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HINDUS NOT SAFE

Ensure safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, India tells Bangladesh after jailing of Hindu priest

NEW DELHI: India expressed its "deep concern" over the arrest and subsequent denial of bail to Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sanatan Jagaran Mancha and head of Pundarik Dham in Chittagong.

After being taken into custody by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 4:30 pm Monday (25 Nov.), Das was produced before Judge Kazi Shariful Islam of Chittagong's 6th Metropolitan Magis-



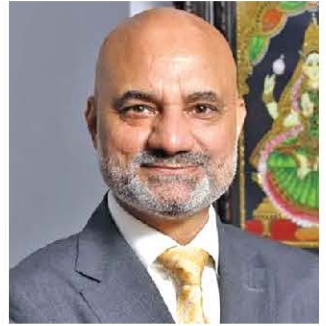
Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari

trate around 10:30 am local time on Tuesday 26th.

The judge, after rejecting his bail plea, sent the Hindu priest - associated with International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) - to jail.

Condemning the shocking developments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on has noted with "deep concern" the arrest and denial of bail to Das, who is also the spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagaran Jote.

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Dinesh Bhatia named as India's Amb. to Brazil

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Obesity increases risk of diabetes: Study

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Trump to hit with tariff hikes on Day 1 in office

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All stunt scenes in 'Shero' done by me: Sunny

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External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacts with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the G7 Foreign Minister's Meeting, in Fiumicino (ANI Photo)



FDCI showcases sustainable crafts

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INDIA POST SURVEY
 survey@indiapost.com
 This week's question
 Will Trump take action to ensure safety of minorities in Bangladesh?
 Last week's result
 Will Trump dismantle NATO?
 YES 44% NO 56%

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to India Post, 1860 Mowry Ave Ste 200, Fremont, CA 94538-1730.

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Consulate with support of various Indian diaspora organizations in the Bay Area organized State Formation Day of states of India

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HINDUS NOT SAFE

Ensure safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, India tells Bangladesh after jailing of Hindu priest

NEW DELHI: India expressed its "deep concern" over the arrest and subsequent denial of bail to Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sanatan Jagaran Mancha and head of Pundarik Dham in Chittagong.

After being taken into custody by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 4:30 pm Monday (25 Nov.), Das was produced before Judge Kazi Shariful Islam of Chittagong's 6th Metropolitan Magistrate around 10:30 am local time on Tuesday 26th.

The judge, after rejecting his bail plea, sent the Hindu priest - associated with International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) - to jail.

Condemning the shocking developments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on has noted with "deep concern" the arrest and denial of bail to Das, who is also the spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagaran Jote.

Highlighting the broader context of continuing violence against minorities in Bangladesh, especially Hindus, the MEA added, "This incident follows multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by



Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari. Picture courtesy-IANS

"It is unfortunate that while the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful gatherings. We also note with concern the attacks on minorities protesting peacefully against the arrest of Shri Das,"

'2,010 incidents of attacks, affecting 1,705 minority families in Bangladesh'

DHAKA: Acting General Secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, Manindra Kumar Nath, said that 2,010 incidents of attacks, including murder, molestation, and kidnapping, were reported against minorities in Bangladesh, affecting 1,705 families.

Speaking to ANI about the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, where the religious leader and spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagaran Jote, Chinmoy Krishna Das, was arrested by Bangladeshi police, Nath highlighted the widespread atrocities faced by Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist populations across the country. He noted that despite the scale of the violence, the interim government had not taken any steps to investigate or hold anyone accountable for these incidents.

"It is very unfortunate... We have seen that almost across all 64 districts of Bangladesh, there have been atrocities against Hindu populations and also against Christians and Buddhists. From that, we have gathered statistics through our organization, which show that there were 2,010 incidents of attacks, including mur-

"It is very unfortunate... We have seen that almost across all 64 districts of Bangladesh, there have been atrocities against Hindu populations and also against Christians and Buddhists"

der, molestation, and kidnapping, affecting 1,705 families from the community. Despite this, the interim government has not taken any steps to investigate or hold anyone accountable for these incidents," Nath said.

Nath also pointed out that as a result of these atrocities, saints and monks have been protesting in various cities in the country, including Dhaka, Chattogram, and Rampur. These demonstrations, he noted, have faced attempts to disrupt them, with participants being abused and even injured during protests.

"As a result, even saints and monks have come forward to protest against these atrocities through various demonstrations. We have seen protests in Dhaka, in Chattogram, and a large demonstration in Rampur". ANI

extremist elements in Bangladesh. Documented cases of arson, looting of minority homes and businesses, theft, vandalism, and desecration of deities and temples are deeply troubling.

"It is unfortunate that while the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful gatherings. We also note with concern the attacks on minorities protesting peacefully against the arrest of Shri Das," the ministry stated.

India also urged the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, including their right to peaceful assembly and expression.

Several protests broke out in various parts of Bangladesh, including Chittagong, as the news about Das's arrest spread on social media.

In Chittagong, hundreds of Hindus took to the streets and rallied at the Cheragi intersection.

Several videos that later went viral on social media showed Bangladeshi policemen charging at the protestors who were chanting slogans and demanding immediate release of Das.

It is believed that dozens of Hindu protestors were injured during the protest rally.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) also urged the Indian government to take immediate steps, seeking the release of prominent Hindu leader.

"We have come across disturbing reports that Sri Chinmoy Krishna Das, one of the prominent leaders of ISKCON Bangladesh, has been detained by the Dhaka police. It is outrageous to make baseless allegations that ISKCON has anything to do with terrorism anywhere in the world. ISKCON, Inc. urges the Government of India to take immediate steps, speak to the government of Bangladesh, and convey that we are a peace-loving Bhakti movement," ISKCON said in a statement.

"We want the Government of Bangladesh to release Chinmoy Krishna Das immediately. Our prayers to Lord Krishna for the protection of these devotees," the statement added. IANS

Hindu Student Council hosts meet-and-greet session, brings together Hindu student leaders

TORONTO: The Hindu Student Council (HSC) Canada hosted a meet-and-greet session at OCAD University Toronto, bringing together Hindu student leaders from various campuses to share their experiences and challenges.

The members of the HSC gathered last Sunday evening along with the Hindu student leaders of the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) and the Hindu



Members of The Hindu Student Council (HSC) Canada (Photo/ANI)

Forum of Canada.

During the event, the students shared their challenges in terms of facing Hinduphobia and shared their struggles and achievements in establishing their rightful space in academia.

Hindu Student leaders from different campuses also expressed their concerns about negative stereotypes created due to strained relations between India and Canada. Following the event, the students also chanted 'Jai Shree Ram' in their Puja Room.

While speaking with ANI, one of the students said, "Hindu Students Council is the largest pan-Hindu youth organization in North America and it is important because it provides Hindus with the safe space on campuses to express their Dharma, to practice their culture and become young strong leaders."

Another student named Khushi said, "Hindu Students Council is important because it gives a place to grow, and we teach them how to be the next generation of strong Hindu leaders, how to speak up for ourselves, all while celebrating our rich diversity, our rich culture on campuses. We also make sure that Hindu students have the resources to present Hindu Dharma in the best light possible. It's (Hindu Students Council) a space where we go by three values -- Empowerment, Awareness and Seva."

Another student said, "I believe that the Hindu Students Council is important because it provides the opportunity for not only the youth but for everyone to have an opportunity to learn about the Hindu Dharm, learn about our culture, learn about the religion, and so, attending these events will give the youth an opportunity to learn about the religion."

Hindu Students Council is a diverse community of students and young professionals which provides opportunities to foster well-being and cultivate personal growth and empowerment based on values rooted in Hindu culture. ANI

Dinesh Bhatia appointed as India's next ambassador to Brazil

NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1992 batch, Dinesh Bhatia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Brazil, as per a recent press release by the Ministry of External Affairs.

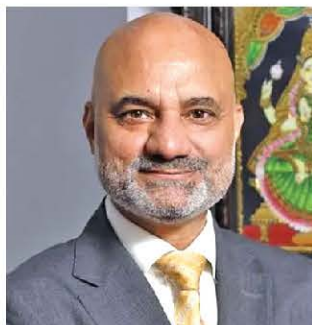
Bhatia is currently serving as the ambassador of India to Argentina, having assumed this role on August 21, 2019, and his accreditation also extended to Uruguay and Paraguay until February 2022.

Before this, he served as the Consul General of India in Toronto and Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Liberia. Additionally, he has held various positions in Indian missions abroad, including in Madrid, Kathmandu, and Kuwait.

Bhatia was seconded by the government to the Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai and served as private secretary to the tourism minister of India. He has also worked in different divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Bhatia joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992 and

received training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, and the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. He is an alumnus of the National Defence College (NDC) and participated in the 4th Joint Civil Military Course on National Security at LBSNAA.



Dinesh Bhatia

Bhatia holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Delhi College of Engineering with a specialization in Electronics and Communication. Before joining the Civil Service, he worked in the private sector. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers and a member of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers.

Bhatia has authored "Devi Purana--A Rendition of Srimad Devi Bhagavatam," published by Bloomsbury in 2023, and "Physics for Civil Services Prelims," published in 1994.

He is married to Seema Bhatia, an Ayurvedic practitioner, psychologist, and hypnotherapist, and they have a daughter and a son. ANI

Bangladeshi cyber criminals target ISKCON's spiritual media platforms after arrest of Hindu priest

DHAKA: Hours after the Bangladeshi authorities arrested and sent Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari to jail, ISKCON Bangladesh revealed on its official social media page - crucial for the preservation of Sanatan Dharma and community's well-being in the country - has been targeted by cyber criminals.

In a social media post, Charu Chanda Das Brahmachari, Secretary General of ISKCON Bangladesh, said that the spiritual body's official Facebook page in the country, 'ISKCON TV Dhaka' - which he described as "an integral platform for promoting Sanatan Dharma, ISKCON's teachings, and Hindu spiritual values" - has come under attack from Bangladeshi cyber criminals.

"Unfortunately, our ISKCON TV Dhaka page was maliciously targeted and removed by a group named Cyber Defender Bangladesh, with the involvement of individuals who falsely present themselves as cyber security experts."

"Unfortunately, our ISKCON TV Dhaka page was maliciously targeted and removed by a group named Cyber Defender Bangladesh, with the involvement of individuals who falsely present themselves as cyber security experts"

This group has publicly claimed responsibility for the attack, which is a clear violation of Facebook's policies and represents cyber harassment of our community," said Charu Chanda Das.

He stated, the group of cyber criminals also targeted other important spiritual media platforms, including Mayapur TV, Jayapataka Swami Bangla, and ISKCON Youth Forum Sylhet, causing widespread disruption.

"We have taken immediate legal action, filing a General Diary (GD) with the Bangladesh Police and communicating continuously with the Cyber Crime Investigation Department, DMP, Dhaka. The Deputy Commissioner of Cyber Crime Investigation has assured us of strict action against those responsible. We are confident in their support and await swift justice," said Das.

He detailed that a team of "dedicated Hindu cyber experts" from Garuda Cyber Shield that is providing voluntary support to safeguard Hindu online platforms in the country, has been working tirelessly to recover the pages.

"They successfully recovered the ISKCON TV Dhaka page once, but the malicious attackers struck again, taking the page down. Despite this setback, Garuda Cyber Shield continues their efforts to restore the page and strengthen its security. IANS

Jaishankar inaugurates Indian Embassy's new chancery in Italy, lauds historical ties between two nations

ROME: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated the new Chancery of the Indian Embassy in Rome, Italy, and hailed the historical India-Italy ties saying the two maritime countries give a different perspective to the world.

The Foreign Minister further emphasized that a lot of India's historical connect with Europe was with Italy.

"Our historical connect is actually very deep and I would not be exaggerating if I said that a lot of India's historical interface with Europe was actually with Italy. This was almost the landing point for anything coming to India or going out of India. So for us, Italians have been producers, they have been customers, they have been financiers, they have been carriers in our commerce. Our countries are also maritime nations. I think that gives a very different perspective to the world," he said.

Jaishankar said that the Chancery of Indian Embassy in Rome will help serve better the Indian community in Italy.

Taking to social media platform X, the EAM said that the new chancery befits the continued expansion of India-Italy partnership in recent years and will help in better serving the Indian community in Italy.

"Pleased to inaugurate the new Chan-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addresses at the inauguration of new Chancery of the Embassy of India, in Rome (ANI Photo)

cery of the Embassy of India in Rome today. It befits the continued expansion of India - Italy partnership in recent years. Will also help us serve better the Indian community in Italy," he stated.

Jaishankar added that India and Italy's shared commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and shipping also helps in

bringing the two countries closer.

"I recall Prime Minister Meloni when she came to the Raisina Dialogue describing the Mediterranean Sea as a water body connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the Indian Ocean. Certainly, our maritime interest and our shared commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and shipping also help us bring the two countries closer. We are coordinating amongst others in the Gulf of Aden and in response to some challenges that shipping has faced there. But most im-

portant, we are today making history work for the modern relationship," he said.

Speaking on the India-Middle East-Economic Corridor (IMEC), which was agreed to in principle during India's presidency of the G20 in 2023, Jaishankar said that it will be a "game changer."

"India and Italy are founding members of the India-Middle East-Europe connectivity corridor (IMEC), along with like-minded friends. And as I contemplate the future, certainly one day we will look back on this period and say that this connectivity corridor, which was agreed to in principle during India's presidency of the G20, will be a game-changer," he said.

He further said the frequent interactions between the leaders of two countries, shows the depth of their relations.

"In many ways I think the frequent interactions today we see at various levels is actually a sign of the depth and the breadth of our relationship. It is also a reflection of the commitment and vision of our leaders today in taking forward our lives. There is a convergence in our worldviews, a synergy in our endeavors in addressing global and regional issues and definitely a new enthusiasm for developing our bilateral ties," the Foreign Minister said.

Jaishankar also appreciated Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni-led government for giving attention to Asia, and specifically to India. ANI

ISKCON wants Indian gov't intervention, seeks immediate release of Hindu priest

DHAKA: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) urged the Indian government to take immediate steps, seeking the release of prominent Hindu leader and priest, Chinmoy Krishna Das, who was earlier taken into custody by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Taking to social media platform X, ISKCON said: "We have come across disturbing reports that Sri Chinmoy Krishna Das, one of the prominent leaders of ISKCON Bangladesh, has been detained by the Dhaka police."

"It is outrageous to make baseless allegations that ISKCON has anything to do with terrorism anywhere in the world. ISKCON, Inc. urges the Government of India to take immediate steps, speak to the government of Bangladesh, and convey that we are a peace-loving Bhakti movement."

"We want the Government of Bangladesh to release Chinmoy Krishna

Das immediately. Our prayers to Lord Krishna for the protection of these devotees," ISKCON wrote on X.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness, known as ISKCON, is a Gaudiya Vaishnava Hindu religious organization with followers across countries and cultures.

Chinmoy Krishna Das, spokesperson of Bangladesh Sanatan Jagaran Mancha and head of Pundarik Dham in Chittagong was taken into custody by Dhaka Metropolitan Police as the interim government

led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus continues to inflict horrors on the Hindu community of the country.

According to local media, Chinmoy Krishna Das also known as Krishna Prabhu Das, was taken into custody by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, on Monday (26 Nov.) at 4:30 pm. IANS

Indian High Commission to London hosts 2nd Indo-Pacific Conference

LONDON: The Indian High Commission in London hosted the inaugural and first sessions of the 2nd Indo-Pacific Conference, where Foreign Office Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Catherine West delivered the keynote address.

The event was co-hosted with the Australian and Singapore High Commission in London, in partnership with IISS News.

The Indian High Commission in London said in a post on X, "Hosted the inaugural and first sessions of the 2nd Indo-Pacific Conference this morning at Indian High Commission in London. Honored by the presence of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Minister for the Indo-Pacific Catherine West who delivered the keynote address. The dialogue continues with a session each at Arundel House and Australia House. This event was co-

hosted with Australian High Commission in London and Singaporean High Commission in London, partnered by IISS News. Together, we aim to foster deeper cooperation for a secure, resilient, and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

"We know that the Indo-Pacific is crucial for the UK, for three reasons. Firstly, boosting economic growth, secondly, tackling climate change, and thirdly strengthening national and global security. And these are shared challenges, where progress is in our mutual interest," West said.

West said that she visited the Indo-Pacific region four times since they won the General Election in July this year.

"When we won the general election in July this year... I've visited the region four times, covering 10 countries, and the Foreign Secretary travelled to the region in his first three weeks." ANI

UN celebrates Diamond Jubilee of Hindi Diwas in New York

NEW YORK: The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations recently organized the Diamond Jubilee of Hindi Diwas in New York. This significant event marked the 75th anniversary of Hindi being adopted as an official language in India.

"Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations organized the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Hindi Diwas on November 22, 2024 in New York. The day marks adoption of Hindi as an official language in India, on 14 September 1949," Permanent Mission of India in New York said in a press release.

The visiting delegation of Members of Parliament from India, consisting of Birendra Prasad Baishya, Pradan Baruah, Sushmita Dev, Akshay Yadav, Sandhya Ray, Tejasvi Surya, Bansuri Swaraj, graced the event. The event was also attended by Permanent Representatives (PR) and Deputy PRs of over 40 countries, senior officials of the UN, Academics, Diaspora Members and award winners of competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Birendra Prasad Baishya said that Hindi is growing at a rapid pace in the 21st century in different parts of the world and added that the heightened global stature of Hindi is increasingly making it a medium in international polity and diplomacy.

He also commended the addition of Hindi under the ambit of Multilingualism Resolution of the UN in September 2024. PR of India, Ambassador P. Harish noted that the importance of Hindi as a bridge language is reinforcing national integration, given India's multilingual and multicultural background.

PR of Mauritius highlighted Hindi was a bridge to preserve culture, tradition, and identity whereas PR of Nepal underlined that Nepali and Hindi share common linguistic roots and Hindi is widely understood and spoken in Nepal. ANI

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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November 29, 2024



CGISF hosts State Formation day in ICC, Milpitas



VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

In a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage and diversity, the Consulate with the support of various Indian diaspora or-

ganizations in the Bay Area organized State Formation Day of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand at India Cultural Center [ICC], Milpitas on Nov 22,

2024. The event that was attended by more than 400 people saw cultural performances and display of art and craft of these ten States. The event was possible with the support of local

Indian diaspora to India's growth story and invited the audience to participate in the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas being held from 8th-10th January 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Dr Srikar

the strong bonds between India and its global community. History of state formation day **Andhra Pradesh:** This was the first state created on the basis of language. Andhra Pradesh



came into existence on November 1, 1956, when the state of Hyderabad was split up under the States Reorganization Act.

Reddy urged the overseas Indian diaspora to visit Odisha and participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention in January 2025. The theme of PBD for 2025 is "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat". It will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister. President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards and preside over the valedictory session.

While launching the website (pbdindia.gov.in), External affairs minister Jaishankar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regular interactions with the diaspora during official visits abroad and their unwavering support of India's growth are testimony to

came into existence on November 1, 1956, when the state of Hyderabad was split up under the States Reorganization Act.

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Reddy urged the overseas Indian diaspora to visit Odisha and participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention in January 2025. The theme of PBD for 2025 is "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat". It will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister. President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards and preside over the valedictory session.



Cont'd on page 10

PM Modi urges diaspora and friends to participate in 'Bharat ko Janiye' Quiz

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged members of the Indian diaspora to participate in the 'Bharat ko Janiye' (Know India) Quiz to deepen the ties between India and the diaspora.

PM Modi wrote a message on X, urging the diaspora to take part in this unique opportunity, "Strengthening the bond with our diaspora! Urge Indian community abroad and friends from other countries to take part in the #BharatKoJaniye Quiz!"

PM Modi said that the quiz "deepens the connect between India and its diaspora worldwide. It's also a wonderful way to rediscover our rich heritage and vibrant culture".

In his post, he noted that the winners of the Quiz would "get an opportunity to experience the wonders of #IncredibleIndia".

<https://x.com/narendramodi/status/1860165705259450803>

In his recently concluded trip to Guyana, the PM had urged the diaspora to participate in the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz as it was an opportunity to understand India,

its values, culture and diversity. He urged the people to invite their friends too to participate.

He had also invited the diaspora to par-

ticipate with their families and friends in the Maha Kumbh to be held at Prayagraj, visit the Ram Temple at Ayodhya and participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas that will

As per the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz began its journey in 2015 following an announcement by PM Modi during the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations.

The Quiz is an endeavor of the Government of India to strengthen its connection with the Indian Diaspora, particularly the youth, and also to engage foreigners keen to learn about India. The quiz is designed to promote a deeper understanding of India's history, culture, growth story, nation-making, and contributions to the world, the MEA had observed in its press release.

The 5th edition of the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz is being held online (www.bkjquiz.com) from 11 November 2024 to 11 December 2024 and is open for participation in two categories (i) Non-Resident Indians and (ii) Persons of Indian Origin/Foreign nationals, aged between 14 to 50 years.

The top 30 scorers of the quiz, 15 in each category, will be invited for a two-week immersive Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra (Know India Tour). They will also participate in the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubhaneshwar from 08-10 January 2025. ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Ballot measures are a key tool to achieving health equity

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Ballot measures have proven themselves to be a powerful way for voters to make decisions about improving their health, from abortion rights and paid sick leave, to minimum wage and clean water access. It is no coincidence that efforts to restrict ballot measure access are increasing at the same time that advances for equity are passing at the ballot box. Seventy-five bills were introduced in state legislatures in 2023 to change the rules and make the ballot measure process harder for voters to use to make progress on the issues they care about. So far in 2024, there have been 103 bills attacking the ballot measure process, and we expect more bills to come in the next year.

Avenel Joseph, Interim Executive Vice President, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said the referendum bill can change people's health and well-being. Over the

past five-plus years, ballot measures have been critical in advancing policies such as Medicaid expansion, raising the minimum wage, abortion access and paid leave. Ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups are often the biggest beneficiaries. To build a future of good health for everyone, regardless of race, gender or where

they live, we must protect and invest in the referendum bill process," she said.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will fund and invest in four strategies to protect the referendum bill regardless of the political environment, including: supporting and convening national and state organizations for non-lobbying advocacy, mobiliza-

tion, public education, Justice and research efforts; raise awareness of the link between the vote measurement process and health and well-being; explore opportunities to aggressively expand the referendum bill process in more states; engage and mobilize new philanthropic partners.

Seventy-five bills were introduced in state legislatures in 2023 to change the rules and make the ballot measure process harder for voters to use to make progress on the issues they care about

be held in Bhubaneswar in January.

The 5th Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz was virtually launched by External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar on November 11.

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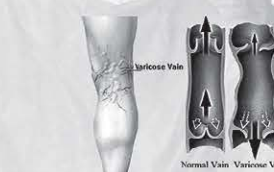


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CGISF hosts State Formation day in ICC, Milpitas



Cont'd from page 8

Karnataka: The state, formerly known as Mysore, was reorganized on November 1, 1956, under the States Reorganization Act, merging Kannada-speaking regions. Known for its vibrant culture and technology hub, Karnataka celebrates "Rajyotsava Day" on November 1 each year with parades, music and flag-hoisting ceremonies.

Kerala: The southern state was also formed on November 1, 1956, by merging Malabar, Cochin and Travancore regions. Known for its scenic beauty and literacy achievements, Kerala celebrates its formation with cultural programs and remembrance of the state's rich history.

Madhya Pradesh: Located in the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh was reorganized on November 1, 1956. The state celebrates this day as "Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day," featuring colorful parades, traditional performances, and awards to honor local achievers.

Chhattisgarh: It was the 26th state to be created in India, and it came into existence on November 1, 2000. Chhattisgarh is known as the "rice bowl of India", which traditionally refers to the delta region formed by the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

Haryana: The state was carved out of Punjab on November 1, 1966, based on linguistic lines. Known for its rich history and significant contributions to agriculture and sports, Haryana celebrates this day with public events and cultural showcases, commemorating its unique identity.

Punjab: On the same day in 1966, Punjab was restructured to form a separate state for Punjabi speakers. Known for its vibrant culture and historical significance, Punjab observes this day with celebrations that emphasise its heritage and achievements.

Tamil Nadu : Tamil Nadu was reorganized on linguistic basis and it became a separate state on November 1, 1956. It was earlier known as the State of Madras.

Jharkhand: Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000, which happens to be the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

Uttarakhand: November 9, is observed as Uttarakhand Foundation Day to honour the Birth of Devbhumi.



CGISF hosts State Formation day in ICC, Milpitas



India counted 640 m votes in one day: Elon Musk on "tragic" delay in California results

WASHINGTON DC: Billionaire businessman Elon Musk took a swipe at the US' electoral process with California yet to officially announce results of the presidential polls, more than two weeks after it was held, and drew a contrast with the voting processes in India

The Tesla CEO Elon Musk praised India's election process, highlighting that the country was able to count a staggering 640 million votes in just one day.

Sharing a post on X, the social media platform that he owns, Musk wrote, "India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes." He also posted a face-palm emoji with his post to express his resentment.

In contrast, Musk noted that California is still struggling to count its votes, which he termed as "tragic" in response to a meme posted by an X user.

Donald Trump won a second term as President of the United States after securing 295 electoral votes in the 2024 presidential election, defeating Democratic rival Kamala Harris, who garnered 226 votes. Following his victory, President-elect Donald Trump has moved swiftly with finalizing his foreign policy and national security team ahead of his formal inauguration in January 2025.

Notably, California has the largest number of registered voters in the United States--over 22 million registered voters.

According to the website of the California Secretary of State, on election night, county elections officials must begin reporting results to the Secretary of State no more than two hours after they begin tallying votes after the polls close. County elections officials then continue to report results periodically throughout election night until all precinct vote totals have been reported.

First election results are typically ballots received before election day, which include vote-by-mail ballots and early vot-

ing location ballots. County elections officials may begin opening and processing vote-by-mail ballot envelopes up to 29 days before election day, but those results cannot be accessed or shared with the public

Sharing a post on X, the social media platform that he owns, Musk wrote, "India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes." He also posted a face-palm emoji with his post to express his resentment

until all polls close on election day.

Election results posted on election night are semi-official results based on the in-person ballots cast at voting locations on Election Day, any early voted ballots cast in person prior to election day, and any

vote-by-mail ballots received and processed prior to election day.

By law, California county elections officials have 30 days, also known as the canvass period, to count every valid ballot and

During the 30-day canvass period, county elections officials process and count provisional ballots, ballots from voters who registered and voted conditionally (Same Day Voter Registration), and vote-by-mail ballots postmarked by election day and received within seven days of the election.

This process includes a comparison of signatures on envelopes to the signatures on file. If a signature is missing or does not compare to the signature on file, state law requires county elections officials to reach out to voters to verify their signature to ensure that their ballot can be counted. By law, voters are allowed to verify their signature up to two days before the county certifies their results. These processes ensure that all valid votes cast by eligible voters can be counted, and hence, it takes longer for California to count ballots. ANI

conduct a required post-election audit. During the official canvass, elections officials are required to conduct a public 1 percent manual tally of the ballots tabulated by the county's voting system in order to verify the accuracy of the automated count.

Jewish Indian-American praises India's harmony, PM Modi at AIAM event

MARYLAND: A Jewish Indian-American, Nissin Rubin, expressed deep gratitude for India's historical harmony and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts in fostering recognition of the country's ancient ties with the Jewish people.

Speaking at the launch of the Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM) in Maryland last Friday, Rubin highlighted India's unique legacy of ensuring safety and acceptance for its Jewish minority over two millennia.

"I'm from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, where we proudly say that our motherland, India, is the only country in the world with absolutely no history of anti-Semitism in its 2,000-year history. This is a fact that has been not-so-well-known in the West but is now gaining recognition, thanks to Prime

Minister Modi mentioning it in his speeches. While the relationship with Israel is relatively new, spanning the last thirty years, the bonds with the Jewish people are ancient," said Rubin.

Rubin praised India for its enduring inclusivity, citing examples of interfaith cooperation. "What is not well-known is that in our 120-year-old Jewish girls' school in Calcutta, and the two Sassoon schools in Mumbai, the majority of students are Muslim. Even during periods of severe violence in the Middle East, not a single stone was thrown at these schools, which are located within Jewish synagogue compounds in

Calcutta and Mumbai. Remarkably, these schools are in Muslim-majority neighborhoods, showcasing the resilience and harmony of the Indian people," he said.

Rubin also emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts for global peace. "We are looking forward to a robust partnership between the United States, India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other partners to ensure a free, stable, prosperous, and secure Middle East." The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly established non-governmental organization, was launched at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland. ANI

Murthy For Overhaul of Civil Services in India

CHICAGO: Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy has proposed an overhaul to the civil services, recommending that Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service officers be recruited from business schools rather than solely relying on the Union Public Service Commission examinations.

While speaking at the CNBC-TV18 Global Leadership Summit on November 14, 2024 Murthy highlighted what he said were

pivotal aspects that India needed to focus on to better its economic growth and development and to achieve a \$50 trillion economy.

"It is time for India to move from an administrative mindset to a management mindset. The administration is all about the status quo. On the other hand, management is all about vision and high aspiration. It's about achieving the plausible impossible," he said.

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World Antimicrobial Awareness Week highlights risks of AMR

HYDERABAD: World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed annually to raise awareness about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and prevent its spread.

Many people, when experiencing minor ailments like a cough, sore throat, or fever, often rush to pharmacies to purchase antibiotics without consulting a doctor. Moreover, they discontinue the antibiotics after one or two doses instead of completing the prescribed course. Such practices contribute to AMR, where antibiotics lose their ability to effectively treat infections caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. This condition makes infections harder to treat and poses significant public health risks.

Dr Arcy Billoria, Microbiologist at Aster Prime Hospital, explained the risks associated with antibiotic misuse and offered essential guidance to combat AMR.

AMR leads to prolonged infections, increased mortality rates, and the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms or "superbugs."

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified AMR as one of the top 10 global health threats. *IANS*

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Study explains why obesity increases risk of diabetes

NEW DELHI: The US scientists have decoded why obesity increases the risk of type 2 diabetes by targeting the fat cells.

The study, published in Cell Reports, may advance new treatments for type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases that work by helping fat stem cells differentiate and make new, smaller fat cells.

In a first, the team from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) showed that obesity can make it difficult for the body to produce key cellular building blocks called ribosomal factors.

Without sufficient ribosomal factors, fat stem cells cannot produce functioning fat cells. Their energy gets trapped and they become enlarged and play a crucial role in diabetes development.

While fat tissue has been blamed for long, it's "actually essential for maintaining normal glucose metabolism," said Dr.



Claudio Villanueva, Associate Professor of integrative biology and physiology at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Villanueva explained that people with obesity carry "too much fat tissue which is also not functioning optimally".

Fat tissue stores energy from food. However, when not functioning properly, the excess energy gets rerouted to be stored

elsewhere in the body like in the liver -- leading to fatty liver disease; or in the heart -- leading to atherosclerosis or stroke.

The study included obese and diabetic mice. The fat cells of these mice were four to five times larger than those found in lean mice. The team administered them with rosiglitazone.

The results showed that their ribosomal factors increased to normal levels, which triggered their fat stem cells to differentiate to produce new, smaller fat cells. Further, this enabled the mice's fat tissue to function properly in storing energy. These also generate key hormones that regulate metabolism.

However, the scientists found that although the mice remained obese after taking the drug, their "type-2 diabetes essentially disappeared." *IANS*

Standing at work can actually be detrimental to BP: Study

NEW DELHI: Prolonged standing at work had a negative impact on blood pressure and in contrast, spending more time sitting at work was associated with better BP, a new study has revealed.

The Finnish study from University of Turku, published in the journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, suggests that activity behavior during working hours may be more relevant to 24-hour blood pressure than recreational physical activity.

"Rather than any single measurement, 24-hour blood pressure is a better indication of how blood pressure

stresses the heart and blood vessels throughout the day and night," says doctoral researcher Jooa Norha.

If blood pressure is slightly high throughout the day and does not fall sufficiently even at night, blood vessels start to stiffen and the heart has to work harder to cope with the increased pressure.

"Over the years, this can lead to the development of cardiovascular disease," Norha added.

In the Finnish Retirement and Aging study (FIREA) conducted at the University of Turku, the

physical activity of municipal employees approaching retirement age was measured using thigh-worn accelerometers during working hours, leisure



time, and days off.

In addition, the research participants used a portable blood pressure monitor that automatically measured their blood pressure every 30 minutes for 24 hours.

The results confirm previous findings that physical activity at work can be harmful to the heart and circulatory system.

In particular, prolonged standing can raise blood pressure as the body boosts circulation to the lower limbs by constricting blood vessels and in-

creasing the pumping power of the heart.

"A standing desk can provide a nice change from sitting at the office, but too much standing can be harmful. It's a good idea to take a break from standing during the work day, either by walking every half an hour or sitting for some parts of the day," Norha said.

In addition, the results of the study suggest that sedentary work in itself is not necessarily harmful to blood pressure. Instead, researchers stress the importance of recreational physical activity for both office and construction workers. *IANS*

Probiotics before child birth may help protect against toxic exposures

NEW YORK: Probiotic supplementation can reduce the negative impacts of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) on neurodevelopment, behavior and metabolism, according to a new study.

PBDEs are fire-retardant chemicals that are found everywhere - upholstery, carpets, curtains, electronics, and even infant products.

Known to disrupt hormones and persist in the environment, these pollutants have been detected in water, soil, air, food products, animals, human tissues and even breast milk, according to the study by University of California, Riverside and published in Archives of Toxicology.

"Exposure to PBDEs during the perinatal period produces autistic-like behavior and metabolism syndrome in mice," said Margarita C. Curras-Collazo, a professor of neuroscience who led the study.

"These compounds also disrupt the gut microbiome, which has been linked to brain and metabolic health. Our study shows supplementing the maternal diet

with the probiotic *Limosilactobacillus reuteri* can help prevent these negative effects," Curras-Collazo added.



L. reuteri, or LR, typically resides in the digestive tract, where it generates lactic acid.

Additionally, it can be found in beans,

artichokes, and sweet potatoes, and in fermented foods such as sourdough bread, as well as miso, kimchi, and

sauerkraut. It is frequently included in yogurts and other dairy products and, therefore, is readily accessible.

The researchers exposed mouse

mothers to a PBDE mixture or a control (corn oil) during pregnancy and breastfeeding. This was done over a 10-week period to model the kind of exposures humans face.

Some of the mice were supplemented with LR. The researchers then examined the offspring for developmental benchmarks during the postnatal period and for behavior during adulthood.

They found male offspring exposed to PBDEs had a delay in body weight gain. Further, their incisor eruption was abnormally timed.

"To our surprise, we found LR treatment prevented delays in male weight gain and helped normalize the timing of tooth eruption in both sexes," said Elena Kozlova, a doctoral student working in Curras-Collazo's lab and co-first author on the paper.

According to Curras-Collazo, using gut microbiota-focused therapies before birth through the mother may help protect against developmental and adult diseases linked to toxic exposures. *IANS*



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No single magic formula for cancer, say oncologists slamming Sidhu for 'sensationalism'

NEW DELHI: Chemotherapy, surgery, or radiation forms the backbone of the treatment against cancer and there is no single magic formula against the disease, said oncologists while slamming former cricketer and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's recent claims of his wife being cured of the deadly disease via diet.

The oncologists slammed Sidhu, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha, for "creating sensationalism" and misguiding people.

In a recent press conference in Amritsar, Punjab, Sidhu described his wife, Navjot Kaur's treatment for her breast cancer as "starving cancer by not eating dairy products and sugar". In the widely circulated video on social media, Sidhu said that his wife "consumed haldi (turmeric) and neem which helped cure her 'incurable' cancer.

"Cancer is not one disease, treated by a single magic formula. The treatment strategy is based on the subtype of cancer, specific genetic changes in the particular cancer cells, organ of origin, extent of spread of disease at the time of diagnosis and host of factors," Dr. Harit Chaturvedi, Chairman - Max Institute of Cancer Care, told IANS.

"The treatment of cancer is because of either chemotherapy, surgery, or radiation. This forms the backbone of the treatment. The other adjuncts, like the diet control or diet rearrangements or the natural ingredients, cannot replace the treatment," added Dr. Pritam Kataria, Consultant, Medical Oncology, Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital.

In the press conference, Sidhu revealed that his wife was given a 5 percent chance to survive. However, she overcame stage 4 cancer following a simple dietary and lifestyle regimen.

After Sidhu's viral video, oncologists claimed that he had done major harm to

society by misguiding people over the disease which claims more than 9 lakh lives annually in India.

Notably, Sidhu had in June tweeted about Kaur successfully undergoing chemotherapy sessions under "Dr. Rupinder Batra (Former Tata Memorial Oncologist) at Waryam Singh Hospital, Yamunanagar".

In an open letter, posted on LinkedIn, Dr. Abhishek Shankar, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr BR Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospi-



Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu along with wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu addresses a press conference, in Amritsar. (ANI Photo)

tal at AIIMS, Delhi called out the former cricketer for spreading misinformation.

"We expect a lot from a public figure like you when it comes to overcoming the myth among the general population to boost cancer care in India. Despite the best efforts, more than 9 lakh people are dying from cancer every year in India, and the reason for many deaths is misinformation," Shankar said.

"The general public might lose the best opportunities to get cured by just adopting your advice seriously," Shankar said.

He noted that "neem and turmeric may have potential health benefits, but there is no scientific evidence that they can cure cancer".

"The idea that 'sugar feeds cancer' oversimplifies how the body and cancer cells use energy. Eliminating sugar from the diet will not starve cancer cells but may lead to nutritional imbalances and that may be fatal for cancer patients. A bal-

anced diet is crucial for maintaining strength and supporting treatment outcomes and may contain sugar and dairy products," he added in the letter.

Many other oncologists claimed that Sidhu's video promoting home remedies for cancer has done "long-term harm to society". With the video going viral in WhatsApp groups, more people are likely to choose home remedies over proper cancer treatment, resulting in countless preventable deaths.

"Claims of curing cancer through diet alone lack scientific validation. Treatment plans should integrate diet as a complementary approach rather than a standalone solution, tailored to the individual's cancer type and overall condition," Dr. Mandeep Singh Malhotra, Director of Surgical Oncology at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, told IANS.

"We appeal to the people not to get misguided by such stories that lack scientific and data scrutiny. Such anecdotes are generally not shared with honesty for any good but are shared to create sensationalism," Chaturvedi said. IANS

Most Americans not aware that alcohol ups cancer risk: Survey

NEW YORK: Despite the warning that drinking alcohol can lead to cancer risk, less than half of Americans know that regularly drinking alcohol increases the risk of later developing cancer.

According to a survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) at the University of Pennsylvania in the US, although 40 percent of survey respondents were aware that regularly consuming alcohol increases the chance of later developing cancer, 40 percent were not sure whether that



is true, and 20 percent reported inaccurate beliefs (either that it would have no effect or that it would decrease the chance of developing cancer).

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that you can "lower your risk for cancer by drinking less alcohol or not drinking at all". The CDC reports that more than half of US adults drink alcohol, 17 percent binge drink, and 6 percent drink heavily.

According to the survey, alcohol consumption carries significant health risks is backed by systematic reviews as well as meta-analyses focused on the association between alcohol consumption and the risk of death from any cause.

"Public health messages about the risks associated with drinking alcohol have to overcome the effects of decades of sophisticated marketing and positive media portrayals," said Patrick E. Jamieson, who directs APPC's Annenberg Health and Risk Communication Institute.

The survey data come from the 21st wave of a nationally representative panel of 1,744 US adults. To account for attrition, small replenishment samples were added over time using a random probability sampling design.

The policy center has been tracking the American public's knowledge, beliefs and behaviors regarding vaccination, Covid-19, flu, RSV, and other consequential health issues through this survey panel over the past three-and-a-half years. IANS

Dengue cases in Philippines up 81 percent so far this year

MANILA: The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) said that it tallied 340,860 dengue cases from January 1 to November 16 this year, 81 percent higher than the same period last year.

The DOH said it tallied 881 deaths due to dengue in the cited period. The agency said that the fatality rate was 0.26 percent so far this year, lower than the 0.34 percent recorded last year, reports Xinhua news agency.

Philippine Health Secretary Teodoro Herboza urged Filipinos to be vigilant, especially those impacted by floodwaters brought about by six typhoons that hit the country in October and November.

After the successive typhoons, mosquitoes can breed in stagnant waters, he said.

Dengue is endemic in the Philippines. Water-borne infectious diseases, including dengue, usually peak during the rainy season. IANS



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'About 62 lakh foreign tourists arrived in India in 8 months this year'

NEW DELHI: About 61.91 lakh foreign tourists arrived in India this year (January-August period) against 59.71 lakh arrivals registered in the same period last year, the government said.

In a reply to a Lok Sabha question on the first day of the Parliament's winter session, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that total foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) stood at 9.52 million (90.52 lakh) last year.

"As per the UNWTO Barometer published in September 2024, export revenues from international tourism in 2023 were recorded at \$1.8 trillion, which includes receipts from tourism activities as well as passenger transport," the minister said.

The tourism sector contributed 5 percent to the country's GDP in 2022-23, a significant surge from 1.75 percent in 2021-22.

The Ministry of Tourism undertakes various promotional activities in important and potential tourist-generating markets. *IANS*



Adani Green Energy clarifies on TotalEnergies statement, says no material impact on operations

NEW DELHI: Adani Green Energy clarified media reports suggesting an impact on its operations following a statement released by TotalEnergies regarding its investments in the Adani Group.

In a regulatory filing with the stock exchanges, the company emphasized that there is no new financial commitment under discussion with TotalEnergies.

The clarification comes after media reports surfaced citing a press release titled 'TotalEnergies' Statement on its Investments related to Adani Group in India', published on TotalEnergies' official website on November 25, 2024. *ANI*

Trump says he will hit China, Canada, Mexico with tariff hikes on Day 1 in office

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump announced his intention to sign orders on his first day in office in January that will impose a 25 percent tariff on all goods from Mexico and Canada unless they stop the flow of illegal immigrants and fentanyl drugs through their countries into the United States.

Trump also announced he will slap a tariff of 10 percent over and above existing rates on goods from China if it did not act decisively to stop fentanyl coming to the US.

President-elect Trump said frequently during the campaign that he will use tariffs to protect and promote US interests. However, economists have warned that these tariffs will end up raising prices in the US as importers and companies making products in targeted countries tend to pass on the burden of the tariff hikes to consumers, who, in this instance, will be American buyers.

"On January 20, as one of my

many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 percent Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States,

social media platform he owns.

"This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular, Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our

and power to easily solve this long simmering problem. We hereby demand that they use this power, and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price!"

Trump trained his guns on China in the second post shortly on Truth Social: "I have had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular, Fentanyl, being sent into the United States -- But to no avail. Representatives of China told me that they would institute their maximum penalty, that of death, for any drug dealers caught doing this but, unfortunately, they never followed through, and drugs are pouring into our Country, mostly through Mexico, at levels never seen before. Until such time as they stop, we will be charging China an additional 10 percent Tariff, above any additional Tariffs, on all of their many products coming into the United States of America."

Trump had made illegal immigration a key issue of his presidential campaign, claiming it was at the root of every conceivable problem, especially crime.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes fentanyl as "a powerful synthetic opioid that can be used for surgery or to treat severe pain".

It says further "the majority of fentanyl-related harms and overdoses are linked to illegally made fentanyl (IMF). Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs have contributed to a dramatic rise in US drug overdose deaths".

According to the CDC, nearly 74,000 drug overdose deaths involved synthetic opioids (other than methadone) in 2022. This is a nearly five percent increase from the number in 2021. *IANS*



US President-elect Donald Trump

Trump also announced he will slap a tariff of 10 percent over and above existing rates on goods from China if it did not act decisively to stop fentanyl coming to the US

and its ridiculous Open Borders," Trump wrote on Truth Social, the

Country! Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right

iPhone production reaches \$10 bn in India in April-Oct, creates 1.75 lakh direct jobs in 4 years

NEW DELHI: Riding on the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Apple's iPhone production in the country has reached \$10 billion in the seven months of this fiscal (FY25), with \$7 billion in exports alone which is a record, the Center said.

The tech giant manufactured/assembled \$14 billion of iPhones in India last fiscal (FY24), with exporting more than \$10 billion worth of iPhones.

In a post on X, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that this is yet another milestone for the smartphone PLI scheme in 7 months.

"\$10 billion iPhone production by Apple with \$7 billion exports. Total smartphone exports from Bharat crossed \$10.6 billion in 7 months," the minister informed. Minister Vaishnaw further stated that the Apple ecosystem created 1,75,000 new direct jobs in four years with "over 72 percent women".



The Cupertino (California)-based tech giant touched Rs 60,000 crore (around \$7 billion) in iPhone exports from India in the first seven months of the current fiscal (FY25). In the April-October period, the company exported iPhones at almost Rs 8,450 crore (nearly \$1 billion) each month, as per industry data.

In the July-September period, Apple clocked an all-time revenue record in India. "We continue to be excited by the enthusiasm we're seeing in India, where we set an all-time revenue record. This has been an extraordinary year of innovation at Apple," said company CEO Tim Cook.

Amid the growing demand for its iPhones in aspirational Bharat, Apple clocked a 36 percent increase in its operating revenue in India, surpassing Rs 66,700 crore (about \$8 billion) in FY24. The tech giant also posted Rs 2,746 crore (\$330 million) in profit last fiscal. *IANS*

Indian Railways recruited 5 lakh employees in last 10 years: Ashwini Vaishnaw

NAGPUR: Indian Railways recruited as many as five lakh employees during the last 10 years, which exceeds the number of employees that were recruited in the previous decade, according to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

He said that the number of people hired by Indian Railways between 2004 and 2014 was 4.4 lakh. He also highlighted the introduction of an annual recruitment calendar for the first time in the history of the Railways.

He made the statement at the national convention of the All India SC/ST Railway Employees Association here. The minister also detailed railway production plans, which include rolling out of new special and general coaches. As many as 12,000 general coaches are currently under production, which will make travelling easier for the common man.

Minister Vaishnaw also unveiled a souvenir commemorating the association's efforts and earlier paid his tributes to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar at the Central Memorial in Deekshabhoomi. The minister also appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gesture of giving a bow to the constitution before entering Parliament.

"Respect for the Constitution goes beyond symbolism; it is reflected in action," the minister said on the Constitution Day.

India observes Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, on November 26 each year. This day

also coincides with the 133rd birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly, who played a pivotal role in shaping the Indian Constitution. Initially cel-



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

ebrated as Law Day, the day was renamed Constitution Day by the Indian government in 2015.

The Indian Constitution was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 and came into effect on January 26, 1950. This year, the country is celebrating 75 years of the Indian Constitution. *IANS*

Most Asia-Pacific nations to see strong growth in 2025, China to take hit with new US govt

NEW DELHI: Much of the Asia-Pacific region is expected to grow solidly in the first quarter of 2025, although China will take a big hit due to the challenges posed by the new US administration to be headed by Donald Trump, according to an S&P Global report released recently.

Higher US tariffs on Chinese exports would make other Asian economies more competitive in the US and they may attract more foreign direct investment, including from US firms, said the report.

It stated that a gradual fall in interest rates and inflation should ease their drag on spending power, allowing growth to pick up in 2025 in several Asia-Pacific economies. In emerging markets, robust domestic demand growth is generally supporting solid overall growth, even as it is moderating in some.

While much of the Asia-Pacific region should be able to continue to grow solidly, central banks will probably remain cautious by not reducing their policy rates too fast. The impending change in the US administration will be challenging for China and the rest of Asia-Pacific.

"US tariff increases have become more likely, especially on China, and possible changes in the U.S. macro picture are leading to different interest rate expectations.

And risks have gone up due to slower global demand and US trade policy," the report pointed out.

According to the S&P report, swings in capital flows driven by shifts in expectations about U.S. interest rates and trade policies require central banks to be vigilant and cautious. "We expect Asia-Pacific central banks to take their time bringing policy rates down".

While China's stimulus measures should support growth, we expect its economy to be hit by US trade tariffs on its exports. While China's GDP growth has been projected at 4.1 percent in 2025, India is expected to grow at a more robust 6.8 percent during 2025.

The change of administration in the US implies a large degree of uncertainty around the baseline. That is true for US growth, inflation and interest rates, with implications for the rest of the world. In addition, the potential for new trade restrictions and trade conflicts has risen, the report said.

"We now see fewer US Federal Reserve interest rate cuts in 2025. We expect one more in December. But we now see only three cuts in 2025 and think the terminal level of 3 percent-3.25 percent will be reached only in late 2026. We expect the policy rate to reach the terminal level of 2.5 percent already in the first quarter of 2025," the report stated. *IANS*

"US tariff increases have become more likely, especially on China, and possible changes in the U.S. macro picture are leading to different interest rate expectations. And risks have gone up due to slower global demand and US trade policy"

Prosecutors seek 5-year sentence for Samsung chief in controversial merger case

SEOUL: Prosecutors have demanded a five-year prison sentence for Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong in an appeal against a court decision that acquitted the chairman over the controversial 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates.

Prosecutors also requested a fine of 500 million won (\$356,552) for Lee during the final hearing at the Seoul High Court, reports Yonhap news agency.

Lee was indicted in September 2020 on charges of stock price rigging, breach of duty and accounting fraud in the course of the controversial 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates, Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T Corp.

The merger, where three Samsung C&T shares were offered for one Cheil share, helped Lee tighten his control of Samsung C&T, the de facto holding company for Samsung Group, through his 23.2 percent stake in Cheil.



Lee Jae-yong

Prosecutors suspected that the group manipulated the stock market to inflate the prices of Cheil and drive down Samsung C&T prices through various unfair practices, including disseminating false market information and lobbying the National Pension Service, a major Samsung C&T shareholder, to support the merger.

"What the defendant destroyed in this case is the justice of our economy and the constitutional values that make up the foundation of the capital market," the prosecution said, adding Lee "deceived" the shareholders by convincing them that favoring the merger was for the national interest.

The prosecution also stressed that an acquittal of Lee would pave the way for dominant shareholders to push through a merger according to their interests in "illegal and expedient" methods.

In its ruling in February, the Seoul Central District Court acquitted Lee of all 19 charges, concluding that Lee's succession as the group chairman was not the sole purpose of the merger, nor was there any evidence showing that the merger inflicted financial losses on shareholders.

The prosecution appealed the decision. In his final statement, Lee reaffirmed that he "never intended to cause financial harm to shareholders or mislead investors for personal gain." He maintained he genuinely believed the merger was "beneficial for the future of both companies."

He pleaded for "a chance" to dedicate himself fully to navigating the company's current economic challenges and to leading it "a step forward."

"I am aware that there are deep concerns about Samsung's future," he said. "I promise we will overcome these challenging times, even as the current situation is more difficult than ever." *IANS*

Texas offers border land for Trump's mass deportation plan

HOUSTON: Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham is offering 1,402 acres of land along US state's border with Mexico for the mass deportation operation planned by the incoming Donald Trump administration.

Buckingham said in a letter to Trump that she's offering the land "to be used to construct deportation facilities," Xinhua news agency reported quoting ABC News.

"My office is fully prepared to enter into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or the United States Border Patrol to allow a facility to be built for the processing, detention, and coordination of the largest deportation of violent criminals in the nation's history," Buckingham wrote in the letter last week.

The Texas General Land Office purchased the plot of land from a farmer in Starr County, about 35 miles west of McAllen in Texas in October, said the report.

In an interview with Fox News, Buckingham said she was "100 percent on board" with the President-elect's promise on mass deportation.

"Now it's essentially farmland, so it's flat, it's easy to build on. We can very easily put a detention center on there -- a holding place as we get these criminals out of our country," she said.

In comparison, Democratic governors of California and Arizona, two other states bordering Mexico, reportedly have pledged not to aid the Trump administration's mass deportation plans. *IANS*

Immigration

POST

The report forecasts GDP growth of 2.4 percent in 2024 (4Q/4Q), which is expected to drop to 1.9 percent in 2025 and further decline to 1.3 percent by 2026

Tighter immigration policy, rising tariffs to slowdown US economic growth: Morgan Stanley

NEW DELHI: The US economy is projected to experience slower growth and persistently high inflation in the coming years, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.

The firm has revised its GDP growth estimates downward, citing factors like a cooling labor market, tighter immigration policies, and rising tariffs as major contributors to the slowdown.

The report forecasts GDP growth of 2.4 percent in 2024 (4Q/4Q), which is expected to drop to 1.9 percent in 2025 and further decline to 1.3 percent by 2026.

The report attributed this deceleration to weakening consumer spending and reduced business investment.

"Tighter immigration policy and tariffs weigh heavily on the economy, slowing GDP growth in 2025 and more sharply in 2026," the report stated.

The report highlighted that the consumer spending, a key driver of the US economy, is anticipated to slow significantly over the next few years. Growth in consumer spending is expected to decline from 2.6 percent in 2024 to 2.0 percent in 2025, and further to just 1.3 percent in 2026.

It said, "As labor income growth cools, consumption decelerates. Goods consumption declines less than services as lower interest rates support durables consumption. In 2026, we expect sharper deceleration

This, combined with reduced labor income, is expected to weigh heavily on consumption.

The labor market outlook also presents challenges. Payroll growth is projected to average just over 100,000 jobs per month

tighter immigration policies will constrain labor supply, affecting both income and employment levels. "Lower immigration means significantly lower payroll prints in 2025 and 2026," it stated.

Additionally, fiscal policy is expected to provide minimal relief in the near term, with most provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act set to expire by the end of 2025.

While the reinstatement of SALT deductions and other minor provisions for tariff-affected firms are anticipated in 2026, their impact is expected to be limited.

"The assumed reinstatement of SALT deductions and some deductions for tariff-affected firms will be new, but none of the changes come before 2026," the report added.

The report outlined a challenging economic environment for the US, marked by slower growth, sticky inflation, and a cooling labor market. *ANI*



as tariffs dampen both economic activity and labor markets."

Higher tariffs are predicted to not only slow economic activity but also contribute to inflationary pressures by driving up prices.

in 2025, while unemployment is forecast to end 2024 at 4.3 percent, drop slightly to 4.1 percent in 2025, and rise again to 4.5 percent in 2026.

The report highlights that

Pakistan issues 87 visas to Indian pilgrims to attend religious festival in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued 87 visas to Indian pilgrims for participating in the 316th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Shiv Avtari Stguru Sant Shadaram Sahib, at Shadani Darbar Hayat Pitafi, Sindh.

The celebrations will take place from November 24 to December 4.

In a post on X, the Pakistan's High Commission to India said, "Pakistan High Commission in India has issued 87 visas to Indian Hindu pilgrims for their visit to Pakistan to participate in the 316th Birth Anniversary Cel-

ebrations of Shiv Avtari Stguru Sant Shadaram Sahib, at Shadani Darbar Hayat Pitafi, Sindh from 24 November to 04 December 2024."

"On the occasion, Charge d'

sacred religious places as well as providing necessary facilitation to the visiting pilgrims," the statement added.

The issuance of visas is covered under the framework of Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, an official statement said.

Earlier, Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi issued more than 3,000 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to attend the birthday celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev from November 14-23. *ANI*



Affairs, Saad Ahmad Warraich, wished the pilgrims a rewarding and fulfilling journey. Pakistan remains committed to preserving

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US, UK, Australia, and UN slam Hong Kong's harsh sentencing of pro-democracy leaders

BEIJING: The US, UK, and Australian governments, along with the United Nations, condemned the sentencing of 45 democracy activists and former lawmakers to up to 10 years in prison for "subversion." This came amid increasing demands for tougher sanctions on Hong Kong and the broadening of visa programs to assist those escaping the city's ongoing political repression.

According to a Radio Free Asia report, rights activists, family members, and Hong Kong's former colonial governor also denounced the sentences, which were imposed on pro-democracy activists for organizing a primary in July 2020. They described the sentencing as part of an "unrelenting attack" on democracy and other freedoms in the region since its transfer from Britain to China in 1997.

In a recent statement, the US Department of State announced it is taking action to impose new visa restrictions on several Hong Kong officials involved in enforcing the 2020 National Security Law, which has been used to prosecute the activists. The statement called for the immediate and unconditional release of the 45 individuals and other political prisoners. It emphasized that these severe sentences undermine trust in Hong Kong's judicial system and damage the city's global standing.

British Foreign Office minister Catherine West also condemned the sentencing, calling it a clear example of Hong Kong authorities using the National Security Law to criminalize political dissent. She stated that those sentenced simply exercised their rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and political participa-

tion.

Senator Penny Wong, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and leader of the



government in the Senate, expressed deep concern in a statement over the sentencing of the activists, including Australian citizen Gordon Ng. She called on China to end its suppression of freedoms such as expression, assembly, media, and civil society, in line with recommendations from the Human Rights Committee and Special Procedures. Wong also urged the repeal of the National Security Law in Hong Kong.

According to the report, the UN Human

rights restrictions only when absolutely necessary for a legitimate purpose and in a proportionate manner.

In response to the criticism during a regular press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Li Jian stated that "no one should be allowed to use 'democracy' as an excuse to engage in illegal activities and evade justice." He reiterated that the Central Government strongly supports Hong Kong in protecting national security and punishing any actions that threaten it, in accordance with the law. Li also expressed strong opposition to certain Western countries interfering in China's internal matters and attempting to tarnish Hong Kong's legal system.

The recent sentencing was also condemned by Lord Patten of Barnes, the last British colonial governor of Hong Kong, who described it as "an affront to the people of Hong Kong." In a statement, he strongly criticized the "sham sentences," which followed a non-jury trial, highlighting the erosion of freedoms of assembly, ex-

In a recent statement, the US Department of State announced it is taking action to impose new visa restrictions on several Hong Kong officials involved in enforcing the 2020 National Security Law, which has been used to prosecute the activists

Rights Office (OHCHR) stated that High Commissioner Volker Turk had called for an "urgent review" of the convictions and urged Hong Kong authorities to ensure they adhere to international human rights law, including safeguarding freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and association. The OHCHR emphasized that na-

pression, and the press in Hong Kong. He urged the UK government not to let the outcome of this case go unnoticed or unchallenged.

Canadian Senator Leo Housakos, a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, called the sentences a "grave injustice." In a statement shared by the London-based rights group Hong Kong Watch, he argued that the National Security Law and the prosecution of these activists undermine the core principles of freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

Former politics lecturer Chan Kin-man, who co-founded the 2014 Occupy Central pro-democracy movement with key defendant Benny Tai, stated that none of those imprisoned, many of whom have been incarcerated for over three years, should have spent even a single day in jail. Referring to Tai, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Hong Kong High Court, Chan said, "Benny worked tirelessly as a constitutional scholar to broaden the pro-democracy movement through peaceful means." ANI

assist in the return of Syrian refugees to their country of origin, as Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita, according to the UN Refugee Agency, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Lebanese government estimates that about 1.5 million Syrian refugees reside in the country before the outbreak of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict.

Since the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel erupted, a large number of Syrian refugees have begun returning to their home country. IANS

420,000 Syrian refugees return from Lebanon due to Hezbollah-Israel conflict

BEIRUT: Lebanese Minister of the Displaced Issam Charafeddine said 420,000 Syrian refugees had returned from Lebanon to their homeland since the beginning of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict in October 2023, Lebanese news website Elnashra reported.

The Syrian authorities dealt positively with Syrian returnees and the 170,000 displaced Lebanese who had sought refuge in Syria due to the war in Lebanon, Charafeddine said.

Lebanese authorities have repeatedly urged the international community to as-

Food aid convoy arrives in refugee camp in Sudan's North Darfur State

PORT SUDAN: The UN World Food Program (WFP) has announced the arrival of the first aid convoy since August to Zamzam refugee camp in North Darfur State in western Sudan.

"The first food aid convoy arrived in North Darfur's Zamzam camp last week Friday, while further convoys remain on route to other hard-to-reach areas," the WFP said in a statement.

"The convoy that arrived in North Darfur's Zamzam is the first to arrive at the camp since famine was confirmed in August," it said.

According to the statement, more than 700 trucks carrying WFP food aid are on route to communities across Sudan, including 14 locations that WFP categorizes as "hotspots" due to the severity of food insecurity and famine risk in those areas.

"In total, the trucks will carry about 17,500 tons of food assistance, enough to feed 1.5 million people for one month," the WFP said, noting that, since September, it has delivered food assistance to an average of two million people each month across Sudan.

Sudan now holds half of the world's population facing "catastrophic hunger," or IPC5, the highest phase of the Acute Food Insecurity scale, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Xinhua news agency reported.

Recently, the Sudanese government announced that 28.9 million people in the country need humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing conflict.

Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023. According to the November update by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, the deadly conflict has resulted in more than 27,120 deaths.

Additionally, the conflict has displaced over 14 million people, both within Sudan and across its borders, according to the latest estimates by the International Organization for Migration. IANS

Mumbai, Delhi ranked among top 5 prime markets in Asia-Pacific

MUMBAI: Mumbai and Delhi have been ranked among top 5 Asia-Pacific prime-residential markets to record higher annual price growth, according to a report on 22 November, as India was cited among the emerging markets in Asia-Pacific, along with Vietnam and Thailand, to experience significant growth.

Mumbai ranked third on the annual prime residential price growth index for the APAC region in the report by Knight Frank, recording an 11.5 percent YoY increase in luxury property prices in Q3 2024.

"Mumbai's outperformance is in line with the performance of Indian stock markets. The investment sentiment remains very strong in the economy, and this is reflected in the growth of the equity indices which have scaled all-time highs, as well as the prime residential prices in this BFSI sector-dominated city which saw equally strong price growth," said the report.

Moreover, Mumbai is noted to be the 14th most expensive APAC prime residential market at an average price of \$ 953 per square foot. In the city, \$1 million can secure approximately 103 square feet of prime real estate property.

Furthermore, Delhi ranked fifth on the annual prime residential price growth index for the APAC region, reporting a 6.5 percent increment in luxury property prices. *IANS*

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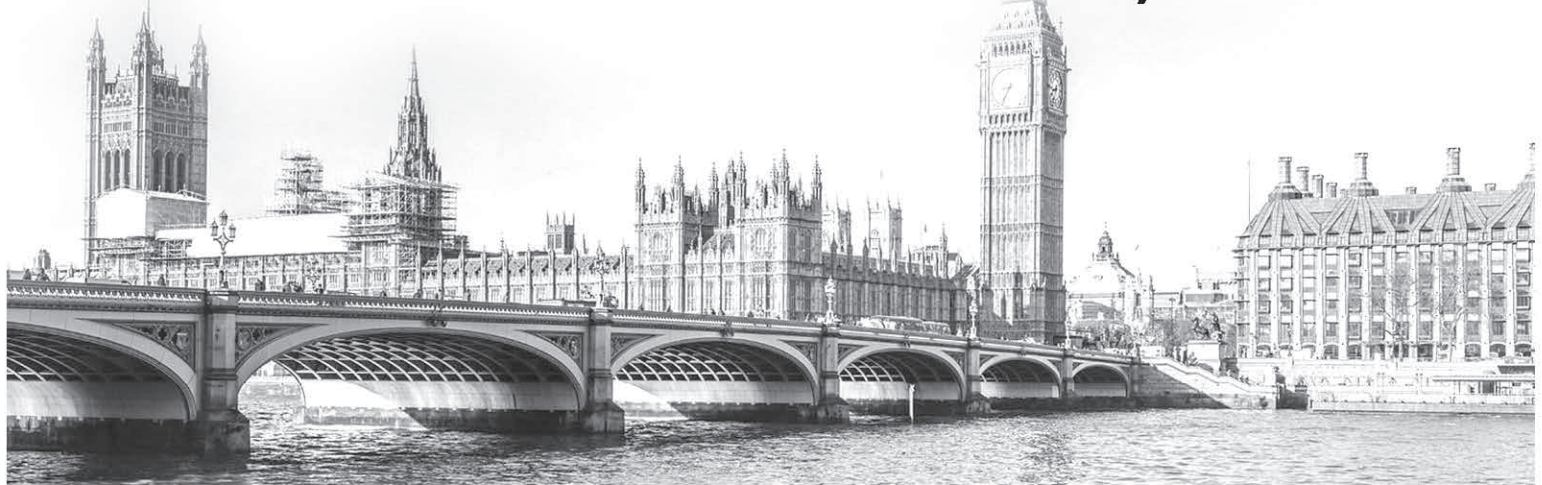
www.indiapost.com

November 29, 2024

KOCHI: A week after real estate broker Jaysi Abraham, 55, was found dead in her apartment near Kerala's Kochi, police said they had arrested a couple for the well-planned-out murder.

The police have now taken Gireesh Babu, 42, and his paramour Khateeja, 42, into custody. It was on November 17 that Abraham was found murdered after police checked her apartment after a call from Abraham's daughter in Canada reporting that her mother was not picking up the phone. *IANS*

London ranks as World's Best City for 10th consecutive year



LONDON: London has been crowned the world's best city for the 10th consecutive year in the annual World's Best Cities rankings. The British capital retained its top spot, ahead of New York, Paris, and Tokyo.

The rankings, compiled by Resonance, a global advisor in real estate, tourism, and economic development, evaluate cities with populations of over 1 million. London has consistently dominated the rankings since their inception, even as the evaluation criteria evolve each year, Xinhua news agency reported.

The rankings underscore

London's global appeal as a city that consistently combines rich cultural heritage, robust business infrastructure, and an unmatched quality of life.

This year's rankings, in partnership with leading pollster Ipsos, introduced public perception as a key metric. For the first time, insights from over 22,000 people across 30 countries were incorporated, adding perception-based data to the analysis.

The evaluation considered a wide range of other factors, including the quality of natural and built environments, cultural vibrancy, dining, nightlife, shopping,

and business infrastructure. It also assessed regional airport connectivity and the quality of universities, all of which have shown strong correlations with attracting residents aged 25 to 44.

"People are moving and migrating, a trend amplified during the pandemic as individuals sought not just affordable places but lovable places," said Chris Fair, Resonance's president and CEO. "The results show that people around the world continue to aspire to live, visit, and work in the world's largest cities."

Fair acknowledged inherent biases in the rankings due to reli-

ance on data from platforms like TripAdvisor, which tend to favor a Western perspective.

Laura Citron OBE, CEO of London & Partners, the UK capital's growth agency, highlighted London's appeal to Chinese visitors. "We always love to see more Chinese tourists in London," she told Xinhua.

"Our iconic attractions, world-class financial sector, and fast-growing tech industry showcase our city's strength, but it's the diversity of our people and ideas that drives the innovation and opportunities shaping our future," she added. *IANS*

India's cement industry projected to grow to 5.09 billion tons by 2028-29

NEW DELHI: Driven by the growing government spending on infrastructure projects, the Indian cement industry is projected to grow to 5.09 billion tons by 2028-29, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.9 percent from 2024 to 2029, according to a recent report.

The Indian cement industry's market size was 3.82 billion tons in 2022-23. The total installed capacity is approximately 622 million tons per annum

(MTPA) as of FY24; with production reaching 427 million tons during the same year, said the 'Cement Industry Outlook' report by Infomerics Ratings.

India currently accounts for over 8 percent of global installed cement capacity.

"While the global cement market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 4.3 percent from 2024 to 2032, India's per capita cement consumption (260 kg) remains significantly lower than the global average (540 kg), indicat-

ing growth potential," said the report.

Government spending on in-

frastructure (Rs 11.11 lakh crore in FY25) and housing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

are expected to drive cement demand.

Real estate accounts for 55 percent of consumption, while public infrastructure projects make up the rest.

India's cement sector plays a vital role in its economic growth and provides direct employment to more than one million people and many more indirect jobs across the country. It employs about 20,000 people downstream for every million tons of cement produced. *IANS*



Habitat for Humanity India and Max Estates Deliver 25 New Homes to Low Income Families in Haryana

NOIDA: Bringing new hope to families in need, Habitat for Humanity India and Max Estates have successfully completed the initial phase of their joint affordable housing initiative in Rewari district of Haryana. The first 25 homes in Aakera village are now ready and this milestone was celebrated with a handover ceremony in Aakera village in the presence of 25 new homeowners, Kumar Alok Shubham, Head - Human Capital, Max Estates Limited and Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India.

For families who previously lacked access to decent, livable conditions and lived in inadequate housing, the completion of 25 new homes marks a transformative milestone. This achievement holds profound meaning, as it represents the realization of their long-held dreams and the restoration of hope.

Commenting on the completion of the phase 1 of the project, Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director of Habitat for Humanity India, said, "Witnessing the joy on the faces of these 25 families as they hold the keys to their new homes is a humbling and deeply rewarding experience. Each of these homes represents so much more than just a physical structure. It is a symbol of dignity, security, and the opportunity for these families to build a brighter future for themselves and their loved ones. We are honored to partner with Max Estates in uplifting communities and creating lasting change."

Echoing these sentiments, Sahil Vachani, Vice Chairman and M.D., Max Estates Limited stated, "At Max Estates, we are deeply committed to Sevabhab--fostering a culture of service and making a positive difference to quality of life of others and society at large. We believe that access to safe, comfortable housing is not just a necessity but a fundamental human right. Through our partnership with Habitat for Humanity India, we have had the privi-

tively address pressing social issues and create meaningful, long-term impact in communities.

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort. The housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 70 countries. In India since 1983, Habitat for



Humanity has supported more than 38 million people by helping them build or improve a place they can call home, build improved sanitation units, and provide humanitarian aid and disaster resilient shelter solutions in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit www.habitatindia.org

Established in 2016, Max Estates Limited is a leading Real Estate developer in the NCR region. With the purpose of 'Enhancing Quality of Life through spaces it creates', it has chosen to create premium commercial and

residential spaces in Delhi NCR. The company has developed a very well diversified portfolio of real estate across the two asset classes in Delhi NCR and in this pursuit has partnered with New York Life Insurance Company (NYL) particularly for commercial office platform.

Its marquee projects include a one-of-its-kind commercial office space Max Towers, on the edge of South Delhi that opened its doors in 2019, Max House - a re-development of office campus, Max Square, located on a primary office vector - Noida Expressway and, 222 Rajpur, a luxury residential villa community on Rajpur Road, Dehradun.

It has two under construction commercial office projects - Max Square Two, adjacent to Max Square and a project located on main Golf Course Extension Road marking its entry in commercial office segment in Gurugram.

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Asia Pacific investors bullish on Indian real estate in 2025, office spaces to lead

MUMBAI: Nearly seven in 10 (68 percent) of Asia Pacific investors expect regional economic growth to have a positive impact and India is likely to see heightened institutional real estate investments in 2024, with the momentum accelerating further in 2025, according to a report on Friday last week.

The share of APAC countries in overall institutional investments in Indian real estate stood at 28 percent in January-September period this year.

About 69 percent of APAC respondents intend to allocate more than 30 percent of their total global assets under management (AUM) to real estate in the next five years, and India looks uniquely positioned to attract both domestic and foreign institutional investments, according to a Colliers India report.

Since 2021, institutional inflows have totaled \$19 billion, with investment volumes rising each passing year. According to the report, this growth is fuelled by surging demand across core real estate segments.

While office assets have driven over 40 percent of inflows during the last four years (2021-24), both industrial and warehousing and residential sectors are now seeing accelerated momentum in recent years," mentioned the report.

In the first three quarters of 2024, institutional investments in Indian real estate have reached \$4.7 billion, accounting for 87 percent of the inflows in the entire year of 2023.

This momentum also sets a promising tone for institutional investments across real estate asset classes in 2025.

According to Piyush Gupta, Managing Director, Capital Markets & Investment Services at Colliers India, the office sector is likely to have its best year in India, with record absorption fuelled by global capability centers (GCCs) and domestic demand.

"The residential sector is witnessing strong end-user sales. Equity capital in Indian real estate is now more diversified, with an increasing share of domestic capital," he added.

The office sector will continue to present increased opportunities in developmental assets, while rising and evolving consumption patterns and strong demand from e-commerce and third-party logistics (3PL) players will bolster the industrial and warehousing sector.

"Additionally, with evolving demographic patterns, investments in alternatives such as data centers, senior living, student housing, schools, life sciences, holiday homes etc. will continue to hold immense long-term potential," said Vimal Nadar, Senior Director and Head of Research, Colliers India. /ANS

Construction on the second phase of the project is set to begin immediately in Bhudla village, where an additional 25 homes will be built. This phase is scheduled for completion in November 2025, bringing the total impact to 50 families across two villages in Rewari district of Haryana

lege of extending our LiveWell philosophy to those in need by making a meaningful difference in the lives of families in Haryana. Witnessing the gratitude and empowerment radiating from these new homeowners reaffirms the transformative power of collaboration. Together, we have taken a step toward addressing the urgent need for affordable housing, proving that collective action can truly make a lasting difference."

Construction on the second phase of the project is set to begin immediately in Bhudla village, where an additional 25 homes will be built. This phase is scheduled for completion in November 2025, bringing the total impact to 50 families across two villages in Rewari district of Haryana. The success of this project serves as a powerful example of how cross-sector partnerships can effec-

Philosophy

VINOD DHAWAN

English poet and painter William Blake (1757-1827) was commissioned by priest Reverend John Trusler to illustrate his artworks on subjects such as malevolence, benevolence, pride, and humility. He was impressed by Blake's "The Last Supper" exhibited at the Royal Academy.

However whatever Blake produced was not liked by priest Trusler. He wrote to Blake condemning his approach as overly transcendent and whimsical, and accusing him of having an imagination that belongs to "the world of spirits" and unbecoming Trusler's worldly intentions.

Blake wrote back saying, "I find more & more that my style of designing is a species by itself, and in this which I send you have been compelled by my Genius or Angel to follow where he led; if I were to act otherwise it would not fulfil the purpose for which alone I live, which is ... to renew the lost art of the Greeks.

the Lord, to speak good or bad."

"I really am sorry that you are fallen out with the spiritual world ... What is grand is necessarily obscure to weak men. That which can be made explicit to the idiot is not worth my care.

"Fun I love, but too much fun is of all things the most loathsome. Mirth is better than fun, and happiness is better than mirth. I feel that a man may be happy in this world. And I know that this world is a world of imagination and vision. I see everything I paint in this world, but everybody does not see alike. To the eyes of a miser a guinea is far more beautiful than the Sun, and a bag worn with the use of money has more beautiful proportions than a vine filled with grapes.

"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity, and by these I shall not regulate my proportions... But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself. As a man is, so he sees.

Divine bidding scores over human command

"That which can be made explicit to the idiot is not worth my care."



William Blake

"I attempted every morning for a fortnight together to follow your dictate, but when I found my attempts were in vain, resolved to show an independence which I know will please an author better than slavishly following the track of another, however admirable that track may be. At any rate, my excuse must be: I could not do otherwise; it was out of my power!"

Blake argued that what prohibited him from obeying Trusler's demands was the impossibility - nay, the sacrilege - of disobeying the muse:

"[I] cannot previously describe in words what I mean to design, for fear I should evaporate the spirit of my invention... And tho' I call them mine, I know that they are not mine, being of the same opinion with Milton when he says that the Muse visits his slumbers and awakes and governs his song when morn purples the East, and being also in the predicament of that prophet who says: "I cannot go beyond the command of

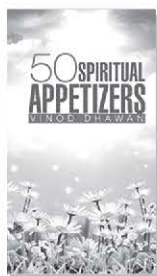
"You certainly mistake, when you say that the visions of fancy are not to be found in this world. To me this world is all one continued vision of fancy or imagination.

"I am happy to find a great majority of fellow mortals who can elucidate my visions, and particularly they have been elucidated by children, who have taken a greater delight in contemplating my pictures than I even hoped."

Blake's letter above excerpted from 'The Portable William Blake'

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keefe
Spirituality teacher based in USA.

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India's Caribbean outreach carries geoeconomic and geopolitical significance

PARAS RAMOUTAR

Will Indian Prime Minister Modi's generous gesture to CARICOM bring meaningful fruits to the people in the region? His "7 pillars for cooperation" plan with the four million people of CARICOM countries, abutting the Caribbean Sea, signal a new awakening to the 15 members of the regional group which has been functional for some 51 years. Is it another Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which was initiated by the United States and now lies in the scrapyard of history?

This is perhaps for the first time since India's Independence in August 1947 that India has stepped out to the Caribbean and offered such a cooperation plan aimed at regional development and stronger ties. History would record that during the Covid 19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handsomely donated in excess of 400,000 doses of vaccine, including to Trinidad and Tobago, which went on begging knees to India and he responded

India would work with CARICOM to provide online training in technology, administration, law and education, and training for parliamentarians, agriculture, food security, renewable energy and climate change, with great focus solar energy, technology and trade.

First PM visit in 56 years

Modi elicited a lot of smiles as he spoke about the common passion for cricket and cinema that links India with the Caribbean, especially T20 cricket, and called for the enhancement of women's cricket. Modi underlined the effectiveness of yoga and suggested that yoga be part of the school curriculum as India would be willing to send yoga teachers and trainers.

Modi came to Guyana at the invitation of Guyana's President Irfan Ail for a three-day stay in a country that has discovered a lot of oil wealth. The late Indira Gandhi was the first and only Indian prime minister to visit Guyana in 1968 when she made a whirlwind visit to Trinidad and Tobago as well. Modi receive

Guyana's highest honor, The Honor of Excellence, the Honorary Freedom Honor of Barbados' and Dominica's Award of Honor.

Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley, Barba-

It is worth mentioning that the seven pillars of support which Modi enumerated at the India-CARICOM summit at Bridgetown, Guyana, underscored India's commitment to empowering CARICOM nations through innovation, technology, and shared resources

dos Prime Minister Mia Mottley and CARICOM chairman Grenadian Prime Minister Dickson Mitchell were among the long list of Caribbean leaders who attended the summit in Georgetown.

New dimension to India-CARICOM ties

In the years gone by India was known for its religious and cultural assets by people in the Caribbean, but Prime Minister Modi with this initiative has given a new dimension to India-Caribbean ties through a developmental agenda. It is hoped that CARICOM would be able set up the mechanisms required to get this cooperation agenda going. Is it that India is now demonstrating its readiness to take on American and Chinese frontiers aimed at becoming a leader of the Global South if not a world power?

(The author is a Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago-based journalist and consultant) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

quickly to donate 40,000 doses to save the twin-island country from the dreaded health emergency.

It is worth mentioning that the seven pillars of support which Modi enumerated at the India-CARICOM summit at Bridgetown, Guyana, underscored India's commitment to empowering CARICOM nations through innovation, technology, and shared resources. These were spelt out through the CARICOM acronym as: C - Capacity Building; A - Agriculture and food security; R - Renewable energy and climate change; I - Innovation and technology; C - Cricket and culture; O - Ocean economy and maritime security; and M - Medicines and healthcare. These included, among others, 1,000 IT scholarships; a regional forensic center; scholarships for advancing women's cricket; partnerships in maritime security to combat piracy and trafficking; support in affordable medicines and telehealth service; and holding Bollywood and other Indian film festivals.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

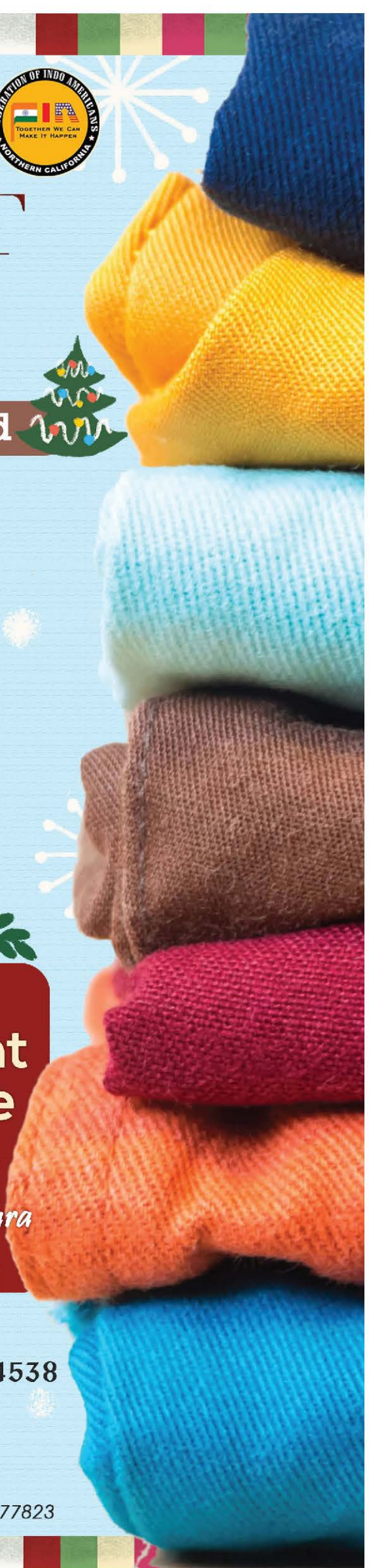


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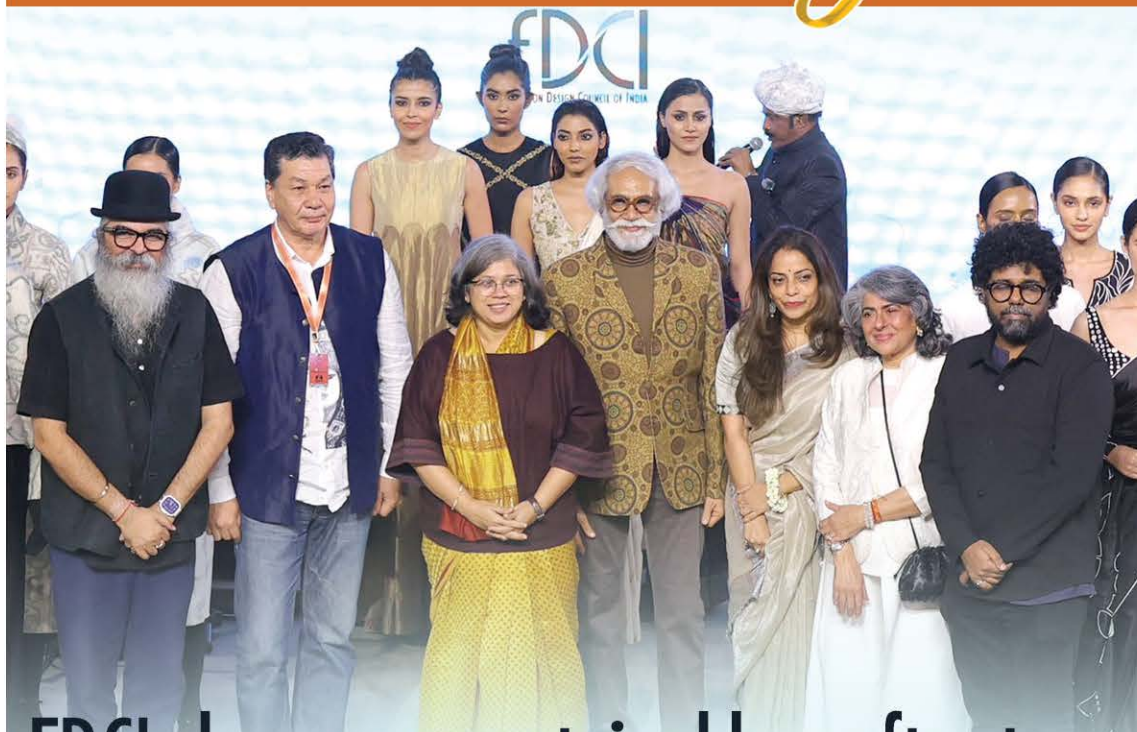
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FDCI showcases sustainable crafts at World Crafts Forum 2024

NEW DELHI: The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) presented 'My Craft My Pride', a special showcase to celebrate India's handloom and craft traditions, at the World Crafts Forum 2024 last week.

Held at the National Crafts Museum in New Delhi, the event focused on sustainable design and innovation in India's craft sector.

Bhargav for DHI, Payal Jain, Suket Dhir, Akaaro by Gaurav Jai Gupta, Anavila Misra, and Aidar Khan from Kazakhstan.

FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi expressed his gratitude for the platform saying, "This event celebrates India's sustainable crafts and our dedication to preserving tradition while paving the way for a sustainable future."

Each designer presented a

unique collection reflecting India's rich heritage while embracing sustainability. Anjana Bhargav used patchwork and bold modern abstractions in her black-and-white designs. "Black and white--a palette of timeless sophistication and bold allure. This collection reimagines these hues through the art of patchwork with a contemporary twist, blending traditional handlooms with bold, modern abstractions. It's about creating pieces that are not just worn but remembered," said Anjana in a statement shared by FDCI.

Payal Jain repurposed antique Uzbek textiles into contemporary silhouettes with handmade embellishments.

"Rising Sun is a celebration of Uzbekistan's rich cultural tapestry, reimagined through the lens of Indian craftsmanship. This collection is a tribute to sustainability and artistry, repurposing antique Uzbek textiles into modern silhouettes adorned with handmade tassels, fringes, and metallic embellishments," she said.

Suket Dhir, who brought storytelling to life with Panchatantra-themed Banarasi brocades said, "The Panchatantra collection is our homage to the timeless art of storytelling. ANI

FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi expressed his gratitude for the platform saying, "This event celebrates India's sustainable crafts and our dedication to preserving tradition while paving the way for a sustainable future"

Organized by the World Crafts Council (WCC) and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, the event brought together acclaimed designers to exhibit collections that blended traditional craftsmanship with modern design sensibilities.

The lineup included Anjana



I DID NOT WANT TO GO PREDICTABLE SIDE: MANISH MALHOTRA ON WHY HE SELECTED 'SAALI MOHABBAT' FIRST PROJECT AS PRODUCER

PANAJI: Ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra opened up on what inspired him to start his production house and got candid about his film 'Saali Mohabbat'.

In a conversation with ANI he said, "I've been wanting to produce and direct a film. It was in my heart and mind. I think it's during Covid where I got a lot of time up I thought I'm always going to be busy in the career that I absolutely love and I'm married to, which is clothes but to back this and that's when I launched my company Stage5 Production."



Manish Malhotra

While talking about his film 'Saali Mohabbat', he shared, "Three and a half years ago and the search started for unusual scripts. When Tisca and her husband narrated the film to me, I said I'm making this film. It spoke about women. It spoke about strong women. It spoke about the earthiness. It's a complete connection with plantation, with the soil. There were so many factors that touched me. There were so many factors that touched me and intrigued me. ANI

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Udaipur, the "City of Lakes," stands as a jewel in the crown of Rajasthan, India. Nestled amidst the Aravalli Range, this city captivates visitors with its regal charm, historic grandeur, and scenic landscapes. Located around stunning water lakes and enveloped by the Aravalli Hills in all directions, Udaipur is known for its azure lakes, magnificent palaces, vibrant culture and delectable food. Along with being a must-visit destination, it is also one of the best places to experience luxury in India.

Also known as the "Venice of the East", Udaipur is inarguably one of the most romantic cities in India. At the heart of Udaipur lies the iconic Lake Pichola, flanked by the majestic City Palace, a sprawling complex of palaces, courtyards, and gardens showcasing exquisite Mewar architecture. Boating through the shimmering Lake Pichola is one of the most beautiful sights and highlights of every Udaipur trip. The ethereal Jag Mandir and Jag Niwas, also known as the Lake Palace, appear to float on the serene waters of Lake Pichola, adding a fairytale touch to Udaipur's skyline.

Another picturesque lake, Fateh Sagar, is embraced by hills on three sides and dotted with islands, offering a tranquil escape in the midst of nature. The Saheliyon Ki Bari, a historic garden adorned with fountains, kiosks, and marble elephants, is a testament to the royal lifestyle of the Maharanis. Udaipur's architectural splendors extend to the intricately carved Jagdish Temple and the Sajjangarh Palace, also known as the Monsoon Palace, which offers panoramic

views of the city and its lakes.

Udaipur's vibrant markets, like Bada Bazaar and Hathi Pol, beckon with traditional Rajasthani crafts, textiles, and jewelry, providing a delightful shopping experience. The Shilpgram Crafts Fair, held an-

ually, showcases the rich cultural diversity of Rajasthan through traditional art, crafts, and performances. Culinary enthusiasts can savor the flavors of Udaipur with its delectable Rajasthani cuisine, including dal baati churma, gatte ki sabzi,

and the iconic dal kachori. The city's rooftop restaurants offer a perfect setting to enjoy a meal while overlooking the shimmering lakes and palaces.

The best time to visit Udaipur is during the winter months, from October to March,

when the weather is pleasant, making it ideal for exploring the city's attractions. A trip to Udaipur is often combined with a visit to nearby Kumbhalgarh (80km) and Mount Abu. The revered Nathdwara temple is about 60 km from Udaipur.

Places to visit in Udaipur

City Palace: Built on the banks of Lake Pichola, the City Palace in Udaipur is considered to be the largest royal complex in Rajasthan. The magnificent palace was built in the year 1559 by Maharana Uday Singh and served as the main seat of power, where the Maharanas lived and administered the kingdom from. Subsequently, the palace was made even more splendid by his successors, who added a number of structures to it. The Palace now has an assortment of Mahals, courtyards, pavilions, corridors, terraces, rooms and hanging gardens. There is a museum here as well that showcases some of the finest elements of Rajput arts and culture - from colorful paintings to the typical architecture found in Rajasthani palaces.

Lake Pichola: The Lake Pichola is an artificial lake located in the heart of Udaipur, Rajasthan. The oldest and one of the largest lakes of the city, the Lake Pichola observes lakhs of tourists because of its tranquility and beauty. Flanked by lofty hills, heritage buildings and bathing ghats, it is a dream come true for peace and nature lovers. A visit to the Lake Pichola is incomplete without a boat ride, especially in the dawn. During evenings, it seems the entire place has been dipped in gold as you can see the heritage buildings and the pristine water turning golden with the sun's reflection. The enthralling views will take you to a different world of stillness and will also bring out your romantic side.

www.holidify.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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The Third Eye: Proxy offensives are on the rise

D.C. PATHAK

The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of an era where a frontal military attack was giving way to cross-border terror attacks, externally instigated insurgencies, and cyber attacks on the economic lifelines of the opponent.

India has witnessed covert offensives of all these kinds.

The use of social media as an instrument for 'psychological warfare', a 'misinformation campaign' against a regime, and the spread of 'radicalization', has also become rampant.

The two major military conflicts of our times -- the Ukraine-Russia confrontation that began in February 2022 and the Israeli action in Gaza in retaliation against October 7, 2023, attack of Hamas on Israel, have many features of a 'proxy war'.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was keen to point out that the military intervention of Russia in Ukraine was not an act of 'war' but a move to protect the interests of the Russian-speaking population in east and south Ukraine.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) action in Gaza initially appeared to be a justifiable response to an outrageous terrorist act of Hamas across the Israeli border in which the terrorists killed some 1,200 Israelis and took 250 others, including women and children as hostages.

India took a measured stand on the Ukraine-Russia conflict suggesting that the security concerns of both sides had to be understood and acknowledged but calling for a peace negotiation all the same.

Similarly, India had no hesitation in denouncing the act of terrorism of Hamas but as the Israeli response began to cause large civilian casualties in Gaza it emphasized the need for stopping the military action and getting on with human relief operations.

Three trends have clearly emerged out of the era of proxy offensives that set in as a post-Cold

War phenomenon. One is that an asymmetric war always tends to become a prolonged affair.

The response of the US-led West in support of Ukraine was in a proxy mode -- confined to the supply of monetary aid and dispatch of war materials. NATO was in no hurry to induct Ukraine as a member -- the alliance would have been obliged to directly intervene against Russia if that membership was granted.

It seems possible that the US hoped to wear down Russia with the economic burden of the military confrontation with Ukraine like what had happened in the past -- in the case of the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan.

The hopes of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine about repelling the Russian army were kept alive by the West through the promise of access to

in an open armed attack on a country that will be repelled by the defense forces of the latter and which will cause death and injuries to only armed personnel by and large, an asymmetric conflict will result in an increasing number of civilian casualties.

This is happening in Ukraine and Russia as the 'war' there is assuming the form of an exchange of drone attacks for bombing not only the defense establishments but also the heavily populated urban centers.

In the case of the Israel-Hamas confrontation, the retaliatory response of Israel is shaped by its announced mission of 'annihilating' Hamas.

The 'survival' instinct of Israel is no doubt getting strengthened by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's politically driven ultra-nationalism.

The two major military conflicts of our times -- the Ukraine-Russia confrontation that began in February 2022 and the Israeli action in Gaza in retaliation against October 7, 2023, attack of Hamas on Israel, have many features of a 'proxy war'

the higher missile systems but what was becoming increasingly evident is that the US-led West and consequently the Russians too, were getting adjusted to an unending military conflict -- which was basically at the cost of Ukraine in a way.

As regards the action of Israel in Gaza it was meant to be the chase of a 'radicalized' Hamas that had turned into a terrorist outfit indulging in underground operations in Gaza and relying heavily on subterranean tunnels.

The Israel-Hamas conflict has consequently become an infinite 'asymmetric' war between the Israeli Defense Forces and the Hamas militants.

An inevitable part of any protracted 'proxy war' is that unlike

The civilian loss of life in Gaza has exceeded 35,000 and this is rightly an issue being critically viewed by the world at large despite the general disapproval of the 'terrorist' methodology adopted by Hamas in holding on to the hostages to exercise leverage.

Israel's present regime categorically rejects a 'two-state' solution which mutatis mutandis will have to provide a viable way out of the Palestinian problem in the long run. In any case, a halt to IDF operations and restoration of relief work in Gaza, are the first priorities there.

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

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INDIA POST
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WORLD THIS WEEK

Trump is expected to make major changes by bringing in several new faces in his new administration. This week alone saw him pick Scott Bessent to serve as Treasury secretary, tapping the billionaire hedge fund manager to lead an economic agenda that is expected to be built around raising tariffs and cutting taxes. In a flurry of announcements last week, Mr. Trump made a slew of picks, including: Russell T. Vought, a key figure in the conservative governing blueprint known as Project 2025, to lead the Office of Management and Budget; Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer of Oregon for labor secretary; Dr. Martin A. Makary to lead the Food and Drug Administration; and Dr. Dave Weldon, a former congressman from Florida, to be director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the meantime, it is confirmed the president-elect would not receive his punishment on Tuesday as once planned. The judge, Juan M. Merchant, has not ruled on whether to freeze the case for four years while Mr. Trump holds office or, to dismiss it altogether.

Trump also selected Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, a New York medical director with family ties to his first administration and a Fox News contributor, to be the next surgeon general of the United States. "She is committed to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare, and believes in empowering individuals to take charge of their health to live longer, healthier lives," Mr. Trump said in a social media post. There will surely be some moves towards Ukraine, Russia conflict and may even have some take on Israel Gaza war.

Across the seven seas there has been major political equation in Maharashtra, India. The Mahayuti alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Shiv Sena, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and some smaller allies has won 235 out of 288 seats in the Maharashtra elections, the biggest win in the state for any alliance or party since the 1972 election. While all the big parties in this alliance have won at least half the seats they contested, it is the BJP that has delivered the best performance among them. In fact, the BJP has delivered its own best performance in the state and for any single party since 1990. However, in the State of Jharkhand the story is bit different with BJP in neck to neck with Congress alliance.

Amongst the major political stories this week, news that is hitting headlines across the globe is Adani Group being charged with fraudulent dealings with SEC and US investors in US. The US bribery charges against Adani Group relate to a single contract within Adani Green Energy, constituting approximately 10% of its operations, said Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Robbie Singh. The US indicted Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, along with his nephew and Adani Green executive director Sagar Adani and other entities, for deceiving American investors and banks by concealing information about \$265 million in bribes paid to Indian govt officials for obtaining lucrative solar power contracts, and raising billions of dollars from these institutions. However, the conglomerate has denied these allegations.

"All stunt scenes in 'Shero' done by me" Sunny Leone

Popular Bollywood star Sunny Leone has played a major role in the upcoming psychological thriller 'Shero'.

The movie was shot in Munnar, Kerala, and directed by Sreejith Vijayan. This is the first multilingual movie of Sunny Leone and is highly anticipated.

Sunny Leone speaks to IANS in an exclusive interview.

IANS: Can you tell us about the kind of preparation that went into your role for 'Shero'?

Sunny Leone: Preparations for 'Shero' was kind of like a lot, I had to learn a lot of lines. I learned all of them myself and then I had a dialogue coach come in and she also helped me with how to say all the dialogues which was great.

IANS: What was it like performing the action scenes? Did any specific scenes push you out of your comfort zone or challenge you in unexpected ways?

Sunny Leone: I shot all the action scenes in 'Shero' so everything was done by me. Yes, this chair that is in the film is actually hard, solid chair was very heavy then I had to act with this chair through it which was very difficult and I'm pretty sure that I got dropped once by a harness so that didn't feel good either but it was all good a lot of things happen when you're shooting action and you know you get over it.

IANS: How difficult or different is it to be acting in the South Indian film industry, especially when you don't know the language there?

Sunny Leone: I am fine with learning other languages as long as I have good coaches and people around me that help me through the dialogue with learning it and understanding you know the meaning of everything. So I think if you have good people, good coaches and teachers you know you can do anything in life and I really did have that in 'Shero'. I was pretty confident while shooting this film and I think it turned out looking good.

IANS: Did you draw inspiration from any South Indian films or actors for your performance in this project?

Sunny Leone: I tried to be because it was a more realistic character. IANS



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 2 Tauba Tauba : **Bad Newz**
- 3 Zaroorat Se Zyada : **Vedaa**
- 4 Tainu Khabar Nahi : **Munjya**
- 5 Sajni : **Laapataa Ladies**
- 6 Soulmate : **Ek Tha Raja**
- 7 Khoobsurat : **Stree 2**
- 8 Ishq : **Ishq**
- 9 Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam : **Bad Newz**
- 10 Taras : **Munjya**

Bhumi Pednekar down memory lane

Bhumi Pednekar went down memory lane as she talked about her debut film "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" and said that she became an actor in a time where the way she looked was secondary.

"Dum Laga Ke Haisha", which released in 2015, was directed by Sharat Katariya. The film also stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Sanjay Mishra and Seema Pahwa. The film told the story of a school dropout named Prem, who hesitantly marries an educated but overweight girl, Sandhya. However, the two come closer when they take part in a race, which involves Prem carrying Sandhya on his back.

"'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' is a very special film not just to me, but also the film connected so deeply with people that it's still the first thing they come and tell me-that we loved you in Dum Laga Ke Haisha. That's truly very special." IANS

Late Bal Thackeray's grandson Aishvary's debut film

Late Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's grandson Aishvary Thackeray has wrapped up the shoot for his maiden film with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap.

According to an independent industry source: "Aishvary Thackeray's debut film with Anurag Kashyap has finally wrapped. The film had a 69-day shoot, which was entirely conducted in Lucknow. More details about the film are awaited."

Aishvary is the son of Smita Thackeray and Jaidev Thackeray. His journey in cinema began in 2015 when he worked as an assistant director on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani." The details about the film are still under wraps. Talking about Anurag, I started with writing a television serial. He got his major break as a co-writer in Ram Gopal Varma's crime drama Satya in 199. IANS



Malaika Arora reveals 'RELATIONSHIP STATUS RIGHT NOW'

Dancing diva and actress Malaika Arora has finally revealed her current relationship status with a hilarious cryptic post on social media.

Malaika took to Instagram stories, where she shared a meme which read: "My relationship status right now".

It had the options of: "In a relationship, single and hehehe" written on it. However, it was the third option marked "hehehe".

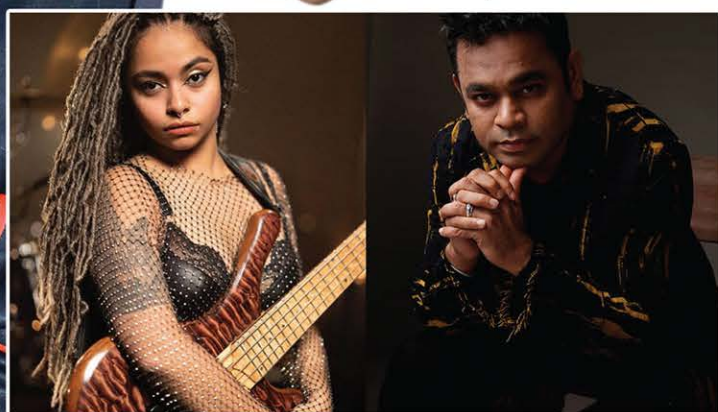
The post comes after Malaika and her former beau Arjun Kapoor chose to go separate ways. The two started dating in 2018. However, had never openly spoken about their relationship.

However, the couple used to share romantic pictures from their getaways and birthday wishes.

The actress had earlier shared a post about happiness, which read: "A secret to happiness is to be as weird as you like and the wrong people will leave the party but the right ones will join the dance."

In other news, Malaika Arora last week revealed that she is working on something special, which is going to be an ode to her late father, Anil Kuldeep Mehta, who passed away in September.

Reflecting on her journey, Malaika shared: "We all need to keep moving forward... that's what my father would have wanted for me. I'm grateful for the time I took to process the loss. It wasn't easy, but it's important to give ourselves space to heal. *IANS*

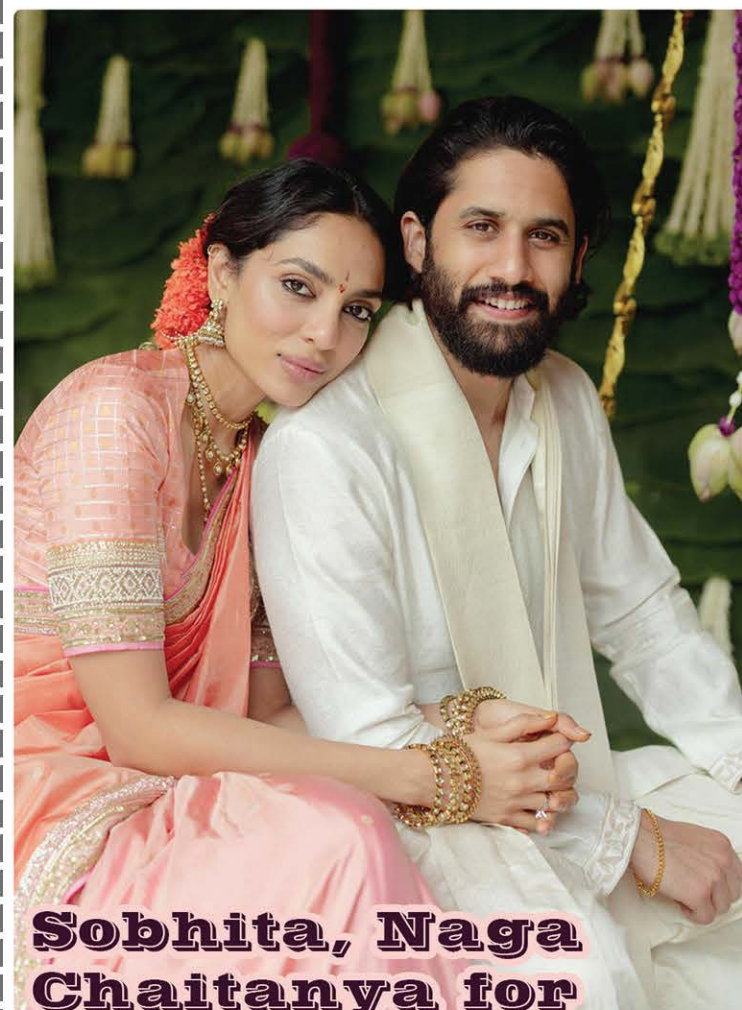


Bassist Mohini Dey reacts to her link-up with A. R. Rahman

As the controversy around the divorce of the Grammy and Oscar-winning music composer A. R. Rahman, and rumors of his alleged link to his bassist Mohini Dey continue to swirl, the latter has now reacted to the controversy, and has requested for privacy.

Mohini recently took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a note in which she slammed the "absolute BS" that has been making rounds.

She wrote, "I've been getting a humongous amount of requests for interviews and I know exactly what it's about, so I have to respectfully turn each one down because I am not interested in fueling ABSOLUTE BS. I believe my energy is not worth spending on RUMOURS. Kindly, respect my privacy (sic)". *IANS*



Sobhita, Naga Chaitanya for traditional wedding rituals

Star couple Sobhita Dhulipala and Naga Chaitanya, who are gearing up for their wedding, will be having an eight hour long ritual on D-Day, according to sources.

As the couple prepare for their big day, a source close to the event reveals that the wedding is going to be traditional and old-school.

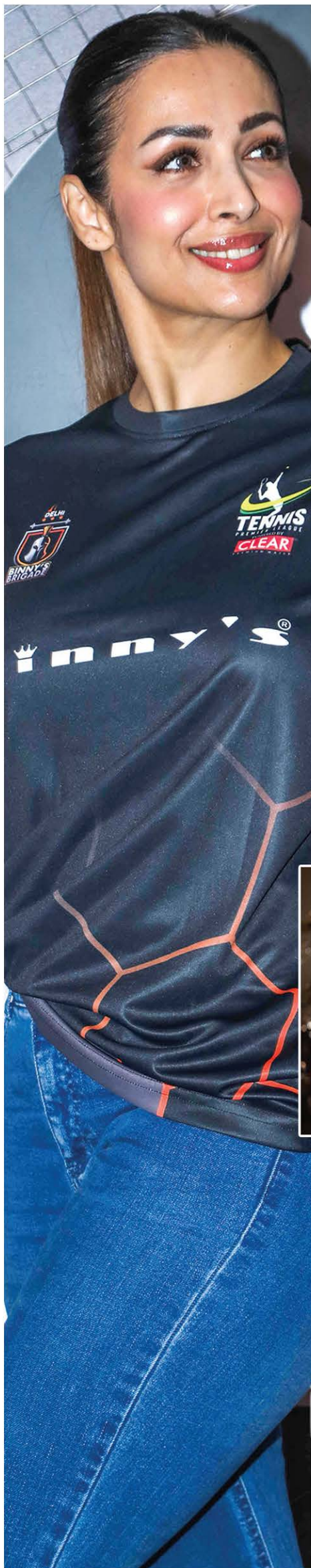
"It's going to be more than 8 hour long wedding rituals according to the Telugu Brahmin traditions, which is what Sobhita and Chaitanya are following for their wedding," a source close to Sobhita revealed.

The source added, "In order to honor the cultural aspects and give respect and attention to all the beautiful details of a Telugu wedding they are going all out with an over 8 hour traditional hardcore old school wedding."

The couple is set to tie the knot on December 4.

For her big day, the actress has chosen a traditional Kanjivaram silk saree, beautifully adorned with real gold zari.

A source said: "Sobhita Dhulipala has picked a beautiful Kanjivaram silk saree with real gold zari while shopping with her mother. *IANS*



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