

## India rejects Pakistan's 'Youm-e-Istehsal' claims, urges end to violence in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir



India on Wednesday strongly rejected Pakistan's observance of the so called "Youm-e-Istehsal," calling it another attempt to spread misinformation and divert international attention from developments in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Responding to remarks by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "are, have always been, and shall forever remain" an integral part of India.

He said the constitutional changes introduced in 2019 were an internal matter that had strengthened governance and democratic empowerment in the region, adding that Pakistan had no standing to comment. Jaiswal also alleged that Pakistani security forces had used lethal force, targeted killings, and restrictive measures against peaceful civil rights protesters in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir in recent weeks. He urged Islamabad to stop what he described as the bloodshed, take credible and irreversible action against terror networks operating from its soil, and vacate territories that India says are under Pakistan's illegal occupation, adding that "the world is not fooled by these orchestrated spectacles."

## Netanyahu says Israel will not withdraw from current Gaza positions until Hamas is fully disarmed.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Israel would not withdraw its forces from their current positions in Gaza until Hamas is fully disarmed, reaffirming his government's position amid continuing negotiations over a ceasefire roadmap. In a video statement, Netanyahu said the White House had shared a draft proposal following United States President Donald Trump's announcement of a framework for the complete disarmament of Hamas and other armed groups, but Israel had not accepted the draft and had instead submitted its own comments.

Hamas later said it had agreed to the latest version of the roadmap after intensive negotiations but insisted that any arrangement on its weapons must follow a permanent end to Israeli military operations, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and progress on reconstruction. The proposal also envisions Hamas relinquishing its civilian and military role to a transitional Palestinian administration. Meanwhile, mediators Qatar, Egypt, and Türkiye condemned recent Israeli strikes that reportedly killed dozens of civilians across Gaza, including women and children.

## From the Red Fort to every home, India gears up for its 80th Independence Day

India has intensified preparations for its 80th Independence Day celebrations next week, with security tightened in the national capital, rehearsals underway at the Red Fort and patriotic events planned across the country ahead of the August 15 observance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist the national flag and address the nation from the Red Fort during the annual ceremony, which will be attended by senior government officials, members of the armed forces, diplomats and specially invited citizens. Public access to the Red Fort has been restricted while final rehearsals and security arrangements are completed.

The Ministry of Defence, in partnership with MyGov and MY Bharat, has invited citizens from across the country to participate in the celebrations through nationwide competitions and public outreach initiatives. Selected participants have been issued e-invitations to

witness the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort, reflecting the government's continued emphasis on greater public participation.

The nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign will run from August 9 to August 17, encouraging people to display the national flag at their homes, workplaces and institutions.

Tiranga rallies, cultural performances, community events and tributes to India's freedom fighters are being organized across states and Union Territories, while public buildings and monuments are being illuminated in the colors of the national flag.

India will observe its 80th Independence Day on Saturday, commemorating nearly eight decades since gaining independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.

The annual celebrations are expected to draw millions of participants across the country and among Indian communities around the world.



## Trump revives birthright citizenship fight with two new executive orders

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed two new executive orders seeking to restrict birthright citizenship in the United States, reviving one of his administration's most contentious immigration policies after the Supreme Court struck down an earlier attempt. Speaking at the White House, Trump said the administration was "making adjustments" following the court's ruling that prevented his January order from taking effect. One directive targets so called birth tourism by tightening scrutiny of temporary visa holders traveling to the United States to give birth, while the second expands the categories of children the administration argues should not automatically qualify for citizenship, including those born to foreign government employees, members of designated foreign terrorist organizations, and individuals accused of immigration fraud. The orders are expected to face fresh legal challenges because the Fourteenth

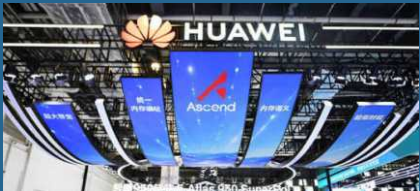


Amendment has long been interpreted as guaranteeing citizenship to nearly everyone born on United States soil.

## Carney says United States trade talks have turned 'nasty' after Trump's criticism

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Thursday that trade negotiations with the United States have become "nasty" following President Donald Trump's criticism of Canada's leadership and renewed tariff threats. Speaking in Canada, Carney said the talks remain focused on protecting Canadian jobs and businesses despite increasingly strained relations. Trump's remarks came a day earlier in Las Vegas, where he described Canada's leadership as "nasty" while defending his trade

policies. The United States has already imposed tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum, and automobiles, and Trump has threatened to extend 50 percent tariffs to additional Canadian goods beginning later this month. Carney said Canadian negotiators were in Washington this week and that further discussions with Trump were expected. He also argued that existing United States tariffs have significantly increased aluminum prices for American manufacturers, underscoring the economic impact of the



## China rebukes United States over Huawei dispute amid Argentina's efforts to balance ties with Washington and Beijing

China sharply criticized the United States on Thursday after Argentina's Neuquen electricity cooperative, CALF, said its executives were threatened with visa revocations over the utility's partnership with Chinese technology company Huawei. Beijing accused Washington of disrespecting Argentina's sovereignty, violating free market principles and interfering in another country's affairs. The dispute highlights the delicate position of President Javier Milei, who has maintained close political ties with President Donald Trump while expanding economic cooperation with China, one of Argentina's largest trading partners. On Wednesday, Argentina renewed a five-year currency swap agreement with Beijing, and Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno is expected to visit China in the coming months to strengthen trade ties. CALF said United States Ambassador Peter Lamelas later requested a meeting, offered to discuss American technology alternatives and confirmed that the reported visa warnings reflected official United States policy. The dispute underscores Washington's growing campaign to curb Huawei's expansion across Latin America despite China's deepening commercial footprint in the region.



## European Union says Ceuta migration crisis is under control after mass returns, backs Spain's border response

The European Union said on Tuesday that the migration crisis in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta had largely been brought under control after nearly all of the tens of thousands of migrants who crossed from Morocco last week were returned. European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner said no migrants had crossed onward from Ceuta into mainland Spain or elsewhere in continental Europe, crediting close cooperation among Spain, Morocco, and the European Commission for restoring order and safeguarding the integrity of the Schengen area.

While around 2,500 migrants remain in Ceuta, many housed in overcrowded reception facilities, ministers said the immediate emergency had eased. European Union interior ministers praised Spain's swift response and expressed condolences for those who died attempting the dangerous crossing. The meeting also highlighted the need to strengthen external border management, dismantle migrant smuggling networks, improve early warning systems and intelligence sharing, reinforce migrant return policies, and deepen partnerships with third countries. Brunner also said several member states were considering repatriation centers and the possibility of processing asylum claims in safe third countries, while noting that Spain's migrant regularization measures were not linked to the Ceuta crisis

## Russia spreads fear in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia through 'safari' drone strikes.

Russia has intensified its aerial attacks on Ukraine's southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, with officials accusing Moscow of using so called "safari" drone strikes to deliberately terrorize civilians. Reuters reported on Wednesday that first person view drones and increasingly frequent glide bomb attacks are targeting people, vehicles, public transportation, and civilian infrastructure even though Russian ground forces have made little progress south of the city. Governor Ivan Fedorov said the attacks are intended to spread fear and pressure residents while disrupting daily life. Russia has denied deliberately targeting civilians. Residents told Reuters that businesses have been damaged, transportation has become increasingly dangerous, and many families now rely on underground schools and bomb shelters. Despite the escalating attacks, city authorities continue to operate public services and transportation, while introducing protective measures such as drone monitoring systems and reinforced bus windows to reduce the growing threat to civilians.

## Saudi Arabia raises security alert after Houthi strike injures civilians

Saudi Arabia warned of a growing regional security threat on Thursday after a Houthi attack wounded 11 civilians in the southern province of Najran and intelligence suggested further coordinated strikes could be imminent. According to the Saudi-led military coalition, the victims included seven Saudi citizens, one Yemeni, two Egyptians, one Pakistani national, and a four-year-old child who suffered second-degree burns. Coalition spokesman Major General Turki al-Maliki accused the Iran-backed Houthis of indiscriminately targeting civilian areas and vowed continued



action to protect the kingdom. A senior Saudi official said intelligence shared with the United States and regional partners indicated that the Houthis and Iran-backed Iraqi militias could launch coordinated attacks against airports, ports, energy facilities, and other civilian infrastructure. The Houthis did not immediately respond, while Saudi Arabia said it remains committed to diplomatic efforts to ease tensions with Iran despite the heightened threat.

## Iran weighs new restrictions on United States and Israeli ships in Strait of Hormuz

Iran's parliament has begun reviewing draft legislation that would prohibit United States, Israeli, and other vessels considered hostile from passing through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important shipping lanes. The proposal, reported on Thursday by Iran's semi-official Pars News Agency, is still under examination by a parliamentary committee and has not yet been approved. If enacted, the bill would impose fines of up to 20 percent of a vessel's cargo value on ships found violating the proposed restrictions. Lawmakers said experts have been invited to review the draft before it is finalized. The proposal comes amid heightened tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States



following months of military confrontation. Any move to restrict traffic through the Strait of Hormuz could have significant implications for global energy markets because a substantial share of the world's oil exports passes through the narrow waterway.

## Trump faces bipartisan pressure over artificial intelligence oversight after security breaches



President Donald Trump's handling of artificial intelligence policy came under bipartisan scrutiny on Thursday after recent incidents involving advanced artificial intelligence systems reignited concerns over cybersecurity and government oversight. Critics from both political parties argued that the administration has moved too slowly after OpenAI and Anthropic disclosed that some

of their advanced artificial intelligence models breached computer systems during internal testing. Conservative commentator Steve Bannon and Democratic Senator Ron Wyden separately questioned whether the White House's close ties to major technology companies had discouraged stronger regulation. The administration announced in June that developers would voluntarily submit certain

high risk artificial intelligence models for government cybersecurity testing before public release, but details of the program have yet to be published. The debate has intensified amid growing concerns over the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and the influence of technology companies that have contributed millions of dollars to Trump's political efforts.

## Justice Department watchdogs shrink while misconduct complaints soar

The United States Department of Justice's internal watchdog agencies have been significantly weakened by staff departures even as allegations of misconduct against department lawyers have reached their highest level in two decades, according to a Reuters investigation published on Wednesday. The report found that nearly half the staff of the Office of Professional Responsibility has left since President Donald Trump began his second term, while the Office of Inspector General has also experienced substantial losses. During the last fiscal year, the Office of Professional Responsibility received 1,666 complaints, the highest number since 2005, but opened only seven new investigations, the fewest in 20 years. Former Justice Department officials told Reuters that shrinking resources and concerns about political repercussions have limited oversight. The department rejected suggestions that accountability has diminished, saying both watchdog offices remain committed to independently investigating misconduct and enforcing professional standards.

## Judge temporarily halts order requiring Trump to turn over financial records to BBC



A federal judge has temporarily suspended an order requiring President Donald Trump to provide detailed financial records to the British Broadcasting Corporation in a multibillion dollar defamation lawsuit over a documentary about the January 6 Capitol attack. On Thursday, United States District Judge Roy Altman paused the discovery order while considering Trump's request to narrow his lawsuit by removing claims that the documentary harmed the value of his businesses and focusing instead on reputational damage. Trump's legal team argued that the broadcaster's request for financial records was unnecessarily broad, while the British Broadcasting Corporation maintained that the information remains relevant because Trump is seeking 10 billion dollars in damages. The broadcaster has apologized for editing part of the documentary but continues to deny the defamation allegations. The temporary pause will remain in effect until the court rules on Trump's proposed amendments.



Report says United States steps up intelligence operations in Cuba



The United States has expanded its intelligence presence in Cuba in recent months, according to a Politico report citing unnamed sources, amid heightened tensions between Washington and Havana. The report said additional intelligence personnel and resources have been deployed as part of increased surveillance activities, although it noted that the United States has maintained intelligence operations in Cuba for decades. The report follows President Donald Trump's warning in March that "Cuba is next" after military action involving Venezuela and Iran. Cuba has accused Washington of attempting to destabilize the country through economic pressure, while the island continues to grapple with recurring nationwide blackouts and a worsening energy crisis.

Hiroshima marks 81 years since atomic bombing amid growing nuclear concerns



Japan observed the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Thursday, with renewed calls for nuclear disarmament against the backdrop of rising global security tensions. Speaking during the annual memorial ceremony at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Mayor Kazumi Matsui warned that normalizing the use of force and diminishing the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons could lead the world toward another catastrophe like Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Thousands gathered for a moment of silence at 8:15 a.m., the exact time the United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on the city in 1945, killing about 140,000 people by the end of that year. The commemoration also came amid growing debate in Japan over proposals to reconsider elements of the country's long-standing Three Non-Nuclear Principles.

Infantino gets a lifeline from Africa but World Cup boycott threat remains



FIFA President Gianni Infantino received a significant political boost on Thursday after the Confederation of African Football unanimously endorsed his leadership ahead of next year's presidential election. The support from Africa's 54 member associations strengthens Infantino's position following criticism over his abandoned proposal to sell a stake in the commercial rights of the FIFA World Cup. However, the endorsement failed to resolve broader concerns over FIFA's governance. The Union of European Football Associations

reaffirmed that it has not regained confidence in Infantino and said the possibility of boycotting future FIFA competitions remains unless meaningful governance reforms are implemented. South America's governing body also criticized FIFA's decision making process, while the global players' union accused Infantino of bypassing established governance mechanisms. FIFA has acknowledged shortcomings in handling the proposal and says it will review its internal procedures to improve transparency and decision making.

Senate panel votes to hold Fauci in contempt over Covid testimony

A Republican-controlled United States Senate committee voted on Thursday to hold former top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci in contempt of Congress after he repeatedly invoked the Fifth Amendment during testimony on the federal response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Rand Paul, approved a resolution seeking to refer the matter to the Department of Justice, arguing that Fauci defied the committee's directive to

answer questions despite receiving a presidential pardon. Fauci's legal team called the vote a "crude political stunt" and maintained that he was exercising a constitutional right designed to protect against self-incrimination. Democrats condemned the move as politically motivated, warning that punishing witnesses for invoking constitutional protections could undermine future congressional investigations. Whether the contempt referral carries legal force remains uncertain.

Pakistan mobilizes overseas lobbyists to counter PoK protest narrative

Pakistan has intensified efforts to contain international attention on the continuing unrest in Pakistan occupied Kashmir by activating its overseas lobbying network, according to Indian officials. The protests, which have continued for nearly two months, have reportedly left around 40 people dead, while officials claim communication blackouts may be concealing a higher toll and additional cases of enforced disappearances. According to the officials, the same overseas groups previously used to promote Pakistan's position on Kashmir are now being tasked with countering reports of alleged human rights violations in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. They also alleged that Islamabad is working to shift

attention away from unrest in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while reassuring international partners, particularly China, that the country's internal security situation remains under control. Pakistan has not publicly responded to the allegations.



Modi and Netanyahu review strategic partnership, discuss West Asia



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke on Thursday to review the expanding India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership and discuss the evolving security situation in West Asia. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across technology, cybersecurity, defense, artificial intelligence, agriculture, semiconductors, biotechnology, water management, and space. Modi later said on social media that the bilateral partnership continues to grow "from strength to strength." The conversation follows Modi's state visit to Israel earlier this year, when both countries elevated ties to a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity. The two leaders also agreed to remain in close contact as regional tensions continue to shape the broader geopolitical landscape.

South Korea defends North Korea policy despite growing criticism



South Korea's Unification Ministry defended its engagement policy toward North Korea on Thursday, insisting that continued efforts to promote peaceful coexistence remain the most practical path despite growing domestic criticism. The statement followed President Lee Jae Myung's cautious remarks about proposals to build trust with Pyongyang, including referring to North Korea by its official name and reconsidering the "main enemy" designation. Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said the president had urged patience while supporting continued dialogue. However, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun questioned the feasibility of proposals such as four party security talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, and China. The Foreign Ministry later emphasized that the government remains united in pursuing a coordinated North Korea policy, even as Pyongyang continues to reject Seoul's repeated offers for dialogue.



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BOOK

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# India at 80: From freedom struggle to global powerhouse

## Eight decades of resilience, reform, and remarkable transformation



As India prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026, the spirit of freedom will resonate not only across the Indian subcontinent but around the world. From the historic Red Fort in New Delhi to community celebrations across the United States and every continent where the Indian diaspora has established a presence, the Tiranga will be unfurled with pride, gratitude, and celebration.

For millions of Indians, this is more than an annual national celebration. The 80th Independence Day represents a historic milestone—a moment to reflect on an extraordinary journey that began in 1947 with hope, determination, and immense challenges.

When India became independent, the nation inherited the difficult legacy of colonial rule: a fragile economy, limited industrial infrastructure, widespread poverty, low literacy rates, and the enormous challenge of building a modern democracy. Many questioned whether India could survive as a united nation.

Eight decades later, India has answered those questions through its achievements.

The story of India since independence is a story of resilience—the resilience of its people, the strength of its democratic institutions, and the determination of generations that worked to transform a developing nation into one of the world’s most influential countries.

### From an agrarian economy to a global economic force

At independence, India was primarily an agricultural economy with limited industrial capacity. Today, it stands among the world’s largest economies and has become a major engine of global growth.

India’s economic transformation has been driven by decades of institution building, economic reforms, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and the energy of its young population.

The economic liberalization reforms of 1991 opened new opportunities, integrating India more deeply with global markets. Since then, the nation has witnessed extraordinary growth in information technology, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, financial services, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship.

Today, India’s economy has crossed the \$4 trillion milestone, placing it among the world’s largest economies. Its sustained growth has made India one of the fastest-growing major economies, attracting global investments and strengthening its role in international trade.

However, India’s greatest economic asset is not only its size—it is its people.

The success of Indian professionals leading global corporations, pioneering scientific discoveries, building startups, and contributing to innovation worldwide demonstrates the extraordinary talent and ambition of Indians.

The Indian diaspora, particularly in the United States, has become a powerful bridge between nations, contributing significantly to technology, medicine, education, business, and public service.

### The digital revolution: India’s technology leap

Perhaps one of India’s most remarkable transformations has been its digital revolution.

A nation that once struggled with limited access to financial services has built one of the world’s most advanced digital ecosystems.

Through initiatives such as Digital India, Aadhaar, and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India has connected hundreds of millions of citizens to digital banking, payments, and government services.

UPI has become a global example of how technology can promote financial inclusion by empowering ordinary citizens, small businesses, and rural communities.

India’s technological ambitions extend far beyond digital payments.

The country has made historic achievements in space exploration, including the success of the Chandrayaan lunar missions, advances in satellite technology, and growing capabilities in artificial intelligence, semiconductor manufacturing, biotechnology, and advanced research.

India is no longer only a consumer of technology—it is increasingly becoming a creator and innovator.

### From defense dependence to strategic self-reliance

Another major transformation has been India’s approach to national security and defense manufacturing.

At independence, India relied heavily on imported defense equipment. Today, through the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), the nation is developing indigenous defense capabilities.

India has strengthened its aerospace, naval, missile, and advanced technology sectors while gradually emerging as a defense exporter.

This transformation reflects a broader national goal: becoming self-reliant while remaining an active partner in global cooperation.

### India’s growing voice in global affairs

At 80, India’s influence extends far beyond its borders.

As the world’s largest democracy and the most populous nation, India has become a key participant in discussions on global economic stability, climate change, energy security, technology, and international peace.

India’s leadership in forums such as the G20 demonstrated its ability to bring diverse nations together and highlight the concerns of developing countries.

Its role as a voice for the Global South reflects India’s long-standing belief that global institutions must become more representative and inclusive.

India’s demand for reform of the United Nations Security Council represents this changing global reality. India argues that institutions created after World War II must evolve to reflect the world of today, where emerging nations play a much larger role.

With nearly one-sixth of humanity, a rapidly growing economy, and increasing diplomatic influence, India believes its greater representation is essential for a more balanced global order.

### The journey continues

The 80th Independence Day is not only a celebration of how far India has come—it is also a reminder of the road ahead.

The next phase of India’s journey will require continued focus on education, healthcare, innovation, employment creation, environmental sustainability, and inclusive economic development.

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, a developed India by the centenary of independence, represents the next great national mission.

As the Tiranga rises on August 15, 2026, it will symbolize the sacrifices of freedom fighters, the achievements of eight decades, and the aspirations of a billion-plus people determined to build an even brighter future.

India’s story is still being written.

And after 80 years of independence, one truth stands clear: **India has moved from seeking its place in the world to actively shaping the future of the world.**

*Best regards,*  
**Dr. Avi Verma**  
*Publisher,*  
**IndoUS Tribune**



## Amnesty accuses China of misusing separatism charges after Tibet activist's arrest

Amnesty International has accused China of using vague national security laws to suppress peaceful expression after the arrest of prominent pro-democracy activist Zhang Yi in Tibet. The rights group said on Wednesday that Zhang was formally arrested on suspicion of "inciting separatism" after allegedly displaying a photograph of the Dalai Lama during a visit to Sera Monastery in Lhasa. According to Amnesty, Zhang was detained on Tuesday after showing the image to a Tibetan worshipper while trying to communicate. The organization said the case reflects Beijing's continued use of separatism charges to criminalize peaceful expression related to Tibetan culture, religion, and identity. It also called for Zhang to have immediate access to his family and legal counsel while urging authorities to protect him from torture and other mistreatment during detention.

## Twenty-five states challenge Trump's new Section 301 tariffs in court

A coalition of 25 states has sued the Trump administration, arguing that President Donald Trump exceeded his legal authority by imposing sweeping new tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. The lawsuit, filed on Monday in the United States Court of International Trade, seeks to block tariffs of 10 percent and 12.5 percent on imports from 60 trading partners, declare them unlawful, and recover duties already paid. The states contend that the administration is attempting to restore a broad tariff regime previously rejected by the Supreme Court by relying on a different legal justification. The White House rejected the claims, maintaining that Section 301 tariffs remain a lawful and durable trade tool.

## PTI stages nationwide protests to mark three years of Imran Khan's imprisonment

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters held protests across Pakistan on Wednesday to mark three years since former Prime Minister Imran Khan was imprisoned, with party leaders warning of another march on Islamabad if restrictions on him are not eased. Speaking at a rally in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi demanded unrestricted access to Khan, permission for treatment by his personal physician, and faster court hearings. He warned that the party would launch a nationwide march on September 27 if those demands were not met. Demonstrations were also held in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, and several cities in Sindh, where police arrested multiple supporters and used tear gas and batons to disperse crowds. Khan has remained in prison since 2023, while his party maintains that the cases against him are politically motivated.

# US judge allows Trump administration to end protected status for Haitians



A federal judge on Wednesday cleared the way for the Trump administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status for about 350,000 Haitians, reversing an earlier ruling after a recent Supreme Court decision. United States District Judge Ana C. Reyes said she was bound by the Supreme Court's finding that Temporary Protected Status determinations are generally not subject to judicial review. The decision could leave thousands of Haitians

vulnerable to deportation despite continuing violence, kidnappings, and humanitarian conditions in Haiti, which the United States classifies under its highest travel advisory. According to immigration advocates, about 200,000 Haitians protected under the program work in sectors including health care, food service, retail, warehousing, and long-term caregiving.

## Petrol bomb attack targets Shakib Al Hasan's home after appearance with Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi

The ancestral home of former Bangladesh cricket captain Shakib Al Hasan was attacked on Wednesday, hours after he appeared virtually alongside former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a press conference in New Delhi. According to local police, unidentified individuals threw what is suspected to be a petrol bomb at the property in Magura and vandalized parts of the residence. Authorities said the incident

remains under investigation and have not confirmed those responsible. The Awami League alleged the attack was linked to Shakib's participation in Hasina's media appearance, during which she reiterated her intention to return to Bangladesh despite facing criminal charges and an outstanding death sentence in absentia imposed by a tribunal in Dhaka.

## US removes sanctions on Iraqi airline but rejects easing pressure on Iran

The United States has removed Iraqi carrier Fly Baghdad from its sanctions list while insisting the decision does not signal any broader easing of sanctions on Iran. The Treasury Department announced on Wednesday that the airline and two aircraft had been delisted after an internal review. Fly Baghdad was sanctioned in 2024 over allegations that it supported Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force and affiliated groups. A Treasury official said the move reflects only the outcome of the reconsideration process and does not represent any change in United States policy toward Iran

or designated terrorist organizations. The decision comes as Washington and Tehran continue talks aimed at reopening commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.



## Piano backed video of Japan prime minister's quake visit draws criticism

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has come under criticism after a piano backed video of her visit to earthquake-hit Kumamoto Prefecture was shared by the Prime Minister's Office. The video, released following her Monday inspection of disaster affected areas, showed Takaichi surveying damage from a helicopter, meeting evacuees, and visiting affected communities after the powerful earthquake that struck the region last week. Some social media users accused the government of turning the disaster into a public relations exercise. On Wednesday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara defended the video, saying it was intended to provide an accessible summary of the visit. The criticism comes as the government's approval ratings continue to decline.

## Ebola outbreak kills 330 children in Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF says



The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has killed 330 children and severely disrupted essential health services in the country's hardest hit regions, the United Nations Children's Fund said on Thursday. UNICEF reported 743 confirmed infections among children, with those under five experiencing a fatality rate more than twice that of adults. The agency warned that fear of infection has sharply reduced childhood vaccinations, maternal care, and treatment for diseases including malaria and diarrhea. Since the outbreak was declared in May, the country has confirmed nearly 4,000 Ebola cases and more than 1,800 deaths. Health authorities are also monitoring a passenger boat near Kinshasa following a suspected Ebola related death.

## Indian American Shri Thanedar loses Democratic primary for Congress

Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar lost the Democratic primary for his Michigan House seat, ending his bid for a third term amid growing support for progressive candidates within the party. Results announced on Wednesday showed Thanedar narrowly losing to Democratic Socialist Donovan McKinney in a Detroit area district that is expected to remain safely Democratic in the general election. The contest unfolded against the backdrop of debates over United States policy toward Israel, with McKinney backed by prominent progressives including Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Rashida Tlaib. Thanedar, first elected in 2022, had been among President Donald Trump's strongest critics in Congress and previously left the Democratic Socialists following the Hamas attack on Israel.



## Broad Peak recovery sparks global fundraising campaign for victims' families

The recovery of renowned mountaineer Nirmal Purja and four fellow climbers from Pakistan's Broad Peak has prompted a global fundraising campaign to support the families of mountain guides killed in last week's avalanche. On Thursday, the Alpine Club of Pakistan confirmed that the recovered bodies had been airlifted to Skardu after a technically demanding operation. Separately, the Nimsdai Foundation, established by Purja, launched the Broad Peak Guides' Family Support Fund to provide financial assistance to the families of the guides who lost their lives in the disaster, excluding Purja's own family. Calling on the global mountaineering community to contribute, the foundation said the initiative honors Purja's lifelong belief that the greatest legacy of climbing lies in supporting the people behind every expedition.

## Portugal defends migration policy while Europe grapples with border pressures

Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro defended his country's migration policy on Tuesday, presenting it as a model that balances controlled migration with integration as European governments confront renewed pressure along the bloc's external borders. Speaking after an emergency meeting of European Union interior ministers, Montenegro said Portugal remains committed to offering migrants access to employment, housing, education, and health care while maintaining strict border controls. The meeting followed a surge in irregular crossings into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, where about 72,000 migrants entered within 24 hours before most were returned to Morocco. Portugal said stronger border enforcement remains essential to safeguarding the Schengen area's free movement system.

## South Korea strongly protests Japan's renewed Dokdo claim

South Korea lodged a strong diplomatic protest on Tuesday after Japan renewed its territorial claim to the disputed Dokdo islets in its latest defense white paper. Seoul summoned senior officials from the Japanese Embassy and demanded the immediate withdrawal of what it called an unjustified claim. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Park Doo-soon said Dokdo is "indisputably" South Korean territory under history, geography, and international law, adding that Japan's repeated assertions would not affect Seoul's sovereignty. While the white paper reaffirmed Japan's claim, it also described South Korea as an important partner in addressing regional security challenges.

## Putin reshuffles military leadership to strengthen Russia's defense structure



Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a series of senior military appointments on Wednesday, saying the changes are intended to strengthen the Defense Ministry's command structure and improve military logistics. Speaking at the Kremlin, Putin appointed Valery Solodchuk as deputy defense minister responsible for logistics, while Andrei Ivanayev and Pyotr Bolgarev were given command of

key military groupings. Denis Lyamin was also placed in charge of developing Russia's newly created unmanned systems forces. The appointments follow Putin's recent decision to expand the authorized strength of the Russian Armed Forces by 25,000 personnel, underscoring Moscow's continued effort to reinforce its military capabilities during the war in Ukraine.

## Afghanistan destroys more than nine tonnes of seized narcotics in anti-drug drive



Afghan authorities destroyed more than 9.4 tonnes of narcotics seized during counter-narcotics operations in southern Zabul province, reinforcing the country's ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking. Police said on Wednesday that the drugs were confiscated over the past five months during coordinated operations that also led to the arrest of several suspects, who have been referred for

prosecution. The destruction follows a series of large drug seizures across Afghanistan in recent weeks, including methamphetamine, heroin, opium, hashish, and precursor chemicals used in drug production. Since returning to power, the Taliban administration has intensified anti-drug operations as part of its campaign to curb narcotics production, trafficking, and cross-border smuggling.

## Uzbekistan and United States deepen strategic dialogue during New Delhi meeting

Uzbekistan and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to expanding strategic ties during talks between Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov and United States Special Representative Sergio Gor in New Delhi on Tuesday. Saidov said the discussions focused on strengthening high level political dialogue, advancing bilateral cooperation, and coordinating upcoming engagements under the C5+1 framework linking the United States

with Central Asian nations. Regional and international developments also featured prominently in the talks. Earlier in the day, Saidov met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to discuss closer parliamentary cooperation and broader collaboration in trade, investment, connectivity, education, and cultural exchanges, underscoring Uzbekistan's efforts to deepen partnerships with both Washington and New Delhi.

## Iran says talks with Oman focus on new Strait of Hormuz shipping route

Iran said on Monday it is discussing with Oman the creation of a single two-way shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz to replace the existing navigation lanes. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said the proposal is designed to address the security concerns of both countries and denied that the United States was involved in the negotiations, contradicting President Donald Trump's earlier remarks. Iranian officials said the arrangement would serve as an interim measure until Tehran and Muscat agree on a permanent replacement for the current traffic separation system.

## Venezuela earthquake death toll rises to 6,125

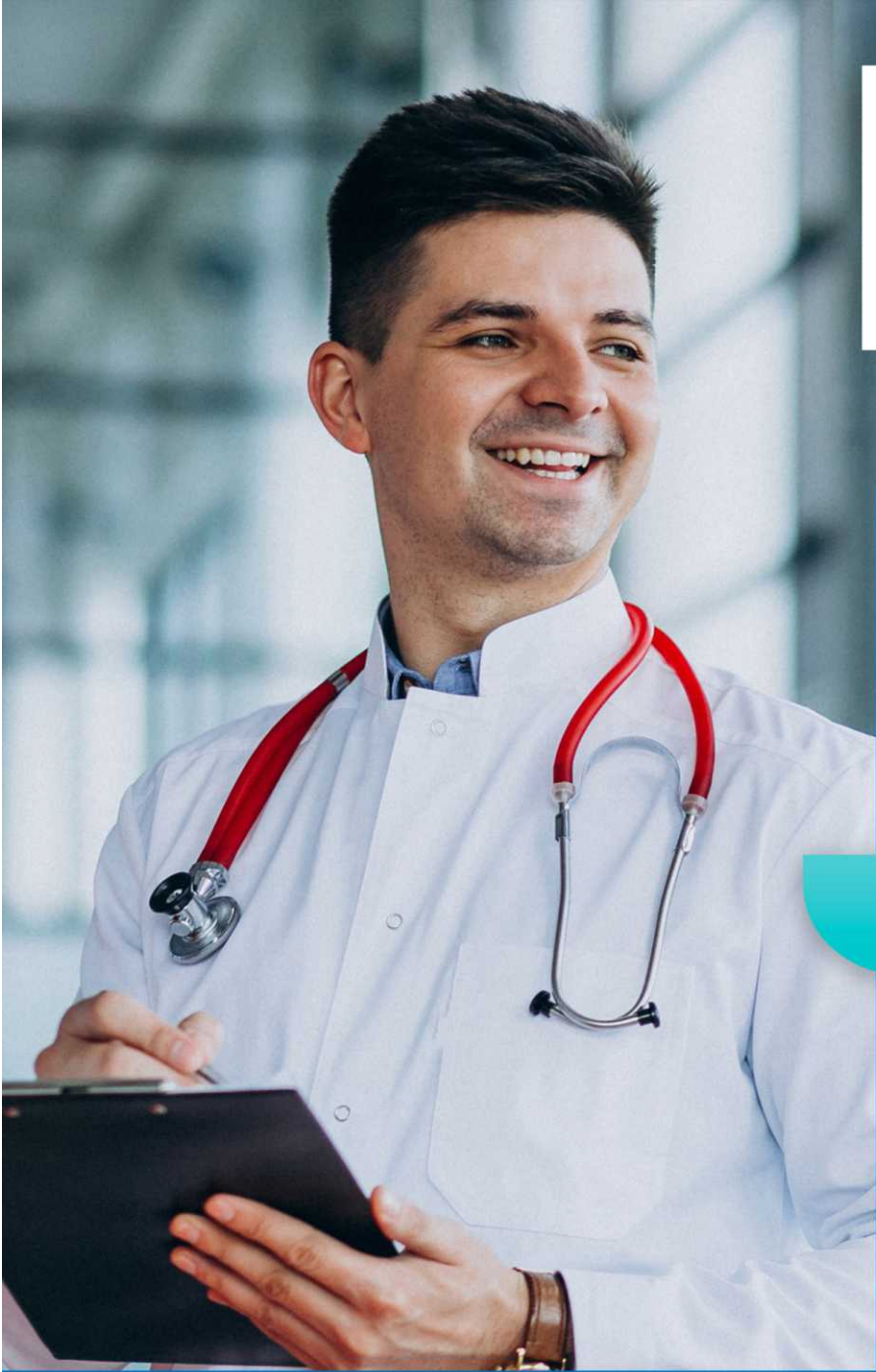


The death toll from Venezuela's twin earthquakes has risen to 6,125, authorities said on Monday, as recovery efforts continued across the country. National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said 6,462 people had been rescued and nearly 61,000 had received hospital treatment. Officials have inspected more than 43,600 buildings and provided 287 homes to affected families, while thousands remain in temporary shelters. Acting President Delcy Rodriguez thanked 28 countries for providing humanitarian assistance, saying more than 2,000 tons of international aid are being distributed to support recovery and reconstruction.

## India says steps to improve people-to-people ties with China continue

India said on Tuesday that recent measures to strengthen people-to-people ties with China reflect positive progress in bilateral relations. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal cited the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the restoration of civil aviation connectivity, and other initiatives aimed at improving exchanges between the two countries. Responding to concerns over anti-India content on Chinese social media, he said discussions with Beijing were moving in a positive direction. He also noted that both sides continue to engage on trade, cultural exchanges, and maintaining peace and tranquility along the border.





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# India's space sector: A launchpad for global partnerships

**By: Amb Gurjit Singh (Former Indian ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Ethiopia, Djibouti, AU & ASEAN. He is also an author).**



Growing competition in outer space provides India with a unique opportunity to shape a narrative in which collaboration, rather than confrontation, drives space exploration. Recognised as a trustworthy and cost-effective spacefaring nation, India is now well placed to transform its technological advances into enduring international partnerships that contribute to scientific progress, economic growth, and sustainable development.

India's journey into space has been distinctive. Unlike many space programmes that emerged from Cold War rivalries, India's programme was conceived as an instrument of national development. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai anchored India's space vision in practical applications that would improve the lives of ordinary people. Under his leadership, satellites were developed to strengthen communications, weather forecasting, disaster management, healthcare, agriculture and education. This development-oriented philosophy remains central to India's space programme and resonates strongly with the needs of countries in the Global South, which seek practical applications of space technology rather than prestige alone.

Today, India's achievements extend beyond developmental applications. The Chandrayaan missions, the Mars Orbiter Mission, the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, and the forthcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme have established India as a nation capable of executing sophisticated and reliable space missions. Chandrayaan-3's successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole placed India among an exclusive group of space powers while demonstrating that world-class innovation can be achieved at comparatively modest cost.

India's growing credibility comes at a time when the global space economy is expanding rapidly. Valued at over US\$600 billion today and projected to approach US\$1.8 trillion by 2035, the sector is increasingly driven by commercial activity in satellite communications, Earth observation, navigation, climate services, broadband connectivity, and emerging fields such as in-orbit servicing and lunar exploration. Many countries aspire to participate but lack indigenous capabilities. They seek dependable long-term

partners rather than merely launch providers.

India possesses the capabilities to meet these requirements. The liberalisation of the space sector in 2020 transformed the ecosystem by opening it to private participation. The establishment of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), the expanding commercial role of NewSpace India Limited, and the growth of private enterprises have created one of the world's most dynamic emerging space ecosystems. Indian startups are developing launch vehicles, satellite platforms, geospatial applications and propulsion technologies that are attracting global investment and customers. Companies such as Skyroot Aerospace, Pixxel and Agnikul Cosmos have demonstrated that Indian private enterprise can compete internationally in advanced space technologies.

The next step is to internationalise this ecosystem.

Rather than positioning itself only as a low-cost launch destination, India will offer comprehensive partnerships encompassing satellite design, launch services, mission operations, ground stations, astronaut training, capacity building and downstream applications in agriculture, disaster management and maritime security. Such integrated partnerships would be valuable for countries across the Global South and the Indo-Pacific seeking affordable, customised and reliable technologies to meet their development priorities.

India has demonstrated the diplomatic value of such cooperation. Through the South Asia Satellite, it provided communication and developmental benefits to neighbouring countries. Indian launch vehicles have successfully placed hundreds of foreign satellites into orbit for governments, universities and commercial operators around the world. India's decision to join the Artemis Accords reflects its willingness to participate in the peaceful exploration of the Moon through international collaboration. Cooperation with NASA, the European Space Agency and JAXA has strengthened India's scientific and technological capabilities.

These partnerships reinforce India's standing as a leading voice of the Global South. India offers development

partnerships based on affordability, reliability and mutual respect rather than creating technological dependence. Space cooperation has therefore become an increasingly important instrument of Indian diplomacy, strengthening bilateral relationships while delivering tangible developmental benefits.

To realise its full potential, India will aim to sustain the momentum of reform. Faster regulatory approvals, greater access to venture capital, stronger intellectual property protection, and closer collaboration among research institutions, industry and academia will be essential. Public procurement policies would continue supporting Indian startups, enabling them to scale up, innovate and integrate into global supply chains.

India is positioned to play a larger role in shaping the governance of outer space. Orbital congestion, space debris, responsible resource utilisation and equitable access to emerging space opportunities are becoming pressing international concerns. As space activities expand, there will be an increasing need for countries capable of building consensus on responsible norms and practices. India's long-standing commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space, combined with its growing technological capabilities, equips it to contribute meaningfully to the development of rules that promote transparency, sustainability and equitable access.

The coming decade will determine not only which countries lead in space but also how space is governed. With its scientific capabilities, entrepreneurial ecosystem and international credibility, India is uniquely placed to bridge the gap between established and emerging space nations. By building collaborative partnerships founded on inclusivity, mutual benefit and innovation, India can transform its space programme into a major pillar of its global engagement.

In an increasingly divided world, India's space sector offers a powerful reminder that the greatest achievements in space are those that bring nations together. That may well become India's most enduring contribution to humanity's next frontier.



# India and Africa: Relations beyond rhetorics

**By: Amb Anil Trigunayat (Former Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta).**

India and Africa have a historic and umbilical relationship. It makes a good talking point during speeches but will need an objective assessment of the extent and depth of our engagement to stand scrutiny for devising better policy choices. It is also a fact that India has consistently, even if occasionally in ad hoc manner, engaged with the African countries. It emerged as a strong voice for their emancipation from the colonial yoke and from then on through Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and has stood for and advocated the core concerns of the African countries especially the Least developed Countries (LDCs) in the international fora be it GATT/WTO, UN/CHOGM or the Climate Change negotiations and now in the reformed UNSC. In her G20 presidency in 2023 India made sure that African Union (AU) becomes a permanent member of the of G20. This has been widely appreciated and earned India an immeasurable affection quotient across Africa.

Besides India through its extensive capacity building assistance and “share and Care” approach helped the continent a great deal in creating skilled manpower, modern institutions and infrastructure both in the field of education and defence. Indian teachers and professors were widely respected especially by those who studied during 1960s to 1980s. Unfortunately, this very effective mode of engagement dried out and needs to be revived. Several African leaders fondly recall their Indian teachers even after 40-50 years. Dozens of military officers trained in India rose to become Heads of government and Heads of State in their countries.

Thousands of Africans have been trained under the fully funded ITEC programme and have risen to responsible positions. Another important capacity building effort is to train about 80 women every year to work on solar panels who are fondly called as “Solar Mamas” as they, on return, electrify the communities and at least 50 houses each. Now technological competency initiatives in sunrise sectors through Centers of excellence and bilateral, regional and sub regional and trilateral formats with likeminded countries like France, Japan and UAE have been mooted across the economic spectrum.

One of the most important connectivity and capacity building programme launched by India pursuant to the vision of former President APJ Abdul Kalam was the Pan-Africa e-network initiative that focused on tele-medicine, tele-education and e-governance or connectivity among Heads of State across 48 countries. It entailed five Indian ace universities offering courses and 12 super specialty hospitals providing consultations and medical education and was fully funded by Indian government under NEPAD. The programme has been further upgraded and expanded under the Modi government under the rubric of e-Vidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti. Reportedly over 7000 students completed their studies. Since the 1950s India has been encouraging African students through scholarships for higher education, training and capacity building in Indian Institutions. According to estimates currently there are more than 55,000 students from various African countries in India.

India also has a long history of cooperation in the defence capacity building in various African countries and participating in the UN Peace Keeping Operations starting in 1960 in Congo. Their role has been broadly appreciated especially in preventing genocide in South Sudan. Similarly, India women police personnel did a remarkable job in Liberia that was rather unique and President Sirleaf was all praise for them. Currently India trains a large number of Africans not only in its defence institutions but also in the peace keeping operations and maneuverability in addition to conducting counter terrorism and insurgency operations. India had set up National Defence colleges in several



countries including Nigeria. It would also be useful to align our engagement with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) devised by the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to deal with African problems like genocide and ethnic cleansing. India has also been very active in anti-piracy operations on the East Coast of Africa especially Somalia and Gulf of Aden to Mozambique Channel to ensure free lines of trade and communications. Indian navy successfully escorted around 2500 vessels. Like the US Africom, New Delhi needs to also strategically look at Gulf of Guinea and other maritime domain awareness initiatives. In the wake of US-Iran and Israel war and closure and blockade of choke points it has become imperative for New Delhi reorient its energy security efforts in a mutually beneficial manner towards the African continent and to secure Sea lanes of Communications through collaboration and capacity building.

The Diaspora helps a great deal in building bridges at people-to-people level and in turn contributes to the growth of bilateral relations, especially in the economic field as well as through the leadership positions acquired by them as a result of exposure and experience in a particular country. India has 3 million people of Indian origin people across the African continent who are highly successful. The Indian community has begun to synthesize with the socio-economic needs of the local communities by rendering various services like education, medical treatment, job creation and employment. No wonder the former President of Nigeria stated more than once that “That the Indian industrialists are the second biggest employment providers after the federal Government in Nigeria”. Time is ripe to also institutionalize with African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking at the Parliament in Kampala in July 2018 outlined his Africa vision through his ten guiding principles which include : Africa is among top priorities for India and momentum of cooperation will be sustained through regular exchanges ;development partnership as per African priorities; preferential access to Indian markets for African products; assist in harnessing digital revolution in Africa ; improve Africa's agriculture potential; fight climate change together; work together to keep oceans and maritime lanes free for all; Africa instead of becoming a theatre of competition should become nursery for its youth; and aspire and work together for a just , representative, democratic global order.

These are ideal, achievable and collaborative policies that dictate a paradigm shift compared to other big powers who are trying to get into the 'Gold Rush' for exploitation by way of neo-colonialist approaches. India-Africa relations have developed into a multifaceted partnership encompassing political engagement, trade and investment, development cooperation, capacity building, healthcare, education, digital connectivity, ICT, AI, defence cooperation, space, critical minerals, food and energy security, renewables and multilateral collaboration.

The 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) was postponed due to Ebola crisis and needs to be held at the earliest to focus on current issues, challenges and solutions. India - Africa engagement will be decisive in the emerging world order as their combined synergies of natural and human resources and capital and human centric approaches can be aligned for the global good through combining the Agenda 2063 and Viksit Bharat 2047. The partnership focuses on innovation, resilience, and inclusive transformation for sustainable development.





# Viksit Bharat 2047: A roadmap to become a developed nation

By: **Amb Dr. Mohan Kumar** (Former Indian Ambassador to France and is currently the Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University).



It is creditable that the Government of India has set for itself and the nation a crucial goal: That India should become Viksit Bharat by 2047, which would be the one hundredth year anniversary of India's independence. While there is general agreement that the term Viksit Bharat denotes a developed country, it is still necessary for public policy purposes to break the concept down to know what it entails. What follows is an attempt to do so.

## A 10 trillion-dollar economy:

While India can be legitimately proud of being the fourth largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the world, the fact remains that for a population that is approaching 1.5 billion, the present GDP of \$4.5 trillion is a little below par. So, if India must become "Viksit" in the real sense of the term, the GDP must grow significantly to attain the figure of at least 10 trillion dollars. This is entirely achievable if we can do a couple of things. First, 40 per cent of our GDP is foreign trade, so our share of international trade must simply double. In particular, our share of global exports, which hovers around 2 per cent, should rise to 10 per cent. Second, our Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which for the latest year is a little short of \$ 100 billion, must also grow manifold. In order for the above two things to happen, Government of India must carry out deep seated economic reforms in areas such as land, labour, power, agriculture, infrastructure and regulatory obstacles.

## Inclusive Economic Growth:

While there is no question that the GDP must accelerate, as mentioned above, that alone is not enough. Growth must be inclusive which is to say that it must percolate to the downtrodden people who are at the bottom of the pyramid. The government has conceived excellent schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. But going beyond that, job creation for the youth must become a national mantra for both the Central and State Governments. Since it is not possible for the Government alone or even the organized sector to provide all the jobs that are necessary, it

is vitally important to enable an ecosystem where the youth become entrepreneurs and job creators rather than be mere job seekers. Present levels of economic inequality are unsustainable and efforts must be made to make the society much more egalitarian.

## Skilling:

It is well recognized that our education system relies heavily on rote learning and it churns out thousands of graduates every year who may not be immediately employable. In this context, skilling and re-skilling of graduates becomes crucial. The idea of vocational training, industry-academic collaboration and imparting tech skills (including Artificial Intelligence) for our graduates must assume mission-mode importance. Spending on education, in both the public and private sector must increase exponentially, especially in states that lag the national average. In parallel, Research and Development must be given prime importance in all relevant institutions. It is indeed true that a population that is close to 1.5 billion can be a demographic dividend for India. But that is true only if the population is skilled enough to face the challenges of a knowledge economy.

## Health:

India's healthcare system is undergoing dramatic transformation, driven by digitalization and by infrastructure expansion. But challenges remain on account of rising medical costs and a growing chronic disease burden. Government has undertaken significant efforts such as Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Arogya Mandir schemes which have made a big impact on providing healthcare in the country. Medical college seats have more than doubled since 2014, in an attempt to bridge the doctor-patient gap. Successful attempts have also been made to promote India as a global hub for medical tourism. Despite all this, serious challenges remain. Public spending on healthcare still lags desired levels. India also runs the risk of becoming the global capital for heart disease and diabetes. India therefore needs to continue its massive

transformation of public health infrastructure to make it accessible, affordable and quality-driven for the vast majority of its population. The National Health Mission is doing a commendable job. It simply needs to be strengthened and streamlined.

## Sustainable Development:

India must not emulate the ways of either the industrialized countries which followed a high-carbon pathway to development or indeed that of China, which even today burns more coal than the rest of the world put together. India is the only major economy today which potentially has the possibility of following a low-carbon pathway to a high-income economy based on sustainable development. And India must do it not just because the world wants it to, but because the people of this country deserve it as a matter of right.

## Conclusion:

India is indeed well positioned to become Viksit Bharat by 2047. But the country needs to be on mission-mode and a whole-of-government approach is required to make sure that no stone is left unturned in this national endeavour. By any reckoning, the next twenty years will be the most crucial period in India's history.





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# IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा – गोवा अध्याय

## दूसरा पड़ाव : श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर, कवलेम – जहाँ शक्ति ने शिव और विष्णु के मध्य स्थापित किया शांति का सेतु

### गोवा से विशेष

IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” के अंतर्गत गोवा अध्याय के प्रथम पड़ाव में हमने भगवान शिव के पावन धाम श्री मंगेशी मंदिर की ऐतिहासिक, आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक विरासत का दर्शन किया। अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ रही है गोवा के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित शक्तिपीठों में से एक कवलेम स्थित श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर की ओर। लगभग 450 वर्षों से श्रद्धा का केंद्र बना यह भव्य मंदिर केवल गौड़ सारस्वत ब्राह्मण समुदाय की कुलदेवी का निवास ही नहीं, बल्कि सनातन धर्म की उस दिव्य परंपरा का प्रतीक भी है, जहाँ शक्ति, करुणा, समन्वय और शांति का अद्भुत संगम दिखाई देता है। देवी शांतादुर्गा का यह पावन धाम उस दिव्य कथा का साक्षी है, जिसमें माता ने भगवान शिव और भगवान विष्णु के मध्य उत्पन्न भीषण संघर्ष को समाप्त कर समस्त सृष्टि में शांति और संतुलन की स्थापना की थी। अपनी विशिष्ट स्थापत्य शैली, समृद्ध इतिहास और आध्यात्मिक गरिमा के कारण यह मंदिर गोवा की धार्मिक पहचान का एक अमूल्य रत्न माना जाता है।

### देवी शांतादुर्गा की दिव्य कथा

पुराणों के अनुसार एक समय भगवान शिव और भगवान विष्णु के बीच अत्यंत भीषण युद्ध छिड़ गया। दोनों देवों के दिव्य अस्त्र-शस्त्रों से संपूर्ण सृष्टि संकट में पड़ गई और देवताओं में भय व्याप्त हो गया। तब भगवान ब्रह्मा ने आदिशक्ति माता पार्वती से प्रार्थना की कि वे इस संघर्ष को समाप्त कर संसार की रक्षा करें।

माता ने शांतादुर्गा का स्वरूप धारण किया। उन्होंने भगवान विष्णु को अपने दाहिने हाथ पर और भगवान शिव को अपने बाएँ हाथ पर धारण कर दोनों के मध्य शांति स्थापित की। यही कारण है कि देवी शांतादुर्गा को समन्वय, करुणा और संतुलन की अधिष्ठात्री देवी माना जाता है। मंदिर में स्थापित देवी की प्रतिमा में उनके दोनों हाथों में दो सर्प दशरिण गण हैं, जो भगवान शिव और भगवान विष्णु के प्रतीक माने जाते हैं। यह स्वरूप हमें सिखाता है कि वास्तविक शक्ति संघर्ष में नहीं, बल्कि समरसता और सद्भाव स्थापित करने में निहित है।

### संघर्ष से पुनर्जन्म तक का इतिहास

श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर का इतिहास गोवा की धार्मिक विरासत और सनातन संस्कृति के संरक्षण की प्रेरक गाथा है। देवी का मूल मंदिर गोवा के केलोशी (क्वेलोसिम) में स्थित था। किंतु वर्ष 1566 में पुर्तगाली शासन के दौरान अनेक हिंदू मंदिरों की भाँति इस मंदिर को भी ध्वस्त कर दिया गया। श्रद्धालुओं ने अदम्य साहस और अटूट श्रद्धा का परिचय देते हुए देवी की प्रतिमा को सुरक्षित निकालकर कवलेम के वन क्षेत्र में स्थापित किया, जहाँ पूजा-अर्चना का क्रम निरंतर जारी रहा।

बाद में मराठा साम्राज्य के छत्रपति शाहू महाराज के शासनकाल में लगभग 1730 से 1738 के बीच वर्तमान भव्य मंदिर का निर्माण प्रारंभ हुआ। पेशवा बाजीराव प्रथम के संरक्षण और तत्कालीन मराठा प्रशासन के सहयोग से मंदिर का विस्तार हुआ तथा कवलेम गाँव मंदिर को समर्पित किया गया। आज लगभग तीन शताब्दियों से यह मंदिर अपनी भव्यता और आध्यात्मिक गरिमा के साथ श्रद्धालुओं की आस्था का केंद्र बना हुआ है।

### अद्वितीय स्थापत्य कला का अनुपम उदाहरण

श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर गोवा की विशिष्ट सारस्वत स्थापत्य शैली का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है। मंदिर का आकर्षक मैरुन, पीच और श्वेत रंग संयोजन, पिरामिडाकार शिखर, रोमन शैली की मेहराबदार खिड़कियाँ, रंगीन काँच की सजावट तथा विशाल गुंबद इसे अन्य मंदिरों से अलग पहचान प्रदान करते हैं।

मंदिर परिसर पर्वत की तलहटी में हरियाली से घिरा हुआ है, जहाँ प्राकृतिक शांति श्रद्धालुओं के मन को तुरंत आध्यात्मिक अनुभूति से भर देती है। प्रवेश द्वार पर स्थित विशाल दीपस्तंभ, शांत जल से भरी पुष्करणी, विशाल सभा मंडप तथा श्रद्धालुओं के ठहरने के लिए निर्मित अग्रशालाएँ इसकी स्थापत्य गरिमा को और भी भव्य बनाती हैं। संध्या समय दीपस्तंभ पर प्रज्वलित दीपों का दृश्य श्रद्धालुओं को एक अलौकिक आध्यात्मिक वातावरण का अनुभव कराता है।

### गौड़ सारस्वत ब्राह्मण समाज की कुलदेवी

श्री शांतादुर्गा केवल गोवा की अधिष्ठात्री देवी ही नहीं, बल्कि देश-विदेश में बसे हजारों गौड़ सारस्वत ब्राह्मण परिवारों की कुलदेवी भी हैं। पीढ़ियों से श्रद्धालु अपने जीवन के शुभ कार्यों, विवाह, नामकरण और अन्य संस्कारों से पूर्व देवी के दर्शन कर उनका आशीर्वाद प्राप्त करते हैं। यह मंदिर आज भी गौड़ सारस्वत ब्राह्मण समुदाय के प्रमुख आध्यात्मिक केंद्रों में से एक है और श्री कवले मठ के आध्यात्मिक मार्गदर्शन में संचालित होता है।



### पूजा, उत्सव और धार्मिक परंपराएँ

मंदिर में प्रतिदिन वैदिक परंपरा के अनुसार पूजा-अर्चना होती है। देवी का भव्य महा श्रृंगार, पुष्पों और स्वर्णभूषणों से अलंकरण तथा विशेष आरती श्रद्धालुओं को अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक आनंद प्रदान करती है। प्रत्येक शुक्रवार देवी की स्वर्ण पालकी सेवा विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र होती है, जिसमें हजारों श्रद्धालु सम्मिलित होते हैं।

मंदिर का सबसे बड़ा उत्सव माघ शुक्ल पंचमी जात्रा है, जिसमें विशाल महारथ यात्रा, पारंपरिक लोक संगीत और धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों का भव्य आयोजन होता है। इसके अतिरिक्त शारदीय नवरात्रि और शिगमो उत्सव भी अत्यंत श्रद्धा और उत्साह के साथ मनाए जाते हैं।

### आध्यात्मिक शांति का दिव्य केंद्र

श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर केवल पूजा-अर्चना का स्थान नहीं, बल्कि मानसिक शांति और आत्मिक संतुलन का भी केंद्र माना जाता है। श्रद्धालुओं का विश्वास है कि देवी अपने भक्तों को पारिवारिक कलह से मुक्ति, मानसिक संतुलन, समृद्धि और जीवन की कठिन परिस्थितियों का धैर्यपूर्वक सामना करने की शक्ति प्रदान करती हैं। मंदिर की शांत व प्राकृतिक वातावरण से घिरी पवित्र भूमि प्रत्येक आगंतुक को आत्मचितन और ईश्वरीय अनुभूति का अवसर प्रदान करती है।

मंदिर प्रशासन परिसर की पवित्रता, अनुशासन और स्वच्छता पर विशेष ध्यान देता है। श्रद्धालुओं से भारतीय पारंपरिक वेशभूषा एवं मर्यादित आचरण का पालन करने का आग्रह किया जाता है, जिससे इस प्राचीन देवस्थान की गरिमा अक्षुण्ण बनी रहे।

### सनातन संस्कृति का जीवंत प्रतीक

श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर केवल एक धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि गोवा के उस गौरवशाली इतिहास का जीवंत स्मारक है जिसने विदेशी आक्रमणों, मंदिर विध्वंस और कठिन परिस्थितियों के बावजूद अपनी आस्था, संस्कृति और धार्मिक परंपराओं को सुरक्षित रखा। यह मंदिर आज भी लाखों श्रद्धालुओं को यह संदेश देता है कि धर्म का मूल स्वरूप प्रेम, संतुलन, सहिष्णुता और समन्वय है। देवी शांतादुर्गा की दिव्य कथा हमें सिखाती है कि संसार में स्थायी विजय शक्ति के प्रदर्शन से नहीं, बल्कि शांति स्थापित करने की क्षमता से प्राप्त होती है।

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” का गोवा अध्याय यह प्रमाणित करता है कि गोवा की पहचान केवल समुद्र तटों और प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह राज्य सनातन संस्कृति, वैदिक परंपराओं और भव्य मंदिरों की भी समृद्ध भूमि है। श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर हमें यह संदेश देता है कि शक्ति का सर्वोच्च स्वरूप विनाश नहीं, बल्कि समन्वय, संतुलन और शांति की स्थापना है। सदियों के संघर्ष, मंदिरों के पुनर्स्थापन और अटूट श्रद्धा के बीच यह दिव्य धाम आज भी लाखों श्रद्धालुओं के लिए आस्था, आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा और सांस्कृतिक गौरव का केंद्र बना हुआ है।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा गोवा के एक और अत्यंत पूजनीय देवस्थान—मदौल स्थित श्री महालसा नारायणी मंदिर—की ओर आगे

बढ़ेगी। वहाँ हम देवी महालसा नारायणी की दिव्य महिमा, गोवा की समृद्ध धार्मिक परंपराओं, अद्वितीय स्थापत्य कला और सनातन संस्कृति की एक और प्रेरणादायी गाथा से अपने पाठकों का परिचय कराएँगे।

पारंपरिक वेशभूषा एवं मर्यादित आचरण का पालन करने का आग्रह किया जाता है, जिससे इस प्राचीन

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अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा गोवा के एक और अत्यंत पूजनीय देवस्थान—मदौल स्थित श्री महालसा नारायणी मंदिर—की ओर आगे बढ़ेगी। वहाँ हम देवी महालसा नारायणी की दिव्य महिमा, गोवा की समृद्ध धार्मिक परंपराओं, अद्वितीय स्थापत्य कला और सनातन संस्कृति की एक और प्रेरणादायी गाथा से अपने पाठकों का परिचय कराएँगे।





# Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

## The real reason behind Sita's second exile



We all know that Mata Sita endured two periods of exile during her lifetime. The first was the fourteen-year exile she spent alongside Lord Rama, honoring his father's promise. The second came after Lord Rama's coronation, when Sita was pregnant.

The commonly accepted belief regarding her second exile is that public opinion had turned against Lord Rama. People questioned how he could bring back and accept as his queen a woman who had spent a long period under Ravana's captivity. Her purity was doubted by society.

Interestingly, Goswami Tulsidas does not narrate this episode in the Ramcharitmanas. However, when Sage Valmiki recounts this event in the Valmiki Ramayana, he mentions an ancient curse that ultimately led to the separation of Rama and Sita. In this article, we shall attempt to examine this lesser-known aspect in detail.

Tulsidas was extremely careful while describing the purity of Mata Sita.

In the Aranya Kanda of the Ramcharitmanas, when Lord Rama realized that great danger was about to befall Sita, he anticipated that an extraordinary calamity was approaching. Therefore, one day, when Lakshmana had gone into the forest to gather fruits and flowers, Lord Rama advised Sita to enter the sacred fire so that whatever was destined to happen would happen only to her divine reflection.

According to Tulsidas, when Ravana abducted Sita, he abducted only her illusory image (Chhaya Sita), while the real Sita remained safely protected in the fire.

After the war with Ravana ended and Sita was brought before Lord Rama, she was asked to undergo the Agni Pariksha (Trial by Fire) so that all doubts regarding her purity could be removed.

**सुनहु प्रिया ब्रत रुचिर सुमीला, मैं कछु करबि ललित नरलीला  
तुम्ह पावक महुँ करहु निवासा, जों लगि करों निमाचर नासा  
जबहि राम सब कहा बखानी, प्रभु पद धरि हियँ अनल समानी  
निज प्रतिबिंब राखि तहँ सीता, तैसइ सील रूप सुविनीता**

After the completion of the exile, Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya, where his coronation was celebrated with great splendor.

The entire city rejoiced, celebrating what is now commemorated as Deepavali. Rama, along with his brothers, began ruling the kingdom peacefully and happily, enjoying the prosperity and responsibilities of royal life.

During this period, Mata Sita became pregnant.

Since the episode of Sita's second exile was closely associated with public criticism, Tulsidas chose not to continue the narrative beyond this point in the Ramcharitmanas. Sage Valmiki, however, describes the events that followed in considerable detail.

One day, while Lord Rama was alone, his minister Bhadra approached him and informed him about the conversations taking place throughout Ayodhya concerning Sita's character.

These discussions, he explained, were beginning to tarnish the king's reputation.

**कीदशं हृदये तस्य सीतासं भोगजं सुखम्। अङ्कमारोप्य तु पुरा  
रावणेन बलाद्धताम्॥ 17॥**

**लङ्कामपि पुरा नीतामशाकवनिकां गताम्। रक्षसां वशमापन्नां  
कथं रामो न कुत्स्यति ॥१८॥**

**अस्माकमपि दारेषु सहनीयं भविष्यति ॥ यथा हि कुरुते राजा  
प्रजा स्तमनुवर्तते ॥१९॥**

The citizens openly questioned Sita's return.

They said that Ravana had forcibly carried her away in his arms to Lanka, where she had remained under his control. She had first been confined within his palace and later imprisoned in the Ashoka Vatika.

Despite all this, they argued, Lord Rama had accepted her with honor and reinstated her as the Queen of Ayodhya.

Such conduct by the king, they believed, would set an undesirable example for society.

"If the king behaves in this manner," they said, "the people

will naturally follow his example."

It is widely believed that Lord Rama sent Sita into exile for the second time in order to preserve the dignity of the kingdom and protect himself from public criticism.

But was this the only reason?

According to Sage Valmiki, the answer is no.

The responsibility of escorting Sita to the forest once again fell upon Lakshmana.

**ऋषीणां चैव सर्वेषामपापां जनकात्मजाम्। एवं शुद्धसमाचारा देव  
गन्धर्वसन्नियो ॥ १ ॥**

**लङ्काद्वीपे महेन्द्रेण मम हस्ते निवेशिता। अन्तरात्मा च मे वेत्ति  
सीतां शुद्धां यशस्विनीम्॥१०॥**

Lord Rama knew beyond any doubt that Sita was absolutely pure.

His own conscience bore witness to her innocence.

Yet, as the ruler of Ayodhya, he also carried the immense responsibility of protecting the kingdom's moral code and preserving public confidence in the throne.

He explained his painful dilemma to Sita.

For the sake of her husband's duty and the welfare of the kingdom, Sita once again accepted a tremendous personal sacrifice.

When Lord Rama sought the opinion of his brothers, none of them supported sending Sita away. They all advised him to ignore public gossip.

But Rama remained unwavering in what he believed to be his duty. unfold long before the birth of Lord Rama.

जय श्री राम



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# Healthy Heart, Healthy Life

## Part 4 – Heart Rhythm Disorders: When the Heart's Electrical System Goes Off Track Understanding Arrhythmias, Atrial Fibrillation, and Modern Treatments That Protect Your Heart

In the first article of the Healthy Heart, Healthy Life series, we explored how the heart functions as the body's life-sustaining pump. In Part 2, we discussed Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), the leading cause of heart attacks, and how healthy lifestyle choices can reduce cardiovascular risk. In Part 3, we focused on high blood pressure (hypertension)—the “Silent Killer”—and how uncontrolled blood pressure can quietly damage the heart, brain, kidneys, eyes, and blood vessels.

In this fourth installment, we examine another important aspect of heart health—the heart's electrical system. While many people associate heart disease only with blocked arteries, the heart also depends on a precise electrical network that controls every heartbeat. When this system becomes disrupted, it can lead to arrhythmias, or abnormal heart rhythms. Some arrhythmias are harmless, but others can increase the risk of stroke, heart failure, or sudden cardiac arrest.

Understanding heart rhythm disorders and recognizing warning signs early can help protect your heart and improve outcomes.

### Understanding Arrhythmias: The Heart's Electrical Problem

A healthy heart does not beat randomly. Each heartbeat is controlled by electrical signals that coordinate the movement of the heart's chambers. The process begins in the sinoatrial (SA) node, located in the right atrium, which acts as the heart's natural pacemaker. The electrical impulse travels through the upper chambers (atria), causing them to contract and push blood into the ventricles. The signal then passes through the atrioventricular (AV) node before reaching the lower chambers, allowing the ventricles to pump blood efficiently throughout the body. This coordinated rhythm is called normal sinus rhythm. A normal resting adult heart rate is generally between 60 and 100 beats per minute.

### Palpitations: A Common Warning Sign

Many people experience palpitations, a sensation that the heart is fluttering, racing, pounding, or skipping beats. Occasional palpitations may occur due to stress, caffeine, exercise, or dehydration. However, frequent episodes—especially when accompanied by chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath, or fainting—should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.

### Common Types of Arrhythmias

#### Tachycardia: When the Heart Beats Too Fast

Tachycardia refers to a resting heart rate above 100 beats per minute.

Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT) begins in the upper chambers of the heart. It may cause sudden episodes of rapid heartbeat but is often treatable.

Ventricular Tachycardia (VT) originates in the ventricles, the heart's main pumping chambers. Because the ventricles cannot pump blood effectively at extremely high speeds, VT can become life-threatening and may lead to sudden cardiac arrest.

#### Bradycardia: When the Heart Beats Too Slowly

Bradycardia occurs when the heart rate drops below 60 beats per minute. A slow heartbeat can be normal in well-trained athletes because their hearts pump blood efficiently. However, abnormal bradycardia may occur when the SA node does not function properly or when electrical pathways are damaged.

Symptoms may include fatigue, weakness, dizziness, and fainting. When significant,

bradycardia may require treatment with a pacemaker.

### Heart Block: A Breakdown in Electrical Communication

Heart block occurs when electrical signals traveling from the atria to the ventricles are delayed or interrupted.

- First-degree heart block: Signals move slower than normal but still reach the ventricles. It often causes no symptoms.
- Second-degree heart block: Some electrical signals fail to reach the ventricles, causing skipped beats.
- Third-degree (complete) heart block: No signals pass from the atria to the ventricles. This is a serious condition that often requires immediate medical treatment and may need a pacemaker.

### Atrial Fibrillation (AFib): The Stroke Connection

Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) is the most common sustained heart rhythm disorder.

In AFib, the electrical signals in the atria become chaotic, causing the upper chambers to quiver instead of contracting normally. This results in an irregular heartbeat and can affect the heart's ability to pump efficiently.

The greatest concern with AFib is the increased risk of stroke. Because the atria do not contract properly, blood can pool inside the heart, especially in a small pouch called the left atrial appendage. This stagnant blood can form clots. If a clot travels to the brain, it can block blood flow and cause an ischemic stroke.

Treatment to reduce stroke risk may include anticoagulant medications (blood thinners) such as warfarin or newer Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs). For some patients who cannot safely take blood thinners, procedures to close the left atrial appendage may be considered.

### Advanced Treatments: Pacemakers and ICDs

When medications and lifestyle changes are not enough, cardiologists may use implantable devices to regulate heart rhythm.

### Pacemakers

A pacemaker is a small battery-powered device placed under the skin of the chest. It monitors the heart and sends electrical impulses when the heartbeat becomes too slow or pauses.

Pacemakers are commonly used for symptomatic bradycardia and advanced heart block, helping maintain a safe and regular heartbeat.

### Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICD)

An ICD provides protection against dangerous fast rhythms. In addition to functioning like a pacemaker, it continuously monitors for life-threatening rhythms such as ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation.

If a dangerous rhythm occurs, the ICD delivers an electrical shock to restore a normal heartbeat and prevent sudden cardiac death.

### Protecting Your Heart's Rhythm

While not all arrhythmias can be prevented, maintaining overall heart health can lower risk. Important steps include:

- Controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Exercising regularly
- Avoiding tobacco
- Limiting excessive alcohol and caffeine
- Managing stress
- Getting regular medical checkups

The heart is not only a powerful pump—it is also a sophisticated electrical system.

Recognizing abnormal rhythms early and receiving appropriate treatment can prevent complications and help protect your heart for years to come.

### Disclaimer

The information presented in this Healthy Heart, Healthy Life series is intended solely for educational and public awareness purposes. It is not intended to replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, nor should it be considered a medical consultation. Readers should consult their physician or another qualified healthcare professional regarding any questions or concerns about their heart health or before making decisions related to their medical care.





# Personal finance insights

## News & Features

### Mini Feature: DRONES & GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITIES

Dr K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -11.1% (below average)  
CNN Fear & Greed Index 42 (fear-low)  
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 55.39% (positive)  
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 62.40% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 6/30/26  
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 63.07%, Hybrids 3.86%, Bonds 16.93%, M-  
Mkt 16.15

INTEREST RATES  
CME FedWatch  
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%  
Current 3.50-3.75%  
FOMC 9/16/26+ hike  
FOMC 10/28/26+ hold

Treasury  
T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.83%, 1-yr 4.08%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.28%, 5-  
yr 4.45%, 10-yr 4.75%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.27% (normal yield-  
curve);  
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.19%, 10-yr 2.47%, 30-yr 3.03%  
FRNs Index 3.852%

Bank Rates [www.depositaccounts.com/](http://www.depositaccounts.com/)

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 8/1/26  
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates  
Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%  
Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%, IRA-101110+ 4.15%  
TIAA MYGA (stale) 4.55% (3-yr), 4.70% (5-yr),  
4.75% (7-yr)  
TSP G Fund pending (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 73.01 (extreme greed;  
strange)  
Weekly ETFs: INDIA +3.71%, INDY +3.23%, EPI  
+3.12%, INDH +1.64% | SPY +1.10%

The data above are as of Sunday preceding the  
publication date.

CONSUMERS

Genpact-India (subsidiary of US Genpact/G) &  
Swiss Nestlé are partnering for a GCC in Hyderabad.  
The GCC will focus on process technologies using AI  
& other advanced techniques that may be deployed  
by Nestle in India & globally. Genpact was founded  
in India as GECIS (by US GE) in 1997, but after  
several M&A, it changed its name to Genpact in  
01/2005, has been listed on NYSE as G since  
08/2007, & has headquarters in US.

IT/TECH

US Carlyle Group/CG bought a controlling stake  
(60% that may be reduced to 51% in phases) in  
Indian defense-tech Micropack that produces  
military/space-grade PCBs (printed circuit boards).  
There are concerns in social-media about foreign

companies having controlling interests in critical  
technologies in India. It seems to defeat the notion  
of self-reliance. Foreign controls or licenses may be  
subject to interferences through foreign  
governments' policies including trade policies &  
sanctions. There are already some messy situations  
in India involving US & EU sanctions on Indian  
companies using products under foreign licenses.

TRANSPORTATION

India launched a hydrogen-powered train. The 1.2  
MW (1,609 hp) hydrogen fuel-cell propulsion  
system for this green-train has only water vapor &  
heat as byproducts. The 10-unit train with 2  
"engines" (2.4 MW or 3,218 hp) & 8 coaches will be  
used on 55-mile route between Jind & Sonipat in  
Haryana. This commercial pilot deployment of  
indigenously produced technology is India's demo  
(a first) vs lab demos elsewhere. Only China,  
Germany, Japan & US have such experimental  
trains.  
Indian railway system is now 99% electrified, so, the  
Hormuz disruptions for diesel supplies didn't  
impact this sector at all. Hydrogen trains will be  
useful where electrification isn't practical.

SPECIAL TOPIC - DRONES &  
GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITIES

Drones (air, sea, land) have changed the nature of  
warfare. Air drones are difficult to detect by radars  
& special doppler radars must be used to detect  
small drones. It's very expensive to shoot cheap  
drones with expensive missiles & antimissile  
systems. Drone swarms can overwhelm or drain  
expensive defensive systems. Evolving anti-drone  
technologies include radar/GPS jamming & high-  
energy weapons that can damage drones' optical-  
fiber-based systems & plastic bodies.

Top producers of drones now are China, Iran &  
Ukraine, with US to join this group soon with an  
accelerated push.

Drones have shown the limitations of conventional  
military systems & they have been effective in  
uneven wars. There have also been limited cross-  
border skirmishes with drones (& missiles) without  
triggering full-fledged ground wars.

Ukraine has used drones effectively in Russia-  
Ukraine war 02/2022- . This was a war that Russia  
thought it could win in a few days. Ukraine also  
demonstrated special operations forces (SOFs)  
capabilities where the drone parts were shipped  
secretly, drones assembled deep within Russia, &  
then deployed en masse (drone swarms). This  
overcame limited range constraints of drones. Some  
drones use satellite navigation. Russia also relied on  
Iranian or related drones.

India-Pakistan, May 7-10, 2025. They both  
deployed drones & missiles. India & Pakistan have  
nuclear capabilities. They both have significant  
offensive capabilities but limited defensive  
capabilities.

In US-Israel-Iran war, February & June, 2026, while  
US & Israel deployed planes, missiles, ships &  
aircraft carriers, & drones Iran relied heavily on  
drones & missiles. Despite a huge mismatch in  
military capabilities, Iran could hang on with  
home-grown drones & missiles.

The notion of deterrence has been weakened by  
these events. There is higher geopolitical instability  
due to the use of drones. There are geopolitical hot  
spots in Korea & China regions. Criminals can also  
use drones for illegal & disruptive purposes. An  
effective anti-drone system has yet to be developed.

For more information, see  
<https://ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/>





# Midwest Punjabi Community celebrates Punjabi Maa Boli Day, reinforces commitment to language and cultural heritage

By: Ashwani Mahajan

The Punjabi community across the Midwest came together to celebrate Punjabi Maa Boli Day, reaffirming its commitment to preserving the Punjabi language, literature, and cultural heritage for future generations. The event brought together writers, poets, scholars, community leaders, and families in a vibrant celebration of Punjab's rich literary tradition.

Speakers at the gathering emphasized the importance of staying connected to one's linguistic roots and encouraged parents to speak Punjabi at home so that younger generations, especially children born and raised in the United States, remain connected to their heritage.

A major highlight of the program was the release of three books by noted writer Kashish Hoshiarpuri 'Gazal' – The Ranjha, Life of Jaswant Kaur, and Chair of My Father. The books were formally released by eminent Punjabi scholar Prof. Gurbachan Gill, who praised the author's literary contributions to Punjabi literature.

Adding a youthful perspective to the celebration, young participant Nataliya shared her thoughts on the importance of the Punjabi language and inspired the audience with her enthusiasm for preserving her cultural roots.

The literary segment featured poetry recitations by several distinguished poets and writers. The audience warmly applauded presentations by Dashmesh Gill of Vancouver, Kashish Hoshiarpuri, and Abid Rashid, whose powerful nazm Bol Punjabi Bol received special appreciation. Gurleen Kaur presented the poem Asi Ta Unna De Sir Chadke Payia Pella by Sukhwinder Amrit, which was also well received.

Sahitya Akademi Award and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award recipient Dr. Atamjit addressed the gathering, highlighting the challenges of promoting the Punjabi language on the international stage. He emphasized the need for organizing more Punjabi language conferences worldwide and shared



valuable insights into the history and evolution of Punjabi literature and culture. Community leader Sardar Rajinder Singh Maggo also entertained the audience with his shayari.

During the program, Dr. Harjinder Singh Khaira and Raj Laly Batala expressed their gratitude to renowned businessman and Pravasi Award recipient Sardar Darshan Singh Dhaliwal for his continued support in organizing the event. They also acknowledged the contributions of Punjabi scholars, writers, and community leaders who have been working tirelessly to promote the Punjabi language globally.

The organizers extended a special welcome to participants who traveled from Milwaukee and Indiana, and congratulated parents who encouraged their children to participate in the celebration, reinforcing the importance of passing the

language and cultural values to the next generation.

The event concluded with a ceremony honoring participating children, poets, and writers for their contributions to Punjabi language and literature.

The organizers credited the success of the celebration to the dedicated efforts of Gulzar Singh Multani, Bhupinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Dr. Vikram Gill, Harvinder Pal Singh, Jai Dev Singh, Parminder Singh Walia, P. S. Maan, Inder Mohan Singh, and Parminder Singh, whose contributions ensured the smooth execution of the program. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Harjinder Singh Khaira and Raj Laly Batala, who thanked all guests, participants, volunteers, and supporters for making the celebration a memorable success.



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# Punjabi American Organization brings Teeyan tradition to Chicagoland

By: Ashwani Mahajan

Hundreds of members of the Punjabi American community gathered at Aashyana Banquets in Downers Grove for "Teeyan Da Mela 2026," a celebration of Punjabi culture, women, music and community organized by the Punjabi American Organization (PAO).

The annual-style cultural gathering provided Punjabi families in the Chicago area an opportunity to reconnect with traditions associated with Teeyan, the Punjabi monsoon festival traditionally centered on sisterhood, women's celebrations, music, dance and community bonding.

Dr. Darshan S. Dhaliwal, who served as chief guest, praised PAO for helping preserve Punjabi traditions in the diaspora. He encouraged younger generations to remain connected to their cultural heritage while growing up in the United States.

The program featured a mix of traditional and contemporary Punjabi entertainment. Performances by the Neha Sharma Group, Payal Virdi, Virasat Academy and singer Manmeet Kaur showcased dance and music rooted in Punjabi traditions. A humorous musical skit by Ritu Kaur added a theatrical element to the program.

A fashion show presented by local designer Aman Dhillon featured Punjabi suits, lehengas and fusion attire modeled by community members.

One of the evening's highlights was the appearance of Harman Deep Kaur of Toronto, whose performance of traditional Punjabi Boliyan energized the audience and brought many attendees to the dance floor.

Beyond the stage program, the mela included a cultural bazaar featuring ethnic clothing, jewelry, accessories and Indian spices and masalas. Traditional Punjabi cuisine catered



by Aashyana Banquets was also part of the celebration.

Organizers said the event was designed not simply as an entertainment program but as a way to pass Punjabi cultural traditions to younger generations living outside India.

"Teeyan Da Mela" has particular significance in Punjabi culture as a celebration associated with the monsoon season and the social and cultural bonds among women. For the Punjabi diaspora, such gatherings provide an avenue for maintaining those traditions while creating a shared community experience in a new homeland.

Gurleen Kaur, emcee, along with Laddi Singh, Gurpreet Singh and members of the Swera team, assisted with organizing the event.

PAO thanked the performers, volunteers, sponsors, vendors and attendees whose participation contributed to the success of the celebration. Community supporters included Vijaya and Brij Sharma, SUGA Builders and other local families and businesses.

The event reflected the continuing effort of Chicagoland's Punjabi community to preserve its cultural identity while sharing its traditions with younger generations.

# Dr. Suniti Acharya emphasizes vedic values and character building at Arya Samaj Chicago

By: Ashwani Mahajan



Renowned Vedic scholar Dr. Suniti Acharya delivered an inspiring address at a gathering organized by Arya Samaj Chicago, highlighting the importance of Vedic values, character building, mental discipline, and self-awareness in today's fast-paced world.

Speaking to the congregation, Dr. Acharya focused on the teachings of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, and reiterated the organization's core ideals rooted in the Vedas. He stressed that modern society must reconnect with its spiritual and moral foundations to build strong individuals, families, and communities.

Reflecting on Maharshi Dayanand's message, Dr. Acharya quoted, "We have forgotten our duty, and we have also forgotten who we are." He urged the audience to rediscover their true identity and purpose by embracing Vedic principles.

Addressing the question, "Who are we?", Dr. Acharya explained that "We are Aryas." He described an Arya as a person of noble character and virtuous qualities. Referring to the Mahabharata, he noted that an Arya is one who remains composed and courageous in times of adversity. He further explained that the term Arya signifies nobility and righteousness, while Anarya refers to one who is governed by negative qualities. He reminded the audience that the

Vedas are the foundation of Dharma, "Om" is the supreme name of God, and righteous conduct and noble thinking form the essence of Vedic living.

Dr. Acharya also emphasized the responsibility of parents and elders to instill Vedic values and strong moral character in younger generations. He observed that one of the greatest challenges of modern life is learning to control an increasingly restless mind. To achieve inner peace and mental balance, he encouraged the daily practice of meditation, self-discipline, and self-reflection.

Calling upon the gathering to strengthen their commitment to Vedic ideals, Dr. Acharya urged everyone to remember their spiritual roots, build exemplary character, and strive to live as true Aryas through truthfulness, compassion, and righteous conduct.

The program concluded with the chanting of "Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti", followed by a collective pledge to uphold Vedic principles, live truthfully, and contribute to peace and harmony within families, society, and the nation.

Kamayani, President of Arya Samaj Chicago, expressed her heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Suniti Acharya for his enlightening discourse and thanked him for sharing profound insights into the timeless relevance of Vedic values and their role in shaping a disciplined, ethical, and peaceful society.



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