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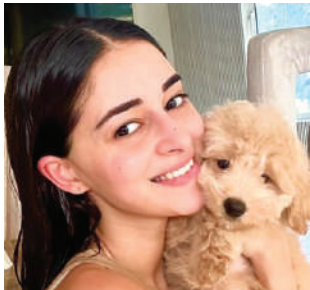


Nine American Asian scientists awarded

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KASHMIR PART OF INDIA

Indian Americans caution US university on demand to display 'flag of Kashmir'

YASHWANT RAJ

WASHINGTON: Indian Americans are calling upon a US university not to implement a portion of one of the demands it conceded to protesting students to display on campus the flags of "occupied people", which listed Kashmiris along with Palestinians and the Kurds.

"This is a dangerous territory for Rutgers to get involved (sic)," Thomas Abraham, chairman of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), wrote in a letter to Jonathan Holloway President, Rutgers University-New Brunswick in New Jersey State.

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MMNA Sakhis celebrate Mother's Day

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Warren Buffett needs to relook at India

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'Covaxin has excellent safety record'

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Voters wait in queues at a polling station to cast their votes for the third phase of Lok Sabha Polls, on May 7, Betul. (ANI Photo)

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This week's question
Will BJP cross 400+ seats this election?

Last week's result
Will Trump go to jail if charged?
YES 58% NO 42%

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When Shekhar Kapur walked out



Actor Bobby Deol, said director of his debut film, Shekhar Kapur, opted out of the film because of legacy of his father Dharmendra

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Designers decode 'Heeramandi' style



Designer duo Rimple and Harpreet, who made over 300 costumes for the director's debut series 'Heeramandi', have decoded each outfit

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Indian Americans are calling upon a US university not concede to protesting students' demand to display flags of "occupied people", which listed Kashmiris

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Warren Buffett needs to relook at India



With the possibilities India now provides for global investors and big conglomerates, Warren Buffett, needs to have a fresh look at India

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9 American Asian scientists awarded

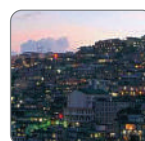


SAASCR scientists are from Asia, mainly of Indian origin, working in the USA and Canada in the field of cancer research

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Aizawl: Land of the Mizos



At a height of 1132 masl, Aizawl is a quaint city capital of the state of Mizoram in northeast India. Primarily dominated by the Mizo Tribe

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The Indian High Commission in Colombo said the companies being referred to in the report are not India-based and reference to India is "unwarranted."

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Bharat Biotech recently said its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin has an excellent safety record without any vaccine-associated incidents of blood clots, thrombocytopenia etc.

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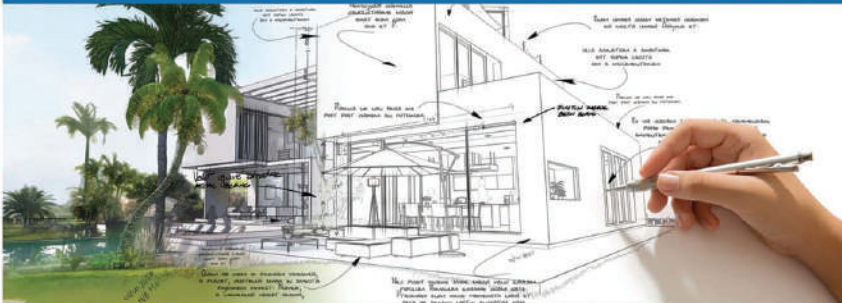
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wrote in a letter to Jonathan Holloway President, Rutgers University-New Brunswick in New Jersey State.

"By even considering this demand, you are questioning the integrity of India. Kashmir is very much part of India. There is no separate flag for Kashmir. Kashmir residents are not displaced people. In fact, the displaced people are the Hindu minorities who had to leave Kashmir because of violence against them. If Rutgers displays such a flag of Kashmir, that will be the beginning of more sit-ins by students who are opposed to such flags," Abraham wrote.

The university has not implemented this demand.

"The Office of the Chancellor will take stock of flags that are displayed across

Rutgers- New Brunswick campus, and ensure appropriate representation of students enrolled in academic and other spaces," Chancellor Francine Conway wrote in a three-page letter responding to the protesting students last week.

The students had demanded, as specified in her letter, "display the flags of occupied peoples -- including but not limited to Palestinians, Kurds, and Kashmiris

10 demands.

The top demand, which has been common to protesters in all other universities, was divestment from companies doing business with Israel or supporting its war effort and cutting links with Israel.

The chancellor said the university is reviewing these links and will discuss the findings with the students.

Indian Americans are focused on the



Rutgers to get involved (sic)," Thomas Abraham, chairman of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO),

"By even considering this demand, you are questioning the integrity of India. Kashmir is very much part of India. There is no separate flag for Kashmir. Kashmir residents are not displaced people. In fact, the displaced people are the Hindu minorities who had to leave Kashmir because of violence against them"

- in all areas displaying international flags across the Rutgers campuses".

Students were protesting the Israeli war in Gaza as students of many universities across the country and had put forth

one allowing the display of the flag of the "occupied people" of Kashmir. "So @RutgersU has caved," Suhag Shukla of the Hindu American Foundation wrote in a post on X. IANS

India should take it seriously and investigate: US State Dept on Hardeep Nijjar's killing

WASHINGTON, DC: India should take the matter "very seriously and investigate" said the US State Department speaking on recent allegations associated with the case of the Indian government's alleged involvement in the killing of the Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The remarks come at a time when there are already numerous twists and turns to the Nijjar killing case.

Responding to a media query during the State Department briefing, on the arrest of three individuals linked with the killing of India-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, spokesperson Matthew Miller said, "I would refer you to the Canadian authorities to speak to the details of the investigation there."

"With respect to the indictment that was returned in the United States, I'll let the Department of Justice speak on behalf of that in detail. And then the only thing further I'd say: When it comes to the State Depart-

ment, we made clear when these allegations were first made public that it's something we think India should take very seriously and investigate," he said.

Asserting that the US would "wait to see the results," Miller added saying, "They opened a committee of inquiry to look into the matter, and that work is ongoing, and we'll wait to see the results. But we made very clear that it's some-

Nijjar was shot and killed after he had stepped out of a gurdwara in Surrey in June last year. A video clip of his killing reportedly surfaced in March this year, purportedly showing Nijjar being fatally shot by assailants, in what was claimed to be 'contract killing'

thing that we take seriously and we think it's something they should take seriously as well."

India and Canada are dealing with an unprecedented diplomatic crisis, after the Canadian Prime Minister accused

agents of the Indian government of killing Canadian Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023. However, India has dismissed the accusations as "absurd" and "motivated."

Nijjar was shot and killed after he had stepped out of a gurdwara in Surrey in June last year. A video clip of his killing reportedly surfaced in March this year, purportedly showing Nijjar being fatally

killing of Nijjar.

However, the Canadian police administration did not share any evidence linked to India's involvement in the killing of the Khalistani leader.

Jagmeet's party backs the Liberal minority government led by Trudeau in exchange for support on some key bills. After the Canadian Police announced the arrest of three alleged accused in the killing of Hardeep Nijjar, Jagmeet renewed his claim of an Indian hand in the incident.

"The Indian government hired assassins to murder a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil - at a place of worship. Today 3 arrests were made. Let me be clear - any Indian agent or state actor that ordered, planned or carried out this murder must be exposed and met with the full force of Canadian law. For Canada, democracy and free speech - there must be Justice for Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Jagmeet posted from his X handle. ANI

shot by assailants, in what was claimed to be 'contract killing'.

In a recent development, on May 4, Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh leveled a fresh allegation of India's hand in the

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As India's global role grows, foreign media influence will increase, warns EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: India is becoming bigger and its progress in many ways will shape the rest of the world because of which the rest of the world is trying to influence it in different ways, particularly through the media, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said recently.

In reply to a question at a lecture event in Hansraj Col-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

lege, New Delhi, EAM Jaishankar underscored that it's not necessarily the governments, which influence the country; it is often done by the media in the present day.

"You named Al Jazeera. But I will only make one

broader point applicable to other outlets, outfits as well. Because we are becoming bigger, because we are doing better, because our progress in many ways will shape the rest of the world, the rest of the world is also trying to influence it in different ways," EAM Jaishankar said.

"They don't have to be governments who are influencing it. Often these are done by media. If you look today, at the kind of comments which are coming out of media, the kind of attempts to shape opinion, to take it in different directions, I think all of these are very much part of an influence game that is going on," he added.

The Minister also said India should accept and prepare itself for countering these 'realities' in the globalized world.

"I think we should be aware of it, globalized 'Duniya me' we should accept that these are realities and we should prepare ourselves for it. As I said, where there is a need to give answer, we answer it and if there is a need to ignore or find ways of dealing with it. We will do so," he said.

In a stark acknowledgement of foreign powers trying to influence Lok Sabha elections in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the world is trying to do "more than just giving opinions" and asserted that such endeavors would ultimately remain "unsuccessful".

"I think this opposition will be only till June 4, after that these people will neither have the power nor exist. Only the power of my nation and our radiant democracy will exist. World will watch India's democracy with a new point of view. I can see that there is an attempt that the world is trying to influence our elections. They are not just giving their opinions but trying to influence our elections

"You named Al Jazeera. But I will only make one broader point applicable to other outlets, outfits as well. Because we are becoming bigger, because we are doing better, because our progress in many ways will shape the rest of the world, the rest of the world is also trying to influence it in different ways,"

but they will not be successful," he said.

"People of India will not get influenced. After Emergency, people of India, including the poor, have showed the beauty of India's democracy. Such people will not be successful. The lamp flickers before it extinguishes. This is the flickering, as they know they will soon be left in the dark," he added.

Earlier, EAM Jaishankar slammed

Western media, emphasizing that they criticize our democracy because they think they are also political players in our election and not because they lack information.

Addressing a forum for nationalist thinkers in Hyderabad, EAM said, "I get a lot of these noises from the Western press and if they criticize our democracy, it's not because they lack information. It is because they think they are also political players in our election." ANI

"Viksit Bharat" not merely a slogan but India's journey to next 25 yrs: EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underscored that "Viksit Bharat" is not just a slogan but a serious commitment towards India's future.

He was giving a lecture at Hansraj College, New Delhi. Jaishankar commenced his address by urging the audience to understand the gravity of "Viksit Bharat," stating, "Please don't think it's a slogan. It is something very serious that we are talking about."

Focusing on the future, Jaishankar articulated, "The issue right now we are all looking right for is the future. I want today to talk to you about the next 25 years, which is your future, our Amrit Kaal. Our yatra to Vikshit Bharat in the next 25 years."

Expressing his optimism, Jaishankar remarked, "I can feel today that we are at the point of something very big. The world is also watching us. I see these 25 years as a period of new opportunities, new technologies, and new challenges."

Discussing the transformative potential of technology, Jaishankar highlighted, "Artificial intelligence will change our lives. We are today actually talking about self-driven cars. We are looking at drones, which has now become a reality." ANI



Your one vote will make India third largest economy, says PM Modi in Madhya Pradesh

BHOPAL: A few hours after he cast his vote in Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urged the people of Madhya Pradesh to exercise their franchise in large numbers as that could "shape the future of India."

Addressing a public rally in Khargone, PM Modi emphasized the significance of the ongoing elections as voting in the third phase is underway in 12 states and Union Territories in the country, including nine parliamentary constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

"Your one vote in this election will make India the third largest economy, increase your earnings, enhance job opportunities for youth, and make a strong India," said Prime Minister Modi.

He continued: "Your one vote enhanced India's influence in the world, removed Article 370 after 70 years, helped in building the Ram temple in Ayodhya, made a tribal daughter the President, ensured reservation rights for women, and sent corrupt individuals to jail

Your one vote secured the future of youth, created immense opportunities, and lifted 25 crore people out of poverty."

All these decisions, said PM Modi, were made possible because of the support that he and his party received in 2014 and 2019 to take the country forward.

"I understand that it is quite hot but I also came here after doing my duty as a citizen of the country. I appeal to everyone to exercise their franchise to strengthen democracy," he said.

After Khargone, PM Modi will be addressing another rally in Dhar. Voting in Dhar and Khargone, along with six other seats that also include Indore and Ujjain, is scheduled to take place during the fourth round of elections on May 13. IANS

France not at war with Russia, says Emmanuel Macron during China's Xi Jinping visit

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron in a recent joint news conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping said France is not at war with Russia.

"We are not at war with Russia or the Russian people," Russian state media TASS cited Macron as saying at a joint news conference with Chinese President.

In his comments webcast on Elysee Palace's social media account X, the French President said, "We are also not seeking a change of power in Russia."

Further, he said that European countries are ready to "support Ukraine as long as it takes."

Macron and his Chinese counterpart Xi, who is on a two-day visit to France held talks at Elysee Palace in Paris this week, as the two countries marked 60 years of diplomatic relations. The visit marked Xi's third State visit to France.

At a press conference, the two leaders called for "a truce" in Ukraine and other global conflicts during the

Paris Olympic Games.

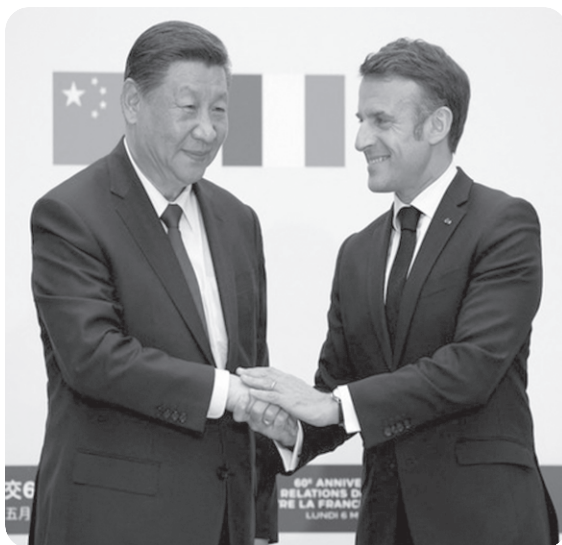
Xi and Macron also discussed China's ongoing support for Russia's leader Vladimir Putin.

Macron welcomed Chinese "commitments" to "abstain from selling any weapons" to Russia and "closely control the export of dual-use equipment," saying such statements is "reassuring," Politico reported.

Xi quoted by Xinhua, warned against "smearing" China over Ukraine and called on all parties to resume engagement and dialogue to build mutual trust.

The Chinese President said that China and France should uphold independence and jointly prevent a "new Cold War" or bloc confrontation

A 10-point statement released by the Elysee on the declaration between France and China on the situation in West Asia. This came just after Hamas officials gave their nod for a ceasefire deal for Gaza put forward by Qatari and Egyptian mediators. ANI



French President Emmanuel Macron with Chinese President Xi Jinping

Hamas accepts Qatar-mediated proposal on hostage release, Israeli withdrawal from Gaza

GAZA CITY: Hamas has accepted a proposal mediated by Qatar and Egypt, marking a potential breakthrough in the ongoing conflict in Gaza, CNN reported.

The proposal, outlined in a document obtained by CNN from a reliable source in the region, lays out a comprehensive plan aimed at de-escalating tensions and paving the way for sustainable peace.

According to the document, the agreement will be implemented in three phases, each lasting 42 days. The first phase entails the release of 33 Israeli hostages, including women, children, the elderly, and the sick, over the course of six weeks.

In exchange, Israeli forces will gradually withdraw from parts of Gaza, reconnaissance flights will be halted for 10 hours daily, and unarmed Palestinians will be allowed free movement throughout the Gaza Strip. Additionally, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners are set to be released, with specific criteria outlined for the exchange process, as reported by CNN.

Notably, the agreement stipulates that for every Israeli hostage released by Hamas, 30 Palestinian women and children will be released, along with 30 Palestinian prisoners over the age of 50 for each Israeli hostage in the same age group. ANI

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'Apple working on own AI chips for data centers'

NEW DELHI: As the race for artificial intelligence (AI) chips intensifies, Apple has joined the bandwagon and is now reportedly working on its own chips for data centers.

The aim of the iPhone maker is to run AI software in data center servers to give the company an edge, The Wall Street Journal reported recently.

The 'Project ACDC' (Apple Chips in Data Centre) will first use the indigenous chips in the company's own servers, the report mentioned.

The tech giant is likely to unveil new AI products at its flagship Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in June.

Tech giants like Microsoft, Google, Meta and OpenAI are working on developing custom server hardware to power AI models.

According to the company's CEO Tim Cook, Apple is making "significant investments" in generative AI.



Apple is likely to soon share "very exciting things" with customers.

Cook said last week "We have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software and services integration, groundbreaking Apple's silicon and with our industry-leading neural engines".

Apple is also reportedly integrating OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini into its upcoming iPhones.

"We believe that we have advantages that set us apart there. And we'll be talking more about it as we go through the weeks ahead," according to Cook. IANS

Musk calls for fully reusable rockets & spacecraft, as Boeing scrubs Starliner

NEW DELHI: SpaceX CEO Elon Musk called the need for fully reusable rockets & spacecraft, and not another capsule, even as rival Boeing's much-awaited Starliner yet again scrubbed its crewed mission.

"The world doesn't need another capsule," the tech billionaire said in a post on X.com.

"What matters is fully reusable rockets and spacecraft," he added. IANS



Why billionaire investor Warren Buffett needs to relook at India under PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Unaware of the possibilities India now provides for global investors and big conglomerates, Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of global investment major Berkshire Hathaway, needs to have a fresh look at a country which is set to become the third-largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$5 trillion.

In the last 10 years, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has progressed well across all economic parameters and is now the fifth-largest nation with a GDP of around \$3.7 trillion (estimate FY24).

A decade ago, the country was the 10th largest economy, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion (current market prices).

According to the Finance Ministry, "This 10-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental, which have significantly contrib-

uted to the country's economic progress".

At the company's annual meeting last weekend, Buffett said they could explore the untapped potential in India, as



Warren Buffett

"there may be areas unexplored or unattended to opportunities".

"In India, I am sure that there are loads of opportunities" and

the question is "do we have any advantage, in either insight into those businesses or contacts that will make possible for some transactions that participants in India would particularly want us

to participate".

As Buffett looks for a possible entry into the country, India's GDP growth is set to attain a new peak;

sectors like manufacturing and automobiles have started looking up again, and the GST collections are gaining new highs.

According to the latest RBI data, India's GDP growth has early signs of rising above 7 percent -- recorded during the 2020s before the pandemic.

The latest IMF data shows that in 2004, India's per capita GDP was \$635. The country's per capita GDP in 2024 has shot up to \$2,850, which works out to 42 percent of the \$6,770 for its peer countries.

According to an HSBC survey released earlier this month, India's manufacturing sector continued to grow at a robust pace in April, on the back of strong demand.

Moreover, the country remains the third largest tech startup ecosystem globally, with over one lakh startups and more than 100 unicorns, despite global challenges. IANS

Wipro, Microsoft to launch GenAI-powered assistants for financial services

NEW DELHI: Leading technology services and consulting company Wipro announced it is teaming up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).

According to the company, the cognitive assistants will provide financial professionals with deep market intelligence and appropriate and timely information on investment products and investor behavior.

"This new solution set, pow-

ered by Microsoft, will help provide better and faster market and product intelligence to financial advisors and banking professionals, enabling them to deliver more personalized and timely service to clients," Suzanne Dann,

CEO of Americas 2 Strategic Market Unit at Wipro Ltd, said in a statement.

"These solutions will also re-

duce the multiple -- often repetitive -- steps needed to onboard new investors or originate loans, cutting down the time spent on paperwork," she added.

Wipro's new GenAI-powered cognitive assistants will be powered by Microsoft Azure Open AI and available on Azure App Services. The solutions will

also utilize Microsoft Azure Document Intelligence, which uses advanced machine learning to extract text, key-value pairs, and structures from documents.

"Wipro has extensive financial services expertise, and we know that their new AI-powered virtual assistants will deliver innovation, scale and meaningful business value for customers," said Bill Borden, Corporate VP, Worldwide Financial Services at Microsoft. IANS



GST has benefited the poor, empowered the states: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said that two significant milestones have now been achieved in the larger GST architecture with the appointment of the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) and gross GST collections crossing the landmark of Rs 2 lakh crore, thanks to heightened economic activity in the country.



Finance Minister
Nirmala Sitharaman

In a detailed statement on X, the Finance Minister cited figures to show how GST has benefited the poor by reducing taxes on essential goods, and led to greater finances being made available to the states as part of the objective to promote federalism.

She said that GST, which was first mooted by the erstwhile Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, was ultimately implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the necessary consensus was carefully built, and the GST Acts were passed by the Parliament in 2016.

She also said that in 10 years, the UPA was unable to achieve political consensus on GST.

The Finance Minister said that before the implementation of GST, India's indirect tax system was fragmented and complicated, and every state was practically a distinct market in itself with different rules and tax rates.

Inputs for Central excise duty, etc., could not be availed, leading to an increased tax burden on the common people, she said.

The GST streamlined 17 taxes and 13 cesses into a five-tier structure, simplifying the tax regime. The turnover threshold for registration rose to Rs 40 lakh for

goods and Rs 20 lakh for services (from Rs 5 lakh on average under VAT). The GST also reduced 495 different submissions (challan, forms, declarations, etc) across states to just 12, she explained.

The GST simplified compliances through uniform processes, simple registration, single returns, and a fully IT-driven system with minimal physical interface, she added.

The Quarterly Returns with Monthly Payment (QRMP) scheme, with much lower compliances, has benefited over 44 lakh small taxpayers and MSMEs. As per a Deloitte survey (2023), 88 percent of MSMEs credit GST for cost reductions along with optimized supply chains.

The GST regime has enhanced MSME financing through tools like e-invoicing, TReDS, and the Account Aggregator framework. The number of registered taxpayers under the GST grew to over 1.4 crore from 65 lakh in 2017, the Finance Minister said.

The E-way bill system removed inter-state checkpoints, reducing logistics costs. Trucks travelled 44 percent more daily, and corruption at tax 'nakas' decreased. Consequently, domestic goods' inter-state trade surged to 35 percent of GDP in FY22, up from 23.5 percent in FY18, she pointed out.

The Finance Minister said, "Reflecting a pro-poor approach, the effective weighted average GST rate has consistently fallen since 2017. The Revenue Neutral Rate was suggested to be 15.3 percent but was lower at 14.4 percent in 2017, and it has come down to 11.6 percent in 2019."

The GST lowered taxes on many essential items compared to pre-GST rates. Common items like hair oil and soaps saw tax being cut from 28 percent to 18 percent.

Electrical appliances are taxed at 12 percent against 31.5 percent before. Movie tickets were taxed lower, too. Further tax rate rationalization has been done since 2017. The National Anti-profiteering Authority has ensured that companies passed the benefits to the consumers, FM Sitharaman said.

The Finance Minister also cited the fact that GST has exempted many essential items and services, such as unbranded food items, certain life-saving drugs, healthcare, education, public transport, sanitary napkins, hearing aid parts, and agricultural services to drive home her point.

In a detailed statement on X, the Finance Minister cited figures to show how GST has benefited the poor by reducing taxes on essential goods, and led to greater finances being made available to the states as part of the objective to promote federalism. She said that GST, which was first mooted by the erstwhile Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, was ultimately implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

She also said that GST exemplifies cooperative federalism in India besides empowering the states.

The GST Council, with a 75 percent majority vote requirement, assigns one-third voting power to the Centre and two-thirds to the states. Out of the 52 meetings, all decisions but one were reached through consensus. *IANS*

Education shouldn't suffer: Anand Mahindra offers help to 10-yr-old Delhi boy selling rolls

NEW DELHI: Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra came forward to help a 10-year-old Delhi boy, who was selling rolls after his father's demise, saying that the boy's education should not be affected and his foundation would explore ways of helping him.

Sharing a video on X, Mahindra extended his support to the boy and appreciated his efforts, who has taken responsibility of his family at this age.

"Courage, thy name is Jaspreet. But his education shouldn't suffer. I believe he's in Tilak Nagar, Delhi. If anyone has access to his contact number please do share it. The Mahindra Foundation team will explore how we can support his education," he wrote.

The post has been viewed over 500K times since being shared. The post saw a lot of responses from many users.

"He is not giving up... this kid has decided to take up the responsibility & stand up for himself. His courage is inspiring which is pushing him to stand during odd times," a user wrote.

"His courage and 'never give up' attitude is inspiring! May he get support from the community and do well in future," another user said.

One more user mentioned, "Jaspreet is fearless! Education is crucial. It's great that the Mahindra Foundation is stepping in to support his education". *IANS*

Govt showcases India as 365-day tourist destination at Arabian Travel Mart

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Tourism is showcasing India as a 365-day tourism destination at the Arabian Travel Mart being held in Dubai from May 6-9.

The 'Incredible India' pavilion was inaugurated 6 May by Satish Kumar Sivan, Consul General of India to Dubai, with the aim of strengthening India's presence in the Middle East's tourism sector.

The pavilion has made a resounding entry, aiming to capture the entirety of the UAE market. The country's delegation comprising tour operators, luxury hotels, wellness resorts, and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will be highlighting India's attraction as a round-the-year tourist destination, according to an official statement.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 'Cool Summers of India' digital campaign at the Arabian Travel Mart to dispel the notion of India being too hot for summer travel.

The campaign is emphasizing the country's offerings in the hill resorts, and seeks to promote India as a holistic destination throughout the year. *IANS*



MMNA Sakhis celebrate Mother's Day in Bay Area

RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

Mother's Day is round the corner and MMNA Sakhi NWC (Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America) - North West Coast Chapter celebrated this on May 5th. 2024 in Desi Contemporary Restaurant in Campbell, California. Sakhis of all ages ranging from 25-75 years old attended the celebration and had splendid time. It was a musical themed afternoon with variety of performances from different musical eras by Sakhis along with game - Sakhi ka Musical Muqaabla. The icing on the cake was the live performance by Bay Area Diva singer Tanya Gupta who mesmerized the audience with hit numbers from Bollywood.

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How Medi-Cal is bringing care to unhoused Californians

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

As the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) transforms Medi-Cal, California is making the nation's most ambitious effort to address social needs, like housing and at-home support, through health care. This multi-year initiative, which provides insurance for one in three or, 15 million Californians, now includes social services geared to the health of people at risk of homelessness. These new programs go well beyond the doctor's office, like homelessness prevention, housing transition and tenancy navigation, rent and deposit aid, post-hospitalization recuperative housing, sobering centers, day habilitation and street medicine. At the EMS briefing on May 2, DHCS leaders, community providers and health care workers shared how they're using Medi-Cal to help Californians experiencing homelessness and housing instability lead healthier lives.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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Pakistani Americans Call for ceasefire in Gaza

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The United States government need to work for a ceasefire, end the starvation and violations of international law in Gaza, members of the Pakistan Progressive Forum resolved on last Sunday.

Indian American Cancer Scientists awarded by SAASCR for their novel discoveries

Nine American Asian scientists awarded for novel discoveries in cancer research by SAASCR at American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting 2024

India Post News Service

The Society of American Asian Scientists in Cancer Research is a non-profit, non-political organization registered in the state of California in 2004 and has more than 5,000 members. All our members are also members of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). SAASCR scientists are from Asia, mainly of Indian origin, working in the USA and Canada in the field of cancer research and fully sponsored by the biotechnology companies.

Dr. Rajvir Dahiya, the president of SAASCR, presented awards to these scientists on April 7th 2024 in San Diego, California during American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting. Dr. Rajvir Dahiya is a Professor Emeritus at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine. Dr. Dharam Pal Chauhan is a secretary of SAASCR and is a retired Professor from University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine.

Alok A. Khorana, M.D., is a Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, the Sondra and Stephen Hardis Endowed Chair in Oncology Research, Vice-Chair for Academic Development of the Taussig Cancer Institute (part of Case Comprehensive Cancer Center) and Director of the Gastrointestinal Malignancies Program at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio. His clinical and translational research program focuses on predictive factors and drug development in cancer-associated



Left to Right: Dr. Alok A, Khorana, Dr. Jaideep Chaudhary, Dr. Maneesh Jain, Dr. Dharam Pal Chauhan (Secretary SAASCR), Dr. Rajvir Dahiya (President SAASCR), Dr. Subrata Sen and Dr. Paramita M Ghosh

thrombosis and gastrointestinal cancers and has been funded by grants from the NIH, CDC, "Stand Up To Cancer" (Colorectal Cancer "Dream Team") and others. His work led to development of the first risk assessment tool to identify patients at risk for cancer associated thrombosis - now known as the "Khorana score" - and development of novel agents for primary prevention and treatment of VTE. His recent work has fo-

and metabolomic profiles.

Dr. Khorana received his medical degree from Maharaja Sayajirao University's Medical College in Baroda (now Vadodara, Gujarat), India. His postdoctoral training included a residency in internal medicine at the University at Buffalo in New York and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Rochester, New York. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and in 2018 was

the National Blood Clot Alliance.

Dr. Alok Khorana is a nephew of Nobel Laureate (1968) Dr. Har Gobind Khorana.

Jaideep Chaudhary, Ph.D. is a Professor and Dean, School of Arts and Sciences and Interim Director of the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutics Development at Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta GA. Prior to becoming Dean, Dr. Chaudhary served the school as the Associate Dean. He is an internationally renowned cancer biologist with more than 60 peer reviewed publications and book chapters. He also has 3 patents to his credit. His research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of prostate cancer and health disparities. He obtained his research funding from National Institutes of health (NIH), Department of Defense (DoD), National Science Foundation (NSF) and American Cancer Society (ACS).

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cused on young-onset gastrointestinal cancers with novel findings describing risk factors, "hot spots" and microbiomic

electd Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. He is currently Chair of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of

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MMNA Sakhis celebrate Mother's Day in Bay Area

RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

Mother's Day is round the corner and MMNA Sakhi NWC (Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America) - North West Coast Chapter celebrated this on May 5th, 2024 in Desi Contemporary Restaurant in Campbell, California. Sakhis of all ages ranging from 25-75 years old attended the celebration and had splendid time. It was a musical themed afternoon with variety of performances from different musical eras by Sakhis along with game - Sakhi ka Musical Muqaabla. The icing on the cake was the live performance by Bay Area Diva singer Tanya Gupta who mesmerized the audience with hit numbers from Bollywood.

Infant hygiene and women's sanitation product drive, was supported generously by the members. Kudos to the Sakhi team and prominent volunteers -



Shailja Maroo, Sandhya Bagdi, Ankita Phophalia, Kavita Malani and Shruti Maheshwari for this event and bringing

the community together musically. Sakhi Shailaja Maroo said "When Sakhis get together and take up an ini-

tiative, results are stunning and we will continue to bring community together in similar future events."

Pakistani Americans call for ceasefire in Gaza

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The United States government need to work for a ceasefire, end the starvation and violations of international law in Gaza, members of the Pakistan Progressive Forum resolved on last Sunday.

The forum had organized a symposium entitled "Peace and Conflict in a Multipolar World" in downtown Chicago that was widely attended by Pakistani Americans. The speakers included Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Dr Ayesha Siddiqa, Dr Ammar Ali Jan. The event was moderated by Raza Rumi.

Congressman Bowman, who is running for office again, highlighted his support for the Palestinian people and how he had resisted the pressure not to call for a ceasefire and ask for ending Israeli atrocities against the people of Gaza.

"I am against the death of children everywhere in the world. They wanted me not to speak about starving children, not call for a ceasefire but I cannot stay silent," added Bowman. He emphasized why all communities in the U.S. need to push back against hegemonic and supremacist discourses.

The new world order that is taking

shape is far more brutal and authoritarian, said Dr Ayesha Siddiqa. She highlighted how peculiar forms of nationalisms were emerging as a response as well as in tandem with transnational corporate power. The net result has been democratic backsliding in the United States and other countries across the globe.

A debate is taking place as to what kind of a state is needed and perhaps the way forward for lasting peace was to respect diversity and inclusion so that healthy societies could be built, added Siddiqa.

look at the progressive movements underway in Pakistan," Jan added. The diaspora has a role to play in this context given its influence.

Raza Rumi added that Islamophobia or Muslim-o-phobia was on the rise after October 8. While all Muslims in America have condemned antisemitic hate speech, the corporate media continues to blame them as anti-Jews. Supporting the rights of Palestinian people and criticizing collective punishment of people in Gaza was not anti-Semitism

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"Ammar Ali Jan spoke about the mass graves discovered in Gaza and paid tribute to the students in America who were resisting the status quo. Jan also highlighted the growing poverty, inflation under the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund. And the common citizens were bearing the brunt while the elites continued to maintain their privileges.

"Pakistani community could support a party of their choice, but they must take a

At the end a resolution was passed by the Pakistan Progressive Forum that called for a ceasefire in Gaza, Palestine and an end to arming Israel given the violations of international humanitarian laws as well as US regulations on supplying humanitarian assistance.

The forum also resolved to continue organizing in the United States to bring different groups together for advocacy and action on progressive causes.

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Vidya Jyoti's Bollywood Glam Gala

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Vidya Jyoti - Global Education Opportunity Foundation rolled out the red carpet for its Bollywood Glam Gala at the Ashyana Banquets in a Chicago suburb On Sunday, April 28, 2024,

Vidya Jyoti, a beacon of hope for underprivileged children and youth, showcased its commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty through educational support. Founded in 2021 by the visionary President Pratibha Jairath, Vidya Jyoti has touched the lives of over 1,500 children

and youth, guiding them towards a brighter future filled with opportunities.

The Gala, not-for-profit endeavor, was a star-studded affair attended by prominent figures with the unwavering support for Vidya Jyoti's noble cause.

Anita Beri, Vice-President & Treasurer From the Dayanand Model School in Punjab to the Kohka Foundation in Madhya Pradesh, Vidya Jyoti's footprint in empowering young lives across India was vividly showcased.

The highlight of the evening



How Medi-Cal is bringing care to unhoused Californians

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

As the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) transforms Medi-Cal, California is making the nation's most ambitious effort to address social needs, like housing and at-home support, through health care. This multi-year initiative, which provides insurance for one in three or, 15 million Californians, now includes social services geared to the health of people at risk of homelessness. These new programs go well beyond the doctor's office, like homelessness prevention, housing transition and tenancy navigation, rent and deposit aid, post-hospitalization recuperative housing, sobering centers, day habilitation and street medicine. At the EMS briefing on May 2, DHCS leaders, community providers and health care workers shared how they're using Medi-Cal to help Californians experiencing homelessness and housing instability lead healthier lives.

Glenn Tsang, Policy Advisor for Homelessness and Housing, California Department of Health Care Services highlighted the importance of MediCal's transformation in meeting the healthcare needs of those facing homelessness. The Enhanced

Care Management Community Supports launched in 2022 aim to provide connections to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and improved medical and behavioral healthcare for beneficiaries.

Homeless individuals often rely on emergency room care for their healthcare needs, which is why housing services are now available under Community Supports, specifically tailored to

gration status, and can access the Enhanced Care Management benefit for complex healthcare needs, including homelessness.

Amber Middleton, Director of HOPE Program, Shasta Community Health Center said they offer mobile medical services, street medicine programs, medical relief programs, and clinic services at local homeless shelters. The focus is on reach-

Homeless individuals often rely on emergency room care for their healthcare needs, which is why housing services are now available under Community Supports, specifically tailored to the homeless population

the homeless population. Services include housing transition navigation, assistance with housing searches and applications, financial support for deposits, and housing options for those discharged from hospitals.

MediCal has also requested federal partners to cover six months of rent for members transitioning from settings like hospitals, jails, or emergency rooms. Additionally, individuals between the ages of 26 and 40 now qualify for full MediCal coverage, irrespective of their immi-

ing out to the population and breaking down systemic barriers to access healthcare.

Brian Zunner-Keating, MS,RN, Director UCLA Homeless Healthcare Collaborative has provided thousands of clinical assessments to homeless individuals in their community. Their street medicine program brings medical professionals directly to those in need, with the help of community health workers who understand the unique needs of the homeless population.

was the display of talent by participants, who showcased their flair in dance, iconic movie dialogues, impersonations, ramp walks, and more, all while adorned in stunning attire reflecting the rich tapestry of Indian culture.

But the true stars of the night were the generous contributors who poured their hearts and wallets into Vidya Jyoti's mission. As the curtains closed on this unfor-

gettable evening, Vidya Jyoti extended heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, volunteers and donors for their unwavering support. The journey towards education, empowerment, and self-reliance continues, fueled by the spirit of unity and compassion.

For more information on Vidya Jyoti and how you can make a difference, visit our website at vidya-jyoti.com.

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Fremont Hindu Temple organizes Chaitra Navratri Garba and Dandiya



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

Fremont Hindu Temple organized beautiful 'Chaitra Navratri Garba and Dandiya' on Friday, April 12th., 2024. Hundreds of devotees adorned in traditional dresses enthusiastically played Dandiya and

Garba while offering prayers. This provided opportunity for local devotees to celebrate the occasion. Prasad was served for the community. The Fremont Temple Garba Group including Amita Patel and Naresh Patel organized it with great enthusiasm.



Ekjut Theater plans staging 3 Plays

India Post News Service

Ekjut Theater started in 2014 marks 10 years in 2024 and celebrates with 3 plays in each of their planned productions this year.

This was the 19th production of the not for profit organization started by Promila Kumar. Ekjut is an amateur theater group and

with 3 comedy plays namely "Tajmahal ka tender" classic satire written by Ajay Shukla, 'Khane meinkyahai' - a comedy on a social issue and a light hearted comedy on finding love between 3 couples in 'Pyar ka panchanama'. The event was sold out and the audience enjoyed the plays.



its objective is to provide a platform for anyone interested in the performing arts and providing entertainment to the community. The not for profit group aims to bring literature, social and cultural aspects with its plays. It has debuted 100 persons to performing arts.

The spring production staged on 4/27 at Center Stage Theater

There were 20 cast and team members; there were several new actors debuting and few were actors with previous experience.

The next production is on 9/29 with plays in English language at a very prestigious theater in Chicago. Interested persons can send an email to ekjuttheater@gmail.com

Punjabi Cinema gears up for a Laughter Riot with 'Miya Biwi Raaji To Kya Kerenge Paaji'

India Post News Service

The Punjabi film industry is on an upward trajectory, catering to diverse tastes and genres. Amidst this exciting landscape, a new offering promises to tickle the funny bone of audiences across the region. DR. Anil K Mehta presents 'Miya Biwi Raaji to Kya Kerenge Paaji,' a musical comedy helmed by the talented Harry & Mehta, recently held its grand mahurat ceremony in Mumbai, setting the stage for an uproarious cinematic experience.

The star-studded event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, including the chief guests Lawrence D'Souza and Abhay Sinha, who graced the occasion with their blessings. Punjabi cinema's beloved star, Pritam Pyare made a special appearance, much to the delight of his legion of fans, adding an extra dose of excitement to the proceedings.

At the helm of this laughter-filled venture is writer and director Harry Mehta, whose prowess in capturing the nuances of family dynamics promises to strike a chord with viewers. Backed by the production prowess of Sneha Mehta, the film boasts an ensemble cast led by the talented

Yuvraj Hans and the effervescent Shehnaz Sehar, setting the stage for a delightful on-screen chemistry.

The mahurat ceremony offered a tantalizing glimpse into the film's premise, revolving around the trials and tribulations of a modern-day Punjabi family. With its relatable themes and

melodious compositions, further enhancing the overall entertainment quotient.

As the Punjabi film industry continues to diversify and cater to a wider audience, 'Miya Biwi Raaji to Kya Kerenge Paaji' stands as a testament to the region's rich cultural heritage and its ability to captivate audi-



humorous undertones, 'Miya Biwi Raaji to Kya Kerenge Paaji' aims to mirror the real-life experiences of families across the region, resonating with audiences on a deeper level.

Renowned cinematographer R. Parthasarathy has been entrusted with capturing the vibrant visuals, ensuring that every frame is a feast for the eyes. The film's soundtrack, a vital component of any musical comedy, promises to be a delightful blend of foot-tapping numbers and

ences through laughter and heartwarming stories.

With an ensemble of talented actors, a seasoned creative team, and a premise that resonates with the masses, this musical comedy is poised to become a must-watch for audiences seeking a respite from the stresses of daily life. As the excitement builds, cinephiles eagerly await the release date, anticipating a riotous journey through the lives of a quintessential Punjabi family.

Community rallies behind astrologer Dr. Vaneet Sharma amid Digital Defamation Campaign

India Post News Service

Dr. Vaneet Sharma stands as a unique figure in the Bay Area's astrological community, distinguished not only for his profound

the Festival of Globe (FOG) and his visible presence at community events for Indians underscore his role as a public figure and a pillar in the community.

Recently, Dr. Sharma found himself at the center of a nefarious digital scam aimed at tarnishing his long-standing reputation. Despite this adversity, the overwhelming response from his community and client base highlights the steadfast trust and support he continues to gratefully receive. Until deceptive websites disseminating false claims about him emerged, Dr. Sharma had not encountered a single negative review, attesting to his integrity and the quality of his guidance.

The false information spread by unknown perpetrators through fake websites and social media profiles has posed a significant threat to Dr. Sharma's reputation, especially among potential new clients. These digital attacks seem designed to undermine the trust placed in him by thousands over the years. Despite these challenges, the steadfast loyalty of his existing clients, who continue to rely on his counsel, speaks volumes about their trust in his

abilities.

The online perpetrators have engaged in, among other things: Posting fake reviews on Astro Vastu Solution google page.

Creating fake websites using his name and pictures.

Creating a fake website to identify him with the LGBT community

Using his office and home address to send illegal IPTV boxes to make it look like he is sending them.

Sending him threatening emails from fake email addresses to extort him.

Creating a fake Whatsapp group using his name to make it look like he is part of an illegal IPTV business.

Sending money to his paypal account, purportedly for IPTV services, which he promptly returned.

Understanding the gravity of these attacks, Dr. Sharma and his legal team are taking action. They successfully countered a baseless legal accusation that wrongfully connected him with IPTV services, leading to the dismissal of the case by Dish TV. The support from his legal advisors and his community has been crucial in helping him navigate this troubling period.

In response to the ongoing defamation, Dr. Sharma has made a public appeal for assistance in identifying the culprits behind these malicious acts. "This could and does happen to other people too. I appeal to everyone, if you have any information about these individuals, please assist us or get in touch with us. Anyone who provides information will surely be rewarded, and their identity will be kept confidential. Please help us find the culprits. We will be grateful to you all." stated Dr. Sharma. This call to action underscores his commitment to justice and his belief in the power of community support.

This incident highlights the challenges of maintaining a public persona in the digital era, where personal and profes-

sional vulnerabilities can be exploited by malevolent forces. It also underscores the importance of community support and collective resilience in facing such threats. As Dr. Sharma continues to guide and support both old and new clients, the crucial role of the community in safeguarding the reputation of its valued members becomes

People who have known Dr. Sharma have not been swayed by these fake websites. Yes, a few people who do not know him have been misled by the fake websites. Dr. Sharma would like to remind them that these baseless attacks by a faceless person, hiding behind anonymity, should not stop them from seeking the help they need. This is

The false information spread by unknown perpetrators through fake websites and social media profiles has posed a significant threat to Dr. Sharma's reputation, especially among potential new clients

increasingly evident.

Through this ordeal, Dr. Sharma's experience serves as a potent reminder of the impact of digital threats and the strength found in community solidarity. His resolve in the face of adversity not only reinforces his commitment to his practice but also illustrates the enduring power of trust and mutual respect in overcoming challenges.

nothing but an online version of petty gossip, which should never be the basis for making any decisions in life.

Dr. Sharma and the community will also be requesting lawmakers to make certain changes to the law, which makes it easier for victims to identify criminal perpetrators such as the people behind this digital scam.



Dr. Vaneet Sharma of Astro - Vastu Solutions

expertise in astrology and Vastu Shastra but also for his significant contributions to community life. Honored by then President of India, Shri Pranab Mukerjee, Dr. Sharma is the only astrologer in the Bay Area to receive such a distinction. For over a decade, he has been a familiar voice on Radio Zindagi, offering guidance and insights, and serves as a trustee member of the Fremont Temple. Additionally, his long-standing association with

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ANNOUNCEMENT MKCA EVENTS

The MJCA Executive Committee announced the events planned for Members and also non-members the calendar year of 2024

Please mark calendar to join each of the events.

1. Picnic- July 20 2024 at Bussee Woods, Elk Grove Village, near Chicago
2. Monti Fest- September 7-2024
Venue to be decided
3. Christmas Party- December 14- 2024
Venue to be decided

If anybody would like to help MKCA in organizing these events, please do not hesitate to reach out to MKCA Committee.

More information and details for the Picnic would be provided, in the coming weeks.

Sky River Casino's spectacular May promotions: Winning has never been this exciting

As the calendar turns to May, Sky River Casino is set to dazzle members with a host of promotions that promise excitement, luxury, and a touch of elegance. Get ready for a month where every moment at the casino offers a chance at winning something extraordinary, from dream cars to designer handbags.

Drive Away With A Dream Car

Feel the energy on the casino floor spike every Saturday night from May 1 to July 27, between 7 pm and 10 pm with the "Road to Glory" giveaway, as members are presented with the chance to win the ultimate prize: a brand-new car. From the sleek lines of the Lincoln Nautilus to the muscular contours of the Ford Mustang GT, and the commanding presence of the GMC Sierra, there's a perfect match for every winner's taste. Beyond the allure of these stunning vehicles, members can rev up their winning potential with 100 bonus entries for every 100 Tier Credits accumulated every Monday and Tuesday. And the chance at winning doesn't end there - cash and Free Play are also on the prize roster. Don't forget to secure your free daily entry with a swipe at the promotional kiosk, because every visit offers a new opportunity to turn the key on a new luxury ride.

London Fog Handbag Collection Giveaway

Adding a dash of British sophistication to Sky River's May lineup, the London Fog Handbag Collection Giveaway on Thursdays or Fridays from 3 pm to 10 pm allows members to accessorize their wardrobes with timeless elegance. By



Play your favorite slots and table games daily for a chance to win Free Play, Cash, or your choice of a **LINCOLN NAUTILUS, GMC SIERRA, or FORD MUSTANG GT** every Saturday! Get 100 Bonus drawing entries when you earn 100 Tier Credits every Monday & Tuesday, **PLUS** one free daily entry when you swipe at a promotional kiosk.

LONDON FOG
— HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY —
THURSDAYS OR FRIDAYS IN MAY | 3PM - 10PM

Earn 500 Tier Credits to claim a different bag each week!

Strut your stuff with a Wallet, Toiletry Bag, Crossbody Bag, Satchel, and Tote.

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SKY RIVER CASINO

earning 500 Tier Credits, members can walk away with a distinguished new accessory each week, from a sleek Wallet to a stylish Crossbody Bag, a classic Satchel, or a versatile Tote.

OCEAN Restaurant: A Voyage to Vietnamese Delicacies

Adding to the enchantment of May, OCEAN restaurant at The Market proudly presents a new traditional Vietnamese menu. Delight in the authentic flavors with steaming bowls of pho, freshly made banh mi, and succulent Shrimp Spring Rolls. Open every day to satisfy your culinary cravings, visit OCEAN from 4 pm to 10 pm Sunday through Thursday, and extend your gourmet journey from 11 am through 12 am on Friday and Saturday. Discover more about this dining jewel at <https://www.skyriver.com/dining-and-drinks/the-market-at-sky-river/ocean-bar>

Make your way to Sky River Casino this May for a gaming experience that transcends the tables and slot machines. Whether it's the thrill of the game or the delight of a gourmet meal at OCEAN, the potential to win - and dine - in style is boundless. For the full rundown on May's promotions and the sumptuous offerings at OCEAN, visit SkyRiver.com.

About Sky River Casino

Sky River Casino was built by the Wilton Rancheria in partnership with Boyd Gaming Corporation, which is building and managing the property for the tribe. The casino opened in August 2022 and includes 100,000 sq ft of gaming, 2,100 slot machines, 80+ table games, and 18 bars and restaurants. To learn more, visit www.SkyRiver.com.

Chicago organizes premier of award winning film 'Mane Lai Ja'

JAYANYTI OZA

CHICAGO: The Chicago Premier of award winning, super hit film 'Mane Lai Ja', directed by Ramesh Punatar and Sean Patel, of USA Film Productions Company took place here last week.

The Special screening was graced by Chief Guest Sunil Shah, in attendance of Swapnil Shah (Hollywood Actor, Producer and Director), Bharat Oza (Media Oza), Rely Care, Legacy Entertainment, HGI Financials, Dream Motor Car, Sreeji Travels, A.B. Entertainment, at the Bensenville Theater in Bensenville, a Chicago suburb.

Over 200 guests attended to watch a heart touching movie, with people watch-



ing movie broke with the tears in their eye. 'Mane Lai Ja' message was DIKRI VINA SUNO SANSAR.

The story of film is based on a 10-year-old girl Anandi. Along with entertainment, this film also delivers a social message and questions dreadful rituals of our culture.

This show was sponsored and supported by Ramesh Choksi, Kirit Thakkar, Arvind Shah, Ashok Potdar, Pinky Dinesh Thakkar. At the end of the show Ramesh Punatar (Film Producer) thanked all guests, who said it was an excellent heart touching social film, with a great message about daughters for all communities.

Indian American Cancer Scientists awarded by SAASCR for their novel discoveries

Cont'd from page 16

Dr. Chaudhary earned his Bachelor's and Master's in Biophysics from Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, and PhD from Agra University (National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi), India specializing in reproductive endocrinology. Dr. Chaudhary's research has also allowed him to mentor more than 17 graduate students in research and guide them in the successful completion of their Ph.D. degrees. As a Dean, he has played a significant role in developing new programs, student success and promoting faculty who subsequently launched a successful academic career.

Prior to joining Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Chaudhary served as assistant director for the Center for Reproductive Biology at Washington State University, Pullman, WA. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Chaudhary has also worked as Group leader and Principal Scientist in the Biotechnology industry developing diagnostics and early-stage therapeutics for ovarian cancer. As a thought leader and higher education administrator, he is involved in developing a qualified and diverse faculty, strengthening interdisciplinary collaborations, building new academic programs, and fostering a positive culture. He has been instrumental in securing financial and academic resources for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty professional development.

Maneesh Jain, Ph.D. is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha. He received his Ph.D. from Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India and did his post-doctoral training at UNMC. Dr. Jain's translational research program is aimed at improving early detection and treatment of pancreatic cancer, which is one of the most lethal malignancies. A major focus of his research is to improve the delivery and distribution of therapeutic agents for pancreatic cancer. Jain's team is studying the role of signaling pathways involved in the complex cellular crosstalk in the tumor microenvironment with a goal to selectively modulate the obstructive effects of stroma. His initial research demonstrated the utility of cell-penetrating peptides from improving the uptake and distribution of radiolabeled single-chain antibody fragments in tumors. Subsequently, his laboratory investigated the utility of endothelin-axis antagonists as selective

modulators of tumor microenvironment to improve delivery of chemotherapeutic drugs. These efforts led to an ongoing collaborative NIH-supported clinical trial in pancreatic cancer patients. His laboratory is also engaged in evaluating biomarkers for early diagnosis, and developing targeted therapeutic ap-

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proaches (radioimmunotherapy, antibody therapy, and immunotherapy) that exploit differential overexpression of mucins in pancreatic cancer. His laboratory has developed monoclonal antibodies against several mucins that are useful for developing diagnostic and therapeutic modalities for pancreatic and other cancers. These antibodies are being used to develop assays and kits to study mucin expression in tissue and biological fluids and develop targeted therapeutics. Jain lab is also engaged in developing immunotherapy for pancreatic cancer. Along these lines, Dr. Jain is leading collaborative effort to develop mucin-based nanoparticle vaccine for pancreatic can-

Subrata Sen, Ph.D. is a Professor and Deputy Chair in the department of Translational Molecular Pathology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He is also a member of the faculty at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston where he served as the Director of the Program in Human and Molecular Genetics during 2012-2014

cer that is currently being evaluated in preclinical models. Dr. Jain has authored more than 125 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals.

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Director of the Program in Human and Molecular Genetics during 2012-2014. Dr. Sen received his PhD degree in 1980 from the Institute of Science of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, India and served as a Lecturer in the Department of Zoology in BHU between 1980-1982 before moving to USA to do post-

doctoral fellowship in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston supported by a Fulbright Travel Award. Dr. Sen was a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Genetics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago during 1991. Through the course of his academic career, Dr. Sen has been teaching and mentoring graduate students and clinical fellows besides pursuing an active research program in the field of cancer with focus on identifying genetic alterations driving initiation and progression of cancer. These studies have led to the development of novel targets for cancer therapy and markers for surveillance and

detection of cancer.

Dr. Sen developed an innovative technique of cloning genes from specific regions of human chromosomes micro dissected from metaphase chromosome slides. Utilizing a similar approach his research team was the first to identify a novel oncogene, AURKA, frequently amplified and over expressed in human cancer cells. Their studies revealed the significant role of AURKA in cancer including inactivation of critical tumor suppressor

proteins TP53 and TP73. Independent large-scale studies have validated these findings and it was established that a subset of all human cancers have amplification of AURKA oncogene. Several small molecule drugs targeting the protein encoded by AURKA have been developed that have shown promising response in treating a subset of human cancers. A patented fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) assay was developed for the detection of AURKA gene copy numbers in urine samples of bladder cancer patients for surveillance of disease by Dr. Sen and colleagues that was licensed by Abbott Molecular Inc.

Dr. Sen also has an active research program for developing blood-based biomarkers for early detection of cancer. His team was the first to report circulating microRNAs in blood as biomarkers for detection of early-stage pancreatic cancer that was announced in a press release by the Division of Cancer Prevention of the National Cancer Institute, USA. Dr. Sen's research projects have been consistently supported by peer-reviewed funding from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and, Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas. Dr. Sen has published his findings in more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, including several in high impact journals like, Nature Genetics, Cancer Cell, Cell and Science Signaling. He has also authored multiple invited articles and 7 book chapters. Dr. Sen has been recognized by his peers for his research achievements and has been named as the MD Anderson Brightest Stars on the Day of Science celebration. He serves on multiple journal Editorial Boards and is frequently invited to serve as member or Chair of the grant review committees of the National Cancer Institute.

Paramita M. Ghosh, Ph.D. is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the University of California Davis, School of Medicine, with a joint appointment at the Department of Urological Surgery. She also serves as a Research Chemist at the VA Northern California Health Care System. She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Physics from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, before switching to a PhD in Chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, with the 1973 Physics Nobel Prize winner Dr. Ivar Giaever.

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Sankara Eye Foundation's 'Walk for Vision'

The 14th Annual Vision Walk at Woodley Park, Van Nuys CA, held on April 8th, 2024, witnessed an overwhelming response with hundreds of enthusiastic participants. This yearly event, organized to support the Sankara Eye Foundation USA, draws attention to the cause of curable blindness in India.

This year's walk saw around 450 individuals of all ages, from youth to seniors, participating in the 5Km and 10Km races, all with the noble aim of providing the gift of vision to underprivileged people.

The event's success is attributed to the collective efforts of the community members, participants, sponsors and volun-



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teers. Their support and dedication have contributed significantly to making this annual walk/run a resounding success. The chapter coordinator, in expressing

gratitude, highlighted the vital role played by each participant and supporter in creating a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.

From Asphalt Jungle to Green Haven

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

In California, approximately 5.9 million K-12 students attend public schools on ~130,000 acres of land. Much of this land is unshaded and covered in asphalt. Hardscaped schoolyards present health risks in a warming world. A school forest initiative in California reflects a potential national trend to change the character and function of outdoor spaces. As the temperature soars higher year after year in Southern California, it becomes more important than ever to do the hard work of increasing the shade and green areas of the city, updating parks, and undertaking the long-overdue effort to change vast asphalt schoolyards into living spaces. This work also needs to consider existing structural inequities, where shade has become a fixture of privilege, and low-income communities lack sufficient parks and green areas. Research has shown that greening schoolyards directly impacts children's safety, health, and ability to learn.

Yet, most schools in Los Angeles need more green space or shade. Speakers at the EMS Briefing on May 5 addressed the work that community organizations and Los Angeles School

District officials are undertaking to address this problem.

Rocio Rivas, LAUSD School Board Member, District 2, Chairman of the Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee of the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education said that greening LAUSD schools is essential to nurturing students and communities amidst the climate crisis. We must ensure all of our schools have equitable opportunities to bring trees, gardens, water recapture, reusables and so much more to their campuses.

Marci Raney, Senior Program Manager in the Office of Well-Being at Children's Hospital Los Angeles said our immune system becomes more robust and stronger against infectious agents when we spend time digging in the dirt, when we have regular exposure to vitamin D from sunlight, and when we engage in physical activity on a regular basis. She said for many kids, their schoolyard is one of the only places to exercise and be outside and, to combat issues like obesity, it's important that their schoolyard be an inviting place. A green schoolyard is designed to promote more of these activities. And, better physical activity for kids tends to mean better school performance.



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Place

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*Kalash yatra will begin at 9:30 a.m. from temple and end at Ferguson elementary school.
Participants are requested to bring their own Kalash.*

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www.gayatrimandir.com

Indian American Community Performs 'Havan' for BJP's Victory

JAYANTI OZA

CHICAGO: The Indian American Community in Chicago Unites in 'Havan' Ceremony to Pray for BJP's Victory in Lok Sabha Elections at Gurukul Swaminarayan temple in Arlington Heights, a Chicago suburb

In a stirring display of solidarity and devotion, Indian American professionals, entrepreneurs, and residents of Chicago converged at a Hindu temple nestled in the city's suburbs to partake in a sacred 'havan' ceremony. The solemn event, organized by the Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP), was dedicated to seeking divine blessings for the triumph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Dr Adapa Prasad, the head of Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP), emphasized the significance of organizing Yagnas and Havans, across all OFBJP chapters in the USA. This initiative aims to invoke divine blessings for



Indian American professionals, entrepreneurs and residents of Chicago, conduct 'Havan' Ceremony to Pray for BJP's Victory in Lok Sabha Elections

Prime Minister Modi's victory in the 2024 parliamentary elections. It is not just a symbolic gesture but a profound expression of unwavering commitment to India's progress and development. These sacred rituals evoke spiritual strength and symbolize our collective determination to support the BJP's vision for a prosperous India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

The 'Chandi Havan' ceremony, conducted with reverence and enthusiasm, served as a collective prayer imbued with the sincere hope for a resounding victory for the BJP. As emphasized by the organizers, this victory is not just a political milestone but a crucial step towards realizing the vision of 'Ek Bharat - Shrestha Bharat' - the aspiration for a united and prosperous India.

At the heart of the ceremony lay the reverence of Goddess Chandi, a formidable warrior deity and the supreme manifestation of Goddess Parvati. Describing the significance of the ritual, Rohit Joshi, the chief priest officiating the 'havan,' elucidated Maa Chandika's embodiment of boundless power (Shakti) and her role in defeating hostility and negativity.

The event witnessed a notable presence of esteemed personalities, including Prakriti Batra, the granddaugh-

ter of the late Balram Ji Tandon, former Governor of Chattisgarh. Batra, echoing the sentiments of many attendees, offered prayers for the victory of BJP candidate Shri Sanjay Tandon from Chandigarh. Tandon's candidacy, she emphasized, represents continuity, experience, and a steadfast commitment to Chandigarh's development.

Rakesh Malhotra lauded Tandon's enduring bond with Chandigarh residents, emphasizing his dedication to serving them as family. This sentiment underscores the significance of Tandon's candidacy in shaping the city's future and broader political landscape.

Reflecting on the 'havan,' Nirmala Reddy emphasized its significance beyond a mere ritual. She described it as a unified expression of support and aspiration, resonating with the widely recognized slogan "Abki Baar, 400 Paar" - symbolizing the collective hope for a resounding BJP victory under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Amar Upadhyaya, volunteer of OFBJP, highlighted the event's broader significance, noting that it reflected the unwavering commitment and solidarity of the Indian and NRI communities in the United States to fostering a strong, prosperous India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

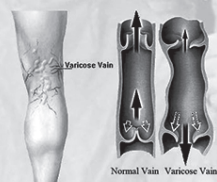
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Located at a height of 1132 m above sea level, Aizawl is a quaint city and the capital of the state of Mizoram in northeast India. Primarily dominated by the Mizo Tribe, Aizawl and its surrounding areas are lush with rolling hills and abundant greenery. The city, along with the majority of the state is known for its agricultural produce and ethnic handicrafts and apparel. Aizawl is well connected via roads and air connectivity to other major hubs of northeast India such as Silchar and Guwahati in Assam. An important thing to note is that an Inner Line Pass or ILP is required for entry into Mizoram, which is available in Guwahati, Silchar, Shillong, New Delhi and Kolkata.

Among one of the oldest cities in the northeastern region of India, Aizawl, pronounced eye-zole, is a perfect place to relax while enjoying the local food and culture. Home to the Mizoram State Museum and few other tourist complexes, tourists have few options to enjoy a sightseeing tour in the city. Apart from these, one can take a tour to the nearby hilly areas of Hmuifang, Tamdil Lake and Chanmari.

PLACES TO VISIT IN AIZAWL

Durtlang Hills: Located on the northern side of Aizawl, the Durtlang Hills is a popular attraction, which houses viewpoints offering panoramic views of the capital city. One can drive to the destination and once there engage in a bit of light hiking and trekking. The best time to visit the Durtlang Hills would be in the morning when the sun is not as harsh as it would be during the afternoon.

Reiek: At a height of 1465 meters, Reiek Tlang or simply Reiek is one of the highest hills of Mizoram. Located at a distance of 29 km away from the city of Aizawl, Reiek Tlang is an excellent viewpoint overlooking panoramic views of Aizawl and the surrounding valley with the backdrop of sceneries

borrowed from the Mizo Hills. The journey to the peak is also an excellent trekking opportunity usually reserved for calm sunny days. As is the case with most North Eastern destination of India, the peak of Reiek is also relatively unexplored and sits pretty as a pearl in the hills.

Mizoram State Museum: Located right in the center of the city, this museum displays the rich heritage of Mizoram.

Along with the numerous archaeological artifacts, photographs and natural history specimens, an entire gallery here is dedicated to the Mizo tribes.

KV Paradise: This is a 3 storied mausoleum built in the memory of Varte who died in a 2001 motor accident. This beautiful structure showcases an odd collection of her wardrobe and shoe collections.

Hmuifang: One of the most beautiful destinations in Mizoram, Hmuifang or Hmuifang Tlang is an amazing hill station with a lot to offer to the discerning traveller. Located a distance of 50 km from the capital city of Aizawl, Hmuifang is hill town at the heart of the state of Mizoram. The hill station is known for its adventure and wildlife-related activities which draws many enthusiasts to its hills.

BEST TIME TO VISIT AIZAWL

Aizawl can be visited throughout the year. The summers are pleasant with maximum temperatures touching 25 degrees Celsius, while the winters are very cold with the temperatures occasionally dropping to 3-4 degrees Celsius.

HOW TO REACH AIZAWL

Aizawl has its own airport in Lengpui Airport. Regular flights are available between Aizawl and other major cities such as Guwahati, Shillong and Kolkata. www.holidify.com



Delhi Police arrest Punjab man wanted in fake visa case

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police have arrested a man wanted in a fake visa racket case from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport last week, officials said.

According to police, the arrested accused, identified as Ravinder Singh, a resident of Punjab's Bholth Kapurthala, was wanted in connection with a case registered under Sections 420/468/471 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Passport Act.

Officials said that the case dates back to the night of May 29, 2012, when Vikram Jeet Singh, a deportee from Germany, was intercepted at the IGI Airport.

Investigations revealed a suspicious German visa affixed in his passport, leading to the seizure of the document and subsequent verification by the German Embassy, confirming it as counterfeit, they said.

Further inquiries unveiled Vikram Jeet Singh's involvement with an agent, Ravinder Singh, who allegedly facilitated the fraudulent visa for a sum of Rs 2 lakhs.

A team led by Inspector Mohit Yadav, along with SI Sudhir Joon, ASI Deendayal, and HC Banty, under the close supervision of ACP Sapna Gedam, tracked down Ravinder Singh to Kapurthala, Punjab. Following his arrest, Singh confessed to his involvement in the scam during interrogation, they said. ANI

Immigration

POST

"The companies referred to in these reports are not India-based or Indian and are headquartered elsewhere. Any reference to India in this context is unwarranted"

India refutes reports of Indian companies taking over visa issuance at Colombo airport

NEW DELHI: India has refuted reports of Indian companies taking over visa issuance at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) in Colombo.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a statement that the companies being referred to in the report are not India-based and any reference to India is "unwarranted."

"We have seen reports and comments including in social media regarding Indian companies taking over visa issuance at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), Colombo," the statement read.

"The companies referred to in these reports are not India-based or Indian and are headquartered elsewhere. Any reference to India in this context is unwarranted," the Indian mission added.

As per the local Sri Lankan media outlet, The Daily Mirror stated that chaos broke out at the BIA last night following the controversial takeover of the on-arrival visa issuance process at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) by an Indian company.

This company has been charging an extra USD 25, whereas the Immigration and



Emigration Department has been managing the process smoothly for several years, the newspaper reported.

Furthermore, the Indian company levied an extra USD 25 alongside the standard USD 75 fee, Daily Mirror reported.

When contacted, Controller General of the Immigration and Emigration Department Harsha Illukpitiya said that the visa issuance procedure was returned to their jurisdiction because the private company was unable to ensure a smooth operation.

According to Daily Mirror, the video circulating on social media depicted long queues at the airport. A Sri Lankan individual was seen blaming the Indian visa-issuing officers, alleging that his wife's on-arrival visa was cancelled. ANI

IOC President Bach announces 36-athlete Refugee Team for Paris 2024 Olympics

LAUSANNE: International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach announced that 36 athletes will form the IOC Refugee Olympic Team Paris 2024, representing the world's displaced population of over 100 million people at this summer's Olympic Games Paris 2024.

The 36 athletes hail from 11 different countries of origin and are currently hosted by 15 different National Olympic Committees and form their largest team.

The Refugee team was introduced at Rio Olympics 2016 and this will mark their third appearance in the Summer Games.

In the upcoming Paris Olympics, which will begin on July 26, they will compete in 12 dif-

ferent sports: aquatics (swimming), athletics, badminton, boxing, breaking, canoe (slalom and sprint), cycling (road), judo, shooting, taekwondo,

quoted from Olympics.com, "We welcome all of you with open arms. You are an enrichment to our Olympic Community and our societies."

"With your participation in the Olympic Games, you will demonstrate the human potential of resilience and excellence. This will send a message of hope to the more than 100 million displaced people around the world," Bach added.

The IOC Refugee Olympic Team is competing at the Olympic Games for the third time, after previous appearances at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

This year, its chef-de-mission will be Masomah Ali Zada, who competed as a member of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team Tokyo 2020. ANI



Thomas Bach

weightlifting, and wrestling (freestyle and Greco-Roman).

During a ceremony at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland, last week, Bach said as

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Japan, India 'xenophobic' nations that do not welcome immigrants: Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Joe Biden recently said the "Xenophobic" nature of India, China, Japan and Russia is responsible for their economic troubles and argued that America's economy is growing because it welcomes immigrants to its soil.

The President made the statement while campaign-

118 billion bipartisan border bill, tying border reforms to Ukraine aid, influenced many Republican legislators to reject it. It also dealt a potentially fatal blow to the possibility of new laws and tools that could reduce illegal crossings and ease strains on cities with overwhelmed shelters, The Washington Post reported.

Illegal border crossings soared in the months after Biden took office and immediately rolled back many Trump-era restrictions. Biden warned that he'd still enforce immigration laws, and he temporarily kept in place a Trump pandemic policy known as Title 42 that allowed authorities to quickly expel border crossers.

The number of people taken into custody by the US Border Patrol has reached the highest levels in the agency's 100-year history under Biden, averaging 2 million per year.

The Washington Post reported that during the president's first days in

office, his administration announced it would not use the Title 42 policy to turn back unaccompanied minors who arrive without a parent or guardian. Their numbers began to shoot up almost immediately, and images of migrant children and teens packed shoulder-to-shoulder in detention facilities produced the administration's first border emergency. Soon after, Biden assigned Vice President Harris to lead a new effort to address the "root causes" of Central American emigration.

Migrants from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Senegal



US President Joe Biden

ing for his re-election at Washington fundraising event and argued that Japan, along with Russia and China, would perform better economically if the countries embraced immigration more.

"You know, one of the reasons why our economy is growing is because of you and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants. We look to - the reason - look, think about it. Why is China stalling so badly economically? Why is Japan having trouble? Why is Russia? Why is India? Because they're xenophobic. They don't want immigrants," Biden said.

"Immigrants is what makes us strong. Not a joke. That's not hyperbole. Because we have an influx of workers who want to be here and just contribute," he added.

Immigration is a polarizing issue in US politics, and will almost certainly play a major role in the November presidential election. Illegal border crossings have contributed to an average 2 million influx per year since 2021, the highest level ever.

Polls show broad public disapproval of how President Biden has handled the surge, and former president Donald Trump, who also faced criticism for his immigration policies, is running for office on promises to crack down and deport millions of people.

Trump's opposition to senators' recently failed USD

"You know, one of the reasons why our economy is growing is because of you and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants. We look to - the reason - look, think about it. Why is China stalling so badly economically? Why is Japan having trouble? Why is Russia? Why is India? Because they're xenophobic. They don't want immigrants," Biden said

and Mauritania - along with other nations in Africa, Europe and Asia - are crossing from Mexico in numbers US authorities have never seen. For example, 14,965 migrants from China arrived across the southern border between October and December, Border Patrol data shows, up from 29 over that same period in 2020. The Border Patrol encountered 9,518 migrants from India during that same three-month span, compared to 56 during that period in 2020. ANI

Global Sindhi body offers to rehabilitate Sindhi refugees from Pakistan

MUMBAI: The Federation of World Sindhi Associations (FWSA) has offered to rehabilitate Sindhi Hindu refugees from Pakistan with the help of the Central government, as they fear for their safety and security in the neighboring country.

FWSA International President and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Mahesh Jethmalani said, the community members in adjoining Pakistan are hit badly as they are in constant fear that their womenfolk would be abducted and forcibly converted.

In order to protect them, the Central government has taken the step to amend the Citizen (Amendment) Act, 2019, to provide citizenship to the immigrants arriving to India, said Jethmalani, an ace lawyer.

Addressing a gathering of prominent Sindhis here along with the FWSA International Chairman Ram Jawhrani, Jethmalani claimed that the government has taken the step in view of reports of 'forcible conversion of Sindhi Hindus in Pakistan' triggering immigration of people from there to India in recent years.

"Many Sindhi Hindus have crossed over from Pakistan to India as refugees and we have to find out

where they are located in this country so that the process of granting them Indian citizenship becomes easy," said Jethmalani.

He assured that the FWSA would extend all help to rehabilitate the affected Sindhi Hindus to resettle in India for which funds are being collected from the community.

A supporter of CAA, Jethmalani said that Sindhi Hindus from Pakistan are coming to India as they have no other home to go and settle down, and though many have registered for Indian Citizenship, first they have to be traced here.

"We are equally concerned about the religious conversion of Sindhi Hindu people in Ulhasnagar town of Thane (Maharashtra) and steps are being taken to stop this practice," he added.

Both Jethmalani and Jawhrani urged the Sindhi community members to protect their mother tongue and rich culture, celebrate all the festivals like Cheti Chand, Teejri, Lord Jhulelal's birthday, etc., as this would help in retaining their distinct religious-cultural identity. IANS

"Many Sindhi Hindus have crossed over from Pakistan to India as refugees and we have to find out where they are located in this country so that the process of granting them Indian citizenship becomes easy," said Jethmalani

ACRES Real Estate Exhibition to spotlight 120 projects on May 16

ABU DHABI: The Organizing Committee of the ACRES Real Estate Exhibition declared the completion of its preparations for the inaugural edition launch in Dubai, set to debut this year from May 16 to 19 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. Spanning over an area of 6000 square meters, ACRES has successfully attracted major real estate development and investment companies, alongside top-tier property brokers, project management firms, banks, and financial institutions in the UAE.

The event represents an exciting debut of a diverse range of real estate projects, making their first appearance in the UAE. This milestone is expected to attract the interest of numerous investors and business professionals eager to explore promising real estate ventures and unique investment prospects.

The exhibition will also showcase a diverse selection of residential, commercial, and industrial properties and land parcels, featuring exclusive offers at competitive pricing. These offerings include various installment and repayment plans and long-term financing options, presented by a substantial group of real estate developers and investors. ANI/WAM

Real Estate POST

Godrej family to continue joint biz for Vikhroli real estate project in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Godrej & Boyce, the owner-developer, and Godrej Properties, the development manager, announced, the two companies will continue their association for land development in Vikhroli.

"The two companies will continue their Memorandums of Understanding executed from time to time, for the development of land in Vikhroli owned by Godrej & Boyce, as and when Godrej & Boyce is desirous of developing the said land," according to a joint statement issued by the two groups. IANS

Casagrاند launches 30-acre township community in Sholinganallur

HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

Real estate developer Casagrاند has announced the launch of a 30-acre township community, Casagrاند Holachennai, in Chennai's Sholinganallur. Located in OMR, the township community offers 1818 premium residences, including 2, 3 and 4 BHK apartments, 5 BHK floor villas and 4 BHK signature villas, with more than 160 amenities.

According to the developer, starting at a price range of Rs 4599 per square foot (sqft), Casagrاند HOLAChennai offers exceptional value compared to Sholinganallur's market price, which stands at Rs 6500/sqft. The brand has also roped in Singer and Music-Composer Anirudh Ravichander to endorse this project.

Located opposite Infosys in Sholinganallur, Casagrاند



HOLAChennai is around 15 minutes from Adyar and 10 minutes from Perungudi, offering connectivity to ECR, GST Road, Thoraipakkam, Karapakkam, Perumbakkam, Medavakkam, Pallikaranai and Navalur.

According to the developer,

the project comes with over 160 amenities, including a 600-inch Outdoor Cineverse, two swimming pools, a gym, a multipurpose hall, a mini-theatre and a 24000 sqft clubhouse. Residents have access to 23 acre of open space, including 21 acre of

landscaped podiums. For outdoor recreational activities, the community features four courtyard podiums spanning 8 acre. A 2.5 acre of central mother earth houses an orchard, therapeutic garden, edible garden, herb garden, and more. A Tropical and Miyawaki forest within the community contributes to environmental sustainability by absorbing 165 tons of carbon dioxide and releasing 600 tons of oxygen annually.

Vimesh P, Senior Vice President-Marketing, said, "This isn't just a place to live; it's a lifestyle. Here, you'll experience the finer things with spacious homes and top-notch amenities. Sholinganallur offers everything you need at your doorstep, making it a vibrant hub perfect for those who appreciate convenience. Casagrاند HOLAChennai embodies Sholinganallur's transformation, fusing modern living with urban energy. It's a testament to the area's potential and a beacon of progress in one of Chennai's most exciting locations." www.housing.com

American Express to open its largest office built from ground up globally

GURUGRAM: American Express is going to open a new, ultra-modern campus in Gurugram. Spanning almost one million square feet, this facility is the largest office the company has built from the ground up globally. It prioritizes cutting-edge design, environmental responsibility, and employee well-being.

The campus, located in sector 74A Gurugram, boasts LEED Gold certification, reflecting its commitment to sustainability.

From energy-efficient LED lighting to smart building sys-

tems and renewable energy sources, American Express is minimizing the campus's environmental footprint.

"American Express in India



continues to develop in-country capabilities by leveraging our global expertise and local talent,

fostering new opportunities and innovation for customers worldwide. The new office building provides a modern, energy efficient workspace that will enable

our teams to continue driving innovation and delivering exceptional value to our customers worldwide," said Sanjay Khanna, CEO and Country Manager, American Express, India.

"Our new India campus is the largest office we've built from the ground up globally, and the facil-

ity is a fitting reflection of the American Express brand and the kind of workplace where our colleagues can thrive. It incorporates the latest design, sustainability, and technology advancements. This campus will be a terrific addition to our portfolio of world-class facilities and we're proud that it has achieved LEED Gold certification due to thoughtful design and building standards," added Gagandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Global Real Estate & Workplace Experience, American Express. IANS

Top marble wall paint ideas for home interiors

HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

Marble is a widely preferred material used in interior design. The veined patterns and variety of colors of this naturally occurring material can instantly elevate the visual appeal of any space. Nowadays, marble wall paint is quite popular among modern homeowners. It serves as an affordable substitute for real marble and perfectly reflects the elegance and timeless



beauty of marble. With innovative technology, paint manufacturing companies are now offering a variety of marble wall paint design, giving countless options for buyers to choose and customize their homes.

Top marble wall paint ideas for modern homes

CLASSIC WHITE MARBLE

White marble paint inspired by the white Carrara marble is among the popular marble paint designs. It is a type of high-quality marble found in Carrara in Tuscany, Italy. The design reflects brightness and elegance due to its light, rich color, and greyish patterns. This is ideal for living rooms, which makes the area look spacious and sophisticated. The design matches with different interior design themes.

BLACK MARBLE

The black marble paint with light grey or white veins brings the charm of the night sky to your home. The design adds depth to the interiors while creating a contemporary and luxurious appeal. It is most suited for areas such as kitchens and bathrooms in homes or in office spaces and modern restaurants. You can elevate the look with matching furniture and gold elements.

BLUE MARBLE

Metallic blue marble paint can be a perfect option to uplift your home décor and create a tranquil space. The white veins in the blue background reflect the charm of the ocean or skies. The design is suitable for modern living or dining rooms and bedrooms.

ROSE MARBLE

Go for rose marble to create elegant and tranquil interiors. You can either opt for this design for all the walls or choose to create an accent wall in the living room. The subtle color brings romantic vibes and is best suited for

your master bedroom. It also works for bathroom space, giving a sophisticated appeal.

PURPLE MARBLE

Purple tones are another popular interior design color scheme that reflects luxury and sophistication. A purple marble paint design can be the perfect choice for your living room or bedroom, creating a vibrant and welcoming space.

GOLD VEIN MARBLE

Marble paint with golden vein patterns is an excellent option for a spacious home, creating a luxurious appeal. The gold marble design in a white or cream background is a versatile wall design idea that goes well with any interior design theme - a minimalist modern house or a more traditional setting. Choose appropriate lighting fixtures like a chandelier to complement the look.

TRAVERTINE MARBLE

The travertine marble paint is a perfect substitute for the natural travertine marble as it brings the same warmth and elegance as the original marble. A warm beige base with darker beige or brown veins creates visual interest in the room and works well for highlighting other elements owing to its subtle hue. It brings elegance in a rustic-themed interiors.

STONE AGE MARBLE

You can create a rustic look for your living room interiors by opting for this marble wall paint design. The dark



grey color of Stone Age marble paint is an ideal choice if you want to add texture and create visual interest for your interiors. The natural hues of the wall create a perfect contrast with indoor plants.

OYSTER GREY

The oyster grey reflects a touch of green and beige, which gives a unique look. It works if you are looking for a neutral color scheme for your home interiors. The vein pattern of the marble paint makes the wall interesting and works as a backdrop for other décor elements.

RAINFOREST GREEN MARBLE

Depicting the rainforest green theme, this rainforest green marble paint features deep green tones and white and brown vein patterns. The earthy shades bring a touch of greenery to your home, creating a peaceful ambience.



It works well for space, such as kitchen, living room accent wall or bathroom.

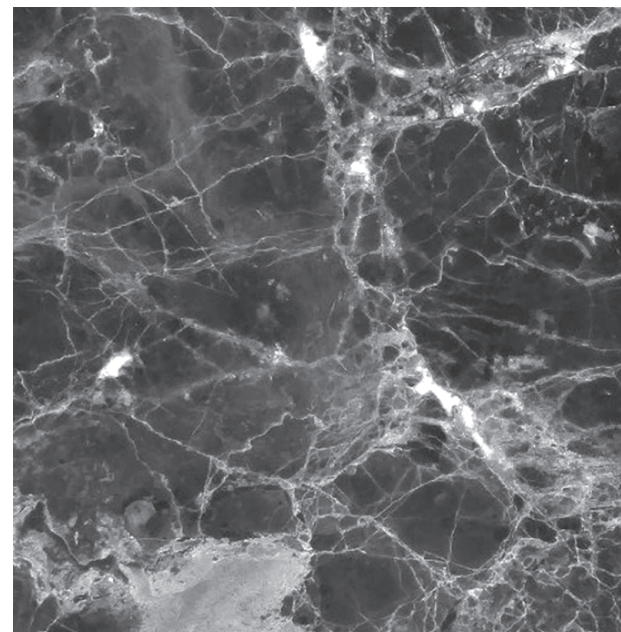
TRANQUIL GREEN

You can choose a lighter version of the rainforest marble wall paint look. It is ideal if you prefer subtle colors for your home interiors. Moreover, it helps create visual interest for other elements of the room instead of wall.

STATUARIO MARBLE

The Statuario marble paint design is an excellent substitute for the real Statuario marble. It features bold grey veins in a bright white base, which makes the space look luxurious and brighter. Statuario marble is formed from crystalline limestone, a type of rock. You can choose from various color options, such as pure white, beige, black or and grey based on your preference. www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



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Obesity, poor diet & physical inactivity driving early onset of cancers: Expert

NEW DELHI: Obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity are driving the onset of several cancers including gallbladder, colon, kidney, and pancreas, according to a top health expert from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Once known to affect the elderly, the last three decades have seen an enormous surge in early onset of cancer, occurring even before people turning 40 or 50.

Various studies have provided evidence that the cancer surge seen globally, including in India, is driven by an unhealthy lifestyle, including high consumption of junk food rich in sugar, salt, and fat combined with a lack of exercise, among others.

"Globally there has been a significant rise in some types of cancer in younger people. For



instance, in the 30- to 39-year-old age group in the period 1991 to 2021, the rate of cancers of the gallbladder has increased by 200 percent, uterine by 158 percent, colorectal by 153 percent, kidney by 89 percent, and pancreas by 83 percent," said Robyn Ward, Executive Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney, told IANS.

"The reasons proposed for this increase include obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity," she added, noting that "young millennial adults are three times more likely to get cancer than the same age group born in the 1940s".

Who is more at risk?

Robyn noted that "overall, the incidence is higher in men than women and men are more likely to die". IANS

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

Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

Covaxin has excellent safety record, says Bharat Biotech

HYDERABAD: Bharat Biotech recently said its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin has an excellent safety record without any vaccine-associated incidents of blood clots, thrombocytopenia, TTS, VITT, pericarditis, myocarditis, etc., as it was developed with a single-minded focus on safety first, followed by efficacy.

The Hyderabad-based company issued a statement amid questions being raised in some quarters over the safety of Covid vaccines after global pharmaceutical manufacturer AstraZeneca admitted that its Covid vaccine Covishield, developed by researchers from Oxford University, can cause a rare side effect of blood clotting and low platelet count after immunization.

As many as 175 crore doses of Covishield, developed by AstraZeneca and manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute, were reportedly administered in India.



Bharat Biotech mentioned that Covaxin was the only Covid-19 vaccine in the Indian government's Covid-19 immunization program to have con-

ducted efficacy trials in India.

"Covaxin was evaluated in more than 27,000 subjects as part of its licensure process. It was licensed under restricted

use in clinical trial mode, where detailed safety reporting was carried out for several hundred thousand subjects," the vaccine manufacturer said.

The safety of Covaxin was also evaluated by the Ministry of Health.

"Ongoing safety monitoring (pharmacovigilance) was continued throughout the product life cycle of Covaxin. All the above studies and safety follow-up activities have demonstrated an excellent safety record for Covaxin without any vaccine-associated incidents of blood clots, Thrombocytopenia, TTS, VITT, pericarditis, myocarditis, etc.," it said.

"As seasoned innovators and product developers, the Bharat Biotech team was well aware that, while the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines may be short-lived, the impact on patient safety could last a lifetime. Hence safety is the primary focus for all our vaccines," it added. IANS

High BP in childhood may raise risk of heart attack, stroke later by 4x: Study

NEW DELHI: Hypertension in childhood and adolescence may raise the long-term risk of serious heart conditions like stroke and heart attack, by four times, according to a new study.

Hypertension is known to affect one in every 15 children and adolescents worldwide and has become a growing concern.

To understand its long-term effect, researchers compared 25,605 children and adolescents diagnosed with hypertension between 1996 and 2021 in Ontario, Canada, to peers without the condition.

The follow-up of 13 years showed that those with hypertension had a two to four times higher risk of experiencing heart attack, stroke, heart failure, or cardiac surgery compared to those without it.

Experts called for boosting

blood pressure screening and treatment during childhood to reduce the risk of serious cardiovascular disease as an adult.

"Devoting more resources to pediatric blood pressure screening and control could lower the risks of long-term heart

conditions in children with hypertension," said Cal H. Robinson, pediatric nephrology fellow at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Canada.

"More awareness about the importance of regular screening and follow-up for pediatric hypertension may prevent children from developing significant adverse heart outcomes later in life," Robinson added.

The findings will be presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2024 Meeting, held May 3-6 in Toronto. IANS



Researchers give more insight into hip osteoarthritis among older adults with spinal deformity

ALPHEN AAN DEN RIJN: A study found that one-third of patients receiving surgery for adult spinal deformity (ASD) also have severe hip osteoarthritis (OA), which can lead to poor spinal alignment and physical functionality.

Findings of the study published in *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery*.

These differences persist even following operative treatment of ASD, according to the new research by Alan H. Daniels, MD and Bassel Diebo, MD of Brown University and colleagues from 20 North American spinal surgery centers. "Concomitant hip and spine disease are common, yet they remain challenging for joint arthroplasty and spine surgeons," the researchers write.

Adult spinal deformity refers to various abnormalities of spinal curvature and alignment. As some of these deformities arise from wear and tear over time, they are likely to become more frequent in an aging population. For patients with ASD who do not improve with nonoperative treatment, spinal realignment surgery may be indicated.

Previous studies have reported high rates of hip OA accompanying ASD. However, little is known about how OA affects patient characteristics and the outcomes of

surgery for ASD - in terms of both spinal alignment and patient-reported outcomes such as physical functioning and disability.

Drs. Daniels and Diebo and colleagues analyzed rates and outcomes of hip OA in 520 older adults who underwent surgery for ASD at one of 13 US and Canadian centers. About two-thirds of patients were women, and the average age was 59 years. Consistent with previous studies, 34% of patients were classified as having severe OA involving both hips.

The researchers compared the characteristics of ASD patients with and without severe hip OA, including key patient-reported outcome measures. Characteristics and outcomes were also compared at postoperative follow-up in

165 patients: 68 with severe bilateral hip OA, 32 with severe OA of one hip only, and 65 without severe OA in either hip.

On preoperative analysis, patients with severe bilateral hip OA were older (average age, 68 years) than those with unilateral (66 years) and or non-severe hip OA (60 years). Patients with severe hip OA also scored higher on a standard assessment of frailty. *ANI*



Study calls for making cardiorespiratory fitness a part of annual check-up

NEW DELHI: Making cardiorespiratory fitness a part of your annual health checkups can help you gauge your health status and understand the risk of underlying disease as well as predict mortality, according to a study.

Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF), also known as cardio or aerobic fitness can be defined as the ability of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels to supply oxygen during sustained physical activity.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), an individual's aerobic fitness level can indicate factors such as smoking, hypertension, and high cholesterol.

The study, published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, suggests the need to incorporate this measure in routine clinical and public health practice. It comes amid reports of even seemingly healthy and fit people succumbing to heart disease, among others.

"Apparently 'healthy' adults can take the cardiorespiratory fitness test - under medical advice and supervision annually. In 'healthy' adults, it has the power to predict the risk of cardiovascular disease (heart attacks, strokes), and is an even stronger predictor of mortality than diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, smoking (tobacco abuse)," Sanjay Chugh, Associate Director and Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiology at Narayana Hospital Gurugram told *IANS*.



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Your Weekly Future

by **VANEET SHARMA** ● MAY 10TH to MAY 16TH 2024



ARIES

MAR 21 to APRIL 20

The first half of the week is highly favorable, the mid frustrating whereas the weekend shall be great for your success. As per planetary transit you shall be getting great results without any damages to any area of life. Domestic atmosphere shall remain uncertain. Mid of the week is average for your happiness and health. You are advised to keep your patience intact and if you do that then this week shall bring in excellent results.



CANCER

JUN 21 to JULY 22

This week will be better for your state of mind, health and happiness as compared to the previous week. you might suffer from the problems of mood swings in the beginning of the week. But later it shall be a great period for achieving something special in the area of work. The last days of the week are showing more gains. As per planetary transit you shall be getting great results without any damages.



LIBRA

SEP 23 to OCT 22

In the beginning of the week you shall get relief from your mental tensions. You would be doing some experiments in your love life. Initially in the first half of the week there shall be probability of improvement in education, love life and children's affairs. You shall earn lot of reputation in society. The last two days of the week shall be very bad for your happiness and decision-making.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22 to JAN 19

You shall be free from all tensions in this week and would come out of all types of problems. Your health shall be great. In the first half of the week you shall enhance your association with family members whereas in the latter half of the week you would be concentrating more on your social life and work area. It would be a wonderful week for your progress at work but you need to put a check on your being extra generous.



TAURUS

APRIL 21 to MAY 20

This week is excellent for travel, love and finance. In this week and the beginning is good for work area and decision-making. From 9th of May you shall become amazingly active and focused. You shall be doing very well professionally especially with the support of partner/spouse. Your spouse shall be playing key role in shaping your destiny. Your social life, relation with friends and relatives shall help you do better in all areas of life.



LEO

JULY 23 to AUG 22

First half of the week is average for your happiness and health. You are advised to keep your patience intact and if you do that then this week shall bring in excellent results like tremendous appreciation for rendering excellent consultancy service and giving advice to people. There shall be tremendous improvement in your emotional relations especially with spouse. The last day of the week is giving an indication of attainment of great recognition in work area.



SCORPIO

OCT 23 to NOV 22

Beginning of the week indicates some mental tensions, which shall disappear completely after some time. You are advised to be cautious about your domestic atmosphere in this week. In the mid of the week you might have to go on a journey to meet some influential person. The last day of the week indicates enhancement of your strength with the help of a female. You shall be spending money on yourself, your family and on journeys in this week



ACQUARIUS

JAN 20 to FEB 19

In the beginning of the week there might remain little stress however from 10th April everything shall be alright. The 12th & 13th are good dates for decision making and it shall be a great period for achieving something special in the area of work. The last days of the week are showing more gains. There is probability of getting injury etc too therefore you are advised to be cautious. Avoid getting into unnecessary argument with people around you.



GEMINI

MAY 21 to JUN 20

In this week you are likely to face serious anger and aggression related issues. Sudden financial gains are indicated but you might have some unnecessary arguments with family members. You shall be happy with some relief in financial matters with some sudden gains and betterment and expansion in work area. You shall shine in your social circles and you would be able to solve your issues with your active involvement in social activities.



VIRGO

AUG 23 to SEP 22

The beginning of the week shall mark lot of activity in matters related to children. In the first half of the week you shall be getting opportunity to travel but you might not avail it because of the attainment of complete favor of destiny with lot of pleasure at your place. You might have some mental tensions and for that reason you might seek support of family members to get rid of tensions. The last days of the week might remain full of tensions, frustration and mental pressure.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23 to DEC 21

In the beginning of the week you are likely to spend time with family members. You shall be having enough funds and you shall extend one or other type of help to all who are dependent on you. Your competitive spirit shall be at its best and you would continue to increase your personnel, social and political influence. In your social life you shall continue with your lead role and your confidence level, immunity and happiness shall also be at its peak.



PISCES

FEB 20 to MAR 20

The beginning of the week is not auspicious for your happiness and state of mind. You need to keep your patience intact and work on your anger management issues. After the mid of the week towards its end you shall see tremendous increase in your domestic happiness because of sudden and impressive progress on financial front. You shall be taking interest in the study of occult.

Kindly read the predictions from your ascendant sign. If you do not know your ascendant sign then read the same from Moon sign. If Moon sign is also not known then read it from the Zodiac sign. The ascendant sign which is calculated from the birth details viz. date, month, year, time & place of birth gives 85 % accurate predictions. The accuracy of predictions from Moon sign get limited to only 50 %. The predictions from Zodiac sign are only 25 % accurate. In nutshell the predictions from ascendant sign are most accurate. In getting personality analysis the traits given by ascendant sign are 100 % accurate and that is the essence of Vedic Astrology.

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Philosophy

SRIANANDAMAYI MA

By listening repeatedly to discussions and discourses on topics of this kind, the path to first-hand knowledge of what has been heard gradually opens out. You know, it is as when water uninterruptedly dripping on a stone finally makes a hole in it, and then a flood may suddenly surge through which will bring Enlightenment.

Be it the perusal of Sacred Texts, listening to religious discourses, engaging in kirtan - God must be the alpha and omega of whatever is done. When reading, read about Him, when talking, talk of Him and when singing, sing His praises. These three practices are intrinsically the same; but because people respond differently, the same is expressed in three different ways to suit each person's temperament and capacity for assimilation.

Essentially there is only He and He alone, although everyone has his own individual path that leads to Him. What is the right path for each, depends on his

Therefore one must listen before one can reflect, and then later, what has been heard and reflected upon will take shape in action suited to the person concerned. To listen to discourses on God or Truth is certainly beneficial, provided one does not allow oneself to be moved by a spirit of fault-finding or disparagement, should there be differences of outlook to one's own.

To find fault with others creates obstacles for everyone all around: for him who criticises, for him who is blamed, as well as for those who listen to the criticism. Whereas, what is said in a spirit of appreciation is fruitful to everybody.

For only where there is no question of regarding anything as inferior or blameworthy (asat) can one call it Satsang - a play upon words: Sat means True Being, the Good; satsang the company of the good, and also a religious gathering. Asat, the opposite of sat, means non-being, wrong, evil. Therefore to find fault (asat) in a religious meeting (satsang) is a contradic-



Sri Anandamayi Ma

*God is alpha & omega of whatever is done
In truth, all the various ways of thought spring from one common source*

personal predilection, based on the specific character of his inner qualifications.

Take for instance the study of Vedanta. Some seekers become completely drowned in it. Just as others may so lose themselves in kirtan as to fall into a trance, a student of Vedanta may become wholly absorbed in his texts, even more so than the one who gets carried away by kirtan.

According to one's specific line of approach, one will be able to achieve full concentration through the study of a particular Scripture, or by some other means.

First comes listening, then reflection, and last of all the translation into action of what has been heard and pondered over. This is why one has first of all to listen, so that later on each may be able to select Vedanta or kirtan or whatever else be in his own line.

Have you never come across people making light of kirtan, saying: "What is there to be gained by it?" Nevertheless, after listening to it for some length of time, they actually develop a liking for it.

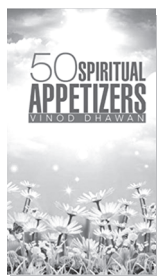
tion in terms.

Who is known as a Vaishnava? One who sees Visnu everywhere. And as a Sakta? One who beholds the Great Mother, and nothing save Her. In truth, all the various ways of thought spring from one common source - who then is to be blamed, who to be reviled or suppressed? All are equal in essence.

Excerpted from 'Words of Sri Anandamayi Ma', translated and compiled by Atmananda. The 128th birth anniversary of Sri Anandamayi Ma was observed on April 30

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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Jac O'Keefe
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Indian elections: Is BJP paying for its overconfidence?

LEKHA RATTANANI

There is little doubt in the minds of many today that this election is turning. It will not be the cakewalk that the BJP imagined it would be for the party. Seeking a third straight term, which was only recently seen as a given, is no more an easy task. There are many numbers being tossed, but almost all of them bring the BJP to and below the magic figure of 272. The only question that is being asked is how much can the party go down from that halfway mark required to form a government.

All indicators point to the ruling party taking heavy losses this time. What looked like rock-solid confidence has evaporated almost overnight. One clear indicator is that there is no talk anywhere in the BJP circles of a "char sau paar" (past the 400-mark) that was the hallmark of the BJP campaign as it began this run. Yet, it is good to add a cautionary note.

All indicators point to the ruling party taking heavy losses this time. What looked like rock-solid confidence has evaporated almost overnight. One clear indicator is that there is no talk anywhere in the BJP circles of a "char sau paar" (past the 400-mark) that was the hallmark of the BJP campaign as it began this run

There are still five phases of voting left and a month to counting-day itself. Anything can happen. The election will need careful monitoring and is all set to becoming a thriller.

Voter turnout in the first two phases of the election has been lower than expected. There are many ways to read this. One is the view that since the BJP put in so much effort in declaring right at the beginning that there is virtually no contest, and the message was sent out with the full force of its rather rich, well-funded campaign and machinery, the BJP voters were less than enthused and decided - what is the point in working since the end result is given? The other is the weather - the summer has been unusually hot this time. The third is that the BJP itself has not been able to move its cadres, one reason being that the election was declared as won before the first vote was cast, and the second and more important one being the influx of all kinds and varieties of non-BJP workers who have joined the ranks on their

own accord or have been lured/forced to move to the BJP.

The odd mix of "intruders" versus cadres is in part causing a mismatch of chemistry, and so building a sense of despondency within the committed workers who now feel excluded from the party they have worked in and for over a number of years. The last reason could be despondency among a broader section of the electorate, and if this is the cause, then the lower turnout could go any way in terms of influencing the results.

Bad news for BJP

But as the week drew to a close, there was more bad news for the BJP. On one hand, Rahul Gandhi was virtually on fire, demanding that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologize to every girl and woman in the country for seeking votes for Prajwal Revanna, a "mass rapist", and further saying that votes for Revanna would

strengthen Modi. That was at an election rally in support of the BJP's new ally, the JD(S), where the prime minister made as clear an appeal as he could in support of JD(S)

candidates, including Revanna, who is the grandson of the former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda. Revanna fled to Germany the day after polling ended in his constituency of Hassan in Karnataka on April 26, just as tapes of his advances and assaults against women were leaked. The BJP has not been able to respond to the questions on support for Revanna, which particularly exposed the prime minister himself, given that it has emerged that the party was warned well in advance of Revanna's conduct and the allegations against him, and went ahead with endorsing his candidature.

On the other hand, bad news for the BJP also came from the failed attempt to stir up a controversy over allegations that the Congress wanted to redistribute wealth, or take it from the middle class and give it, as the BJP alleged, to minorities.

(The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press) South Asia Monitor

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE (DBE) GOAL
FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS (FFY) 2025 -2027**

This announcement will serve as notice of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) triennial Overall Goal of 31% for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - assisted contracts. The overall goal is for a three-year period from Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2025 - 2027 (FFY25 - FFY27) beginning October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2027. Metro plans to achieve its overall DBE goal by using race and gender neutral (race-neutral) measures and race and gender conscious (race-conscious) measures. Metro projects to achieve 3% of its overall goal utilizing race-neutral measures, and 28% of its overall goal utilizing race-conscious measures. The overall goal is expressed as a percentage of FTA funds Metro Projects to expend for the triennial goal period. The goal methodology used is in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) DBE Program Final Rule, 49 Code of Federal Regulation, Part 26. The triennial overall goal is established to achieve a "level playing field" for DBEs to participate in Metro's FTA-assisted contracting opportunities.

30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The proposed overall DBE goal and goal methodology is posted on Metro's website for review. Metro will accept public comments for a 30-day period beginning April 19, 2024 and ending May 20, 2024. Public comments will be accepted via email at: LAMetroGandM@bbcresearch.com or GoalComment@metro.net

To view the Goal and Goal Methodology Report, on the Metro website, visit:

[http://media.metro.net/uploads/Metro_Connect/
Overall%20DBE%20Goal%20FFY2025-FFY2027.pdf](http://media.metro.net/uploads/Metro_Connect/Overall%20DBE%20Goal%20FFY2025-FFY2027.pdf)

To review the 2023 Final Metro Disparity Study, visit: [https://
www.metro.net/about/metro-disparity-study/](https://www.metro.net/about/metro-disparity-study/)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The In-Person Public Hearing will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Metro Headquarters, Board Room, 3rd Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Parking fee \$8.00.

ADA accommodations and translations are available by calling (213) 922-4600 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at least 72 hours in advance.

The Virtual Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Teams Link: [https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-
teams/join-a-meeting](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)

Meeting ID: 212261816710 | Passcode: fgoRaF

Other ways to comment:

Persons unable to attend the hearings may submit written comments through 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2024, the close of public comment. Submit all written comments electronically via email with "Public Comment Overall DBE Goal" as the subject line to GoalComment@metro.net or comments may be sent via U.S. Mail and should be addressed to:

Metro, Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD), Attn: Public Comment Overall DBE Goal, One Gateway Plaza, 99-8-4, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

5/10/24

CNS-3805867#



When the Americans failed Afghanistan: Chronicle of the dramatic collapse of a nation

TARUN BASU

On August 17, 2021 US President Joe Biden delivered a historic speech on the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan from the East Room of the White House, wherein he rationalized the decision, which was universally criticized, as necessary because Washington, he said with some rare candor, was overtaken by the events that happened "more quickly than we anticipated".

"The events that we are seeing now are sadly proof that no amount of military force would ever deliver a stable, united and secure Afghanistan, that is known in history as the graveyard of empires. What is happening now, could just as easily have happened five years ago, or 15 years in the future.", adding sheepishly that the US was now focusing on "what is possible".

The unusual admission of defeat and misjudgment - not for the US for the first time in history - was testimony not just to a colossal strategic policy failure on the part of the American establishment. Its ramifications are still being felt on a proud nation of 23 million people that, because of its strategic geopolitical positioning, has been fought over by major powers and stirred unending internecine conflicts, which kept its largely rural and feudal society in a permanent state of unrest and civic disorder.

Millions of Afghans have fled abroad over the years, settling in different countries near and far that have given them refuge, knowing well that a return to their homes might be a chimera. The latest exodus of course was triggered by the American retreat from Kabul and Washington washing its hands off the country's future after being stung badly by their experience, which a top commander admitted, was a "strategic setback, a strategic failure".

Fall of Kabul

Chronicling the dramatic "The Fall of Kabul" (Bloomsbury) in an eponymously titled book, was an

intrepid Indian multimedia journalist, Nayanima Basu, who had gone on her own initiative to report on the withdrawal of NATO troops but ended serendipitously being almost a ringside witness to the tumultuous power transition in the capital with the collapse of the US-backed Ghani government; the Taliban renewing its brutal and medieval grip over a war-battered nation after a quarter of a century; and the loss of tens of thousands of lives.

*Ironically, the Taliban did not have to fire a single shot or kill even one person to enter the capital (Kabul) where it had once ruled," wrote Nayanima, blaming the extraordinary turn of events squarely on the policies of three American presidents who she said where variously "respon-

The latest exodus of course was triggered by the American retreat from Kabul and Washington washing its hands off the country's future after being stung badly by their experience, which a top commander admitted, was a "strategic setback, a strategic failure"

sible for how the war ended and where it has brought Afghanistan, pushing it back to the dark ages where women do not even have the basic dignity of life".

Nearly three years on, little has changed for the country and its people. Officially, the country is no more at war, but by no stretch is at peace, with a clutch of well-armed militant groups, either patronized by the Taliban, or fighting against it, carving out their respective spheres of influence in a mountainous nation wracked by poverty and inequities. That brings them often at odds with either the present rulers of Kabul or with Afghanistan's neighbors, like Pakistan and Iran, leading to frequent eruptions of localized conflicts, but with transborder ramifications.

The book is not an outcome of a premeditated creative expression of a stunningly beauti-

ful country roiled by wars. The book is a fairly gripping first-person account of a country that was in a 20-year-long war that just "collapsed in a matter of hours". And the author just happened to be there at the right place and the right time, braving death on multiple occasions, to record it as she filed real-time dispatches from dangerous locations where events were unraveling with apocalyptic speed before she took the last available flight evacuating Indians out of Kabul.

As the events rapidly overtook the world, including the country's simple folks who had little stake in the power struggle, Kabul, in the author's words, "looked like something out of the pages of a historical dystopian novel, where everything seemed

to be in an existential crisis".

A little vignette of an exchange between the author and her local driver is telling. "Do you think Kabul will fall", and pat came the reply: 'Yes, soon. But nothing to worry ma'am. You enjoy Kabul.'

Receded from headlines

The world has expectations of a different Afghanistan, one which is at peace, is politically stable, respects human rights, particularly gender rights, and does not remain a haven to terror groups, But the reality may be quite different, and many of Afghanistan's neighbors may be having to hurriedly reorient its policies to suit the changing ground realities.

(The author is a veteran journalist and Consulting Editor, South Asia Monitor) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



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STUDENTS PROTEST IN US

Students across the U.S. have rallied or set up tents at dozens of universities to protest the months-long war in Gaza and call on President Joe Biden, who has supported Israel to do more to stop the bloodshed in Gaza. They also demand their schools divest from companies that support Israel's government, such as arms suppliers. The University of Virginia said in a news release that protesters had violated several university policies including setting up tents and using amplified sound. "Peaceful protests like this have taken place at U-M commencement ceremonies for decades, said one of the professor. "The university supports free speech and expression, and university leaders are pleased that today's commencement was such a proud and triumphant moment."

Contrasting views over Israel's war in Gaza have erupted, sometimes violently, across U.S. campuses over the last couple of weeks. Many of the schools, including Columbia University in NYC, have called in police to quell the protests. Police removed barricades and began dismantling a fortified encampment by pro-Palestinian demonstrators early Thursday at UCLA after hundreds of protesters defied orders to leave. Tent encampments of protesters calling on universities to stop doing business with Israel or companies they say support the war in Gaza have spread across campuses nationwide in a student movement unlike any other this century.

Meanwhile in Rutgers University, the student protesters agreed to peacefully end their protest and were removing their tents and belongings. The resolution was achieved through constructive dialogue between the protesting students and leadership teams. Their agreement opens the door for ongoing dialogue and better addresses the needs of the Arab, Muslim and Palestinian student body, which numbers over 7,000.

A college professor from Illinois suffered nine broken ribs and a broken hand when he was arrested during a pro-Palestine protest at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

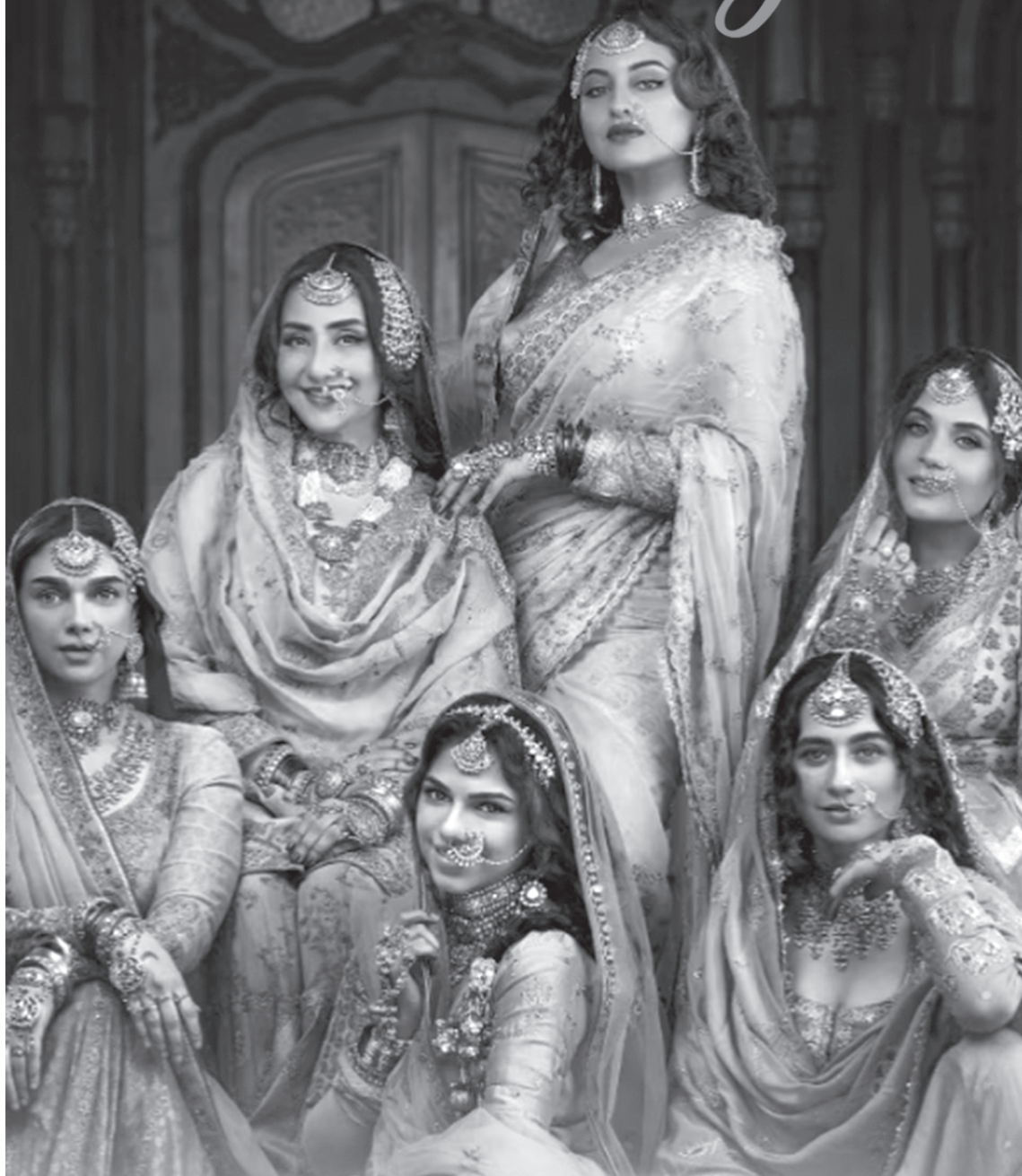
The largest student strike in the history of United States occurred, in May and June 1970, in the aftermath of the American invasion of Cambodia and the killings of student protesters at Kent State University in Ohio. An estimated four million students at more than 450 universities, colleges and high schools, participated in what became known as the student strike of 1970.

An Indian-origin, graduate student at Princeton University arrested during a Gaza solidarity sit-in on campus made the headlines; while visa and education consultants in India were deluged with calls from students and parents. "They are worried about semesters getting delayed, degrees coming in later. They keep asking: 'Will placements get delayed? Will visas be extended? What will happen when the study permit ends? How will we manage their fees?'" says Salil Bhatia, a visa consultant in Delhi.

Indian-origin student studying at the prestigious Princeton University, along with another student, Hassan Sayed, has been arrested and barred from the campus for staging pro-Palestine protests.

Students however must also know that the First Amendment is not just for U.S. citizens. It also protects international visitors who participate in lawful public demonstrations and protests. Knowing your rights as a noncitizen, one must learn how to respond to immigration questions when and if, police or other government officials stop you.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



Broad necklines, fuller sleeves, choli-cut anarkalis: Designers decode 'Heeramandi' style

NEW DELHI: From the sets to the costumes and jewelry, everything filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali does to tell a story is dazzling. Designer duo Rimple and Harpreet, who made over 300 costumes for the director's debut series 'Heeramandi', have decoded each outfit and revealed what they kept in mind while making it.

Harpreet said that in crafting the costumes, they employed various techniques to accentuate their beauty and grace.

"Broad necklines were deliberately chosen to highlight their exquisite body forms, enhancing their allure and presence on screen. Additionally, these necklines provided ample space to showcase stunning jewelry

pieces, adding an extra layer of opulence to their attire," he said.

Rimple spoke about the importance of fuller sleeves.

"Furthermore, we opted for fuller sleeves to imbue the women with an air of elegance and poise befitting their status as powerful courtesans. The flowing sleeves not only added a sense of sophistication but also contrib-

uted to their commanding presence in every scene," she added.

Then there was a number of choli-cut anarkalis, which added a touch of femininity.

"To enhance the natural curves of the body, we incorporated a significant number of choli-cut anarkalis. These designs hug the body in all the right places, accentuating their

a comeback into the wardrobe after the show?

"In our perspective, Anarkalis have always stood the test of time," said Rimple.

"As guardians of Indian vintage silhouettes and fashion, we've consistently showcased Anarkalis as a prominent section of our merchandise. Their timeless appeal lies in their flat-



"AS GUARDIANS OF INDIAN VINTAGE SILHOUETTES AND FASHION, WE'VE CONSISTENTLY SHOWCASED ANARKALIS AS A PROMINENT SECTION OF OUR MERCHANDISE. THEIR TIMELESS APPEAL LIES IN THEIR FLATTERING FORM, WHICH COMPLEMENTS ANY BODY TYPE WITH ITS GRACEFUL AND FLOWING DESIGN,"

curves and exuding sensuality and femininity," said Harpreet.

Known for spotlighting the traditional marori work in their creations, the designer duo shared that each garment was meticulously crafted to celebrate the beauty and strength of these remarkable women.

Anarkalis got the spotlight it deserved in 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'. Does it make

tinger form, which complements any body type with its graceful and flowing design," added Harpreet.

Rimple said that they "believe in celebrating the enduring elegance of Anarkalis, ensuring that they remain a staple in our store's collection, embodying the essence of traditional Indian fashion with a touch of modern flair." IANS

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Bobby recalls how Shekhar Kapur walked out of his debut film

Actor Bobby Deol, who won praise from all quarters for his performance in the blockbuster film 'Animal', has said that the director of his debut film, Shekhar Kapur, opted out of the film because of the legacy of his father Dharmendra.

Bobby appeared with his brother Sunny on the latest episode of the streaming comedy show 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', and opened up on his debut film 'Barsaat'.

When host Kapil Sharma asked if Bobby or the director was scared to launch him, given the massive popularity of his father Dharmendra and elder brother Sunny Deol, Bobby replied: "Maybe that's why Shekhar ran away. Shekhar Kapur.

- BOBBY APPEARED WITH HIS BROTHER
- SUNNY ON THE LATEST EPISODE OF THE
- STREAMING COMEDY SHOW 'THE GREAT
- INDIAN KAPIL SHOW'

He was scared. But then Raj directed the film. But I never thought I was under pressure."

The actor had earlier shared that the change of director on the film was frustrating for him because the film was long in the making, and he had to try and learn different things like running and playing drums to fit into the character as per the demands of the changing script. IANS

TOP TEN

HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Soulmate: *Ek Tha Raja*
- 2 Mirza: *Maidaan*
- 3 Pehla Ishq : *Ruslaan*
- 4 Saza: *Saza*
- 5 Rang Ishq Ka : *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*
- 6 O Maahi: *Dunki*
- 7 Pehle Bhi Main: *ANIMAL*
- 8 Akhiyaan Gulaab : *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*
- 9 Useless Bhawra: *Useless Bhawra*
- 10 Gulabi Ankhiyan: *LSD 2*

Sonam Bajwa turns into 'royal Punjabi bride' in lehenga

Actress Sonam Bajwa channeled her inner Punjabi bride as she sauntered the ramp, looking regal in a lehenga designed by Navneet Sidhu.

Sonam appeared to be dipped in gold, wearing a peach-shaded, layered Zardozi lehenga with scalloped borders heavily embellished with the metallic shade. She draped a peach-hued chunni over her head and complemented her attire with a choker necklace and nude makeup.

Talking about her collection, designer Navneet said: "The collection is entirely vintage. It took eight months to create. It embodies vintage and heritage elements and has all Zardozi handwork."

She said that only Sonam could do justice to her creation, stating, "I am very happy it is my first show."

Sonam, who is known for her work in Punjabi films such as 'Carry On Jatta', 'Honsla Rakh', and 'Guddiyan Patole'. IANS

Ananya Panday's cozy Sunday with 'furry' friend Riot

Actor Ananya Panday, who is often seen giving fans a peek into her daily personal and professional updates recently gave a glimpse of how she is keeping herself busy.

The actress took to her Instagram Stories, where she's seen cuddling with her new pet dog, Riot at her home.

Ananya Panday shared a photo of her new pet dog, Riot, sleeping on her leg, expressing, "I mean, how do you expect me to ever leave my house (crying face emoji)."

Ananya also posted another picture of her TV screen displaying the IPL 2024 points table, with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) leading. Ananya, a long-time supporter of KKR, co-owned by Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla, has been seen cheering for the team alongside her best friend, Suhana Khan, SRK's daughter. ANI



Multi-award-winning film star and West Bengal BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is incredibly responsive and completely natural in his behavior.

"The longest he took to reply to my message was 23 minutes," the 'Disco Dancer' star of yesteryears, who has just been honored with the Padma Shri, told the popular X handle 'Modi Story'.

Recalling one of their initial meetings at an event in West Bengal, the actor shared how PM Modi spent 10 exclusive minutes with him

"Soon after the meeting, he called out for me. 'Mithun da, I wish to speak to you for some time'," Chakraborty recalled. "Those 10 minutes were truly charismatic! Not because he is the Prime Minister, but due to his natural behavior and responsive nature. The impact is still on me."

Chakraborty then spoke about PM Modi's promptness. "He is quite busy, so it's natural to expect replies after two or three days," he said. "But I receive responses within 10-15 minutes. Once, I noted on my watch that the longest time he took to reply to my message was just 23 minutes! Another instance, when he was in Germany and in a different time zone, he still replied promptly, saying that 'we



Mithun Chakraborty: Longest PM Modi took to reply was 23 minutes

shall discuss tomorrow'."

Speaking of PM Modi's sincerity in personal relations, Chakraborty said, "PM Modi is someone who never re-

sorts to the common rhetoric of 'Let's see'. I prefer to stay away from such individuals. PM Modi always invites, 'Come, let's discuss'." *IANS*

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Arjun Kapoor happy Indian food getting credit across the world

Actor Arjun Kapoor shared a video featuring an Indian-origin contestant, Sumeet Saigal, teaching the judges of 'Masterchef Australia' how to make panipuri.

Arjun took to his Instagram stories and shared a clip from the 'Masterchef Australia' profile.

In the clip, Saigal is seen teaching the judges that they need to "break" the puris first, fill them with potatoes and dry spices, top them with mint, date, and tamarind chutney, and then fill them up with mint and coriander water. After the judges take a bite, they are left stunned by the taste.

A proud Arjun captioned the clip: "Love this!! Happy to see Indian street food getting international credit."

Talking about work, Arjun will be seen as an antagonist in 'Singham Again'. It also stars Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, and Jackie Shroff. *IANS*



SONAKSHI WANTS TO BE AN ACTOR FOR ANY GENRE

Since her debut in 2010, Sonakshi Sinha has tried to not get pigeonholed in a particular role. The actress said she has strived to reinvent herself and aims to be the kind of actor whom filmmakers can cast in any genre.

"An actor's job is to always strive and keep doing different things, reinventing themselves with everything they do, and I think that is what I have been doing. I have been doing it since I did my first solo film, which was 'Akira', and that's always been what I strive to do," Sonakshi told IANS.

The actress said she always wants to pick roles that are different from each other because she wants "to show my range as an actor".

"I want to be that actor whom a filmmaker can cast in any genre. That's been my effort ever since then, and I think I have been doing pretty great at it. I have done many diverse roles. I have portrayed some very strong female characters on screen, and I am very happy to do so," she said.

Sonakshi made her debut in 2010 with 'Dabangg' starring Salman Khan. She was then seen in films such as 'Rowdy Rathore', 'Son of Sardaar', 'Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara', 'R...Rajkumar', 'Boss', 'Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty', 'Mission Mangal', and 'Kalank', to name a few.

The actress describes her 14 years in Hindi cinema as the "best journey ever". *IANS*

Rashami Desai, Neha Bhasin's 'dose of happiness'

Singer Neha Bhasin has revealed that her friend Rashami Desai is the "dose of her happiness."

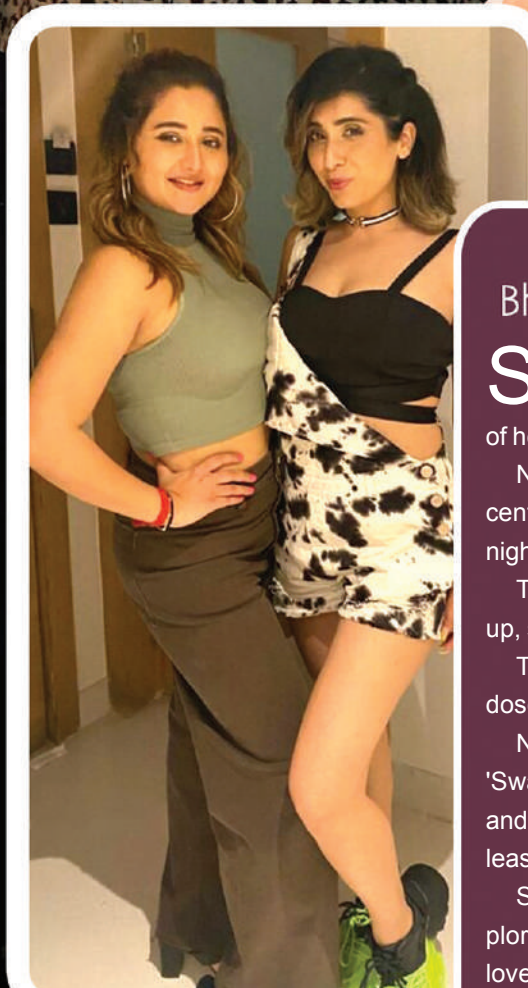
Neha took to her Instagram stories recently to share a picture from her Saturday night out with Rashami.

The image shows the two ladies dressed up, smiling, and posing for a selfie.

The singer captioned the image: "My Sat dose of happiness."

Neha, who is known for hits such as 'Swag Se Swagat', 'Dhunki', 'Nai Jaana', and 'Jutti Meri', among many others, has released her next track, 'Furqat'.

Shot in Maharashtra, the song's lyrics explore themes of separation and unrequited love. *IANS*





Priyanka Chahar Choudhary wears no make-up: 'Only when working'

Actress Priyanka Chahar Choudhary shared she only wears make-up when she's working; otherwise, in her daily life, she prefers to go all-natural.

"I don't wear make-up. I only put make-up on when I am working," Priyanka told IANS.

The actress, who gained the spotlight as Tejjo Singh Virk from the show 'Udaariyaan', revealed that whether she's at the airport, mall, or market, she opts for a makeup-free look.

However, she does have one go-to beauty hack.

"I just do one thing: I apply some lipstick and then use it on my cheek, forehead, and eyelids. So, it looks like blush, contour, and lipstick. The whole make-up is done like that," she added.

Talking about her daily wear, Priyanka said: "Normally, I wear western clothes, which are very comfortable for me. I also like kurtis again; they are very comfortable."

"I like both Indian and western wear depending on the occasion," said the actress, who walked the runway as a showstopper at the Bombay Times Fashion Week.

Asked about her fashion statement, she said: "Comfy clothes are my fashion statement. Baggy comfy clothes and street style. IANS



Abhishek looks forward to 'mad fun' with Akshay, Riteish

Abhishek Bachchan has joined the cast of the fifth installment of the 'Housefull' franchise, starring Akshay Kumar and Riteish Deshmukh.

The actor, who featured in the third part of the film, says coming back feels like returning home.

Abhishek shared: "Housefull is one of my favorite comedy franchises, and coming back feels like returning home. It's always been a great pleasure to work with Sajid Nadiadwala. I am looking forward to having mad fun on the sets with my fellow actors, Akshay and Riteish."

"I'm also so excited to collaborate again with my dear friend Tarun Mansukhani. I'm really looking forward to working with him again after 'Dostana'. This is going to be a lot of fun," he said.

Producer Sajid announced Abhishek's return. Filming is scheduled to start in the UK from August 2024. IANS

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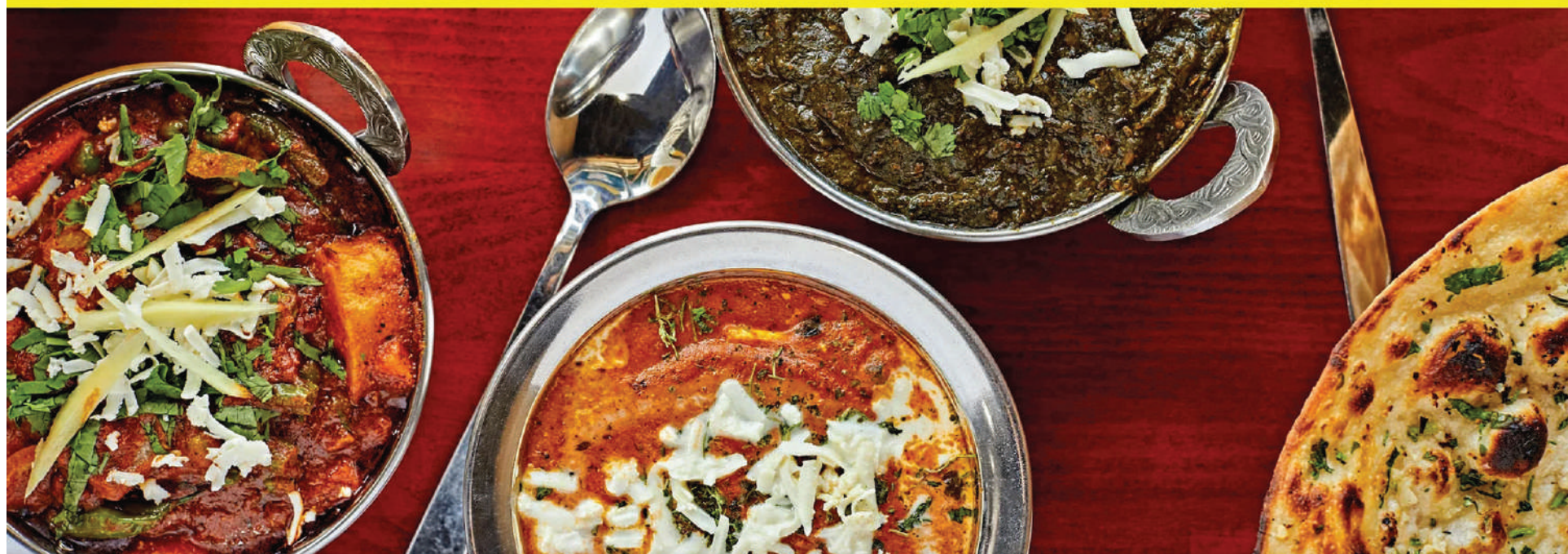
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