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Comedy, Oscar moments & Music: (L) Stand-up comedian Vijai Nathan performs at the Raksha fundraiser, Ek Shaam Raksha Ke Naam. (Middle) Fox 5's Suchita Vadlamani and stand-up comedian Tushar Singh were the hosts at the 'Oscar inspired' GIACC annual gala. (R) Indian pop star and playback singer Kailash Kher performs at the Variety Playhouse. All related stories in the City News pages.

## Manmohan Singh's Visit Historic: US

A week after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was accorded a red carpet welcome in the US, the Obama administration has termed his visit as "historic" and said both the countries had some "specific accomplishments."

"It was really an historic visit, that we had some specific accomplishments," the State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters.

"I think we achieved some important agreements, and we signed several agreements right here at the State Department," Kelly said when asked about the visit of the Indian Prime Minister, during which several Memorandum of Understandings were signed. But according to experts, it lacked the big news item like the nuclear deal announced during the Prime Minister's State Visit during the Bush Administration in 2005.

"I think the main thing was it underscored the growing importance of our relationship of the United States with the world's largest democracy, of a country that is growing in importance not only regionally, but globally," Kelly said.

## Wipro Hiring In Atlanta

Applying Thought

Bangalore: (IANS) Global software major Wipro Technologies is expanding its US operations and will hire about 1,000 people,

including more locals, at its Atlanta development facility, the IT bellwether said recently.

"We are expanding our US operations to scale up our headcount to about 1,000 from 350 presently at our Atlanta centre," the company said in a statement here.

"About 80 percent of them are locals and includes graduates from leading academic institutions in Atlanta," it added.

"The local employees will support our North American clients in diverse verticals such as healthcare, manufacturing, telecom, utilities, retail and financial services," Wipro chief global delivery officer Sambuddha Deb said in the statement.

Lauding Wipro for investing in the Georgia

state capital, Metro Atlanta Chamber vice-president Jorge Fernandez said the trade body's goal was not to just attract global firms, but also ensure that they thrive and grow in the US market.

"Wipro's success signifies more high-tech jobs to metro Atlanta and continues to build our reach into India," Fernandez said.

Atlanta Development Authority director Charles Whatley said Atlanta has emerged as the prime location for global firms like Wipro to

set up their US headquarters.

"Wipro is finding attractive talent and our market is welcoming its services," Whatley added



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