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Ram Mandir float joins NY India Day Parade

Details on page 10

'Muslims for Peace' joins India Day Parade in NY

Details on page 9



Fatima Sana Shaikh loves photography

Details on page 36



## FOG India Day Parade and Mela attended by thousands of Bay Area residents

CALIFORNIA

VOL 31, No. 1557

August 23, 2024





Protest against Hindu Genocide in Bangladesh

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Over 100,000 join India I-Day parade in Toronto

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PM Modi to make historic visit to war-torn Ukraine

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Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Convener, FOG (Festival of Globe) and Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala serving as Grand Marshal of the Parade. *Picture courtesy- Divyang Vaidya* 

#### VIDYA SETHURAMAN India Post News Service

ndia's exuberant colors filled the streets of Fremont as thousands of people from all over the Bay Area turned up for the annual Fog India Day Parade & Mela. This grand event, which took place on August 17 and 18, 2024, displayed a vibrant tapestry of Indian culture, music, dance and heritage. Adding a touch of glamour and celebrity power to the occasion was Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala serving as Grand Marshal of the parade. Manisha Koirala was the star attraction and 'Grand Mar-

shal' in the parade this year to engage and entertain the community. The event was co-hosted by the City of Fremont, Consulate general of India, and Alameda County. The two-day event was attended by 30,000 from all over the West Coast.

Billed as the biggest Indian parade in the West Coast to celebrate the 78th India Independence Day, the event kicked off on Saturday with Mela and cultural performances. The 32nd FOG India Day Mela and Parade was held on August 17 and 18 at 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA. Details on page 8





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To empower the Indian Diaspora and make their voice strong and effective in countries of their adoption. RJ Media conglomerate offers a credible, professional and complete package of news, opinion, entertainment, networking and information.

## HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Bollywood:**

**Cover Story:** 

**Community**:

**Immigration**:

#### Fatima S Shaikh loves photography

Bollywood actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, best known for her role in 'Dangal,' opened up about her passion for photography on World Photography Day

FREEDOM CELEBRATED

mont, CGI and Alameda County

Fog India Day Parade & Mela took place

Aug17 & 18; Manisha Koirala was 'Grand

Marshal'; event co-hosted by City of Fre-

Protest against Hindu Genocide

STOP HINDU GENOCIDE, ALL EYES ON

BANGLADESH, and "HINDU LIVES MAT-

TER" were the slogans protesters chanted

at Sunset Blvd outside CNN office in LA



#### Lifestyle:

IFFM 2024 top awardees

Actor Kartik Aaryan, Ram Charan and Oscar-winner AR Rahman; Filmmaker Kabir Khan and Nithilan Swaminathan; Vidhu Vinod Chopra's "12th Fail," win honors



#### **Techbiz:**

Foxconn's India biz surges

Taiwanese giant Foxconn's business in India has surged to 10 billion dollars till last fiscal, while Apple's India operations reached 23.5 billion

#### Travel

#### Saputara

Saputara a quaint hill station in the Dang district of Gujarat; popular for lush green forests, undulating mountains, dazzling waterfalls and vivid landscapes

#### **Wellness**:

#### Padma-awardee doctors write to PM



Over 70 Padma-awardee doctors write to PM Narendra Modi for personal intervention in the case of a junior doctor in Kolkata last week



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**USCIS** publishes filing guide

India Post 5

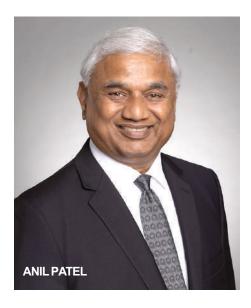


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## THE POWER OF A SINCERE APOLOGY ANIL PATEL

n apology is a heartfelt expression of remorse, sorrow, or re gret for wronging, hurting, or offending someone. Whether spoken or written, a sincere apology has the power to heal and mend relationships. **To keep an apology simple and** 

effective:

• Summarize what you are apologizing for.

AT 68, I LEARNED THAT APOLOGIZING MEANS LETTING GO OF NEGATIVE FEELINGS IMMEDIATELY AFTER REALIZING YOU'VE WRONGED SOMEONE. THIS LESSON, WHICH I LEARNED JUST LAST MONTH, BROUGHT IMMENSE RELIEF TO MY HEART AND MIND AFTER I APOLOGIZED TO A FAMILY MEMBER • Apologize specifically for the situation or issue at hand.

• Be brief and to the point.

• Acknowledge your words or actions that caused hurt and take full responsibility.

## The Five R's of a Meaningful Apology:

• Recognition: Understand and acknowledge the wrongdoing.

• Responsibility: Accept full responsibility for your actions.

• Remorse: Express genuine regret and sorrow.

• Restitution: Offer to make amends or return what was lost.

• Repetition: Commit to not repeating the mistake.

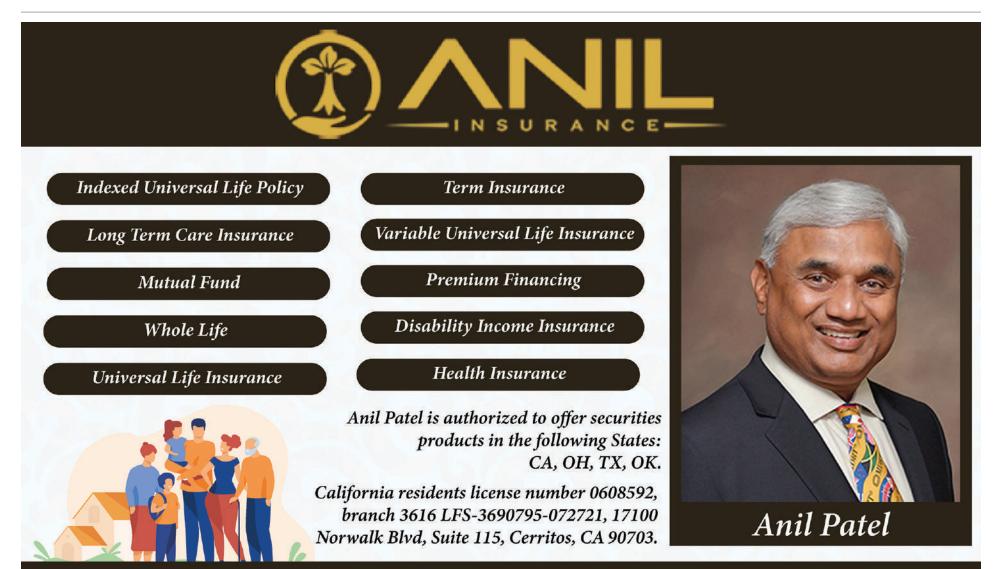
At 68, I learned that apologizing means letting go of negative feelings immediately after realizing you've wronged someone. This lesson, which I learned just last month, brought immense relief to my heart and mind after I apologized to a family member. It opened an entirely new chapter in my life.

For example, when reflecting on a past experience with someone, I didn't realize they had changed. Upon realizing this, I sincerely apologized, hugged my cousin, and we spent a wonderful day playing golf. It was a moment of true reconciliation.

Restitution, the act of giving back something that has been lost or restoring balance, is a vital component of a genuine apology.

These moments have been transformative in my life, ushering in a new chapter filled with golden opportunities and blessings from the universe.

I salute those who have experienced the power of a sincere apology. For those who haven't, I encourage you to try it-you will feel a profound sense of peace and humility in your heart.



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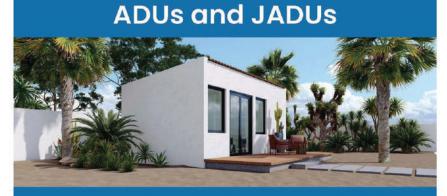
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## **Cover/Top Stories**

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## FREEDOM CELEBRATED FOG India Day Parade and Mela attended by thousands of Bay area residents

#### VIDYA SETHURAMAN India Post News Service

ndia's exuberant colors filled the streets of Fremont as thousands of people from all over the Bay Area turned up for the annual Fog India Day Parade & Mela. This grand event, which took place on August 17 and 18, 2024, displayed a vibrant tapestry of Indian culture, music, dance and heritage. Adding a touch of glamour and celebrity power to the occasion was Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala serving as Grand Marshal of the parade. Manisha Koirala was the star attraction and 'Grand Marshal' in the parade this year to engage and entertain the community. The event was co-hosted by the City of Fremont, Consulate general of India, and Alameda County. The two-day event was attended by 30,000 from all over the West Coast.

Billed as the biggest Indian parade in the West Coast to celebrate the 78th India Independence Day, the event kicked off on



Saturday with Mela and cultural performances. The 32nd FOG India Day Mela and Parade was held on August 17 and 18 at 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA. For the past 25 years, the FIA-organized Festival of India has come to symbolize the unity, integrity, culture and best of the things that are hallmarks of the Indian community in the Bay area. Celebrated over two days, this festival has many popular and well sought after segments such as health fair, grand parade, Bollywood celebrity as Grand Marshal, kids talent programs, cultural programs representing cross sections of India and a Mela (fair) that features best of offers for the Indian community.

India day parade had floats decorated with intricate designs in a broad range, representing different states and regions of India. Colorful costumes, traditional dance performances and energetic music filled the air attracting people of all age groups.

Elected officials from the City of Fremont, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, San Jose, Indian American community leaders, representatives from Indian American community organizations, patriotic Indians as well as members of the media attended the event.

Cont'd on page 40

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## 'Muslims for Peace' joins India Day Parade in New York negating boycott claim

NEW YORK: 'Muslims for Peace' participated in the India Day Parade here with the organization's float joining those of Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians, negating another group's claim of an Islamic boycott of the annual event.

Members of Muslims for Peace marched ahead of their float on Sunday (18 Aug) with a banner reading 'Love for all, hatred for none' across Madison Avenue.

Another organization, 'Indian Muslims of North America', had announced that they were withdrawing from the parade in protest against the inclusion of a float depicting the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

The announcement of boycott by the group's president Imtiaz Siamwalla featured prominently in a news story on CNN's website, which ignored the participation by Muslims for Peace.

Ironically, while Siamwalla was quoted as saying the Mandir float was a "symbol of bias against Muslims", the Muslims for Peace included members of the Ahmadiyya community who are themselves victims of Islamic persecution.

The Indian American Muslim Council that led a campaign against the Ayodhya float criticized its inclusion as "Muslim hate, bigotry" and tried unsuccessfully to ban it.

But Ahmadiyyas are victims of Islamic hate and bigotry.

For example, they are forbidden from "practicing aspects of their faith under Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws" and face persecution, according to the Amnesty International, which documented the deaths of three persons in an attack on the community last month.

In contrast, in India, Ahmaddiyas are free to practice their religion.

claiming 'Om Shanti' also marched in the parade, showcasing India's religious diversity, as the Indian diaspora joyously celebrated their homeland's cultural richness and religious diversity.

Men and women, in a cascade of colors, beat tradi-



Besides the Mandir and Muslims for Peace floats, a tableau honoring Guru Teg Bahadur and another one from the National Association of Indian Christians in the USA also joined the parade.

The International Organization of Bene Israel-USA representing the Jews of India and a group of Buddhists pro-

tional drums from Maharashtra heralding the Ram Mandir float, as people rushed spontaneously past barriers to greet it along the route.

The parade with thousands marching and many more watching wended along Madison Avenue in a kaleido-scope of color. *IANS* 



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## Ram Mandir float joins diaspora celebration of nation's diversity at New York India Day Parade

NEW YORK: The Indian diaspora joyously celebrated their homeland's cultural richness and religious diversity at the 42nd India Day Parade honoring the nation's Independence.

A float depicting the Ayodhya Ram Mandir was featured in the parade on Sunday, along with tableaus of Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs while groups of Indian Jews and Buddhists marched under their banners.

Men and women, in a cascade of colors, beat traditional drums from Maharashtra heralding the Ram Mandir float, and along the route, people rushed spontaneously past barriers to greet it.

Police Department Desi Society marched with their own banner

A group holding the Indian tricolor was flanked by two mounted police.

"Stop Hindu Genocide in Bangladesh" was the theme of a float calling for an end to attacks on the minority community in that country.

One of those protesting against the Ram Mandir float was a Bangladeshi American City Council member Shahana Hanif.

A man with an Israeli flag joined the group holding the float's anti-genocide banner.



The parade with thousands marching and many more watching it wended along Madison Avenue in a kaleidoscope of color rejecting attempts by a group led by a Muslim organization to disrupt it.

The Indian American Muslim Council organized a campaign with other groups, which said they were representing Sikhs, Christians and Hindus, against the Ram Mandir float, calling it "Muslim hate, bigotry", and appealing to public officials to ban it.

But the confluence of India's diversity of religions, regions and languages at the parade jubilantly proclaiming the nation's unity was a contrast to their targeted attacks on the Ram Mandir, amplified by thinly veiled Hinduphobia in the US media that had declared ahead of the event that it was controversial or "marred' by the float's presence.

Swami Adveshanand Giri, the head of the Juna Akhada, said to be the oldest and largest organization of sanyasis, was the chief guest while actress Sonakshi Sinha was the Grand Marshal and actor Zahir Igbal was the VIP guest.

The New York Police Department sent a contingent of officers and their band to march in the parade. NY

At several points along the parade route, Jews and Israelis, who are also the targets of the groups ideologically similar to those campaigning against the Ram Mandir float waved Israeli flags and cheered.

The International Organization of Bene Israel -USA, representing the Jews of India, was one of the groups of marchers.

There was a float dedicated to Guru Teg Bahadur, another from Muslims for Peace proclaimed: "Love to All, Hatred to None," while one from the National Association of Indian Christians in

the USA said: "Jesus will bring good news."

A float depicting B. R. Ambedkar, architect of India's Constitution, and a Dalit, with links to the city where he studied accompanied by people distributing his tract on ending casteism.

A group demanding justice for the woman doctor recently raped and killed in Kolkatta walked in the parade. Many organizations like those of doctors, businesses

A float depicting the Ayodhya Ram Mandir was featured in the parade on Sunday, along with tableaus of Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs while groups of Indian Jews and Buddhists marched under their banners. Men and women, in a cascade of colors, beat traditional drums from Maharashtra heralding the Ram Mandir float, and along the route, people rushed spontaneously past barriers to greet it

and media also had floats

Several Indian folk dances and music added to the parade's festivity.

The protests against the parade did not materialize, save for a video truck hired by the Indian American Muslim Council displaying its messages, "New Yorkers Say No Place for Islamophobhia" and "NY Against Hindutva," that drove around before the parade started. IANS

#### "Deeply touched by powerful connections we share": US envoy Eric Garcetti celebrates Raksha Bandhan

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan in India by getting a Rakhi tied on his wrists.

Garcetti said he was 'moved' when he got the request for tying Rakhi. He further appreciated the "powerful connections" shared between the two countries and their people.

"Celebrating #Rakshabandhan with a touch of joy and tradition! I was moved when Ragini reached out to me with her request to tie a rakhi. Each day, I'm deeply touched by the powerful connections we share between our countries and our people," the US envoy stated in a post on X.

Martine Aamdal Bottheim, the Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission at Norway Embassy in



India, also celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan with her colleague.

"Happy #RakshaBandhan! Learning about amazing Indian festivals, I mark this day with my colleague @johanbjerkemat @norwayinindia. As we celebrate the festival of #Rakhi, we honor each other and the spirit of togetherness and respect. Happy celebrations everyone," she stated in a post on X.

The Israel Embassy in India also shared a video of outgoing Israeli Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon celebrating the festival at the embassy on his last day.

"A bond that goes beyond borders. This #RakshaBandhan, our team tied #rakhi to our beloved brother, Ambassador @NaorGilon, on his last day with us. You've been a true brother to India. You'll be missed," the Israel Embassy stated.

Raksha Bandhan, commonly known as Rakhi, is being celebrated on August 19 (today). It is a traditional Indian festival dedicated to the love and bond between brothers and sisters. On this day, sisters tie a rakhi around their brothers' wrists. In return, brothers offer gifts as a symbol of love and care for their sisters.

Raksha Bandhan is a festival deeply rooted in Indian culture and has been celebrated for centuries. ANI

## **Top Stories**

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## PM Modi to make historic visit to war-torn Ukraine this week

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Ukraine on August 23 on what will be the first visit by an Indian PM to the country since the establishment of bilateral relations in 1992, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced.

The Prime Minister's engagements in Kyiv will touch a range of aspects of bilateral ties including political, trade, economic, investments, education, cultural, people-to-people exchanges, humanitarian assistance and others, a statement released by the MEA detailed.

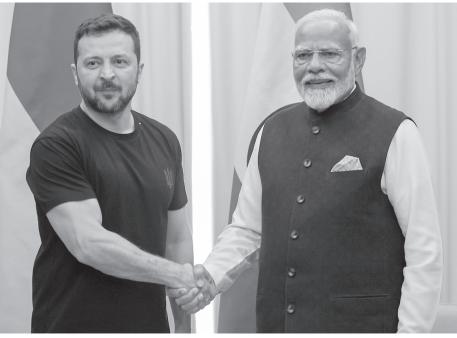
It added that PM Modi will also interact with the Indian community, including students during the visit.

"PM Narendra Modi will undertake an official visit to Ukraine later this week on the invitation of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. This also is a landmark and historic visit since this will be the first time that an Indian PM will be visiting Ukraine in more than 30 years since the diplomatic relations were established between the two countries. This visit will build upon the recent high-level interactions between the leaders," said Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) at the MEA.

August 23 is also the National Flag Day of Ukraine.

"During the visit, in particular, the talks with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be held to discuss issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. It is also expected that a number of documents between Ukraine and India will be signed," said a statement from the Ukrainian President's office.

As New Delhi continues to encourage



File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, PM Modi had met the Ukrainian President on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia on June 14, terming the discussions as "very productive".

During the meeting, PM Modi reiterated that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"Had a very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine. Regarding the ongoing hostilities, reiterated that India believes in a human-centric approach and believes that the way to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy," PM Modi posted on X after meeting Zelenskyy.

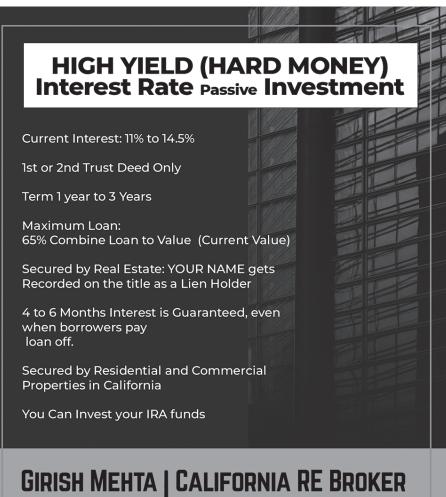
Zelenskyy had also dialed PM Modi, congratulating him on his election victory and hoping that the Indian PM will visit Ukraine soon. "Everyone in the world recognizes the significance and weight of India's role in global affairs. It is critical that we all work together to ensure a just peace for all nations," the Ukrainian President had posted on X before calling PM Modi following the announcement of results of the Lok Sabha elections.

Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, India has maintained its consistent position that allows it to reach out to both sides to find a solution to the conflict through diplomacy and dialogue.

At the same time, New Delhi has dispatched tons of humanitarian assistance to Kyiv, including essential medicines and medical equipment.

Before arriving in the Ukrainian capital, PM Modi will visit Poland starting August 21, which will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in the past 45 years.

"Prime Minister will be accorded a ceremonial welcome in Warsaw. He will call on President Andrzej Sebastian Duda and will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Donald Tusk." *IANS* 



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## Zelenskyy says Ukraine controls 92 settlements in Russia

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that the Ukrainian army has taken control of 92 settlements in western Russia's Kursk region.

Ukrainian troops have seized more than 1,250 square kilometers of Russian territory, Zelenskyy said on social media platform X.

"The Russian border area opposite our Sumy region has been mostly cleared of Russian military presence," Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian army continues its military operation in the designated areas of the Kursk region, he added. Last week, Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said that Ukraine's operation in Russia's Kursk region is linked to possible peace talks between the two countries.

Ukraine is not interested in occupying Russian territories, he said.

However, in response, Russian President Vladimir Putin had said Ukraine's attacks on Russia's border would receive a "worthy response," with the Russian military's primary task being to remove the Ukrainian forces from Russian territories.

Ukraine started a military operation in the Kursk region on August 6. *IANS* 

## **Top Stories**

## India extends support to Malaysia's ASEAN 2025 Chairmanship

NEW DELHI: India attaches priority to ASEAN and will extend full support to Malaysia's "successful ASEAN chairmanship" in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

PM Modi was holding a press briefing after his meeting with his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim.

"India attaches priority to ASEAN centrality. We agree that the review of FTA between India and ASEAN should be completed in a time-bound manner. India will extend full support to Malaysia's successful ASEAN chairmanship in 2025. We are committed to the freedom of navigation and over-flight in accordance with international law and peaceful resolution of all disputes," PM Modi said at the briefing.

The Prime Minister further recalled the age-old ties between the two nations and said 'PIO Day' in Malaysia was a very successful and popular event last year.

He also announced that 100 seats will be specially allocated for Malaysians under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

"India and Malaysia have been connected to each other for centuries. About 3 million Indian diaspora living in Malaysia is a living bridge between us. From Indian music, food and festivals to "Toran Gate" in Malaysia Our people have cherished



Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanges a handshake with Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim in a ceremonial welcome, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. (ANI Photo)

this friendship till date. Last year's 'PIO Day' in Malaysia was a very successful and popular event. When the Sengol was installed in our new Parliament building, the enthusiasm of that historic moment was also seen in Malaysia," PM Modi said.

"Emphasis is being laid on scholarships for students and training of government officials. Under the ITEC scholarship, 100 seats will be specially allocated for Malaysians for advanced courses like cyber security and AI. In Malaysia's University Tumko Abdul Rahman, an Ayurveda Chair is being established there. Apart from this, a decision has also been taken to establish a Thiruvalluvar Chair at Malaysian University. I heartily thank Prime Minister Anwar and his team for their cooperation in all these special steps," he added.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the ties between India and Malaysia will be elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. PM Modi further said that the investment from Malaysia to India reached over 5 billion dollars last year.

Malaysia PM Ibrahim also hailed the ties between the two countries and termed Prime Minister Modi as his "brother."

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is my brother. Even when I was not the PM he was very kind...We have agreed to enhance the further comprehensive strategic partnership," Ibrahim said.

Before the joint press statements, India and Malaysia exchanged MoUs and Agreements in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at Hyderabad House here in the national capital.

Earlier today, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with visiting Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim at the Hyderabad House. The discussions between the two leaders were held to further deepen engagement across various domains of partnership between India and Malaysia. *ANI* 

## EAM Jaishankar interacts with Indian community in Kuwait, commends their role in strengthening ties

KUWAIT CITY: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, who paid an official visit to Kuwait recently, met prominent members of the Indian community there as well as representatives of various professional and community associations.

"A good interaction with the vibrant Indian community in Kuwait. Commend their achievements and contribution to India-Kuwait relations," the EAM posted on social media platform X after the meeting.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release that the EAM met a "cross-section of prominent members of (the) Indian community in Kuwait as well as representatives of various professional and community associations".

"The large and vibrant Indian community in Kuwait continues to be a living



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar poses for a group picture with the Indian community Kuwait (ANI Photo)

bridge between the two countries," it added.

Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar met Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-

Sabah.

Jaishankar's one-day visit enabled both sides to review various aspects of India-Kuwait bilateral relations, including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, consular, and people-to-people contacts.

In 2021, the EAM marked an official visit to Kuwait from June 9-11 during which he called on its Prime Minister and delivered a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Amir of Kuwait. *IANS* 



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## IFFN 2024: Com Charan, Kartik Aaryan, 12th Fall', Leopada Ladies' amongst top avardees

MUMBAI: Actor Kartik Aaryan, who was recently seen in "Chandu Champion", won the Best Actor honor at the 15th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). Star Ram Charan and Oscar-winner AR Rahman bagged the top two honors.

Filmmaker Kabir Khan and Nithilan Swaminathan were jointly awarded Best Director for their work on "Chandu Champion" and "Maharaja". Vidhu Vinod Chopra's "12th Fail," which is based on the 2019 eponymous non-fiction book by Anurag Pathak about Manoj Kumar Sharma, who overcame extreme poverty to become an Indian Police Service officer, was named as the Best Film in the event.

The Best Actress honor went to Parvathy Thiruvothu for "Ullozhukku (Undercurrent)" and filmmaker Kiran Rao's "Laatapata Ladies" was feted for its innovative approach and storytelling.

Shah Rukh Khan and hon Taapsee Pannu-starrer "Dunki" was

was given the Equality in Cinema honor, actress Rasika Dugal was named in the Diversity



Champion category.

In the Disruptor in Cinema category, actor Adarsh Gourav, who has showcased his prowess in films such as "The White Tiger", "Kho Gaye Hum Kahan" and "Woh Bhi Din The", won the award.

Rahman was honored with the Excellence in Cinema, while Ram Charan was feted with the Ambassador of Indian Art & amp; Culture award.

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's "Amar Singh Chamkila" starring Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, was tagged as the Breakout Film of the Year.

In the Short Film Competition, "The Vegemite Sandwich" won the award and "Echo" received a Special mention to Echo.

"Kohrra", a crime thriller police procedural, won the Best Series and Arjun Mathur was named as the Best Actor In a Series for his work in "Made In Heaven 2". "Laapata Ladies" was named under the Best Film (Critics Choice), Best Performance of the Year (Critics) went to actor Vikrant Massey for "12th Fail". *IANS* 



**In Brief** 

#### Maldives Immigration detains 22 foreign workers

COLOMBO: Maldives Immigration detained 22 foreigners working illegally during raids carried out in the country's capital city Male. In an online post, Maldives Immigration said that these people were apprehended during two separate raids, Xinhua news agency reported.

Both raids were carried out by Maldives Immigration following complaints received by authorities.

In May this year, the Maldives government launched a multiagency operation to collect biometrics of migrant workers.

Maldivian Minister of Homeland Security Ali Ihusan remarked about illegal migration saying that they will address the long-prevailing issue of illegal migrants within three years. *IANS* 

#### SA deports 95 Libyans arrested at military camp

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Department of Home Affairs recently deported 95 Libyans who were arrested at a suspected illegal military training base in South Africa last month.

The 95 Libyan nationals were arrested by police in July after allegedly being found doing military training in White River in Mpumalanga province. South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), however, withdrew charges against them, saying there is no sufficient evidence to convict them. *IANS* 

# **Immigration** Post

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Form I-131F will not be available on uscis.gov until Aug. 19. USCIS is not accepting any other form for Keeping Families Together

## USCIS publishes filing guide for keeping families together

n Aug. 19, USCIS will begin accepting re quests for, using a new electronic form, Form I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens. Form I-131F will not be available on uscis.gov until Aug. 19. USCIS is not accepting any other form for Keeping Families Together. Do not file a request for parole in place under this process before Aug. 19, 2024.

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We are publishing a Filing Guide for Form I-131F (PDF, 9.33 MB) on the Keeping Families Together webpage. This guide will help individuals as they prepare to file a request for parole in place through the online process. We have also updated the Key Questions and Answers about the process on the Keeping Families Together webpage. More information about Keeping Families Together will be made available in a Federal Register notice in the coming days.

Form I-131F will only be available to file online. Each requestor, including minors, must file a separate Form I-131F, and each requestor must have their own USCIS online account, including minors. Information on creating a USCIS online account is available on the How to Create a USCIS Online Account webpage. There is no paper form for this process. advice. Only an attorney admitted to practice law in the United States or accredited representative working for a Department of Justice-recognized organization can give you legal advice on immigration matters. Be aware of individuals who guarantee out-

August 23, 2024



Protect Yourself from Immigration Scams

We do not want you to become the victim of an immigration scam. If you need legal advice on immigration matters, make sure the person helping you is authorized to give legal comes; applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by USCIS. Visit the Avoid Scams webpage for information and resources.

Some common scams to be aware of include:

Look out for individuals who pretend to be USCIS officials. USCIS will only contact you through official government channels and will not contact you through your personal social media accounts (such as Facebook, X, LinkedIn, etc.).

Scam Websites: Some websites claim to be affiliated with USCIS and offer step-bystep guidance on completing a USCIS application or petition. Make sure your information is from uscis.gov or dhs.gov or is affiliated with uscis.gov. Make sure the website address ends with .gov.

Payments by Phone or Email: We will never ask you to transfer money to an individual. We do not accept Western Union, MoneyGram, PayPal, or gift cards as payment for immigration fees. In addition, we will never ask you to pay fees to a person on the phone or by email. USCIS

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## This Immigration Industry Pioneer is Emerging as a Safe Bet for Immigrant Professionals in the U.S.

NEW DELHI: Navigating the labyrinthine complexities of the U.S. immigration system has long been a formidable challenge, particularly for those aiming to secure an EB1A green card. For exceptionally talented individuals, this visa category offers a streamlined route to permanent residency, but the path is fraught with hurdles. Meticulous documentation, strategic planning, and a demonstration of extraordinary ability are essential. Amidst these challenges, one company has emerged as a guiding

light and reliability for EB1A aspirants: Smart Green Card (SGC).

"We're on a mission to make the American dream a reality by eliminating decades of painful wait times for the Green Card. Our goal is to make the EB1A accessible by providing you with all the expertise and resources needed to build your profile and secure your green card swiftly and smoothly." Says Saiman Shetty, Founder and CEO of Smart Green Card.

Smart Green Card distinguishes itself in the crowded immigration consultancy space with a remarkable claim of a 100% approval rate for EB1A applicants, with premium hands-on assistance. At first glance, this appears to be a marketing hyperbole, but upon deeper look, it is substantiated by impressive data. SGC has successfully assisted over 300 clients in obtaining the coveted EB1A green card, which may be seen as a testament to the company's bankable processes, support networks, and expertise in the intricacies of the EB1A profile building process. VMPL/ANI

## **Immigration Post**

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## 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana faces extradition after US appeals court ruling

**ARUL LOUIS** 

NEW YORK: Pakistani-Canadian Tahawwur Rana faces the grim prospect of facing justice in India for the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai that killed around 175 people after a federal appeals court in the US quashed his appeal against extradition.

The California-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower federal court verdict permitting his extradition and ruled that the 1997 extradition treaty between India and the US covered his alleged offences.

Rana's only legal recourse now against extradition is to appeal in the Supreme Court where the chances of even getting a hearing are slim. According to the Justice Department, the Supreme Court hears less than 1 percent of the appeals it receives.

Rana's extradition would be a partial fulfillment of India's attempts to get the USbased Lashkar-e-Taiba accomplices face trial in India as the US has refused to extradite Rana's Pakistani-American accomplice Daood Gilani, who uses the name David Headley.

Headley had worked as an informant for the US government's Drug Enforcement Agency and after admitting to 12 terrorismrelated charges, he made a deal to cooperate with the US government on the condition that he will not be extradited.

A three-panel appeals court bench heard the habeas corpus petition against

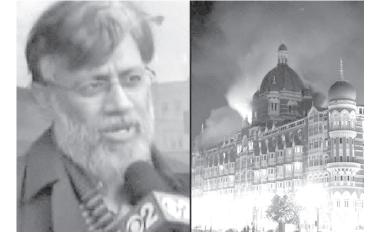
the Central California District Court judg-

ment allowing Rana's extradition. Judge Milan Smith, who wrote the opin-

ion for the bench, said, "India provided suf-



He was acquitted of the Mumbai attack charge, but convicted in the other two and sentenced to 14 years.



ficient competent evidence" to support the initial order of a magistrate judge's "finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes" to allow the extradition.

Rana, a Canadian citizen living in Chicago, was arrested in the US in 2009 for plotting to bomb a Danish newspaper, 'Jyllands-Posten', that published a controversial image of Prophet Mohammed.

He faced three main charges in a Chicago federal court relating to his involvement in the Danish case, providing support to Lashkar, and conspiring for the

## Australia to trial digital travel passes as replacement for paper cards

CANBERRA: Australia will trial digital passenger cards to replace paper cards for arrivals to the country, the border force has announced.

Under the pilot program for the Australia Travel Declaration, passengers on Qantas flights from New Zealand to Australia later in 2024 will be able to lodge their immigration, customs and biosecurity status digitally, up to 72 hours before arrival in Austra-

lia, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) said the system will expand to other airlines as it progresses beyond the pilot stage.

The digital system will replace the current Incoming Passenger Card (IPC) that all travellers to Australia must fill in, declaring where they will stay and what goods they have brought into the country.

> The ABF said making the digital declaration up to 72 hours before arrival in Australia will allow travellers to leave prohibited goods behind.

> "Digitizing the Incoming Passenger Card presents opportunities to streamline processes, improve data quality, and offer a

seamless experience for users," the statement said.

Once completed, passengers using the new declaration will receive an email containing a QR code that ABF officers can scan. *IANS*  Rana, a Canadian citizen living in Chicago, was arrested in the US in 2009 for plotting to bomb a Danish newspaper, 'Jyllands-Posten', that published a controversial image of Prophet

Mohammed

The appeals court ruled that his acquittal in the Mumbai attack charge did not affect his extradition because in India he faces several different charges.

The charges include conspiracy, waging war, murder, terrorism, and forgery, the judgment noted.

Rana was released after seven years on compassionate grounds during the Covid pandemic, following which India re-

quested his extradition to face trial there, which the magistrate judge approved.

Rana is a former Pakistan Army doctor who set up an immigration service after immigrating to Canada.

The judgment mentioned Rana helping Headley get a fiveyear visa for India under the pretext of setting up a branch of his business there.

Headley used the visa to help plot the Lashkar terror rampage by surveillance of the Taj Hotel and other targets. Headley had

informed Rana about the surveillance activities, the judgment said.

Judge Smith also noted in the judgment that "Rana commended the terrorists who carried out the attacks and stated that the people of India 'deserved it'." *IANS* 



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The Australian Border th to Force (ABF) said the system will expand to other airlines as it progresses beyond

the pilot stage

## Tech News

#### 'India likely to need 12.5 lakh AI-skilled professionals'

NEW DELHI: As India aims to become a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI), the talent demand in the country is projected to grow from 6 lakh-6.5 lakh to more than 12.5 lakh by 2027, a report showed.

The AI market in the country is expected to grow at 25-35 percent (in the 2022-2027 period), potentially signaling a demand-supply gap in the talent pool and a need for up skilling existing talent, according to the report by Deloitte India in collaboration with Nasscom.

Over the past year, 43 percent of the Indian workforce across sectors has used AI in their organizations. About 60 percent of workers and 71 percent of GenZs recognize that acquiring AI skills can enhance their career prospects.

Sathish Gopalaiah, president, tech and transformation, Deloitte South Asia, said that India is positioned to become a global AI powerhouse by 2030, with over a million highly skilled tech professionals.

"However, to truly harness this potential, the focus must shift towards not just quantity but the quality of AI talent. By reskilling the existing workforce and fostering new talent through robust government-academiaindustry collaboration, we can ensure a steady pipeline of professionals ready to lead AI-driven innovation," said Gopalaiah. *IANS* 



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## India records 26 pc jump in FDI flows in first quarter

MUMBAI: The gross foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into the Indian economy has surged by 26.4 percent to \$22.5 billion during the April-June quarter of the current financial year compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to the RBI's latest monthly bulletin.

This has resulted in net FDI shooting up to \$6.9 billion during the first quarter of 2024-25, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period of 2023-24, the report states. *IANS* 

## Foxconn's India biz surges to \$10 bn, Apple's India operations at \$23.5 bn in value

NEW DELHI: In a big boost to the 'Make in India' initiative, especially the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Taiwanese contract manufacturing giant Foxconn's business in India has surged to 10 billion dollars till last fiscal.

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On the other hand, Apple's India operations reached 23.5 billion dollars in value in the last fiscal (FY24), further cementing the country's position as a viable alternative to China and Vietnam when it comes to manufacturing.

Foxconn is a major Apple supplier globally and has invested 1.4 billion dollars in India to date, with more to come.

According to Foxconn's CEO and Chairman Young Liu, the company sees a huge potential in the India market for its further growth. Hon Hai Technology Group (known as Foxconn) will help India become a global manufacturing hub.

Liu, who met several top leaders during his India visit last week, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, discussed Foxconn's investments in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana. He also met chief ministers and state cabinet ministers of these states

According to Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and IT

Liu discussed several opportunities in "futuristic sectors" like artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, local electronics manufacturing and more.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) Chairman Young Liu, in New Delhi

and I&B, Ashwini Vaishnaw, as the country strives to make 'Bharat' a global manufacturing hub, "thanks to Foxconn's Chairman Young Liu for his continued investment plans."

In his meeting with PM Modi,

Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also invited Foxconn to invest in the Fourth City planned near Hyderabad. The Foxconn Chairman said that Hyderabad city has immense potential to expand in all sectors, including industrial and service sectors.

According to the Karnataka government, the setting up of the Foxconn iPhone assembly plant in Bengaluru Rural district with a Rs 22,000 crore investment is progressing well. The project, with an investment size of Rs 22,000 crore, is expected to generate employment for 50,000 plus people.

Foxconn is also setting up a manufacturing and assembly facility for mechanical components in EV applications (Project Cheetah). The company has leased private land in the Bengaluru district for this project.

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, also met Foxconn Chairman, and the two had an engaging conversation about the future of technological innovation in India and the world.

Meanwhile, Apple clocked nearly 8 billion dollars in revenue in India in the last fiscal year (FY24). Apple has achieved record export numbers of around 3.8 billion dollars in the April-June period (Q1 FY25) in the country. *IANS* 

## Headline numbers of India's economy are strong: Gita Gopinath

NEW DELHI: The overall headline numbers of India's economy are strong, reflecting a large amount of public investment, which has been a critical

further reforms to maintain its growth trajectory and ensure sufficient job creation.

Gita Gopinath, who expects the Indian economy to become

"What is important is to ensure that all of that growth is accompanied by sufficient job creation in the economy so that there is widespread sharing"

factor driving growth, according to IMF Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath.

She said India must carry out

the third largest in the world by 2027, said, "What is important is to ensure that all of that growth is accompanied by sufficient job

creation in the economy so that there is widespread sharing.

Addressing an event at her alma mater, the Delhi School of Economics, she said, "From a long-term perspective there is no trade-off between fiscal consolidation and growth. If a country does not have sufficient checks and balances on its fiscal situation, it is likely to end up in a crisis. Therefore, there is a reason why governments should engage in fiscal consolidation. Now, there is, of course, a question in the near term by design, reducing your fiscal deficit in the short term



Gita Gopinath

could have a negative effect. However, there are ways to do it that do not have a significant negative impact."

Her remarks came as a reaffirmation of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cutting the fiscal deficit at 4.9 percent of GDP in the Budget for 2024-25 to stick to the fiscal consolidation path aimed at ensuring a stable growth path for the economy as a lower deficit helps to keep inflation in check. *IANS* 

## TechBiz Post

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## India a bright spot, to remain fastest-growing major economy this year: Report

MUMBAI: Despite global macro-economic conditions, India continues to remain a bright spot and is expected to be the fastest-growing major economy this year, a recent report showed.

The country has become the fifth-largest economy in the world, and is set to be among the top three global

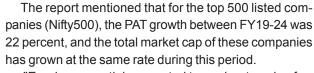
economic powers soon. Dr Gita Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), stated last week that the country is likely to achieve this feat by 2027.

The IMF has raised its economic growth forecast for the country for FY25 to 7 percent from 6.8 percent projected in April.

The overall headline numbers of India's economy are

strong, reflecting a large amount of public investment, which has been a critical factor driving growth.

According to the latest report by Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW), corporate earnings growth over the last five years has been stellar and this has been the primary driver of equity market performance.



"Earnings growth is expected to moderate going forward," it added. In terms of valuations, large caps are in

fair valuation while mid and small caps on aggregate are relatively expensive.

In the fixed income market, on the back of favorable demand-supply dynamics and well contained inflation, the yield curve has started to gradually steepen -- debt securities with 1-3 year maturity are trading at yields which are lower than those with 10 year and above maturity.

"The RBI is likely to main-

tain status quo on interest rates this year with an eye on the US Fed rate actions," the report noted.

The Budget provided a fillip to multi-asset allocation funds, which invest in equity, debt and gold, and should be considered as a superior alternative to traditional fixed income. *IANS* 

#### India's Account Aggregators cross 100 mn consents, to reach 30 pc of population by FY25

BENGALURU: In a remarkable achievement of the country's fintech ecosystem, total number of successful consents on the Account Aggregator (AA) framework has crossed 100 million in three years (as of August 15), a report said.

About 80-90 million people are using AA in India, which translates to nearly 8 percent of the adult population, according to DigiSahamati Foundation (Sahamati), an industry alliance for the AA ecosystem,

In FY24, AA consents grew by 1,059 percent, which signifies the phenomenal adoption and inroads of open finance in India, making it the fastest-growing open finance ecosystem in the world.

According to the report, the current usage and penetration of open finance/AA Framework is expected to achieve a penetration of 25-30 percent of the Indian population by the end of FY25.

"The use cases have been expanding with FIUs (financial Intelligence Units) using AA for streamlined tasks like customer onboarding to specialized tasks like controlling frauds," informed BG Mahesh, CEO, Sahamati.

Growth in consent requests from 5.5 million in FY 2022-23 to 63.75 million in FY 2023-24 by customers "indicates a higher degree of comfort and acceptance of the system," he added. *IANS* 

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## **Health Line**

#### Philippines detects 1st mpox case with no travel history

NEW DELHI: Amid the latest global Mpox spread, a 33-yearold man with no travel history has become the first lab-confirmed case with the infectious disease in the Philippines, according to the country's Health Ministry.

The country's Department of Health (DOH) was informed of the man. His specimens were collected from the skin lesions, and a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test confirmed the Mpox virus.

The man reportedly had close, intimate contact three weeks before the onset of Mpox symptoms, and his symptoms started more than a week ago with fever.

Four days later, the man had a rash on the face, back, nape, trunk, groin, as well as palms and soles, the DOH said.

The new case takes the total tally of lab-confirmed Mpox cases in the Philippines to 10. The last case was found in December 2023.

The DOH noted that all previous cases were isolated, and have also recovered from the infection.



Last week, the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency for Mpox, after infections spread across 13 African countries, including Congo, where 14,000 cases and 524 deaths have been reported.

The current outbreak is being caused by Clade 1b, which is more virulent and deadly.

Outside of Africa, Sweden has reported the first case of Mpox infections caused by Clade 1b. Meanwhile, Pakistan has also reported 3 cases of people with a travel history; however, the Clade is not known yet.

The WHO defines Mpox as a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus -- a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus. *IANS* 



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

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## Padma-awardee doctors seek PM's intervention in RG Kar case



Resident Doctors hold a protest demanding justice for the victim of Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital Tragedy outside Nirman Bhawan in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Over 70 Padma-awardee doctors recently wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his personal intervention in the case connected to the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata last week, triggering nationwide protests by the medical fraternity.

"As the head of our nation, we implore your immediate and personal intervention to address the alarming situation. We look forward to your quick and decisive action. Such acts of brutality shake the very foundations of service by medical professionals and highlight the urgent need to address violence, particularly against women, girls, and healthcare professionals," read the letter.

The doctors also urged the Prime Minister to take strong

measures to prevent such atrocities from re-occurring.

"We call upon the law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and the society at large to take immediate and decisive action," the letter said.

The doctors also made the following recommendations:

\* Stricter enforcement of existing laws: The doctors emphacalled for severe and swift penalties to serve as a deterrent against such crimes.

\* Enhanced safety measures at hospitals and medical institutions: The letter urged the government to implement improved safety protocols within the healthcare facilities to ensure a secure working environment for all medical staff.

"We call upon the law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and the society at large to take immediate and decisive action," the letter said

sized the need for law enforcement agencies to more rigorously apply current legal frameworks to protect healthcare professionals.

\* Harsher and time-bound punishment for perpetrators of sexual violence: The doctors \* Enactment and implementation of a special law for the protection of healthcare workers: The letter urged the central and state governments to quickly enact and implement a separate law for the protection of healthcare workers, ensuring its rapid enforcement on the ground.

A proposed bill, 'The Prevention of Violence Against Doctors, Medical Professionals and Medical Institutions Bill', is ready since 2019 but has not yet been tabled in the Parliament for passage and adoption.

"We strongly believe that an ordinance to this effect can be brought immediately, and the Bill should be passed post-haste so that all those working in healthcare delivery systems in the country can work without fear, in service of the suffering patients," the letter read.

\* Harshest possible punishment for violence against healthcare workers: The proposed Ordinance/Bill should ensure that harshest possible punishment is given to those who indulge in violence against healthcare workers, whether verbal or physical. *IANS* 

## Wellness Post

www.indiapost.com

## IAF, Indian Army carry out first-ever Aarogya Maitri Cube para-drop

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Army jointly executed a first-ever para-drop operation, delivering the Aarogya Maitri Health Cube at a high-altitude location near 15,000 feet, said the Ministry of Defense on Saturday.

"These trauma care cubes were indigenously devel-

oped under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri). The operation was conducted in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing critical supplies to Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief

(HADR) affected areas," as per the Ministry.

The IAF employed its advanced tactical transport aircraft C-130J Super Hercules to airlift and precisely paradrop the cube while the Indian Army's Para Brigade, renowned for its operational expertise, ensured the successful deployment using advanced precision drop equipment.



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This operation highlighted the capability of specialized military assets to support HADR missions in remote and mountainous regions, demonstrating the effectiveness and synergy between the Armed Forces in providing rapid and efficient humanitarian assistance.

The Aarogya Maitri project involves India providing criti-

cal medical supplies to developing nations affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises. The Aid Cube within this project is equipped with advanced tools designed to enhance disaster response and medical support during emer-

gencies. It incorporates artificial intelligence and data analytics to enable effective coordination, real-time monitoring, and efficient management of medical services on the ground.

The success of the BHISHM Cube highlights the crucial role of mobile hospital units in delivering timely and effective medical assistance during emergencies. -*IANS* 

#### No reported case of Mpox in India, PM continuously monitoring situation: Center

NEW DELHI: There is currently no reported case of Mpox in India, Principal Secretary P. K. Mishra informed.

Chairing a high-level meeting, Mishra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been continuously monitoring the MPox situation in the country.

"A high-level meeting was held to review the status of preparedness for Mpox in the country and related public health measures," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

It may be noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) last week declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) after the infectious disease spread to about 13 countries in Africa, including in countries with no previous exposure.

It was briefed during the meeting that as of now, there is no reported case of Mpox in the country. According to the current assessment, the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low, the statement noted.

"The Principal Secretary was informed that Mpox infections are generally self-limiting, lasting between 2-4 weeks. Mpox patients usually recover with supportive medical care and management." *IANS* 

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India Post 19

**Realty Tidbits** 

#### How to prepare your home for climate change? UPASANA MANDHATA

s global climate patterns continue to shift, preparing our homes for these changes is more important than ever. From extreme weather conditions to rising sea levels, the impacts of climate change can have profound effects on our living environments. Ensuring that your home is climate-ready is not only a matter of personal safety but also of preserving the value and functionality of your property. This article explores the steps you can take to make your home more resilient to climate change, including important considerations to keep in mind.

## Assessing your home's vulnerability

The first step in preparing your home for climate change is assessing its current vulnerability. This involves evaluating the specific risks associated with your geographical location. For instance, homes in coastal areas may be more susceptible to flooding and hurricanes, while those in arid regions might face higher risks of drought and wildfires. Understanding these risks can help you prioritize the necessary modifications and improvements to your home. www.housing.com

> For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



www.indiapost.com

August 23, 2024

## How to refresh your kitchen decor on a budget?

n the process of refurbishing our homes, we often tend to overlook the kitchen. The general perception is that kitchen upgrades require a lot of perma-



nent changes, a big budget and a longer timeline. But what if we tell you there are ways to upgrade your kitchen easily without burning a hole in your wallet? That's right! www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

# UP govt floats new scheme to enhance commercial activities in Greater Noida

NEW DELHI: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) under the Uttar Pradesh government introduced a new scheme to enhance commercial activities in Greater Noida's Sector 22D and Sector 22A.

20 India Post

In a press statement, YEIDA said that under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, this scheme has been launched as part of an ongoing effort to transform Uttar Pradesh into 'Uttam Pradesh'.

"This initiative will streamline the allocation of five types of shops and six types of commercial plots, fostering economic growth in the region," YEIDA said.

YEIDA has also introduced various land allocation schemes, including the 'Affordable Housing Scheme', which is receiving positive response.

Under the current scheme, shops with a super area ranging from 31.22 sqm to 116.33 sqm and plots with a super area rang-



ing from 112 sqm to 140 sqm are available for allocation.

Under the scheme, five types of shops will be available for allocation in Greater Noida's Sector 22D. Among these, SR-111 and SR-113R have an area of 31.22 sqm each, with a reserve price premium set at Rs 1.19 crore.

Meanwhile, SR-101 and SR-

201 cover a total area of 116.33 sqm each, with their reserve price premiums set at Rs 4.44 crore and Rs 2.06 crore, respectively. Similarly, SR-202 has an area of 105.4 sqm, and its reserve price premium has been set at Rs 1.87 crore.

On the other hand, Sector 22A also offers different categories of

commercial plots. The plots under commercial footprint No. 5 and 7 have a super area of 112 sqm, with a total reserve price premium set at Rs 3.05 crore.

The plots under commercial footprint No. 10, 12, and 13 have a super area of 124 sqm each, with their total reserve price premium set at Rs 3.38 crore. The super area of the plot of commercial footprint No. 22 in Sector 22A is 140 sqm and its total premium amount on the reserve price is fixed at Rs 3.81 crore.

Applicants can apply online for these plots and shops until September 6.

All plots and shops will be allocated through e-auction, with ICICI Bank serving as the banking partner. These shops and plots are well connected and located in prime locations. They are near Noida's upcoming Jewar International Airport, International Film City, Medical Device Park, and the dedicated MSME Apparel and Toy Park.

Additionally, being located close to the Yamuna Expressway, they will also have connectivity to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway. *IANS* 

Despite budget provisions, residential housing market will see sales growth: Knight Frank

NEW DELHI: The residential market shows a positive outlook, with 51 percent of stakeholders predicting higher sales over the next six months. Despite this optimism, stakeholders remain cautious and attentive to upcoming budget impacts and other uncertainties, according to the Knight Frank report.

However, a notable 24 percent expect stability, while 25 percent predict a potential decrease, reflecting a balanced yet cautious sentiment. The outlook for residential launches is also positive, with 61 percent expecting an increase, suggesting continued demand. A more tempered view is held by 20 percent of respondents who expect stability, and 19 percent foresee with a more cautious approach.

In terms of pricing, 63 percent of stakeholders expect a rise, but 36 percent anticipate stable prices, and a very small minority



a decrease in launches.

The Indian real estate sector continues to reflect a positive outlook for the near future, though predicts a decline.

G Hari Babu, National President, National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), said, "The residential and office markets continue to show notable activity, signaling ongoing growth and opportunity. Developers and other key stakeholders, including banks and financial institutions, are maintaining a positive outlook."

He added, "This suggests that while there may be shortterm challenges, the sector is well-positioned to adapt and thrive. The continued optimism and activity in the market highlight the sector's ability to sustain its momentum and drive forward, amidst changing conditions." *ANI* 

## **Real Estate Post**

www.indiapost.com

## Future outlook for residential market in India remains optimistic: Report

MUMBAI: The future outlook for the real estate market remains in the optimistic territory in India, showcasing the sector's resilience with notable activity in residential and office demands, a report showed.

The Knight Frank-NAREDCO report cited that the 'Current Sentiment Index Score' has moderated to 65 from its

all-time high in Q1 2024, indicating a measured outlook among stakeholders. Future sentiment score for this period also recorded a recalibration in Q2 2024 and was recorded at 65.

The report mentioned that while both current and future sentiments remain firmly in the positive zone suggesting a continued belief in the sector's longterm prospects, "the scores re-

flect a more tempered view on recent real estate growth, influenced by election and budget speculations".

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said that the current and future sentiment score of 65 is still in positive. "The economy remains positive with key indicators seeing stability while remaining resilient against the global geo-political developments," said Baijal.

With positive sentiment driven by sustained growth in



residential and office markets, this adjustment highlights the sector's careful and measured approach, ensuring continued stability amidst ongoing economic and political developments, he added.

The Future Sentiment Index has adjusted from 73 in Q1 2024 to 65 in Q2 2024, reflecting a positive yet more conservative outlook for the

near term.

According to the report, the residential market outlook in Q2 2024 sustains optimism with 63 percent response rate for an expected rise in residential prices while 51 percent of the stakeholders anticipate an increase in sales with a significant portion of 24 percent respondents expect stability.

"The office market outlook exhibits buoyancy on all key parameters - leasing, supply and rent as the stakeholders remained confident of the performance of this asset class in the next six months," the findings showed.

"The residential and office markets continue to show notable activity, signaling ongoing growth and opportunity. Developers and other key stakeholders, including banks and financial institutions, are maintaining a positive outlook," said Hari Babu, President-NAREDCO. *IANS* 

#### Market Update: August 2024

A swe reach the middle of August, the real estate market continues to exhibit robust activity. While the stock market experiences volatility and speculation mounts that interest rates may drop in September, the residential real estate sector remains strong. This resilience is largely due to lower inventory levels, although recent trends indicate a gradual increase in supply.

In the commercial real estate arena, the landscape presents a mixed picture. The market for office spaces remains sluggish, but shopping centers and industrial properties continue to perform well. The leasing sector, particularly for large spaces, shows

some signs of weakness, yet the overall market conditions remain favorable.

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#### Saints from Haridwar visit Fremont Temple

India Post News Service

On August 4th 2024, Prof Promod Bhatnagar from AWGP led the event. He delivered an enlightening discourse on "Gayatri Maha-Shakti" focusing on spiritual significance of Vedmata Gayatri and the power of Yaqya (sacrificial rituals).

Prof. Bhatnagar highlighted the biography and achievements of Vedmurti Taponishta Pt. Sri Ram Sharma Acharya, founder of AWGP. Acharya Ji performed "maha-purush-24 charan"(sadhna), i.e. 24 years of dedicated practice to achieve the spiritual goal, each involving 2.4 million recitations of the Gayatri mantra, while leaving salt and sugar and subsisting only on barley bread (roti) and buttermilk. He also authored over 3,200 books on all aspects of life and translated ancient scriptures, includ-

Details on page 25

#### Syed Ashfaq bids for Naperville County

ing the Vedas and Upanishads.

NAPERVILLE- In front of a standing room only crowd in Naperville City Council at an event on August 17 Syed Ashfaq launched his bid for the council.

"I'm running for Naperville City Council because I believe in a Naperville that works for every one of us. Our community is diverse and vibrant, made up of people from all walks of life.

Details on page 27

#### Over 100,000 join India I-Day parade in Toronto

TORONTO: Over 100,000 people joined the India Independence Day parade at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square on Sunday (18 Aug) as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, ministers and mayors congratulated the 1.8 million-strong Indo-Canadian community.

Details on page  ${\bf 30}$ 

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August 23, 2024



## Protest against Hindu Genocide in Bangladesh

India Post News Service

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TOP HINDU GENOCIDE," **J**"ALL EYES ON BANGLADESH," and "HINDU LIVES MATTER" were the slogans protesters chanted at Sunset Boulevard in front of the CNN office in Los Angeles, on Friday last week. It was hot weather, but more than 200 protesters from LA, Orange, Ventura and Riverside counties came together to protest against the atrocities committed in Bangladesh in the last two weeks.

The student protest turned into large-scale riots all across Bangladesh, and reports received it turned religious, targeting Hindus and other minorities. Several Hindu Temples, businesses and homes were identified based on owners' religion and then targeted and burned. Reports and brutal videos showed how Hindu women were chased and raped, and killed. In some of the confirmed social media videos, law and enforcement agencies were participating in the violence and not provictims. tectina Hindu Bangladesh was never a safe country for minorities. Though these riots focused on the Hindu community, Sikh, Jain, Baudh and Christian minorities were also victims of this violence.

The Hindu community in California was very disturbed due to anti-Hindu violence, and mainstream media like CNN, FOX, ABC News, and CNBC completely ignored the fact of anti-Hindu violence and selectively reported the news to the American people. Hindu community decided to protest against the violence and came together at



Sunset Blvd. Geeta and Subhash Bhat brought the seniors from Orange County, while Mahendra Garg made efforts to bring protesters from Placencia.

Anaya, a college student, and Aradhya, a high schooler, passionately talked about situational

issues and requested that youths speak up. Shivaraj, a university student, was seen waving the Bhagawa flag and shouting slogans, and another student, Sohila from New Jersey, made several posters for this protest.

Vijay Patil, who took the initiative to arrange this protest. Sanmay Mukhopadhyay from Bengal, who is following the situation closely, while addressing protesters, said, "The crime against innocent minorities must stop right now. Also, the new Bangladesh Government must take full responsibility for the losses incurred by minority businesses and people. At the very minimum, appropriate compensation needs to be offered. The criminals need to be promptly punished as per law." Amit Desai from Voice of India said, "It is Ironic to see the silence of the MSM and the White House, said



Dr. Amit Desai, a Hindu community activist. He also called upon the Hindu community not to support media, politicians, or an organization that does not support Hindu causes/concerns." Vijay Telkikar, founder of the American Hindu Federation, passionately talked about the horrifying situation of Hindus. Vijay Telkikar said, " Rapes and killings of Hindus and other minorities is a shame for the entire Humanity" Kamalesh Chaouhan, a Kashmiri Hindu and a writer, was emotional about the situation and compared it with her memories of genocide in Kashmir. Sudhindra Sharma quickly covered the situation in Bangladesh. American for Hindus California President Neeraj Kashalkar said, " A4H is already working with members of Hindu Caucas on this issue, and A4H sent a letter to all congressmen and senators about this crisis and requested everyone to talk to their representatives."

Keshav Patel, President of VHPA LA, addressed the gathering. Several leaders joined the event, including Vasant Rathi, Amrit Nehru, Vijaya and Suresh Lohiya, Geeta Sikand, Rajesh Shah, Pravin Patel, Madhu Hebbar, Arun Dutt, Vaibhav Aradhe, Umakant Joshi, Vishal Sharma, Bala Palaniswami, Raju Gutula, Subodha Sharma, Gulshan Bhatiya, Dev Goel, Madhur Shrivastav, Venu Madhav. More than 20 organizations supported the protest.

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## Independence Day celebration at the Consulate General of India in Chicago



India Post News Service

The Consulate General of India in Chicago celebrated the 78th Independence Day at the Consulate premises. Indian diaspora joined in large numbers.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh unfurled the tricolor, which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. He then read out the Address of the President of India to the nation on the eve of Independence Day. There was a short cultural program, which included Patriotic fusion dance by Team Ghungroo, Odissi dance recital by Ananya Kar and the singing of patriotic songs by the children of Chicago Tyagaraj Utsavam.

An Independence Day reception later in the evening of 15th August will be hosted by the Consul General with the participation of about 350 guests which includes elected representatives, senior Government officials, local dignitaries, Indian American community drawn from business, academics and arts circles at the prestigious Chicago Cultural Centre.

On 14 August 2024, the Consulate in association with Bhartiya Senior Citizens of Chicago organized an event "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" for about 200 participants at the Rana Reagan Center, IL to acknowledge the suffering and pain experienced by millions during the partition of India.

Consul General participated in the Annual India Day Parade followed by India Day Concert organized by Indian Community Outreach in Naperville on 11 August 2024. Addressing a gathering of about 20,000 Indian community and American friends of India, he called upon Indian diaspora to work together to take the India-US partnership to even higher heights. On 3 August 2024, Consul General attended the Independence Day celebration organized by the Indo American Association of Iowa. Consul General on 4 August 2024 addressed a large gathering in Oak Brook Independence Day celebrations, where he spoke on the vision of India-USA partnership. Consul General will be participating in the Independence Day celebration organized by Federation of Indian Associations on 16 August 2024 where a number of dignitaries are expected to attend. On 24 August a theatre event "Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani" will feature three short plays staged by children in Hindi, Marathi and Bengali languages.





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## Shravan Shivratri commemorated at Grayslake, IL

**GEETHA PATIL** 



Nauka Vihar of Lord Krishna and Ma Radha

indu Mandir of Lake County, Grayslake, IL organizes Shravan Shivaratri and Navaka Vihar of Lord Krishna and Ma Radha on Friday, 2nd and Saturday 3rd August 2024 with hundreds of devotees and the sponsors of the event.

three Abhishekams in the morning, afternoon, and evening respectively and did vegetables, flower, and Chandan Alankarams. Lord Shiva looked incredible in all the Alankarams.

Pandit Anil Joshi Ji in his discourse on



Sponsors of Shravan Shivaratri

All devotees and children attended the event with full zeal and zest.

Temple priests started the event with the sponsors' Sankalpam and started Rudra Abhishekam by chanting the Rudrabhishek mantra '(Om Namo Bhagavate Rudraya) with care and followed the Rudrabhishek procedure meticulously. On that day, priests performed



Lord Krishna and Ma Radha are in the Cradle

the Significance of Shravan Shivaratri said that the entire Shravan Masa is dedicated to the veneration of Lord Shiva. There are two Shivaratris - 1) Shravan Shivaratri, 2) Phalgun Shivaratri. While both are significant celebrations honoring Lord Shia. Shravan Shivratri is celebrated in the Shravan month, which is regarded as extremely fortunate by devotees of Shiva.

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Devotees with Lord Krishna and Ma Radha

Maha Shivratri, on the other hand, celebrates the convergence of Shiva and Shakti. The fasting and observing all rituals associated with Shravan Shivratri has the power to cleanse the soul and body, and grant spiritual liberation to his devotees

On the August 3, the temple celebrated Navaka Vihar for Lord Krishna and Ma Radha. The event started with Ganesh Pujan, Shobha Yatra of Lord Krishna and Ma Radha. After Boat riding, both deities were given Abhishekam with different fruit juices, and purified water. Deities were dressed up in gorgeous dresses and jewelries. Priests offered them different homemade Prasadam, fresh fruit juices and fruits.

In his discourse, Pt. Joshi Ji said that we are blessed with various fruits by this nature and in the summer we enjoy consuming fruits and juices. By giving fruits first to God, we acknowledge God to be the owner of everything we have. Therefore, we give Him our first and best. After Maha Mangalarati, more than 200 devotees were served with Prasadam, fruits, and juices.

## Medicaid: A critical health safety net under fire

#### **VIDYA SETHURAMAN** India Post News Service

he nation's largest health insur ance program, Medicaid currently provides free or low-cost coverage to more than 83 million people in the US. But approximately 23 million-including 3 million children-have lost or stand to lose coverage due to the end of pandemic-era continuous coverage protections, also known as "the great unwinding."

Of the 23 million people who will lose or have lost coverage, 69 percent have been disenrolled not because they were ineligible, but because of paperwork and procedural technicalities. Expanding Medicaid to close the coverage gap is one of the most significant ways states can increase coverage rates and achieve health equity, particularly after the unwinding. Yet 10 states, largely in the South, still choose not to expand their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act.

These states have some of the worst health inequities in the country.

Speakers at the EMS briefing on August 9 discussed how to strengthen the Medicaid program to provide equitable health coverage to all and why states must act to close the coverage gap that disproportionately affects communities of color.

Katherine Hempstead, Senior Policy Adviser at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said that there are 82 million people enrolled in Medicaid, almost half of them are children: 63% of adult beneficiaries are workers while 47% of all minors with special needs are covered by this program. "Medicaid was designed as a federal-state alliance, and in poorer states the federal government pays more. Each state has its own program. So we're talking about 50 different programs." She mentioned that some of the states with the largest gaps in health coverage are Texas and Florida.

Cont'd on page 31

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## Saints from All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) Gayatri-Teerth Shantikunj, Haridwar (India) visit Fremont Hindu Temple

India Post News Service

On August 4th 2024, Prof Promod Bhatnagar from AWGP led the event. He delivered an enlightening discourse on "Gayatri Maha-Shakti" focusing on spiritual significance of Vedmata Gayatri and the power of Yagya (sacrificial rituals).

Prof. Bhatnagar highlighted the biography and achievements of Vedmurti Taponishta Pt. Sri Ram Sharma Acharya, founder of AWGP. Acharya Ji performed 24 "maha-purush-charan" (sadhna), i.e. 24 years of dedicated practice to achieve the spiritual goal, each involving 2.4 million recitations of the Gayatri mantra, while leaving salt and sugar and subsisting only on barley bread (roti) and buttermilk. He also authored over 3,200 books on all aspects of life and translated ancient scriptures, including the Vedas and Upanishads.

The discourse emphasized the Gayatri

mantra's unparalleled power, composed of 24 words with the highest energy frequency, scientifically proven to reach 110,000 vibrations per second. The Gayatri mantra, revered by sages and deities including Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, is universal in its prayer for wisdom, making it relevant for all.

The event also featured a musical performance by Sh. Omkar Patidar Ji, who created an invigorational atmosphere captivating audience with inspiring, soulful and devotional bhajans (Pragya geet). The event concluded with "Deep Yagya", where attendees lit 101 lamps and offered oblations while chanting the Gayatri mantra, creating a deeply vibrating spiritual atmosphere.

For more information about AWGP, visit local Bay Area chapter's website awgp.us or their center at 4221 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551.



## Urgent financial aid application deadline approaches for California Community College students

#### VIDYA SETHURAMAN India Post News Service

thnic Media Services and California Black Media, in partnership with the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), presented a statewide ethnic media briefing to highlight the critical September 3 deadline for California Community College students to apply for financial aid through the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application (CADAA). California Community Colleges serve over 1.9 million students, making it the largest system of higher education in the nation. More than 70% of these students come from diverse ethnic backgrounds, with 48% identifying as Hispanic. Additionally, many students are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with 65% classified as Perkins Economically Disadvantaged. Despite the availability of financial aid through the California Dream Act, the number of undocumented students applying for these aid programs remains low. This briefing aims to provide clear information and guidance to these students, helping to ensure that they are informed and supported in the application process. It is crucial to reach out to all eligible students, including undocumented students, to ensure they have the financial resources needed to continue their education.

Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission said that California community colleges serve more than 1.9 million students, making it the largest higher education system in the United States, of which more than 70% are from minority backgrounds and 48% are munity college to the University of California, Santa Barbara. After completing her master's and doctoral studies, her life changed. She said that the federal government and California have many programs to help disadvantaged students, but the key is to apply and take action. She particularly emphasized that the deadline for emergency financial aid applications for community college students in the 2024/2025 fiscal year is September and March. From

California Community Colleges serve over 1.9 million students, making it the largest system of higher education in the nation. More than 70% of these students come from diverse ethnic backgrounds, with 48% identifying as Hispanic

Hispanic. In addition, many students come from families with financial difficulties, and about 65% of students with financial difficulties can receive financial aid through the California Dream Act.

Gonzales said that she relied on various federal and California financial aids to successfully complete her studies, from comimmigrants and low-income families, 54% of applicants may be eligible, including tuition, books, and transportation.

Ivan Hernandez, President, Student Senate for California Community College said that he came to the United States from Mexico with his parents when he was a child. Due to financial difficulties at home, he received financial assistance to complete higher education. Hernandez said that the application process is not complicated, and it takes about two hours to fill out the application materials. He emphasized that financial subsidies do not check the immigration status of applicants, and the identities of all applicants will be kept confidential. Hernandez concluded that there are four situations that hinder applicants: first, they do not have a social security number and think they do not meet the application requirements; second, they are worried that applying to use public resources will be settled later; third, they are not familiar with the application system and find it troublesome; fourth, language barriers.

Nancy Jodaitis, Director of Higher Education, Immigrants Rising said that California is a pioneer in supporting immigrants in the country, and every community college has many financial support programs to help disadvantaged students and undocumented immigrant students. She said that there is misinformation in the public that undocumented immigrants will have endless troubles in the future if they use public resources, causing many people to be afraid to apply.

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# AAPI leaders spread message of health & wellbeing at India Day Parade in New York

#### India Post News Service

NEW YORK: On this auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day, I extend my warmest greetings to all members of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin," said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) as he led the dozens of physicians who had joined the India Day Parade in New York City on Sunday, August 18th, 2024. As we celebrate 77 years of India's independence, we are reminded of the sacrifices, struggles, and unwavering spirit that have shaped the world's largest democracy."

Dr. Kathula assumed charge last month as the President of AAPI had come to participate in the world's largest India Day Parade, observed "On behalf of the entire leadership team of AAPI, I wish you and your families a joyous and reflective Independence Day. Let us continue to honor our heritage by contributing to the betterment of society and the world."

Applause from the crowds reached a crescendo as the colorfully decorated Float bearing AAPI's name, symbol, and message of health and well-being all rolled on in New York City Streets. Led by its energetic leaders led by Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, the President-Elect, and Dr. Sunil Kaza, AAPI BOT Chair, the float

marched along with dozens of others, saluting India and the over a billion people of Indian origin around the globe. The parade was organized by Federation of Indian American Organizations (FIA), led by Dr. Avinash Gupta, a Regional Director of AAPI.

A host of AAPI team along with several young Physicians and MSRF members had come to New York from different parts of the country to be part of the largest India Day Parade in the world.

A record number of people, both Indian Americans and mainstream Americans thronged the sidewalks, filling Madison Avenue from 38th to 27th Streets, cheering jubilantly as the floats portraying the rich heritage of India and the rise of India as a



world power, meandered through the Big Apple. The crowds acknowledged the contributions and achievements of the Indian Diaspora and their motherland, India.

"We are extremely happy to be part of this great event," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, the President-Elect, leading Dr. Sunil Kaza, who was on the AAPI float in New York, said, "On this happy occasion join me and all members of AAPI in saluting the hard work of all our citizens who have, over these 69 years, helped build a new India. Let us bow our heads in memory of all those brave Jawans and all



the parade in New York City. "On behalf of the over 120,000 physicians of Indian Origin in the United States, I want to convey our greetings to all the people of Indian origin, especially to over two million Indian Americans across the United States. our brave citizens who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of our unity, integrity, and progress. As we celebrate India and its several achievements on this very special day, AAPI is very proud to join in and salute this great nation and its 1.4 billion people."

Dr. Kathula reminded the Diaspora that India's journey since 1947 has been one of resilience, progress, and immense pride. As members of the Indian diaspora, we carry the legacy of our motherland in our

hearts, and it is our collective responsibility to honor that legacy through our work, both in the United States and in India.

In his message to the Diaspora, Dr. Kathula called upon the community "to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of democracy, freedom, and equality, values that both India and the United States hold dear. As AAPI continues to grow and evolve, let us remain united in our mission to promote the highest standards of healthcare, foster excellence in medical practice, and serve as a bridge between the medical communities of India and the United States."

Last weekend, Dr. Kathula had the honor of participating leading AAPI at the India Day parade in Chicago City. Referring to the event, Dr. Kathula added, "The event was a wonderful opportunity to join in the festivities alongside distinguished guests such as the Indian Consulate General Somnath Gosh, U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, and the Mayor of Naperville, Mr. Scott Werli. The spirit of unity and pride was palpable as we celebrated our rich heritage and the strong traditions

Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high-flying jobs, shaping the policies, programs, and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world. Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for physicians of Indian origin.

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## Ashfaq bids for Naperville County



NAPERVILLE- In front of a standing room only crowd in Naperville City Council at an event on August 17 Syed Ashfaq launched his bid for the council.

"I'm running for Naperville City Council because I believe in a Naperville that works for every one of us. Our community is diverse and vibrant, made up of people from all walks of life. We all want the same things: safe streets, responsible government, and a bright future for our children" says Ashfaq Syed.

On the City Council, Ashfaq promised that he would stand for unity and collaboration. He will support Naperville's public safety departments, ensuring they have the resources they need to keep the community safe. He will advocate for responsible development that benefits every neighborhood, balancing commercial and residential growth to create a thriving economy. He also aims to make Naperville a greener and more sustainable city for the years

Ashfaq believes that once the residents of Naperville learn more about his proven record of community involvement, leadership, and vision for Naperville, they will come forward to support him, in a big way, in his campaign for Naperville City Council.

Ashfaq's passion for the development of Naperville is reflected by the various boards and committees that he is committed to. He is also President of the Naperville Public Library Board.

## Association of Indians in America (Est: 1967) Celebrates India Day

#### India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Association of Indians in America IL- Chapter celebrated India's Independence at Daley Plaza on August 12, 2024.

Shree Bhutia the Deputy Consul General of India in Chicago attended the event along with of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

The flag hoisting was done with great



AIA 78th Independence Day celebration at Daley Plaza with Deputy Counsel General TD Bhutia and Cook County treasurer Maria Pappas

pomp and attended by members of AIA committee and community at large. It was a great pleasure to see many people of Indian descent from nearby offices and passerby join the fun.

The event was marked with the beautiful singing of national anthems and patriotic songs by a budding young Chicago based artist Khushi Jain. Classical dance by Rashika Bendekar, Kabita Dey and a Punjabi dance by Madhu Arya ji and team added life.

Maria Papas eulogized the contribution made by Indian Americans in her address.

G D Bhutia in his address spoke about the contribution of India towards on US India friendship and also the contribution of not just the Indian community living in the USA but also the Indian student community in the USA. His simple but very effective words were much appreciated.

The event was marked by an address by chairman Salil Mishra, presi-

dent Lucy Pandey, vote of thanks by Vice President Nilabh Dubey and National Vice President Santosh Pandey and introduction of Maria Pappas by Hina Trivedi.

## Kala Utsav by Indian Consulate

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: An evening of Indian classical dance, music, and folk performances at the "Kala Utsav is the flagship annual cultural celebration organized by the Consulate General of India in Chicago, provid-

ing a platform for Indian American artists and Cultural organizations from across the US Midwest to showcase their arts.

It is planned to showcase 2024 edition of "Kala Utsav" on Saturday, 31 August 2024 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at the Naperville Yellow Box, within the Community Christian Church (1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, a Chicago suburb.

The event will feature Indian classical dances, folk dances, regional dances and much more. It will be a celebration of artistic expression and an opportunity to witness the fusion of traditional and contemporary expressions.

The event aims celebrating the beauty of Indian arts and culture at "Kala Utsav". The event will be followed by Indian refreshments.



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## Akshar-Purushottam Darshan presented at the World Congress of Philosophy in Rome

ith the blessings and guidance of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, Akshar-Purushottam Darshan - a classical philosophical school of thought and practice of the Swaminarayan Sampradaya - was presented and warmly received at the 25th World Congress of Philosophy in the historic city of Rome, Italy.

The eight-day conference was hosted between August 1 and 8, 2024, at the Sapienza University of Rome, one of the oldest universities in the world and the largest in Europe. It attracted more than 5,000 scholars and students of philosophy from over 120 countries and diverse disciplines and backgrounds.

The prestigious academic event, organized by the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP), served as a platform for some of the brightest minds from around the world to engage in profound discussions and a rigorous ex-



Scholars from the UK, USA and India presented their research on how the philosophical

change of ideas. Through as many as 89 philosophical sub-disciplines, they sought to address contemporary global challenges and foster a deeper understanding of human existence.

During the conference, on August 2, 2024, an insightful session was held by the Congress that focused on spiritual ecology and Akshar-Purushottam Darshan.

Chaired by Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadreshdas Swami, the session aimed to catalyse a re-examination of our underlying attitudes and beliefs about the environment through a lens of religious philosophy, specifically Akshar-Purushottam Darshan.

exploration of Akshar-Purushottam Darshan finds practical expression through devotion, ethical living, and service to humanity and the natural world.

Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Professor of Philosophy at Delhi University, remarked, "I was de-

lighted to see Akshar-Purushottam Darshan so enthusiastically received at such a large academic event. Of course, the Akshar-Purushottam school of Vedanta has its roots in sacred Sanatan Hindu texts, but it may be unfamiliar to some Western scholars of philosophy, so it was very encouraging to see them be interested in, learn about, and engage with its fundamental values and beliefs that can have such a powerful positive impact in our world today."

In addition to the formal sessions, swamis used interactive workshops, collaborative dialogues, and informal gatherings to make meaningful connections with scholars. This allowed them to share philosophical ideas and learn from each other in a genuine spirit of open academic dialogue and mutual enrichment.

Pujya Bhadreshdas Swami discussed key takeaways from the conference and future directions. Both reiterated the enduring relevance of philosophy in contemporary society and the need for continued dialogue and exploration. Professor Scarantino also thanked Pujya Bhadreshdas Swami for presenting Akshar-Purushottam Darshan at the conference.

After the philosophical discussion, Professor Luca Scarantino was pleased to receive 'Swaminarayan-Bhashyam,' the Swaminarayan Sampradaya's classical Sanskrit commentaries on the Vedanta Prasthanatrayi elucidating the principles of Akshar-Purushottam Darshan, from the author himself, Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadreshdas Swami.

Professor Noburu Notomi, President of the Philosophical Association of Japan and, host of the next World Congress of Philosophy, was also present at the meeting. He invited BAPS to present

**Revering the Sacred Creation:** Spiritual Ecology and the Akşara-Puruşottama Darśana



In a personal meeting, Professor Scarantino, President of FISP and the World Congress of Philosophy, and the Akshar-Purushottam Darshan at the 26th World Congress of Philosophy, scheduled to be hosted in Tokyo in 2028.

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# Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI condemns violence against physicians

India Post News Service

NEW YORK: "We want to express our deepest concerns and anguish about the recent horrific rape and murder of a postgraduate medical student in what should have been a haven for her - a State-run hospital in Kolkata, where she was pracat the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The Protests broke out in Kolkata and across the country, bolstered mostly by medical students and postgraduates in hospitals, demanding safety and security as they are engaged in healing people.



Dr Kathula observed "My heartfelt condolences to the victim's family. It is very unfortunate that this has happened," he said. "Female Doctors in India are at risk of physical violence and harassment from patients, families and the public be-

Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI

ticing Medicine," Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of American Association of Physicians of India Origin (AAPI) said here.

The resident Doctor's body was found last week Friday, with multiple injuries and signs of sexual assault, in a seminar hall cause of the nature of their job. They also have to work during the night and the hospitals may not be providing enough security measures, which puts them at risk.

A survey in 2015 by the Indian Medical Association found 75% of the Doctors in

India had faced some form of violence, local media reported at the time.

There are so many reasons for these things to happen, Dr. Kathula said. "Such incidents can stem from dissatisfaction with medical outcomes, delayed services or perceived negligence. Many factors may contribute to the rise in such incidents. They may include heightened patient expectations, strained health infrastructure with increasing costs and rising frustration among patients, their families, and even staff.

This is a very unfortunate thing which can impact the mental health as well as the professional wellbeing of women Doctors in India."

Dr. Kathula urged, "Hospitals need to implement robust security measures and increase surveillance cameras and security personnel and control the access to sensitive areas. Establishing clear protocols for handling violent incidents and ensuring all staff are trained to manage such situations, and also they should offer training to Doctors and hospital staff in conflict resolution and communication skills to handle these types of situations more effectively. Also, there should be public awareness and education of the people to enhance respectful interactions with healthcare professionals."

"While recognizing the pain and suffer-

ings of the family and friends of the slain Doctor, who are impacted by the cruel and unfortunate death of their dear one, AAPI is urging that the federal, state, and local Governments in India to pursue its investigation and bring to justice, who are responsible for this tragedy. We want the government to make all the efforts possible to prevent such behaviors against physicians around the nation, who continue to suffer due to violence, harass-



ment, and disrespect," Dr. Kathula said.

Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of practicing Indian-origin physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for physicians of Indian origin. Dr. Satheesh Kathula says, "We will continue the noble mission and strengthen our efforts to make AAPI reach greater heights."

## Over 100,000 join India Independence Day parade in Toronto

TORONTO: Over 100,000 people joined the India Independence Day parade at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square on Sunday (18 Aug) as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, ministers and mayors congratulated the 1.8 million-strong Indo-Canadian community.

Indian-origin federal minister Anita Anand, who is the president of the Treasury Board in Trudeau's Cabinet, and Ontario Assembly member Deepak Anand were present as Indian Consul General Siddhartha Nath unfurled the Indian flag.

The heart of Toronto - Canada's largest city - was turned into a riot of color as truck floats depicting various states passed through the main arteries.

As these 10 truck trailers showing the rich culture of 20 Indian states slowly made their way through the core roads, loud beats from five drum bands filled the air.



"We have floats from 20 Indian states and each truck has been allowed to carry floats from two states so that there we don't congest the city," said Vaidehi Raut, who heads Panorama India, which is an umbrella organization of dozens of diaspora associations in the Greater Toronto Area.

Indian Consul General Siddhartha Nath said, "India's strength is its unity in its diversity which is our fundamental principle as well as civilizational principle. I am so happy that this parade by Panorama India represents all of India. We have involvement from various community organizations of the Greater Toronto Area and diaspora organizations. This is a valuable opportunity for these organizations."

Prithpal Singh Chagger, who represented Punjab Pavilion which won the first prize at last year's parade, said, "As our float shows, we have represented various faces of Punjab and our rich history at this year's parade."

Over 70 stalls by vendors served various Indian delicacies and sold artifacts and other items during the daylong celebrations.

Troupes representing various Indian states enthralled the audiences with the country's rich cultural and music diversity.

The Indian Independence Day parade in Toronto is the biggest annual event of the Indian community in Canada. *IANS* 

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# Medicaid: A critical health safety net under fire

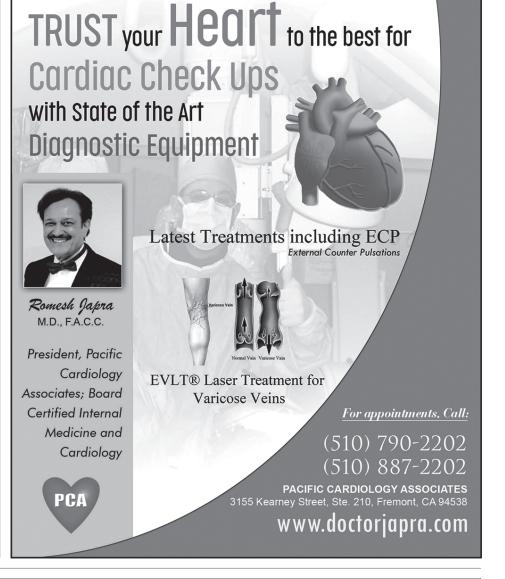
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On the other hand, she noted that some states have decided to provide health coverage to immigrants through Medicaid and sometimes through their insurance market. "Some have covered children, others like Illinois have covered seniors; and California and New York are there."

Martha Sanchez, Health Policy and Advocacy Director at Young Invincibles said young people need health care because they get sick and face chronic illnesses. "Studies show that at least half of young adults, ages 18 to 34, suffer from a chronic condition such as obesity, diabetes, cancer; and a third between 18 and 24 years old face a mental health crisis with symptoms of depression, anxiety and loneliness."

She explained that many young adults have grown up in low-income families with Medicaid, but are being left out because there is no expansion of this program, or because they are becoming college students and do not know that there are private plans accessible to them. Our goal is to provide health information to young people, so that they remain in Medicaid if they are eligible for expansion, that they know how to renew it, that they know their benefits; and those who do not qualify are informed of other accessible options."

Joan Alker, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Center for Children and Families and Research Professor at Georgetown University said many of the children who lost Medicaid during the cancellation period are still eligible. "We need to re-enroll them, particularly as they go back to school." Medicaid is vital coverage for children, particularly in communities of color with mixed immigrant status families. Alker encouraged parents whose children have been left without Medicaid to seek assistance in their communities, clinics and schools because they are likely still eligible and able to enroll them.



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## Philosophy

#### <u>OSHO</u>

Krishna is not a seeker. It would be wrong to call him a seeker. He is a siddha, an adept, an accomplished performer of all life's arts. And what he says in this siddha state, in this ultimate state of mind, may seem to you to be egoistic, but it is not.

The difficulty is that Krishna has to use the same linguistic "I" as you do, but there is a tremendous difference in connotation between his "I" and yours. When you say "I" it means the one imprisoned inside your body, but when Krishna says it, he means that which permeates the whole cosmos.

Hence he has the courage to tell Arjuna, "Give up everything else and come to my feet." If it were the same "I" as yours - a prisoner of the body - it would be impossible for him to say a thing like this.

And Arjuna would have been hurt if Krishna's "I" were as petty as yours. Arjuna would have immediately retorted, So the followers may come to it or they may not. But egolessness comes first with Krishna; he begins where Buddha and Mahavira end. So one who chooses to go with Krishna has to have it at the very beginning. If he fails, there is no question of his going with Krishna.

You can walk a long way in the company of Mahavira with your "I" intact, but with Krishna you have to drop your "I" with the first step; otherwise you are not going to go with him. Your "I" can find some accommodation with Mahavira, but none with Krishna.

For Krishna the first step is the last; for Mahavira and Buddha the last step is the first. And it is important for you to bear this difference in mind, because it is a big difference, and a basic difference.

It is really arduous to understand Krishna. It is easy to understand that a man should run away from the world if he wants to find peace, but it is really difficult to accept that one can find

Krishna's 'I' is different

It is difficult to realize that one

the very center of the cyclone

can remain calm and still live at

from your 'l'



Lord Krishna

"What are you saying? Why on earth should I surrender to you?" Arjuna would have really been hurt, but he was not.

Whenever someone speaks to another in the language of the ego, it creates an instant reaction in the ego of the other. When you say something in the words of the "I" of the ego, the other immediately begins to speak the same language. We are skilled in knowing the undertones of each other's words, and we react sharply.

But Krishna's "I" is absolutely free of all traces of egoism, and for this reason he could call upon Arjuna to make a clean surrender to him. Here, "Surrender to me" really means "Surrender to the whole. Surrender to the primordial and mysterious energy that permeates the cosmos."

Egolessness comes to Buddha and Mahavira too, but it comes to them after long, hard struggle and toil. But it may not come to most of their followers, because on their paths it is the very last thing to come.

peace in the thick of the marketplace.

It is understandable that a man can attain to purity of mind if he breaks away from his attachments, but it is really difficult to realize that one can remain unattached and innocent in the very midst of relationships and attachments, that one can remain calm and still live at the very center of the cyclone.

Excerpted from Krishna: The Man and His Philosophy. Janmashtami is being celebrated on August 26

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#### Why climate change needs to figure more prominently in Indian political discourse SAYANTAN BANDYOPADHYAY

2024 was an election year in India but climate change was not de bated as a policy issue very widely in the media and on the campaign trail, even though climate change these days is often ideated around the world as a climate emergency due to unpredictable floods, cyclones, heat waves and other climate-induced disasters that are becoming commoner with time.

2023 was the hottest year for India on record and 2024 broke the records of 2023. This led to questions of how climate change impacts are directly influencing India's populace. Energy-related issues have been influencing Indian domestic politics since Independence in the form of gas cylinders, fuel, and cheaper electricity. But it has not yet been extinction-type climate politics where Greta Thunberg is shouting on the streets that if X/Y/Z parties are not voted to power India will perish.

In India, as pointed out in the Yale Center of Climate Change Communication's report, Climate Change in the Indian Mind 2023, there is widespread awareness in terms of 84 % of people believing climate change is real whereas 55% believe India should actively reduce emissions

mate change issues. It is often said a bad monsoon in a country where more than half of the populace depends on monsoons for irrigation may not lose you the elections but its bad management will.

#### Climate change Impacting elections

The most direct influence of climate on municipal elections was seen in the recent Bangalore Municipal elections where candidates were faced with questions on flooding, water management, rainfall, and pollution along with electric vehicle policies. India of today may not be prepared to give any political party votes just because it claims to be a 'green party'. But India of tomorrow may see more green parties popping up along with more mainstream political parties adopting climate change in their manifestos, execution and diction when win-ability starts depending on their climate action and environmental protection strategies.

Indian political parties have moved ahead

from the time when climate change hardly used to feature in their election manifestos. Now environmental issues are prominently visible in the election manifestos of almost all political parties. The All In-

In India, as pointed out in the Yale Center of Climate Change Communication's report, Climate Change in the Indian Mind 2023, there is widespread awareness in terms of 84 % of people believing climate change is real whereas 55% believe India should actively reduce emissions. So, if the impacts of climate change are visible then climate change is slowly moving from the periphery to the center of public discourse. One can see how unemployment, education, healthcare, economic growth, and caste inequality all are linked to climate change. It needs to be noted how floods in Chennai were brought up even in Parliament by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on how cities are becoming rivers and rivers are becoming seas. The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena lost elections in the flood-ravaged districts of Maharashtra's Kolhapur, Sitapur and Satara.

The government has a mandate to ensure food, water and a decent standard of life for its citizens, which is impossible to achieve in the absence of addressing clidian Trinamool Congress (AITC), which is mostly a West Bengal-centric party, even has two pages on climate change in its manifesto discussing climate change for India and Bengal respectively. Regional parties are more focused on their constituencies. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which rules Delhi and Punjab, talks about air pollution, which is the bane of North India, at length but forgets to talk about water, sound, fossil and other types of pollution.

The BJP talks about LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)-based sustainable development where India will slowly move towards a net-zero and achieve the Panchamrit plans of 2030. It talks of sustainable living, reducing emissions and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

(The author is a Junior Research Fellow and PhD Scholar at the Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) South Asia Monitor For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

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## The Kamala Harris story personifies rising Indian American aspirations in a changing America

our years ago, on August 11, 2020, a biracial woman politician, with Indian and African ethnic roots, made history when she was nominated as the Democratic Party candidate for the Vice President of the United States. The American media then rather evocatively described the senator and California attorney general as being a "heartbeat away" from being the President of the United States.

That transition may not happen as was being dramatically projected, but a progressive presidential health concerns that became a national talking point has led the US-born Indian-origin Kamala Harris, whose mother hailed from Tamil Nadu, in southern Inthe first female and African American attorney general in the country's most populous and culturally diverse state, she did not go out of her way to project her "Indianness", her Indian heritage. So in her initial years as San Francisco's black elected district attorney, she went largely unnoticed by the Indian American community.

It was only in her 2018 memoir "The Truth We Hold: An American Journey", that she spoke fondly of her Indian roots, her grandparents in Tamil Nadu, and how she and her younger sister Maya were raised with a strong awareness and appreciation of Indian culture. "There is no title or honor I'll treasure more than to say I am Shyamala Gopalan Harris's

#### Kamala Harris

dia, to be propelled almost overnight into being the putative Democratic presidential candidate with an even chance of being anointed the 46th President of the United States on January 20, 2025.

And this has once again put the spotlight on the small, but respected and high-achieving Indian American community, which is just one percent of the national population and yet has become known not just as the most educated and wealthiest community group in the US but one that is steadily growing in profile and prominence.

As she rapidly climbed the political ladder, from a California district attorney to attorney general, daughter," she wrote of her mother, a cancer researcher, whom she lost in 2009, ironically to cancer.

Trump shows desperation

It is potentially a measure of his desperation that her Republican rival Donald Trump raised a red herring to raise questions on her ethnicity, alleging that she, after being of "Indian heritage" for many years, had "turned black" only in recent years.

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was black until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn black, and now she wants to be known as black. So I don't know, is she Indian or is she black?" Trump remarked at the National Association of Black Journalists, suggesting to them that her background should be investigated, an identity trope that the Republicans had brought up with Barack Obama as well during his presidential campaign.

Harris responded strongly, while sidestepping the ethnicity slur, accusing the Republicans of taking the nation "backward" with the "same old show, the divisiveness and the disrespect". The American people deserved better, she declared.

As the campaign season goes in to the final leg, Trump looks poised to make his attacks more personal more racial and even sexist, as he seems to be looking for ways to counter the mounting ratings of Harris, an opponent he had not counted on. Biden's withdrawal, his quick endorsement of his vice president and the way Harris has been able to mobilize Democratic support from across the spectrum, including from Obama and his wife Michelle, while raising record campaign funds, has thrown a spanner in Republican calculations who were counting on a facile victory.

#### A changing America

Trump appears to have been caught off-balance and out of touch with the mood of a demographically changing nation, which many had long foreseen. When Harris was announced as his running mate by Biden in 2020, Yonat Shimron wrote in the Religious News Service that "in a time of expanding religious pluralism, the country's younger generation, many of them children and grandchildren of immigrants, will recognize in Harris a kind of multifaith and spiritual belonging unfamiliar to the mostly-white Christian majority of past decades".

(The writer is a veteran journalist and author-editor of the book "Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans") South Asia Monitor

> For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



ndians living across the world celebrated the India Independence Day in full gusto on August 15th, remembering the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and to honor their dedication and courage, which led to the birth of a free and independent India in 1947.

Our freedom didn't come easily. It was the result of long years of struggle and immense sacrifices by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh and the nameless masses who participated in the protests. They fought not just with weapons but with strong ideals, a belief in justice and, the dream of a free nation. As we celebrate, let us not forget the true essence of freedom lies in upholding the values of equality, justice and brotherhood.

The European empires, especially the British and French, that had dominated the nineteenth century, came to an end. We witnessed two world wars. We saw the rise and fall of fascism and Nazism. The century witnessed the rise of communism, and its fall (as in the former Soviet bloc) or radical transformation (as in China).

We also saw a shift from the economic dominance of the West to a new economic balance much more dominated by Japan and East and Southeast Asia. Even though that region is going through some financial and economic problems right now, this does not null the shift in the balance of the world economy that has occurred over many decades (in the case of Japan, through nearly the entire century).

Democracy is valued because it uniquely possesses a number of features that most people would consider desirable. Firstly, democracy helps to prevent rule by cruel and vicious autocrats. Countries with democratic governments tend to be more prosperous than countries with nondemocratic governments. Democracy tends to foster human development more fully than other forms of government do. Democracy is also valued because it provides an environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights. Values of democracy include respect for individuals and their right to make their own choices, tolerance of differences and opposing ideas, equity, and freedom of speech, association, movement and belief.

Democracy works best when governments have incentives to pursue broadly encompassing policies that benefit the citizenry as a whole. This is most likely when political competition is robust and governments can legislate effectively. Democracies are healthiest when the defeated minority can plausibly look forward to winning elections in the future. Otherwise, the minority will be encouraged to withdraw from democratic competition and pursue antidemocratic alternatives. This is one reason why polarization threatens democracy. The reason democracy is still vibrant in US is that it has created balance and the rule of law.

India has made remarkable progress in various fields since gaining independence. From advancements in science and technology to improvements in education and healthcare, it has come a long way. However, it still faces challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and inequality. It is our duty, especially as the younger generation, to work towards overcoming these challenges and building a better and stronger India.



## Fatima Sana Shaikh shares her LOVE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Ollywood actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, best known for her Prole in 'Dangal,' opened up about her passion for photography on World Photography Day.

While she is celebrated for her on-screen performances, Fatima revealed that she also enjoys capturing the world through her camera, revealing a different side of her artistic expression.

In a quote shared by Fatima's team, the actress said how photography allows her to see the world in a new light.

"Photography, for me, is a way to freeze moments and emotions in time. I am much more aware of my surroundings when I have a camera in my hand. I notice things I wouldn't otherwise. Moments, gestures, faces. I absolutely love shooting people! Their eyes and hands give away a lot," she said.

She went on to express how she might have pursued photography more seriously had she not been an actor. ANI

## GOT A PROBLEM?'

## Big B opens up on working at 81

ollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan, who was re cently seen as Ashwatthama in Nag Ashwin's 'Kalki 2898 AD', has finally responded to people's query about him working at the age of 81.

Big B took to his blog recently, and penned a long note in which he addressed the query as to what's the need of working at this age when he practically has everything in this world.

The actor said he doesn't have any concrete answer to the question, but, he shared that he looks at work as an opportunity with childlike enthusiasm.

He wrote, "They keep asking me on the sets the reason for me to be working .. and I have no answers for this, except it's another job opportunity for me... what else could possibly be the reason... others have their own assessment of occasions and conditions, and often like to exercise their model to be prime ... wear my shoes, and find out... maybe you are right, and maybe not.. you have the liberty to have your conclusions and I have the liberty of my work.

The actor added, "My work was given to me... when it is given to you, answer that question ... my reasons may not agree with you... but because the right to express has been given multiple tunnels of presence, you are heard... you said, I heard, I gave reason for working on... that is me.. what reason I have is mine ... enclosed huttered and locked. IANS

## TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

## Abhishek Banerjee issues clarification on KJo's

## production

Actor-casting director Abhishek Banerjee, who is currently enjoying the responses to his two releases 'Stree 2' and 'Vedaa' in theatres, has issued a statement that put him in the center of a controversy.

> Recently, Abhishek had said in an interview that Karan Johar's Dharma Production shut their doors on him and his associate Anmol Ahuja after they couldn't align with the vision of Karan Malhotra during the casting of the Hrithik Roshan and Priyanka Chopra Jonas-starrer 'Agneepath'.

The actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram and clarified that his statement was misconstrued.

He wrote, "This week I have been blessed with two releases and one controversy. I've been reading and hearing a lot of reports about Dharma Productions supposedly firing my company, Casting Bay, during the casting process of 'Agneepath'. Unfortunately, this situation has been completely misrepresented as accusatory on our part". IANS

### Bollywood www.indiapost.com

## Jasmin Bhasin: Difficult to portray serious character

ctress Jasmin Bhasin, who is known for 'Bigg Boss 14', 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi', and 'Naagin 4', has said that it was very difficult for her to portray a serious character when she already has a set image of a very pleasant person.

The actress, who is gearing up for her upcoming Punjabi film 'Ardaas Sarbat De Bhale Di', has been on a promotional spree for her movie in Australia. She recently took to her Instagram and shared a video of herself talking about her part in the film.

> In the video, Jasmine can be heard saying, "To prepare yourself for a serious role is very difficult when you already have an image of a vibrant person. In that case, it becomes very difficult for such an actor to convince their audience about the seriousness of a role. I consciously used to think every time on set that, 'Jasmine is not here, the character is here'."

'Ardaas Sarbat De Bhale Di' also stars Punjabi superstar Gippy Grewal, Gurpreet Singh Ghuggi, Prince Kanwaljeet Singh. The film has been written and directed by Gippy Grewal.

Jasmin Bhasin, who has worked in Hindi television along with Punjabi films, made her debut in 2011 with the Tamil film 'Vaanam'.

She made her Punjabi debut with the comedy-drama 'Honeymoon' opposite Gippy Grewal. *IANS* 



Raj Sharma - Owner

## Kangana Ranaut can't be friends with people from B'Wood

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who is gearing up for her upcoming political period film 'Emergency', has once again pointed her guns at the Hindi film fraternity.

The actress is known for her blunt nature and not mincing her words when it comes to exposing what happens in the bylanes of Bollywood.

The 'Queen' actress recently appeared on Raj Shamani's podcast and said that she can't be friends with people from Bollywood because in her opinion, they are not much aware of what's going around in the world.

She said, "I am not a Bollywood kind of person, okay. I can't be friends with Bollywood people for sure." She added, "Bollywood people are just so full of themselves. They are stupid, they are dumb, they are (all about) protein shake and that kind of a (life)".

She also spoke about how she fails to understand the routine that most of the actors from the Hindi film industry follow.

She said, "If they (actors) are not shooting, their routine is they wake up in the morning, do some physical training, sleep in the afternoon, again wake up, go to the gym, again sleep in the night or watch TV. They are like grasshoppers, totally blank. *IANS* 

## Pankaj Tripathi, GUEST OF HONOR at NYC India Day Parade

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, whose recent release 'Stree 2', has set the boxoffice on fire, was the guest of honor at this year's India Day Parade in New York. The event was held at Madison Avenue, New York and was organized by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA). The India Day Parade is a cherished event that brings together thousands of people to celebrate with vibrant floats, traditional dances, and cultural performances.

Expressing his gratitude for being chosen as the guest of honor, Pankaj Tripathi said, "I am deeply humbled and honored to be part of such a significant event that celebrates India's independence and the spirit of unity among Indians worldwide". *IANS* 

## Khushi Kapoor shares adorable pics with her pets

Actress Khushi Kapoor, who made her debut with the streaming debacle 'The Archies', is spending her weekend with her pets.

The actress took to Instagram, and shared several pictures with her pet dogs/ The pictures show her pets roaming around the house. The actress simply captioned the post, "My home".

> Earlier, the actress called her house officially a zoo in a social media post.

Khushi, who is the sister of Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor, was seen essaying the role of Betty Cooper in 'The Archies' in which she starred alongside Agastya Nanda, Suhana Khan, Vedang Raina, Mihir Ahuja, Aditi 'Dot' Saigal and Yuvraj Menda.

The film is a live-action adaptation of 'The Archies', a fictional rock band who appeared in the 1960's animated cartoon, 'The Archie Show'. The film, directed by Zoya Akhtar, was dubbed a disaster with critics unanimously panning the film.

Meanwhile, Khushi will be next seen opposite Junaid Khan - the son of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan in an upcoming untitled film. *IANS* 



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## FOG India Day Parade and Mela...

#### Cont'd from page 8

Consul General of San Francisco Dr Srikar Reddy said India has also made its mark in the global community. India is an "indispensable" part of bringing solutions to global challenges-be it in the form of the pandemic or in food security or critical technology. He explained about the Consular services offered by CGISF.

Grand Marshal Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala said that the Festival made her realize how rich her culture and heritage is. The memories of the festival will last her a lifetime, added Mahima.

Day 1 was filled with Dance competitions of multiple age groups with 1200+ kids/adults performing dances blending Indian dance styles with Bollywood and Classical styles. Jyotsna (Jo) along with a team composed of dozens of volunteers did an outstanding job managing backstage for smooth execution of the cultural segment. Bollywood celebrity showstopper performance choreographed by Jo Sharma.

Day 2 started with a Jalwa composed by Ryan Nathan, Shanmukha theaters on stage. FOG Kalabharati award was presented to Gurus for their talent, dedication, and contribution to the world of dance.

Bharatanatyam - Guru Vishal Ramani & Suganda Iyer Kuchipudi - Guru Sunita Pendenkanti and Jyothi Lakkaraju

Odissi - Guru Shri Vishnu Tattva Das

Kathak - Guru Smt Pragya Das Gupta and Anupama Srivatasva

Mohiniyattam - Bhairavi Padmanabham

The FOG India Day Mela, besides having the entertainment factor, is the best platform to market your business. The festival offers an opportunity for businesses to provide support, patronage and encourage events that increase and strengthen the cultural diversity and community involvement. There were around 130 booths. The







trade booths catered to a wide range of business starting from fashion jewelry, clothing, designers, real estate, insurance, credit union, banks, tourist agents, airlines etc. There were stalls carrying multi-colored and elaborately patterned fabrics of saris, shawls and kurtas; intricately designed bangles, toe rings, anklets and earrings.

Sponsors who made this event possible were City of Fremont, Alameda county, Consulate General of India San Francisco, BMW of Fremont, Poppy Bank, Raymond James, Signia by Hilton, Sling, MTR Foods, GRB Foods, Air India, Spare the Air, Young Champions, LT Foods, Laxmi, CEFCU, WP Advisors, Keen learners, Provident Credit union, State Bank of India California, BART, AC Transit, Washington Hospital, ICICI Bank, NBC Bay Area, Fremont Toyota, Cadillac Fremont, Shastha Foods, Empowerly, Legally Reliable, Prince realty, Ace rail, Ava community energy, Radio Zindagi, Spundhann, US Bank, Sparkle Montessori, Genius Kids and many more.

Commenting on the success of the Festival, Rajesh Verma, President FIA and FOG Event coordinator said, "This is our way of passing on the torch of our pride in our traditions to the future generations of American Indian youth." The Festival of India is unmatched in performance, participation and organization by the dynamic and talented spirit of Asian Indians. He thanked the volunteers who had worked relentlessly and planned the events for months and made it a huge success.



~



## FOG India Day Parade and Mela...









# Jttarakhand Mandal of America (UMA)



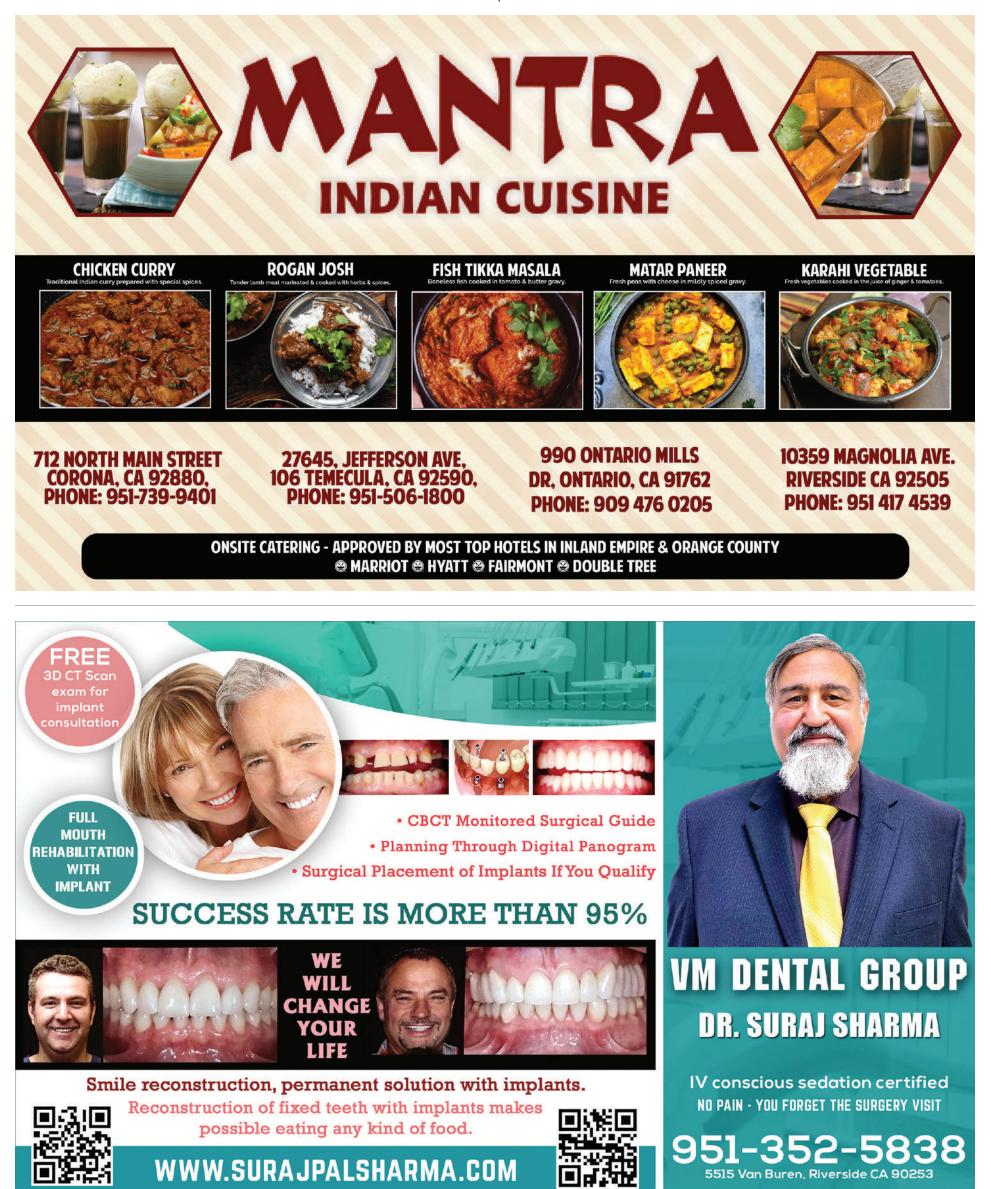








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## DUTARE THE ABODE OF SERPENTS"

nuggled in the Sahyadris or the Western Ghats, Saputara is a quaint little hill station in the Dang district of Gujarat. Popular for lush green forests, undulat ing mountains, dazzling waterfalls, dreamy winding roads, livid landscapes and plenty of charming cubbyholes to spend time with your loved ones, the town is the first favorite among tourists. It is located at a height of 875 meters above sea level and is a perfect getaway for eco-lovers, wildlife enthusiasts and people who love adventure sports.

Located at a distance of four kilometers from the Maharashtra border and two hundred and fifty kilometers from Mumbai in Dang district, Saputara literally means habitat of snakes and the tribals of this region worship snakes, especially during Holi. It is a beautiful hilly region enriched with enormous greenery offering magnificent panorama, tribal culture of a different sort and great trekking opportunities.

#### **PLACES TO VISIT IN SAPUTARA**

Artist Village: Just a few kilometers away from Satpura lake near Nasik road lies a beautiful village which exhibits spectacular artifacts of Bamboo, clothes and many other things.

The main tribals of the village Bhil, Kunbi and Warli are well known for their benevolence. Apart from buying their beautiful art works, you can also get into workshops to create something different and get to know the artist in you and their culture even better.

Hatgadh Fort: This remote fort built by the Maratha ruler Shivaji is a perfect spot for relaxation and to grasp in the picturesque panorama as the breeze caress your happy faces.

Hatgadh fort is located 5 Km away from the Satpura lake and is in a dilapidated condition and is adored due to the isolation and serenity it offers.

Vansda National park: Tucked in between the Sahyadri ranges, lies this conserved wildlife park spanning over an area of about 24 sq kilometers. It got its name as Vansda because it was once privately owned by the Maharaja of Vansda. Not a single tree has been cut since then. Owing to this, in some places, the canopies are so thick that sunlight does not pass through. It is an open park, and you can easily get a permit if you want to explore it in your own vehicle.

Sunrise and sunset point: Just next to Malegaon there is a spot, which is known as a spot to cherish the beauty of Sunrise and is known as the Sunrise point or Valley viewpoint.

> You can enjoy the lush greenery around the spot and the cool breeze, which retreats your soul and relaxes it. Similarly on the western side, we have Sunset point, which gives a great view of Dang forest, filled with enormous greenery and a magnificent view as the Yellow colored sun imperceptibly strewing redness on the skyline.

Saputara lake: It is a beautiful and serene lake known for boating and the lush green and colorful garden on both sides. It is best visited in the morning for walks to enjoy some peaceful time.

Gira falls: As you sip in the tea or coffee from the stalls nearby, enjoying the picturesque panorama and the 150 feet tall waterfall roars down the edge, you will praise the wonder of the nature.

Saputara Museum: Saputara

museum exhibits the lifestyle, culture and history of people of Dang, majority of which are Adivasis.

#### Purna Wildlife Sanctu-

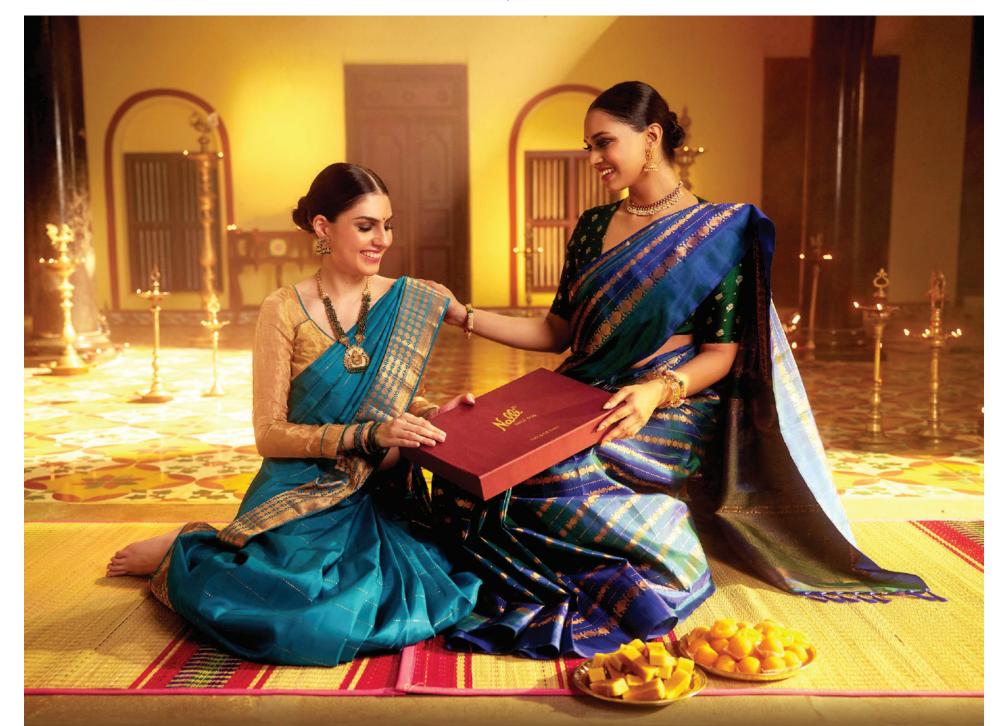
ary: Located 60km from Saputara, Gujarat; Purna Sanctuary is a part of the lush green forests of northern Dang. It has been recorded as the forest with the highest average rainfall in this region. During the Mughal period, wild bears, sloths bear, rhinoceros etc. have been found roaming around this region.

#### **BEST TIME TO VISIT SAPUTARA**

Located at an altitude of 1000 meters above sea level, Saputara experiences a calm and pleasant climate throughout the year.

#### How to reach Saputara

The closest domestic airport is at Surat, which is around 120 km away while the closest international airport is 250 km away in Mumbai. You can travel by bus to Saputara from both these cities. www.holidify.com



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