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Kapil Sharma set for his big screen comeback with Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2; Reports Page 21

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New centre opening to support people recovering from addictions in North Vancouver

To help support people throughout their recovery journey, a new recovery community centre is now open in North Vancouver offering substance-use recovery support groups, counselling, group activities and community services.

"Navigating recovery can feel lonely, especially beyond the treatment phase," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "In recovery, we know that community is important. The North Shore Junction recovery community centre provides a welcoming space where individuals can find support, engage in activities and build a sense of belonging, no matter what stage of recovery they are at."

The North Shore Junction, operated by Lookout, provides supports for people throughout their recovery journey. Services include groups and one-on-one supports, relapse prevention, care planning, peer support, and health and wellness activities. Clients will also receive assistance in navigating the health-care system and connection to resources that can help them succeed long term.

"For some of our guests who come to the drop in,

it's a chance to not be alone anymore," said Bree M., recovery advocate, North Shore Junction. "Before Junction, they would have been spending a lot of time in isolation. Now they have a place to come, a sense of purpose. In a couple short months, it's starting to change lives, but I think ultimately this program will save lives."

The North Shore Junction is the third recovery community centre in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, with services already available through the Vancouver Junction and Sunshine Coast Junction in Sechelt. Increasing access to recovery community centres is directly connected to the expansion of the Road to the Recovery model across B.C. so more people can receive seamless care from assessment to detox and treatment through to aftercare.

"The Junction Recovery Community Centres are a vital component of our continuum of substance-use care," said Miranda Compton, executive director, Substance Use and Priority Populations, Vancouver Coastal Health. "The centres support healing and connections to community, and provide space for participants to envision



and build their next life chapters."

In addition to expanding Recovery Community Centres, aftercare clinicians are already bringing long-term recovery support to communities throughout B.C. Since 2023, 33 aftercare clinicians have been hired in various communities, including throughout the Vancouver Coastal Health region, for a total of 50 provincially. Their roles include connecting individuals to local supports post-treatment; offering clinical guidance, such as recovery coaching and relapse prevention; and assisting with personalized care planning.

This is part of government's work to expand treatment options for people living

with mental-health and addictions challenges. Through Budget 2023, the Province set out more than \$1 billion in new funding over the next three years to ensure that people living with mental-health or addiction challenges can find, access and stay connected to the care they need, including \$586 million for treatment and recovery services specifically.

Quotes:
Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale -

"For too many people, the road to recovery is a difficult and lonely one. Recovery community centres play a crucial role in wrapping people with supports that enable long-term suc-

cess and a place of belonging right in their home communities. We've seen success with the Vancouver Junction, and I am optimistic about the hope and support that this new Junction can bring to the North Shore."

Participant and peer support worker, Vancouver Junction -

"The Junction has been one of the most wonderful experiences in my life. The Junction welcomed me without any judgment or questions, it also provided me with a safe place to be and belong during my recovery. It provided me with a sense of purpose by offering me a job as a peer support worker, gave me school funding to improve my professional skills and a chosen family, which protects me, loves me and genuinely cares about my well-being."

Monika Stein, manager, Sunshine Junction -

"Sunshine Junction provides hope to all the participants on this recovery journey: people seeking care and their families, peer mentors and professionals, all coming together to build safety, meaning, and belonging through pathways of wellness."

Annual rent increase for 2025 will be tied to inflation

The Province is tying the annual allowable rent increase in 2025 to inflation at 3%, down from this year's allowable increase of 3.5%.

"Tying the allowable increase to inflation saves renters hundreds of dollars, over the previous government's policy of inflation plus 2%," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "At a time when we know renters are struggling, our rent cap protects renters against unfair rent hikes, while allowing landlords to meet rising costs so that rental homes can stay in B.C.'s housing market."

The maximum annual allowable rent increase for 2025 cannot take effect prior to Jan. 1, 2025. Government policy prior to 2018 allowed for an additional 2% rent increase on top of inflation, costing the average B.C. family hundreds of dollars in additional rent.

Since 2017, the Province has taken steps to better protect renters, including banning illegal



renovictions, strengthening the financial penalties for landlords who evict tenants in bad faith, protecting growing families by restricting rent increases if a tenant adds a child under 19 to their household, and improving wait times at the Residential Tenancy Branch by 64% since November 2022.

In addition, the Province has implemented the annual renter's tax credit, which pro-

vides \$400 a year to low- and moderate-income renters across B.C., and is the first Canadian jurisdiction to support the creation of provincewide rent bank services to provide interest-free loans for tenants in urgent circumstances.

Next year's change follows multiple years of the Province capping the annual allowable increase well below inflation in 2023 and 2024, as well as a rent in-

crease freeze in 2020 and 2021 to support renters during the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a return to the standard formula of tying allowable rent increases in B.C. to the Consumer Price Index, as inflation begins to return to more normal levels.

"Tying the annual allowable rent increase to inflation is consistent with the recommendations from the Rental Housing Task Force to support renters and ensure that rental homes can stay available for renters," said Spencer Chandra Herbert, Premier's liaison for renters and MLA for Vancouver West End. "Capping rent increases to inflation has saved families and households in B.C. thousands of dollars since 2017, as we have eliminated the old government's automatic 2% rent increase on top of inflation."

To further support renters amid more frequent and severe heat waves, the Residential Tenancy Branch has recently

updated information related to the outright banning of air-conditioning (AC) units and passive cooling materials without a rational basis. This updated information provides examples of specific cooling measures, such as umbrellas, awnings, and reflective window coverings, and is intended to make the rules clearer for landlords and tenants. The Province encourages tenants with questions about adding AC units or passive cooling materials to their homes to speak with their landlord. If a resolution can't be reached, a Residential Tenancy Branch information officer at 1 800 665-8779 can outline options.

Quick Facts:

- The maximum allowable rent increase is defined by the 12-month average per-cent change in the all-items Consumer Price Index for B.C. ending in July of the year

- prior to the calendar year when the rent increase takes effect.
- The 2025 maximum increase for manufactured-home park tenancies will also be 3%, plus a proportional amount for the change in local government levies and regulated utility fees.
- The rent increase does not apply to commercial tenancies, non-profit housing tenancies where rent is geared to income, co-operative housing and some assisted-living facilities.
- If landlords choose to increase rent, they must abide by the Residential Tenancy Act and provide a full three months notice to tenants using the correct Notice of Rent Increase form. Rents cannot be increased more than once in a 12-month period.

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SEX ABUSE ALLEGATIONS ROCK INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY



By Imran Qureshi

Allegations. Resignations. Police complaints.

These words have been dominating headlines and shaking up a bustling film industry in the southern Indian state of Kerala since last week.

The state has been witnessing a flurry of sexual abuse allegations against some top male stars since a landmark report that looked into problems faced by women in the industry was released last week.

The industry, which makes around 150-200 Malayalam-language films a year, is a vital, vibrant business that has made some of the most critically acclaimed and progressive cinema emerging from India.

But the 290-page report by a three-member panel - called the Hema committee - detailed the problems faced by women in Malayalam cinema, including poor working conditions and rampant sexual harassment. Parts of the report have been redacted to hide the identities of the survivors as well as those accused of harassment.

Since its release, a number

of women - some of whom have now given up acting - have publicly spoken about facing sexual assault and harassment in the industry. More than a dozen police complaints have been filed against some male stars, two of whom have also filed counter-complaints.

The shake-up has been so huge that the entire top governing body of the state's biggest film group - the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) - was dissolved after its president, superstar Mohanlal, resigned on "moral grounds" after some members faced accusations.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. Only a few have spoken up till now. More serious issues may emerge," actor Mala Parvathy told BBC Hindi.

The reactions to the first-of-its-kind report are being closely watched by people in India's many film industries, including Bollywood. During the #MeToo movement, several women had made sexual harassment allegations against actors and filmmakers in different states but few of these have been investigated.

The government set up the

Hema committee, headed by a former judge of the Kerala High Court, in 2017 in the aftermath of the shocking sexual assault on a leading actress. One of Kerala's biggest actors, Dileep, was named by police as an accused and charged with criminal conspiracy. He has denied the charges, but was arrested and held in custody for three months before being released on bail. The case is still being heard in court.

After the release of the report, the first public allegation came from Bengali actress Sreelekha Mitra, who accused well-known director Ranjith of sexually harassing her a few years ago. He has denied this but resigned as chairman of the state's prestigious motion picture academy. Mitra has filed a police complaint.

Many of the other complaints echo some of the revelations made by unnamed women in the Hema committee report that they were repeatedly asked to "compromise" and "adjust" in exchange for opportunities.

Minu Muneer told BBC Hindi as well as several other news channels that an actor had hugged and

kissed her without her consent while they were shooting a film. She has also detailed instances of sexual misconduct by others in the industry, including prominent actor and lawmaker Mukesh.

Mukesh has denied the allegations against him and accused Muneer of trying to blackmail him.

"I welcome any investigation into allegations made against me and others in the film industry," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Two actresses have accused a director of knocking on the doors of their hotel rooms in the middle of the night. He has not responded to the allegation.

One actress has accused well-known actor Siddique of raping her in 2016 and filed a police complaint against him. Siddique, who resigned as AMMA general secretary after the accusation, has denied this and accused the complainant of trying to "tarnish his reputation".

While the Kerala government had been praised for being the first to set up such a committee, the report's release has also put it on the back foot.

The report, which was submitted in 2019, was released only last week after nearly five years of delay and multiple legal challenges by members of the film industry. The government then said that while it would investigate all complaints filed before the police, it would not take up any cases on its own. But as pressure mounted, it has set up a

special team to investigate complaints.

The Kerala High Court has also asked the government to submit the entire report - including the 54 redacted pages - to it.

Within the Malayalam film industry, reactions to the report have been mixed. Superstars such as Mohanlal and Mammotty have been criticised for not making a public comment yet.

Some actors have welcomed the release of the report and called for the government to launch a proper investigation into the allegations. A prominent film employees' federation has asked the government to disclose the names of those accused in the report.

Others have lamented that the report is being used to brand all men in the industry as abusers.

But many have also argued that the report and the subsequent shake-up are positive, much-needed changes in an industry often celebrated for making progressive films.

"I am not ok with people saying, 'Malayalam industry is so rotten inside'. No, we are good inside, which is why we are fixing it," actress Parvathy Thiruvothu, a founding member of the Women in Cinema Collective, an organisation formed in the aftermath of the 2017 assault, told a news channel.

It was the industries "you don't hear anything about" that people should be "worried about", she added.



B.C. powering growth in Tri-Cities with clean electricity

BC Hydro will construct approximately \$360 million worth of capital projects in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and the Village of Anmore over the next decade to upgrade and expand the electricity grid and provide clean power for homes, businesses, and growing electrification and transportation needs.

"We must build out B.C.'s electrical system like never before to power our homes and businesses, to power a growing economy and to power our future," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "Throughout the Tri-Cities and in communities across B.C., these construction projects will create thousands of good jobs over the next decade and ensure that people have access to clean, affordable and reliable electricity when they need it and where they need it."

In January, the Province announced BC Hydro's updated 10-year capital plan, which contains \$36 billion in regional and community infrastructure investments across B.C., a 50% increase in investments over its previous capital plan. These new construction projects are forecast to support 10,500 to 12,500 jobs on av-



erage annually and will increase and maintain BC Hydro's capital investments as major projects such as Site C are completed.

The plan reflects growing demand for electricity across sectors due to population growth and housing construction, increased industrial development, and people and businesses switching from fossil fuels to clean electricity, among other factors.

"In growing regions like the Tri-Cities where we are seeing substantial growth in housing, building, transportation and business growth, we are embarking on significant upgrades to our electricity system, including invest-

ments in our substations, transmission lines and distribution network to ensure we can continue to provide reliable and clean electricity to our customers," said Chris O'Riley, president and CEO, BC Hydro. "We are also making important changes to our customer connections process to speed up timelines for newly constructed homes and buildings."

The Tri-Cities area is witnessing significant growth. The region's population has more than doubled over the past 20 years and is projected to rise further by nearly 60% to almost 400,000 by 2050. This increase is resulting in new housing developments, densification, new businesses and grow-

ing transportation, electrification and energy needs. To meet this surge in demand, approximately \$360 million is being invested in several projects, including: redevelopment of the Barnard substation to service Burquitlam and central Coquitlam, powering an additional 18,000 to 30,000 new homes to be in service by 2029;

improvements at the Buntzen Lake 1 and 2 generating facilities to address seismic and reliability risks; and

an upgrade and relocation of the 230kV switchyard control building at the Burrard Synchronous Condense site.

In addition to these major projects, transmission and distribution investments will support new residential developments, load growth in Burquitlam, central Coquitlam and Fraser Mills communities, as well as the energy requirements at Translink's new additional operations and maintenance centre, which is under construction.

BC Hydro's 10-year capital plan is a key part of Powering Our Future: BC's Clean Energy Strategy. The strategy focuses on building an economy powered by clean energy, creating new jobs

and opportunities, and keeping electricity affordable.

BC Hydro also recently launched a call for power to acquire approximately 3,000 gigawatt hours per year of clean electricity. This is BC Hydro's first competitive call for power in more than 15 years and will add 5% to its current supply. It will be the first in a series of calls for power as BC Hydro requires more power to electrify B.C.'s growing economy and reduce harmful pollution.

Quick Facts:

- Currently, 98% of the power generated for B.C.'s integrated grid comes from clean or renewable resources, making B.C. a leader in North America when it comes to clean energy.
- Electricity demand in B.C. is expected to increase by 15% or more between now and 2030.
- BC Hydro has kept rate increases below the rate of inflation for six years in a row.
- B.C. has the second-lowest residential electricity rates in North America, and the third lowest commercial and industrial rates.

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More temporary homes coming for people experiencing homelessness in Kelowna

People experiencing homelessness in Kelowna will soon have access to as many as 60 more temporary homes with supports.

This is the third 60-unit project in Kelowna created through an agreement between the Province and the city to commit to the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) programs.

"We're working with communities across the province to increase available supports and services that bring people indoors where they can get some stability back in their life and prepare them for more permanent housing," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "This is the third 60-unit project in Kelowna and we're already seeing great successes at the first two - providing people with support and stability to transition out of homelessness and improving the



overall health and well-being of the community."

The development at 3199 Appaloosa Rd. will have as many as 60 temporary supportive homes, each with a separate entrance. Each home will have a bed, desk, microwave oven, air conditioning and heat, and a small storage space. The site will include communal spaces for eating, lounging and laundry, as well as overdose prevention services, care professionals and other supports.

An experienced non-profit organization is being

retained to operate this HEARTH location, which is expected to open in 2025.

"In a span of less than a year, the city, guided by council's priorities, has partnered with the Province on three 60-unit temporary-housing projects with 120 units of housing operational and another 60 on the way," said Tom Dyas, mayor of Kelowna. "We have already witnessed reported successes from the first two sites, STEP Place and Trailside Transitional Housing. With the addition of this third site, we seek to increase shelter

capacity and thereby provide opportunities for those sheltering outdoors to transition into those spaces."

All three HEARTH locations are temporary housing solutions and will be in place for at least three years.

"STEP Place has emerged as a pivotal safety-net housing response. In the first six months, STEP Place has helped residents realize goals in employment, mental health and substance use," said Patricia Bacon, CEO, John Howard Society of Okanagan and Kootenay. "STEP Place's model of independent small houses, combined with robust skills-based programs, has created a unique model of housing where every person has an opportunity for personal development, dignity and to participate in the community."

The HEART and HEARTH programs are part of Belonging in BC, the Province's plan to prevent and reduce

homelessness. The plan will also add nearly 4,000 supportive housing units and 240 complex-care spaces provincially.

Since 2017, the Province has nearly 80,000 homes that have been delivered or are underway, including more than 8,800 supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness, and more than 1,700 homes in Kelowna.

Quick Facts:

- The City of Kelowna owns the project land and will lease it to the Province for a nominal fee.
- The Province and City of Kelowna signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in August 2023 that formalized their commitment to work together to better support people who are unhoused or sheltering in encampments through the HEART and HEARTH programs.

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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

Arms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

Time ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਝਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

F A S T ਕਿਰਿਆ ਕਰੋ। ਜੀਵਨ ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਇਲਾਜ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਦੁਆਰਾ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਕਿੰਟ ਨਾਲ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ।

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Canada hits China-made electric cars with 100% tariff

Canada says it will impose a 100% tariff on imports of China-made electric vehicles (EV) after similar announcements by the US and European Union.

The country also plans to impose a 25% duty on Chinese steel and aluminium.

Canada and its Western allies accuse China of subsidising its EV industry, giving its car makers an unfair advantage.

China has called the move "trade protectionism" which "violates World Trade Organization rules".

"We are transforming Canada's automotive sector to be a global leader in building the vehicles of tomorrow, but actors like China have chosen to give themselves an



unfair advantage in the global marketplace", said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Canada's duties on Chinese EVs are due to come into effect on 1 October, while those on steel and aluminium will be implemented from 15 Octo-

ber.

A Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said Canada's actions "seriously undermine the global economic system, and economic and trade rules".

"China urges the Canadian side to immediate-

ly correct its erroneous practices," they added.

China is Canada's second-largest trading partner, behind the US.

In May, the US said it would quadruple its tariffs on imports of Chinese EVs to 100%.

That was followed by the

EU, which announced plans to impose duties on China-made EVs of up to 36.3%.

Canada's tariffs on Chinese EVs will include those made by Tesla at its Shanghai factory.

"Tesla will almost certainly be lobbying the Canadian government to get some leeway on these tariffs, as they have already with Europe," said Mark Rainford, a China-based car industry commentator.

"If they fail at mitigating the tariff enough, they'll likely look at switching their Canadian imports to either the US or European factories since Canada is their 6th largest market this year and thus not insignificant."

Tesla did not immediately reply to a request

for comment from BBC News.

Earlier this month, the EU cut its planned extra tariff on China-made Teslas by more than half, after further investigations requested by Elon Musk's car maker.

Chinese car brands are still not a common sight in Canada but some, like BYD, have taken steps to enter the country's market.

China is the world's largest manufacturer of EVs and its car makers have quickly gained a significant share of the global market.

Meanwhile, Canada has struck deals worth billions of dollars with major European car makers, as it tries to become a key part of the global EV industry.

Canada to cut number of temporary foreign workers

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said he plans to lower the number of low-wage, temporary foreign workers and permanent residents being let into Canada.

Mr Trudeau made the announcement on Monday, on the second day of a cabinet retreat where his team is hammering out their autumn agenda.

It comes as Canada grapples with a rapidly growing population that economists say has put strain on housing and public services like healthcare.

The vast majority of Canada's population growth last year - about 97% - was driven by immigration, according to the federal statistics.

Mr Trudeau and his government have been criticised for increasing immigration without bolstering services or housing construction.

At the same time, Canada's unemployment rate has increased to 6.4% in the last two months, with an estimated 1.4 million people unemployed across the country.

In a press conference, Mr Trudeau said he is eyeing an overhaul to the temporary foreign workers programme because of changes to the labour market.

"It's not fair to Canadians struggling to find a good job, and it's not fair to those temporary foreign workers, some of whom are being mistreated and exploited," he said.

The Temporary Foreign Worker programme allows employers in Canada to hire foreign nationals to fill temporary jobs when qualified Canadians are not available.

The programme has come under criticism by labour advocates and most recently the UN, which called it "a breed-

ing ground for contemporary forms of slavery" in a report this month.

UN special rapporteur Tomoya Obokata, a professor of human rights law at the University of York in the UK, said he received reports of abuse and of workers being underpaid, among other complaints.

The programme's use by employers has surged in recent years in industries ranging from agriculture to construction.

The rise is partly due to loosening programme

restrictions to help businesses with labour shortages after the Covid pandemic.

Nearly 183,820 temporary foreign worker permits

were granted in 2023, according to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) - an 88% increase from 2019.

The ESDC criticised employers for using the programme to "circumvent hiring talented workers in Canada" in a Monday statement.

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More certified teachers coming to B.C. schools

Recruitment and training initiatives are underway for the coming school year to get more certified teachers into B.C. classrooms and build B.C.'s K-12 workforce.

"We know that the record numbers of newcomers moving to B.C. each year means we need more teaching staff in schools," said Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care. "We're actively working with our education partners on K-12 workforce initiatives to support the recruitment and retention of more certified teachers and build a sustainable education workforce for years to come."

Through the Province's StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, \$12.5 million over three years is supporting provincewide recruitment and training initiatives for teachers. This year, almost \$4 million is going toward recruitment and training programs, with a focus on supporting teacher retention in the sector, improving flexibility in teacher education programs, and recruiting more teachers in rural and remote communities. "Training the next generation of certified teachers is an important part of our Future Ready Action Plan," said Lisa Beare, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "Building flexibility in education programs supports more people in choosing teaching as a career and helps to fill in-demand positions, providing good-paying

jobs for British Columbians."

A provincial hiring incentive that brought 50 new certified teachers to rural and remote schools in 2023 is on track to hire almost 60 more teachers for the coming school year. Supported through \$1.5 million in provincial funding over three years, this program provides cash incentives of as much as \$10,000 for teachers to work in areas with the highest need. This initiative has supported hiring needs in several remote communities in B.C., including northern B.C., Vancouver Island and the Thompson-Okanagan region.

"When looking at opportunities this spring, a position with Peace River North District stood out for a number of reasons," said Kylee Campbell, primary teacher, Upper Halfway Elementary school. "I wanted something in a rural setting where people know each other better and I can personalize my instruction for each student. Working in such a remote setting does have challenges that the generous incentives offered by the Province helps to offset."

Since 2023, certification standards were updated so that more internationally trained educators could work in B.C.'s classrooms, with the application fee reduced from \$395 to \$245. These initiatives have helped to double the number of international teacher applications over the past year, setting re-

cord application levels to become part of B.C.'s future K-12 workforce. The Province also provides \$100,000 in scholarships each year to high school students in B.C. who want to pursue teaching as a career, with the goal of growing the number of local educators in B.C. schools.

With B.C.'s continued enrolment growth, these are just some of the workforce initiatives underway to support recruitment and retention in the K-12 sector. The Province is continuing to work closely with education partners to explore more ways to build a sustainable and skilled K-12 workforce in B.C.

Other provincial initiatives underway include:

- In partnership with the First Nation Education Steering Committee, a research project was conducted in 2024 to hear directly from First Nations teachers about their experiences working in the sector and better understand school districts' human-resources practices to attract, recruit and retain First Nations teachers.
- As part of the Province's commitment to build a sustainable and engaged K-12 workforce, the ministry will support the implementation of a new province-wide teacher mentorship program with several K-12 education part-

ners, including the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPV-PA).

- Under a new program in 2024, \$8,000 will be given to more than 30 student teachers to complete their practicum in a northern B.C. school this year. These awards will be offered to students relocating to rural communities, such as Haida Gwaii, Peace River South, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Nechako

Lakes, helping to support northern school districts, while building partnerships with teacher education programs for the future.

The Province is investing \$800,000 to make teacher education programs more flexible for students who want to become certified teachers:

UBC's Rural and Remote Teacher Education Program supported 24 students in 2022, who live and work in a rural or remote areas to become certified teachers without having to move to a new community to attend uni-

versity. With \$300,000 in provincial funding, a second student cohort has been created through this program that will support 43 more students to become certified teachers by 2026.

As part of the provincial K-12 workforce plan, the Province is providing \$500,000 over two years to increase the availability of hybrid and online-learning options so more people in B.C., including those in remote areas, can better access teacher education programs to become certified teachers in their communities.

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South Asian

CHOICE

PM MODI INVITED TO SCO
MEETING IN ISLAMABAD: PAKISTAN
FOREIGN OFFICE

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday formally confirmed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting being held in Islamabad in mid-October.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, said the country had sent invitations to the heads of countries to participate in the meeting, Pakistani media reported. "An invitation has also been sent to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi," she said, adding that some countries had already confirmed their participation in the meeting.

"It will be informed in due course which country has confirmed," Baloch added.

Pakistan is set to host the SCO heads of government meeting on October 15-16. The event will be preceded by a ministerial meeting and several rounds of senior officials' meetings focused on financial, economic, socio-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation among the SCO member states. Analysts see the invitation as a "protocol" as PM Modi is unlikely to accept the invitation as relations between the two neighbouring countries have been tense since August 5, 2019, when India abrogated the Constitution's Article 370, changing the status of Jammu and Kashmir. It is expected that PM Modi may depute a ministerial delegation to represent India as the SCO meeting does not require heads of state to participate.

PUNJAB: SGPC TAKES POSSESSION OF HOLY
'SAROOPS' RETURNED BY QATAR'S DOHA POLICE

Chandigarh: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has taken possession of the holy Saroops (scriptures) of Guru Granth Sahib returned by the police in Doha (Qatar) and preserved them at Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Gurbaksh Singh situated in Sri Darbar Sahib Complex.

The SGPC secretary Par-tap Singh on Thursday said that information was received Wednesday night that the persons involved in this case are arriving at Sri Guru Ramdas International Airport, Amritsar, by flight with holy Saroops returned by Doha police.

He said that taking ac-



tion on this input, the SGPC took possession of the holy "saroops" at the airport from the concerned persons and brought the same with Maryada (Sikh conduct), reverence in a palanquin carriage vehicle and preserved them at Gurdwara Baba Gur-

bakhsh Singh.

He said this action has been taken on the directions of Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib Giani Raghbir Singh and the SGPC president Har-jinder Singh Dhani. Meanwhile, according to media reports, appreciating the role of

the ministry of external affairs (MEA), Dhani said that the Centre fulfilled its responsibility when approached by the SGPC.

For record, the matter pertains to the arrest of a Sikh by Doha police in December, last year, who used to practice Sikh faith along with community members in a gurdwara in his private property at Birkat Al-Awamer. He was arrested due to the strict restrictions on the non-Islamic faith's public worship, though was later released but the two "saroops" taken from his place then were kept at a local police station there, which was disrespectful.

KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER CASE: 3 CHILLING
CALLS TO VICTIM'S PARENTS REVEALED
DOCTOR'S DEATH; FULL DETAILS INSIDE

Kolkata: Apart from the protesting students constant claim that the truth behind RG Kar rape and murder on trainee medic is being suppressed, the Free Press Journal now got the hold of the three chilling calls that were made from the hospital authorities to the parents of the victim to inform that their daughter is 'dead'.

In the three calls within half an hour, three dif-

ferent things were told to the victim's parents. In the first call that came around 10:30 am, a woman was heard saying to the victim's father that her condition is bad and she was requesting them to come to the hospital as soon as possible. Amid constant requests to know what exactly happened to his daughter, the woman said that the doctor can only inform the same.

In the second call a woman identifying herself as assistant superintendent of the hospital calls and says that they are admitting the victim to emergency as her condition is not good and again requested the parents to visit the hospital as soon as possible. The victim's mother in the second call was heard asking whether her daughter is having 'fever' as she was on duty,

the woman from the hospital side without clarifying asked the parents to go to the hospital.

In the third call the woman from the hospital said that their daughter has 'died by committing suicide maybe' and also confirmed that the victim was 'dead' and she was calling in presence of police and other hospital people.

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FACEBOOK BOSS MARK ZUCKERBERG ACCUSES JOE BIDEN OF 'REPEATEDLY PRESSURISING' META OVER COVID POSTS



Meta Chief Executive Officer and Facebook-founder Mark Zuckerberg has made a huge allegation against US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris in a letter he wrote to the House Judiciary Committee of the Republican Party. Zuckerberg has alleged that the Biden administration ‘repeatedly pressurised’ Meta to censor posts related to Covid.

The Meta chief further said that the social media platform had to make some changes which it would not make now given the “benefit of hindsight and new information” Zuckerberg also says he feels regretful to not have been ‘more outspoken’ about this.

"In 2021, senior officials from the Biden Administration, including the White House, repeatedly pressured our teams for months to censor certain COVID-19 content, including humor and satire, and expressed a lot of frustration with our teams when we

didn't agree. Ultimately, it was our decision whether or not to take content down, and we own our decisions, including COVID-19-related changes we made to our enforcement in the wake of this pressure," said Zuckerberg in the letter.

"I believe the government pressure was wrong, and I regret that we were not more outspoken about it. I also think we made some choices that, with the benefit of hindsight and new information, we wouldn't make today. Like I said to our teams at the time, I feel strongly that we should not compromise our content standards due to pressure from any Administration in either direction and we're ready to push back if something like this happens again," he added.

The House Committee on the Judiciary, of the Republican Party has posted details about Zuckerberg's letter on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN & XI JINPING PLAN TO HOLD TALKS SOON: WHITE HOUSE



Washington: United States and China are planning a phone call between President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "in the coming weeks", the White House said on Thursday.

The call, likely to be held prior to the US presidential elections this November, was discussed between Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi during their two-day meeting in Yanqi Lake, Beijing on August 27-28.

The White House also said the two countries will also aim to organize a phone conversation between military theatre commanders "in the near future."

The two leaders had met in California in November 2023 termed as the Woodside Summit.

During Sullivan and Wang's meeting, the two sides held candid, substantive, and constructive discussions on a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues.

JAPAN, FOR 1ST TIME EVER, ACCUSES CHINA OF AIRSPACE VIOLATION

Tokyo: Japan on Monday said that a Chinese military plane had violated its airspace, local media reported that it was the first such move by a Chinese aircraft.

Japan's defence ministry said a Y-9 surveillance aircraft at 11.29 am on Monday "violated the territorial airspace of the Danjo islands in Nagasaki prefecture" in the East China Sea and lasted two minutes. It prompted Japan to deploy "fighter jets on an emergency basis", Kyodo news outlet reported. The latest development could fuel tensions between the two countries following repeated maritime provocations by China in the region, the state media said.

The aircraft circled above waters southeast of the islands multiple times before and after entering Japan's airspace, eventually heading toward China around 1:15



p.m. Japanese Ministry of Defence said that the Japanese Air Self-Defence Force (ASDF) fighters did not use weapons or signal flares.

Japan's Vice foreign minister Masataka Okano summoned China's acting ambassador late on Monday to lodge an "extremely serious protest," and called for measures against a recurrence, the Japanese foreign ministry said in a statement.

As per the NHK, the Japanese public broadcast-

er, there were previous incursions by non-military aircraft involving a propeller-powered Chinese marine surveillance plane and a small drone that had taken off from a China Coast Guard vessel and went into airspace near the disputed Senkaku islands in 2012 and 2017. Kyodo news agency cited a Japanese defence Ministry source as saying that China "might be trying to provoke a reaction from Japan," while a government source

said the airplane merely grazed the territorial airspace and possibly strayed off course.

China's increasingly aggressive actions in the region, especially with Taiwan, have been a growing cause of concern for the US and its allies.

Japan is part of the Quad alliance with India, Australia, and the US, which is seen as a counter to Beijing's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.



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Toyota celebrates 60th anniversary in Canada with cross-country “Kanreki”

By Veenoo Dewan

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland Toyota is celebrating its 60th anniversary in Canada this year, and they're kicking it off today with a coast-to-coast road trip. The 9,000km drive will make stops in every province to highlight some of the key people, locations, and stories from throughout the company's six decades in Canada.

"In Japanese culture, a person's 60th birthday is known as 'Kanreki' and represents a 'rebirth' – an opportunity to reflect on one's life, take stock of the present, and prepare for the future," said Stephen Beatty, Corporate Secretary at Toyota Canada. "As Toyota marks its 60th year in Canada, our cross-Canada road trip will do just that, while also taking time to recognize the many Canadians who have contributed to the company's success – including the country's best dealer network, thousands of team members, tens of thousands of people who've worked for our suppliers and partners, and millions of loyal, enthusiastic Toyota drivers from coast to coast to coast."

Toyota Canada's Kan-

reki Tour started out at t Canada's Eastern "Mile o" in St. John's, Newfoundland, on August 12th and will end on August 30 at Canada's Western "Mile o" in Victoria, British Columbia. Participants will be driving the route in six stages: St. John's to Halifax (via Newfoundland & Nova Scotia) Halifax to Montréal (via PEI, New Brunswick & Quebec) – Montréal to North Bay (via Quebec & Ontario) 4 – North Bay to Winnipeg (via Ontario & Manitoba) – Winnipeg to Calgary (via Saskatchewan & Alberta) – and finally Calgary to Victoria (via Alberta & British Columbia) - August 27-30.

Throughout the journey, the participants will drive vehicles from across Toyota's full line-up of products. From coupes and sedans, to hatchbacks and crossovers, to SUVs, minivans, and pickup trucks, they'll use 20 different models Toyota currently sells in Canada – most of them electrified – to get them across the country, including: bZ4, Camry, Corolla, Corolla Cross, Crown, Crown Signia, Grand Highlander, GR86, GR Corolla, GR Supra, Highlander, Land Cruiser, Mirai, Prius,

Prius Prime, RAV4, Sienna, Tacoma, Tundra, Venza. In celebration of Toyota's 60th anniversary in Canada, the cross-country "Kanreki" road trip continues! Wave two of the drive began in Halifax, NS on August 14th and ended in Brossard, QC. The group of automotive journalists and Toyota Canada representatives were behind the wheel of the Toyota Land Cruiser, Crown Signia, Crown sedan, GR Supra, Sienna and Grand Highlander.

Along the way, the group visited Steele Wheels museum in Halifax, where they admired several classic vehicles including a 1985 Toyota Land Cruiser, before a visit to O'Regan's Toyota, where there was a million-kilometre 2013 Toyota Highlander on display. Following a drive by Peggy's Cove, the group headed to Charlottetown, PEI, and later on to New Brunswick.

The first stop in New Brunswick was at the world's largest lobster, followed by a visit to Acadia Toyota in Moncton, where there were heritage vehicles on display, in addition to a nearly million-kilometre Toyota Corolla. Once in Quebec, the group



visited Lévis Toyota and Mauricie Toyota – two longstanding Toyota dealerships in the province – where they saw more heritage vehicles and learned about the history of both dealerships. Mauricie Toyota opened their doors in 1965, is still in the hands of the original family, and is the longest standing dealership in the province. Other highlights of the trip included Auto journalists test driving the first-ever 2025 Toyota Crown Signia, a striking addition o Toyota's SUV lineup. With a flowing silhouette, spacious premium interior, and stylish colour choices, the Crown Signia brings refined style and impeccable comfort. Available in a single

Limited grade in Canada, it also brings capable, efficient performance with standard electronic on-demand All Wheel Drive and the Toyota Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) system.

Also driven on the trip was the new Toyota Land Cruiser which returns to Canada after a 35-year hiatus with a thrilling combination of capability, reliability, and style – available in four exciting grades. The 2024 Land Cruiser was designed from the outset to be authentic, reliable, timeless, and professional. Finally on test was the exciting Toyota Supra returning to Canadian showrooms for the first time in more than 20 years. "This is the classic Toyota

sports car that racing enthusiasts have demanded – equally at home on the track as it is on the open road or the city street, aggressively styled to convey its authentic performance credentials, and loaded with features and amenities that will remind every Supra owner just how much fun driving can be," said Cyril Dimitris, Vice-President, Toyota Canada Inc.

Toyota Canada's Kanreki Tour will end on August 30 at Canada's Western "Mile o" in Victoria, British Columbia. Look out for test drives of the new Toyota vehicle soon.

Employment Opportunity

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Thind Motion Films Pvt. Ltd., located at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada, is seeking a Full Time Position for two [2] Media Relations Coordinators [NOC 11202] .

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The positions are available immediately.

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- Arrange press conferences and briefings and to be the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.

Employment Requirements

- Formal education: post-secondary education is required;
- Serve as the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.
- Previous experience in project promotions;
- Critical thinker with strong conceptual and research skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and writing skills.
- Meticulous, dependable and possess team motivational skills.

Location of work:



The primary work location will be at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada.

The positions are available immediately.

Please email resumes to thind10084@gmail.com and qualified candidates will be contacted.

This position is open to Newcomers to Canada, Visible Minorities and Indigenous Persons.

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US Pending Home Sales Gauge Drops to Lowest on Record

A gauge of pending US sales of existing homes sunk in July to the lowest level on record, as high prices and borrowing costs continue to scare buyers away.

A National Association of Realtors index of contract signings fell 5.5% to 70.2 last month, the lowest in data back to 2001, the group said Thursday. The drop was larger than all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists and reflected declining sales in all four major regions.

"The positive impact of job growth and higher inventory could not overcome af-

fordability challenges and some degree of wait-and-see related to the upcoming US presidential election," NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun in a statement.

The previously owned home market has been hamstrung by high borrowing costs and lean inventory for nearly two years. While mortgage rates have declined this month to the lowest in over a year, high prices and limited inventory are deterring prospective buyers who might still be holding out for cheaper rates.

"Falling mortgage rates will

no doubt bring buyers into market," Yun said.

The contract rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage is now below 6.5% in the wake of recent comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who said last week "the time has come" for the central bank to cut interest rates.

Lower borrowing costs would help ease one the least affordable housing markets in history. An index of US home prices by S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller hit a fresh record on Tuesday, with prices up 5.4% in the year through June.



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\$1,499,000

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SOLD
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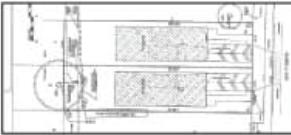
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NEW LISTING

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103 13725 72A AVENUE



NEW LISTING

This 2 Bedroom and 2 Bathroom Attractive and Beautiful located in one of the best neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! With almost everything required in the closest vicinity, Bear Creek Elementary, Prank Hurt Secondary. This townhouse is close to transit, library, parks, theatre, restaurants & shopping, which makes it the perfect area for your next home. Asking: 699K

6 12711 64 AVENUE



3 bedrooms upstairs and 4 bathrooms, over 1500 square feet of living space, laminate flooring, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, hot water tank (2019). Kitchen with large eating area. Central location. Well maintained "Palette on the Park" complex. Walking distance to Tamanawis Secondary, Panorama Ridge, Beaver Creek. Transit & Tamanawis Park are steps away!

Asking \$869K

Renovated house in East Newton, 13930 77 Ave Surrey BC



6bed 4 baths, 3bed & 2 bath up, two
basement suites (2+1), 12000 Sf lot,
close to both schools

124 13725 72A AVENUE SURREY



NEW LISTING

2 Bedroom and 2 Bathroom Attractive and Beautiful townhouse located in one of the best neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! Asking: 749K



77 15151 Edmund Drive, Surrey. 3 Bed+Den, 3 Bath A centrally located unit within walking distance to all banks, restaurants, dollarama, shoppers drug mart. A list of recreation facilities & amenities, including YMCA, Fresh Street Market & Panorama Village Centre, all within walking distance.

Asking \$949K

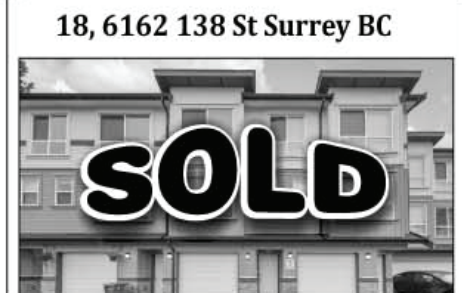


7473 147A Street Surrey V3S 8Y6. 6 Bedrooms and 5 Bathrooms home in this lovely Harvest Wynde Chimney Heights.

Asking \$16,99,000.00



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2 bath apartment at Scott
& Nicholson Complex Delta.
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SOLD

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SOLD

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14071 59A AVE, SURREY



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11700 85B AVE DELTA



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SOLD

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Newton

1565sq ft. fully furnished with 5 rooms with full kitchen and bathroom, Vacant easy to view.
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CD Zoning in Red FM plaza,
\$2,200,000,
1,925sq. ft.

PUB FOR SALE

in Coquitlam
Price to sell, well established \$349,000. Prime location.
With all the extra

SOLD

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FOR LEASE

4.363 acres of prime land in the heart of Surrey. Near 152st and 68ave. ALR is designated as an industrial business park. (Truck parking only not allowed)

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3000sq ft. warehouse, 1500sq. ft. up and down, near payal business center
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In Newton, available January 1304sq ft., with approved paint booth warehouse for sale or lease.
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ASSIGNMENT

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Tech

STREAMLINING WORKFLOWS WITH AUTOMATION TOOLS FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

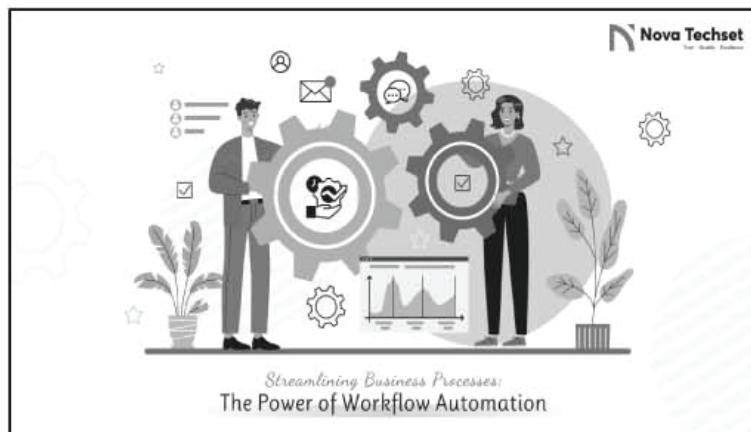
This article explores strategies for optimizing time management and automating routine tasks to boost productivity in a fast-paced business environment. It highlights tools like the ChatGPT YouTube summarizer for continuous learning, CRM automation for improving customer relationships, and financial management automation to streamline invoicing and reduce errors. By leveraging these technologies, entrepreneurs can efficiently manage resources, enhance decision-making, and focus on strategic business growth.

In today's fast-paced business environment, entrepreneurs often juggle multiple clients and deadlines. To consistently deliver exceptional results, they must streamline their operations and manage resources efficiently.

This article explores various tools and strategies for optimizing time management and automating routine tasks to enhance productivity and focus.

Enhancing Continuous Learning with Automation
Continuous education often challenges entrepreneurs due to their busy schedules. Many turn to YouTube or seek assistance from artificial intelligence to keep up with relevant topics. Instead of relying on traditional methods, utilizing a tool like the ChatGPT YouTube summarizer works better because it engages multiple senses and enhances the learning experience.

This tool offers substantial advantages, including a free tier and the ability to customize summaries. Entrepreneurs can choose their preferred language, select the summary length, or pose specific questions about the video content, making it a versatile option for fast-paced learning environments.



Optimizing Time Management for Strategic Business Growth

By reducing time spent watching lengthy videos, entrepreneurs can efficiently gather the essential information needed for their development and strategic business planning, allowing them to allocate more resources to other critical areas of their business.

This not only saves time but also ensures that the content is directly applicable to their immediate needs, streamlining their learning process and integrating seamlessly with their daily tasks.

Automating Customer Relationship Management
Effective customer relationship management (CRM) is crucial for fostering client satisfaction and boosting sales. By automating various aspects of CRM, businesses can efficiently manage routine tasks such as data entry, appointment scheduling, and follow-up communications.

Automation streamlines these processes, reducing the potential for human error and ensuring that no client interaction is overlooked.

Streamlined Client Interactions

Integrating automation into CRM systems allows entrepreneurs to devote more time to strategic pur-

suits such as enhancing client engagement and personalizing service offerings. Automated tools are particularly adept at handling the meticulous details of customer management, from logging interaction histories to updating client profiles.

By automating these tasks, businesses ensure that their customer data is always current and accessible, enabling more personalized and timely interactions.

Enhanced Decision-Making with Data Insights

Moreover, CRM automation tools are equipped with analytics capabilities that sift

through vast amounts of customer data to unearth actionable insights. These insights can guide business decisions, helping companies tailor their marketing strategies and service offerings to better meet the needs of their clientele.

For instance, predictive analytics can forecast customer behaviors, allowing businesses to proactively address concerns and capitalize on opportunities.

Streamlining Financial Management and Invoicing
Effective financial management and invoice processing are fundamental to the smooth operation of any business. Manual handling of these tasks can be not only time-consuming but also prone to errors.

Fortunately, automation tools can significantly simplify these processes by enabling automatic payment reminders, generating invoices, and meticulously tracking expenses without the need for constant human oversight.

Efficient Financial Opera-

tions

The automation of financial tasks like invoicing and expense tracking eliminates the labor-intensive aspects of finance management. For instance, automated systems can integrate with bank feeds and credit card transactions to update financial records in real-time. This ensures that all financial data is accurate and up-to-date, allowing business owners to make informed decisions quickly.

Minimizing Errors and Enhancing Accuracy

With these tools, businesses can reduce the likelihood of human error, such as duplicate entries or missed payments, which are common in manual processes. Automated invoicing systems can also customize invoices based on predefined templates, send them to customers via email, and even provide notifications when invoices are paid. This not only expedites the payment process but also enhances the overall customer payment experience.





(PG) * *

Out of Gas

Take an old movie title and spice it up with up dates of sorts. That's kind of the interesting appeal with Running on Empty. Credit Elevation Pictures for bringing this flick to select Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres prior to it moving to streaming services.

From the get go you know Running on Empty is different. Set in modern trendy left leaning California there's a company whose mandate is to let people know when they will die. Sounds rather ghoulish, doesn't it? Naturally two mismatched lovers (?) take the plunge and the results given by a white lab-coated doctor don't exactly go as

planned. Really?

With a shortened life span the out to lunch out of mind newly single guy starts to enter the dating pool. Why not? Matched up with a very attractive woman things don't go as planned when it's time to pay the bill for that marry thrill. Now marked for life a crazed out pimp enters the fray and chaos ensues, Running on empty is a blackish dark comedy with a heavy edge to it. Good performances can't take away from the crude subject matters, different strokes for different folks I guess. Just not my cup of tea - but a good fill-in on a cheap Tuesday day out.

Running on Empty

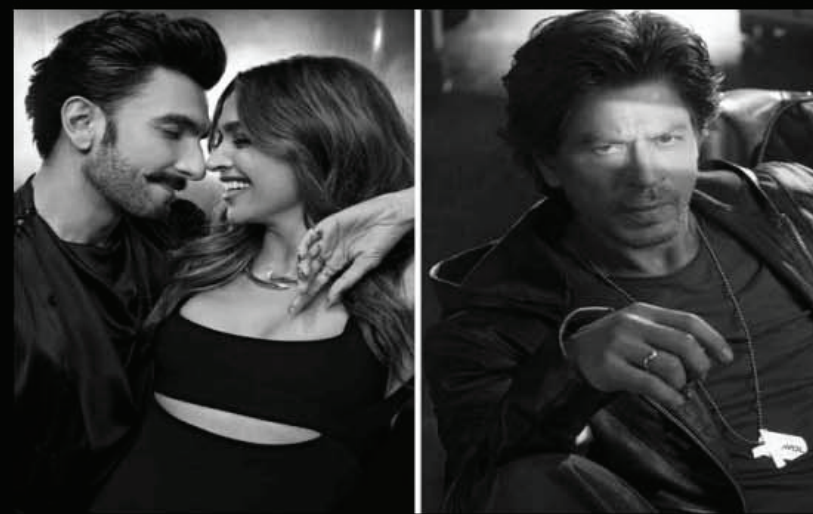


EVENTS

South Asian Adults & Seniors - Bingo on the House for members & In Person Yoga Classes at Shanti Niketan hall for members, Bingo on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday), from 2.00 pm to 3.30pm at Shanti Niketan hall. In Person Yoga classes for members only, Every Monday & Every Thursday from 10.00 am to 11.15 am. Pure Vegetarian Lunch on Thursdays after the Yoga session.

Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre of Vedic Hindu Cultural Society of BC invites South Asian Adults and Senior members only to join and play Bingo on the House on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday) from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Shanti Niketan hall. Please bring only 2 dollars with you for 2 games, don't worry if you do not know how to play, members seating next to you will explain the game to you just for the sake of fun. Please keep the social distance while seating for personal & other's safety. Tea and light snacks will be served after the two games are over. In Person Yoga classes for members only, on Every Monday & Every Thursday will continue by Mr. Ashwani Bansal expert Yoga Instructor from 10.00 am to 11.15 am & will help to observe & guide the seniors to do correct yoga. Pure Vegetarian lunch will be served in the dining hall at 11.30 am to all the senior members who attend yoga class on Thursdays. Project funded by Government of Canada's

New Horizons for Seniors Program for Hindi speaking seniors. In case you are eligible to file Income Tax returns Free of cost, Please contact Surendra Handa Coordinator, Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre, & Coordinator - APNI South Asian Community Response Networks, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, 8321 - 140th street Surrey V3W5K9, BC Tel. 604 - 507 - 9945 or email: surendra_handa@hotmail.com, for registration & for appointment for Tax filing.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE AND RANVEER SINGH TO BECOME SHAH RUKH KHAN'S NEIGHBOURS?

Bollywood's power couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are gearing up for a new chapter in their lives as they prepare to welcome their first child in September. The actress has been making headlines with her stylish maternity looks, and recent reports suggest that the couple is planning to move into a new home after the birth of their baby. According to a social media post by popular photographer Pallav Paliwal on Instagram, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are set to move into a sprawling new apartment following the arrival of their baby. Earlier

rumours had hinted that the couple might become neighbours to Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. NDTV reported that Ranveer Singh, in association with his father Jagjit Sunder Singh Bhavnani's company Oh Five Oh Media Works LLP, had purchased a luxurious sea-facing quadruplex for Rs 119 crore in a high-end Mumbai area near Shah Rukh Khan's residence, Mannat. The expansive residence occupies the 16th to 19th floors of the building, offering a generous 11,266 sq ft of interior space and an additional 1,300 sq ft of private terrace.

Business

THE POWER OF HAPPY EMPLOYEES: BOOSTING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH SATISFACTION



Employee satisfaction isn't just about having contented workers; it's a powerful catalyst for increased productivity and business success. When employees are genuinely happy with their work, they tend to be more engaged, motivated, and committed to their organizations. This synergy between satisfaction, engagement, and productivity is a dynamic force that can significantly impact the bottom line. In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into the profound connection between employee satisfaction and productivity, shedding light on how organizations can harness this power. We'll also touch upon the importance of tools like the employee engagement survey in understanding and enhancing these critical factors.

The Happy Employee Phenomenon
Before we dive into the correlation between satisfaction and productivity, let's first understand the concept of the "happy employee." A happy employee is not just someone who enjoys their job; they are enthusiastic about their work, feel valued, and are emotionally connected to their organization. A happy employee is satisfied with their role, the workplace environment, and the company culture. They find meaning and purpose in what they do.

Happy employees exhibit several traits:
High Motivation: Happy employees are self-motivated. They take ownership of their tasks, proactively seek solutions, and put in extra effort to achieve their goals.
Improved Focus: Employee satisfaction often goes hand in hand with improved focus and concentration.

Satisfied employees are less likely to be distracted, resulting in higher productivity.

Strong Commitment: When employees are happy with their work, they are more committed to their organization's success. They have a sense of ownership and are more likely to stay with the company for the long term.

Enhanced Creativity: Contented employees are more creative and innovative. They are open to new ideas, willing to experiment, and contribute to the company's growth.

Better Communication: Happy employees tend to communicate more effectively, both with their colleagues and management. This improved communication streamlines processes and fosters collaboration.
Increased Resilience: Satisfied employees are more resilient in the face of challenges. They are better equipped to handle stress and adversity, leading to more consistent productivity.

The Link Between Employee Satisfaction and Productivity

The relationship between employee satisfaction and productivity is a two-way street. Satisfied employees are generally more productive, and increased productivity, in turn, contributes to their job satisfaction. Here's how these two factors interconnect:

Motivation: Satisfied employees are more motivated to perform their best. They derive fulfillment from their work, which translates into increased effort and better results.

Reduced Absenteeism: Happy employees are less likely to take unscheduled absences. Their job satisfaction leads to better attendance, resulting in consistent productivity.

Lower Turnover: Job satisfaction is a significant factor in employee retention. When employees are happy, they are more likely to stay with the organization, reducing the costs and disruptions associated with turnover.

Collaboration: Satisfied employees are more likely to engage in positive interactions with colleagues. This collaborative environment fosters efficient teamwork and problem-solving, enhancing overall productivity.

Creativity and Innovation: Job satisfaction stimulates creativity and innovation. Employees who enjoy their work are more willing to think outside the box and contribute new ideas, which can lead to process improvements and increased productivity.

Quality of Work: Happy employees are more focused on the quality of their work. Their attention to detail, dedication, and sense of ownership translate to higher-quality output.

Customer Satisfaction: Satisfied employees often provide better customer service. Happy, engaged employees are more likely to create positive interactions with clients, leading to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Using Employee Engagement Surveys to Measure Satisfaction

Understanding employee satisfaction and its impact on productivity requires effective measurement and analysis. Employee engagement surveys are a valuable tool in this regard. These surveys are designed to collect feedback from employees about their work experience, job satisfaction, and engagement levels.

Here's how employee engagement surveys can be instrumental in gauging employee satisfaction and productivity:

Collecting Data: Employee engagement surveys collect quantitative and qualitative data from employees. These surveys ask questions about job satisfaction, workplace culture, relationships with colleagues and supervisors, and overall engagement.

Identifying Areas of Improvement: The survey results provide valuable insights into areas where employees are most and least satisfied. Organizations can identify specific issues that need attention to improve satisfaction and, consequently, productivity.

Benchmarking: Employee engagement surveys allow organizations to benchmark their results against industry standards or previous survey results. This benchmarking helps in understanding where the organization stands in terms of employee satisfaction.

Monitoring Changes Over Time: Conducting regular employee engagement surveys enables organizations to monitor changes in satisfaction and engagement levels over time. This information can help assess the impact of improvement initiatives.

Developing Action Plans: Employee engagement surveys provide the data needed to develop actionable plans for improvement. Organizations can create strategies and initiatives to address specific areas of concern and enhance satisfaction and productivity.

Strategies to Enhance Employee Satisfaction and Productivity



PINNED UP

Ranbir Kapoor starrer *Animal* gets 11 nominations in 9 categories for IIFA 2024

Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor, and Triptii Dimri starrer *Animal* was one of the biggest blockbusters of 2023. It looks like the film's charm hasn't simmered from the audiences, mind even now. The Bhushan Kumar produced, and Sandeep Reddy Vanga directed film has bagged 11 nominations in 9 categories at the upcoming IIFA Awards 2024.



Bollywood JOURNAL

Your Most Popular Entertainment Source

KAPIL SHARMA SET FOR HIS BIG SCREEN COMEBACK WITH *KIS KISKO PYAAR KAROON 2*; REPORTS

Kapil Sharma, the renowned comedian and television host, is all set to make his much-anticipated return to the big screen with the sequel to his 2015 hit comedy, *Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon*. The original film, which marked Kapil's acting debut, was a sleeper hit, garnering Rs 43 crore in India and solidifying his presence in Bollywood. Fans of the comedian have been eagerly waiting for his return to the cinematic space, and now, their wait is almost over.

According to sources close to the project, Kapil Sharma has signed on the dotted line for *Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2*. The sequel will continue the comedic journey that Kapil's character embarked on in the first film. "After experimenting with various genres, Kapil is excited to return to his roots in comedy," revealed a source. The project is expected to begin filming towards the end of this year.

While the first film was directed by the iconic duo Abbas-Mustan, the sequel will be helmed by Anukalp Goswami, one of the key writers from the original movie. However, Abbas Mus-



tan will remain involved in the project as creative supervisors, ensuring that the sequel retains the humor and charm that made the first film a hit. "Anukalp has crafted a script that Kapil loved, and Abbas-Mustan will bring their expertise to the narrative," the source added.

Just like its predecessor, *Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2* will fea-

ture multiple female leads. The casting process is currently underway, with the filmmakers seeking to assemble a dynamic ensemble cast that complements Kapil's comedic style. "The film will be a caper, with Kapil's character once again at the center of a comedic conflict involving multiple women," the source concluded.

SGPC SENDS LEGAL NOTICE TO KANGANA RANAUT'S EMERGENCY MAKERS OVER ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATION OF SIKH HISTORY



The upcoming film *Emergency*, starring and directed by Kangana Ranaut, has sparked controversy ahead of its release. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex body responsible for the management of historical Gurdwaras, has issued a legal notice to the producers of the film, including Kangana Ranaut, alleging that the movie misrepresents Sikh history and contains scenes that have deeply offended the Sikh community.

The SGPC's legal notice demands the immediate removal of objectionable scenes from *Emergency* and calls for an apology from the filmmakers to the Sikh community. The SGPC also insists that the film's trailer, which was released on August 14, be taken down from all public and social media platforms.

As reported by The Hindu, SGPC Secretary Partap Singh expressed strong disapproval of the film's portrayal of Sikhs, stating, "The movie trailer reveals several anti-Sikh scenes which have deeply hurt the sentiments of the Sikh community. An attempt has been made to show Sikhs as terrorists and separatists, which is unacceptable and far from the truth."

SIDHARTH MALHOTRA RETURNS TO ROMANCE

Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra is gearing up to rekindle his romance with the silver screen. After a series of action-packed films, including *Mission Majnu*, *Yodha*, and the web show *Indian Police Force*, Malhotra is eager to return to the genre that first brought him to fame. According to a report by Mid-Day, Sidharth Malhotra is set to headline a new love story produced by Dinesh

Vijan. The actor has been in discussions with Vijan's production house for some time and was immediately drawn to the script. The yet-to-be-titled project will be directed by Tushar Jalota, known for his work on the film *Dasvi*. The report quoted a source saying, "Sidharth has been in talks with Dinesh's production house for some time. He loved the script and is excited to team up with a ban-

ner that is known for bringing modern romances to the screen."

With this new film, Malhotra will be revisiting the genre he embraced in his early career years. His debut film, *Student of the Year*, was a campus romance, and he has since starred in several other romantic comedies, including *Hasee Toh Phasee* and *Baar Baar Dekho*.



Travel

BENEFITS FOR HONEYMOONERS IN THE MALDIVES



The Maldives is a dream destination for honeymooners, offering unparalleled luxury and romance. This article explores the many benefits newlyweds can enjoy, from overwater villas with private pools to exclusive bonuses like romantic dinners, spa treatments, and more. Learn how to maximize your honeymoon experience by understanding the perks available at various resorts, and find out why November is the perfect time to visit. Whether you're newly married or celebrating years of love, the Maldives promises an intimate, unforgettable escape in one of the world's most breathtaking settings. A honeymoon in the Maldives is the strongest desire of many newlyweds. A water villa with a pool, bright sunsets and sunrises, delicious seafood cuisine, a turquoise lagoon and coral sand - this is just a small part of what awaits a young family on the paradise islands. But the surprises don't end there, says exotic island booking expert wiotto.com. Most hotels in the Maldives offer nice bonuses for honeymooners.

How to get benefits for newlyweds in the Maldives

Usually, hotels in the Maldives offer various bonuses for newly married couples. Depending on the resort, the period after the official marriage, in which the couple should expect benefits from the hotel, is from 4 to 6 months. After this period, hotels no longer offer bonus-

es.

Also, the hotel management must be warned in advance that you have recently got married and a trip to the Maldives is your honeymoon. For example, when booking a villa on wiotto.com, indicate in the filter that you are a honeymooner. After, the manager will contact you and let you know about the benefits offered by the resort you have chosen. In addition, the manager will need a copy of the marriage certificate, which will need to be handed over to the direction of the hotel.

Wedding in the Maldives

The Maldives hosts some of the most romantic wedding ceremonies in the world. However, this beautiful ritual does not carry legal force. Most couples get married at home, and they fly to the islands and hold a ceremony with festivities. Depending on the hotel and the range of services, such a ceremony can cost from \$500 to tens of thousands. Usually after follows a honeymoon in the same hotel.

What benefits can newlyweds get?

A lot depends on the resort. To summarize, newlyweds can count on:

Romantically decorated bed every day of your stay at the hotel.

Credit for a certain amount in a restaurant. For example, you may be gifted \$50 to be used one-time at one of the

resort's restaurants.

Cake or champagne for newlyweds. There may also be a welcome basket of fresh fruit. Discounts or several free spa sessions.

These are just the main benefits that most resorts offer. Some hotels may offer romantic boat trips, tours, villa upgrades (if available for your dates), etc.

The Maldives is truly the perfect honeymoon destination. And even if your wedding took place many years ago, a holiday in the Maldives, even without benefits, will be one of the most romantic in your family life.

Best month for honeymooners in the Maldives

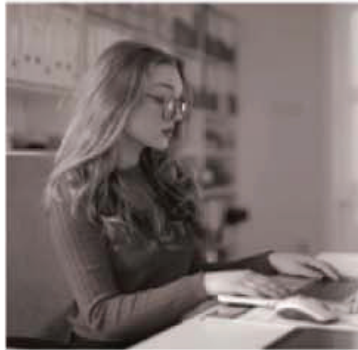
The best month for honeymooners to visit the Maldives is typically November. This

time of year marks the beginning of the dry season, offering warm, sunny days with minimal rainfall and calm seas, perfect for enjoying the pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters. November also sees fewer crowds compared to the peak tourist season, allowing couples to indulge in a more intimate and tranquil experience. Whether it's lounging on the beach, diving into vibrant coral reefs, or enjoying luxurious resorts, November provides an ideal setting for a romantic getaway in the Maldives.

The Maldives offers an unparalleled experience for honeymooners, combining natural

beauty, luxury, and privacy in one of the world's most breathtaking destinations. The pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and overwater villas provide a romantic setting that is perfect for couples seeking a memorable and intimate escape. Additionally, the wide range of activities, from snorkeling and diving to spa treatments and private dining experiences, ensures that every couple can tailor their honeymoon to their preferences. With its exceptional hospitality and stunning scenery, the Maldives truly stands out as an ideal destination for a dream honeymoon.





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