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JOURNAL

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Record Number Of Indian Illegals Entering US

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – A substantial influx of Indian immigrants into the US via its southern border has garnered attention, with The Wall Street Journal reporting that approximately 42,000 individuals were intercepted in the past year alone, according to recent federal statistics.

US Customs and Border Protection disclosed this figure last month, revealing that it is more than double the number from the same period in the previous year when Indian crossings had already reached a record high. The total number of migrant encounters for the fiscal year has surged to 2.48 million, up from 2.38 million in 2022, marking a

historic first in this regard.

US Customs and Border Protection data further reveals that

between February 2019 and March 2023, a staggering 1.49 lakh (149,000) Indians were detained

while attempting illegal entry into the US. Moreover, during this escalating problem, over 1,600 more

people crossed the northern border, a fourfold increase compared to the previous three years combined.

Many of these Indian immigrants enter the country for economic reasons, although they are not eligible for asylum. A significant motivating factor for these migrants is the influence of other Indians who have successfully found employment in the US through similar means.

These individuals often find themselves lured by traffickers employing a method known as “donkey flights,” a term derived from a Punjabi saying meaning “to hop from one area to another.” This tactic

exploits immigration loopholes, involving multiple stops in different

Contd. on P32



File picture of border security guards dealing with people crossing into the US.

Jain NGO Raises \$2.1 Million

By RAJENDRA VORA

ANAHEIM HILLS, CA – An enchanting evening unfolded on October 21 at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course here. Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care (SRLC – USA), a globally recognized non-profit organization headquartered in Dharampur, India, hosted a gala that effortlessly raised \$2.1 million.

The highlight of the evening was the launch of the pledge drive that commenced on a resounding note, with Manu Shah, founder of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and retired founder

Contd. on P16 Philanthropists Manu and Rika Shah.



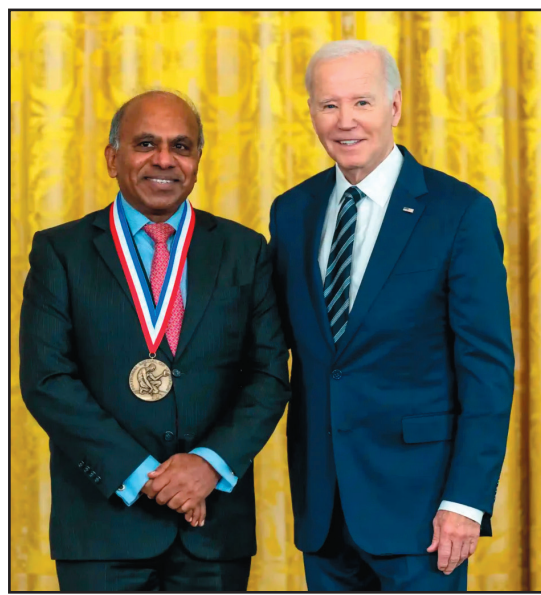
2 Get National Science Medal

WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) – US President Joe Biden has honored two Indian American scientists — Subra Suresh and Ashok Gadgil — with National Medals for their pioneering contributions in the fields of science and technology innovation at a ceremony in the White House.

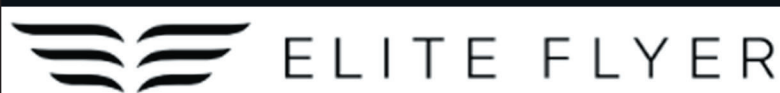
“We’re determined to return great science to America,” Biden said in remarks at the ceremony in the House’s East Room on October 24.

“For this year’s recipients, ‘outstanding’ may be an understatement. They’re extraordinary.. They have paved the way for a generation of other scientists and innovators to pursue their own discoveries to unlock our nation’s full potential.”

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President Biden with Subra Suresh. Photo: @WhiteHouse



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COMMENTARY

In Midst Of Middle East War, Kashmir Avoiding Emotional Trap



By DEEPIKA BHAN

As Israel's war on Hamas rages, demonstrations are being seen in several countries in support of the Palestinian cause. In India, too, pro-Palestine and anti-Israel protests were held in a few cities.

Some organizations, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and the Left parties, held protests in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kerala, and others against Israeli bombings in Gaza.

But one place that has remained largely silent is Kashmir.

Even though Kashmir is a Muslim-majority valley, the people have decided not to take to the streets on the issue.

SEPARATISTS AND LEADERS

Some separatist leaders and their sons tried to mobilize supporters soon after Israel declared action in Gaza. On October 13 in central Kashmir's Budgam district Hurriyat leader Aga Syed Hassan's son Muntazir led an anti-Israel and anti-US demonstration following the congregational Friday prayers. As the separatists tried to fan passions, quick J&K Police response thwarted any conflagration.

Kashmir political leaders also reacted angrily over the bombings

in Gaza. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first leaders to condemn the Hamas terror attack on Israelis, and after strike on a hospital in Gaza held a phone conversation with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to convey condolences over the loss of civilian lives, and reiterated India's "long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue", the leaders in Kashmir have been trying to whip up passions.

Former Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti criticized the Government of India's stance on the Hamas attack on Israel. In her October 10 post on X she said, "...Vajpayeeji too called Israel an occupying force which mustn't be allowed to continue reaping the benefits of occupation. Today

once again BJP is choosing their agenda over national policy." She has been tweeting almost every day to stir passions on the crisis.

Former Chief Minister and NC president Farooq Abdullah expressed concern over India's stand. "India since (former Prime

Minister) Jawaharlal Nehru's time supported Palestine and stood against oppression of Palestinians. It's unfortunate the same voices do not come forward to Palestine's

support in India anymore. History stands witness that Jews took over the land of Palestinians in Palestine and expanded their territory," Abdullah said.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expressed great anguish and grief at the loss of lives and lamented that the international community and the United Nation have failed the people of Palestine. "The issue of Palestine is a long-pending one, and a just solution should be found to it. The rights of the people of Palestine should be given back to them. Their nation and their land have been squeezed. Can there be a bigger oppression than that?"

ANTI INDIA SENTIMENT

While the leaders expressed their feelings and are trying hard to guide sentiments in the valley, the people are not reacting like earlier times when even small happenings were deliberately turned into major anti-India protests and stone pelting sessions.

On December 8, 2017, Kashmir witnessed massive protests over the US recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Hundreds of demonstrators held rallies and burned American and Israeli flags and at some places protests took a violent turn as the protesters clashed with security forces.

Six years later the valley is no longer violently reacting to the situation. Leaders trying to whip up passions are not being listened to, and helping maintain peace are the security agencies.

Since 1988 Kashmir has witnessed a lot of bloodshed because

of Pakistan sponsored terrorism. Though there are no official estimates, in the over three-decade period thousands have died, minorities uprooted, and social fabric harmed. Businesses and education suffered. Families were torn apart and people lived in a round-the-clock atmosphere of fear.

Leaders propped up by Pakistan propagated a false narrative of 'azadi' and hundreds of youths were misled to take up guns and many were made stone pelters. The myth was broken soon after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and now four years later the people have realized the falsehood spread by Pakistan and their prop up in Kashmir.

Investigations by various agencies have helped unmask these leaders, who filled their coffers, built properties in and outside the valley, educated and settled their kin out of Kashmir and country even as they led youths to violence.

TOURISM

Since the abrogation of Article 370, the valley has witnessed a tremendous transformation from terrorism to tourism.

Till September 1.70 crore tourists have already visited UT. This figure may go up to 2.25 crore by the end of the year, a significant increase from last year's 1.88 lakh tourist arrivals, which was the highest number of tourists in the UT in the last seven decades.

The number of foreign tourists to the UT has also seen a major hike from 4,028 foreign arrivals in 2022 to 30,647 in August. Srinagar hosted the G20 meeting (the third

tourism working group meeting of the G20 member countries) and post that, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in J&K has gone up by 350 percent from the last year, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha has said.

As tourism is booming in the UT, the locals are witnessing the benefits and many unemployed are now earning. Other businesses, like handicrafts, are also showing an upwards trend.

EDUCATION

With the peace pervading, education has also taken precedence. The number of youths qualifying for UPSC is growing every year. And more youths are participating in sports activities. Investments are also picking up and a lot of development projects are upcoming.

The locals, who have borne the brunt of the terror phase, are now realizing the futility of the violence in the name of religion and 'azadi' and are realizing the path of peace and development.

Kashmir was a laboratory for Pakistan and its people were not dear to it. This is what the common Kashmiri has realized. The pathetic situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has laid bare this truth. The people in PoK are up against Pakistan and its army and seek a merger with India. The truth of the 1988-2019 period of Kashmir is too bitter and tragic that Kashmiris don't want to fall into the trap again. When demonstrations are flooding the streets of the US, Europe, and other countries, Kashmiris prefer to stay silent. They know what the pain of loss is, and they have lost enough. (IANS)

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Advertising: advertising@indiawest.com
Classifieds: classifieds@indiawest.com
Website posting: info@indiawest.com

Publisher
Navneet Chugh

Graphic Designer
Rishita Dagli

President
Parminder Singh
parminder@indiawest.com

Marketing Consultant
Neha Sarin Malhotra
neha@indiawest.com

Editor
Nimmi Raghunathan
nimmi@indiawest.com

Content
Alleli De Leon
Bhartti Kumar
Reena Rathore

Phone: 1-866-621-9370
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Website: www.indiawest.com



Offices:
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Santa Clara, CA
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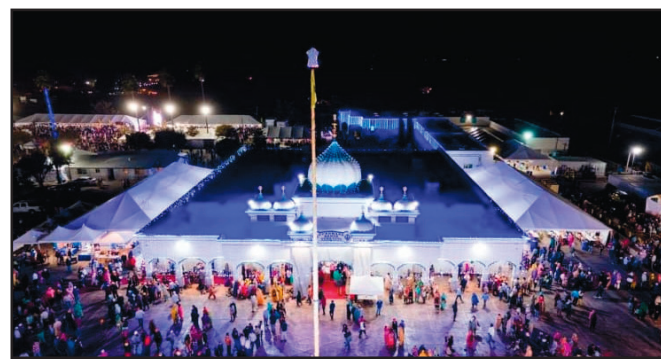
YUBA CITY, CA – An estimated 300,000 people came to celebrate the Sikh Nagar Kirtan here on November 5, according to KCRA News.

As is the case every year, Sikhs flew in from around North America and elsewhere to take part in a parade that featured floats, music, a show of traditional Sikh martial arts like gatka, great food and religious togetherness.

The entire area was swathed in vibrant colors as the air echoed with kirtans and Punjabi tunes.

As always, the Sikh event featured food stalls that covered the gamut and was served with generosity to all who attended.

The annual Sikh Parade festival was introduced in Yuba City in the 1980s by well-known Punjabi-American peach farmer Didar Singh Bains, also known as the "Peach King".



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- Reduce hundreds of thousands of personal income taxes
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- Investment inside foundation, Maximin capital gain tax less than 2%
- Reduction or elimination of potential estate taxes
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Furthermore, you can make gifts to your foundation without affecting your annual gift tax exclusion or your lifetime gift tax credit. All contributions into the foundation are fully excluded for estate tax purposes.

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- Give funds directly to individuals for disaster relief and hardship assistance; • Make Program-Related Investments including loans, loan guarantees, and even investments in for-profit businesses; • Investments in businesses in low-income areas (both domestic and foreign) under a plan to improve the economy of the area by providing employment or training for unemployed residents; • Investments in nonprofit organizations combatting community deterioration.

With a private family foundation, you can for-generations-to-come involve your family directly in the issues and activities that mean the most to you. Family members can even receive salaries as directors or employees of the foundation, provided that they legitimately serve in those roles and their work justifies their salary. In the future, the trustees or managers may conclude that the foundation's purpose has been achieved, or its resources are too small to accomplish what the founders set out to do. Sometimes family members may no longer be interested in running the foundation. In any of these cases, termination can be chosen for their foundations. We help to establish and serve family foundation clients throughout the USA. We provide comprehensive and experienced tax planning and estate planning.

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Diwali: Massive Ravan Effigy Lit Up In Pleasanton

India-West Staff Reporter

PLEASANTON, CA – The Alameda County Fairgrounds here, came alive with the annual “Dussehra & Diwali Dhamaka” celebration, presented by the Association of Indo-Americans and Bolly 92.3. This signature event was a testament to the rich Indian culture and the collaborative efforts of over 45 Indian organizations in the Bay Area.

Organizers estimated a crowd of more than 20,000 attendees filled the fairgrounds throughout the day, with a continuous flow of visitors. As the evening approached, the surrounding parking lots and roads were flooded with excited onlookers eager to witness the evening’s highlights, including the grand Ravan Dahan, a dazzling fireworks display, and the energetic Disco Dandia.

Distinguished dignitaries and local elected officials, including Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert (Co-Host), India Consul General Dr. Srikar Reddy, State Senator Dave Cortese, Assembly members Liz Ortega and Alex Lee, and Alameda County Supervisors Elisa Marquez and Lena Tam, were in attendance. Mayor Carmen Montano of Milpitas, Vice Mayors Michael McCorriston and Jack Balch, along with Council

members Raj Salwan, Sridhar Verose, Jean Josey, Marisol Rubio, and Sherry Hu also graced the gathering.

The festival featured the largest Ravan effigy in North America, standing at an impressive 30 feet, symbolizing the victory of good over evil. A breathtaking fireworks display, lasting approximately nine minutes, painted the night sky in celebration of the festival of lights. Traditional prayers and poojas, including the “Maha Mangal Aarti” to goddess Lakshmi Devi, were performed throughout the day. The “Rath Yatra” witnessed a significant number of participants in a grand procession at the venue. Disco Dandia kept the energy high until the end of the event, with participants of all ages taking part. A live music concert featuring singers from the Association of Indo-Americans, Bay Area Telugu Association, and East Bay Karaoke groups added to the entertainment.

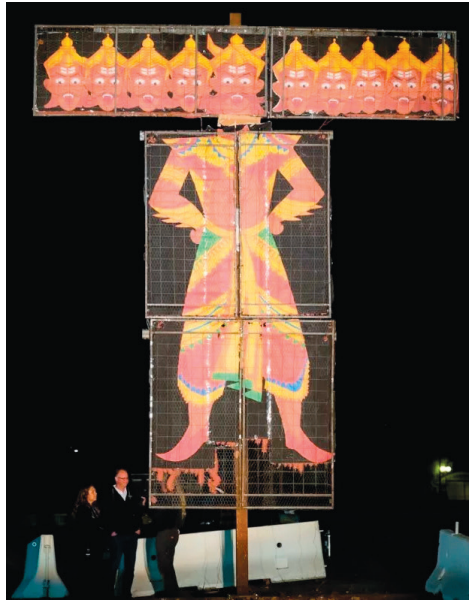
The venue was transformed into a shopper’s paradise with over

100 stalls offering clothing, jewelry, home decor, real estate, and educational materials. Attendees could also participate in Rangoli competitions, Diya making, Carroms and Chess competitions, and various carnival games. This year, the addition of Tambola attracted over 1,000 participants. Food enthusiasts were not disappointed as local restaurants at the venue set up a Food Festival, offering a wide variety of delicious dishes.

Younger attendees had a blast in the Kids Play Area, while families took part in the fashion show “RO-



Above: officials and volunteers who helped put the huge event together. Below: the participative crowd that came in large numbers. Left: the Ravan Effigy.



SHNI” and Ram Leela. The Lakshmi Puja Laddu was auctioned to share the blessings of love, health, and wealth with the community.

The “Dussehra & Diwali Dha-

maka” once again succeeded in capturing the essence of these cherished festivals, uniting the community, and celebrating the rich tapestry of Indian culture.

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San Diego Declares Hindu Heritage Month, Navaratri Festivities At Balboa

By HARINI NARASIMHAN

SAN DIEGO, CA – The vibrant culture and contributions of the local Indian and Hindu community were celebrated on October 14 in a grand ceremony at the Organ Pavilion. Mayor Todd Gloria marked the occasion by proclaiming October as “Hindu Heritage Month,” recognizing the profound influence of the Hindu community on the city’s cultural fabric.

Mayor Gloria, amidst the luminous backdrop of the Organ Pavilion, paid homage to the essential role that the local Hindu community has played in enriching the lives of San Diegans. He commended the community for its dedication to preserving the rich Hindu culture, emphasizing the values encapsulated in the Hindu philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” which signifies the unity of the world as one family.

In addition to the Hindu Heritage Month proclamation, CA State Senator Brian Jones, (District 40), honored Ekal Vidyalaya USA and the local chapter of Sewa International for their commendable community service efforts. These organizations have left an indelible mark with their impactful grassroots-level social welfare initiatives both in San Diego and globally.

The representatives of these



two organizations were presented with plaques during a lively cultural program held at Balboa Park. This event, hosted by Sewa International and Ekal USA,



coincided with the Hindu festivals of Navaratri and Dussehra. The celebration featured a mesmerizing musical dance drama based on the epic Ramayana, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and depicting the life of Lord Rama.

Multiple dance schools brought the Ramayana to life with re-

markable precision, showcasing the epic battle with the multi-headed Ravana on stilts and the heroic Vanara sena with Rama and Lakshmana. The festivities reached a crescendo with a dazzling light display culminating in a heartwarming victory scene, accompanied by cheers of “Jai

Garba dancing that engulfed the entire Organ Pavilion, filling the air with unbridled joy.

The event featured performances by Mayur Natyalaya, Sri Meenakshi Srinivasan Dance Group, Avartan Dance Academy, San Diego Maharashtra Mandal Dhol Tasha Group, Urvashi Dance Academy,

Ramji ki” from the audience. The evening continued with spirited Dandia and

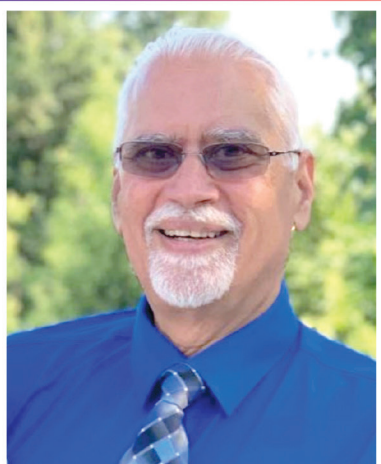
Nupoor Dance Academy, and Dandiya Dance by Margi Shah. DJ Vivek Arya kept the energy high, with Lakshmi Narasimhan serving as the emcee, while a dedicated team of volunteers ensured the event’s success. Local restaurants tantalized attendees’ taste buds with delectable Indian cuisine, and various stalls offered Indian clothing and trinkets, providing a holistic cultural experience for all in attendance.



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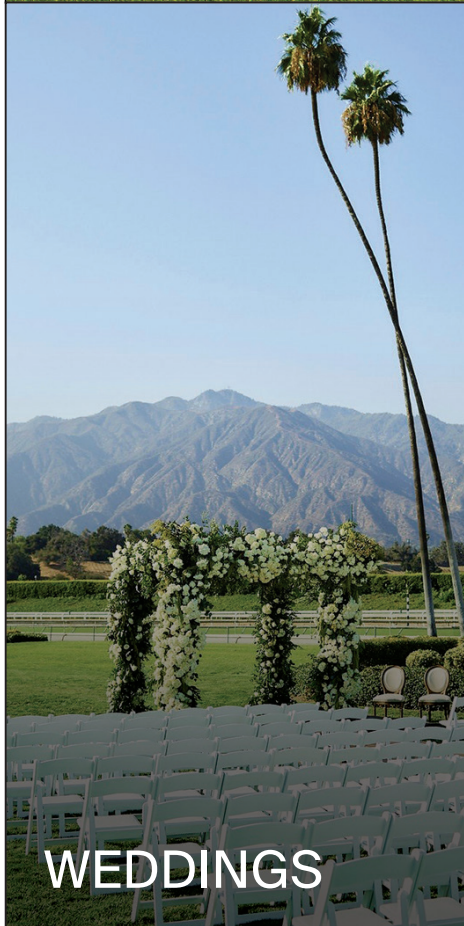
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COMMUNITY

Huge Diwali Dance Fest At Walt Disney

India-West Staff Reporter

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL – In a historic celebration of Diwali, Jashn Productions hosted the inaugural Youth Celebration of the Festival of Lights, with over 400 talented dancers hailing from different corners of the United States. This spectacle unfolded against the enchanting backdrop of Disney Springs and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. Guided by the artistic vision of Jeanie Beri, the founder of Jashn Productions, this three-day extravaganza dazzled audiences with its vivacious colors, dazzling costumes, and breathtaking dance performances from across North America.

The festival, which ran from October 26-28, kicked off in grand style with a dazzling parade at Disney Springs. Here, the dancers weaved their magic during a meticulously choreographed 20-minute performance that enthralled the visitors strolling along the vibrant streets of Disney Springs.

The Dance Fest Showcase at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park was the highlight, featuring 17 dance schools and mesmerizing performances that beautifully represented various regions of India, including Gujarat, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh, all infused with elements of pop and hip-hop. The charismatic evening was impec-

cably hosted by the renowned television personality Nisha Mathur and the talented actress Sway Bhatia.

Adding a touch of magic to the event, Walt Disney's iconic characters, Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, made a special appearance, leading the festivities. They were accompanied by children with special needs, graciously sponsored by the SKN Foundation and the N-Lorem Foundation. A significant gesture of generosity was made by Jashn Productions, who donated \$10,000 to the N-Lorem Foundation, a noble organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and providing experimental ASO medicines free of charge to patients suffering from nano-rare conditions, a press release said.

Diwali Dance Fest etched its name in the annals of history as a groundbreaking celebration, providing children with a prestigious platform to showcase their exceptional talents. Over 1,000 guests were treated to an extraordinary

sensory experience, as the Theater in the Wild was transformed into a riot of vibrant colors, resounded with the beats of Indian music, and echoed with thunderous applause and cheers. "The showcase was not merely a celebration of cultural tradition but also a powerful representation of unity and the art's ability to bridge divides and unite people," asserted Amit and Hiren, the Bollywood Directors of ICC, California-based artists.

The grand finale of the Dance Showcase featured a stellar performance by the sensational singer and performer Raghav, who captivated the audience with his hit songs "Angel Eyes" and "Desperado."

The celebrations reached a climax with an unforgettable afterparty at the iconic Hambre Theatre at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park, where



Singer Raghav entertained.

children, parents, and team members reveled in the culmination of months of dedication and marked a significant milestone in their performing arts journey.

Jashn Productions, the driving force behind this spectacular



Jeanie Beri of Jashn Productions.

event, is under the able leadership of Jeanie Beri, an award-winning South Asian American dancer boasting over 35 years of dance training and teaching, from her New Jersey-based studio, Rhythmic Arts, to her impressive credits, including Walt Disney World, NBA, and the illustrious Broadway stage.



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Cal State San Bernardino, IIT Madras Sign Academic Agreement

India-West Staff Reporter

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – Cal State San Bernardino and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras recently signed an agreement aimed at fostering educational and cultural ties, promoting research collaboration, and strengthening ties between the two institutions.

The agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, outlines cooperation in several areas, including study abroad programs for students, partnerships in academic programs, short-term academic and language programs, exchange of faculty members, and joint research activities.

“This partnership with IIT Madras marks a significant milestone in our commitment to global education,” said CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales. “We look forward to welcoming their students and faculty members to our campus, enriching our academic community, and providing our students with the opportunity to explore the vibrant culture and academic excellence of India.”

IIT Madras Director Professor V. Kamakoti shared Morales’ enthusiasm. “This memorandum of understanding represents a



IIT's Prof. V. Kamakoti (left) and CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales signed the MOU. (Photo: csusb.edu)

significant step towards a more interconnected world of learning and research,” Kamakoti said. “We are excited to welcome students and faculty from CSUSB to our campus and embark on a journey of joint research projects, academic programs, and other educational initiatives. This collaboration holds immense potential for cross-cultural enrichment and knowledge exchange.”

The agreement commenced upon its mutual signing and will

be effective for an initial period of five years. It may be renewed for an additional five years, subject to review, with discussions for renewal taking place at least six months prior to the termination of the current memorandum of understanding.

Both institutions also emphasized their commitment to flexibility, with the ability to modify the agreement upon mutual agreement between academic and administrative representatives.

Bhupesh Parikh Does The Coin Toss For CA's GCC



India-West Staff Reporter

GLENDALE, CA – Bhupesh Parikh one of the most significant donors in the history of the Glendale Community College was invited to participate in the coin toss at the October 12, Vaqueros Football Game.

In 2007, Parkih and his family donated \$1 million dollars which went toward the building that bears his name – the Bhupesh Parikh Health Sciences and Technology Building. He also helped bring in other donors to support the project, said a press release from the college. The building contains labs for the Nursing and Emergency Medical Technology programs named for his wife, the Kamud Parikh Health Sciences Division.

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Laxmi Chakki Atta 20 lb \$11⁹⁹	Sooji Coarse 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Deep Rice Flour 4 lb \$3⁴⁹	Real Taj Ragi Flour 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Royal Basmati Rice 20 lb \$19⁹⁹	Amber Creamy Sella Basmati Rice 10 lb \$8⁹⁹	Real Taj Sona Masoori rice 20 lb \$21⁹⁹	Real Taj Idli Rice 20 lb \$21⁹⁹	
Ghanti Chaap Handvo Flour 2 lb \$2⁹⁹	Real Taj Besan 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Deep Mathia Flour 2 lb \$1⁹⁹	Real Taj Urad Flour 2 lb \$2⁹⁹					

					SPICES POWDER (400gm)		
Deep Toor Dal 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Deep Moong Dal 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Swad Khichdi Mix 4 lb \$5⁹⁹	Deep Urad Dal 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Deep Chana Dal 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	 BUY 2 GET 1 FREE \$3⁹⁹ Each		
Deep Massor Dal 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Deep Kala Chana 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Deep Garbanzo beans 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Deep Moong Whole 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Deep Moong Split 4 lb \$4⁹⁹			
Real Taj Urad Gota 2 lb \$2⁴⁹	Real Taj Light Kidney Beans 4 lb \$5⁹⁹	Deep Urad Whole 4 lb \$4⁹⁹	Dhanraj Green Whole Peas 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	Dhanraj Yellow Whole Peas 4 lb \$3⁹⁹	 BUY 2 GET 1 FREE \$3⁹⁹ Each		

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Surati Snacks			
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Bru Instant Coffee 200 gm \$4⁹⁹	Narasu's Udhayam Filter Coffee 200 gm \$2⁴⁹	500 gm \$5⁹⁹	Cothas Coffee 184 gm \$2⁴⁹	

DRY FOODS

Poha Thick 4lb \$3⁴⁹	Poha Thin 2lb \$1⁹⁹	Real Taj Dalia Split 2lb \$4⁹⁹	Swetha Sabudana 4lb \$4⁹⁹
Swetha Mamra 500gm \$1⁴⁹	Swad Jaggery Bucket 11lb \$8⁹⁹	Swad Kolhapuri Jaggery 10lb \$7⁹⁹	Swad Iodized Salt 1lb 99¢
			Real Taj Coconut Powder 800gm \$3⁹⁹

DRY GROCERIES

Rasanand Pickle Small 400 - 500gm 99¢	Real Taj Pickle 700 gm \$4⁹⁹ BUY 2 GET 1 FREE	Rasanand Mango Slice 6pc \$12⁹⁹	Deep Kesari Mango Pulp 6pc \$13⁹⁹
Badshah Masala Each 99¢	Swetha Jaggery Balls/ Powder/ Cubes 2lb \$4⁴⁹	Swetha Idli Rava 2lb \$1⁹⁹	Spice Outlet Ghee 16 oz \$5⁹⁹ 2 for \$9⁹⁹

DOUGHSTORY FROZEN

Paratha Classic Plain 5 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Paratha Classic Plain 30 Pcs \$5⁹⁹	Paratha Whole-Wheat 30 Pcs \$6⁹⁹	Paratha Aloo (Potato) 3 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Naan Tandoori 20 Pcs \$5⁹⁹
Roghni Naan 3 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Garlic Naan 5 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Sheermal 3 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Taftan 3 Pcs \$1⁴⁹	Samosa Vegetable 32 Pcs \$3⁴⁹
Samosa Aloo (Potato) 40 gm \$3⁴⁹	Samosa Punjabi 10 Pcs \$2⁴⁹	Samosa Punjabi 20 Pcs \$3⁹⁹	Samosa Punjabi 12 Pcs \$3⁹⁹	Spring Roll Vegetable 18 Pcs \$2⁴⁹

FROZEN FOODS

Deep Jumbo Punjabi Samosa 8 Pcs \$3⁹⁹	Mirch Masala Value Pack Parantha 25 Pcs \$5⁹⁹	Bhagwati Sandwich / Patra / Handvo / Khaman Each \$2⁴⁹	Deep Masala Dosa / Mysore Masala Dosa / Onion Rawa Masala Dosa Each \$2⁴⁹	Amul Shrikhand 2 for \$9⁹⁹
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DAIRY

Vadilal Khoa 240 gm \$4⁹⁹	Vadilal Rasmalai 1 kg \$8⁹⁹	Vadilal Paneer Cubes 454 gm \$5⁹⁹	Deep Whole Milk Yogurt 2lb \$1⁴⁹
Gopi Paneer 14 oz \$5⁹⁹		Gopi Yogurt 4 lb \$5⁹⁹	

DRY FRUITS & NUTS

Cashew Whole 2lb \$9⁹⁹	Cashew Pieces 2lb \$6⁹⁹	Almond Whole 2lb \$6⁹⁹	Golden Raisin 400 gm \$2⁹⁹
Black Raisin 400 gm \$3⁹⁹	Green Pista 400 gm \$9⁹⁹	Peanut Raw 3lb \$4⁹⁹	Whole Peanuts No Skin 2lb \$3⁹⁹

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Jain NGO Raises \$2.1 Mln.

Contd. from P1

of M S International, Inc. announcing his generous pledge of \$1 million. Over the next 30 minutes, many attendees filled out pledge envelopes, demonstrating their commitment to SRLC's mission.

Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of the evening was the overwhelming generosity of the attendees, who collectively pledged an astonishing \$2.1 mil-

Earlier, guests were welcomed into a beautifully adorned ballroom, and the evening's program began with the auspicious Jain prayer, the Navkar Mantra. The event's emcee, Biren Mehta, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, inviting Navneet Chugh, Dr. Anil Shah, Dr. Bharat Patel, Dr. Nitin Shah, and Mahesh Wadher on stage for the ceremonial lamp lighting.

The evening included Vandana



The chief guests lighting the inaugural lamp.



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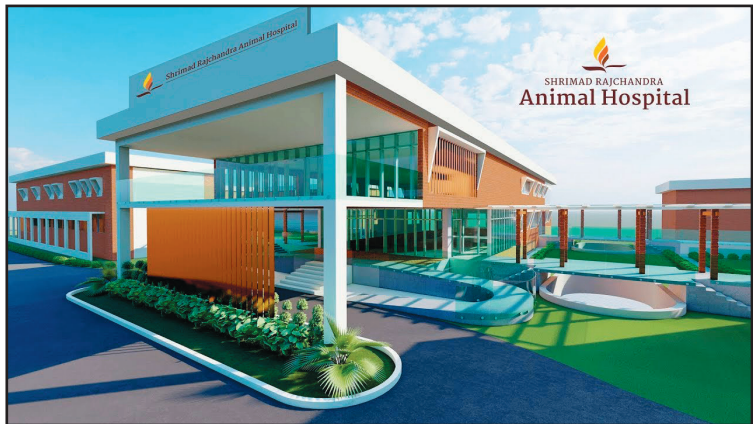
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lion towards the 'Jivamaitridham' project. Puja Gurudevshri Rakeshji, the founder of SRLC is well known to Jain and other American audiences. The mission's Jivamaitridham project aims to "foster love for animals and to bridge the gap between humans and animals" and "become a model center of ahimsa, where animals are treated as friends and where their well-being and security are of paramount importance."

Dr. Chintan Mehta from Phoenix provided attendees with insights into SRLC's work and the visionary Jivamaitridham project, using two videos and a presentation. Many of the attendees had previously supported SRLC's initiatives and were eager to receive updates on the organization's activities and learn about the thoughtfully designed new project that places a significant emphasis on animal welfare.

When the main host of the evening, Mahesh Wadher, introduced Manu Shah, the latter, in a heartwarming display of his dedication to those in need, orchestrated a surprise performance by members of the audience who walked and danced around the ballroom, holding lights and candles, as the melodious "Jyot-se-Jyot Jalate Chalo" video played.



Gurudevshri Rakeshji established Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care (SRLC); a non-governmental organisation that provides medical, educational and humanitarian services; in 2003.

Tilak, the founder and CEO of Jupiter360 Foundation, sharing her impressions from her visit to Dharampur, where she witnessed the transformational impact of SRLC's work on the lives of thousands in rural South Gujarat.

There was also a solo classical dance performance set to popular Bollywood songs by the young dancer Vinaini.

The evening concluded on a high note, with attendees then enjoying a sumptuous dinner that marked the perfect ending to a night of philanthropy and unity.

For more information: www.srlcusa.org.

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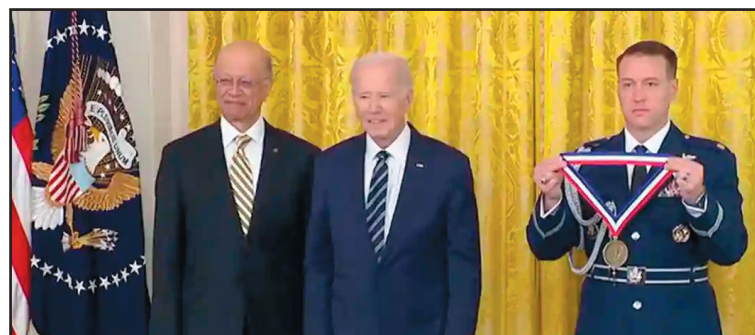
2 Receive National Medal Of Science

Contd. from P1

Suresh — a scientist and engineer with decades of impactful

leadership in higher education, industry, and government — was among nine recipients who were

awarded the National Medal of Science. A professor at large at Brown University's School of Engineering



Ashok Gadgil waits with President Biden to receive his honor. Photo: @USAndIndia

and former director of the National Science Foundation, Suresh of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was honored for pioneering research across engineering, physical sciences, and life sciences.

Describing Suresh as a “transformative educator”, a White House statement said that his “commitment to research and collaboration across borders has demonstrated how science can forge understanding and cooperation among people and nations”. “It’s very satisfying,” Suresh said in a statement released by Brown University’s School of Engineering.

“This is not why you do science. You don’t do this for the reward, you do it for joy. If somebody notices it, it’s icing on the cake, but it’s not the cake itself. This one, though, has added significance because it’s from the president of the US. It’s national. It has the US stamped on it,” Suresh added.

Born in India in 1956, Suresh graduated from high school at 15 and by age 25 had earned his undergraduate degree, master’s degree, and Ph.D., which he earned in mechanical engineering from

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in just two years.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation was awarded to Ashok Gadgil of the University of California Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for providing life-sustaining resources to communities around the world. Widely considered to be a “humanitarian inventor”, Gadgil was among 12 laureates to receive the honor.

“His innovative, inexpensive technologies help meet profound needs, from drinking water to fuel-efficient cookstoves. His work is inspired by a belief in the dignity of all people and in our power to solve the great challenges of our time,” the White House statement read.

Established by Congress in 1959, the National Medal of Science is conferred directly by the president and is the highest recognition the nation can bestow on scientists and engineers. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is given for outstanding contributions to the promotion of technology for the improvement of the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the US.



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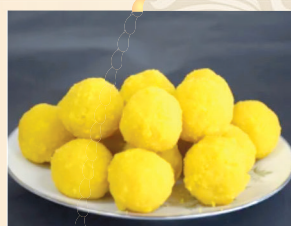
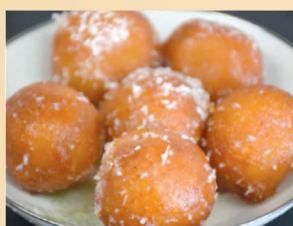
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On behalf of the Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, the Hindu Society of Inland Empire, Inc., our Board Members and our Priests, Shukavak Dasa, Seshacharyulu, Vipul Bhai and Girirajji, I would like to welcome Pandit Krishnamachary Samudrala to the Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir. As our main priest Shukavak has said, Pandit Krishnamachary has been serving our Hindu devotees in Southern California and beyond for about 40 years. He specializes in performing weddings and all pujas in English and multiple native Indian languages. He compliments our current priests. We are blessed to have a diversified community and we are thankful to our priests for serving our community and God with great devotion. Please come and take part in a unique opportunity of once in a life time to build a multicultural, traditional Hindu temple from the ground up. Thank you and God Bless.

Lakshman Koka Volunteer Chairman

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Ground Breaking for the New Addition to the Sri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir with Unique Multicultural Temple Architecture.

Schedule of Daily Events

FRIDAY, NOV 17, 2023. 9AM-10.30 AM:

Anugna: Prayers for seeking permission from all Gods and Goddesses, Acharya's/Guru's to begin the Pooja rituals. **Sankalpam:** Prayers to perform the rituals according to the Tradition.

Ganapathi Pooja: Prayers to Lord Ganesha to remove obstacles and for the successful completion of the Mandir.

Bhu Suddhi/ Puryahavachanam: A purification of the land selected to build the shrines before commencing the construction.

Navadhanyam: nine kinds of grain are offered and scattered in all eight directions invoking the presiding deities called Astadikpalakas to protect the place, seeking spirituality, happiness and prosperity to all the community at large.

Maha Arati & Ashirwad (Blessings) followed by Maha Prasadam

SATURDAY: NOV 18, 2023: 12 Noon to 2 PM

Vishvakshena Aradhana: Prayers to Lord Vishvakshena seeking the blessings for successful completion of the rituals.

Punyaha Vachanam: Purification of the selected place.

Bhu Shanthi: Prayers to Mother Earth seeking permission to dig the place for building the proposed Temple.

Vasthu Shanthi: Prayers to Vasthu Purusha seeking the blessings.

Ground Breaking: Formal digging of the ground at the selected place.

Shilanyasam: Laying the bricks for the foundation of the proposed Temple.

Ratna Nyasam: Placing the Navarathnas/Nine Gems at the selected places of the Temple shrines.

Maha Arati & Ashirwad (Blessings) followed by Maha Prasadam

SUNDAY, NOV 19, 2023 10AM-12.Noon

Vishvakshena Aradhana: Prayers to Lord Vishvakshena seeking the blessings.

Bhu Shanthi Homam & Parivara Devatha Homam: Fire ceremony for Mother Earth and all Presiding Deities of the Temple seeking the blessings for the successful Completion of the Temple.

Maha Poornahuthi: Final offerings to Agni Devata Seeking the blessings for the Temple.

Maha Arati & Ashirwad (Blessings) followed by Maha Prasadam

Please join these wonderful families who have pledged to be founding members for the New Mandir expansion:

Ashok Agarwal, Vijay Arora, Sudhakar Dixit, Late Dr. Mahesh Gupta, Rakesh Gupta, Sanjay Jalota, Anil Kumar, Lakshman Koka, Rajagopal Krishnan, Vemal Kulasingham, Vinod Mishra, Sreenivas Nakka, Narakanti Nimmagadda, Vishnu Patel, Giridhari Purohit, Aga Reddy Vanteru, Venugopal Sandra, Sanyasi Ganta, Surendra Sharma, Akshaya Sheth, Raj Sindher, Anil Srivastava, Bhoodev Tiwari, Ratan Tiwari, Ramesh Upadhyayula, Ram Yellapragada

Shooting Guard Ishan Sharma To Play For UVA

India-West News Desk

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – In an exciting development, the Virginia Cavaliers have secured their second recruit from the 2024 high school class, and all eyes are on Indian Canadian shooting guard, Ishan Sharma. The 6'5" standout from the Fort Erie International Academy received a visit from Virginia's head coach, Tony Bennett, and his coaching team. Without hesitation, Sharma committed to joining them.

Sharma's commitment follows in the footsteps of forward Jacob Cofie, who made his decision to don the Cavaliers' jersey slightly over a month ago, adding depth and talent to UVA's 2024 class. Notably, point guard Christian Bliss, originally slated as a 2024 recruit, chose to reclassify, positioning himself to potentially redshirt for the upcoming season.

What makes Sharma a compelling addition to the Virginia Cavaliers is his shooting ability. Virginia's recent struggles with perimeter shooting have been well-documented, and Sharma's arrival is poised to be a game-changer. His forte lies in his proficiency as a sharpshooter, offering UVA a



valuable catch-and-shoot threat, streakingthelawn.com said.

Bennett and his coaching staff have high hopes of scheming plays to create open looks for Sharma, a strategy that has worked successfully for the team's premier shooters over the years. In addition to his catch-and-shoot skills, Sharma has displayed the versatility to make shots off the dribble, indicating a potentially expanding offensive game beyond the three-point line.

With the requisite size and athleticism, Sharma is expected to excel in Virginia's defensive

schemes. While he may not match the offensive skill set of notable Cavaliers like Kyle Guy or Isaac McKneely, Sharma is set to be a dependable defensive asset. He is well-suited to fill the role of a "Three and D" floor spacer at either the shooting guard or small forward positions, significantly bolstering the Cavaliers' defensive capabilities without compromising on the offensive front.

Sharma's talent attracted attention from several schools, including Seton Hall, Maine, Marist, NIU, and numerous mid-major programs.

Teen Wins Second Spot In 3M Young Scientist Challenge



SAN JOSE, CA (IANS) – Teen Shripriya Kalbhavi has won second place at the annual 2023 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a premier science competition for middle school students.

Kalbhavi, a ninth grader at Lynbrook High School here, received \$2,000 prize money for developing EasyBZ – a cost-effective microneedle patch that allows for self-automated drug delivery without pills or needles. The first prize of \$25,000 with the prestigious title of "America's Top Young Scientist", went to Heman Bekele from Virginia for his compound-based Skin Cancer Treating Soap.

Kalbhavi said she entered the contest because she wants to help change lives. She also hosts a podcast called "Famous Personalities," and as part of the theme of her show, she researches women scientists and speaks about their lives, achievements, and research.

"Scientific research and innovations have always interested me, and I find the scientists, especially doctors, all around me to be extremely inspiring because they work to help people every day," Kalbhavi, who wants to become a neurosurgeon, said. "I want to gain experience and advice from a mentor to help improve people's lives with my invention, BZ reaction-automated microneedle patches, by making their medication painless and more affordable," she added.

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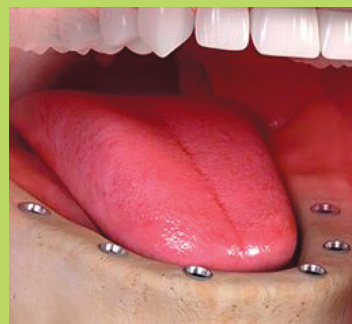
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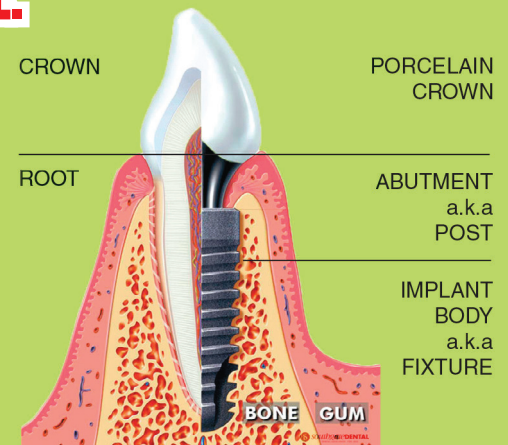
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PEOPLE

CA Teen Triumphs At Tiger Woods Junior Golf Tournament

India-West Staff Reporter

IRVINE, CA – Karina Jadhav, a 13-year-old golf star, achieved a wonderful victory at the Annual Tiger Woods Junior Golf Invitational Tournament. The prestigious event took place at Pebble Beach Golf Links from October 7-9.

Karina’s outstanding performance secured her the first-place trophy in a challenging competition that featured both stroke and match play formats. Remarkably, she was the youngest participant in the 13-15 girls’ division.

One of the highlights of Karina’s tournament experience was the opportunity to meet the legendary golfer Tiger Woods, as well as his compete with his son, Charlie Woods.

Karina’s journey to victory was not without its challenges. Over the course of three demanding rounds, she showcased her exceptional short-game skills. In the match-play phase, which was played on the scenic links course of Spanish Bay on Day 2, Karina demonstrated her unwavering determination and resilience. Despite having no prior experience with the tough, ocean-facing, and windy Spanish

Bay links course, she managed to overcome a 6-hole deficit at one point during the match.

In a thrilling turn of events, Karina battled her way back to tie the match on the final hole. The intense competition ultimately extended to a total of 20 holes, including two playoff holes. Karina emerged victorious with a spectacular, long downhill curvy birdie putt.

In a heartwarming moment, Tiger Woods himself provided motivation to the young golfer. During the welcome reception at the Beach Club on Day 1, Woods recounted one of his most iconic moments—a historic 7-shot comeback at Pebble Beach in 2000. He shared this story with Karina, who found inspiration in it during her own challenging match.

Throughout the year, Karina has participated in various local, national, and international tournaments including qualifying for her first AJGA Open tournament this summer. She also gained valuable experience by competing in the LPGA Monday qualifier for the CP Women’s Open at Point Grey Country Club in Vancouver, Canada, and the Mexican Women’s Amateur at Guadalajara Country Club in



Guadalajara, Mexico.

The young golfer takes her academics seriously too said her parents Amit and Smeeta Jadhav who list off a series of awards she has won at school at Pegasus Private School in Huntington Beach, CA. She has also been actively involved in Earth Day events.



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Annakut & New Year

Annakut Darshan Timings:

12:00 PM - 8:30 PM



Diwali & Sharda Pujan

11:30 AM | Mahaprasad (Lunch)

1:00 PM | Sharda Pujan

4:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Diwali Experience



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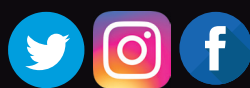
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Diwali Light and Sound Show

November 11th, 12th, 13th

6:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:00PM, 7:30PM, 8:00PM

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POLITICS

Susheela Jayapal, Sister Of Pramila Running For Congress



PORTLAND, OR – Susheela Jayapal, the sister of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, has launched her bid for Congress. A former county commissioner in Oregon, Susheela Jayapal announced that she was looking to succeed Democratic Representative Earl Blumenauer, who said earlier this week that he will not seek re-election to the state's 3rd Congressional District.

Blumenauer, who was first elected in 1996, won a 14th full term last year with nearly 70 percent of the vote, reports CNN.

The 3rd Congressional District, which includes parts of Portland, is a Democratic stronghold.

Susheela Jayapal, in readiness for her campaign, has resigned from the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. She is a lawyer

who has worked as general counsel for Adidas America and served as a board member for the local Planned Parenthood chapter, according to her campaign website.

The campaign said that her top issues include abortion rights, gun safety and climate change, according to her campaign, and she has announced that she will not accept corporate money.

Susheela Jayapal is "committed to ensuring America lives up to its promise of opportunity for all, with no community left behind; and to the vision of a country that we can be proud to leave to our children and our grandchildren", CNN quoted her campaign website as saying. Pramila Jayapal has endorsed her sister's bid and called for grassroots donors to support her campaign.

Raj Shah, Election Denier, In Speaker Johnson's Office

India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – The new House Speaker Mike Johnson has tapped Raj Shah to be his deputy chief of staff for communications.

The Indian American who has played the roles of deputy press secretary and deputy assistant to the president, was among those who were embroiled in the lawsuit Dominion Voting Systems' lawsuit brought and won against Fox Corp. Shah's internal messages along with other Fox executives, where he was a senior vice president helped go toward the news outlet having to make a \$787 million settlement. It also exposed him as promoting the election lies of Donald Trump. Shah had to leave the job under a cloud.



Shah has also been a research director and deputy communications director for the Republican National Committee. In his new

job, Shah will be Johnson's chief spokesperson and "help run messaging for House Republicans," Politico reported October 31.

Service Organization Honors Raja Krishnamoorthi

India-West Staff Reporter

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – At their 21st Annual Gala earlier this fall, Leyden Family Service, and the Start Here Addiction Rehabilitation & Education (SHARE) Program honored Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi as their 'Person of the Year' for his dedication to "improving the communities he serves."

The organization provides a range of counseling, treatment, and preventative care including programs for those struggling with substance abuse, gambling addiction, and other mental health problems.

Last year, a press release said, Congressman Krishnamoorthi secured \$266,059 in federal funding to repair and update the SHARE

Program's facilities to improve the quality of care provided to the community members it serves.

Krishnamoorthi said, "As our nation works to overcome the opioid epidemic and a range of other mental wellness challenges, I am proud to work with Leyden Family Service and Mental Health and the SHARE Program to serve the needs of our community members."



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03:00 PM – 05:00 PM: Laksha Bilwarchana. SPONSOR NOW \$108.
05:30 PM – 07:30 PM: Jyothirlingarchana, Dinner prasad. SPONSOR NOW \$108.

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Monday, November 13th, 2023 @ 6:30 PM**

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CA Politician Denied Indian Citizenship

HYDERABAD, (IANS) – In a setback for Jhansi Reddy, a member of the Congress party, her application for Indian citizenship has been denied by Indian authorities. Jhansi Reddy, who holds American citizenship, had aspired to contest on the Congress ticket for the Palakurthi Assembly constituency.

The Hyderabad District Collector conveyed to Reddy that her request for Indian citizenship could not be entertained because she had not maintained continuous residence in India for a full year immediately preceding her application date. She had applied for Indian citizenship.

The District Collector's communication indicated that although she entered India on June 16, 2022, she had not fulfilled the essential requirement of residing in India for a consecutive 12-month period before the application date, which is a mandatory condition for citizenship eligibility.

Jhansi Reddy is known for her role as the founder and president of the Women Empowerment Telugu Association, an organization based in the United States to create opportunities for women. She has also been involved in philanthropic work in the Palakurthi constituency, which is currently represented by BRS leader and Minister for Panchayat Raj, E. Dayakar Rao.

In anticipation of receiving a Congress ticket, Jhansi had been actively campaigning in the Palakurthi constitu-



Jhansi Reddy

ency for the past several weeks.

In 1982, she married cardiologist Dr. Hanumandla Rajender Reddy of California. She has played an active role in various Telugu associations. She served as a member of the board of directors for the American Telugu Association from 2007 to 2009 and the North American Telugu Association from 2010 to 2014. Additionally, she served as the president of the Telangana American Telugu Association from 2015 to 2018. The couple co-founded the Hanumandla Rajender and Jhansi Reddy Foundation, a non-profit organization engaged in philanthropic activities in the US and India.

In 2006, they donated \$1 million to establish a student health center at the University of California, Merced. They have also contributed \$1 million to various service projects in rural villages in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

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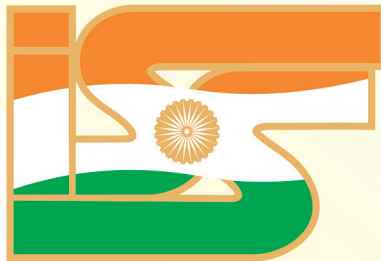


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Apple Hits Record Revenue In India: Tim Cook



CUPERTINO, CA – Apple has achieved an all-time revenue record in India in the September quarter, said CEO Tim Cook, adding that there is a lot of headroom to grow in the country where “a lot of people are moving into the middle class.”

During the company’s quarterly earnings call late on November 2, where Apple said it posted quarterly revenue of \$89.5 billion, the iPhone maker grew in very strong double digits in India in the July-September quarter (which also new iPhone 15 series sales which started on September 22).

“We achieved an all-time revenue record in India as well as September quarter records in several countries, including Brazil, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, Vietnam and more,” said Cook.

“In services, we set an all-time revenue record with double-digit growth and ahead of our expectations,” he added.

In response to an analyst question on momentum in India, Cook said that India is “an incredibly exciting market for them and a major focus” for the company.

“We have a low share in a large market and so there’s a lot of headroom there. We see an extraor-

dinary market — a lot of people moving into the middle class,” the Apple CEO noted.

“Lots of positives, we put two retail stores there and they are doing better than we anticipated — it’s still early going but they are off to a good start, and I couldn’t be happier with how things are going at the moment,” he added.

Apple’s revenue in India hit nearly Rs 50,000 crore in FY23, with sales increasing 48 percent to Rs 49,321 crore and net profit rising 76 percent to Rs 2,229 crore.

The company recorded its highest-ever quarterly shipments in India, crossing 2.5 million units, in the third quarter (July-September period) this year.

Luca Maestri, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, at Apple, said that the company reached a September quarter record on iPhone, driven by strength in emerging markets.

“Our total installed base of active devices reached an all-time high across all products and all geographic segments. Thanks to our high levels of customer satisfaction and many new customers joining our ecosystem,” said Maestri.

“We are expanding our direct presence with new Apple Retail Stores in India to online stores in Vietnam and Chile,” he added.

With Alaska Airline Agreement, Air India Expands US Footprint



NEW DELHI – Tata owned Air India has entered an interline partnership with Alaska Airlines which will allow fliers to avail seamless connections from New York JFK, Newark- New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and Vancouver gateways to and from 32 destinations in the US, Mexico, and Canada.

“The scope of the agreement includes bilateral interlining which allows both the airlines to sell tickets on each other’s network. In addition, the two airlines have also entered a Special Prorate Agreement, which allows Air India to file ‘through fares’ on routes covering Alaska Airlines’ network,” said the airline spokesperson.

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India, said that the tie-up with Alaska Air will expand Air India’s international footprint in the US and Canada.

“It will even extend our reach to Mexico, boosting our network expansion plans. It will help us offer more choice to our guests and mark a significant step forward in our mission to enhance connectivity,” said Aggarwal.



A hate crime is typically one involving violence that is motivated by prejudice based on ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or similar grounds.

Recent Hate Crime incident in Queens, New York public bus:

A 19-year-old Sikh teenager experienced a hate crime involving verbal abuse and physical assault, including an attempt to forcibly remove his turban. He had to seek medical treatment for the injuries sustained during the incident. Creating awareness about “Stop the Hate” is essential to create a safer environment for South Asian communities.

LET’S STAND UNITED AGAINST HATE

Resources for any victims or bystanders of hate.

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- For legal assistance go to this website: <https://www.helplacrimevictims.org/#/homepage>
- Report it to the FBI: Call 1-800-225-5324
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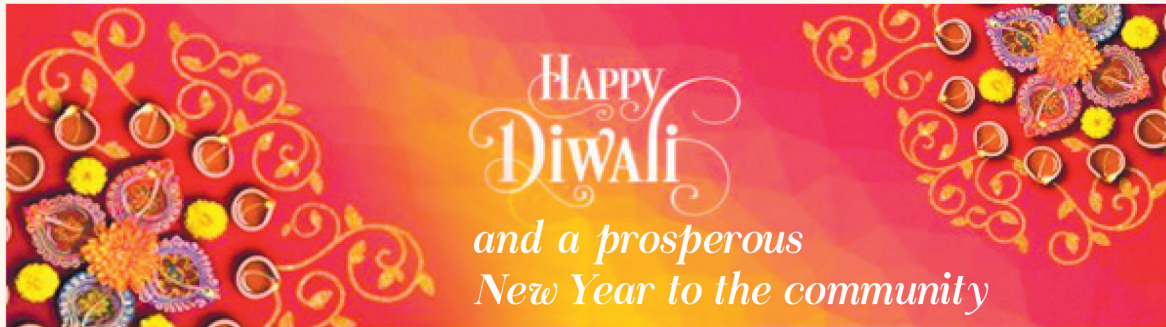
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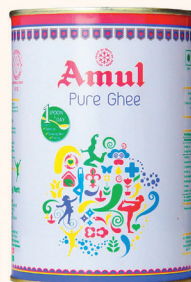
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MIDDLE EAST WAR

Palestinians Have Right To Peace, Dignity: Congressman Ami Bera

ELK GROVE, CA (IANS) – Congressman Ami Bera has called for immediate cessation of military operations in Gaza to get needed humanitarian aid, food, water, and medicine to struggling civilians.

Gaza city and northern Gaza have been “largely cut off” from the rest of the Hamas-controlled enclave because of the Israeli ground operations, hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid to some 300,000 internally displaced people in the north, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Bera in a video message said that while he “firmly believes” that Israel has the right to exist and defend itself, so do “innocent Palestinians who have a right to a life of peace and dignity”.

“We need an immediate pause in order to get needed humanitarian aid, food, water and medicine to struggling civilians; then we need to find a different path forward,” Bera said, after speaking to the Palestinians and Jews in his constituency.



The Congressman said he hoped to see Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace, which can only happen if innocent Israelis and Palestinians are not killed.

In addition, Bera, along with Congressman Andy Kim, is leading 89 colleagues in demanding the US Congress to immediately pass the President’s request for Fiscal Year 2024 emergency supplemental funding.

Thanedar Makes Call To “Eliminate” Hamas



India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Shri Thanedar, has removed himself from the membership of the Democratic Socialists of America after the group promoted a pro-Palestinian rally a day after Hamas’ deadly terrorist attack on Israel.

Thanedar cited what he called a “hate-filled and antisemitic rally in New York City,” which other progressives in Congress have also condemned. “After the brutal terrorist attacks on Israel, which included the indiscriminate murder, rape, and kidnapping of innocent men, women, and children, I can no longer associate with an organization unwilling to call out terrorism in all its forms,” Thanedar said in his statement.

“Sunday’s hate-filled and antisemitic rally in New York City, promoted by the NYC-DSA, makes it impossible for me to continue my affiliation,” he added. “I stand with Israel and its right to defend itself. There is no place for moral equivocation in the face of unadulterated evil as we have seen from Hamas.”

On October 23, speaking at an event in support of Israel at the US Capitol Hill on October 23, he was equally unequivocal about his stance.

“Hamas is not a militant organization. Hamas is not a resistance movement; they are just barbaric terrorists. This is a time when we just can’t just push them because they will regroup and come back and do these atrocities once again. Yes, that’s what they will do. So, you know, we need at this stage to eliminate them. Eliminate the space of this, you know, we need to dismantle their military operations,” Thanedar said.

Thanedar said, “We need to free the Palestinian people, the two million Palestinian people that live in Gaza. They need to be freed from these terrorist controls of Gaza. So that addition is what I feel. Now there is a lot of talk about ceasefire, but I feel that it’s premature, these Hamas terrorists have used the civilians.”

HinduACTION and Namaste Shalom Multi-faith Alliance organized the Congressional briefing in support of Israel and against rising anti-Hindu bigotry and antisemitism in the US and Canada.

Meanwhile, Nissim Reuben, Program Director of Indian-Jewish Relations at the American Jewish Committee, said at a Congressional briefing in support of Israel that India is the only country with no history of antisemitism.

He also expressed solidarity with Israel in its fight against the terrorist group Hamas.

He further expressed gratitude that the Indian American diaspora, the global Indian diaspora, the people of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Indian government have solidly supported Israel in its ongoing war with Hamas.



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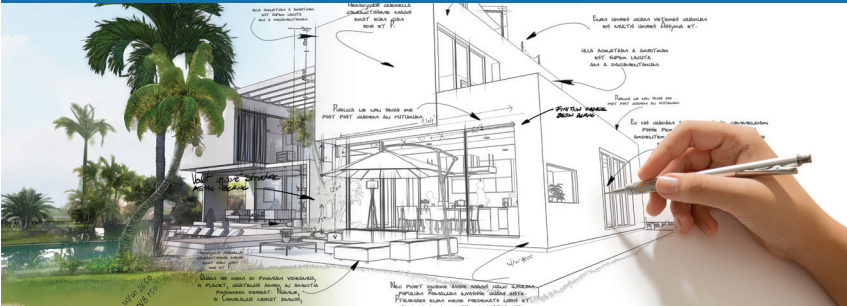


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Indian Illegals Entering US



Contd. from P1

countries before gaining access to a foreign nation.

Various social media platforms have featured videos showing men and women taking different routes to reach the United States, one of the most perilous being the Darien jungle—a hazardous 66-mile passage between Panama and Colombia that leads to Central America and the United States. Known for its venomous wildlife, treacherous terrain, and challenging navigation, it is considered one of the riskiest migration routes globally.

In the past, Indian illegals favored entering the US through the

border with Mexico rather than the border with Canada. However, the number of arrests on the US-Mexico border closely aligned with those at the US-Canada border in September, totaling 3,862. Many of these illegal immigrants, most of whom are reported to be from Gujarat, have either settled in Canada or are awaiting a chance to enter the United States.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Mexico tops the list globally in terms of infiltrators, with 21 lakh (2.1 million) individuals, followed by Honduras (6.42 lakh), Guatemala (6.37 lakh), Cuba (4.06 lakh), and Venezuela (3.23 lakh).

US Proposes Changes In H-1B Process To Reduce Fraud

WASHINGTON DC (ANI) – The Joe Biden administration in the United States has proposed changes in the H-1B visa program to streamline eligibility requirements and make it more efficient and flexible.

The changes have been proposed by the US Department of Homeland Security, which stated that the changes will also lead to a reduction in cases of misuse and fraud.

“The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would modernize the H-1B specialty occupation worker program by streamlining eligibility requirements, improving program efficiency, providing greater benefits and flexibilities for employers and workers, and strengthening integrity measures,” the department said in a statement.

The US Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N Mayorkas said that the priority of the Biden administration is to attract global talent and reduce undue burdens on employers.

“DHS continues to develop and implement regulations that increase efficiency and improve



Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas.

processes for employers and workers navigating the immigration system,” the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N Mayorkas said.

He added, “The Biden-Harris Administration’s priority is to attract global talent, reduce undue burdens on employers, and prevent fraud and abuse in the immigration system.”

According to the department, the proposed changes would streamline eligibility requirements. Under this, the criteria for specialty occupation positions would be revised to reduce confusion between the public and adjudicators and to clarify that a position may allow a range of degrees, although there must be a direct relationship between the required degree field(s) and the duties of the position.

The proposed rule also codifies that adjudicators generally should defer to a prior determination when no underlying facts have changed at the time of a new filing.

Aiming to provide more flexibility, the department has proposed certain exemptions to the H-1B cap to be expanded for certain non-profit entities or governmental research organizations as well as beneficiaries who are not directly employed by a qualifying organization.

DHS would also extend certain flexibility for students on an F-1 visa when students are seeking to change their status to H-1B. Additionally, DHS would establish new H-1B eligibility requirements for rising entrepreneurs, the department stated.

According to the US department, misuse, and fraud in the H-1B registration process would also be reduced by prohibiting related entities from submitting multiple registrations for the same beneficiary.

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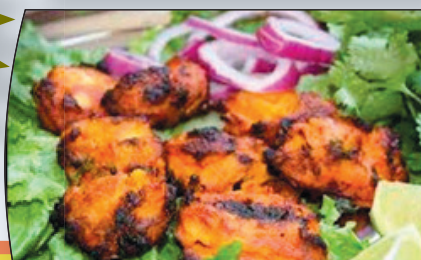
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CRICKET

Saudi Eyeing IPL Stake: Bloomberg

NEW DELHI (IANS) – Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in buying a multibillion-dollar stake in the Indian Premier League (IPL), international cricket’s most lucrative event, following a string of investments that have upended professional sports, including football and golf, a media report said.

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s advisors have spoken to Indian government officials about moving the IPL into a holding company valued at as much as \$30 billion, Bloomberg reported.

The talks were held when the Saudi Crown Prince visited India in September for the G20 Summit held under India’s Presidency, the report said.

Saudi Arabia proposed investing as much as \$5 billion into the league and help lead an expansion into other countries, the report said.

As per earlier reports, the IPL ecosystem value has risen from Rs 87,000 crore to Rs 92,500 crore, marking an increase of around 6.3 percent, as per a report by D&P India Advisory Services.

This translates to a growth from \$10.9 billion to \$11.2 billion, representing an increase of approximately 3.3 percent.

The league has always been a spectacle of cricket, business, and entertainment. This year was no exception, as the league continued to captivate audiences, both on television and digital platforms, the report said.

According to the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, the IPL telecast on the Star Sports Network attracted a stag-



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

gering 505 million viewers with an impressive watch time of 427.1 billion minutes. On the digital front, JioCinema reported that

449 million viewers tuned into its platform, with over 126 million viewers choosing connected TV options to savor the IPL action.

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OBITUARY

Bishan Singh Bedi: Audacious, Outspoken And Man With A Big Heart

MUMBAI – As the praise and memories of this great cricketer pours in from peers, current players, the Prime Minister, Bollywood and the ordinary citizen, here is a look at Bishan Singh Bedi.

After an embarrassing defeat to Australia in the Rothmans Cup in New Zealand in 1990, the manager of the Indian cricket team had famously declared to the media: "The entire team should

be dumped into the Pacific." That was Bishan Singh Bedi, never afraid to speak his mind, never one to mince words, and always ready to call a spade a spade.

It was his aura as one of the





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greatest left-arm spinners the game had seen, which gave Bedi the audacity to be upfront and undiplomatic at times. His words never had the loop and spin that Bedi put in his bowling. At the core of his heart, Bishan Singh Bedi was always anti-establishment and fought with the Board of Control for Cricket in India administrators for his teammates and fellow cricketers.

A key member of India's famous spin quartet of the 1970s, left-arm spinner Bishan Singh Bedi passed away on October 23, aged 77. Bedi played 67 Tests for India between 1967 and 1979, taking 266 wickets at an average of 28.71, apart from making 656 runs with the bat.

A tough taskmaster, Bedi may not have endeared himself to the various teams that he coached and managed — from the Delhi Ranji Trophy team to the senior national team, but as a spinner par excellence, he always commanded respect, coaching players like Maninder Singh and Murali Karthik among others.

It was his aura and abilities as a brilliant spinner and cricketer that on many occasions foreign teams would send their spinners to train under Bedi before unleashing them on the Indian team. Bedi was never economical or frugal in dispensing with his wisdom, whoever sought it, whether an Indian or otherwise.

But his teammates and rivals would also remember Bedi for his big heart as a cricketer, who was always ready to praise a batsman for attacking him and a spinner for his bowling skills. He was a man with a heart of gold.

Considered to be one of the greatest left-arm spinners to have played the game, Bedi was part of the famous Indian spin quartet alongside Erapalli Prasanna, B.S. Chandrasekar, and S. Venkataraghavan that won India many matches in both home and overseas conditions in the 1970s.

He also took seven wickets in 10 ODI matches, apart from captaining India in 22 Tests — with its most memorable wins coming in Melbourne and Sydney Tests in the 1977-78 tour of Australia.

Born in Amritsar, Punjab, Bedi

began his first-class career with Northern Punjab, before moving to Delhi in the 1968-69 season, shortly after making his India Test debut in 1966. His left-arm spin bowling was known for the mastery he had of flight, loop, and spin, along with using subtle variations to outwit batters at the crease, with tiny adjustments made in his superior arm speed release points.

Bedi also led Delhi to winning the prestigious Ranji Trophy titles in 1978-79 and 1979-80, apart from two runners-up finishes. He also had a successful stint for Northamptonshire at county cricket in England. In 102 outings for the club between 1972 and 1977, Bedi bagged 434 wickets, the most by an Indian in the English County cricket circuit, while averaging 20.89.

Post his playing career, Bedi turned to coaching young cricketers, with Maninder Singh and Murali Kartik being his students to have played for India. He also coached Punjab, Delhi, and Jammu & Kashmir teams in domestic cricket, with Punjab winning the Ranji Trophy in 1992-93.

He was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 1969, the Padma Shri in 1970 and the C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Recently, Bedi had been unwell and had to undergo multiple surgeries, including one on the knee which happened in late September this year. He is survived by his wife Anju, and two children: Neha and Angad, a film actor.

Though he never said it aloud, one of Bedi's regrets in his life was not seeing his son Angad Singh Bedi following in his footsteps as a great spinner.

One still distinctly remembers being sent to his office as a cub reporter for a story on a team of school kids that Bedi had taken on a tour of England in the late 1990s. Bedi gave all figures and spells bowled by Angad not as a doting father but as a spinner and coach, marveling at the loop he created and the spin he imparted to his deliveries.

Bedi worked hard on his bowling and Angad did show a lot of promise early but then he found his interests elsewhere.



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Wagh Bakri Tea Scion Parag Desai Dies After Attack By Stray Dogs



Shelby Hospital. He was later transferred to Zydus Hospital for a surgical procedure for a brain hemorrhage. Regrettably, on October 22, he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. His last rites were conducted at the Thaltej crematorium on Monday morning. He is survived by his wife Vidisha and daughter Parisha.

After completing his MBA in the US at Long Island University, he returned to Ahmedabad and took a leading role in transforming the family business. Renowned as a tea connoisseur, he introduced many to the nuances of crafting the perfect tea and blends.

He oversaw the sales, marketing, and export departments of the Rs 1,500 crore group that was founded by his great-grandfather. He expanded the brand into tea lounges and introduced new products like iced tea.

He was also active on industry platforms like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and international organizations.

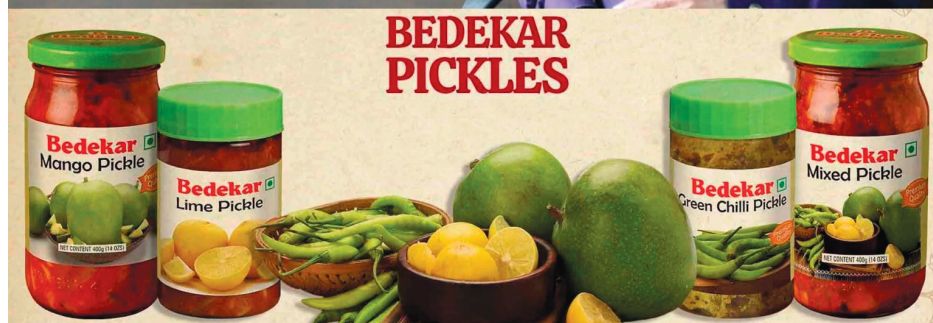
Beyond business, Desai had a charitable side, supporting organizations such as the Blind People's Association and Jivdaya Charitable Trust, a prominent animal hospital in Ahmedabad.

AHMEDABAD – The rising problem of stray cattle and dogs on urban streets has led to another tragic incident, as businessman Parag Desai, Wagh Bakri Group's Executive Director, lost his life on October 22 due to an accident involving street dogs.

On October 15, Parag Desai, the 50-year-old executive director at Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Limited, was reportedly attempting to fend off aggressive street dogs outside his home during a morning walk when he slipped and fell.

A security guard on duty quickly alerted his family and Parag Desai was rushed to

Spice & Pickle King Atul Bedekar Dies



MUMBAI – Atul V. Bedekar, the spice and pickles king, and Director of the V. P. Bedekar & Sons group, passed away following a prolonged illness early on November 3, family sources said here. He was 56 and breathed his last around 12.30 a.m. at a private hospital after a long fight with cancer. Bedekar's last rites were performed at a crematorium in south Mumbai. All shops and outlets of the 113-year-old Bedekar group remained closed as a mark of respect for Bedekar, the fourth-generation scion of the business enterprise selling its products worldwide. The Bedekar group and traditions of spices, pickles, papads, ready-mixes, etc. was started by the late V. P. Bedekar in a modest way as a grocery shop in Girguam in 1910.

To remain relevant and competitive in the business, his teenage son V. V. Bedekar launched a range of spices in 1917 and pickles in 1921, which caught the eyes and taste of the connoisseurs.

This led to an expansion of the Bedekar shops at Thakurdwar, Parel, Dadar, and Fort and the clientele expanded in leaps in bounds. To cope with the growing demands, he added five new manufacturing units and formed it as a private limited company in 1943, with a current turnover exceeding Rs 100 crore. The Bedekar brand and products are virtually household names in Idnia and are available on shelves in the US, Canada, the Middle East, Australia, Europe, and far eastern countries.

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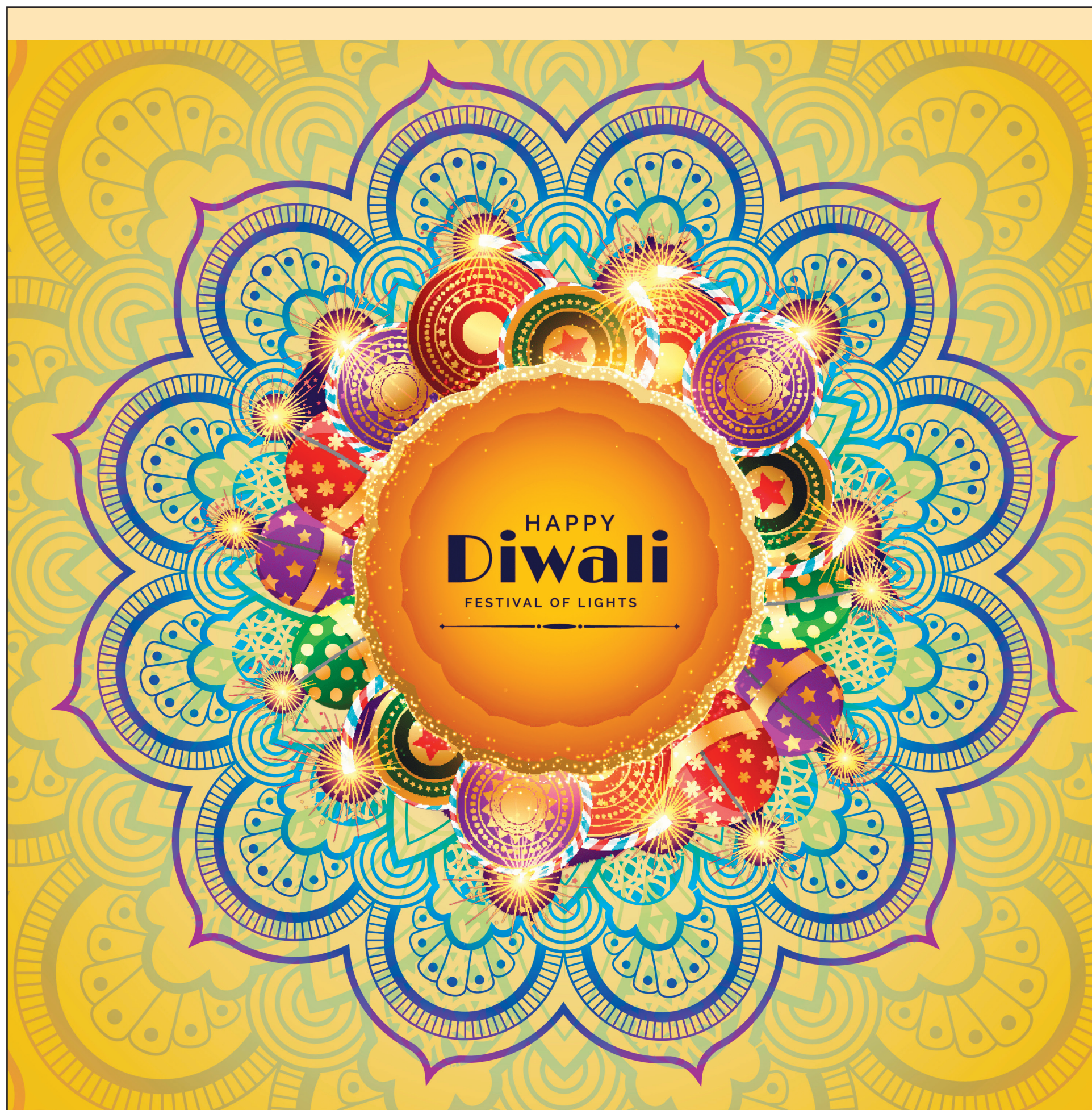


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I Scare Myself To Do Better As A Comedian: Vir Das

MUMBAI – Actor-comedian Vir Das, who has received the International Emmy nomination for his streaming comedy special ‘Landing’, has said that he loves to “scare” himself concerning his work and that he enjoys the process of working on something which is “impossible”.

And it’s this perspective of his towards his work that has brought him international recognition.

Vir, who also actively takes up acting gigs and is currently busy directing a project, said that he enjoys making the tasks difficult for himself.

He said, “I like to remove the trappings of comfort from my shows. I could have done this comedy special at a huge stadium with numerous cameras focusing on me from different angles, but I wanted to keep it simple, and Netflix was gracious enough to agree to that.”

He added, “In this special, there’s no set, there’s just one stool. There’s no production as such, there’s only some sand on the floor, and there’s not even any enhanced lighting. In such a case, the special rides just on the words that come out of the comedian’s mouth and the content. So, I like to scare myself in that sense.”

The comic artiste also feels that the greatest achievement for any artiste is when their audience walks back home with a small part of the performer in their minds, a moment where humanity shines through.

“There is a demarcation between an artiste and their personality, but the greatest glimpses of artistry happen when the lines between the two are blurred. Every great song is about a real person who broke their heart in a moment of truth, isn’t it?”

The comedian also spoke up on the ongoing wars across different parts of the world be it Russia-Ukraine or between Israel and Hamas. He said in jest everybody wants to know comedians’ opinions on serious things like these because comedy is not enough apparently for comics.

He opined that human beings as a species are cyclical and they keep making the same mistakes that they committed in the past.

But he said, “I’m optimistic because, with every passing decade, we lift more people out of poverty, we educate more people, and we document more humanity. The field of medicine and bioscience, for instance, has shown tremendous growth. We do identify more principles and values for the future.” Vir Das’s ‘Landing’ is streaming on Netflix.



“Jemima Created A Heartfelt Romcom”

MUMBAI – Actress Lily James has talked about filmmaker Shekhar Kapur’s ‘What’s Love Got to Do with It?’ and said that film is ‘culturally more exciting, diverse and brilliant’.

In the film, Lily captures the arranged marriage of her Pakistani neighbor, Kaz, who is also her best friend.

On why she was drawn to the script of the film, Lily said: “There’s a couple of reasons why I was drawn to this script. The first is that Jemima has done an amazing job at creating something full of heart, and funny, in that very brilliant romantic comedy genre. Also, it’s about something interesting and culturally more exciting, diverse, and a brilliant story.” The actress added: “Shazad, who plays Kaz, is one of my closest friends and I have been friends with him for the last 10 years. So, when I got the email and it said Shazad is playing Kaz, it was during the first lockdown and I said, ‘Okay, I definitely want to do it then’.”

Helmed by Shekhar Kapur, What’s Love Got to Do With It? is set to be released on Lionsgate Play on Nov. 10. The film also features a stellar cast of Shabana Azmi, Sajjal Ali, Shazad Latif, Emma Thompson.



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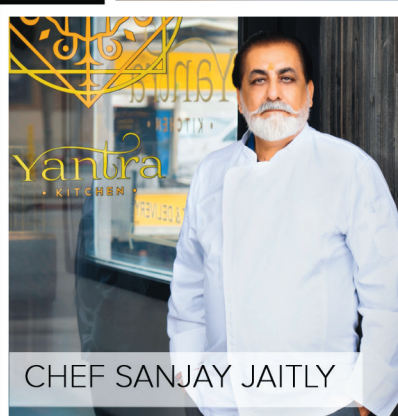
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Controversy: Hasan Minhaj Likely Out Of Race To Replace Trevor Noah

India-West News Desk

In a recent development reported by Puck News, Para-

mount Global has informed comedian Hasan Minhaj that he will no longer be considered to host 'The Daily Show,' the Daily

Beast reported.

Originally, Minhaj was poised to step into the role of 'The Daily Show' host, succeeding Trevor

Noah, with an announcement expected to occur this summer. However, the ongoing strike has thrown a wrench into the works, leading to conflicting narratives between the two parties involved.

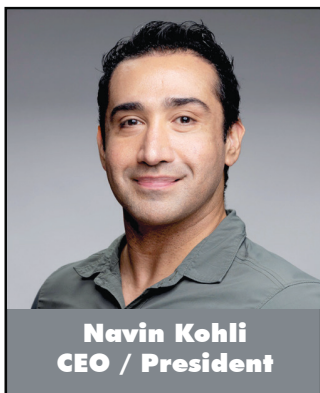
According to Minhaj's camp, the Daily Beast said, there was a verbal agreement in place that effectively sealed the deal, even though no official contract had been signed. In contrast, Paramount Global contends that numerous critical details remained unresolved, encompassing standard vetting procedures such as background checks.

This turn of events follows earlier reports in August that positioned Hasan Minhaj as a frontrunner for 'The Daily Show' host role. However, just a month later, his status ap-

peared to have waned, in part due to a New Yorker exposé that meticulously fact-checked various anecdotes from his comedic act and interviews. Despite the scrutiny, Minhaj steadfastly maintained that his stories were rooted in an "emotional truth."



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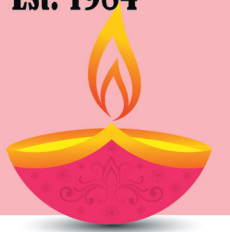
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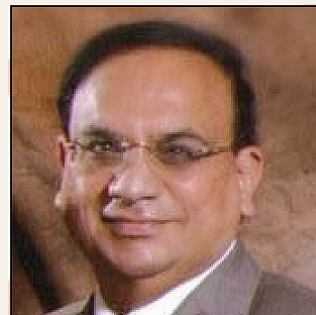


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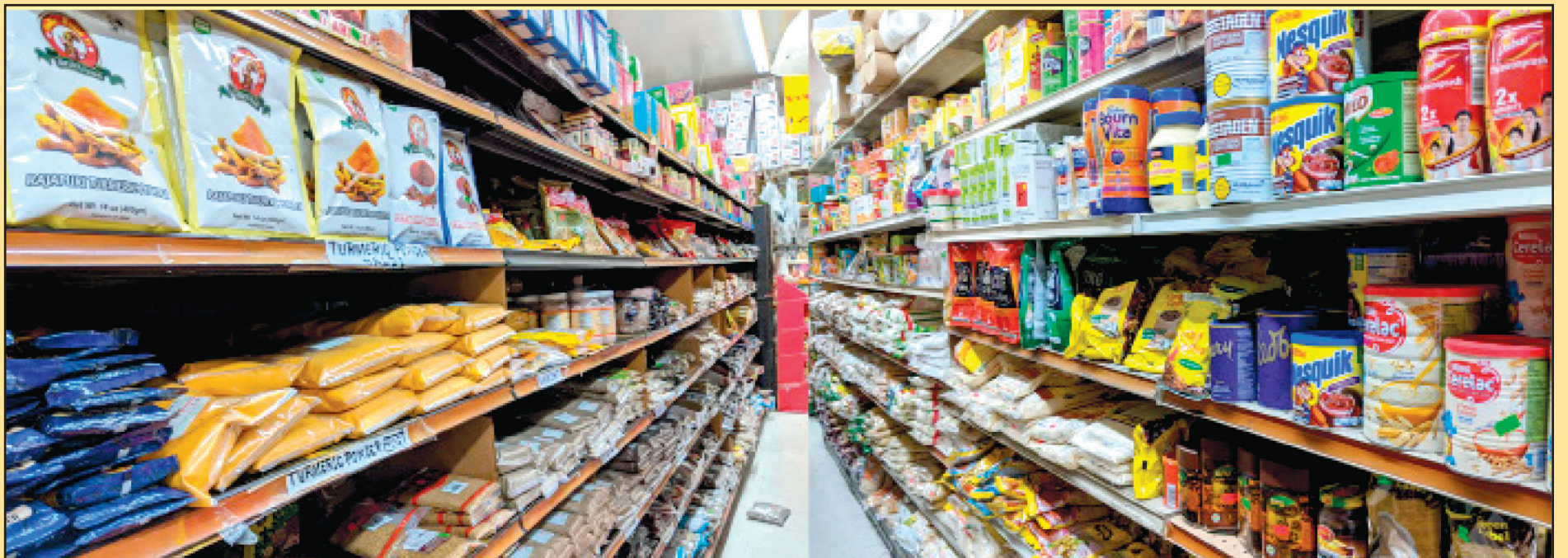
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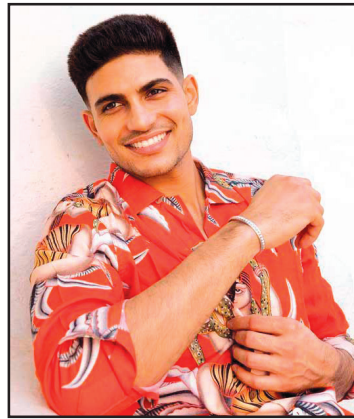
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Shubman Gill & Which Sara?

MUMBAI (IANS) – Actress Sara Ali Khan, who is known for films like ‘Zara Hatke Zara Bachke’, ‘Atrangi Re’, ‘Kedarnath’ and ‘Simmba’, has clarified that she is not dating Indian cricketer Shubman Gill, who is currently busy with the ongoing World Cup.

Sara is set to appear on the popular chat show ‘Koffee With Karan’ in its season 8 along with actress Ananya Panday. Sara issued a clarification during the course of the episode as per the latest promo of the show.

The promo ‘the show host Karan Johar telling Sara: “There were alleged rumors about you dating Shubman Gill.”



To which she quipped: “You have got the wrong Sara, guys. Sara ka saara duniya galat Sara ke peecche pada hai.”

The actress was referring to

Sara Tendulkar, the daughter of the India cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, whose record of the most centuries in One Day International was recently equaled by Virat Kohli who has been in terrific form during this World Cup. Kohli made a stellar comeback as he smashed his 49th ton during the recent match between India and South Africa during the ongoing World Cup.

During the match, Shubman was also teased by the spectators with Sara’s name to which Kohli jumped and asked them to call the cricketer by his name pointing to his name written at the back of his jersey.



HYDERABAD, (IANS) – Telugu star Ram Charan has joined his ‘RRR’ co-star NTR Jr. into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) recently Actors Branch.

Ram Charan, whose role as the freedom fighter Alluri Sitaraman Raju in director S.S. Rajamouli’s universally acclaimed historical-fiction-epic film ‘RRR’ gained him a global spotlight, has joined a roster of established stars.

The Academy, the institution that overlooks the Oscars announcing his induction posted their roster of the recent inductees.

It wrote, “We’re thrilled to welcome these accomplished performers to the Actors Branch of the Academy: Lashana Lynch,

Ram Charan, Vicky Krieps, Louis Koo Tin-Lok, Keke Palmer, Chang Chen, Sakura Ando, Robert Davi and more.”

The announcement not only celebrates Ram Charan’s induction but also highlights the significance of his involvement in shaping the future of the motion picture industry.

With a cinematic career spanning over 16 years, Ram Charan’s induction into AMPAS and coupled with the film’s Oscar win will reshape the landscape of Indian cinema completely.

Currently, the actor is filming his upcoming Telugu political-action-thriller film ‘Game Changer’ directed by S. Shankar, where he will be joined by Kiara Advani. The film will be released in 2024.



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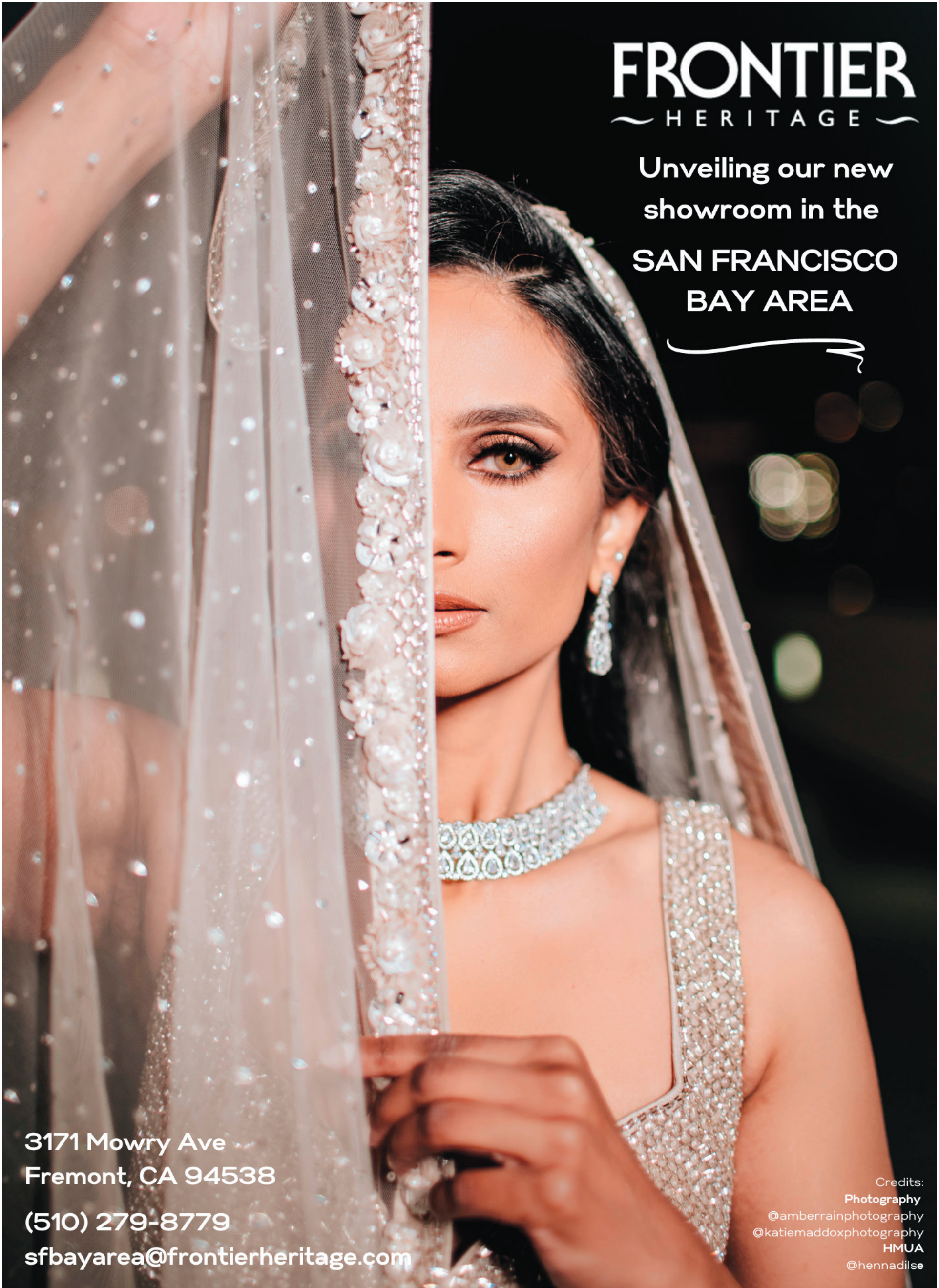
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