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IALA Celebrates I-Day in San Fernando Valley

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All eyes on AAPI voters in swing States

► Details on page 26



'Social media affects work negatively'

► Details on page 40

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Last week's result

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PEACE SUMMIT

PM Modi's voice respected in world, hope India participates in next Peace Summit at very senior level: Ukraine envoy

NEW DELHI: Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, has hoped that India will participate at a "very senior level" in the next "Peace Summit" and said his country will be very happy if Prime Minister Narendra Modi finds the time to attend it as his voice "is very much respected in the world".

In an interview with ANI, Polishchuk also said that PM Modi's visit to Ukraine in August was "historical" and there was "concrete discussion" on "how we are going to achieve stable peace" find a resolution to the Ukraine conflict.

He said that India had not signed the final communique after the Peace Summit in Switzerland.

"I hope that my President, in his discussion with the



Oleksandr Polishchuk

Prime Minister, convinced him to play a more major role as a leading nation in such peace negotiations. Unfortunately, we haven't India on the list of countries who signed the final communique after the summit in Switzerland, but there's still an open opportunity to join in some way," Polishchuk said.

"It's again about the main principles like the nuclear security, food security, which are quite important for this region. At the next summit, we hope India will participate at a very senior level. We would be very happy if the Prime Minister finds the time to

travel for this Summit and personally take part in a discussion because his voice is very much respected in the world," Polishchuk added.

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"Had fruitful talks on wide range of issues": PM Modi

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"Zelenskyy may visit India end of this year..."

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Indian space startup Pixxel bags NASA contract

► Details on page 16



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacts with the members of the German Parliament during their meeting, in Berlin on September 11. (ANI Photo)

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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Krystle D'Souza & tantalizing culinary



Actress Krystle D'Souza, recently took to the Stories section of her Instagram and shared pictures of delectable food that she indulged in Hyderabad

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Lifestyle:

Hina Khan's 'promise to fulfil'



Despite undergoing chemotherapy for Stage-Three breast cancer, actress Hina Khan remains undeterred, in her ongoing journey towards recovery, shares workout reel

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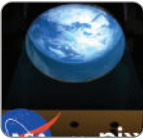
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PEACE SUMMIT



Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, has hoped that India will participate at a "very senior level" in the next "Peace Summit"

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Startup Pixxel bags NASA contract

Bengaluru-based Indian space startup Pixxel, has bagged a NASA contract to support Earth science research using the hyperspectral technology

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IALA celebrates India I-Day



To celebrate India's 78th Independence Day, the event organized by the India Association of Los Angeles (IALA), also commemorated the organization's 25th anniv.

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2. Ensure Safety: First, check if anyone is injured. If you or anyone else is hurt, call emergency services immediately. If it's safe to do so, move vehicles out of traffic to prevent further accidents.

3. Call the Authorities: Contact the police or local law enforcement to report the accident. They can document the scene and create an official report, which is crucial for insurance claims and legal matters.

4. Exchange Information: Swap contact and insurance details with the other driver(s) involved. This includes names, phone numbers, addresses, driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, and insurance company details.

5. Document the Scene: Take photos of the accident scene, including vehicle damage, license plates, and any relevant road conditions or traffic signs. This documentation can be useful for insurance claims and legal purposes.

6. Get Witnesses' Information: If there are any witnesses, get their contact information. Their statements might be valuable if there is a dispute about what happened.

7. Avoid Admitting Fault: Even if you think you might be at fault, don't admit it at the scene. Fault can be determined later based on the evidence and police report.

8. Seek Medical Attention: Even if you don't feel injured, it's a good idea to get a medical evaluation. Some injuries might not be immediately apparent.

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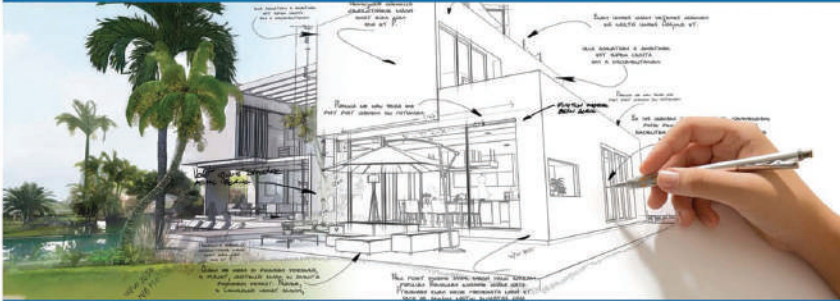
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PEACE SUMMIT

PM Modi's voice respected in world, hope India participates in next Peace Summit at very senior level: Ukraine envoy

NEW DELHI: Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, has hoped that India will participate at a "very senior level" in the next "Peace Summit" and said his country will be very happy if Prime Minister Narendra Modi finds the time to attend it as his voice "is very much respected in the world".

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Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk

nately, we haven't India on the list of countries who signed the final communique after the summit in Switzerland, but there's still an open opportunity to join in some way," Polishchuk said.

"It's again about the main principles like the nuclear security, food security, which are quite important for this region. At the next summit, we hope India will participate at a very senior level. We would be very happy if the Prime Minister finds the time to travel for this Summit and personally take part in a discussion because his voice is very much respected in the world," Polishchuk added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his visit to the country on August 23 and reiterated the need for sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that will have broad acceptability and contribute towards early restoration of peace in Russia-Ukraine conflict.

PM Modi reiterated India's willingness to contribute in all possible ways to facilitate an early return of peace.

Secretary(West) Pavan Kapoor represented India at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, hosted by Switzerland, on June 15, 16 this year.

The Indian delegation attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit. India did not associate itself with any communique or document emerging from this Summit.

"India's participation in the Summit, as well as in the preceding NSA/Political Director-level meetings based on Ukraine's Peace Formula, was in line with our consistent approach to facilitate a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," the Ministry of External Affairs had said in a release.

"We continue to believe that such a resolution requires a sincere and practical engagement between the two parties to the conflict. In this regard, India will continue to remain engaged with all stakeholders as well as both the parties to contribute to all earnest efforts to bring about an early and abiding peace," the release added. ANI

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"Those who massacred Sikhs..." BJP trains guns at Rahul Gandhi over statement on Sikhs

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party has come out guns blazing against the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, over his remarks on the Sikh community and accused the Congress party of inciting people and "massacring" the Sikhs during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, while the Congress party has defended the leader's remark, saying he has only highlighted 'injustice' in the country.

This comes amid a row created by Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the United States, where he said that today the fight in India is whether a Sikh person will be able to wear his turban, kada, and visit Gurdwara.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri slammed Rahul Gandhi and said that he is trying to incite people who live outside the country, and making statements without any basis.

"I have been wearing 'Turban' and 'Kada' for more than the last 60 years, and I have never come across anyone who would say that they have any difficulty in wearing a 'Turban' and a 'Kada'. It was in his (Rahul Gandhi's) father's time when a pogrom was carried out. Our 3000 people were killed... It's not like he is unaware of all this...He has been in politics long enough. So he should realize that if he is outside the country or even inside the country and makes such statements, then he will be laughed at. This is a statement which deserves to be condemned in the strongest possible terms...He is trying to incite our brothers who live outside the country...He is making statements without any basis," Puri told ANI.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh criticized the Congress leader and accused his party of doing 'appeasement politics'.

"The Congress, who post-independence has been doing appeasement politics, massacred the Sikhs, is trying to teach a lesson. Mere yaha kahavat hai, 'jo log agayaani jayada hote hai vo apne gayaan ka pardareshan jayada

"The Gandhi family has a lot of hate against Sikhs. No one can even think of removing our turbans, gurdwaras...He is demeaning a community for political gains...He is spreading confusion and trying to divide the country to gain power...He wants support from China, Pakistan"

-BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa

karte hai' (Fools display their intellect much more)," Giriraj Singh said.

"Rahul Gandhi said that he would give it in writing that we will win 400 seats...Those who were not able to cross the mark of 99 seats were talking of winning 400 seats...We will have to go below the belt to answer him...PM Modi came to power for the third time after garnering more votes than his grandmother," he added.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa also condemned the statement made by LoP Rahul Gandhi on "Sikhs" and said that the Gandhi family has a lot of hate against Sikhs.

"I condemn this statement. These kinds of statements

being made by Rahul Gandhi against Sikhs are not new...The Gandhi family has a lot of hate against Sikhs. No one can even think of removing our turbans, gurdwaras...He is demeaning a community for political gains...He is spreading confusion and trying to divide the country to gain power...He wants support from China, Pakistan and the USA, that's why he is making these kinds of statements abroad," Sirsa said.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari also slammed the Lok Sabha LoP, saying Rahul Gandhi has become a leader who speaks ill of the country abroad.

"I have been wearing 'Turban' and 'Kada' for more than the last 60 years, and I have never come across anyone who would say that they have any difficulty in wearing a 'Turban' and a 'Kada'. It was in his (Rahul Gandhi's) father's time when a pogrom was carried out"

-Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

"The leaders of America also never speak ill of their country abroad...These kinds of leaders are very dangerous to the nation who speak ill of the country...He made a wrong statement regarding the Indian Sikh community. Which Sikh has to seek permission to visit Gurdwara, wear a turban?... His behavior shows that these kinds of leaders should not be trusted...Rahul Gandhi has made many statements to end reservations...He has always been against reservation," Tiwari said.

Taking a jibe at Rahul Gandhi, BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla asked what is the 'Idea of India' according to Rahul Gandhi, that "Indira is India."

"When Rahul Gandhi lost an election in Amethi, he said that the people of north and Uttar Pradesh didn't understand the issues. He also said that the people of Kerala understand the issues...We also remember how one of the leaders of the Congress party, brother of DK Shivkumar, said that the south should separate from the north. Is this your idea of India? Is this your idea of putting one state against the other state? We also remember

what statements DMK has made about the entire north India," Poonawalla said.

"Today, if Rahul Gandhi truly believes in the idea of India, what is the idea of India? Indira is India? That is what Congress has said. Has Congress ever condemned that statement

where they equated one person to the entire country? Today Rahul Gandhi should condemn that statement. And Rahul Gandhi preaching about the Constitution is like the devil preaching scriptures. Your alliance partner is saying 370 should come back...Do you support 370...Rahul Gandhi should clarify this rather than preaching to us," he asked.

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal said that being the LoP of Lok Sabha, he (Rahul Gandhi) is criticizing India on an international platform. ANI

"BJP nowhere near 246 in fair election..." Rahul Gandhi terms Lok Sabha polls "controlled election"

WASHINGTON, DC: Terming the Lok Sabha polls as a "controlled election", Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would not have been near 240 seats in "fair election."

While interacting with students and faculty at Georgetown University, Rahul Gandhi said that caste system had become a "big and fundamental question" in India. He said that the entire campaign was structured in a way that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could do his thing across the country. He stated that the Election Commission was doing as the BJP wanted.

He said, "There was also the caste census issue that became big and that's a fundamental question in India you know. Share what you say in Hindi (Bhagidari) of the institutions, the structure, the power

of the Indian state. So, these things suddenly started to come together and at some level I was frankly blown away by the wisdom of India."

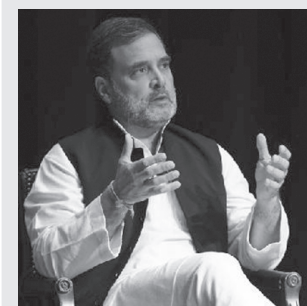
"I would sometimes sit there and say, this is quite amazing, right? There was like a wall that suddenly arrived and said, okay, we are not backing down now.

And really, I don't think the BJP, in a fair election, they were nowhere near 240 seats, no way, I mean, I'd be surprised if they had a financial, you know, huge financial advantage. They had locked our bank accounts for one but huge war chest. The Election Commission was doing what they wanted. I mean, the entire campaign was structured so Mr Modi could do his thing across the country. States where they were weak were designed differently than states where they were strong. So I don't view it as a free election at all. I view it as a rather controlled election," he added.

The Congress MP said that the Congress party, prior to the elections, was stressing that institutions have been captured and they were not given a fair playing field. However, he noted that people could not understand it.

He stated that people understood the situation when they started holding up constitution. Rahul Gandhi said that people understood that there is a fight between those who are protecting the constitution and those who want to destroy it and called it a "very strong element."

Taking a jibe at the BJP-led government over taking control of institutions, Gandhi said, "Multiple things came together. So for example, prior to the election, we kept stressing on the idea that the institutions have been captured. And whenever we'd go, India alliance would go, we'd go, we stress on this idea that, look, the institutions are captured and we don't have a fair playing field." ANI



Rahul Gandhi

"Will think of scrapping reservations when..." says Rahul Gandhi in US; reiterates demand for caste census

WASHINGTON DC: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said that Congress party will think of scrapping reservations when India becomes a "fair place," which it is not.

The Congress leader was interacting with students and faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, on Monday 9 September.

He also reiterated the need to conduct a caste census while saying that 90 percent of the country's population -- OBCs, Dalits and Adivasis-- not having proper representation in the country is the "elephant in the room."

"There's an elephant in the room. When we talk about the capture of institutions, businesses, and the media, the elephant in the room is that 90% of India--OBCs, Dalits, Adivasis--aren't even part of the game. That's really the elephant in the room," Rahul Gandhi said.

He further said that the Caste Census is a simple exercise to assess the participation of lower castes, backward castes, and Dalits stand since independence.

The LoP in Lok Sabha asserted that there is hardly anyone from the backward

communities among the top 10 businesses, media industry or the highest courts. Beyond the caste census, he also asserted the need to conduct socio-economic and institutional surveys in the country.

"Out of the top ten businesses in India, almost none are owned by the 90 percent of the population. In the highest courts of the country, there is almost no participa-

these castes. The third component, which I think is very important, is that we also want to understand and examine India's institutions--media, healthcare, education--the ownership, the structure that delivers these services, and India's participation in these institutions. These are an institutional survey, a socio-economic survey, and a census," he further added.

Being asked about his stand on reser-

who make almost all the financial decisions...Out of 70 people there is one tribal, three Dalits, three OBCs and a minority. 90 percent of India in the government of India has access to less than 10 percent of the positions that determine how money is going to be spent. When you look at the financial numbers, then Tribals get 10 paise out of Rs 100, Dalits get Rs 5 out of Rs 100, and OBCs get a similar amount," the Congress leader further said.

"The fact of the matter is they are not getting participation. The problem is 90 percent of India is not able to play...We will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place and India is not a fair place. Now, that creates a problem. There are people from the upper caste who say "What have we done wrong, why are we being punished" he added.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha further stressed that the INDIA bloc wants to defend the Constitution and most of the alliance partners agree on holding a caste census, adding that 'two businessmen' should not run every business in the country. ANI

"Out of the top ten businesses in India, almost none are owned by the 90 percent of the population. In the highest courts of the country, there is almost no participation from this 90 percent. In the national media--anchors and journalists--there is zero participation from lower castes, OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis," the Congress leader said

tion from this 90 percent. In the national media--anchors and journalists--there is zero participation from lower castes, OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis," the Congress leader said.

"There are two components. One is a socio-economic survey. We want to understand the socio-economic position of

vation, Rahul Gandhi said that the Dalits, Adivasis and OBC communities are still not getting participation in the system, adding that India is not a "fair place."

"If you look at the Indian government, there are 70 bureaucrats who run the Indian government, secretaries to the government of India. These are the people

'I don't hate PM Modi, but disagree with his point of view': Rahul Gandhi in US

WASHINGTON DC: After launching a tirade of attacks at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, opened up on his thoughts on his rivals and said he doesn't hate the Prime Minister but only disagrees with his point of view.

The Congress leader was interacting with students and faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, on Monday 9 September.

He also said that India essentially, is an idea of mixing and merging, while alleging that BJP and RSS have the "misunderstanding" of seeing India as a bunch of separate things.

"India at heart, is a union of languages, traditions, histories, religion, everything...When you have lunch here, you get first course, second course...we don't get that, we get a thali, and everything placed in it...it's a jumble and every food has the same value...so this idea of mixing and merging is in India," Rahul Gandhi said.

"When Indian people go to their religious places, they merge with their deity. This is the nature of India. The misunder-

standing that BJP and RSS have is they think that India is a whole bunch of separate things. So we don't need to redefine anything, it's already there," he added.

Being asked about the idea of 'love' in reference to his 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' slogan, the Congress leader said he disagrees with Prime Minister Modi's point of view but doesn't hate him or consider him as his enemy.

"That's more fun, you go in politics, you shout at that guy and that guy shouts back at you, then you abuse him, then he abuses you back. It's boring stuff," Rahul Gandhi said.

"You will be surprised, but I don't actually hate Mr Modi...he has got a point of view, fine, I don't agree with his point of view but I don't hate him. In many moments, I empathize with him I don't think like he is my enemy. He has a different point of view, I have a different point of view. I have empathy and compassion for what he is doing," he further added.

He further remarked that the Congress party and the Opposition faces two major challenges; first to contest elections and second of "undoing the damage" done by BJP-RSS.ANI

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"Had fruitful talks on wide range of issues": PM Modi on meeting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a productive meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi recently, and engaged in "fruitful talks" that covered a wide range of topics.

Notably, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi is on an official visit to India from September 9 to 10, at the invitation of PM Modi. This is the Crown Prince's first official visit to India in this capacity.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi (ANI Photo)

He was received on his arrival in New Delhi by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honor.

Sharing a post on X, PM Modi wrote, "It was a delight to welcome HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. We had fruitful talks on a wide range of issues."

"His passion towards a strong India-UAE friendship is clearly visible," the post added.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction over the substantial progress achieved in recent years in the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discussed opportunities to further widen and deepen the

partnership in all areas of bilateral cooperation, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release.

They also acknowledged that the success of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the recent entry into force of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) will provide further impetus to the strong economic and commercial partnership between the two countries. They also underscored the need to explore new areas of untapped potential, particularly in nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technologies.

Several MoUs were also signed during the visit. The MoU on Nuclear Cooperation is expected to enhance cooperation in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing of nuclear goods and services from India, exploring mutual investment opportunities and capacity building.

The agreement for long-term supply of LNG is for 1 million metric ton per annum (MMTPA) and is the third such contract signed in just over a year. Both IOCL and GAIL had previously signed long-term Agreements for 1.2 MMTPA and 0.5 MMTPA, respectively, with ADNOC. These contracts have strengthened energy security in India by diversifying LNG sources, the MEA added.

The MoU between ADNOC and ISPRIL, inter alia, provides for exploring ADNOC's participation in additional opportunities for crude storage in India and the renewal of their storage and management agreement on mutually acceptable terms and conditions. This MoU builds on ADNOC's existing involvement in crude storage at the Mangalore Cavern of ISPRIL since 2018. ANI

"We also spoke about the implementation of the Peace Formula, where Italy plays an active role in each of its points. I thank Giorgia and the Italian people for their support and joint efforts in restoring a just peace," he added. A release from Ukraine President's office said that he informed Meloni about "the situation on the battlefield".

He thanked for all the allocated military and technical assistance packages and "emphasized the importance of transferring the relevant weapons to Ukraine as soon as possible". "We are very grateful to you and your team, to all the Italian people for the support you have provided us," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy spoke about Ukraine's next steps on its path to European integration and praised Italy's support. After her meeting with Zelenskyy, Meloni said India and China can play a role in resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict. ANI

Italian PM Meloni discusses reconstruction of energy infrastructure with Zelenskyy; says India can play role in resolving Ukraine conflict

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last weekend and discussed reconstruction of Ukraine's energy system. She later said that India can play a role in resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Zelenskyy said in a post on X after his meeting with Meloni that he deeply appreciated Italy's decision to host the next Ukraine Recovery Conference in 2025.

He also thanked Italy for its support and joint efforts for restoring "just peace".

"On the sidelines of the Ambrosetti Forum, I had a meeting with the President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, Giorgia Meloni. One of the key topics we discussed was Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, particularly focusing on the restoration of our energy system. We deeply appreciate Italy's decision to host the next Ukraine Recovery Conference in 2025," he said.

Bangladesh plans to relocate 20,000 Rohingya refugees to US annually

DHAKA: Bangladesh is planning to send 20,000 Rohingya refugees annually to the US, aiming to move a total of 200,000 over the next decade, according to Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain.

Speaking recently, Hossain acknowledged that while the number may seem small, it offers hope for a substantial long-term solution.

The resettlement initiative is currently in a pilot phase, with a few hundred refugees being relocated at a time.

To date, around 2,500 Rohingyas have been selected, and the process is being expedited.

The Rohingya crisis began on August 25, 2017, when Myanmar's military launched a violent crackdown on the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, forcing them to flee to Bangladesh and other neighboring nations like India.

Within months, 750,000 Rohingyas sought refuge in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya-Teknaf region, joining 400,000 who were already in camps, Bdnews24 reported.

Under international pressure, Myanmar's then-government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, agreed to repatriate the Rohingyas by the end of that year, formalizing the arrangement in a bilateral agreement with Bangladesh in September 2017.

However, repatriation efforts faltered in 2019 due to a lack of trust in Myanmar's assurances, and the process was further disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The situation worsened when Myanmar's military junta, led by General Min Aung Hlaing, ousted Suu Kyi in February 2021, complicating repatriation efforts.

"Maybe by the end of this year...": Ukraine envoy on possibility of President Zelenskyy's visit to India

SAHIL PANDEY

NEW DELHI: Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, said President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may visit India by the end of the year following an invitation extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi but the dates of the visit will be decided according to mutual convenience.

"Prime Minister Modi kindly invited my president to visit India, and I'm hopeful it will happen. Maybe by the end of this year, we will be happy to see President Zelenskyy here, as it would mark another step forward in our bilateral relationship. It would also provide a great opportunity for the two leaders to spend more time discussing the peace-building process around the world," Polishchuk told ANI.

The Ukrainian envoy mentioned that Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine was relatively short due to security concerns. However, in India, both leaders would have more time for discussions, he said.

"I know for certain that President Zelenskyy is very keen to visit India. He has never been here," he said, adding that "visit would take place at a time convenient for both sides". ANI



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France: New PM Barnier signals rightward tilt, vows harder stance on immigration

PARIS: France's newly appointed Prime Minister, Michel Barnier, has signaled his position will be tilted towards the right, as he said he will toughen the government's stance on immigration and will defend some of President Emmanuel Macron's policies, Al Jazeera reported.

Barnier said last week, his government, which lacks a clear majority in a hung

as prime minister, putting an end to a two-month political deadlock created after his ill-fated decision to call snap legislative elections that delivered an unruly hung parliament.

Barnier faces the daunting task of trying to drive reforms and the 2025 budget through that parliament as France is under pressure from the European Commis-

He, however, said that members from other groups, including the left, are also welcome to back the new government. "There is no red line," Barnier said, adding: "We need to open the door...to all those who want it."

lower house of parliament, will include conservatives as well as members of Macron's camp.

He, however, said that members from other groups, including the left, are also welcome to back the new government. "There is no red line," Barnier said, adding: "We need to open the door...to all those who want it."

In a surprise pick, Macron, named 73-year-old Barnier, a conservative and the European Union's former Brexit negotiator,

sion and bond markets to reduce its deficit, Al Jazeera reported.

Signaling his readiness to hold up some of Macron's widely unpopular reform policies, which likely includes taking political risks, Barnier said he was not prepared to repeal the rise of the retirement age to 64 from 62 -- a decision that had sparked massive protests in France last year.

"We must not call into question this law, which was adopted in very difficult circum-

stances," Barnier said but added he was prepared to adjust the policy to better protect what he called "the most vulnerable".

The left-wing New Popular Front and the far-right National Rally (RN), which together have a majority and could oust the

pursue tougher policies to curb immigration. "There still is a feeling that our borders are sieves and that migration flows aren't being controlled," he said, adding: "I don't have much in common with the ideologies of the National Rally, but I respect it."



Michel Barnier

Earlier, Macron's political rivals alleged Marine Le Pen's party was exerting outsize power over the president, who nominated Barnier with the tacit support of the far right after spending weeks looking for a candidate who would not immediately be toppled by a majority of lawmakers, Al Jazeera reported.

The RN gave tentative support to Barnier's nomination by saying it would

prime minister through a no-confidence vote if they collaborate, had campaigned strongly against the reform.

Barnier also signaled taking a rightward shift on some issues, as he said he would

not immediately try to vote it down but asserted that it could withdraw support at any point if its concerns on immigration, security and pocketbook issues were not met. ANI

Baloch rights activist barred from flying, detained for three hours at Karachi airport

KARACHI: Baloch rights activist Sammi Deen Baloch was stopped from flying abroad by immigration officials and was detained for over three hours at Karachi airport on 8 September.

Sammi took to social media platform X to protest her detention, going live to share her experience. She alleged that immigration authorities detained her for over three hours and confiscated her passport, without providing any formal explanation for the violation of her rights.

"Today, the immigration officials at Karachi airport stopped me from flying abroad without providing any explanation for violating my fundamental right to liberty and freedom of movement. I was detained at immigration for over three hours, and my passport was confiscated," Sammi posted.

The activist said that when she protested and went live on social media, authorities returned her passport, but failed to provide any documentation or reason for the travel ban."

"I was verbally informed that immigration was acting on written orders from the government of Balochistan. I appeal to in-

ternational human rights bodies to raise their voices against this violation of rights," Sammi added.

Prominent Baloch rights activist, Mahrang Baloch also condemned the incident, calling it a blatant attempt to silence voices critical of human rights abuses in Balochistan.

"I am deeply irked to learn that Karachi airport authorities barred Sammi Deen from flying out of the country despite her holding a valid visa, ticket, and all necessary travel documents. This is a clear attempt not only to deny basic human rights, including the right to movement but also to restrict information and silence voices that speak about Balochistan," the activist said.

The incident highlights the ongoing efforts by Pakistani authorities to stifle activists raising awareness about the human rights violations in the conflict-ridden Balochistan region.

Sammi Deen has been an outspoken advocate for the rights of Baloch people and has drawn attention to the forced disappearances and extrajudicial actions that have plagued the region for years. ANI

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Revenues from online gaming surged 412 pc at Rs 6,909 crore: FM

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently informed that revenue from online gaming has increased 412 percent, reaching Rs 6,909 crore in six months, from the increased levy on the sector.

Addressing a press conference after the 54th GST Council meeting, the Finance Minister said revenues of casinos have "jumped by 30 percent".

"For casinos, revenue increased 30 percent to Rs 214 crore over the six months," she said.

In July last year, online games, skill-based and chance-based, were placed in the 28 percent GST slab in the 50th GST meeting. The measure came into effect on October 1, 2023.

Earlier, skill-based games were taxed at 18 percent. This is in addition to the tax on winnings from different gaming tournaments.

As per the income tax law, these winnings are treated as winnings from online games and taxed at 30 percent under the head 'Income from other Sources'.

The GoM on GST rate rationalization will hold a meeting on September 23, informed FM Sitharaman.

The GoM on health insurance premium GST is likely to come with a status report by the end of October and the decision is likely in the November GST Council meeting. *IANS*

'Make in India' initiative to help agrochemicals export cross Rs 80,000 cr in 4 years

NEW DELHI: Exports by the Indian agrochemical industry have witnessed commendable growth in recent times and are likely to cross Rs 80,000 crore in the next four years, according to a new report.

The 'Make in India' initiative provides a timely framework to transform challenges into opportunities, enabling India to become a global manufacturing and export hub for agrochemicals. *IANS*



Indian space startup Pixxel bags NASA contract to support Earth science research

BENGALURU: Indian space startup Pixxel has bagged a NASA contract to support Earth science research using the hyperspectral technology.

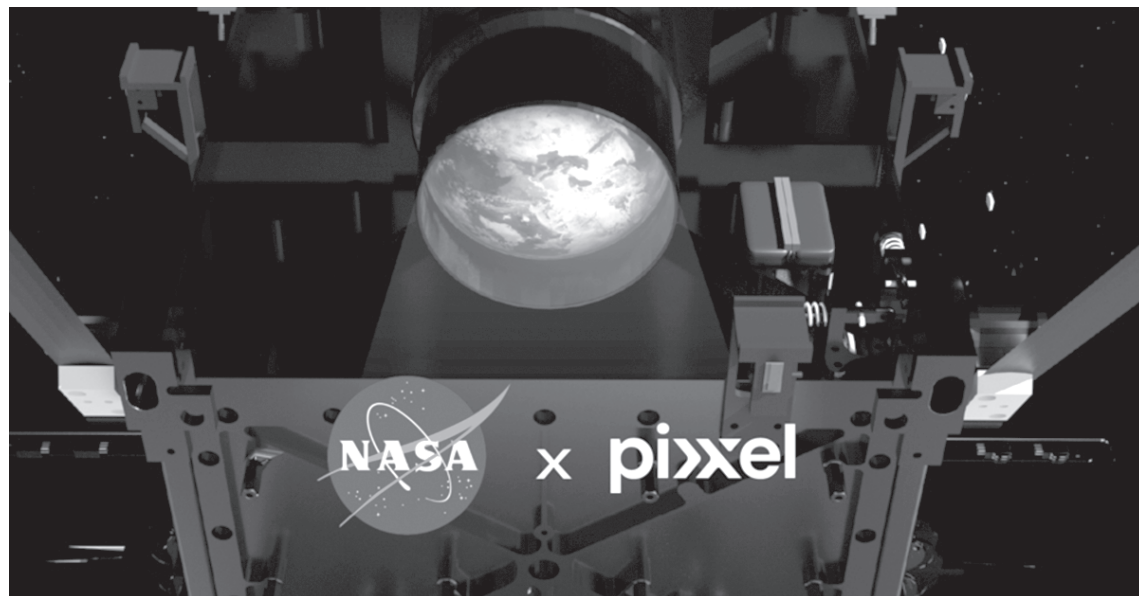
The Bengaluru-based company has become part of NASA's \$476-million commercial smallsat data acquisition program -- a first for an Indian startup after the space sector was opened to private companies in 2020.

Co-founder and CEO Awais Ahmed called the award a "monumental achievement for Pixxel".

He said the contract, valid till November 2028, "validates that hyperspectral imaging will be integral to the future of space-based Earth observation and enable us to truly build a health monitor for the planet".

As per the contract, Pixxel will provide NASA and its US government and academic partners with hyperspectral Earth observation data. This will help empower the administration's Earth science research and application activities.

Pixxel hyperspectral can capture data across hundreds of narrow wavelengths. Its datasets



can also unravel granular insights on climate change, agriculture, biodiversity, and resource management, among others.

Building on this momentum, Pixxel is also making significant strides toward launching six satellites shortly. Fireflies -- its 5-metre resolution hyperspectral satellites -- will be the highest-resolution hyperspectral satellites ever launched.

These satellites will capture data across over 250 spectral bands, offering more comprehensive coverage with a 40 km

swath width and a 24-hour revisit frequency anywhere on the planet.

In addition, Pixxel also plans to expand its constellation to 24 satellites to make hyperspectral data commercially. This will make it more broadly available and accessible to stakeholders across industries and governments.

Pixxel has a constellation of the world's highest-resolution hyperspectral imaging satellites that are designed for 24-hour revisits anywhere on Earth.

The satellites can help de-

tect, monitor, and predict critical global phenomena across agriculture, oil and gas, mining, environment, and other sectors in up to 50 times richer detail.

Pixxel has also launched its in-house Earth Observation Studio, Aurora, to make satellite imagery analysis easily accessible.

The company has also raised over \$70 million from Google, Lightspeed, Radical Ventures, Relativity's Jordan Noone, Seraphim Capital, Ryan Johnson, Blume Ventures, Sparta LLC, Accenture, and others. *IANS*



iPhone 16



iPhone 16 produced and launched globally from Indian factories: Ashwini Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: Noting that Apple's latest iPhone 16 is being produced and has been launched globally from Indian factories, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that 'Make in India' initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is driving the creation of iconic products for the world.

Apple on Monday announced iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus, built for Apple Intelligence, "the easy-to-use personal intelligence system that understands personal context to deliver intelligence that is helpful and relevant while protecting user privacy".

This is the first time Apple has assembled its iPhone 16 Pro models outside China, highlighting a

major shift in the tech giant's global production strategy.

"Apple's latest iPhone 16 being produced and launched globally from Indian factories! PM @narendramodi Ji's 'Make in India' initiative is now driving the creation of iconic products for the world," Vaishnaw said in a post on X.

The move underscores Apple's strategic efforts to diver-

sify its manufacturing base and enhance its global supply chain resilience.

According to GSM Arena, Apple's decision to assemble its iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max models in India reflects a broader trend of companies seeking to reduce their dependence on single countries for production. *ANI*

India will soon get big investment from Israel in semi-conductors, says new Israel envoy Reuven Azar

NAVEEN KAPOOR

NEW DELHI: Reuven Azar, the newly appointed Ambassador of Israel to India, revealed that there is "big news" from Israel is expected soon.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, the Israeli envoy said, "We expect big news when it comes to semiconductors in the



Reuven Azar

coming days, we have something in the pipeline".

Israel has hinted at an impending major announcement in the semiconductor sec-

tor, likely from a private Israeli company. While he refused to give specific details, reports suggest that Tower Semiconductor, an Israeli company specializing in manufacturing integrated circuits, is expected to invest billions of dollars in India.

However, no official confirmation has been made regarding the investment till now.

When pressed for more information, Ambassador Azar remarked, "I don't want to put the carriage in front of horses; there are some private sector people that are initiating this, they will be going to announce it, the trend is very clear, we are going to see a lot of movement there and another field we want to promote."

India has been working to create a favorable environment for investments in semiconductor manufacturing as part of its broader ambition to become a global leader in the sector.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that India is on the path to becoming a semiconductor hub. In

pursuit of this goal, India is actively seeking partnerships with several countries, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Germany, in various aspects of semiconductor production.

Several Indian states--Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha--are vying to attract global semiconductor companies by

In addition to potential semiconductor investments, Israel is also seeking to strengthen cooperation with India in the infrastructure sector.

Ambassador Azar shared that Israel is planning to invest USD 35 billion in infrastructure projects, including a new metro system in the Tel Aviv area and a new air-

"India has been working to create a favorable environment for investments in semiconductor manufacturing as part of its broader ambition to become a global leader in the sector"

offering substantial incentives. Some semiconductor facilities are already taking shape in states like Gujarat, Assam, and Maharashtra.

To further bolster these efforts, Uttar Pradesh is set to host the Semicon India event this month, aimed at attracting manufacturers and investors to the state.

port. Israel is looking to Indian infrastructure companies to help build these projects.

"We have incredible defense cooperation, a new sector we want to introduce is we want to attract Indian infrastructure companies, we are going to invest USD 35 billion in infrastructure projects. ANI

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New problem solving therapy may help fight depression

NEW DELHI: US researchers have developed a novel problem-solving therapy that boosts brain functions to relieve symptoms of depression, giving hope to millions worldwide.

Depression is a common mental disorder, which affects an estimated 5 percent of adults globally.

The study led by a team from Stanford Medicine applied problem-solving therapy -- a form of cognitive therapy -- on adults with both depression and obesity. The therapy reduced depression in a

third of the hard-to-treat patient group.

The team targeted 108 adults diagnosed with both major

depression and obesity, a confluence of symptoms that often indicate problems with the cognitive control circuit.

While 59 adults underwent a yearlong program of problem-solving therapy in addition to their usual care, such as medications and visits to a primary care physician, 49 only received usual care.

The participants also underwent fMRI brain scans and filled out questionnaires that assessed their problem-solving ability and depression symptoms.

Among the problem-solving group, 32 percent of participants responded to the therapy -- their symptom severity halved, revealed the study published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Lead author Xue Zhang, a postdoctoral scholar in psychiatry at the varsity called it "a huge improvement." It is because patients with obesity and depression have only a 17 percent response rate for antidepressants.

Brain scans showed that in the group receiving only usual care, a cognitive control circuit that became less active throughout the study correlated with worsening problem-solving ability. *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)

18 India Post

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September 13, 2024

Harassment, disrespect, absent amenities: Women medical staff in Pakistan face same harrowing issues as Indian counterparts

ISLAMABAD: The horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor in the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata has ignited a furor over the working conditions and safety of women medical personnel in India, but the same harrowing issues - leering and groping colleagues, staff, and patients, stalking, inappropriate comments, lack of respect for their capabilities, and a marked lack of dedicated amenities - afflict their Pakistani counterparts also.

An online survey conducted on Dawn.com and its Dawn Images supplement, on their Instagram pages, found that 47 percent of 988 female medical professionals reported feeling unsafe in both government and private hospitals. Of 932 respondents, 47.2 percent said they had experienced harassment while on duty, and 67 percent of 637 respondents said their hospital lacked a safe space to rest.

The sample size of the survey isn't large enough to draw any major conclusions, but it does support what many women medical professionals reported about what it's like to work at hospitals in Pakistan, Dawn Images said in a report.

That may go to explain why of 104,974 women medical graduates residing in Pakistan, 21,146, or around 20, are no longer part of the labor force, as per a report by Pakistan's leading research institution, it said.

Threats to woman doctors and nurses do not come from patients and visitors, but are sometimes internal, from within the hospital itself.

A recent study conducted at a Karachi-based hospital found that nearly 70 percent of female surgeons in Pakistan had experienced harassment in the work-

place. Women doctors and nurses from all four provinces, both in rural areas and in urban centers, shared their stories of harassment, ranging from cat-calls, comments about their bodies, inappropriate jokes, and being touched.



One woman doctor revealed how in the middle of the night she received a message from an unknown number "complimenting my looks". More messages followed, detailing her exact location and describing what she was wearing. The messages became more frequent and she soon discovered they were sent by the head male nurse at the hospital. She did not file a complaint

to her. She initially ignored him, but soon it escalated into deliberate bumps and brushes, and creating situations in which they were alone.

In addition to these challenges, women in the medical field are subjected to invasions of

ity had a common restroom shared between male and female doctors. "There is no separate room for women doctors to rest - only a single space shared by both genders. Male doctors and nurses often enter the room unannounced. Anyone resting in the room could be caught off guard," she said,

One day, when a male colleague was about to enter the room unannounced, she asked him to knock before coming in. Offended by the request, he created a scene, accusing her of doubting his intentions. The situation escalated into an argument, drawing a crowd before consultants and the administration intervened.

Apart from restrooms, there is a more concerning issue of shared washrooms. A general surgeon from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that while they had a designated bathroom for women, male attendants often used it.

Beyond inadequate facilities, female doctors in Pakistan also face rampant gender discrimination. One Islamabad-based doctor revealed that even when she examined a patient and expressed a diagnosis, families wouldn't accept her conclusions until a male doctor confirmed them. "My gender takes precedence over my capabilities as a doctor. It's just a cultural thing," she said with a sigh.

"It doesn't matter if you're a doctor there to serve people, if you're wearing a burqa, a lab coat, socks with shoes, and a mask on your face; if you have a woman's body, you will be leered at, touched, and made to feel uncomfortable," a doctor who served in a Karachi hospital, told Dawn Images. *IANS*

A recent study conducted at a Karachi-based hospital found that nearly 70 percent of female surgeons in Pakistan had experienced harassment in the workplace

against him, as she was told that the management favored him.

Another doctor at a semi-private Lahore hospital reported that a resident doctor would make inappropriate comments

Lack of separate, secure amenities is another problem. A female resident doctor at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Karachi revealed how the facil-

Study finds how oral bacteria can aggravate rheumatoid arthritis

TOKYO: Periodontal disease, which affects the gums and tissues around the teeth, is one of the most common dental disorders globally. Periodontal disease, which is most commonly caused by the growth and deposition of bacterial biofilm around the teeth, can eventually lead to tooth loss if not treated properly.

Periodontal disease, which is most commonly caused by the growth and deposition of bacterial biofilm around the teeth, can eventually lead to tooth loss if not treated properly. Interestingly, the inflammatory effects of periodontal bacteria can extend well beyond the mouth, resulting in systemic consequences. Several decades of clinical research have proven that the periodontal pathogen *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*) is closely related to the onset and worsening of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a serious autoimmune disease that affects joints. However, what goes down at the molecular level remains largely unexplored and unclear.

In a recent study published online on 15 August 2024,

in the International Journal of Oral Science, a research team from Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) in Japan sought to fill this knowledge gap through detailed mechanistic studies in an animal model.

First, the researchers conducted preliminary experiments to confirm whether *A. actinomycetemcomitans* infection influenced arthritis in mice. To this end, they used the collagen antibody-induced arthritis mouse model,



which is a well-established experimental model that mimics several aspects of RA in humans. They found that infection with this specific bacterium led to increased limb swelling, cellular infiltration into the lining of the joints, and higher levels of the inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1b (IL-1b) within the limbs.

Notably, these symptoms of increasing RA can be alleviated by injecting clodronate, a chemical substance that depletes macrophages, a type of immune cell. This showed that macrophages were implicated in exacerbating RA induced by *A. actinomycetemcomitans* infection. ANI

Mpox does not easily spread through air: US CDC

NEW DELHI: Amid the global outbreak of mpox, a US CDC report shows that, unlike Covid-19, the monkeypox virus (MPXV) does not easily spread through the air.

The CDC's latest 'Morbidity and Mortality' weekly report included a study on 113 persons with mpox who travelled on 221 flights during 2021-22.

The results showed that none of the 1,046 passenger contacts got infected.

"Among the 1,046 traveller contacts followed by the US public health agencies, CDC identified no secondary cases," the report said.

The findings suggest that "travelling on a flight with a person with mpox does not appear to constitute an exposure risk or warrant routine contact tracing activities".

However, the CDC recommends that people with mpox infections must isolate and delay travel until they are no longer infectious.

Meanwhile, the CDC also pointed out that irrespective of variants, the findings apply to MPXV and both clade I and clade II mpox spread in the same ways.

Primarily, it spreads via close physical or intimate contact with people infected with mpox lesions and "less often via infectious respiratory secretions and fomites", the CDC said. IANS



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Ajay Devgn leases Mumbai office space for Rs 7 lakh a month

MUMBAI: Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn recently leased out his commercial office space in the bustling Andheri area of Mumbai for a monthly rent of Rs 7 lakh, as per a transaction reviewed by a real-estate portal.

The 'Leave and License' agreement, formalized this month, incurred a stamp duty of Rs 1.12 lakh. Devgn's office is situated in Signature Tower developed by Lotus Developers.

The project is located along the Veera Desai Road in Oshiwara, a prime location in Mumbai's western suburbs. It offers seamless access to major highways, Metro station, and is just a short distance from the international airport, making it a



highly sought-after area for businesses looking for well-connected office space.

The locality's vibrant mix of retail, dining, and entertainment options further elevates its status as a business hub.

A real-estate portal reported that the leased property spans 3,455 sq ft and includes three car parking spaces. The agreement, secured with a Rs 30 lakh deposit, is for a 60-month lease term.

Devgn, along with his actress wife Kajol, is known to own multiple properties within the same project. They are among several Bollywood celebrities, including Amitabh Bachchan, Sara Ali Khan, and Kartik Aaryan, who have also invested in commercial spaces in Signature Tower.

Devgn is one of India's most successful actors, boasting two National Film Awards and the prestigious Padma Shri. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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HYDRAA bulldozers in action again to save lakes in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Stepping up its action to save lakes in and around the city, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Authority (HYDRAA) on Sunday demolished illegal structures at different places

It demolished apartments in the Madhapur area as they were illegally built in the Full Tank Level (FTL) of Sunnam Cheruvu Lake. HYDRAA also demolished villas at Mallampet in Dundigal municipality of Medchal Malkajgiri district on the outskirts of Hyderabad. *IANS*

Ultra-luxury home sales remain strong in 2024, Mumbai dominates market with 84% Share

MUMBAI: Despite rising property prices, the sale of ultra-luxury home, those priced over Rs 40 crore, has continued to thrive in 2024, ANAROCK observed in a recent report.

As per the report, the average ticket price of homes priced above Rs 40 crore has witnessed a 2 percent rise in the last 8 months--from Rs 1,00,208 per sq. ft. in 2023 to Rs 1,02,458 per sq. ft. in August 2024

According to the observation, a total of 25 such homes were sold across Mumbai, Hyderabad, Gurugram, and Bengaluru in the first eight months of the year, generating a collective sales value of approximately Rs 2,443 crore.

In contrast, cities like Pune, Chennai, and Kolkata witnessed no sales in this exclusive price bracket.

Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, noted, "The whole of 2023 saw about 61 deals with a cumulative sales value of approx. Rs 4,456 crore in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Gurugram. With four months remaining in 2024 and the festive quarter from October to December ongoing, we are likely to see more such large ticket-size residential deals happening before the year is through."

Of the 25 homes sold so far this year, 20 were high-rise apartments with a combined value of Rs 1,694 crore, while the remaining five sales consisted of bungalows, cumulatively worth about Rs 748.5 crore.

Mumbai continues to be the most active market for ultra-luxury homes, recording 21 of the 25 sales in 2024, valued at Rs 2,200 crore--an impressive 84 percent share of all deals in this segment. High-net-worth in-



dividuals (HNIs) and ultra-HNIs are drawn to Mumbai despite its status as India's most expensive residential market, purchasing properties for personal use, investment, or both.

"A deeper dive into the data reveals that homes priced above Rs 100 crore have seen a 14 percent price jump in the last eight months alone--from Rs 1,24,697 per sq. ft. at the end of 2023 to Rs 1,41,904 per sq. ft. in 2024 till date. This double-digit

the majority of ultra-luxury home sales, other cities also saw limited activity. Hyderabad recorded two sales in Jubilee Hills, collectively valued at Rs 80 crore. Gurugram in the National Capital Region (NCR) witnessed one sale worth Rs 95 crore, and Bengaluru closed a deal for an ultra-luxury home valued at Rs 67.5 crore.

Interestingly, out of the 25 ultra-luxury deals in 2024, nine were for homes priced over Rs

could set a new record in this high-end segment.

Apartments remained the preferred choice for wealthy buyers, accounting for 20 of the 25 deals. Businessmen made up 80 percent of the total buyers, while senior professionals from various sectors represented 12 percent. Bollywood celebrities and top legal and medical professionals completed the remaining 8 percent.

According to the data, since the pandemic, demand for ultra-luxury homes has surged, leading developers to increase the supply of such high-end properties. Over the last three years--2022, 2023, and 2024--more than 99 ultra-luxury residential deals worth approximately Rs 8,069 crore were finalized in top cities.

In 2022 alone, 13 ultra-luxury homes were sold for a combined value of Rs 1,170 crore. The majority of these sales (11) took place in Mumbai, with the remaining two in Delhi-NCR. Nine of the 13 homes sold that year were priced between Rs 100 crore and Rs 150 crore, all located in Mumbai. *ANI*



price appreciation in this segment even before the year concludes stands testimony to the unrelenting appetite for trophy homes.

While Mumbai accounted for

100 crore, with a combined sales value of Rs 1,534 crore. This contrasts with the 10 large-ticket deals in 2023, which had a total sales value of Rs 1,720 crore. The final four months of 2024

Lucknow building collapse: PM Modi announces Rs 2 lakh each for kin of deceased

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives and Rs 50,000 for the injured in the tragic Lucknow building collapse.

Expressing his condolences, the Prime Minister termed the incident "saddening" and prayed for the recovery of those injured.

"The loss of lives due to a building mishap in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh is saddening. Prayers with those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X.

The incident occurred last Saturday evening when a three-storied building in Transport Nagar, Lucknow, housing, warehouses and a motor workshop, collapsed.

The death toll has reached eight, with the recovery of three more bodies from the debris the next day.

Police reports indicate that the building was constructed around four years ago, and some ongoing construction work may have contributed to the collapse.

Most of the victims were working on the ground floor at the time of the incident, which occurred around 4.45 p.m. Officials said the building had a motor workshop and

warehouse on the ground floor, a medical warehouse on the first floor, and a cutlery warehouse on the second floor.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed district officials to accelerate relief efforts and ensure that those injured receive prompt medical care.

"Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has taken cogni-



zance of the building collapse incident in Transport Nagar, Lucknow," the Chief Minister's Office wrote on X.

"The Chief Minister has directed the district administration officials, SDRF, and NDRF teams to reach the site and expedite the relief work, ensuring that the injured are immediately taken to the hospital for proper treatment. He also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured," the statement added. *IANS*

Majority of households in Australia's Queensland living below basic standards: Report

SYDNEY: Over half of households in the Australian state of Queensland are struggling to afford food bills and petrol, a recent report found.

The Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS), the peak body for the state's social service sector, published its 2024 Living Affordability Report, revealing that 60 percent of households are living below basic standards, Xinhua news agency reported.

It found that Queensland parents are increasingly skipping meals to ensure their children are fed, can not afford medication and are replacing nutritious food with cheaper, less healthy options.

"Households are neglecting their health needs due to out-of-pocket costs or are enduring extreme financial hardship to cover essential medical expenses," the report said. "Concerningly people are experiencing higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression due to financial stress."

Queensland is Australia's third-largest state with a population of 5.5 million as of the end of 2023, representing 20.4 percent of the national population.

The report said that parents are unable to afford school camps and extracurricular activities for their children. QCOSS modelling shows that an average single working parent in Queensland has a weekly budget deficit of 156.93 Australian dollars (\$104.7). For an average couple with two children, it estimated a weekly budget deficit of 116.06 Australian dollars (\$77.5). *IANS*

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Dinesh's Culinary Odyssey: From Journalism to a Fusion Empire

The journey from journalism to hospitality is an unusual one, yet for Dinesh, it has been a transformative voyage marked by remarkable success and entrepreneurial zeal. His path, which began in the vibrant landscapes of Nepal and extended through Thailand and California, is a testament to how passion and ambition can forge new realities.

Initially armed with a degree in journalism, Dinesh's career took an unexpected turn when he discovered his latent passion for the culinary arts. It was in Thailand where his dream began to materialize. Immersed in both kitchen and dining operations at a local restaurant, he acquired invaluable experience that laid the foundation for his future endeavors. This period was not merely a stepping stone but a crucible where Dinesh honed his skills and nurtured his aspirations.

Seeking broader horizons, Dinesh relocated to California, where he further refined his expertise by working in several esteemed restaurants. The turning point in his career came in 2014 with the launch of Nanking Indo-Chinese Restaurant.

This venture marked the beginning of a successful trajectory, cementing his reputation in the competitive world of dining. The blend of Indian and Chinese flavors offered at Nanking struck a chord with patrons, propelling Dinesh into the limelight of the

restaurant industry. The success of Nanking paved the way for further ventures, including an ambitious new project in San Diego. This forthcoming high-tech restaurant, set to debut with a grand opening in late October, promises to redefine dining experiences. With cutting-edge technology featuring robots and advanced service systems, this establishment represents a bold leap into the future of hospitality.

In addition to his foray into Indo-Chinese cuisine, Dinesh has diversified his portfolio with two Cajun seafood restaurants, The Boil Daddy, located in Corona and downtown LA. These establishments reflect his versatility and adaptability, catering to a wide array of culinary preferences while maintaining high standards of quality and service.

Dinesh's journey underscores the dynamic nature of the hospitality industry, where passion and innovation intersect to create new opportunities. His success story is a testament to the power of following one's passion and continuously striving for excellence. As he continues to expand his culinary empire, Dinesh remains a compelling figure in the evolving landscape of global gastronomy.

In the competitive realm of hospitality, Dinesh's commitment

to delivering exceptional dining experiences stands as a testament to his passion and perfectionism. "My aim is to provide the best possible experience for my customers," Dinesh asserts, reflecting his dedication to excellence. His meticulous attention to detail ensures that no effort is spared in offering patrons not just a meal, but a memorable dining experience.

At Nanking, the focus is on both quality and affordability. The restaurant's menu, celebrated for its rich blend of flavors, features an array of signature dishes that cater to diverse tastes. From the classic Chinese fried rice and noodles to the bold Manchurian balls and Schwan noodles, each dish is crafted with care. The offerings extend to Tandoori chicken, chili chicken, and Hyderabad dum goat, along with a selection of seafood delicacies, ensuring a comprehensive Indo-Chinese culinary experience.

Nanking is not just about food; it is an immersive experience designed to delight all the senses. Every Sunday, the restaurant hosts a sumptuous Indo-Chinese lunch buffet that has become a local favorite. Complementing the diverse menu is live entertainment featuring popular Bollywood songs performed by prominent Los Angeles artists. This combination of

culinary excellence and engaging entertainment makes Nanking a standout destination. Dinesh's ambition, however, extends beyond his current success. With a vision to expand, he plans to introduce more restaurants and franchises across Southern California, aiming to bring his unique Indo-Chinese fusion to an even wider audience.

For those interested in catering services or hosting events, Dinesh offers personalized solutions. He can be reached at 562-650-5267 or 562-924-4567 to discuss catering needs and party arrangements. In a landscape where dining options are plentiful, Nanking's blend of quality, affordability, and entertainment sets it apart.

Dinesh's unwavering dedication and vision for growth reflect a dynamic approach to hospitality that continues to capture the imaginations.

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■ Desi News

Akshay Kumar Announces New Film 'Bhooth Bangla'

India Post News Service

MUMBAI: Megastar Akshay Kumar has announced his latest film, Bhooth Bangla, on his 57th birthday.

The announcement has sparked excitement across social media, marking a reunion between Kumar and acclaimed director Priyadarshan after a gap of 14 years.

Known for their successful collaborations on films like Hera Pheri, Garam Masala, and Bhool Bhulaiyaa, this project promises to be another exciting venture for the duo.

Akshay Kumar gave fans the first glimpse of the horror-comedy film. The teaser shows Kumar sipping on a glass of milk, while a black cat rides on his shoulders-setting the tone for the eerie yet humorous ride that Bhooth Bangla promises to deliver.

Akshay Kumar and Priyadarshan's professional association has a long and celebrated history, with their earlier films becoming beloved classics. Bhooth Bangla is expected to carry forward that legacy, blending horror and comedy in a way that only this duo can.

The film is directed by Priyadarshan and produced by Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and Akshay Kumar's Cape of Good Films.

It is slated for a 2025 release, with more details expected in the coming months.

All eyes on AAPI voters in swing States

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

As the U.S. presidential election approaches, the importance of Asian and Pacific Islander voters has attracted much attention. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing voter electorate.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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www.indiapost.com

September 13, 2024



IALA Celebrates India's 78th Independence Day in San Fernando Valley

India Post News Service

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA: On August 24th, the Hjelte Sports Center in Encino was transformed into a vibrant showcase of Indian culture as thousands gathered to celebrate India's 78th Independence Day. The event, organized by the India Association of Los Angeles (IALA), also commemorated the organization's 25th anniversary, marking a silver jubilee of uniting the community through heritage and cultural festivities.

The celebration dubbed a "mini India," featured an impressive display of local talent representing the diverse cultures of India. Attendees enjoyed an array of performances that reflected India's rich heritage through music, dance and art.

Several esteemed guests graced the event, including Deputy Consul General of India Shri Rakesh Adlakha, Councilman John Lee, LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson, and a representative from Congressman Brad Sherman's office. Community leaders also showed their support.

IALA Chairman Kankansinh Zala praised India's remarkable progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Zala expressed pride in the country's growth and global influence. IALA President Sunil Agrawal welcomed the crowd, celebrating the achievements of Indian Americans and their impactful contributions across various sectors in the U.S. He also extended heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, performers, vendors, and sponsors who made the grand fair possible.

In a special moment, a representative from Congressman Brad Sherman's office presented the U.S. flag to IALA President



Sunil Agrawal and Chairman Kankansinh Zala, along with a certificate stating that the flag had been flown over Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Councilmember John Lee commended IALA for creating a space where people could experience the multifaceted richness of Indian culture, from arts and entertainment to Indian cuisine.

Deputy Consul General Shri Rakesh Adlakha highlighted the

importance of cultural events in fostering international relationships.

The event featured a dazzling cultural show curated by Vice Presidents of Culture Hezal Shah and Falguni Zala, along with their team. Attendees were mesmerized by performances including classical Kathak, energetic Bhangra, fusion dances, and Bollywood numbers. Highlights included performances by Kathak Kala Academy, Ghungru,

studded highlight to the event. Wadali's captivating voice and powerful performances energized the crowd, drawing cheers and applause.

With over 60 booths, the fair offered something for everyone. From fashion and food to nonprofit organizations, the booths, managed by Parmesh Shah and Manmohan Chopra, attracted large crowds who shopped, ate, and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

The India Pavilion, managed by Nisha Rawal, Nalini and Rekha Khandelwal, was a popular attraction for children, providing hands-on experiences with Indian arts and crafts and helping them connect with their cultural roots.

A key highlight of the day was the free health fair, organized by Vice President of Health Dr. Bama Sridhar. Thousands of visitors took advantage of free health check-ups and received guidance on diet and nutrition. The health fair was a tremendous success,



strength of the Indian American community and their significant role in strengthening the bonds between India and the U.S. His presence underscored the impor-

Rhythm, and Dhol Tasha, showcasing the talents of children, adults, and professionals. A special performance by renowned singer Yash Wadali added a star-

thanks to the efforts of Mohinder Kaur, numerous doctors, and volunteers.

Cont'd on page 28

South Asian Small Businesses in Little Bangladesh face challenges and seek support

Following up on its earlier report on the status of South Asian small businesses in Little India in Artesia, South Asian Network produced another market research report on the status of small businesses in Little Bangladesh. The purpose of these reports is to lift up the challenges and opportunities for our community's small businesses. It also calls on the area banks, community developing funding institutions, policy makers and the municipal governments to allocate appropriate resources to help small businesses thrive.

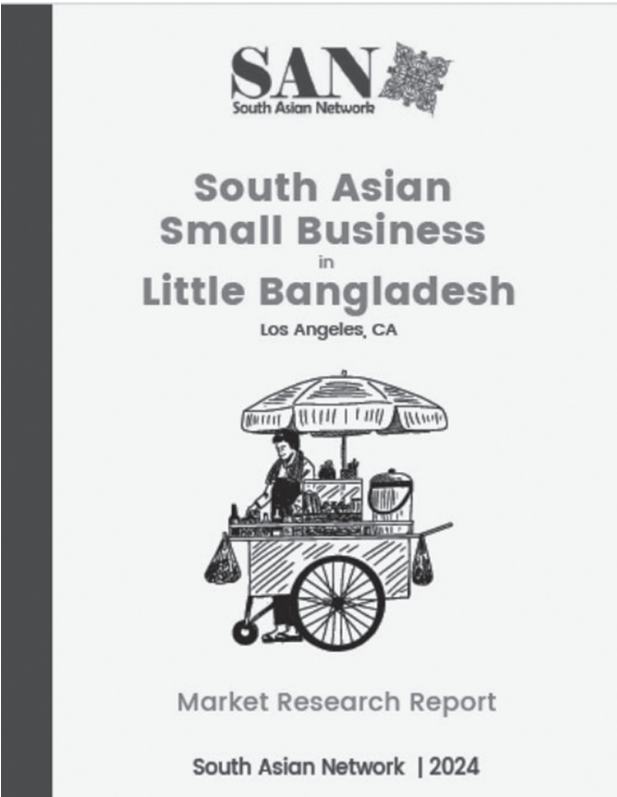
We invite business owners/operators and entrepreneurs to take a look at these reports and also engage with SAN to share their perspectives. SAN's staff will also be happy to help our community businesses to access capital, develop business plans and provide any technical support to seek loans/grants, etc.

Key Findings:

Diverse Demographics: The majority of small business owners in Little Bangladesh are of Bangladeshi ethnicity (88%), with a mix of Indian, Iranian, Latinx, and Nepali owners as well.

Economic Struggles: A significant portion of these businesses, many of which are sole proprietorships or family-owned, struggle with cash flow and increasing revenue without incurring debt. High-interest rates and burdensome loan requirements are major obstacles to securing financial support.

Language Barriers: The report reveals that 92% of



business owners prefer to conduct business in Bangla, highlighting the need for in-language support and resources.

Community Support Needs: Business owners express a strong desire for increased access to financial

resources and assistance with financial planning. Many seek loans for business expansion, but face difficulties due to high interest rates and stringent loan requirements.

SAN's Recommendations:

Community Reinvestment: The report recommends investing in community development initiatives, such as the South Asian Small Business Program (SABZ), to provide ongoing support to economically disadvantaged South Asian small businesses in Little Bangladesh.

Language Access: It also suggests enhancing language access by providing in-language resources on financial planning, business management, and accessing capital, which are essential for these small business owners to thrive.

The South Asian small business community in Little Bangladesh is vital to the local economy and cultural fabric of Los Angeles. However, without targeted support and resources, these businesses may continue to face financial instability. SAN's SABZ program represents a crucial step towards addressing these needs and ensuring the long-term success of South Asian small businesses in the area.

To address the challenges listed above, South Asian Network is launching a South Asian specific Small Business Support Program (SABZ), that will provide access to capital, technical assistance, and business training specifically tailored to small businesses & entrepreneurs and help them sustain and grow their ventures.

Celebrating Independence Day in Chicagoland

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: A group of patriotic nationalists gathered to celebrate India's Independence Day under the banner of *Bollywood-Free Independence Day*, setting a meaningful precedent for future celebrations.

Though modest in scale, the event was historic, being the first of its kind under this banner, marking the beginning of a new trend where Independence Day is observed with the reverence and respect it truly deserves.

This solemn day is dedicated to honoring the millions of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation. It is a time for tribute, reflection, and gratitude, not for Bollywood glitz or entertainment.

While there are countless other days to dance and celebrate, Independence Day should be reserved for remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Although the event focused on quality over quantity, the turnout exceeded expectations, demonstrating the growing sentiment for a more meaningful commemoration.

In addition to celebrating the nation's freedom, the group stood in solidarity with non-Muslim minorities, particularly Hindus in Bangladesh, who continue to face persecution at the hands of extremist factions.

These atrocities are strongly condemned pledging unwavering support to those enduring such injustices.

Hindus congratulate LDS Church president on his 100th birthday

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: In a remarkable interfaith gesture, Hindus have congratulated Dr. Russell M. Nelson, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on his upcoming 100th birthday on September nine.

Rajan Zed, a Hindu community activist, wished Nelson grace, health and good times ahead. Nelson's life has been an inspiration for many and we pray that he be blessed with peace, love and joy; he adds.

Zed, President of Universal Society of Hinduism, further said that Nelson, a world-renowned awards-winning heart surgeon and author of many publications; is known for his selflessly caring and serving others, kindness, compassion; and for embodying God's love.

Nelson took the Church to the next higher level and introduced various major changes during his presidency, Rajan Zed noted.



Muslim leaders nationwide unite during DNC Week: A unified stand in a polarized election

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Close to 400 Muslim leaders and activists from more than 20 states gathered in downtown Chicago for the American Muslim Leaders/Activists Networking Dinner during DNC Week. The event highlighted the unity and resilience of the American Muslim community amid a divisive election season.

Attendees, representing 1.6 million American Muslim voters, collaborated on advocacy, civil rights, media, and grassroots organizing, addressing both polarization

All eyes on AAPI voters in swing States

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

As the U.S. presidential election approaches, the importance of Asian and Pacific Islander voters has attracted much attention. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing voter electorate. More than 15 million AANHPIs will be eligible to vote on Election Day Nov. 5, including many first-time voters. Speakers at the EMS briefing on Sep 6 discussed mobilization and Get Out the Vote efforts, particularly in battleground states, where AANHPIs could constitute the margin of victory.

Shekar Narasimhan, Founder and Chairman of the AAPI Victory Fund, said currently, there are 17.5 million Asian and Pacific Islander voters in the United States. Among the Asian and Pacific Islander voters in Michigan, the growth of South Asian voters is particularly large. Asian-Pacific American voters are a key force affecting election results, especially in states including Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and seven swing states including North Carolina.

Narasimhan said that many election activities are conducted online, but some Asian voters are unable to successfully participate in online election activities due to language barriers and lack of information. Therefore, he emphasized that candidates must go deep into the Asian community, communicate directly with voters, and understand issues they care about, such as

Shekar Narasimhan, Founder and Chairman of the AAPI Victory Fund, said currently, there are 17.5 million Asian and Pacific Islander voters in the United States. Among the Asian and Pacific Islander voters in Michigan, the growth of South Asian voters is particularly large

small business development, immigration policy, etc.

Mohan Seshadri, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, said that this year they will once again carry out the largest contact program with Asian American voters in the country. We will knock on 500,000 doors, send one million pieces of mail and make five million

phone calls in 22 languages to reach every member of our community wherever they are; and making sure they not only know how to vote in this critical election but also which candidates across the ballot are really going to listen and fight for our communities. There is real power that can be built by making sure that we are mobilizing our community in the 22 languages

that our people speak across Pennsylvania for these races as well.

Christine Chen, co-Founder and Executive Director of APIAVote, discussed some of the key findings from the Asian-American Voter Survey, pointing out that the number of voting registrations in the Asian community continues to increase. In the 2020 presidential election, the turnout

rate of Asian voters reached 60%, and 26% of them voted for the first time. She added that the turnout of Asian voters can even determine the final election results. Taking Georgia as an example, in the 2020 election, Biden won the state with a slim margin of 1,200 votes, while 26% of Asian voters were the influence of this group of 9,000 people. She also pointed out that with the popularization of publicity and education, 90% of Asian and Pacific American voters are ready to vote this year.

Dr. Tung Nguyen, President of PIVOT, The Progressive Vietnamese American Organization, said the community's voting population has historically been the most conservative among API voters. However, he said PIVOT has worked very hard against rampant misinformation in its communities, both in English and Vietnamese, the negative content of which is mostly spread on YouTube. We created a project called Fact check, which is a non-partisan information service that has really served as a model for bilingual work against misinformation in Asian American communities.

CG Highlights Indian Unity in its Immense Diversity

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Consulate General of India highlighted the theme of unity in diversity and cultural pride with a vibrant display of performances from various cultural troupes in the US Midwest during its annual flagship event Kala Utsav 2024, held at the Yellow Box Theatre in Naperville, a Chicago suburb.

The event attracted nearly 400 attendees.

The program commenced with the

lighting of a traditional lamp by Consul General Somnath Ghosh, accompanied by Ward 10 Alderwoman Ms. Shweta Baid. In his opening remarks, CG Ghosh expressed gratitude to dignitaries, members of the diplomatic community, Indian American organizations, friends of India and ethnic media groups. He emphasized the Consulate's commitment to supporting and promoting Indian languages, cultures, and arts at universities and institutions where there is interest.

While acknowledging that Kala Utsav alone is not enough, he noted that it aims to spotlight emerging youth and artists and that the Consulate plans to host more events and collaborate with various organizations to strengthen Indian-American cultural ties.

Despite India's vast diversity in languages, cultures, and religions, he underscored that its core strength lies in its unity

Rhymes Chicago; Bharatanatyam dance by Nrithya Sangeeth; Margam Kali - Kerala Christian Traditional Dance by St. Louis Malayalee Association; Bharatanatyam fusion dance by Kalapadma Dance Academy; Odissi Classical by Aikyam ODC Chicago; Abhang - Abeer Gulal Udhalit Rang (Devotional) by Maharashtra Mandal Chicago; Kathak dance by Nritya Natya Academy Kathak Institute; Assamese Folk

While acknowledging that Kala Utsav alone is not enough, he noted that it aims to spotlight emerging youth and artists and that the Consulate plans to host more events and collaborate with various organizations to strengthen Indian-American cultural ties

in diversity. Alderwoman Ms. Shweta Baid also shared a few words during the event.

The performances included: Kathak dance by Sargam Kathak School; Laavni Folk dance by Team Avishkar; Mohiniyattam classical dance by Bharathanjali School of Dance; Rajasthani Folk Dance by American Rajasthani Association; Kuchipudi by Aananda Dance Theater; Bhangra recital by Bhangra

Dance by Borluit Chicago Bihu Husori Dol; Haryanvi Folk dance by Bolly Bhangra; Garba Raas by Nritya Rang. Ms. Prachi Jaitly was the emcee at the event.

All the performing artistes were given certificates in appreciation of their performances. Some members of the Indian diaspora i.e. Rakesh Malhotra, Chetan Notaria sponsored refreshments and Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan helped in design of fliers.

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TN Chief Minister's appeal to US Tamilians

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: in an event that marked a significant moment for the Tamil diaspora, over 4500 Tamils from across the United States gathered at the Rosemont Convention Centre, Chicago, to attend the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu's diaspora meeting, organized by the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board.

Tamils travelled from far and wide to participate in this landmark occasion, which was a celebration of Tamil identity, unity, and progress under the Chief Minister's leadership.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, Chairman of the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board, who emphasized the enduring connection between Tamil Nadu and the Tamil diaspora worldwide.

He acknowledged the significant contributions of the Tamil community in America to Tamil Nadu's development and cultural



Chief Minister delivered a stirring address, reflect in on his governance in Tamil Nadu and his broader vision for the Tamil diaspora worldwide. He stated, "My work does not stop at the borders of Tamil Nadu. I work for the prosperity and well-being of

global Tamil community. Several prominent members of the diaspora and officials were in attendance, including Mr. Caldwell Velnambi, board member for North America, and representatives from the Chicago Tamil Sangam. Mr. Veera and Shiva also played vital roles in organizing the event. Senior officials from Tamil Nadu, including Mr. Umanath, Secretary to the Chief Minister, shree Vishnu, Managing Director of Guidance, and Shree Roy, Secretary of the Industries Department, joined the gathering, underscoring the state's commitment to fostering global Tamil ties. Senior police officers from Tamil Nadu ensured the event's security and smooth execution.

to the members of the diaspora. Rajaa also conveyed his gratitude to FeTNA and all the Tamil associations in the U.S. for their overwhelming support, stating, "This event is a true reflection of the unity and strength of the Tamil diaspora, and we look forward to

continuing this journey together." He concluded by thanking everyone who travelled from across the country to make the event a grand success and reaffirmed the state's commitment to supporting the global Tamil community.



"Our shared heritage and collective strength will drive the future prosperity of Tamils everywhere. The Chief Minister's vision for inclusive growth is echoed in the commitment and pride that our diaspora continues to demonstrate"

preservation, stating, "Our shared heritage and collective strength will drive the future prosperity of Tamils everywhere. The Chief Minister's vision for inclusive growth is echoed in the commitment and pride that our diaspora continues to demonstrate."

every Tamil across the world, be it in Tamil Nadu or here in the United States. Together, we are building a future where Tamil identity is celebrated and strengthened, globally."

His remarks highlighted the inclusive nature of his leadership and the strides made under his rule, both in the state and for the

The Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) was represented in full form, demonstrating the solidarity and enthusiasm of the Tamil diaspora. Vote of Thanks proposed by Minister for Industries T.R.B. Rajaa, Minister for Industries, expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his presence and inspiring speech. He also thanked Karthikeya Sivasenapathy for his leadership in organizing the event and acknowledged the unwavering support of the Tamil diaspora. "This gathering of over 5500 Tamils from across the U.S. is a proud moment for all of us," he said. "I extend my deepest appreciation



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Narkar Health Foundation proudly presents: "Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan Concert"

Get ready for a mesmerizing musical extravaganza as the legendary Udit Narayan Jha, his supremely talented son Aditya Narayan Jha, and the enchanting voice of Udit's wife, Deepa Narayan Jha, come together for an unforgettable night of melodies, harmonies, and rhythmic bliss. This captivating event is set to take place at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center in Cerritos, offering a musical experience like no other.

Udit Narayan Jha is a true icon of the music industry, with a career spanning over four decades. His soulful voice has graced the soundtracks of countless blockbuster films in multiple languages, earning him numerous awards and a place in the hearts of millions worldwide.

Aditya Narayan Jha, following in the illustrious footsteps

Udit Narayan Jha is a true icon of the music industry, with a career spanning over four decades. His soulful voice has graced the soundtracks of countless blockbuster films in multiple languages

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of his father, has established himself as a multifaceted talent. As a singer, actor, and popular television host, Aditya brings an energetic and dynamic presence to every performance, connecting with audiences across generations.

Completing this incredible trio is Deepa Narayan Jha, Udit's talented wife, whose melodious voice adds a special charm to the concert. Her duets with Udit Narayan are especially beloved, showcasing their beautiful synergy and mutual admiration.

Backed by live bands, the "Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan Concert" promises to deliver electrifying performances. Fans can expect a wide repertoire of hit songs, classic melodies, and new favorites-all delivered with the impeccable talent and emotional depth that the Narayan family is renowned for.

Prepare to be swept away by the magic of music as these three remarkable artists come together for a night that promises to be one of the most memorable musical events in Southern California. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to the charm of the Narayan family, this concert is a must-attend for anyone who appreciates great music and captivating live performances.

To ensure the safety of all guests, we ask that attendees come prepared to use contactless forms of payment throughout the event.

IALA Celebrates India's 78th Independence Day in San Fernando Valley

Cont'd from page 24

An appreciation ceremony, emceed by IALA Board Members Raman Chadha and Dhara Patel, saw Deputy Consul General Adlakha presenting plaques to the event's major sponsors. Honorees included Kanaksinh and Falguni Zala, Dr. Kalpesh and Dhara Patel, Wallis Bank, SBI Bank, Sanjay Shah, and Iqbal Samra.

LAUSD director Scott Schmerelson was honored for his outstanding contributions to education and children. Yash Wadali was also honored with IALA's prestigious annual award for his contributions to the arts.

The day also saw the release of IALA's annual magazine, featuring a cover story dedicated to the success of Indian Americans and their significant contributions to America's progress.

The grand fair was an unforgettable success, thoroughly enjoyed by thousands who marveled at the displays of talent, culture, and community spirit. As IALA continues its tradition of organizing this annual fair, it remains a pillar of cultural unity and pride for Indian Americans in the San Fernando Valley.

IALA is comprised of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, which is elected annually. A large volunteer base has helped deliver the grand India fair year after year since 2000. IALA can be contacted at ialasfv@gmail.com.



South Asian Network standing against Gender-Based Violence

LEENA MUMTAZ

ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA: On August 21st, 2024, the South Asian Network (SAN) and the South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency (SAHARA) held a candle-light vigil and protest in solidarity with the women of India currently advocating for their right to safety and justice. This comes after the tragic case regarding Moumita Debnath, a second-year post-graduate trainee doctor in Kolkata. She was found murdered in a seminar hall on the college campus. An autopsy revealed that she had been the victim of gang rape and subsequently killed. This tragic event has ignited widespread outrage and led to nationwide protests, calling for a comprehensive investigation and raising serious concerns about the safety of women and medical professionals in India.

The march began on Pioneer Blvd, characterized by roaring chants, supporters and staff waving posters with "Reclaim the Night", and acknowledgment by bypassing car horns in support. At the intersection of Pioneer Blvd. and 186th, representatives from SAN and SAHARA spoke about the malaise of rape culture & safety of women, throughout South Asia and in other parts of the world. The march concluded at the SAN office with a healing circle hosted by Mahtab Javed Siddiqui, SAN's Mental Health Program Manager.

"Protesting in Los Angeles shows our commitment to global solidarity and standing up against injustice, no matter where it happens. It reflects our belief in transformative justice, where we focus on addressing harm by challenging systems of oppression. By supporting Moumita we are part of a larger movement, to reimagine justice, and create a world, where dignity and equity prevail for women everywhere." -Sachini Rajapaksa, SAN's Program Coordinator, Gender-Based Violence.

Gender-based violence is a global crisis within South Asian culture. It is deeply entrenched within our social structures, and the stigma of being a victim can exacerbate this suffering. From the education system, and traditional gender roles, to patriarchal views, women are depicted as passive objects of desire whose role is to serve the needs of men. This societal stigma is compounded by systemic failures, from under-reported cases to inadequate police response, and inefficient legal processes, which often leave victims feeling powerless. The belief that sexual



violence is a private matter rather than a public issue is what contributes to the lack of accountability and fuels the fear of shame.

As we witness solidarity protests worldwide, it is crucial to understand how these movements aim to illuminate the struggle in India and underscore the universal demand for justice and reform. The "Reclaim

lifetime. As an organization that works to end sexual violence within our community here in LA, protesting in solidarity for Moumita Debnath is our way of supporting the victims who fear coming forward with their stories.

South Asian Network is a 34-year-old organization based in Artesia, CA. The AWAZ (Voices Against Violence) Unit

handles cases including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual abuse, digital abuse,

stalking, human trafficking, and elder abuse. Recognizing and reaching out for assistance, as a survivor of abuse can be very difficult, and SAN would like to encourage any survivors to allow us to be a safe space in helping navigate a sensitive situation. Contact SAN at 562-403-0488, saninfo@southasiannetwork.org, or visit our website at

www.southasiannetwork.org

SAHARA - For well over 33 years, SAHARA serves Survivors of all forms of abuse within the South Asian community and beyond. At SAHARA, we firmly believe that every human being regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, deserves to live a life of dignity and respect. The SAHARA family is committed to serving the growing number of South Asians in Southern California by providing them with services, support, skill development, resources, information, and culturally sensitive and multilingual assistance that they need.

Our services are available to all of the Southern California community; however our target population is the most vulnerable and marginalized South Asian community members, which include people from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and more. Contact SAHARA at 562-402-4132, info@saharacares.org, or visit our website at www.saharacares.org



The Night" and "MeToo" movements occur in cities worldwide and are constant reminders of the struggles women face every day. According to a study by the CDC from 2017, of API women, 23% experienced some form of contact sexual violence, 10% experienced completed or attempted rape, and 21% had non-contact unwanted sexual experiences during their



Indra Nooyi to deliver keynote address at ITServe's Synergy 2024

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: "Indra Nooyi will be the Special Guest and deliver the keynote address during Synergy 2024, which will be held at the electric city of Las Vegas, at the Caesars Palace, the legendary hotspot where fortunes favor the BOLD on October 29-30, 2024," Suresh Potluri, Director of Synergy 2024 announced.

Synergy is ITServe Alliance's flagship Annual Conference, which began in 2015 with the objective of providing business owners, entrepreneurs, and executives with strategies and solutions that address the unique needs of the IT Solution & Services Industry.

"In addition, with an esteemed panel of keynote speakers, industry experts, and thought leaders, who will share their insights and best practices on a diverse range of topics, Synergy 2024 will focus on developing strategic relationships with our partner organizations, sponsors, and supporters, to work for a better technology environment by building greater understanding," Potluri added.

Indra Nooyi, former PepsiCo CEO stepped down after a 24-year career with the company. Born in India, Nooyi was one of a handful of people of color to run an S&P 500 company.

"Synergy 2024 is a unique venue for the collision of brilliance, a networking supernova, and a tech safari all rolled into one," said Amar Varada, ITServe's Governing Board Chair. "As you are aware, ITServe Alliance's Synergy is the only one-of-a-kind conference delivering innovative strategies, unique insights, and proven tactics for success, exclusively for IT service companies and individuals."

With Panel Discussions that are vital to the ITServe members, who are entrepre-

neurs, Synergy 2024 will be packed with sessions on Immigration, CIO/CTO, Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A), Financial, Startup Cube, and PAC.

Jagadeesh Mosali, National President of ITServe Alliance said, "ITServe Alliance's Synergy 2024 will offer to its over 3,000 participants from across the nation, innovative strategies, unique insights, and proven tactics for success, exclusively for IT service companies and individuals. Synergy will focus on developing strategic relationships with our



Indra Nooyi

partner organizations, sponsors, and supporters to work for a better technology environment by building greater understanding."

With the theme, "Join, Collaborate, Accelerate" ITServe is working to streamline the Synergy Conference process, increase the brand value of Synergy, and promote diversity to establish it as a recognized America's biggest IT Staffing conference by mainstream media similar to SIA, HR World, Inc 5000.

According to Anju Vallabhaneni, President-Elect of ITServe, "Synergy offers a

the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the world of IT Staffing and Technology.

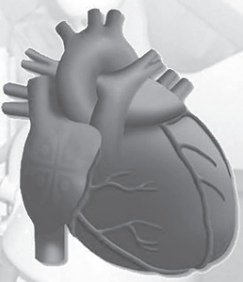
Since 2015, Synergy has grown from a one-day conference and banquet event to two full days of speakers, panels, and breakout sessions. "What began in Dallas, TX, has now traveled to Las Vegas, continuing to grow. Synergy continues to add prominent speakers, and valuable sponsorships, and help grow a community network of industry professionals across the country, said Sateesh Nagilla, Treasurer of ITServe.

Participants will get to network with peers, learn from experts, and discover new and exciting developments in IT. Don't miss the chance to hear from inspiring speakers who will show us how to conquer the upcoming challenges and opportunities in information technology. Come, join us and be part of our journey. Let us be your voice when it comes to Information Technology.

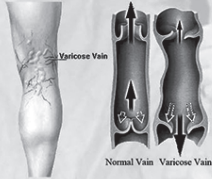
ITServe Alliance's Synergy is the only one-of-a-kind conference delivering innovative strategies, unique insights, and proven tactics for success, exclusively for IT service companies and individuals. It is a collision of brilliance, a networking supernova, and a tech safari all rolled into one.

Founded in 2010, ITServe Alliance is the largest association of Information Technology Services organizations functioning across the United States.

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unique opportunity for IT companies and individuals in the industry to hear from renowned guest speakers and thought leaders from across the country.

As per the organizers, Synergy 2024 will provide a platform for 3,000+ CXOs from hundreds of multi-national companies to come together to hear industry leaders speak, engage in discussions with lawmakers, and participate in interactive breakout sessions, deliberate on

Over the years, ITServe Alliance has established a name for itself as the center point of information for its members, covering various topics ranging from immigration, technology, economy, and much more. ITServe Alliance now has 21 Chapters in several states across the United States, bringing the Synergy Conference to every part of this innovation country. For more information, please visit: www.itserve.org

IIFA Festival 2024 kicks off with a spectacular showcase of stardom at the official IIFA India press conference in Mumbai

IIFA FESTIVAL 2024: A Spectacular Showcase Of Indian Cinema's Best - Bringing Together Superstars Across Five Iconic Industries

A Historic Celebration of Cinematic Excellence!

IIFA FESTIVAL DATES |September 27th -29th, 2024, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

Friday 27th September | IIFA Utsavam 2024- Celebrating the four vibrant South Indian film industries- Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada film industries

IIFA Utsavam 2024 Hosts:

Telugu Hosts: Rana Dagubatti and Teja Sajja

Kannada Hosts: Akul Balaji and Vijay Raghavendra

Tamil Hosts: Sathish and Diya Menon

Malayalam Host: Sudev Nair and Pearle Maaney

IIFA Utsavam 2024 Performers:

Prabhu Deva |Rockstar DSP | Shane Nigam |Raashii Khanna | Pragya Jaiswal | Malashri | Aradhana Ram | Regina Cassandra

IIFA Utsavam 2024 Nominations: <https://www.iifa.com/news/utsavam-news-details/iifa-utsavam-2024-unveils-nominations-honoring-the-diversity-of-south-indian-cinema->

Saturday 28th September | IIFA Awards

IIFA Awards Hosts: Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar & Vicky Kaushal

IIFA Awards Performers: Rekha, Shahid Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, Kriti Sanon, Janhvi Kapoor

IIFA AWARDS 2024 Nominations: <https://www.iifa.com/news/news-details/iifa--awards-announces-its-highly-anticipated-2024-nominations->

Sunday 29th September | IIFA Rocks | By Invitation Only

IIFA Rocks Hosts: Siddhant Chaturvedi and Abhishek Banerjee

IIFA Rocks Performers: Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Honey Singh

IIFA Festival 2024 tickets

UTSAVAM LIVE: <https://www.etihadarena.ae/en/event-booking/iifa-utsavam>

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<https://abu-dhabi.platinumlist.net/event-tickets/94209/iifa-rocks-2024-at-etihad-arena-abu-dhabi>

10th September 2024: 10th September 2024: Under the esteemed patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence, the world's biggest celebration of Indian cinema-the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards-triumphantly returns for an unprecedented third showcase to Yas Island Abu Dhabi, the leading leisure and entertainment destination from September 27th-29th 2024 at the iconic Etihad Arena. The highly anticipated IIFA Festival is held in partnership with the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu

Dhabi, and Miral, the leading creator of immersive destinations and experiences in Abu Dhabi.

of IIFA Rocks 2024. Also in attendance at the press conference was Telugu and Hindi cinema's superstar Rana Daggubati. Heralding an extraordinary journey over 24 glorious years, IIFA2024 is set to bring together the finest in Indian cinema in a breath-taking display of brilliance across five iconic industries. The three-day extravaganza is all set to showcase the rich diversity of Indian cinema by bringing together the glamour of the IIFA Awards with the vibrant South Indian cinema through the IIFA Utsavam Awards (Celebrating Cinema of the South). Set to take place from September 27th to 29th, 2024, at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the festivities will kick start on Friday, 27th September, with IIFA Utsavam Awards, a grand celebration of the four vibrant South Indian film indus-

tries. The excitement continues on Saturday, 28th September, with the prestigious IIFA Awards. The festival concludes on Sunday, 29th September, with the exclusive, IIFA Rocks. The 24th Edition of IIFA promises to be a magnificent celebration of cinematic excellence, featuring a stellar array of talent and industry luminaries, from the brilliance of Hindi cinema to the dynamic South Indian film industry, OTT platforms, global stars, international dignitaries, cinema enthusiasts and media houses from around the world, this will be the largest and most memorable IIFA Festival to date.

riences. By combining global design, sophisticated style, and innovative technology, NEXA crafts premium experiences that align perfectly with IIFA's mission to build lifetime experiences and celebrate excellence in Indian cinema globally." Mr Ashish Parakh, Chief Sales Controller and Chief Marketing Officer at Sobha Realty, expressed his excitement about the partnership, stating, "IIFA has always been a shining example of cinematic excellence, bringing people together from across the globe-much like how Sobha Realty creates homes that resonate with the global Indian community. We're thrilled to continue the journey with Sobha Realty IIFA Weekend and Rocks at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, and are eager to be part of another remarkable event that showcases



creativity and excellence on the world stage."

Mr Andre Timmins, Founder/Director, IIFA stated, "As we approach IIFA's Silver Jubilee in 2025, we're thrilled to announce the biggest and most spectacular IIFA Festival yet, set for September 27-29 at Yas Island. This year's IIFA will be a celebration of unprecedented scale, transcending cinematic boundaries with the convergence of Hindi Cinema and South Indian cinema, set against Yas Island's unmatched hospitality and breath-taking backdrop as a premier international destination. He added, "Expect mesmerizing performances and cultural extravaganzas during the three-day celebration that will not only captivate audiences worldwide but also make a profound global impact.

The IIFA Festival 2024 features a set of iconic events:

September 27: NEXA IIFA Utsavam Awards

September 28: NEXA IIFA Awards co-presented by Sobha

September 29: Sobha IIFA Rocks co-presented by NEXA

The IIFA 2024 kicked off with a dazzling showcase of stardom at its official India press conference, featuring the 'King Khan' Shah Rukh Khan and celebrated filmmaker Karan Johar. They will be hosting the highly anticipated NEXA IIFA Awards extravaganza co-presented by Sobha Realty on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, at the iconic Etihad Arena.

Joining the impressive line-up are the dynamic duo Siddhant Chaturvedi and Abhishek Banerjee, set to dazzle as hosts

Mr Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer Marketing & Sales, NEXA commented, "As the NEXA IIFA Awards return to Yas Island, Abu Dhabi this September, we reaffirm our commitment to our 8-year partnership. NEXA and IIFA symbolize the pursuit of innovation, challenging the status quo to create novel and inspiring experiences.

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Philosophy

WEI WU WEI (TERENCE GRAY)

The past is gone. But the Present has become the Past before we can know it, i.e. before the complicated phenomenal processes of sense-perception, transmission and conception have been completed. Therefore the Present has gone too.

And the Future? We cannot know it until it has become the Past-for it can never be known in the Present. Then how can it be at all, for we cannot know the Past (which has gone)?

Surely we cannot: neither Future, Present nor Past can we ever know. How, then, do they exist-if existence they have? And if any of them exist, which exists? Or do all of them exist as a unity unextended in time and space, a time and space which only come into apparent existence with them, hypothetically, in order to render them cognisable?

Clearly none of them exists as a thing-in-itself, as objective events in their own right, as phenomena separate

temporary it can be called samadhi. In that state of fasting the mind is only 'blank' in so far as there is a total absence of objects; itself it is not absent but totally present, then and only then.

Nor is 'objectivising' replaced by 'subjectivising'; both counterparts are absent, and the subject-object process (whereby subject, objectifying itself as object, thereby becomes object, which object is nothing but subject), the 'spinning of the mind', ceases to operate and dies down.

The mind ceases to 'do'; instead, it 'is'. In the absence of objectivization the apparent universe is not, but we are; which is so because what we are is what the apparent universe is, and what the apparent universe is-is what we are; dual in presence, non-dual in absence, sundered only in manifestation.

How many of us, writing our ideas about Buddhism, even the purest Ch'an, express our thoughts in such a way that a sentient being is envisaged as a medium, that is, by inference, having objec-

*We can never know
Future, Present or Past
In the absence of objectivization
the apparent universe is
not, but we are*



Wei Wu Wei
(Terence Gray)

from the cognisers of them. Future-Present-Past appear to be three illusory aspects of a single subjective phenomenon known as 'cognition'.

Phenomenal life in an apparent universe is nothing but objectivization: all that we know as 'life' is only that process. Living, for the ordinary man, is a continual process of objectifying. From morning till night, and from night till morning, he never ceases to objectify except in dreamless sleep.

That is what manifestation is, and it is nothing but that, for when objectifying ceases the objective universe is no more-as in deep sleep. But when Ch'an monks 'sit' they seek to empty their minds, to practise a fasting of the mind, for while the mind 'fasts' there is no more conceptualisation; then no concept arises, not even an I-concept, and in the absence of an I-concept the mind is 'pure' (free of objects); then, and only then, it is itself, what-it-is and as-it-is.

When that is permanent it is objectively called being enlightened, when it is

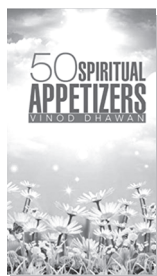
tive existence? Is this still not so even when the very subject of our thesis is the non-existence of a self?

How many of us do not do this? Let us even ask how many texts are there in which this is not done or implied? Yet many of us seem to know that it is not so, that it cannot be so. Buddha said again and again that there is no such thing as a 'self'.

Excerpted from 'Open Secret'. The 128th birth anniversary of Wei Wu Wei (Terence Gray) is being observed on 14 September 1896

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India's national security challenges amid global disorder

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These are troubling times and a question that is often asked is how India might craft a foreign policy in a world that is deeply divisive and combative, and yet ensure national security. Such questions are no longer the sole purview of South Block but bother common citizens because of the implications global developments have on their everyday existence.

Consider, for instance, how unrest in Bangladesh can trigger an enormous refugee crisis imposing an unanticipated burden on the Indian economy and how this could sour India-Bangladesh relations; or how an unstable Pakistan can impact India; or how an unfriendly Maldives can threaten peace and tranquility in the Indian Ocean; or how the South China Seas dispute can disrupt sea lanes, supply chains, and raise the price of commodities; or how the war between

opportunities. Interplay between the three often occurs. For example, a threat can be downgraded to a challenge (as has happened in the case of the pandemic), in as much as a challenge can become a threat (an impending storm can be a challenge and thereafter, rapidly transform into a threat, if it becomes an approaching cyclone). Interestingly, a challenge can also become an opportunity (the serious challenge of crimes against women, children, and the marginalized also offers the opportunity to take corrective measures, plug loopholes, make laws stricter, and enhance compliance and enforcement).

At the same time, threats, challenges, and opportunities can vary in scale and intensity. Some development can be a bigger or lesser threat, for instance. Risk management, consequently, is the timely identification and intervention in sce-

narios we are confronted with, failing which our security would be compromised with short, medium, or long-term consequences.

R i s k management

Foreign policy, in other words, is not an isolated relationship between individual countries but essentially an integrated and contextual one that is also deeply influenced by socio-economic factors and political developments in a country or region and spilling over

Russia and Ukraine has raised the global price of oil and grain; or how the Gaza conflict and the likelihood of enhanced escalation can widen the conflict arena impacting global growth; or the manner in which the world economy is teetering on the brink of deep recession, to name a few.

Foreign policy, in other words, is not an isolated relationship between individual countries but essentially an integrated and contextual one that is also deeply influenced by socio-economic factors and political developments in a country or region and spilling over. In such a scenario, the crafting of foreign policy becomes a daunting and continuous task because of the potential risks to national security.

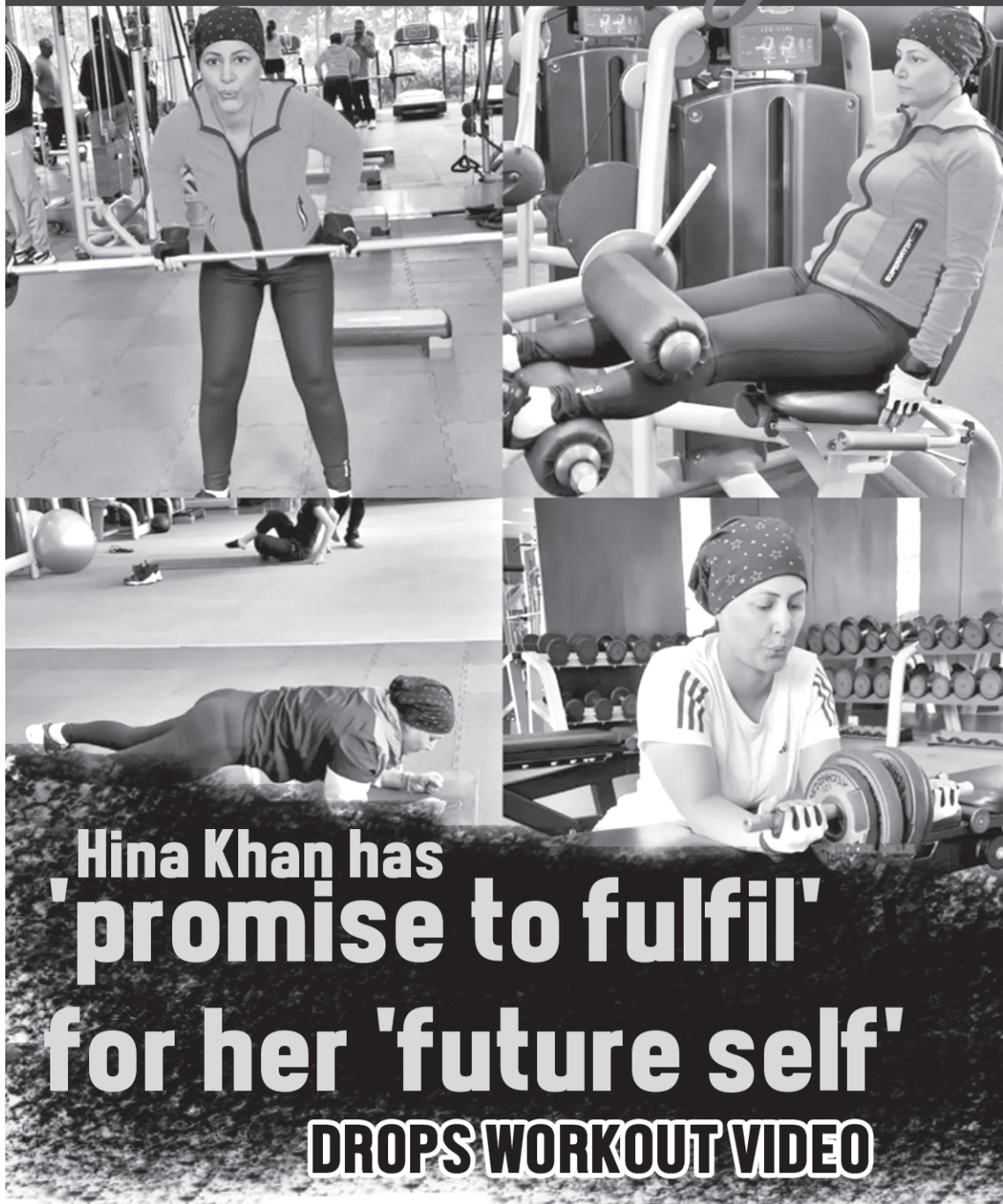
The singular objective of foreign policy is ensuring security of its national interests. This is achieved through risk assessments driven by an early warning system and a rapid response, through a multi-step and multi-stakeholder process that identifies threats, challenges, and

Accurate risk assessment is not easy. Often miscalculations take place that can have serious implications. The tendency to impose old assessments on new scenarios end up backfiring. Socio-psychological factors should never be ignored, since getting blindsighted is a common failing. Ego and muscle power does not always win wars. Goliath, it may be recalled, is known to have been slain. It is worth remembering that the US with all its military might and with the full backing of its western allies saw defeat in Vietnam and then again, in Afghanistan. Human nature refuses to learn from history. It was, once, wisely advised that we should never underestimate human stupidity.

(The author is a former Indian diplomat. The article is excerpted from a talk delivered by the author at the Centre for National Security Studies, Bengaluru) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



Despite undergoing chemotherapy for Stage Three breast cancer, actress Hina Khan remains undeterred, and on Monday has offered her followers a glimpse into her ongoing journey towards recovery.

Taking to Instagram, Hina, who has 20.3 million followers, shared a Reel video of her workout session. In the clip, we can see Hina lifting weights, doing leg workouts, and other exercises.

The video is captioned as: "Thousand Reasons may present itself to pull you down everyday. But I have a Promise to fulfil for my future self. And I am

committed, are you? DUA #ScarredNotScared #AWindowToMyJourney #TheGirlWhoNeverGivesUp #DaddysStrongGirl #OneDayAtATime".

She was showered with love by her fans, they wrote: "You are an inspiration", "Most bravest girl", "Get well soon", and "u will rock again".

Earlier, Hina had revealed that she is through her fifth chemo infusion.

Best known for her role as Akshara in 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', Hina has participated in 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 8', 'Bigg Boss 11', and

'Bigg Boss 14'.

She has also been a part of the movies like 'Hacked', 'Wishlist', and a short film 'Smartphone'. The diva has starred in music videos like 'Bhasoodi', 'Raanjhana', 'Humko Tum Mil Gaye', 'Patthar Wargi', 'Baarish Ban Jaana', 'Main Bhi Barbaad', 'Mohabbat Hai', 'Barsaat Aa Gayi', and the recent track by Asees Kaur, and Saaj Bhatt-- 'Halki Halki Si'.

Hina had also recently made her Punjabi film debut with 'Shinda Shinda No Papa', alongside Gippy Grewal. She next has 'Country of Blind' in the pipeline. IANS

KAREENA KAPOOR DRIPS ROYALTY IN FIERY RED INDIAN WEAR

MUMBAI: Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan looked every-inch regal dressed in a fiery red Indian wear as she stepped out for Ganapati celebrations.

Kareena took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of images, including a picture with her actor husband Saif Ali Khan. The actress wore a fiery red salwar suit with gold drizzles by couturier Sabyasachi.

She completed her look with chunky chandelier earrings and subtle make-up with smoky eyes. Saif channeled his inner Bengali spirit as he chose to wear a maroon silk kurta paired with a dhoti.

The diva chose to just drop a heart emoji for the caption.

Recently, Kareena revealed that a "hot bag" rescued her from shooting in "every weather."

Kareena took to Instagram, where she shared three photographs from the sets of her upcoming film "The Buckingham Murders."

In the images, Kareena is wearing a thick bomber jacket with her arms wrapped around. The last picture had the actress holding on to a hot bag.

"Shooting in every weather. PS: Hot bag to the rescue, hahaha. #7daystogo #TheBuckinghamMurders in cinemas on September 13," she wrote.

"The Buckingham Murders" is helmed by Hansal Mehta, who is known for 'Aligarh', 'Shahid' and 'Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story'. The film also stars Ranveer Brar, Ash Tandon and Keith Allen.

The upcoming film follows the character Jasmeet Bhamra, a British-Indian detective who has recently lost her child. She is assigned the case of a murdered 10-year-old child in Buckinghamshire.

The film is scheduled to hit the theatres on September 13.

Kareena also has 'Singham Again' in the pipeline which marks her return to the 'Singham' franchise. The film is directed by Rohit Shetty, and will release on November 1. IANS



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Signs of a virulent civil war emerging in Manipur

LT GEN PRAKASH KATOCH (RETD)

The situation in Manipur has turned more violent after the reasons why peace eludes the region were outlined in stark detail (<https://www.southasia-monitor.org/spotlight/why-peace-continues-elude-manipur>). According to Manipur Police, Kuki militants attacked two villages in the Koutruk area of Imphal West using RPGs and dropped grenades from drones (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9_bXi-TRmw). One woman succumbed to bullet injuries and her eight-year old daughter's arm was injured, while two police personal and three civilians were injured in the attack. They also set fire to five houses, one car and eight two-wheelers.

ginning to come on the receiving end. There is outrage in social media (https://x.com/LicypriyaK/status/1830321178684043442?t=-TLrBoZv__r9idXmtESVUg&s=03), with some saying it is high time Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Manipur to see the situation for himself.

Latest trigger for violence

Alleging that the about 60,000 central forces in Manipur are mute spectators, BJP MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh of Manipur has written to the Home Minister Amit Shah saying if these forces cannot stop violence, they should be withdrawn.

In early August this year, hun-

close to the Imphal Valley, and the Manipur administration's nexus with the otherwise banned outfit Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL).

More violence can be expected with the Kuki-Zo village volunteers warning in a video message that Meitei militants who have infiltrated into the Kuki villages named in the video must leave in three days or else face eviction (<https://youtu.be/THfzI044Nzs?feature=shared>). This is a clear indication of more violence to come. The Naga, who had warned the state government to leave them alone after incidents of attacks against them and their families, may also get drawn into the expanding civil war.

In recent months there have been reports of drone parts being smuggled into Manipur. As for modern arms, the global market is flooded with them. Why would China not exploit the situation? It may be recalled that when the US had troops in Afghanistan, China provided advisors to the Taliban as well as arms including shoulder-fired MANPADS.

It is also being opined that the Manipur situation is aggravated by America's National Endowment for Democracy (<https://www.youtube.com/live/n7hzzGWZ9c4?si=KoYJk-dIWu8zj1Hw>). There is no doubt merit in this, with veteran US Marines operating in Myanmar and especially after the US is said to have had a hand in the coup in Bangladesh recently.

In November 2023, Imphal airport was shut after an unidentified object was detected overhead. Indian Air Force planes launched on a search mission could not locate the object. But the object in question certainly did not come from outer space.

(The author is an Indian Army veteran) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

One woman succumbed to bullet injuries and her eight-year old daughter's arm was injured, while two police personal and three civilians were injured in the attack. They also set fire to five houses, one car and eight two-wheelers

In response, the Manipur administration reportedly deployed additional central forces, 7 Manipur Rifles, police commandos, and other police personnel to prevent further violence. Manipur Police has appointed a "high-level" committee to probe the drone attacks.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh posted on X: "Dropping bombs on civilian populations and security forces using drones is an act of terrorism. The Manipur state administration treats such unprovoked attacks seriously and will take the appropriate action to combat acts of terrorism against the local indigenous community. Manipur's people will stand together against hatred, divisiveness, and secession, and we reject all forms of violence."

Apparently, the state-encouraged ethnic cleansing is turning around full circle, with Meitei be-

hundreds of Kuki-Zo women in Kangpokpi District of Manipur "cried, prayed and pleaded" with Assam Rifles not to leave their village 'Gamgiphai', and staged a 12-hour sit-in after they came to know that the Assam Rifles personnel deployed in the peripheral area were being shifted to Churachandpur by the state government (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/kuki-women-plead-with-assam-rifles-troops-to-not-leave-village-near-imphal-west-in-manipur/cid/1956553>).

The trigger now may have come with relocating the Assam Rifles from Churachandpur District to Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur demanding withdrawal of the SoO agreement from all 25 Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribes, the Ministry of Home Affairs proposing the removal of SoO camps



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MYANMAR COMMON ENEMIES

Crimes against humanity and war crimes by Myanmar's military have escalated at an "alarming" rate, as per United Nations investigators.

Torture, gang rape and abuses against children have increased under the military, the UN body investigating human rights violations in the country said in its annual report last week. Investigators said, more than three million people have been forced to flee their homes in the last six months, as the conflict intensified. In its report, which covers the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the IIMM said the conflict in Myanmar had "escalated substantially... with reports of more frequent and brutal crimes committed across the country".

More violent war crimes have been uncovered by the UN monitors, ranging from aerial attacks on schools, religious buildings and hospitals that are not military targets, to beheadings and public displays of disfigured and sexually mutilated bodies.

Myanmar's military long viewed the insurgency among persecuted Rohingya Muslims as an existential threat to the majority Buddhist nation, but as the Arakan Army rebel group makes sweeping gains, the junta and some Rohingya fighters now face a common foe. In a once-unthinkable arrangement, the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) says its fighters have reached an "understanding" with the military not to attack each other, as they both battle the Arakan Army, the major rebel force in western Myanmar.

There are deep-seated tensions between Rakhine's Buddhist community, which backs the Arakan Army, and the Rohingya. Some Rohingya have been forcibly conscripted by the military to fight the Arakan Army, which accuses sections of the Muslim minority, including the RSO, of collaborating with the junta. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh after a brutal junta crackdown in 2017 that the U.N. described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

The fighting in Rakhine now is part of a wider rebellion against Myanmar's junta. An infantryman in the British army for four years from 2009, with a seven-month tour of Afghanistan, Jason said, he returned from eastern Myanmar in late April after eight weeks on the front lines.

Jason - a pseudonym used due to security concerns - said, resistance fighters were "ready to die for the cause" in their all-or-nothing battle against the military. "It's different from other places I've fought, where you see more fear in the eyes," he said. "They're brave people."

Since the coup on February 1, 2021, atrocities have spread from the peripheries to the central regions. The military, with a largely Russian-made fleet of fighter jets, has been accused of indiscriminate air strikes against civilians and having burned villages to the ground in what the United Nations and human rights groups have described as possible war crimes. The resistance has inflicted huge losses and made large territorial gains, initially using slingshots and air rifles against a military wielding a billion-dollar arsenal supplied by Russia and China.

Due to pressure from US, UK and European Union, the junta had moved Aung San Suu Kyi from prison to house arrest during Myanmar's New Year in April and released more than 3000 prisoners as a gesture of goodwill. However, the junta remains adamant to hold on to power at all cost.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

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Maha Saptami

Thursday, OCT 10

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Maha Ashtami

Friday, OCT 11

Morning Puja Aarti	08:30 am 11:30 am
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Evening Puja Aarti	06:30 pm 08:30 pm

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Saturday, OCT 12

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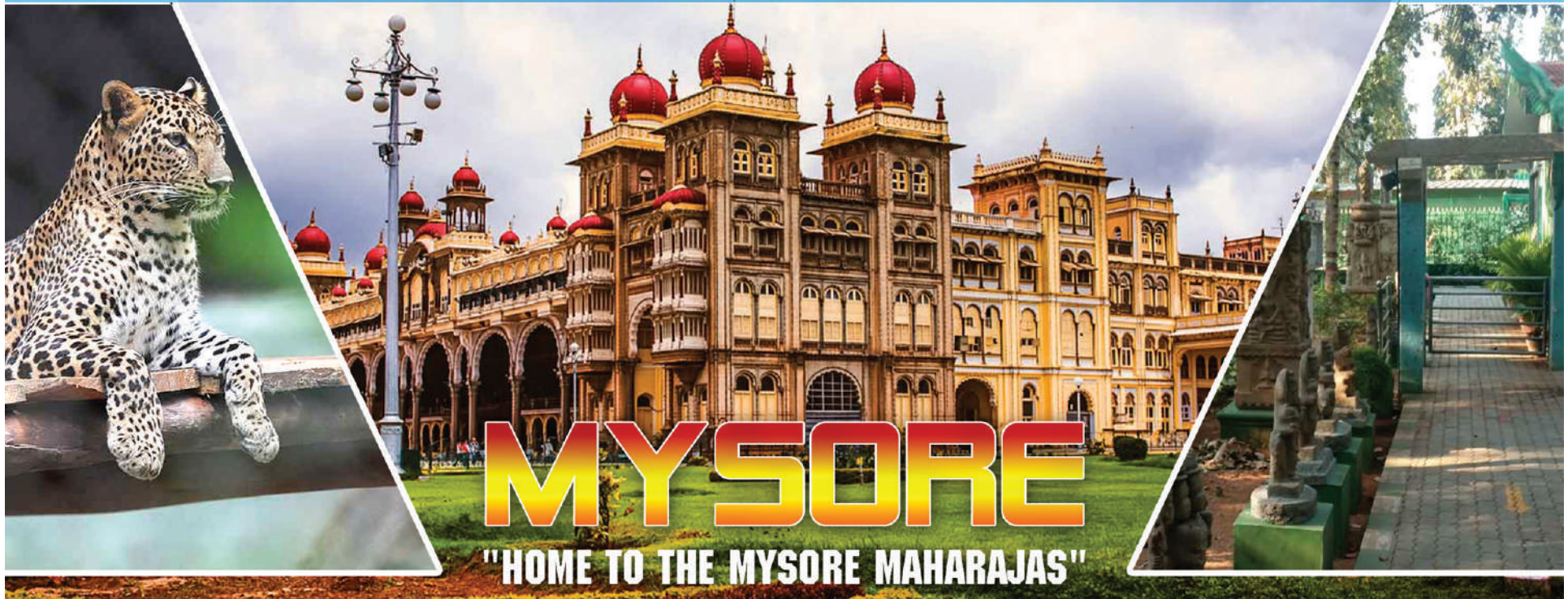
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Famously known as The City of Palaces, it wouldn't be wrong to say that Mysore, currently Mysuru, is one of the most important places in the country regarding ancient reigns. It is replete with the history of its dazzling royal heritage, intricate architecture, its famed silk sarees, yoga, and sandalwood, to name just a few. Located in the foothills of the Chamundi Hills, Mysore is the third most populated city in Karnataka, and its rich heritage draws millions of tourists all year round. The highlight is the majestic Mysore Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a must-visit.

Mysore was one of the three largest Princely States in the erstwhile British Empire of India. To this day, the Mysore Palace stands tall as one of the most spectacular palaces in India. A very famous tourist spot that sees thousands of visitors milling in and around it every day, the Mysore Palace is a mesmerizing example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, every inch of the palace drips with opulence and intricate details, and every room that you visit stands out in terms of its elaborate architecture, beautiful paintings, rich colors and stained-glass windows. On every Sunday, and during the Dussehra celebrations, the

palace is spectacularly lit up once dusk falls.

Another popular element in Mysore is the Ashtanga School of Yoga. This draws visitors and practitioners from around the world to participate in this style of yoga that originated in Mysore.

PLACES TO VISIT IN MYSORE

Mysore Palace: An incredibly breathtaking example of Indo - Saracenic style of architecture, the Mysore Palace is a magnificent edifice located in Mysore in the state of Karnataka. Also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, it is the former palace of the royal family of Mysore and is still their official residence. Mysore Palace was built in the year 1912 for the 24th Ruler of the Wodeyar Dynasty and is counted amongst one of the biggest palaces in the country.

Brindavan Gardens: The Brindavan Gardens, spread over 60 acres, is located at a distance of 21 km away from Mysore. Built across the notable river of India, Cauvery, it

took around five years to complete the project. The well-synchronized fountain-show with music, boating and well manicured grass with flowerbeds is some of the top experiences of Brindavan Garden.

Mysore Zoo: Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, also known as the Mysore Zoo is one of the best zoological gardens in India. Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar established this Zoo in the year 1892 for the Royals. Furthermore, after the attainment of freedom, it was handed over to the Department of Parks and Gardens of the State Govt. The Zoo's meticulous planning is responsible for making it a special zoological garden. It tends to create a natural habitat for the animals in it. From Big to small cats, Aquatic to terrestrial birds, and Primates to reptiles, one Hundred and Sixty-Eight species find their place in this zoo. The world's first caesarian section delivery performed on an elephant in Mysore zoo gave it global fame and recognition.

Somanathapura Temple: On the banks of Holy river Kaveri is a tiny tranquil town of Somanathapura. www.holidify.com

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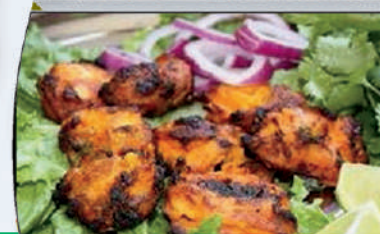
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Krystle D'Souza captures tantalizing culinary in Hyderabad

Actress Krystle D'Souza, who predominantly works in television, is enjoying the culinary delights in Hyderabad.

The actress recently took to the Stories section of her Instagram and shared pictures of the delectable food that she indulged in. The pictures show the actress enjoying a mutton soup and the iconic Hyderabadi biryani. She wrote on the picture, "How not to".

The actress is currently in Hyderabad for shooting for a web series which is currently underway at the Ramoji Film City.

She made her web debut with 'Fittrat' in 2019 and film debut with 'Chehre' in 2021.

The actress recently saw the release of her film 'Visfot'. The film also stars Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan and Priya Bapat.

The film, directed by Kookie Gulati, is the official Hindi adaptation of the 2012 Venezuelan Oscar entry 'Rock, Paper and Scissors'. The film has been bankrolled by Sanjay Gupta's White Feather Films and T-Series. **IANS**



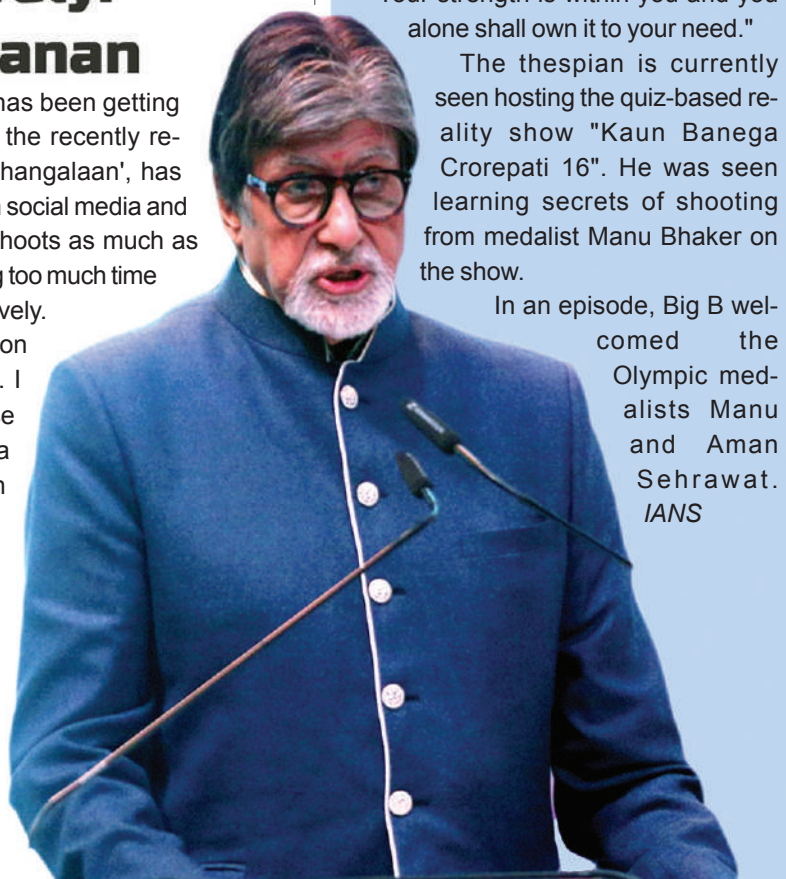
Social media affects works negatively: Malavika Mohanan

Actress Malavika Mohanan, who has been getting a good response to her work in the recently released Hindi version of her movie 'Thangalaan', has shared that she likes to stay away from social media and cut down on her screen time during shoots as much as possible. The actress said that spending too much time on social media affects her work negatively.

She told IANS, "Too much scrolling on my phone dumbs me down (laughs). I can see it affecting my work in the sense my mind struggles to be present in a scene on days when I spend too much time on social media".

The actress said that the brain fog kicks in because of social media, technology usage or screen exposure which she recognized over the past year.

She further mentioned, "When I'm filming, I try to stay away from phones as much as possible, even if you are getting bored, it's okay, get bored but it will allow you to focus on your work". **IANS**



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 2 Tauba Tauba: **Bad Newz**
- 3 Sajni: **Laapataa Ladies**
- 4 Tainu Khabar Nahi: **Munjya**
- 5 Angaaron : **Pushpa 2 The Rule**
- 6 Akhiyaan Gulaab: **Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya**
- 7 Agar Ho Tum: **Mr. And Mrs. Mahi**
- 8 Satranga: **Animal**
- 9 Chaleya: **Jawan**
- 10 Aayi Nai: **Stree 2**

Big B: Each day is a learning for me

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says everyday is a learning for him as it is filled with elements that bring one closer to the reality of life and living.

Amitabh took to his blog and wrote: "Each day of work is a learning for me... Not just the work but just another day is filled with elements that bring one closer to the reality of life and living."

The cine icon added: "Each day we see meet (and) know life and at times have wonder in our eyes... Look where you are, and what you have within... No point in lamenting a loss... accept it and work to better the day of living for yourself and those that depend upon you..."

Your strength is within you and you alone shall own it to your need."

The thespian is currently seen hosting the quiz-based reality show "Kaun Banega Crorepati 16". He was seen learning secrets of shooting from medalist Manu Bhaker on the show.

In an episode, Big B welcomed the Olympic medalists Manu and Aman Sehrawat. **IANS**



DHVANI BHANUSHALI REVEALS WHAT MADE HER EXPLORE ACTING

Singer Dhvani Bhanushali, who is set to make her acting debut with the upcoming movie 'Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam', has shared what made her explore the profession of acting.

The singer-actress has been working in the space of music videos for half a decade now. Having gained enough experience and confidence to face the camera for a full-

length feature, she felt it's the right time to take up the profession of acting.

She told IANS, "Acting and singing are both part of art and excelling in them makes you a complete artiste. I took this decision of getting into acting also because I spent 5 years doing music videos and exploring different stories through my music. And it sort of led me to think that I could do a feature film".

She asserted that music videos and films are very different. IANS

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Arjun Rampal thinks 'BOYS ARE IDIOTS'

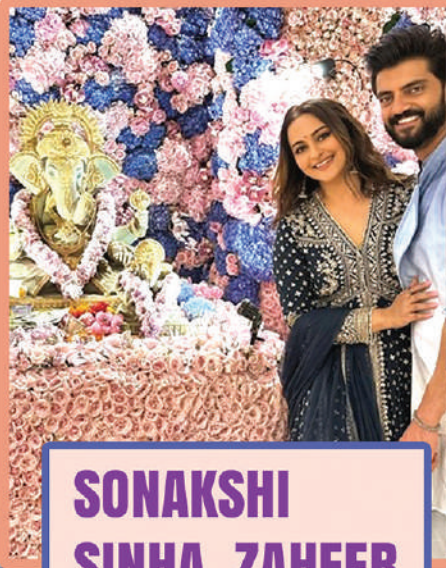
Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal, who was recently seen in 'Crakk', feels that boys are idiots and are inferior to women when it comes to emotional maturity.

A video of the actor is being circulated on social media in which he opens up about having got married at a relatively young age.

The video is from the Beer Biceps podcast, and shows the actor discussing how age plays an important role in the maturity of men,

He said: "I got married when I was 24 years old. I think it was too early. When you're too young, you have to get mature. Guys definitely mature far slower than women do. That's a proven fact. We are idiots".

He further mentioned: "I know guys, who were childhood sweethearts, never cheated on each other. It's phenomenal, those things also do occur but, I call them miracles. You will know when you're really ready. And that would mean sacrificing maybe somebody who you think is right for you or maybe that person waited out with you." *IANS*



SONAKSHI SINHA, ZAHEER IQBAL TROLLED

Actress Sonakshi Sinha and her husband Zaheer Iqbal were trolled after she shared a video of the two doing Ganpati aarti.

Sonakshi took to Instagram, where she posted a video doing an aarti for Lord Ganesha. The actress is seen dressed in blue Indian wear, while Zaheer chose a light blue shirt and white ensemble.

"Love grows in respect when a couple honors each other's beliefs in true harmony...Our first Ganpati after shaadi," she wrote as the caption.

However, it was the comment section that caught the eye as the two were trolled over their religion.

A comment read: "Will she go to a masjid and pray? No right only want to worship idols but not to Allah! Murtad husband."

One said: "Yeh shirk hai ye kesa musalman hua."

"Totally agree with u since you r Muslim you should only worship Allah, speechless."

A netizen wrote: "Astagfirullah."

"Are Zahir bhai kya kar rahe ho iman ka khyal hai bhi ki nahi aapko ya sab khatam ho gaya hai," said an angry user.

One claimed: "Bas yehi dekhna reh gaya tha."

Another said: "Asthagfirullah he is Muslim shame on him."

One questioned Sonakshi: "Dekhhte hn aap kitni namazain parhain gi."

It was on June 23, when Sonakshi got married to her longtime beau Zaheer in a civil ceremony. *IANS*



RASHMIKA MANDANNA GORGES ON 'LADDOOS'

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming potential box-office juggernaut, has revealed that she suffered a minor accident. However, the actress has been recovering well from her injury.

The actress also shared that she has been having a lot of laddoos during her recovery.

The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a picture of her in spectacles, and making a goofy face.

She also penned a long note in the caption, as she wrote, "Hey guys, how've you been? I know it's been a while since I came on here or was even seen in the public. The reason I haven't been very active in the last month is because I had a little accident, (a minor one) and I was recovering and was staying at home as I was told to by the doctors".

She further mentioned, "I am better now and just for heads up - I am in the phase of being super active so all the best dealing with my activities. Make it a priority to take care of yourself always because life is super fragile and short and we don't know if we will have a tomorrow so choose happiness everyday. PS: Another update I've been eating a lot of laddoos". *IANS*







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