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## SAHARA celebrates 33 years

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## Anushka Sen awarded by Korean govt

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# REFORM IS THE KEY

*"Reform is key to relevance": PM Modi calls for reforms in global institutions at UN Summit of Future*

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly in New York (22 Sept.) and called for reforms in the global institutions, and termed reforms the "key to relevance." He also called the African Union's inclusion as a permanent member in the G20 an "important step" in this direction.

PM Narendra Modi also expressed India's willingness to share its experiences of success with the Global South. He said that the success of humanity lies in "collective strength" and not the battlefield.

"When we discuss about the global future, we must accord the highest priority to a human centric approach. While prioritiz-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses Summit of the Future (SOTF) at 79th UN General Assembly session

ing sustainable development, we must also ensure human welfare, food, health security. By lifting 250 million people out of poverty in India, we have demonstrated that sustainable development can be successful. We are ready to share our experiences of our success with the Global South. Success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield," PM Modi said.

"For ensuring global peace and development, reforms are necessary in the global institutions. Reform is the key to relevance. Permanent membership of African Union to the G20 at the New Delhi Summit was an important step in this direction," he added.

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## 'India, US closer than any time in history'

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## Quad will stand up for a free, open Indo-Pacific region

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This week's question

Did Modi not meet Trump on purpose?

Last week's result

Do you think Kejriwal made the right move by resigning?

YES 94% NO 6%



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum arena, in New York. (ANI Photo) Details on page 13



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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Anushka Sen awarded



Actress Anushka Sen has recently been honored with an award recognizing her efforts to strengthen the relationship between Korea and India

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Husain's artistic journey might have begun in the 1940s but it has not ended even after years of him passing on (2011)

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REFORM IS THE KEY



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Turkey has launched a new tech visa program to attract foreign entrepreneurs, aiming to boost its economy and innovation sector

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Affirming India's vision of 'One Earth, One Health', PM Modi announced a contribution of \$7.5 million for sampling kits, detection kits and vaccines

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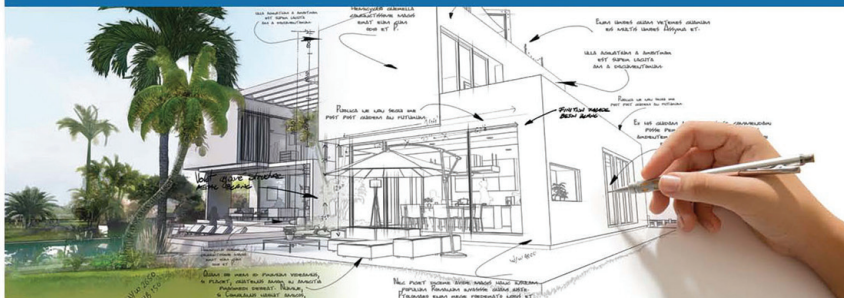


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# REFORM IS THE KEY

*"Reform is key to relevance": PM Modi calls for reforms in global institutions at UN Summit of Future*

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly in New York (22 Sept.) and called for reforms in the global institutions, and termed reforms the "key to relevance." He also called the African Union's inclusion as a permanent member in the G20 an "important step" in this direction.

PM Narendra Modi also expressed India's willingness to share its experiences of success with the Global South. He said that the success of humanity lies in "collective strength" and not the battlefield.

"When we discuss about the global future, we must accord the highest priority to a human centric approach. While prioritizing sustainable development, we must also ensure human welfare, food, health security. By lifting 250 million people out of poverty in India, we have demonstrated that sustainable development can be successful. We are ready to share our experiences of our success with the Global South. Success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield," PM Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses Summit of the Future (SOTF) at 79th UN General Assembly session, in New York. (ANI Photo)

"For ensuring global peace and development, reforms are necessary in the global institutions. Reform is the key to relevance. Permanent membership of African Union to the G20 at the New Delhi Summit was an important step in this direction," he added.

Calling terrorism, a serious threat to global peace, PM Modi stated, "While on one hand, terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global peace and security, on the other hand, cyber, maritime and space are emerging as new theatres of conflict. On all these issues, I

will stress that global action must match global ambition."

The Prime Minister, also spoke on technology in the current era and affirmed that "balance regulation is needed."

"For safe and responsible use of technology, balance regulation is needed. We want such global digital governance in which sovereignty and integrity remain intact," he said.

"Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) should be a bridge and not a barrier. For global good, India is ready to share its DPI. For India, One Earth, One Family, One Future is a commitment," the Prime Minister added.

At the UN Summit of the Future, World leaders adopted a Pact for the Future that included a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. The Pact covers a broad range of themes including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance. ANI

*"Global action must match global ambition...": PM Modi*

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that cyber, maritime and space are emerging as new areas of conflict and that it is high time that "global action must match global ambition".

Speaking at the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations, PM Modi said terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global peace and security.

"While on one hand, terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global peace and security, on the other hand, cyber, maritime and space are emerging as new areas of conflict. On all these issues, I will stress that global action must match global ambition."

According to the Wilmington Declaration, the Quad nations intend to enhance their cybersecurity partnership to address common threats posed by state-sponsored actors, cybercriminals, and other non-state malicious actors.

"In the face of a deteriorating security environment in the cyber domain, Quad

countries intend to enhance our cybersecurity partnership to address common threats posed by state-sponsored actors, cybercriminals, and other non-state malicious actors. Our countries commit to taking concrete steps to increase our collective network defense and advance technical capabilities through greater threat information sharing and ca-

*"While on one hand, terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global peace and security, on the other hand, cyber, maritime and space are emerging as new areas of conflict. On all these issues, I will stress that global action must match global ambition"*

capacity building," the Quad joint declaration, also known as Wilmington Declaration read.

PM Modi emphasized in remarks at the 'Summit of the Future' that for India, "one earth, one family and one future is a commitment."

The Prime Minister also spoke on technology in the current era and said balanced regulation is needed.

"We want such global digital governance in which sovereignty and integrity remain intact. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) should be a bridge and not a barrier. For global good, India is ready to share its DPI. For India, One Earth, One Family,

operation and will work with our regional partners in a comprehensive and sustained manner to strengthen their capability to prevent, detect and respond to threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism, including threats posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, consistent with international law," the joint statement read.

PM Modi took part in the Quad Summit on the first day of his recent three-day visit to the United States.

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One Future is a commitment," the Prime Minister said.

The Quad leaders, in their declaration, unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism."

"We are committed to international co-



# "For India, One Earth, One Family and One Future is a commitment": PM Modi at UN's Summit of The Future

NEW YORK: Asserting that India is committed to protecting the interests of humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that 'One earth, One Family and One future' is a commitment of the country.

In his address at the UN's 'Summit of The Future' PM Modi said India has elevated 250 million people out of poverty and shown that sustainable development can be successful.

"For India, One Earth, One Family, One Future is a commitment. This commitment is also reflected in our initiatives such as 'One Earth, One Health, and 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'. India will continue to work in thought, words and deeds to protect the interests of all humanity and for global prosperity."

He called for balanced regulation at a global level for safe and responsible use of technology.

"There is a need for balanced regulation at a global level for safe and responsible use of technology. We need global digital governance, which ensures that

national sovereignty and integrity are upheld. Digital Public Infrastructure should be a bridge, not a barrier. For global good, India is ready to share its digital infrastructure with the entire world."

The Prime Minister expressed India's willingness to share its experiences of success with the Global South. He said that the success of humanity lies in "collective strength" and not the battlefield.

*"For India, One Earth, One Family, One Future is a commitment. This commitment is also reflected in our initiatives such as 'One Earth, One Health, and 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'. India will continue to work in thought, words and deeds to protect the interests of all humanity and for global prosperity"*

"In the biggest elections of human history held in June, people of India gave me the opportunity to serve them for a third straight time. Today, I have come to bring the voice of one-sixth humanity to you.

When we discuss about the global future, we must accord the highest priority to a human centric approach."

"While prioritizing sustainable development, we must also ensure human welfare, food, health security. By lifting 250 million people out of poverty in India, we have demonstrated that sustainable development can be successful. We are ready to share our experiences of our success

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# India, US closer than any time in history, says Biden after meeting PM Modi

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said after his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that ties with India are "stronger, closer and more dynamic than any time in history".

The two leaders met at Biden's home in Greenville, Delaware ahead of the fourth in-person summit of the Quad later in the day.

"The United States' partnership with India is stronger, closer, and more dynamic than any time in history," President Biden said on X after hosting Prime Minister Modi at his residence. "Prime Minister Modi, each time we sit down, I'm struck by our ability to find new areas of cooperation. Today was no different."

Their meeting started at 1 p.m. US eastern time and lasted over an hour as the Prime Minister's delegation, comprising External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, was seen leaving at about 2:30 p.m. Prime Minister Modi and President Biden were not open to the press but there will be a readout later in the day.

They will meet for the Quad summit



Prime Minister Narendra Modi received by US President Joe Biden on his arrival, at the latter's residence in Greenville, Delaware (ANI Photo)

later, joined by Fumio Kishida and Anthony Albanese, their counterparts from Japan and Australia.

Earlier upon arrival, Biden received PM Modi at his residence with a handshake and the two leaders embraced, which has become a signature greeting for the Indian Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's office posted pictures of the two leaders taking in the view from the president's house.

At the meeting with PM Modi, the US President was accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti.

"Today's program will be focused on the Quad Summit and the bilateral meeting with @POTUS, @JoeBiden," the Prime Minister wrote on X shortly after landing in Philadelphia, from where he travelled to Wilmington, Biden's hometown in the adjoining state of Delaware. "I am sure the discussions throughout the day will contribute to making our planet better and addressing key global challenges."

Prime Minister Modi is expected to leave for New York later in the night. IANS

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## PM Modi gifts 'Delhi-Delaware' silver train model to President Biden, 'Pashmina Shawl' to First Lady Jill

WILMINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden with gifts reflecting India's rich cultural heritage.

President Biden received an antique silver hand-engraved train model with 'Delhi-Delaware' inscribed on the sides of the main carriage. First Lady Jill Biden was gifted a Pashmina Shawl in an intricately designed Papier Mache Box.

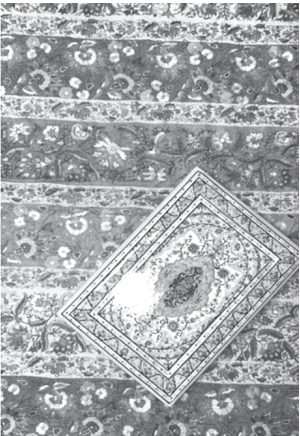
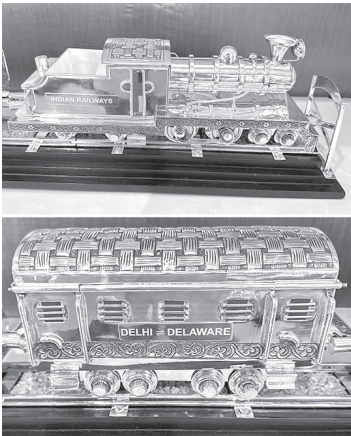
Notably, the vintage silver hand-engraved train model is a rare and extraordinary piece and masterfully crafted by artisans from Maharashtra - renowned for its rich heritage in silver craftsmanship.

Made of 92.5 percent silver, the model showcases the pinnacle of Indian metalworking artistry, with elaborate details achieved through traditional techniques such as engraving, repousse (hammering from the reverse to create raised designs), and intricate filigree work.

It is interesting to note that this creation

is a tribute to the steam locomotive era, with artistic brilliance merging with historical significance.

Signifying the robust linkages between India and the US, the model has been customized by inscribing "DELHI - DELA-



WARE" on the sides of the main carriage and "INDIAN RAILWAYS" on the sides of the engine in English and Hindi based on the standard format used on passenger trains in India.

PM Modi also presented the First Lady of USA Jill Biden with a Pashmina Shawl in Papier Mache Box. ANI

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# "Thank you, New York!" PM Modi after historic address to Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum

NEW YORK: Following his historic address to the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to the city.

In a post on social media platform X, PM Modi thanked the New York crowd who were present at the event and shared glimpses from the memorable community program.

"Thank you, New York! These are glimpses from the memorable community program. Grateful to all those who joined," he said.

Prime Minister Modi was in New York to address the "Modi and US" program at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York, with 15,000 members of the Indian diaspora gathering from 42 different states to welcome the Prime Minister.

During his address, PM Modi touched upon various facets of India-US relations, people-to-people ties, and India's rising global stature and economic growth.

In his initial remarks, lauding the contributions of the Indian diaspora, PM Modi said that Indians contribute to do the most no matter where they are.

In his over one-hour-long speech, he also apprised the gathering of how India has become a key player in mobile manufacturing—from being an importer to an exporter, digital public infrastructure adoption. He added that the day is not far when Made in India chips will be available in America.

Later, Prime Minister Modi interacted with the CEOs of leading US-based companies to foster greater collaborations between the two countries in the cutting-edge areas of AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology, among others.

PM Modi emphasized India's growth prospects and discussed initiatives to foster collaborations and innovation across diverse sectors.

Following this, he held bilateral talks with the Nepali Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli, at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel in New York.

The two leaders reviewed the unique and close bilateral relationship between India and Nepal, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in diverse sectors, including development partnership, hydropower cooperation, people-to-people ties, and enhancing connectivity—physical, digital and in the domain of energy, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Prime Minister congratulated



Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a selfie with members of the Indian diaspora after addressing the gathering, at Nassau Coliseum in New York (ANI Photo)

Nepal on becoming the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member, and underlined the importance of a regional response to the challenge of climate change.

"Nepal is a priority partner of India under its Neighborhood First Policy. This meeting continues the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and

trade," PM Modi stated in a post on X.

Nepal PM Oli also termed the meeting "fruitful" and said they discussed various matters of bilateral relations.

"Had a fruitful meeting with the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji on the sidelines of UNGA79. During the meeting, various matters of bilateral relations were discussed," the Nepal PM said

two countries. They noted with satisfaction that the two countries were supporting each other with energy and food security requirements. They expressed their firm commitment to deepen and diversify bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of both countries.

PM Modi also thanked the Crown Prince for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait, which is the largest diaspora group in the country.

"The meeting between the leadership of the two countries is expected to impart a fresh momentum to bilateral ties between India and Kuwait," the MEA stated.

Taking to X, PM Modi said, "The talks with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait, were very productive. We discussed how to add vigor to India-Kuwait ties in sectors like pharma, food processing, technology, energy and more."

He also held a bilateral meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The Prime Minister expressed his "deep concern" at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reaffirmed India's continued support to the Palestinian people. ANI

*During his address, PM Modi touched upon various facets of India-US relations, people-to-people ties, and India's rising global stature and economic growth. In his initial remarks, lauding the contributions of the Indian diaspora, PM Modi said that Indians contribute to do the most no matter where they are*

Nepal in furtherance of our Neighborhood First policy," the MEA stated.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi said the two countries look forward to add even more momentum to their ties.

"Had a very good meeting with Prime Minister KP Oli in New York. The India-Nepal friendship is very robust and we look forward to adding even more momentum to our ties. Our talks focused on issues such as energy, technology and

in an X post.

PM Modi also held talks with Kuwait's Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on how both countries can strengthen their ties in sectors like pharma, food processing, technology and energy, among others.

The Prime Minister conveyed that India attaches utmost importance to its bilateral relations with Kuwait. Both leaders recalled the strong historical ties and people-to-people linkages between the





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## In Brief

### Indian national handed over to BSF week after abduction in Bangladesh

AGARTALA: Nearly a week after an Indian national was reportedly abducted while he was visiting in Bangladesh with a valid passport and documents, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) handed him over to the Border Security Force (BSF), in presence of immigration and police officials of the two countries.

A BSF spokesman said that during a company commander-level flag meeting in southern Tripura last week, BGB informed BSF that the Indian national would be handed over to the Indian authorities soon.

The BGB officials told the BSF officials that the Indian national Challa Fur Mog was under the custody of Bangladesh Police at Chattogram.

The BSF spokesman said, on Thursday (Sept 19) one Swapna Mog informed BSF officials that her husband (Challa Fur Mog), a resident of Mogpara in South Tripura district was abducted by miscreants in Bangladesh.

Quoting the lady, BSF said that the 42-year-old Indian citizen went to Bangladesh on September 13 with a valid passport and visa to visit his relatives and while he was returning he was allegedly abducted by a group of Bangladeshi miscreants who demanded Rs one lakh as ransom for release.

BSF officials immediately approached the BGB and then the flag meeting was held between BOP Belonia and BGB BOP Majumdarhat. IANS



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# Immigration

## POST

14 India Post [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com) September 27, 2024

In 2023, Turkey ranked 12th in Europe for startup investments, with Istanbul placing sixth among European cities

## Turkey introduces tech visa to attract foreign entrepreneurs

ANKARA: Turkey has launched a new tech visa program to attract foreign entrepreneurs, aiming to boost its economy and innovation sector.

Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir announced the initiative earlier this week, offering expedited work permits for up to three years for foreign nationals starting businesses in the country. The program includes tax benefits, mentoring, healthcare coverage and access to innovation centers, Xinhua news agency reported.

Government officials say the goal is to enhance local workforce capabilities and diversify the innovation ecosystem. The move comes as part of a broader strategy to address brain drain concerns, with thousands of highly educated Turks, particularly doctors and engineers, leaving for opportunities in Europe in recent years due to the country's economic woes.

Accepted entrepreneurs will receive six months of consultancy on legal, financial, and technical aspects of their businesses. Kacir said the pro-

gram aims to transform Turkey into an epicenter of global attraction.

In 2023, Turkey ranked 12th in

research and development in Türkiye lag behind advanced countries, adding that he has observed that people from Eastern

serving international clients.

Ankara-based entrepreneur Tekin Kahraman highlighted Türkiye's strengths in sectors including defense, aviation, space and fintech.

The government aims to foster 100,000 tech-driven startups by 2030, with at least 100 reaching a valuation of \$1 billion or more. Currently, six startups in Turkey meet that criterion.

Kahraman suggested foreign entrepreneurs may find opportunities to collaborate with local professionals in Turkey, which has Europe's youngest population despite an ageing trend.

"It may be a mutually beneficial opportunity for both sides to exchange knowledge in a country where patent applications for innovative technologies are reportedly on the rise," he said. IANS



Europe for startup investments, with Istanbul placing sixth among European cities.

Istanbul entrepreneur Murat Belen told Xinhua that foreign entrepreneurs with expertise in new technologies are welcome, as

Europe and Asian countries "are showing increased interest in establishing startups in Türkiye."

The tech visa complements the Digital Nomad Visa introduced in April, allowing foreigners to live and work temporarily while

## Financial crunch adds to Pak passport printing woes

LAHORE: In Pakistan, a delay in government funding for a new advanced passport printing machine has created a severe problem, with approximately 8,00,000 people waiting for their passports, according to Daily Pakistan.

Despite placing an order and finalizing a tender, the Finance Division has not yet released the PKR 2.9 billion needed, resulting in a substantial backlog, Daily Pakistan reported.

Although the backlog once exceeded 1.5 million, it has since been reduced. However, the Passport and Immigration Department, which gen-

erates between PKR 50 and 51 billion annually, is struggling to meet demand due to the lack of a new machine, according to Daily Pakistan.



Department officials have expressed frustration, highlighting that despite their significant revenue contributions, they have not

received the necessary funds to address the rising demand for passports.

"We receive between 72,000 and 75,000 applications each day but can only process 22,000, leaving many applicants in limbo," a senior official told Daily Pakistan on the condition of anonymity.

The situation is further complicated by import restrictions that hinder the acquisition of crucial equipment. Although the legal processes are complete and an order has been placed, bureaucratic delays are obstructing the purchase of the new machine. ANI



# "Granting 35% fewer international student permits this year": Canada tightens immigration rules

OTTAWA: In a significant move, Canada said that it is taking steps to manage its temporary resident population by reducing the number of study permits issued to international students and tightening eligibility for work permits.

Notably, the government plans to reduce the number of study permits from 4,85,000 in 2024 to 4,37,000 in 2025, a 10 percent decrease.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the decision of reducing the number of study permits granted to foreign students and said that when "bad actors" abuse the immigration system, "we crack down."

Sharing a post on X, Trudeau wrote,

"We're granting 35% fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number's going down by another 10%."

*Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, recently announced additional measures to manage the volume of temporary resident arrivals, uphold the integrity of our immigration system and protect vulnerable people*

"Immigration is an advantage for our economy -- but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down," the post added.

Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, recently announced additional measures to manage the volume of temporary resident arrivals,

The 2025-2026 study-permit intake cap will include masters and doctoral students who will now have to submit a provincial or territorial attestation letter. "We will be reserving approximately 12% of allocation spaces for these students in recognition of the benefits they bring to the Canadian labor market," the news release said.

Meanwhile, Miller in a statement said that the action is being taken to strengthen temporary residence programs and emphasized preserving the integrity of the Canadian immigration system.

"The reality is that not everyone who wants to come to Canada will be able to-- just like not everyone who wants to stay in Canada will be able to. We are taking action to strengthen our temporary residence programs and roll out a more comprehensive immigration plan to meet the demands of today's changing landscape. Our immigration system must preserve its integrity, and be well managed and sustainable. And as we look forward, we will do everything it takes to achieve that goal and set newcomers up for success," Miller said. ANI

uphold the integrity of our immigration system and protect vulnerable people.

In a news release, the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Department of the Government of Canada said, "We are announcing a reduction in the intake cap on international student study permits for 2025 based on a 10 percent reduction from the 2024 target of 4,85,000 new study permits issued, and then stabilizing the intake cap for 2026 such that the number of study permits issued remains the same as 2025. For 2025, this means reducing study permits issued to 4,37,000."

## How Olympic athletes can secure U.S. residency with Baden Bower's strategy on the EB1A Visa

NEW DELHI: The EB1A visa program now offers Olympic medalists easier access to U.S. permanent residency. Baden Bower, a public relations firm specializing in visa assistance, details how achieving in the Olympics can significantly benefit an athlete's career and immigration status.

Olympic Achievement: A Gateway to EB1A Eligibility

The EB1A visa is designed for individuals with "extraordinary ability" in their fields. Recent updates to the program recognize Olympic medals as a "one-time achievement" of an internationally recognized award, simplifying the application process for these athletes.

"Olympic success is a peak of athletic achievement globally," comments AJ Ignacio, CEO of Baden Bower. "Recognizing this achievement for EB1A eligibility shows how valuable Olympic medals are."

Yet, obtaining a green card through the EB1A requires more than just an Olympic medal. Applicants must show they continue contributing to their sport and maintain high recognition. This guarantees that USCIS awards the visa to individuals likely to continue making impactful contributions within the United States.

The new policy has led to a 15% rise in EB1A applications from athletes with Olympic achievements, indicating an increased awareness of the immigration opportunities available beyond their sports careers.

Experts suggest athletes start the application process well before retiring from competition to verify they have the strongest case for sustained recognition.

Building a Strong EB1A Application with Olympic Success

Beyond the honor of winning, an Olympic medal provides various opportunities to strengthen an EB1A application. Media attention, endorsements, and continuous competitive success are necessary to establish the "sustained acclaim" United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) needs.

Baden Bower's role in public relations is vital for athletes. Baden Bower uses strategic media efforts and storytelling to enhance the visibility and impact of an athlete's achievements and support their visa applications. PNN/ANI

### Mongolia introduces electronic visas for all categories

ULAANBAATAR: Mongolia's Immigration Agency announced it has begun issuing all categories of visas electronically.

In line with the government's objective to streamline visa issuance and improve service delivery for foreigners visiting Mongolia for official or personal reasons, all 54 categories of visas issued by Mongolia's Immigration Agency, based on inviter requests, are now available electronically, the agency stated.

The move is part of the Mongolian government's efforts to promote the development of the tourism sector. Inviter requests can be submitted directly through the department's official website, Xinhua news agency reported. IANS

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## 'India has the potential to become \$10 trillion economy by 2032'

NEW DELHI: Driven by strong GDP growth and robust manufacturing and emphasis on building infrastructure, India is on its way to becoming the third largest economy soon and has the potential to add \$1 trillion to its GDP every 1.5 years to reach the \$10 trillion economy mark by 2032, a new report showed.

The country is expected to become a \$4 trillion economy in 2024-2025, which would make it the world's fourth-largest economy.

According to a report by IDBI Capital, the country is on track to become a \$10 trillion economy by 2032, positioning itself as the world's third-largest economy by 2030.

"By adding USD 1tn every 1.5 years going forward, India is forecasted to emerge as the third-largest global economy over the next six years," the report noted.

Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices.

Key initiatives such as "Make in India" are expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the nation's manufacturing capabilities and positioning India as a global manufacturing hub.

On 19 September, a report by S&P Global projected that India is on track to become the third-largest economy by fiscal 2030-31, driven by a robust projected annual growth rate of 6.7 percent. *IANS*

## Microsoft to reopen meltdown nuclear plant for AI energy needs

SACRAMENTO: Microsoft and Constellation Energy announced a groundbreaking deal to reopen the partially melted-down Three Mile Island nuclear plant, with the tech giant purchasing all the power for 20 years after the restart.

The deal marked the first time a decommissioned US nuclear plant had been brought back into service and the first time a commercial nuclear power plant's entire output had been allocated to one customer, Xinhua news agency reported. *IANS*



# US mulls ban on Chinese software in connected vehicles from 2027

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Commerce has proposed a rule to prohibit the import or sale of connected vehicles integrating certain software and hardware with a "nexus" to China or Russia, citing national security concerns.

The department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) published a notice of the proposed rule amid concerns that those cars with cameras, sensors, software and other components -- manufactured in China -- could be used to glean sensitive data about drivers and passengers, as well as U.S. infrastructure.

The rule is expected to lead South Korean automakers to re-adjust their supply chains if they have used prohibited software and components from China. But the measure would make it difficult for their potential Chinese competitors to enter the U.S. market, observers said, reports Yonhap news agency.

The prohibitions on software would take effect for the 2027 model year, and those on hardware would go into force for the

2030 model year, or January 1, 2029, for units without a model year, the department said.

The rule focuses on hardware and software integrated into the Vehicle Connectivity System (VCS) and software integrated into the Automated Driving System (ADS).

The VCS refers to the set of

allow a highly autonomous vehicle to operate without a driver behind the wheel.

The department called the proposed rule a "proactive" measure designed to protect national security, saying it has found that certain technologies originating from China or Russia present an "undue" risk to U.S. critical infra-

foreign adversary with access to this information could pose a serious risk to both our national security and the privacy of U.S. citizens," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was quoted as saying in a press release.

"To address these national security concerns, the Commerce Department is taking targeted,



systems that allow the vehicle to communicate externally, including telematics control units, Bluetooth, cellular, satellite and Wi-Fi modules, according to the department. The ADS includes the components that collectively

structure and those who use connected vehicles.

"Cars today have cameras, microphones, GPS tracking and other technologies connected to the internet. It doesn't take much imagination to understand how a

proactive steps to keep PRC and Russian-manufactured technologies off American roads," she added, referring to China by its official name, the People's Republic of China. *IANS*

# Clean economy deal among Indo-Pacific partners to come into force in Oct

SEOUL: Clean economy and anti-corruption deals, two of four pillars under the US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), will come into force in October, officials here said.

Of the four pillars of the IPEF, the supply chain agreement was launched in February, which came into effect in South Korea in April. Discussions regarding the trade pillar are still

in progress.

IPEF members are not required to join all pillars, and each agreement can be implemented with the participation of at least five countries, Yonhap news agency reported.

Trade Minister Cheong In-kyo discussed the progress of the IPEF with participating nations, officials said.

Seoul's trade ministry said the

implementation of these additional pillars will help create new business opportunities, generate jobs and expand investment cooperation, particularly in the clean energy sector.

The fair economy agreement is expected to enhance taxation and administrative transparency within the bloc, fostering a more equitable business environment among member nations, the

ministry added.

Meanwhile, India signed key agreements focused on a clean economy, fair economy and the IPEF Overarching arrangement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with the leaders at the Quad Summit in the US.

The IPEF 'Clean Economy Agreement' aims to promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building,

and research collaborations; and collaborate to facilitate development, access, and deployment of clean energy and climate-friendly technologies.

It aims to collectively accelerate efforts of IPEF partners towards energy security and transition, climate resilience and adaptation and GHG emissions mitigation, said the ministry. *IANS*



# India to sign bilateral investment treaty with Uzbekistan during FM Sitharaman's visit

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to embark on an official visit to Uzbekistan from September 24-28, to attend the ninth annual meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

FM Sitharaman will hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar and China, along with the AIIB President. The Finance Minister will attend the meeting as the Indian Governor to the AIIB, according to a statement from Ministry of Finance.

India is the second largest shareholder of the bank. The multilateral discussions will center around a broad spectrum of important global issues relevant to the development agenda.

As part of the official visit, the Finance Minister is expected to call on HE Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan. She will sign a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between India and Uzbekistan, according to the ministry.

The treaty aims to promote more extensive economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries on a long-term basis.

FM Sitharaman is also set to also participate in the India-Uzbekistan business forum discussions, jointly organized as well as represented by industry captains from

both the countries. Apart from these engagements, FM Sitharaman will



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed by India's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Smita Pant, Director of Aloqabank, Kammuna Irisbekova and others on her arrival at Tashkent International Airport (ANI Photo)

also visit the Samarkand State University and Lal Bahadur Shastri Monument in Tashkent. The Finance Minister will also interact with Indian diaspora representing leading voices from multiple sectors. IANS

## Oyo acquiring US hospitality chain with 1,500 motels for \$525 million



NEW YORK: Boosting its international presence, Indian hospitality major Oyo's parent company Oravel Stays is acquiring Motel 6 and Studio 6 chain with about 1,500 facilities across the US and Canada from the investment company Blackstone in a \$525 million cash deal, the US firm said.

With the acquisition of G6 Hospitality, parent company of the two budget lodging chains, Oyo will become a major player in the US and Canadian hospitality industry, which is already dominated by Indian Americans. Blackstone said that Motel 6's franchise network produces gross room revenues of \$1.7 billion.

Motel 6 is ubiquitous across the US and Canada known for its relatively cheap rooms that, however, conform to the corporate standards in maintenance and hospitality.

Stay 6 is an extended stay network for guests who want to rent rooms with more facilities for longer periods. Oyo International CEO Gautam Swaroop said that the group will continue to operate as a separate entity.

"This acquisition is a significant milestone for a startup company like us to strengthen our international presence", he said. IANS

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## India moving towards 'Ram Rajya', says VP Dhankar

NEW DELHI: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has emphasized India's journey toward "Ram Rajya," stating that the country's transformation reflects significant progress under national leadership. "Although there is a lot in a name, the name 'Nar' plus 'Indra,' 'Narendra,' has made everything possible," the Vice President's Secretariat quoted him.

Commending the significant strides made in housing development, Dhankhar stated that over 21,000 houses have been sanctioned and constructed in the region, under various government initiatives.

He emphasized the remarkable transformation taking place in the country, attributing this progress to the leadership. "The specialty here is that whatever gets sanctioned becomes possible. Why is everything becoming possible in the country? It is because the person who is making it possible is leading the country," VP Dhankar said. *ANI*



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar

# Real Estate POST

18 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 27, 2024

## How do you find serious buyers when selling your property?

Selling a property is a significant financial decision that requires careful planning and execution. One of the most critical aspects of selling a property is finding the right buyer who meets your financial expectations, is serious about the deal, and aligns with your selling timeline and transaction goals. This article delves into identifying the severe buyer for your property, offering practical tips, strategies, and insights to help you navigate the real estate market successfully.

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

## India becomes 3rd global cross-border capital destination for land, development sites

MUMBAI: India rose to third place in the list of global cross-border capital destinations for land and development sites in the first half of 2024, a report showed, adding that investments in Indian real estate sector will remain steady.

With \$3.5 billion of inflows in the January-June period, institutional investor interest in Indian real estate has remained firm.

While 70 percent of investments during H1 2024 were focused on ready assets, India's fast-paced growth and infrastructure development will continue to offer numerous opportunities in developmental assets over the coming years, according to the report by Colliers.

Foreign investment in India's industrial and warehousing sector has been gaining significant traction in recent times.

In H1 2024, nearly 70 percent

of the total foreign inflows in India's real estate sector were directed towards industrial and warehousing assets.

"Investor affinity is being driven by rising demand from third-party logistics (3PL) and e-

tal Markets and Investment Services at Colliers India.

The growing appeal of India as a key destination for industrial investments reinforces long-term confidence in the sector, he added.

In India, investments in industrial and warehousing and office assets remained strong in the first half of the year. Investments in Industrial assets especially were 5 times, compared to same period last year.

Amid rising demand for superior quality Grade A assets and evolving supply-chain models, global investor confidence in the sector is improving significantly, the report mentioned.

Backed by robust domestic demand, healthy GDP growth and likely easing of monetary policy in the next few quarters, investments in Indian real estate sector will remain steady.

"Evident from a 73 percent share during H1 2024, foreign inflows will continue to dominate institutional investments in the near-term," said Vimal Nadar, Senior Director and Head of Research, Colliers India. *IANIS*



commerce players and strengthening of manufacturing capabilities across key industrial corridors of the country," said Piyush Gupta, Managing Director, Capi-

The Asia Pacific region was home to four of the top 10 global cross-border capital sources in the first half of 2024 - Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and China.

## India's office real estate to surge amid robust fundamentals: HSBC Global Research

NEW DELHI: The office market of India's real estate is poised for a promising future in the coming months, highlighted a report by HSBC Global Research.

The report noted that although India's office Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) have underperformed the broader market for the past five years, they have started to re-rate positively over the last year, indicating potential for growth.

"Despite the strong economy, India office REITs have significantly underperformed the broader

market over for five years," said the report.

As per the report, the analysts believe there is more upside to come, as the market has yet to fully reflect the robust fundamentals that underpin it.

It added that since 2011, office rentals in India have shown consistent growth, yet the stock prices of office REITs have not matched this upward trend. This discrepancy suggests that current valuations are attractive, providing a compelling opportunity for investors.

"We see more upside. Despite consistent growth in office

rentals since 2011, stocks have yet to fully price in the strong fundamentals and valuation is



attractive" the report added.

The report added that the In-

dian market is particularly bullish as it is believed to be in a structural upcycle. Grade A office

rents have steadily increased since 2001, and the pace of

growth is strong and healthy, positioning India as a resilient player in the global office market.

Remarkably, the Indian office market emerged largely unscathed from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rental rates remained stable even during lockdowns, highlighting the market's resilience.

"Rapid growth can lead to asset bubbles, but we are not concerned as annual rental growth rates have been consistently moderate," the report noted. *ANI*



# ASBL Achieves Rs 500 Crore in Sales on Launch Day of Landmark Project at Kukatpally

HYDERABAD: ASBL, one of Hyderabad's fast-emerging real estate developers, reached a significant milestone by recording Rs 500 crore in sales on the very first day of launching its latest project, ASBL Landmark. Located at the Kukatpally 'Y' Junction, the project has quickly become one of the most sought-after addresses in the city. This exceptional response reflects the growing demand for thoughtfully designed residential spaces that meet modern urban needs.

ASBL Landmark is spread over 6.6 acres and offers spacious 3, 3.5, and 4 BHK apartments, each providing residents with a harmonious blend of style, comfort, and modern conveniences. The project's extensive 52,000 sq ft of indoor amenities, including a luxurious G+4 clubhouse, co-working spaces, a banquet hall, a supermarket, and more, cater to residents of all ages. Social spaces such as the Panchatantra-themed children's play area and thoughtful touches like a dedicated physiotherapy room underscore ASBL's commitment to community-focused living.



Ajitesh Korupolu, Founder and CEO of ASBL, commented on the remarkable achievement: "At ASBL, we are driven by the vision of creating living spaces that go beyond the ordinary. ASBL Landmark is designed to meet the diverse needs of urban families while fostering a sense of community and connection. This project is a testament to our commitment to delivering high-quality homes that elevate the living experience for every resident. We're honored by the trust shown in us and look forward to continuing our journey of transforming urban living."

ASBL Landmark's prime location, offering easy access to key retail hubs, schools, hospitals, and IT centers, makes it an ideal choice for families seeking convenience without compromising on quality. The upcoming Lakeshore Mall, sharing the compound wall with the project, promises a vibrant social experience for residents. In addition, the Balanagar metro station, located just 100 meters away, ensures excellent connectivity for daily commutes. *VMPL/ANI*

## YEIDA launches housing scheme; flats offered between Rs 21 lakh and Rs 45 lakh

NEW DELHI: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has introduced a built-up housing scheme in Sector 22D of the Yamuna Expressway. This marks yet another step by the Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh to turn the dream of owning a house into a reality.

Under the scheme, people can purchase their flats near prominent locations like the Noida International Airport, Film City, and Toy Park and also have access to world-class amenities at a relatively affordable price.

Flats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, with booking starting from September 19 and continuing until March 31, 2025. Homebuyers can choose between 1 BHK and 2 BHK flats, priced between Rs 21 lakh and Rs 45 lakh.

Under the scheme, a total of 1,239 flats will be offered across three categories. The first category focuses on affordable housing, offering 276 one-BHK flats with a super area of 29.76 square meters and a carpet area of 21.62 square meters. Ground-floor flats in this category are priced at Rs 23.37 lakh, while flats on the first, second, and third floors are priced at Rs 20.72 lakh.

The second category includes 713 one-BHK flats with a super area of 54.75 square meters and a carpet area of 36.97 square meters, all priced at Rs 33.05 lakh. *IANS*

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## Former Mayor of Atlanta, Young endorses Ashwin Ramaswami

India Post News Service

ATLANTA, GA: Former Mayor of Atlanta and former US ambassador Andrew Young, endorsed Ramaswami's campaign for Georgia State Senate District 48.

Ashwin's campaign against incumbent State Senator Shawn Still has gained momentum from voters across the district who are rejecting Shawn Still's extremism.

In 2023, Still was criminally indicted with Donald Trump in Georgia for trying to overturn the 2020 election results.

"Ashwin Ramaswami is what Georgia needs now," said Ambassador Young. "He'll strengthen our schools, make sure our economy works for working families, and take on the fight to protect civil rights and voting rights here in Georgia - that's why I endorse his candidature for the Georgia Senate."

"Ambassador Young represents the best of America, and the best of Georgia - working with both sides to get things done," said Ramaswami. "I am honored to have Ambassador Andrew Young's endorsement and look forward to continuing his legacy to ensure we overturn Georgia's abortion ban, fight for common sense gun safety laws, and protect our right to vote."

## A grand Lord Ganesha Visarjan puja celebration

GEETHA PATIL

Lord Ganesh Visarjan/immersion also known as Anant Chaturdashi was observed by Sri Siddha Lalitha Peetham, Burlington, MA, on September 16, 2024 instead of September 17 due to lunar eclipse that was visible across the U.S., with at least some portion of the eclipse visible across Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and much of Africa. It is the one of the most significant day, when devotees bid an emotional farewell to Lord Ganesha.

Details on page 23

# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

20 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 27, 2024



## SAHARA celebrates 33 years of serving victims of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

India Post News Service

ARTESIA, CA: SAHARA (South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency) held its 33rd Annual Gala at the Old Ranch Country Club last Sunday, September 15, 2024. This year's theme was building brighter futures. Over the course of the evening, SAHARA raised substantial funds to support its mission of providing support and services for victims of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse.

Over the course of the last year, SAHARA has served 2,691 individuals (up nearly 15% from the previous year) by providing wrap-around services, including:

- Housing (SAHARA owns and operates two shelter facilities)
- Legal Aid
- Mental Health Therapy
- Citizenship
- Public Benefits
- Education
- Community Engagement and Empowerment
- Help and Referral Line (used almost 5,000 times this year)

"SAHARA holds a promise of hope. A promise, that to those that walk through our doors seems farfetched and unreachable. With our experienced and compassionate staff, we continue to serve a community in need." Stated Executive Director Marisol Sanchez.

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



resources, information, and culturally sensitive and multilingual assistance that they need. Our services are available to all the Southern California community; however our target population is the most vulnerable and marginalized South Asian community members, which include people from India, Pakistan,

*"SAHARA holds a promise of hope. A promise, that to those that walk through our doors seems farfetched and unreachable"*

Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and more.

Since its inception, SAHARA has provided wrap-around services to over 11,500 members of our community. Contact SAHARA at **562-402-4132**, [info@saharacares.org](mailto:info@saharacares.org), or visit our website at [www.saharacares.org](http://www.saharacares.org)





# Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) celebrates National Unity Summit 2024

ANGELA ANAND



Someone famous had said that a journey of many steps starts with the first step. So true, for me my journey with Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) started with the former president reaching out to me to join AAUC. She had seen the election of a national association where elections were hotly contested, and I was a candidate for the position of president.



20, 2024, we spent all day at the House Rayburn building, listening to speakers, elected officials - congressman Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, congresswomen Grace Meng, representative Gene Wu, and Andy Kim in his office, doing advocacy, and hosting congressional reception in the evening with variety of foods and drinks. We also recognized people representing all walks of life for their accomplishments at Congressional building on this concluding day.

Feeling so much love from Erika Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Senior Liaison, when she joined, directly coming from New York at our dinner reception, bringing with her a letter from her boss, the President Joe Biden welcoming our group and our Summit delegates from twenty-seven

team on the great work our groups are carrying on, and my own association, South Asian Women's Network and acknowledging and sharing that one of our goals is to highlight positive contributions of women and providing a forum for discussions on topics of interest by the membership. This is the second hat I wear besides being the president of AAUC. As a coalition of various ethnic groups, #AAUC also had the opportunity to share our concerns on immigration and racial discrimination issues. We even had a chance to talk about the online #AAPI Hub that Asian American Unity Coalition has slowly developed with the help of Blue Raster in the last 2 years.

It's a tool that uses #ESRI #ArcGIS technology to store a wide range of relevant data for sharing and collaborating. Congresswoman Grace Meng made time

engagement and emphasized- engage, collaborate, and work with influencers and work with teams and gain experience in fundraising and asking of their support for bill impacting you. I thoroughly enjoyed re-connecting with old friends and making new ones! Some of us also took the opportunity to visit our congressional members, advocating for some of the bills that are being considered. We are so grateful for assistance we received from White House, elected officials, and our delegates who arrived from so many different states to be part of this event and the local resident who managed to take time off from their busy schedule.

Thank you to all of you. You all made it a great event. With gratitude I say thank you to all our hosts and very specifically to Senior Staff of AANHPI, Ms. Emily Stanley who put in numerous hours to answer from

That is when I became the first female president of this national association in forty-four years. It surprised us all. It was now three years ago that I joined AAUC at the suggestion of former president. I wore several hats and now is an elected officer of this diverse group and serving on a two-year term as the president of this groups of Asian sub-groups. Our association for the second time, last year was the first time, left foot prints in the Nation's Capital. This group very successfully conducted two days of activities starting with briefing at White House, then tours of #WhiteHouse and Capitol building, followed by discussions at Crown Plaza hotel in Crystal City, on variety of topics on Thursday, September 19, 2024 and finally ending the day with a social inclusive of compered entertainment. Our emcee was a media personality Nilima Mehra.

Then the next day, Friday, September



states. Thank you, Erika Moritsugu, for your presence and leadership. Our sincere gratitude for your efforts to represent us at such a higher level. I acknowledge with deep appreciation your efforts.

I am so very thankful for the opportunity for welcoming us all the delegates from several states at White House for #AANHPI 2nd #UnitySummit; especially when I had the honor to first open the meeting and greeting our delegates and then again to brief the Biden Administration's Congressional Relations



for us in between her meetings on Friday. Our amazing #API-vote friend Christine Chen delivered an inspirational speech, emphasizing the need for voting. State Representative, Gene Wu from Texas gave us a very spirited speech on civic

mundane to logistical questions from us. Thank you Emily we will never forget your tenacity and hard work to get us to the briefing and the tour of White House.

(The author Angela Anand is AAUC President)



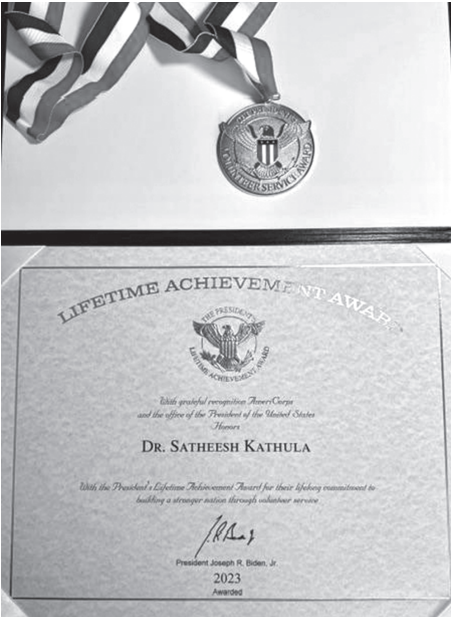
# Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI, Honored with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) was honored with the prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award during a solemn ceremony at the Hart Senate Building in Washington DC on September 19, 2024.

US Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia presented the award to Dr. Kathula for his community services, contributions to the country, particularly in the field of healthcare, and his dedication to his patients and the larger society.

Senator Manchin said, "I just want to thank and congratulate Dr. Kathula for all he has done," while commending Dr.



Kathula's contributions to the country, particularly in the field of healthcare, and his dedication to his patients and the broader community.

In his response, Dr. Kathula said, "It's an honor and a privilege to receive this award from Senator Joe Manchin. This award truly inspires not only me but the people, who are serving the community and their society at large."

Dr. Kathula, a 29-year resident of Ohio, has dedicated his career to treating patients and actively supporting various nonprofit organizations including Leukemia Lymphoma Society. He was named Man of the Year of LLS in 2018.

Dr. Kathula was the President and founding member of the Association of Indian Physicians from Ohio, President of the Miami Valley Association of Physicians of Indian Origin as well as the President of the ATMGUSA (Association of Telugu Medical Graduates in USA). He has been actively involved in community service locally, nationally, and internationally for the last two decades. He was awarded 'Man of the Year - 2018' by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and "Hind Rattan" in 2010.

Dr. Kathula is organizing AAPI Global Health Summit in New Delhi from October 19-20, 2025 and initiated programs in AAPI such as Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Drive for Indian Americans.

## Steep increase in imposter scam losses: What people are reporting and how to fight back

VIDYA SETHURAMAN  
India Post News Service

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received 2.6 million consumer complaints about online, over-the-phone, and in-person scams. Many people think scams mostly affect older adults, however, anyone can be scammed. Reports suggest that many scams are harming younger people more than older adults. 1 in 4 Americans reported losing money to some form of scam in 2023. According to the FTC, the median loss to FTC impersonators has increased from \$3,000 in 2019 to \$7,000 in 2024. Scammers gain the trust of vic-

tims by posing as government officials, Social Security Administration employees, or representatives of well-known companies such as Amazon and Microsoft, and quickly ask victims to provide sensitive information or transfer funds. At Ethnic Media Services briefing on Sep 20, experts from the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection shared tips on how to avoid some of the most devious scams and what to do if you or someone you care about becomes ensnared.

Emma Fletcher, a consumer rights expert at the FTC, said, "these scammers use panic and a sense of urgency to force victims to take quick action, even going

against the norm to transfer money or provide personal information. She added, "Especially in cases where the name of a well-known company is used, the victim often thinks that he is communicating with a legitimate company or government department, and ends up falling into a trap." She pointed out that scammers are constantly evolving their methods, and scam messages are often disguised as legitimate-looking email or text message notifications.

*At Ethnic Media Services briefing on Sep 20, experts from the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection shared tips on how to avoid some of the most devious scams and what to do if you or someone you care about becomes ensnared*

FTC also specifically pointed out that fraud reporting data only reflects the tip of the iceberg, and many victims do not take the initiative to report out of shame or self-blame.

To help the public respond to this growing threat, the FTC has proposed precautionary measures that begin with identity verification and that any requests for sensitive information or funds transfers should be verified through official channels.

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cations, such as false shipment delays, account security issues or unpaid fines. A growing number of cases show victims being asked to pay via unusual methods, such as cryptocurrency transfers or gift cards.

Kati Daffan, Assistant Director, Division of Marketing Practices, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, District of Columbia said that the new regulations clearly stipulate that more severe penalties will be adopted for those who impersonate governments and businesses to commit fraud and provide more legal assistance to victims. The

channels. Secondly, avoid hasty decisions. Never share the verification codes sent to you by your bank - especially not to someone claiming to be from your bank. No caller will ever ask for the verification code, especially not someone from your bank's fraud department.

Scammers often try to create a sense of urgency and force victims to make quick financial decisions. If you encounter any possible fraud, you should immediately report it to the FTC or local law enforcement agency. Report FTC impersonation scams at ReportFraud.ftc.gov (English) or ReporteFraude.ftc.gov (Spanish).



# A grand Lord Ganesha Visarjan puja celebration

GEETHA PATIL

Lord Ganesh Visarjan/immersion also known as Anant Chaturdashi was observed by Sri Siddha Lalitha Peetham, Burlington, MA, on September 16, 2024 instead of September 17 due to lunar eclipse that was visible across the U.S., with at least some portion of the eclipse visible across Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and much of Africa. It is the one of the most significant day, when devotees bid an emotional farewell to Lord Ganesha by immersing His idol in water bodies after worshipping him for 10 consecutive days, symbolizing the cycle of creation and dissolution.

On September 6, 2024, the celebration of Lord Ganesha's birthday began with a ceremonial puja that was initiated by the temple priest, Pandit Bhavani Tejasvi

blessings of Lord Ganesha. This moment of devotion allowed everyone to connect with the essence of the festival. Maha Prasadam was distributed to all present. Pandit Bhavani Ji blessed all the devotees by giving them sweets and fruits, symbolizing the blessings and benevolence of Lord Ganesha. This act of caring for the devotees fostered unity and a sense of community.

Lord Ganesha's idol graced the temple shrine for ten-days that allowed all the devotees seek His blessings. Every day Lord Ganesha's special puja ceremony was conducted, where members of the Sanatana community came together to pay their respects and offer prayers to the deity.

The culmination of the Ganesh



Lord Ganesha seated on a Lotus flower



Pandit Bhavani Ji performing arati of Lord Ganesh

Athmaram Ji. The puja was conducted with traditional rituals, Vedic chants, and presentation of special homemade offerings to Lord Ganesha's idol. Chanting of Mantras and shouting of Jai Ganesha and Ganapati Bappa Moriya slogans created a sense of enthusiasm and reverence to the event. After the puja and Maha Mangalarati, all the devotees offered their respects with folded hands and sought the

Chaturthi celebration was the 'Visarjan' Puja ceremony, which took place on Monday September 16. This ritual symbolized the return of Lord Ganesha to His celestial abode. Devotees participated in the puja and sang hymns to bid farewell to the deity. The 'Visarjan' day was marked with vibrant celebrations filled with joy, unity, and a sense of togetherness. After the Maha Mangalarati, Prasadam was served to all



Devotees lined up to have Lord Ganesha's darshan and his blessing

devotees.

Temple Management Team expressed their thanks to all the sponsors and devotees for their active participation and support. They also acknowledged with much gratitude the services of volunteers.

Vinod Chawla Ji, a devotee said, 'The Ganesh Chaturthi celebration at Sri Siddha Lalitha Peetham was a beautiful expression of devotion, culture, and unity. It allowed us to come together, celebrate, and seek the blessings of Lord Ganesha.'

## NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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AGENCY ADDRESS

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for meals to be served in center(s)

At the time and place advertised, and promptly hereafter, all bids that have been duly received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

### DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT FOR BID:

The following types and quantities of meals:

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NUMBER OF SERVING SITES

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All meals of each type must meet the minimum standards  
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The contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder that possesses  
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Other factors shall be given consideration when there are sound documented business reasons  
such as Vendor integrity, compliance with public property, record of past performance,  
and financial and technical resources.

If you have any questions please email: [smadhcgroupp@gmail.com](mailto:smadhcgroupp@gmail.com)



# Rajan Zed to be feted

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Nevada based but globally active Hindu statesman Rajan Zed was honored on September 24 2024, in Reno (Nevada), for his record creating invocations delivered in 312 different legislative bodies in 44 states of USA and Canada, including United States Senate and US House of Representatives.

Various Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, etc.), Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Baha'i, Zoroastrian, Atheist, etc., leaders will address or be present at the Civic Reception to honor Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, at Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Reno.

Rajan Zed recently read invocation (opening-prayer) in the United States Senate in Washington DC for the second time, after his first on July 12, 2007.

Besides religious leaders; various civic leaders are also scheduled to speak on the

occasion; including Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam, Reno Vice Mayor Naomi Duerr, Reno Police Chief Kathryn Nance, Washoe County Commissioner Michael Clark, Reno-Sparks NAACP President Patricia Y. Gallimore.

Area religious bigwigs slated to address on the occasion include Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno Bishop Daniel H. Muggenborg, Episcopal Diocese of Nevada Bishop Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner, Church of God in Christ Bishop Luther James DuPree Junior, Nevada Interfaith Association President Matthew T. Fisher and Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox

Church Presiding Priest, Stephen R. Karcher. Various awards and testimonials will also be presented to Rajan Zed on the occasion.

Zed is a global religious statesman who has taken-up interfaith, religion, European Roma (Gypsies), and other causes all over the world.



Rajan Zed

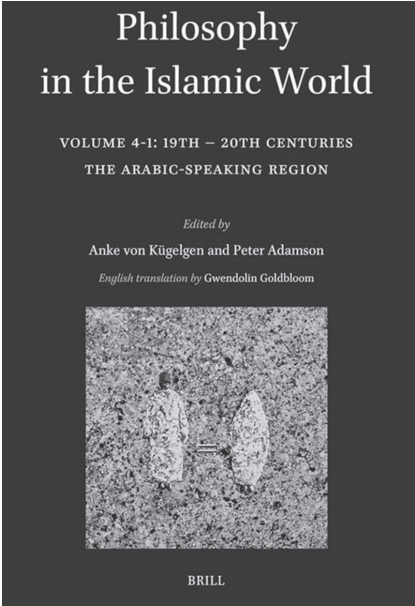
# 'Philosophy in the Islamic World'

India Post News Service

**P**hilosophy in the Islamic World' is a comprehensive and unprecedented four-volume reference work devoted to the history of philosophy in the realms of Islam, from its beginnings in the eighth century AD down to modern times.

The focus of this fourth installment of the series, divided into two volumes, is the 19th and 20th centuries, and geographically on the Arab countries, the Ottoman-Turkish region, Iran and Muslim South Asia. During this time philosophy was pursued at Islamic institutions and increasingly in Western-style universities, but philosophy also had an impact beyond academia.

In each chapter, an international expert on philosophy in this period explores the teachings of individual philosophers, philosophical movements (philosophy of religion, logical empiricism, deconstructionism, etc.), and schools (for instance the continuation of Mull?'s philosophy of being). Debates over cultural authenticity, political rule, gender, and other major issues are also presented.



This is the English version of the relevant volume of the Ueberweg, the most authoritative German reference work on the history of philosophy, which updates the German version (Philosophie in der Islamischen Welt Band 4/1: 19. und 20. Jahrhundert. Arabischer Sprachraum, Basel: Schwabe, 2021) by providing references to the latest scholarly literature."

# Urad Vade for Pitru Paksha

MADHUMATI TYAGI

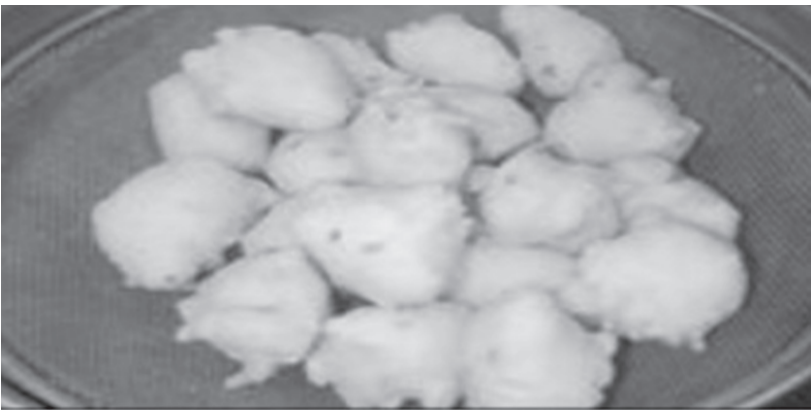
**U**rad Vade is a dish typically prepared during Pitru Paksha, a 16-day lunar period when families pay homage to their ancestors and offer food to the departed souls, with each region having its own customs and rituals.

### Ingredients

- 4 Servings (1 serving = 7-8 pieces)
- 1 ½ cup Urad dal
- 1 cup water to soak them
- 1tsp Cumin seeds
- Salt to taste
- Oil to deep fry

### How to make Urad Vade

1. In a bowl, take 1.5 cups of Urad dal. Wash and soak them in 1-cup water for 30 minutes.
2. Blend Urad dal into fine paste without adding extra water. The water used for soaking is enough for dal to grind them.
3. Batter should be fine and smooth. Pour the batter in a big bowl.



4. Add cumin seeds and pinch of salt. Mix well and whisk using your fingers until it turns fluffy.
5. Check the consistency by adding a small drop of batter in a bowl of water. If it floats that means, the batter is ready to fry as Vade.
6. While whisking the batter, heat oil. Fry the Vade by choosing the size as per your choice. Smaller size takes around 4 - 5 min to make crispy Vades.
7. Now, Vades are ready to be offered as homage to our ancestors. Of course, you can make these Vades for teatime.

### Tips & Tricks

1. Batter should be nice and fluffy otherwise it will absorb more oil and Vades turn soggy.
2. You can add grated ginger, chopped green chilies and coconuts, and mustard and coriander seeds tadka to enhance flavor.
3. You can also use coconut and roasted Chana dal chutney as a dip to make them tastier.



# Know the Significance of Shraddha Paksha

GEETHA PATIL AND SUNIL KUMAR D.

Pitru Paksha 2024 started on the Pratipad Tithi of Krishna Paksha in the month of Bhadrapada that is on September 18, and culminates with Mahalaya or Sarva Pitri/Aadi Amavasya that will be observed on October 3, a sacred period, during which Sanatanis honor their ancestors. This Pitru Paksha is con-

sidered inauspicious for new beginnings, buying new things or undertaking any auspicious activities during this time, as this period is dedicated to paying respects to ancestors.

**What should we avoid during Pitru Paksha?**

No auspicious events/ceremonies

generations of father, grandfather and great grandfather along with their wives in our family and maternal side also same generations are included.

Performing Tarpan to the ancestors during Pitru Paksha is one of the most significant remedies for removing Pitru Dosh. To reduce the effects of Pitru Dosha, one

Apart from the spiritual aspects and a day of rituals, Mahalaya Amavasya is also a time for cultural gatherings and community bonding and a time for reflection, gratitude, and honoring familial ties.

It is a day for profound expression of love, respect, and remembrance for one's ancestors and reminder of our enduring



sidered as the most pious period when people worship their ancestors with immense devotion because in Sanatana Dharma people have to offer prayers and do charities for the welfare of their deceased beloved family members. According to Sanatana Dharma, it is believed that during this period, souls of ancestors come to the Earth and their family members perform rituals to offer peace and sustenance to them and seek their blessings. Since ancestors visit their descendants during this time, you should keep your homes clean for their welcome.

Pitru Paksha continues for 15-16-day lunar period when Sanatanis pay homage to their ancestors by offering Puja, prayers, and foods to their ancestors and giving Daan to the needy and the priests in the temple.

Shraddha rituals are performed not only as homage to departed souls but also believed that performing Shraddha rites and offering prayers can bring blessings and peace to the departed souls and helps them to attain liberation or moksha.

**What happens on Pitru Paksha?**

During Pitru Paksha, people remember their ancestors and perform Shraddha karma as per their ancestor's Shraddha Tithi by offering Pind Daan for them. Special attention is given to the preparation of foods of their ancestors' liking; perform good deeds, and charities while performing rituals during this period. It is consid-

ered such as engagements, marriages, starting a new business ventures or a job or other celebrations should not be held during Pitru Paksha. It is also believed that cutting your hair or nails during this time is unlucky and disrespectful to the celebration of Shraddha.

**Whom we should worship during Pitru Paksha?**

Pitru Paksha, a special period for Sanatanis to pay homage to their deceased ancestors. Therefore, it is advised to focus on honoring ancestors and performing Shraddha rituals, special offerings

should feed Brahmins especially on the day of Amavasya (New Moon Day).

**How to offer water to Pitru?**

Tarpan must be done by facing the East or South directions. Copper vessels should be used; if not available, you can also use silver vessels. Take black sesame seeds in right hand. While chanting PITRU-MANTRA, pour water over sesame seeds into plate. Water has to flow between thumb & index finger AND NOT from front of palm.

The oldest or the youngest son usually does the Tarpan rite. In their absence,

existence.

**What are the Benefits of Pitru Paksha and Mahalaya Amavasya?**

Tarpan and Pitru Pooja rituals are believed to bring peace to the departed souls and ensure their blessings for the family.

Holy dips during this period purifies the soul and washes away sins.

Special offerings, particularly items that the ancestors favored, are prepared and offered during the rituals. These offerings might include rice, sesame seeds, and many ancestors' favorite dishes.

Visit temples to seek blessings and

October 3, 2024	Sarva Pitru Amavasya	Amavasya Tithi Begins - October 1, 2024 - 09:39 PM  Amavasya Tithi Ends - October 3, 2024 - 12:18 AM
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and giving Daana in their names to priests, poor and needy people rather than other deity-centric worship.

**What is Tarpan? How Pitru Dosh can be removed?**

'Tarpan' is a traditional ritual where oblations are offered to departed ancestors. Tarpan means "satisfying" or "satiating" which is done by acknowledging the debt one has towards devas (gods), rishis (sages) and Pitri (ancestral manes). Pitru Paksha Tarpan ritual is the offering of water mixed with gingelly to the manes (dead ancestors). Though we have several ancestors, this offering is addressed to three

however, other members including women of the household are permitted to conduct Tarpan for their ancestors.

**What is the importance of Mahalaya or Aadi Amavasya?**

Mahalaya/Sarva Pitru/Aadi Amavasya, or the new moon day is considered an auspicious time for performing rituals dedicated to one's ancestors in case you do not know the Tithi of your ancestors. The Pitru Tarpan ritual typically involves offering of water and gingelly, food, and other symbolic items to the souls of deceased family members with pure feelings and true intentions.

perform special prayers on this day.

Engage in acts of charity, such as feeding the poor on Aadi Amavasya to earn merit and bring blessings from the ancestors.

Tarpan rituals performed on this day are thought to cleanse negative karma and spiritual impurities.

Honoring ancestors is believed to bring their blessings, ensuring prosperity, health, and happiness for the family members

Pitru Paksha reinforces the importance of family ties and respect for elders and the deceased.



## Study shows antidepressants may improve brain function

NEW DELHI: A class of drugs that are commonly prescribed to treat depression, and anxiety may also help improve brain function and memory, claimed a study.

The study, published in the journal Biological Psychiatry, showed that SSRI (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) antidepressants have the potential to improve certain cognitive functions, such as verbal memory.

Verbal memory is the ability to remember words, sentences, stories, and other information presented through language.

Serotonin is often described as a 'feel good' chemical, and higher levels of serotonin circulating in the brain contribute to a sense of well-being, and can ease clinical depression in most sufferers.



Researchers from the Copenhagen University Hospital in the Netherlands measured brain function in 90 patients before and after taking the SSRI escitalopram daily for eight weeks.

The team scanned the participant's brain to measure the quantity of the serotonin receptor, the 5HT4 receptor. The patients were also given a series of tests to measure mood and cognitive abilities.

About 40 patients were rescanned to measure the quantity of 5HT4 receptor in the brain.

The results showed that the levels of 5HT4 receptor had dropped by around 9 percent in the brain and the mood of the patients also improved.

Further cognitive tests showed improvements, so that the less the 5HT4 receptor had changed the better the cognitive outcome. This phenomenon was particularly prominent for the ability to recall words, the researchers said. *IANNS*

*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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September 27, 2024

## 'One Earth, One Health': India to contribute \$7.5 mn under 'Quad Cancer Moonshot' initiative, says PM Modi

WASHINGTON: Affirming India's vision of 'One Earth, One Health', Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a contribution of \$7.5 million for sampling kits, detection kits and vaccines under the 'Quad Cancer Moonshot' initiative.

The groundbreaking initiative was announced during the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware recently and aims to save lives in the Indo-Pacific region by combating cervical cancer.

Speaking during the Cancer Moonshot event in Wilmington, Prime Minister Modi said that he is glad that in Quad, "we have decided to jointly face the challenge of cervical cancer".

"I heartily congratulate President Biden for organizing this important event. It reflects our shared determination for afford-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Cancer Moonshot event, as US President Joe Biden looks on, in Delaware (ANI Photo)

able, accessible and quality healthcare," the Prime Minister said.

"In cancer care, collaboration is essential for cure. An integrated approach of prevention, screening, diagnosis and treat-

ment is necessary to reduce the burden of cancer," he asserted.

Prime Minister Modi noted that India is running a "very cost-effective" cervical cancer-screening program on a mass scale. "Also, India is running the

world's largest health insurance scheme. And, special centers have also been created to make medicines available to everyone at affordable cost. India has also developed its own vaccine for cervical cancer. And, new treatment protocols are also being introduced with the help of AI," he said, adding that India is ready to share its experience and expertise.

"I am happy that India will contribute 40 million vaccine doses for the Indo-Pacific countries under the GAVI and QUAD initiatives. These 40 million vaccine doses will bring rays of hope to the lives of crores of people. As you can see, when the QUAD acts, it is not just for nations - it is for the people. This is the true essence of our human-centric approach," he concluded. *IANNS*

## Depression during pregnancy linked to specific brain activity: Study

NEW DELHI: Scientists have linked symptoms of depression during pregnancy to a specific brain activity, and hope to develop test for "baby blues" risk.

Around 80 percent of women suffer from "baby blues" after the birth of their child.

Normally, this is a brief period of feeling down which disappears in a few days. But around one woman in seven develops postpartum depression, a more serious depression which can affect how mothers bond with their baby and can have long-term consequences.

These women seem unable to regulate the negative emotions which can follow giving birth.

A group of European researchers have found that in healthy pregnant women, activity in a specific area deep in the brain is linked to regulation of negative emotions and the tendency towards symptoms of depression.

The researchers hope that testing for this activity, along with how

emotions are regulated, will indicate which women are at risk for postpartum depression.

"This is among the first trials to compare brain activity in pregnant and non-pregnant women. The ability to regulate emotions is essential for mental health, and this interplay was our starting point," said Franziska Weinmar, University of Tübingen, Germany.

For the study, the researchers took 15 healthy pregnant women with very high estrogen levels (due to the pregnancy).

Each woman was put in an MRI scanner and shown upsetting/disturbing pictures. The team found that in the MRI scans, pregnant women who showed more activity

in the amygdala while regulating their emotions were less successful in controlling emotions.

In addition, pregnant women with this greater activity in the amygdala reported more symptoms of depression. *IANNS*





# Investors prefer regular hefty returns, tax benefits post Covid: Report

NEW DELHI: Degree of returns, regularity of returns, and tax benefits are the significant factors influencing post-Covid investment decisions, according to a recent report.

The report, jointly made by the PHD Research Bureau, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Jagan Institute of Management Studies (JIMS), Rohini, aims to analyze the factors influencing individual investments across various financial instruments and to compare the investor behaviors towards selected financial instruments in pre and post-Covid years.

"India's capital market has witnessed a robust performance during the post-Covid years supported by the strong regulatory environment, high growth of the economy, and investors' confidence in India's growth story," said Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Going ahead, our capital market is seen with outstanding performance in the coming years, as India is going to be the third largest economy soon and have a size of \$7 trillion by 2030," Agrawal added.

The period considered for the analysis includes two years of pre-pandemic (FY 2018-2020) and two years of

post-pandemic (FY 2021-23).

A total of 6 financial instruments were considered to assess the changing investor preferences in pre- Covid and post-Covid pandemic years including mutual funds, bonds, stocks, derivatives, gold, and real estate.

The participants were also given a multiple-choice questionnaire based on five factors including the degree of risk, tax benefits, liquidity, degree of returns, and regularity of returns (from the Investment option).

The analysis showed that in pre-Covid times, the degree of returns and the regularity of returns guided the decision to diversify the portfolio.

Conversely, in the post-Covid pandemic years, tax benefits along with the degree of returns and regularity of returns influenced the investing decisions.

Investment in mutual funds was largely influenced by the degree of returns, regularity of returns, and degree of risk in the pre-Covid period.

But, the post-Covid period saw more influence of liquidity rather than the degree of risk involved along with the degree of returns and regularity of returns in the mutual fund investments, the report said. IANS

*"India's capital market has witnessed a robust performance during the post-Covid years supported by the strong regulatory environment, high growth of the economy"*

## Canada announces new support for global polio eradication

OTTAWA: The Canadian federal government announced new funding for the eradication of polio worldwide.

According to a news release issued by Global Affairs Canada, \$111 million was earmarked to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), bringing Canada's historical contribution to over \$737 million since 2000.

GPEI and partners like UNICEF and the World Health Organization will deliver and expand quality, accessible polio immunization and health services around the world including conflict-affected regions where there is little or no access to essential health services, it said.

Efforts will focus on stopping the transmission of all forms of poliovirus by vaccinating more than 370 million children annually against polio, preventing 600,000 children annually from suffering from paralysis and death, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Global Affairs Canada.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that affects children under five and can result in severe paralysis and death. Since the launch of the GPEI in 1988, more than 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio. Although polio cases have decreased by 99 percent worldwide, the disease has not yet been eradicated. IANS



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# Quad will stand up for a free, open Indo-Pacific region

NEW DELHI: The Quad will stand up for a free and open Indo-Pacific region in all eventualities, White House officials have said, adding that there is no dilution in terms of its focus.

Josh Rubin, National Security Council Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs at the White House, said this while replying to a question from IANS.

The comprehensive question asked was: There is a section that believes the Quad hasn't become as muscular as it would like, with softer issues occupying its agenda over real challenges in the South China Sea. Any comments on this? And has the focus on the Indo-Pacific diluted due to Russia's war with Ukraine and the dominance of European continental security because of it?

Also, doesn't it benefit China, allowing a free pass for fresh aggression in the South China Sea or Taiwan Strait?

Rubin replied that the Quad is working to deliver in the areas the partners identify as priorities for them. Maritime security is a priority for many partners across the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Anthony Albanese and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida at the Quad Leaders' Summit, in Wilmington. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US National Security Advisor (NSA) Jake Sullivan are also present. (ANI Photo)

Indo-Pacific region.

"That is why the Quad is stepping up to ensure that countries across the region have a better ability and capacity to see what is happening in their exclusive economic zones. So we will continue to do that in partnership with countries across

the region because it is at their request and in partnership with them on issues across the region that are, obviously, of concern, including in the South China Sea, East China Sea and elsewhere," said the National Security Council Director.

He said that this year's Quad joint lead-

ers statement included the strongest ever language they have used on issues in the South China Sea, in particular, as well as, issues related to the increasing provocations from North Korea.

"So I think you can continue to expect, that when and that the Quad will stand up for a free and open Indo-Pacific region," he said.

He emphasized, "When actions are taken that undermine a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the Quad will continue, to speak out on those."

Nancy Izzo Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, while replying to IANS question said, "The war in Ukraine does not dilute our focus on the Indo-Pacific. I think it's clear by just the sheer number of meetings that we have at the foreign minister and the leaders level, we demonstrate our continued commitment to this region."

Jackson further said that there was no dilution in terms of the focus in trying to "really promote an open and safe and prosperous Indo-Pacific". IANS

## Tech, biosciences CEOs meet with PM Modi, express 'immense optimism'

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the top technology and biosciences leaders after outlining his vision of making India a technology powerhouse at a rally of the diaspora.

After the meeting with 15 CEOs from chip design and manufacture, IT, and biosciences fields, he posted on X that he was "glad to see immense optimism towards India".

His administration was "committed to making India a global hub of semiconductor manufacturing" and a biotech powerhouse, PM Modi told them, according to the Ministry of External Affairs press release.

He said India's policy is "to promote AI for All, underpinned by its ethical and responsible use".

PM Modi's X post called the roundtable "fruitful" and that they discussed technology and innovation while he "highlighted the strides made by India in this field".

He met separately with Kris Singh, the CEO of Holtec International, a company that makes small nuclear reactors.

"They discussed Holtec's plan to expand manufacturing in India and the potential for boosting cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy," said an X post from MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaisai.

The MEA release said the roundtable with the CEOs of tech and bioscience focused on artificial intelligence and quantum computing; biotechnology and life sciences; computing, IT and communication, and semiconductor technologies.

The release said they had a "deep dive" on the evolving technology landscape at a global level and "how these cutting-edge

technologies are contributing to the well-being of people around the world, including in India".

PM Modi assured the CEOs about India's "deep commitment" to protecting intellectual property, the MEA said.

During his third term, "India will make every effort to become the third largest economy in the world", he said, asking

them "to take advantage of India's growth story for collaboration and innovation".

"They can co-develop, co-design, and co-produce in India for the world, harnessing the opportunities from India's economic and technological growth," the release said.

While on previous visits to the US, he has met with many tech leaders, this time there were more from the chip, semiconductor, and biosciences fields.

The leaders from the chip field were CEOs Jensen Huang of Nvidia, Lisa Su of AMD, Tim Archer of Lam Research, Thomas Caulfield of Global Foundries, and Arvind Krishna of IBM.

CEOs Shantanu Narayen of Adobe, Sundar Pichai of Google, Enrique Lores of HP, and Hans Vestberg of Verizon from the IT sector were at the roundtable.

From life sciences and biotech came, CEOs Chris Viehbacher of Biogen, Chris Boerner of Bristol Squibb Myers, David Ricks of Eli Lilly, and Noubar Afeyan, the chairman of Moderna.

The MEA release said they expressed their strong interest in investing and collaborating with India seeing its "growing prominence as a global technology hub, driven by its innovation-friendly policies and flourishing market opportunities". IANS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group picture with tech CEOs after a roundtable meeting, in New York. (ANI Photo)



Philosophy

AMRITANANDAMAYI

Even if a devotee is physically close to the guru or has heard his teachings, unless that devotee's heart is open, surrender and humility will not dawn. Only conceit and lies will grow if there is no inner receptivity.

Only a true seeker will understand the importance of the guru and awaken the attitude of surrender and thus become receptive to the grace. Only one who has an open heart will watch each and every action of the guru and live every moment fully.

Once there was a seeker of Truth. He walked and walked and finally reached a young man sitting under a banyan tree. Thinking that perhaps the man would know, the seeker asked him the way to Truth.

The man replied, "As you walk on, you will see a man sitting under a banyan tree. I will tell you exactly how to identify the banyan tree and the man. The man looks a lot like me. He is your guru. If you depend on him, you will

look at this tree. You didn't really look at my face and Me? I've been waiting here for you for the past 30 years.

I knew you would come back. You have been searching with that one thought of finding your guru wherever you went. You were thinking constantly about what I've told you about the looks of your guru. You have now gained the maturity you lacked back then. But when I described, you didn't pay much attention.

You didn't even try to take a look around. When you couldn't find your guru, you kept on contemplating my words about the description of your guru and the surroundings and now you were able to decipher and understand."

Even if a devotee is physically close to the guru or has heard his teachings, unless that devotee's heart is open, surrender and humility will not dawn. Only conceit and lies will grow if there is no inner receptivity.

Even when a mosquito sits on the udder of a cow, it will only drink blood. A

Only a true seeker knows  
importance of guru  
When a mosquito sits  
on the udder of a cow, it will  
only drink blood



Amritanandamayi

reach the goal.

Hearing this, the seeker continued on his way. He would search for his guru under every banyan tree he came across. After each day's search, disappointingly, by evening he would find a tree and slept under it.

He walked and walked for many years and, one day, found himself back under the same old banyan tree. The banyan tree looked exactly like the banyan tree he was searching for. Under the tree sat the same man he had seen 30 years ago with all the looks of his guru. Oh!

My guru is the same man! The seeker was shocked. He thought in his mind, "Whatever was told as my guru's identifiers, I could see all of them around here under this banyan tree! This old man also looks the same as was told!"

He told the guru, "What a shame! Why did you waste 30 years of my life?"

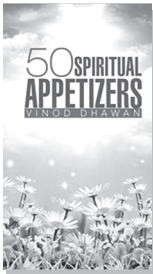
The guru replied, "I didn't waste it. I described exactly what the tree and the guru looked like. But you didn't really

frog never enjoys the nectar of the lotus; it only eats the mosquitoes in the pond. But the bees come from afar and taste the nectar.

Under the lighthouse, there is always darkness. A cowherd may pluck grass for the cow without noticing any medicinal herbs, but an ayurvedic physician can easily spot them.

*Excerpted from amritapuri.org/teachings. The 71st birth anniversary of Mata Amritanandamayi is being observed on September 27*

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Importance of stress-free work environment  
for forces safeguarding security

D.C. PATHAK

As the country faces an enlarged spectrum of threats to its internal security, all those engaged in protecting the country - the central security set-up revolving around specialised Intelligence and Investigation agencies, paramilitary forces keeping an eye on the borders and on strategically sensitive establishments and the state police organisations - had their hands full in trying to measure up to their share of responsibilities.

It goes to the credit of the Narendra Modi regime that the Police Modernisation Scheme of the Centre is giving thought not only to the traditional facilities like housing and transport and in the sphere of education of children of the personnel but to the higher dimensions of efficient working rooted in morale, induction of technology for improving the performance and management 'reforms' needed to handle the forces better.

highlights the importance of providing the officers and men with a work environment that is free of avoidable stress.

Perhaps the most important in today's times is to understand and apply the set of management principles that are crucial for providing such an environment. The right kind of leadership, the delegation of 'knowledge-based' decision-making and the existence of an absolutely fair system of credit-sharing in the organisation, pretty much summarises the prerequisites of the much-needed management reform.

More than anywhere else, security management requires a leader who commands the complete faith of those reporting to him. Such a leader is strict in tasking but was 'nurtural' towards the subordinates - he clearly understood that the success of security was always a collective affair and a systemic outcome.

Forces handling internal security realised that action lay closer to the ground

*Finally, while confidentiality was built into the management of security it was crucial to establish a system that guaranteed the award of credits where due- a senior usurping the credits of a junior is not something unknown in the profession of Police and security but such a thing would always be injurious for the force and would weaken the organisation*

where people lived and that the local officer sometimes was the first to have information about what was there which required an immediate response. A healthy practice of delegation of power to take

A basic consideration behind all these efforts was to pave the way for a stress-free environment for the personnel both at the workplace and at home which in ultimate analysis led to a more efficient output-efficiency was classically a measure of 'productivity' per unit of 'time'.

Safeguarding internal security involved Intelligence-based operations, timely rushing in of Para Military Forces to assist the state police in dealing with a large open threat to law & order and a close watch against covert attempts of the enemy to infiltrate across our borders.

With the post-Cold War phenomenon of 'proxy wars' substituting for military attacks, management of internal security has become far more tedious requiring focused 24/7 attention of all concerned. The advent of social media as an instrument of spreading 'radicalisation', creating sleeper cells of terrorists and subverting a regime through influence building, has made things more complex. All of this further

a decision and act on it was therefore required to be adopted and evolved with experience.

Finally, while confidentiality was built into the management of security it was crucial to establish a system that guaranteed the award of credits where due- a senior usurping the credits of a junior is not something unknown in the profession of Police and security but such a thing would always be injurious for the force and would weaken the organisation. The success of the premium Intelligence agency of the Centre-Intelligence Bureau- was attributable to many factors the most important of which was that the system did not allow any 'stealing' of the credit- the organisation was quite transparent internally within the 'need to know' conditions even as it rightly appeared to be opaque from the outside.

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

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

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

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# As world abandons Afghanistan, Taliban, IS and ISK-P feed on each other to export terror

ZAHID ARIA

The Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS), also known as Daesh, officially declared the establishment of its offshoot, the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISK-P), in the South Asia region in 2015. Since ISK-P began its activities in Afghanistan, the Taliban have declared their opposition to the Islamic State and instructed their fighters to combat Islamic State and kill their leaders and fighters. Historically, the differences between the Taliban and ISIS did not start with the establishment of ISK-P. In fact, the difference between the Taliban and the Islamic State predates ISK-P's presence in Afghanistan, dating back to when the Islamic State controlled large parts of Iraq and Syria. At that time, the first caliph of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, referred to the late Emir of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar, as a warlord, illiterate, and an insignificant figure. He also criticized him as someone lacking spirituality and political vision.

The Taliban and the Islamic State share similar ideologies and strategies, such as being influenced by Wahhabism and Salafism, establishment of a caliphate-style government, jihad against non-Muslims, and the imposition of Sharia law. Despite their similar ideology and strategy they dislike each other. Indeed their rivalry stems not from differences in their interpretation of Islam or types of government but rather from competition over resources, validation, and leadership supremacy. The Taliban believe their leader is the only rightful Emir-ul-Momineen (Commander of the Faithful) with the legitimacy to lead the Muslim Ummah (Nation). Therefore, they consider it mandatory for other Islamist groups to pledge allegiance to the Emir of the Taliban. Daesh holds the same belief, claiming that their caliph is the rightful leader who should be accepted as the caliph of the entire Muslim Ummah.

These issues have made the

Taliban and ISK-P sworn enemies. Another notable claim by the Taliban is their rejection of Salafi ideology, asserting that they follow Hanafi Islam and have no connection to the radical Salafi movement. However, in contrast to their claims, the Taliban's methods of governance and interpretation of Sharia are closely aligned with Wahhabism and Salafism. The Hanafi school of Islam is traditionally known for its more moderate and anti-radical interpretation of Islamic teachings.

## Internecine battles in Afghanistan

In light of this, when the Taliban seized power in August 2021, observers in Afghanistan viewed ISK-P as the main challenger to Taliban rule. Since then, ISK-P has carried out multiple

former members of the Afghanistan security forces, executed under the pretense of being ISK-P affiliates. Additionally, the Taliban have conducted operations in other parts of the country, including Herat, Kandahar, Parwan, Kabul, and Balkh provinces. It is believed that in these operations, the Taliban targeted members of the National Resistance Forces (NRF), the primary anti-Taliban group, under the pretext of fighting ISK-P. Overall, there is a widespread belief that the Taliban are using ISK-P as a pretext to suppress former members of the Afghanistan security forces and the NRF.

After conducting such operations, the Taliban claimed they had eliminated Daesh in Afghanistan. In contrast to their claim,



*The Taliban and the Islamic State share similar ideologies and strategies, such as being influenced by Wahhabism and Salafism, establishment of a caliphate-style government, jihad against non-Muslims, and the imposition of Sharia law*

suicide attacks in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, and Badakhshan provinces, and has targeted Taliban leaders, such as Daud Muzamil, the Taliban governor of Balkh Province. In response, the Taliban launched search operations against ISK-P members in eastern provinces like Nangarhar and Kunar. During these operations, the Taliban killed several individuals suspected of having ties to ISK-P. However, there are claims that many of those killed were not ISK-P members, but rather

ISK-P has expanded its area of activity across Afghanistan and improved its operational capabilities compared to the pre-Taliban period. According to international security agencies, ISK-P's operational capacity has increased. The latest UN Security Council report confirms this.

*(The author is a Ph.D Scholar, Department of Defence and National Security Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh.) South Asia Monitor*

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## A WEEK OF PAIN & HOPE

Weaponizing ordinary communication devices represents a new development in warfare. The recent events targeting thousands of Lebanese people using pagers, two-way radios and electronic equipment, is a violation of international human rights law, the United Nations human rights chief said last week. Volker Türk told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council there must be an independent and transparent investigation of these devices that exploded, reportedly killing 37 people and injuring more than 3,400 others. "Those who ordered and carried out these attacks must be held to account," he said.

Lebanon blames Israel for the attacks, which appeared to target Hezbollah militants but also caused civilian casualties, including children.

Hezbollah has fought many conflicts with Israel, including a war in 2006, and it has conducted near-daily strikes against Israel to support Hamas militants who attacked Israel on Oct. 7. Whether we like it or not, new and advanced technologies are going to be the next generation weapons, like the pagers and handheld devices used last week in the attack on Lebanese citizens. In very near future besides drones, humanoids or robots will soon replace conventional soldiers.

In the meantime Russia-Ukraine war seems to have escalated further, with both sides exercising long-range weapons of destruction. One can hope Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during three-day visit to US, for Quad Summit (India, United States, Australia and Japan) can bring some positive outcome to contain China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

President Biden shared with Prime Minister Modi that United States supports initiatives to reform global institutions to reflect India's important voice, including permanent membership for India in a reformed UN Security Council.

Modi also announced 7.5 million US dollars worth of support of sampling and detection kits, and vaccines, to fight cervical cancer as part of India's vision of "One Earth One Health". PM Modi, during Quad summit's Cancer Moonshot event in Delaware, mentioned New Delhi's initiative to fight cervical cancer and said that India was ready to share its expertise.

"Four years since elevating the Quad to a leader-level format, the Quad is more strategically aligned than ever before and is a force for good that delivers real, positive, and enduring impact for the Indo-Pacific," said the Wilmington Declaration issued after the fourth in-person Quad Summit.

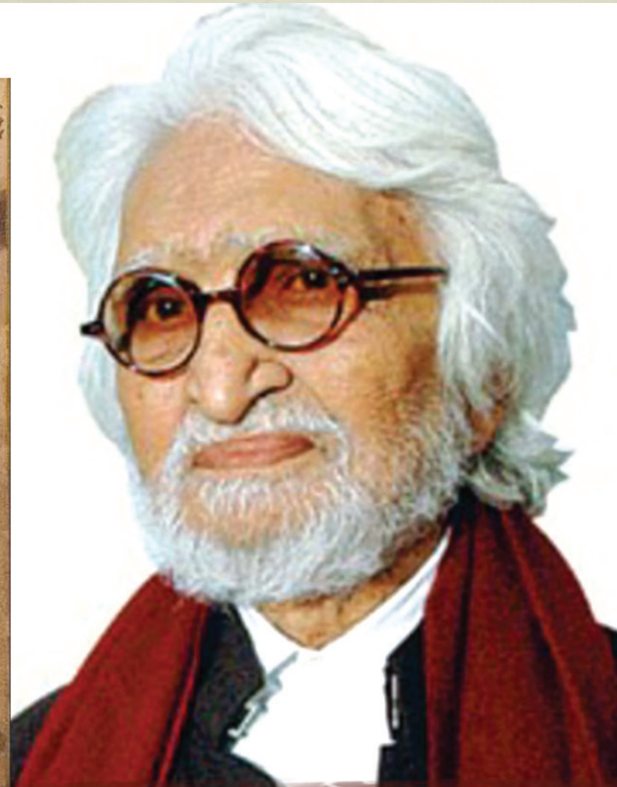
"We are not against anyone. Our collective support is for a rules-based international order, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the peaceful resolution of disputes," PM Modi remarked, without directly naming any country.

China, which is involved in territorial disputes in both South China Sea and East China Sea, claims sovereignty over nearly the entire South China Sea, while nations such as Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan assert counterclaims.

The joint statement signed by all Quad leaders further emphasized to reform the UN Security Council, recognizing the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable, through expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UN Security Council. That the expansion of permanent seats should include representation for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean in a reformed Security Council.

**Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author**





## Major contemporary artists decipher what keeps MF Husain alive

NEW DELHI: Often called the 'Picasso of India', M.F. Husain's unique artistic vision not only celebrated the peculiarity and complexity of Indian culture but also ensured that he was celebrated internationally.

Husain's artistic journey might have begun in the 1940s, and by the 1950s, but it has not ended even after years of him passing on (2011). Interestingly, he was

one of the few artists recognized by even those who had no interest in the arts; his work had become synonymous with Indian modernism. His vibrant color palettes, and depictions of human figures, animals, and mythological themes stunned everyone. While his work may be termed as deeply personal, it never 'isolated' him and had resonance the world over.

Born in 1915 in Pandharpur in a Suleymani Bohra family, he got fascinated with art through studying calligraphy while he stayed at a Madrasa.

One of the founding members of the Bombay Progressive Artists' Group, his modern technique, was inspired by the 'new' India post the Partition of the country. His themes -- sometimes treated in series -- include topics as diverse as Mahatma Gandhi, the British Raj, the Ramayana, Mother Teresa or Mahabhartha using Indian motifs. Early in his life, Husain painted cinema posters in Mumbai and also worked for a toy company to earn additional income.

IANs speaks to several major contemporary artists and tries to decipher what keeps Husain 'alive' even now. The auction house Asta Guru organized a major manifest auction to celebrate his birth anniversary on 19 September.

Major artist and co-founder of the Kochi Biennale, Riyas Komu feels Husain was a gypsy who celebrated 'Independent India' through his remarkable engagement with socialism, modernity, myth, traditions, history, children's art, design, craft, cinema in a much more enlightening Nehruvian way of Nation Building through bold, confident strokes. "His art remains as a liberal and secular engagement with the nation. In context, I remember the cover he painted in 1964 for the book by Lohia titled 'The Caste System'."

Stressing that Husain lived like a Sufi, never had a studio space of his own and painted wherever he went; Romu feels it is important to talk more about the ongoing Hussain Project titled 'Rooted Nomad' by KNMA at Venice here. "I think it is a big statement the curator Rubeena Karode is making about the secular credentials of Indian modernists by presenting M.F. Husain on a global stage like Venice. It is the best memorial symbolizing the return of an artist's spirit in the form of a protest," he adds. IANS

### Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official entry to Oscars 2025

MUMBAI: Filmmaker Kiran Rao's comedy drama "Laapataa Ladies" has been chosen and submitted as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Film Category for the Oscars 2025 by the Film Federation of India.

The Oscars are set to be held in March 2025. The film was contending alongside 29 film including names such as "Animal", "Kill", "Kalki 2898 AD", "Srikanth", "Chandu Champion", "Joram", "Maidaan", "Sam Bahadur", "Article 370", the Malayalam film "Aattam", which was feted with the National Award for Best Feature Film this year and Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light", a Cannes winner. IANS



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## Anushka Sen AWARDED by Korean government

Actress Anushka Sen has recently been honored with an award recognizing her efforts to strengthen the relationship between Korea and India. Expressing her gratitude, she shared that this recognition will undoubtedly inspire her to continue fostering cultural connections and engaging in meaningful projects.

Taking to Instagram, Anushka, who has 39.4 million followers, shared a series of pictures from the award ceremony. In the snapshots, she exudes effortless style in a chic black crop jacket paired with matching trousers. Opting for a fresh, no-makeup look, she sported her hair in a sleek ponytail, completing her ensemble with trendy black shoes.

In the caption, she wrote: "Another moment to share with you all, honored to receive the award from CEO Mr. Hyun Woo Kim of SBA (Seoul Business Agency) for my contribution to strengthening the relationship between Korea and India. Thank you @asialab\_ceo Director Lee Jung-sub for this. My dream of working in K Drama, being appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Korea Tourism Organization and now getting recognized for my contribution in strengthening Korea X India relationship will definitely motivate me to do more."

Earlier, Anushka also made headlines for being the only Indian to feature on billboards in Korea.

Recently, she has joined forces with the South Korean pistol shooter Kim Ye-ji, who has won the silver medal in the Paris Olympics 2024, for a global project, reportedly titled 'Crush'. IANS



## TOP TEN

### HINDI FILM SONGS

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

## Ananya Panday's schoolgirl vibe

Bollywood diva Ananya Panday set social media abuzz by unveiling her first look from the upcoming thriller film 'CTRL'. Dressed in a retro-inspired outfit that exudes vintage school girl vibes, Ananya showcases a fresh and intriguing character that promises to captivate audiences.

Ananya took to Instagram, where she has a whopping 25.5 million followers, to share a delightful series of pictures showcasing her first look from 'CTRL.' In the photos, she dons a striped shirt layered with a maroon checkered sweater, beautifully paired with a beige short skirt.

Her hair is styled half-tied, perfectly complementing the playful vibe of her outfit, which she rounds off with black socks and trendy platform shoes. IANS



## Allu Arjun in new 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' poster

As the anticipation for the upcoming Allu Arjun-starrer 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' reaches a fever pitch, the makers of the film recently dropped a new poster from the film.

The makers took to Instagram, and shared the new poster of the film featuring Allu with his back facing the camera as he looks over the ruins in the aftermath of a possible destruction. The poster has a monochromatic hue of crimson with the text, "75 days to go" written over it.

They wrote in the caption, "'75 DAYS for the world to witness Pushpa and his matchless aura on the big screens. #Pushpa2TheRule will mark an unprecedented chapter in Indian Cinema. THE RULE IN CINEMAS on 6th DEC 2024'".

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is undoubtedly the most awaited film of the year and is sure to break records upon its release. IANS





# SHRADDHA CELEBRATES FILM'S SUCCESS WITH HER 'MAGIC GIRLS'

Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is currently basking in the success of her latest release "Stree 2", celebrated the film's success with the most inspiring "strees" in her life.

Shraddha took to Instagram, where she shared a gamut of pictures from her girls night out with her friends, with whom she celebrated the roaring success of "Stree 2", which crossed the Rs. 600 crore benchmark on 22nd September, as per trade analyst Taran Adarsh.

In the images, the actress is seen wearing a fiery red dress. Her friends too followed the color theme. Shraddha also shared a picture of a cake, which had "Record breaking Stree" written on it.

"Jashn ka vatavaran With the most inspiring and wonderful Strees in my life - my "Magic Girls" @shraddha.naik @maaheknair @namrata.deepak\_ @nikitamenon1," wrote Shraddha, who is one the most followed Bollywood celebrity with a following of a jaw-dropping 93.2 million.

"Stree 2" is the fifth installment in the Maddock Supernatural Universe and serves as the sequel to "Stree", which was released in 2018.

The film also stars Rajkumar Rao, Abhishek Banerjee, Pankaj Tripathi, and Aparshakti Khurana. The narrative follows a group of friends who must defeat a malevolent entity abducting the women of Chanderi. IANS



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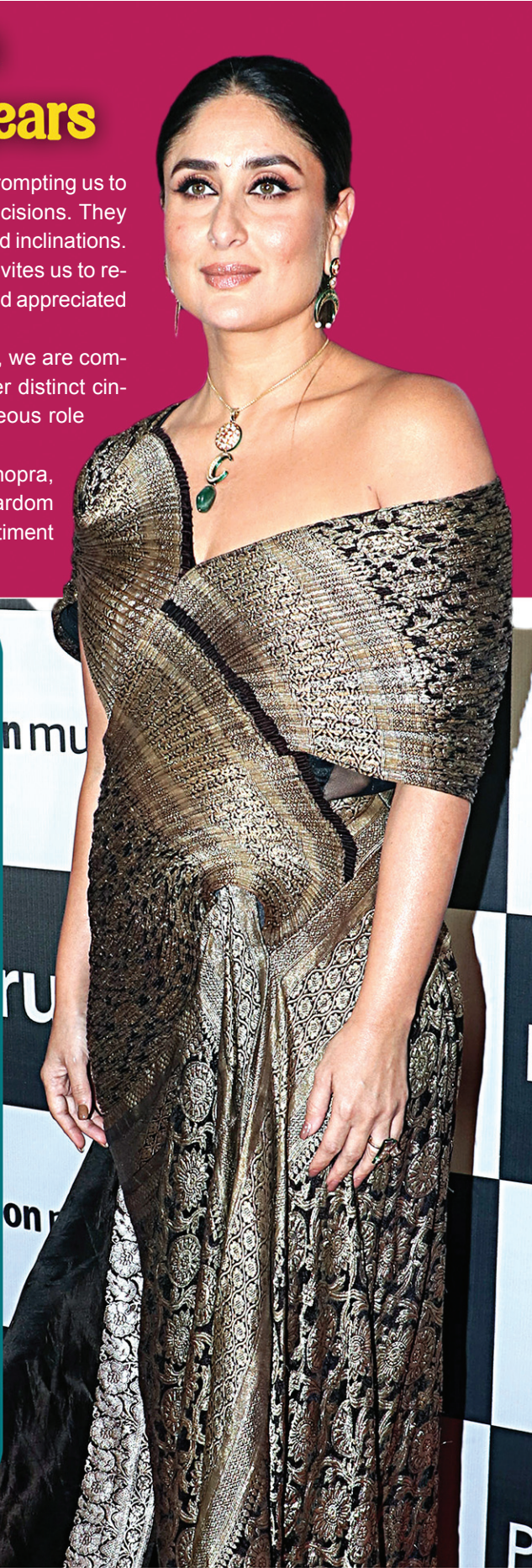


## Celebrating Kareena Kapoor Khan's 24 years

Milestones serve as moments for introspection, prompting us to reassess our choices and evaluate our past decisions. They provide an opportunity to reflect on our preferences and inclinations. Similarly, for film enthusiasts, a cinematic landmark invites us to reflect on whether we have adequately acknowledged and appreciated the artistic contributions of the creators.

As Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan turns 44, we are compelled to ask ourselves: have we truly recognized her distinct cinematic presence, remarkable versatility, and courageous role choices?

In one of the roundtables hosted by Anupama Chopra, South Indian actor Siddharth said that Kareena's stardom can overshadow the reception of her craft. This sentiment rings true. IANS



## KRITI SANON'S STYLE TURN HEADS IN BRITISH CAPITAL

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon, who was recently seen in the heist comedy 'Crew', has shared pictures of herself from the recently concluded London Fashion Week. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a string of pictures in which she can be seen rocking different outfits.

In one of the pictures, the actress can be seen wearing a trench coat which is draped around her sleeves with added drama from the faux fur sleeves.

The actress then donned a monochromatic black look as she paired the fit to flare black dress with knee high boots and silver accessories, and looked absolutely stunning.

Lastly the actress sported a turtleneck blue checks dress, she paired the dress with an olive bag and knee high boots once again with a pair of sunglasses and looked mesmerizing.

Her appearance has struck the perfect balance between grace and sophisticated style. Earlier, this year in July, the actress bought a 2000 sq ft plot of land in the celebrity capital of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Alibaug. IANS

## Suniel Shetty finds therapy in gardening

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty recently shared a glimpse of his serene Sunday routine, describing how he finds solace in gardening. In the video, he is seen pruning and trimming his plants, referring to the process as a form of therapy that helps him reset and rejuvenate.

He expressed how the act of cutting away dead branches mirrors life, where sometimes clearing away the old makes space for the new.

Taking to Instagram, where he enjoys a following of five million, Suniel shared a calming Reel video of his Sunday 'therapy' session. Dressed casually in a grey tee and blue shorts, the actor was seen trimming the plants at his luxurious residence. IANS





# Farhan Akhtar & wife Shibani LIKE TO STAY HOME

**B**ollywood multi-hyphenate Farhan Akhtar, who is currently busy with an untitled project in Ladakh, has said that he and his wife Shibani Dandekar are not a very outgoing couple, and they find the utmost comfort staying in their house.

Farhan and Shibani recently appeared on a podcast with actress Rhea Chakraborty, and spoke about being happy at home, and their aversion to meeting people at social gatherings.

Shibani told Rhea, "We don't like to leave the house after 7:00 pm. We will be social maybe once every two months, and even then it is painful. We have a bit of a reputation of being boring among our friends".

Rhea chimed in, as she said, "If there's something happening in my house after 8:00 pm, I don't invite her. I know how it is like her, and I like to give her that space because my parties start at 10:00 pm".

Farhan then raised an important question, as she said, "I'm saying this very sincerely because I'm sure there are many people like us in the world. The fact is, if you or someone in your life is happier spending time at home, is happy to meet you during the day or evening till a certain time, and doesn't want to go to a club or a bar, and want to hang out at home, let that person be. Why should that person be considered boring because he or she doesn't want to do those things?"

He further mentioned, "If I go around asking people, 'I'm planning a 7-day trek, you have to come to the 7-day trek with me'. Where are those people? Are they gonna come? Should I tell them, 'Oh you guys are so boring because you don't want to sign up for a 7-day trek'?"

Farhan and Shibani dated for four years before they tied the knot in a non-religious ceremony on February 19, 2022 at Farhan's father's farmhouse in Khandala. *IANS*





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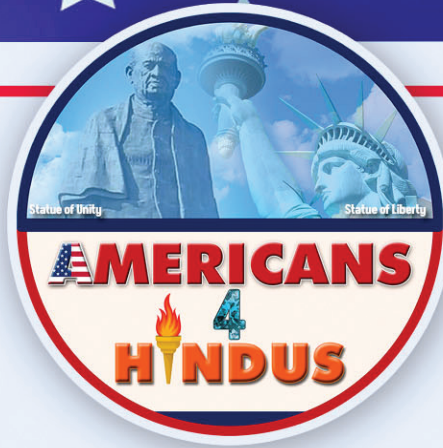
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## Orchha

"The Hidden Treasure"

Orchha is a historical town located on the banks of river Betwa in Madhya Pradesh, known for its grand palaces, and intricately carved temples. Famously known as the city of palaces, it is world-renowned for the classic mural paintings, frescos and Chhatris (cenotaphs) that were constructed to commemorate the Bundela rulers. Orchha's old-world charm casts a spell on tourists from all around the world.

Founded in 1501 by Bundela Rajput Chief, Orchha literally means 'a hidden place'. It was the capital of one of the most powerful dynasties to ever rule in India- the Bundelas. The major attractions in Orchha include Ram Raja Temple (the only place where Lord Ram is worshipped both as a God and a king), Laxmi Narayan Temple (known for its unique architecture which is a melange of a fort and a temple), and the Jahangir Mahal (built in hour of Mughal emperor Jahangir). The medieval architecture of Orchha's palaces and temples is a

visual delight for photographers.

### Places to visit in Orchha

**Jehangir Mahal:** Built as be a garrison and citadel for the Mughals to allow greater control over the Bundela region, this palace was completed in 1598 by Bharath Bhushan after he defeated Vir Deo Singh of Bundela.

**Ram Raja Temple:** This beautiful Ram temple has an intriguing history behind it. The Idols which were supposed to be installed in the magnificent Chaturbhuj Temple were kept on the ground where this temple now stands.

**Raja Mahal:** Built during the 17th century, the Raja Mahal has withstood the test of time without losing its charm that transports you back to one of the golden eras of history.

The palace is constructed beautifully with impeccable architecture and breathtaking grandeur. Resided by the erstwhile kings of Orchha, the palace has kept the soul of the India's most eminent royalty intact through all these years.

**Rafting and Boating in River Betwa:** Rafting in the river Betwa is also possible and the rafting starts from the boat club. Tickets are arranged through MP tourism and are available at the Betwa retreat or at the Hotel Sheesh Mahal. It could cost you around Rs. 1000 per hour or more per raft and a single raft would take 1-6 persons.

**Chattris (Cenotaphs):** Situated on the banks of Betwa river, Chattris is a set of magnificent royal tombs of the Mahara-jas, placed on a platform and supported by the pillars.

The charm of Chattris is best experienced when it is viewed from a narrow bridge on the opposite side of the river, from where the entire reflection of the tombs can be seen. The domes are

adorned with exquisite paintings, which add to the alluring appeal of Chattris which has attracted tourists since years.

**Chaturbhuj Temple:** Built in 875 AD during the reign of Gurjara Pratihara dynasty, this famous temple is dedicated to

Lord Vishnu. The name literally means the one with four arms, and Lord Vishnu has been referred as Chaturbhuj in various Hindu texts. [www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)

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