



FOG India Day Parade and Fair 2024

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Zelenskyy acknowledges Ukraine's offensive

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Who's third-wheeling Rakul and Jacky

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MODI FOR FARMERS

When PM Modi held the umbrella for farmers...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the farmers and scientists as he releases 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at India Agricultural Research Institute, in New Delhi. (ANI Photo)

NEW DELHI: In a heartwarming gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the umbrella over a group of farmers who were talking to him on a rainy day in the national capital.

The incident took place during a meeting of the Prime Minister with the farmers at the farms of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Visuals emanating from the event show the PM holding the umbrella as the farmers huddle under it.

When the PM went to interact with farmers, it started raining heavily. The officials urged the PM that the interaction be cancelled but the Prime Minister insisted that he would interact with farmers despite rain.

The PM told the security officials that he would hold his umbrella himself. Rather he also offered to hold the umbrella for farmers as well.

While holding the umbrella, the PM and the farmers interacted with each other.

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President Murmu receives highest civilian award

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India records fastest growth in major economies

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Who's third-wheeling Rakul and Jackky



Rakul Preet Singh on a pic of Jackky, captioned: "So tough to keep him off his work calls... Jackky we are pati patni aur woh"

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SRK: 'Art is the act of affirming life'

Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, conferred a career achievement honor at the 77th Locarno Film Festival, in Switzerland

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MODI FOR FARMERS



In a heartwarming gesture, PM Modi held an umbrella over a group of farmers talking to him on a rainy day in the national capital

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India records fastest growth

The World Intellectual Property Organization said India recorded the fastest growth in intangible investments, exceeding countries like Sweden and US

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FOG I-Day Parade and Fair 2024



On August 17 this year FOG continues the celebrations and tradition that has been part of Fremont culture for the past 31-years

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Munnar: Kashmir of South India

Famous for tea estates, greenery, winding roads, blankets of mist, and viewpoints; Munnar is a hill station in Kerala, located in the Idukki district

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Immigration:

Infiltration amid Bangladesh unrest



Odisha ADG of Police for Law and Order, Sanjay Kumar said, coastal security is on high alert and patrols have been increased

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Medics selected as 'Vattikuti Explorers'

Eight medical practitioners from India, Europe and US, have been selected as 'Vattikuti Explorers' by robotic surgery leader Vattikuti Foundation,

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MODI FOR FARMERS

When PM Modi held the umbrella for farmers...

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The incident took place during a meeting of the Prime Minister with the farmers at the farms of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Visuals emanating from the event show the PM holding the umbrella as the farmers huddle under it.

When the PM went to interact with farmers, it started raining heavily. The officials urged the PM that the interaction be cancelled but the Prime Minister insisted that he would interact with farmers despite rain.

The PM told the security officials that he would hold his umbrella himself. Rather he also offered to hold the umbrella for farmers as well.

While holding the umbrella, the PM and the farmers interacted with each other.

PM Modi said, "I feel nice that you all came here early in the morning. Today farmers have got new varieties of seeds for the farmer. Do you wait for others to grow it first and if the crop did well, then plant it on your own farms? I would suggest first planting the new seeds in one part of the farm or small patches and if it does good, you can adopt it. You can yourself experiment with it."

As the farmers keenly listened to him, the PM said, "We have heard Lal Bahadur Shastriji's Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, then Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji added Jai Vigyaan to it. But now since the world is changing so I say it should be Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyaan, Jai Anusandhan."

While holding the umbrella, the PM said, "I said that in my third term, I will work three times more, and this is what I am doing now... We bring implement research results on the ground."

Last weekend, Prime Minister Narendra



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the farmers and scientists as he releases 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at India Agricultural Research Institute, in New Delhi. (ANI Photo)

Modi released 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of crops at the India Agricultural Research Institute. The 109 varieties of 61 crops included 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops.

Many farmers, who interacted with the Prime Minister, shared their joy and excitement

they had stopped doing so for some time. Now, new varieties have been launched. These coarse grains will be beneficial for us as they promise good returns and also require less intensive irrigation."

She further said that many women farmers apprised the Prime Minister about

the Prime Minister and also spoke on how the new varieties with a 70-day cycle will make their lives easier and simpler.

"For the first time, we are seeing a Prime Minister who engages directly with the common people and listens personally to their concerns," she said.

She further said, "Today, the Prime Minister informed us about 109 varieties of crops. Coarse grains like bajra, jowar have a growth cycle of about 70 days. This will be helpful for us and also create fodder for our cattle."

The farming community looked elated and ecstatic over meeting the Prime Minister in person.

And, this enthusiasm was reflected in their words. One said, "If farmers prosper, the country will also prosper" while another woman farmer said, "We are pleased to share our thoughts with PM Modi." IANS

As the farmers keenly listened to him, the PM said, "We have heard Lal Bahadur Shastriji's Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, then Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji added Jai Vigyaan to it. But now since the world is changing so I say it should be Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyaan, Jai Anusandhan"

ment over the introduction of high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties.

A woman farmer told IANS, "Previously, farmers used to grow coarse grains, but

their situation and also shared their dreams for the future.

Another woman farmer shared happiness over getting a chance to interact with

Zelenskyy acknowledges Ukraine's offensive in Russia

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has acknowledged that his military is conducting an offensive inside Russia's Kursk region.

In his nightly televised address last week, Zelenskyy said that the Ukrainian military is pushing the war "onto the aggressor's territory".

tory".

The statement marks Zelenskyy's first public acknowledgement of Ukraine's cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk Oblast, which reportedly began on August 6 and has taken Russia by surprise, prompting mass evacuations across both sides of the border.

Zelenskyy thanked Ukraine's defense forces, and said he had discussed the operation in Russia with the country's senior military commander Oleksandr Syrsky.

Earlier, Russia had said that up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops, supported by tanks and armored vehicles, entered the Kursk region.

Although Zelenskyy did not mention Kursk directly in his remarks, he acknowledged that the Ukrainian military is conducting an operation on Russian soil. IANS



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Air India's flagship A350 to operate New York JFK and Newark flights

India Post News Service

NEW YORK, Air India today announced its flagship A350-900 aircraft will operate New York JFK-Delhi flights from November 1, 2024, and Newark-Delhi flights from January 2, 2025, thus transforming its passenger experience on these strategically important routes.

Introducing Premium Economy on the key routes

The A350 deployment will introduce Air India's Premium Economy class experience for the first time on the New York JFK-Delhi and Newark-Delhi routes. It will offer guests the choice of 24 wide seats arranged in a 2-4-2 configuration in a dedicated, upscale cabin that offers extra legroom and other enhancements.

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NAACP announces Religious Leadership Award

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Reno Sparks has announced religious award for Rajan Zed.

Patricia Y. Gallimore, President Reno Sparks NAACP said: "Your work in Northern Nevada and beyond, bringing people of all faiths, walks of life together in peace, love and harmony are being celebrated and recognized. I am proud to present the Religious leadership award to you."

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Panch Maha Bhoot in South India

India Post News Service

Nestled in the heart of South India, the Pancha Bhuta Sthalams are five ancient temples that have captured the imagination of spiritual seekers and scientists alike.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

www.indiapost.com

August 16, 2024



FOG India Day Parade and Fair 2024

RITU MAHESHWARI

India Post News Service

Realizing the American dream, while honoring the strong roots and culture from the country of origin - This is the motto of 32nd Festival of Globe (FOG) India Day Parade and Fair being held on August 17th and 18th at 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA. Organized by Federation of Globe (FOG) and Federation of Indo Americans (FIA) of Northern California, this largest celebration of democracy coincides with India Independence Day. This year FOG continues the celebrations and tradition that has been part of Fremont culture for the past 31 years.

Thousands of people are expected to join the FOG India Day Parade and Fair. There will be

cultural programs, free Wellness fair, Food Fest, kid's activities, and biggest ever grand parade with famous Bollywood celebrity Manisha Koirala bringing grand recognition and support from In-

India Day Fair will show case some of the best presentations in dance and music. This year, there are multiple categories of dance performances. Over 250 local dance groups will compete



dia. People can not only immerse in the Indian culture, but can also visit, eat, and shop at over hundred booths.

in Classical, Folk, Bollywood, Contemporary, Hip-Hop and others. Each category winner will be awarded with a prize. Contes-

stants will participate in their age groups, divided in 5yrs - 11yrs, 12yrs - 18yrs, and Adults.

Fair will feature a variety of delicious cuisines from different regions of India. North Indian, South Indian, Savory snacks will be served by 7 food trucks organized by the best-known restaurants and caterers in the Bay Area.

FOG India Day Grand Parade will be held on August 18th from



11am to 1pm and boast of over 90+ entries representing a wide cross section of community, ranging from Indian regional cultural communities to Bay Area organizations. Parade runs through sections of Fremont areas and is a spectacle to enjoy. Roads are blocked to facilitate the smooth and comfortable viewing of the parade. This has become a ritual for families to spend a summer Sunday, watching their favorite celebrities and enjoy the Fair.

FOG India Day Parade and Fair coincides with India's Independence celebrations.

Cont'd on page 12



FOG (FESTIVAL OF GLOBE) EXTRAVAGANZA 2024, AUGUST 17-18, 2024

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FOG India Day Mela/Fair | Aug 17-18, 10 am - 6 pm | 39439 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA |
| FOG India Day Parade | Aug 18, 11 am - 1 pm | 39439 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA |
| FOG Free Health Fair | Aug 17, 10 am - 2 pm | 39439 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA |
| FOG Food Fest | Aug 17-18, 10 am - 6 pm | 39439 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA |
| FOG Parade State Performances | Aug 18, 1:30 - 3 pm | 39439 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA |

Visit Sulekha.com/FOG, Eventmozo.com or FOGsv.org for more details.

CGISF hosts community reception for Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has embarked on a 12-day visit to the United States of America and South Korea to seek industrial investments in the state. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his team concluded their business tour of the United States on a high note, securing over Rs 31,500 crore investment plans that will bring over 30,750 new jobs in the state. The delegation comprising IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu and officials, during over 50 business meetings and three roundtable conferences in New York, Washington DC, Dallas and California, concluded 19-investment deals/MOUs, totaling an investment of Rs 31,500 crore and 30,750 new jobs for Telangana, an official release said.

Consul General of India San Francisco Dr Srikar Reddy hosted a community reception for CM Reddy and his delegation on August 9 at Fremont. The event was attended by elected officials and over a thousand NRIs from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Consul General Dr Reddy welcomed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, his delegation to the West coast, referring it as the best coast in the US. He talked about the massive Indian population re-



siding in the USA, in the San Francisco region of California in particular, which has been contributing towards the business, society, and economy. He mentioned Indo Americans constitute 4% of the Bay area population and have been successful in all walks of life. Dr. Reddy highlighted the growing collaboration between India and the US, emphasizing that the bilateral relationship is currently at its peak.

In his message to the Telugu community, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the unity and shared vision that drives this mission. He acknowledged the support and love from the diaspora, which strengthens their resolve to work towards the greater development of Telangana. "We all share a common goal: to see Telangana prosper and thrive. Our journey here is a testament to our commitment to this dream," he said. With the support of the Telugu diaspora and the international community, CM's mission is poised to achieve remarkable success and contribute to the state's continued development and growth.

The delegation pitched Hyderabad and Telangana as investment destinations to business heads and investors across different sectors and closed new and expansion deals in IT, GCC, Life Sciences, Pharma, Data Centers, AI, among others, it said. The delegation got massive reiteration and support for various major initiatives including creation of a Future City, AI City, rejuvenation of Musi River.

AAPI team commits to take it to new heights in coming years

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: "I'm very honored and consider myself fortunate to be bestowed with the responsibility of leading the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPAI), the four-decades-old strong and largest ethnic medical organization in the United States " said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, who has assumed charge as the President of AAPAI

Dr. Kathula did not have to contest the elections this year, as he has been serving as the President-Elect during the past year. Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, who has been serving as the Vice President in the past year also did not have to face elections as per the AAPAI By-Laws, as he automatically becomes the President-Elect of AAPAI for the current year.

While thanking his team, Dr. Kathula said, "We are grateful to AAPAI members who have participated in the 2024 AAPAI's voting process and have elected a new, diverse, balanced, and experienced team to lead AAPAI, the largest ethnic medical organization in the United States in the coming year and beyond."

Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, the President-Elect in 2024-25 said in a statement: "I trust and believe that under the leadership of Dr. Satheesh Kathula, we will continue



Dr. Satheesh Kathula

the noble mission of AAPAI and strengthen our efforts to make our beloved organization reach greater heights."

As the President-Elect, the multi-talented professional said, "I understand that AAPAI needs experienced leadership from someone who has been in AAPAI leadership for over two decades. I know what works and what does not. This is a major contribution that I can make this year in guiding the leadership to progress

in the right direction efficiently and effectively."

Dr. Kathula, a board-certified hematologist and oncologist from Dayton, Ohio, is practicing Medicine for over two decades. Dr. Kathula graduated from Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh,

While elaborating on his broader agenda as the 43rd President of AAPAI, Dr. Kathula, an eminent physician of over 25

years' talked about his vision for AAPAI:

Promote AAPAI's mission of education, excellence in patient care, research, and professionalism.

Increase membership of AAPAI and enhance membership benefits. Engage the younger generation more.

Collaborate with major physician organizations in the US.

Fast-tracking of Green Cards process for Physicians

Leverage the strength of 100,000 Indian American Doctors through Legislative endeavors.

The growing influence of physicians of Indian heritage is evident, as increasingly physicians of Indian origin hold critical positions in the country. Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPAI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high-flying jobs, shaping the policies, programs, and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world.

Since its inception in 1982, AAPAI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for physicians of Indian origin.

Air India's flagship A350 to operate New York JFK and Newark flights from this winter

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The A350 flights will also feature the airline's new signature soft products and award-winning guest enhancements unveiled earlier this year. These include new

chinaware, new tableware and glassware, new bedding, and updated amenity kits for Business and Premium Economy guests, exclusively designed by Ferragamo and TUMI, respectively.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said: "We are encouraged by the positive guest feedback we have received from the domestic deployment of our A350s to offer our hero product on the Delhi-New York JFK and Delhi-Newark routes. This is a significant leap forward for our U.S. operations that also underscores our commitment to continuous improvement."

Upgraded cabin interiors on other U.S. routes

With deployment of the A350, 60% of all Air India flights to the U.S. will feature new or upgraded cabin interiors.

A350 ultra long-haul debut with New York JFK-Delhi flights from November 1, 2024

Newark-Delhi flights to be served with A350 from January 2, 2025

Choice of Premium Economy cabin to be available on A350 flights

60% of all Air India flights to U.S. will offer brand-new or upgraded interiors

The airline now operates its three class-configured Boeing 777-200LR on all non-stop flights between India (Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru) and San Francisco with upgraded cabin interiors, except a 3x weekly Delhi-San Francisco service. Each of these aircraft features 28 private suites with full-flat beds in Business, 48 wide seats in Premium Economy with extra legroom, and 212 seats in Economy as well as updated IFE systems. This allows Air India to consistently offer Premium Economy options to travelers taking non-stop flights to/from San Francisco.

Air India also operates a three class-configured Boeing 777-300ER on all flights

to Mumbai from New York JFK and Newark, featuring 8 luxurious First class suites, 40 full-flat beds in Business, 280 seats in Economy, and updated IFE systems.

Air India's orders for A350 and the aircraft in commercial service

Air India has taken delivery of six A350-900 aircraft since the beginning of 2024, having thus far deployed the aircraft in service on flights within India and on the Delhi-Dubai route for regulatory compliance as well as crew familiarization purposes. From September 1, 2024, Air India will start flying its A350-900 to London Heathrow from Delhi.

Air India has 34 other A350s on order with Airbus, including 20 A350-1000s.

Air India's U.S. presence

Air India currently flies to five points in the United States, namely New York JFK, Newark, Washington DC, Chicago, and San Francisco. The airline operates 51x weekly flights to the United States from India.

NAACP announces Religious Leadership Award



Rajan Zed (middle) with Patricia Y. Gallimore and Donald Gallimore, President and 2nd Vice President respectively of Reno Sparks NAACP

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Reno Sparks has announced religious award for Rajan Zed.

Patricia Y. Gallimore, President Reno Sparks NAACP said : "Your work in Northern Nevada and beyond, bringing people of all faiths, walks of life together in peace, love and harmony are being celebrated and recognized. I am proud to present the Religious leadership award to you.

Rajan Zed will be receiving this Award at the Reno-Sparks NAACP 76th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on August 24 in Sparks (Nevada), He will recite the invocation (opening-prayer) in Sanskrit, followed by English interpretation, from ancient Hindu scriptures Rig-Veda, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita.

Headquartered in Baltimore (Maryland), "founded 1909, the NAACP is the nation's first and largest grassroots-based civil rights organization", with "over 2,000 volunteer-run branches nationwide". "We are the home of grassroots activism for civil rights and social justice. We advocate, agitate, and litigate for the civil rights due to Black America"; it states.

BLP joined the protest at Jantar Mantar and demanded the reinstatement of Dr. Ambedkar's statue in Parliament

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Bharatiya Liberal Party (BLP) joined the protest at Jantar Mantar on August 9, 2024, against the removal of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar's statue in front of the Parliament. People in large numbers gathered at the protest site to raise their voice against the disregard of the sentiment of Dalit community.

BLP President, Dr Raizada, has called the removal of Dr Ambedkar's Statue an

reinstated in the parliament. "Om Birla (Lok Sabha Speaker) made the decision to remove the statue of Bada Saheb from the Parliament in a very secret manner.

It has caused enormous pain to Dalit Community. BLP demands the reinstatement of Dr Ambedkar's statue in the front of the parliament house.", said the Party President. Party General Secretary Akbar Khan Rana shared the same sentiments and said the only way to undo the wrong that has been done is by reinstalling Baba


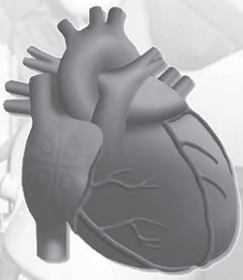


attempt to whitewash his legacy. "Dr Ambedkar is the father of the Indian constitution. He has invested his entire life in the upliftment of Dalit Community. This is an attempt to whitewash the legacy of Baba Saheb.", said Dr Raizada. Party President echoed the same sentiment as other organizations present in the protest and said in unison that Dr Ambedkar's statue should be

Saheb's statue again in the parliament.


Bharatiya Liberal Party (BLP) is fully committed to making social justice a reality for Delhi state. To achieve this, BLP will give the first Dalit Chief Minister to the Delhi state. BLP is gearing up to contest the upcoming 2025 Delhi Assembly Election and work towards eliminating corruption and social justice.

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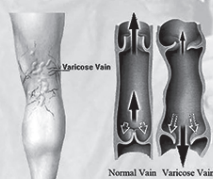


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FOG India Day Parade and Fair 2024

Cont'd from page 8

This provides an opportunity for the community to celebrate the event and appreciate the value of freedom, both in their country of origin - India as well as oldest democracy and land of dreams - USA.

Manisha Koirala is the star attraction and 'Grand Marshal' in the parade this year to engage and entertain the community. Manisha has acted in many movies including the famous web series 'Heeramandi'.

Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Convener, FOG (Festival of Globe) said, "Over the past 3 decades, FOG has made great strides helping Indian community realize their American dream and anchor in the Indian values."

FOG INDIA DAY MELA / FAIR
Saturday & Sunday August 17th - 18th 2024, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA



FOG INDIA DAY PARADE - FREE ENTRY: Sunday, August 18th, 2024, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA (At the cross section of Walnut Ave. and Paseo Padre Pkwy)

Panch Maha Bhoot in South India

India Post News Service

Nestled in the heart of South India, the Pancha Bhuta Sthalams are five ancient temples that have captured the imagination of spiritual seekers and scientists alike. Each dedicated to one of the five elements - earth, water, fire, air and space - these architectural marvels embody profound wisdom about the cosmos and holistic well-being. But what truly sets them apart is a mind-boggling mystery:

three of these temples, spanning over 155.34 miles (250 kilometers), align perfectly along a north-south axis with a precision that challenges even modern engineering.

As scientists explore into the secrets of this ancient alignment, a fascinating story unfolds. From studies of geomagnetic fields to simulations of an-



cient skies, researchers are piecing together clues about the sophisticated knowledge our ancestors must have possessed. Yet, the more we uncover, the more questions arise, reminding us of the enduring power of mystery.

Beyond their scientific intrigue, the Pancha Bhuta Sthalams offer practical wisdom for modern times, guiding us towards harmony with nature, precision in our endeavors, and balance in our lives. As we navigate an uncertain future, these ancient temples beckon us to embark on a journey of alignment, where the wisdom of the past and the inquiries of the present converge, promising a more holistic understanding of our place in the cosmos.

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Kamala Harris leads Trump in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin ahead of US Presidential elections: Polls

WASHINGTON, DC: US Vice President Kamala Harris has been leading former US President Donald Trump by four points each in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin among likely voters, according to the new polls conducted by The New York Times and Siena College.

Kamala Harris has transformed the 2024 presidential elections as it shows a major shift from previous Times/Siena polls, which found Trump leading Harris and President Joe Biden by an average of one or two points each across the same three states.

However, sometimes, it is hard to explain why polls shift from week to week or month to month.

The New York Times reported that it is hard to explain why voters shift at all in today's polarized politics.

Until now, the basic dynamic of the race was driven by US President Biden's unpopularity. It prevented Democrats from running their usual strategy against Trump and his MAGA allies, making an election a referendum on Trump by running a broadly acceptable candidate.

Notably, millions of voters were left with an agonizing choice between two candi-

dates they disliked.

In the poll, at least 49 percent of likely voters in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin highlight that they have a favorable view of her, a level neither Harris nor Biden



states, which is just enough to represent his highest rating in the history of Times/Siena polling.

According to a majority of people, Harris is honest and intelligent and she brings



Kamala Harris and Donald Trump

obtained in any previous Times/Siena poll this cycle, The New York Times reported.

Donald Trump's views haven't diminished, in fact, his favorability rating ticked up slightly, to 46 percent across the three

states, which is just enough to represent his highest rating in the history of Times/Siena polling.

According to a majority of people, Harris is honest and intelligent and she brings

voters say she's too liberal or progressive, compared with 44 percent who say she's not too far either way and another 6 percent who say she isn't progressive enough, as reported by The New York Times.

Moreover, Kamala Harris may be polling like a generic Democrat, but she will now be subject to much more scrutiny and attack, The New York Times reported.

Until now, Harris has been benefitted of very favorable media coverage for a few weeks now, along with major endorsements and an outpouring of goodwill from voters who had been yearning for an alternative to two disliked older candidates.

However, this period will not last forever, and the question is whether she will retain this kind of support when the going gets tough, The New York Times reported.

Certainly, the poll doesn't offer an indication either way. But the huge swing in opinion on Harris in just the last few weeks is a reminder that the public doesn't necessarily have firmly held views about her.

If Trump's lead over Harris in earlier polling wasn't necessarily based on solid views of the vice president, it can't be assumed that her lead over Trump stands on firm ground today. ANI

18 people reported missing in Balochistan, five dead bodies found in second half of July: Report

QUETTA: As Balochistan continues to face a dire situation with enforced disappearances, 18 individuals were reported missing in the last weeks of July this year, with five dead bodies found, The Balochistan Post stated in its bi-weekly report.

Enforced disappearances in Balochistan, an issue that has persisted for more than twenty years, for which, Baloch nationalists, activists, and human rights groups have been regularly accusing Pakistani intelligence agencies and security forces of carrying out these abductions and extrajudicial killings.

Despite the considerable evidence provided by these organizations, the Pakistani government denies any involvement.

Over this period of the second half of July 2024, 18 individuals were reported missing, four were released, and five

dead bodies were discovered.

However, the report does not include those detained in connection with the Baloch Raaji Muchi (Baloch National Gathering) in Gwadar and other areas.

These detainees, who include women, children, the elderly, and men, number in the hundreds, with estimates suggesting over 500 people may have been abducted.

Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan are part of a disturbing trend known as the "kill and dump" policy. This strategy, reportedly employed by state actors including Pakistani intelligence agencies and security forces, involves abducting individuals, often activists, nationalists, or perceived dissenters

The exact figures remain unclear due to a partial blackout of mobile networks.

According to the report, the regions most affected by enforced disappear-

ances are Quetta, Kech, Mashkay, and Awaran. In July, several individuals were reported missing. The report detailed the victims of enforced disappearances.

Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan are part of a disturbing trend known as the "kill and dump" policy. This strategy, reportedly employed by state actors including Paki-

stani intelligence agencies and security forces, involves abducting individuals, often activists, nationalists, or perceived dissenters, and then executing them, re-

ported The Balochistan Post.

The bodies are typically dumped in remote or public places to intimidate and control the population.

In response to these abuses, local activists and human rights groups continue to document and advocate against these practices. Their efforts, however, are often met with severe repression and further threats.

However, the resistance movement in Balochistan has seen notable developments in recent years as Baloch nationalists, activists, and various groups continue to challenge the Pakistani state's policies and seek greater autonomy or independence.

The increased activism has led to a heightened crackdown by Pakistani security forces. This includes increased military operations, curfews, and widespread arrests, further exacerbating the conflict. ANI

Maldivian Democratic Party President hails India's support, criticizes past anti-India policies

MALE: Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) President Abdulla Shahid met with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar during his visit to Male last week, expressing confidence that India will always be the first to assist the Maldives in times of need.

Shahid acknowledged the economic and diplomatic setbacks caused by the previous government's anti-India stance and welcomed the current shift towards improved relations.

In a post on X, Shahid said that the Maldives' government's "Anti-India" stance led to economic losses and a decline in the country's international standing.

"Great pleasure to warmly welcome and meet Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar to the Maldives with my colleagues from @MDPSecretariat. The Maldives has always been confident that India will always be the first responder any time the Maldives "dials an international 911," he wrote in his post.

"The current government's initial stoking of anti-India sentiments through aggressive slogans, mockery and the branding of a time-tested friend and development partner as a regional bully, has caused a decline in the Maldives' international standing, economic loss, and many other unnecessary difficulties, and challenges," Shahid wrote further.

"With this in mind, the MDP welcomes the sudden recalibration of the Maldives-India policy of President Muizzu's government, from its previous India Out policy. The MDP hopes that this shift will not be temporary or superficial, but consistent and meaningful in the best interests of the people of the Maldives. Further, the MDP calls on the Government of President Muizzu to issue a public apology for the actions, lies and irresponsible comments from its officials which have resulted in



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, in Maldives. (ANI Photo)

significant damage to the Maldives foreign and economic outlook," he added.

The MDP also issued a statement mentioning various projects funded by India.

"The Maldives-India relationship has always been based on the principles of mutual respect, respect for international law, territorial integrity, a common desire for regional security, and an open and peaceful Indian Ocean," it said.

The MDP welcomed the visit of

Jaishankar to Addu City, during which he handed hand over the projects funded by India to the Maldives.

"The MDP notes with appreciation that during this visit, Minister Jaishankar will hand over the reclamation and shore protection project and the inauguration of 4-Lane Detour Link Road comprising of 1.463 kms which connects Maradhoo to Hithadhoo around the Hankedu Island. The construction of the road is a crucial aspect of the Hankedu Integrated Tourism Project, and is vital to the successful economic development of the South. It is also a major component of the "Design and Build of Construction of Roads and Drainage System in Addu City Project", and also

The current government's initial stoking of anti-India sentiments through aggressive slogans, mockery and the branding of a time-tested friend and development partner as a regional bully, has caused a decline in the Maldives

MDP said in its post.

The MDP further pointed out that President Muizzu's anti-India stance caused difficulties for the Maldives, stating, "The current government's initial stoking of anti-India sentiments through aggressive slogans, mockery and the branding of a time-tested friend and development partner as a regional bully, has caused a decline in the Maldives' international standing, economic loss, and many other unnecessary difficulties, and challenges."

The MDP further hailed the exchange of notes during this visit, to train a further 1,000 civil service officers in a key human resource program initiated during President Solih's government.

MDP also welcomed the signing of the MoU between the Ministry of Economic Development and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), on enhancing and expanding digital and integrated payment systems - another MoU that was discussed and finalized during President Solih's administration.

"MDP welcomes with gratitude to India, the inauguration and handover of six High Impact Community Development Projects, implemented with grant assistance from the Government of India, and signed and implemented during President Solih's administration. The High Impact Community Development Project scheme is a highly successful and beneficial grant assistance scheme initialized in 2019," it said.

The MDP further welcomed the handover of water and sewerage projects in 28 islands financed through the EXIM Bank of India. These projects were undertaken through the USD 800-million Line of Credit extended by the Government of India, during the first State Visit of President Solih to India, in December 2018, and inaugurated during President Solih's administration. ANI

Rahul Gandhi is most dangerous man: Kangana Ranaut

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Kanagana Ranaut launched a no-holds-barred attack on the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, over the latter's support and endorsement of the Hindenburg Research's report on SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch. She described him as the 'most dangerous man' and accused him of destabilizing the nation and its economy.

The BJP MP from Mandi, in a post on X, said that Rahul's condemnation of the government over a 'malicious' report was because he couldn't secure the PM's chair.

"Rahul Gandhi is the most dangerous man, he is bitter,



Kanagana Ranaut and Rahul Gandhi

poisonous and destructive, his agenda is that if he can't be the Prime Minister, then he might as well destroy this nation," she wrote in the social media post.

Notably, the latest report by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research leveled direct accusations at the SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, a charge vehemently denied by the latter as 'baseless and based on insinuations'.

Kangana Ranaut said that the Hindenburg report, which it claimed to be a 'very big' revelation, turned out to be a damp squib but Rahul was 'trying everything to destabilize this nation, its security and economy.' IANS

Bangladesh protests: US-based expert refutes foreign interference allegations; says crucial to restore law and order, stop attack on minorities

DIKSHA RATHORE

WASHINGTON DC: Raising concerns about the violence against minorities in Bangladesh, particularly Hindus, Michael Kugelman, Director of the South Asia Institute at The Wilson Center, said that it would be very difficult for the country to make "meaningful progress" until the attacks stop and the law and order situation is addressed.

He also refuted allegations of foreign interference behind the mass uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina's ouster, stating he had not seen any "plausible evidence" to support these claims.

In an interview with ANI, Kugelman said, "A few stories are playing out in Bangladesh that deserve more scrutiny, investigation...the issue of attacks and threats on minorities, particularly the minority Hindu communities. We know the documented cases of members of the Hindu society being attacked...On Friday (9 Aug.) there was a large protest in Dhaka, in which, people were calling for more protection of the Hindu community."

The US-based foreign policy expert also highlighted the issue of misinformation regarding the situation in Bangladesh, emphasizing that media outlets should address this aspect. "But there has been a lot of misinformation as well. Many of these reports are actually not true. The problem with misinformation is it can distract from the fact that bad things are happening...so I really hope that the Bangladesh media and other foreign media on the ground will continue to look into this," Kugelman added.

"I underscore something that I said earlier, I think it would be very difficult for Bangladesh to make meaningful

progress and peaceful political transition, so long as attacks on the law and order situation, which includes attacks, threats on religious minorities, particularly Hindus, are not addressed," he said.

Kugelman dismissed allegations from Sheikh Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, who claimed foreign interference behind the protests, saying that the unrest was driven by "internal factors." He noted that the Hasina government's harsh crackdown on protesters escalated the movement.

"My view has been very simple. I see this as a crisis that was driven by purely internal factors, by students who were unhappy about a particular issue, job quotas that

A few stories are playing out in Bangladesh that deserve more scrutiny, investigation...the issue of attacks and threats on minorities, particularly the minority Hindu communities. We know the documented cases of members of the Hindu society being attacked...On Friday (9 Aug.) there was a large protest in Dhaka

they didn't like and they were worried about the government. Sheikh Hasina's government cracked down very hard on the students and that then turned the movement into something much bigger. And this was simply driven by internal factors," Kugelman said.

"Now, you know, when there is a conspiracy theory that is rooted in issues of foreign influence, one cannot disprove such type of allegation. Also, at the same time, one cannot conclusively prove it. I think the onus, is the responsibility to provide a plausible explanation for how it can be true. I am yet to hear that from Sheikh Hasina's son, from anyone," he added.

He said that the political instability in Bangladesh is a "troubling situation," adding that it is going to be a very difficult task to bring into effect a "peaceful political transition."

Kugelman noted, "Well, it certainly is a very troubling situation. Whenever I'm asked what I think the top priority of the interim government should be, I say and continue to believe that it's restoring law and order. It's clear there's significant amount of instability right now, and I think it's still unclear what the scale of that violence is. But I think that it's going to be very difficult to make meaningful efforts to affect a peaceful political transition until the violence and the unrest subsides. And I think that there needs to be a lot more work, a lot more investigation as to exactly what is going on, particularly in terms of the scale, but I and so many others are of course very concerned about this current level of violence and unrest."

"With the police not having a major presence on the ground and with the army seemingly reluctant to play that role of trying to impose law and order, there's a vacuum, there's a security vacuum that I think that violent actors will and have taken advantage of, and this is certainly very concerning," he added.

Bangladesh is experiencing a fluid political situation, with Sheikh Hasina resigning from the post of Prime Min-

ister on August 5 amid mounting protests. The protests, led mainly by students demanding an end to a quota system for government jobs, evolved into anti-government demonstrations.

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi wrote to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently, urging him to assist the Bangladeshi government in ending the violence against Hindus.

Krishnamoorthi requested Blinken to engage with Muhammad Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government on August 8, and bring violence to an end and perpetrators to justice. ANI

"Proud moment": PM Modi on President Murmu conferred with Timor Leste's highest civilian award

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said it was a proud moment for the people of the country as President Droupadi Murmu was honored with the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste and said this reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between the two nations.

President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award last week. The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and empowerment of women



President Droupadi Murmu conferred with Timor-Leste's highest civilian award, the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste by the country's President José Ramos-Horta, in Dili. (ANI Photo)

PM Modi posted on X, emphasizing that the award is also recognition of her monumental contribution to public life for several years.

"It is a proud moment for us to see Rashtrapati Ji being honored with the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the nation's highest civilian award. This reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between our countries. It is also a recognition of her monumental contribution to public life for several years," PM Modi stated on X.

After receiving the award, President Murmu said that the "honor is a reflection of the ties of friendship between India and Timor-Leste." ANI

India operationalizes new resident mission in Albania

NEW DELHI: India has operationalized its resident mission in Albania, which will further help in expanding India's diplomatic footprint and enable the growth of bilateral trade.

"India has operationalized its new resident Mission in Tirana, Albania with effect from 10 August 2024," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"The coordinates of the new Embassy are: Embassy of India, Tirana (Camp Office) Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana Abdi Toptani Street 18, Tirana 1001 Albania. Email: admn.tirana@mea.gov.in Phone No. +355 697443684," it added.

The operationalization will further help in deepening political relations and strengthening sustained political outreach in multilateral fora. ANI

'Hindenburg trying to malign SEBI, creating market trust deficit'

MUMBAI: The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has slammed the latest Hindenburg report against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch, saying the US short-seller is trying to create a trust deficit in market ecosystem.

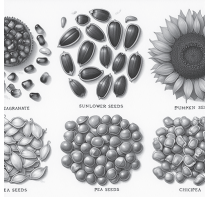
In a statement, the AMFI said that external comments on the markets regulator's Chairperson "not only attempt to undermine Madhabi Buch's contribution to the Indian capital market, but it also undermines our country's economic progress, and creating a trust deficit in the market ecosystem must be seen for what they truly are -- attempts to create sensation by connecting random events done in the past".

The mutual fund industry body warned that if the allegations were left unchecked, they can create unnecessary hurdles in the path of the world's fastest-growing economy.

"Hindenburg's claims lack context and understanding of the Indian regulatory environment, said the AMFI, adding that the report also "seeks to malign the hard-earned achievements of our nation". *IANS*

PM to release 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient varieties of seeds

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi released seeds of 109 high yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at the India Agricultural Research Institute in the national Capital recently, where he also interacted with farmers and scientists.



According to a PMO statement issued recently, seeds for these 109 varieties will be for 61 crops, which will include 34 field crops and 27 horticultural ones. *IANS*

India records fastest growth in intangible investments among major economies

NEW DELHI: Intangible investments have shown remarkable resilience compared to tangible investment in the recent past and India is the country among major global economies that experienced the fastest growth in intangible investment from 2011 to 2020, according to a recent report.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said in its report that India recorded the fastest growth in intangible investments, exceeding countries like Sweden and the US -- the two most intensive economies in terms of intangible investment as a share of GDP.

"India's performance is also comparable with that of certain advanced economies, its intangible investment level in 2020 being close to that of Sweden," the WIPO report mentioned.

Intangible assets include re-

search and development (R&D), software and data, design, brands and reputation, supply-chain expertise and top-tier skills and all assets that either result from or interact with intellectual property (IP) in some form.



According to the report, despite their intangible nature, such assets have the power to create immense value for companies, economies, societies and indi-

viduals alike.

"Although intangible, such assets exert significant influence over the fate and fortunes both of companies and countries in today's competitive landscape," said the report.

Intangible investment in India has been growing faster than tangible investment. The difference is even starker when the informal sector is excluded.

Excluding the informal sector, intangible investment in 2019 made up over 10 percent of India's GDP, which is comparable to the EU-22 average (about 10 percent) and higher than in Japan (about 9 percent).

The report mentioned that the GDP share of intangible investment in India in 2019 (10.4 percent) was comparable to that in 2020 (9.4 per-cent), indicating a continuing trend despite the pandemic-related disruptions.

In 2023, intangible investment accounted for over 16 percent of GDP in highly intangible-intensive economies like Sweden, the US and France.

According to the report, the fastest-growing types of intangible asset over the last decade have been software and data, followed by brands, organizational capital and new financial products. *IANS*

India's textiles, garment sector impacted due to Bangladesh unrest: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said there was some uncertainty in India's textiles and garments sector following the political turmoil in Bangladesh but it was too early to say what the overall impact on the economy would be.

She said that Indian businessmen have made investments in Bangladesh in good faith and these resulted in increasing exports and creating more jobs in Bangladesh.

"I hope these investments which have benefited Bangladesh remain safe," she remarked.

India has a policy of allowing liberal imports from low-income countries and this has also helped to spur growth in the Bangladesh economy, she added.

"I hope the new regime in

India has a policy of allowing liberal imports from low-income countries and this has also helped to spur growth in the Bangladesh economy, she added

Bangladesh will settle the problem sooner rather than later so that the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to their normal situation," the Finance Minister said.

She also said that the External Affairs Minister has made a statement in Parliament that India has stepped up its security along the Bangladesh border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

had extended his best wishes to the newly sworn-in head of the Bangladesh interim government, Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. PM Modi expressed hope for a swift return to

normalcy and called for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh.

PM Modi's request came in the backdrop of media reports stating that Hindus and other minorities were being attacked in Bangladesh following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government in violent protests led by radical elements.

Several hundred Bangladeshi nationals, mostly Hindus, gathered at different points along India's border with Bangladesh as they are trying to flee the strife-torn country. The BSF has tightened security along the border and

has even resorted to forming a human shield to prevent Bangladesh nationals from en-



Nirmala Sitharaman

tering the country. Several such incidents were reported from the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal. *IANS*

Rs 31,500 crore investment deal concluded during Telangana CM's US visit

HYDERABAD: Rs 31,500 crore investment deal was signed during Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to the US, which concluded last weekend.

The state government termed the visit of the Chief Minister as a highly successful business tour.

As per Chief Minister's Office (CMO), during the visit 19 investment deals/MOUs, totaling an investment of 31,500 crore, were concluded. This is expected to create 30,750 new jobs in the state.

The delegation, comprising IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, and officials, had over 50 business meetings and three roundtable conferences in New York, Washington, Dallas and California.

The CMO claimed that the delegation got massive reiteration and support for various major initiatives including the creation of a Future City, AI City, rejuvenation of Musi River, and the zealous pitch to shape Telangana as the right fit for the quest of America, Inc. for a China plus one alternate.

The delegation held roundtable conferences on business, AI and semiconductors, spanning coast to coast, and also met with CEOs, founders and business alliances and groups, inviting them to come to Hyderabad and consider

Telangana in their future plans.

The delegation pitched Hyderabad and Telangana to business heads and inves-

The major announcements in the IT sector include the Charles Schwab GCC, one of America's leading financial sector

The pharma/life sciences sector saw fresh investments from nearly a dozen American companies.

The MoU with Corning on skilling and flow chemistry reiterates the company's commitment to grow in Telangana and also reinforces the city's R&D capabilities.

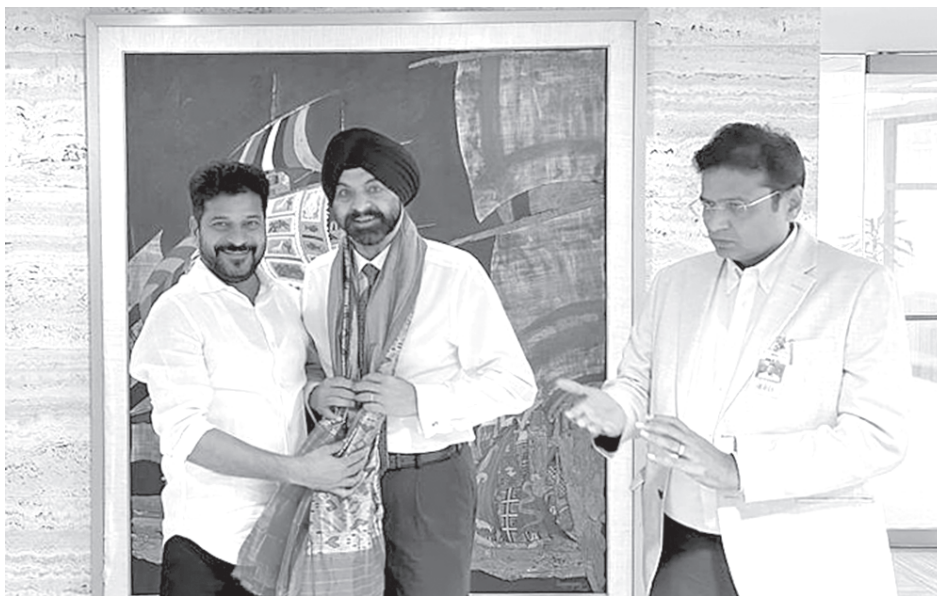
The announcement by Amgen, a top biotech company, to set up a new R&D tech facility is a major breakthrough for Hyderabad. A new GCC by Zoetis Inc, the leader in the animal health sector, and significant expansions by HCA and Thermofisher are set to give a further boost to the life sciences ecosystem of Telangana.

Another major takeaway from the visit was the decision by Amazon to make significant expansions in their data center presence in Hyderabad and use the city as a hub in a big way to drive their India presence.

Aurum Equity too made a significant announcement to set up an AI-powered green data center.

Monarch Tractors adds a crucial fillip to Telangana's ambition of growing in high-end manufacturing.

The delegation also engaged with Apple, Google, and Stanford University. *IANS*



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy meets World Bank President Ajay Banga, in United States. State IT minister D Sridhar Babu also seen. (ANI Photo)

tors across different sectors and closed new and expansion deals in IT, GCC, Lifesciences, Pharma, Data Centers, AI, Cloud and Data Centers, Electric Vehicle and batteries, green energy, FMCG and manufacturing.

corporations.

The Trinet deal opens major forays ahead in the HR solutions sector. The significant expansion announcements by global IT major Cognizant, and Arcesium, reinforced the edge of Hyderabad in the IT/GCC space.



Susan Wojcicki

SAN FRANCISCO: Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai has revealed that former YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, who passed away after two years of living with lung cancer, once took him for an ice cream and a walk around campus during his Google interview 20 years ago.

Remembering the days when he joined Google, Pichai said he was so fortunate to have spent so many years working with Susan closely.

"Susan always put others first, both in her values and in the day to day. I'll never

forget her kindness to me as a prospective 'Noogler' 20 years ago," Pichai wrote.

He further said: "I was sold - on Google and Susan. She was absolutely loved by her teams. Her time on earth was far too short, but she made every minute count".

Pichai termed Susan's loss as devastating for "all of us who know and love her, for the thousands of Googlers she led over the years, and for millions of people all over the world who looked up to her" as

advertising. Her tenure as CEO of YouTube saw the platform's growth into a global powerhouse, impacting millions of content creators and billions of viewers.

Pichai said that Susan's journey, from the garage she rented to Larry Page and Sergey Brin (Google founders) to leading teams across consumer products and building Ads business to becoming the CEO of YouTube, one of the world's most significant platforms, "is inspiring by any

around parental leave set a new standard for businesses everywhere. Susan was also deeply passionate about education.

Over the last two years, Susan devoted herself to making the world better through her philanthropy, including supporting research for the disease that ultimately took her life. *IANS*

"Susan always put others first, both in her values and in the day to day. I'll never forget her kindness to me as a prospective 'Noogler' 20 years ago"

she created incredible things at Google, YouTube and beyond.

Susan was one of Google's earliest employees and had received a 'Google Founders Award' for making AdSense, which helped tremendously in Google's

measure".

But she didn't stop there. As one of the earliest Googlers -- and the first to take maternity leave -- Susan used her position to build a better workplace for everyone.

In the years that followed, her advocacy



Sundar Pichai

'Protein-rich diet may lower mortality risk in kidney disease patients'

NEW DELHI: Following a diet rich in proteins may help lower the risk of death among people with chronic kidney disease (CKD), claims a study.

About 850 million people worldwide are estimated to have kidney disease, and most live in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

The study led by researchers from Karolinska Institutet and Stockholm University in Sweden showed that the benefits of proteins might outweigh the downsides in older adults with mild or moderate CKD, in whom disease progression may play a more limited role in survival.

For the study, the team included 8,543 community-dwelling adults 60 years and older between March 2001 and June 2017. They were followed up for mortality from December 2021 to January 2024.



The results, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, revealed, "that a higher intake of total, animal, and plant protein was associated with lower mortality in adults 60 years and older with mild or moderate CKD".

Importantly, the associations were larger among participants without CKD, the team said.

The researchers explained that protein supplementation appears to reduce the risk of death in older persons, possibly by elevating branched-chain amino acid levels. A higher protein intake can boost muscle mass and strength, slower rate of bone loss, higher bone mineral density, lower risk of frailty, and improved cardiovascular function and recovery from illness (including wound healing), said the researchers. *IANS*

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

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August 16, 2024

8 medics from India, Europe and US selected as 'Vattikuti Explorers'

MICHIGAN: Eight medical practitioners, from India, Europe and US have been selected as 'Vattikuti Explorers' by robotic surgery leader Vattikuti Foundation, it was announced recently.

The selection of these medics followed a global initiative that attracted scores of applicants from 10 countries -- Belgium, Egypt, India, Italy, Nepal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the UK and the US.

Those selected from India are Yashi Singh from MGM Medical College, Navi Mumbai and Sanjana Mahesh from JIPMER, Karaikal, Puducherry.

Singh has published papers on ethics in the medical profession. She is preparing to practice medicine and surgery and is committed to spreading awareness and counseling her patients.

Others are Maryam Imran from University College London

and Raghav Khanna from King's College London, both from the UK; Ilario Slaverio from the University of Padua, Italy; Margherita Ciabattini from Saint Raphael

'Vattikuti Explorers' program will attend the Jr Orsi's Summer School in Ghent, Belgium, from August 19-21.

"Through this program, the



Hospital, Italy; and Alexandru Duda from Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania. Julio Yanes from the University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, Florida, was also selected.

The inaugural cohort of eight

Explorers will have a unique opportunity to connect with established robotic surgeons who are eager to mentor them on a one-to-one basis while also helping them expand their professional networks," said Dr Mahendra Bhandari, CEO, US-based

Vattikuti Foundation.

The three-day intensive open and robotic basic surgical training program will be conducted by eight medical experts with exposure to a range of robotic systems, said the Foundation.

The selection was based on expression of interest in research, innovation, and use of modern technology and a strong desire to advance the world of medicine and surgery.

The Explorers will be given training to the basics of robotic surgery, surgery training on different robotic systems, as well as basic surgical skill tasks and high-quality lectures.

They will also experience a wet lab to gain hands-on practice with real tissues, simulation of real scenarios, mastery of systems, error management, skill assessment and team coordination. *IANS*

WHO collaboration boosts India's position as leader in healthcare innovation: Minister

NEW DELHI: The partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the production of medical devices strengthens India's position as a leader in healthcare innovation, the government has said.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, said that despite producing indigenous devices, we need to produce them at the required volume to meet the growing demand.

Towards this, a MoU has been signed between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medi-

cal Science and Technology (SCTIMST) in Kerala, under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the world health body.

"The Ministry of Science and

Technology is proud to be a part of the MoU as it allows SCTIMST and Department of Science and Technology to enter into a partnership with global entrepreneurs, licensing the technologies and creating

revenue generation through royalty,' said the minister.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' during Covid times, Dr Singh emphasized that by promoting indigenous manufacturing and reducing reliance on imports, this partnership strengthens India's position as a leader in healthcare innovation.

Additionally, it contributes to the development of a highly skilled workforce, further enhancing the nation's manufacturing capabilities, said the minister. *IANS*



Africa CDC calls for urgent action against concerning spread of mpox

ADDIS ABABA: The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has called for urgent action to avert the "concerning spread" of mpox across the continent.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, addressing a media briefing on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa recently, said at least 16 countries across all five regions of Africa have been affected by mpox.

He said some 38,465 cases and 1,456 deaths have been reported in Africa since January 2022, including 887 cases and five deaths during the last week, Xinhua news agency reported.

Data from the Africa CDC show that six new African countries have been affected by mpox during the past 10 days alone, while 18 other African countries are at high risk of being affected by the disease.

Calling for urgent action against the rapid spread of mpox in Africa, the Africa CDC chief said, mpox was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization from July 2022 to May 2023.



Noting that the number of new mpox cases reported this year represented a 160 percent increase compared to the same period in 2023, Kaseya underscored the need to take strong actions against the current spread of mpox in Africa.

"When we had the public health emergency of international concern and if we compare it with where we are today, we saw a huge increase justifying the action that we are taking," he said.

He further expressed concern over the disease's mode of transmission, which he said is mostly driven by cross-border spread linked to sexual transmission.

"What we are doing in Africa CDC today is to understand the number of factors, especially to understand why there is this increase of mpox cases. This increase is due, first, to how the virus is mutated to the new moods of transmission," Kaseya said.

"We know initially it was just the contact with animals and human beings. But today it's mostly through sexual transmission. This one is explaining the increase of cases," he added. /ANS

Up to Rs 50 lakh per patient is provided for treatment of rare diseases: Center

NEW DELHI: Up to Rs. 50 lakh per patient has been provided for treatment of rare diseases, said Anupriya Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

The National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March 2021.

Since then, "a total of 1,118 patients have benefited," Patel informed.

"The financial support of up to Rs. 50 lakh per patient is provided for the treatment at the notified centers of excellence (CoEs) for rare diseases," the minister added.

Based on the recommendation of the Central Technical Committee for Rare Diseases (CTCRD), presently 63 rare diseases are included under NPRD, Patel said.

There are also 12 CoEs, where patients can register themselves to avail the financial assistance.

The CoEs include premier Government tertiary hospitals that come with facilities for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of rare diseases.

There are about 7,000 known rare diseases, affecting around 8 percent of the world's population. About 75 percent of rare disease patients happen to be children. /ANS



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In Brief

BSF 'pushes back' Bangladeshi nationals trying to enter India

The day prior, in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) stopped infiltration attempts along the India-Bangladesh border. *IANS*

Immigration

POST

August 16, 2024

"We are keeping a close watch over the political turmoil that happened two days back in Bangladesh... any problem created there by the miscreants may affect our areas"

"Will not allow any type of infiltration or illegal immigration," says Odisha ADG Sanjay Kumar

"We are keeping a close watch over the political turmoil that happened two days back in Bangladesh... any problem created there by the miscreants may affect our areas also so we have alerted our coastal security

"We have a very long coast, more than 450 km so not only coastal security but local police have also been sensitized, and we are ready to meet any situation. I hope the situation will not

Bangladesh is facing a fluid political situation, with Sheikh

signed as Prime Minister of Bangladesh and left the country, President Mohammed Shahabuddin announced the dissolution of the country's parliament to make way for the forma-



A day after Sheikh Hasina re-

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, Dhaka Tribune reported. Bangladesh President's Press Secretary, Joyнал Abedin, made the announcement. ANI

Online visa 'scam' was done deceiving Sri Lanka's Cabinet: Experts

"In the paper filed with the Cabinet, it was stated that \$200 million would be invested for

He also charged that through the controversial deal, several fraudulent activities had taken place.

"But ignoring all these, the monopoly to promote the country's tourism was given to a consortium of foreign companies which is a completely fraudulent deal," Jayasuiriya said.

Cont'd on page 21

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Canadian MP Chandra Arya says government will crackdown on asylum seekers who misuse system

OTTAWA: Chandra Arya, a Canadian Member of Parliament on Friday said that while the government would support genuine refugee claimants, it would crack down on those who misused their 'generous' refugee system.

Arya said that several people who arrive with valid visas apply for asylum soon after landing in Canada.

In a post on X, he quoted a report by a Canada-based daily, Toronto Star and said, "In 2023, Canada's largest independent tribunal received 138,000 new claims, up by 129% from the year before and by 136% in 2019 ... In the first three months of 2024, already 46,700 claims were lodged, with a total of 186,000 cases in the queue."

"I am told there are many, who are seeking refugee status, are here for economic opportunities (and are using the asylum route to jump the queue). I am also told, that thousands of international students who do not meet the eligibility criteria to apply for permanent residency are using this path to stay back in Canada. I have heard from authoritative sources of hundreds of people arriving in Canada with valid visitor's visas and applying for asylum soon after landing in Canada. While we should continue to support genuine refugee claimants, we should strictly deal with those who are misusing and gaming our gener-

ous refugee system," Arya added in his post

According to a report in the Toronto Star, Canada's largest independent tribunal received 1,38,000 new claims for refugee status in 2023, rising by 129 percent from 2022 and by 136 percent in 2019, Canada stares at 1,86,000 cases in the queue, as 46,700 claims were lodged by the end of March 2024.



Chandra Arya

"It didn't take long for me to realize with the team that we needed to maintain our ability to render fair decisions despite the growing intake. We need to do something about that," the Toronto Star quoted Manon Brassard, the chairperson of the Immigration and Refugee Board in 2023 as having told a Senate committee in June,

The report added that in the spring session of the Canadian parliament, the federal government tried to bring an omnibus bill to tackle the backlog and streamline the process. But, it failed to pass. Critics say the board needs more decision makers and the government must take some people out of the queue and give them other alternatives.

Immigration lawyer Maureen Silcoff told the Toronto Star that Canada can offer immigration status to asylum seekers who are employed in fields with labor shortages. "That could be a win-win," he said. *ANI*

Online visa 'scam' was done deceiving Sri Lanka's Cabinet: Experts

Cont'd from Page 20

He also stressed that the country's national security was affected as all the tourists arriving in the country were exposed to third parties.

Meanwhile, Tamil National Alliance (TNA) Parliamentarian M.A. Sumanthiran, on whose petition the Supreme Court suspended the operations of three companies, said the total loss to the government from this fraud amounted to around \$1.4 billion.

"The service that local company Mobitel offered for \$1 went up to \$17.5 under this new company," Sumanthiran, also a lawyer, told IANS.

He said that every dollar charged for an online visa was directly going to Dubai whereas when done by the state-run telecommunication company, the money is deposited with the Treasury.

"This is clearly a fraud," he said.

In April this year, the Immigration Department under mysterious circumstances barred the state-run telecommunication company Mobitel, which handled the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system for issuing visas to tourists visiting Sri Lanka, and handed over the task to a tripartite foreign company.

The three parties included Singapore-registered GBS

"The service that local company Mobitel offered for \$1 went up to \$17.5 under this new company," Sumanthiran, also a lawyer, told IANS

Technology Services, the UAE-registered IVS Global-FZCO, and the Dubai-headquartered VFS VF Worldwide Holdings Ltd., which was originally founded in India.

Following multiple rights cases filed by lawmakers, rights activists, and tour operators, the Supreme Court ordered to immediately suspend the services provided by the foreign companies and revert to the local telecommunication entity.

On May 2, the scam came to light when a Sri Lankan traveller posted a video taken at the on-arrival visa counter at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), complaining about denying visa to his partner.

In the video which went viral, he complained that Indian nationals were operating the VISA counter, questioning why Sri Lankan officials were not engaged in the process.

However, Public Security Minister Tiran Alles defended the VFS-led consortium, stating that the video was an attempt to sabotage, as he threatened to take legal action against the traveller.

The High Commission of India in Colombo was also quick to refute the allegation that an 'Indian company' was involved in visa issuance at the BIA. *IANS*

Walz co-sponsored in Congress resolution critical of Modi, but changed tune after he became PM

NEW YORK: Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz had co-sponsored when he was in Congress, a resolution praising the US government's decision to deny Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visa when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

But after PM Modi's election as Prime Minister of India, Walz had a change of heart.

After attending PM Modi's 2016 address to the joint session of Congress, Walz tweeted, "Joint session with Indian PM @narendramodi. World's largest & oldest democracies together. Opportunity to strengthen work on common goals."

Prime Minister Modi tweeted back, "Absolutely Representative Walz. Strong India-USA ties benefit the world immensely."

The resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives in November 2013, but before the end of its term in 2014, PM Modi was elected Prime Minister and the administration of US President

Barack Obama was scrambling to make peace with him.

It was not taken up by the House and quietly died in the Judicial and Foreign Affairs Committees and the Immigration Subcommittee it had been referred to.

Prime Minister Modi became a feted guest of Obama who had invited him for a visit to Washington



Tim Walz

in September 2014, making the visa issue moot.

Before being elected the Governor of Minnesota in 2019, Walz served six terms in the House, starting in 2007.

Pennsylvania Republican Joseph Pitts introduced the resolution and Walz was among the 51 co-sponsors.

The resolution, HR 417 of the 113th session of Congress, went under the long innocuous-sounding title of "Praising India's rich religious diversity and commitment to tolerance and equality, and reaffirming the need to protect the rights and freedoms of religious minorities".

The resolution said it "commends the US government for exercising its authority in 2005 under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to deny a US visa to PM Narendra Modi on the grounds of religious freedom violations".

Quoting reporting by the magazine Tehelka, the resolution said that in the 2002 Gujarat riots, "many of the people who participated in the violence said it was possible only because of the connivance of the state police and Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi". *IANS*

Steady repo rate, indexation benefits booster dose for housing industry

NEW DELHI: The Central Bank's decision to keep repo rates unchanged at 6.5 percent for the ninth consecutive time aligns well with the government's indexation benefits, industry experts said recently, adding, this will further help aspiring homebuyers.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged as inflation has risen above 5 percent, beyond the targeted level of 4 percent.

Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Group, said that the RBI's decision sets a positive tone for the housing industry.

"With interest rates staying steady, EMIs will remain manageable for current and potential homeowners, potentially leading to increased home sales - particularly in the price-sensitive affordable segment," he said.

The earlier announcement regarding indexation also brings tax advantages for property investors, as it permits adjustments to the purchase price keeping inflation in mind, reducing capital gains tax burdens upon property sale. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

India's pre-engineered building industry to see 10-12 pc revenue growth in FY25, next fiscal



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Cabinet green lights extension of PM Awaas Yojana-Gramin, 2 Crore new homes to boost rural housing by 2029

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for the implementation of the "Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)."

According to a statement by the Ministry of Rural Development, the Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development for the implementation of PMAY-G during the fiscal years 2024-25 to 2028-29.

Under the approved scheme, the government will provide financial assistance for the construction of two crore additional houses at the existing unit assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in the North Eastern Region States, Hill States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Cabinet statement further added that the approved scheme is a continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin

Permanent Wait List (PWL) by providing assistance within an overall ceiling of two crore pucca houses with basic amenities

cluding a Central Share of Rs. 2,05,856 crore and a State Matching Share of Rs. 1,00,281 crore.

The Cabinet also stated, the continuation of the scheme beyond March 2026 will be based on an evaluation of PMAY-G by the NITI Aayog and, a re-appraisal of the scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). Additionally, the Awaas+ list will be updated to identify eligible rural households using modified exclusion criteria.

The government announced that administrative funds will be set at 2% of the program funds, with a bifurcation of the administrative funds as follows: 1.70% to be released to the States/UTs and 0.30% to be retained at the Central level.

This initiative will also support the completion of houses from the previous phase of PMAY-G as of March 31, 2024, during FY 2024-25 at the existing rates.

Furthermore, the government mentioned that the remaining 35 lakh houses not completed by March 31, 2024, would be finished to achieve the cumulative target of 2.95 crore houses from the previous phase.

The government's decision will facilitate the construction of two crore additional houses under PMAY-G over the next five years, from FY 2024-29, to address the housing needs that have arisen over the years. The construction of these houses is expected to benefit nearly 10 crore individuals.

This approval will enable all the houseless and those living in dilapidated and kutcha houses to build safe and secure homes with all basic amenities, ensuring the safety, hygiene, and social inclusiveness of the beneficiaries. *ANI*



(PMAY-G) to saturate the Awaas+ (2018) list (after updating) and balance eligible households in the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011

from April 2024 to March 2029.

The government has allocated a total outlay of Rs. 3,06,137 crore for the fiscal years 2024-25 to 2028-29, in-

Chinese authorities attempt to revive declining real estate sector

BEIJING: The Chinese authorities have planned to use regional bonds to fund their project of purchasing idle land from cash-strapped property developers of China intended for the construction of affordable housing, Nikkei Asia reported.

Notably, this move comes at a time when the Chinese economy is currently witnessing a severe dip in the property sector.

These special-purpose bonds were first rolled out in 2015 as a way by which the Chinese government could fund their infrastructure projects, including economic development zones and roads.

As the country suffers from a crisis, a portion of the proceeds

is expected to be used to acquire undeveloped land and unfinished buildings from real estate developers in the country, Nikkei Asia.

Currently, the statistics of China's new-home sales by area

In China, strapped for cash, real estate companies have been unable to start developing new plots and sustain themselves in the noose-diving property market of the country.

through the planned purchases.

In May of this year, the central government of China announced a borrowing program to push local authorities to buy up unsold housing stock. However, not much has been achieved under the initiative.

This latest proposal of the Chinese government could bring an even worse era for Chinese finances if the planned new affordable housing strategy fails to generate revenue for the government.

Other than funding infrastructure, special-purpose bonds have been bringing up the troubled small and midsize banks of the country since COVID-19 in 2020. *ANI*



fell around 22 percent in the first half of the year, starting in January to June, the same news report said, citing the National Bureau of Statistics.

The Chinese government, by the move, plans to provide financial relief to struggling real estate developers in China and encourage the effective use of land

Explained: How new LTCG tax options will boost real estate market

MUMBAI: The government's decision to allow taxpayers to pick between two long-term property transactions has brought cheers to the real estate industry, with experts saying that this move will have a very profound impact on both homeowners and aspiring homebuyers.

The debate kicked off after the Union Budget, which proposed to levy a 12.5 percent long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax rate without indexation for properties purchased before July 23, 2024.

The move triggered a massive deliberation among the stakeholders - from real estate sellers to the industry.

Now, the Centre has brought an amendment to the Finance Bill 2024, to allow taxpayers to select either a 12.5 percent long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax rate without indexation or a 20 percent rate with indexation for property acquired before July 23 this year.

This change gives homeowners flexibility in their tax liabilities when they sell their property. For properties held over a long period, where inflation has majorly raised the property's value, opting for the 20 percent tax rate with indexation would be beneficial. Indexation adjusts the purchase price for inflation, potentially reducing the taxable gain and overall tax liability.

According to Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group, for properties held for shorter periods or in low-inflation periods, the 12.5 percent rate sans indexation could be more beneficial and result in a lower tax burden. This revision

can potentially stimulate the residential property market because it provides clarity and implies potential tax burden reduction.

Homebuyers' sentiment will improve as they have flexible options for addressing their future capital gains tax burden. This will result in higher demand, particularly in markets where property values have been seen to rise significantly, Puri added.

Moreover, the anticipation of these changes can potentially cause some homeowners to sell properties sooner to benefit from the new tax regime. This will raise the overall supply of housing units available on the market, helping to keep prices in check.

The concern pertaining to higher LTCG tax liability on property sales had raised a sense of anxiety among the investors, especially for the properties that were acquired before the prescribed date.

The provision of this choice is a landmark development towards keeping the taxpayers' and investors' sentiment at the epicenter and will give a major boost to investments in the real estate sector across housing segments.

"Additionally, the rollover benefits remain intact which means that if capital gains are invested, deductions under Sections 54, 54F and 54EC for buying or constructing residential real estate up to specified limits, LTCG will continue to be exempt from tax," said Nitin Bavisi, CFO, Ajmera Realty & Infra India Ltd. *IANS*



India's pre-engineered building industry to see 10-12 pc revenue growth in FY25, next fiscal

NEW DELHI: Backed by strong demand because of industrial capital expenditure (capex) and government spending on infrastructure development, pre-engineered building (PEB) manufacturers in the country are likely to see revenue growth of 10-12 percent in FY25 as well as next fiscal, a recent report showed.

According to a Crisil Ratings report, PEB structures have emerged as the preferred choice for industrial and infrastructure buildings given the time and cost benefits they offer.

Diverse applications across sectors such as airports (hangars, terminal buildings), roads (toll plazas) and railways (yards, parts of stations) etc. will drive broad-based demand for PEB structures as increasing government outlay in infrastructure is expected to support demand.

Installation of these structures typically takes 40-50 percent less time compared with conventional structures

with significant cost savings owing to reduced steel and labor requirements.

The report mentioned that this is fuelling demand for PEB structures, along with additional benefits such as modular design and high recyclability of materials used.

According to Anand Kulkarni, Director, CRISIL Ratings, industrial capex, which accounts for around 50 percent of the PEB demand, is expected to remain healthy over the next two fiscal years.

"Additionally, rising penetration of PEB due to cost benefits over traditional structures will also drive demand. Within the industrial sector, warehousing and logistics parks have emerged

as the key segment," Kulkarni said, adding that growth will be strong over the next couple of years, backed by e-commerce and the associated expansion of logistics players. *IANS*



ED attaches assets worth Rs 113 crore of realty promoter linked to Lalu Prasad

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties valued at around Rs 113 crore of Amit Katyal, an alleged associate of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's family, and his realty firms in a money laundering case, officials said.

The case pertains to "siphoning and illegal diversion" of plot buyers' money by Amit Katyal, Krrish Realtech and Brahma City "without having any licence from DTCP in its name".

The ED initiated an investigation based on various FIRs registered by the Gurugram Police and Economic Offences Wing (EOW), New Delhi, under various sections of IPC against Krrish Realtech, Brahma City, Amit Katyal, Rajesh Katyal and their associates.

It is alleged that Krrish Realtech and Amit Katyal, involved in the real estate business, have duped the investors in the guise of allotment of plots on which no license existed and illegally diverted hundreds of crores of funds of such plot buyers abroad through criminal conspiracy, misrepresentation, fraud and cheating.

The ED had conducted search opera-

tions under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in March, and incriminating evidence of Amit Katyal, Rajesh Katyal and others were seized, which revealed more than Rs 200 crore taken from plot buyers have been invested abroad in hotel-cum-luxury real estate project in Srilanka and St. Kitts Nevis to obtain passport through shell companies whose beneficial ownership has been traced to Amit Katyal's son Krishan Katyal, the agency said in a statement.

It said the attached properties included 70 acres of land in Sector 63 and 65 in Gurugram, five flats in a real estate project named Krrish Province Estates and seven flats in Krrish Florence Estate in Gurugram held in the names of "benami" directors and two flats in Mumbai held in a "benami" company.

Besides, a luxurious farmhouse at Jonapur and a commercial property in New Delhi, fixed deposit receipts of associates to the tune of Rs 27 crore where Katyal was found to have "parked" the proceeds of crime in the names of companies and key individuals including close relatives, were also among the assets attached.

Further investigation is under progress. *IANS*



Philosophy

SWAMI DAYANANDA

Once read a leaflet which said, 'An executive is paid to execute.' He can't give excuses. He has to deliver constantly. But this is not possible. Even the best batsman in cricket can get out. He can have a killer instinct alright but then he can lose the middle stump.

We cannot be blind to the law of probability. Even a rock thrown up will come down at the acceleration of 32 ft/sec/sec. We don't have the last word in everything. This is the reality. Therefore, it is better to have a humble attitude. The ensuing inner leisure will allow one to do the job better, and to make proper decisions.

"I don't think that there is anything that I cannot do," is the meaning of killer instinct. I would rather prefer to have the attitude of "Why not? I will succeed!" I open my mouth and talk. This is success. I walk, and reach the other side of the road, it is success. I eat, and then again, I am hungry, another success.

My whole life is a story of success af-

ter success, after success, after success. The killer instinct which is a heart-breaking pressure for the executives can be abandoned. Instead, "Why not? I will succeed!" is a better attitude to have.

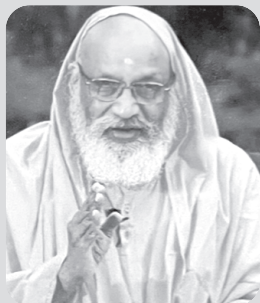
dharm, wife's dharma, son's dharma, doctor's dharma - there is dharma for every role. Therefore, no achievement is worth it at the cost of dharma. This is indeed a big recognition.

It is true that according to the desakala, place, and time, the norms of dharma get challenged. In the Mahabharata war, the two sides did not go by dharma all the time. There were compromises made. However, adharma is still adharma and one has to do prayascitta, atonement. This can be in the form of a purta karma, that is, doing something for the benefit of the community.

One day at a time

When you walk on a dark road, you have a torch in your hand. This torch will light up only about 10 feet. So you go 10 feet. You have to walk 10 miles but now you walk only 10 feet because only that much light you have. Similarly, your goal is to be reduced to many pieces.

What is that you have to achieve in a



Swami Dayanand

Life is success after success, after success

No achievement is worth it at the cost of dharma. This is a big recognition

ter success, after success, after success. The killer instinct which is a heart-breaking pressure for the executives can be abandoned. Instead, "Why not? I will succeed!" is a better attitude to have.

Dharma & adharma

Quite often one faces the conflict of dharma and adharma while endeavoring to achieve one's goals. In life, one has to achieve the goal of dharma also. Nowhere in the world dharma is considered as an end to be accomplished.

In the Vedic culture, human ends, purusartha, are four-fold - dharma, artha, kama, and moksha. Dharma is to be accomplished first. Artha is the pursuit of wealth, power, name, and security. Kama is various avenues of pleasure.

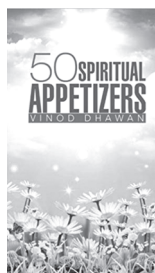
Dharma does not sub-serve artha and kama. Since dharma can be in conflict with the pursuit of artha and kama, it is considered as an end to be accomplished by a human being. Dharma is kula-dharma, acarya-dharma, sisya-dharma, bhakta's dharma, husband's

given day, that alone you work towards accomplishing that day. This way, you can achieve a lot of good things. Even planning for the future is today's planning. Tomorrow you can either conform with it or change it. Really, by living one day at a time, you will retain the inner leisure.

Excerpted from a satsa?g by Swami Dayananda Saraswati held in Oct 2014, Rishikesh for a group of CEOs. The 94th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda is being celebrated on August 15.

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The Third Eye: This is the age of 'proxy wars' with terrorism as chief weapon

D.C. PATHAK

The end of the Cold War in 1991 was known to have opened the floodgate of cross-border conflicts, insurgencies and separatist violence instigated from outside -- all representing a switch over to 'covert' attacks in replacement of 'open' warfare.

The pent-up hostilities kept in check by a tense division of the world between two superpowers partly explained why hostile neighbours felt free to settle scores with each other in the belief that they would not attract intervention by large global players.

The termination of the Cold War coincided with the rise of terrorism as an instrument of proxy wars.

It is remarkable that Afghanistan which became the cause for dismemberment of the USSR, also turned out to be the territory that would provide the run-up to the terror attack of 9/11 on the US -- the remaining superpower.

Mullah Omar, Amir of the Kabul Emirate, who assumed power in Afghanistan in 1996 gave a free hand to his close relative, Osama bin Laden -- founder of Al Qaeda -- and when the US brought down the Taliban rule, bin Laden and his Arab cohorts planned the audacious terror attack on the Twin Towers

Mullah Omar, Amir of the Kabul Emirate, who assumed power in Afghanistan in 1996 gave a free hand to his close relative, Osama bin Laden -- founder of Al Qaeda -- and when the US brought down the Taliban rule, bin Laden and his Arab cohorts planned the audacious terror attack on the Twin Towers. The 9/11 set off the trend of proxy wars -- also called 'asymmetric' wars -- that would use 'militants' rather than 'soldiers' in the covert offensive.

The two biggest international military conflicts of our times have brought out how a 'war' was initiated but denied -- just because a proxy mode was used for the attack.

The Ukraine-Russia military confrontation started off with the Russian army's intervention in Ukraine in February 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin however, described it as a cross-border 'operation' meant to safeguard the interests of the Russian-speaking population of east and south Ukraine that was allegedly

exposed to serious discrimination by President Zelensky -- Putin avoided using the word 'war' for the invasion.

The response of the US-led NATO was to rush military support to Ukraine by way of the despatch of arms and other war material but without committing any troops on the ground. The lack of membership in NATO for Ukraine came in handy for the US in keeping the aid to Ukraine in a proxy mode and not letting a global level 'war' erupt out of the bilateral confrontation.

Conflicts sustained by proxy support typically turn into a war of attrition inflicting huge losses on people -- in this case mostly on the Ukraine side.

The military offensive of Israel in Gaza was provoked by the surreptitious 'terror' attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 last year, in which some 1200 Israelis were killed and nearly 250 including

women and children were taken away as hostages by the attackers. This was the most recent example of terrorism being used as the instrument of a cross-border military offensive -- the

Hamas attack was a planned covert attack of a militant body that had progressively turned into an Islamic 'radical' outfit.

Hamas viewed the conflict in Palestine as a 'religious war' between Islam and Zionism -- and not as a mere 'political' dispute. This has pushed the Middle East towards a wider regional conflict in which political alignments are being bolstered by religious divides. This is a matter of deep concern for the international community.

The involvement of Iran and its proxies in support of Hamas in the ongoing military pursuit of the Gaza-based outfit by Israel is already producing international repercussions of a kind that would accentuate the trend of a possible return of the Cold War between the US on one hand and the China-Russia axis on the other.

(The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau) IANS

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Who's third-wheeling BETWEEN Rakul and Jackky?

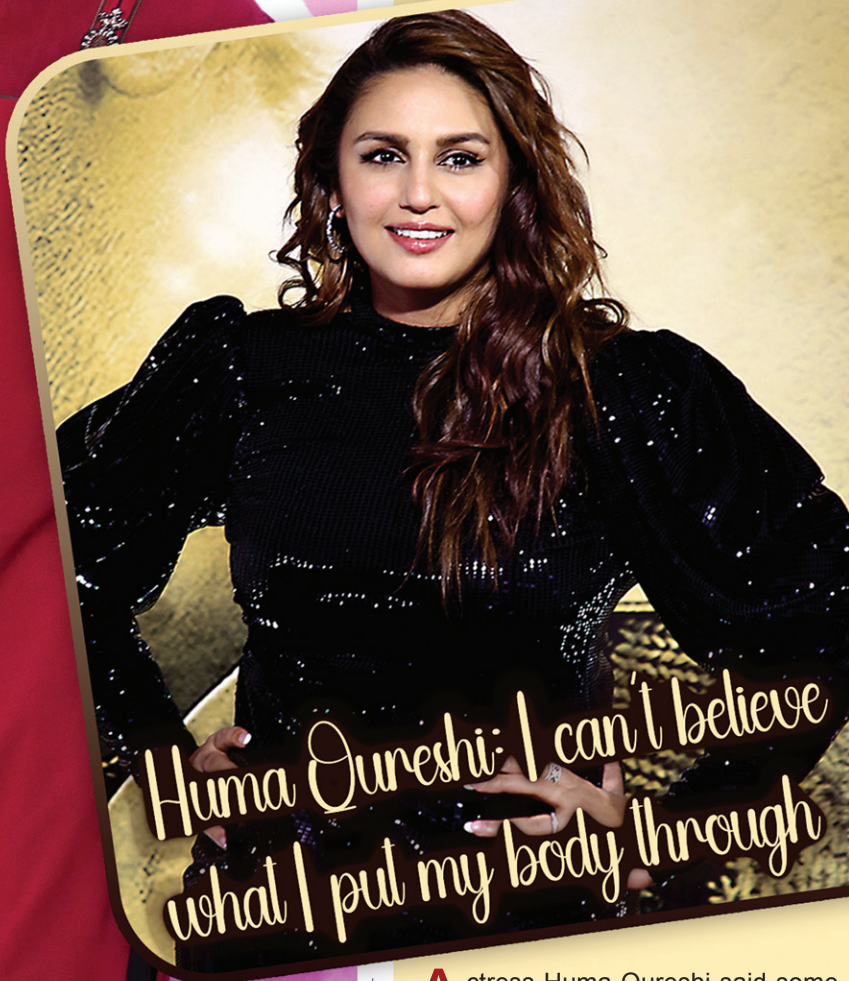
Actress Rakul Preet Singh has given a glimpse of 'woh' between her, and husband and filmmaker Jackky Bhagnani.

Taking to Instagram, Rakul, who has 23.7 million followers on the photo-sharing application, shared a picture of Jackky, in which he can be seen standing at the airport and looking at his phone. He is sipping on his cuppa with one hand.

Rakul captioned the post: "So tough to keep him off his work calls... Jackky we are pati patni aur woh." For the unversed, the lovebirds were on a vacation to a picturesque location for the past few days.

Rakul and Jackky tied the knot on February 21, 2024, in Goa. Rakul made her acting debut in 2009 with the Kannada film, 'Gilli', which was a remake of Selvaraghavan's '7G Rainbow Colony'.

She then went on to feature in Telugu movies like 'Keratom', 'Venkatadri Express', 'Rough', 'Loukyam', 'Current Theega', 'Bruce Lee', 'Nannaku Prematho', 'Dhruva' and 'Jaya Janaki Nayaka' among others. Rakul also did Tamil films like 'Thadaiyara Thaakka', 'Puthagam', 'Yennamo Yedho', 'Theeran Adhigaaram Ondru', and 'Boo'. *IANS*



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Sajni : Laapataa Ladies
- 2 Tainu Khabar Nahi: Munjya
- 3 Dekhha Tenu: Mr. And Mrs. Mahi
- 4 O Maahi: Dunki
- 5 Paon Ki Jutti: Paon Ki Jutti
- 6 Tu Hain Toh: Mr. And Mrs. Mahi
- 7 Soulmate: Ek Tha Raja
- 8 Taras: Munjya
- 9 Akhiyaan Gulaab: Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya
- 10 Agar Ho Tum: Mr. And Mrs. Mahi



JACKIE SHROFF: I AM KNOWN AS TIGER'S PAPA

Senior actor Jackie Shroff has opened his heart out regarding the 'recognition' he is getting because of his son and 'youngest action star' Tiger Shroff, saying he likes it when people call him Tiger's dad.

The 67-year-old actor appeared on the podcast of Ranveer Allahbadia, who is also known as 'Beer Biceps'.

The video shows Ranveer saying to Jackie: "You know whenever I have met Tiger, I have understood one thing, that we are yet to see the best of the best of Tiger Shroff."

Replying to the video, Jackie said: "Tiger abhi toh baccha hai yaar. He is still growing up, there is still a lot of time for me". *IANS*

Actress Huma Qureshi said some times even she cannot believe what she puts her body through as she listed out what all she did on a day. However, she added that she would not want it any other way.

Huma took to Instagram stories, where she shared a photograph of herself as she sat in a dimly lit place.

She listed out the things she did in a day: Sometimes I cant believe what I put my body thru...Whole full day near Ajmer, cardio after pack up, watch the olympics (obvio), drive three hours to Jaipur, catch a flight at 6 am, land at 8 am and straight to shoot."

However, Huma does not mind it as she tagged it as her "best life."

"Who am I kidding? Best life... would not want it any other way. Blessed grateful for everything in my life #gratitude," she wrote. *IANS*

LifeStyle

Photo: AP

August 16, 2024

www.indiapost.com

India Post 27

LOS ANGELES: Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, who will be next seen in 'King', was conferred a career achievement honor at the 77th Locarno Film Festival, in Switzerland.

The superstar, known for his wit as much as his on-screen performances, delivered an acceptance speech that blended heartfelt reflections on cinema with his trademark humor, reports Variety.

Addressing the packed 8,000-strong crowd in Locarno's Piazza Grande, Khan began by acknowledging the warm reception he received.

Referencing his famous open-armed pose, he said: "Thank you all for welcoming me with such wide arms - wider than the ones I do on screen."

As per Variety, the actor went on to praise the festival's

location. He said: "It's a very beautiful, very cultural, very artistic, and extremely hot city of Locarno. So many people stuffed up in a little square and so hot. It's just like being home in India." The temperature touched 35 de-

grees Celsius, and Locarno and the Piazza Grande were humid as well.

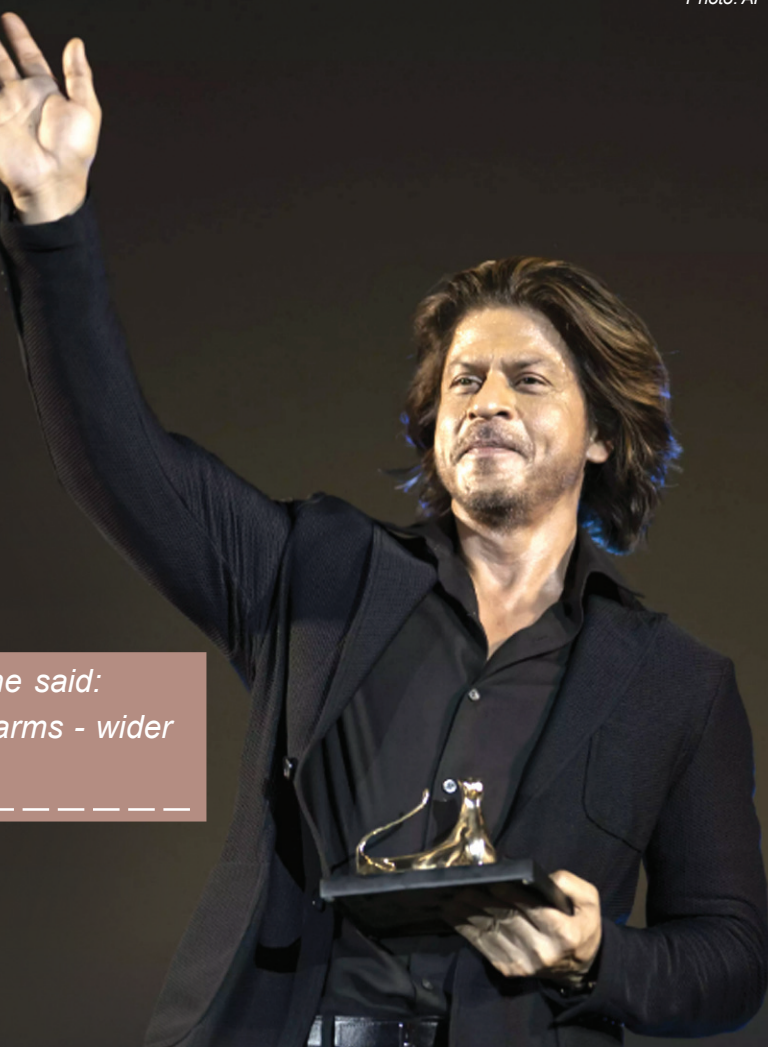
*Referencing his famous open-armed pose, he said:
"Thank you all for welcoming me with such wide arms - wider than the ones I do on screen."*

His speech took a more serious turn as he delved into his thoughts on cinema and creativity. He continued: "I truly believe cinema has been the most profound and influential artistic medium of our age. I've had the privilege of being part of this for many years, and this journey has taught me a few lessons."

The actor emphasized the

universal nature of art and filmmaking. "Art is the act of affirming life above all. It goes beyond every man-made boundary into a space of liberation. It need not be political. It need not be polemical. It need not sermonize. It need not intellectualize. It need not moralize."

"Art and cinema only need to say what it feels from the heart, to express its own truth. And that, to me, is the biggest creativity, honestly," he added. *IAN S*



*SRK delivers speech at Locarno Film Fest:
'Art is the act of affirming life'*



NEW DELHI: As disposable incomes rise amid overall economic growth, India's lifestyle market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10-12 percent to reach \$210 billion by 2028, according to a report.

It is currently valued at \$130 billion in 2023, stated the report by Bain & Company and Myntra that provides a comprehensive overview of the evolving e-lifestyle landscape in the country.

It showed that the country's online fashion and lifestyle market will grow from \$16-17 billion to \$40-45 billion by 2028.

The report added that the penetration of e-commerce in the lifestyle sector will increase from the current 13 percent to 18-22 percent by 2028. This means about one in five dollars spent on lifestyle will be online.

Currently, more than 175 million Indians shop online for lifestyle products and make an average of 6-7 transactions per year.

The report noted that Gen-Z shoppers, about 60 million, are driving the online shop-

India's lifestyle market to hit \$210 bn by 2028 riding on economic growth

ping landscape.

Unlike the non-Gen-Z category, they have a higher purchase frequency of 8-9 times per year.

Fashion rules the e-lifestyle market with a 75-80 percent share, followed by beauty and personal care.

Further, the report showed



that of the top 50 global lifestyle brands, 90 percent are active in

India. And half of these generate more than \$30 million in revenue.

Easing inflationary pressures, rising incomes, a surge of fashion-forward Gen-Z shoppers, and a shift towards organized retail are some factors driving this growth. In addition, technology advancements, such as AI-driven personalization, virtual try-ons, and voice-assisted shopping, are also enhancing the online shopping experience.

Manan Bhasin, Partner at Bain & Company, noted that India's apparel sourcing landscape has evolved "beyond Surat and Tirupur". The new manufacturing clusters have "emerged across the length and breadth of the country".

Moreover, the "share of India sourcing has increased steadily to 20-30 percent for some leading global brands," Bhasin added. *IAN S*

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

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After Olympian rivalry, a lesson in civility from Indian and Pakistani mothers

MAYANK CHHAYA

What powered Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra's spectacular javelin throws on the track in the Paris Olympics was the physics of thermodynamics and projectile trajectory. What also powered the two world-class athletes, the former from Pakistan and the latter from India, was their mothers' remarkably noble human values.

The art of javelin throw is all physics. Right from the time the thrower starts running, using kinetic energy until they approach the line before launching by braking their momentum to a dead halt even while turning sideways and acquiring an angle as close to 45 degrees as possible, everything is governed by laws of physics and aerodynamics. Once the javelin is airborne what distance it would cover depends on the amount of energy that got transferred from the athlete's shoulders to the javelin and aerodynamics.

Nadeem's mother Razia Parveen and Chopra's mother Saroj Devi may or may not understand those complex factors, but they are both naturally ennobled in their worldviews. That prompted them to express themselves in a way which is being widely celebrated in both countries.

For Nadeem and Chopra what mattered at that moment was how far their javelins traveled. In Nadeem's case it was an astonishing 92.97 meters, which is more than 305 feet, while Chopra managed 89.45 meters or a little over 293 feet. Nadeem, of course, broke the Olympic record giving his homeland much to cheer. He flew past the record of 90.57, held by -Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen since Beijing 2008. Not too far behind was Chopra who too was widely celebrated in his homeland.

Cross-border sociocultural bonds

Chopra had thrown his spear

87.58 meters, a little over 287 feet, at the Tokyo Olympics to win the gold. In contrast, Nadeem had managed 84.62 meters or about 277 feet there finishing in the fifth position.

Quite likely, both had the 90-meter mark in their minds as they ran up even though only Nadeem breached that twice.

Chopra and Nadeem were born the same year, 1997, in the two countries irretrievably antagonistic for over seven decades now. However, as it often happens among the peoples of India and Pakistan, institutional antagonisms do not always permeate sociocultural cross-border bonds, which were gloriously emblemized by Razia Parveen and Saroj Devi.

It is quite extraordinary that they both expressed sentiments

with deep humanity reverberated across the India-Pakistan border. Even when Chopra had won the gold medal at Tokyo, his mother had said something similar about Nadeem.

At a time when unvarnished animus for one another is often the norm in India and Pakistan, not to mention Bangladesh now, the two simple women have offered a lesson in decency, dignity and civility. Of course, given the social media vulgarization of public discourse, it is conceivable that some people in both the countries would dismiss the two mothers' sentiment as naïve. However, it has the potential to act as a balm over the permanently inflamed emotions.

One should not have any illusions in thinking that the lead-

Nadeem's mother Razia Parveen and Chopra's mother Saroj Devi may or may not understand those complex factors, but they are both naturally ennobled in their worldviews. That prompted them to express themselves in a way which is being widely celebrated in both countries

after their respective sons' victories which were so similar. Parveen was quoted as having said "He (Neeraj) is like my son. He is also a friend and brother of Nadeem's. Losing and winning is a matter of luck. May Allah also give him success and ability to win a medal."

Echoing her sentiments was Devi who said, "We are very happy. For us the silver (medal) is like gold and the one who won the gold (Nadeem) is also like my son. He works hard."

Balm on inflamed emotions

Those words of two mothers unadorned by sophisticated phraseology but articulated

ership of the two countries would feel inspired by the sporty bonhomie and friendship between the two athletes. Or that the sheer humanity of their mothers will cause a change of heart that could lead to better relations between the perennially warring neighbors marred by years of political hostility

If the establishments of the two countries had the heart of the two mothers, the lot of the 1.6 billion Indians and Pakistanis would be so much better.

(The writer is a Chicago-based Indian journalist, author, filmmaker and lyricist) South Asia Monitor



INDIA POST

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END OF AN ERA

Bangladesh's recent crises started with a peaceful protest that stemmed from the long-running resentment over a quota system that saw 56% of government job appointments reserved for various groups, including 30% for descendants of freedom fighters who fought the 1971 War of Independence for the country. This quota system proved to be an enormous barrier to the highly coveted civil service positions for the country's large youth population, many of whom are unemployed.

It had also become a subject of controversy because of numerous jobs of the quota system going to supporters of the ruling Awami League party.

Under immense pressure from an earlier student mobilization over the issue, Hasina abolished the entire quota system in 2018. In June 2024, the country's high court ruled that move illegal, which sparked the fresh round of protests across the country.

The peaceful nature of the protests ended when an incendiary speech made by Hasina, in which she said the students were akin to 'razakaar(s)', a derogatory term used for pro-Pakistan collaborators during Bangladesh's War of Independence, which quickly inflamed tensions.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League began attacking students with tear gas and live bullets, with support from the police. The Rapid Action Battalion, a controversial paramilitary group with a history of extrajudicial killings, torture and enforced disappearances, was also deployed. After a video of one of the first to be killed - a university student named Abu Sayeed circulated online, thousands began to join the protests, leading to a further violent crackdown by police and armed groups. Hundreds were killed in the protest, including children.

Under Hasina's rule, Bangladesh has seen GDP growth, but this has not translated into economic well-being for many Bangladeshis. Lack of opportunities, high unemployment rate among youth and, soaring inflation have been ongoing sources of tension. Since its landslide victory in 2008, the Awami League is also believed to have eroded the country's democracy.

The abrupt departure of Hasina on 5th August has been a cause of relief and celebration among the millions of protesting citizens who helped bring about an end to her rule.

It is good that Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus has taken office as head of Bangladesh's interim government. His priority should be to restore law and order and prepare for new elections. The world can support this transition by recognizing the legitimacy of the interim government and encouraging dialogue.

The government must prioritize human rights, ensuring freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. It should refrain from imposing undue restrictions on protests and political rallies. A strong action should be taken against burning of Hindu temples and attacking Hindu and minority populations.

There's an immediate need for dialogue between the government and major parties. Addressing mistrust and acrimonious relations can pave the way for a viable roadmap to democracy. Countries like India are reaching out to Dhaka, aiming to restore normalcy through dialogue with protesting youth. International support can facilitate peaceful transitions.

Lasting peace requires collective effort; neighbors like India, China and Myanmar can use their diplomatic channels to encourage dialogue between conflicting parties in Bangladesh.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



Famous for the tea estates, greenery, winding roads, blanket of mist, and viewpoints, Munnar is a hill station in Kerala, located in the Idukki district. Lying in the Western Ghats at 1600 meters, it is one of the most sought after and visited travel destinations globally, especially popular amongst honeymooners.

Once the summer resort of the erstwhile British government, the main reason to visit Munnar is to explore the sprawling tea plantations and the exotic flora and fauna. The Eravikulam National Park, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and tea plantations are its major attractions. Munnar is also famous for being home to the rare Neelakurinji flowers that bloom once in 12 years (the next bloom is in 2030) and the endangered Nilgiri Tahr.

Munnar is divided into Old Munnar, where the tourist information office is, and Munnar, where the bus station and most guesthouses are located. It is also an ideal place for trekking, camping, paragliding and boating. As it's a hilly region, Jeep safari is also a popular activity to experience. Munnar is often visited along with Alleppey and Thekkady, the two most popular tourist destinations in Kerala.

The hill station is a haven for shopping for tea and spices. Cardamom, ginger, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, coffee and a variety of homemade chocolates can be bought from the number of shops spread across the hill town.

PLACES TO VISIT IN MUNNAR

Echo Point: Located at an altitude of 600 ft. and at a

distance of about 15 kilometers from Munnar, Echo Point is situated right in the lap of a quaint lake and misty hills covered with lush green trees. As the name suggests, this place is well known for its enthralling illustration of the phenomenon of echoing. As you scream, it is fun to hear your voice reverberate around the attraction.

Atukkad Waterfalls: Nestled 2 km away from Munnar amidst beautiful hills and lush green jungles, this pristine waterfall makes for romantic escapades and picnics site. However, the road to Atukkad is very narrow and needs a lot of experience to drive on. The pool formed at the base of the waterfall is suitable for taking a dip!

Tata Tea or KDHP Museum: Located in the Nallathanni Estate of Tata Tea around 2 km from Munnar.

The KDHP Museum showcases a variety of antiquities, the most famous being the burial urn excavated from the vicinity of Periakanal Estate, dating back to the 2nd century AD. A 30-minute documentary feature by the museum will take you through a historical sojourn of the place. Visitors then proceed to the factory to understand how tea is processed.

Eravikulam National Park: Located a 45 - minute drive away from Munnar, the Eravikulam National Park (also known as Rajamalai Wildlife Sanctuary), houses a rich and diverse variety of flora and fauna and is a UNESCO world heritage site. Elephant, Nilgiri langur, Nilgiri marten, Atlas moth (largest in the world), lion-tailed macaque, small-clawed otter, and a rare tiger and leopard, are some of the main animal species that can be spotted here.

Rose Garden: The Rose Gardens of Munnar is spread over 2 acres of land, is an excellent stretch that is brimming with a variety of plants, including spices, crops like cardamom and vanilla, and a variety of other fruit trees. These agricultural plantations exude mesmerizing and wonderful aromas, which make your stay at the gardens a rewarding experience. Located near the National Highway 49, just two kilometers away from the city center; the place is set 3,500 feet above the sea level and is a breathtaking sight to behold.



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