



## Hindi Divas celebrated by Indian Consulate

► Details on page 16

## India sends humanitarian aid to Namibia

► Details on page 7



## Deepika: Feed, burp, sleep, repeat

► Details on page 30

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This week's question

Do you think Kejriwal made the right move by resigning?

Last week's result

Is Rahul Gandhi destroying India's image overseas?

YES 84% NO 16%

# INDO-US TIES

*"India, US have overcome hesitations of history," US Deputy Secretary of State cites PM Modi's remark*

WASHINGTON DC: Hailing bilateral cooperation with India, the United States Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources and former American Ambassador to India, Richard Verma said the progress in ties was "unimaginable" a few decades ago.

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Richard Verma

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Verma, who also served as the US Ambassador to India in the past, said the progress in India-US ties has been driven by a change of policies in both New Delhi and Washington.

Details on page 5



## Congressional Brunch at Capitol Hill

► Details on page 19

## DSNDP volunteers participate in cleanliness drive

► Details on page 21



## Aishwarya Rai bags Best Actress award at SIIMA

► Details on page 12

Voters wait in a queue to cast their votes for the first phase of the **Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections**, in Shopian and Kishtwar on September 18. (ANI Photo)

## CONTENTS

Bollywood	30-31
Classifieds	28
Community Post	16-23
Cover/Top Stories	5-7
Edit Page	29
Immigration Post	10-11
Info/Highlights	4
Life Style	12
OP-ED	26
TechBiz Post	8-9
Real Estate	24-25
Travel & Hospitality Post	27
Wellness Post	14-15

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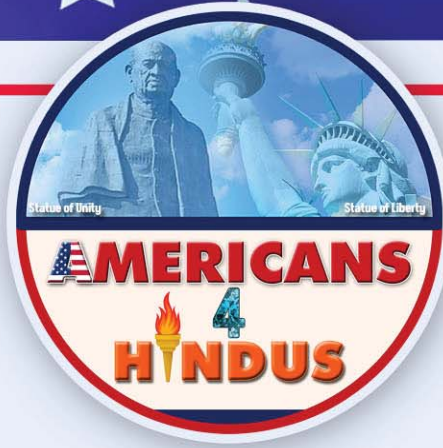
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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Deepika: Feed, burp, sleep, repeat



With a following over 80 million on Instagram, Deepika changed her bio from "Follow your bliss" bio to "Feed. Burp. Sleep. Repeat"

30

Lifestyle:

Aishwarya R. B. is Best Actress



She won the SIIMA award for her performance in Mani Ratnam's film 'Ponniyin Selvan 2'. Aishwarya was accompanied by her daughter Aaradhya

12

Cover Story:

INDO-US TIES



Appreciating the progress made, Verma cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement, that the two nations have now overcome those hesitations of history

5

Techbiz:

India, key nations to cooperate



India held bilateral meetings with several nations on the sidelines of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Brazil, expressing the commitment to cooperate

8

Community:

Hindi Divas at Indian Consulate



The Consulate General of India, Chicago in association with Hindi Coordination Committee, organized Hindi Divas on 14 September 2024 at the Consulate

16

Travel

Pushkar



Pushkar, host to the Pushkar Mela, one of the biggest camel fairs in India and known for the world's only dedicated Brahma temple

27

Immigration:

Constitution and Citizenship Day



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day as part of Constitution Week (Sept. 17 to 23).

10

Wellness:

Health cover to seniors



India's 6 crore seniors will benefit from health coverage of Rs 5 lakh to senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income

14

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where we are in the US-India relationship. We are now entering about a quarter century of progress. Progress that was unimaginable only a few decades ago. For too long, our recent history was not one of cooperation. We were divided by Cold War geopolitics. We lost nearly a generation of progress, from the mid-60s to the late 90s. But as Prime Minister Modi has rightfully pointed out, we have now overcome those hesitations of history."

Verma, who also served as the US Am-

bassador to India in the past, said the progress in India-US ties has been driven by a change of policies in both New Delhi and Washington.

"The progress was driven by a change of policies in both capitals. This took real leadership and creativity in key sectors like energy, security, and trade. We also faced collective threats to the post-World War II order that spurred much of our new alignment and renewed cooperation," Verma said.

"But at the core, it was the hard work of millions of people in our two countries who pulled us closer together by travelling, studying, researching, developing joint products, and taking the risk to immigrate and start over - a route that led to some now four-and-a-half million Americans of Indian descent contributing to every facet of American life," he added.

The US Deputy Secretary of State also hailed the defense cooperation between the two countries, and said today India is the only country that holds the designation of a "major defense partner of the US."

"Civil-nuclear cooperation led to new advances in defense cooperation. The designation of India as a "Major Defense Partner of the United States," a designation no other nation holds, is a significant marker of our defense relationship, and a testament to strong bipartisan support for the US-India relationship on the Capitol Hill. Our two militaries understand each other," Verma said.

He further emphasised the importance of Quad grouping and the enhanced co-operation and focus in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We are now jointly developing and producing some of the world's most sophisticated systems - all in the name of promoting greater peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. The ripple effects of this cooperation should not be underestimated, especially when integrated into arrangements like the Quad. As Secretary Austin reminds us, our hub and spoke model of security in the Indo-Pacific has become integrated, so those individual spokes now cooperate and collaborate in a more systemic way. And the Quad is a perfect example of such integrated cooperation," the US official added.

The US Deputy Secretary of State also affirmed support for India getting a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council.

"Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield, our Ambassador to the United Nations, once again, called for India to have a permanent seat on a reformed United Nations Security Council. We welcome and support India playing a more prominent global leadership role in the institutions that matter," he said. ANI



Richard Verma

## *'Incident violative of First Amendment rights': US National Press Club on alleged assault of Indian reporter by Congress workers*

WASHINGTON DC: Emily Wilkins, the president of the National Press Club, issued a statement on the alleged assault of Indian journalist by Congress workers in Dallas, United States, and said it may have violated the First Amendment rights of the reporter.

This comes after media reports surfaced that a journalist, working with an Indian news channel, was manhandled by Congress workers in Dallas when he was conducting an interview with the Indian Overseas Congress chief.

Notably, the First Amendment Rights in the US give an individual freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition.

The incident happened just before Rahul Gandhi landed in the US for a three-day visit, the reports said.

Elaborating on the incident, Wilkins said that the said journalist, who is an NPC board member, interviewed India

Overseas Congress chief, Sam Pitroda, and the interview was done in a "professional manner with agreed to recording."

She further said that some members of IOC staff objected to the last question asked by the said journalist and stopped

*Notably, the First Amendment Rights in the US give an individual freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition*

the interview, by allegedly pushing the reporter, taking away his phone and deleting files from it.

"According to a recent article in @IndiaToday and confirmed in conversations between Mr. Sharma and an NPC Board member, Sharma was at a hotel near the Dallas Airport awaiting the arrival

of Rahul Gandhi, the opposition leader in India, who was beginning a U.S. tour. While he waited, Sharma interviewed the Chair of the India Overseas Congress (IOC), Sam Pitroda. The two had met in the past and the interview was done in a professional manner with agreed to recording," Wilkins said in his statement.

"Several members of the IOC were listening to the interview as well as several members of Mr. Gandhi's advance staff. On the last question, members of the audience objected to the subject of the question and stopped the interview by shouting at Sharma and pushing him while taking his phone. The group, which included Gandhi's staff, deleted files from Sharma's phone and kept it from him," she added.

The National Press Club President further said that Sam Pitroda later apologized to the journalist. She also emphasised that Pitroda "had no objection" to the question. ANI



# "All peace-loving countries would rally around PM Modi's call for diplomacy": Hardeep Puri reiterates India's "not an era of war" stance

WASHINGTON, DC: Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "not an era of war," Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said that all peace-loving countries would rally around to PM Modi's call for diplomacy, peace and not war.

He noted that India, through its G20 Presidency and other statements made by PM Modi or other senior officials, has been pushing in the direction of taking conflict zones into a situation of secession of hostilities and finding a resolution to those conflicts.

On being asked about PM Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Russia and how US sees India's role in the ongoing conflict, Puri said, "I would like to think that all peace loving countries would finally rally around to the Prime Minister's call that this is a time for diplomacy, this is a time for peace, not for time for war. Wars cannot be continued on an indefinite list. I'm not going into the causation factor who's right or who's wrong. You could argue that you know there was a Minsk agreement that was not followed or something else happened. Today, the devastation that wars cause anywhere in the world, whether it's conflicts in nearer home in the Middle East or elsewhere, they have to be brought to the drawing board to the negotiating table."

"So, I think the point the Prime Minister of India has made consistently, he said that in a speech to the GA (General Assembly) some years ago, it's a point he has reiterated, it's a point he has had a discussion and I'm very happy to find that all these signals I've seen have been that a country like India can help have come from both the sides. And that is what I think deserves to be. I won't go into the individual thing. If the foreign minister, External Affairs Minister comes here, I want you to be able

to talk to him in greater detail, but not just in energy for everything else. Today, we need to be able to move forward on the processes of peace. And India, both through



Hardeep Singh Puri

*"I would like to think that all peace loving countries would finally rally around to the Prime Minister's call that this is a time for diplomacy, this is a time for peace, not for time for war. Wars cannot be continued on an indefinite list"*

its G20 presidency, as indeed through other statements that the Prime Minister has made or other senior government functionaries have made, has been pushing in the direction of taking conflict zones into a situation of secession of hostilities and then finding a resolution to those conflicts."

Earlier this July, PM Modi visited Russia and held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. It was PM Modi's first visit to Russia since the war started between Moscow and Kyiv in 2022.

Recently, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited Russia to attend the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting. During his visit, he held meetings with Russian leadership, including Vladimir Putin, Sergey Shoigu.

Hardeep Singh Puri has dismissed reports that India has been facing pressure from the US over its cooperation with Russia. He also said that Europe continues to buy more energy from Russia than India.

"I've had the privilege of being associated with this ministry now for three years. I'm not aware of any point in my three years here where anyone has even made that suggestion. Let me put the arithmetic to you in a simple way. Russia before the events of February 2022 produced 13 million barrels of crude in a day. Just imagine a situation, forget about who buys it and who sells it. If that 13 million barrels had gone out of the equation of 102 million barrels which was being produced, that 13 million barrels would have to be accessed from somewhere else, in which case the prices would have shot up to USD 120, USD 130 a barrel per day," he said.

"In fact, today also, Europe buys more oil and more energy from Russia than we do in India. Also, we have a situation where I think it's in everybody's interest that at least the stability and the predictability of the scenario helps the market. So, the answer is no. At no stage has anybody said it, but people continue to buy it themselves. For instance, gas which goes in a crude and energy which goes in a pipeline from Russia to Hungary was exempt from the price cut." ANI

## "British had problems with Ganesh Utsav, now Congress is agitated": PM Modi

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi drew parallels between British rule and the Congress and said that the people who are trying to "divide and rule" have problems with Ganesh Puja.

While addressing an event in Bhubaneswar recently, the Prime Minister alleged that the British, during its rule in India, had problems with Ganesh Utsav and added that people who are "hungry for power" have issues with Ganesh Puja.

This comes in the backdrop of the recent controversy triggered by PM Modi attending Ganesh Puja at Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's residence.

"Ganesh Utsav is not just a festival of faith for our country. Ganesh Utsav played a very important role in the independence of our country. The British, who worked on the policy of 'Divide and Rule', were irked by the Ganesh Utsav. Dividing us in the name of caste was a weapon of the British. Today also, the people who are trying to divide and break Indian society are irked by Ganesh Utsav. People who are hungry for power have an issue with Ganesh Pooja. The people of Congress and its eco-system are agitated because I attended

Ganpati Poojan," PM Modi said.

"In Karnataka, where they are in power, they committed an even bigger sin. They put Lord Ganesh's idol behind bars. The whole country is disturbed because of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

those pictures. We cannot let these hateful elements move forward. We have a lot to achieve yet," he added.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the Subhdra scheme, which is a flagship scheme of the Odisha government that was launched today. "I had said that if the

double-engine government would be formed then Odisha will reach new heights of development," he said.

"Today, witness the fulfilment of our promises at an unprecedented pace! We vowed to open all four doors of Bhagwan Jagannath Temple upon forming the government, and we have delivered the same. The Ratna Bhandar is now open too. The BJP works tirelessly, day and night, serving the people," he added.

PM Modi also emphasized that the third NDA government was completing its first 100 days at the Centre and said, "Today marks the 100th day of the NDA government at the Centre. During this period, big decisions have been taken for the empowerment of the poor, farmers, youth and women."

The Prime Minister also recalled an emotional moment with his mother and also thanked one of the beneficiaries who fed him 'kheer' during his visit to their house, reminding him of his mother.

"Before coming here, I went to the home of an Adivasi family to attend their Grih Pravesh event. My sister in that family gave me Kheer to eat. And when I was eating that kheer, it was obvious that I missed my mother." ANI



# Iranian Supreme Leader slammed for 'minorities' remark, advised to look at 'own record'

NEW DELHI: Several leading Islamic scholars, diplomats and politicians have severely condemned the remarks made by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the "suffering" of Muslims in Gaza, Myanmar, and India.

India had strongly deplored the comments made by the Supreme Leader of Iran while addressing a gathering of clerics in Tehran on Monday (16 Sept.), calling them "misinformed and unacceptable".

Hours after Khamenei's remarks, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had stated that "countries commenting on minorities are advised to look at their own record before making any observations about others".

Israel also reacted strongly on Monday with Reuven Azar, the Ambassador of Israel to India, calling Iranian leader a "killer and oppressor" of his own people.

"Muslims in Israel, India and all democracies enjoy freedom, which is denied in Iran. I wish the people of Iran will be free soon," Azar posted on X.

Several analysts instead accused Tehran of spreading terror in the region,

and beyond.

"What do countries like Iran and Pakistan have to do with Muslims in India being happy or sad? Iran has tried to destroy the peace of the entire world. Iran is funding Hezbollah in Lebanon and is creating chaos in Syria and Iraq. Iran is funding all the major terror organizations of the world

*India had strongly deplored the comments made by the Supreme Leader of Iran while addressing a gathering of clerics in Tehran on Monday (16 Sept.), calling them "misinformed and unacceptable"*

right now. Indian Muslims were happy earlier and are happy even today. They decided to stay in India after Independence as per their own wish after rejecting Pakistan," leading Islamic scholar Mufti Wajahat Qasmi told IANS.

"India has crores of Muslims who remain secular and are staying happily. So, Iran should not try to gain cheap publicity with such useless talk. They should in-

stead look within as, wherever there is any major terror incident, Iran has had a hand in it," he added.

Another Islamic scholar urged Tehran to first know the ground realities before making any such absurd statement in future.

"The comments made by the Iranian leader regarding Indian Muslims are com-

pletely baseless. The Indian government

fulfills the democratic and constitutional rights of all Muslims in the country. We all stay together, as it should happen in a democratic country. I strongly condemn this statement and urge the Iranian government to know the situation on ground before making any such statement in future," said Mufti Shamoon Qasmi, Chairman of the Uttarakhand Madarsa

Education Board. However, Congress Leader Rashid Alvi is of the opinion that the situation could have been avoided had the BJP reined in its leaders.

"See, when the news spreads that mosques are being demolished, houses of Muslims are being bulldozed, and some Chief Ministers saying that they will raze their properties to the ground, then the impact of such things will be felt sooner or later. This is the reason why a big leader of Iran gave such a statement. Although they have no right to interfere in our affairs, the Prime Minister of India should consider why such a situation has arisen that Ayatollah Khamenei had to give a statement that Muslims are not safe in India. This tarnishes the image of India in the whole world," Alvi told IANS.

Alvi rejected claims being made by some leaders that the situation has arisen following the comments made by Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, during his foreign trips. IANS

## India sends humanitarian aid to drought-struck Namibia

NEW DELHI: India has dispatched a consignment of 1,000 metric tons of rice to Namibia as humanitarian aid to address the food security needs of the drought-stricken African nation.

This initiative aligns with India's commitment to supporting the Global South.

"As a credible HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) provider and a reliable friend, India is extending food grain assistance to the people of Namibia to strengthen their food security in the wake of recent droughts," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated in a post on X.

The consignment departed from Nhava Sheva Port on Tuesday 17 September.

Last Saturday, India also announced the extension of humanitarian assistance to another African country, Chad, in the wake of a "deadly" fire in the capital city.

India sent a medical aid consignment weighing approximately 2300 kg, consist-

ing of essential life-saving antibiotics and general medicines, to the landlocked country in north-central Africa.

The move comes after the tragedy in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena on June 19 in which several people were killed and injured in a fire and explosion at a weapons and ammunition depot.

*"As a credible HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) provider and a reliable friend, India is extending food grain assistance to the people of Namibia to strengthen their food security in the wake of recent droughts"*

tions, clothing, and medicines, were dispatched to Myanmar aboard the Indian naval ship INS Satpura.

Additionally, a C-130J military transport aircraft from the Indian Air Force carried 35 tons of aid to Vietnam and 10 tons to Laos. IANS

In a parallel effort earlier this week, India launched 'Operation Sadbhav' to provide humanitarian aid to Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam, helping them cope with the devastating aftermath of Typhoon Yagi.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar shared that 10 tons of aid, including dry ra-

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## India becoming a major stakeholder in global supply chain: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: India is becoming a major stakeholder in the global supply chain and this growing capacity is the foundation of our economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently.

Inaugurating the Tuticorin International Container Terminal in Tamil Nadu virtually, PM Modi said the country is investing over Rs 7,000 crore for the development of an Outer Harbour Container Terminal, and the capacity of the VO Chidambaram Port (formerly Tuticorin Port) continues to grow.

"The VOC Port is ready to write a new chapter in the maritime development of India. With three major ports and 17 non-major ports, Tamil Nadu has become a major hub for maritime trade," the Prime Minister said, calling the new container terminal as the "new star of India's marine infrastructure".

With a deep draft of more than 14 meters and a berth over 300 meters long, this terminal will play a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of the VOC port.

The new terminal is expected to reduce logistics costs at the port and save foreign exchange for the country. *IANS*

## World problems can't be solved without India's involvement: German Minister

GANDHINAGAR: Germany's Development Minister Svenja Schulze, who is on a three-day visit to Gujarat to represent her country at the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's (RE-INVEST) meet here, has said that the problems of the world cannot be solved without India's involvement.

In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Schulze, who is leading a delegation of around 20 representatives, emphasized the growing importance of India's involvement in solving global challenges. *IANS*



Svenja Schulze

## India, key nations to cooperate in mutually beneficial areas in agriculture

NEW DELHI: India held bilateral meetings with several nations on the sidelines of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Brazil, expressing the commitment to cooperate in mutually beneficial areas, it was announced.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, led the Indian delegation along with Ambassador of India to Brazil, Suresh Reddy, and other senior government officials.

India held bilateral meetings with the US, Brazil, Germany, the UK, Japan, Spain and the UAE.

In the meeting with Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, Sakamoto, Thakur asked to expedite the market access of Indian pomegranate and grapes in Japan.

In the bilateral meeting with Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil, Carlos Favaro, both sides discussed issues related to cooperation in science



and technology, cooperation in ethanol production and market access.

They also expressed the hope that the memorandum of understanding between ICAR India and EMBRAPA Brazil would be completed before G20 leaders meeting in November.

The Brazil side showed commitment to cooperate in ethanol

production technology which will help the climate change action, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The US and India agreed to take forward the cooperation in areas of climate-smart agriculture, agricultural productivity growth, agricultural innovation, forecasting and production reporting and agriculture and crop risk protection and

agricultural credit.

In the meeting with Germany, Minister Thakur expressed the happiness on ongoing regular engagements of Indo-German Joint Working Group (JWG) and expressed the hope that the next upcoming meeting of JWG will be fruitful.

Both sides agreed to collaborate in the sectors such as application of artificial intelligence in farming and support to small farmers, agro-ecology and organic farming.

In the bilateral meeting with the UK, the both sides expressed their interest to cooperate in transformation of agriculture food system into sustainable agriculture, research and science-precision breeding, gene editing, and extension services.

The UAE showed interest to collaboration in research and technology, share experience on vertical farming and high yield technologies. *IANS*

## India implementing world's largest food-based safety net programs: Minister

NEW DELHI: The country is implementing the world's largest food-based safety net programs to ensure food security and nutrition, Ram Nath Thakur, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has said.

Addressing the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting held in Brazil from September 12-14, the minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India prioritizes agricultural development.

"Our approach not only fo-

cuses on productivity but also ensures economic, social, environmental sustainability, enhanc-

ing farmer prosperity and embodying a comprehensive vision for development. He further men-

tioned that India is implementing the world's largest food-based safety net programs to ensure food security and nutrition," Thakur said.

The meeting focused around four key priority areas for global agriculture: sustainability of agriculture and food systems in their multiple paths, enhancing international trade's contribution to food security and nutrition, elevating the essential role of family farmers, smallholders, indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable, resilient

and inclusive agriculture and food systems and promoting the integration of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture into local and global value chains.

The minister emphasized India's commitment to developing resilient agricultural systems for a sustainable and prosperous future, highlighting its significance in empowering small and marginal farmers in India and other nations as well as enabling them to participate effectively in global trade discussions. *IANS*





# India, US hail collaboration to drive clean energy transition

NEW DELHI: India and the US are making significant progress to drive energy innovation, strengthen energy security and accelerate clean energy transitions, including through more focused efforts on clean energy manufacturing and building resilient, responsible, stable, secure and diversified supply chains, it was announced recently.

According to the India and US Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) ministerial meeting, convened by US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Washington, DC, energy trade is playing a key role in supporting the national priorities of both the countries.

Both the sides reviewed the initiatives undertaken across the technical pillars under the SCEP, including power and energy efficiency, responsible oil and gas, renewable energy, emerging fuels and technologies and sustainable growth.

The ministers recognized the progress the two countries have made to accelerate development and deployment of emerging clean energy technologies, advancing renewable energy deployment and reliable grid integration, promote energy efficiency, and advance decarbonization of high-emitting sectors like industry, buildings, and transport.

They welcomed the formal launch of the Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP) in August last year, aimed at developing actionable roadmaps for hydrogen, long duration energy storage, offshore wind,

new National Centre for Hydrogen Safety in India and partnership on the second 'International Conference on Green Hydrogen' held this month.

Both the countries stressed the importance of supporting large-scale grid integration of renewable energy while enabling flexible and reliable grid operations through energy storage.

The two countries highlighted the importance of modernizing the power distribution sector to supply 24/7 reliable power to consumers, welcomed support for India's smart metering deployment, as well as expanded efforts on inverter-based resources, power market reforms, system inertia estimation, and cybersecurity.

The ministers also commended the Indian Railways (IR) efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2030 and welcomed collaboration to support India's first round-the-clock renewable energy procurement of over 1.5 GW and development an energy efficiency policy and action plan for all railway facilities.

The ministers welcomed new collaboration on electrification of medium and heavy-duty vehicles, applauding implementation of the PM eBus Sewa scheme for deploying 10,000 e-buses across India.

They hailed the breadth and depth of the US-India partnership to advance progress toward our common clean energy goals and address today's unprecedented climate challenges. *IANIS*



US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm with Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

and geothermal, through R&D, pilots and demonstration, and incubation-investment-industry networks.

The two nations also welcomed collaboration on the

## Stalin returns to Chennai with Rs 7,600 crore investment from US

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, who was on a 17-day US visit, returned to Chennai on after garnering investments totaling Rs 7,600 crore for the state.

Stalin was received by his cabinet colleagues, DMK leaders and officials at the airport.

He left for the US on August 17, accompanied by his wife Durga Stalin and a horde of officials.

During his visit, Stalin met the officials of the US automobile major, Ford in Chicago, and the company was all set to re-enter Tamil Nadu, three years after exiting from the state.

The company has submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the State government, outlining its intention to utilize the existing plant.

Ford decided to shut down its engine and vehicle assembling plant in Chennai in 2022.

While announcing the company's intent to restart its operations in Tamil Nadu, Ford Motors' President Jim Farley said the company would add 2,500 to 3,000 team members in the next few years.

She said that with the company's engine manufacturing team in Sanand and customer and dealer support team, India would be Ford's second-largest employee base worldwide. The state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with American construction and engineering equipment manufacturing company Caterpillar to expand the operations of the US company in the state. *IANIS*



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin

## India to add 179 million people to its working age population by 2045

NEW DELHI: India's demographics are in a sweet spot, and the country is projected to add at least 179 million people to its working-age population by 2045, which can be a significant tailwind for economic growth, particularly as demographics in several parts of the world (including China) turn unfavorable, a new report has said.

At the moment, India's working-age population is around 961 million and the unemployment rate is at a five-year low.

India's working age population (age 25-64) is rising as a proportion of the total population which will be a positive for savings and investments as well, according to global investment firm Jefferies.

A rise in the Labor Force Participation Rates (LFPR) of females has started in India, which will be among a key driving force for expansion of the labor force, alongside demographics.

Labor force addition is expected to slow to 6 million by 2030 but the gap should be filled by the shift from agriculture jobs, said Jefferies in its latest note.

According to August data released by the Ministry of Statistics, the LFPR in India's urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above has increased from 48.8 percent during April-June 2023 to 50.1 percent in April-June this year, reflecting an increase in employment in

the country.

As per the data, the LPFR for females of age 15 years and above in urban areas also increased from 23.2 percent during April-June last year to 25.2 percent during April-June this year.

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR), another employment indicator, also went up in urban areas among



persons aged 15 years and above from 45.5 percent during April-June 2023 to 46.8 percent in April-June 2024.

As per the RBI data, the total increase in employment during the last 10 years stood at about 17 crore. It showed that employment in the country increased to 64.33 crore in 2023-24, compared to 47.15 crore in 2014-15. *IANIS*



**Delhi: Counterfeit visa factory busted in Tilak Nagar, 6 agents arrested**

NEW DELHI: In a significant breakthrough against the issuance of fake visas, police officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) have busted a counterfeit visa operation in Tilak Nagar recently.

IGI Airport Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Usha Rangnani reported that six agents were arrested, and 14 Nepalese and two Indian passports with fake Schengen visas were recovered.

DCP Usha Rangnani stated, "A counterfeit visa factory has been busted in Tilak Nagar. Six agents were arrested, and 14 Nepalese and two Indian passports with fake Schengen visas were recovered. Equipment used for producing fake visas, including stamps and watermark materials, has been seized. The investigation is ongoing."

In a post on X, the DCP added, "Counterfeit Visa Factory busted in Tilak Nagar. Six agents arrested. Fourteen Nepalese and two Indian passports affixed with fake Schengen visas recovered. Equipment used for producing fake visas seized, including stamps and watermark materials."

Earlier, a Nepali national was arrested from a hideout in Delhi for operating a fake visa racket. He allegedly lured people with promises of easy money and a better livelihood abroad, according to the Delhi Police.

The accused, Sunil Thapa, was arrested for arranging a fake Hong Kong visa on an Indian passport for a female Nepalese passenger with the help of his associates. ANI

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*"We continue to work in communities to raise awareness about citizenship in line with our mission to uphold America's promise as a nation"*

## USCIS to celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

WASHINGTON: On Sept. 17, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day as part of Constitution Week (Sept. 17 to 23). The commemoration honors both the signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, and an observance that began in 1940 as "I Am an American Day." Citizenship Day began in 1952, signed into law by President Harry Truman and, in 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed the first Constitution Week.

"We continue to work in communities to raise awareness about citizenship in line with our mission to uphold America's promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect, and Constitution Week provides the opportunity to highlight this mission," said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. "We are committed to removing barriers to immigration benefits and ensuring that we operate fairly and efficiently."

Each year, USCIS celebrates Constitution Week by celebrating the connection between the Con-

stitution and citizenship, reflecting on what it means to be a citizen of the United States and holding special naturalization ceremonies across the country. The Constitution plays a meaningful role in the lives of all Americans, but particularly for those who are Americans by choice.



The Constitution not only establishes the rule of law, but it also creates the framework for an immigration system that enables immigrants to become citizens.

As part of Constitution Week, USCIS will welcome more than 17,000 new citizens in over 400 naturalization ceremonies across the nation from Sept. 14-23. Among the special naturalization ceremonies taking place is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation event on Sept. 17, where USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou will administer the Oath of Allegiance. For additional venues, please view a list of highlighted 2024 Constitution Week themed ceremonies.

USCIS is committed to educating underserved or vulnerable populations about the benefits and opportunities of citizenship, and about the naturalization process. New U.S. citizens invigorate and contribute to their adopted country, and USCIS encourages eligible immigrants to

naturalize. Since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration, we have taken steps to support the implementation of Executive Order 14012: Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans, including the USCIS

seamlessly request Social Security updates; and

Providing a third gender option on Form N-400; Clarifying guidance about the application of confidentiality protections following naturalization; and Issuing guidance on children's acquisition of citizenship.

For more information about USCIS' Constitution Day and Citizenship Day activities, please see the USCIS Celebrates Constitution Day and Citizenship Day 2024 Fact Sheet (PDF, 5.23 MB).

Eligible lawful permanent residents go through a comprehensive, multi-step process to become U.S. citizens. The final step in the naturalization process is the most important one, the Oath of Allegiance.

To help applicants prepare to become U.S. citizens, USCIS provides study materials and resources, including a mobile app, USCIS: Civics Test Study Tools, which is currently available in the Apple App and Google Play Store. To find it, search for "USCIS civics test" or "USCIS." In addition to being the only official USCIS Civics Test application, the app

Ambassador Initiative in which USCIS collaborates with immigrant community leaders.

The 2024 Constitution Week caps a year of notable accomplishments for USCIS in promoting citizenship and upholding our mission by making the naturalization process accessible to all who are eligible, including:

Decreasing the naturalization

*Each year, USCIS celebrates Constitution Week by celebrating the connection between the Constitution and citizenship, reflecting on what it means to be a citizen of the United States and holding special naturalization ceremonies across the country*

backlog by 60 percent and returned to processing times under six months. Learn more about backlog reduction on our immigration data page.

Issuing a new edition of the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, with new features:

Enabling new citizens to

keeps old practice tests for review, has a game to challenge users' civics knowledge, and lists all 100 questions and answers that could be asked in the actual civics test. Applicants can also access a civics practice test on the Citizenship Resource Center. USCIS



# US presidential debate: Trump, Harris clash bitterly on economy, abortion, immigration

WASHINGTON: Vice-President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump clashed bitterly on the issues of economy, abortion, immigration, foreign policy, healthcare, and a whole range of issues in their first presidential debate here.

Harris attacked Trump on abortion, calling him responsible for the Supreme Court decision to end decades of abortion rights. She also attacked him on the January 6, 2020, insurrection and the economy. She said Biden-Harris was left to clean up the mess left behind by Trump. The vice-president forced the former president to defend himself and his comments, including the one about her racial identity.

Trump focused his attack on Harris over immigration, accusing her and the Biden-Harris administration of letting immigrants enter the US illegally in hordes, who, he added, were taking jobs and pushing up crime rates in the US.

He said it was the weakness of President Joe Biden and his administration that led to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7.

Trump tried repeatedly to hold Harris responsible for the actions of the Biden administration.

In an early exchange on the economy, Harris responded to Trump's charge that he had left the Biden administration with one of the "greatest economies" saying "Donald Trump left us the worst unem-

ployment since the Great Depression. Donald Trump left us the worst public health epidemic in a century. Donald Trump left us the worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War. And what we



Kamala Harris and Donald Trump

have done is clean up Donald Trump's mess."

Trump hit back at her saying, "She doesn't have a plan. She copied Biden's plan, and it's like four sentences like, Run

have a plan."

At one stage, Trump got a personal. "She's a Marxist. Everybody knows she's a Marxist. Her father is a Marxist Professor in Economics, and he taught her well."

Harris was also rough on him, accusing him of lying repeatedly.

Trump took heat on abortion as expected. And he defended himself, saying, "The Democrats are radical in that. And her vice presidential pick, which I think is a horrible pick, by the way, for

our country, because he is really out of it. But her vice presidential pick says abortion in the ninth month is absolutely fine. He also says execution after birth. It's execution, no longer abortion because the

*Trump focused his attack on Harris over immigration, accusing her and the Biden-Harris administration of letting immigrants enter the US illegally in hordes, who, he added, were taking jobs and pushing up crime rates in the US*

Spot Run, four sentences that are just oh, we'll try and lower taxes. She doesn't have a plan, take a look at her plan. She doesn't

baby is born is okay, and that's not okay with me, hence the vote. But what I did is something, for 52 years, they've been trying to get Roe v Wade into the states, and through the genius and heart and strength of six Supreme Court justices. We were able to do that. Now, I believe in the exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother."

But Harris was not about to let him off the hook easily. "Donald Trump hand-selected three members of the United States Supreme Court with the intention that they would undo the protections of Roe v Wade, and they did exactly as he intended. And now in over 20 states there are Trump abortion bans, which make it criminal for a doctor or nurse to provide health care in one state, it provides prison for life... Trump's abortion bans make no exception, even for rape and incest, which you understand what that means. The survivors of crime... a violation of their body, do not have the right to decide what happens to their body next... that is immoral and one does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to agree with the government and Donald Trump certainly should not be telling a woman what to do with her body." *IANS*

## Santhal Pargana tribal village heads to meet over Bangladeshi intrusion

RANCHI: Tribal village heads of Santhal Pargana division have decided to convene a 'Manjhi Pargana Mahasammelan' under the traditional self-governance system in Hiranpur in Jharkhand's Pakur district on September 16 and BJP leader and former Chief Minister and BJP leader Champai Soren will also attend.

Growing concerns over Bangladeshi infiltration and demographic changes in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana division have sparked a major controversy in the region. Recent attacks on tribal and Hindus in Pakur have further fuelled tensions, prompting local tribal communities to rally for action against illegal immigration.

Expressing deep concern over the issue, Champai Soren said that he is planning to sit with village heads and community elders to address the eviction of tribals from their ancestral lands. He emphasized that Pakur is historically significant as the land of martyrs who fought against British colonialism, and now, the Santhal Pargana region must unite to combat the influx of Bangladeshi immigrants.

In a detailed post on social media platform X, Soren voiced his concerns, calling Bangladeshi infiltration a grave issue. He alleged that certain political parties are suppressing the data for electoral gain, and added: "The truth remains unchanged, even if ignored. A quick look at the voters' lists clearly shows that Bangladeshi intruders have displaced us from our land, our birthplace."

Soren cited the example of Santhal Tola and Malpahadia village in Jikarhatti, Pakur, where there are reportedly no remaining members of the indigenous tribal population. "Where have they gone? Who now owns their land and homes? Who is converting dozens of villages into 'Jamai Tola'? If these intruders are locals, where are their ancestral homes? Who is protecting this illegal activity," he questioned.

He further announced that the tribal community would soon launch a mass movement from Hiranpur block in Pakur, to defend their existence and protect the honor of their mothers, sisters, and daughters.

Earlier, the Centre informed the Jharkhand High Court that the tribal population in the region has declined by 16 percent. *IANS*

## "Tourism the best symbol of people-to-people relations"

NEW DELHI: Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, highlighted the longstanding people-to-people relations between Iran and India while stressing the need for greater collaboration to promote tourism between the two countries.

Speaking to ANI at an event aimed at boosting tourism ties, Elahi highlighted how mutual knowledge about developments in each country has reduced in recent years.

"Iran and India have had good people-to-people relations. Tourism is the best symbol of these relations," Elahi stated. He pointed out that many Indians are unaware of recent developments in Iran, while Iranians lack infor-



Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi

mation about the advancements in India. "So, we initiated this event to think together, to collaborate, and to find ways of promoting tourism," he said.

Elahi further emphasized that the goal is not solely to attract Indian tourists to Iran, but to create a mutual exchange of travelers. "I, as Ambassador of Iran, try to attract Iranian tourists to India. It is one of my duties. At the same time, I also try to attract Indian tourists," he added.

The ambassador outlined steps Iran has taken to facilitate travel for Indian tourists, mentioning that Indian passport holders are now exempted from visa requirements. *ANI*



DUBAI: The latest edition of South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024 saw Aishwarya Rai Bachchan clinching the trophy for Best Actress in a Leading Role (Critics).

She won the award for her terrific performance in Mani Ratnam's film 'Ponniyin Selvan 2'. Aishwarya was accompanied by her daughter Aaradhya during her winning moment.

The little girl was super elated to see her mom bagging the prestigious award.

Several pictures from the ceremony surfaced online. In the visuals, we can see Aaradhya capturing the special moments of her mom while she received the award on the stage at the ceremony, which was held in Dubai last week.

Kabir Khan presented the award to Aishwarya. In her acceptance speech, she said, "Thank you so very much SIIMA for honoring me with award. It means the world to me

because this was a movie so close to my heart, Ponniyin Selvan, directed by my guru Mani Ratnam. And honoring my work for the best actress as Nandini in Ponniyin Selvan is actually celebrating the work of the entire team."

The mother-daughter duo even walked the red carpet. Aishwarya took selfies with her fans who gathered outside the venue.

Aishwarya's co-star Chiyaan Vikram also took home Best Actor (Tamil) award at SIIMA 2024.

Ponniyin Selvan 2, directed by Mani Ratnam, is the sequel to the 2022 film.

Actor Kamal Haasan lent his voice to the film's narration.

Oscar-winning music composer AR Rahman has composed the music for the film.

ANI

## AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN BAGS BEST ACTRESS AWARD AT SIIMA

daughter Aaradhya captures her winning moments



## Wayanad, Hema Committee play spoil sports to Onam festivities in Kerala



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: On the eve of the mother of all festivals in Kerala, Thiru Onam, which is the second day of the three-day festivities, is keenly awaited all across the state, irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

But, had it not been for two happenings, Onam would have certainly shone brighter. On July 30, four villages in Wayanad district were washed away leaving more than 350 people dead and around 90 still missing. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan gave a

call for cancelling the single most popular event -- the grand pagentry to be held on the last day of the Onam festivities in the state capital.

And just when Kerala was settling into the Wayanad tragedy, came the explosive Hema Committee report which brought out the ugly side of the male dominance in the otherwise ego-filled Malayalam film industry.

It revealed the untold miseries of the women in the industry and it has come as another dampener because it is the film stars who are the most important group making the Onam festi-

ties a happy occasion when more than a dozen TV channels have special shows and make the Onam a truly homely affair.

However, this time, with the stock of the film stars taking a

nose dive, not only have the otherwise Onam film releases taken a back seat, the TV channels also appear not too keen to have them in their shows, unlike in past. IANS

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# CALIFORNIA'S AGING SERVICES OFFER VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS

As we grow older, our needs and priorities change. In California, a wide range of services is available to help you maintain your independence, stay connected, and lead a fulfilling life. Whether you're looking for support with daily tasks, health care guidance, or planning for the future, California's aging services are here to help.

## AGING IN PLACE

Many of you may prefer to stay in your own home as you get older. California offers programs that can assist with home repairs, transportation, and in-home care. Additionally, health and social care programs, including day centers with activities like arts and exercise, help you stay independent.

## NUTRITION SERVICES

You can enjoy home-delivered meals or gather for group meals at local centers. For those with limited income, there are options to get fresh produce and other food benefits through the CalFresh Expansion program.

## HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDANCE

Confused about health insurance options? The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), provides guidance on Medicare and long-term care insurance.

## SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

If you are caring for an older



adult, there are programs like Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) and the Family Caregiver Support Program offering respite, counseling, and assistance with paperwork. CRCs also provide action plans for families dealing with dementia.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Facing issues like consumer fraud, elder abuse, or age discrimination? Legal Services are available to help with Social Security, health insurance, pensions, and more.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a job? Free training and job placement services are

available for older Californians.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Planning for emergencies is especially important as we age. California offers resources to help you

prepare for natural disasters, power outages, and other emergencies. Creating a personal emergency plan, keeping an emergency kit ready, and staying informed about local resources can make all the difference.



All these services and more are coordinated through local Area Agencies on Aging. Find yours by calling the California Aging and Adult Information Line at **800-510-2020** or visit **aging.ca.gov**.



## Indian biotech startups launch 11 unique products in biosciences

NEW DELHI: The Indian biotech startups took center-stage recently with unveiling 11 products at the 'Global Bio-India 2024' that showcased the country's emerging talent in biosciences.

The fourth edition of the event, organized by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in the national capital, concluded after showcasing India's biotech prowess. The theme highlighted the potential and opportunities in biotech innovation and bio-manufacturing and its impact on the bio-economy.

The ceremony also marked the launch of calls for proposals under the i4 (Innovation for Industry) and PACE (promoting academic collaboration and entrepreneurship) programs, furthering the government's commitment to fostering innovation.

Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Group Vice Chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani emphasized the need for India to develop organizational models similar to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), for other emerging technologies like nanotechnology and quantum technology. *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)

14 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 20, 2024

## 100 days of Modi 3.0: Health cover to all above 70 years, 75K new medical seats

NEW DELHI: In the first 100 days of its third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has rolled out several schemes to boost the healthcare sector such as providing health cover to all senior citizens aged above 70 years, and adding 75,000 new medical seats.

About 4.5 crore families, including 6 crore senior citizens will benefit from the health coverage of Rs 5 lakh to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of their income.

The move rolled out under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) comes as India's elderly population is projected to double by 2050, and will increase the demand for geriatric care.

In his address to the nation on Independence Day, PM Modi promised to create 75,000 more medical seats in the next five years, from the current over one

lakh in the country.

The addition will make the healthcare system more effective and help reduce foreign dependence in medical education.

Emphasizing the vision of



'Swasth Bharat' (Healthy India) for 'Viksit Bharat 2047', the government introduced the Rashtriya Poshan Mission.

The flagship program of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) aims to im-

prove the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls.

Further, the U-WIN portal has been launched to digitize routine

paign to raise awareness about the genetic blood disorder among women, adolescent girls, and tribal communities.

In the Union Budget 2024-25, the government exempted customs duty on three cancer drugs -- Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab -- to reduce the financial burden of people suffering from cancer and also to facilitate accessibility.

The government also slashed the GST rate from 12 percent to 5 percent on these three cancer medicines.

Under the PM E-DRIVE scheme, an electric ambulance facility has been rolled out with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore.

Digital Healthcare: The 'Scan and Share' feature on the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) has also been launched to provide a 4 crore out-patient registration facility. *IANS*

## AIIMS Bhopal use chest wall reconstruction technique to treat child suffering from rib cancer

BHOPAL: A team of doctors at All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Bhopal performed a complex and life-saving surgery on an eight-year-old child suffering from rib cancer.

Initially, the doctors applied chemotherapy to kill growing cells, however, the child's condition was worsening and the cancer in the ribs continued to spread. Notably, chemotherapy is most often used to treat cancer, since cancer cells grow and multiply much more quickly than other cells in the body.

Seeing the child's condition

worsening, the medical team decided to proceed with the complex surgery. The surgery was performed, however, the next challenge for the medical team was to fill the gap in the ribs.

For that, the medical team developed a new chest wall using a novel chest wall reconstruction technique. "This unique procedure, which is being applied to pediatric chest wall reconstruction for the first, has been recognized and published in the prestigious jour-

nal of the country.

Association of Pediatric Surgeons Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive



Director of AIIMS Bhopal said the child, who had been on a ventila-

tor before surgery due to the severity of the condition, was successfully taken off ventilator support just 12 hours post-surgery. The child was discharged from the hospital six days later.

The complex surgery was conducted successfully, which led to the child returning happily to his home as several multidisciplinary teams of different departments of AIIMS Bhopal worked

hours to make it happen.

The Pediatric Surgery Depart-

ment performed the tumor excision, and the Plastic Surgery Department carried out the chest wall reconstruction using the child's own tissue. Similarly, the Anesthesia Department played a critical role in ensuring the child's safety throughout the operation.

Dr. Ajai Singh praised the efforts of the team, emphasizing that this achievement showcases AIIMS Bhopal's commitment to innovative surgical solutions and highlights the hospital's expertise in handling complex pediatric cases. *IANS*



# Study finds new target for treating heart failure

NAGOYA: As society ages, the number of patients suffering from heart failure grows significantly. Fibrosis, or excessive growth of fibrotic tissue in the heart, has been linked to the advancement of heart failure. A group from Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan discovered an enzyme called protein kinase N (PKN) that controls cardiac fibrosis.

The enzyme converts heart fibroblasts to myofibroblasts, putting the heart's integrity at risk. Deleting this enzyme reduced ventricular dysfunction, indicating that anti-PKN therapies are a prospective therapy for protecting patients from heart failure.

The findings were published in Nature Communications.

The heart maintains its integrity by the usage of tiny cells known as fibroblasts, which are frequently transformed into myofibroblasts following damage. Myofibroblasts promote wound healing by creating fibrous connective tissues like collagen and elastin. However, in heart failure patients, they frequently cause extra tissue to collect, resulting in hardening of heart tissue and reduced function, a disease known as fibrosis. This process reduces the



integrity of the heart's structure, increasing the risk of a heart attack.

The enzyme PKN has been implicated in a signaling cascade that causes heart fibroblast activation. A group led by Drs. Satoya Yoshida, Mikito Takefuji and Toyoaki Murohara in the Department of Cardiology, at the Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine suspected the involvement of PKN in the changes of fibroblasts to myofibroblasts seen in fibrosis. In collaboration with colleagues at the Max Planck Institute, they investigated its role.

In mammal cells, there are three forms of PKN: PKN1, 2, and 3. Using RNA-sequencing data, they identified PKN1 and 2 in heart fibroblasts. The study used mice raised without PKN1 and PKN2. It found that although heart function remained unaffected, there was a notable decrease in actin and collagen expression in the myocardial infarction and heart failure model. These proteins are essential components responsible for the tissue buildup observed in fibrosis. They also found that mice with suppressed PKN1 and 2 did not show conversion of fibroblasts to myofibroblasts. ANI

## Every 10pc increase in ultra-processed food intake may raise diabetes risk: Study

NEW DELHI: Love to binge on savory snacks, ready meals, and sugar or artificially sweetened beverages? Beware; every 10 percent intake of these ultra-processed foods (UPF) may raise your risk of type-2 diabetes by 17 percent, according to a recent study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Europe.

Importantly, the study showed that the risk can be lowered by consuming less-processed foods instead, said researchers from the University College London (UCL), University of Cambridge, and Imperial College London.

To investigate the relationship between the degree of food processing and diabetes risk the team included 311,892 individuals from eight European countries in the study. They were followed over 10.9 years on average, during which time 14,236 people developed diabetes.

In the top 25 percent of UPF consumers, where UPF made up 23.5 percent of their total diet, sweetened beverages alone accounted for nearly 40 percent of their UPF intake and 9 percent of their diet overall.

On the other hand, substituting 10 percent of UPF in the diet with 10 percent of minimally processed food such as eggs, milk, and fruit or processed culinary ingredients such as salt, butter, and oil reduced diabetes risk by 14 percent. IANS



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## Significance of Ganesh Chaturthi

SUNIL KUMAR D. AND  
MADHUMATI TYAGI

**G**anesh Chaturthi is a festival that pays tribute to Lord Ganesh, the remover of obstacles, and celebrates the day as his birthday. The festival is celebrated in the Bhadra month as per the Sanatana calendar, which generally falls in mid-August to September. Lord Ganesha is known as the God of wealth, sciences, knowledge, wisdom and prosperity, and that is why most Hindus worship him and seek his blessings before starting any important work. It is believed that Lord Ganesh during his visit to the earth, he brings order in this universe and people worship him before embarking on a new endeavor, intellectual journey, or business enterprise. Therefore, it is very common to see images or small statues of Him in these places. He is one of the most revered God in Sanatana Dharma. Lord Ganesha is having the head of an elephant and is the son of Shiva (the God of Transformation) and Ma Parvati.

Sanatanis celebrate this festival with great devotion and joy throughout the world. In India, it is majorly celebrated in states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. Lord Ganesha is the younger brother of Lord Kartikeya, the god of war. He is also called Skanda and Murugan. He is known by 108 different names such as Gajanana, Ganapati, Vinayaka, Vighnaharta, and Sankatmochaka among others.

For detailed story visit  
[www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)

## NFIA's Congressional Brunch at Capitol Hill; Reception at Embassy of India

**T**he National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) proudly announces the success of its annual Congressional event (Brunch) held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Details on page 19

# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

16 India Post

[www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)

September 20, 2024



## Hindi Divas celebrated by Indian Consulate



India Post News Service

**CHICAGO:** The Consulate General of India, Chicago in association with Hindi Coordination Committee, organized Hindi Divas on 14 September 2024 at the Consulate.

The program was attended by Hindi scholars, Hindi organizations, language experts, school students, parents, and members of the Indian diaspora, interested in promotion of Hindi language.

The event featured enthusias-

tic participation from school children, who performed Hindi play, recited poems and patriotic songs. The program included a



short Drama "Hamid Ka Chimta" by students of Mandi Theatre, "Shanti Ke Sipahi" by "Dramatech of America", recital

of Hindi poems and patriotic songs by school children.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh in his opening remarks thanked all other Hindi organizations that have been promoting use of Hindi in Chicago and entire mid-west.

Consul General highlighted the importance of encouraging the use of Hindi among children of the Indian diaspora to maintain a strong connection with their cultural roots.





# Can addressing climate crisis save energy costs, lift up communities?

VIDYA SETHURAMAN  
India Post News Service

It's the largest-ever infusion of federal funds in clean energy and climate change, with the lion's share 40% of \$27 billion earmarked for communities that bear the higher per capita energy costs and are overburdened by pollution. A panel of experts and local stakeholders examined the GGRF in-depth and explained how this historic investment can reduce household energy costs and uplift working-class and poor communities.

David Widawsky, Director of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said that the GGRF is part of the "Reducing Inflation Act" passed in 2022 and aims to solve the United States' pressing energy and climate challenges through financial support. The primary goal of the fund is to solve the climate crisis in the United States. Another important goal is to reduce energy costs. The GGRF funding allocation is divided into three parts, including the \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund, the \$7 billion Solar for All project, and the \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator project. These grants have been allocated to 68 entities across the country,

enabling the promotion of various renewable energy projects to help low-income and disadvantaged groups gain access to relevant resources, thereby reducing household energy costs, improving health and improving the living environment.

Shalanda H. Baker, Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action at the University of Michigan, analyzed the impact of GGRF on American society and economy. Baker pointed out that according to the Energy Information Administra-

tion, about one-third of American households are facing the problem of "energy insecurity" and must make difficult choices between paying energy bills and daily living expenses every month. She further explained that when temperatures are extreme, many low-income families have to turn off their air conditioners to save on energy costs, which poses a serious

threat to health. Data shows that 52% of African-American households face the pressure of excessive energy burden, and 47% of Hispanic households are in a similar predicament. In response to this unfair energy distribution phenomenon, the GGRF fund was established to help low-income families, reduce the burden on disadvantaged groups in the energy field, and create more opportunities for them to participate in the clean energy transition.

Baker emphasized that there are also

to the benefits of clean energy.

Evie Bauman, Director of community implementation for the grassroots organization Rewiring America, said they are focused on a climate solution in the residential sector. "Emissions come from decisions made at the kitchen table, and we see this as a huge opportunity to take meaningful personal action." She noted that the machines used to heat and cool the home, to cook food, to dry clothes, to get around many places in the country, run on fossil fuels. "By choosing electric versions of those machines, we can combat the climate crisis, and significantly improve our quality of life at home." She said that thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, there are a number of tax credits and rebates to make replacing these appliances in the home more affordable.

Rosemary Jones, Project Manager for Vitalizing DeSoto in Georgia, said the improvements provided will help residents reduce their energy bills and ensure a healthy and comfortable place to live. "At first, residents found it hard to believe that everyone was eligible to participate in the program at no cost. Many thought it was a scam." She said many low-income rural families lack the financial resources to replace broken or inefficient appliances.

*The GGRF is part of the "Reducing Inflation Act" passed in 2022 and aims to solve the United States' pressing energy and climate challenges through financial support. The primary goal of the fund is to solve the climate crisis in the United States. Another important goal is to reduce energy costs*

tion, about one-third of American households are facing the problem of "energy insecurity" and must make difficult choices between paying energy bills and daily living expenses every month. She further explained that when temperatures are extreme, many low-income families have to turn off their air conditioners to save on energy costs, which poses a serious

structural inequalities in the promotion of clean energy. For example, white households at the same income level are more likely to install solar systems than African-American households, highlighting stark racial disparities. One of GGRF's core goals is to break down this inequity and ensure that all communities, especially communities of color, have equal access

## Ask NAPCA

### Q1. Are flu and COVID-19 still a serious threat to public health?

Both flu and COVID-19 remain significant health threats, causing thousands of hospitalizations and deaths annually. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), from October 1, 2023 through June 1, 2024, there were estimated to have been at least 35 million flu illnesses, 390,000 hospitalizations, and 24,000 deaths. In that same period, approximately 44,000 deaths were attributed to COVID-19 in the US.

### Q2. Why do flu and COVID-19 vaccines need to be updated more frequently than other vaccines?

Flu and COVID-19 viruses change through a process called mutation. These mutations help the viruses avoid our natural immune responses and the protection provided by vaccines. By mutating, flu and COVID-19 viruses can move more easily from person to person and reproduce

faster, ensuring their survival.

Flu and COVID-19 viruses mutate frequently, and the vaccines have been updated accordingly. CDC is recommending that all Americans six months and

older get an updated flu and COVID-19 vaccine in the fall, regardless of whether they've been vaccinated against the virus in the past.

### Q3. Why are older adults at higher risk for flu or COVID-19?

As people age, their immune systems tend to weaken, making it harder for their bodies to fight off infections and diseases. Many older adults have chronic health conditions such as heart

disease, diabetes, or respiratory issues that can exacerbate the effects of flu or COVID-19. Therefore, they are more likely to experience severe complications from the flu, or COVID-19, and re-

covery from illnesses can be slower, and more complicated in older adults due to the body's reduced ability to repair and heal itself.

Many infectious disease experts stress the importance of vaccination for people who are over 65 or who have underlying health conditions. People close to them should also be vaccinated to protect their loved ones. We should make the annual flu shot and annual COVID shot part of our health maintenance.



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# Unity Summit 2024 at the US Capitol

Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) which is a national non-profit organization and speaks for Asians with one voice is organizing a national gathering - Unity Summit 2024 to be held at The US Capitol, Washington DC on September 19th to 20th, 2024. The following broad topics/issues will be discussed at the Summit with the help of speakers from varied Asian communities. Immigration, Racial Discrimination & injustices

Civil Rights & Election Essentials  
The detailed program and timings are given below:

2024 Asian American Unity Summit - AAUC (asamunitycoalition.org) <https://www.asamunitycoalition.org/2024-unity-summit/>

Invited members and friends of the organization will have an opportunity to meet Congressional Representatives and Senators at this program, in addition to calling on to the offices of your own elected officials and advocate those issues of concern to their communities. Registration to the Summit (including breakfast. Lunch and evening reception) on September 20th at The US

Capitol is FREE. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/AAUC2024> Summit. Dinner on September 19, 2024, at Crown Plaza in the evening is ticketed for 100 dollars.

AAUC is going to discuss the legislative issue of legal immigration backlog (Green Card) which has put 1.2 million Indian applicants in the waiting list, which at the current level may take long time to get a visa number until and unless the immigration rules are changed to remove the discriminatory rules towards Indian applicants and

*Invited members and friends of the organization will have an opportunity to meet Congressional Representatives and Senators at this program, in addition to calling on to the offices of your own elected officials and advocate those issues of concern to their communities*

also the Chinese and Filipino applicants. There are two bipartisan bills in the Congress (HR-6543 and S-3269) which could reduce this long waiting period.

In the afternoon of Thursday, September 19, 2024, we will have a meeting with Dept. of Justice and FBI, again interacting with them on the Asian American issues. In the evening,

there is a Welcome Dinner at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. If you like to attend these three events, please send a confirmation e- to president, Angela Anand, [angela\\_anand@yahoo.com](mailto:angela_anand@yahoo.com), or at website admin at <https://www.asamunitycoalition.org/2024-unity-summit/>

AAUC will also honor some outstanding achievers and contributors to the society including a couple awards honoring the lawmakers. There are people in different categories who will be honored for their

contributions to society during the reception. We look forward to your participation.

Contact: Angela Anand, President, AAUC and Summit Chair, 571-217-2555, [angela\\_anand@yahoo.com](mailto:angela_anand@yahoo.com)

Board Chair, Dr. SK Lo, 952-457-9040, Awards Committee chair, Thomas Abraham, 203-561-6187

## AAUC Summit 2024 - An annual event- sharing voices of our communities at Capital Hill

ANGELA ANAND

The United States of America, the most admired global leader of democracy, is providing a forum to the candidates from two main political parties to share their strategies to lead the country for domestic policies and issues dealing with geopolitics. Economy, immigration and foreign policy were the main topics of a national debate recently. These are the topics on the mind of all citizens including Asian diaspora.

We, at AAUC, a non-profit organization of diverse membership, are presenting "voices of our communities" on September 19-20, 2024, in Washington DC. Asians as a group are moving on the path of economic growth with great speed and achieving success. Our communities feel we must do better as tax-paying, hard working, respected citizens of the country. Our aspirations and challenges are part of the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic fabric of the society. Media has used the title of model minorities due to peace loving demeanor of the people but under the surface are feelings of unfairness and presence of inequities.

While on a macro level, there are many competing issues, but on a micro level, it is our challenges that we must share in terms of unfair discrimination and immigration issues as well as availing opportunities to grow our families, businesses, and receive just treatment judiciously and legislatively.

This is overall theme of the platform for this annual event, Summit 2024, where our delegates are the speakers. We hope to meet many of our elected officials and share our collectively stories of triumphs and missing the target outcome.

As the president of AAUC, I am delighted to offer our delegates this opportunity to gather, speak and network. It is our honor and great privilege to invite policy makers to meet our multi ethnic groups, coming from different states, and also address in terms of what is in the planning and how some of the issues of importance to our delegates are being discussed legislatively.

(The author Angela Anand is AAUC President)

# Sood Charity in Chicagoland

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Sonu Sood and a community activist in Chicagoland, Harish Kolasani set up Strategic Partnership Between the Sood Charity Foundation and National India Hub

Celebrated actor Sonu Sood and an activist in Chicago Harish Kolasani announced the launch of the Sood Charity in Chicago. This significant milestone also marks the beginning of a powerful partnership between the Sood Charity Foundation and the National India Hub Foundation aimed at providing essential support and life-saving assistance to people in need across the globe.

The Sood Foundation, under the leadership of Sonu Sood, has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sood expressed his enthusiasm for this new chapter, stating, "Launching the Sood Charity Foundation office in the world's largest Indian Community Center is a momentous occasion for us. This center is not just a building; it's a symbol of unity, strength, and our shared commitment to helping those in need. Our partnership with National India Hub will enable us to extend our mission globally, ensuring

that help reaches those who need it most, no matter where they are."

Harish Kolasani of the Indian-American community shared his thoughts on the collaboration: "The synergy between the Sood Charity Foundation and National India Hub represents a powerful alliance dedicated to humanitarian causes. Together, we aim to provide timely aid, resources, and support to those facing ad-

*The Sood Foundation, under the leadership of Sonu Sood, has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic*

versity, whether in India, the USA, or any other part of the world."

The partnership between the Sood Charity Foundation and National India Hub will focus on various initiatives, including healthcare support, disaster relief, educational programs, awareness campaigns, and poverty alleviation. With the combined resources and networks of both organizations, the collaboration is poised to make

a significant impact on global humanitarian efforts.

This launch and partnership are a testament to the power of community and the ability to effect meaningful change through collective action. Both Sonu Sood and Harish Kolasani are committed to leveraging their platforms and resources to make a difference in the lives

Sood Foundation: The Sood Foundation, founded by actor Sonu Sood, is dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities across the globe. The Foundation focuses on providing healthcare, education, and emergency relief to those in need, with a mission to create a more equitable and compassionate world.

National India Hub is a prominent organization based in the USA, committed to supporting the Indian diaspora and fostering strong ties between India and the United States. India Hub recently launched the world's largest Indian Community Center and also inaugurated one of the largest Indian flag poles outside of India.

The organization's initiatives span community development, healthcare, education, and cultural exchange, aiming to build a stronger, more connected global community.



# NFIA's Congressional Brunch at Capitol Hill; Reception at Embassy of India

Photo Credits: Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee, Secretary, NFIA; Hina Trivedi, RVP, NFIA



## RAJ RAZDAN

President, NFIA

The National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) proudly announces the success of its annual Congressional event (Brunch) held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 in Washington, D.C. The event brought together prominent Indian American leaders, members of Congress, and key influencers from various sectors to discuss pressing issues and strengthen ties between the Indian American community and U.S. policymakers with focus on fostering growing Indo-US relations.

This year's Congressional Brunch, hosted at the Capitol Hill, Senate room, was marked by a robust attendance of key stakeholders, including bipartisan members of Congress, government officials, business leaders, and community advocates. The event featured a series of insightful speeches and networking opportunities aimed at fostering greater collaboration and engagement on issues affecting the Indian American Diaspora.

After a brief invocation by NFIA Secretary Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee, Welcome by Dr. Hari Singh, NFIA President Raj Razdan delivered opening remarks, recognizing and acknowledging the overwhelming support received by NFIA during its existence since its founding in 1980. She elaborated the recent pioneering endeavor of the launching of NFIA's national annual scholarship program. She added, "This year over 22 college bound brilliant scholars (with admissions including prestigious Ivy League colleges such as Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and many more) were chosen for their academic excellence. This was possible only because of the partnership, generosity and support of various Foundations/Businesses/Trusts/Individuals to include Heartfulness Institute, Innova Solutions, Bhandari Nirankari Trust, Sheth Family

Foundation and 'Kashmiris in Georgia'. This has been a shining historic moment for NFIA as we hope to see this NFIA program grow to significant endowment in the future with the goal of empowering future leaders and innovators." Alluding to the history and mission of NFIA, she emphasized the growing importance of Indian Americans in shaping U.S. policy and the need for continued advocacy and policy involvement on behalf of the community.

"This brunch is not just an opportunity to celebrate our community's achievements, but to have meaningful ongoing dialogue with policymakers and highlight the contributions of Indian Americans to the cultural, economic, and political fabric of the United States," said President

outreach efforts to, his engaging with and admiration for the Indian American community in his Massachusetts constituency and elsewhere in the country. He talked about the degree to which Indian Americans contribute to the economy, universities, charity, startups, running hotel-motel chains, medicine and engineering, all the while generating millions of jobs directly and indirectly annually! He felt positive about joining the India Caucus at the appropriate time to further enhance India-US relations. He congratulated NFIA for the successful congressional event praising the organizers for a job well done with an impressive list of legislators and speakers. The next speaker, US Representative (D-New Jersey) Josh Gottheimer (facilitated by Eric

cepting her recognition plaque, she remarked, "Today's brunch is celebrating the deep ties between two powerful democracies, the U.S. and India. From people-to-people engagement, to trade, to our democratic values, the relationship has never been stronger. Political engagement and the importance of your vote are true both in the U.S. and India. So, If you love the diversity of this room, of our country, if you love democracy everywhere, you must always exercise your right to VOTE".

Introduced by NFIA's former President Sudip Gorakshakar, Congressman Shri Thanedar (US Rep, D-Michigan) thanked NFIA for his "exceptional service award". His spellbinding narration of growing up in poverty in India, reaching USA on a stu-



Razdan.

Introducing the Chief Guest Hon. Seth Moulton, US Representative (D-MA) from Massachusetts, NFIA's Executive Vice President Sunny Gabhawala acknowledged the unflinching help and coordination provided by Congressman Moulton's staff for this event, adding, Congressman has been a true friend of our Indian American Community as we hope he will soon join the impressive list of India Caucus.

Appreciating the NFIA Award and thankful for the associated honor, Hon. Seth Moulton detailed his and his office's

Kumar of New York) thanked National Federation of Indian American Associations for hosting him for the brunch. He said, "I'm honored to represent the exceptional Indian American community in North Jersey, and I will always fight hard to make sure you feel heard in Washington."

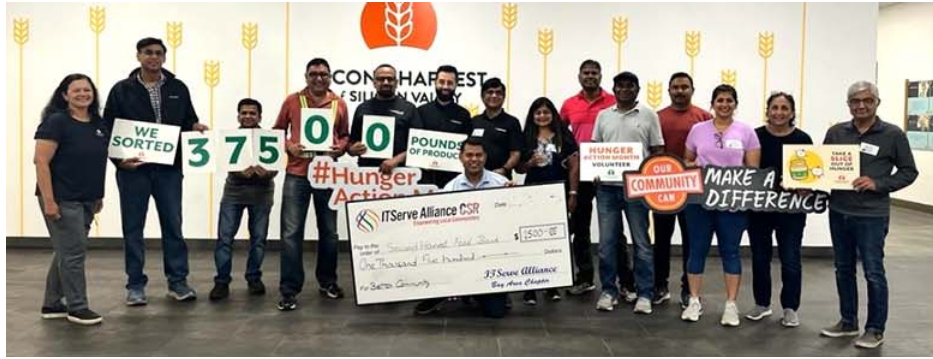
Guest of Honor, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former Lt. Governor of Maryland and daughter of Senator Robert Kennedy was invited by Pam Kwatra of New Jersey and was briefly introduced by Rahul Bathla to present her remarks. Ac-

dent visa, which was rejected four times before finally approved by the Mumbai Consulate, was well appreciated by the audience. In his speech Congressman Thanedar said "We are a nation of Immigrants and yet we have a highly dysfunctional immigration system, which causes hardship to the highly talented engineers and scientists to get their visa status updated and get a green card so they can be employed by the tech industry in the USA".

For detailed story visit  
[www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)



# Through Corporate Social Responsibility ITServe Alliance works towards building a brighter future for everyone



India Post News Service

CHICAGO: "ITServe Alliance members are passionate about the wellbeing of society just as they have been about their businesses, but restricted by 24 hours in a day," says Amit Goel, Managing Director of ITServe Alliance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). "The mission of ITServe Alliance CSR is to empower local communities through STEM advocacy, educating the underprivileged, feeding the hungry, supporting our veterans and first responders and recognizing our community heroes."

Elaborating on the larger mission of CSR, Goel said, CSR has a broad range

of initiatives aimed at creating a positive impact in various areas. "The activities are STEM Scholarships & STEM Grants, Youth Entrepreneur Program, Recognizing Community Heroes, Community Involvement by Volunteering, and 'Helper's High' by PVSA."

ITServe boasts of 21 chapters, each led by a dedicated chapter president, who serve as a pillar, championing the ITServe vision alongside the CSR objectives. The national/chapter level CSR chairs play a critical role in identifying and partnering with qualified non-profit organizations that align with CSR objectives. CSR is chaired by distinguished Chairs, including Krishna Revoori, Naveen Surya, Ravisankar Ramanathan, Naveen Jagadam, Venkat Seelam, Jogeswara Rao Peddiboyina, Dhanunjaya Mundrathi, Suresh Chappidi, and Suresh Babu Manukonda.

According to Jagadeesh Mosali, Presi-

tion in 2010, CSR team has embarked on a remarkable journey in the realm of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Starting with small steps, it has made a significant impact by investing 1.5 million Dollars in STEM activities and various welfare programs. In addition to the financial contributions, ITServe members have dedicated thousands of hours of collective efforts to serving local communities.

Founded in 2010, ITServe Alliance is the largest association of Information Technology Services Organization functioning across the United States. Established with the objective of being the collective voice of all Information Technology

back to local communities across the country. The ITServe CSR vision is empowering local communities through Education and Training, Creating local employment and Supporting our First Responders."

Vinod Babu Uppu, Governing Board Chair -2023, said: "Over the years, ITServe Alliance has established a name for itself as the center point of information for its members and the larger community, covering a variety of areas ranging from immigration, technology, economy, and many more that are relevant to its members. ITServe has 21 Chapters in several states across the United States,



of initiatives aimed at creating a positive impact in various areas. "The activities are STEM Scholarships & STEM Grants, Youth Entrepreneur Program, Recognizing Community Heroes, Community Involvement by Volunteering, and 'Helper's High' by PVSA."

In order to achieve these lofty goals, ITServe has assembled an exceptional team of committed and talented national leaders to make its mission accomplished. "To have a meaningful impact, 2024 CSR team includes 15 dynamic leaders who really care for society. The roles have been distributed based on the 5 major activities that ITServe Alliance CSR undertook this year," Goel added.

In addition to the national chairs,

dent of ITServe Alliance, "ITServe's CSR plays a very critical role in helping us realize our mission of giving back to our communities and working towards the wellbeing of the larger society. The generous donations, resources and the time devoted by our leadership and member organizations, helps ITServe in the success of our programs. Our partners play a vital role in helping us broaden our reach and positively impacting the lives of the lesser fortunate in our communities by helping us broaden our reach through the many CSR initiatives."

Amar Varada, Governing Board Chair says, "ITServe CSR Team members are unwavering in their commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) to give

bringing resources and of service to the larger humanity in every part of this innovation country."

From the very beginning, ITServe's mission has been to empower local communities through a wide range of initiatives. ITServe believes in the transformative power of STEM scholarships, STEM training, and STEM internships, which enable individuals to reach their full potential and contribute to a thriving society. By advocating for these educational opportunities, CSR aims to bridge the gap and provide equal access to quality education.

ITServe CSR is committed to giving back to our local communities through various educational, empowering, charitable programs. Since ITServe's incep-

companies with similar interests in the United States, ITServe Alliance has evolved as a resourceful and respected platform to collaborate and initiate measures in the direction of protecting common interests and ensuring collective success.

Amit Goel and the entire CSR and ITServe leadership are confident that with a passionate and dedicated team, ITServe is committed to and will reach more organizations and expanding its support network, with the goal to create a lasting and positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities in need. ITServe CSR is driven by the belief that together, we will build a brighter future for everyone.



# Global nonprofit DSNDP volunteers from California participate in cleanliness drive!

India Post News Service

On September 14th, 2024, California State residents joined hands as dedicated volunteers of the global nonprofit organization Dr. Shri. Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari Pratishthan (DSNDP), undertaking an Adopt-A-Block cleanup-drive in collaboration with the Maintenance Services Department at Kay Avenue, Hayward, California 94545.

This cleanliness drive by DSNDP drew 07 volunteers at Alameda County who collected 5 big size bags of trash resulting in collection of around 200 pounds of waste.

Earlier in California, the organization also carried out other cleanliness activities such as Adopt-a-Ramp, Adopt-a-Highway, Adopt-a-Beach etc. across 10 cities involving a total of 289 volunteers who worked for around 581 volunteer hours, collected 386 bags of waste resulting in approx. 5790 pounds of trash.

Within the North America continent, DSNDP continues to collaborate with 18 states and 73 cities across the United States for nationwide cleanliness drive including 23 different programs such as Adopt-Highway/Park/Beach/ Street/ River etc. During these cleanliness drives, DSNDP has successfully engaged 2356 volunteers, actively collecting more than 37785 pounds of trash, resulting in significant cost savings for the government. The organization has received accolades from



various state and county governments in the form of 53 certificates and 51 sign boards within the nation.

To learn more about our initiatives and get involved, visit <https://www.dsndp.com> or contact DSNDP representative Mr. Shrirang Mistry at [shrirangmistry@gmail.com](mailto:shrirangmistry@gmail.com)/ 562-350-3112.



## Cancelled: Indian folk dance performance by Chhattisgarh Folk Group "Bastar Band"

India Post News Service

Indian folk dance performance by the Chhattisgarh Folk Group "Bastar Band," led by Padmashree Anup Ranjan Pandey, which was scheduled to take place at the University of Chicago's International House Assembly Hall, 1414 E 59th Street, Chicago, 60637, on September 13, 2024, at 4:30 PM is cancelled.

Consulate regrets to inform you that the

visit of the troupe has been called off due to unforeseen circumstances.

Consulate General of India in association with University of Chicago had planned an Indian folk dance performance by Chhattisgarh Folk Group "Bastar Band" (a tribal dance group) led by Padmashree Anup Ranjan Pandey, scheduled be visiting Chicago from 12-15 September 2024. This program, is now called off.

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# GK Questions on Ganesh Chaturthi

INDRAJEET TYAGI AND GEETHA PATIL

- Q1. Who is the father of Lord Ganesha?**  
a) Brahma b) Vishnu c) Shiva d) Kartikeya  
**Answer: (c)**  
Explanation: Lord Ganesha is the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

**Q2. What is the significance of Ganesh Chaturthi?**  
a) It celebrates the arrival of Lord Ganesha on Earth  
b) It marks the end of the monsoon  
c) It is a harvest festival d) It commemorates the birth of Lord Shiva  
**Answer: (a)**  
Explanation: Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates the arrival of Ganesha from Kailash to Earth.

**Q3. Which festival is celebrated for Lord Ganesha?**  
a) Diwali b) Holi c) Ganesh Chaturthi d) Makar Sankranti  
**Answer: (c)**  
Explanation: Ganesh Chaturthi is specifically dedicated to the worship of Lord Ganesha.

**Q4. What does Lord Ganesha hold in one of his upper arms?**  
a) Axe b) Dagger. c) Chakra d) Sword  
**Answer: (a)**  
Explanation: Lord Ganesha is often depicted holding an axe, symbolizing the removal of obstacles.

**Q5. Who broke Ganesha's teeth, leading to his name "Ekdam"?**  
a) Parashurama b) Vishvakarma c) Kartikeya d) Indrudev  
**Answer: (a)**  
Explanation: Parashurama broke Ganesha's teeth during a confrontation.

**Q6. Which epic did Lord Ganesha write?**  
a) Ramayana b) Mahabharata c) Bhagavad Gita d) Vedas  
**Answer: (b)**  
Explanation: Ganesha wrote the Mahabharata as dictated by Sage Vyasa.

**Q7. What is the meaning of "Vighnaharta"?**  
a) Remover of obstacles b) God of wisdom c) Lord of wealth d) Protector of devotees  
**Answer: (a)**  
Explanation: "Vighnaharta" means the one who removes obstacles.

**Q8. What is the name of Ganesha's consorts?**  
a) Lakshmi and Sarasvati b) Riddhi and Siddhi c) Ganga and Yamuna d) Durga and Kali  
**Answer: (b)**  
Explanation: Riddhi and Siddhi are known as the consorts of Lord Ganesha.

**Q9. In which month is Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated?**  
a) Chaitra b) Bhadrapada c) Ashwin d) Magha  
**Answer: (b)**  
Explanation: Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in the month of Bhadrapada.

**Q10. What is the primary offering made to Lord Ganesha during worship?**  
a) Flowers b) Fruits c) Laddus d) Rice  
**Answer: (c)**  
Explanation: Laddus, especially Modaks, are considered his favorite offering.

**Q11. What animal is associated with Lord Ganesha?**

- a) Lion b) Elephant c) Mouse d) Bull  
**Answer: (c)**  
Explanation: Lord Ganesha rides a mouse, symbolizing his ability to overcome any obstacle.

**Q12. Which legislation did Bal Gangadhar Tilak oppose by promoting Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations?**  
a) Minto Morley reforms b) Government of India Act 1835 c) Anti-Public Assembly Legislation 1892 d) Indian Home Rule Act  
**Answer: (c)**  
Explanation: Tilak opposed the Anti-Public Assembly Legislation of 1892 through public celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi.

For detailed story visit [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)

## A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi

INDRAJEET

- A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We celebrate ten-days-long birthday of the Lord  
The God of wisdom and the remover of all obstacles

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
Viewing his elephantine face with a shining trunk  
Means very auspicious and good luck for everyone

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We welcome the dearest child of Shiva-Parvati  
By chanting Mantras and Jai Ganesha slogans

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
It is blissful to recite the 108 names of his  
And attain a fabulous and prosperous future

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We reverently bow to the Lotus feet of the Lord  
Who is served by all the celestial attendants

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We praise the Lord of wisdom and knowledge  
Who brings in prosperity, wealth, and growth in our life

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We worship with reverence the destroyer of evils  
We fondly adore the remover of impediments

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
And brings people together and promotes harmony as  
Lord Ganesha visits earth to bless His devotees

A Happy Auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi  
Comes with much excitement and eagerness  
We sing with joy Ganapati Bappa Mourya  
Mangal Murti Morya, Mushak Vahan Morya

# Boondi Ladoo Recipe

MADHUMATI TYAGI

### INGREDIENTS

- FOR BOONDI:

  - 2 cup Besan
  - pinch kesar food color
  - water
  - ¼ tsp baking soda
  - oil, for frying

### FOR SUGAR SYRUP:

- 1½ cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- ¼ tsp kesar food color
- ½ tsp cardamom powder
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp pistachios
- 2 tbsp cashews

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Firstly, to prepare the Boondi, in a large bowl take 2 cup Besan, pinch kesar food color and water.
  - Whisk and mix well making sure there are no lumps in the batter.
  - Further, add water slowly, and make smooth flowing consistency batter. If the batter is watery, then the Boondi will turn flat. If the batter is too thick, then the Boondi will be formed with a tail.
  - Also, add ¼ tsp baking soda and mix well.
  - Boondi can be prepared by using an oil strainer with small holes.
  - Pour the prepared Besan batter in the strainer slowly, making sure the drops of besan fall into the oil.
  - Do not overcrowd the Boondis as they stick to each other. Stir gently.
  - Once they are almost crisp, take them off of the oil and spread them over the kitchen paper towel.
  - Prepare Boondi in batches and keep them aside.
  - Now to prepare the sugar syrup, take 1.5 cup of sugar in a large Kadai.
  - Add 1 cup water and boil for 2 minutes or until the sugar-syrup turns sticky. Do not go for a string consistency sugar-syrup.
  - Add ¼ tsp kesar food color, ½ tsp cardamom powder and 1 tsp lemon juice. Mix well.
  - Now add in prepared Boondi, 2 tbsp cashew and 2 tbsp pistachios. Mix until the sugar syrup is well coated.
  - After some time, make sure Boondi absorbs the sugar-syrup. This makes Boondi juicy.
  - When the mixture is still lightly warm, start shaping the Ladoos.
  - Finally, Boondi Ladoo recipe is ready to enjoy.





This summer, we picked the perfect time to explore and experience the enchanting beauty of Mount Rainier, Washington. We had heard so much about its magic and mystery. With our son now living in Tacoma, we often caught glimpses of the mountain's summit from his balcony on clear days, fueling our desire to visit.

Mount Rainier, known as "Tacoma" in the Lushootseed language (pronounced "Taquoma"), shares its name with the nearby city in the Puget Sound region. The earliest activities of Native Americans around the area date back to 4000-5600 BCE, particularly along the Bench Lake trail. We planned our trip meticulously using [traveltacoma.com](#). Before heading to the National Park, we spent two days exploring Tacoma.

We were warmly greeted at the glass-art-themed boutique hotel, Hotel Murano, located steps away from the Convention Center and the city's best museums and restaurants. We will forever cherish the breathtaking waterfront views of Puget Sound that we enjoyed from our room. The hotel itself is a gallery, featuring the designs and masterpieces of different glass artists on each floor.

After settling in, we visited the Washington State History Museum, which provided an interactive and informative experience. We learned about the traditional lands of the Puyallup People, who have stewarded this land for



Tacoma port view

generations. Next, we visited the Tacoma Art Museum, home to over 5,400 art pieces and a leading resource for art from the Pacific Northwest and greater western region.

The following morning, we explored the pride of the city, the Museum of Glass, known for its premier contemporary glass artworks. The iconic Chihuly Bridge of Glass, visible from I-705, is free to walk on and showcases Dale Chihuly's glass works masterpieces. We were fortunate to witness live glass art creations by visiting artists, adding to the sense of excitement and wonder.

In the afternoon, we ventured to Point Defiance Park, a large urban park just a 15-minute drive from the museum district. We spent the rest of the day at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, exploring its living history museum, trails, boardwalk, boathouse, the scenic Dune Peninsula, Rose Garden, Fort Nisqually, and the ferry dock to Vashon



LeMay America's Car Museum

# Trip to Magical Mount Rainier and Tacoma, Washington

LINA SHAH



Magical Mount Rainier from Tacoma

Island.

The drive from Tacoma to Mount Rainier National Park takes about two hours southeast. Our journey to the majestic Mount Rainier National Park began with a stop at Mill Haus Cider Co. for lunch. The park preserves its wilderness, iconic glaciated volcano, and natural and cultural resources. Our scenic drive through the park included stops at Longmire District, Narada Falls, Glacier View Bridge, and Ricksecker viewpoints, where we took in stunning scenery and captured memorable photos.

We checked into the historic Paradise Inn, one of the "Great Lodges of the West," surrounded by lush mountain meadows and panoramic views of glaciers and waterfalls. We visited the Henry Jackson Visitor Center, enjoyed a theatrical experience about Mount Rainier, and caught the sunset from rocking chairs in the lodge's lobby, followed by an evening playing board games by the cozy fireplace.

The next day, we drove a section of Stevens Canyon Road, stopping at Inspiration Point and Reflection Lakes for breathtaking views and photos. We also visited Box Canyon, marveling at the 180-foot-deep canyon carved by rushing water.

There were plenty of informational boards along the way educating us on the local flora and fauna. After lunch at the National Park Inn, we returned to Paradise Inn and walked to Myrtle Falls. We were fortunate to participate in the 125th Anniversary celebration of the National Park and attended US Poet Laureate Ada Limón's book unveiling ceremony. We hiked to Panorama Point - and even in June, the hike was covered in snow! That hike goes as high as 6800 feet in elevation. For those interested in hiking to Camp Muir for snowfield skiing, it's essential to

check current conditions with the rangers, as the trek can be long and strenuous.

Early the next morning, we walked the Skyline Trail to capture the beautiful sunrise at Edith Creek. Before leaving the park, we stopped at the Carter Falls trailhead for one last view of America's Everest, making our visit to Mount Rainier unforgettable.

Back in Tacoma, we explored the LeMay-America's Car Museum and LeMay Collections at Marymount, the largest privately owned collection of automobiles in the country. We were fortunate to meet Mrs. LeMay and learned about the museum's various exhibits, school programs, and events.

In the afternoon, we headed to Point Ruston, an inspired waterfront community. We rented bikes from Wheel Fun Rentals to explore the recreation, entertainment, shopping, dining, and living spaces. To enjoy panoramic views of the South Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rainier, we took a scenic seaplane ride with Kenmore Air. The 30-minute narrated flight highlighted landmarks against the stunning



Restaurant at Historic Paradise Inn

backdrop of Mount Rainier. The thrill of flying off the water and soaring over one of the most beautiful regions in the world was unparalleled.

Our journey exploring Mount Rainier and Tacoma, Washington, enriched our appreciation for this uniquely vibrant region.

*Lina Shah, A Freelance writer, Editor, Teacher, Social worker, Financial professional, a multi-talented suburban Chicagoland wife and a mother of two, also enjoys cooking, social gathering, and event planning.*



## China bans PwC for 6 months, fines \$62 mn for 'audit lapses'

BEIJING: In a significant development, China has banned PwC China -- part of the Big Four -- for six months and fined it nearly \$62 million for alleged auditing lapses, the media reported.

The action came after an announcement by China's securities regulator that PwC China approved the accounts of beleaguered property company Evergrande, even as the real estate developer "inflated mainland revenues by nearly \$80 billion in the two years before its default in 2021," the Financial Times reported.

According to China's finance ministry, PwC China and its Guangzhou branch were aware of "major mistakes" in the audit of Evergrande from 2018 to 2020 but failed to point them out.

The report mentioned that the ministry has ordered the Guangzhou branch of PwC China to shut down.

PwC said in a statement that "we are disappointed by PwC Zhong Tian's (or PwC ZT) audit work of Hengda, which fell unacceptably below the standards we expect of member firms of the PwC network."

The global audit firm also terminated six partners and "exited" five staff directly involved in the audit.

"The work performed by PwC Zhong Tian's Hengda audit team fell well below our high expectations and was completely unacceptable. It is not representative of what we stand for as a network and there is no room for this at PwC," Mohamed Kande, PwC global chair, was quoted as saying.

According to reports, the penalty surpasses the \$31 million fine and three-month partial business ban imposed on Deloitte last year for "serious audit deficiencies" related to its work with China Huarong Asset Management.

The finance ministry said in a statement that it "imposed administrative penalties on PricewaterhouseCoopers, including a warning, suspension of its business for six months and the revocation of its Guangzhou branch". IANS

# Real Estate POST

24 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 20, 2024

Gaur NYC Residences gets fully booked in Just 2.5 Days, Rs 3100 Cr in sales clocked

DELHI NCR: Gaur NYC Residences, a luxury project by Gaurs Group, was sold out within 3 days, generating Rs 3100 crore in sales. The project received over 3000 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) within 24 hours of RERA approval. Gaurs Group, a leading real estate player in India had planned this themed project on Manhattan Styled living. The project was much hyped before its launch only, as Gaurs Group was launching a new project after a long time. *NewsVair/ANI*

## Insight into Real Estate Trends: Wealthy Indians flocking to luxury properties

NEW DELHI: Luxury residential properties are increasingly in demand as a result of the growing number of people with disposable incomes across the nation. It has inversely grown into a desire to live a life encompassing living in a space equipped with opulence and perks. Knight Frank data reveals that housing sales hit an 11-year high of 1.73 lakh units between January and June 2024.

As per the market trends, the desire for larger living spaces with supreme amenities located in a prime location is more pronounced than ever. New-age buyers prioritize homes that span over 3000 sq. ft. and are well equipped with services like valet parking, private wellness centers, smart home technology, advanced security systems, and more. As buyers prefer homes that mirror their lifestyle choices, these homes come with aesthetic infrastructure that resonates with their sense of style.

Gurpal Singh Chawla, Managing Director, TREVOC, says, "The sustained demand for luxury housing in Gurugram has created an opportunity for developers to deliver curated projects in the city's most sought-after locations. With world-class amenities, cutting-edge infrastructure, and prime real estate, these developments continue to attract affluent buyers who prioritize lifestyle and convenience. This shift in preferences has driven us to design projects that blend contemporary architecture with urban sophistication, catering to the discerning tastes of today's luxury homebuyers."

New-age homebuyers perceive luxury homes as more than a physical asset; they prefer buy-



ing a lifestyle rich in taste and personal style and show a keen desire to live in prominent addresses. With the supply of ultra-luxury residences across India, developers are constantly working to ensure buyers get their dream homes for their aspirational lifestyle.

Sandeep Chhillar, Founder and Chairman, of Landmark Group, says, "The demand for luxury real estate, particularly in cities like Gurugram, has boomed since HNIs and young professionals with increased purchasing power aspire for high-end living. Affluent buyers are looking for exclusive living spaces that reflect their style and

array of luxury housing options catering to the evolving demands of homebuyers."

Market analysis shows that luxury homes in Delhi-NCR emerged as the favorite options during H1 2024. According to the JLL report, in the last six months, Delhi-NCR contributed to 64 percent of overall luxury residential launches.

Shantanu Gambhir, Co-founder and MD, RISE Infraventures Limited, says, "Gurugram is already established as a hub for premium residential and commercial property. With more wealthy Indians choosing luxury properties, we envision exponential growth in the luxury graph of the city, wel-

the frequency of affluent buyers and areas like Noida and Gurugram are expected to witness a huge development shortly. Prateek Group, one of the notable names in the real estate sector has been delivering outstanding projects in Noida and Ghaziabad. Offering spacious residences and prime location benefits, Prateek Group's projects are designed to cater to all the evolving preferences of buyers and are a go-to choice for buyers seeking luxury living experiences in Noida and Ghaziabad. The group is in the advanced stage to soon launch its upcoming premium project raising the bar of quality living high.

Ashwani Kumar, Pyramid Infratech, adds, "Today's homebuyers are actively conscious while buying luxury homes. Buyers seek unique architectural elements while buying a home, which shows that design plays an important role. Besides, they want an integrated lifestyle with high-end amenities and prefer properties surrounded by landscaped green spaces. As developers continue to innovate and enhance the sector through unique architecture, the growth is anticipated to get stronger in the years to come." *NewsVair/ANI*

*As per the market trends, the desire for larger living spaces with supreme amenities located in a prime location is more pronounced than ever. New-age buyers prioritize homes that span over 3000 sq. ft.*

offer the benefits of prime amenities. Wellness-focused amenities coupled with comfort and convenience factors are constantly pushing the transition in the luxury housing landscape. Gurugram is a vibrant city with an

coming more uber-luxury projects by developers. This will not only strengthen the city's economic growth but also take its real estate growth to new heights."

Delhi-NCR is seeing a rise in



# Danube Properties all set to lure Indian buyers with launch of two new projects in Dubai

DUBAI: Danube Properties, the UAE's fastest-growing private real estate developer, has unveiled two new ambitious projects 'BAYZ102' and 'Oasiz'. A towering 102-level skyscraper, Bayz102 will be the tallest in Danube's portfolio and further solidify Dubai's status as the City of Skyscrapers, alongside renowned landmarks like the Burj Khalifa, Marina 101, and Princess Tower. The second project, Oasiz, aims to deliver affordable luxury, providing high-end living options at accessible prices. These projects are designed to meet the diverse needs of investors, offering a range from premium luxury properties to affordable luxury options.

Bayz102 by Danube is poised to become a new icon in Dubai's skyline. Situated in the highly sought-after Business Bay area, this project embodies the essence of luxury and innovation. With panoramic views of the Burj Khalifa and the Dubai skyline, this iconic development will



feature around 1200 fully furnished units and rise to 102 levels, earning it the title of the tallest project in Danube's portfolio. One of the most groundbreaking features of Bayz102 is the integration of a helipad for sky taxis, also known as eVTOL (electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing) vehicles. This futuristic mode of transportation is expected to revolutionize travel within the emirate, offering a swift and convenient alternative for both residents and visitors.

In addition to its residential offerings, Bayz102 will feature retail outlets and more than 40 world-class amenities designed to enhance the lifestyle of its residents. These amenities include a state-of-the-art health club, a swimming pool, a jogging track, a sports arena, a business center, a sky bar, BBQ Area, Table Tennis Room, Basketball Court, Wall Climbing, Bayz Outdoor Cinema and even on-call medical services.

With a signature 1% payment plan and 0% interest, units in both the projects start at just AED 6,990 per month. Speaking on the launch of Bayz102, Rizwan Sajjan, Founder and Chairman, Danube Group shared, "Bayz102

by Danube represents a new era in luxury living. We are thrilled to introduce this project, which not only sets a new benchmark for high-rise living but also paves the way for the future of urban transportation in Dubai. As the city prepares to embrace sky taxis, we are proud to be at the forefront of this innovation, offering residents the convenience of cutting-edge mobility right at their doorstep."

Complementing the opulence of Bayz102, 'Oasiz' by Danube includes a range of living options, from studios to 1BHK, 2BHK, and 3BHK apartments, along with retail outlets for residents' convenience. Located in the rapidly developing Dubai Silicon Oasis, Oasiz will span approximately 1 million square feet, comprising around 900 luxury units across two towers, Oasiz 1 and Oasiz 2.

Commenting on the choice of location for Oasiz, Sajjan stated, "Dubai Silicon Oasis has seen a significant increase in demand due to its strategic location and the upcoming infrastructure developments, such as the Blue Line Metro extension. With the relocation of the airport to Dubai South and the growing popularity of communities along E311 and E611, we expect Oasiz to offer excellent returns for investors. The project aligns with our vision to provide affordable luxury that meets the evolving needs of Dubai's residents."

Oasiz is strategically positioned to appeal to affluent corporate executives and professionals working in the vicinity of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road. The towers will rise 37 floors and offer over 30+ amenities, ensuring a lifestyle of comfort and convenience. Residents will enjoy easy access to the Dubai Metro's upcoming Blue Line, which will connect Dubai Silicon Oasis with other key communities, making it a prime location for both investors and end-users. The Oasiz project is scheduled for completion within 36 months, with delivery expected by December 2027.

Website: [danubeproperties.com](http://danubeproperties.com)

Danube Properties has launched 31 projects, successfully delivering 16, with another 15 currently in various stages of construction. Each project showcases exceptional construction quality, state-of-the-art equipment, and top-tier home interior finishes. These projects include Pearlz, Jewelz, Wavez, Eleganz, Olivz, Elz, Lawnz, Bayz, Miraciz, Resortz, Glamz, Starz, Glitz 3, Glitz 2, Glitz 1, and Dreamz. Our developments are designed to offer luxury at affordable prices, attracting significant interest from mid-income buyers and leading to many of our projects being completely sold out.

Since the inception, Danube Properties' ventures have achieved remarkable success. The combination of affordable pricing, flexible payment plans, strategic locations, and an array of modern amenities has made our properties highly desirable. Currently, Danube Properties holds an impressive book value with construction spanning over 25.5 million square feet. Our projects continue to set new standards in the real estate market, delivering exceptional value and quality to our customers. *NewsVair/ANI*

For detailed story visit [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)

## Best places to hang Feng Shui bells for good luck and harmony

KHUSHI JHA

Feng Shui, the ancient Chinese art of harmonizing environments, emphasizes the strategic use of elements to attract positive energy, or "chi," into your space. One popular tool in this practice is the Feng Shui bell, known for its ability to enhance the flow of energy, foster luck and bring peace into your home. Let's explore the best places to hang Feng Shui bells to maximize their benefits.

### Entrance or front door

The front door is one of the most crucial areas in Feng Shui, as it serves as the entry point for energy. Hanging Feng Shui bells here can invite positive chi, symbolizing an open invitation to luck, prosperity and new opportunities. It's essential to hang the bells inside or outside, depending on your home's layout. A



bell with a clear, pleasant sound can help ward off negative energy and ensure good vibes flow through the household.

### Best placement tips:

Hang the bell directly on or near the front door.

Use a red string to enhance good fortune.

Ensure the bell rings gently when the door opens.

### Living room

The living room is a gathering space where family and friends come together, making it a vital area for maintaining positive energy. Placing Feng Shui bells in the living room fosters harmony, peace and better communication among household members. They also help cleanse stagnant energy, keeping the room vibrant and welcoming.

### Best placement tips:

Place the bells in the eastern corner to boost family harmony.

Opt for metal or brass bells for enhanced energy flow.

### Bedroom

Feng Shui bells in the bedroom can encourage calmness, relaxation and a peaceful sleep environment. When placed correctly, they help to eliminate stress and promote a harmonious relationship between partners. However, avoid overly loud bells as they can disturb the restful nature of the bedroom.

[www.housing.com](http://www.housing.com)

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[www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)



Philosophy

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

The first common mistake to get rid of is that mankind consists of a great mass of religious people and a few eccentric atheists. It consists of a huge mass of worldly people, and a small percentage of persons deeply interested in religion and concerned about their own souls and other peoples'; and this section consists mostly of those who are passionately affirming the established religion and those who are passionately attacking it, the genuine philosophers being very few.

Thus you never have a nation of millions of Wesleys and one Tom Paine. You have a million Mr. Worldly Wisemans, one Wesley, with his small congregation, and one Tom Paine, with his smaller congregation.

The passionately religious are a people apart; and if they were not hopelessly outnumbered by the worldly, they would turn the world upside down, as St. Paul was

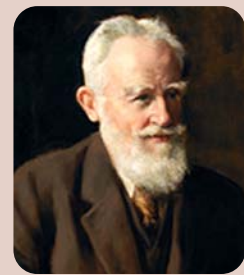
cardinal's hat, and praise him as a saint; but if he induces them to actually do it, they burn him as a public nuisance.

**Salvationism**

The religion of the tolerated religious minority has always been essentially the same religion: that is why its changes of name and form have made so little difference. That is why, also, a nation so civilized as the English can convert negroes to their faith with great ease, but cannot convert Mahometans or Jews.

The negro finds in civilized Salvationism an unspeakably more comforting version of his crude creed; but neither Saracen nor Jew sees any advantage in it over his own version. The Crusader was surprised to find the Saracen quite as religious and moral as himself, and rather more than less civilized. The Latin Christian has nothing to offer the Greek Christian that Greek Christianity has not already provided. They are all, at root, Salvationists.

So many things that man does not himself contrive or desire are always



George Bernard Shaw

*We are mostly a huge mass of worldly people  
So many things that man does not himself contrive or desire are always happening*

reproached, quite justly, for wanting to do. Few people can number among their personal acquaintances a single atheist or a single Plymouth Brother.

Unless a religious turn in ourselves has led us to seek the little Societies to which these rare birds belong, we pass our lives among people who, whatever creeds they may repeat, and in whatever temples they may avouch their respectability and wear their Sunday clothes, have robust consciences, and hunger and thirst, not for righteousness, but for rich feeding and comfort and social position and attractive mates and ease and pleasure and respect and consideration: in short, for love and money. To these people one morality is as good as another.

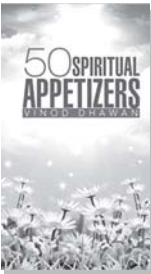
And as they know, very sensibly, that a little religion is good for children and serves morality, keeping the poor in good humor or in awe by promising rewards in heaven or threatening torments in hell, they encourage the religious people up to a certain point: for instance, if Savonarola only tells the ladies of Florence that they ought to tear off their jewels and finery and sacrifice them to God, they offer him a

happening: death, plagues, tempests, blights, floods, sunrise and sunset, growths and harvests and decay, and Kant's two wonders of the starry heavens above us and the moral law within us, that we conclude that somebody must be doing it all, or that somebody is doing the good and somebody else doing the evil, or that armies of invisible persons, benefit-cut and malevolent, are doing it; hence you postulate gods and devils, angels and demons.

*Excerpted from 'Preface to Androcles and the Lion'. George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was an Irish playwright*

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



"It's a lovely book. It feels energetically clear and light. It's easy to read, dip in and out and most importantly it offers information without fluff! Blessings on this project."

Jac O'Keeffe  
Spirituality teacher based in USA.

Available on AMAZON, FLIPKART

Combating Islamophobia: What India can learn from the UK

DR RAM PUNIYANI

In July 2024 England witnessed riots and unrest in several cities. They were precipitated mainly due to misinformation and anti immigration sentiments among the people. In these riots Muslims were the main target. There were attacks on mosques and also places where immigrants were living. In the aftermath of this, an All Party Parliamentary Group of the UK came up with a report for preventing such violence in future. This group mandated that using the phrase 'Muslims spread Islam by the sword' is banned; 'Islam Spread by Sword' is one of the roots of Islamophobia.

This is a great example to emulate in our country where this and many other misconceptions and biases about Muslims rule the roost. How did Islam spread? By

consequence you find in Bengal there are more Mohammedans than Hindus amongst cultivators, because there were so many zamindars there."

As such none of the kings spread their religion, barring Emperor Ashok, who sent his emissaries to spread the message of Lord Gautama Buddha.

Misconceptions against minorities

Today in India the misconceptions against Muslims and Christians abound and form the base of violence. The misconceptions are becoming stronger over the period of time and have become a part of 'social common sense'. The process of spreading misconception began with formulation that Muslim Kings destroyed Hindu temples. The intensification of the propaganda led to demolition of Babri mosque on 6th December 1992, the guilty of which have not been punished till date. The Babri Mosque issue has been added, Kashi and Mathura. Even Tajmahal is being propagated as Shiva Temple converted into the

*Arab traders had been frequently coming to Malabar Coast of Kerala and Islam was adopted by the locals through social interaction with these traders. The manifestation of this phenomenon is perceivable through Cheraman Juma Mosque in Malabar region of Kerala which was built as early as the 7th century*

citing the examples of some Hindu kings being killed by Muslim Kings for political reasons, it has been popularized and instilled the myth that Islam spread by sword. The reality of the spread of Islam in India is very different.

Arab traders had been frequently coming to Malabar Coast of Kerala and Islam was adopted by the locals through social interaction with these traders. The manifestation of this phenomenon is perceivable through Cheraman Juma Mosque in Malabar region of Kerala which was built as early as the 7th century.

Swami Vivekananda points out "The Mohammedan conquest of India came as a salvation of the downtrodden, to the poor. That is why one fifth of our people have become Mohammedans. It was not the sword that did it all. It would be the height of madness to think that it was all the work of sword and fire. It was to gain their liberty from the... zamindars (landlords) and from the - Priest, and as a

tomb of Noorjahan, queen of Jahangir.

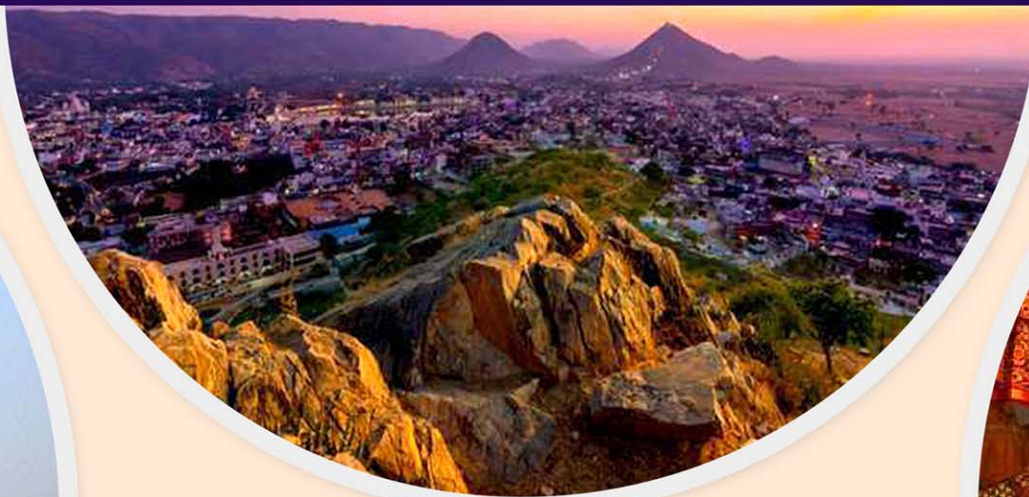
Lately misconception about 'Cow being a holy animal and Muslims are killing the cows' is at the forefront. This is one of the main grounds for propagating vegetarianism on one hand and lynching on the other. As per IndiaSpend, "Muslims were the target of 51% of violence centered on bovine issues from 2010 to 2017 and comprised 86% of the 28 Indian citizens killed in 63 incidents. Only 3% of these attacks had been reported before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government came to power in May 2014. IndiaSpend also recorded that about half the cow-related violence-32 of 63 cases-occurred in BJP-ruled States."

(The writer, a former IIT Bombay professor, is Chairman, Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Mumbai.) South Asia Monitor

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Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author





## Pushkar

"The only dedicated Brahma Temple  
and the mesmerizing Cattle Fair"

Pushkar, Rajasthan is the most famous Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Brahma who is considered the creator of the universe. Being the only temple dedicated to Brahma in India, it attracts lakhs of pilgrims every year. The small town of Pushkar seems holy because of the presence of Brahma Temple. It also finds its mention in the prominent ten religious places of the world and the five sacred pilgrimages for Hindus in India.

**Savitri Temple:** Savitri temple is located atop the Savitri Hill. The one and half hour climb to the temple is hard and strenuous. Both, idols of Brahma's first wife Savitri and his second consort Gayatri are present here, though Savitri is always worshipped first.

**Varaha Temple:** The largest and the most ancient temple of Pushkar, Varaha Temple is dedicated to Varaha The Boar which is the third incarnation (avatar) of Lord Vishnu. The Varaha temple houses an image of lord Vishnu in the incarnation of wild boar.

**Camel Safari in Pushkar:** The golden deserts of Pushkar can be best explored in a camel safari. While it is a common myth that the best camel safaris are available in Jaisalmer, not a lot know that Pushkar offers some of the most amazing sand dunes and mesmerizing views of the sunrise/ sunsets. And while you are out there, explor-

ing the shimmering golden sands, you can also enjoy a spectacular view of the mountains and Aravalli hills in the backdrop. What is more, you will also be allowed to pass through tiny dainty villages and can get a sneak peek into the rustic lifestyle of the locals.

**Rangji Temple:** Rangji temple is a reflection of South Indian architectural style with glimpses of Mughal design as well. It is in the top three temples of Pushkar dedicated to one of the incarnations of Vishnu, Rangji. The temple is a major attraction for south Indian pilgrims.

**Pushkar Camel Fair:** India's greatest tribal gathering, Pushkar Mela is held annually in November from Karthik Ekadashi to Karthik Purnima as per the Hindu calendar. It is a grand travel experience held on a vast scale. People visit the fair to witness the beauty of Rajasthani Culture. Attracting more than 400,000 tourists, funky competitions like 'Matka Tod', 'Longest Moustache', and 'Bridal Competitions', are held during the annual Pushkar Fair. Spread over five days, more than 11,000 cattle, horses and camels are part of this visual spectacle.

**Pushkar Bazar:** Pushkar Bazar is where one can find a variety of traditional Rajasthani products including apparel, accessories, jewelry, decor items and items for daily use. It is the best market to buy the local leather work, puppets and the bangles made in the region. This is where the colors of Rajasthan can be found in a variety that is awe-inspiring. [www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)

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**P**ushkar is a small temple town located around 15 km from Ajmer in Rajasthan. A perfect choice for a weekend getaway from Jaipur, Pushkar has an array of cafes and hostels for a backpacking trip. Every November, Pushkar is host to the Pushkar Mela, one of the biggest camel fairs in the country.

Known for the world's only dedicated Brahma temple, Pushkar is primarily a pilgrimage site for Hindus.

Spend some evenings sitting at the ghats while sipping chai or taking a stroll through narrow alleys while listening to the chants from temples surrounding the ghats. A delight for street-shopping lovers, Pushkar has shops in the main street selling everything from silver oxidized jewelry to merchandise swaddled in various colors.

The Pushkar Mela attracts millions of visitors from around the world. With folk performances, rides, stalls and even magic shows, the entire town is lit up, music blares from every house, and everyone is in a festive mood. Thus, Pushkar has slowly evolved from a religious destination to a multi-cultural hotspot with travelers worldwide.

### PLACES TO VISIT IN PUSHKAR

**Pushkar Lake:** Pushkar lake perched amidst the Aravalli ranges in Pushkar, Rajasthan. Surrounded by 52 bathing ghats (a flight of steps leading to the water) and over 500 temples, it is regarded as the sacred lake for the Hindus in India where pilgrims throng in large numbers to take a holy bath.

**Brahma Temple:** Jagatpita Brahma Mandir or the Brahma Temple located in



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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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# The Third Eye: The enlarged mandate of Intelligence

D.C. PATHAK

**T**he task of security is to protect the three assets of the target organization -- physical resources, human power engaged in sensitive work and the exclusive information in possession of the organization -- against 'covert' attacks of the enemy and this applies to national security as well where these were described respectively as sabotage, subversion and espionage.

The objective of security can be fulfilled only when there is an ongoing flow of information on the plans behind such invisible attacks -- this is called Intelligence that comes from the special agencies established by the nation for that purpose.

With the post-Cold War phenomenon of open warfare giving way to 'proxy wars' through the instrumentality of terror attacks from across borders, the use of social media for covert indoctrination for insurgencies and the onset of cyber offensives, the challenge for the agencies had multiplied in the spheres of both human intelligence and tech intelligence.

'Proxy wars' have acquired new dimensions such as the use of civil society platforms and lobbies for influencing the opinion for or against a government by building particular narratives, impediments caused to the vital supply chains to damage the economy of the opponent and technological maneuvering of cyberspace to disable defense and civil systems that are crucial for national security.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) that represents an ultimate advance of Information Technology has taken the security threats to a new level altogether and redefined the role of 'Intelligence' in governance, policy-making and capacity building.

There need not be any misgivings that Intelligence would become an instrument for pushing a democratic dispensation towards authoritarianism. What

will not let this happen is that security is now a function of the 'national mainstream' dependent on every citizen's support and contribution.

National security was no longer a standalone work of the security agencies only since in an unsafe world the state also has to safeguard the life of its people and take the latter's help in performing that duty.

Intelligence is facing an added challenge today because the threats originating externally have presently become the prime danger to its internal security.

'Covert' operations of the adversaries directed against this country, particularly by the Sino-Pak axis -- had been stepped up.

Cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and externally instigated insurgencies in the Northeast had earlier compelled the deployment of the Army in these border states for

deployed there.

The Centre has also successfully established an effective grid between the forces of the Central and the State Police.

The role of Police in counter-terror operations has substantially increased and the intelligence agencies of the Centre have also succeeded in getting closer to the ground for helping the local authorities to identify militants, drug agents and 'infiltrants' living undercover among the people.

What is needed is a lot of deftness in combining human intelligence with the use of technical resources.

Moreover, even the resources of the Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) -- sometimes wasted on tracking local politics -- have to become available to the central intelligence agencies wherever necessary.

Internal security is an integral

*The objective of security can be fulfilled only when there is an ongoing flow of information on the plans behind such invisible attacks -- this is called Intelligence that comes from the special agencies established by the nation for that purpose*

counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations.

Army used to 'maximizing' its use of force against the enemy in open combat, had to undergo a process of 'adjustments' in working in the mode of 'aid to civil power' and minimizing 'collateral' damage in the form of civilian casualties while operating on our soil.

This made it necessary that the Army conducted intelligence-based operations which made the work of agencies more arduous.

Over the years Army has improved its performance in the border regions and got attuned to working in operational conjunction with Paramilitary forces

concept -- it does not admit of divisions between Central and state responsibilities.

A new dimension of Intelligence is that the latter has to now help the regime in framing the policy of integral response cutting across the spheres of military, law and order management and diplomacy -- and not remain contented only with 'reporting' on 'threats'. Further, the Intelligence set-up has to find ways of getting closer to the people to garner their cooperation and make them aware of the security environment in their proximity.

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

IANS For detailed story visit [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)



## CURRY, SPICES & POLITICS

**L**aura Loomer, a controversial figure, who has sparked divisions even within the Republican camp, recently posted on X: "If @KamalaHarris wins, the White House will smell like curry & White House speeches will be facilitated via a call center, and the American people will only be able to convey their feedback through a customer satisfaction survey at the end of the call that nobody will understand."

Well, Ms Loomer should know, it is part of recorded history that for generations, countries around the world had been trying to reach India for its valuable spices, the main ingredients for curries. They invaded India for spices that were essential for delicacies on their platters. As you can see now that the same could well enter White House soon. It had already entered 10 Downing Street not too long ago.

Herbs and spices were used by Indians for almost as long as the "human civilization of spices." Conquering tribes ranging from the Assyrians and Babylonians to the Arabians, Romans, Egyptians, Chinese, British, and Portuguese travelled to India with the same purpose, to profit from the vast natural resources India possessed.

The British were stimulated by an admiration for the unknown, a yearning to experience the exotic, and most importantly, affordability and profitability. Spices were considered a status symbol in Britain, and for a long period in time, they were restricted to the upper class. They were characterized to have a magical aura about them, which was in virtue of their origin from beyond the known world. The significance of that can be expounded by the relative value possessed by these spices. After the place of origin for pepper had been located, the East India Company (EIC) was chartered in 1601. By 1603, the EIC under James Lancaster brought a million pounds of black pepper (1/4 the total demand in Europe) back to London, making spices no longer just limited to the rich and wealthy, but present in surplus amounts. Black pepper became a household staple. This could be demonstrated through its pairing with salt, which is still evident in the contemporary world.

This relative value of spices can be demonstrated through the re-exportation business. The domestic British market could not satiate the supply of black pepper that was imported into the country via the EIC, and this gave rise to the re-exportation sector that came to become a significant aspect of Britain's economy. Not only did the British now get access to spices without the mediation of the Arabs or the Dutch, but this also enabled them to capitalize on pre-existing trade routes and create new ones for their profitability.

For sure if Kamala Harris becomes President, the White House will surely serve the finest of Indian dishes Americans love and you are equally welcome to stick to roast beef and potato if you like. America is a country where people from all over the world have come and they bring with them their culture and culinary delights. Clintons regularly visited an Indian restaurant not too far from the White House introduced by Sant Singh Chatwal for their favorite Tandoori Chicken.



## Deepika updates Instagram bio: FEED, BURP, SLEEP, REPEAT

**B**ollywood star and new mother Deepika Padukone's life is all about "feeding, burping, sleeping" on repeat mode, going by her latest Instagram bio.

With a following over a whopping 80 million on Instagram, Deepika changed her bio from "Follow your bliss" bio to "Feed. Burp. Sleep. Repeat".

It was on September 8, when the star couple Deepika and Ranveer Singh officially announced the arrival of their first bundle of joy, a baby girl.

Taking to Instagram, the post shared by the stars read: "Welcome baby girl 8.9.2024... Deepika and Ranveer."

On September 7, photographs and videos of Deepika going to the H. N. Reliance Hospital in the Girgaon area of Mumbai started doing the rounds, which raised speculations about her giving birth to their first child.

The couple and their families on September 6 had visited the Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai.

It was in February 2024, when Deepika and Ranveer, fondly called as DeepVeer by their fans, announced that they are set to become parents. The actress was said to be in her second trimester in February. They took to Instagram to share a post announcing their pregnancy. The post read: "September 2024". with cute motifs of baby clothes, baby shoes and balloons.

Ranveer and Deepika, who first met on the sets of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela", got married in November 2018 at a private and intimate ceremony at Lake Como. *IANS*

## Aditi Rao Hydari, Siddharth now 'Mrs & Mr Adu-Siddhu'

**A**ctors Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth officially announced that they are now married.

Taking to their respective Instagram handles, the couple shared a gamut of pictures from their simple but traditional wedding. In the image, the actress is dressed in gold and the actor chose to go white for their South Indian wedding.

"You are my Sun, my Moon, and all my Stars..." To being Pixie Soulmates for eternity...to laughter, to never growing up... To Eternal Love, Light, Magic... Mrs & Mr Adu-Siddhu," the caption mentioned.

Aditi and Siddharth made news after they announced their engagement in March. *IANS*



## TOP TEN

### HINDI FILM SONGS

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

## Pooja Hegde grooves on fan favorites

### 'BUTTA BOMMA', 'SEETI MAAR'

**A**ctress Pooja Hegde performed on popular tracks such as "Butta Bomma" and "Seeti Maar" at the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) in Dubai and said that she finds it an incredible experience performing to songs that are fan favorites.

"It's always an incredible experience performing songs that are fan favorites. Their unwavering love is what makes it all so special," she said.

The actress added: "The energy of the audience and the vibe of the city are truly unmatched. I had an absolute blast performing, and I can't wait to come back and do it all over again."

Held at the grand Dubai World Trade Centre on September 14 and 15, SIIMA celebrates excellence in South Indian cinema.

Pooja performed on track "Butta Bomma" from "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo", "Arabic Kuthu" from *Beast*, and the high-energy "Seeti Maar" from "Duvvada Jagannadham".

On the professional front, Pooja's next is the action thriller "Deva" alongside Shahid Kapoor, helmed by acclaimed director Rosshan Andrews. She will also be seen in "Suriya 44". *IANS*





## RAKUL PREET SINGH: IMPORTANT NOT TO BE DELUSIONAL

**A**ctress Rakul Preet Singh has talked about discipline, which she said is a priority for her and shared how it is very important not to be delusional.

Talking to Ranveer Allahbadia for his Beer Biceps podcast, Rakul Preet said: "I mean, for me, discipline is number one. I feel that if I am sleeping at 2 o'clock every night and I am waking up at 10 o'clock in the morning, how can I expect that the universe will give me anything that I want you to start living a life that I am in a routine."

"I am waking up at 6:00 in the morning, going to work, putting in effort. That will happen. The universe will make it happen."

Rakul talked about the significance of being prepared.

"If you are not prepared to receive the kind of work you want to do, then you will never get it. Like it is said, always live like you already got it... but I did not know all this, I got to know all this later. But thanks to my army upbringing, my lifestyle was that and then I also feel it is very important not to be delusional."

She added: "Say very good things that you should not be lazy and I was not even with myself. You know maybe people will feel that it is very easy to sit and say this, but if someone gave me constructive criticism then accepting that- yes, maybe I was not good..." /ANS

## Samantha: I've become a lot more skin-sensible

**A**ctress Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she is a lot more 'skin sensible' and shared that when she fell sick and had to take strong medications, her skin was the first to suffer.

Samantha, who revealed her diagnosis of Myositis, an autoimmune condition in 2022, posted a handful of close up images of herself on Instagram. She also shared some glimpses of the red light and treatments she has been getting to take care of her skin.

She wrote: "SKIN APPRECIATION POST. Woke up feeling grateful for my skin and how well it has been behaving lately." /ANS



## Sharvari shares Monday motivation featuring her abs

**A**ctress Sharvari has shared a glimpse of her Monday motivation and, it includes her working out and building muscles for her upcoming film "Alpha".

Sharvari took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of images. In the first picture, the actress is seen holding a medicinal workout ball. In the other images, she is flaunting her abs and her toned body.

She wrote, "Ready for round 3 #Alpha #MondayMotivation".

On September 11, it was reported that actresses Alia Bhatt and Sharvari are prepping hard for their next physically challenging schedule of "Alpha" in Mumbai. /ANS





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