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Eradicating Poverty Critical to Social, Economic Growth



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomena that requires concerted efforts and sustainable approaches to address its various facets effectively. Among others, eradicating poverty involves promoting inclusive economic growth, providing access to quality education, healthcare, shelter and social protection, as well as protecting vulnerable populations and empowering women. Additionally, removing economic and opportunity gaps, investing in human capital, creating decent jobs, and building resilience to climate-related shocks are critical for sustained poverty reduction.

Kuwait has consistently called for intensifying global efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, based on the country's humanitarian values and leadership in delivering aid and supporting



sustainable development around the world. Kuwait's endorsement of poverty eradication is also in line with the country's commitments to

the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 1 of which calls for ending poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.

Last week, during a general debate on poverty eradication and food security at the UN meeting on Economic and Financial Affairs, Kuwait's representative at the talks, Diplomatic Attache Rashid Farhan, reiterated the country's outlook on eradicating global poverty and hunger. With nearly 800 million people still living in extreme poverty, and children and youth making up 60 percent of those affected, he urged greater global cooperation to build resilience and inclusiveness to end poverty.

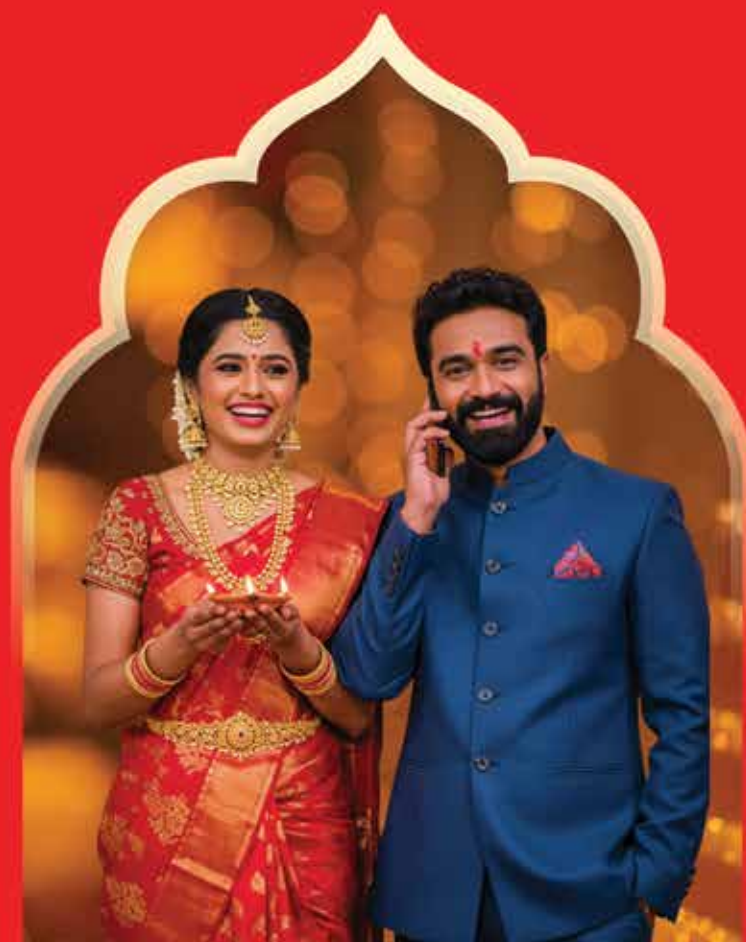
Highlighting Kuwait's Vision 2035 as a reflection of the country's commitment to inclusive development, he called for sustainable food supply chains, social-support networks, early-warning systems, and more support to women, and youth to build inclusive and sustainable societies. Earlier at the UN, Kuwait lamented that nearly half of the 17 SDGs remain stalled, 18 percent are below the 2015 baseline,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Spanish-Kuwaiti relations deep-rooted, historical, cultural



The Times Kuwait Report

Ambassador of Spain H.E. Hernández Gamallo affirmed the depth of the historical and cultural relations between the two countries during the Spanish Embassy's National Day celebration, noting that bilateral ties are currently witnessing unprecedented growth across economic, cultural, and educational fields.

The event was attended by several senior officials, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, alongside members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations, and members of the Spanish community in Kuwait.

Pointing out that 12 October marks not only Spain's National Day but also commemorates the deep historical ties linking Spain to the Spanish-speaking nations of Latin America,

he added, "Spain is one of the world's oldest nations — a country rich in cultural and linguistic diversity, united by a shared national spirit and identity."

The ambassador emphasized Spain's pride in its historic relations with the Arab world, reflected in its rich cultural heritage, and highlighted that relations between Spain and Kuwait are solid and continuously growing in various sectors, driven by mutual understanding and the closeness between the two peoples.

He revealed that over 50,000 Kuwaitis visited Spain this year, praising the facilitation of Schengen visa procedures, which has boosted travel and tourism between the two nations. He also referred to the Spanish-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Committee held last May, which brought together numerous representatives from Spanish economic sectors contributing to the implementation of Kuwait Vision 2035. He added that both sides are currently working on signing several new agreements to strengthen



economic and investment cooperation.

On the academic front, the ambassador explained that Kuwaiti authorities have recognized degrees from 45 Spanish universities, granting the distinction of 'excellence' to several programs in Madrid, Navarra, and Barcelona universities. He expressed hope for an increase in the number of Kuwaiti students pursuing studies in Spain in the coming years.

The Spanish envoy also announced that

direct flights between Madrid and Kuwait will soon resume, joining the existing route to Barcelona and seasonal flights to Málaga, which will further enhance tourism and trade exchange between the two countries.

Touching on Spain's foreign policy, he underscored that "Spain believes in dialogue and coexistence among civilizations, respects state sovereignty and human rights, and continues to support the two-state solution and a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

In conclusion, the ambassador extended greetings to the Spanish community in Kuwait, numbering around 450 people, praising their contributions in fields such as education, health, energy, infrastructure, sports, and engineering, and affirming the embassy's commitment to supporting and representing their interests. He concluded his remarks by conveying the best wishes of King Felipe VI of Spain and the Spanish government to Kuwait's leadership and people for continued progress and prosperity.



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New runway, control tower enhances operational efficiency at KIA

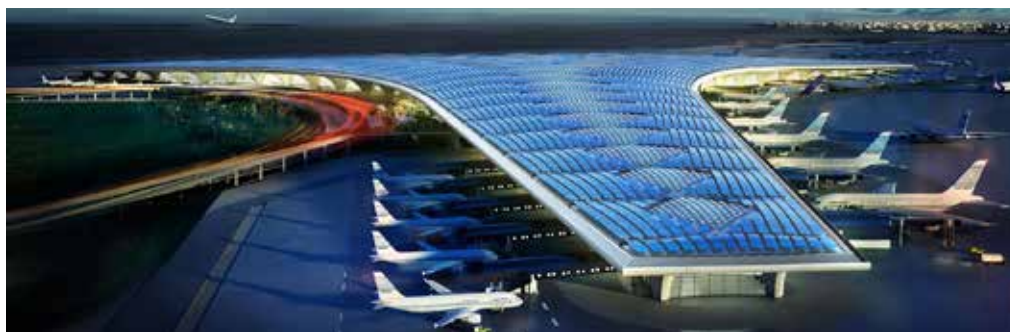
The third runway stands out as one of the longest in the world, stretching 4.58 kilometers. Its operation will enhance aircraft takeoff and landing capacity, elevate aviation safety levels, and improve overall efficiency. Al-Otaibi credited the achievement to the support of PACA leadership and the collaborative efforts of all civil aviation sectors.

Commissioning of the third runway and the new airport control-tower at Kuwait International Airport (KIA) will enhance operational efficiency and boost airline handling capacity.

Speaking during an interview with state media on 14 October, Deputy Director-General for Planning Affairs and Projects at the Public Authority for Civil Aviation, Engineer Saad Al-Otaibi affirmed that the two projects were part of the authority's plans to reinforce Kuwait's status as a regional hub for aviation and logistic services.

He pointed out that the Authority's four-point comprehensive development strategy focuses on improving infrastructure to better serve travelers, boosting the airport's operational capacity, increasing income via involving the private sector in administrative projects, and training cadres and staff to handle operations according to international standards.

Al-Otaibi revealed that current projects at



Kuwait international airport included the third runway, which stretches for 4.58 kilometers, making it one of the world's longest runways. He indicated that the opening of the runway would boost air safety and increase operational capacity, adding that the new control-tower project is equipped with the latest navigational technology, allowing air traffic control to direct over 600,000 landing and take-off operations annually, leading to a boost in state income and

air safety.

Elaborating further on the projects underway at KIA, he said that the new projects will provide 20,000 job opportunities for national cadres, and that the Future Leaders Program to train Kuwaiti youth will include this vital sector. Al-Otaibi added that involving the private sector to operate commercial facilities within the airport, such as hotels, duty-free shops, and lounges, would also be good for business and operational

capacity, citing the operations at Terminal 4 (T4) in 2018 as an example of a successful endeavor.

Regarding the Terminal 2 (T2) project, Al-Otaibi said that it was one of the grandest projects in the history of the country, affirming that it would be an important monument and integral part of the country's development vision. Shedding more light on the new Civil Aviation Authority law, Al-Otaibi said that it was a leap in the governance of the sector and aligned with global standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), pointing out that the law separates between monitoring and operational tasks to ensure transparency and independence of operations and services.

During the interview, he also pointed to Kuwait International Airport's recent passing of the detailed security inspection by ICAO by a score of 88 percent as part of the regular and official framework set by the organization, saying that this score reflected improved standards set by the Civil Aviation.

No restrictions on renewal of residence visas for Nepalese

Ambassador of Nepal H.E. Gana Shyam Lamsal, affirmed that the Nepalese Embassy imposes no restrictions on renewing residence permits or allowing the return of Nepalese domestic workers to Kuwait.

He clarified that all decisions regarding the travel of Nepalese workers abroad are made solely by the government in Kathmandu.

Ambassador Lamsal explained that workers who arrived in Kuwait before 30 September 2024, are permitted to travel and return, while those who arrived after that date are not allowed to re-enter Kuwait once they leave, in line with a government directive issued last year to regulate labor migration.

He noted that Nepal has suspended the deployment of domestic workers abroad for over a decade, pending

the establishment of bilateral agreements that safeguard the rights of female workers and clearly define the responsibilities of all parties involved. This decision, he said, was made to ensure the protection and welfare of Nepalese citizens working overseas.

Ambassador Lamsal emphasized that the embassy continues to monitor the situation of the Nepalese community in Kuwait, providing necessary assistance and support within its official capacity.

He also highlighted that relations between Nepal, Kuwait, and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries remain strong and positive, stressing that the embassy is actively working to strengthen bilateral cooperation in ways that serve the mutual interests of Nepalese workers and their employers in Kuwait.

Unified GCC visa to boost tourism, facilitate economic integration

Travel across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states is set to become significantly easier with the launch of the Unified GCC visa, with the benefits expected to reach far beyond tourism.



Industry experts consider the Unified GCC Visa as a landmark development for regional tourism and economic integration.

The upcoming Unified GCC Visa, which will allow residents and visitors to

move freely between GCC countries, is expected to transform how people in the region plan their trips and manage travel insurance.

For Kuwait's travel and insurance industries, this new visa system could be a game-changer. With easier cross-border movement, travelers' expectations are shifting, and insurers are already preparing to meet new patterns in demand.

The Unified GCC Visa will make regional travel far simpler as entry procedures will become more streamlined, and more people will explore multiple Gulf destinations, leading to growth in short leisure trips, regional tourism, and cross-border business travel.

Kuwaiti residents and businesses are expected to benefit from this enhanced mobility, which could strengthen the country's position as a regional travel hub and stimulate economic cooperation across the Gulf.

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New archeological finds cement Italy-Kuwait cultural ties

Collaborations not only help advance knowledge and development but also deepen the longstanding friendship between Italy and Kuwait.

The Times Kuwait Report

Embassy of Italy held a media conference last week to highlight the growing cultural, economic, education, and defense ties between Italy and Kuwait. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of Italy H.E. Lorenzo Morini announced groundbreaking archaeological discoveries on Failaka Island and new research near the coastal nature reserve in Doha, while also emphasizing the expanding cooperation between the two nations in defense, healthcare, aviation, and cultural initiatives. The ambassador underscored how these collaborations not only advance knowledge and development but also deepen the longstanding friendship between Italy and Kuwait.

Elaborating on the significant new archaeological discoveries in Kuwait, he said that it dates back to ancient periods.

Morini also praised the close defense cooperation between the two nations. Including the recently renewed logistical support contract for the Eurofighter jets which are being gradually delivered, with full delivery expected by mid-2026.

He added that Leonardo S.p.A., an Italian

multinational company specializing in aerospace, defense and security, headquartered in Rome, is responsible for maintenance, logistics, and pilot training.

"Joint training programs continue successfully, with Kuwaiti pilots training in Italy, while the Kuwaiti National Guard collaborates with Italy's Carabinieri, including officer training programs," said the ambassador, adding that preparations were underway for a new memorandum of understanding. He also revealed that both countries are hosting an international event on counter-terrorism and illicit trafficking with participation from Kenya and Nigeria. On economic relations, Morini noted Kuwait's substantial investments in Italy, particularly through companies such as KPC and KPI (Q8), alongside diversified financial investments via funds. Italian companies, including Leonardo and several small and medium-sized enterprises, are seeking to expand their presence in Kuwait, especially in technology, engineering, and service sectors. He went on to say that bilateral relations are "excellent and highly active," with plans for high-level visits and new agreements in investment, defense, science, security, and training.

Ambassador Morini highlighted the growing

cooperation between the two countries in healthcare, particularly in home care services. "Preparations are underway for a visit by Kuwait's Minister of Health to Italy to sign a new memorandum of understanding." Meanwhile, Italian companies have recently contributed to the successful construction of Kuwait's new Maternity Hospital and continue to supervise its maintenance.

In aviation and tourism, Italy and Kuwait are working to increase direct flights between the countries, with discussions with Italian airlines progressing positively due to growing demand from Kuwaiti travelers. The number of Kuwaiti visitors to Italy continues to rise, many holding long-term visas and visiting multiple times annually, he disclosed.

The Italian envoy also highlighted increasing interest among Kuwaiti students to study in Italian universities, which offer programs in English across design, engineering, medicine, and the arts.

On cultural initiatives, Ambassador Morini indicated that the Italian Embassy will host the 'Italian Design Week' in Kuwait from 19-25 October, in collaboration with local institutions including The Avenues Mall, Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), Dar Al Funoon, and the



American Museum. The activities will include exhibitions of Italian fashion, furniture, food, and automobiles; performances by the 'Spandieri Attori di Gubbio' troupe, an art exhibition by Daniele Farindini, and lectures by Italian architects and designers at the Kuwait University and CAP.

Ambassador Morini concluded by emphasizing that design in Italy is "not just an artistic concept, but a holistic way of thinking that expresses creativity across all fields, from art and music to food and fashion." He also praised the strong Kuwaiti interest in Italian culture as a reflection of the deep friendship and solid ties between the two nations.



ALSAYER group renews strategic partnership for the 4th Edition of Kuwait National Robotics Championship

Reaffirming its commitment to community redevelopment and technological advancement, ALSAYER Group proudly renewed its strategic partnership for the 4th consecutive edition of the Kuwait National Robotics Championship (KNRC).

This continued collaboration underscores ALSAYER Group's dedication to nurturing young talents and supporting innovation and creativity in the fields of robotics and technology. Through active engagement in tournaments, competitions, and educational initiatives, ALSAYER work to inspire the next generation and enhance future employment prospects in the evolving digital landscape.

Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Sustainability Committee Chairman, stated, "It is a proud moment for ALSAYER Group to continue our journey with the KNRC 2025-2026 at the Strategic Partnership level, empowering youth through

technological learning and innovation. Each year, this competition helps bridge the gap between global and local trends in digitization and modern technology, while providing Kuwaiti participants with valuable international exposure to global innovation platforms.

We are proud to witness this progress made possible through the collaborative support of public and private partnerships. ALSAYER truly values the strategic alliance between the Department of Computer Science at the College of Science (Kuwait University), the Ministry of Education, the Youth Public Authority, and all private sector organizations working tirelessly to empower youth and contribute to Kuwait Vision 2035."

Eng. Nehad Al Haj Ali, Group Manager of Corporate Excellence Department at ALSAYER Group, added, "At ALSAYER, we believe that investing in young minds passionate about technological innovation and robotics will strengthen our society with their creativity, knowledge & drive for positive change. Their fresh ideas and technological skills are key to shaping a sustainable and competitive future for Kuwait."

The event reinforced the importance of investing in the next generation of innovators, emphasizing how early exposure to science, technology, and robotics can play a pivotal role in preparing students for the workforce of tomorrow and aligning their skills with global technological advancements.



Indian Embassy issues notification for passport applicants

Embassy of India has issued an important notice for Indian passport applicants. The announcement, made under the direction of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was shared through official and media platforms.

The notification calls on all Indian passport applicants to file their request through the newly announced portal <https://mportal.>

passportindia.gov.in/mission/ while also advising all applicants to carefully read the guidelines on photographs to be submitted with the application.

The embassy added that starting from 17 October only passport applications filled through the new portal will be accepted at the four Indian Consular Application Centers in Kuwait. [Attach notification image]

Joyalukkas Appoints Samantha Ruth Prabhu as the new Brand Ambassador

Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller, is excited to reveal their new brand ambassador, the Lady superstar Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

The award-winning actor will bring her inimitable charisma to represent Joyalukkas jewellery's timeless designs and inspiring legacy of craftsmanship across international markets. This association brings together two icons that share a deep connection with perfection, authenticity, and grace.

Samantha's endearing charm and savoir faire perfectly mirror Joyalukkas' journey of over three decades, built on artistry, trust, and an unwavering commitment to delighting millions of customers worldwide.

"Samantha embodies the spirit of the modern woman – confident, stylish, and truly distinctive. Her persona resonates deeply with our ethos of celebrating life's treasured moments with fine jewellery," said Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman, Joyalukkas Group.

"We are honored to welcome her into the Joyalukkas family as we continue to inspire jewellery lovers across the globe."

Sharing her excitement, Samantha Ruth Prabhu commented: "Jewellery has forever been a personal expression of who I am – a tale of emotion, celebration, and strength



behind every piece. Joyalukkas embodies all these aspects, and more. I'm thrilled to partner with a brand that celebrates beauty with substance and inspires women everywhere to shine with confidence."

The association will soon come alive through an integrated global campaign, where Samantha will represent Joyalukkas' rich design heritage in her own special way and further elevate the brand's universal appeal across global markets and cultures.

The brand now will use two global icons to represent the brand worldwide i.e. Samantha & celebrated actor Kajol.

Chinese cultural center opens in Kuwait

Here in Kuwait, China no longer feels distant. Through tai chi, Chinese medicine, tea ceremonies, cuisine, festivals, and traditional arts, Kuwaiti friends can now experience the depth and beauty of Chinese civilization firsthand. These cultural interactions have deepened emotional and intellectual ties, providing lasting momentum for the advancement of our bilateral relations - Liu Xiang



The Times Kuwait Report

Chargé d'Affaires at the Chinese Embassy, Liu Xiang, hailed the inauguration of the Chinese Cultural Center in Salmiya, the first of its kind in the Gulf region, as a milestone in strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties between China and Kuwait.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Xiang described the new center as "a symbol of Chinese-Kuwaiti friendship and a vital platform for deepening people-to-people connections." He added that the establishment of the center "reflects the high standing of Kuwait and the steady growth of China's relations with the Gulf states." Xiang explained that the center will host a wide range of cultural programs aimed

at fostering mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries and the wider region. These will include courses in Chinese language and culture, culinary workshops, and music sessions. Highlighting the spirit of cultural exchange, he noted that a Kuwaiti band performed at the opening ceremony, playing both Kuwaiti and Chinese songs—a gesture that symbolized the harmony and cooperation between the two nations.

Xiang recalled that the center began trial operations in September 2023 and, over the past two years, has worked under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping's World Civilization Initiative. He added, "During this time the center has implemented key understandings between our two countries and organized a

series of cultural and educational activities—from language classes and art performances to exhibitions, film screenings, and seminars. Through these efforts, the Kuwaiti public has gained a closer look at China's ancient heritage as well as its modern achievements."

He went on to add, "These cultural interactions have deepened emotional and intellectual ties, providing lasting momentum for the advancement of our bilateral relations." Xiang also affirmed that the new center will continue to serve as a bridge of understanding, promoting cultural cooperation and dialogue between China and Kuwait for years to come.

For her part, Assistant Secretary-General for the Islamic Antiquities Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL),

Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Sabah, praised the opening as a "remarkable cultural milestone" that opens new horizons for cooperation and friendship between the two nations.

She noted that the center had already been operating in a pilot phase over the past two years, offering an array of rich artistic and interactive programs that enhanced mutual understanding. Expressing appreciation to Liu Xiang and the center's director, Al-Sabah said their "continued support and collaboration with NCCAL have helped build enduring bridges of cultural exchange." Noting that this year marks 43 years since the establishment of cultural relations between China and Kuwait, she said, "the decades were defined by friendship, collaboration, and flourishing ties in media, arts, and education."

Shift in housing strategy accelerates project completions

Kuwait is witnessing a major strategic transformation in its housing sector that is ushering in an era of development marked by involvement of private-sector in government residential and urban development projects. The partnership is speeding up project completions sustainably and cost-effectively and helping solve one of the country's most pressing challenges—providing housing to the hundreds of thousands of citizens who have been waiting years, if not decades, to realize their dream of owning a house in Kuwait.

After decades of near-total reliance on the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to provide housing for citizens, the shift in government strategy to a new public-private partnership



model in residential projects that is allowing young Kuwaitis home ownership.

The traditional state-funded housing model, which depended on vast land allocations and lengthy waiting lists, has proven unsustainable over the years amid growing demand and slowing project completions. This created an urgent need to adopt a more efficient, private-

sector-driven approach.

Since the launch of the 'Real Estate Developer' program, Kuwaiti companies have actively sought partnerships with international firms to develop new residential cities based on world-class urban planning standards. The qualification phase for these projects, supervised by the Housing Care Authority, has attracted strong investor interest thanks to its transparency and well-defined vision for the future.

The new cities—developed by the private sector—will feature smart infrastructure, integrated services, and sustainable facilities designed to support economic growth, create job opportunities, and stimulate the construction, financing, and contracting sectors.

Meanwhile, the anticipated Real Estate Finance Law is expected to provide the legislative framework necessary to support both developers and citizens. The law will facilitate easier access to home financing, enhance the purchasing power of young people, and ensure

housing affordability, while establishing a sustainable financial and economic cycle that stabilizes the real estate market.

One of the key benefits of involving real estate developers in addressing the housing crisis is the reduction of costs and acceleration of project completion, achieved through efficient resource utilization and the adoption of modern construction technologies that guarantee quality and compliance with standards.

The real estate developer has become a true partner of the state in realizing the Kuwaiti housing dream, while real estate financing serves as the vital tool that will turn this dream into a sustainable reality.

Real estate developers are no longer merely a builder or investor but a developmental partner helping to shape the future of Kuwait's modern housing cities through technical expertise, management efficiency, and financial strength—ultimately easing the state's burden and accelerating progress toward comprehensive urban development.



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Economic reforms, a strategic necessity, not a policy option

Diversification of the national economy is no longer a policy option but a strategic imperative for achieving sustainable development across all sectors, said Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem.

The minister's remarks came during a keynote address at a forum titled, 'Kuwait's Economic Transformation: Foundations for a New Era', held at George Washington University in the United States on 14 October. Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem stressed on Kuwait's long-standing leadership in financial innovation, citing the establishment of one of the world's first sovereign wealth funds in 1953, and the development of a robust, internationally integrated banking system.

"Our focus must be on the future, not the past," he stated, emphasizing the role of finance, banking, and investment as engines of transformation, innovation, and sustainable growth, driven in close partnership with the private sector and global partners. He affirmed that sustainable growth cannot be led by the state alone but requires the engagement of private sector leaders, innovators, and investors who view economic transformation as a real opportunity.

Highlighting the Kuwait-US partnership as a cornerstone of this vision, the Minister



noted that cooperation now spans key sectors including technology, renewable energy, food security, advanced industries, and financial services. Cross-border investment flows, regulatory cooperation, and financial innovation, particularly in digital banking and sustainable finance, have become vital channels linking Kuwaiti and US institutions, said the minister.

Emphasizing that economic policy and market practice must go hand in hand, Dr. Al-

Mukhaizeem noted that the forum served as a platform for aligning strategies and generating new investment channels, as well as building bridges of capital and expertise to support mutual growth. He also expressed confidence in the resilience and maturity of Kuwait's financial system, describing it as a solid foundation for global investors.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the US, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, also addressed the forum, describing the event as a key step in advancing

Kuwait-US economic ties in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, the national roadmap to diversify the economy and empower the private sector. She pointed to initiatives such as the Border Community Resilience Initiative, which channels Gulf investments into underserved US regions to strengthen infrastructure and shared prosperity, calling it a "powerful example" of how economic cooperation can serve both prosperity and humanitarian goals.

"The Kuwaiti private sector embodies this spirit of collective leadership," she said, highlighting its contributions across Islamic finance, environmental sustainability, family businesses, and financial technology. "Each success story reinforces one message: Kuwait is open, for business, for innovation, for partnerships, and for building communities."

The event, organized by the Kuwait Banking Association, aimed to showcase the vital role of the financial and private sectors in supporting Kuwait's transformation journey and attracting international investment. It also sought to present a modern, comprehensive picture of Kuwait's economy, highlighting its institutional foundations, evolving regulatory landscape, and openness to global business, within the framework of the annual IMF-World Bank meetings being held in Washington from October 13-18.



MoI issues clarification on mobile phone use at traffic signals

Ministry of Interior (MoI) has issued a warning against the use of mobile phones while driving, even if the vehicle is at a traffic light and waiting for the signal to turn 'green'. The ministry emphasized that this behavior constitutes a clear violation of traffic regulations.

In a notification clarifying this behavior, Director of the Security Media Department, Colonel Othman Al-Gharib, said that waiting at the red traffic light does not grant drivers permission to use their phones, as driving demands continuous focus and attention.

He explained that mobile phone distractions not only disrupt traffic flow but also cause delays for vehicles behind, especially when the light turns green. Al-Gharib pointed out that surveillance cameras and the central control room accurately record such violations.

He urged all motorists to comply with traffic laws, noting that although such offenses have declined following the implementation of the new traffic law, continued awareness and adherence remain vital to maintaining public safety.



IWG, Scientific Center join in environmental initiative

Members of the International Women's Group (IWG) in Kuwait, alongside distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, gathered at The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK) on 13 October for a special event dedicated to environmental stewardship and community beautification.

The initiative was held in collaboration with TSCK and with the gracious support of Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan, UN-Habitat Kuwait Country Program Head for the GCC, and Mohamad Alsanosi, Deputy General Manager for Visitors Engagement and Spokesperson TSCK, highlighting a shared commitment to sustainability in Kuwait.

The day's program was a blend of education and hands-on action. Participants enjoyed guided tours of the center's facilities, an insightful environmental awareness session,

and immersive 3D films in the IMAX cinema titled 'Human Body' and 'Wonderful World of Butterflies'. The event also included a symbolic gesture of recycling plastic, reinforcing the day's green message.

The highlight of the day was the flower planting ceremony held near the main entrance, which features the planting of petunia, vincirusa, and geranium saplings.

Lady ambassadors, spouses of ambassadors, and IWG members worked together to plant the saplings and add a touch of lasting color

to the landscape. To commemorate the day, attendees were presented with takeaway souvenirs and their own saplings to continue the greening efforts at home.

In her closing remarks, President of IWG Marika Kochlamazashvili, expressed her profound gratitude to the organizers. She emphasized the joy of IWG contributing to Kuwait's environmental goals and shared her hope of returning next year to see the flowers in full bloom, a sentiment that captures the event's forward-looking spirit.



DIWALI, 'FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS'

CELEBRATES UNIVERSAL VALUES THAT TRANSCEND BORDERS

From bustling streets of Mumbai to peaceful homes of London and elsewhere around the world, Diwali is no more just an Indian festival, it has become a celebration of hope, renewal, and unity in every corner of the world where the Indian diaspora reside. But no matter where it is celebrated, the glow of Diwali's lights reminds people everywhere that kindness, love, and the triumph of good are universal values that transcend all boundaries.'

The Times Kuwait Report

Diwali, one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the world, symbolizes victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Rooted in Hindu traditions, the festival, also known as Deepavali, has transcended borders and religions, uniting millions across continents in celebration, prayer, and joy.

In India, where Diwali originates, the festival transforms cities and villages into vibrant landscapes of lights and colors. Homes are adorned with diyas (oil lamps), rangoli art, and garlands, while fireworks light up the night skies. It is time for families to gather for prayers to Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, exchange gifts and sweets, and share festive meals that reflect the country's diverse culinary traditions.

In Nepal, Diwali takes the form of Tihar, a five-day festival that honors not only gods and goddesses but also animals and birds for their loyalty and significance in daily life. Homes glow with oil lamps and candles, and people decorate their doors with colorful patterns to welcome blessings and good fortune.

In Sri Lanka, Diwali holds special meaning among the Tamil community, who celebrate it with temple rituals, family gatherings, and fireworks. The lighting of lamps signifies the



triumph of Lord Krishna over the demon Narakasura, reflecting the universal theme of the victory of good over evil.

Across the Caribbean islands, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, Diwali is celebrated as a national holiday. Streets and temples are decorated with twinkling lights, cultural performances abound, and traditional Indian music and dance fill the air. The festival also reflects the deep cultural roots of Indian communities that migrated there more than a

century ago.

In Singapore and Malaysia, Diwali, locally called Deepavali, is celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Indian diaspora. Little India districts are illuminated with decorative arches and lights, while street bazaars sell traditional sweets, clothes, and festive decorations. Temples become centers of devotion, and cultural shows highlight the harmony among the city's multi-ethnic communities.

Mauritius, home to a large Hindu population,

celebrates Diwali with both religious devotion and national unity. Families decorate their homes with lamps and candles, and the government often hosts cultural events promoting peace and togetherness. The night sky glows with fireworks as Mauritians, regardless of faith, join in the festivities.

In Fiji, Diwali is a public holiday celebrated by people of all backgrounds. Schools, offices, and homes are decorated with lights, and community events feature singing, dancing, and sharing of sweets. The festival serves as a reminder of Fiji's multicultural harmony and the enduring influence of Indian heritage.

Even in Western countries such as the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Australia, Diwali has grown into a significant cultural event. Cities like London, New York, and Sydney host grand celebrations, including temple prayers, light displays, and public festivals attended by thousands. Major landmarks are lit up to mark the occasion, symbolizing cultural inclusion and diversity. From bustling streets in Mumbai to peaceful homes in London, Diwali has become more than just a festival—it is a celebration of hope, renewal, and unity. No matter where it is celebrated, the glow of Diwali's lights reminds people everywhere that kindness, love, and the triumph of good are universal values that transcend all boundaries.

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Happy Diwali



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Diwali, a festive season blending tradition, culture, modernity

The Times Kuwait Report

From lighting up diyas, homes and hearts to digitalization, Diwali celebrations have evolved over time. Despite modernization, the essence of Diwali remains intact. Family bonding, community engagement, spiritual reflection, and cultural expression continue to define the festival. Modern innovations enhance creativity, convenience, and inclusivity without compromising the deep-rooted significance of this luminous celebration.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most cherished celebrations across India and among Indian communities worldwide. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Beyond its spiritual significance, Diwali has evolved into a vibrant season of preparation, creativity, and social bonding, uniting families, friends, and communities in joyous celebration.

At the heart of Diwali are family gatherings, where relatives come together to share meals, exchange gifts, and partake in traditional rituals. Homes are thoroughly cleaned and decorated with vibrant rangoli designs, colorful lights, and earthen lamps, creating an atmosphere of warmth, positivity, and festive cheer. The lighting of diyas, or oil lamps, is a symbolic act that signifies the removal of darkness and negativity, fostering a sense of



spiritual connection and communal harmony.

Food and culinary traditions play a central role in the festivities. Families prepare a variety of sweets such as gulab jamun, barfi, jalebi, laddus, and kaju katli, alongside savory snacks like namkeen and samosas. Sharing these treats with neighbors, friends, and colleagues reinforces the spirit of generosity and hospitality. Many stores also offer exclusive Diwali gift boxes, combining assorted sweets and savories into ready-made festive offerings.

Diwali shopping is a celebration in itself. Markets across India and global communities come alive with vibrant activity as people hunt for decorations, gifts, clothing, and festive essentials. Diyas, candles, and decorative lamps—from handcrafted clay to modern LED versions—allow families to blend tradition with convenience.

Home décor items such as drapes, wall hangings, floral arrangements, and ornamental



lights help transform homes into welcoming spaces for guests and family gatherings. Traditional attire like sarees, lehengas, kurta-pajamas, and sherwanis adds elegance to prayers, social visits, and family functions.

Cultural expression is a hallmark of Diwali. Rangoli, an art form made with colored powders, flowers, or rice, adorns doorsteps and courtyards, symbolizing good fortune and prosperity. Communities organize competitions in Rangoli and cooking, highlighting creative talents while promoting friendly interaction and collective celebration. Music, dance, and theatrical performances bring traditional arts to life, engaging people of all ages and helping pass cultural knowledge to younger generations.

Neighborhoods and communities often host public events such as fireworks displays, collective prayers, and cultural programs. These gatherings foster unity, strengthen



social bonds, and cultivate a shared sense of joy and cultural pride. Educational workshops on fire safety, environmental awareness, and festival significance balance celebration with responsibility, ensuring a safe and conscientious observance of the festivities.

Diwali is also a time for corporate and social gifting. Companies distribute festive hampers, sweets, and tokens of appreciation to employees, partners, and clients, reinforcing professional relationships while embracing the spirit of generosity. Communities and families often extend the tradition of giving to charitable activities, reflecting the festival's core values of empathy, kindness, and social responsibility.

Contemporary Diwali celebrations are embracing technology and innovation while preserving cultural traditions. Homes now feature LED lighting systems, laser projections, and smart décor that enhance visual appeal and convenience. Social media platforms allow families to share their celebrations through virtual greeting cards, videos, and online photo contests, connecting loved ones worldwide.

Online shopping has become an integral part of festive preparation. Digital platforms

Corporate Diwali celebrations have also evolved. Virtual events, online contests, and live-streamed cultural programs enable companies to engage employees across regions, preserving the festive spirit even in remote work scenarios. Technology assists families in planning rituals, monitoring energy usage for lighting displays, and managing shopping lists, blending convenience with creativity.

Despite modernization, the essence of Diwali remains intact. Family bonding, community engagement, spiritual reflection, and cultural expression continue to define the festival. Modern innovations enhance creativity, convenience, and inclusivity without compromising the deep-rooted significance of this luminous celebration.

Ultimately, Diwali today exemplifies a harmonious fusion of heritage and modernity. From the glow of diyas and the sweetness of traditional treats to cultural performances, festive shopping, and tech-enabled experiences, the festival illuminates homes, hearts, and communities. It continues to inspire joy, unity, generosity, and cultural pride across generations, truly making it a festival that celebrates life itself.

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Devourable Delicious Diwali Delicacies

Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights', is one time of the year when people tend to forget their diet resolutions and devour sweet delicacies without a pang of guilt. Even though many are well aware of the 'morning-after' effects these unrestrained food devourings have on their health, they nevertheless continue to enjoy them with the consoling thought, 'Diwali comes but once a year'.

However, rather than head to the nearest confectionary store and order oodles of sweets, why not prepare them fresh at home. Making them at home, you can be assured of the quality of ingredients used and also control the sweetness and fat content of the sweet delights. Below we have put together a handful of Diwali specialties that are 'relatively healthier', which you can prepare at home without too much effort or time.



Gulab Jamun

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups khoya (dried whole milk)
- ¼ cup chenna (cheese curd)
- ¼ teaspoon soda bicarbonate
- 3 tablespoons refined flour (maida)
- ¼ teaspoon green cardamom powder
- 2 cups sugar
- Ghee to deep fry

Instructions:

- Grate khoya and mash chenna and set aside
- Mix the two along with soda bicarbonate, refined flour, green cardamom powder and a little water to make a soft dough
- Divide into sixteen equal portions and shape into balls
- Prepare a sugar syrup with sugar and two cups of water
- Clear the syrup by removing the scum, if any
- Heat ghee/oil in a kadai.
- Add the balls and deep fry on low heat till it turns a golden color
- Drain and soak in the sugar syrup for at least fifteen to twenty minutes before serving.



Boondi Ladoo

Ingredients:

- 2 cups gram flour (besan)
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 10 cashew nuts
- 20 raisins
- 15 green cardamoms
- 4 saffron (kesar) strands
- A few drops of milk
- 500g ghee

Instructions:

- Shell and powder cardamoms
- Add one fourth cup of water to sugar and heat until it melts and becomes syrupy
- To check if the sugar syrup is ready, take a drop of the solution

- and drop in water
- If it remains intact and does not dissolve then your syrup is ready
- (While preparing the sugar syrup, add a few drops of milk. Impurities will collect on the surface in a layer. Remove this scum)
- Add saffron and cardamom powder to the syrup
- Separately, add soda and water to gram flour and prepare a paste without lumps
- Heat the ghee in a deep frying pan
- Sieve the gram flour directly into the hot ghee and fry till light yellow
- Drain and set aside.
- Fry cashew nuts and raisins and along with the boondi add to the sugar syrup
- Mix well and set aside to cool
- Apply some ghee on your palms and shape the boondi mixture to form balls.



Mysore Pak

Ingredients

- ¾ cup gram flour
- 4 cups pure ghee
- 2 ½ cups desi ghee

Instructions:

- Sift the gram flour twice
- Heat the ghee in a pan and keep it hot over very low heat
- Cook the sugar with two and half cups of water over medium heat, stirring continuously till it dissolves
- Increase heat and bring the syrup to a boil
- Cook without stirring for about five minutes or till it reaches a single-thread consistency
- Add half a cup of hot ghee to the syrup and stir
- Add gram flour gradually, stirring all the while to prevent lumps from forming
- Stir continuously till the mixture starts bubbling
- Pour in the remaining hot ghee, half a cup at a time
- Everytime you add the ghee the

- mixture should sizzle and froth
- Continue this process till all the ghee is consumed and there is a pleasant sweet roasted aroma
- Pour the mixture into a greased tray
- Cool a little and cut into squares.
- Separate the squares when completely cooled and store in an airtight container to retain its freshness and crispness.



Malai Peda

Ingredients:

- One liter whole milk
- Few strands of saffron (Kesar)
- ½ cup sugar
- Two pinches of citric acid
- One teaspoon cornflour/cornstarch
- ¼ tsp green cardamom powder
- 4-5 chopped almonds
- 7-8 chopped pistachios

Instructions:

- Bring the milk to a boil in a deep non-stick pan
- Cook, stirring continuously, for about twenty minutes, till it reduces to half its original volume
- Soak the saffron in two teaspoons of warm milk and add to the boiling milk
- Add the sugar and continue to cook for four to five minutes.
- Mix the citric acid in one tablespoon of water and add gradually to the boiling milk Cook till the milk curdles slightly
- Mix the cornflour with the remaining two teaspoons of milk and add to the pan Cook, stirring continuously, for about forty-five minutes till the mixture thickens and resembles khoya
- Add the cardamom powder and mix well
- Remove from heat and set aside to cool
- Divide into sixteen equal portions and shape into round balls
 - Decorate with almonds and pistachios, and serve.



Jalebi

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups refined flour
- Two cups sugar
- ¼ tsp orange color
- Two cups sugar
- One tbsp milk
- ½ tsp green cardamom powder

Instructions:

- Place the refined flour in a bowl, add one and a half cups of water and bring them together to form a light smooth batter
- Cover the bowl and keep in a warm place to ferment for twenty hours
- Mix the batter again with your hands for fifteen minutes
- Add the food color and two tablespoons of refined flour
- Mix again for ten minutes
- Cook the sugar with two cups of water in a deep non-stick pan on high heat, stirring continuously, till the sugar dissolves
- Add the milk and remove the scum that forms on top
- Add the cardamom powder and cook, stirring, till the syrup attains a one-string consistency
 - Let the syrup cool, but ensure that it remains lukewarm
 - Heat the ghee in a non-stick frying pan on medium heat
 - Pour some of the batter into a squeeze bottle
 - Hold the bottle over the hot ghee and gently squeeze the batter into the ghee in spiral shapes
- Start from the outside and work inwards for better results
- Cook, gently turning the jalebi over occasionally, till golden and crisp
- Drain and soak in the sugar syrup for two to three minutes
 - Drain and serve hot.



Eco-friendly ways to celebrate the Festival of Lights

Diwali, the Festival of Light, which is celebrated across India and in countries around the world where Indian communities live and work, is traditionally held over a five-day period. Religious rituals are undertaken and social gatherings are held, as families gather together to celebrate the Diwali festival.

The solemn prayers and rituals that mark the days leading up to, and on Diwali morning, takes on a fun and festive mood as the sun goes down on Diwali day. In the evening, homes get brightly lit with the traditional oil lamps lighting the interior and exterior, celebrants engage in songs and dances and the air gets rent with the sound of crackers as the sky lights up in myriad colors from fireworks going off everywhere.

As usual, many people are preparing to welcome the festival of lights with unbridled abandon, singing, dancing, dining and ending the festivities with fireworks and loud bangs of bursting crackers.

Fireworks and firecrackers, a hallmark long associated with Diwali celebrations, is now also linked to an increase in noise and air pollution.

With several Indian cities having the unenviable reputation of poor air-quality through much of the year, environmental activists and many citizens in these places and in other cities are calling for a ban on fireworks during Diwali.

They point out that at a time when the world is engaged in combating the existential threat of climate change, we all have a responsibility to play a role and contribute to helping reduce our individual carbon footprint on the planet. This includes celebrating a greener, more eco-friendly Diwali.

Nonetheless, if you are still inclined to mark the festival of light with 'sound and fury', especially under compulsion of the kids, opt for eco-friendly versions. These 'green' crackers, a concept designed by the Indian National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, use recycled paper and do not contain harmful chemicals, especially barium nitrate that produces much of the heavy smoke and emissions. The sound produced from these crackers are also less than the 160 decibels of more associated with traditional crackers and is as per the defined limits of the Noise Pollution Control Board.

Some other eco-friendly options that you could introduce in your home this Diwali and help reduce your carbon footprint on the planet include lighting up the home and yard with small earthen lamps called diyas, in place of the electric bulbs that are now in vogue. Though earthen lamps need oil for illumination, the pollution is negligible and electricity consumption is nil.

Substituting candles and electric diyas with the good old earthen oil-diyas that are made from clay and other 'green' materials also helps in conservation as they can be used many times over. Remember, the candle diyas now popular can be used only once and are petroleum based. They also release toxins while burning which affects air quality.

Decorate the entrance floor with colorful

patterns (rangolis) using natural dyes in place of chemical colors. Instead of the artificial rangoli color powders that are readily available in the market, make a rangoli out of fresh flowers or make the floor designs with traditional and



natural ingredients, such as rice paste or dry rice flour. Also, use energy conserving LED and CFL lamps instead of incandescent bulbs inside homes.

Employ your creativity to design handcrafted decorative door hangings (torans) including using bright and colorful dupattas and sarees, rather than the plasticky choices available now, are definitely better options to celebrating this festival of light in an eco-friendly manner.

Here are a few more ways to go green this Diwali without dimming the brilliance and glitter of the festival in any significant way.

Green alternatives to crackers: Use colored balloons in festive colors of red, yellow, green and orange, and fill them with glitter and small bits of colored paper. Burst the balloons and dance in the glitter rain with your family and friends. It may not have the bang of traditional fireworks but it also leaves no environmental damage.



Reduce use of plastic bags: When exchanging gifts make sure not to pack them in plastic backed gift wrappings or carry them in plastic gift bags, instead use your creativity to come up with natural wrapping and present the gifts in cloth bags.

Make sweets at home: Spend a little extra time in the kitchen before the festivities start and make the sweets and other delicacies at home. Share them with your neighbors and friends in steel and glass plates. It may be more convenient to just buy them from the sweet shop next door, but think about the wasteful packaging that comes with it and the artificial colors and dressings used on them.

Diwali, celebrating the guiding light within us

The Times Kuwait Report

Diwali, or the Festival of Lights is arguably the biggest and brightest of festivals celebrated in the Indian subcontinent and among the Indian diaspora spread across the four corners of the world.

Diwali is concurrent with and analogous to various other religious, spiritual and historical celebrations marked by other nations, communities, cultures and religions in the region and around the world.

In India, while the religious aspect of Diwali is the highlight of the festival for Hindus, to the adherents of Sikh and Jain faith it is respectively the historical and sacred implications of the festival that take center-stage.

Besides its religious, cultural or historical importance to people across the vast sub-continent, and the contextual differences of the celebration, Diwali remains symbolic of the inner light that guides us throughout our life. The festival resonates with the message of the ultimate victory of light over darkness, of hope over despair, of good over evil, of knowledge over ignorance.

The symbolism of light has been prevalent in cultures throughout the evolution of humanity. It is one of the oldest and among the most significant and enduring icons, with spiritual, mystical and metaphorical connotations to various cultures and religions around the world.

Throughout the eons, among gnostics as well as those with agnostic leanings, light has been seen as a symbol of life and hope, of joy and happiness, of truth, wisdom, guidance, enlightenment, and as an embodiment of divinity. In many parts of the world, light is



represented with candles, lamps, fires and fireworks that represent the victory of light in its perpetual opposition to darkness.

In India, the origin of Diwali can be traced back historically to the ancient period, when it was celebrated during the Hindu calendar month of Karthika as an important harvest festival. Over time, various legends and

myths from the Hindu epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata were associated and celebrated along with the early agrarian festival.

The word Diwali comes from a fusion of two Sanskrit words, Dipa or Deepa meaning light or lamp, and Awali meaning a row, series or line. In many parts of India, the festival is celebrated by lighting rows of small earthen-



oil lamps called diyas that symbolize the driving away of darkness. In other parts of India, the Festival of Light marks the start of a new year in the Hindu calendar.

In many areas, Diwali has taken on a more temporal note, with merchants, retailers and corporates using the festival to market and sell their products. Today, the five-day long Festival of Lights has become almost synonymous with shopping frenzy, of bargain offers and special discounts, as well as a time of socializing and entertaining among family and friends.

Like any major festival, preparations for Diwali begin days or weeks ahead, with the formal festival limited to five-days, beginning two days before the night of Diwali, and ending two days after. Each day of Diwali has its own tale, legend and myth to tell.

Sweet treats are exchanged, houses are thoroughly cleaned, homes are lit with diyas and decorated with rangoli, the colorful designs and patterns created on the threshold of homes and on the floor during the festival using natural colors, dyes, flowers and other material. New clothes are worn and each day of the festival is marked by different traditional rituals.

Through all this celebration and festivities, what remains true and consistent throughout the five days of Diwali, is the celebration of life, its enjoyment and goodness. This year, even if you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali as it is celebrated in the Indian subcontinent, take a moment to light a candle or a diya, sit quietly, close your eyes, breathe deeply and concentrate on that supreme light which illuminates your inner self and guides you along the rightful path in life.

Nearly quarter-million visit visas issued over last four months

Immigration departments across Kuwait's six governorates are said to have approved over 235,000 visit visas since the launch of the 'Kuwait e-Visa' online portal in July this year.

Visit visas are now open to all nationalities, with no restrictions as in the past, with no single nationality dominating in approved visas. The total figure also includes visas issued during the Gulf Zain 26 Cup, hosted recently in Kuwait.

Facilitating the issuance of visas through an online process aims to boost tourism, as visitors can now easily obtain tourist, business, or family visas without the need to visit Kuwait's embassy or consulates in the visitor's country. Applicants can now fill in their application at the 'Kuwait e-Visa' portal, which grants



electronic visas to eligible categories.

The portal currently offers four main services: tourist visas, family visit visas, government visit visas, and business visas, while waiving both the salary and national carrier requirements for family visits. Residents of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states having specific approved professions can obtain entry visas upon arrival.

On a related note, the Ministry of Interior has warned expatriates against bringing relatives to work in violation of visit visa terms, stressing that any visitor caught working will be deported, along with the sponsor, who will be blacklisted from re-entry.

Jazeera Airways Reopens Aleppo Route with Two Flights Weekly

Jazeera Airways, reinforcing its commitment to reconnecting families and communities across the region today announced the resumption of direct flights to Aleppo, Syria. The new service will operate twice a week, making Aleppo the airline's second destination in Syria, following the successful relaunch of flights to Damascus earlier this year.

Speaking at the press conference announcing the launch, Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways said: "Reintroducing flights to Aleppo is a meaningful milestone for Jazeera Airways as we seek to build accessibility and connectivity across the region. We are proud to serve communities seeking to reconnect with family and heritage, while also promoting Aleppo as a city rich with history, culture and hospitality."

This route comes at an optimal time as family visit visas in Kuwait are now open, providing an important travel option for those wishing to

reunite with loved ones and strengthen ties with their homeland.

Tamim Al-Madani, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Syria in Kuwait commented: "We have the pleasure of announcing the launch of direct flights between Kuwait and Aleppo, a truly significant and positive step taken by Jazeera Airways following the successful resumption of its Damascus route."

This new route serves as a vital bridge for our Syrian community in Kuwait and carries additional importance as Aleppo International Airport serves three key governorates in northern Syria: Aleppo, Idlib and Hama, making it a central hub for tens of thousands of travelers. We hope this milestone will mark the beginning of broader expansion to include new destinations in Syria such as Latakia and Deir Ezzor, in parallel with the country's reconstruction phase to prosperity and its leading position in the region."



Aleppo, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, offers visitors a profound blend of history and tradition with historic landmarks, and cultural charm. The city's centuries-old markets, stone-carved courtyards, and vibrant cafés all highlight its enduring spirit. Known as Syria's culinary capital, Aleppo is also famed for delicious food and desserts like the Kibbeh Halabiyeh, and

Halawet El Jibn.

Flights between Kuwait and Aleppo will operate twice a week, offering convenient travel options for both family visits and tourism. Launch fares will start at KD 45 one way and KD 79 return. Ticket bookings are now available via the Jazeera Airways website – www.jazeeraairways.com, mobile app, and call center at 177.

Eradicating Poverty Critical to Social, Economic Growth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the funding gap to realize the SDGs has now exceeded US\$4 trillion. But poverty is not solely an economic issue; it is a complex phenomenon, encompassing many interrelated and mutually reinforcing elements that prevent people from attaining their rights and pursuing a dignified life. Some of the main components contributing to perpetuating poverty include illiteracy, unemployment, discrimination, social exclusion, and vulnerability to crises, which singly or together, hinder people from being productive and realizing their full potential.

Eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030 is a pivotal aim of the Sustainable Development Goal. However, figures from the UN show that although extreme poverty has significantly declined over the years, in 2025, over 800 million people, or 1 in 10 people worldwide, continued to live in extreme poverty. If current trends prevail, 8.9 percent of the world's population will still be in extreme poverty by 2030.

In a world characterized by unprecedented levels of economic and technological development, and financial resources, the fact that millions are still living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage and a blot on the world's collective conscience. Particularly alarming is the resurgence of hunger levels to those last observed in 2005, and the persistent increase in food prices in many countries compared to the period 2015–2019. The dual challenge of poverty and food security is a violation of basic human rights that needs urgent and effective redressal.

In 1992, through a resolution adopted on 22 December, the General Assembly declared 17

October annually as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The observance of a day dedicated to eradicating poverty acknowledges that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirms the need for global solidarity in confronting poverty and ensuring the rights of all, including the 'poor', are respected.

Notably, poverty is not confined to the developing world, it is prevalent even in rich countries depending on how poverty is defined. Absolute poverty, the lack of basic necessities for survival, including food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter, and usually measured by a fixed income level, is certainly more rampant in low income countries. On the other hand, relative poverty, defined as the lack of resources to maintain a standard of living considered average within a specific society, is prevalent in rich and poor nations alike.

Absolute poverty, or extreme poverty, which is often a matter of physical survival in many low-income countries, is undoubtedly more critical than relative poverty, which is largely the result of discrimination, and social exclusion. Understandably, absolute poverty is thus the target for poverty eradication programs by global institutions such as the UN, and by local governments, businesses, and civil society organizations.

However, the compounding negative impacts of relative poverty on the physical and mental health of affected individuals cannot be ignored, as relative poverty limits access to nutritious food, quality healthcare, education, and housing. In addition, it restricts employment and development opportunities, leading to a lower quality of life for those affected, especially for migrant populations and

other vulnerable sections of society.

Relative poverty foments discrimination and social exclusion in communities, increases physical and mental stress, and fosters feelings of being left behind by people who, although not experiencing absolute poverty, are nevertheless 'poor' relative to the average standard of living in a wealthy nation. Experts argue that even as absolute poverty declines with economic improvements in developing countries, relative poverty will tend to rise due to the growing aspirations of families in developed and developing nations alike.

In this regard, the theme for this year's International Day for Eradication of Poverty, which focuses on ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families, underscores that ending poverty is about dignity, justice, and belonging, not just income. This year's theme focuses on a clear goal of prioritizing those who are furthest behind, and building institutions that help families stay together, thrive, and shape their own futures.

A family-centered approach to social development is also the focus of the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development—convened by the UN General Assembly and slated to be held from 4–6 November in Doha, Qatar. The agenda for the Second World Summit seeks to translate commitments—made at the first World Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1995—into concrete, measurable change by respecting, protecting, and supporting families.

Convening at the level of Heads of State or Government, the summit aims to address the gaps and recommit to the implementation

of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, as well as add momentum to the 2030 Sustainable Agenda. Supporting families through coherent, jointly delivered policies across social protection, education, health, housing, and employment, have been shown to advance multiple sustainable goals, including SDGs 1 to 5 and SDGs 8,10 and 16.

Ahead of the summit, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) noted that in a world facing deepening inequalities, demographic shifts, and rapid technological and environmental changes, the Second World Summit provides a crucial platform for global dialogue and collaborative action. By convening multiple stakeholders in social development on a single platform, the summit is expected to provide the pivotal impetus to boost international cooperation for inclusive social development.

Economic growth since 2002 has been remarkable in many developing countries, with faster growth in GDP per capita than in advanced economies. This growth has fuelled poverty reduction and improvements in living standards for people in many countries, but the improvements have not been shared equally by people across the developing world. Disparities in the rate of development have added to the current high level of poverty.

Building a sustainable future for all requires the international community to intensify efforts towards eradicating extreme poverty and discrimination everywhere, and ensuring that everyone today can fully meet their needs and exercise their human rights, and that no one is left behind in the global sustainable development journey.

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Will AI Pay Off the West's Debts?



By Kenneth Rogoff

A former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, he is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University and the recipient of the 2011 Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics. He is the co-author (with Carmen M. Reinhart) of *This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly* and the author of *Our Dollar, Your Problem*.

There is no question that AI is changing the global economy at unprecedented speed. But will it rescue rich countries from intensifying debt pressures, particularly as rapidly aging populations increase pressure on benefit programs? If so, could these countries safely run even larger deficits, effectively borrowing against ultra-rich future generations?

No one should bet the farm on it.

To be sure, a wildly upbeat assessment of AI's potential impact on economic growth has propelled asset markets higher over the last few years. This is especially true for euphoric equity markets, which continue to rally despite political paralysis in France, a government shutdown and an all-out assault on central-bank independence in the United States, and an exodus of high-skilled talent from the United Kingdom.

Although I have long argued that AI will eventually solve the problem of advanced economies' anemic growth, I have also cautioned that several possible obstacles could slow down the pace of this transformation. Among the many material, legal, economic, and social factors to reckon with are electricity supply; intellectual-property rights; a lack of skilled AI workers; and the need to establish a comprehensive framework governing how chatbots communicate and exchange information, including some kind of price mechanism.

“

Although I have long argued that AI will eventually solve the problem of advanced economies' anemic growth, I have also cautioned that several possible obstacles could slow down the pace of this transformation.

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AI companies have invested vast sums in the race to dominate the market (should governments allow it), seemingly willing to hemorrhage money in exchange for users and information. But eventually, probably in the not-too-distant future, these firms will need to develop revenue streams, most likely through advertising, like social-media companies before them.



Although US President Donald Trump's administration has signaled full speed ahead on AI, knotty questions involving how moral judgement is coded into these models—currently the remit of a small group of developers—will ultimately be taken up by the US Congress and the courts, as well as by authorities in other countries. But the most pushback will likely come from hundreds of millions of displaced white-collar workers, who are set to become the newest political cause, just as manufacturing workers are today and as farm workers were in the 1960s and 1970s.

Anyone who works with a computer is vulnerable to automation. The idea that a handful of firms can replace a large portion of the workforce without massive political upheaval is sheer fantasy. Barring some dramatic authoritarian turn, unrest is all but guaranteed. This will provide ample fodder for the Zohran Mamdani of the world (Mamdani, a 33-year-old socialist, is the front-runner to become New York City's next mayor in November), especially because AI seems to be eliminating jobs for younger workers.

Then there is the inconvenient truth that many cutting-edge AI applications are in the military domain, which could trigger a massive arms race and even lead to a proliferation of wars fought with drone armies and other AI-backed weapons systems. Geopolitical fracturing and conflict are harmful to long-term growth and as likely to drain tax revenues as boost them. AI could also empower smaller states and terrorist groups by effectively giving them access to leading physicists and biologists at the press of a button.

Finally, just because Trump, an unrepentant climate-change denier, is back in the White House does not mean that the threats posed by global warming have disappeared. The costs of unfettered climate change are set to rise sharply over the coming decades, unless, that is, our AI overlords manage to solve the problem (although they may conclude that the solution involves having far fewer people).

The idea that, following a long and painful transition, the arrival of artificial general intelligence will solve all the rich world's problems is hyperbole. Even if AGI supercharges growth, it will almost certainly lead to a much higher share of capital in output, and a correspondingly lower share for labor. Indeed, the stock market is booming precisely because firms expect labor costs to shrink. Given this, the high profit expectations embedded in soaring equity prices cannot be understood as translating one for one into overall growth.

That brings us back to government debt.

There is no reason to suppose that AI-driven growth will lead to an equivalent increase in government tax revenues, even though that might have been a reasonable assumption to make in the past. After all, capital is much harder to tax than labor, partly because it tends to be more concentrated and politically powerful, and partly because it can move freely across borders.

Of course, higher tariff walls could prevent this capital flight, but any such strategy would ultimately be self-defeating. So yes, the AI transformation is coming, and has already contributed to a new arms race between the US and China. But it would be reckless to assume that advanced economies can rely on AI to resolve budget problems that human politicians cannot.



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EXCLUSIVE TO THE TIMES KUWAIT

G20 Could Help Eliminate Global Hunger



By Raj Patel, Refloee Joala

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Upon assuming the G20 presidency in December, South Africa chose 'solidarity, equality, and sustainability' as its theme. Far from being an empty slogan, this vision reflects the principles on which any credible international response to today's hunger crisis must rest.

Driven by climate change, conflict, and inequality, food insecurity is spiking around the world. The tools to address it already exist. The challenge is to mobilize the political will to act. South Africa's G20 presidency presents a unique opportunity to do just that.

Brazil offers a valuable model. Over the past two years, it managed to lift 40 million people out of food insecurity, removing itself from the United Nations' hunger map. To achieve this, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration reinstated policies scrapped by his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, bolstered school-meal programs through procurement

from smallholder and indigenous farmers, raised minimum wages, and legally recognized the right to food.

None of these measures is experimental. They are tried, tested, and proven solutions, and their success shows that eliminating hunger does not hinge on technological innovation but on political courage.

When Brazil held the G20 presidency last year, it sought to export its domestic achievements, most notably by launching the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. Yet tangible results remain elusive, as many of the Alliance's members, particularly multilateral development banks (MDBs), continue to promote technical, market-driven fixes that place corporations' property rights above people's basic needs.

Instead of launching new initiatives and platforms, the G20's top priority should be to consolidate and scale up programs that have already proven effective. The Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism of the UN Committee on World Food Security provides a robust, inclusive space for global debate. What is needed now is a concrete political agenda that enables progressive leaders and public officials to advance domestic anti-hunger policies.

Admittedly, South Africa does not have much time before handing the G20 presidency to the United States—the only member state that has consistently refused to recognize the human right to food. But in the time that remains, it can still champion critical anti-hunger policy tools.

Four such tools stand out. First, public procurement from local family farms for school meals and food programs strengthens both nutrition and rural livelihoods. Second, buffer stocks and price-stabilization mechanisms can protect consumers from price spikes while safeguarding farmers' incomes. Third, social



protection policies, ranging from living wages and cash transfers to universal benefits, ensure that households can afford healthy diets. Lastly, laws enshrining the right to food could help hold governments accountable if they fail to act.

Equally important, G20 leaders must recognize that they do not need to defer to MDBs' policy priorities. Through their seats on the boards of these institutions, they already have the power to shift international support away from export-oriented agribusiness toward local food systems and climate-resilient family farming.

If the South African government is serious about promoting a fairer, more sustainable global food system, it should follow the lead of its civil society, which has long been at the forefront of the fight against hunger. Rather than convening yet another round of high-level discussions with little follow-through, it must

work to secure public commitments that outlast America's G20 presidency.

South African policymakers appear to understand the stakes. At the recent UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) in Addis Ababa, Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen reaffirmed the country's commitment to food sovereignty. For the first time, the proposed National Food and Nutrition Security Plan recognizes agroecology as a pathway to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and climate resilience. The Agricultural Research Council has also been tasked with developing a national agroecology framework centered on indigenous crops.

While the wheels of governance often turn slowly, grassroots communities cannot afford to wait. During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers encountered a vibrant network of 78 smallholder producers, most of them women, who cultivated a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in the KwaZulu-Natal province. By selling their surplus locally, these farmers sustained businesses across the uMgungundlovu District, from bakkie traders and informal market stalls to spaza shops, schools, and municipal markets.

This experience demonstrates how localized food systems sustain both livelihoods and communities. Hunger is not defeated in conference halls; the fight is in kitchens, schools, and fields. To win, grassroots producers need political backing and the resources to thrive.

The G20 must tackle the hunger crisis head-on or risk forfeiting what remains of its credibility. South Africa can lead the way by putting food justice at the top of its agenda, demonstrating that 'solidarity, equality, and sustainability' are not abstract ideals but essential for humanity's survival.

Harnessing AI Without Undermining Democracy



By Kelly Born

A former director of Stanford University's Cyber Policy Center, is Director of the Democracy, Rights, and Governance initiative at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already impacting the pillars of democratic governance around the world. Its effects can be mapped as concentric circles that radiate outward from elections through government adoption; political participation, public trust, and information ecosystems; and then to broader systemic risks—economic shocks, geopolitical competition, and 'existential' risks like climate or bioweapons. Each circle presents both opportunities and challenges.

Start with elections. Especially in the United States, election administrators are severely understaffed and underfunded. Many argue that AI could help by translating ballots into multiple languages, verifying mail-in ballots, or selecting optimal locations for polling sites. Yet today, only 8 percent of US election administrators use these tools.

Instead, AI is being used to make voting harder. In the state of Georgia, activists used the Eagle AI network to mass-generate voter challenges and pressure officials to purge election rolls. (Opponents are using similar tools to try to reinstate voters.) And familiar risks, such as deepfakes designed to confuse or mislead voters, abound. In 2024, Romania annulled its presidential election results amidst evidence of AI-amplified Russian interference—the first unequivocal example of AI's impact.

But the hunt for 'smoking guns' may miss the greater danger: the steady erosion of trust, truth, and social cohesion.

Government use of AI offers a second vector

of influence—one with greater promise. Public trust in the US federal government hovers around 23 percent, and government agencies at every level are experimenting with AI to improve efficiency. Such efforts are already delivering results. The State Department, for example, has reduced the staff time spent on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by 60 percent. In California, San Jose relied on AI transit-optimization software to redesign bus routes, cutting travel times by almost 20 percent.

Such improvements could strengthen democratic legitimacy, but the hazards are real. Black-box algorithms already influence decisions about eligibility for government benefits, and even criminal sentencing, posing serious threats to fairness and civil rights. Military adoption is also accelerating: in 2024, the US Defense Department signed \$200 million contracts with four leading AI firms, heightening concerns about state surveillance and AI-driven policing and warfare.

At the same time, AI could transform public participation. In Taiwan, a global model for tech-enabled government, AI-powered tools like Pol. is helped rebuild public trust following the 2014 occupation of parliament, boosting government institutions' approval ratings from under 10 percent to more than 70 percent. Stanford's Deliberative Democracy Lab is now deploying AI moderators in over 40 countries, and Google's Jigsaw is exploring similar approaches to support healthier debate. Even social movement organizers are using AI to identify potential allies or track the people behind the money propping up anti-democratic efforts.

But four risks loom large: broken engagement systems, as processes like 'notice-and-comment' are flooded with AI slop; active silencing, as AI-amplified doxxing and trolling, and even state surveillance, threaten to intimidate activists and drive them out of civic spaces; passive silencing if people further opt out of real-world civic spaces in favor of digital ones, or eventually even delegate their civic voice entirely to AI agents;



and finally, competency erosion, as overreliance on AI, or sycophantic AI chatbots, further dull our capacity for sound judgment and respectful disagreement.

The information ecosystem is also changing as a result of AI. On the positive side, newsrooms are innovating. In California, CalMatters and Cal Poly are using AI to process legislative transcripts across the state, mine them for insights, and even generate story ideas.

But these benefits could be overshadowed by a flood of ever more convincing deepfakes and synthetic media. False content can sway opinions—people are able to distinguish real from fake images only 60 percent of the time. More insidiously, the sheer volume of fakes fuels the so-called 'liar's dividend', as people become so overwhelmed with fabricated content that they start to doubt everything. Cynicism and disengagement ensue.

Finally, beyond the immediate threats to democratic institutions lie broader systemic challenges. The International Monetary Fund estimates that AI could affect 60 percent of jobs in advanced economies, while McKinsey

projects that between 75 and 345 million people may need to change jobs by 2030.

The problem is not just that big economic shocks invariably jeopardize political stability. AI could exacerbate extreme concentrations of wealth, distorting political voice and undermining equality. Add the possibility that the West loses the AI race, ceding global military and economic dominance to anti-democratic superpowers like China.

Meeting these challenges requires action on two fronts. First, sector-specific steps can help journalists, government officials, election administrators, and civil society adopt AI responsibly. Second, we need broader 'foundational interventions'—cross-cutting measures that safeguard not just individual sectors but society as a whole.

Foundational measures must cover the entire AI lifecycle, from development to deployment. This includes strong privacy protections, as well as transparency concerning the data used to train models, potential biases, how corporations and governments deploy AI, dangerous capabilities, and any real-world harm.

Limits on use are also essential, from police deploying AI for real-time facial recognition to schools and employers tracking student or worker activities (or even emotions). Liability regimes are needed when AI systems wrongly deny people jobs, loans, or government benefits. New ideas in antitrust or economic redistribution may also be required to prevent democratically unsustainable levels of inequality.

Finally, public AI infrastructure is necessary—open models, affordable computing resources, and shared databases that civil society can access to ensure that the technology's benefits are widely distributed.

While the European Union has moved quickly on regulation, federal action in the US has stalled. But state legislatures are forging ahead: 20 states have enacted privacy laws, 47 now have AI deepfake statutes, and 15 have restricted police use of facial recognition.

AI-powered bandage accelerates wound healing

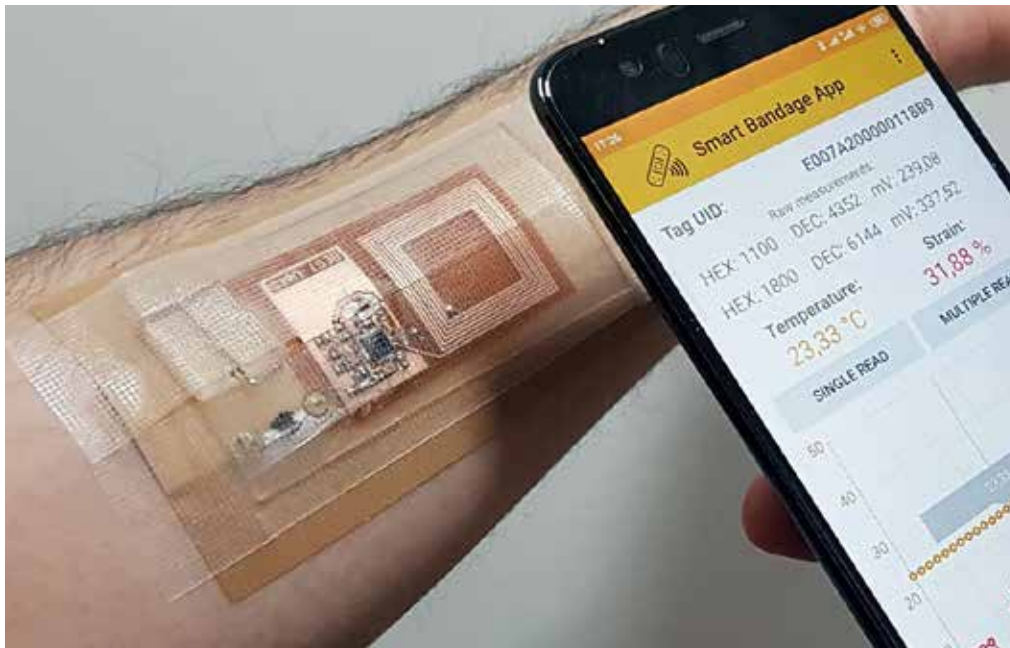
Wound healing is a natural physiological reaction in response to tissue injury. However, wound healing is not a simple phenomenon but involves a complex interplay between numerous cell types. The process of wound healing passes through four main stages that overlap—hemostasis, inflammation, proliferation, and remodeling.

Hemostasis stops the bleeding by constricting blood vessels to reduce blood flow. Platelets in the blood then aggregate to form a temporary plug, over which the protein fibrin forms a mesh to reinforce the plug and develop a blood clot and scab over the wound. During the inflammation stage, the immune system fights pathogens at the wound site and clears away damaged cells. The immune cells also promote the growth of new blood vessels in the area.

Proliferation rebuilds the tissue with new cells and blood vessels, with structural cells called fibroblasts forming the scaffold over which new blood vessels and skin cells develop. Specialized cells called myofibroblasts at the site then contract to pull the edges of the wound closer together, a process that is essential for closing larger wounds.

In the remodeling phase, the wound area is strengthened by rearranging and cross-linking tissues to form a scar. Collagen, the main structural cell in the skin is then remodeled, refined and strengthened. The complete wound healing process could take anywhere from months to years.

Researchers at the University of California now say they have designed a wearable device called 'a-Heal', which aims to optimize each stage of the wound healing process. The system uses a tiny camera, bioelectronics, and AI to detect the stage of healing and accordingly administer a treatment in the form of medication or an electric field. The system is unique in that it responds to individual healing



processes, offering a personalized treatment.

The portable, wireless device could make wound therapy more accessible to patients in remote areas or with limited mobility. Initial preclinical results show the device successfully and significantly speeds up the healing process. The integration in one device of all four stages of wound healing, also makes it a 'closed-loop system'—believed to be one of the firsts of its kind for wound healing.

The system collects all the cues from the body, and through external interventions optimizes the healing progress. First, the camera in the device takes photos of the wound every two hours, which are then fed into a machine learning (ML) model, running on a nearby computer. Continuous images from the camera allows the on-board AI to spot trends, identify the wound healing stage, monitor changes, flag

issues, and suggest treatments."

The AI physician uses the image to diagnose the wound stage and compares that to where the wound should be along a timeline of optimal wound healing. If the image reveals a lag, the ML model applies a treatment: either medicine, delivered via bioelectronics; or an electric field, which can enhance cell migration toward wound closure. The treatment topically delivered through the device is fluoxetine, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor which controls serotonin levels in the wound and improves healing by decreasing inflammation and increasing wound tissue closure. The dose is determined by the 'attending' AI physician and administered by the bioelectronic actuators on the device. An electric field optimized to improve healing is also delivered through the device.

The AI physician determines the optimal

dosage of medication to deliver and the magnitude of the applied electric field. After the therapy has been applied for a certain period of time, the camera takes another image, and the process starts again. While in use, the device also transmits images and data such as healing rate to a secure web interface, so a human physician can intervene manually and fine-tune treatment as needed. The device attaches directly to a commercially available bandage for convenient and secure use.

To assess the potential for clinical use, the researchers tested the device in preclinical wound models. In these studies, wounds treated with a-Heal were found to follow a healing trajectory about 25 percent faster than standard human care. These findings highlight the promise of the technology not only for accelerating closure of acute wounds, but also for jump-starting stalled healing in chronic wounds.

The AI model used for this system uses a reinforcement learning approach that mimics the diagnostic approach used by physicians. Reinforcement learning is a technique in which a model is designed to fulfill a specific end goal, learning through trial and error how to best achieve that goal. In this context, the model is given a goal of minimizing time to wound closure, and is rewarded for making progress toward that goal. It continually learns from the patient and adapts its treatment approach.

The reinforcement learning model is guided by an algorithm called Deep Mapper, which processes wound images to quantify the stage of healing in comparison to normal progression, mapping it along the trajectory of healing. As time passes with the device on a wound, it learns a linear dynamic model of the past healing and uses that to forecast how the healing will continue to progress. The research team is now exploring the potential for the device to improve healing of chronic and infected wounds.

Blocking pain without adverse side-effects

Physical pain is often defined as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience that arises from actual or potential tissue damage. The pain can arise from a prick, sting, bite, burn or ache, and acts as a warning signal to the nervous system that something is wrong. Pain is subjective, with the threshold for feeling it differing among individuals and a report of their pain by the person is the best measure.

While acute pain is usually short-term and resolves as an injury heals, chronic pain persists for months or years and can significantly interfere with daily life. Painkillers are often the go-to remedy sought by many people and also the one most likely to be prescribed by physicians. Pain-killers work by blocking pain signals or reducing inflammation.

Non-opioid pain-killers, including

nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) such as ibuprofen, aspirin, and paracetamol block enzymes called COX enzymes that create prostaglandins—the hormone-like substance that cause pain and inflammation. Prostaglandins are often the target of common painkillers. Opioid pain relievers work by attaching to opioid receptors in the brain and body to stop pain signals from reaching the brain and by depressing the central nervous system.

Unfortunately, long-term use of most NSAIDs carries serious risks, including damage to the lining of the stomach, increased bleeding, and issues with the heart, kidneys, and liver. The findings could hopefully help scientists to develop more selective drugs to treat pain with fewer side effects.

Researchers at New York University in the United States claim to have identified receptors in prostaglandins that cause pain but not inflammation. Inflammation and pain are usually thought to go hand in hand. But being able to block pain and allow inflammation, which promotes healing, to proceed is an important step in improved treatment of pain.

Previous thinking on pain was that it was caused by inflammation, and that treating inflammation would stop the pain. However,



inflammation, which is the immune system's response to injury or infection, can be protective, as it helps to repair and restore normal function. Inhibiting inflammation with NSAIDs may delay healing and could delay recovery from pain.

A better strategy to treat prostaglandin-mediated pain would be to selectively reduce the pain without affecting inflammation's protective actions. In their study, the researchers focused on prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), which is

considered a main mediator of inflammatory pain in the Schwann cells of the peripheral nervous system, which play an important role in migraine and other forms of pain.

PGE2 has four different receptors, of which prior studies have identified the EP4 receptor as the main receptor involved in producing inflammatory pain. However, the researchers used a more targeted approach and found that a different receptor, EP2, was largely responsible for pain. Delivering drugs locally to silence only the EP2 receptor in Schwann cells removed pain responses in mice without affecting inflammation, effectively decoupling the inflammation from the pain.

In additional studies in human and mouse Schwann cells, activating the EP2 receptor evoked a signal that sustained pain responses through a pathway independent from inflammatory responses, confirming the role of EP2 in pain but not inflammation. Silencing this receptor would thus control pain without any of the adverse effects of NSAIDs. The researchers are continuing pre-clinical studies to explore how drugs that target the EP2 receptor could be used to treat chronic pain in conditions like arthritis that would usually be treated with NSAIDs.





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