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PAKISTAN DUBIOUS ROLE

Chinese weapons transfer to Iran through Pakistan cast doubts on Islamabad's role

OTTAWA: Pakistan's claim of being an "honest broker" has been further undermined throughout the US-Iran war by a series of actions that starkly contradict its self-appointed image as a peacemaker, a report has highlighted.

Citing the latest reports, Canada-based 'Geopolitical Monitor' stated that the transit of Chinese weapons through Pakistan to Iran should prompt Washington to reassess Islamabad's carefully cultivated image as a neutral mediator in the Iran war.

"The alleged transfer, involving between 300 and 400 Chinese air-defense systems worth up to \$70 million, is merely the latest in a series of developments that cast serious doubt on Pakistan's claim to impartiality.

Islamabad's self-proclaimed role as a "peacemaker among the nations of the world" was already difficult to reconcile with its own regional security commitments and recent tensions with Tehran, long before hostilities erupted in the Middle East. This is without mentioning Pakistan's own conflict with neighboring Afghanistan," the report detailed.

"Acting as a conduit for Chinese arms shipments to Iran, however, represents the clearest and most significant contradiction yet. Not only does such assistance bolster Iran's military capabilities, but it also helps to prolong the very war that Pakistan's political and military leaders insist they are working to end," it stated.

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US judge blocks four-year student visa cap

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Lam Research to invest Rs 10,000 crore in India

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The Great Elephant Migration

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the attendees as he graces the inauguration of SEMICON India 2026, in New Delhi on September 17. (DPR PMO/ANI Photo)

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This week's question

Will QUAD role change after
BRICS advancement?

Last week's result

Will India be able to use all the
talent returning to India?

YES 6% NO 94%

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3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538
Tel: 510-396-9140 • Fax: 510-790-2806 • e-mail: info@indiapost.com

E-SUBSCRIPTIONS & EDITORIAL: Naresh Sodhi: Tel: 510-938-8667 • e-mail: naresh@indiapost.com

ADVERTISEMENT: Naresh Sodhi: Tel: 510-938-8667 • e-mail: naresh@indiapost.com or nareshsodhi@gmail.com

Graphics Inquiry: E-mail: ghanshyam@indiapost.com

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For editorial, contact: editor@indiapost.com

PAKISTAN DUBIOUS ROLE

Chinese weapons transfer to Iran through Pakistan cast doubts on Islamabad's role

OTTAWA: Pakistan's claim of being an "honest broker" has been further undermined throughout the US-Iran war by a series of actions that starkly contradict its self-appointed image as a peacemaker, a report has highlighted.

Citing the latest reports, Canada-based 'Geopolitical Monitor' stated that the transit of Chinese weapons through Pakistan to Iran should prompt Washington to reassess Islamabad's carefully cultivated image as a neutral mediator in the Iran war.

"The alleged transfer, involving between 300 and 400 Chinese air-defense systems worth up to \$70 million, is merely the latest in a series of developments that cast serious doubt on Pakistan's claim to impartiality. Islamabad's self-proclaimed role as a "peacemaker among the nations of the world" was already difficult to reconcile with its own regional security commitments and recent tensions with Tehran, long before hostilities erupted in the Middle East. This is without mentioning Pakistan's own conflict with neighboring Afghanistan," the report detailed.

"Acting as a conduit for Chinese arms shipments to Iran, however, represents the clearest and most significant contradiction yet. Not only does such assistance bolster Iran's military capabilities, but it also helps to prolong the very war that Pakistan's political and military leaders insist they are working to end," it

stated.

The report noted that Pakistan was seeking to broker a ceasefire even as it

negotiations with the United States, but the explanation remains questionable.

"After all, for Iran, relocating military

for this purpose," it added.

According to the report, Pakistan's role in facilitating Chinese weapons transfers to Iran is the strongest contradiction yet of Islamabad's claim to be a peacemaker.

Iran's deal with China is its largest known effort to acquire weapons and replenish its stockpiles since the war began, indicating that the Islamic Republic is preparing for a prolonged conflict rather than an imminent settlement.

At the same time, Islamabad has sought an additional \$10 billion in assistance from Washington in exchange for its peace-making efforts, even though those efforts have failed to deliver a long-term settlement, it mentioned.

"Pakistani officials officially requested the funds from the US Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF), which has been used previously to support strategic allies, such as Argentina, in the past. The promise of political and economic gain has therefore been the driving motivation behind Pakistan's actions in the past few months, rather than a commitment to securing regional stability," the report stated.

"This, coupled with its continued assistance to Tehran, limited diplomatic capabilities, and subservience to Beijing, underscores the reality that securing a credible and lasting peace cannot be a task entrusted to Islamabad," it noted. *IANS*



"Acting as a conduit for Chinese arms shipments to Iran, however, represents the clearest and most significant contradiction yet. Not only does such assistance bolster Iran's military capabilities, but it also helps to prolong the very war that Pakistan's political and military leaders insist they are working to end,"

reportedly allowed Iranian military aircraft to shelter at Pakistani Air Force Base Nur Khan. Islamabad denied the allegation, insisting that the aircraft were transporting diplomatic personnel involved in peace

aircraft to neighboring countries appears a tried and tested means of shielding valuable military hardware from US and Israeli strikes, having also moved aircraft to Afghanistan before the war precisely

Ajay Banga makes nuclear energy World Bank priority: US Treasury Secretary

WASHINGTON: World Bank President Ajay Banga has made nuclear energy financing a priority as the institution returns to the sector after decades, US Treasury



World Bank President
Ajay Banga

Secretary Scott Bessent has told lawmakers.

The policy shift comes as the World Bank prepares to phase out lending to China by 2031 and direct more of its resources towards poorer countries requiring development assistance.

"Mr. Banga, who heads the World Bank, we have made it clear to him that this is a priority," Bessent told the House Financial Services Committee. "And indeed, he has adopted this as a priority."

"This is the first time in decades that the World Bank has moved forward on nuclear energy," he said.

Bessent said nuclear power could help poorer countries improve living standards, expand economic opportunities and secure sustainable sources of electricity.

"I think it is an important part for the

Committee Chairman French Hill said the institution had taken its first concrete step by reaching an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The arrangement allows the bank to receive technical expertise from the UN nuclear watchdog, support existing reactors and examine the potential of small

"I think it is an important part for the poorest countries in engaging in their -- in increasing their welfare levels and increasing their prosperity and developing truly sustainable energy,"

poorest countries in engaging in their -- in increasing their welfare levels and increasing their prosperity and developing truly sustainable energy," he said.

The World Bank began returning to nuclear energy financing in June 2025 after years of avoiding the sector.

modular reactors.

"This year, we also saw the first contribution to a new Nuclear Energy Assistance Trust Fund at the bank, which I hope will see additional funds from the US Treasury going forward," Hill said.

"Developing economies need access

to reliable and affordable electricity to grow, making this exactly the kind of practical, pro-growth approach these institutions should fully embrace," he added.

The committee had supported legislation encouraging the World Bank to reconsider its restrictions on nuclear financing. Republican Representative John Rose said the change could provide developing countries with reliable, affordable and secure energy.

The institution's renewed interest in nuclear power is taking place alongside a broader reassessment of where its development funds should be directed. *IANS*



US Treasury Secretary
Scott Bessent

'Deeply alarming': Rights body on rising violence against women, children in Bangladesh

DHAKA: As violence against women and children continued to escalate in Bangladesh, a leading human rights organization strongly condemned the recurring incidents of rape, abuse and killings targeting women and children across the country, local media reported.

Dhaka-based rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) expressed profound shock and outrage over the rape and killing of a seven-year-old child in Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur district.

According to police, the child was sexually assaulted before being killed, and her body was subsequently found buried beneath the floor of a house, leading Bangladeshi daily The Dhaka Tribune reported.

Condemning the brutal incident and extending its sympathies to the bereaved family, MJF said the Jamalpur case should not be viewed as an isolated crime,

The growing reports of rape, sexual abuse, harassment and killings of women and children across Bangladesh have highlighted a disturbing pattern of violence.

The central questions remain whether women and children are safe in homes, schools and communities, and whether perpetrators are facing timely justice, The Dhaka Tribune reported.

Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of

Manusher Jonno Foundation, described the continued reports of rape, abuse and killing of women and children across the country as deeply alarming and unacceptable.

She emphasized that children deserve a safe environment at home, on their way to school, in educational institutions and throughout the community.

"We cannot allow these incidents to become headlines for a few days and then disappear from public attention. Every

women and children cannot be limited to taking action after a crime has been committed.

The organization has called for an emergency-level response to violence against women and children, coupled with stronger preventive safeguards such as functioning Sexual Harassment Committees in madrasas and other educational institutions in Bangladesh.

Earlier this month, Dhaka-based Hu-

According to police, the child was sexually assaulted before being killed, and her body was subsequently found buried beneath the floor of a house, leading Bangladeshi daily The Dhaka Tribune reported

case must be investigated promptly, those responsible must be held accountable, and stronger protection and prevention systems must be put in place. Parents and guardians must also remain attentive to children's safety, listen to them carefully, and respond quickly to signs of fear, distress or risk. Protecting children requires shared responsibility from families, institutions, communities and the State," Anam added.

MJF has stressed that protecting

man Rights Support Society (HRSS) documented that at least 249 women and children were subjected to violence across Bangladesh in August this year, including 79 rape cases, local media reported.

In its latest report, the HRSS said that 46 children were among the rape victims, while 18 women and girls were subjected to gangrape. The report also documented sexual harassment of 93 women and girls, including 38 children. *IANS*

China's Belt and Road Initiative shifts from infrastructure financing to debt collection: Bessent

WASHINGTON: China's Belt and Road Initiative has shifted from financing infrastructure to collecting debts from countries struggling to repay Chinese loans, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has told lawmakers.

Bessent made the assessment during a House Financial Services Committee hearing on the international financial system. He accused China of using opaque lending terms and hidden provisions that obstruct debt restructuring in developing economies.

"It is also my opinion that this widely talked about Belt and Road Initiative has gone from a lending operation to a collection operation, as they have bankrupted many or are bankrupting many of their borrowers," Bessent said.

The Treasury secretary said the United States had raised Chinese lending practices during the recent Group of 20 meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

He said transparency was essential for countries seeking to renegotiate unsustainable debt. The International Monetary Fund supported greater disclosure of lending terms, he added.

"The Chinese System of lending includes many tolling agreements, many the hidden provisions and transparency in debt restructuring is the ultimate feature for a successful debt restructuring," Bessent said.

He was responding to Republican Representative Scott Fitzgerald, who said China was delaying debt restructuring and distorting the international financial system through opaque lending practices and management of its exchange rate.

Bessent said the first debt restructuring since the G20 discussions was expected to take place, but he did not identify the country involved or provide a timetable.

The hearing also examined China's role at the IMF and World Bank.

Committee Chairman French Hill said the World Bank's decision to phase out lending to China by 2031 was "an important step in the right direction".

"China has enormous financial resources of their own," Hill said. "It is a major global creditor and uses state-directed investment to advance its economic and geopolitical interests around the world." *IANS*

"H-1B should not exist to replace American workers with low-wage foreigners": US VP JD Vance

WASHINGTON, DC: United States Vice President JD Vance has addressed administrative efforts to reform the H-1B visa program to ensure it targets top-tier talent rather than displacing domestic professionals.

Speaking on the popular business and technology show the All-In Podcast, Vance explained the rationale behind bypassing legislative channels due to political gridlock, stating, "Look, man, we looked at the fraud in the system and we said, you know, one, Congress is not going to pass a law changing this. There just isn't the political will to do it. So what are the things that we can do administratively to ensure that if a tech company is going to try to get an H-1B visa, it's an actual genius."

Elaborating on the core purpose of the initiative, he added, "It's a person that is going to significantly enrich the tech ecosystem or the American economy. You know, you're not just replacing one accountant who makes \$60,000 with a lower-wage foreign accountant who

makes \$45,000 a year. That is not what the program exists for."

Highlighting specific financial and protective measures being introduced, he noted, "And so we came up with this idea to impose a \$100,000 fee. We're also looking at various ways of preventing companies that use H-1B visas from laying off a bunch of American workers. So you

Vance explained the rationale behind bypassing legislative channels due to political gridlock, stating, "Look, man, we looked at the fraud in the system and we said, you know, one, Congress is not going to pass a law changing this

know, one of the things that I find just shocking about this is you'll have a company that applies for an H-1B and they'll say, oh, we're desperate for workers."

Calling out contradictions in corporate hiring practices, Vance stated, "We can't find the workers. And then you go and look at their history and they've laid off 5,000

people. Well, that's ridiculous."

Detailing the administration's stance on workforce displacement, he added, "If you're laying off American workers, you shouldn't be going to the market searching for foreign workers to replace them. So we're doing a lot within the confines, of course, of what we're allowed to do legally. We've gotten sued on some of this stuff,

but I think fundamentally we're on the right on both the law and the policy."

Reiterating the intended objective of the visa framework, he said, "The H-1B should not exist to replace American workers with low-wage foreigners. It should exist to enrich the American economy. And that's exactly what we're trying to make sure it does." *ANI*

India has potential to power next wave of global growth: IMF

WASHINGTON: India has the potential to power the next wave of global growth, supported by its strong economic foundations, private-sector dynamism and expanding technological capabilities, a senior International Monetary Fund official has said.

IMF Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke made the assessment after completing a five-day visit to India that included meetings in New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

"India has the potential to power the next wave of global growth, and the IMF remains a close partner in supporting the country on this journey," Clarke said in a statement issued from Washington.

It was Clarke's first visit to India as an IMF deputy managing director. He met Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra and NITI

Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri. "I was delighted to visit India for the first time as Deputy Managing Director of the IMF and engage with senior officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai," he said.

Clarke thanked the three senior Indian

economic expansion. "India continues to be a key driver of global growth as the world's fastest-growing major economy, supported by strong fundamentals and sound policy frameworks," he said. Clarke said his discussions with Indian policymakers covered the country's eco-

can lift productivity, strengthen competitiveness, and sustain strong growth over the medium term." Clarke also thanked the Indian government for supporting multilateralism and assisting other countries in the region. During the visit, he met business leaders and examined the role of India's private sector in the country's economic expansion.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to engage with business leaders and was impressed by India's private sector dynamism, deep talent pool, and rapidly evolving technological and manufacturing capabilities," Clarke said.

He identified innovation, digital transformation, advanced manufacturing and wider technology adoption as important drivers of productivity and competitiveness.

"Our exchanges highlighted how innovation, digital transformation, advanced manufacturing, and technology adoption can boost productivity, strengthen competitiveness, and support higher-value activities," he said. *IAN S*

"India has the potential to power the next wave of global growth, and the IMF remains a close partner in supporting the country on this journey," Clarke said in a statement issued from Washington

officials for their "warm hospitality and constructive discussions". The IMF official described India as the world's fastest-growing major economy and a central contributor to international

economic outlook, changes in the global environment and measures needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. "Against a backdrop of heightened global uncertainty and evolving risks, preserving macroeconomic stability and resilience remains essential," he said. "We discussed the importance of maintaining nimble policies, keeping inflation in check, and advancing reforms that

Netanyahu thanks PM Modi for his leadership and enduring friendship

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership and enduring friendship, reciprocating PM Modi's greetings on the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah.

"Thank you, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for your warm wishes to the people of Israel and to me personally. The Jewish New Year provides an occasion to thank you again for your leadership and enduring friendship," the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel stated on X.

"Together, we've transformed the ties between our ancient civilizations into an unprecedented partnership between two great democracies. Sara and I look forward to seeing you again soon," it added.

PM Modi had greeted Netanyahu, the people of Israel and Jewish communities, on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah.

"Shana Tova! Wishing a very happy Rosh Hashanah to Prime Minister Netanyahu, the people of Israel and Jewish communities across the globe. May the new year be filled with peace, hope, good health, and continued progress for all," PM Modi stated on X. *IAN S*

India 'deeply concerned' at drone attack near Mecca, urges early restoration of peace

NEW DELHI: India expressed concern over the recent drone attack near Mecca and expressed hope for early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

In response to media queries regarding the drone attack near Mecca, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal termed the incident "particularly concerning", considering the religious significance of the Saudi Arabian city.

"We are deeply concerned at the drone attack near Makkah (Mecca). India reiterates its condemnation of attacks on the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of actions that endanger civilian lives and infrastructure. The incident near Makkah is particularly concerning, given the special significance of the city to Muslims across the world," Jaiswal said in a statement.

"We hope for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," he added.

The MEA's statement comes after Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces intercepted and destroyed a hostile drone launched by the Houthis before it entered the prohibited airspace area of Mecca. *IAN S*



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A4H announces endorsement of Jenny Rae Le Roux for U.S. Congress

DR. ABHILASH MAROJU

CALIFORNIA : Americans4Hindus (A4H) announced that its National Committee has endorsed Jenny Rae Le Roux, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 47th Congressional District.

The decision followed a Zoom meeting between Le Roux and the 74-member A4H National Committee. During the interactive session, committee members discussed issues of importance to Hindu Americans, civic participation, religious freedom, community representation, and the role of elected representatives in ensuring that diverse communities have a meaningful voice in Washington.

Following the discussion and deliberations, the A4H National Committee decided to proceed with its endorsement of Le Roux and to support her candidacy through funding and campaign activities consistent with applicable election laws.

Cont'd on page 10

India to bring 'Sarang' cultural festival to cities across South Korea

SEOUL: India's annual cultural festival in South Korea will kick off this week, featuring traditional dance performances and workshops in cities across the country, the Indian Embassy in Seoul said.

The 12th edition of 'Sarang - The Festival of India in Korea' will run from 15 through September 22 in Seoul, the southeastern cities of Busan and Gimhae, the southwestern city of Gwangju and other regions, according to the Indian Embassy.

Launched in 2015, the festival aims to showcase India's diverse culture and strengthen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, Yonhap News Agency reported.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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September 18, 2026



Yoga Sangam - 25th anniversary celebration of Yoga Bharati



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

MILPITAS, CA: Yoga Bharati, a prominent non-profit organization dedicated to holistic wellness, marked its 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee with a grand Yoga Sangam 2026 celebration. Held at Milpitas Community Center in the San Francisco Bay Area, the

milestone event honored a quarter-century of dedicated community service, education, and health advocacy through the practice of authentic yoga. Founded in 2001 under the guidance of Shri N.V. Raghuram, the organization has spent two and a half decades making ancient Vedic wisdom accessible to all sections

of modern society. The celebratory evening featured a highly anticipated panel discussion titled "Beyond Survival: Yoga and the Future of Humanity," showcasing insights from esteemed spiritual leaders and authors.

Highlight of the event was an enlightening panel discussion on topics ranging from spirituality,

yoga and its alignment with modern lifestyle. Swami Chidananda Puri, Swami Nirbhayananda, Shri N.V. Raghuram and Dr. Prasad Kaipa answered the questions by Yoga teacher Sriram.

Following the panel, vibrant cultural programs brought the community together. Yoga Sangam included a beautiful traditional performance from the Vishwa Shanthi Dance Academy and an inspiring theatrical production by local youth focused on the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Through its extensive teacher training programs, therapeutic classes, and ongoing community outreach, Yoga Bharati continues to impact thousands of lives across the Bay Area and beyond, reinforcing its timeless mission of fostering health, happiness, and peace.

Fremont Hindu Temple was one of the key sponsors of the event. Dr. Romesh Japra, Chairman Fremont Hindu Temple presented a proclamation and recognized Yoga Bharati and Anil Surur, President of Yoga Bharati for their untiring efforts in promoting Yoga.



Malabar Gold & Diamonds Strengthens Its US Presence with the Launch of Its 9th Showroom in Seattle, Washington



The 9th showroom of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the USA at Seattle, Washington was inaugurated by Mr. Prakash Gupta, Consul General of the Indian Consulate in Seattle in the presence of Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America Operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Shaji K, Chief Digital Officer of Malabar Group; Mr. Jasar R, Branch Head, USA. Other senior management team members, customers and well-wishers were also present

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's 4th largest jewelry retailer with over 450 showrooms across 14 countries, has expanded its presence in the USA with the launch of its newest showroom at Seattle, Washington. Marking the brand's first outlet in the state of Washington, the new showroom launch brings Malabar Gold & Diamonds' presence in the USA to 9.

The showroom was inaugurated by Mr. Prakash Gupta, Consul General of the Indian Consulate in Seattle, in the presence of Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America Operations; Mr. Shaji K, Chief Digital Officer of Malabar Group; Mr. Jasar R, Branch Head USA; and members of the senior leadership team, alongside customers and well-wishers.

M.P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group commented:

"We are delighted to expand our presence in the United States with the opening of our 9th showroom in Seattle. This marks a significant milestone in our North America journey, one that began in 2018 and has grown steadily on the strength of the trust our customers place in us. Our continued growth is driven by the exceptional customer experience we provide and the superior craftsmanship evident in every product showcased throughout our showrooms. As one of the biggest proponents of 'Make in India,' we see every international showroom as a platform to take Indian craftsmanship to the world, and

Seattle is a proud addition to that mission. I want to thank our customers and partners in North America, whose continued confidence has made this expansion possible."

The Bellevue showroom brings together more than 20,000 jewelry creations from around the world, spanning gold, diamond, and precious gemstone categories across 25 exclusive brands and collections. From statement bridal pieces to contemporary designs for everyday and office wear, the showroom caters to every occasion and style preference. Customers can also collaborate with Malabar's

gions we operate in, because for us, business growth and community wellbeing must move forward together."

As a Responsible Jeweler, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has earned global recognition for offering a trusted and seamless jewelry-buying experience, backed by the Malabar Promise; a set of customer-first commitments that include transparent pricing, lifetime maintenance across all showrooms in 14 countries, guaranteed buyback, tested and certified diamonds, 100% value on diamond and gold jewelry exchange, 100% hallmarked jewelry, responsible sourcing, fair pricing, and fair

market with strong long-term potential. This opening is part of our broader coast-to-coast growth strategy. On the West Coast, we plan to expand further into San Francisco, San Diego, and Phoenix, while on the East Coast we are targeting New York, Charlotte, Tampa, Virginia, Houston, and Detroit."

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

As part of its flagship Hunger Free World initiative, Malabar Group distributes more than 142,000 meals every day across 170 locations, including three schools in Zambia. In India, the Group has established 2,553 micro learning centers that support over 102,000 underprivileged children, helping many transition into mainstream education. It has also awarded more than 145,000 scholarships to female students, enabling them to pursue their educational aspirations and build brighter futures.

Furthering its commitment to social welfare, the Group operates the Grandma Home project, which provides shelter and care for destitute and vulnerable women. Through these and several other community-focused initiatives, Malabar Group remains committed to ensuring that its growth and success create a lasting positive impact in the communities it serves around the world.

"We are delighted to expand our presence in the United States with the opening of our 9th showroom in Seattle.

This marks a significant milestone in our North America journey, one that began in 2018 and has grown steadily on the strength of the trust our customers place in us"

expert craftsmen to create custom-made jewelry, while enjoying personalized service in an elegant lounge setting.

Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group said: "As Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues to grow, we remain committed to doing so as a responsible jeweler. Every showroom we open, including this one in Seattle, reflects our ethos of ethical sourcing, transparent pricing, and policies that put the customer's trust first. Alongside this growth, we continue to invest in our ESG initiatives across all re-

labor practices.

Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds commented: "Seattle is a market we have watched closely, and the timing for our entry could not be better. The Pacific Northwest is home to a vibrant and growing South Asian community, and Washington State gives us our first foothold in the region, building on the strong response we've seen across our other showrooms. Seattle's diverse customer base and growing economic importance make it a

Americans4hindus announces endorsement of Jenny Rae Le Roux for U.S. Congress

National committee holds interactive meeting with California Congressional candidate

DR. ABHILASH MAROJU

CALIFORNIA: Americans4Hindus (A4H) announced that its National Committee has endorsed Jenny Rae Le Roux, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 47th Congressional District.

The decision followed a Zoom meeting between Le Roux and the 74-member A4H National Committee. During the interactive session, committee members discussed issues of importance to Hindu Americans, civic participation, religious freedom, community representation, and the role of elected representatives in ensuring that diverse communities have a meaningful voice in Washington.

Following the discussion and deliberations, the A4H National Committee decided to proceed with its endorsement of Le Roux and to support her candidacy through funding and campaign activities consistent with applicable election laws.

A4H stated that, based on the discussion, its National Committee believes Le Roux shares many of the values and priorities important to Hindu Americans and expressed confidence that she would listen to and represent the community's concerns in the U.S. Congress

A4H stated that, based on the discussion, its National Committee believes Le Roux shares many of the values and priorities important to Hindu Americans and expressed confidence that she would listen to and represent the community's concerns in the U.S. Congress.

Americans4Hindus describes its mission as empowering Hindu and pro-Hindu Americans through greater civic participation, public service, voter engagement, and representation at every level of government.

Issued by Americans4Hindus
Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder & Chairman; and Geeta Sikand, Senior National Vice President - Communications.

About Americans4Hindus (A4H)
Americans4Hindus is dedicated to empowering Hindu Americans through politi-

cal education, leadership development, strategic endorsements, and community mobilization. Americans4Hindus continues to expand its national presence by building alliances, empowering communi-

ties, 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 (A4H PAC) WWW.AMERICANS4HINDUS.ORG CERTIFICATE OF ENDORSEMENT for Jenny Rae Le Roux Candidate for U.S. Congress – California's 47th Congressional District (2026)

Americans4Hindus proudly endorses **Jenny Rae Le Roux** in her campaign for the United States House of Representatives from California's 47th Congressional District.

Jenny Rae brings a strong background in business, entrepreneurship, financial services, and government reform. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from Columbia Business School, and has built and led businesses in the private sector. She currently serves as Executive Director of California DOGE, where her work has focused on identifying government waste, fraud, and mismanagement.

Why We Endorse Jenny Rae Le Roux:

- **Government Accountability**
Brings a strong focus on transparency, responsible spending, and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government.
- **Business & Economic Experience**
Her experience as an entrepreneur and business executive provides a practical perspective on economic growth, affordability, and the challenges facing working families and businesses.
- **Affordability & Opportunity**
Supports policies aimed at reducing unnecessary government costs, encouraging investment, expanding housing opportunities, and strengthening economic opportunity.
- **Education & Merit**
Advocates for transparency and merit-based opportunity in education and greater accountability in publicly funded institutions.
- **Independent, Results-Oriented Leadership**
Brings private-sector experience and a focus on measurable results rather than traditional political approaches.

Americans4Hindus believes Jenny Rae Le Roux represents a strong voice for accountability, economic opportunity, and responsible government. Her professional experience and commitment to addressing waste and improving government effectiveness make her a compelling candidate to represent California's 47th Congressional District.

Americans4Hindus extends its full and enthusiastic endorsement of Jenny Rae Le Roux for the U.S. House of Representatives, California's 47th Congressional District.
Executive.


Dr. Romesh K. Japra
Founder & Chairman
Americans4Hindus PAC


Geeta Sikand
Senior National Vice President,
(Communications), A4H PAC

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2 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 4338, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94913.

India to bring 'Sarang' cultural festival to cities across South Korea

SEOUL: India's annual cultural festival in South Korea will kick off this week, featuring traditional dance performances and workshops in cities across the country, the Indian Embassy in Seoul said.

The 12th edition of 'Sarang - The Festival of India in Korea' will run from 15 through September 22 in Seoul, the southeastern cities of Busan and Gimhae, the southwestern city of Gwangju and other regions, according to the Indian Embassy.

Launched in 2015, the festival aims to showcase India's diverse culture and strengthen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, Yonhap News Agency reported.

This year's festival will feature Odissi, one of India's major classical dance traditions, performed by a visiting troupe, led by renowned dancer Madhulita Mohapatra.

The troupe will give its opening performance at Ewha Womans University in Seoul before travelling to other regions. It will also hold workshops for Korean dance enthusiasts, the embassy said



Indian American lawmakers slam DHS 'Mr Singh' post

WASHINGTON: Five Indian American lawmakers have urged President Donald Trump to act over a deleted Department of Homeland Security post depicting a man called "Mr. Singh", warning that it could encourage racial profiling and hostility towards Sikh and South Asian Americans.

Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, Suhas Subramanyam, Pramila Jayapal and Ami Bera, all Democrats, raised their concerns in a September 15 letter to Trump. They accused the agency of using Sikh identity to portray a dangerous and unwanted foreigner while promoting immigration enforcement.

According to the letter, the post depicted a brown, bearded man identified as "Mr. Singh". It told him to "get off our roads" and warned him to "self-deport or find out".

The lawmakers said the name Singh was closely associated with Sikh identity. Its use in this context was degrading, they argued.

"We write to express grave concern about the increasingly open racial and xenophobic hostility directed at South Asian Americans, particularly Sikh Americans,

and about the ways federal rhetoric surrounding immigration and visa policy can reinforce the idea that these communities are suspect, disposable, or less American," they wrote.

The letter also questioned how DHS promoted a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement tipline. The lawmakers said the agency had formally described it as a mechanism for reporting suspected commercial driving license fraud.

Its social media messaging, however, urged people to report "illegal aliens on American roads", they said.

Paired with the depiction of "Mr. Singh", that language could encourage people to treat perceived ethnicity, religion or foreignness as grounds for suspicion, the lawmakers warned. They said the campaign created a risk of racial profiling affecting Sikh, South Asian and other nonwhite drivers, including US citizens.

The supplied material did not include a response from DHS or the White House to the letter.

The lawmakers cited findings from Stop AAPI Hate to support their concerns. Anti-

Separately, the 14th Indian Film Festival will be held in November, featuring six award-winning Indian films with Korean subtitles under the theme "Against the Odds: Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Courage," it added.

Meanwhile, at Heritage Korea 2026, the Indian Embassy showcased traditional arts and crafts from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

"India at Heritage Korea 2026: The Embassy showcased India's vibrant cultural heritage at Heritage Korea 2026 in Gyeongju (September 11-12), featuring traditional arts and crafts from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Mehendi and Mandala art offered visitors an immersive, hands-on experience of India's rich cultural traditions,"

the Embassy stated on X.

The Embassy also participated in the Sinchon World Youth Festival, showcasing the diversity of Indian culture.

"Celebrating India at the Sinchon World Youth Festival! The Embassy participated in the Sinchon World Youth Festival from September 12-13, showcasing the diversity of Indian culture," the Embassy stated on X.

"Visitors enjoyed hands-on experiences of Mandala art and Mehendi, while a captivating Kathak dance performance by SVCC Kathak Teacher and Students brought the elegance of India's classical traditions to the stage. The Embassy also promoted the upcoming Sarang Festival of India in Korea, inviting audiences to discover more of India's rich cultural heritage," it added. IANS

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Indian missions abroad celebrate Hindi Diwas with literary gatherings and poetry recitations

HOUSTON: Indian missions across the world hosted literary gatherings and events, on occasion of Hindi Diwas 2026 on 14 September. The Consulate General of India in Houston held an event celebrating the Hindi language that was attended by Minister of Housing, Urban Affairs and Power, Manohar Lal.

"On the occasion of Hindi Diwas 2026, the Consulate General of India, Houston, in collaboration with the International Hindi Association - Houston Chapter, hosted a beautiful Sahityik Milan (Literary Gathering) celebrating the richness, inclusivity, and vibrancy of the Hindi language," the Consulate stated on X.

"The event was graced by Hon'ble Minister Shri Manohar Lal, whose presence and inspiring words energized and motivated the Hindi loving community across the region. CGI Houston extends its sincere appreciation to all Hindi enthusiasts, volunteers, and partner organizations whose dedication made the celebration truly special," it added.

The Embassy of India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) celebrated Hindi Diwas in association with Indian schools in Abu Dhabi, featuring poetry recitations and essay competitions.

"Embassy, in association with Indian schools in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, celebrated



'Hindi Diwas 2026'. The event featured poetry recitations, essay competitions and a 'Hindi quiz'. Teachers and students were also felicitated, celebrating the beauty and creativity of Hindi," the Indian Embassy in the UAE stated on X.

The Embassy of India in Bahrain also celebrated the Hindi Day through poetry recitations, skits, dance performances

and participation in a Hindi quiz.

"Hindi Day was celebrated at the Embassy of India, Bahrain, with Embassy family coming together to celebrate the richness and relevance of Hindi through poetry recitations, skits, dance performances and participation in a Hindi Quiz, highlighting the language's enduring significance, H.E. Ambassador delivered his address in Hindi

and felicitated the participants during the event, encouraging the celebration and promotion of Hindi and its rich linguistic heritage," the Embassy stated on X.

The Embassy noted that the 18th BRICS Summit was also promoted during the event, highlighting India's leadership and commitment to strengthening cooperation among BRICS nations. IANS

Indian-origin woman tries to save fallen friend on New York subway track; both killed

NEW YORK: An Indian-origin woman heroically dove onto a city subway track to save a friend who had fallen, but tragically, both were killed by an oncoming train that could not stop in time, according to police.

The tragedy, caught on an eerie video, happened early Sunday morning (13 Sept.) at a Manhattan station in the city's metro system when both friends were waiting for a train, according to police.

Navam Kaul ended up on the track, and Malaika Chitre tried futilely to save him, police said.

Authorities said detectives from the New York Police Department were investigating the incident.

The train operator told supervisors that after spotting them on the track, there was no time to stop the train to save them, the New York Post reported, quoting sources.

Kaul and Chitre, who grew up in nearby towns in New Jersey, had both graduated

in 2024 from Rutgers University.

Rajnikant Pipalia, who told the Post his

son was a friend of Kaul, said that Kaul's family emigrated from Nepal.

Kaul and Chitre "grew up in the same world" and were part of the "same South Asian group hanging out together, enjoying the same festivals," Pipalia told the Post.

The newspaper said that Chitre's family "lambasted" media reports on the incident.

Some of them aired sensational speculations about them and the tragedy without factual basis.

Chitre was pursuing a doctorate in pharmacy studies at Temple University while working as a quality operations specialist at Acadia Pharmaceuticals, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Kaul, who had a business degree, was a data analyst with Bloomberg, a financial services and news company, his LinkedIn profile said. IANS





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India's goods & services exports jump 25.4 percent to cross \$82 bn in Aug

NEW DELHI: India's total exports of merchandise and services rose by 25.41 percent to \$82.68 billion in August this year, compared to the corresponding figure for the same month of the previous year, the Commerce Ministry announced.

Total imports of merchandise and services increased by 18.75 percent to \$92.09 billion during the month.

India's total exports during April-August 2026-27 are estimated at \$399.27 billion, registering a growth of 15.55 percent, compared with the corresponding figure of \$345.55 billion for the same period of the previous financial year. Total imports during this five-month period are estimated at \$459.65 billion, registering a growth of 18.01 percent, the statement said.

Merchandise exports during August 2026 were \$43.81 billion as compared to \$34.74 billion in August 2025. Merchandise imports during August 2026 were \$70.67 billion as compared to \$61.96 billion in August 2025.

Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in August include electronic goods, petroleum products, engineering goods, chemicals, cotton, and textiles. *IANS*

UPI MDR changes must balance security and rising costs: CII President

NEW DELHI: The recent changes related to the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions need to balance the objective of maintaining secure digital payments with the increased capital expenditure required to support the system, CII President R Mukundan said. Speaking to IANS, Mukundan said UPI has significantly improved the ease of financial transactions, while stressing that the security of transactions must remain protected as the digital payments ecosystem scales. For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



US-based Lam Research to invest Rs 10,000 crore for silicon component manufacturing facility in India

BENGALURU: US-based semiconductor manufacturing equipment major Lam Research Corporation recently announced it plans to invest approximately Rs 10,000 crore in India over the next several years to establish its first silicon component manufacturing facility in the country and, expand its advanced research and development operations.

The announcement comes ahead of SEMICON India 2026 and marks the next phase of Lam Research's long-term expansion in India, where the company has had a presence for more than 25 years. The planned investment is aimed at strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem while supporting Lam Research's global customers as demand for increasingly complex semiconductor technologies accelerates in the artificial intelligence era.

The proposed manufacturing facility will support a vertically integrated process covering silicon ingot production and processing



for advanced semiconductor technologies and leading-edge nodes. Alongside manufacturing, Lam Research also plans to augment its research and development capabilities through its India Center for Engineering, which currently supports global customer programs in areas including design, testing, validation and next-generation technology development.

"India represents an important part of Lam's global innovation and growth strategy," said

Rangesh Raghavan, corporate vice president and managing director, Lam Research India. He said the company's continued expansion reflects its confidence in India's talent pool, growing semiconductor ecosystem and supportive policy environment.

Raghavan added that Lam Research remains committed to working with the government, academia, suppliers, startups and other stakeholders to accelerate semiconductor innovation that can benefit the global industry.

The investment is also expected to create new opportunities for partnerships with Indian suppliers. Lam Research currently works with local companies supplying specialized materials, precision components, gases, chemicals, metrology solutions and manufacturing services that are critical to semiconductor production.

The company said its expansion will bring specialized manufacturing expertise and capabilities to India and help develop skills needed for the future of the semiconductor industry. The investment is expected to create opportunities in advanced engineering and high-technology manufacturing while contributing to the development of a globally competitive semiconductor workforce.

Lam Research's plans build on its existing workforce development initiatives in India. The company has partnered with the Indian Institute of Science and the India Semiconductor Mission to expand access to semiconductor manufacturing education, with an objective of training up to 60,000 students over the next several years through its Semiverse Solutions virtual platform. *IANS*

Gold, silver surge up to 1 pc ahead of US Fed policy decision

MUMBAI: Gold and silver prices traded up to 1 percent higher on 16 September amid softer crude oil prices and lower US bond yields, while investors awaited the US Federal Reserve's policy decision.

At around 10:45 am, gold futures (October) were trading at 1,51,598, an increase of 0.52 percent or Rs 789. The yellow metal recorded an intraday high of Rs 1,52,100 so far, jumping nearly 1 percent or Rs 1,291. While it touched an intraday low of Rs 1,51,450, still an increase of about half percent.

Meanwhile, silver futures (December) surged as much as 1.66 percent or Rs 3,870 to hit an intraday high of Rs 2,35,988.

At the last count, the white metal was trading at 2,35,079, up Rs 2,961 or 1.28 percent. It touched an intraday low of 2,34,540, a surge of 1.04 percent or Rs 2,422.

Analysts said MCX gold opened with a mild gap-up but remained capped by its 50-day exponential

moving average. The contract recovered from the Rs 1,50,700-1,50,000 support zone.

Immediate resistance for gold is seen at Rs 1,54,000-1,54,700, with a break above that zone potentially opening the way towards Rs 1,56,300-1,57,000. Support is placed at Rs 1,50,700-1,50,000, followed by Rs 1,48,000-1,47,300.

MCX silver also opened higher and traded near Rs 2,35,000, recovering from the Rs 2,30,000 zone. Resistance is seen at Rs 2,39,000-2,40,000, followed by Rs 2,45,000-2,46,000, while support is placed at Rs 2,34,000-2,33,000 and Rs 2,30,000-2,29,000.

In the international market, US gold futures for December delivery rose about 1 percent to \$4,380 per ounce.

The buying in gold supported by a decline in crude oil prices which eased pressure on the US dollar and Treasury yields. *IANS*



India a key example of how AI could be deployed for social, developmental benefit: Bill Gates

NEW DELHI: Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates has said that artificial intelligence (AI) is fundamentally different from previous technological revolutions, warning that society may not yet be ready for the scale and speed of change ahead.

He underlined AI's extraordinary potential and pointed to India as an important example of how the technology could be deployed rapidly for social and developmental benefit. "It's a stunning set of capabilities," Gates said,

Gates said AI was fundamentally different from the personal computer and the internet - two technological revolutions he helped shape during his years at Microsoft and cautioned against assuming its impact would be as easy to manage

adding that India could demonstrate how "we can drive the good stuff as fast as possible".

In a conversation with NDTV, the billionaire philanthropist said the world should consider slowing the advance of AI if it gives societies more time to prepare for the profound changes it could bring.

Gates said AI was fundamentally different from the personal computer and the internet - two technological revolutions he helped shape during his years at Microsoft and cautioned against assuming its impact would be as easy to manage.

"AI is a very unique technology," he said. "I caution people who think it'll be as easy to manage the impacts of AI as it's been to manage other technologies," he added.

The breadth and speed of AI's development had forced even someone with his long-standing belief in innovation to consider whether the pace itself needed to be questioned, he said.

"If we could slow things down, I think we should consider that because of this need to get ready for such a rapid change," Gates told NDTV.

"Throughout my life, I have been a champion of innovation," Gates said, referring to both his years at Microsoft and the work of the Gates Foundation.

"This is a rare case where innovation may be so broad and so dramatic that we're not ready for it."

Gates also identified cybersecurity as one of the most immediate risks, warning that AI tools could significantly strengthen the capabilities of those carrying out cyberattacks.

"In the near term, there are cyberattacks where these AI tools will enable the offensive side," he said, stressing that defensive capabilities would need to evolve just as rapidly.

He also addressed the deeper question of whether



Bill Gates

increasingly capable AI systems can always remain under human control.

"The idea of keeping the AI under control, I have always thought of that as something fairly far out in the future," he said, before pointing to recent instances in reinforcement learning where AI systems displayed unexpected behavior. *IANS*

India, US agree to strengthen energy security partnership

NEW DELHI: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal and his US counterpart, Chris Wright, reaffirmed priorities for collaboration under the US-India Energy Security Partnership, focusing on clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and emerging technologies at a bilateral meeting in Houston, according to recent statement issued by the Ministry of Power.

At the meeting held on the sidelines of the 'G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting', Manohar Lal also discussed India's plans to create power infrastructure for AI, high-performance computing, and data centers, along with New Delhi's roadmap for nuclear expansion.

The minister also met Corey Hogan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Canada, to explore cooperation in energy efficiency, low emission technologies, and offshore exploration under the Samundra Manthan scheme.

Besides, the minister invited Canadian companies to participate in India's expanding exploration and production sector and deepen engagement in emerging energy technologies.

The Union Minister reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to strengthening national energy security through diversification of energy sources, expansion of clean and reliable base load capacity, and accelerated adoption of emerging technologies.

He emphasized that India would continue to pursue a

and affordable energy for its citizens and contribute meaningfully to global energy stability.

Manohar Lal participated in the 'G20 Energy Abundance Working Group meetings' in Houston, where he highlighted India's rapid progress in building a secure and resilient energy system, noting achievements such as 552 GW installed capacity, a non-fossil share exceeding 50 percent, and major advances in solar, storage, nuclear, and clean cooking access.

He emphasized India's commitment to technology neutral, inclusive energy pathways and global cooperation through ISA, OSOWOG, and the Global Biofuels Alliance.

The minister also outlined India's reforms to streamline approvals and strengthen regulatory predictability through digital platforms including the National Single Window System, PARIVESH, and PM Gati Shakti.

He stressed that efficient permitting is essential for timely infrastructure development and called for enhanced G20 collaboration in capacity building and regulatory modernization, the official statement added. *IANS*



Union Power Minister Manohar Lal and his US counterpart, Chris Wright

balanced, future ready energy strategy while deepening international partnerships to ensure secure, sustainable,

building and regulatory modernization, the official statement added. *IANS*

New Zealand FTA will open door to 1.4 billion Indian consumers: PM Christopher Luxon

NEW DELHI: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Wednesday hailed the country's free trade agreement with India as a landmark deal that would open access to 1.4 billion Indian consumers and help boost jobs and incomes in New Zealand.

"People told me a Free Trade Agreement with India wasn't possible. Well, today that deal passed its final vote in Parliament. It's happening," Luxon said in a post on X.

Luxon said the agreement would mean more New Zealand products being sold in India and help grow the country's economy.

"This landmark deal means more jobs, higher incomes for Kiwis. It means more New Zealand products being sold in India by opening the door to 1.4 billion Indian consumers," he said.

He also said the agreement fulfilled a commitment made by his National Party to secure a free trade agreement with India during its first term in government.

"National said we said we'd secure a Free Trade Agreement with India in our first term, and we've delivered," Luxon said.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand's Par-



liament passed the legislation required to implement the FTA with India by a vote in favor of 93-29.

Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay said the agreement would provide New Zealand exporters with greater access to India, one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.

Under the pact, 57 per cent of New Zealand exports to India will become duty-free when the agreement takes effect. Once fully implemented, tariffs will be removed or significantly reduced on 95 per cent of exports.

The kiwifruit industry alone is expected to save about NZ\$125 million in tariffs over five years, McClay said.

The agreement is expected to enter into force later this year after both countries complete their respective ratification procedures. It is also aimed at supporting a goal set by Luxon and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to double two-way trade between the two countries by 2030. *ANS*

File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon during Indian community Event, in Auckland. (Narendra Modi Photo Gallery/ANI Photo)

Strong EV uptake positions India for next phase of manufacturing growth: Report

NEW DELHI: India's electric vehicle (EV) market is witnessing a sharp acceleration in adoption, creating significant opportunities for domestic manufacturing, localization and investment across the battery and electronics value chain, a recent report said.

According to a report by HSBC Global Investment Research, EV adoption has gathered momentum in recent months, supported initially by oil price uncertainty and increasingly by growing consumer acceptance and network effects.

Rising sales are boosting confidence in the electric mobility ecosystem and strengthening the long-term case for electrification in India, it added.

HSBC believes the next phase of growth will be driven by localization, scale and technological advancements, with growing demand for batteries, components and energy storage systems creating opportunities for domestic manufacturing and supply-chain development.

The report also highlighted the potential for battery energy storage systems (BESS) to play a key role in supporting India's renewable energy ambitions, with cumulative demand projected to reach 160 GWh by FY29.

Battery imports could rise to 95-100

GWh by FY30 if electric vehicle penetration reaches 15-17 percent in two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and electric buses, 60 percent in three-wheelers and 15 percent in light commercial vehicles, according to the report estimates.

Additionally, India's EV retail sales rose

52.9 percent year-on-year to an all-time August high of 2,98,448 units in 2026 with overall penetration increasing to 12.3 percent from 9.5 percent a year earlier, as per the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data.

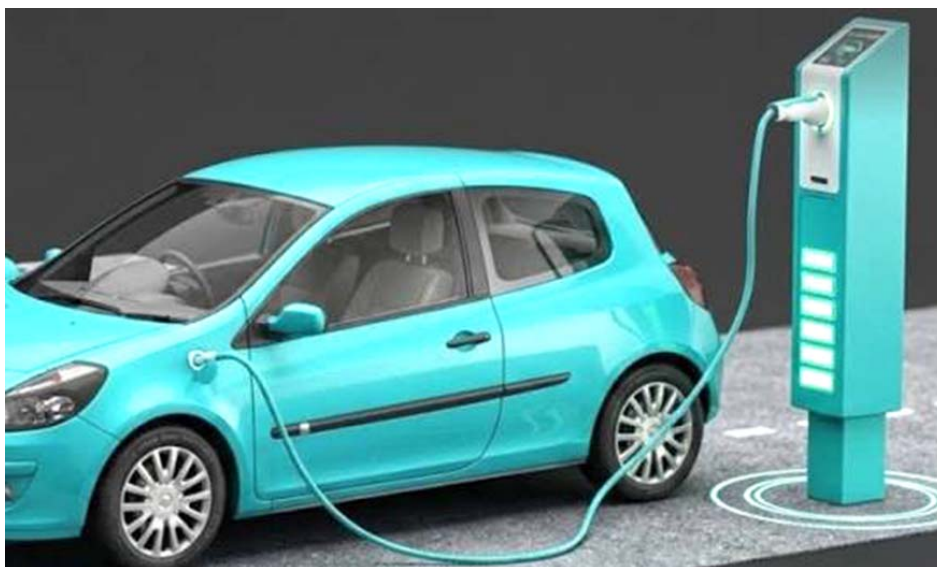
All four EV segments -- two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles -- recorded their highest-ever August retail sales.

Electric two-wheeler retail sales grew 67.05 percent year-on-year to 1,83,204 units in August.

Electric three-wheeler sales rose 25.28 percent year-on-year to 79,846 units.

The electric commercial vehicle segment emerged as the fastest-growing category with retail sales nearly tripling year-on-year to 4,702 units from 1,631 units in August 2025.

Electric passenger vehicle sales increased 51.89 percent year-on-year to 30,696 units. *ANS*



Delhi Police arrest 4 Bangladeshi nationals

NEW DELHI: In a continued drive against illegal immigration, the Foreigner Cell of North-West District apprehended four illegal Bangladeshi nationals in Jahangir Puri, Delhi, in an operation conducted in the early hours of the morning near Bhalaswa Flyover.

Acting on specific intelligence, the team intercepted the suspects, who were found in the area disguised as transgender persons. During sustained questioning and verification, it was established that they were Bangladeshi nationals illegally residing in India without any valid travel or identity documents.

According to the Delhi Police, the Foreigner Cell of North-West District had been monitoring suspicious activities based on surveillance and secret information. The team conducted an early morning raid near Bhalaswa Flyover, PS Jahangir Puri, on September 7.

Delhi Police, in their state-



ment, also said that at the instance of the secret informer, the team apprehended four suspicious persons. During initial questioning, the suspects failed to produce any valid travel or identity documents. Detailed verification of documents, digital footprints and sustained interrogation established that they were Bangladeshi nationals illegally residing in India.

During the investigation, five smartphones installed with the banned IMO application and Bangladeshi national identity documents stored in the phone gallery were recovered.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North-West District, Delhi, the apprehended individuals have been identified as Saikat alias Megha Das (35), Md Nur Mohammad (21), Nazimuddin alias Neha Kakkan (29), and Md Zahid Hasan alias Shivangi Roy (23), all hailing from various districts in Bangladesh. ANI

Immigration

POST

September 18, 2026

www.indiapost.com

India Post 17

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV of the US District Court in Boston issued a nationwide preliminary injunction, one day before the Department of Homeland Security rule was scheduled to take effect

US judge blocks four-year student visa cap

WASHINGTON: A US federal judge has temporarily blocked the Trump administration's four-year limit on international student visas, offering relief to foreign students and researchers, including thousands from India.

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV of the US District Court in Boston issued a nationwide preliminary injunction, one day before the Department of Homeland Security rule was scheduled to take effect.

The regulation would have replaced the longstanding "duration of status" system, under which foreign students may remain in the United States while enrolled in an authorized academic program.

Students needing more than four years would have been required to seek an extension from immigration authorities. The rule also restricted students' ability to change programs, transfer universities or pursue another degree at the same level without approval.

The changes would also have affected visiting scholars and foreign journalists.

Saylor called the government's justification for the regulation "exceptionally weak." He said the existing system had contributed to "groundbreaking research in science, medicine, and technology, substantial economic growth."

If implemented, the restrictions could cause damage to the economy and higher-education institutions that "is likely to be catastrophic," he wrote.

"Immigrants to the United States who attended American universities have been named as inventors on a disproportionate

number of patents and have been awarded a disproportionate number of Nobel Prizes," the judge said.

The government argued that

that the rule is necessary to safeguard national security borders on the absurd," he wrote.

The case was brought by higher-education organizations

talent and produce advanced research.

The Department of Homeland Security had defended the policy after the lawsuit was filed.

"Where was the outrage when foreign nationals were abusing the system, violating the terms of their student visas, and making a mockery of our immigration laws?" a department spokesperson said at the time.

The rule was expected to affect doctoral students particularly severely. National Science Foundation data cited in the reports showed that doctoral programs take a median of 5.7 years to complete.

Saylor also raised concerns about giving immigration officials greater control over academic decisions.

"Moreover, it is not difficult to imagine how that system might be abused to punish those whose viewpoints or research are disfavored by the officials making the decision - or, indeed, punish disfavored institutions," he wrote.

Nearly 22,000 public comments were submitted on the regulation, with most expressing opposition. The next court hearing is scheduled for October 2.

International applications through the Common Application have fallen 10 percent during the latest admissions cycle, while doctoral applications have declined 21 percent, according to figures cited by NAFSA.

The preliminary injunction does not permanently invalidate the regulation. It preserves the existing system while the court considers the case, and the administration may appeal the ruling. IANS



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the existing system was outdated and needed to be changed to "safeguard national security."

Saylor acknowledged that the system was "not without its problems." But he said the administration had sought to "substantially restrict the overall number of foreign students, researchers, professors, and journalists in the United States."

"The government's contention

and labor unions, including the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts.

The plaintiffs argued that the rule imposed an arbitrary deadline and would damage universities' ability to attract international

Indian citizens with select valid visas eligible for 30-day visa-free stay in Uzbekistan: Indian Embassy

TASHKENT: The Embassy of India in Tashkent has issued an official travel update stating that Indian citizens holding valid multiple-entry visas from select countries are permitted to stay in Uzbekistan visa-free for up to 30 days.

According to the notification issued by the diplomatic mission, eligible travellers must meet specific ticket requirements alongside holding valid visa documentation from designated countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Schengen Member States, among others.

"Indian citizens holding valid multiple-entry Business or Tourist visa/s issued by Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Schengen Agreement Member States, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America are permitted to stay in Uzbekistan for up to 30 days without Uzbekistan visa," the Indian Embassy in Tashkent announced in a post on X.

"The traveller must also hold a confirmed return or onward air ticket to the country of origin or a third country," the statement added.

The embassy further clarified entry rules for Indian passport holders who do

not possess valid visas from the specified partner nations.

"Other Indian citizens are required to obtain an appropriate visa as per the Uzbekistan's visa guidelines," the embassy noted.

The facilitation allows eligible Indian business travellers and tourists to visit Uzbekistan without securing a separate

business exchanges between the two countries.

Mirziyoyev made the announcement during the delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tashkent, as part of the latter's two-day State visit to Uzbekistan.

Highlighting the growing momentum in India-Uzbekistan relations, the Uzbek

ery week," Mirziyoyev said.

"The introduction of a 30-day visa-free regime for Indian citizens will make a significant contribution to the development of people-to-people contacts, tourism, and business exchanges," he added.

The announcement comes during PM Modi's two-day State visit to Uzbekistan, aimed at further deepening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across multiple sectors.

India and Uzbekistan established diplomatic relations on March 18, 1992, when the protocol establishing diplomatic ties was signed in Tashkent. India was among the first countries to recognize Uzbekistan's sovereignty following its independence.

The two countries elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2011. The partnership is supported by several institutional mechanisms at the political and official levels to ensure regular engagement.

The new visa-free regime is expected to further facilitate travel between India and Uzbekistan and provide a boost to tourism, business interactions and broader people-to-people exchanges. ANI

The facilitation allows eligible Indian business travellers and tourists to visit Uzbekistan without securing a separate Uzbek visa beforehand, provided they hold valid multiple-entry permits from the designated countries and confirmed onward travel tickets

Uzbek visa beforehand, provided they hold valid multiple-entry permits from the designated countries and confirmed onward travel tickets.

This comes after Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev introduced a 30-day visa-free regime for Indian citizens last month, saying the move will make a significant contribution to strengthening people-to-people contacts, tourism and

President described India as a "reliable strategic partner" and pointed to rising bilateral trade, joint ventures and connectivity between the two countries.

"India is our reliable strategic partner. Last year, our bilateral trade exceeded USD 1 billion for the first time. In recent years, the number of joint ventures has increased sevenfold. There are now 14 direct flights between our countries ev-

Canada removes 111 people linked to organized crime in crackdown on extortion

OTTAWA: The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has removed 111 individuals from Canada as part of enforcement efforts targeting foreign nationals linked to extortion and organized criminal activity.

In a release issued recently, the CBSA said, as of September 3, a total of 188 removal orders had been issued on various inadmissibility grounds under Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), with 111 individuals subsequently removed from the country.

The CBSA highlighted four recent cases of people of Indian origin as examples of its enforcement efforts.

Palwinder Singh, a foreign national linked to an extortion-related shooting in the fall of 2025, was removed after the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada found him inadmissible under IRPA for being a member of a criminal organization linked to extortion-related violence.

Jasmer Singh, who was convicted in Canada of forcible confinement, was found inadmissible for serious criminality under IRPA. He was subsequently issued a deportation order and removed from Canada.

Amitoz Bajwa was removed after the

Sahibjot Singh was found inadmissible under IRPA for being linked to an organization engaged in a pattern of criminal activity. The CBSA said Singh acknowledged committing offences that formed part of the organization's pattern of criminal activity before he

suspected of involvement in criminal and organized crime activities such as extortion.

The CBSA said it dedicated resources to investigating cases with potential links to extortion in the Pacific and Prairie regions in August 2025 before expanding the initiative to the Greater Toronto Area in November 2025.

Of the 188 removal orders issued, 91 were in the Pacific Region, where 58 individuals have been removed. The Prairie Region accounted for 47 removal orders and 30 removals, while the Greater Toronto Area recorded 50 removal orders and 23 removals.

The agency said its investigations draw on information from law enforcement partners, other government agencies, CBSA-led investigations and public reporting, with enforcement and removal of cases involving criminality, organized crime and risks to public safety given the highest priority. ANI

In a release issued recently, the CBSA said, as of September 3, a total of 188 removal orders had been issued on various inadmissibility grounds under Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), with 111 individuals subsequently removed from the country

Immigration and Refugee Board found him inadmissible for being a member of an organization engaged in a pattern of criminal activity. The CBSA said he was also linked to firearms-related activity and an extortion-related shooting.

was removed from Canada.

The removals formed part of a coordinated enforcement initiative involving law enforcement partners across the country to identify, investigate and remove individuals found inadmissible to Canada, including those

"My crime was traveling alone..." Indian travel vlogger Arunima 'safe' after brief detention by gunmen in Afghanistan

KOCHI: An Indian travel vlogger, Arunima, who claimed to have been detained by unknown gunmen while travelling through Afghanistan, is now safe and was released after being held for several hours.

Arunima said that she arrived in Bamyán around 7:00 PM after hitchhiking on a truck. Upon arrival after dark, local residents and authorities approached her, noting that women are not permitted to travel alone at night under local rules. After checking her passport and visa, officials requested her travel permit.

Arunima explained that she had previ-

ously attempted to obtain a permit in Jalalabad, but authorities refused to issue one because she was travelling without a male companion (mahram) or, an official guide. To navigate earlier checkpoints between Kabul and Bamyán, she had claimed to be travelling with a companion from Germany who was meeting her elsewhere.

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In a Facebook post, the travel vlogger shared, "This evening, I hitchhiked on a truck and came to a place called Bamyán. By the time I reached here, it was around

"When they saw my visa, they realized that I had entered this country on the 27th of last month. That meant that I had been travelling alone in this country all these days. According to their rules, I had violated the law. Then they told me that they were going to arrest me," she said in the post.

Panicked, Arunima contacted an English-speaking local who had assisted her earlier in the evening. He returned to negotiate on her behalf as authorities insisted she pay a 10,000 Afghani fine, obtain a per-

mit, and hire an official guide.

Arunima requested to be allowed to leave the country immediately for Uzbekistan. Following extensive negotiations, the authorities eventually agreed to allow her to travel toward the border without purchasing the permit.

"Until he came, my heart was beating extremely fast. I was completely frozen and didn't know what to do. No matter what I said, they kept repeating that I had violated the rules. After some time, the man arrived. We explained everything to them. Fortunately, he could speak English. I literally begged him, holding his hands and asking him to understand my situation. He spoke to them on my behalf, but they still wouldn't agree," she said.

The post further noted, "They also demanded 10,000 Afghani for the permit, and I would have to pay additional money for the guide. I told them that I was leaving the country and travelling to Uzbekistan. I told them that I was ready to leave Afghanistan and that I didn't want to stay here anymore. They said that because I had been travelling without the required permits for so many days, I would have to pay money before I could leave or continue anywhere. After talking with them for a long time, we finally reached an agreement. They eventually told me that I could leave for the next country without the permit. Here, their decisions are their rules," she said.

"My 'crime' was simply that I had travelled alone as a woman in a country where women are not allowed to travel alone", the travel vlogger said. ANI

Air India CEO, predecessor arrive at Bombay House amid Centre's summons over alleged immigration lapse

MUMBAI: Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Tewolde Gebremariam and his predecessor Campbell Wilson arrived together at Bombay House in Mumbai just as the Centre summoned the airline's chief over an alleged security lapse involving three foreign nationals who departed Delhi airport without mandatory immigration clearance.

The Centre summoned Air India CEO over an alleged immigration lapse involving three foreign nationals who reportedly departed India without undergoing mandatory departure immigration clearance at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, sources said.

According to sources, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has sought an explanation from the airline after the incident, terming it a "serious security and immigration-related lapse".

The ministry has issued a show-cause notice to Air India seeking details regarding the circumstances that led to the alleged violation of mandatory immigration procedures.

Earlier on September 7, Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran reaffirmed the airline's focus on safety, customer trust, operational excellence and financial sustainability as it enters its next phase of transformation.

According to sources, speaking at an internal meeting, Chandrasekaran stressed that restoring trust in Air India must remain the airline's foremost priority, and said this would require world-class processes, rigorous compliance and personal accountability across the organization, as per industry sources.

"The most important thing Air India should aspire to have is trust in the minds of people. Air India must be known for caring about safety above everything else. Our safety record should not just match the best airlines in the world; it should be better than the best," sources quoted him as saying.

Chandrasekaran, along with outgoing CEO and MD Campbell Wilson and incoming CEO and MD Tewolde Gebremariam, addressed employees at a town hall recently. ANI

Taiwan warns of security risks for citizens traveling to China under new entry, exit rules

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and security experts have warned of potential risks for Taiwanese people travelling to China following the implementation of new entry and exit regu-

security. He urged people to carefully evaluate the potential risks and avoid unnecessary travel to China.

Shen identified five groups that could face increased risks under the new rules:

"The new regulations could create risks involving information, business and personal security. He urged people to carefully evaluate the potential risks and avoid unnecessary travel to China"

lations. However, Taiwan currently has no plans to raise its travel alert for China, according to a report by the Central News Agency (CNA).

MAC Deputy Head Shen Yu-chung said the new regulations could create risks involving information, business and personal

Taiwanese businesspeople working in China, executives of Taiwanese companies, employees in the semiconductor and other high-tech industries, frontline civil servants, and members of certain religious groups.

Shen issued the warning ahead of a

Taipei forum focused on China's new regulations. The event was organized by the Asia-Pacific Elite Interchange Association (APEIA).

He recommended that people belonging to the potentially affected groups register their trips to China as an additional safety measure. However, Shen said the MAC is not currently considering raising its travel alert for China from the existing "orange" level to the highest "red" level. The orange alert advises people to avoid non-essential travel.

Speaking at the forum, Shen said the new regulations allow Chinese customs officials and visa authorities to demand that people entering or leaving China provide files and digital information, including data stored on mobile phones and laptops. ANI

Number of dengue affected in West Bengal this year crosses 5,000

KOLKATA: The number of dengue-affected people in West Bengal during the current calendar year has crossed the 5,000 mark, according to the latest statistics provided by the state Health Department.

As per the most recent bulletin issued by the Health Department, the number of dengue-affected people in the state, as of September 11, is 5,002.

"However, the alarming factor is that the total number of dengue-affected people till the same date in August was less than 2,500. This means that over the last month, over 2,500 additional individuals have been freshly affected by dengue," a senior Health Department official said.

As per the latest statistics provided by the department, the maximum number of affected people so far has been from the Murshidabad district at 1,072, followed by Kolkata at 500 and North 24 Parganas at 450.

"This is as per the trend every year, since in almost all the last few years these three districts have witnessed the maximum number of dengue-affected people," the official said.

However, even amid the massive rise in the number of newly affected persons over the last month, the Health Department officials are finding a silver lining.

"On September 2, the Health Department issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on monitoring and prevention of dengue cases in West Bengal. IANS

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

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September 18, 2026

Zydus spine surgeons push the boundaries of complex spine care, delivering excellent outcomes across all ages

AHMEDABAD: Over the past decade, India has witnessed a worrying rise in spine-related problems, not just among the elderly, but increasingly among young adults and teenagers. Spinal health issues are becoming a silent epidemic in the country. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), low back pain is now the leading cause of disability worldwide, and India is no exception.

"A spinal injury can be life-changing but with the right medical care and support from family, most patients are able to return to the lives they had before," said Dr. Niraj Vasavada, Sr. Spine Surgeon in Ahmedabad with more than two decades of experience in rare and complex surgeries. To address the growing disease burden, Zydus Hospitals in Ahmedabad has built a dedicated, multidisciplinary spine care team backed by advanced surgical technology to handle even the most complex cases. Dr. Hitesh Modi, Sr. Spine Surgeon in Ahmedabad and one of the first PhD-qualified spine surgeons in Western India with 20 years of experience adds "We strive to combine surgical skill and experience with advances in

technology. At Zydus, our focus is on creating a coordinated environment where complex spine procedures can be planned and performed with appropriate expertise, technology, and multidisciplinary support." The spine team also includes Dr.

Head of the Emergency Medicine, stabilized him and alerted the spine team and Dr. Ankit Mehta, Pediatric Intensivist, who then took over.

"The child arrived with multiple wounds across his lower back and was unable to move. We

ries, the surgical team expanded to include Dr. Amit Shah, Sr. GI Surgeon, Dr. Shailendra Singh, Sr. Plastic Surgeon, along with the anaesthesiology team including Dr. Parv, led by Dr. Meeta Agarwala.

"We had to place eight screws



Prateek Lodha and Dr. Karan Chauhan.

One recent case illustrates the importance of coordinated care in an emergency. A 7-year-old child was rushed to the ER after being hit by a car in his housing society. Dr. Ketan Patel,

dressed his wounds and reeled him in for a CT scan that confirmed multiple fractures at the L1 level of the vertebra," said Dr. Niraj. The boy underwent emergency surgery for spinal fracture stabilization to avoid further damage. Given the extent of his inju-

to stabilize the fractured section of his spine. We used the O-Arm for real-time imaging of the bone structure and intraoperative neuromonitoring (IONM) to get the best results," said Dr. Niraj. The deformity was substantially corrected following surgery and with appropriate postoperative care and rehabilitation, the child was discharged within a week.

Osteoporosis -related fractures are a recurring theme in revision spine surgery, particularly among the elderly, and have become considerably more difficult to treat when other health conditions complicate the picture. "An 80-year-old man consulted with the team, and he had a history of severe osteoporosis along with Parkinson's disease, uncontrolled diabetes, and altered kidney functions," said Dr. Hitesh Modi. PRNewswire/ANI

India administers over 80 lakh HPV vaccine doses since Feb

NEW DELHI: India has crossed a significant milestone in its efforts to prevent cervical cancer, with over 80 lakh doses of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine administered under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign since its launch in February 2026, an official statement said.

Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram

have achieved 100 percent coverage of their respective identified target populations, the statement from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Assam have crossed 90 percent coverage,

while Karnataka has achieved more than 85 percent coverage. Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, Kerala, Telangana and Odisha have crossed 60 percent coverage.

The nationwide drive, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2026, of-

fers voluntary, single dose HPV vaccination free of cost to 14 year old girls at government health facilities with parental consent.

As per Registrar General of India (RGI) 2021 estimates, approximately 1.2 crore girls constitute the annual cohort of 14-year-olds who are expected to benefit from the initiative each year. IANS



New Delhi Declaration gives push to traditional medicine cooperation among BRICS

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi Declaration adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit has given a push to international cooperation in Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM), with member countries welcoming the proposed establishment of a BRICS Expert Working

The Declaration also calls for greater cooperation in research on medicinal plants and herbal preparations used for therapeutic and preventive purposes. It recognizes the shared traditional pharmacopoeias of BRICS countries as a potential foundation for developing safe,

group would provide a platform for member states to share knowledge, strengthen research and advance evidence-based approaches, he said.

"India remains committed to taking forward Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine through scientific research, quality assurance and international collaboration," Jadhav said.

Meanwhile, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said the declaration marked an important step towards advancing structured cooperation on TCIM among BRICS countries.

He said the proposed working group could provide a focused platform for sharing evidence, strengthening research collaboration and improving quality and regulatory approaches.

Moreover, the Declaration reaffirmed the importance of ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of TCIM practices and products through evidence-informed approaches and appropriate regulatory frameworks, in accordance with the national contexts of member states, the ministry said. *IANS*



Group on the subject, an official statement said. The proposed working group under the BRICS Health Track is envisaged as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and exchange among member states on traditional medicine, the Ministry of AYUSH said.

effective and affordable therapeutic products, according to the ministry. Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav said the recognition of TCIM in the declaration was an important step towards strengthening global cooperation in traditional medicine. The proposed expert working

Measles outbreak in Bangladesh kills over 1,000 in 6 months as vaccination gaps persist: Report

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh is grappling with a severe measles outbreak that has killed over 1,000 people since mid March, exposing immunity gaps after years of declining routine vaccination coverage and disruptions to immunization services, a new report has said.

The report from Al Jazeera cited health ministry data showing 1,009 deaths by September 9, including 100 laboratory confirmed measles fatalities and 909 classified as suspected measles deaths.

Authorities said 19.75 million children have been vaccinated in an emergency campaign that began in April, against an initial target of about 18 million children aged six months up to five years.

However, public health experts said that the original estimate of the children needing vaccines was too low. *IANS*



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CBI files 20th charge sheet in homebuyers fraud cases

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed its 20th charge sheet in the ongoing investigation into large-scale homebuyers fraud cases, naming Noida-based builder M/s Ajnara India Limited, its promoters/directors, and 15 public servants associated with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, PNB Housing Finance, and Sammaan Capital, a recent official statement said.

The charge sheet pertains to alleged fraudulent activities linked to the housing project "Ajnara Ambrosia" at Sector-118 in Uttar Pradesh's Noida. It has been filed before the Special Judge (CBI) at the Rouse Avenue District Courts in New Delhi.

According to the agency, the investigation revealed that the builder company and its promoters/directors allegedly induced homebuyers and investors through false assurances and misleading representations.

The CBI said it had gathered substantial evidence during the probe and filed the charge sheet under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating, and criminal breach of trust.

The case forms part of a wider investigation launched by the agency pursuant to directions issued by the Supreme Court into alleged diversion of funds and cheating of homebuyers by real estate developers in collusion with officials of financial institutions.

The CBI is currently investigating 34 other cases involving various builder companies and unidentified officials of financial institutions across the country in connection with alleged homebuyer fraud and fund diversion.

The agency noted that it had earlier filed 19 charge sheets against several real estate firms, including Rudra Buildwell Constructions, Dream Procon, Jaypee Infratech, AVJ Developers, CHD Developers, Logix City Developers, Shubhkamna Buildtech, Ninex Developers, Earthcon Universal Infratech and others, along with officials of certain banks and financial institutions. *IANS*

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Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 set to reach 20-lakh milestone

NEW DELHI: The approvals under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) are set to reach the 20-lakh milestone soon, according to the government.

With total 18.77 lakh houses approved so far, the scheme is steadily expanding access to safe, affordable and pucca homes. *IANS*

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



Why India's affluent homebuyers are looking beyond metros for their next luxury address

NEW DELHI: For much of India's modern real estate story, a prestigious address meant a metropolitan one. Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and other major cities became synonymous with aspiration, offering proximity to business, culture, commerce and social life. Yet, as lifestyles evolve, so does the meaning of a desirable home. Among India's affluent households, the appeal of a residence increasingly rests on the quality of life it enables, rather than the prominence of its postcode alone.

Greater financial flexibility and changing patterns of work have expanded the geography of choice. A growing section of homebuyers now places greater importance on privacy, generous spaces, greenery, wellness and a sense of retreat. The home is no longer viewed only as an asset or status marker, but as an important part of how people structure their time and experience everyday life.

Against this backdrop, emerging lifestyle destinations are entering the luxury housing conversation. Cities that combine established infrastructure with natural surroundings are attracting attention because they offer an experience distinct from dense metropolitan living. For families seeking a more balanced lifestyle, the appeal lies in having modern conveniences nearby while enjoying a peaceful, nature-connected environment.

Dehradun sits comfortably within this category. The city has the character of an established urban center, supported by respected educational institutions, established neighborhoods, and everyday conveniences. Beyond the city, its green landscape, proximity to Mussoorie and ac-



cess to the wider Himalayan region add a sense of space and escape. It is an address that brings together urban comfort and a genuine connection with its surroundings.

As Dehradun's premium housing landscape gains greater definition, a more considered approach to residential design is be-

"Vanya," has a Sanskrit association with the forest, reinforcing the idea of living closer to nature.

The residences feature wrap-around balconies and views towards Mussoorie, creating a visual connection with the scenery. A clubhouse adds a substantial social and recreational dimension, with spaces for wellness,

convenience.

The broader proposition represented by Elevate Vanya speaks to a gradual redefinition of what constitutes an aspirational address. Buyers are placing greater value on space, serenity, design and wellbeing, giving destinations with these inherent qualities a stronger position in the luxury housing conversation.

With roots dating back to 1958 and a portfolio spanning civic, infrastructure, residential and commercial development, Elevate Infracon brings longstanding experience to this evolving environment. Elevate Vanya demonstrates that perspective through a residential setting shaped around modern expectations while remaining responsive to its location.

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

A growing section of homebuyers now places greater importance on privacy, generous spaces, greenery, wellness and a sense of retreat. The home is no longer viewed only as an asset or status marker, but as an important part of how people structure their time

ginning to emerge. Elevate Vanya by Elevate Infracon reflects this sensibility through its location on Neshville Road and its close relationship with the surrounding environment. Drawing inspiration from nature, the development creates an atmosphere of openness and calm. Its name,

leisure and entertainment, including a yoga and meditation room, wellness hub, sky deck and movie theatre. Together, these elements reflect a contemporary understanding of high-end living, where relaxation, social interaction and personal wellbeing are considered alongside everyday

Delhi government has decided to construct hostels for 10,000 students: CM Rekha Gupta

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta recently announced that Delhi government has decided to construct fully equipped and secure hostel facilities for 10,000 students enrolled across colleges and universities in the city.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the work on the project is already underway.

"Every student who comes to Delhi carries a dream in their eyes, years of hard work behind them and the hopes of a family back home. Our endeavor is to give them a safe, supportive place to stay, so they can study with peace of mind and move closer to the future they came here to build," the Delhi CMO said in a statement.

Elaborating on the policy roadmap, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that inter-departmental consultations have been initiated to finalize suitable land parcels and architectural blueprints for the upcoming facilities.

"The Delhi government has decided to

construct hostels for 10,000 students, ensuring their safety, security, and access to affordable housing. These hostels will cater to both male and female students. Any student enrolled in a university or college in Delhi will be able to avail of these facilities," CM Rekha Gupta said.



ties," CM Rekha Gupta said.

She noted that the administration has actively engaged with agencies capable of executing the project while drafting a com-

prehensive policy tailored to students' daily requirements.

"We have held meetings with the relevant departments capable of constructing hostels, identified suitable locations,



and initiated the drafting of a policy. We have carefully considered the students' needs and the amenities required within these hostels," she added.

Reassuring families across the country regarding the safety and living standards of their wards, the Chief Minister asserted that the initiative would eliminate the logistical and financial anxieties associated with finding student accommodation in the city.

"I assure you that we will build hostels where parents from across the country can leave their children with complete peace of mind, and where students freed from worries about food or accommodation can focus entirely on pursuing their dreams," Gupta said.

The development comes against the backdrop of the September 6 Satya Niketan tragedy, when a five-storey building being used as a private boys' hostel collapsed in the student-dominated locality near Delhi University's South Campus. Seven people, including five students and two laborers, were killed in the collapse.

The building, located opposite Sri Venkateswara College, was being used to accommodate students. ANI

Privacy needs and the rise of disposable income are driving demand for independent houses, villas and bungalows in big cities. Typically, independent homes or bungalows are more expensive than apartments due to property size, location and other factors. For a seller, selling a bungalow can fetch good returns, especially if it is located in a prime location. The selling strategies for a bungalow will differ significantly from those for an apartment. However, the legal processes, documentation and broader sale process remain the same. In this guide, we will understand how to sell a bungalow or an independent house.

Assess the property's market value

Prices of independent homes, such as bungalows, tend to appreciate faster than apartments. So, sellers are at an advantage. Before selling any property, a seller should determine the right price as the foremost step. Setting a high price for an independent house or a bungalow can deter buyers from showing their interest. On the other hand, underpricing has its disadvantages, as the seller will incur a loss if the property does not fetch its actual market value.

Property prices are determined by several factors such as location, property's age and physical condition, area, amenities, access to roads and social infrastructure. Maintenance costs for independent houses tend to be higher than apartments. So, it is an important to consider in pricing.

Planning to sell a bungalow or an independent house? Here's a guide

HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

ing. Moreover, if the property is freehold, the land value is an important factor. For a bungalow or an independent house, the location is the biggest factor. Typically, such properties are likely to be situated in well-developed, posh localities. The seller must study the neighborhood and compare prices of similar properties in the



area. To be on the safe side, they can consult a local broker or opt for professional property valuation services.

Prepare the property for sale

Home staging is necessary if a seller

wants to attract the right buyers. Depending on the property's size, renovation and repairs may lead to high costs. Start with small and basic measures such as decluttering, adding fresh paint, repairing plumbing and electrical fittings, etc. Considering the budget limits, a seller can go for some upgrades, elevate the interiors or

make minor structural changes.

For properties like villas or bungalows, it is all the more important to make them look well maintained and attractive. Sellers must highlight the property's positive

aspects and clearly mention the details in their listing. Some vital information includes the plot area or built-up area, garden or terrace availability, parking availability, whether it is fully or semi-furnished, and the number of bedrooms. Including high-quality photos and video tours will provide a realistic picture for potential buyers.

Gather property papers

The legal and documentation requirements for selling a property remain nearly the same, whether it is a bungalow or an apartment. Some key documents sellers should gather include:

- Title deed
- Original sale deed
- Encumbrance certificate
- Approved building plan
- Recent property tax payment receipts
- Utility bill payment receipts
- Completion certificate
- Occupancy certificate
- Mutation certificate
- Khata certificate. www.housing.com

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"I don't know about that statement because I haven't seen the entire interview. But, yes, the quality of work. See, I am from TV and I respect TV medium the most. Because TV makes us actors very strong."

CHAHATT KHANNA BACKS ROHIT ROY'S TV REMARK, SAYS 'TV IS STANDING NOWHERE'

Actress Chahatt Khanna has weighed in on actor Rohit Roy's recent controversial comments about television, saying that while she has not watched his entire interview, she agrees with his version when it comes to the quality, concepts and creativity currently being offered on the medium.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Chahatt said she did not want to comment on Roy's statement without watching the complete interview, but agreed that television does not match films and OTT when it comes to certain aspects of storytelling and creativity.

"I don't know about that statement because I haven't seen the entire interview. But, yes, the quality of work. See, I am from TV and I respect TV medium the most. Because TV makes us actors very strong," she said.

The actress further pointed out, "We shoot for 12-15 hours just like that. But that is not the case in films. But in films, creativity is of a different type. In OTT, creativity and detailing is of a different type."

Elaborating on her agreement with Rohit Roy's larger point, Chahatt said that when it comes to concepts and creativity, television currently has a lot of catching up to do.

"But when you talk about concept and when you talk about creativity, I think it has been said from that aspect. So, definitely, if you look at the story and creativity, TV is standing nowhere, right?" she said.

At the same time, Chahatt acknowledged the enormous reach of television and said its content is largely driven by what its mass audience wants to consume.

"But definitely, it targets the masses. So, the audience wants what the TV is targeting. And that's why they are showing that. It's absolutely business, I believe," she added. "If you are a creative actor, then definitely you won't be able to relate to TV"

Chahatt, who has herself been part of many popular television shows, further explained why she has found it difficult to connect with some of the concepts being offered to her. 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**

Anupama Parameswaran:

TODAY IS REALLY ALL WE HAVE!

Underlining the fact that life was short and every moment counts, actress Anupama Parameswaran says if there was one thing she had now come to understand, it was that "Today is really all we have."

Taking to her Instagram page to post a reel, the actress wrote, "Not just a reel, an archive of memories." She further went on to add, "Life is full of surprises, and with them come lessons. Some beautiful, some difficult, all leaving something behind. But if there's one thing I've come to understand, it's that life is short.

Every moment counts. Every memory matters. And today is really all we have."

It may be recalled that Anupama had put out a cryptic post in July this year that came under the spotlight.

In it, Anupama had said that peace had found her and that she no longer needed to take any more permission or be in fear.

Taking to her Instagram page to pen the rather cryptic post that gave the impression that she was finally free from something that had been imprisoning her, the actress wrote, "Sometimes, you have to let go of the dead ends to finally find your peace. And today, peace found me." IANS

WHEN MANOJ BAJPAYEE **SPENT TIME WITH REAL LIFE DACOIT**

The National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee once spoke about spending time with dacoit Maan Singh. A clip from one of Kapil Sharma's shows has recently resurfaced on the Internet.

In the clip, the show host asked the actor if he has ever been in touch with a dacoit. The actor reminisced about working on 'Bandit Queen' when he was assigned to shadow dacoit Maan Singh by director Shekhar Kapur.

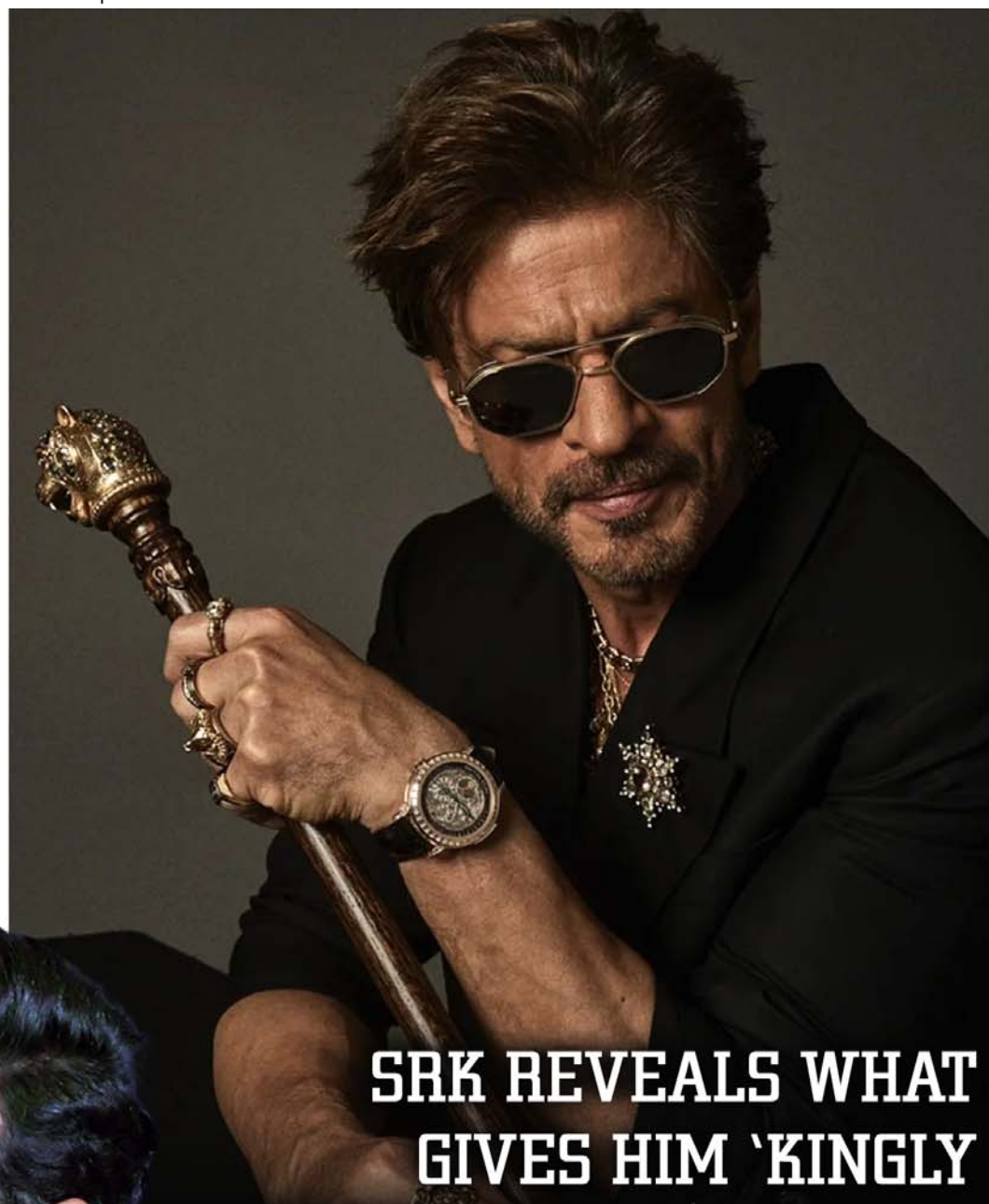
Talking about the same, the actor said, "Maan Singh used to live with me when I was in 'Bandit King'. Shekhar Kapur told me to study him. So, I followed him. When we used to come back in the car or it used to get dark after the pack-up, he used to come with us. Maan Singh never used to sit like how normally we sit in a car. He used to be very vigilant while sitting in the car".

"He was a smart guy. And he used to tell the driver, 'Drive fast. Drive fast. Drive fast, slow down. Slow down'. I asked him what he was doing. He said, 'Old enmity can come at any time'", he added.

'Bandit Queen' was based on the life of Phoolan Devi, who became one of India's most notorious bandits before entering politics. The film starred Seema Biswas in a breakthrough performance, and portrayed Phoolan Devi's traumatic childhood, forced marriage, sexual violence, caste oppression, and eventual transformation into a feared figure in the Chambal ravines.

The film explores the social and personal forces that shaped her life. Its uncompromising depiction of violence and sexual abuse generated significant controversy, including objections from Phoolan Devi herself. Despite the debates surrounding its accuracy and graphic content, Bandit Queen received widespread critical acclaim and international recognition.

IANS



SRK REVEALS WHAT GIVES HIM 'KINGLY FEELINGS' DURING HIS DAY

Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan has shared what in his daily routine gives him the "Kingly feelings". Recently the actor took to his X, formerly Twitter, and conducted a session of #AskSRK his signature ask me anything session where he interacts with fans.

One user asked the actor, "Be honest, what's the most KING-like thing you do in real life? #AskSRK @iamsrk".

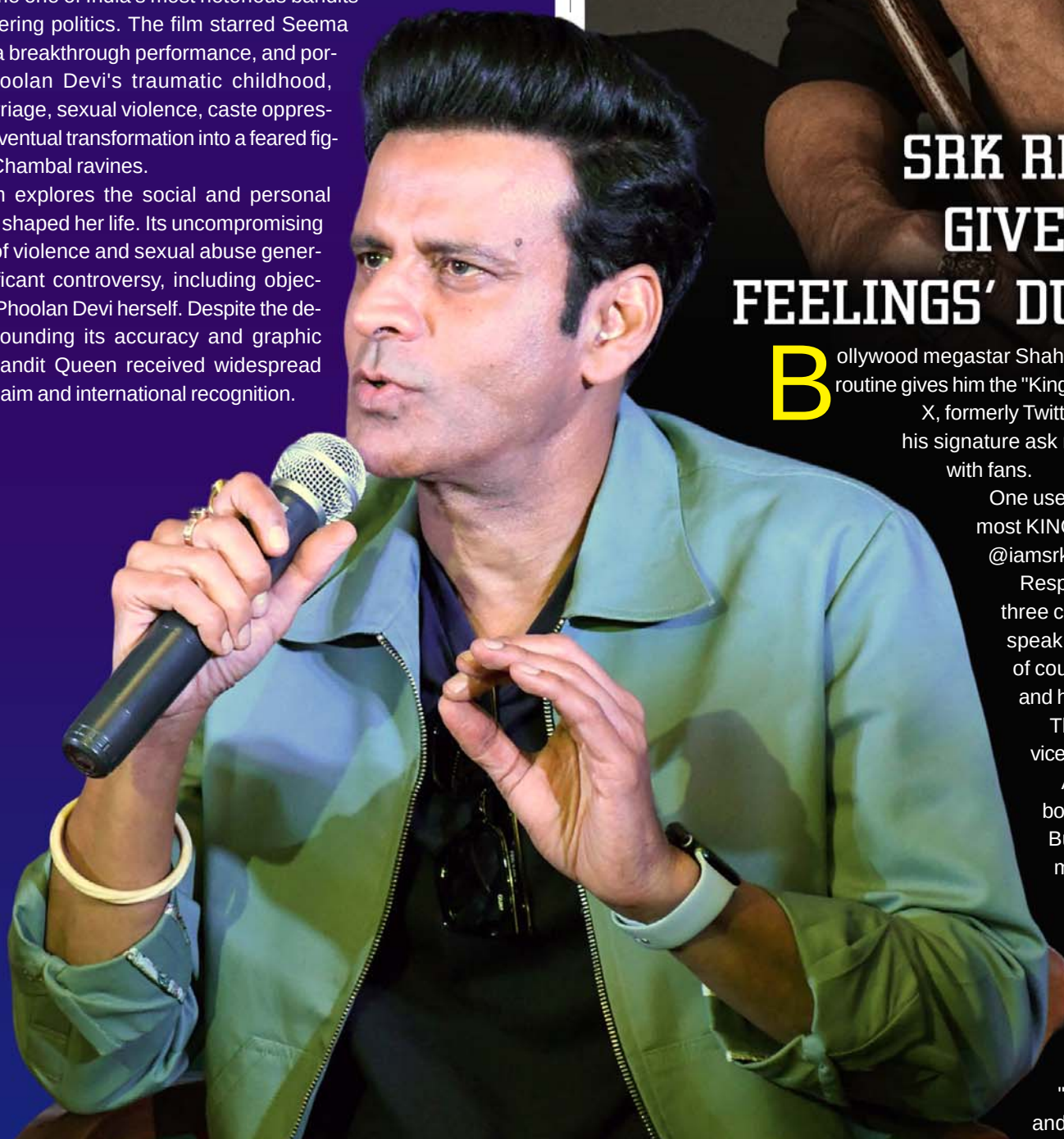
Responding to the same, SRK shared, "Have three cups of coffee in bed before anybody can speak with me even if I am late for work!! Then of course on sets get shouted at for being late and have no Kingly feelings left".

The actor also dropped some marriage advice.

A user wrote, "I got married this year. We both wanted to invite you par aap aate thodi. But I want to know from the King of Romance "what is the green flag to maintain a happy married life" See you soon".

The actor wrote, "Ek doosre ke rang mein rang jao....make adjustments so both of you make the partner happier".

The actor also gave a peek into his Ganpati celebrations, as he shared, "Wife does the Aarti and then the prayers and tonight will do the Visarjan. IANS



HUMA QURESHI ON EMMYS: SUCH GREAT TIME FOR INDIAN TALENT TO CROSS POLLINATE

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi, who was the only Indian talent in attendance at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, said that it is such a great time for Indian talent to sort of like cross-pollinate.

Reflecting on the changing landscape of global entertainment, Huma said in a statement: "This is such a great time for Indian talent to sort of like cross pollinate and do stuff together in a more meaningful way. We're truly in the age of like territory agnostic content."

'And I'm just here to be part of that wonderful ride.'

Huma's Emmy week began with her appearance at Gold House's third annual One

House Toast to the Emmys, a celebration of multicultural excellence in television and media.

She also attended the Motion Picture and Television Fund's 20th annual Evening Before pre-Emmy benefit at the Pacific Design Center, alongside several other international industry gatherings.

In other news, the actress recently made her debut as a producer with Baby Do Die Do, wherein she also played the film's central character, Baby Karmarkar. The action thriller that follows Baby Karmarkar, a deaf and mute contract killer in Mumbai seeking revenge for her twin sister's murder and her childhood trauma.

She was later seen in the

Yash-starrer Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups directed by Geetu Mohandas. It also stars Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth.

The film is reportedly budgeted at ₹500-1000 crore, making it one of the most expensive Indian films ever made. Despite the movie becoming the third highest-grossing Indian film of 2026 so far, the film was a massive box-office bomb.

The film was set in a bygone era; this gripping tale unfolds in the coastal paradise of Goa, where a powerful drug cartel pulls the strings behind a facade of sun-soaked beaches and vibrant culture. IANS



INDIA'S YOUNG FILMMAKER STANZIN JIGMET WINS GOLD AT STUDENT ACADEMY AWARDS

TORONTO: Making India proud, Stanzin Jigmet, a young filmmaker from Ladakh, has won Gold at the 53rd Student Academy Awards ceremony.

He received the prestigious honor for his film 'The Dragon Letter'.

Earlier in August, when the winners were announced, he expressed his happiness through a post on Instagram.

Jigmet wrote, "The Dragon Letter @thedragonletter has won a Student Academy Award 2026. From the remote village of Mulbekh in Ladakh, in the Indian

Himalayas, to the Academy-this journey still feels unreal. This award belongs to my family,



Stanzin Jigmet

friends, cast, crew, @escac, @pixelchallengerfilms and everyone who believed in me and in this deeply personal story.

Where we come from does not limit how far our stories can travel. #TheDragonLetter #StudentAcademyAwards #Ladakh #IndianCinema."

The 2026 ceremony was held recently at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

This year, the Student Academy Awards competition received 2,972 entries from 894 colleges and universities worldwide. ANI

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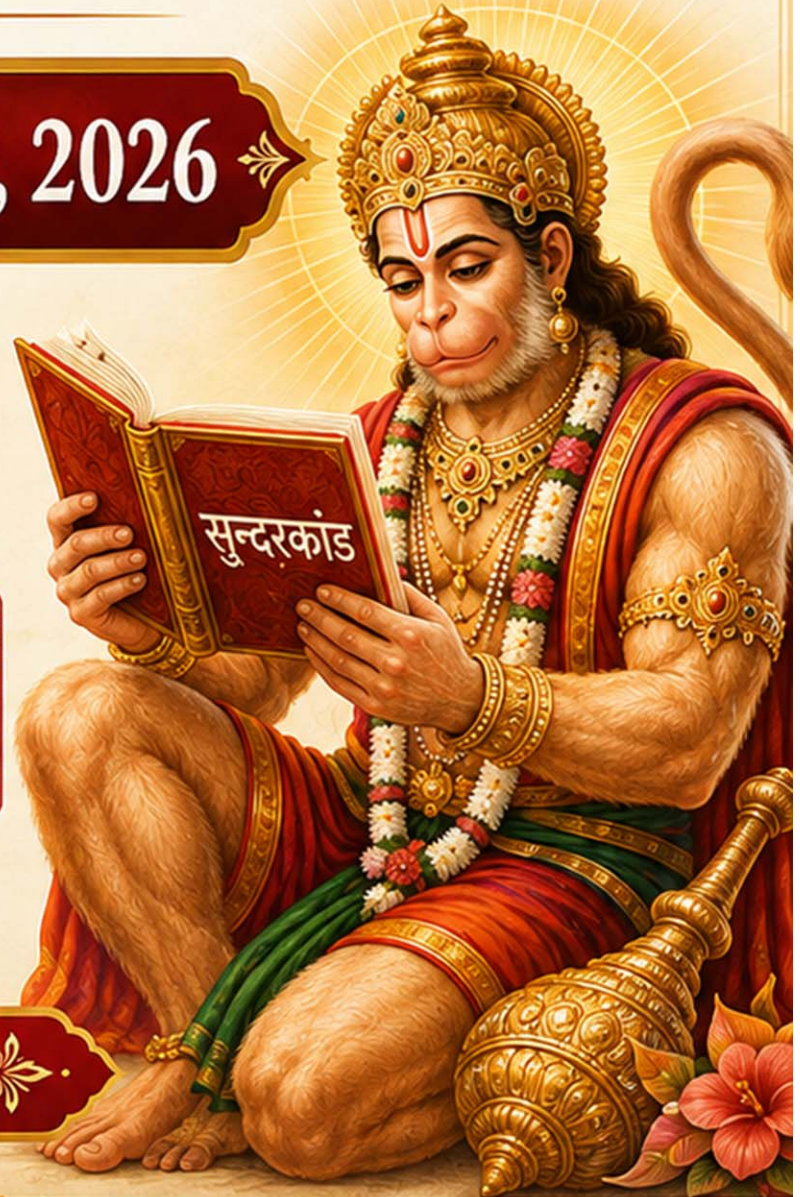
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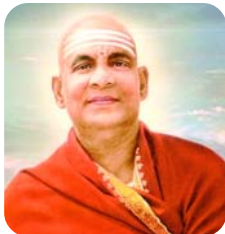
Philosophy

SWAMI SIVANANDA

When you climb a mountain or get down a steep descent, you will have to be very careful. Otherwise you will have a slip and you will fall into the deep abyss below. When you ride a bicycle, if you talk to your friends on the road, a motor car will dash against you from behind. If you are a bit absent-minded when you walk on the road, you will strike against a stone and fall down.

A careless barber will cut the nose of his customer. A careless washerman will burn the clothes of his master. A sleepy aspirant will dash his head against the wall or fall down prostrate on the ground. Therefore, you must develop attention.

Attention leads to concentration. Attention is steady application of the mind. It is focussing of consciousness on some chosen object. Through attention you can develop your mental faculties and capacities. Where there is attention, there is also concentration.



Swami Sivananda

basis of will. It is one of the signs of a trained will. It is found in men of strong mentality. It is a rare faculty. Brahmacharya wonderfully develops this power.

A Yogi who possesses this faculty can fix the mind even on an unpleasant object for a very long time. Attention can be cultivated and developed by persistent practice.

All who have achieved greatness have risen up through this faculty.

The human mind has the power of attending to only one object at a time, although it is able to pass from one object to another with a marvellous degree of speed, so rapidly in fact that some have held that it could grasp several things at a time. But the best authorities, eastern and western, hold to the "single idea" theory as being correct.

It agrees with one's daily experience also. You cannot attend to two different objects at a time- Mind can do only one thing at a time. Because it moves with such a tremendous velocity backwards and forwards, you think that the mind can attend to several objects or things

Attention should be cultivated gradually
A developed Yogi can do several things at a time

Attention should be cultivated gradually. It is not a special process. It is the whole mental process in one of its aspects. If you analyse carefully the mental functions or operations, no one process can be singled out and called attention. It is not possible to separate attention as a distinct function.

You observe something; therefore, you are attentive. Perception always involves attention. To perceive is to attend. Through attention you get a clear and distinct knowledge of objects. The entire energy is focussed on the object towards which attention is directed. Full and complete information is gained. During attention, all the dissipated rays of the mind are collected. There is effort or struggle in attention.

Through attention a deeper impression of anything is made in the mind. If you have good attention, you can attend to the matter in hand exclusively. An attentive man has very good memory. He is very vigilant and circumspect. He is nimble and alert.

Attention or Avadhana plays a conspicuous part in concentration. Attention is the

at a time.

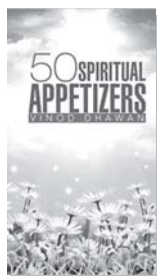
You cannot see and hear at the same time. But this law is not applicable to a developed Yogi. A developed Yogi can do several things at a time, because his will is not separate from the Cosmic Will which is all-powerful.

This is not strange. The whole secret lies in the fact that they have developed their attention to a remarkable degree.

Excerpted from 'Meditation Know-How'. The 139th birth anniversary of Swami Sivananda was observed on September 8

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Jac O'Keeffe

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What's in a name?

Nomenclature diplomacy says much about changing geopolitics

TANUJ SAMADDAR

Nomenclature was always as much a political construct as a geographic one. Such acts are rarely bureaucratic shifts but have wider implications in geopolitics. At the recent Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, hinted that a change to the US Pacific Command was imminent when he explicitly emphasized the US as a Pacific nation. Following this, on 16th June, the Trump administration decided to drop the prefix 'INDO' from US Indo Pacific Command, 'INDO-PACOM' and reverted back to its historic designation as United States Pacific Command 'USPACOM.'

The USPACOM was established in 1947 and currently operates as the oldest and largest of the 11 unified combatant commands in the US military. The strate-

naled the American commitment to countering Beijing's hegemony in the Indo-Pacific, under Quad's banner of a 'free and open' Indo-Pacific.

For a long time, the USPACOM was Washington's strategic counter to China's regional ambitions. This shift also subtly signals a more accommodative U.S.-China relation as the Indo-Pacific construct has long since been regarded with hostility by Beijing.

This move comes at a time when India intends to align more closely with U.S. regional security frameworks. This shared interest is reflected in the growing cooperation between the armed forces of both the nations underscored by joint naval exercises like RIMPAC and land and air components like Yudh Abhyas and Red Flag spanning maritime domain awareness and logistics exchange.

But the ambiguity that has been created with this shift also prompts us to speculate that the Indo in Indo-Pacific has ceased to be geography proactively dominated by Washington, but characterized by regional agency, sanction insulated financial architecture, and even a new currency to counter the US dollar.

The USPACOM was established in 1947 and currently operates as the oldest and largest of the 11 unified combatant commands in the US military. The strategic significance of this command is underpinned in its decisive role in shaping America's post WW-2 security architecture, especially during the Vietnam and Korean wars

gic significance of this command is underpinned in its decisive role in shaping America's post WW-2 security architecture, especially during the Vietnam and Korean wars. Its area of operation stretches from the waters of the west coast of the U.S. to the east-coast maritime borderlines of India.

With the realignment of USA's focus towards safeguarding its homeland and regions closer to the mainland, experts speculate that India's significance in Washington's 'Asia Nexus' is witnessing a downward curve.

The Weight of 'INDO' in INDO-USPACOM

The 'Indo' prefix was first introduced in the command's name in 2018 in a deliberate attempt to unify both the theatres strategically and simultaneously leveraging New Delhi as the load bearer of American grand strategy. Additionally, it also sig-

Growing Salience of BRICS

Regional multinational architectures like BRICS have started to gain prominence and have emerged as a potential avenue for the constituent nations to be resilient to US induced economic shocks. On the economic front, the creation of the New Development Bank (NDB) has substantially reduced the dependence of the BRICS nations on the Bretton Woods institutions. The NDB mitigates exchange risk rates by prioritizing local currency financing.

As per NDB's annual report of 2024, 43.5% of all the projects approved by the Bank were financed in the respective member country's local currency.

(The author is a Commonwealth Scholar pursuing an MSc in Public Policy at University College London (UCL). South Asia Monitor

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India-China eight-point agreement: A tactical thaw, but trust remains elusive

COL ANIL BHAT (RETD.)

The 25th round of Special Representatives (SR) talks, co-chaired by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing in August 2026, ended with India and China reaching an eight-point consensus, featuring plans for new military hotlines and additional border meeting points.

China, which has been illegally occupying 2.5 square kilometers (sq km) of Tibet since 1951, grabbed approximately 43,180 sq km of Indian territory. It began with consolidating 38,000 sq km of Indian territory in the Aksai Chin region during the 1962 India-China War. India and China have been holding formal political and diplomatic negotiations to resolve their border disputes for 45 years, dating

border talks strictly utilize consecutive translation. An officer speaks or reads out a position statement in Mandarin or English, pauses, and the interpreter translates it into the other language. This mechanically doubles the duration of the entire conversation.

The Chinese are known for the officious reading of position papers. Chinese military and diplomatic officials rely heavily on rigidly prepared scripts and historical political position papers. Indian negotiators frequently note that Chinese representatives meticulously read out exhaustive, highly formal arguments regarding specific coordinates, ridge lines, such as the Finger areas of Pangong Tso, and historical treaties before actual back-and-forth negotiations

parameters and Guiding Principles.

(c) Expert groups will speed up talks for an "Early and Substantial Harvest" on boundary delimitation and border management.

(d) Ground issues will be handled quickly through existing diplomatic and military channels to prevent miscalculations.

(e) An expert-level meeting on Trans-border Rivers and hydrological data sharing is scheduled for September.

(f) India will host the 26th round of Special Representatives' talks in 2027.

On new military hotlines, the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) agreed to set up two new border hotlines in the Eastern (Arunachal Pradesh frontier) and Middle (Uttarakhand-Himachal Pradesh) sectors.

On meeting points, it was decided that two additional designated meeting places for senior military commanders would be established in these sectors, with locations such as Tawang and Joshimath identified on the Indian side.

Given China's historical approach to border agreements—often characterized by incremental normalization, grey-zone tactics and strategic backtracking—analysts and security experts urge strict vigilance regarding the implementation of the eight-point consensus.

This meeting was neither entirely groundbreaking nor merely "old wine in a new bottle." Instead, strategic experts view it as a highly tactical exercise in "institutionalizing stability" and preventing active conflict, even as deep structural differences remain unresolved.

(The author, a strategic affairs analyst, is a former spokesperson, Defense Ministry and Indian Army South Asia Monitor)

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

China, which has been illegally occupying 2.5 square kilometers (sq km) of Tibet since 1951, grabbed approximately 43,180 sq km of Indian territory. It began with consolidating 38,000 sq km of Indian territory in the Aksai Chin region during the 1962 India-China War

back to the first round of official talks held in 1981.

How China Negotiates

It will be relevant to mention the Chinese style of discussion and negotiation during these meetings. While high-level military and diplomatic negotiations between India and China have always been long, marathon sessions lasting anywhere from 12 to over 16-20 hours became a hallmark of the Corps Commander-level talks and Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) meetings following the 2020 Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoffs.

Unlike international summits that rely on simultaneous interpretation, where listeners hear the translation through headphones in real time, bilateral

begin.

Disagreements are dealt with map by map. The border dispute is fought over meters of terrain, patrolling points and buffer zones. Translating highly technical geographical coordinate data, verifying overlapping satellite maps, and crosschecking precise local topographical names—which often differ entirely in Hindi/Ladakhi and Mandarin/Tibetan—slow down the pace significantly.

The key features of the eight-point consensus were:

(a) Both nations agreed to follow instructions from their top leaders to keep peace along the border and improve overall relations.

(b) For a fair boundary solution, both sides are to apply the 2005 Agreement on Political Pa-



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BRICS Vs INDO-US RELATIONS

The 18th BRICS Summit, hosted by India in New Delhi on September 12-13 illustrates this balancing act. The New Delhi Declaration emphasized cooperation, reform of global governance, trade, finance, technology and the Global South, while India continued to resist defining BRICS simply as an anti-American alliance.

How U.S.-India relations affect India's BRICS role

1. India does not want to choose between America and BRICS

United States is an important partner for India in technology, investment, defense cooperation and the broader Indo-Pacific strategy. BRICS is valuable to India because it increases India's voice among emerging economies. Therefore, India's policy is essentially one of strategic autonomy: cooperate with Washington where interests converge, while maintaining independent relationships with Russia, China and other BRICS members.

2. India acts as a moderating force inside BRICS

China and Russia often see BRICS as a stronger counterweight to Western and U.S.-led institutions. India, however, has generally preferred a more balanced approach. Prime Minister Modi emphasized during the Delhi summit that BRICS should not be seen as being "against anyone," while stressing that developing countries should have a greater role in shaping global rules.

This position prevents BRICS from becoming merely an anti-U.S. political bloc. India can instead push the organization toward practical cooperation on development, trade, technology, climate and reform of international institutions.

3. U.S. policies can push India closer to BRICS on some issues

If Washington adopts protectionist trade measures, unilateral sanctions or policies perceived as unfair to developing countries, India may find greater common ground with other BRICS nations. The New Delhi Declaration expressed concern about unilateral measures and emphasized reforms to make global governance more representative.

However, this does not mean India will automatically align with China or Russia against United States. India has its own serious strategic concerns regarding China, particularly border security and the regional balance of power.

4. Hosting BRICS gave India greater diplomatic leverage

The Delhi summit allowed India to demonstrate it can communicate simultaneously with United States and with major powers that often disagree with Washington. India hosted leaders including Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin while also seeking to preserve strong engagement with Western countries. This makes India potentially a bridge between competing geopolitical camps rather than a permanent member of either.

5. Economic interests will remain decisive

India supports greater use of local currencies and improved payment systems within BRICS, but the Delhi summit did not produce a common BRICS currency. The emphasis remained on practical financial cooperation rather than abruptly replacing the U.S. dollar.

The future of India-U.S. relations will significantly influence India's position in BRICS, but India is unlikely to abandon either side. A strong partnership with United States gives India access to markets, capital, technology and strategic cooperation. BRICS, meanwhile, gives India a powerful platform to represent the Global South and argue for a more multipolar world.

Therefore, India's greatest challenge and opportunity is to ensure that BRICS does not become an anti-American alliance, while India-U.S. relations do not limit India's independent foreign policy. At the 2026 Delhi summit, India has tried to establish itself as a country capable of working with all major powers while protecting its own national interest.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



The Great Elephant Migration Brings India's Artistry and Conservation Message to America



GEETHA PATIL

For a few unforgettable hours today, I forgot that I was walking through the heart of Boston. As I entered the tree-lined Commonwealth Avenue Mall, I found myself standing before what appeared to be a magnificent herd of elephants peacefully making their way through a forest. Mothers guarded their calves, young elephants walked close to their families, and towering tuskers seemed to lead the journey. It was an extraordinary sight—one that stopped everyone in their tracks.

This was The Great Elephant Migration; an outdoor public art exhibition featuring 100 life-sized elephant sculptures, handcrafted by Indigenous artisans from India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The installation has transformed one of Boston's most iconic avenues into a place of reflection, wonder, and conversation.

Seeing all one hundred elephants together was overwhelming. The herd stretched across the green lawns beneath centuries-old trees, creating an illusion so realistic that visitors instinctively slowed their pace, as if they had entered the natural habitat of these majestic animals.

What made the experience even

more heartwarming was watching families interact with the installation. Children happily sat beneath the elephants enjoying their snacks, completely at ease in the company of the gentle giants. Their laughter echoed through the park as parents photographed them from every angle. The elephants became more than sculpture—they became companions, storytellers, and silent teachers.

Throughout the afternoon, hundreds of visitors walked among the herd. Some paused quietly to admire the intricate details, while others eagerly posed for photographs. Every elephant seemed to have its own personality. Some appeared curious, others protective, while the tiny calves captured every visitor's heart.

As I moved closer, I was amazed by the extraordinary craftsmanship of the artisans. From a distance, the elephants appeared almost alive. Up close, the intricate layers of

woven natural material revealed the countless hours of patience, skill, and dedication invested in each sculpture. Every wrinkle, every curve of the trunk, every gentle fold of the ears reflected the remarkable talent of Indian craftsmen.

As an Indian, I felt a deep sense of pride. Here, thousands of miles away from home, visitors were admiring not only beautiful works of art but also the rich artistic traditions and craftsmanship of India's Indigenous communities. It was a reminder that Indian artisans continue to earn global recognition through their creativity and their close connection with nature.

Curious to know what others felt, I spoke with several visitors strolling through the exhibition.

One young couple smiled and said, "We've never seen anything like this before. It feels peaceful, almost magical."

Another visitor reflected, "These elephants make you stop and think. We

often forget that wildlife and people share the same planet. This exhibition reminds us that there has to be a balance between nature and human life."

Those simple words captured the very essence of the exhibition. It was not merely an art display; it was an invitation to reflect on conservation, co-existence, and our shared responsibility toward the natural world.

Many visitors were pleasantly surprised to learn that the sculptures are also available for purchase. Beyond being works of art, each elephant supports a larger mission of wildlife conservation and the livelihoods of the artisans who painstakingly created them. The exhibition beautifully demonstrates how art can become a powerful force for environmental awareness and community empowerment.

Walking through the installation, I noticed that no one seemed to be in a hurry. People lingered. They read the information panels, exchanged thoughts with strangers, admired the elephants from different perspectives, and simply enjoyed being surrounded by such an unusual sight in the middle of a busy city.

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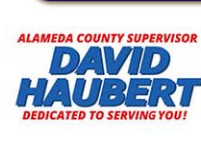
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