

# Hamas attack unadulterated evil unleashed on world: Prez Biden

## US enhances military force posture in the region: US President

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that the Hamas attack on Israel is an "unadulterated evil unleashed on the world" and added that 14 American citizens were killed in the incident.

Biden also said that it was Hamas' stated purpose to annihilate the state of Israel and kill Jewish people.

"There are moments in this life — and I mean this literally — when pure, unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world. The people of Israel lived through one such moment this weekend.

"This was an act of sheer evil. More than 1,000 civilians were slaughtered — not just killed, slaughtered — in Israel. Among them, at least 14 American citizens were killed. Parents butchered [who were] using their bodies to try to protect their children. Stomach-turning reports of babies being killed. Entire families slain. Young people were massacred while attending a musical festival to celebrate peace."

— Joe Biden, US President

The bloody hands of the terrorist organisation Hamas — a group whose stated purpose

is for being is to kill Jews," Biden said in his address to the nation from the White House.

The US President has earlier vowed his administration's "rock solid and unwavering" support to Israel.

The US has launched a major global diplomatic drive to garner support for Israel and take necessary action against Palestinian militant group Hamas. Hamas launched a wave of attacks on Israel on Saturday, killing hundreds of people, in the biggest escalation in the conflict in decades. Biden said the US has also enhanced its military force posture in the region. ■



US President Joe Biden speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington about the war between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas as Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken stand next to him on Tuesday. ■

## No specific information on role of Iran in Hamas attack: White House

Washington: The White House said that there is no specific information about the role of Iran in the latest terrorist attack against Israel by Hamas, but it is "complicit" in a broad sense for funding the military wing of the militant group. "We have said since the beginning that Iran is complicit in this attack in a broad sense because they have provided the lion's share of the funding for the military wing of Hamas. They have provided training. They have provided capabilities. They have provided support and they have had engagement and contact with Hamas over years and years," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said. "All of that has played a role in contributing to what we have seen. Now, as to the question of whether Iran knew about this attack in advance or helped plan or direct this attack, we do not, as of this moment, have standing here at the podium, have confirmation of that. We are talking to our Israeli counterparts on a daily basis about this question," he said. The NSA said the US is trying to

gather from its intelligence holdings on whether they have any further information on that. "We're looking to acquire further intelligence. And if there's an update to that, I'll share it with you," Sullivan said.

"While Iran plays this broad role, sustaining a deep and dark role in providing all of this support and capabilities to Hamas, in terms of this particular gruesome attack on October 7th, we don't currently have that information. We will continue to look for it," he added. Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a wave of attacks on Israel on Saturday, killing over 1,000 people, in the biggest escalation in the conflict in decades. Israel has already responded with a wave of air strikes on Gaza, killing more than 800 people there. The United States has launched a major global diplomatic drive to garner support for Israel and take necessary action against Hamas. Sullivan also said that the US will respond firmly to any action by militia groups in the region to "take advantage of this situation". ■

## Indian American woman to lead Microsoft's AI

New Delhi: An Indian-American tech industry veteran and former Google executive with over 20 years of experience in product development, design, and strategy, has joined Microsoft as its corporate vice president.

Aparna Chennappagoda, who stepped down as chief product officer of stock trading app Robinhood, will be leading generative AI efforts in Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Designer — a software product that competes with Adobe and Canva. ■



Aparna Chennappagoda

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**Notice for Farmer / FPO'S**

NCCF has effectively started procurement of good quality onion under PSF Rabi-2023 as per the prescribed parameters. Farmer/FPO'S Those who are interested to sell their quality onions can approach to the onion procurement center as per the quality given below. Interested Farmers/FPO. must register on BEAM Portal

**Documents required at the time of onion procurement**

- 1) Photocopy of Aadhaar Card
- 2) 7/12 Onion of Rabi Season crop has been sown.
- 3) Photocopy of Bank Passbook
- 4) Submit all the above documents with self attested.

**Important advice for Farmers:**  
Onion more than 280 quintals per hectare will not be accepted.  
**Note:** 45mm. Onion exceeding thickness will be accepted

**Onion with following defects will not be accepted.**

- 1) Fungal Infected 2) Cut & Crack 3) Without Skin 4) Ruptured Skin 5) Rooting 6) Open Neck 7) Dry Sun Skaled 8) Sunburn 9) Seedstorm 10) Sprouted 11) Mechanical Injury

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## Indian Outbound Travel Boom: VFS Global Alerts Applicants About Visa Frauds

### SCAMSTERS AND FRAUDULENT ENTITIES EXPLOIT TRAVEL SURGE, LURE INNOCENT TRAVELLERS INTO VISA SCAMS

**ISSUES IN PUBLIC INTEREST**

The meteoric surge in outbound travel from India has opened a gateway for not just globe trotting Indians but also for a shadowy underbelly of scam artists. As more Indians give in to their wanderlust in what's termed as 'orange travel', many find themselves at the mercy of fraudsters preying on the increased demand for visa appointments.

Given this context we spoke to a spokesperson from VFS Global, which is one of the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialists for governments and diplomatic missions, on ways to stay clear of scams such as selling appointments, issuing fake appointment letters, claiming to influence positive visa decision, etc.

**HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO MITIGATE FRAUDS.**

**Q1. Is there a fee to book visa appointments?**  
We do not charge any payment for scheduling visa appointments for countries we serve. Appointments are gratis and can be booked only on [www.vfsglobal.com](http://www.vfsglobal.com). There could be a nominal service fee to prepay for select countries.

**Q2. Does VFS Global play any part in visa decision-making?**  
The decision on visa applications, the visa issues, and timelines to process them lie solely in the hands of the respective embassies or consulates. VFS Global simply handles the administrative and non-judgmental aspects of the visa application process. We have no role or influence on the decision of your visa application.

**Q3. Does VFS Global associate with third-party entities for visa facilitation?**  
No, we do not work in association with any third-party entity. Applicants should beware of scammers and fraudulent entities who claim to be associated with us in any capacity or pose as VFS Global to duped them. We are also working very closely with travel agent associations to educate and create awareness among travellers to beware of such kind of visa related frauds.

**Q4. Where should one head to book visa appointments?**  
[www.vfsglobal.com](http://www.vfsglobal.com) is the only official website to book visa appointments for the countries we serve. While the appointments are free of cost, there could be a nominal service fee to prepay for select countries.

**Q5. Does the company work personal information or applicant payment via social media, emails, SMS, or calls?**  
We never ask visa applicants to share their personal information or make any applicant payments via social media message, email, SMS, or calls. If you have been asked to make payments to personal accounts to expedite your visa application process, you may be interacting with a scammer. We urge applicants to guard against sharing personal details unless the authenticity of the requester is confirmed. Payments should only be made through our official website ([www.vfsglobal.com](http://www.vfsglobal.com)) or at our Visa Application Centres.

**Q6. Does VFS Global offer immigration and job services?**  
No, we do not provide immigration and job services. Applicants are advised to be cautious of scammers offering spurious job or immigration opportunities for money.

By staying informed and following the guidelines provided by VFS Global, applicants can safeguard themselves from falling victim to visa frauds and ensure a smooth and legitimate visa application experience.

To report any suspected fraudulent activity, applicants/travellers can scan this QR code.