



Ramayan Drone Show during FOG Diwali

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CJP receiving funds from US: Mary Millben

NEW DELHI: American singer Mary Millben made an explosive claim about the Delhi protests, alleging the recently formed political satirical outfit Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) was being funded by "select donors" from the United States.

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Varun Dhawan wishes Pooja Hegde

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WAIT FOR GREEN CARD

US Congressman flags 179-year Green Card wait for Indians

WASHINGTON: US Congressman Josh Gottheimer has highlighted the plight of Indian professionals stuck in the employment-based Green Card backlog, saying nearly 80 percent of the more than 1.2 million people waiting are from India.

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NFAP estimated that about 996,599 of the 1,264,495 people in the first three employment-based preferences were from India as of December 2025, or 79 percent.

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The waits are caused by annual and per-country limits on employment-based immigrant visas, combined with strong demand, NFAP said. Under US law, no single country can receive more than seven percent of the green cards issued each year, which hits applicants from populous India hardest.

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PM Modi wishes Pope Leo XIV a speedy recovery

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined world leaders to wish Pope Leo XIV a speed recovery after he underwent surgery to remove a nodule in his lung.

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DHS says NY rejected 16,070 ICE requests

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OneWeb should get approval before Starlink

NEW DELHI: Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said that Eutelsat OneWeb should receive regulatory approvals in India ahead of Starlink, arguing that the company is significantly ahead in the approval queue after having applied nearly five years ago.

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Devotees perform the Garba dance and an illuminated view of the Umiyadham Temple during the fourth day of the Navratri festival, in Surat on October 15. (ANI Photo)

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This week's question

Will the Saudi alliance be able to contain Houthis?

Last week's result

Can Trump win the Midterm elections?

YES 55% NO 45%

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Shasthi, Friday Oct 16

6PM - 7:30PM: Bodhana and Adhivaasa, Aagomoni songs
7:30PM - 7:45PM: Aarati
7PM-9PM: Preetivoj
Cultural program 8PM-9:30PM

Saptami, Saturday, Oct 17

10AM-1PM: Mahasnan, Prana-protishtha, Puja
1PM - 2PM: Pushpanjali
1PM-2:30PM: Preetivoj
7:30PM: Aarati
7:30PM-9PM: Preetivoj
Cultural program 8PM-9:30PM

Maha Astami, Sunday, Oct 18

10AM-1PM: Mahasnan, puja
1PM-2:30PM: Pushpanjali
1PM -3PM: Preetivoj
6:30PM-8:30PM: Kumaripuja, Sandhi puja, Aarati
(Devotional dance by kumaris of Nataraj dance school)
8:30PM-9PM: Pushpanjali
7:30PM-9:30 PM: Preetivoj

Navami, Monday, Oct 19

6PM-8:30PM: Homa, balidaan (pumpkin), Aarati,
Dhunuchi naach
8:40PM-9PM: Pushpanjali
7:30PM-9PM: Preetivoj

Vijaya Dasami, Tuesday, Oct 20

5:30PM-6:30PM: Puja
6:30PM-7PM: Pushpanjali
7 PM - 8:30 PM: Sindur khela PM: Sindur khela
8:30PM-9PM: Aparajita puja, Bisarjan
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Varun Dhawan wishes Pooja Hegde



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan penned a lovely birthday post for her 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' co-star Pooja Hegde

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WAIT FOR GREEN CARD

US Congressman flags 179-year Green Card wait for Indians

WASHINGTON: US Congressman Josh Gottheimer has highlighted the plight of Indian professionals stuck in the employment-based Green Card backlog, saying nearly 80 percent of the more than 1.2 million people waiting are from India.

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The waits are caused by annual and per-country limits on employment-based immigrant visas, combined with strong demand, NFAP said. Under US law, no single country can receive more than seven percent of the green cards issued each year, which hits applicants from populous India hardest.

Gottheimer voted to eliminate the per-country caps on employment-based green cards, the release said. It added that he believes the country can secure the bor-

der and enforce its laws while treating people fairly.

The roundtable was held on October 6 at the Palisades Park Library in his Fifth District in northern New Jersey.

"The AAPI community represents differ-

community isn't enough," Gottheimer said.

He also pressed his Sikh American Anti-Discrimination Act, which he introduced with Republican Congressman David Valadao of California in January 2026.

Jersey is home to roughly 100,000 Sikhs, according to the release.

Gottheimer is a member of the India Caucus and co-chairs the American Sikh Congressional Caucus. He is also a member of the Korea, Taiwan, Asia Pacific American and Pacific Islands caucuses.

Roughly 127,000 residents of his district, or about one in six, are Asian American, the release said. That includes nearly half of Englewood Cliffs and more than 43 percent of Fort Lee.

The release also flagged a Small Business Administration policy, in effect since March 1, under which the agency no longer backs loans to businesses with any non-citizen ownership. Even a green card holder with a one percent stake disqualifies a business, it said.

In fiscal 2024 alone, the SBA backed 8,900 loans worth \$7.2 billion to Asian-owned businesses, according to the release.

It said new restrictions on lawfully present immigrants under the One Big Beautiful Bill law, which Gottheimer voted against, could cost roughly 300,000 New Jersey residents Medicaid coverage, mostly because of paperwork.

Among those at the roundtable were New Jersey Assemblywoman Shama Haider, River Edge Councilwoman Priti Dhariwal and Yogi Virk, President of the Sikh Chamber of Commerce.

The release also cited his ICE Standards Act and his push to secure funding to protect houses of worship. IANS



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ent ethnicities, languages, faiths, and traditions, but the same drive to strengthen our communities. That's why I'm working so hard in Washington and across the aisle to support you. But celebrating this

The bill would create a Justice Department task force on anti-Sikh discrimination, set a federal definition of anti-Sikh hate, develop education programs and require an annual report to Congress. New

PM Modi wishes Pope Leo XIV a speedy recovery after he underwent surgery to remove nodule in lung

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined world leaders to wish Pope Leo XIV a speed recovery after he underwent surgery to remove a nodule in in his lung.

"Happy to learn that His Holiness Pope Leo XIV's surgery last night was successful. Wishing him a full and speedy recovery as well as continued good health," PM Modi said on X.

Pope Leo XIV underwent thoracic surgery at Gemelli according to a statement released by the Holy See Press Office. The surgeons removed the lower lobe of the Pope's right lung. "To ensure a radical resection, the lower lobe of the right lung was removed using a video-assisted technique," the statement said.

Tissue examined during the operation confirmed the diagnosis suspected from tests conducted beforehand.

"An intraoperative histological examination confirmed the diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, as suspected from the preop-

"Happy to learn that His Holiness Pope Leo XIV's surgery last night was successful. Wishing him a full and speedy recovery as well as continued good health," PM Modi said

erative examinations," the doctors said.

Professor Margaritora led the surgical team, assisted by Professor Elisa Meacci, Dr. Maria Teresa Congedo, and Dr. Leonardo Petracca Ciavarella. In the com-

ing days, post-operation exams will be conducted on the removed tissue.

Several world leaders have joined to wish the Pontiff a speedy recovery.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Canadian Prime Minister Mark

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described Pope Leo XIV as a source of inspiration for Catholics worldwide, emphasizing his message of peace and humanity.

"Pope Leo XIV is a source of inspiration to Catholics right around the world - and here in Australia. He is a voice for peace, humanity and reason in our modern world. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he recovers from his recent surgery. We hope and pray for a quick recovery," Albanese said in his post.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney also conveyed his wishes for the Pope's recovery, underlining the significance of his message of unity and compassion. ANI

Carney, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio were among those who conveyed their prayers and wishes for the pontiff's recovery through posts on X.

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak meets PM Modi; hails his "commitment, work ethic and energy"

NEW DELHI: Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently and congratulated the latter on completing 25 years in public service and hailed the UK-India partnership.

In a post on X, Sunak recalled working with PM Modi during his tenure as UK PM and commended PM Modi's commitment and work ethic, calling it exemplary.

Shedding light on the UK-India partnership, he said that the ties continue to strengthen under PM Modi's leadership, while expressing hopes for further bolstering of bilateral cooperation.

"Prime Minister @narendramodi great to see you in New Delhi today. Congratulations on 25 years in public service, a remarkable achievement. It was a pleasure to work with you when I was Prime Minister. Your commitment, your work ethic, your energy is an example to us all. The UK India relationship is going from strength to strength under your leadership. Our two countries cooperating more on trade, tech and AI is vital in a less predictable world. I know that Britain and India will continue to grow ever closer in the years ahead," he wrote on X.

Earlier in the day, Rishi Sunak said that countries like India and those in the Gulf are increasingly able to chart their own course in a changing global order and would not always agree with the United

States or China, highlighting growing geopolitical uncertainty and the changing dynamics of global power.

was witnessing a shift away from the multilateral, rules-based framework that had shaped the global economy, creating new uncertainties and risks.

"We all grew up investing in, operating in a multilateral rules-based framework, largely enforced by US President Trump is not a cause for that; he's a symptom of that, and the world that we're in now is one where we don't quite know what we've settled down to, and that creates an enormous amount of geopolitical uncertainty and indeed danger," Sunak said.

He pointed to China's emergence as a peer competitor to the United States across multiple strategic domains, describing it as a significant new feature of the global economy.

"So, China is a peer competitor for the US across economic, military, and technological domains. That is a new feature of the world economy," he said.

Highlighting the growing ability of countries such as India and those in the Gulf to pursue independent approaches, Sunak said they would increasingly make decisions based on their own interests rather than necessarily aligning with Washington or Beijing. ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak exchange greetings at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, in New Delhi. (@RishiSunak X/ANI Photo)

States or China, highlighting growing geopolitical uncertainty and the changing dynamics of global power.

Speaking during a panel discussion titled "The End of Predictability" at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2026 in the national capital, Sunak said the world

'Pakistan's military leadership driving country into deeper economic crisis'

NEW DELHI: The World Bank's October 2026 regional update highlights that roughly 48 percent of all people living below the \$3 a day poverty line across the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP) region are Pakistani, while the remaining 47 percent are in Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen.

Pakistan, thus, holds nearly as many extremely poor people as three active war zones combined, without a war on its own territory.

The World Bank states that MENAAP is the only region where poverty remains above pre-pandemic levels and continues to rise, with Pakistan driving most of that deterioration. This is not the arithmetic of a country stabilizing after a war or long military crisis but of managed decline, presided over by the military establishment that took control of economic policy while showing no capacity to exercise it, according to an article in the European Times.

The article highlights that Pakistan's continued high expenditure on defense, driven by the military leadership, is responsible for the worsening economic crisis. The FY2026-27 budget allocated PKR 3 trillion to defense services, a 17.6 percent increase, with physical assets rising

more than 20 percent while cutting total federal expenditure by seven percent, and the allocation exceeded combined spending on higher education, agriculture and climate adaptation in one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

The article blames Field Marshal Syed

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39.6 percent to PKR 925.8 billion for weapons procurement. Military pensions of PKR 822 billion sit outside that figure, as does PKR 319 billion for the Armed Forces Development Program. Development spending stayed flat at roughly PKR 1 trillion nominally, a substantial real-terms cut. The previous budget raised defense by

Asim Munir, the de facto ruler of Pakistan, for the economic mess in the country. Since June 2023, he has co-chaired the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the apex body now directing economic policy, which includes 36 serving officers drawing salaries from the defense budget. IANS

ISI's digital jihad: 5,000 fake accounts target India amid SIR protests

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's digital jihad campaign against India has reportedly intensified, with fake news peddlers stepping up efforts to malign the security forces and the Union government. Over the past two weeks, more than 5,000 social media accounts have reportedly been created in Pakistan with the alleged objective of spreading misinformation and inciting violence.

An Intelligence Bureau official said the sudden proliferation of these accounts was directly linked to the ongoing anti-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) protests.

The focus of these posts is largely on the actions of law enforcement agencies. Fake claims about police firing, lathi charges, and the use of tear gas shells are being circulated on social media at regular intervals.

"The intention is to provoke the youth and push them towards violence. The police would be compelled to act if violence breaks out, potentially triggering a chain reaction across the country," the official said.

A closer examination of these handles by investigating agencies suggests that they are operated by a mix of Indian and Pakistani accounts. While such activity is not new, investigators say the pattern observed this time is markedly different.

Another official said that earlier the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) would use hubs largely in Rawalpindi or Islamabad to create fake accounts and generate fake news. This makes finding the trail much easier for investigators.

The ISI has this time spread its operations across multiple locations in the country, the official said. The locations identified as sources of fake news originating in Pakistan include Bhimber, Rawalakot, Tarakhal, Sialkot, Kolti, Mendhar and Peshawar, among others.

Individuals across these locations are being recruited to create social media accounts, the official said. The ISI then provides them with specific information and directs them to circulate it through these accounts.

"The individuals are also instructed to tag users in foreign countries to expand the reach of these posts. By the time Indian fact-checking agencies expose the content as fake, it would have already gained traction and shaped public discourse," the official said. IANS

India hands over Rs 290 crore to Bhutan for 13th Five Year Plan projects

THIMPHU: India handed over checks amounting to INR/Nu. 2.90 billion (290 crores) to Bhutan's Ministry of Finance, towards the Government of India's commitment under Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan for several projects, the Indian Embassy in Thimphu said.

India and Bhutan held the 19th Monthly Coordination Meeting in Thimphu, under Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, to discuss progress and future course of action on projects being implemented in the Himalayan nation with the Indian government's support.

During the meeting, the Indian side handed over checks amounting to INR/ Bhutanese Ngultrum (Nu) 2.90 billion (Rs 290 crore) to Bhutan's Ministry of Finance towards the Government of India's commitment under the 13th Five Year Plan for several projects.

According to the Indian Embassy, the meeting was held between officials of the Indian mission and the Royal Government

of Bhutan (RGoB), with the Indian side reaffirming its continued cooperation and coordination with the Bhutanese government.

The projects covered under the funding include the development of quality and fit-for-purpose infrastructure at colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB);

human resource development and skilling programs; professional development and immersion/exchange programmes for teachers, education leaders and students; and Phase II of chain-link fencing to safeguard crops.

Other projects include the redevelopment of the

Phuentsholing Sports Association (PSA) Ground under the Phuentsholing Thromde Enhancement Programme (PTEP); the establishment of the National Weather and Flood Warning Centre (NFWWC) and scientific facilities in Thimphu; and the introduction of digital technology for teaching and learning at eight RUB colleges. IANS

India and Bhutan held the 19th Monthly Coordination Meeting in Thimphu, under Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, to discuss progress and future course of action on projects

CJP receiving funds from US: American singer Mary Millben claims foreign plot behind Delhi stir

NEW DELHI: American singer Mary Millben made an explosive claim about the Delhi protests, alleging the recently formed political satirical outfit Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) was being funded by "select donors" from the United States.

Her assertions come amid growing murmurs of foreign conspiracy behind the demonstrations by the CJP and opposition parties, to remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) over alleged electoral roll tampering and 'arbitrary' SIR exercise.

Without naming CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, Mary Millben also explained the modus operandi of such US-based donors to ignite chaos and unrest in the nations they want to target.

"These select donors have a pattern globally - target conservative global leaders, find an U.S. educated person from the country, radicalize them, send them back to the country, and fund them to start chaos and destruction," she said in a post on X.

She, however, added that such plots have largely failed, but they do impact the development and governance of the respective nation.

Notably, Abhijeet Dipke is a graduate from Boston University in the US and shifted base to India after his satirical taunt

at the ruling BJP dispensation took social media by storm, with crores of netizens showing overwhelming support on Instagram.

The American singer also expressed support for the Modi government and made an appeal to Indian nationals to speak out and foil any attempts by foreign

forces to disrupt governance in India.

"This is not the time to be silent," she stated in the post, while urging the young patriots to rise to the occasion.

Millben, known for her patriotic performances, came into the spotlight during India's 75th Independence Day celebrations in 2022. A year later, she performed India's national anthem during PM Modi's visit to the US. IANS



American singer Mary Millben

Care ka ehsaas badal jaata hai, jab madad personal lage.

Health insurance samajhna kabhi-kabhi confusing lag sakta hai, lekin aapko ise akele samajhne ki zarurat nahin. California ke 99% log ek certified enrollment helper se sirf 15 minute ki doori par hain. Woh aapki baat sunenge, aapke sawalon ke jawab denge aur health plans compare karke aapke liye sahi option chunne mein madad karenge. Kyunki sahi coverage chunna aasaan hota hai, jab koi bharosemand saathi aapke saath ho.



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Indian-Americans chase historic firsts from Los Angeles to Texas

WASHINGTON: Indian-American candidates are chasing a string of firsts in the November 3 elections, from Nithya Raman's bid to unseat Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to a possible first Hindu in the Texas Legislature, after a poll published on Friday put Raman ahead in the mayoral race.

The Manhattan Institute poll of likely voters had Raman, a Los Angeles City Council member, at 38 percent and Bass at 32 percent, according to Political Wire. The margin of error was 4.6 points.

Raman would be the city's first Indian-American mayor. The race is nonpartisan.

In the June 2 primary, Bass won 34.3 percent and Raman 29.0 percent.

"I'm running for mayor because I don't want to ignore any part of this city," Raman said at a mayoral forum on September 29.

"We need to build more housing in Los Angeles, but we need to build it across every single neighborhood," she added.

In Austin, Democrat Pooja Sethi is running for the open Texas House District 47 seat against Republican Jennifer Mushtaler after winning her primary with about 76 percent of the vote.

Sethi, an immigration lawyer and chair of the Travis County Democratic Party, would be the first Indian American and the first Hindu in the Texas Legislature.

She drew attention earlier this year when she replied on X to Turning Point commentator Savannah Hernandez.

"My heritage isn't an insult. It's my story. And like millions of Americans, it's rooted in hard work, faith in this country, and service to our community. If that bothers you, that says more about you than it does about me," Sethi wrote.

In Georgia, Democrat Jyot Singh is running for House District 97 in Gwinnett County against Republican Yassin Moghazy after winning the May 19 primary with 59.1 percent. *IANS*

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October 16, 2026



Ramayan Drone Show during FOG Diwali, 'Festival of Lights' in Fremont



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: Festival of Globe (FOG) Diwali, the Festival of Lights, will be celebrated at the sprawling Washington High School grounds on **Saturday, October 24th, 2026.**

This year's FOG Diwali festival will have, First time ever, Ramayan DRONE show that will light up the sky with lord Hanuman. There will be many exciting segments that will have a huge kids' section where they will play Ramayana related games, test their Ramayana knowledge and learn key values and, traditions. This is intended to impart children with the knowledge of the traditions and history.

Ramayana Parade segment will include a large number of groups presenting Ramayana personalities. Parade will have

many kids dressed up as Ram, Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman and 'Ayodhyawasis' and lead the Parade. Various musical groups equipped with musical instruments, and devotional songs will be part of the parade, which has created immense enthusiasm and energy in the festival.

As part of the Festival, there will be many beautifully decorated 'mandaps' housing Ram, Sita, Lakshmana, Hanuman and goddess Lakshmi.

Festival goers will have the opportunity to perform Puja there.

Over thousand young children will be performing in a dance competition on stage and showcase their art and skills. A 'Bharat

Darshan' show consisting of folk dances from across India will mesmerize the audience.

FOG Diwali Festival is the largest and most recognized event and has attracted several local and state elected officials. Several elected officials will be attending to convey their Diwali wishes.

Dr. Romesh Japra, FOG Founder says, "Diwali represents victory of Good over Evil, and this message is

all the more relevant in today's society, for all of us to live in harmony and thrive. FOG tries to bring community together and give them a platform to celebrate our Hindu values, culture and

heritage. We invite all to come and attend the festival".

KEY FEATURES:

- Ramayan DRONE show will light up the sky with lord Hanuman at 7 pm
 - Join us in devotion filled Lakshmi Puja conducted by temple priests at 3.30 pm (gather near the stage)
 - At 4 pm Grand Parade/Jhankis and dignitaries' recognition followed by cultural performances by different states
 - All day long cultural programs and kids' contests starting at 10 am till 7 pm
 - Jewelry, Clothes and Food booths
 - Kids' talent show
 - Free Parking
- Visit **FOGSV.org**, **Sulekha.com/FOG**, and **Eventmozo.com** for **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ONLINE \$4**



Dr. Anurag Mishra withdraws from Fremont District 4 race, endorses Manisha Pathak

NAVNEET J. PATHAK

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA: On October 7, Dr. Anurag Mishra, candidate for Fremont City Council District 4, withdrew his candidacy and graciously announced his support and endorsement for fellow candidate Manisha Pathak.

Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, oversaw the endorsement during a community meeting at the Vedic Dharma Samaj Hindu Temple in Fremont, California.

Dr. Mishra highlighted the priority of building a stronger and more connected community in Fremont. Manisha Pathak echoed that sentiment, reaffirming that strong communities and strong leadership go hand in hand.

"When we strengthen our community, we create the foundation for leadership that can truly support every resident," said Pathak. "District 4 is home to people from many backgrounds, generations, professions, and experiences. A strong leader must listen to all of them, bring people together, and make sure every resident feels seen, heard, and represented."

Pathak was thankful for Dr. Mishra's support and the spirit of community and collaboration displayed by him in the meeting. She further added, "I am deeply grateful to Dr. Mishra for his gracious support and for putting the strength of our community first. Public service should never be only about an individual candidate. It should be

about what we can accomplish together for the people we hope to serve."

In her campaign, Manisha Pathak has emphasized public safety, homelessness and mental-health services, traffic and infrastructure, responsible housing and growth, environmental sustainability, and stronger community engagement as key priorities. She believes in data-oriented solutions and listening to residents.

"This moment is bigger than any one campaign," Pathak added. "It is about building trust, strengthening relationships, and working together for a safer, stronger, more connected Fremont. I welcome Dr. Mishra's support with gratitude and look forward to continuing that spirit of collaboration with residents across District 4."

The upcoming November 3, 2026 election will determine the next representative for Fremont City Council District 4. Manisha Pathak is endorsed by Americans4Hindus, who are proud to support her as a strong voice for Hindu Americans in civic life and a powerful representative for Fremont's diverse community.

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 demo-



Dr. Romesh Japra, Dr. Anurag Mishra, and Manisha Pathak emphasize unity and collaboration in community meeting

cratic engagement across the United States.

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.

Republican governor candidate Ramaswamy vows conservative turn for Ohio

WASHINGTON: Indian-American Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has pledged to pursue a conservative agenda in Ohio, including stricter immigration enforcement, lower property taxes and changes to education policy, as President Donald Trump campaigned alongside him ahead of the November 3 elections.

Addressing a Republican rally in Youngstown on Monday, Ramaswamy, the son of Indian immigrants, said Ohio needed leadership that would restore its economic competitiveness while strengthening law enforcement and traditional conservative priorities.

"I will be the most conservative governor of this state has ever seen in our history because we deserve it," Ramaswamy told supporters.

The former biotechnology entrepreneur, who challenged Trump for the Republican presidential nomination

in 2024, presented his gubernatorial campaign as an effort to return Ohio to what he described as its historic strengths in manufacturing, innovation and economic opportunity.

He invoked the state's association with pioneers and inventors, including Neil Armstrong, John Glenn and the Wright brothers, while promising to make Ohio a national leader again.



Vivek Ramaswamy

Ramaswamy placed immigration enforcement at the center of his remarks, drawing a distinction between legal immigration and unlawful entry.

"And I say this as the proud son of legal immigrants to this country your first act of entering this country cannot break the law," he said.

He pledged to end sanctuary-city policies in Ohio if elected governor.

"We will back the blue we will lock up the criminals we

will prosecute the fraudsters, and we will fight for you and protect the law abiding citizens of this state," he said.

Ramaswamy also promised to reduce property taxes and electricity bills, improve education and strengthen workforce development.

He argued that Ohio should pursue policies designed to attract businesses and retain young workers rather than lose them to other states.

The candidate criticized diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and reiterated his opposition to allowing transgender women to compete in women's sports.

He also defended fossil fuels as essential to economic development and rejected what he described as excessive climate-related restrictions.

Ramaswamy framed the election as a contest over the direction of state government, saying his administration would emphasize individual liberty, parental authority, law enforcement and economic growth.

Trump, who addressed the rally after Ramaswamy and other Republican leaders, endorsed his candidacy and praised his business background.

"He's a very smart guy and he's a very good guy. And he loves -- he loves this state," Trump said.

The President also highlighted Ramaswamy's plans to cut taxes and urged supporters to back Republican candidates in the gubernatorial and congressional elections.

Ramaswamy returned to the stage later in the evening and thanked Trump for his leadership.

Speaking as a father of three young children, he said the United States remained the country where he most wanted to raise his family. *IANS*

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Americans4Hindus announces three new endorsements in Bay Area, California for the 2026 elections

A4H team presents endorsement certificates to Herb Morgan, LiangFang Chao and Bill Chuan in Fremont, California

DR ABHILASH MAROJU



FREMONT, CALIFORNIA: Americans4Hindus (A4H), a political organization committed to empowering American Hindus and pro-Hindu voices politically, announced three new candidate endorsements for the 2026 elections on 29th September 2026. The endorsement certificates were presented to the respective candidates by members of the Americans4Hindus team in Fremont, California.

The endorsed candidates are Herb Morgan, candidate for California State Controller; LiangFang Chao, candidate for Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees, Area 4; and Bill Chuan, candidate for Milpitas City Council.

A4H Founder and Chairman, Dr. Romesh Japra extended his support and best wishes to all three candidates as they pursue public office and seek opportunities to serve their respective communities.

Recognizing Candidates Across Three Levels of Public Service

Herb Morgan - Candidate for California State Controller, 2026

Herb Morgan is seeking election to the

office of California State Controller, a statewide position within California government. His candidacy represents one of the statewide races included in this round of A4H endorsements.

LiangFang Chao - Candidate for Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees, Area 4, 2026

LiangFang Chao is running for the Area 4 seat on the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees. The

Milpitas City Council. City council members participate in local governance and help make decisions concerning municipal policies, community priorities, and the future development of their city.

A Continued Commitment to Civic Engagement

This endorsement reflects Americans4Hindus ongoing engagement in the political process and its commitment to supporting candidates through its

members of the community to understand the importance of elections and take an active interest in public affairs.

Through its political outreach and endorsement efforts, A4H seeks to strengthen civic involvement and encourage community members to participate meaningfully in American public life.

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

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The endorsed candidates are Herb Morgan, candidate for California State Controller; LiangFang Chao, candidate for Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees, Area 4; and Bill Chuan, candidate for Milpitas City Council

district's governing board oversees the community college system and plays a role in shaping educational priorities and institutional direction.

Bill Chuan - Candidate for Milpitas City Council, 2026

Bill Chuan is seeking election to the

endorsement activities.

By endorsing candidates seeking statewide, community college district, and municipal offices, A4H continues to encourage political awareness, civic participation, and community representation. The organization aims to motivate more mem-



Indian health-tech CEO Parveen Panwar wins Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Gold after taking on a new challenge

Ziva Health founder turns personal experiment in fear, resilience and physical limits, into championship victory

LOS ALTOS, Calif.: Indian health-tech entrepreneur and Ziva Health CEO Parveen Panwar spends much of his professional life thinking about how people can take a more active role in their health. This weekend, he found himself testing that philosophy in an unexpected place: on a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competition mat.

After months of quietly attending early-morning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu classes while running Ziva Health, Panwar entered his first competition and walked away with a gold medal.

But for Panwar, the more meaningful part of the experience happened before the match even began.

"When I looked across the mat, I felt real fear," Panwar said. "My opponent had won gold before and looked much tougher and stronger than me. For a moment, my mind was already telling me what was going to happen. That was when everything I believe about mindset and resilience stopped being theory."

Instead of allowing the fear to dictate the outcome, Panwar focused on controlling his breathing, trusting his training and staying present. He went on to win and capture gold.

The victory was particularly meaningful because Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu was far outside Panwar's traditional comfort zone. His background had been centered more around yoga, breathwork, fitness and wellness than combat sports. Training brought bruised ribs, sore legs and the unfamiliar experience of repeatedly being

put in uncomfortable positions and having to remain calm enough to respond.

"It's easy to talk about resilience when you're comfortable," Panwar said. "It is very different when someone is physically putting you under pressure and your brain is telling you to panic or quit. You learn very quickly that being uncomfortable doesn't always mean you need to stop."

The experience also reflects a philosophy behind Ziva Health, the health technology company Panwar leads. Ziva is developing a continuous-care platform designed to connect health data, patient behavior and care teams so meaningful changes in a person's health can be recognized and acted on rather than viewed as isolated moments.

Panwar believes technology can help people understand their health, but information alone is rarely enough. What people do consistently - their behaviors, decisions and ability to respond to challenges ultimately matters.

"As we get older, we start creating rules about what our bodies can do, what we should try and what might be too difficult," Panwar said. "Sometimes those limits are real. But sometimes they're simply stories we've repeated long enough to believe. The only way to know the difference is to challenge them."

For an entrepreneur accustomed to building companies, the experience offered a different definition of progress: showing up as a beginner, being willing to struggle and discovering that improvement can happen well outside the areas where someone already feels successful.

Panwar says the gold medal is not the end of the experiment. He plans to continue Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training while leading Ziva Health.

"The medal is something I'll remember," he said. "But what matters more to me is proving that we can continue learning difficult things, facing fear and expanding what we believe we're capable of."

About Ziva Health: Ziva Health is a health technology company building a continuous-care platform designed to turn ongoing health signals into meaningful action. The platform connects health data, patient behavior and care teams to help identify important changes over time and support more proactive, personalized care.



Parveen Panwar

M4M movie Heroine Jo Sharma wins Best Debut Heroine / Mohan Vadlapatla Best Debut Director Awards at Andhra Pradesh Film Chamber

M4M (Motive for Murder), a film that captivated audiences with its distinctive storyline and earned appreciation from both audiences and critics, has added another feather to its cap by winning two prestigious awards at the Andhra Pradesh Film Chamber of Commerce (APFCC) celebrations. Director Mohan Vadlapatla was honored with the Best Debut Director award, while Jo Sharma received the Best Debut Heroine award for her impressive performance.

M4M has earned recognition on the international stage as well. The film made its global premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in 2025, receiving a standing ovation from an audience representing 25 countries. Jo Sharma also walked the red carpet at Cannes. In addition, she represented the United States as an American delegate with M4M at the IFFI Goa Film Festival and WAVES 2025, an initiative associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jo Sharma is also National Vice President & Global Ambassador to Americans4HindusA4H / Festival of Globe FOG / Federation of Indian-American associations FIA

The film has received appreciation both in India and also in the United States, where it generated considerable audience interest and enthusiasm, paving the way for the upcoming sequel, M4M-2.

M4M has also earned 16 international film festival awards listed on IMDb. Mohan Vadlapatla received the Best Director award, while Jo Sharma won four Best Actress awards at the New York Movie Awards, Hollywood Movie Awards and Santa Monica Film Awards, among other recognitions.

As part of the decade celebrations of the Andhra Pradesh Film Chamber of Commerce, special award ceremonies were organized to honor outstanding contributions to the film industry. Alongside teams associated with nationally recognized award-winning films, including Committee Kurrollu and 35 Chinna Katha Kaadu, the M4M team, Karmakya film Director Adhire Abhi, 23 Iravaimoodu Hero Teja Rayapati, Court movie fame Subhodayam Subbarao received special recognition for their creative performance and achievements. Mimicry Ramesh mesmerized the audience with his outstanding performance at the event.

Senior actor Maganti Murali Mohan, who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the same event, particularly appreciated M4M for its unique storyline and engaging presentation.

Jo Sharma travelled all the way from San Francisco, USA, to personally receive



the award. Her presence at the prestigious ceremony, despite the long international journey, reflected her passion for cinema and commitment to her artistic pursuits. She impressed the gathering with her speech, while her elegance, confidence and charming presence attracted considerable attention at the event.

Congratulating Mohan Vadlapatla, Murali Mohan observed that although M4M marked his directorial debut, he had effectively drawn upon his experience as a film producer to create a compelling movie that successfully captured the audience's attention. He also praised Jo Sharma for her mature performance and wished her a bright and successful future as a leading actress.

Speaking on the occasion, director Mohan Vadlapatla said, "The appreciation our film M4M has received for its unique



The prestigious awards were presented to Mohan Vadlapatla and Jo Sharma by several eminent personalities from the film and cultural fraternity, including senior actor Murali Mohan, Drama Academy Chairman Gummadi Gopalakrishna, senior producer A. M. Rathnam, actresses Laya and Konidela Niharika, veteran director Relangi Narasimha Rao, film director and Bigg Boss and Jabardasth fame Adhire Abhi and AP Film Chamber President Madhu Mohan Krishna

The double recognition at the AP Film Chamber celebrations marks a significant milestone for the M4M team, acknowledging Mohan Vadlapatla's directorial vision and Jo Sharma's acting talent. These honors further strengthen the film's growing reputation and build anticipation for the upcoming sequel, M4M-2.

concept has given us immense happiness. We are planning to launch M4M Part 2 in the near future."

Expressing her happiness, actress Jo Sharma said, "This award is equivalent to a Nandi Award for me. Receiving this honor at such a special occasion marking the decade celebrations of the Andhra Pradesh Film Chamber of Commerce, alongside my mentor, Mohan Vadlapatla garu, makes me immensely happy. I assure you that I will do my part to contribute to the growth and development of the Telugu film industry in Andhra Pradesh."



Mayor McCormac joins renascent media and the community for #OakTreeStories - Bollywood jamming on Oak Tree road

A vibrant celebration of music, culture and community brings enthusiastic crowds together and launches the Cleaner o Greener o Stronger Oak Tree initiative

ISELIN, NJ: Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac, joined by Chief of Staff Caroline Ehrlich and Councilman Virbhadra "Viru" Patel, attended the #OakTreeStories - Bollywood Jamming celebration organized by Renascent Media on Saturday, October 10, at the Raj Jewels Bansal Group parking lot on Oak Tree Road in Iselin, New Jersey.

The event drew enthusiastic crowds throughout the day, bringing together families, local businesses, artists, community leaders and participating brands in a lively celebration of Bollywood music, culture and community spirit.

A special highlight was the unveiling of a beautifully painted bench celebrating the cultural identity of Oak Tree Road, alongside the launch of the Cleaner o Greener o Stronger Oak Tree initiative. #OakTreeStories, created by Renascent Media, promotes Oak Tree Road as a vibrant shopping, dining and cultural destination while encouraging community pride and support for local businesses.

Celebrating Township Leadership and Community Support

Renascent Media extends its heartfelt appreciation to Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac, Caroline Ehrlich, Chief of Staff for Woodbridge Township, Councilman Virbhadra "Viru" Patel, and the entire Township team for their support and encouragement.

The presence of the Mayor, Caroline Ehrlich and Councilman Patel added special significance to the celebration and reflected the importance of collaboration between community organizations, local businesses and Township leadership.



Renascent Media also extends special appreciation to Sally Yabra and Abha Jain, whose inspiration, encouragement and valuable guidance helped shape the vision behind #OakTreeStories.

Chandra, Founder & President of Renascent Media. "Their belief in the potential of Oak Tree Road encouraged us to create a platform that celebrates its businesses, culture and community spirit."



"We are especially grateful to Sally and Abha, who inspired us to take this initiative forward and generously shared their guidance along the way," said Tanvi Prenita

"Oak Tree Road is more than a business district. It is the heart of a community built by generations of entrepreneurs, families and cultural connections," added

Chandra. "Through #OakTreeStories, our vision is to bring greater visibility to its businesses, celebrate its unique identity and inspire people to visit, shop local and take pride in this special destination."

Bollywood Jamming Brings the Community Together

The event featured an engaging mix of live Bollywood music, Indian classical instruments, rap and contemporary performances, creating a festive atmosphere that connected audiences across generations.

Performances by talented singers and musicians brought energy and excitement to Oak Tree Road, while participating brands and businesses engaged with visitors through sampling, giveaways and interactive experiences.

Cont'd on page 19



Americans4Hindus releases **A4H Voter Guide 2026** for SFO Bay Area candidates encourages informed voting ahead of November 3 elections

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA: Americans4Hindus (A4H) is encouraging eligible voters throughout the San Francisco Bay Area to prepare for the upcoming November 3, 2026 elections by reviewing the A4H Voter Guide 2026 - San Francisco Bay Area Candidates.

The voter guide is designed to help community members explore candidates running for office in the Bay Area and make informed decisions when casting their ballots. By providing voters with a convenient reference, Americans4Hindus seeks to strengthen civic awareness, encourage participation in the democratic process, and empower community members to exercise their right to vote.

With Election Day approaching, A4H urges its members and the wider community to take an active role in the electoral process. Understanding the candidates and the choices available on the ballot is an important step toward meaningful civic participation.

Dr. Romesh K. Japra Encourages Community Members to Make Their Votes Count

Dr. Romesh K. Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, emphasized the importance of voter participation and informed decision-making.

"Voting is one of the most powerful ways citizens can participate in shaping the future of their communities and our nation. Every election presents an opportunity to make our voices heard and contribute to the direction of our democracy.

At Americans4Hindus, we believe an informed and engaged community is a stronger community. I encourage every eligible voter in the San Francisco Bay Area to review the A4H Voter Guide 2026, learn about the candidates, discuss the choices with family and friends, and make a plan to vote on November 3. We must never underestimate the importance of our participation. Our voices matter, our votes matter, and our collective civic engagement can make a meaningful difference."

A4H Nationwide Voter Guide 2026: Resources for Voters Across the Country

In addition to its Bay Area candidate guide, Americans4Hindus offers A4H Nationwide voter guide to help voters explore candidates relevant to their respective locations.

Community members outside the

San Francisco Bay Area are encouraged to visit the Americans4Hindus website and access the nationwide guide. By checking the information available for

their state, ZIP code, and location, voters can identify relevant candidate information and use the guide as a resource when preparing to vote.

A4H encourages all eligible voters to consult the available information, independently evaluate their choices, and participate in the November 3 elections.

Empowering the Community Through Civic Engagement

Americans4Hindus remains committed to encouraging political awareness, civic participation, and community engagement. The A4H Voter Guide 2026 is part of this effort to help voters become better informed and more active participants in the democratic process.

A4H calls upon its members, supporters, and community partners to share the voter guide with family, friends, and fellow community members. Increased awareness can help more eligible voters prepare for Election Day and exercise their right to vote.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Americans4Hindus encourages every eligible voter to be informed, be prepared, and make their vote count.

Explore the A4H Voter Guide 2026: San Francisco Bay Area Candidates: Refer to the accompanying A4H Voter Guide 2026.

Nationwide Voter Guide: Visit the Americans4Hindus website and access the nationwide voter guide to explore candidate information relevant to your state, ZIP code, and location.

Here is the link for A4H Voter Guide 2026:

<https://www.americans4hindus.org/a4h-voter-guide>

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

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AMERICANS4HINDUS · CALIFORNIA
NOV 2026 VOTING GUIDE
FOR ALL HINDU & PRO-HINDU CALIFORNIA VOTERS
EVERY US CITIZEN MUST VOTE!

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026
VOTING BY MAIL? Fill out your ballot and return it as early as you can!

A4H-ENDORSED CALIFORNIA CANDIDATES · NOV 3, 2026

STATEWIDE Leadership that Serves Everyone.

Governor	Steve Hilton	✓
Lieutenant Governor BOTH A4H-ENDORSED	Gloria Romero	✓
Lieutenant Governor BOTH A4H-ENDORSED	Fiona Ma	✓
Attorney General	Michael E. Gates	✓
Secretary of State	Donald P. (Don) Wagner	✓
Treasurer	Eleni Kounalakis	✓
Controller	Herb W. Morgan	✓
Insurance Commissioner	Ben Allen	✓
Board of Equalization Dist 2	John Pimentel	✓

CONGRESS Stronger Representation. Stronger Community.

Congress Dist 11	Scott Wiener	✓
Congress Dist 16	Sam Liccardo	✓
Congress Dist 47	Jenny Rae Le Roux	✓

STATE ASSEMBLY Working Together. Building Tomorrow.

Assembly Dist 12	Eric Lucan	✓
Assembly Dist 23	Marc Berman	✓
Assembly Dist 24	Alex Lee	✓
Assembly Dist 26	Patrick Ahrens	✓
Assembly Dist 28	Carol Pefley	✓

SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS Our Schools. Our Services.

Fremont Union High School District · Trustee Area 3	Jason Lin	✓
Fremont Union High School District · Trustee Area 4	Ilanit Eliaz	✓
Ohlone Community College District · Trustee Area 6	Sonia Salwan	✓
Foothill-De Anza Community College District · Trustee Area 4	Liangfang (Liang) Chao	✓
Newark Unified School District · Governing Board	Renu Malhotra	✓
Dublin San Ramon Services District · Division 2	Kismat R. Kathrani	✓
Irvine Unified School District · Trustee Area 2	Ron Scolesdang	✓

CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR Better Cities. Better Tomorrow.

Fremont	Council Dist 2	Keith Parker	✓	Milpitas	Mayor	Hon Lien	✓
	Council Dist 3	Vipin Sharma	✓		City Council	Seema Kanani	✓
	Council Dist 4	Manisha Pathak	✓		City Council	Bill Chuan	✓
Cupertino	City Council	Santosh Rao	✓	Dublin	Council Dist 4	Shivraj Singh	✓
	City Council	Gopal Kumarappan	✓	Pleasanton	Council Dist 1	Vin Kruttiventi	✓
	City Council	Tracy Kosolcharoen	✓	Los Altos	Council Dist 2	Lynette Lee Eng	✓
Santa Clara	Mayor	Kathy Watanabe	✓	Folsom	Council Dist 3	Jagadish (Jag) Nagendra	✓
Sunnyvale	Council Dist 3	Murali Srinivasan	✓				

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR POWER
Let's build a stronger, united and prosperous community for ourselves and future generations. Every US citizen must vote by **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**. Not registered yet? Register at registertovote.ca.gov.

VOTE BY MAIL

OFFICIAL DROP BOX

VOTE IN PERSON

EVERY VOTE MATTERS. EVERY VOICE COUNTS.
FROM SCHOOL BOARDS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, AMERICAN HINDUS ARE READY TO LEAD.
AMERICANS4HINDUS (A4H) | EMPOWERING DEMOCRACY WITH HINDU VALUES | NOV 2026

Americans4Hindus leadership participates as invited partner in Sewa International USA event

A4H and Sewa International strengthen community connections through healthcare, service and collaboration

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA: Americans4Hindus (A4H) participated as an invited partner of Sewa International USA at a special community event held on Sunday, October 11, 2026.

The gathering brought together organizational leaders, community representatives, invited guests, and supporters to celebrate the spirit of selfless service and highlight initiatives dedicated to improving community well-being.

A4H Representation
Americans4Hindus was represented by three senior leaders:

Dr. Romesh Japra - Founder & Chairman, Americans4Hindus (A4H)

Ravi Pathak - Chairman, A4H Temple Rakshak

Navneet J. Pathak - C.O.O, Americans4Hindus (A4H)

Their participation reflected A4H's commitment to strengthening relationships with organizations dedicated to community service, humanitarian initiatives, and social development.

Celebrating Service and Community Impact

The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks from Sewa International leadership and invited guests, a community lunch, and a presentation highlighting Sewa's programs and services.

Among the featured initiatives were the Sewa Clinic and Center of Excellence, reflecting the organization's focus on expanding access to essential services, strengthening community resources, and supporting individuals and families.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for participating organizations to exchange ideas, build relationships, and ex-



plore opportunities for continued collaboration.

Statement from Dr. Romesh Japra
Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, expressed his appreciation to Sewa International USA for



inviting A4H as a partner and for its dedication to humanitarian service. He emphasized that the timeless principle of Sewa selfless service is central to Sanatana Dharma and that meaningful partnerships between community organizations are essential for expanding access to healthcare, promoting education, supporting families, and building stronger communities. Dr. Japra reaffirmed A4H's commitment to supporting collaborative initiatives that translate shared values into meaningful community impact.

Strengthening Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow

Americans4Hindus recognizes the important role of service-oriented organi-

zations in addressing community needs and fostering unity.

Participation in the Sewa International USA event reflected A4H's broader commitment to community engagement, leadership, and partnerships that promote so-



cial well-being.

By encouraging collaboration between organizations with complementary missions, A4H seeks to help strengthen community networks and support initiatives that benefit individuals and families.

About Sewa International USA
Sewa International USA is a Hindu faith-

based charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to humanitarian service, disaster relief, education, healthcare, and community development.

Guided by the principle of Sewa, or selfless service, the organization supports communities across the United States and internationally, serving people regardless of their background.

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

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Americans4Hindus expresses support for Congressman James Walkinshaw at McLean Fundraiser

A4H Founder and Chairman Dr. Romesh Japra extends support and best wishes to Congressman Walkinshaw as A4H leaders engage with him on issues important to the Hindu community

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, D.C.: Americans4Hindus (A4H) brought together community leaders, trustees, advisors, and supporters in McLean, Virginia, for a fundraiser supporting Congressman James Robert Walkinshaw, Democrat representing Virginia's 11th Congressional District on Tuesday, October 6th 2026.

The event, organized with the involvement of Akhil Govil, Madhu Govil, President of A4H Virginia, Nar Ji, and the wider A4H team, provided an opportunity for direct engagement with Congressman Walkinshaw and substantive discussion on issues important to the Hindu community.

The gathering focused on communicating community priorities, discussing concerns, and strengthening relationships with elected representatives. Attendees came prepared with specific issues and requests, and the discussion provided an opportunity to raise these matters directly with the Congressman. According to event feedback, Walkinshaw addressed the concerns shared by participants and expressed a willingness to engage with the



A4H Leadership and Community Participation

The fundraiser was attended by A4H leaders, trustees, advisors, and supporters, including:

- Rajiv Sharma - National President, A4H
- Vidya Mishra - President, A4H Maryland
- Dr. Raman Sood - National Chief Advisor, A4H
- Dr. Sudhir Sekhseria - Trustee and Senior Advisor, A4H



community on matters raised.

Dr. Romesh Japra Extends Support to Congressman Walkinshaw

Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, extends his support and best wishes to Congressman James Walkinshaw. Dr. Japra recognizes the importance of maintaining constructive relationships with elected representatives and continuing meaningful dialogue on issues that matter to Hindu Americans.

A4H's engagement with Congressman Walkinshaw reflects the organization's commitment to communicating community priorities, encouraging civic participation, and building channels for ongoing discussion between Hindu American leaders and public officials.

Through such engagements, A4H seeks to ensure that community concerns are presented clearly and that opportunities for continued dialogue remain open.

- Dr. Neha Govil - Trustee, A4H
- Anil Sharma - Trustee, A4H
- Narsimha Koppula - Trustee, A4H
- Manish Saraf - Trustee, A4H
- Hemanshu Verma - Trustee, A4H
- Navneet Sharda - Trustee, A4H

Other A4H leaders and supporters also participated in the gathering. Their presence highlighted the importance of organized community engagement and col-



laboration in bringing shared concerns to the attention of elected officials.

Recognizing the Event Organizers

A4H acknowledges Akhil Govil, Madhu Govil, Nar Ji, and the entire organizing team for their roles in bringing community members together for this fundraiser. Their efforts helped facilitate an evening centered on direct communication, community priorities, and engagement with Congressman Walkinshaw.

Madhu Govil, as President of A4H Virginia, was among those involved in supporting the event and advancing A4H's community engagement efforts in the state.

Continuing the Conversation on Issues Affecting Hindu Americans

The October 6 gathering in McLean underscored the role of direct engagement in connecting community leaders with elected representatives. The discussion provided a forum for sharing perspectives and raising issues important to Hindu Americans.

Americans4Hindus remains committed to empowering American Hindus and pro-Hindu voices politically through civic engagement, political participation, and community leadership. A4H will continue to encourage constructive dialogue with public officials and opportunities for community members to communicate their concerns and priorities.

A b o u t
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: 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.



Americans4Hindus PAC Michigan Chapter endorses Republican U.S. Senate candidate Mike Rogers

DR ABHILASH MAROJU



TROY, MICHIGAN: Americans4Hindus (A4H PAC) Michigan Chapter officially endorsed Mike Rogers, Republican candidate for the United States Senate from Michigan, during an endorsement gathering held on October 10, 2026, in Troy, Michigan.

The endorsement represents another important milestone in Americans4Hindus' ongoing efforts to strengthen political participation, encourage civic leadership, and build meaningful relationships between the Hindu American community and candidates seeking public office.

Mike Rogers: A Distinguished Career in Public Service and Leadership

Mike Rogers brings extensive experience in national security, law enforcement, public service, and business leadership.

A former U.S. Army officer and FBI special agent, Rogers served seven terms in the United States House of Representatives, representing Michigan's 8th Congressional District from 2001 to 2015.

During his congressional career, he served as Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, playing a significant role in national security and intelligence policy. Following his congressional service, Rogers pursued opportunities in the private sector, expanding his experience in business, cybersecurity, and strategic leadership.

His background in federal law enforce-

ment, legislative leadership, national security, and business has shaped his approach to public service and his candidacy for the United States Senate.

Statement of Support from A4H Founder and Chairman

Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of Americans4Hindus, extends his strong support and best wishes to Mike Rogers in his campaign for the United States Senate. Recognizing Rogers' extensive experience in public service, national security, and leadership, Dr. Japra emphasized the importance of supporting experienced leaders, strengthening con-



structive political relationships, and ensuring that Hindu Americans have a meaningful voice in shaping the nation's future.

A4H PAC Michigan Chapter Leadership and Endorsement Gathering

The endorsement gathering brought together members of the A4H PAC Michigan Chapter, national leadership representa-

tives, trustees, and prominent community leaders, demonstrating a coordinated commitment to political engagement and community representation.

The following leaders and representatives were present during the endorsement process:

Pramod Thanedar - President, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter

Hema Rachmale - Vice President, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter

Dr. Ajit Kadakol - Chair Trustee, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter

Anand Sinha - Chief Information Officer (CIO), A4H PAC

Ashok Baddi - National Ambassador, A4H PAC

Dr. Savita Kadakol - Trustee, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter



Suril Patel - Director, Political Research, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter

Suneel Sekhri - Vice President, Public Outreach, A4H PAC Michigan Chapter

Sunny Reddy - Co-Chair and Treasurer, Michigan Republican Party

The participation of these leaders underscored the importance of collaboration, political awareness, and sustained community engagement in strengthening the Hindu American voice within the democratic process.

Advancing Political Engagement and Community Representation

The A4H PAC Michigan Chapter's endorsement of Mike Rogers reflects its continued commitment to supporting political

leadership, promoting civic participation, and establishing constructive relationships with candidates and elected officials.

Through its state chapters and national network, Americans4Hindus PAC works to increase political awareness, encourage greater participation in elections, and advance meaningful dialogue on issues important to Hindu Americans.

The Michigan Chapter remains focused on expanding community involvement, strengthening relationships with policymakers, and encouraging greater representation of Hindu Americans in political and civic leadership.

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):

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Americans4Hindus trustees Mr. Anil Sharma and Mrs. Anupama Sharma Honored by George Mason University

University names Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in their honor

DR ABHILASH MAROJU

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Americans4Hindus proudly congratulates its Trustee Anil Sharma and spouse Anupama Sharma, on their distinguished recognition by George Mason University, which has named its Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Costello College of Business the Anil and Anupama Sharma Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The recognition celebrates the Sharmas' remarkable journey of entrepreneurship, philanthropy, leadership and service, as well as their commitment to education, innovation and creating opportunities for future generations.

Anil Sharma came to the United States from India in 1997 and went on to build 22nd Century Technologies, a successful technology and government contracting company. His journey reflects the power of opportunity, determination and entrepreneurship, while his philanthropy demonstrates a strong commitment to giving back and empowering others.

The newly named center will bring together students, entrepreneurs, faculty and business leaders while supporting innovation, mentorship, entrepreneurship and the development of future ventures.

A notable moment celebrating the recognition brought Anil and Anupama Sharma together with Juan Pablo Segura, former Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and U.S. Congressman Suhas Subramanyam of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Dr. Romesh K. Japra Congratulates the Sharmas

Dr. Romesh K. Japra, Founder & Chairman of Americans4Hindus, congratulated Anil and Anupama Sharma on this distinguished recognition.

"On behalf of Americans4Hindus, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our



Trustee Anil Sharma and his wife, Anupama Sharma, on this extraordinary honor from George Mason University. Having a major university center named in their honor is a remarkable testament to their vision, leadership, entrepreneurship and commitment to giving back."

"Anil and Anupama represent the very best of the American Dream. They transformed opportunity into achievement and achievement into a commitment to empower others. Their investment in education, innovation and the next generation will create a legacy that extends far beyond their own success."

"We are especially proud that Anil Sharma, as a Trustee of Americans4Hindus, is being recognized for contributions that extend far beyond business. His journey is an inspiration to Indian Americans, Hindus and communities across America, demonstrating how success can become a powerful force for service, education and opportunity."

Americans4Hindus celebrates Anil and Anupama Sharma for their outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship, education, innovation and philanthropy, and congratulates them on a recognition that will carry their name and values into future generations.



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 engage-

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Mayor McCormac joins renascent media and the community for #OakTreeStories - Bollywood jamming on Oak Tree road

Cont'd from page 19

The celebration demonstrated how music, culture and community engagement can create meaningful opportunities for local businesses and strengthen the identity of Oak Tree Road as a destination.

Cleaner o Greener o Stronger Oak Tree Beyond entertainment, the event marked the launch of Cleaner o Greener o Stronger Oak Tree, a community-driven effort focused on beautification, environmental awareness and neighborhood pride.

As part of the initiative, players from the Old Bridge High School Boys Volleyball Team volunteered their time to support a community cleanup along Oak Tree Road, covering the stretch from Middlesex Avenue to Correja Avenue.

A special highlight was the beautification of a bench along Oak Tree Road, featuring Indian-inspired artwork created by Medha Art Studio with the support of Woodbridge Township.

The completed bench was unveiled during the celebration, with photographs taken alongside the Mayor and community representatives, symbolizing a shared commitment to preserving and enhancing the character of the business district.

Renascent Media extends its sincere appreciation to the student volunteers, Medha Art Studio and everyone who contributed to these efforts.

"Music brings people together, but the real impact comes when businesses, young people, community leaders and residents work together to make Oak Tree Road cleaner, greener and stronger," said Chandra.

Raj Jewels Bansal Group Supports the Celebration as Title Sponsor

Renascent Media extends special appreciation to Raj Jewels Bansal Group, the Title Sponsor of #OakTreeStories - Bollywood Jamming, for its continued partnership and support.

Raj Jewels Bansal Group generously provided its parking lot as the venue, helping create a welcoming gathering space in the heart of Oak Tree Road.

The celebration also featured a special silver bracelet giveaway by Raj Jewels Bansal Group, along with gift certificates and contributions from participating Oak Tree Road businesses.

Brand Partners, Local Businesses and Media Come Together

The event brought together a diverse group of brands, vendors and community supporters, including National Retail Solutions (NRS), Shan Foods, Tea India,



GuruNanda, Frontier RAAS, and other participating businesses and organizations.

Visitors enjoyed product sampling and giveaways, along with complimentary food provided by Shalimar Restaurant and House of Biryani & Kebabs, adding to the festive community experience.

Renascent Media also thanks all participating local businesses, artists, volunteers and supporters who helped make the inaugural event possible.

Special appreciation goes to the event's media partners, whose promotional support and coverage helped extend the reach of #OakTreeStories beyond the event itself, creating greater awareness of Oak Tree Road and its businesses.

The #OakTreeStories Journey Continues

The October 10 celebration represents the beginning of a larger community movement.

Through future cultural events, local business storytelling, community activations, beautification projects and strategic partnerships, #OakTreeStories aims to strengthen Oak Tree Road's identity as a thriving multicultural business destination.

"This is just the beginning," said Chandra. "We want #OakTreeStories to become a platform where every business has a story, every generation feels connected and the entire community takes pride in Oak Tree Road. Together, we can build a Cleaner o Greener o Stronger Oak Tree."

About #OakTreeStories

#OakTreeStories is a community initiative by Renascent Media dedicated to celebrating the businesses, people, culture and stories of Oak Tree Road in Iselin, New Jersey. Through entertainment, storytelling, community engagement and beautification efforts, the initiative promotes local businesses and encourages community pride.

About Renascent Media

Renascent Media is a woman-owned, full-service advertising, marketing and media agency with more than 20 years of experience connecting brands with multicultural audiences across the United States.

The agency specializes in media planning and buying, brand strategy, public relations, influencer marketing, content development, events, sponsorships and community activations.

Media & Partnership Inquiries:

Tanvi Prenita Chandra

Founder & President

Renascent Media

Follow & Share: @renascent | @youroaktreestories | #OakTreeStories

Gautam Adani shares what Michael Bloomberg's vision means for India

AHMEDABAD: Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group said, leadership is not measured by the milestones we celebrate today, but by the commitment to expand what humanity can achieve tomorrow, and very few



Gautam Adani

embody that better than Bloomberg Co-founder Michael Bloomberg.

In a post on LinkedIn, Gautam Adani spoke about his meeting with Michael Bloomberg during the 'Bloomberg New Economy Forum' in New Delhi.

"His line of questioning crystallized something for me. Nations need two kinds of infrastructure to endure. The first is visible and includes ports, transmission corridors, green hydrogen plants, gigawatt-scale compute clusters and transit systems. The second is invisible but decisive because it enables the first. It rests on trusted data, accountable institutions and governance treated as an operating discipline rather than a stage for announcements," said the billionaire industrialist. *IANS*

Govt approves India's accession to SIOFA to boost presence in High Seas fisheries

NEW DELHI: In a bid to strengthen India's presence in High Seas fisheries and enhance participation in global fisheries governance, the government said it has approved India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

With this, Indian-flagged fishing vessels and enterprises will be able to undertake authorized fishing of squids, toothfish, alfonsino, and other non-migratory fish stocks within SIOFA's jurisdiction, according to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. *IANS*

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



OneWeb should get India approval before Starlink, we applied 5 years earlier: Sunil Mittal

NEW DELHI: Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said that Eutelsat OneWeb should receive regulatory approvals in India ahead of Starlink, arguing that the company is significantly ahead in the approval queue after having applied nearly five years ago.

tial preparations for launching services in the country.

He noted that the company's ground network infrastructure has been ready for the past three years, while its satellites have been positioned over India for about five years.

"As I have already said, we are awaiting our approvals. I believe

we are significantly ahead of him in the queue because we applied five years ago," Mittal stated.

Mittal said Eutelsat OneWeb would be pleased to receive the necessary clearances even a few days before Starlink, given that it had entered the approval process much earlier.

"Our ground networks have been ready for the past

three years, and our satellites have been hovering over India for the past five years. We still do not have the necessary permission, so we would be very happy to receive it, even a few days before

him," he added.

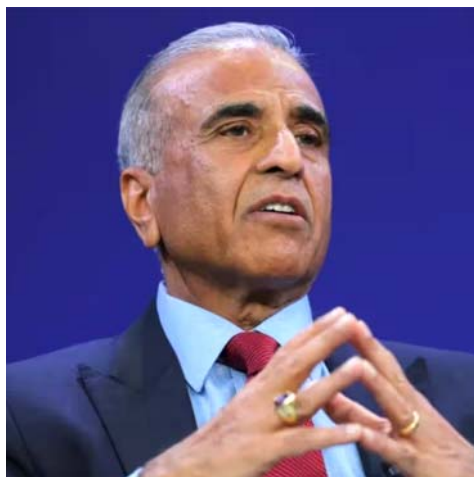
His remarks come amid an escalating public debate over the entry of Elon Musk-led Starlink into India. Over the past week, Musk used social media platform X to allege that certain Indian businesses were obstructing Starlink's plans to launch satellite broadband services in the country.

The Indian government, however, has rejected allegations of preferential treatment or discrimination in the approval pro-

cess. As such, the suggestion that the framework or its application is unfair or discriminatory is baseless and misconceived," the ministry had said.

Eutelsat OneWeb India, legally registered as OneWeb India Communications Private Limited, is a low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company preparing to roll out commercial satellite broadband services in India.

The company is part of Eutelsat Group, which was



Sunil Bharti Mittal

Speaking during a panel discussion at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2026 here, Mittal said Eutelsat OneWeb has been waiting for approvals despite having completed substan-

Mittal said Eutelsat OneWeb has been waiting for approvals despite having completed substantial preparations for launching services in the country

cess. Responding to Musk's claims, the Ministry of Communications said all satellite communication operators are being evaluated through a fair and non-discriminatory framework.

"At present, all the three entities are at broadly the same regu-

lated through the merger of France-based Eutelsat and the UK-backed OneWeb. Bharti Enterprises is one of the major shareholders in the merged entity, making it a key stakeholder in the company's India operations. *IANS*

Salaries in India projected to rise 9.1 pc in 2027 despite global uncertainty: Report

NEW DELHI: Salaries in India are expected to rise by 9.1 percent in 2027 as employers maintain stable compensation budgets while balancing growth ambitions, rising workforce costs and intensifying competition for skilled talent, a recent report said.

The projection, based on global professional services firm Aon's Annual Salary Increase and Turnover Survey for India 2026-27, is broadly unchanged from the actual average salary increase of 9 percent recorded in 2026.

The survey analyzed data from more than 1,200 organizations across 45 industries, making it one of the country's largest compensation studies.

The survey analyzed data from more than 1,200 organizations across 45 industries, making it one of the country's largest compensation studies

According to the report, strong domestic consumption, sustained investments and export growth continue to support business con-

fidence, enabling companies to invest in talent while maintaining cost discipline.

Sector-wise, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are

expected to lead salary growth in 2027 with projected increments of 10.1 percent. The energy sector is likely to witness salary

hikes of 9.9 percent, followed by real estate and infrastructure at 9.8 percent.

Roopank Chaudhary, Partner and Rewards Consulting Leader



for Talent Solutions India at Aon, said employers are increasingly adopting a targeted approach to compensation.

"Strong domestic consumption, sustained investment and export growth continue to support business confidence, allowing employers to invest in talent while maintaining cost discipline," said Chaudhary.

"Stable salary budgets are enabling a more targeted approach to pay. A modest rise in non-merit adjustments, particularly in manufacturing and technology, reflects greater focus on market alignment, scarce skills and critical talent. *IANS*

Bengal's new industrial policy to be released before Diwali to have transparent land and incentive policies: CM

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said the new industrial policy of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government, which will be released



West Bengal Chief Minister
Suwendu Adhikari

just before the forthcoming Diwali festival; will also have a transparent land policy as well as, an incentive policy to attract big-ticket investment in the state.

He made this announcement while

speaking at the inauguration of the Rs 6,000 crore phenol and acetone plants of Haldia Petrochemicals Limited at the industrial township of Haldia in East Midnapore district of West Bengal, which is also the native district of the Chief Minister.

"The Group of Ministers entrusted with the task of formulating the new industrial policy had already submitted the proposals on this count. Before the forthcoming Diwali festival, the final industrial policy will be presented to the industry fraternity. The new policy will also have a transparent land policy as well as a transparent incentive policy. The incentive policy will provide details of incentives, including power tariff subsidy, that will be provided to the investors," Chief Minister Adhikari said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched a scathing attack against the previous Left Front and Trinamool Congress governments in West Bengal, accusing both the regimes of systematically destroying the industrial

ambience in the state.

"Militant trade unionism and even assault of industrialists during the previous Left Front regime had driven away several industrial units from West Bengal during the 34-year Left Front regime from 1977 to 2011. Thereafter, during the previous 15-year Trinamool Congress regime from

He also made a promise that the state government will operate on the industrial front in such a manner that in the next one year West Bengal will become the "industrial destination" for industrialists throughout the country.

"Let us go to Bengal -- will be the new aim of the industrialists within a year. No

"Militant trade unionism and even assault of industrialists during the previous Left Front regime had driven away several industrial units from West Bengal during the 34-year Left Front regime from 1977 to 2011. Thereafter, during the previous 15-year Trinamool Congress regime from 2011 to 2026"

2011 to 2026, the flawed land policies of the state government, rampant corruption and extortion had made industrialists averse towards West Bengal. Now time has come to move on and move out of that bad phase," Chief Minister Adhikari said.

one can stop the tide of industrial inflow in the state in the coming days. West Bengal will move forward with a double-engine government. More industrial investment will be made in the state in the coming days," the Chief Minister said. IANS

Bank of Baroda launches action to recover Rs 2,800 crore dues from UAE businessman

NEW DELHI: Bank of Baroda said it would firmly protect its interests after UAE-based businessman and founder of NMC Health, B.R. Shetty, filed a case against the bank in the Bombay High Court, seeking \$15 billion in damages over alleged fraud involving group companies.

In a stock exchange filing, the Bank of Baroda said, "The Bank has not been served with such a suit and cannot comment on the contents of pleadings which are untested in court. If and when the Bank is served, the Bank will defend the suit firmly and take all steps necessary to protect its interests."

Bank of Baroda further stated that it was pursuing recovery and enforcement proceedings in India and UAE against Shetty for outstanding dues of Rs 2,800 crore and had obtained several decrees against him.

The lender also said the Karnataka High Court had restrained Shetty from dealing with or alienating his assets in 2021. In subsequent proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal, Shetty had asserted that he was insolvent and unable to meet the bank's dues, according to the

statement.

The bank further said Shetty had previously filed a similar suit against it in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, which was dismissed.

Shetty has alleged that Bank of Baroda and several current and former employees of the public sector lender helped facilitate a fraud that contributed to the collapse of the Gulf-based healthcare group.



B.R. Shetty

NMC the Gulf's largest private healthcare provider at the time, was placed under administration in 2020 after months of financial mismanagement, and disclosed debts of \$6.6 billion, above earlier estimates of \$2.1 billion.

Bank of Baroda said the matters described in media reports were also the subject of proceedings before the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Court, where judgment was reserved against Shetty and former NMC Healthcare CEO, Prashant Manghat, in proceedings concerning allegations of fraud, wrongful trading and fraudulent trading. IANS

FM Sitharaman to attend IMF and World Bank meetings in Bangkok

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was set to undertake an official visit to Bangkok, Thailand from October 14-18 to participate in the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, along with meetings of the G20 and G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, according to an official statement issued recently.

During the visit, the Finance Minister will participate in a series of multilateral meetings and discussions on key global economic and financial issues, including current economic developments and financial sector issues. These engagements will provide an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the global economic outlook, development priorities, and international financial cooperation.

She was also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Finance Ministers of Switzerland, Japan, Luxembourg, Bhutan and Curacao.

The Finance Minister will also meet Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF; and Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), said the statement.

In addition to the ministerial engagements, Sitharaman will participate in discussions and events involving global policymakers, financial institutions, and other stakeholders.

These include an Atlantic Council fire-side chat on India's growth outlook, trade resilience and outreach, reform of the international financial architecture, India and the ASEAN, and the road to 'Viksit Bharat 2047,' among the topics, and a

Germany side event on 'Working Together to Make Cities Investable - Mobilizing Private Capital for Urban and Water Infrastructure'.

The engagements will provide a platform to highlight India's economic performance, reform priorities and investment opportunities, while strengthening dialogue and cooperation with international partners on issues of global economic significance. IANS



Nirmala Sitharaman

WASHINGTON: Indian-American candidates heading into the November 3 midterms are being squeezed from two directions, with Republicans in the community campaigning amid a party-wide backlash against H-1B visas and several Democrats already ousted this year by challengers from their party's left flank.

On the Republican side, at least nine Indian Americans are on the November ballot, according to community media tallies, led by Vivek Ramaswamy's campaign for Ohio governor.

The tally includes Saritha Komatireddy, running for New York attorney general, three US House nominees and state legislative candidates in New York, Tennessee, California and Michigan.

They are running as the Trump administration and Republican leaders take an increasingly hard line on skilled immigration, including the proposed \$100,000 H-1B petition fee and the Labor Department's suspension of PERM green card certifications for eight technology companies.

The H-1B program is dominated by Indian professionals and, the debate has fed a strain of online hostility toward Indian Americans within the conservative movement.

On the Democratic side, the pressure has come in primaries.

In Michigan's 13th Congressional District, Representative Shri Thanedar lost the August 4 primary to state Representative Donavan McKinney, a democratic socialist backed by Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Rashida Tlaib and Justice Democrats. *IANS*

The figures cover requests made over nearly 21 months. They do not represent 16,070 detainees issued Monday, 13 October, or establish that 52,503 offences were committed

DHS says New York rejected 16,070 ICE requests

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Homeland Security said authorities across New York had declined to honor 16,070 immigration detainer requests since President Donald Trump returned to office, releasing figures that escalated its dispute with the state's Democratic leadership.

The department said the requests were recorded between January 20, 2025, and October 8, 2026. It associated the dishonored detainers with 52,503 criminal charges and convictions.

The figures cover requests made over nearly 21 months. They do not represent 16,070 detainees issued Monday, 13 October, or establish that 52,503 offences were committed after people were released.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin criticized New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Governor Kathy Hochul, accusing them of obstructing federal immigration enforcement.

"We enforce these laws with no help from Mayor Mamdani and Governor Hochul," Mullin said in the department's release.

He said federal officers would continue making arrests despite opposition from state and local political leaders.

DHS presented the figures as evidence of the consequences of New York's restrictions on cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Among the categories DHS listed were 131 homicide-related charges or convictions, 132 in-

fences, 4,324 drug offences and 9,502 assaults.

The categories were presented under a combined heading covering charges and convictions. They should therefore not be read as counts of convicted offenders.



Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin criticized New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Governor Kathy Hochul, accusing them of obstructing federal immigration enforcement

volving kidnapping and 1,017 involving sexual offences.

The department also reported 1,561 involving driving under the influence, 1,631 burglaries, 1,776 robberies, 2,198 weapons of-

DHS linked the announcement to an ICE shooting in New York City last week. It alleged that a man had used his vehicle against immigration officers and that an officer fired

in self-defense.

That account was the department's description of the incident. The department also cited earlier criminal cases as part of its criticism of New York's policies.

The announcement supplied cumulative figures and renewed federal criticism of New York. It did not announce a new immigration rule, a court ruling on the disputed policies or a change in the legal status of detainer requests.

An immigration detainer is an ICE request that a law-enforcement agency notify federal authorities before releasing a person and maintain custody for up to 48 hours beyond the otherwise scheduled release. ICE's published guidance describes detainers as requests connected to its intention to assume custody for immigration enforcement.

Mamdani defended the city's approach at a February briefing, saying "these are policies that keep New Yorkers safe". He said his executive order partly restated existing requirements for judicial warrants before ICE agents could enter city properties such as schools or hospitals. Those remarks preceded Monday's figures and were not a response to them. *IANS*

Actor Imran Khan is an American citizen, alleges veteran politician Kirit Somaiya

MUMBAI: Bollywood actor Imran Khan has been alleged of carrying the American passport by the former Member of Lok Sabha, Kirit Somaiya. The politician has alleged that the actor, born on American soil, is a holder of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, and cannot exercise his right to public demonstration.

The politician registered a complaint with the Gamdevi Police Station, and stated in his complaint that Under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, a foreigner who "does any act in violation of the conditions of the valid visa issued to him for his entry and stay in India" is punishable with im-



Imran Khan

prisonment which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to three lakh rupees or with both. Under Sections 7 and 29 of the said Act, the Central Government may direct that a foreigner shall not remain in India and may direct his removal.

He raised concerns about the actor's participation, calling him

"a foreign national", in an agitation directed against a constitutional authority of India.

The politician, who has a long political career, and earlier enjoyed Internet virality with his looped-in statement of "Maine apko jawab de diya hai", has also claimed that he hasn't received a copy of the FIR. *IANS*

H-1B visa validity not affected by PERM's suspension: MEA, slams Vance's remarks as "unwarranted"

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that US government's suspension of certain companies from the Permanent Labor Certification (PERM) program does not, by itself, affect the validity of existing H-1B visas or the status of visa holders and their dependents, while criticizing remarks made by US Vice President JD Vance targeting foreign workers, describing the characterization of Indian professionals as "unwarranted" and "deeply offensive".

During a weekly media briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reit-

PERM program, citing multiple active federal investigations.

The companies named included Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro, HCL and Capgemini, along with US technology majors Microsoft and Adobe.

Sonderling said the department would neither accept new applications nor process pending permanent labor certification applications involving the companies.

"We will not accept any new or process any pending permanent labor certification applications involving these companies," Sonderling said.

"We are aware of the US Department of Labor's decision concerning the permanent labor certification program that is PERM for certain companies; it should be noted that PERM is distinct from the H-1B visa program," Jaiswal said

erated India's position on the US Department of Labor's decision concerning the PERM program, stressing that it is distinct from the H-1B visa program.

"We are aware of the US Department of Labor's decision concerning the permanent labor certification program that is PERM for certain companies; it should be noted that PERM is distinct from the H-1B visa program," Jaiswal said.

He clarified that the suspension of PERM applications would not directly affect existing H-1B visas, although it could have implications for eligible employees seeking permanent residency in the United States.

"The suspension of PERM application does not by itself affect the validity of H-1B visas or the status of H-1B visa holders and their dependents," the MEA spokesperson said, adding that "there could be some impact on the permanent residency

The US Labor Secretary also alleged that the companies had collectively sought millions of foreign workers and received hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa approvals and permanent labor certifications.

"Since 2009, just these companies alone have requested almost 3 million foreign workers. They received over 230,000 H1B Visa approvals and over 100,000 permanent labor certifications," Sonderling said.

Responding to comments by US Vice President JD Vance on alleged misuse of the H-1B visa program, Jaiswal said India's view was that such descriptions failed to recognize the contribution of Indian professionals to the American economy and its innovation ecosystem.

"In regard to the comments made by the US Vice President, let me say that we believe that such descriptions are unwarranted and ignore the fact that Indian professionals

"The suspension of PERM application does not by itself affect the validity of H-1B visas or the status of H-1B visa holders and their dependents," the MEA spokesperson said, adding that "there could be some impact on the permanent residency or green card process of eligible employees of the affected companies."

or green card process of eligible employees of the affected companies."

The clarification comes after US Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the suspension of certain major technology and IT outsourcing companies from the

in the United States are highly educated and skilled contributors to its economy and innovation ecosystem," he said.

The MEA spokesperson also invoked the contribution of immigrants to America's economic development, criti-

cizing the terminology used to describe foreign workers.

"Indeed, the history of the United States itself has been shaped by generations of immigrants whose labor, enterprise, and innovation have contributed to its growth and prosperity," Jaiswal said.

"Resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive," he added.

Vance's remarks came during a recent press conference on efforts to combat visa fraud, where he alleged that the H-1B visa program had become vulnerable to widespread abuse.

"The H-1B visa program is meant to allow companies to bring in really the best of the best from outside the United States of America for positions that are completely impossible to fill with American workers. Unfortunately, the program has become rife with fraud," Vance said.

The US Vice-President specifically targeted Microsoft, alleging that the company had laid off American workers while benefiting from thousands of H-1B visas and green cards.

"Microsoft laid off last year, 6000 American workers at the same time, the company benefited from 6300 H-1B visas and almost 3000 green cards," Vance said.

He further described foreign workers as "foreign indentured servants" while arguing that companies operating in the United States should prioritize American workers.

"Our message to Microsoft in any other foreign or domestic corporation is simple. We want you to thrive in the United States of America. We want people to invest in the United States of America, particularly the American technology sector," Vance said.

"We want you to be able to grow and employ a lot of people but we want you to employ American workers," he added.

Vance also said Microsoft's suspension from the PERM program followed an ongoing investigation, arguing that the move would prevent the company from using the program to apply for permanent status for foreign workers.

While expressing concern over the US decision, the MEA emphasized that the movement of skilled professionals benefits both India and the United States by supporting innovation, research, productivity and job creation.

"Talent mobility adds value to both economies, that is, the economies of India and the United States. While it creates opportunities for Indians, it equally helps US companies with cutting-edge talent, innovation, research, productivity, competitiveness, and job creation," Jaiswal said. ANI

"Will not be silenced": Rep Ilhan Omar alleges political intimidation after DHS searches her home

WASHINGTON DC: US Representative Ilhan Omar has alleged political intimidation after Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) searched her Washington, DC, home, with the Justice Department confirming that the action was part of an ongoing federal criminal investigation.

According to CBS News, the search took place early morning and centered on Omar's immigration paperwork. Sources cited by the broadcaster said, the documents under scrutiny included paperwork completed by her late father when she was a child.

In a post on X, Omar said, "I'm ok," alleging that the search was an attempt to target political opponents and weaponize federal law enforcement.

"Make no mistake: this is an attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement. For ten years, Trump has targeted me with baseless lies and smear campaigns. This is just the latest escalation in his campaign of political intimidation," she said, adding, "I will not be silenced."

The Justice Department confirmed that HSI had executed a judicially authorized search warrant secured by the department, stating that the enforcement action was "part of an ongoing federal criminal investigation." However, it did not name Omar or specify the subject of the investigation, as per CBS News.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Whip Katherine Clark and House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar criticized the search in a joint statement shared by Jeffries in a post on X.

"The Trump administration's raid on Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's home is deeply disturbing and raises serious questions about the continued corrupt weaponization of the federal government against Donald Trump's adversaries," the statement read.

"For years, Donald Trump and far-right extremists have relentlessly targeted Congresswoman Omar with vile personal attacks and baseless accusations. Now, less than 30 days until the midterm election, his violent mass deportation machine has descended upon the home of a duly elected Member of Congress and her family." ANI

Bacteria turn a virus' own weapon against it: Study

WASHINGTON DC: The researchers have uncovered a new way bacteria detect viral attacks: a virus-produced enzyme cuts a bacterial sensor protein, triggering a self-destructing immune response.

The discovery could lead to more effective phage therapies against antibiotic-resistant bacteria and provide insight into ancient immune mechanisms shared with humans, as per the ScienceDaily.

Scientists searching for new ways to treat bacterial infections are increasingly turning to viruses known as bacteriophages (phages). These viruses specifically target bacteria, allowing them to kill harmful microbes without damaging human cells. They can also attack bacteria that have developed resistance to antibiotics.

Phage therapy, however, faces a major obstacle. Bacteria are not defenseless against viruses. They have evolved their own immune systems, and understanding those defenses could help scientists develop therapeutic phages that are better able to overcome them.



According to the ScienceDaily, a new research has now identified an important way bacteria recognize a viral attack. Scientists found that a viral enzyme cuts a crucial sensor molecule inside the bacterial cell. That damage serves as an alarm, activating an immune response.

The discovery could ultimately help researchers develop more effective phage therapies capable of avoiding bacterial immune defenses.

"This is one of the most common forms of bacterial immunity, so when we finally figured it out, it was a total eureka moment," says Sam Hobbs, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry at University of Utah Health and the first author on a paper describing the research. ANI

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)

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www.indiapost.com

October 16, 2026

Scientists make discovery that could help explain why life exists: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Imagine a universe where stars still shine, planets still form and water exists, but liquids are so thick that living cells can barely function. Even with the chemical ingredients for life, the conditions might make living organisms impossible.

According to ScienceDaily, Scientists have uncovered a remarkable connection between the fundamental laws of physics and the ability of life to exist. Their findings suggest that even relatively small changes to some of the universe's most basic physical constants could dramatically alter how liquids flow, potentially preventing essential biological processes from taking place.

The discovery, detailed in a study published in Science Advances, came from physicist Kostya Trachenko at Queen Mary University of London. His theoretical analysis identified an additional constraint on the values of fundamental physical constants: They must permit liquids to move in ways that support life within and between cells.

The work raises a profound question about the universe. Why do the fundamental laws of nature have values that appear so well suited to the existence of life?

The Fundamental Constants That Shape Our Universe

Fundamental physical constants are numbers that govern how the universe operates. Examples include the mass and electric charge of an electron and the Planck constant, which plays a central role in quantum mechanics, the branch of physics that describes matter and energy at extremely small scales.



These quantities are generally considered universal and unchanging over time. Their values influence everything from the behavior of atoms and chemical bonds to the nuclear reactions that power stars and produce elements essential for life, as per ScienceDaily.

Despite their importance, scientists still do not know why these constants have the particular values we observe.

An important clue emerged in

and tar are much more viscous and move slowly. The researchers showed that there is a fundamental limit to how freely a fluid can flow, with that limit ultimately connected to the basic constants of nature.

The 2023 study took this connection much further by examining its implications for biology.

Why Tiny Changes to Physics Could Make Life Impossible

Every living cell depends on the movement of molecules. Nu-

helps molecules move around cells and enables many of the chemical interactions required for life.

If the viscosity of those fluids changed too much, these processes could become severely disrupted. Liquids that were too thick might prevent vital materials from moving efficiently, while excessively low viscosity could also interfere with the controlled flow necessary for biological functions.

Trachenko explained the surprising connection, saying, "Understanding how water flows in a cup turns out to be closely related to the grand challenge to figure out fundamental constants. Life processes in and between living cells require motion and it is viscosity that sets the properties of this motion. If fundamental constants change, viscosity would change too, impacting life as we know it. For example, if water were as viscous as tar, life would not exist in its current form or not exist at all. This applies beyond water, so all life forms using the liquid state to function would be affected." ANI

The discovery, detailed in a study published in Science Advances, came from physicist Kostya Trachenko at Queen Mary University of London. His theoretical analysis identified an additional constraint on the values of fundamental physical constants

2020, when Trachenko and his colleagues demonstrated that fundamental physical constants place a lower limit on the viscosity of liquids.

Viscosity describes how strongly a fluid resists flowing. Water has relatively low viscosity and pours easily, while honey

trients must reach the places where they are needed, waste products must be transported away, and countless chemical reactions must occur in a liquid environment.

Another important process is diffusion, the natural spreading of particles through a fluid. Diffusion

Ebola outbreak slowing in parts of DRC but still growing in others: WHO chief

GENEVA: World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus recently said there was strong progress in the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with 25 survivors discharged from a treatment center in Isiro. He however warned that while the epidemic was slowing in some areas, it was still growing in others.

"There continues to be strong progress in the Ebola response in the DRC," Tedros stated on X.

The WHO chief said 25 survivors of Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) - 13 women and 12 men - were discharged Friday (9 Oct), following treatment at a WHO-supported Ebola Treatment Centre in Isiro, the capital of Haut-Uele province.

A 10-bed extension to the center, inaugurated with WHO support in collaboration with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), has taken its capacity to 50 beds.

"The Centre strengthens patient care while allowing the Isiro General Referral Hospital to keep delivering other es-

sential health services," he said.

WHO also provided over one ton of medical supplies to the Isiro hospital, including materials for oxygen, gloves and masks for health workers, and



World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

beds and mattresses. It has trained 211 health workers so far at its clinical training hub in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province, and will soon open a new center in North Kivu, Tedros said.

The WHO chief also gave an update on the vaccination of frontline workers.

"Also yesterday, as part of the DRC government-led vaccine program, the

first 100 frontline health workers in Haut-Uele Province received the ERVEBO vaccine, which is proven to protect against the Ebola Zaire strain, and is also being studied to see if effective against the Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) driving this current outbreak. More than 9000 frontline workers have so far received the ERVEBO vaccine as part of this effort," he said.

MSF and partners have also vaccinated at least 870 frontline workers with ERVEBO as part of the "BRAVO" study assessing its impact on preventing serious disease and death from Bundibugyo, while WHO is supporting a vaccine efficacy platform trial of both ERVEBO and BVD-specific vaccines expected to start in the coming weeks, he said.

"While there are clear signs that the epidemic is slowing down in some areas, it is still growing in others. It is therefore critical that the response continue to scale up and reach where the outbreak already is and where it might be going," Tedros said. IANS

Dengue surge in Bengal hotspots raises concern ahead of Durga Puja

KOLKATA: A sudden rise in dengue cases in pockets of rural and urban West Bengal over the past month has raised concern in the administration ahead of the forthcoming Durga Puja festival.

A state health department official said 14 gram panchayats and eight urban civic bodies, including three municipal corporations and five municipalities, had been identified as dengue hotspots following a sharp increase in cases in specific areas over the past month.

"Most of the 14 gram panchayats identified as dengue hotspots are in Murshidabad district. The others are in South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum and Hooghly districts," the official said.

The three municipal corporations reporting a similar trend in certain wards are the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in North 24 Parganas district and Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) in Howrah district, adjoining Kolkata. IANS



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Kalpataru Q2 pre-sales slip 5 pc to Rs 1,258 crore

MUMBAI: Real estate developer Kalpataru Limited recently reported pre-sales of Rs 1,258 crore for the quarter ended September 2026 (Q2 FY27), marking a 5 percent decline from Rs 1,329 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous year (Q2 FY26).

However, collections during the quarter remained broadly stable at Rs 1,189 crore, compared with Rs 1,182 crore in Q2 FY26, as per its regulatory filing.

For the first half of FY27, the company reported pre-sales of Rs 2,587 crore, slightly higher than Rs 2,577 crore in the year-ago period. Collections rose 9 percent year-on-year to Rs 2,554 crore from Rs 2,348 crore.

Kalpataru said the operational figures were provisional and subject to a limited review. During the September quarter, the company launched Kalpataru Elaara, a premium residential project in Goregaon West, Mumbai.

The development comprises two, three and four-bedroom residences and offers more than 25 lifestyle amenities. Located on MG Road off Link Road, the project is situated close to Bangur Nagar Metro Station and has access to educational, healthcare and entertainment infrastructure.

The latest operational update follows the company's first-quarter financial results, where it reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 26.5 crore, an improvement from a loss of Rs 49.4 crore in the corresponding period last year. Revenue from operations increased 6.5 percent year-on-year to Rs 472.2 crore.

At the operating level, Kalpataru posted an EBITDA loss of Rs 45.9 crore in Q1 FY27, compared with an EBITDA loss of Rs 27.3 crore in the year-ago quarter. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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www.indiapost.com

October 16, 2026

India's flexible office market likely to hit 160 MSF by 2030: Report

NEW DELHI: India has retained its position as the world's most mature flexible office market and is expected to cross the 100 MSF mark in 2026, expanding to approximately 160 million square feet by 2030, a recent report said. *IANS*



For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Dharavi rehabilitation construction starts officially with 'Bhoomi Poojan'



MUMBAI: The rehabilitation construction of Dharavi officially commenced with Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) Director Pranav Adani performing the Bhoomi Poojan at the 22-acre Matunga railway site.

The project marks a significant milestone for Dharavi, one of Asia's largest informal settlements, which houses a population of over one million residents, according to an Adani Group release.

"Every family deserves a home where they feel secure and can plan for the future. We know what this means to Dharavi families. The development at Matunga will feature 10 towers comprising 10,432 rehabilitation apartments alongside 1,379 commercial and industrial units. Eligible residents will receive modern 350 sq ft homes under the in-situ rehabilitation scheme," Pranav Adani said.

The massive undertaking is being spearheaded by Adani Navbharat Developers Private

Limited (ANDPL), a special purpose vehicle (SPV) established through a partnership between the Maharashtra government and the Adani Group, the release said.

Each tower will range from 37 to 39 story high, equipped with 10 to 12 passenger elevators, two dedicated fire elevators, and two additional lifts designated for

the upkeep of common infrastructure. Furthermore, ANDPL will handle the maintenance of buildings and shared infrastructure for the first 10 years post-handover.

The construction of the 10 towers will be completed and handed over to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP/SRA)

first to receive their new homes at Matunga, followed closely by nearly 4,500 apartments prioritized for other eligible Dharavi residents.

The groundbreaking ceremony was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, Aseem Kumar Gupta, and DRP/SRA CEO Mahendra Kalyankar.

"This is an important step for Dharavi families. Our focus is on providing safe, modern homes with infrastructure and amenities needed for a better quality of life," Kalyankar said.

The project leverages world-class design, engineering, and urban planning expertise from a consortium of international and domestic firms, including US-based design firm Sasaki, UK-based engineering consultancy Buro Happold, Mumbai-based urban planners StudioPOD and renowned architects Hafeez Contractor, P&T, and ARC Studio, alongside urban planning experts from Singapore. *IANS*

The project marks a significant milestone for Dharavi, one of Asia's largest informal settlements, which houses a population of over one million residents, according to an Adani Group release

commercial and industrial spaces. Key amenities will include kindergartens, community halls, podium gardens, sit-out areas, society offices, and places of worship. Ten percent of commercial spaces within each rehabilitation building will be reserved to generate sustainable revenue

under the state government in three distinct phases comprising the first 5 towers by March 2029, the next two towers by August 2029, and the remaining three by August 2030, said the release.

Eligible residents hailing from Sectors 6 and 1 will be the

Institutional real estate inflows in India touch \$5.9 billion in Jan-Sep: Report

NEW DELHI: Institutional investment into Indian real estate reached \$5.9 billion in the first three quarters of 2026 (January-September), up 39 percent

year on year and marked the strongest nine month total in recent years, a recent report said.

The report from Colliers India said domestic investors drove

the rally, contributing \$3.5 billion and accounting for close to 60 percent of the total investments during the period. Indian real estate has largely remained resilient

to external volatilities, despite bleak global economic outlook and caution towards capital allocation in markets around the world.

A strong 59 percent YoY

surge in domestic capital inflows highlighted the depth and maturity of core real estate asset classes in India, the report noted. *IANS*

Gera Developments conducts Bhumi Poojan for The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale, bringing low-density living to the fore with 20 families per acre

PUNE: Gera Developments Private Limited (GDPL), one of India's leading real estate developers known for pioneering category-defining innovations and the award-winning creators of premium residential and commercial projects in Pune, Goa, Bengaluru, and California (USA), has conducted the Bhumi Poojan for The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale in Bavdhan, Pune, marking the commencement of the next phase of the premium residential development. The Crown at Gera's Isle

ficier, Gera Developments, said, "The Bhumi Poojan of The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale marks the beginning of a project that is fundamentally about giving space a larger meaning. The preference for larger homes is becoming increasingly visible in Pune. The latest Gera Pune Residential Realty Report shows that sales of homes in the 1,401-1,600 sq. ft. category grew by 33%, while the 1,201-1,400 sq. ft. category grew by 17%. At the same time, sales of homes in the 600-800 sq. ft. category de-

through the spaces. The architecture integrates the surrounding hills and greenery, with views towards the Sahyadri landscape forming part of the living experience.

Located in Bavdhan, The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale is set against the backdrop of the Sahyadri hills while remaining connected to the city. The development has been conceived as a low-density residential environment designed around nature, with landscaped spaces and amenities complementing the residential experience.

With the Bhumi Poojan now completed, The Crown marks the next stage in the evolution of Gera's Isle Royale, bringing together a limited residential community, larger-format homes and a development approach centered on space and privacy.

Gera Developments has been creating residential and commercial developments for over five decades, with 64 projects spanning approximately 9 million sq. ft. under development and the trust of more than 10,000 customers.

About Gera Developments Private Limited:

Gera Developments Private Limited, a reputed brand for over 50 years, is one of the pioneers of the Real Estate business in Pune. Recognized as the creators of premium residential and commercial projects in Pune, Goa and Bengaluru, the brand has established a global presence through developments in California, USA. Gera prides itself on providing long-term enjoyment to customers, by having a distinct customer-first approach. The philosophy at Gera of "Let's Outdo" rests on the trinity of Innovation, Transparency, and Enhanced Customer Experience. It is at the heart of Gera's effort to infuse innovation and transparency in Real Estate and home building, with an unwavering focus on meeting the shifting lifestyle dynamics of their customers, while upholding the premium living experience. Accordingly, there are many 'firsts' that stand to Gera's credit.

The company introduced a 5-Year Warranty on Real Estate, consisting of Preventive Maintenance & Repairs and provision of insurance on buildings way back in 2004 for the first time in India. RERA mandated the same only in 2017. Gera also introduced India's first and only 7-year warranty in Real Estate. They have designed and launched a path breaking concept, the award-winning ChildCentric® Homes, and WellnessCentric Homes™ which revolutionized the Real Estate sector for both, the developer and the homebuyer. The

company has also launched Gera's Home Equity Power - a first-of-its-kind industry initiative providing financial flexibility to customers to withdraw funds from their prior payments to meet financial emergencies.

These products are matched by the services of the GeraWorld® Mobile App, which brings speed, convenience, and transparency to the buyer, enhancing customer experience. Gera Developments has also launched the Club Outdo initiative, a tech-driven loyalty and referral program that provides multiple benefits, offers, and community engagement opportunities to existing and new customers. VMPL. ANI



Royale brings low-density living to the heart of its residential proposition, with approximately 20 families per acre across the larger, roughly 10-acre Gera's Isle Royale development.

The Bhumi Poojan marks an important milestone for The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale, which has been conceived around the idea of creating more space not just within the home, but also around it. With fewer families sharing the overall development, the low-density approach is designed to offer greater privacy, reduced crowding and noise, more open spaces and a stronger sense of exclusivity.

The proposition comes at a time when homebuyers in Pune are increasingly looking for larger homes and greater space, reflecting a broader shift in residential preferences. Rather than measuring

clined by 19%. This reflects a shift in how people are valuing space. At The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale, we have extended that thought beyond the home itself, with approximately 20 families sharing an acre. The idea is to create an environment where space, privacy and openness are an integral part of everyday living."

The Crown is the latest phase within Gera's Isle Royale development and comprises limited-edition 3.5- and 4.5-bedroom residences. The current plan comprises 60 residences, extending the limited-community approach of the larger development. Within the towers, only two apartments are planned per floor, limiting the number of households sharing each level and creating a more private residential experience.

The emphasis on privacy continues at

The Crown at Gera's Isle Royale brings low-density living to the heart of its residential proposition, with approximately 20 families per acre across the larger, roughly 10-acre Gera's Isle Royale development

the quality of a residence only by the size or the number of amenities, The Crown places equal emphasis on the environment beyond the home as an important part of the living experience.

Gulzar Malhotra, Chief Executive Of-

the entrance to each residence, with private elevators opening directly into the foyer. The homes are designed around light, ventilation and views, with dual-side terraces, large sliding windows and layouts that allow natural light and airflow

Kohinoor Riverdale: Exploring riverside living in Pune's Kharadi

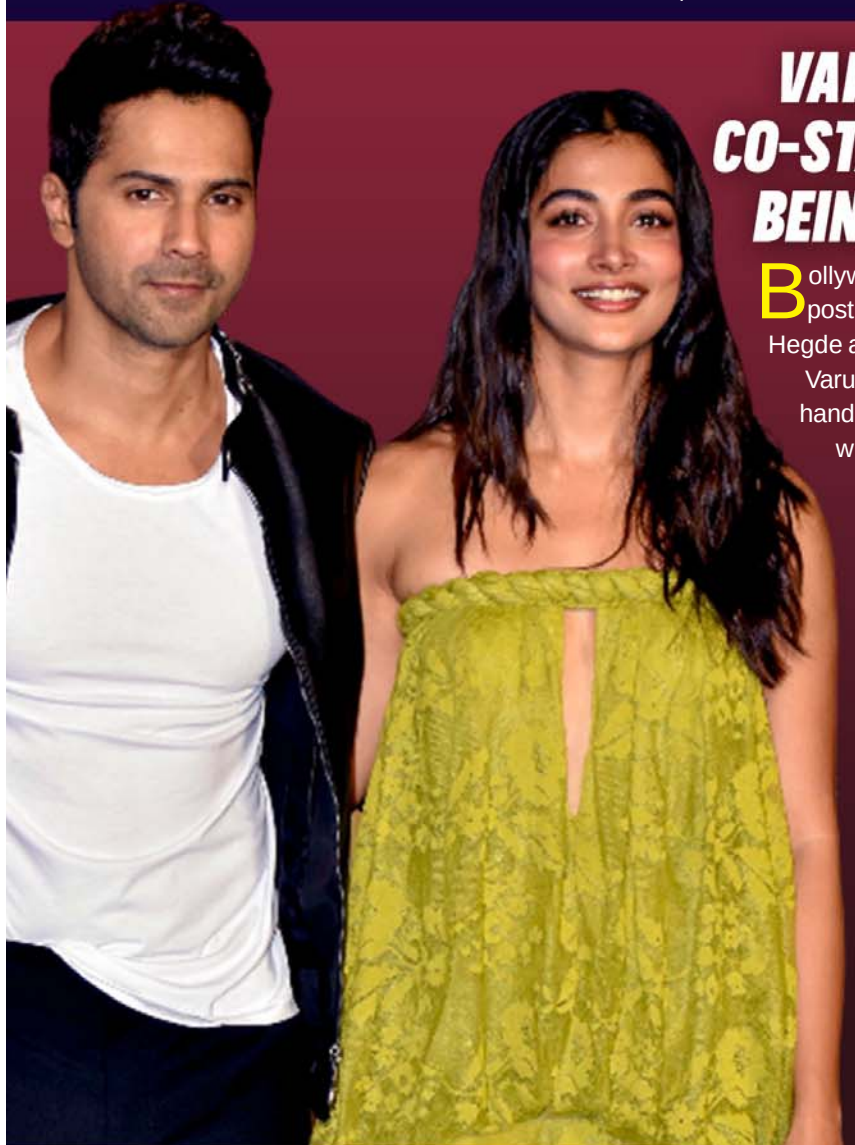
HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

Kharadi, situated in eastern Pune suburbs, has long been an IT corridor and the presence of IT parks and offices was a key driver for its real estate boom. Today, the locality is growing beyond its identity as an employment hub. Kharadi is gradually emerging as a lifestyle destination, supported by improved connectivity and infrastructure. Alongside the urban setting and high-rises defining the skyline, the natural river feature and scenic landscape enhances the overall appeal of Kharadi. The locality has been generating interest among buyers, investors and developers. Kohinoor Group, with over forty years of expertise, offers a premium gated-development that epitomizes riverside living in Kharadi. Kohinoor Riverdale is one project that opens doors to quiet luxury.

Pune's growth corridor meets calm living

Kohinoor Riverdale is a modern residential community crafted with thoughtful planning and purpose, to offer scenic beauty, smart living and seamless connectivity all at one place. Strategically located in the fast-growing Kharadi, the project enjoys excellent connectivity to The Pune International airport, arterial roads and the proposed DP road. www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



VARUN DHAWAN WISHES CO-STAR POOJA HEGDE: KEEP BEING THE BRIGHTEST SOUL

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan penned a lovely birthday post for her 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' co-star Pooja Hegde as she turned a year older on 13 October.

Varun took to the Stories section of his official handle and uploaded a picture of him posing with Pooja in the middle of the water.

He called the 'Beast' actress the 'brightest soul' in a heartfelt birthday post that read, "Poooooja it's ur bday so I have to be only nice for one day but in all seriousness I wish u get everything u want and keep being the brightest soul I know too many more Aarti's together (Hug emoji) (sic)."

Last year, Varun wished his co-star with another hilarious post that read, "Happy bday pooja ji please share ur beauty hacks @hegdepooja and stop being mean to society."

Varun and Pooja are often seen pulling each other's legs.

In October last year, Varun playfully teased Pooja in the fun behind-the-scenes clip of the two.

The video uploaded by Varun opened with Pooja putting something in her eyes and claiming, "Varun is making me cry".

When the 'Bhediya' actor asked the makeup artist what techniques they are using, Pooja replied, "It's a secret. We can't tell you".

Talking about 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai', along with Varun and Pooja, the primary cast of the movie also includes Mrunal Thakur. **IANS**

Actor Prasanna's BIRTHDAY NOTE to wife SNEHA

Tamil actor Prasanna has now penned an adorable birthday post for his wife, actress Sneha, in which he has gone on to disclose how he hasn't told her often enough how much he admires her.

Taking to his Instagram page to pen the post on the occasion of Sneha's birthday, Prasanna, who posted a series of pictures of Sneha, wrote, "Every picture I've clicked of you carries so much love and admiration for the incredible woman you are! I watch you work tirelessly, chase your dreams, be the most devoted mother, and still find time to be my best friend, biggest strength and favorite travel partner!" **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**

Aditi Rao Hydari: Evolving is staying open to change

As actress Aditi Rao Hydari prepares to turn 40 on October 28, the actress is looking back at nearly two decades in cinema with a sense of gratitude, clarity and, perhaps most importantly, curiosity.

As she approaches this milestone birthday, Aditi says the biggest lesson she would give her younger self is to simply stay true to who she is.

"I would tell her to just happily be herself, not listen to the noise, trust the ones who will nurture her and challenge her. To not be in a hurry to have everything figured out. To enjoy learning, to always be curious, to be unafraid to make mistakes because you can and you will turn them around," she says.

Looking back at her journey, Aditi admits that it has not always been an easy road. But rather than holding on to disappointments, she chooses to focus on what every experience has taught her.

"I choose to be grateful for every blessing, and the ability to overcome and not dwell on situations that feel unkind or unfair. **IANS**



Priyanka Chahar Choudhary reminisces tussle between Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mamata Banerjee

Actress Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, who can be currently seen in the reality streaming show 'Rise and Fall', recently got a chance to meet politician Lalu Prasad Yadav during the show.

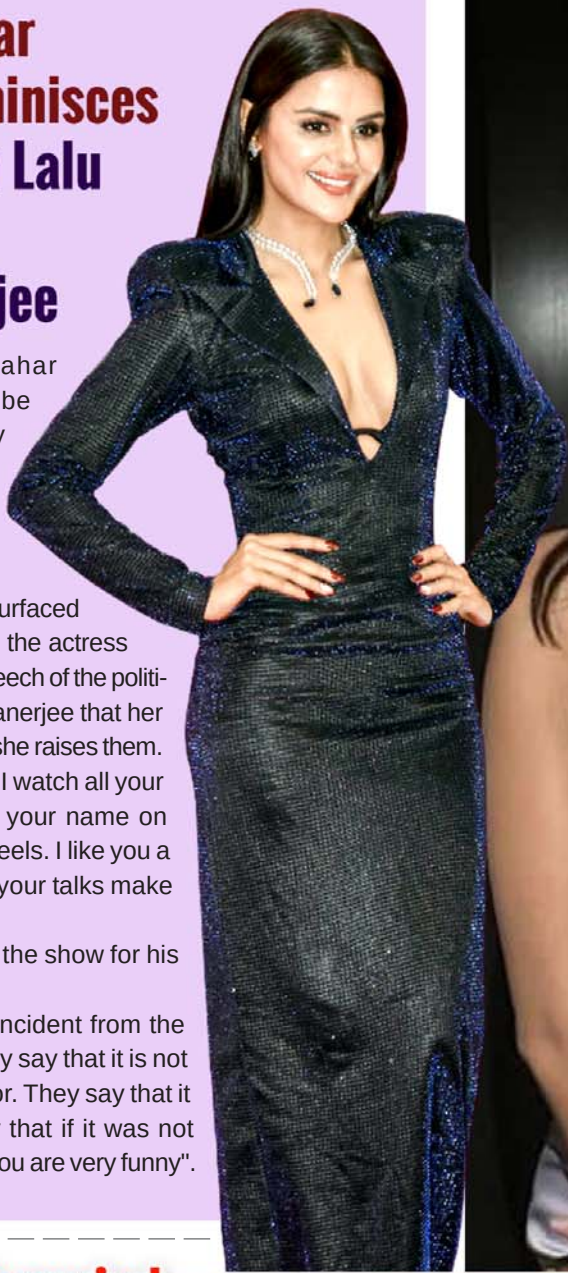
A clip from the show has surfaced on social media, and it shows the actress recollecting a parliamentary speech of the politician where he told Mamata Banerjee that her demands won't be met unless she raises them.

She told him on the show, "I watch all your videos. Sometimes I search your name on Instagram and scroll all your reels. I like you a lot. You look very funny. And your talks make me laugh a lot".

Lalu Prasad Yadav was in the show for his son Tej Pratap Yadav.

She then recollected the incident from the Parliament, as she said, "They say that it is not right that the rail was asked for. They say that it was not asked for. They say that if it was not asked for, it will not be found. You are very funny".

IANS



Urvashi Rautela's musical debut: 'I have long been drawn to electronic dance music'

Actress Urvashi Rautela ventured into music with her EDM track 'Heart Controller,' in which she took on the role of lead vocalist and writer.

Speaking about her musical journey, Urvashi told IANS that she has long been drawn to electronic dance music and wanted to explore the genre beyond her on-screen image, adding that the track brings together her musical expression, Indian culture, and tradition. Talking about the same, the 'Sanam Re' actress said, "Truly honored to become India's first Bollywood EDM singer billed as lead vocalist to sing a full-length EDM record/EDM track. A first for a Bollywood actress, and the first ever in the history of Bollywood."

"I have long been drawn to electronic dance music, not as an ornament to an image, but as a form I wished to inhabit as a vocalist & writer for Heart Controller. It is released. It belongs to anyone with an ear for the genre and equally to anyone who has never heard an Indian name held, unaccompanied, at the center of a full-length electronic work," she added.

Urvashi went on to state, "The record is not merely a drop. Heard against the lyric, it opens onto the Mahabharata, onto lineage and grace, onto Indian culture and Indian tradition, and onto the name I carry. IANS



ANANYA PANDAY'S HOSTING DEBUT AT IIFA AWARDS 2027

Actress Ananya Panday is all set to make her hosting debut at the IIFA Awards 2027.

Reflecting on her journey with IIFA, Ananya said returning to the stage in a new role as co-host makes the experience even more special, particularly as her journey with the awards began in Abu Dhabi, where the upcoming event will be held. Speaking about making her hosting debut at IIFA, Ananya said, "Being a part of IIFA has always been incredibly special to me. My IIFA journey began in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, with my very first-ever performance on that iconic stage. I still remember the excitement of that moment. I had grown up watching IIFA, so to find myself a part of that incredible celebration of Indian cinema felt like a dream come true. Over the years, IIFA has become such a beautiful part of my journey."

"With every experience, I've had the opportunity to grow, discover new sides of myself and create memories that I will always cherish. There is something truly magical about the IIFA stage, the energy, the scale, the audiences and the incredible coming together of talent from across our industry. To now be returning to IIFA 2027 in a completely new role as a co-host to IIFA Awards makes this experience even more special."

"To have the opportunity to be on that stage and celebrate some of the biggest stars, stories and achievements of Indian cinema is something I'm genuinely excited about. And to do it in Abu Dhabi, where my IIFA journey began, makes it even more meaningful. I can't wait to be back, create new memories and celebrate the magic of Indian cinema with audiences around the world."

Varun Dhawan added, "IIFA has always been a celebration that feels very close to the heart of every actor because it brings our entire film fraternity together in one place and then takes that celebration to the world. IANS





DURGA PUJA 2026: West Bengal pandals embrace themes of 'SHODHAN', 'ADI SHAKTI'

KOLKATA: As the festive spirit begins to sweep across West Bengal, Durga Puja pandals built around unique and unconventional themes are once again gaining momentum, transforming the state's biggest cultural celebration into a vibrant showcase of art, creativity and social consciousness.

Among the standout attractions this year is the celebrated South Kolkata club Rajdanga Naba Uday Sangha, which has unveiled a thought-provoking and immersive pandal for Durga Puja 2026, built around the theme 'Shodhan'.

Blending artistic expression with a deeper message, the concept seeks to encourage visitors to look beyond the grandeur of the festivities and reflect on the broader significance of purification, transformation and renewal.

Likewise, Siliguri's Subarata Sangha has come forward with an Adi Shakti-themed Durga Puja pandal featuring a giant Lord Shiva idol and

a Mount Kailash replica ahead of its 69th year.

Member of the Subrata Sangha Durga Puja Committee, Ashim Kumar Sengupta, spoke to ANI on the theme and shared, "...this year's theme is Adi Shakti. There is a power in the universe from the very beginning. The tradition of Shakti has been going on; it is invisible, formless, and cannot be seen, and we continue this tradition to this day...especially in Bengal, we celebrate it every year on a grand scale and consider it a festival...to handle the crowd, we have the police administration. We also hire private security. Along with them, we have our volunteers...our opening is tomorrow..."

The Hindu festival of Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava or Sharodotsava, is a yearly celebration that honors the Hindu goddess Durga and commemorates her victory over Mahishasur. Hindu mythology holds that the goddess comes to her earthly abode at this time to bless her devotees. ANI

**AMONG THE STANDOUT
ATTRactions THIS YEAR IS THE
CELEBRATED SOUTH KOLKATA CLUB
RAJDANGA NABA UDAY SANGHA,
WHICH HAS UNVEILED A THOUGHT-
PROVOKING AND IMMERSIVE PANDAL
FOR DURGA PUJA 2026, BUILT
AROUND THE THEME 'SHODHAN'**

KSHATRIYA RAJPUT WOMEN CELEBRATE NAVRATRI WITH TRADITIONAL SWORD DANCE IN GUJARAT

RAJKOT: The Kshatriya Rajput women performed the traditional Sword Raas at the historic Ranjit Vilas Palace in Rajkot during Navratri, displaying sword-fighting skills while riding bikes and jeeps.

The second day of the festival witnessed a grand celebration of feminine power, courage and cultural pride as women came together to worship Lord Durga through a fierce display of traditional sword dance.

The Kshatriya Rajput women swung swords while riding jeeps and bikes. The rhythmic movements and synchronized formations created an atmosphere of devotion and enthusiasm among the attendees.

Foreign ambassadors, including representatives from Palestine, Serbia, Ukraine, Eritrea and Thailand, participated in Navratri celebrations in Gujarat, praising the festival's enthusiasm, cultural diversity and role in strengthening people-to-people ties.

At the celebrations in Ahmedabad, Ambassador of Serbia to India Sinisa Pavic said he was impressed by the enthusiasm of young people participating in the program and highlighted the importance of diplomatic representatives experiencing India's diversity.

"I am fascinated by the enthusiasm of the young people participating in this program. It is the most important for us diplomatic representatives of all the states to go to India because India is rich in diversity," Pavic told ANI.



Meanwhile, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said that Garba, an integral part of the state's cultural heritage and folk traditions, has gained global recognition through the Vibrant Navratri Festival initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the inauguration of the Vibrant Navratri Festival 2026, organized by the state government's Tourism Department, Patel said initiatives such as the Vibrant Global Summit had provided a global platform for Gujarat's trade, industry and entrepreneurial spirit.

Shardiya Navratri is a nine-night Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga and her various forms. The festival is marked by religious rituals, devotional singing and traditional dances, including Garba and Dandiya. ANI

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Philosophy

JALALUDDIN RUMI

Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.

The minute I heard my first love story, I started looking for you, not knowing how blind that was. Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along.

Through Love all that is bitter will be sweet, Through Love all that is copper will be gold, Through Love all dregs will become wine, through Love all pain will turn to medicine.

We are born of love; Love is our mother.

The garden of love is green without limit and yields many fruits other than sorrow or joy. Love is beyond either condition: without spring, without autumn, it is always fresh.

Love will find its way through all languages on its own.

This is love: to fly toward a secret sky,

Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form.

Water, stories, the body, all the things we do, are mediums that hide and show what's hidden.

That which is false troubles the heart, but truth brings joyous tranquillity. There is an invisible strength within us; when it recognizes two opposing objects of desire, it grows stronger.

Woman is a ray of God. She is not that earthly beloved: she is creative, not created.

Beg of God the removal of envy, that God may deliver you from externals, and bestow upon you an inward occupation, which will absorb you so that your attention is not drawn away.

I have seen the king with a face of Glory, He who is the eye and the sun of heaven, He who is the companion and healer of all beings, He who is the soul and the universe that births souls.

Something opens our wings. Something makes boredom and hurt disap-



Jalaluddin Rumi

Seek the barriers to love within you
Your depression is connected to your insolence and refusal to praise

to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment. First to let go of life. Finally, to take a step without feet.

Everything that is made beautiful and fair and lovely is made for the eye of one who sees.

There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground; there are a thousand ways to go home again.

Plant the love of the holy ones within your spirit; don't give your heart to anything, but the love of those whose hearts are glad. I have no companion but Love, no beginning, no end, no dawn. The Soul calls from within me: 'You, ignorant of the way of Love, set Me free.'

The moment I first heard love I gave up my soul, my heart, and my eyes.

You left and I cried tears of blood. My sorrow grows. Its not just that You left. But when You left my eyes went with You. Now, how will I cry?

The gifts of lovers to one another are, in respect to love, nothing but forms; yet, they testify to invisible love.

Your depression is connected to your insolence and refusal to praise.

pear. Someone fills the cup in front of us: We taste only sacredness.

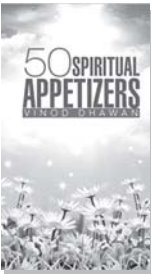
If you find the mirror of the heart dull, the rust has not been cleared from its face. That which God said to the rose, and caused it to laugh in full-blown beauty, He said to my heart, and made it a hundred times more beautiful.

And so it is, that both the Devil and the angelic Spirit present us with objects of desire to awaken our power of choice.

Excerpted from *Brainy Quote. The 819th birth anniversary of Jalaluddin Rumi was observed on September 30.*

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Reimagining India-Canada relations:
Towards a mutually beneficial relationship for wider public good

MOHAMMED BADRUL ALAM

From a historical perspective, the impact of Komagata Maru (1914) and the Ghadar Movement (1913) were seminal events as those major landmark markers fuelled intense anti-British sentiments among the Indian Diasporas and its sympathizers in Canada and which culminated in India achieving independence from the British colonial rule in 1947. India and Canada established diplomatic relations the same year itself. Both countries have adopted federal structure in their constitutional framework as its main corner pieces. Both India and Canada are members of several multilateral bodies including G-20, Commonwealth of Nations, UN, and other bodies.

India has consistently received generous financial packages from Canada including from the Colombo Plan. Although relations have witnessed some down slid-

Enhanced Trajectory in Trade and Commerce

In 2024, India was Canada's seventh-largest goods and services trading partner, with two-way trade coming to \$30.4 billion while more than 600 Canadian firms currently operate in India. Both nations aim to grow bilateral trade significantly to a \$50 billion target by 2030. Canada considers India to be a reliable trading partner given its status rising to the fourth rank just after USA, China, and Germany.

Canada in sync with India also has similar 'open, inclusive' priority in the Indo-Pacific theatre in order to make the latter region as Canada's second largest regional export market trading partner after the US. India can also tap into Canada's vast trade potential as Canada has consistently figured among the top ten among the largest economies in the world with a projected

2026 GDP of approximately in the range of \$2-4 trillion. Bilateral trade in services between India and Canada is approximately CAD\$ 19.61 billion with potential for immense growth in areas such as pharmaceuticals, textiles from India, and from Canada: energy, critical minerals, pulses and timbers. Two-way trade remains substantial, approx. CAD 30-33 billion in 2024/2025.

Mark Carney's assumption as prime minister in March 2025 has brought India-Canada relations to its basics by forging a closer partnership in recent times. September 2025 G7 meeting in which PM Carney and PM Modi met in Kananaskis, Alberta, facilitated in understanding each other's perspectives

ing, such as over 1974's India's Pokhran-1 Peaceful Nuclear Explosion project, 1998 Pokhran-2 nuclear explosions tests by India and subsequent economic sanctions that was imposed by Canada, the 2023 announcement by then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the House of Commons of India's involvement in the killing of a Canadian as a 'credible allegation' and India dubbing it as 'absurd and motivated.'

Mark Carney's assumption as prime minister in March 2025 has brought India-Canada relations to its basics by forging a closer partnership in recent times. September 2025 G7 meeting in which PM Carney and PM Modi met in Kananaskis, Alberta, facilitated in understanding each other's perspectives better and in emphasizing on the areas of convergence and deliverables. Carney's visit to India in February-March 2026 can be considered as a value multiplier in the right direction.

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that is being currently negotiated between India and Canada and is in its final leg is likely to give further fillip to multiple sectors including infrastructure, clean energy, bio energy, solar wind, textile, engineering goods, chemicals, semiconductors, agri-food and automotive, electric vehicles, digital and fintech, etc.

Further collaboration can expand across other areas as well such as in crude oil, LNG, LPG, uranium, and hydrogen and through Canada's proactive participation in the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuel Alliance as a full member.

(The author is formerly, Director of Research; Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. South Asia Monitor

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

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One wounded Indian pilot was the last line of defense; that is the problem

MEDA PARAMESWARA REDDY

When flydubai flight FZ1073 began plunging toward the Arabian desert on September 30, the person standing between 174 people and the catastrophe was an Indian captain lying on the cockpit floor, bleeding. Captain Smit Machchhar, a Mumbai-born Boeing 737 veteran, had been attacked by his own first officer, and Israeli officials said the jet dropped nearly 14,000 feet in under 30 seconds. Somehow the wounded captain reached the cockpit door release. Crew and passengers overpowered the attacker, and two off-duty flydubai pilots riding in the cabin landed safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Machchhar in an Abu Dhabi hospital to thank him, and India is rightly proud. UAE prosecutors say the co-pilot attempted a terrorist attack with the cockpit's own crash axe, and the investigation continues. But as someone who spent a career building products that were not allowed to fail, I

reers and the safety of millions of travelers.

The Standard Must be Zero

Six Sigma, the manufacturing benchmark, allows about 3.4 defects per million. That is superb for television. Where one failure kills hundreds, I have argued for a



Captain Smit Machchhar

Thirteen-Sigma standard that designs failure out rather than making it rare. The reinforced cockpit door shows why. Built after September 11 to keep attackers out, it protected the attacker in Germanwings Flight 9525, when a co-pilot locked out his captain and killed all 150 aboard. On FZ1073,

ams. The task now is to make those checks continuous and trusted, and to expect the same of the foreign airlines that employ Indian pilots. And since the weapon was already on board, emergency tools should be stowed so that removing them alerts the crew and the ground.

A Cockpit That Watches Itself

Small private planes already carry Garmin's Emergency Autoland which can land on its own. Yet a jet carrying 174 people has nothing that notices two pilots fighting. Sensors, seat-side panic buttons, and software that flags violently conflicting control inputs could alert the cabin within seconds. In the R&D world I came from, this is a first-generation engineering problem. Pilot unions have long opposed cockpit cameras over privacy, but a system that stores nothing unless triggered is a smoke detector, not surveillance.

Training for the Unthinkable

Machchhar told PM Modi he was fighting for his life but told himself to get up and act. Under attack, adrenaline floods the body and the amygdala pushes toward freezing or fighting; whether the brain can still direct one purposeful act depends on what was rehearsed.

Europe already requires startle and surprise training, but for stalls and engine failures, not a violent colleague. Pilots should drill for the threat in the next seat.

An Emirati airline, an Indian captain, Israeli passengers, and Saudi authorities all played a part. India, re-elected to the ICAO Council last year, is well placed to push these standards into global aviation rules. The best tribute to Captain Machchhar is making sure the next crew never needs a hero.

(The author is the Director of the Reddy Center for Critical and Integrated Thinking. A former R&D executive holding 30 U.S. patents, he specializes in interdisciplinary research and public policy analysis. South Asia Monitor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Machchhar in an Abu Dhabi hospital to thank him, and India is rightly proud. UAE prosecutors say the co-pilot attempted a terrorist attack with the cockpit's own crash axe, and the investigation continues

see a security system whose final safeguard was one injured man's consciousness. That is not a safety system. That is luck wearing a uniform.

Why India has Most at Stake

For India, this is not a distant Gulf story. About 4.3 million Indians live in the UAE, roughly a third of its population, and Indian pilots fly for airlines across the region. At home, Indian airlines have more than 1,700 aircraft on order, and the government expects to need about 30,000 more pilots over the next two decades. The standards India sets now will shape tens of thousands of ca-

rescue hinged on one bleeding man reaching one switch.

Screening no one Needs to Hide From

UAE officials reportedly described the co-pilot as suicidal and radically indoctrinated, yet he passed screening. Pilots everywhere conceal mental-health problems for fear of losing their licenses, and a system that punishes honesty guarantees concealment. India's DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) saw this early: in 2023 it directed airlines to run non-punitive peer-support programs and add mental-health checks to medical ex-



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ELECTION COMMISSION CREDIBILITY

The widespread mass demonstrations demanding resignation of India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Mr. Gyanesh Kumar, have caused police lockdown and severe disruptions across New Delhi recently. The protest is supported by most opposition parties, including the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and several student unions in India. The current controversy concerns the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and allegations that eligible voters may have been excluded unfairly.

A major media investigation reported, two additional Election Commissioners had recorded objections to aspects of the CEC's decision-making. The Election Commission of India (ECI) acknowledges those notes but maintains the differing views were part of its deliberations but decisions were unanimous. The allegations of politically motivated voter exclusion however remains disputed.

The Opposition objects to the SIR of electoral rolls, arguing that eligible voters have been wrongly removed, affecting election results. And claims, the independence of constitutional institutions is under threat, and all eligible citizens must have equal opportunity to vote.

Opposition leaders marched towards the Supreme Court on 12 October, after the Chief Justice declined their request for a meeting and advised them to pursue the matter through proper legal proceedings.

Why is Delhi witnessing so much disorder?

There are two sides to the controversy.

The Opposition's position: It says the voter-list revision may have deprived legitimate citizens of their voting rights and the CEC must be held accountable.

The ruling party BJP and CEC's position: The ECI says people whose names were wrongly removed can re-enroll, while the BJP accuses the Opposition of creating disorder for political advantage.

The reported voter-list revision involves 130+ million names nationwide, including deceased people, people who have relocated and, people untraced. The important question is whether the process correctly distinguished ineligible entries from eligible voters. The total number of deletions alone does not prove electoral manipulation.

General assessment:

We believe the Opposition has a legitimate responsibility to question the ECI if evidence suggests eligible voters were excluded. Voting is the foundation of democracy, and allegations of this seriousness deserves transparent investigation.

However, the Opposition must act responsibly; choking roads, disrupting public transport, provoking confrontations and defying lawful restrictions can inconvenience ordinary citizens and weaken public support for a legitimate cause.

Likewise, authorities must not use public-order concerns as blanket justification for suppressing peaceful dissent. Constitutional rights permit peaceful assembly, subject to reasonable legal restrictions.

What should happen now?

Conduct an independent, transparent audit of disputed voter deletions.

Give affected citizens accessible opportunity to verify and restore their names.

Allow peaceful demonstrations at suitable, designated locations.

Investigate any evidence of misconduct without assuming guilt in advance.

Let courts examine the legality of the electoral process and the restrictions imposed on protesters.

In conclusion the Opposition should focus on evidence, legal remedies and electoral reform, rather than prolonged street confrontations. The government and ECI in turn must answer legitimate questions transparently.

Democracy is strengthened when institutions are accountable and opposition parties allowed to challenge them peacefully.

The real test is not which political party wins the confrontation. It is whether every eligible Indian can vote freely and trust their vote will count.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Pachmarhi

Madhya Pradesh hill station of caves, waterfalls, and forests



Pachmarhi is the only hill station and is the highest point in Madhya Pradesh. Pachmarhi is also often known as "Satpura ki Rani" or the "Queen of the Satpura Range". Situated at an altitude of 1,067 meters, the picturesque town is a part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home to leopards and bison.

Five sandstone cut caves on the hilltop are believed to be the spot where Pandavas stayed in Pachmarhi during their exile, making it a popular spot among religious tourists. Being at an elevated height and surrounded by bewitching forests of the Satpuras with the streams and waterfalls, Pachmarhi is a perfect weekend getaway from the nearby cities of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Since the town was discovered and developed in modern times by Captain James Forsyth of the British Army, it houses charming churches built in colonial style architecture.

Bee falls: Among the many small and big waterfalls in Pachmarhi, Bee Falls is the most popular one which provides drinking water to the entire city. The

35 meters cascading falls can be reached through a short trek and is a famous picnic spot for the town folks.

Jata Shankar caves: The Jata Shankar Caves in Pachmarhi are considered sacred as they are popularly believed to be the place where Lord Shiva concealed himself from the wrath of Bhasmasur.

Dhoopgarh: The highest point in the Satpura range, Dhoopgarh hilltop is a beau-

tiful spot to see marvelous sunsets and sunrises. However, this point can only be reached by trekking. The trekking route is relatively tough as it passes through some waterfalls and valleys.

Among the many small and big waterfalls in Pachmarhi, Bee Falls is the most popular one which provides drinking water to the entire city. The 35 meters cascading falls can be reached through a short trek and is a famous picnic spot for the town folks

Handi Khoh: One of the most beautiful ravines in Central India, Handi Khoh has a 300 feet high precipice in the middle of a dense forest. The place has a mythologi-

cal history and is believed to be closely associated with Lord Shiva.

Duchess falls: One of the most beautiful cascades in Pachmarhi, the Duchess Falls crash over a hundred meters creating a majestic roar. The beautiful waterfalls bifurcate into three different cascades and a tourist has to travel for 4km to reach the base of the first cataract.

Reechgarh: Reechgarh is a large cave

hidden within the hills of Pachmarhi, named after a local legend that a giant bear (reech in Hindi) once lived here. The climb up to the cave passes through lush greenery, and the cave itself stays naturally cool with a steady breeze running through it.

Satpura National Park: The Satpura National Park is located in the beautiful and diverse suburbs of Madhya Pradesh and is

one of the most diverse and striking national parks in Central India. One of India's most beautiful tiger reserves, the sanctuary was the winner of the TOFT Wildlife Tourism Award for the most visitor-friendly wildlife destinations in the year 2010.

Pandava Caves: These caves are believed to provide shelter to the Pandavas during their exile period. It is now a protected monument and tourists flock from all over India to see this place.

Chauragarh Temple: Chauragarh Temple is a revered Shiva shrine atop Chauragarh hill in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh. Shaivite devotees climb nearly 1,300 steps to reach the temple at the crest, which is known for the thousands of tridents left behind by devotees over the years.

Best time to visit Pachmarhi

Pachmarhi can be visited throughout the year, though the best time to visit Pachmarhi is from October to June. The summers are pleasant followed by moderate showers during the monsoon which leave the weather very attractive and enjoyable. www.holidify.com

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