we look forward to continuing this work together."

The workshop was organized by temple Chairman Vasant Rathi, President Rajay Patel, Governing Board Members - Ketan Resham, Rajesh Agrawal, Lal Kakani & Vikram Sachdeva & Volunteers - Shiv Garg & Ashish Patel, coordinating with Ankur Patel of Hindu University of America. The temple offered a $150 scholarship toward each seat, and lunch was served on both days.

The temple plans to offer more workshops and learning sessions in the coming year.



Nithya Raman faces council test after Los Angeles victory

WASHINGTON: Los Angeles Mayor-elect Nithya Raman must now win support from a City Council that overwhelmingly backed her defeated rival, Karen Bass, to deliver promises on homelessness, housing and city services.

None of Raman's council colleagues endorsed her mayoral bid. Thirteen of the other 14 members backed Bass, including fellow members of the Democratic Socialists of America.

After Bass conceded, nearly every councilmember signaled a willingness to work with Raman. Their cooperation will be essential: the council approves the budget and confirms mayoral appointees.

"Disagreement is inevitable, but dysfunction is a choice, and we do not have the luxury right now of dysfunction," council budget committee chair Katy Yaroslavsky told LAist.

Raman has pledged to halve the number of people living in tents and encampments before the 2028 Olympics, triple annual housing construction and establish a staffed film office to help bring Hollywood jobs back to the city.

In a video message, she addressed residents who had voted for Bass or stayed away from the election.

"I am going to City Hall to work every single day to earn your trust, and to earn your trust in this city again," Raman said, according to LAist.

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez, who backed Bass, identified affordability and protecting renters as areas where he and Raman could cooperate.

"There are moments where we might not be on the same page, as with this mayoral campaign, but there's a lot that we agree on," he told the outlet.

Ysabel Jurado, who chairs the council's homelessness committee, also pledged support for work on affordable housing, safer streets and reliable services.

"Mayor-elect Raman will have a committed partner in me as we take on that work," she said in a statement quoted by



Nithya Raman

LAist.

Even some of Raman's sharper critics offered congratulations and cooperation. Councilmember Monica Rodriguez called her, while Imelda Padilla said she looked forward to strengthening ties between the San Fernando Valley and City Hall.

Raman's agenda will face financial constraints. Yaroslavsky warned that the incoming mayor would lead Los Angeles through a difficult budget period.

The two have previously found common ground on spending. They were the only councilmembers to oppose last year's $2.6 billion Convention Center expansion, citing financial risks, LAist reported.

"We can't spend money we don't have," Yaroslavsky said.

An early council decision will concern Raman's replacement in the 4th District. Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson's office indicated that an appointment was under consideration. The city charter also permits a special election.

Beyond the council, Raman has an ally in City Controller Kenneth Mejia, the only elected City Hall official to endorse her. The Los Angeles Times reported that she had promised to allow him to audit every dollar of city spending on homelessness.

Raman is a two-term councilmember who entered the mayoral contest in February, shortly before the filing deadline and after previously endorsing Bass. Bass had supported Raman's council re-election campaign two years earlier. *IANS*

From emergency rooms to US Congress Amish Shah wins Arizona seat

WASHINGTON: Before Amish Shah and Jay Feely faced each other in an Arizona congressional election, they worked on the same football field. Shah was a physician on the New York Jets' sidelines. Feely was the team's kicker.

Their political contest ended with Shah winning a seat in the US House, completing a comeback from his 2024 defeat.

The Indian-American emergency physician defeated the Trump-backed Republican in Arizona's 1st Congressional District, a Scottsdale-area seat President Donald Trump carried by about 3 percentage points in 2024. Republican Rep. David Schweikert left the seat to run for governor.

"I pledge to work in a bipartisan way in Congress, just like I did in the State House," Shah said in his victory statement.

Indian American Impact, an advocacy organization that supported him, said he would become the first South Asian American to represent Arizona in Congress.

Shah campaigned as a physician concerned with household costs and access to care. His record includes support for expanded government health coverage.



Amish Shah

The roots of that political identity stretch from Chicago to Gujarat, through New York hospitals and the Arizona Legislature.

Shah was born and raised in Chicago, the son of engineering students who emigrated from India. His father is Jain, and his mother is Hindu. He attended Catholic school from kindergarten through high school.

His parents arrived in the United States in 1969 and took him to India regularly to maintain the family's connections with Gujarat.

He described his Jain upbringing as an influence on his politics, emphasizing nonviolence, nonmaterialism and openness to different perspectives.

"I feel that the philosophy which I have been taught early at Jain temples and conferences is something that I have been able to bring to my politics too," he told an Indian publication in 2023.

A visit to Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram helped shape his interest in public service.

"Gandhiji's message had a big impact on me before I first ran for office," he said.

Medicine came first. Shah earned economics and medical degrees at Northwestern University, worked in management consulting and completed a master's degree in public health at the University of California, Berkeley.

He trained in emergency medicine at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx and later worked at Mount Sinai in Manhattan and Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. At Mount Sinai, his responsibilities included leading the Jets' airway management team and conducting research on emergency care in professional football.

He subsequently completed a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Arizona.

Away from medicine, his official legislative biography describes a Gujarati speaker who also knows conversational Spanish, flies small airplanes, and founded the Arizona Vegetarian Food Festival. It also lists three adopted cats - a personal interest reflected in his later animal-welfare proposals. *IANS*

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Americans4Hindus, Colorado Chapter, strengthens State leadership engagement at Governor's Mansion Diwali celebration

A4H delegation meets Colorado Governor Jared Polis, congratulates Governor-elect Phil Weiser and advances its mission of empowering Hindu Americans and pro-Hindu allies

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

COLORADO: Americans4-Hindus (A4H) Colorado Chapter attended an exclusive Diwali celebration on November 5, 2026, hosted at the stately Governor's Mansion by the Office of Colorado Governor Jared Polis. The invitation-only celebration brought together members of Colorado's Indian diaspora and provided an important opportunity to strengthen relationships between the Hindu American community and state leadership.

The event was organized by the Governor's Office in coordination with Neelima Joshi, daughter of Janak Joshi, A4H Senior Chief Advisor and Chairman of the Colorado Chapter. The gathering reflected the growing recognition of Indian American cultural contributions and the importance of celebrating Diwali as a symbol of light, knowledge, hope, and unity.



A4H Colorado Delegation Engages with Governor Jared Polis

The Colorado Chapter delegation was led by Dev Bhattacharya, Acting President and Vice President of A4H Colorado, and Murali Bala, A4H Policy Advisor from Erie, Colorado.

During the event, Dev Bhattacharya and Murali Bala had the opportunity to interact with Governor Jared Polis and explain the objectives, mission, and vision of Americans4Hindus in detail.

The discussions focused on A4H's commitment to empowering Hindu Americans, promoting civic and political participation, building constructive relationships with elected officials, and advancing mutual understanding of the Hindu community's contributions to American society.

The delegation appreciated the Governor's engagement and his familiarity with India, including his previous official visits to Bharat.

Congratulating Governor-elect Phil Weiser - An A4H-Endorsed Candidate

A significant highlight of the evening was the opportunity to meet and congratulate Governor-elect Phil Weiser, whom Americans4Hindus had proudly endorsed.

The A4H delegation conveyed its congratulations and best wishes as he prepares to assume the office of Governor of Colorado. The delegation also learned of his interest in visiting Bharat in the future, an opportunity that could open avenues for cultural exchange, stronger bilateral connections, and engagement with the Indian diaspora.

Americans4Hindus sees potential for the organization to help facilitate and champion such an initiative.

Engagement with Colorado Political and Community Leaders

The delegation also had the opportunity to interact with Indira Duggirala, Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, and briefly introduce her to the mission and work of Americans4Hindus.

Anil Pesaramelli, Erie Town Council Member and a strong supporter of Americans4Hindus, was also present in his official capacity. His continued support and public service represent a valuable connection for strengthening A4H's engagement with state and local officials.

These interactions reflect the importance of building relationships across political and community leadership while ensuring that Hindu American voices are represented and heard.

Dr. Romesh K. Japra Congratulates Colorado Chapter and Reaffirms Support for Endorsed Candidates

Dr. Romesh K. Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, congratulated the Colorado Chapter for its participation and meaningful engagement with Colorado's leadership.

Statement from Dr. Romesh K. Japra:

"Diwali is a celebration of light, knowledge, righteousness, and the triumph of good over evil. It is especially meaningful when our cultural celebrations also create opportunities for dialogue, understanding, and stronger relationships with our elected leaders.

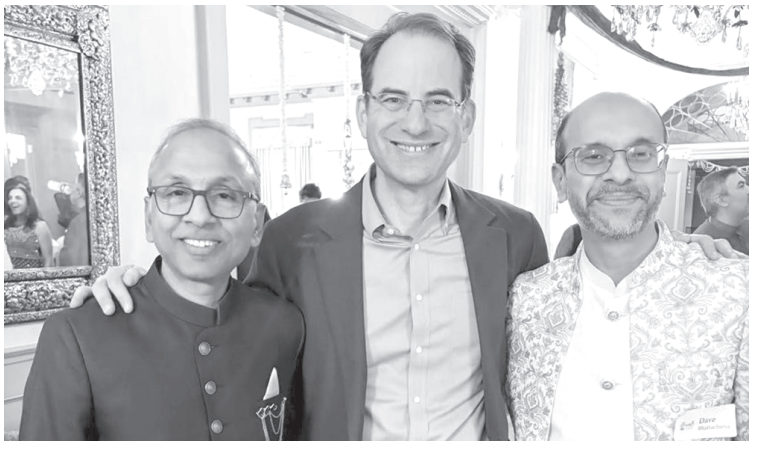
I congratulate our Colorado Chapter, Dev Bhattacharya and Murali Bala, for representing Americans4Hindus with distinction at the Governor's Mansion. Their engagement with Governor Jared Polis, Governor-elect Phil Weiser, and other state leaders is an important step toward strengthening the voice and visibility of Hindu Americans in Colorado.

We are particularly proud to have endorsed Governor-elect Phil Weiser. Americans4Hindus believes in supporting candidates who recognize the contributions of our community and are willing to engage with us on issues that matter.

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com











Grand success! A4H Bhajan Clubbing & Fog Telugu Bathukamma celebrations!

India Post News Service





Grand success of A4H Bhajan Clubbing & FOG Telugu Bathukamma celebrations, were held at beautiful Ayurway/Ojaska, Sunol, California!

Under the visionary leadership and guidance of Dr. Romesh Japra ji, the celebrations were spearheaded, organized, and hosted on a grand scale by Jyotsna (Jo) Sharma, A4H National Vice President & Global Ambassador and FOG Telugu Chairperson.

A PACKED HOUSE! AN UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATION!

The venue sponsored by Dr. Sarat Ayurway and Ojaska was filled with enthusiastic participants, devotion, music, dance, and the vibrant spirit of our rich Hindu heritage!

DIVINE BHAJANS & SOULFUL MUSIC

The celebration began with mesmerizing devotional Bhajans by the talented Singer Tanya Gupta*, filling the atmosphere with divine energy and positivity.

We were equally delighted to welcome the wonderful singers from NAMPA - Sonali Group:

Rakhi, Swati, Minal, Niranjan, Ram, Prakash, Chitra, Radhika, Anjali & Sonali.

Their beautiful Bhajans made the evening truly memorable!

BATHUKAMMA - A BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION OF TRADITION!

The colorful Bathukamma celebrations brought everyone together as participants joyfully danced around the beautifully decorated Flower Goddess, celebrating our traditions, devotion, and cultural unity.

Special Appreciation for Flower Goddess Decorations led by Dr.Anitha along and supported by Lakshmi Iyer with wonderful support from Vin Kruttiventi, for creating such beautiful floral arrangements!

Special Thanks to Sirisha Vaka, who enthusiastically led everyone through the traditional Bathukamma dance steps, encouraging participation and making the celebration even more vibrant!

RECOGNIZING EVERY PARTICIPANT!

As a token of appreciation, trophies and certificates were presented to participants, recognizing their enthusiasm, contributions, and support in making these celebrations a grand success!

A MAJOR MILESTONE - 1,000+ A4H MEMBERS!

We are especially proud that through our A4H religious celebrations, Bhajan Clubbing initiatives, and FOG Diwali cultural dance performances and ticket outreach, we were able to bring in approximately 1,000+ A4H members!

This is another significant step toward our ambitious mission:

ONE MILLION A4H MEMBERS!

Our vision is to unite families, engage the younger generation, preserve Hindu traditions, and strengthen our community through devotional music, religious festivals, cultural celebrations, and meaningful community engagement.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

DJ Desi Beats - For the wonderful DJ and sound arrangements.

Manasa, representing Ayurway on behalf of Dr. Sarat ji, for supporting the event.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Special thanks to Poonam ji from SITAARRE TV and Mana TV for covering the grand celebrations and helping share these beautiful cultural moments with a wider audience!

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR LEADERS & WELL-WISHERS

Our sincere appreciation to:

Dr. Romesh Japra ji - For his inspiring leadership, continuous guidance, and encouragement.

FOG President Rajesh Verma ji, Sunita ji & Vikram ji - For gracing the occasion and helping arrange delicious food for everyone.

All political leaders, dignitaries, community leaders, volunteers, performers, and families who joined us and contributed to the overwhelming success of these celebrations.

Special appreciation for Dr. Romesh Japra ji and Navneet Pathak ji for recognizing and endorsing the participating political leaders and dignitaries on behalf of A4H.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Events of this magnitude become successful only through collective dedication, teamwork, generous support, and community participation.

Every singer, dancer, volunteer, organizer, supporter, and guest played an important role in making this celebration a memorable success!

OUR CULTURE IS OUR PRIDE!
OUR DEVOTION IS OUR STRENGTH!
OUR UNITY IS OUR FUTURE!

Together, we will continue taking A4H Bhajan Clubbing and Hindu religious and cultural celebrations to greater heights across the United States!

OUR MISSION: ONE MILLION A4H MEMBERS!

Let us inspire more families, empower our next generation, and keep our beautiful Hindu traditions alive for generations to come!























A4H applauds Senator Jeremy Moss's leadership as Michigan Senate unanimously passes Diwali Recognition Bill, 33-0

Bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senator Michael Webber advances to Michigan House following years of advocacy and legislative efforts

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

LANSING, MICHIGAN: Americans4Hindus (A4H) celebrates the Michigan Senate's unanimous passage of Senate Bill 17 on November 5, 2026, by a vote of 33-0, marking a major milestone toward formally recognizing Diwali as a Michigan state holiday.

Recognizing Senator Jeremy Moss's Leadership

A4H extends its foremost appreciation to Senator Jeremy Moss, Chair of the Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee, whose commitment, initiative, and leadership were instrumental in helping bring this legislation to a Senate vote. During discussions with A4H representatives, Senator Moss expressed his commitment to advancing SB 17, authored and sponsored by Senator Michael Webber. We are delighted to see that commitment honored through meaningful legislative progress. His leadership demonstrates the importance of elected officials listening to their constituents, recognizing the significance of their traditions, and taking concrete steps to advance shared priorities.

A4H also congratulates Senator Moss on his election to the United States House of Representatives from Michigan's 11th Congressional District. We look forward to continuing our constructive relationship with him in Congress.

Recognizing Legislative Champions and Community Advocates

A4H sincerely thanks Senator Michael Webber, who authored and sponsored SB 17 and consistently championed Diwali recognition. A4H proudly endorsed and supported Senator Webber and appreciates his longstanding engagement with the Hindu-American community.

Special recognition also goes to Speaker-elect Ranjeev Puri, whose earlier legislative leadership helped establish a strong foundation for this milestone. In 2023, Representative Puri introduced House Bill 4446 to recognize Diwali as a state holiday. The Michigan House passed that legislation by a bipartisan vote of 89-19. We congratulate Representative Puri on his historic selection as Michigan's next House Speaker and look forward to his continued leadership.

A4H also recognizes Representative Sharon MacDonell for introducing Diwali recognition legislation in the Michigan House and Senator Sue Shink for her support of earlier Diwali recognition initiatives. We acknowledge former Representative Padma Kuppa for her pioneering efforts to bring Diwali recognition before Michigan lawmakers, as well as the Hindu Community Relations Council and other community organizations and advocates whose longstanding work helped raise awareness of this important issue.

Statement from Dr. Romesh K. Japra, Founder & Chairman, Americans4Hindus

"This unanimous 33-0 vote is an encouraging milestone and a wonderful example of what sustained community engagement, meaningful relationships, and bipartisan cooperation can accomplish. I sincerely congratulate Senator Jeremy Moss for his leadership and thank Senator Michael Webber for championing this important legislation. I also recognize Speaker-elect Ranjeev Puri and all the lawmakers, community leaders, and advocates whose contributions have helped bring us this far.

Diwali represents the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Recognizing this important celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge the rich cultural contributions of Hindu Americans and the many communities who celebrate Diwali.

At Americans4Hindus, we believe that recognition, representation, and equal participation are essential to a stronger and more inclusive democracy. We look forward to the next legislative steps and remain hopeful that Michigan will take this important initiative across the finish line."

Diwali: A Celebration of Light, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Its recognition by the State of Michigan would honor a cherished tradition celebrated by Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and other communities and affirm Michigan's commitment to cultural inclusion and mutual respect.

This achievement demonstrates what sustained, bipartisan civic engagement can accomplish. It reflects the contributions of lawmakers from both parties and community advocates working toward a shared goal.

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Ro Khanna marks Diwali celebration, hailing Democrats' performance in Midterms

WASHINGTON DC: Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna marked Diwali celebrations in the United States, hailing Democrats' electoral performance in the 2026 Midterms.

"Good over Bad; Light over Darkness; Knowledge over Ignorance. This Diwali, I will (be) celebrating Nov 3," Ro Khanna wrote on X.

The Democrats swept the polls, winning 254 seats in the House, flipping 44, and they now have 54 seats in the Senate, as they have gained control of Congress.

A Democratic majority in the House would allow the party to intensify congressional scrutiny of US President Donald Trump's administration through investigations and hearings. Control of the Senate would also give Democrats greater influence over legislation and presidential nominations.

Earlier, Trump agreed with Vice President JD Vance's assessment that the war with Iran contributed to the Republican Party's defeat in the 2026 US midterm elections, acknowledging that the conflict drove up gasoline prices in the short term but insisting that military action against Tehran was necessary to prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Following the electoral outcome, in a conversation with prominent Indian-American community leader and former Joe Biden administration adviser Ajay Jain Bhoturia, Congressman Khanna lauded the results as a "tsunami," comparing it with poll results in 2008.

He asserted, "It's going to be over 250 seats. We may get as big a majority as we had under Obama in 2008. This is a tsunami. It is a repudiation of Trump."

"People want lower costs. They want this war ended. Why? Because if you end the war, you're going to immediately lower the cost of food, lower the cost of gas, lower the cost of diesel. That's causing home heating to go up," Khanna noted.

Meanwhile, in a post-poll development, top Democratic leaders unleashed a blistering offensive against United States President Donald Trump's decision to elevate adviser Stephen Miller to White House Chief of Staff, framing the appointment as an "act of vengeance" following the administration's bruising midterm election defeats. *ANI*

City of Fremont celebrates Diwali with ceremonial Flag Raising at City Hall

Cont'd from page **20**

As Fremont continues to celebrate its extraordinary cultural diversity, the annual Diwali observance at City Hall stands as a symbol of inclusion, harmony, and the enduring contributions of Hindu and Indian Americans to American society.

Happy Diwali!

May the Light of Wisdom, Peace, Prosperity, and Hope Illuminate Every Home and Every Heart!

Issued on behalf of: Fremont Hindu Temple & Cultural Center (Vedic Dharma Samaj), Federation of Indo-Americans (FIA), Festival of Globe (FOG) and Americans4Hindus (A4H)

Dr. Romesh Japra, M.D., FACC
Founder & Chairman
Fremont Hindu Temple | FOG | A4H
Federation of Indo-Americans

About Americans4Hindus (A4H):

Americans4Hindus is dedicated to empowering Hindu Americans through political education, leadership development, strategic endorsements, and community mobilization. Americans4Hindus continues to expand its national presence by building alliances, empowering communities, and advancing democratic engagement across the United States

For further information or media inquiries, please contact: Americans4Hindus (A4H): Email: contact@americans4hindus.org, Website: www.americans4hindus.org

"We are not just participating - we are shaping the future. From school boards to the U.S. Congress, American Hindus are ready to lead."- Americans4Hindus.

Maharashtra FDA suspends 43 food licenses

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), led by Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe, has suspended 43 food business licenses and seized 17,824 kg of food articles worth Rs 63.09 lakh during a special enforcement drive ahead of Diwali, according to recent statement.

The inspections were conducted on November 6 and 7 across 73 establishments in the state's seven divisions -- Greater Mumbai, Konkan, Nashik, Pune, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nagpur and Amravati.

The drive covered businesses dealing in sweets, khoya, paneer, farsan, Diwali snacks, dry fruits and edible oil, as well as hotels, clubs, canteens, grocery stores, e-commerce platforms and catering establishments.

Food articles were seized from 29 establishments. Perishable items deemed hazardous to public health were destroyed on the spot in the presence of witnesses, the FDA said.

Nagpur recorded the highest number of license suspensions at 18, followed by Nashik with nine.

Meanwhile, Greater Mumbai reported five suspensions, while Pune, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Amravati recorded three each.

The inspections revealed several violations of food safety norms, including unhygienic manufacturing and storage conditions. *IANS*

wellness POST

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)

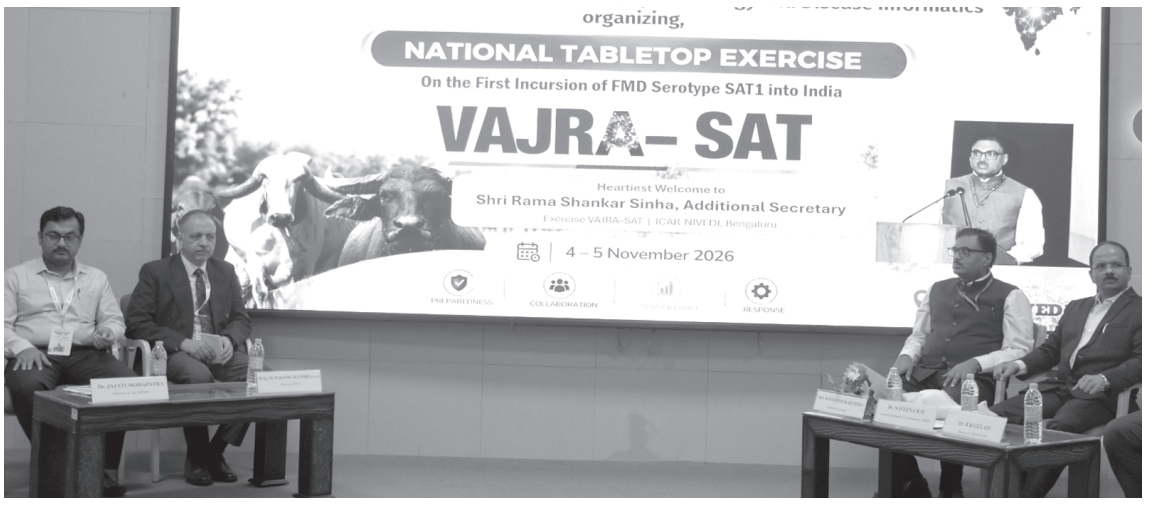
India holds National Exercise to bolster preparedness against Foot-and-Mouth Disease SAT-1

NEW DELHI: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), in collaboration with the ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), concluded a two-day national tabletop exercise on preparedness against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) serotype SAT-1, a strain that has not been reported in India but is increasingly being monitored due to its spread beyond Africa into parts of West Asia, it was announced on 6 November.

Held under the theme "Detect Early, Confirm Fast, Contain Together," the exercise focused on strengthening India's readiness to respond to potential incursions of the transboundary animal disease and safeguarding livestock health, farmers' livelihoods, and the broader livestock economy.

The exercise brought together 83 participants representing 25 states, three Union Territories, and key institutions, including state animal husbandry departments, ICAR institutes, veterinary diagnostic laboratories, veterinary universities, vaccine manufacturers, and defense and border guarding agencies.

Participants worked through simulated outbreak scenarios to assess preparedness in key areas such as disease detection, laboratory diagnosis, epidemiological investigations, animal movement controls, emergency vaccination strategies, risk communication, and coordinated response mechanisms.



Speaking at the inaugural session, Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Naveena B.M. stressed the need for advance planning, early disease detection, rapid response measures, and close coordination between central and state authorities. Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director of ICAR-NIVEDI, highlighted the evolving epidemiological landscape of FMD SAT-1 and underscored the role of risk-based surveillance, epidemiological intelligence, and early warning systems in mitigating disease threats.

Dr. J.K. Mohapatra, Director of the ICAR-National Institute of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (ICAR-NIFMD), emphasized the importance of laboratory preparedness, rapid diagnostic capabilities, and vaccine readiness, while Brigadier M.M. Ramachandra from the National Security Council Secretariat stressed enhanced border vigilance and inter-agency cooperation to prevent the entry of transboundary animal diseases.

The concluding session was chaired by Rama Shankar Sinha, Additional Secretary (Livestock Health), DAHD, who called for strengthening preparedness at both national and state levels and enhancing diagnostic infrastructure, including regional FMD laboratories and Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, with technical support from ICAR-NIFMD. *IANS*

Health Ministry aims to align Grade A microbial monitoring requirements with WHO norms

NEW DELHI: The government recently said it has proposed amendments to 'Schedule M' of the Drugs Rules 1945, to revise the prescribed limits for microbial contamination in Grade A clean areas in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Grade A areas are critical zones in sterile pharmaceutical manufacturing, where exposed products, containers, and sterilized components are handled.

Maintaining stringent microbial control in these areas is essential to ensuring the quality and safety of sterile pharmaceutical products.

According to Health Ministry, the proposed amendment aims to address the existing differences between the microbial contamination limits prescribed under Schedule M and the corresponding WHO requirements for Grade A areas, "thereby bringing India's regulatory provisions in line with internationally recognized standards".

"The proposed revision will harmonize the Revised 'Schedule M' with WHO guidelines and further strengthen the regulatory framework governing sterile pharmaceutical manufacturing in the country. It also provides for treating any microbial growth detected in Grade A areas as a trigger for investigation, in accordance with WHO guidance," the ministry said in a statement.

Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to submit their objections and suggestions, if any, on the proposed amendment to the Under Secretary (Drugs Regulation), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, or via email.

The proposed amendment reflects the government's commitment to strengthening quality standards in pharmaceutical manufacturing, aligning domestic regulatory requirements with international benchmarks and ensuring the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products. *IANS*

Scientists discover surprising heart benefits of eating avocado, mango every day: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Eating an avocado and a cup of mango every day may provide surprising benefits for heart health, according to a new study involving adults with prediabetes, as published on the ScienceDaily website.

After just eight weeks, participants experienced significant improvements in blood vessel function and diastolic blood pressure, particularly among men. These benefits occurred without weight gain or changes in calorie intake, suggesting that the nutrient-rich combination could support cardiovascular health through a simple dietary adjustment.

Eating mango and avocado every day could offer unexpected benefits for heart health, according to new research.

In a study lasting just eight weeks, adults with prediabetes who regularly ate both fruits experienced improvements in blood vessel function and blood pressure, without gaining weight or consuming more calories, as per the ScienceDaily website.

The findings could be especially relevant to the one in three (98 million) Americans with prediabetes, a condition in which blood sugar levels are elevated but have not yet reached the threshold for type 2 diabetes.

Published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, the research suggests that incorporating these two nutrient-rich fruits into everyday meals may help support cardiovascular health.

Researchers at Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) investigated the effects of an Avocado-Mango (AM) diet that included one medium Hass avocado and one cup of fresh mango each day.



Participants followed this eating plan for eight weeks, while a comparison group consumed a similar diet in which the fruits were replaced with carbohydrate-based foods containing equivalent calories.

The results revealed notable differences between the groups, particularly in how well their blood vessels functioned and how their blood pressure changed over time.

Mango and Avocado Improve Blood Vessel Function

One of the clearest improvements involved the ability of blood vessels to expand as blood flows through them. This flexibility helps maintain healthy circulation and is an important indicator of cardiovascular health.

To evaluate this response, researchers measured flow-mediated dilation (FMD), a commonly used test of endothelial function (blood vessel health). The endothelium is the thin layer of cells lining the inside of blood vessels, where it helps regulate circulation and the widening and narrowing of arteries.

Among participants eating avocado and mango, the measurement increased significantly to 6.7%. In contrast, it declined to 4.6% in the control group. The difference suggests that regularly consuming these fruits may help blood vessels function more effectively.

Blood pressure measurements also showed encouraging changes, especially among male participants. Men in the control group experienced an average increase of 5 points (mmHg) in central blood pressure, while those consuming avocado and mango saw a reduction of approximately 1.9 points, as per the study published on the ScienceDaily website *ANI*



Manipur CM felicitates two districts for HIV/AIDS control initiative

IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has felicitated Imphal West and Pherzawl districts for achieving 'Surakshit' (safe) status in October 2026 under, Mobilization for AIDS Suraksha (MAS) initiative of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

The felicitation ceremony, titled 'Sammaan Samaaroh', was organized by the Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS) at the Cabinet Hall of the Chief Minister's Office, Mantripukhri Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Khemchand Singh congratulated the two districts for attaining the 'Surakshit' status and urged officials of the Health Department to make concerted efforts to achieve the same milestone in the remaining districts of the state.



He stressed the importance of collective efforts in strengthening the State's response to HIV/AIDS and ensuring that more districts achieve the prescribed targets under the national initiative. Commissioner (Health and Family Welfare) and President of the Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS), Sumant Singh, stated that, for the first time in the history of MACS, the Society had succeeded in achieving the target of attaining 'Surakshit' status in certain districts of the State.

Explaining the significance of the achievement, he said that 'Surakshit' status indicates that 95 percent of the estimated number of people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in a district are aware of their HIV status; 95 percent of those who know their status are receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART); and 95 percent of those undergoing ART have achieved viral suppression.

He further explained that viral suppression indicates that the virus is effectively controlled among people who have achieved this stage, marking significant progress in HIV treatment and management.

During the program, the Chief Minister felicitated representatives of the Imphal West District and Pherzawl District administrations, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), and the District Integrated Strategy for HIV teams in recognition of their contributions towards achieving the milestone.

A presentation was also made during the program, highlighting the journey and efforts undertaken by Imphal West and Pherzawl districts towards achieving 'Surakshit' status under the 95-95-95 targets.

The program was attended by Chief Secretary Rajeev Singh Thakur; Project Director, MACS, Anna Arambam; Deputy Commissioner of Imphal West, Mayanglambam Rajkumar Singh; and Deputy Commissioner of Pherzawl, Anunay Anand, who joined the program virtually, among others. *IANS*

Pakistan faces food crisis as govt diverts funds to buy military hardware: Report

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has prioritized expenditure on military hardware in the country's budget while reducing allocations for food and health amid rising levels of hunger and malnutrition among the people, according to a new report.

The federal budget for 2026-27 allocated PKR 3 trillion (Pakistani rupee) to defense services, up 17.6 percent, with the physical assets line for weapons procurement rising 39.6 percent to PKR 925.8 billion. Health received PKR 53.3 billion in total, of which PKR 24.3 billion covered the entire health and nutrition development portfolio. Military pensions, carried separately at PKR 822 billion, exceed the full health allocation more than 15 times over, according to an article in the European Times news portal.



"The government's own 'Economic Survey' records public health expenditure at 0.8 percent of gross domestic product. A country spending roughly PKR 56 on its army for every rupee on its citizens' health has declared what it values," the article states.

It highlights that Pakistan scored 25.5 on the 2026 Global Hunger Index, placing it 106th among 122 countries and worse than every functioning state in South Asia. Sri Lanka, which defaulted on its sovereign debt in 2022 and spent the following years under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, scored 10.2 and now records South Asia's lowest hunger levels. Bangladesh scored 19.2 and Nepal 14.5, both moderate, and India scored 24.1.

"No external shock explains this deterioration in Pakistan's hunger levels, even though neighbors facing the same climate and commodity prices have avoided it," the article observes.

It cites trend data which shows that after 2018, undernourishment has risen from the low to the medium band, and child wasting has climbed towards the high threshold. Pakistan is reversing gains earlier governments achieved, during the same period in which a civilian administration under military direction consolidated its hold on policy.

Underlying indicators describe a public health emergency Islamabad has chosen not to treat as one. Undernourishment affects 16.1 percent of the population, child stunting among the under-fives stands at 33.6 percent, child wasting at 9.8 percent and under-five mortality at 5.6 percent.

Besides, Pakistan has abolished the wheat support price mechanism under reforms tied to its IMF bailout program, then presided over procurement that collapsed to roughly 480,000 tons in Punjab against a three million tons target. *IANS*

Govt's cancer drug price curb likely to create Rs 3,357 crore savings estimate

NEW DELHI: India's move to cap trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines has led 70 companies to cut maximum retail prices by an average 20 percent to 70 percent on 120 medicines, with estimated patient savings of Rs 3,357.49 crore, an official factsheet said.

The government said the price revision for 120 drugs have been made as of November 4, with the steepest reduction reaching 96.45 percent and that the revised prices will take effect from November 9.

The government has capped excessive markups along the pharmaceutical supply chain, in retail and hospital pharmacies across the country, to make cancer treatment in India more affordable.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on October 17 capped the trade margin on medicines, including patented drugs, at 30 percent of the maximum retail price (MRP), aiming to reduce excessive mark-ups across distributors, retailers and hospital pharmacies. *IANS*

Philosophy

Why is the craze for pleasure increasing?

Astikyam, faith, is going down rapidly

CHANDRASHEKHARA BHARATI MAHASWAMIGAL

When we call a person an astika, we do not merely mean that he says that any particular thing is; nor, when we call a person a na-stika, do we merely mean that he says that a particular thing is not.

We use the term astika for one who asserts these three things: the existence of a future birth, the existence of other lokas of experience, and the existence of God. Similarly, we use the term nastika, for one who denies the existence of these three.



Chandrashekhara Bharati Mahaswamigal

Now, consider for a moment the attitude of the modern man, however educated he may claim to be. Does his daily conduct bear out that he believes in a future birth, a future loka, or even in God?

Why does the craze for pleasure increase day by day as if all enjoyment must be had now or never? How is the belief in a future state of experience consistent with the growing neglect of Dharma? What justification is there for the increase in the number of Law Courts and Registration Offices if the people believe in God, the Eternal Witness of all their transactions?

Whatever people may choose to say in public and whatever they may think of themselves, I am convinced that astikyam, faith, is going down rapidly. All our present endeavours must be directed towards a restoration and maintenance of Astikyam.

Questions posing as to whether the Ultimate Reality is one, two or one-and-a-half, have no practical interest for the large majority of us. We may therefore leave such questions for the present and interest ourselves in the practice of our Dharma.

Everybody knows that it is wrong to tell a lie. Nobody has the slightest doubt about it. All the same, falsehood is ever on the increase. Everybody knows that it is wrong to cheat. All the same, cheating is the normal practice in modern life.

What is the practical use of enunciating the abstract truth of the Absolute Brahman to people who are not prepared to put into practice the elementary principles of even Samanya Dharma, Ordinary Law?

After securing steadiness in Samanya Dharma, and after purifying and qualifying himself by the earnest practice of Visesha Dharma, the Special Law, prescribed for him, a person attains the requisite standard of competence to enable him to enter on the study of Advaita.

The tendency to neglect the wholesome doctrine that Vedantic study is intended only for the competent is responsible for the confused thinking of modern days.

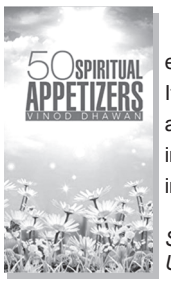
Even for simple crafts, such as masonry or carpentry, a preliminary course of training is required before a person is allowed to handle the instruments; but in the field of BrahmaVidya, the science of the Self, the highest and the most difficult of all sciences, everybody thinks himself competent and entitled to study the system of Advaita and even to sit in judgement over it.

This attitude must go and must be replaced by earnest endeavour first to secure the necessary competence. If we make an honest attempt to secure that competence by following implicitly the directions of the sastras and of the Guru, the Lord will guide us along the path of progress, solve all our problems and doubts, free us from all worry and trouble and lead us on to the state of realisation of the Advaita Reality, the truth and the bliss of the absolute oneness of all in the undifferentiated Brahman.

Excerpted from 'Dialogues with the Guru'. The 134th birth anniversary of Chandrashekhara Bharati Mahaswamigal was observed on October 16.

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Managing India-border tensions - and the 'new normal'

C UDAY BHASKAR

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee concluded in Beijing on 29 October 2026, and a central military takeaway was the further reinforcement of absolute loyalty to the CPC, expressed through the persona of General Secretary Xi Jinping as core leader and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC).

Xi elevated political reliability-absolute party leadership over the armed forces and personal allegiance to himself as CMC Chairman-as a top priority for the PLA. Official messaging and subsequent PLA commentary stressed resolute fealty to the party supreme Central Committee, and Chairman Xi, along with the "Two Establishes" and "Two Safeguards."

Experts note that when promotion and survival depend heavily on demonstrating political reliability, this incentive structure can encourage commanders to treat assertive operational behavior as a visible currency of compliance, potentially elevating political signaling over operational restraint.

Recent developments related to the LAC in the Indian context are instructive. In a disquieting but unsurprising revelation (Oct 22), the same day that the CPC concluded, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor stated that face-offs with PLA troops along the LAC have been continuing since July

Border Tensions a Reality

For India, the disputed LAC (Line of Actual Control) - the undemarcated de facto border - is an abiding challenge and some preliminary inferences from the Beijing deliberations merit review.

Prioritizing loyalty at the higher levels of the Chinese military (PLA) means that the probability of miscalculation and aggressive local action rises sharply - not necessarily by design in Beijing, but by incentive at the theatre level. In effect, India must prepare for a more assertive, less restrained PLA in the near future.

Recent developments related to the LAC in the Indian context are instructive. In a disquieting but unsurprising revelation (Oct 22), the same day that the CPC concluded, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor stated that face-offs with PLA troops along the LAC have been continuing since July at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh and are ongoing.

He was referring to recent standoffs near Asaphila and Taksing in Upper Subansiri. Specific details about injuries or casualties have not been mentioned and both governments have sought to play down the incidents - but the military tension along the LAC is a reality.

This pattern of contested territorial claims along the unsettled LAC has a recent context that merits recall.

Beijing's 'New' Doctrine

Two months ago in Beijing, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval what Beijing now calls "normal". On August 25, in the 25th round of Special Representative talks, the two sides announced an eight-point consensus. It was a rare joint statement.

First, maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC and stabilize bilateral relations. Second, advance boundary negotiations under the 2005 Agreement for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement.

Third, two working groups to work on boundary delimitation and border management - to finalize Terms of Reference for an "Early and Substantial Harvest."

Fourth, any ground situation to be addressed promptly through existing channels : WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination), local commander meetings. Fifth, two new military hotline channels in the eastern and middle sectors and two new meeting venues.

(The writer is an Indian Navy veteran. president, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi and a leading security analyst) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit **www.indiapost.com**

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

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UDUPI PALACE

SOUTH INDIAN CUISINE



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's BRICS legacy: Did 2026 produce something more durable?

KOMAL KARWA

On December 31, 2026, India will hand over the chairship of BRICS to China. It has been a busy year. Since taking over from Brazil on January 1, India has hosted more than 400 meetings and engagements across 30 cities, from ministerial conferences to gatherings of young entrepreneurs and small businesses. All of it led up to the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, where leaders adopted a 140-paragraph declaration.

Most of the coverage of that summit focused on who came and what they said. Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first visit to India in seven years. Commentators debated whether BRICS would move away from the dollar. Those stories mattered, but they are not the best way to judge a presidency. A better question is a simpler one: what has India built that will still be working a year from now?

What the Headlines Covered

India's theme for the year was Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, a phrase whose first letters spell out BRICS. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a summit that, on several issues important to India, produced clear language.

The New Delhi Declaration condemned the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, in which 26 people were killed, and called for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, an idea India first proposed at the United Nations in 1996. China and Russia also restated their support for the wish of Brazil and India to play a greater role in the United Nations, including the Security Council.

These are meaningful outcomes. But they build on positions taken at earlier summits. The more original part of India's year lies further down the document.

What the Headlines Missed

Read the declaration closely, and a pattern appears. Many of its most concrete commitments came from India, and most of them are practical rather than grand.

On the economy, BRICS launched a Task Force on Growth and Development at India's initiative, and welcomed an India Centre for BRICS Industrial Competencies. India proposed a BRICS Risk Lab, to be hosted at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's international financial center, to study insurance and financial risks facing member economies. A BRICS forum for small and medium enterprises was held in Agra, and members agreed to hold a second one. New working groups on international taxation and transfer pricing were also set up during India's chairship.

On innovation, members welcomed a BRICS Incubator Network, agreed to consider a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund, and proposed a virtual platform for young entrepreneurs. A proposal for a shared repository of digital public infrastructure draws directly on India's experience with tools such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Aadhaar. Leaders also issued a separate statement on the global governance of artificial intelligence (AI), and the declaration welcomed India's AI Impact Summit, held at Bharat Mandapam in February 2026.

On people's welfare, BRICS endorsed a Mission for Healthy Lifestyle with a roadmap for 2026 to 2029, and agreed to build a network of centers of excellence on mental wellbeing, with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru as the coordinating center. Members also adopted guidelines for sharing early-warning data on disasters and voluntary principles for climate-resilient urban infrastructure.

None of these will make front-page news. But they are exactly the kind of work that turns a summit forum into a functioning partnership. A startup founder in Nairobi, a disaster manager in Jakarta or a health researcher in São Paulo is more likely to feel the effect of these networks than of any communiqué on global order.

A Careful Balance

India achieved this in a group that has changed a great deal. BRICS now has 11 members and 10 partner countries, with very different political systems and, at times, sharply different views. In May 2026, a meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in New Delhi ended without a joint statement because of differences among members over the conflict in West Asia.

(The writer is a Public Policy Researcher at the Policy, Politics and Governance Foundation (PPGF), Bengaluru and a postgraduate scholar in political science at Amity University) South

Most of the coverage of that summit focused on who came and what they said. Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first visit to India in seven years. Commentators debated whether BRICS would move away from the dollar

For detailed story visit **www.indiapost.com**

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

INDIA POST

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INDIA'S TRADITION WAS NEVER ROTE LEARNING

India has a glorious educational heritage dating back thousands of years. In ancient times, education was not simply about memorizing textbooks or passing examinations. It was about acquiring knowledge, developing wisdom, building character and preparing individuals to contribute meaningfully to society. Yet today, we face an important question: Have we moved away from the true purpose of education and become prisoners of grades, degrees and rote learning?

Traditionally, India's Gurukul system emphasized the close relationship between teacher and student. Students learned through observation, discussion, practical experience and personal guidance from their gurus. Subjects included mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, literature, arts, agriculture and warfare. Equally important were discipline, ethics, respect, responsibility and spiritual development.

Indian intellectual traditions also encouraged questioning and debate. The Upanishads, for example, contain fascinating conversations between teachers and students exploring fundamental questions about life, knowledge and existence. Education was considered a lifelong pursuit of wisdom rather than merely a means of securing employment.

Unfortunately, much of our modern education system has increasingly become examination-oriented. Students spend countless hours memorizing answers, definitions, formulas and historical dates, often with the primary objective of scoring high grades. Success is measured by examination results rather than the ability to think independently, solve problems or apply knowledge.

Several factors have contributed to this change. The British colonial education system introduced an examination-based structure designed largely to meet administrative and employment requirements. After independence, increasing competition for university admissions and government jobs only strengthened the importance of grades and degrees. Today, the coaching industry, particularly for competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET, has added another dimension to this pressure. The consequences are visible. Many students remember information only long enough to reproduce it in examinations but struggle to apply it. Creativity, curiosity and independent thinking suffer. Students become afraid of making mistakes, while parents and educational institutions sometimes judge achievement almost entirely through academic rankings.

India must bring meaningful changes to its schools and colleges. Classrooms should encourage students to ask questions, participate in discussions and challenge ideas respectfully. Science should involve experiments, mathematics should encourage problem-solving, and history should promote research and critical examination.

Teachers must become mentors who inspire curiosity rather than simply complete the syllabus. Vocational education, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, environmental awareness and industry-based training should receive greater attention.

India can neither blindly return to the ancient Gurukul system nor abandon modern educational methods. The education system needs to combine the wisdom of traditional heritage with the insights of modern science, technology and collective global knowledge.

Ultimately, education must produce more than examination toppers. It must develop scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs, responsible citizens and compassionate human beings.

A student who memorizes an answer may pass an examination, but a student who questions, understands and applies knowledge critically, has the potential to transform society.

India's future will depend not merely on how many graduates the universities produce, but on how many independent thinkers, problem-solvers and innovators emerge from its classrooms. We must rediscover the spirit of learning that once made India a center of intellectual excellence. The purpose of education should not be to teach what to think, but to teach how to think.



Ayodhya lights up with over 30 lakh diyas on Diwali eve CM Yogi attends 10th edition of Deepotsav

AYODHYA: Ayodhya lit up with thousands of earthen lamps as the city celebrated the 10th edition of Deepotsav, with more than 30 lakh diyas set to illuminate 56 ghats along the banks of the Saryu River.

The grand celebration showcased the city's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, with the illuminated ghats presenting a spectacular display of devotion and tradition, adding to the spiritual splendor of Shri Ayodhya Dham.

The celebrations featured a series of cultural performances, including a spectacular light-and-sound show. Thousands of people gathered at the ghats to witness the grand festivities.

Artists also presented a series of performances depicting significant episodes from the Ramayana, bringing the epic's key moments to life through elaborate stage enactments.

Preparations for the 10th edition of Deepotsav had been underway for several days, with the event witnessing the participation of several dignitaries. Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the celebrations, along with saints and other prominent guests.

Addressing the gathering, CP Radhakrishnan said, "After a long time, a saint became the chief minister of the state. PM Narendra Modi is from a humble background; he became the prime minister of this country, and he has been leading this nation for the last 12 years in the best way... When the Chief Minister mentioned that Ayodhya is not only a smart city or a solar city, Ayodhya is the spiritual city... Today, after the darshan at the temple, I feel proud that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath, the Ram temple is now a monument of our entire Hindu self-respect."

Addressing a massive gathering at Ram Katha Park after performing aarti and worshipping Lord Ram and Goddess Janaki, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reflected on the city's transformation from centuries of struggle to its present cultural renaissance.

Recalling the decades of struggle during the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, CM Adityanath emphasized the historic sacrifices of kar sevaks and saints, issuing a stern message to political critics who previously suppressed the movement.

"An airport could never be built in Ayodhya in the past. Today, Ayodhya boasts an international airport named after Maharishi Valmiki... I have come here today to assure you of this: those who once neglected and insulted us, who opened fire on the devotees of Lord Ram, and who humiliated and lathi-charged the saints-if they ever visit Ayodhya, they must come only after offering an apology. Let them apologize to the devotees of Lord Ram; let them apologize to the saints. Let them repent for their past actions..." *ANI*

INDIA SECURES TOP FIVE FINISH AT MISS & MRS MAJESTIC INTERNATIONAL 2026 IN MALAYSIA

NEW DELHI: The Miss & Mrs Majestic International 2026 pageant, held in Melaka, Malaysia, in September, witnessed India's participation among the top five finalists, along with recognition in the Best Evening Gown category. The international event brought together contestants for a weeklong program featuring cultural exchanges, community engagement and sustainable fashion initiatives, highlighting opportunities for women across different age groups to participate on global platforms.

Representing India at the international competition, 54-year-old Rekha Bisht from Shimla secured a top five finish and received the Best Evening Gown title. Her participation followed her success at the Miss & Mrs India VG Pageant, organized in New Delhi in August 2026, where she competed alongside 54 finalists and earned three recognitions: Mrs India Gracious - 1st Runner up, Mrs Himachal Queen and Mrs Charismatic Deva.

The weeklong event in Malaysia brought together participants for activities extending beyond conventional beauty pageant competitions. *VMPL. ANI*

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After delivering more than 1,300 homes in Mountain House over the past two decades, Shea Homes has raised the bar once again with Opal and Emerald - two new neighborhoods, thoughtfully designed for growing families and intergenerational living.

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BOLLYWOOD

SAIYAMI KHER CALLS THIS YEAR A 'WORKING DIWALI'



Actress Saiyami Kher revealed that spending quality time with her family, often by travelling together, has become a cherished Diwali tradition.

Speaking about this year's celebrations, the actress told IANS that she will be having a working Diwali due to her shooting schedule, adding that she considers her set her second family and hopes to find some time to celebrate with them.

Asked if there are special rituals or traditions she makes sure to follow every Diwali, Saiyami told IANS: "For me, the biggest tradition has become spending time with my family. We've almost made it a ritual to travel somewhere together every Diwali. Whether it's a holiday or just spending quality time together, that's something we really look forward to."

Amid a hectic schedule due to her profession, how does she make time for Diwali celebrations?

"Sometimes festivals coincide with work, and you learn to make the most of whatever time you have. This year is a working Diwali for me, but I genuinely enjoy being on set. It's my second family away from home. Hopefully, we'll find a little time to celebrate together."

"And my parents are always happy when I'm working, so I think they'll consider this an auspicious Diwali!"

Saiyami is set to mark her international debut with an upcoming Indo-Russian drama directed by Maksim Kuznetsov. *IANS*



Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif share DIWALI JOY; reveal son Vihaan's face

Actor couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif revealed the face of their son, Vihaan. The couple took to their Instagram, and shared a joint post introducing their son to their followers.

In the picture, Vihaan can be seen happily stretching his arms while his parents held him from behind.

They wrote in the caption, "Our brightest Diwali yet. Wishing everyone love, light and happiness. Vicky, Katrina & Vihaan".

The couple welcomed their first child, a son named Vihaan Kaushal, in November 2025. The couple confirmed the news publicly in January 2026 while sharing the baby's name and first glimpse on social media.

The actress kept her pregnancy largely private and stayed away from frequent public appearances during that period. Since becoming parents, both actors have been seen making selective appearances while balancing work and family life. The couple named their son after Vicky's character in the combat film 'Uri: The Surgical Strike'.

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot on December 9, 2021, in a private ceremony at the luxurious Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. *IANS*

TOP TEN
HINDI FILM SONGS

1 Tera Mera Rishta: **Awarapan 2**

2 Parvati: **Hanuman Ansh**

3 Vaaroon Forever: **Mirzapur The Movie**

4 Gehra Hua: **Dhurandhar**

5 Maine Tere Hi Bharose: **Hanuman Ansh**

6 Saiyaara: **Saiyaara**

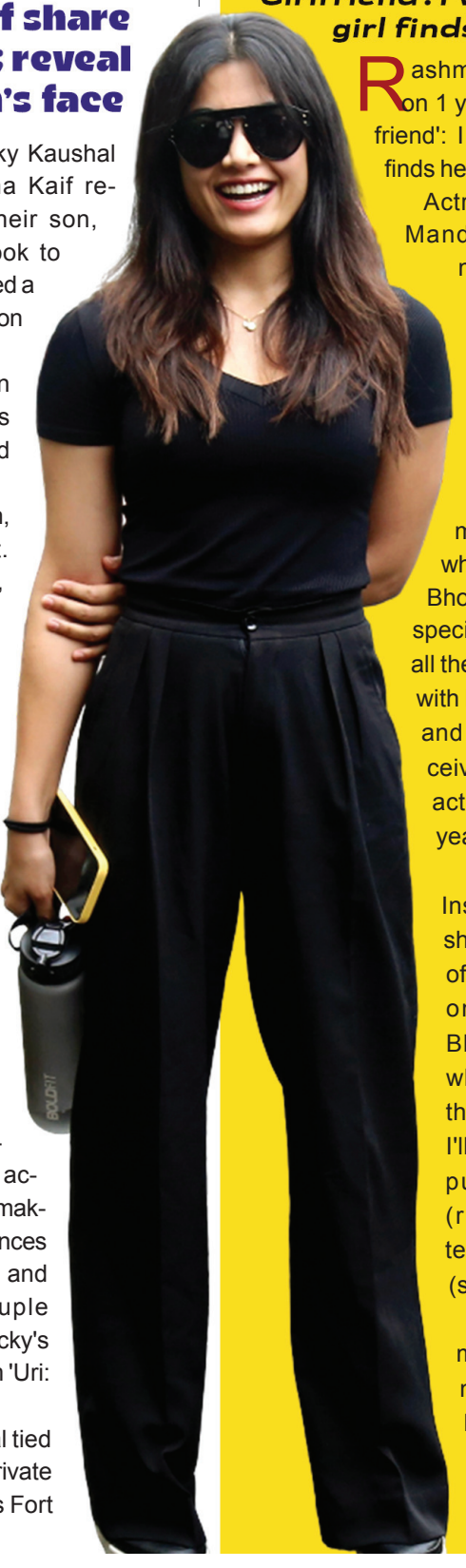
7 Barbaad: **Saiyaara**

8 Tum Hi Ho: **Aashiqui 2**

9 Sanson Ki Mala: **Mirzapur The Movie**

10 Arz Kiya Hai: **Coke Studio Bharat**

Rashmika Mandanna on 1 year of 'The Girlfriend': I wish every girl finds her voice



Rashmika Mandanna on 1 year of 'The Girlfriend': I wish every girl finds her voice

Actress Rashmika Mandanna commemorated her movie 'The Girlfriend' clocking one year of release on 7 November, with a nostalgic post.

Rashmika mentioned that what made playing Bhooma even more special for her were all the stories shared with her and the love and acceptance received by her character over the past year.

Taking to her Insta Stories, she shared, "One year of The Girlfriend.. one year of Bhooma.. and a whole lot of love that I don't think I'll ever be able to put into words (red heart and teary eyes emoji (sic)".

"What has made this journey even more beautiful is YOU GUYSSS (red heart emojis). *IANS*



THE ACTRESS ADDED SHORT CAPTIONS TO EACH IMAGE, TO GIVE HER FANS AN IDEA OF WHAT THEY MIGHT FIND HER DOING WHEN SHE IS NOT WORKING. "SOOOOO, NOW YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME," SHE WROTE IN THE CAPTION

SAI PALLAVI: DIRECTOR RAJKUMAR PERIASAMY BELIEVED IN MY POLICE ROLE IN 'OM' MORE THAN ME!

Actress Sai Pallavi, who plays an IPS officer in the Dhanush, Mammootty-starrer 'OM: Chapter 1 - Udhiram: The Blood Wood', says that the film's director Rajkumar Periasamy had believed in her police role more than her.

Participating in a grand audio launch event of the film, which was held at the Sairam Engineering College recently, Sai Pallavi said, "Rajkumar sir is amazing. I told him in the previous film that I want to be a part of his next film. Thundu potu vechen (I had booked a place). But he really made it for me. He believed in my police role more than me. Thanks to all those who worked on the stunt sequences, it was a great experience. Rajkumar sir has written the character with lots of layers. He is every actress's dream director, the way he writes his women characters rocks."

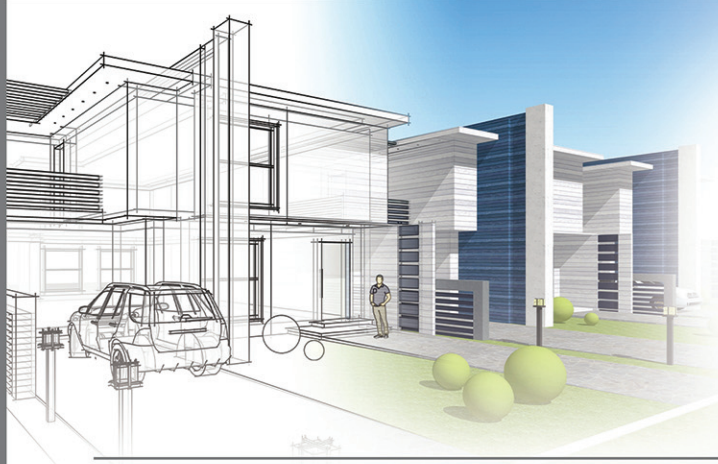
The actress also recalled how her character was addressed as 'Mammootty' all through her previous film 'Amaran' and how she had now ended up acting with the Malayalam superstar.

She said,"Pona padathula Mammootty Mammootty nu solli ippo Mammootty sir kooda. I don't know if I manifested it."

Producer Shraddha Agarwal of RTake Studios said, ""Every film we have made under the RTake banner has had a special connection with Chennai, and with OM, we are taking that association to an even bigger scale. *IANS*

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Ayushmann Khurrana receives threat message

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who recently received a threat message from an alleged member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, was told that the cops won't be able to protect him for too long.

The content of the audio message has been shared by a Mumbai Police source, in which a man named Anil Pandit can be heard threatening the actor.

He said in the audio message, "I am Anil Pandit speaking, I am Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother, I called you, but you didn't pick up the phone and then cut the call. No problem, we just need to convey this message, please talk to us. If you want to settle something, then go ahead. But if you want to show this kind of attitude, then something similar to what happened with Tiger Shroff could happen to you too. We also have information about where your house is in Chandigarh, and we know where you are staying here. We have also received the number of your bike. We also called that number, but the call was not answered there either. Look, we just need to talk to you once. You have the conversation, after that we won't bother you much. If you are ready to talk, we have no problem. We called you just to talk".

He further mentioned, "So after listening to our message, please call us back. If you don't do this, we will understand that you want to take another route and go to the police. You can go to the police, we have no problem with that. Those who have provided you with security, how long will they be able to protect you? You need good luck every day to stay away from us, while we only need one day of good luck to harm you. Yours, any member of your family, or anyone who falls into our hands, we will blow them away. So it would be better if you talk to us and resolve the matter through conversation. We will wait for your call".

Prior to this, the Mumbai Police arrested the accused who was sending threatening emails to various Bollywood celebrities, including Ayushmann Khurrana and Tusshar Kapoor. The accused, identified as Vaibhav Mishra, works as an IT engineer. He was arrested in Bengaluru on Wednesday. He was reportedly sending threatening audio messages to everyone in the name of Lawrence Bishnoi, pretending to be a member of their gang.

As per Mumbai Police sources, the accused had been threatening several film celebrities living in Mumbai over the past few days.

Ayushmann had reportedly received a threatening audio message from an individual claiming to have links with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The sender had reportedly demanded crores of rupees from the 'Dream Girl' actor. *IANS*



Isha Koppikar revisits 'Ek Vivah Aisa Bhi' character as film clocks 18 years

Actress Isha Koppikar is celebrating 18 years of her film 'Ek Vivah Aisa Bhi' in which she starred opposite Sonu Sood.

The film clocked 18 years on 7 November, and was helmed by Sooraj Barjatya. It is a romantic tale of commitment and faith in love was highly appreciated by the viewers.

Talking about the same, the actress said, "In 2007, near to my birthday I got a call from Sooraj Barjatya sir's office for a movie narration. Who wouldn't be excited to work with a film maker like him? I went for a meeting and in a go I liked Chandni. It wouldn't be wrong to say that I literally fell in love with her. I related to the love she had for her family. Someone who could stand against the world and prioritize her family, over everything else. Our set was Kaushik sir's canvas, he crafted every scene with so much detailing and emotional depth. Each character had an emotional touch that connected with the audience".

"IN 2007, NEAR TO MY BIRTHDAY I GOT A CALL FROM SOORAJ BARJATYA SIR'S OFFICE FOR A MOVIE NARRATIONd

"I used to be very excited to be on set and be Chandni. The outfits, the hairdo, the makeup; it was all fun. So a very few people know about this, when I used to read the script everyday and especially my emotional scenes I used to end up crying in my vanity just thinking about how Chandni would be feeling!! I have cried so much, on as well as off screen. *IANS*

Radhika Apte on working in South films: Was completely on my own



Actress Radhika Apte revealed that her experience of working in the South film industry was not as good.

She shared that she felt extremely alone and also found that the set was full of men, making it a patriarchal atmosphere.

Promoting her recent release 'Akka', along with Keerthy Suresh, Radhika said that although she had a good time working in some of the movies, her experience was a bit traumatizing in some of the dramas.

Radhika told IANS, "I haven't worked in South for a while now. There was a period when I did a lot of South Indian films. My experience with the few films I did, not all of them were very good. But there were a few that were quite difficult. But then I have also done some films in Bollywood which were quite traumatizing. Over the period of time I became more confident. I could put down my boundaries better, and I could stand up for myself."

Radhika admitted that, being an extremely vulnerable person, she believes she did not know what to ask for.

Revealing she felt extremely alone, she added, "And there's no contract, there is no script. So it's quite; it can throw you off. I didn't know anybody. If it were my home, it's very different. So when I start from Marathi, even if it's the same thing, it doesn't matter because I speak the language. If I need anything, I can go home. I know I have friends, but there I used to be completely on my own, no agent, not a single friend, in the middle of nowhere, mostly men on set. They are speaking in a language I don't understand. So it was a lot for me to take." *IANS*

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Gir National Park

"The land of Asiatic Lions"

Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only remaining home for the Asiatic Lions. Lo cated in Talala Gir in Gujarat, the Sanctuary is a part of Kathiawar- Gir dry deciduous forests Eco region. Gir National Park is closed from 16 June to 15 October every year and the best time for wildlife spotting is April and May.

Gir provides you with the unique experience of visiting a place that almost singularly plays a crucial and defining role in the preservation and sustaining of a certain species. The Nawab of Junagadh initiated the preservation of these lions when they were just about to enter the phase of extinction due to hunting.

The official count said that there were 411 lions in 2010. Also, there are roughly different 2375 species of fauna here with 38 species of mammals, over 300 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles and over 2000 species of insects. Other important wildlife forms found here are leopard, chausingha, spotted deer, hyena, sambar deer and chinkara.

ATTRACTIONS IN GIR NATIONAL PARK

Apart from the famous Gir jungle trail at the national park, Gir has many other attractions to offer to tourists. The Kamleshwar dam, which is the largest dam in Gir, is one such attraction, and it is often referred to as the 'lifeline of Gir'. It is built over the Hiran river. The beautiful Tulsi Shyam temple located within the national park is also a must-visit. The crocodile-breeding farm, located near the Sasan Gir reserve, is also a popular tourist destination.

WATER RESERVE

The Gir region has seven major rivers, and 4 reservoirs at 4 dams - one each on the Hiran, Machhundri, Raval and Shingoda rivers. The biggest reservoir is the Kamleshwar Dam, which is called as the lifeline of Gir. Droughts and water scarcity are a major challenge in the region, especially during peak summers.

BIODIVERSITY OF GIR

The dry deciduous forests of Gir are believed to house over 500 species of flora, with teak trees being the most populous. Other prominent species include jamun, babul and the flame of the forest. Casuarinas and Prosopis were planted along the coastal borders of Gir for under the afforestation program.

Gir is synonyms to the royal Asiatic lions that draw in the wildlife enthusiasts from all around the globe. The national park is the last abode of the endangered species of Asiatic lions that are the pride of India.

DEVALIA SAFARI PARK

The Devalia Safari Park is also known as the Gir Interpretation Zone and was established to reduce the excess of tourists at the Gir National Park. It is an ecotourism zone, known as 'Gir in a nutshell', which houses all the wildlife and habitats of Gir within its boundaries.

GIR JUNGLE TRAIL

Each safari at Gir (Gir Jungle Trail) would last for 3 hours covering a range of sections throughout the forest. Alongside a jeep and a guide, travellers could also take upfront pictures of the majestic Asiatic lions here.

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