# EST

**Vol. II, No.10 • February 16, 2024** 

**JOURNAL** 

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# After \$10 Billion Makeover, | University Of San Diego Looks Ayodhya A Tourist Magnet



The spectacular Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

NEW YORK, NY (IANS) - The Ram Mandir in Ayodhya which opened with great celebration and sent waves of joy among Indian Americans, is expected to have a big economic impact in the region as tour-

# To Open Campus In Gujarat

#### **India-West News Desk**

SAN DIEGO, CA - Dr. Chell Roberts, Dean

of the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering at the University of San Diego, has revealed plans to establish a new campus in Gujarat. The university will join forces with IIT Gandhinagar and other academic institutions to set up this innovative campus located in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

Roberts told NDTV, "We anticipate the introduction of dualdegree programs in collaboration with other universities. Some courses will be taught Contd. on P12



The University of San Diego campus.

# Biden Nominates Sanket Bulsara For NY Federal Judgeship

#### **India-West Staff Reporter**

WASHINGTON, DC - President Joe Biden has nominated four individuals to federal district courts, "all of whom are extraordinarily qualified, experienced, and devoted to the rule of law and our Constitution," the White House said. Among them is Judge Sanket J. Bulsara who has been a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York since 2017.

Bulsara's parents immigrated over 50 years ago, his father worked for the City of New York as an engineer and his mother was a dedicated nurse. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, cum laude, in 2002 and his A.B., magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1998.

"Sanket Bulsara is the epitome of the American Dream and a history maker: the



Judge Sanket J. Bulsara

child of hard-working immigrants from both India and Kenya and the first South Contd. on P17

# Madame Tussauds New York Unveils Baba Ramdev Figure



Baba Ramdev: the real and the wax image.

NEW YORK, NY (ANI) - Yoga guru Baba Ramdev became the latest global icon to find pride of place at New York's Madame Tussauds Museum, as his wax statue was

unveiled on January 30. On January 30, the Yoga guru's wax im-

pression was unveiled at an event in Delhi in the presence of Baba Ramdev.

Baba Ramdev's wax figure has been carved in the Vrikshasana pose, which involves standing on one leg with the other leg bent and the sole resting against the inner thigh of the standing leg.

On the occasion, Baba Ramdev said, "I feel honored that my wax statue is being installed at Madame Tussauds in New York.

Contd. on P8

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# Indian Association of Los Angeles Celebrates Silver Anniversary, India's 75 th R-Day

#### **India-West Staff Reporter**

BURBANK, CA - The Indian Association of Los Angeles (IALA) hosted a huge India Republic Day celebration with over 500 guests at the Arbat Banquet, here on February 3. The new Counsel General of India in San Francisco, Dr Srikar Reddy headlined the gala which featured speeches and entertainment with a live band.

IALA President Sunil Agrawal in his welcome, began the event in a unique manner. He presented thirteen videos of various organizations that were present including Ekal Vidyalaya, Akshaya Patra, and Saahas highlighting their work and impact on the community. That he put the spotlight on many others was deeply appreciated by those gathered. It also opened avenues for members of these groups to network and potentially work together too.

The event was a double celebration. Agrawal pointed out that it was the 75th Republic Day of India and also the silver jubilee of IALA. The event, he said, was "a testament to IALA's success in bringing the community together, fostering unity, diversity, and celebrating India's progress," and





in keeping with the traditions of

India which, "teaches Vasudaiva

Kutumbhakam, the whole world is

one family." Kumar Jawa, an

IALA co-founder was recognized

for his vision in instituting the

The Chairman of the IALA

Board, Kanaksinh Zala also spoke

lauding the efforts of the organi-

zation and introduced the board

members to the audience.

Dr. Srikar Reddy, in his speech, highlighted India's achievements, including landing on the south pole of the moon, hosting the G20 summit, passing historic women empowerment legislation, and becoming the world's fastest-growing large economy.

The other dignitaries present including Scott M. Schmerelson, Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member, Sean Regan from



the office of Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA, 32nd District), and Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee were recognized on stage by IALA.

IALA also recognized "community heroes" Dr. Anil Shah, Dr. Bharat Patel, and Bharatsinh Zala lauding them for their outstanding contributions, philanthropy and unwavering commitment to work for the betterment of society.

The official proceedings were followed by a sumptuous meal catered by Royal Tandoor of Valencia and entertainment featuring Kathak Kala Academy, a fashion show choreographed by Shagun Gupta and the live band, the OCP group which had everyone on their feet, dancing the night away.

The emcees for the event were Hema Chopra and Raman Chadha while the cultural segment was anchored by Falguni Zala and Hezal Shah.

IALA executive committee members: President Sunil Agarwal, Pramesh Shah, Kiran Kamboj, Dhara Patel, Rajni Thakkar, Robin Paik, Navdeep Singh, Hezal Shah, Shamsher Sidhu, Ramesh Bramharouthu, Dr. Bama Sridhar, Rajesh Khandelwal, Manisha Makwana, Mohinder Kaur, Promilla Sawhney, Vasu Pawar, and dedicated volunteers, namely Prem Seem, Hema Chopra, Nisha Rawal, and Dr. Anjum.

IALA Board: comprised of Chairman Kanaksinh Zala, Kumar Jawa, Raman Chaddha, Manmohan Chopra, Iqbal Samra, Ranjit Joea, Satish Tomar, Bob Bawa, Manjeet Wahi, Dr. Jaswant Singh Dhillon, Bavi Sharma, Falguni Zala, and Dr. Kalpesh Patel.

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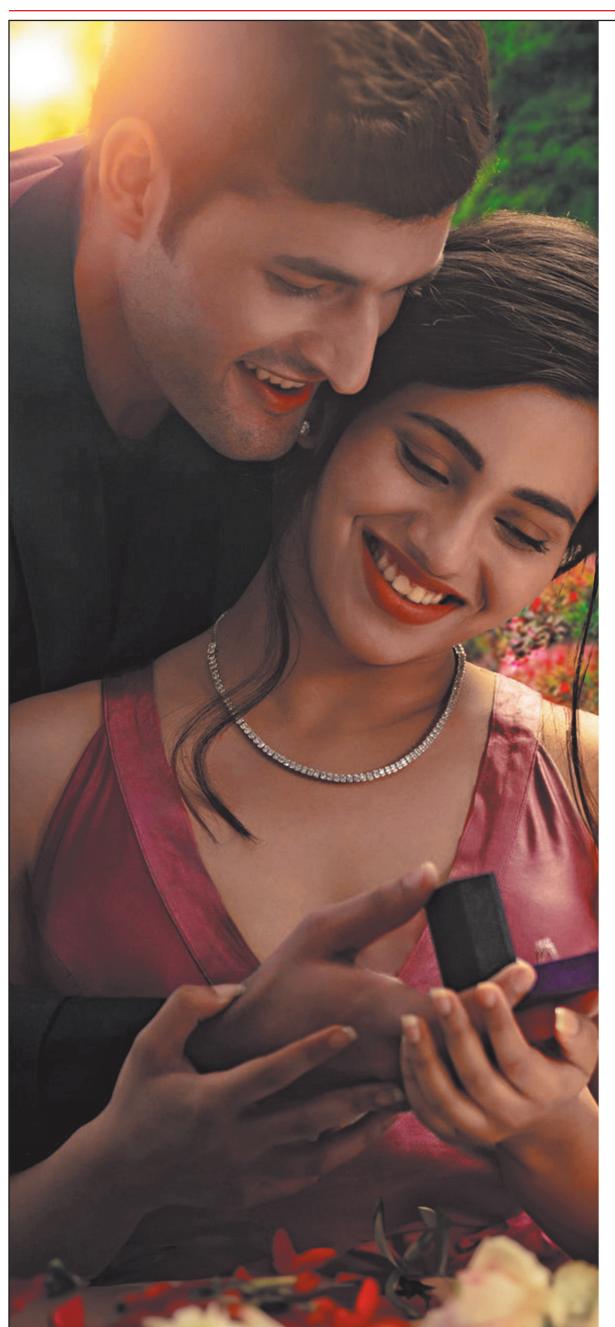
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P4 – FEBRUARY 2024 INDIA WEST

#### **OPINION**

#### BY D.C.PATHAK

The anti-India remarks made by Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on returning home from a five-day high-profile state visit to China on January 13, go beyond what could be considered as the consequence merely of India's known political support for his predecessor Ibu Solih in the recently held presidential poll in Maldives. They reflect a global trend of the rise of radicals in the Muslim world on the one hand and the impact of US-China polarization – indicating a new Cold War on the horizon - on the Islamic world, on the other.

The spread of 'radicalization' was accentuating the divide between the forces fiercely hostile to the US-led West and those Muslim countries who chose to be friendly with the US. The 'war on terror' that followed 9/11 proved to be a direct combat between the Islamic radical forces and the US-led West and helped the former to spread their hold on the Indian subcontinent, West Africa, and the Middle East.

The US-China polarization is pushing radicalized Muslim entities closer to China for political reasons.

The developments in Maldives are a part of the current geopolitics marked by the ascendancy of India as a major power that is friendly with the US, the deepening conflict between the US on the one hand and an ambitious China aspiring to become the second superpower, on the other and the anti-India narratives built by lobbies in India and abroad about the treatment of Muslim minority in the country. Significantly, some of the ministerial colleagues of Muizzu had earlier described India as a 'puppet of Israel' injecting a communal bias against secular democratic India and confirming their own 'radicalized' approach.

Maldives would likely add to the group of countries like Pakistan, Turkey, and Malaysia in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) accentuating the divide between pro-US and 'radicalized' Muslim countries.

Mohamed Muizzu had contested the Presidential election in Maldives on an 'India out' platform

# Geopolitics - India Aligning More With The US

opposing the 'India First' call of Ibu Solih and emerged victori-

On return from China, President Muizzu - who broke the tradition of a newly elected Maldivian President making his first foreign visit to India - in an apparent jibe against India declared that "we may be small, but we are not in any coun-

try's backyard - nor does it give any country license to bully us".

Asserting that the Indian Ocean does not belong to any single country, he claimed that China-Maldives relations were based on respect for sovereignty, equality, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Muizzu announced a slew of measures aimed at curtailing the dependence of Maldives on India in key sectors including health care, food security and tourism.

China's Indian Ocean footprint was visibly enhanced by the elevation of ties between Maldives and China to the level of 'strategic partnership' during Muizzu's visit to Beijing. On January 14, Muizzu stepped up his anti-India rhetoric by asking India to withdraw all Indian military personnel deployed in the Indian Ocean archipelago by March 15.

Muizzu has taken a strange stance - apparently attributable to Chinese influence - because India looked upon the Maldives as a key maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) and gave it a special place in an initiative like SAGAR (security and growth for all in the region).

India will certainly find ways and means of countering any Chinese designs in the Indian Ocean - particularly any hostile activity pursued through China's new-found friendship with Maldives.

The impact of radicalization on the Muslim world should not be underestimated.

Just as the 'war on terror' in Afghanistan led to the growth of Al Qaeda and Taliban, the US action in Iraq in 2003 enabled the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to strike roots in the Iraq-Syria region.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu.

ISIS had its origins in Al Qaeda in Iraq (AOI) and while 'competing' with Al Qaeda in furthering the cause of radical Islam, it attracted notice more for its hostility to the Shiites in the region on sectarian lines. This explains the intensity of ISIS opposition to the Alawite regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria as well.

All Islamic radical outfits consider the US-led West as their prime enemy and for political reasons alone, may be inclined to be on the side of China in the latter's rift with the US.

China is taking full advantage of this geopolitical environment to expand its influence. Its adjustment with the Taliban Emirate in Kabul with the helping hand of Pakistan enabled it to extend its Belt & Road Initiative to Afghanistan.

The new level of friendship struck by China with Maldives during Muizzu's visit to Beijing saw the Maldivian President recording his appreciation for BRI and China extending a grant of MVR 2 billion to Maldives.

Islamic radicals are 'revivalists' who demand going back to the Puritan Islam of the period of the four 'Pious Caliphs' that brought no compromises and who advocate recourse to Jehad to restore the political hold and glory of the faith.

Western culture with its 'corrupting' influence and the Shiite 'deviants' are the prime targets of radicalized Sunnis. Interestingly, the Shiite regime of Ayatollahs in Iran is ideologically against Capitalism and is hence fundamentally against the US too.

Iran shares the antipathy that radicalized Hamas had towards Israel and this pretty much explains the active support extended by Hezbollah and Houthis to the former in the current Israel-Hamas confrontation.

It is a matter of concern that the post-Cold War era is witnessing a proliferation of proxy wars and crossborder offensives and an increasing

trend of misuse of cyberspace for combat and destruction.

Technology can be used for both development and destabilization and rogue nations and non-state actors cannot be easily prevented from misusing technology.

India has in the follow-up on the G20 Summit already taken the initiative of calling an international conference to examine the issue of regulating the operations of Artificial Intelligence.

The phenomenon of proxy wars has been further complicated by the new trend of terrorists attacking the strategic and economic lifelines of the targeted country to economically weaken the opponent.

Further, 'information warfare' has become another new form of combat in which social media is used for peddling misinformation or building false narratives to bring down a legitimate regime or influence the outcome of a democratic election in a country.

Instigating separatism or an insurgency from outside is also a kind of external threat countries face today - India has seen this happening in both Kashmir and the Northeast. ITBP is a matter of great satisfaction that measures have been taken by the present Union Home Minister to curb Naxalism, terrorism and separatist movements, with good results.

Developments in the Maldives reflect the current geopolitics that features the US-China clash of interests, the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation, the Hamas-Israel conflict, the rise of Islamic radicals in the Muslim world, and a Sino-Pak axis that was active against India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, by taking an independent stand on the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation and getting India to abstain from voting in UNGA on a US-sponsored resolution against Russia – while at the same time messaging the two warring sides that "this is not an era of war", helped India to become an important voice in the world on issues of war and peace.

What is more, India has been able to establish that its relationship with the US would remain deep and irreversible despite its continuing bonds of friendship with Russia.

India has a clear sight of which side to be on, in the emerging polarization between the US and China, and has decided to take on the latter on LAC, on the marine front, and international platforms – it has already stepped up its role in Quad.

On the threat from Islamic radicalization and faith-based terrorism, India again is firmly with the US in dealing with the shared danger. India has unequivocally condemned the terror attack of Hamas on Israel but has favored a 'two-state' solution in Palestine and restraint in the use of military power to avoid civilian loss of life.

As regards the Sino-Pak axis, India is prepared to deal with the two adversaries and foil their attempts to carry out covert operations against this country's internal security.

Overall, there is clarity in Prime Minister Modi's policy of getting the two largest democracies of the world – India and the US – to lead the democratic order against the perils of dictatorial and fundamentalist regimes. Indo-US cooperation is touching new heights in the spheres of both security and economic development and is at the forefront regarding the application of new technologies including Artificial Intelligence to the same.

In a multipolar world order, India is rightly opting for bilateral and multilateral friendships designed to serve the mutual interests of the partners while preserving the cause of global peace.

Pathak is a former director of India's Intelligence Bureau.

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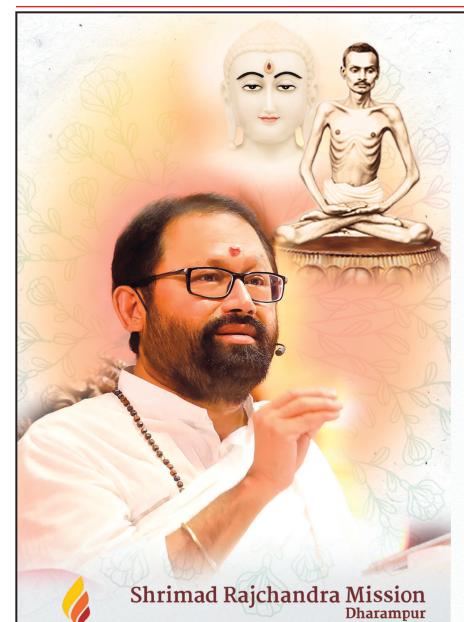
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# How Can I be Content?

#### - PUJYA GURUDEVSHRI RAKESHJI

One may ask, 'I am dissatisfied with everything. What can I acquire that will make me content?' The saints reply that so long as you think in terms of acquiring, you will not be content. The thought of acquiring itself is the source of discontentment. Contentment lies in celebrating what you have, while discontentment is a result of desire or greed for what you do not have. Chasing what you do not possess will keep you running around forever, as acquiring everything will never be possible.

Discontentment will be the sad story of your life.

ealize that you have been blessed with so much. It is only on account of your greed and ego that you cannot see it. Rejoice and value the life that you have. Be grateful for the many things you have taken for granted. Discontentment will not lead you anywhere. One day, death will knock at your door, and you will be taken away by the feeling of discontentment. Therefore, awaken! Live with contentment.

#### **Contentment is Acceptance**

One who is content wonders how he has been blessed with such abundance. He feels he has been granted far more than he deserves. He lives in a feeling of gratitude, and this itself is contentment. It is acceptance of what is, and the belief that it is enough. This brings happiness and peace. Each day, every moment, he receives gifts from the Lord as torrents of bliss pouring in his heart.

Acceptance is the spirit of a seeker.

He surrenders his life unto God like a blank chequebook with a valid signature at the bottom. He allows God to fill in whatever is necessary for him. He has no choice or desire of his own.

Acceptance is blissful.
Nothing external can dampen the bliss. Where there are no pre-conditions or desires like, 'it would be nice if this happens,' or 'if that does not happen', there is no choice. Without choice, there are no demands and, therefore, no anxiety or fear. The mind has no cause for disturbance. The seeker is at peace with whatever happens. There is no need for him to check whether any event is

comforting or distressing. There is a unique indifference towards the event itself. His bliss is not dependent on any person, place, or situation because he knows that happiness or sorrow do not come from the external.

#### **Feeling of Gratitude**

Man complains only because he is not content with what he has. If he gets hurt and fractures his leg, he complains. If his leg were so important, one wonders why he failed to thank God when his leg was normal and yet reacts when his leg is injured. One day you are hurt so you complain, and for years, nothing went wrong, but there was no expression of gratitude. It appears as though you are determined to remain discontent, sad and depressed. Infinite bliss has been bestowed upon you, but you remain unaware of it. If you cultivate the feeling of gratitude, you will always remain content and happy. Therefore, strengthen the feeling of gratitude.

A spiritual seeker is one whose way of thinking and living has been transformed. In whatever he sees and whatever he gets, his connection with God is not lost. His joy never disappears; instead, it keeps increasing. He does not become depressed. Ever joyful, he is content, satisfied, and has no demands. He always feels blessed.

To remain content and happy is an art. It is not a gift from destiny. It is a reward from the Sadguru, the fruit of His grace. It is the result of the practice of His teachings. Whether standing, sitting, eating, or drinking, one who can remain content alone receives an open invitation from the Supreme Self.



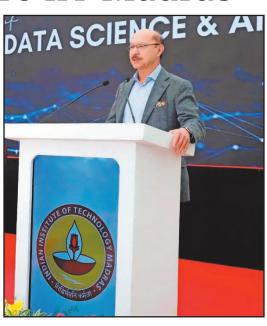
# Sunil Wadhwani Gifts Rs 110 Crore To IIT Madras

#### **India-West News Desk**

PITTSBURGH, PA – Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Sunil Wadhwani, who is based here, on January 30 made an endowment of Rs 110 crore towards setting up the Wadhwani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at the institution.

Wadhwani, the Managing Partner at SWAT Capital graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, before moving to the US to earn a degree from Carnegie Mellon University. Through his family foundation, Wadhwani Impact Trust, he is focused on several philanthropic initiatives, two of which are the Wadhwani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare and the Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

"AI and social impact are close to my heart, and it's my honor to be contributing to my alma mater. I see a strong need for a dedicated Data Science and AI school focusing on foundational and applied research in these areas. With the advancements in science and technology, India holds immense potential and can be a world leader in AI and allied sciences. As a proud alumnus, IIT Madras holds a special place in my life, and I am gratified to be associated with them in this manner," Wadhwani said.



Sunil Wadhwani.

The Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI will offer courses including BTech program in AI and Data Analytics; an MTech program in Data Science and AI; MS & PhD Programs in Data Science and AI with the University of Birmingham, UK; International Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Data Science; Interdisciplinary Dual Degree in Data Science; and Web-enabled MTech in Industrial AI.

Admissions will commence in July 2024.

# Praveen Madan Named CEO Of Oakland's Berrett-Koehler



Praveen Madan.

#### **India-West Staff Reporter**

OAKLAND, CA – Berrett-Koehler, a mission-driven publishing company, named Praveen Madan as its new CEO and publisher. The decision comes as current CEO and publisher David Marshall retires from BK after 17 years of dedicated service, the company said.

As CEO of Kepler's Books since 2012, he has led a successful turnaround and reinvention of this legendary cultural institution.

His innovative strategies, such as embracing the nonprofit model, implementing community financing and governance, developing new revenue streams, and raising wages to build a strong team, are

being replicated by many bookstores around the US, the company said in a statement.

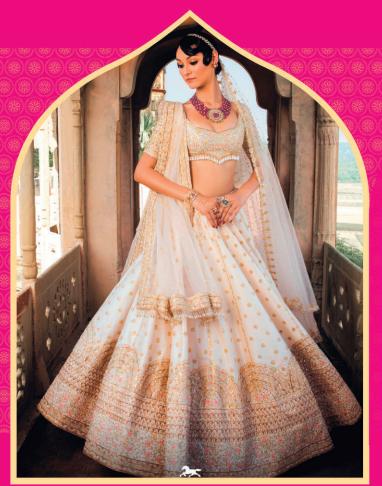
Berrett-Koehler Publishers has been facing financial difficulties over the past year due to several factors, including the lingering effects of the pandemic and market pressures within BK's areas of publishing. Madan's vision and

turnaround experience will guide the company through these challenges to emerge stronger than ever, the company said.

Praveen Madan is a nationally recognized leader in reinventing bookselling and building literary communities. In 2021, he co-convened the Reimagining Bookstores movement with a mission to strengthen communities, deepen literacy, and pay living wages to people working in bookstores.

Madan holds an engineering degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. Before moving to the book industry, he spent a decade working at Kearney, the global management consulting firm.





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# Eagles Fire Defensive Coordinator Sean Desai



#### **India-West News Desk**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Philadelphia Eagles have dismissed defensive coordinator Sean Desai. Coach Nick Sirianni was identified by NFL sources as the one who made the decision.

Desai, 40, had been in his inaugural year with the Eagles and his second season as an NFL defensive coordinator. He spent the 2022 season with the Seattle Seahawks as an associate head coach on defense.

During Desai's tenure, the Eagles achieved a 10-3 record, but they faced setbacks with consecutive losses to the San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys. Notably, the team struggled situationally, boasting the league's

poorest third-down defense with a 48.1% conversion rate. They also ranked 19th in fourth-down defense (51.9% conversion) and 30th in red-zone defense (70.5), according to the Inquirer.

Desai, originally from Connecticut, commenced his coaching career at Temple University, where he started as a graduate assistant and eventually rose to the position of outside linebackers coach. He earned a doctorate in educational administration from Temple. In the NFL, Desai began with the Chicago Bears as a defensive quality control coach. He served as the Bears' safeties coach from 2019-20 and was later promoted to defensive coordinator in 2021 before departing for the Seahawks.

# Stockton Kings: Anjali Ranadive Moves Out

#### **India-West Staff Reporter**

SACRAMENTO, CA – The NBA's Sacramento Kings General Manager Monte McNair announced that Anjali Ranadivé has stepped down as General Manager of the Stockton Kings.

He said she is doing so to pursue a Ph.D. and focus her attention on her nonprofit Jaws and Paws. Stockton Kings Assistant General Manager Gabriel Harris will resume day-to-day responsibilities.

"We are grateful to Anjali for her contributions to the Stockton Kings over the past two seasons," said McNair. "Under her leadership, the team has excelled on the court and is set for success in the future." The Stockton Kings, the G League affiliate of the Sacramento Kings, is owned by Vivek Ranadive. Anjali is his daughter. *Photo: @nani* 



Aniali Ranadivé.

# Madame Tussauds Unveils Baba Ramdev Figure

Contd. from P

It's not just a piece of recognition for me but is also a recognition of yoga and ayurveda and India's eternal culture. This also shows that not only are icons from Bollywood, Hollywood, and the world of politics celebrated and recognized but a seer can also claim similar recognition."

At the event, Baba Ramdev also put a 'tika' on the

forehead of his wax impression while unveiling it.

Baba Ramdev has now joined the league of other prominent Indian personalities whose wax statues were earlier installed at Madame Tussauds Museum in New York.

His wax statue will be placed at the museum in Times Square, Manhattan.

# Saahas Embarks on a Journey of Growth and Service at Board Retreat

On January 13, 2024, Saahas embarked on a transformative journey with its leadership and esteemed board members, converging from LA to a hilltop ranch in San Diego for the highly anticipated Saahas Board Retreat.

Kicking off the day with a warm welcome from Executive Director Payal Sawhney, the retreat unfolded with introductions, opening questions, and a nourishing breakfast. The session was enriched by insights from Mr. Navneet Chugh, sharing his wealth of experience, and Mr. Sanjeev Sehgal, the board chair, who shared his visionary plans for 2024.

Facilitated by Leslie Robin, Senior Strategist at the Center for Non-Profit Management, a comprehensive workshop delved into critical aspects, including current trends, core roles and responsibilities of board members, organizational challenges, and an in-depth overview of Saahas's diverse programs. The active





participation of board members in brainstorming sessions led to the formation of various committees aimed at supporting the executive director and guiding the team throughout the year. Reflecting on Saahas's evolution from a startup to a growing organization underscored the collective





support needed from each board member to enhance community reach and operational efficiency. New board members expressed enthusiasm for understanding board workings and the impactful contributions they can make to both the organization and the community.



A team-building activity of avocado, orange, and guava picking, with a tour of beautiful views, led to strengthened bonds among participants. A heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Raminder Singh and Ms. Hargun Kaur for their generosity in hosting such a fruitful retreat. The day ended with a communal lunch and a vote of thanks orchestrating this event.



FEBRUARY 2024 – P9



"Dear Parents, Do Not Fill Out FAFSA & CSS Until You Fully Understand The Very Complicated Rules of Financial Aid and IRS Tax..."

# How to avoid the *deadliest mistakes* in applying for college financial aid?



Parents, do you fit in any of the financial situation below:

- High Income with High Assets
- High Income with Normal Assets
- Low Income with High Assets
- Didn't get or only got some financial aid after you submitted FAFSA/CSS

Parents, when you fill out FAFSA "as is", for sure, you cannot get college financial aid.

## Our Suggestions:

1. If your family income is over \$300,000 and you only have one child or two children four years apart---you should focus on saving taxes by setting up a Family Foundation.

2. For the rest of the families, please don't fill out FAFSA with an "as is" financial situation. You should listen to a financial aid professional's audio to understand the basic rules of Financial Aid, then position your family's net income MAGI & net assets accordingly before filling out FAFSA/CSS.

http://www.4089962002.com/Audio\_Clips.php



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#### Case 2: High Income with Normal Assets

An IT engineer's family had a W-2 income around \$200,000. As most parents, they never thought they would qualify for financial aid, through our FinAid tax planning, they have reduced \$100,000 net AGI income. Each year they receive \$40,000 financial aid and also \$34,000 tax refund.

#### Case 3: Low Income with High Assets

A business owner with 5 rental properties had filled out FAFSA on their own and their application for financial aid was rejected. After getting planning, help and guidance from us, their child received \$30,000 financial aid from UC's and saved \$120,000 for four years.



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P10 - FEBRUARY 2024



INDIA WEST FEBRUARY 2024 - P11

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# Byju's Files For Bankruptcy In Delaware

NEW DELHI, (IANS) – Byju's Alpha unit in the US has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings in the US court of Delaware, listing liabilities in the range of \$1 billion to \$10 billion.

The ed-tech company was once valued at \$22 billion in 2022, but investors said the company's valuation had fallen to between \$1 billion and \$3 billion.

Alpha Inc.'s court-appointed CEO Timothy Pohl initiated Chapter 11 insolvency proceedings in a Delaware court stating that the company lacked funds to defend itself against litigation, as per court documents

Reports also surfaced that Byju's investors which include General Atlantic, Prosus Ventures and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative are seeking to oust the top bosses of the company led by Byju Raveendran, saying they are 'deeply concerned' about future stability under the current leadership.

The investors are seeking an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to adopt resolutions on outstanding governance, financial mismanagement, and compliance issues, according to earlier reports.

The board consists of founder and CEO Byju Raveendran himself, his co-founder and wife Divya Gokulnath, and his brother Riju Ravindran. As the largest shareholders, the founders of BYJU'S have invested more than \$1.1 billion in the last 18 months.



Byju Ravindran



BENGALURU, (IANS) – Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella on February 7 announced

that the company will train more than two million people in India in generative AI skills, to address tal-

# Microsoft Will Skill 2Mln Indians In AI: Nadella

ent shortage in the AI era. Addressing an event here, Nadella said that making sure that youth have the necessary skills to be able to thrive in this new AI age is the most important thing that we should be doing. "In rural India, people are now participating in the AI economy," he added. The Microsoft CEO said that the company will continue to invest more in the country. "We have more Cloud regions in India than any other hyperscale around

the world. We have three regions, and the fourth one is coming soon. We are investing more in India to make sure that compute with low latency at scale, including the AI, are available for all of you to be able to take advantage," said Nadella.

Microsoft is integrating the power of AI across the entire data and tech stack, seeing increased usage from AI-first start-ups and some of the world's largest companies, he added.

# USD Campus In Gujarat

Contd. from P1

on the new campus, providing students with the unique opportunity to split their studies between the United States and India. Additionally, we are excited to introduce online programs, a novel initiative for India." He emphasized the strategic advantages of these programs, saying, "Through our online offerings, we aim to reach a larger student population in India. The hybrid programs, blending online and on-campus elements, will enable us to cater to more students in India at a reduced cost, ensuring accessibility for a diverse group of learners. While our fully onground options in the United States will offer great benefits, we are committed to providing a wide range of high-quality education options to create a significant impact."

Starting from April, the university plans to roll out online programs in artificial intelligence, data science, and cybersecurity. Roberts clarified that the initial focus will be on online programs as that could be done more swiftly.



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# Indian American Cop Assaulted By Mob In NY



#### **India-West News Desk**

NEW YORK, NY – In a shocking incident of January 27, Lieutenant Ben Kurian, a dedicated nineteenyear Indian American veteran of the New York Police Department, was viciously assaulted, along with his colleague, Officer Tian Zunxu, while attempting to prevent a potential altercation.

A widely circulated video on the internet captures the unsettling moment when the two officers, Kurian and Zunxu, intervened with a group of men, instructing them to disperse. According to the New York Post, the situation escalated as the group turned on the officers, subjecting them to kicks and blows. The incident occurred on January

27 near Seventh Avenue, setting off outrage and making headlines.

Lieutenant Ben Kurian boasts an impressive career with the NYPD, having joined

the force in 2005. Over the years, he climbed the ranks, achieving the position of sergeant in 2012, and, in 2021, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Eight men participated in the assault on the two police officers. Subsequently, several individuals were apprehended and now face charges of second-degree assault on a police officer and obstructing governmental administration.

The New York Post further reported on January 31 that all the assailants involved were migrants from countries in Latin America. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has called for the migrants involved in the vicious brawl to be deported.

# Truck Driver Caught In \$8.7Mln Drug Bust At US-Canada Border

TORONTO, (IANS) – An Indian truck driver from Canada has been charged for attempting to bring about \$8.7 million worth of cocaine into the US, according to court documents.

Gagandeep Singh, a citizen of India and resident of Canada, was charged with "intent to distribute controlled substances" as he made his first court appearance in Detroit on February 14.

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit asked Singh to pull over for an inspection at about 11.45 p.m. on February 12, the CTV News reported, citing documents.

"(The accused) ignored the officers and attempted to continue to the tolls before being stopped just before the tolls by CBP officers," the criminal complaint read.

Officers were "alerted to the odor of controlled substances" by a K-9, a border police canine, following which they found 13 cardboard boxes sealed with duct tape in the transport trailer. A "white powdery"

substance worth 290 kilograms field-tested positive for cocaine.

"Due to my training and experience I estimate the value of the seized suspected cocaine to be approximately \$8,700,000," Jeffrey Richardson, Special Agent for Homeland Security Investigations, wrote in the complaint.

According to officers, Singh's manifest indicated he was transporting "agricultural equipment" but the seal on the trailer was for a Canadian health and beauty care company.

# **Doctor Not Guilty Of Masturbating On Plane**

BOSTON, MA (IANS) – A 33-year-old Indian American doctor accused of masturbating next to a 14-year-old girl on a plane has been found not guilty following a three-day trial in Boston federal court.

Sudipta Mohanty, a primary care physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center here, was accused of performing a lewd act on a Hawaiian Airlines flight from Honolulu to Boston in May 2022.

After a judge cleared him of any wrongdoing on January 31, Mohanty said the accusation had been difficult for his family. "My fiancé was sitting next to me on that flight, and neither of us can understand why this happened to us," he said in a written statement, "I have dedicated my life to caring for others as a physician, and it has been heartbreaking to step away while I dealt with these false accusations." Following the incident, Mohanty was arrested and charged with one count of lewd, indecent, and obscene acts while in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the US.

Mohanty said that the dozen passengers around them and the flight attendants never acted like anything was wrong during the time frame the girl accused him of self-pleasure, The Post reported. After being indicted in September, he opted for a bench trial, meaning he handed his case down to a judge, not a jury.

"Dr Mohanty is a talented and dedicated medical doctor. He has absolutely no history of wrongdoing whatsoever," Mohanty's lawyer, Claudia Lagos, said in a statement. "The last six months have been a bizarre nightmare for him, and he is relieved this is finally over so that he can rebuild his life," Lagos said.



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# No Connection Or Foul Play In Deaths Of Students In US: India

NEW DELHI (ANI) - Indian officials addressing the unfortunate deaths of five Indian students in the US, emphasized that there was "no foul play or interconnectedness" in the incidents.

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, provided details on the circumstances surrounding the demise of two Indian nationals and three Indian Americans. The MEA spokesperson stated that in the case in which Vivek Saini was brutally killed with repeated blows from a hammer by a homeless man inside a store in Lithonia, Georgia, on January 29,

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"The culprit has been arrested and the local authorities are investigating the matter and taking it forward." In another case at the University of Cincinnati, a preliminary report suggests no foul play, although the medical report is awaited, the MEA spokesperson said. "There is no foul play. This is what the preliminary report says. No foul play in that particular case as well. But we await the medical report," Jaiswal said.

"The other three deaths that have happened are those of people of Indian origin who are US nationals. We are in touch with local authorities there in the cases

of Indian nationals. As also our consulate and our mission they are in touch with family members. They are also in touch with the students," the MEA spokesperson said. He was referring to two Purdue University deaths where one has been ruled a suicide and an attack in Chicago of a Wesleyan University student.







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# **NFL Team Wants Back The Millions** Stolen By Amit Patel



NEW YORK, NY (IANS) – Jacksonville Jaguars, a Florida-based football team, has asked sports betting firm FanDuel to return some or all the nearly \$20 million in stolen proceeds that its former Indianorigin employee lost on the site.

Amit Patel, manager of financial planning and analysis of the Jacksonville Jaguars from 2018 to 2023, misused the team's virtual credit card program (VCC) to steal \$22 million.

According to ESPN, Patel lost about \$20 million of the funds on daily fantasy and sports bets at FanDuel, which had assigned him

Patel transferred money directly from the team VCC to FanDuel, which the latter is unwilling to pay, the sports channel reported, citing sources.

"The way they (FanDuel) see it ... we got this money fair and clear. It's not our problem that we have to give it back to you," a source said, adding that discussions are on between FanDuel, the Jaguars, and the National Football League (NFL).

Patel was a high-stakes and high-volume daily fantasy player on FanDuel and DraftKings — both of which are official betting partners of the NFL, according to online records.

In December, he was charged with wire fraud and illegal monetary transactions in court documents filed by the US District Court in Florida.

Among other things, Patel allegedly used the stolen money to purchase a condominium in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; acquire a new Tesla Model 3 sedan, a Nissan pickup truck, and a wristwatch that cost more than \$95,000.

Patel's attorney, in a December 7 statement, denied that Patel funded his lifestyle with the stolen money and said his home and car were bought with family or earned money.

He faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine when he is sentenced on March 12.

Sources told ESPN that FanDuel alerted the NFL to Patel's betting in January 2023 after he placed traditional sports bets in Tennessee.

The Jaguars remained oblivious to Patel's machination until they were notified by the NFL.

"Gambling sites have a duty to perform 'Anti-Money Laundering' and 'Know Your Client' procedures to ensure they do not onboard funds of an illicit origin," Stephen Bell, an attorney, told ESPN.

Making a court appearance last year, Patel said he has a "gambling disorder" and is seeing a therapist weekly for treatment. He also underwent treatment for alcohol and substance abuse from March to June last year. Photo: @jasrifootball

# Satwinder Kaur Elected Kent City Council President

KENT, WA (IANS) – Kent City Council has unanimously elected Satwinder Kaur as its president for a two-year term.

In her new role, Kaur, who is in her seventh year on the council, replaces Bill Boyce who nominated her for the top position, according to news outlet Kent Reporter.

"You've got some little shoes to fill. I'm sure you will do a great job and we are here to support you and make sure you are very successful," Boyce said after the Indian American's election in a February 6 meeting.

Thanking Boyce for mentoring her, Kaur said: "As I start this I know all of us have the same goal of serving the community and making sure Kent is a better place for all of us."

The seven-member council is the legislative body for the City of Kent, and besides establishing policies and regulations, it approves financial expendi-



approves financial expendi- Councilwoman Satwinder Kaur.

tures and the city's biennial budget.

In addition to serving as the official spokesperson for the council, Kaur will work closely with the mayor to see what kind of support the council will give to issues and proposals.

According to the Kent City Council website, Kaur sees her role on the council as a great learning opportunity and a chance to bring a fresh set of eyes to the City's problems.

"I want to bring new perspectives that may not have been considered before," the website says, quoting Kaur. Having served as an intern in the Mayor's Office, Kaur feels she has a good understanding of resident issues and concerns.

"Kent is often overlooked, but there are so many things about Kent that people don't know, and we have so many great stories to tell," she says.

Voters first elected Kaur in 2017 and reelected her to another fouryear council term in 2021 when she ran unopposed.

Kaur, a 2004 Kentridge High School graduate, narrowly lost to her opponent in the August 2022 Democratic primary race for the District 47 Senate seat.

# Sanket Bulsara For NY Federal Judgeship



Contd. from P1

Asian American federal judge to serve on any court in the Second Circuit when he was appointed as a Magistrate Judge. I am proud to recommend Judge Bulsara to President Biden and I will work to confirm him as soon as possible. I am confident he will bring remarkable legal talent and experience, as well as integrity and professionalism, to the district court. He will follow the law where it takes him, in the pursuit of fair and impartial justice," said Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) who had made the recommendation to the White House.

This will be President Biden's forty-fifth round of nominees for federal judicial positions, bringing the number of announced federal judicial nominees to 219.

Bulsara lives in Long Island City with his wife, Christine DeLorenzo.



# L.A.Times Endorses Nithya Raman To City Council

LOS ANGELES, CA – In a recent endorsement, the Los Angeles Times has thrown its support behind Nithya Raman for a second term on the City Council, recognizing her groundbreaking contributions since her initial election in November 2020.

The newspaper commended Raman for her impressive track record as a relative newcomer who unseated a council incumbent, breaking a 17-year streak. The paper highlighted her "commendable commitment to addressing critical issues in Los Angeles, particularly her ambitious plans to tackle homeless-



ness, housing insecurity, and reform policing strategies within District 4."

One of the key reasons cited for the endorsement is Raman's leadership in the passage of a landmark expansion of tenant protections, preventing arbitrary evictions and ensuring housing stability for tenants. The Los Angeles Times also applauded her consistent advocacy for government transparency, including pushing for independent redistricting and City Council expansion to better serve the community.

# Nikki Haley Wants Secret Service Protection

WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) – Presidential candidate Nikki Haley, who has raised a massive \$16.5 million in January alone, has formally requested Secret Service protection citing "multiple issues," the BBC reported.

Haley, who has been urged by Trump and his backers to exit the race and unify the party against Democrat Joe Biden, currently uses personal security while campaigning.

The former South Carolina Governor and United Nations ambassador discussed the request for protection in an interview with The Wall Street Journal on February 6.

"We've had multiple issues. It's not going to stop me from doing what I need to do," she said after a campaign event in Aiken, South Carolina. "When you do something like this, you get threats. It's just reality. That's not going to deter me. Does it mean we have to put a few more bodies around this? Yes, that's fine," she told the paper.

In addition, protesters have shown up at her campaign events to slam her support for Israel and Ukraine.

"At the end of the day, we're going to go out there and touch every hand, we're going to answer every question, we're going to make sure that we are there and doing everything that we need to," she said.

The White House hopeful has been a target of "swatting" attempts with the recent one on New Year's Day when a hoax call was made to law enforcement agencies, saying Haley's daughter had been shot and was lying in a pool of blood.

Days before, her Kiawah Island home was also swatted when a man called the police and claimed to have shot a woman.

While Haley was not at home, her parents were there along with a caregiver. Calling it an "awful situation," she had said: "It put the law enforcement officers in danger, it put my family in danger... That's what happens when you run for president."

Secret Service protection is granted to "major" candidates under federal law, usually when they look certain to become their party's nominee, the BBC said.

A call to provide Haley with Secret Service support would be taken by the US Secretary of Homeland Security, who would first confer with a Joint Congressional Committee.

As former President, Trump gets Secret Service protection for life.

The next major primary is scheduled to be held in her home state of South Carolina later this month.



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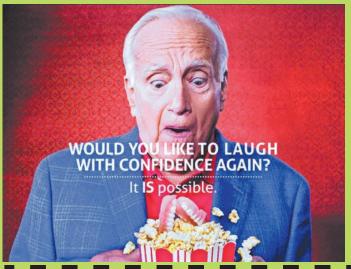
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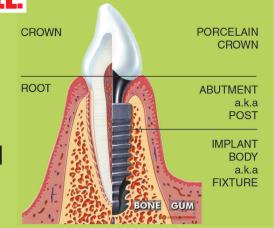
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# Kamala Harris Leads Abortion Fight

WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) - US Vice President Kamala Harris began a nationwide tour in Wisconsin, a swing state, to preserve "reproductive freedoms" threatened by calls for restriction from Republicans.

The Biden re-election campaign is putting abortion rights centerstage in a bid to galvanize the party base, and the Vice President, who has emerged as the administration's most forceful campaigner on this issue, will be in the lead.

Harris was joined by President Joe Biden, at a campaign event in Virginia, another swing state where the party won both state legislatures with abortion as a key issue. It was the first time they shared a stage after Biden announced his reelection bid last April. Harris has carried on her nationwide tour from there.

"Extremists across our country continue to wage a full-on attack against hard-won, hard-fought freedoms as they push their radical policies - from banning abortion in all 50 states and criminalizing doctors to forcing women to travel out of state in order to get the care they need," Harris had said in a statement when the tour was announced in December.

"I will continue to fight for our fundamental freedoms while bringing together those throughout America who agree that every woman should have the right to make decisions about her own body - not the government."



Abortion was a constitutional right in the US guaranteed by a Supreme Court ruling in 1973. It was overturned in June 2022 by the conservative justices of the Supreme Court, who now dominate the bench with the addition of three nomi-

nated by former President Donald Trump. The court ruled that the issue should be settled by the states individually and for themselves.

The blowback was furious and across party lines. President Biden's Democratic party rode it to cushion anti-incumbency in the midterm polls in 2022. Several deeply conservative states have since voted to preserve abortion rights. But

these rights are under severe threat in other states such as Texas, which recently rejected a woman's plea for abortion citing a medical emergency.

In the 18 months since the case was struck down, Harris has been the administration's face in the fight to restore abortion rights.

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# **India Now Cooperating Says Canadian Official**

OTTAWA (ANI) - Canada's outgoing National Security Advisor Jody Thomas on January 27 said that India was cooperating in the investigation of the killing of India-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, and called the changing relationship an "evolution", as reported by Canada-based

Thomas said that Canada has "made advancements in that relationship."

In an interview with CTV's Ouestion Period host Vassy Kapelos Thomas said that her discussions with her Indian counterpart have been fruitful, "and I think they've moved things forward,"

In September last year, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said that there were "credible allegations" that the Indian government may have been involved in the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Surrey in June 2023.

In December last year Justin Trudeau said that he had made the allegations public as he expected the information to be leaked.

Later in December, in a parallel



Jody Thomas.

development, the US Justice Department unsealed an indictment against an Indian national for his alleged involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate Pannun.

The Justice Department said that an Indian government employee who was not identified in the indictment filed in a federal court in Manhattan, recruited an Indian national named Nikhil Gupta to hire a hitman to carry out the assassination, which was foiled by US authorities, according to prosecutors. Gupta is currently in custody and has been charged with murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Justin Trudeau.

When asked by CTV news whether Canada's improved relationship with India was a result of the US indictment, outgoing NSA Jody Thomas said, "The two are connected for sure."

"The information that they revealed supported our position and our assertions with India. India is working with us, and my counterpart far more closely to resolve this," said Thomas.

In December, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had also said that he believes India's relations with Canada may have undergone "a tonal shift" in the days since the unsealing of the US indictment.

# **Indian Navy Taking On Houthis Helps US**

WASHINGTON, DC (ANI) -US Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey R Pyatt on February 6, lauding the Indian Navy's action against the Houthis and said it shows India's capacity as a net security provider in the wider region and benefits the United States.

Pyatt said, "We are living through a moment of unprecedented turmoil in the international system. What's happening to global container shipping as containerized shipping has been rerouted, and what impact has that had on inflation? The Indian Navy intervened to save a tanker ship that was on fire because of a Houthi missile strike. It was the Indian Navy that came to the rescue of that ship. It illustrates

India's capacity as a net security provider in the wider region, which benefits the United States."

He also said that US-India trade relations cannot be characterized flatly as a 'Chapati' but have now become big and puffed up like a 'Puri'.

On his recent visit to India, Pyatt said, "One of the key frameworks for our cooperation with India in high technology areas is the iCET framework. Our national security advisors have recently decided to add critical minerals and clean energy technology to the ISET as a new pillar. We seek to push the pace of deployment to empower collaboration between our laboratories in areas of innovation."

Pyatt visited New Delhi and Hyderabad from January 26 – 31.



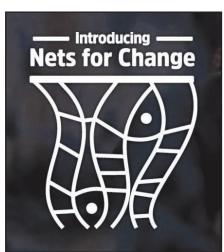
Pyatt posted this image while in India where discussion included electric vehicles.

# **NBA To Repurpose Discarded** Fishing Nets In India

MUMBAI, (IANS) - The US National Basketball Association on February 5 announced the launch of 'Nets for Change', a new campaign to repurpose discarded underwater fishing nets at basketball courts in India. The discarded nets, which pose a threat to marine ecosystems, are being repurposed as basketball nets at courts that are missing a fundamental element of the game - a functional net.

In collaboration with Publicis Communications, Middle East and Africa, the pilot project was launched at a school in Mumbai with plans to expand to other markets. The league and Publicis are working closely with seaside communities in Mumbai to retrieve abandoned fishing nets, which are then transformed into durable, eco-friendly basketball nets.

"The launch of 'Nets for Change' reflects our commitments both to environmental responsibility and growing basketball across India," said NBA India Head of Marketing Murtuza Madraswala. "Discarded underwater fishing nets pose a



together to play the game. The NBA is committed to using the power of basketball to inspire fans and partners to minimize environmental impacts and help drive broader industry and societal progress. The 'Nets for Change' campaign video highlights the extent of the ecological damage

significant environmental threat,

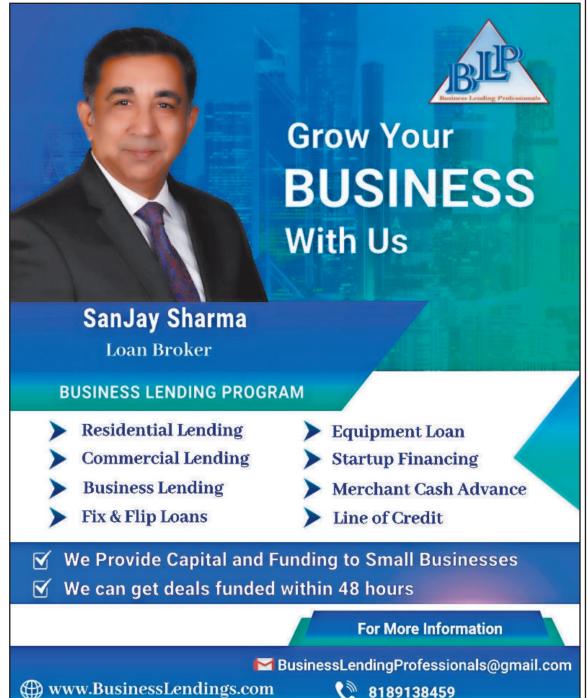
and through this initiative, we will

give these nets a new purpose, so

that aspiring players have higher-

quality courts where they can come

caused by discarded fishing nets and how this initiative is helping combat it, one hoop at a time.



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7:00 PM



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10:30 AM

#### <u>SRI BALAJI ABHISHEKAM</u>

This abhishekam will be done once a week to





### 11:45 AM **NAVAGRAHA ABHISHEKAM**

This abhishekam will be done once a week to Lord Balaji to seek his blessings so that we can overcome challenges in life and have happines and prosperity.





# **NRIs Want Property Near The Temple**

AYODHYA, (IANS) - Home is where Ram is — that is what people now believe.

According to official sources, both Indians and NRIs are now queuing up to buy property in the holy city that has come to be known as 'Hindu Vatican' after the opening of the Ram temple last month.

Superstar Amitabh Bachchan made headlines last month when he bought a plot of land in Ayodhya.

Formal requests by any country are routed through the Union government and hence those posing as representatives of the countries have been asked to provide formal authorization letters through the embassies.

Delegations from Mexico, South Korea, Thailand, and Sri Lanka have visited the city to explore the options of buying land in Ayodhya, an official said.

# Temple A Tourist Magnet

Contd. from P1 ism is projected to surge to 5 crore visitors every year to the holy town, according to global brokerage firm Jeffries.

Currently, the tourism-to-GDP ratio in India, at 6.8 percent of the GDP, puts the country below most of the large emerging and developed economies, which are higher by 3-5 percentage points.

The Jefferies report states, "Also comes with a large economic impact as India gets a new tourist spot which could attract 50 million plus tourists a year. A \$10 billion makeover which includes a new airport, revamped railway station, township, improved road connectivity, etc. will likely drive a multiplier effect with new hotels and other economic activities. It can also set a template for infra-driven growth for tourism."

Amid increased economic and religious migration to Ayodhya, "multiple sectors stand to benefit including hotels, airlines, hospitality, FMCG, travel ancillaries, cement, etc.", the report added.

The Ram temple at Ayodhya can "create a meaningfully large economic impact", said Jefferies. The main pilgrimage site, spread over nearly 70 acres, will be equipped to host about a million devotees together. The

number of pilgrims is expected to jump to 1-1.5 lakh per day, the report further stated.

"Religious tourism is still the biggest segment of tourism in India. Several popular religious centers attract annual tourist traffic of 10-30 million despite the existing infrastructural bottlenecks. And hence, the creation of a new religious tourist center (Ayodhya) with improved connectivity and infrastructure can create a meaningfully large economic impact," it said.

"The makeover is now set to transform the ancient city from a sleepy town to a global religious and spiritual tourist hotspot. Tourism is projected to surge and increase economic and religious migration to Ayodhya, multiple sectors stand to benefit including hotels, airlines, hospitality, FMCG, travel ancillaries, cement, etc.," the Jefferies report added.

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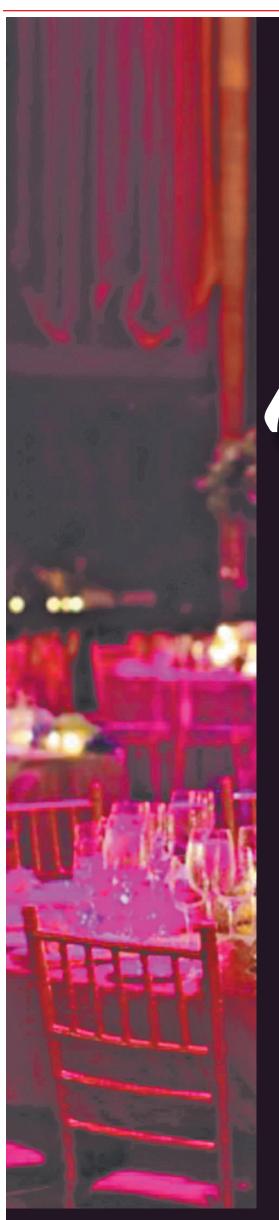
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# Maestro Zakir Hussain Bags 3 Grammys

LOS ANGELES, CA (ANI) – Ustad Zakir Hussain bagged three awards at the 66th Grammy Awards, held here on February 4.

The tabla player and music composer picked up the coveted award in 'Best Global Music Performance' category for 'Pashto'.

In his acceptance speech for 'Pashto' on behalf of Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and Rakesh Chaurasia- his fellow musicians- the 72-year-old percussionist said, "Thanks to the Academy, thanks to all these great musicians for giving us beautiful music...our deepest thanks to our families...without them, we are nothing... without love, without music, without harmony, we are nothing."

'Pashto' bagged the Best Global Music Performance award beating several other tracks including 'Abundance in Millets', featuring a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sung by Indian American singers Falguni Shah and Gaurav Shah.

'As We Speak' in which the tabla maestro has collaborated with Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and Rakesh Chaurasia won the Grammy for the 'Best Contemporary Instrumental Album' category. Hussain is also part of the Jazz group 'Shakti', which won 'The Best Global Music Album award for its latest work, 'This Moment'.

In a post on X, music composer, Ricky Kej, who attended the ceremony, hailed Zakir Hussain and other artistes. "Ustad Zakhir Hussain, the living legend creates history by winning 3 Grammys in one night!!! Rakesh Chaurasia won 2! and I am blessed to witness it," he wrote.

Hussain and his collaborators, however, lost out in the 'Best Instrumental Composition' for which John Williams – Helena's Theme picked up the Grammy. He along with Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer and Rakesh Chaurasia were nominated in this category for their 'Motion'.



From L: Shankar Mahadevan, Zakir Hussain, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram.

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### Shankar Mahadevan Lauds India, Wife In Speech LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) - Musicians Shankar Mahade-

LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) - Musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's 'Shakti' band made India proud at the 66th Grammy Awards as it won the Global Music Album honor at the event.

The group includes the legendary guitarist John Mclaughlin who was not present on stage on February 5 at the Crypto. com Arena. Present were the outstanding violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram.

While accepting the honor on behalf of the group, Mahadevan said: "Thank you boys. Thank you, God, family, friends, and India. We are proud of you, India." Mahadevan then dedicated the award to his wife and said: "I would like to dedicate this to my wife, whom every note of my music is dedicated to."

# Rakesh Chaurasia Wins His First Grammy



LOS ANGELES, CA (ANI) – Rakesh Chaurasia flautist, composer, and the nephew of legendary maestro Hariparasad Chaurasia, who notched two Grammy Awards on February 5, said he was overjoyed to take back the award to India and hoped to continue making the country proud with his work.

"It was a unique and difficult experience to work on a different genre especially coming from a classical scenario. I am extremely happy that I am bringing a Grammy to my country. Hope I continue making India proud with my work," said the 53-year-old. Chaurasia has featured in the album 'As We Speak' - a collaborative effort with American banjo legend Bela Fleck, double bassist Edgar Meyer, and maestro Zakir Hussain. It won in the Best Contemporary Instrumental and Best Global Music Performance categories. While Hussain, Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer have won multiple Grammys previously, this is Chaurasia's debut win. Chaurasia, who studied under his iconic uncle, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, follows the illustrious lineage of the Maihar gharana.

# Aziz Ansari Begins Filming New Comedy

**India-West News Desk** 

LOS ANGELES, CA - Actor-director Aziz Ansari has launched his directorial debut, 'Good Fortune,' nearly two years after what was supposed to be his directorial debut was scrapped amidst reports of costar Bill Murray's "inappropriate behavior," The Hollywood Reporter said.

'Being Mortal,' the movie Aziz was shooting and was to be his debut as a director, was shut down in 2022 after Murray reportedly straddled and kissed a member of the film's crew while on set, and while both were wearing protective COVID-19 masks. She later filed a complaint against Murray. The movie was based on a 2014 book by surgeon Atul Gawande.

Keke Palmer has joined the cast of the new comedy. She'll star alongside Ansari, who wrote and directed the film in his debut feature, as well as Seth Rogen and Keanu Reeves, Variety reported.

# Mindy Kaling's New Series Stars Kate Hudson



LOS ANGELES, CA - Mindy Kaling's upcoming Netflix comedy series which has already roped in Kate Hudson as the lead has added more cast members: Brenda Song, Scott MacArthur, and Drew Tarver.

Set in the world of basketball, the as-yet-untitled series has received a 10-episode green light from Netflix.

Kaling is the co-writer and executive producer of the series. Jeanie Buss, president of the Los Angeles Lakers, will also executive produce along with Lakers executive director Linda Rambis, Variety reported.

The storyline reads, "When a scandal forces her brother to resign, Isla Gordon (Hudson) is appointed President of the Los Angeles Waves, one of the most storied professional basketball franchises, and her family business. Ambitious and often overlooked, Isla will have to prove to her skeptical brothers, the board, and the larger sports community that she was the right choice for the job, especially in the unpredictable, male-dominated world of sports."

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# Priyanka, Nick Jonas Forced To Leave \$20Mln LA Mansion



LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) - Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her husband Nick Jonas, who recently performed at the Lollapalooza India music festival, have moved out of their lavish mansion.

Their dream home turned into a nightmare when water damage led to a mold infestation in their home, sparking a legal battle that is still ongoing, reports Page Six.

The couple purchased the luxury property — which boasts seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms, a chef's kitchen, a temperature-controlled wine room, an indoor basketball court, an interior bowling alley, a home theatre, an entertainment lounge, a spa with steam shower, a full-service gym, and a billiards room — in September 2019 for \$20 million.

However, as per a copy of a lawsuit filed in May 2023 and

exclusively obtained by Page Six, the pool and spa began to present a series of issues for the thennewlyweds around April 2020, including "porous waterproofing" that "fostered mold contamination and related issues".

"At or about the same time, a water leak appeared at the barbecue area on the deck. This leak damaged a portion of the interior living area immediately below the deck", the complaint states.

As per Page Six, the home's problems allegedly made the premises "virtually unlivable" and "dangerous from a health perspective to occupy.

The exact costs have not yet been determined but, as per the complaint, the waterproofing issues "will exceed" \$1.5 million and "general damages" are estimated to be at around \$2.5 million.

Hasan Minhaj Was Closer To Hosting 'The Daily Show' Than Known

LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) - Stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj was closer to being the new host of "The Daily Show" than the public realized. After it was announced that Jon Stewart would make a surprising return to the talk show, a new report suggested that Minhaj lost out on the hosting gig due to a controversy.

Citing multiple sources, The Hollywood Reporter stated that Minhaj's deal to take over as Trevor Noah's replacement was all but done by late summer.

Around the same time, The New Yorker published a damning article claiming that the show's former correspondent fabricated autobiographical details of his comedy.

In 2022, in a stand up Minhaj claimed that he once opened a letter filled with white powder that fell on his daughter. Fearing that it was anthrax, he and his wife Beena Patel took their daughter to the hospital before they learned hours later that it was not anthrax. The New Yorker report, however, noted that the anecdote was among others that had been exaggerated.

In response to the accusations, it was said that "The Daily Show" considered Hasan a "liability," prompting the production team to start looking for a new permanent host again. The stand-up comic meanwhile, called the report "needlessly misleading."
He argued, "I use the tools of stand-up comedy - hyperbole, changing names and locations, and compressing timelines - to tell entertaining stories."

"That's inherent to the art form. You wouldn't go to a haunted house and say, 'Why are these people lying to me?' The point is the ride. Stand-up is the same."





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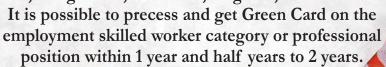
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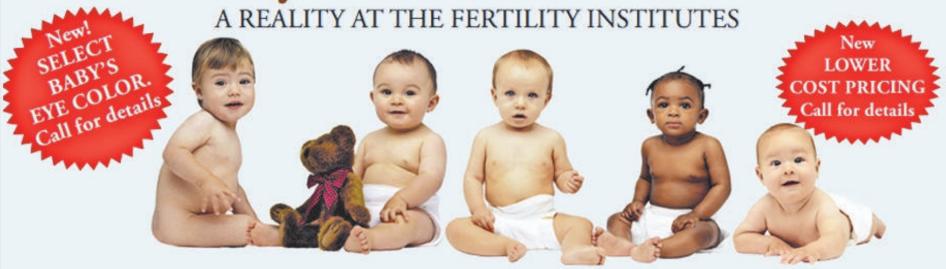
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#### **HELP WANTED**

Indian Cook Needed For Family in West LA

Looking for a domestic cook who has experience preparing and cooking meals for a family. Duties: - Prepare and cook food - Maintain hygiene - Clean kitchen post cooking and organize work area Offering: \$30 to \$40 per hour (based on experience) Contact: 646-543-7709

#### Part Time Work In Torrance Sign Business

We are looking for someone for part time work at our sign manufacturing business. Someone who has knowledge in design, crafting, handling small machine, and packing. Preferably a college student who can handle being active Will be 3 days during weekday (no weekend) between 9AM to 3PM, If you progress there is room for growth, possible partnership. Contact: 310-972-8938

Full Time Bookkeeper Wanted Some accounting experience is preferred but not required. Must be proficient with the use of computer, Excel, and web applications. This is not a remote position as you need to interact with our clients and people within the firm to provide services

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to our clients. Overtime is required from February to mid-April. Submit your resume with the pay requirement. Contact: steve@ksgallp.com

Manager Needed For Choice Property Page, AZ

Looking for GM for 100 rooms choice property. 5 years experience is required. accommodation provided. immediately opening. Please call 435 669 5001 or 435 669 4938. E-Mail travelodge 135@gmail.com. Contact: 435-669-5001

Caregivers Needed For Elderly Parents In Southern California. We are looking for a live-in care couple for our bed bound parents. Must have the ability to care for their needs, and general house-keeping. Additional relief help will be provided. English speaking and valid driver\'s license preferred. Contact after 6 PM: 702-580-3861, or 909-215-7482.

#### MOTEL HELP WANTED

Looking for a couple at an independent property in California. Must be fluent in english. Accommodations will be provided. Call: 530-604-3938

MOTEL 6 EastBay/Nor.California Looking for onsite couple to manager a 62 room Motel 6. Hotel is located in East Bay/Northern California. Apartments will be provided. Will need to cover any callout/no show from staff. Looking for long term couple! Motel 6 or hotel experience is recommended. Hiring between February 25th to March 10th. Contact: 925-788-9294

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I am looking for a front desk and resident motel manager job with 3 years of experience in California. My wife has front desk experience. And we have legal status. And we can relocate right now. I have experience with sky touch, saber synxis and asi front desk software. Text me plz 279-667-9401.

Motel Managers Wanted, Documentation To Work Required Wanted Motel Managers for a 22 unit motel in Santa Barbara, California. Prior experience required. Strong English reading, writing, and speaking mandatory. One small bedroom unit for managers. \$5500 a month. No single people, no student visa, and no cash payment. Should be able to do housekeeping sometimes. Text 805-280-9681 and we will call you. Contact: shivbhakta2002@gmail.com

Resident Front Desk And Motel Manager In Beautiful South Lake Tahoe, CA

Hiring Resident Front Desk and Motel Manager in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, CA. Must have good English and computer skills. Accommodation is a studio apartment. Accommodation is suitable for a single person or couple (not larger families). Basic maintenance and management experience desired but not requirement. Will consider single or a couple. Call / Text: 530-318-8706.

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