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Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE. 501(C)3. The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Eight-state of NY-NJ-CT-NE



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FIA, Indian-American Community Congratulate Anil Bansal on Being Named 'THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022'

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Jaipur Foot USA, FIA Organize Free Artificial Limb Fitment Camps in India



FIA Delegation Attends 17th PBD Convention Held in India as Special Invitees

The Federation of Indian Associations' (FIA) executive board members attended the prestigious three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2023 award ceremony-cum convention held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Chairman Ankur Vaidya, President Kenny Desai, Vice President Smita Miki Patel, Joint Secretary Mahesh Dubal, Committee Member Alok Kumar and Immediate Past President Anil Bansal, among others, were the FIA delegation from the Indian-American community diaspora in the US.

The 17th edition of PBD under the theme of "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal" - was inaugurated on January 8 and concluded

on January 10, 2023. It was organized to recognize and award the extraordinary community service champions from various spheres of life distributed over various countries worldwide.

The FIA members was one of the various special invitees to the 17th edition of PBD as the 16th edition was held online due to the global pandemic (COVID-19) on January 9, 2021. The FIA Board of Trustee was conferred with PBD 2021 in recognition of various community services delivered, be it reaching out to help the people on distress during the coronavirus pandemic or sending medical cargo worth over \$55 million to India to help the motherland India effectively fight the pandemic.



FIA team greets PM Modi in Indore



FIA was conferred with PBD 2021 in recognition of various community services



PBD History:

Going back in time, the first edition of PBD was organized on January 9, 2003 to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in

1915. And accordingly 1st PBD was organized to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. And it was the year marked to convene the PBD convention annually.

However, since 2015, under a revised format, PBD Convention has been organised once every 2 years.

The 16th edition of PBD, wherein FIA under the visionary president Bansal Patel was

conferred with the prestigious recognition, was conducted in a virtual setting with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".



President of India Droupadi Murmu, PM of India Narendra Modi, Minister of External Affairs of India S. Jaishankar, CM of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressing the gathering at PBD



Executive members of the Federation of Indian Associations NYNJCTNE, along with other guests at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas award ceremony



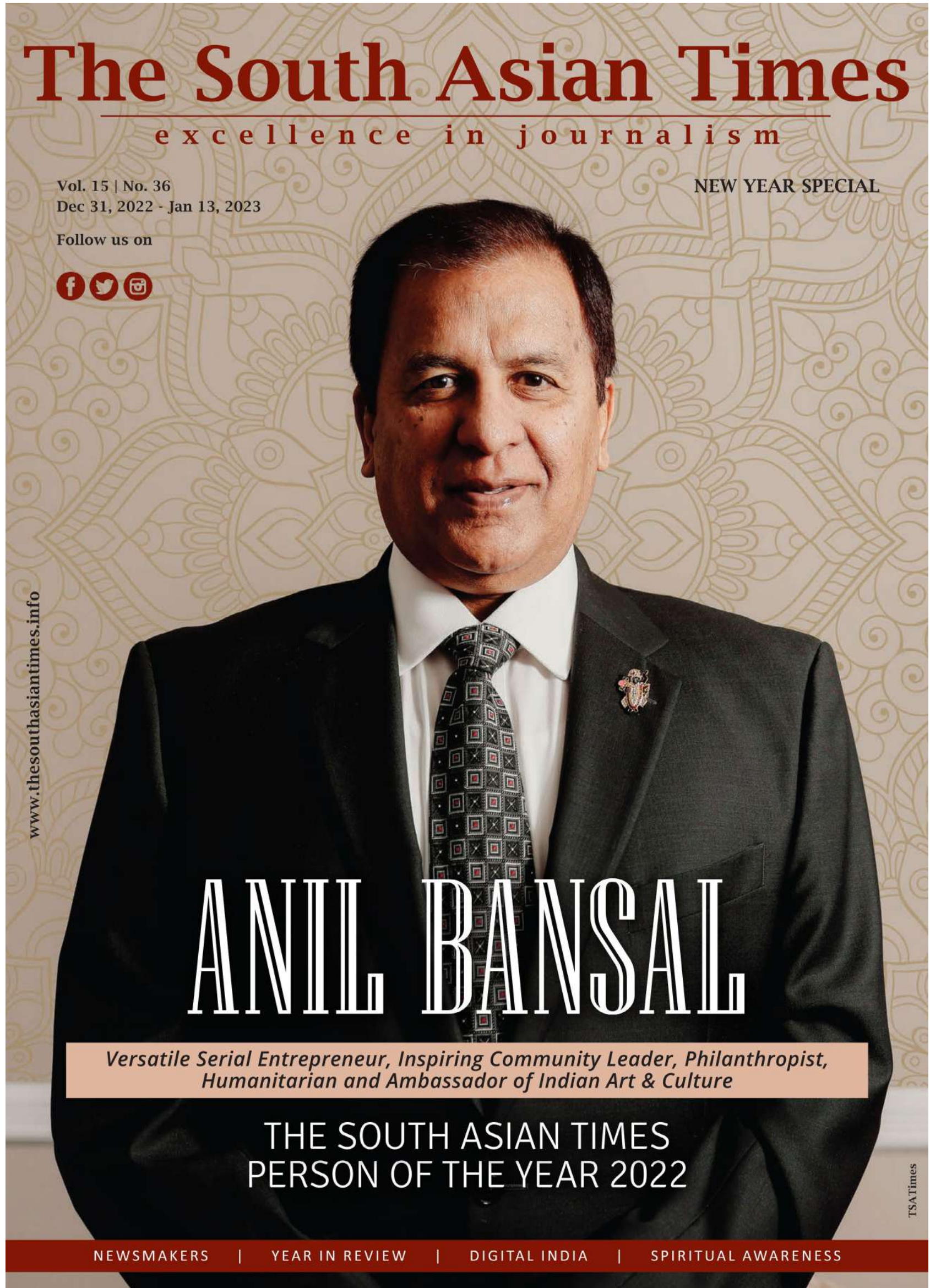
FIA committee members with Minister of State for External Affairs of India V. Muraleedharan at the PBD event



FIA committee members with CM of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the PBD event

FIA committee members with Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, Muraleedharan at the PBD event

FIA, Indian-American Community Congratulate Anil Bansal on Being Named 'THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022'






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ANIL BANSAL

Versatile Serial Entrepreneur, Inspiring Community Leader, Philanthropist, Humanitarian and Ambassador of Indian Art & Culture

**THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES
PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022**

TSA Times

NEWSMAKERS | YEAR IN REVIEW | DIGITAL INDIA | SPIRITUAL AWARENESS



FIA committee members congratulate Anil Bansal on being named South Asian Times Person of the Year

Anil Bansal, immediate past president of FIA and chairman of the Indian American Arts Council, has been bestowed the South Asian Times Person of the Year award, and to honor and felicitate him, a function was held at the Indian Consulate in New York on January 21, 2023.

Present at the occasion were the Consul General of India, Randhir Jaiswal, DCG Varun Jeph, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, Kamlesh Mehta of the South Asian Times, and other leading members of the Indian American

Community.

CG Randhir Jaiswal said that it's truly his delight that such an important member of the community has been honored. He further went on to state that he himself has witnessed the contributions made by Mr. Anil Bansal to the community. His efforts make the community and the country proud.

Anil Bansal said that he is truly honored to get the award, and it means a lot to him and his family. He fondly remembered the days when he started his journey from IIT Kharagpur. He said that one of the lessons, amongst others

that he has learnt in life is to give back and his wife Kumud Bansal supports him wholeheartedly in his commitment to give back to the society at large. He thanked the organisations with which he has been associated over the years, mainly FIA, AICC, IACC, and the Wayne Rotary Club.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya in his speech thanked South Asian Times who have been doing a selfless and a commendable job in recognizing distinguished community leaders for their exceptional services to the community. He said that he has had the privilege to work closely

with Mr. Anil Bansal who is a leader in the true sense and spearheaded FIA's efforts as its President during the trying times of Covid lockdown.

Also present at the event were Chintu Patel of Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Chairman of the Bihar Foundation Alok Kumar, FIA's Exec. Vice President Dr. Avinash Gupta, Vice President Saurin Parikh, Jt. Vice President Smita Miki Patel, General Secretary Nishi Dhama, Past President Andy Bhatia, and other members of the diaspora.



Anil Bansal addressing the gathering at the event



CG Randhir Jaiswal recognizing Anil Bansal on winning the South Asian Times Person of the Year



FIA chairman Ankur Vaidya addressing the crowd at the event



Anil Bansal named "THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022"

JaipurFoot USA, FIA Organize Multi City Free Artificial Limb Fitment Camps in India

FIA in association with Jaipur Foot USA organized two Artificial Limb Fitment camps at Hyderabad and Tirupati on 11 and 13 Jan 2023. The camps were part of the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav marking 75 years of India's Freedom. The Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra and Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale inaugurated the Artificial Limb Fitment camp in Hyderabad (Telangana, India) on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Also present at the occasion were Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari, FIA President Kenny Desai, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, FIA Jt. Treasurer Mahesh Dubal and Bihar Foundation Chairman and coordinator for the event Alok Kumar.

Taking its philanthropic commitment to ensure physical, economic and social rehabilitation of the disabled JaipurFoot USA, in association with the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), has

organized Artificial Limb Fitment camps in Hyderabad and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh, India). The fitment camps saw over 200 beneficiaries registered through the online mode and many more reaching the camps directly for spot registration.

Minister Ramdas Athawale lauded the efforts of Both Jaipur Foot and FIA for organizing the camps in which over 1000 artificial limbs will be provided to the needy. This he said supports the vision of the Central Government which is committed to empowering the disabled.

Speaking at the occasion Prem Bhandari said the parent organization BMVSS has conducted camps all over the globe and over 2 million people have benefitted from it – and the number continues to grow.

Mr. Ankur Vaidya said that the aim is to provide over 1075 artificial limbs free of cost and it is a duty of every overseas Indian to help and support such ventures as much as possible.

Echoing the conscious effort

and hard work put in place by JaipurFoot USA and FIA, Athawale said, "There are about 2 crores 60 lakh disabled people in the country. They are working hard to help all of them on behalf of their government."

The two-city fitment camps saw their inauguration at Hyderabad where it will be held for a day. However, the Tirupati camp will run for 10 days providing artificial limbs to as many people as reach while the camp is on.

JaipurFoot USA is a subsidiary of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) which is working an undivided approach to provide prosthetics or artificial limbs, calipers and other physical aids and appliances, free of charge, to as many disabled people as possible through its centers, outreach programs and rehabilitation camps, both in India and abroad.

Since its inception in 1975, JaipurFoot has successfully helped over 2 million (2006,150) people with artificial limbs,

calipers, crutches, sticks, splints, braces, tricycles/wheelchairs, supplying hearing aids and financial as well as operational help in surgeries.

The founders of JaipurFoot USA Prem Bhandari along with Festivals of Joy Founder Suma Kanakala, Avinash Roy and well-known producer Abhishek Aggarwal were present as guests and explained the support provided by their organizations to the disabled. During the event, Prem Bhandari handed over financial assistance to a child who had lost one of his arms for transportation expenses to get an artificial limb.

The fitment camp was also supported by People's Media Factory, People's Tech, Festivals of Joy under the leadership of the People Tech organization.

Speaking on the occasion, People Tech Organization head Vishwaprasad thanked the Minister of State Ramdas Athawale, JaipurFoot USA, representative of FIA.



Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari addressing the gathering at the JaipurFoot camp



FIA chairman Ankur Vaidya addressing the gathering at the JaipurFoot camp



FIA President Kenny Desai and Minister Ramdas Athawale honored Prem Bhandari at the JaipurFoot camp

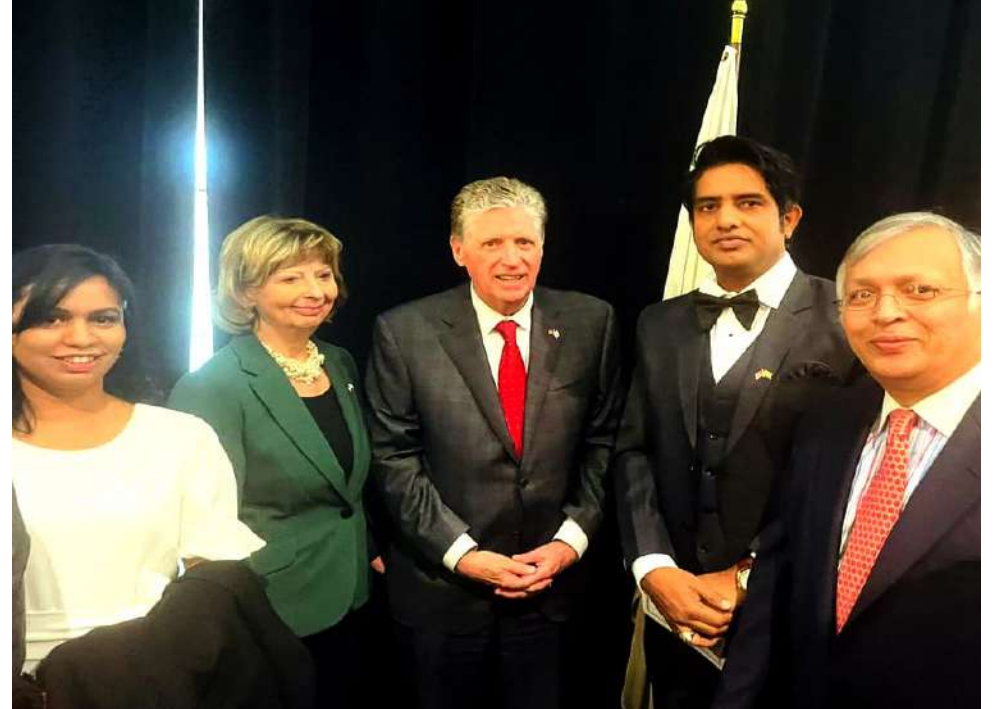


FIA executive member and Chairman of Bihar Foundation Alok Kumar addressing the gathering at the JaipurFoot camp



Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale addressing the gathering at the JaipurFoot camp

FIA Gets Invited to Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee's Swearing-in Ceremony



India to Deploy Women Peacekeepers' Platoon in Sudan

As a part of the Indian Battalion in the UN Interim Security Force, India is about to send a battalion of women peacekeepers into Sudan's Abyei region.

This will be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007, stated the Permanent Mission of India to the UN press release.

In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia provided 24-hour guard duty, conducted night patrols in the capital Monrovia, and helped to build the capacity of the

Liberian police.

The Indian contingent, comprising two officers and 25 Other Ranks, will form part of an Engagement platoon and specialize in Community outreach, though they will be performing extensive security-related tasks

as well, added the release.

Their presence will be particularly appreciated in Abyei, where recent violence has given rise to a number of difficult humanitarian issues for women and children living in the conflict zone.

The deployment in Abyei will also herald India's intent of increasing significantly the number of Indian women in Peacekeeping contingents, added the release.

Women Peacekeepers are highly regarded in Peacekeeping Missions throughout the world for their ability to reach out and connect with women and children in local populations, especially victims of sexual violence in conflict zones, read the release.

Our teams in the Congo and South Sudan have also done sterling work in mainstreaming women and children into Community and Social developmental projects at the grassroots level, the release said.



PC: NDTV

Pravasi Bharatiyas are India's Brand Ambassadors: Narendra Modi

During the inaugural speech of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Modi said that apart from knowledge of the country's culture and spirituality, Indians living abroad should also be armed with facts on India's growth story.

"I consider you all, pravasi bharatiya, the brand ambassadors of India on foreign soil," Modi said, drawing loud cheers of "Bharat Mata ki jai" from the assembled gathering made up of delegates from across the world. He said that India has made rapid progress in the last few years, and this has piqued the interest of people in many parts of the world.

"G20 is not just a diplomatic event but

it should be turned into a historic event of public participation where one can witness the sentiment of Atithi Devo Bhava," he said.

India's "voice and message" on the global stage has a distinct significance, he said. "India's

strength will grow further in the days to come. And so will the curiosity about India. And that is why the responsibility of the Indians living overseas also grows manifold. The more you know about India, the more you will be able to tell others," he said.

Ali praised Modi's leadership during the pandemic, saying that while the world shut its borders, India stepped up. "You (Modi) showed the world what real love and hope is when you shared vaccines with the world," Ali said, adding that policies should

be tailored to make the diaspora integral, instead of incidental, to a nation's progress.

Shivraj Singh Couhan also praised Modi saying "If there is anyone who can tell the west and Russia that we need peace not war, then it is Modi. During the Ukraine crisis, our students came out holding the Tricolour, both Russian and Ukrainian troops gave them way," he said.



PC: indianexpress

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Attracts the Largest Indian Expat Delegation from the UAE

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), has attracted more than 800 Indian expats from the UAE, including about 200 students and 100 blue-collar employees.

Jitendra Vaidya, the UAE president of the community group Indian People's Forum (IPF), said the UAE team

witnessed an incredible welcome by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. "The reception he hosted was magnificent and memorable and our presence as the largest delegation was appreciated. Around 650 of us came on three flights. Others came separately."



PC: @cgidubai

CGI-New York, FIA Organize Meet and Greet with India Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

The Consulate General of India, in association with FIA, organized a meet and greet with the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry on the eve Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023.

CG Randhir Jaiswal, DCG Varun Jeph, Mayor of Edison Sam Joshi, Mayor of East Windsor NJ Hemant Mahatre, Chairman of Sikhs for America Jassi Singh, FIA Vice President Saurin Parikh, FIA Secretary Nishi Dhami and other guests and dignitaries were present for the occasion.

Randhir Jaiswal introduced Piyush Goyal to the applauding

throng, describing it as a memorable day and praising Indian-Americans as important role models in the relationship between the United States and India. He said that he has no doubts whatsoever that the Indian American community will always be supportive of the vision that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has for India.

Addressing the event, Piyush Goyal said that the contribution of the Indian Diaspora is well recognized and appreciated back home, and they are looked upon as ambassadors of India who keep the Indian flag flying high. It

is an honor for him to meet and interact with the Indian Diaspora, he further added.

He further urged the American Indian community to take advantage of the significant opportunities in India, which has a sizable consumable market and talented and competent young people who continue to shape and mould it.

Towards the end, FIA secretary Nishi Dhami, on behalf of the Indian community and FIA, thanked the minister for taking out time from his extremely busy schedule to meet the diaspora and for sharing

the Indian Government's vision and initiatives for the overseas community. She also thanked Consul General Randhir Jaiswal for organizing the event and Mayor Hemant Mahatre for gracing the event with his presence.

Minister Piyush Goyal was felicitated by Jassi Singh, Chairman of Sikhs for America and Center for Social Change, as an expression of appreciation for the unprecedented achievements of Prime Minister Modi, particularly the Veer Baal Divas commemorating the sacrifices of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji.



Executive members of FIA at the meet and greet with Piyush Goyal



US Proposes Significant Increase in Visa Category Fees

The US government has proposed a substantial increase in the fees for immigration and naturalisation benefits, with the greatest increase for employment-based categories commonly used by Indians, such as H-1B temporary work visas and intra-company transfers.

The rates were last changed in 2016, but they are open to challenge for the next 60 days, after which they will be notified.

The fee for pre-registration for H-1B visas is proposed to go up by a massive 2,050 per cent (from \$10 to \$215), 70 per cent (from \$460 to \$780) for H-1 category that includes H-1B; 201 per cent

(from \$460 to \$1,385) for L visa for intra-company transfers to the US; and 129 per cent for O category for workers with extraordinary skills.

"A comprehensive review determined that the agency's current fees, which have remained unchanged since 2016, fall far short of recovering the full cost

of agency operations," said in an official statement. If the proposed hikes are notified, the income from visas will increase from \$3.28 billion in 2022-2023 to \$5.2 billion. The present fee, said the DHS, covers only a small portion of the actual expenses incurred in grant of visas.

Kevin McCarthy Wins House Speakership After 15 Rounds of Voting

Kevin McCarthy has been elected Speaker of the US House of Representatives after heated exchanges, which almost saw fellow Republicans come to blows.

Even though McCarthy's party held a majority in the chamber, it took 15 rounds of voting for him to be elected.

Speaking after his

confirmation, McCarthy wrote on Twitter: "I hope one thing is clear after this week: I will never give up. And I will never give up for you, the American people."

McCarthy told reporters that former President Trump had helped him get the final votes: "I don't think anybody should doubt his influence".

"He was with me from the beginning... he would call me and

he would call others," he said.

US President Joe Biden congratulated McCarthy for his win and said he looked forward to cooperating with the Republican Party.

"The American people expect their leaders to govern in a way that puts their needs above all else, and that is what we need to do now," he said.

McCarthy has made a number

of concessions to the rebels, including a seat on the powerful rules committee that determines how legislation is discussed in the chamber. He also agreed to lower the threshold for triggering a vote on whether to unseat the Speaker, to only one House member, leading to the possibility that the Republican coalition could easily fracture again even after McCarthy's victory.

Indian American Doctor gets Appointed to Board of Health in Ocean County NJ

Dr. Avinash Gupta, an Indian American doctor, was appointed a member of the Ocean County Board of Health at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Ocean County in New Jersey on January 18, 2023.

Dr. Avinash Gupta, board certified in cardiology, nuclear cardiology, and clinical lipidology, has been in practice for over 28 years in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Dr. Gupta is very active in community service and has served as president of the

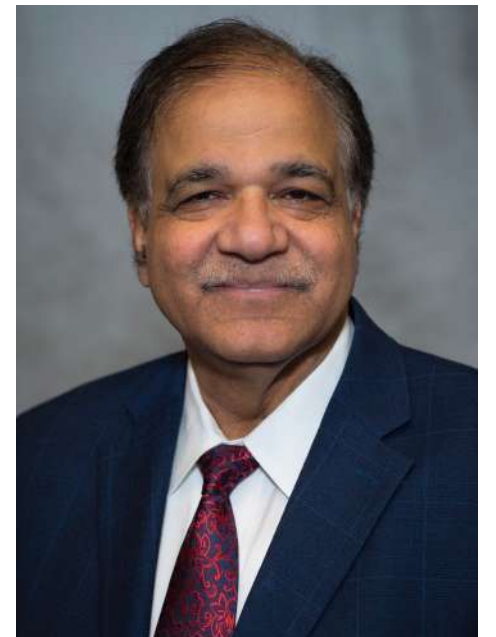
Monmouth Ocean County Association of Physicians from India (MOCAAPI) and the Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA).

He also holds the prestigious titles of Chief of Cardiology at Monmouth Medical Center and President of the Medical Staff at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus.

He is chairman of the Shree Siddhivinayak Temple of the USA and the Indian Cultural & Community Center in Toms River, and was recently elected as Executive Vice President of FIA.

He is looking forward to promoting public health in Ocean County. He has been married to his wife, Dr. Geeta Gupta, for over 35 years. They have one son, Abhinav, who is currently in his surgical residency.

Dr. Gupta has made numerous contributions to healthcare, including initiatives both in the local area and in India to promote vaccinations against COVID-19. He was recognized as an honoree at the MMCS Humanitarian Gala in October last year.



Tata Sons, New York Academy of Sciences Launch India Science Award

Tata Sons and the New York Academy of Sciences NYAS have announced the creation of the Tata Transformation Prize to recognize and support scientists in India, who are developing innovative technological solutions to critical societal challenges.

Three Indian scientists will receive the award each year for

their contributions to the fields of food security, sustainability, and healthcare. Each prize winner will also receive ₹ 2 crores in addition to being recognised at a ceremony in India in December.

According to NYAS, the awards will prioritize innovations that re-imagine traditional practices and business models, with a focus on digital and technological transformation; improve public

trust in science; and promote an open and connected world.

"This prize will accelerate breakthrough innovations by the Indian scientific community," said Tata Sons Chair Natarajan Chandrasekaran. "We hope this prize will help bring the transformational work of Indian scientists to light, reward them appropriately, and encourage them in taking solutions to

market."

"Pathbreaking research takes place in India, resulting in important advances in science around the world," said NYAS President Nicholas Dirks. "This prize is focused not only on science, but on innovative discoveries that put science to work for the betterment of society..."



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THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Farewell To 'The King' Pele

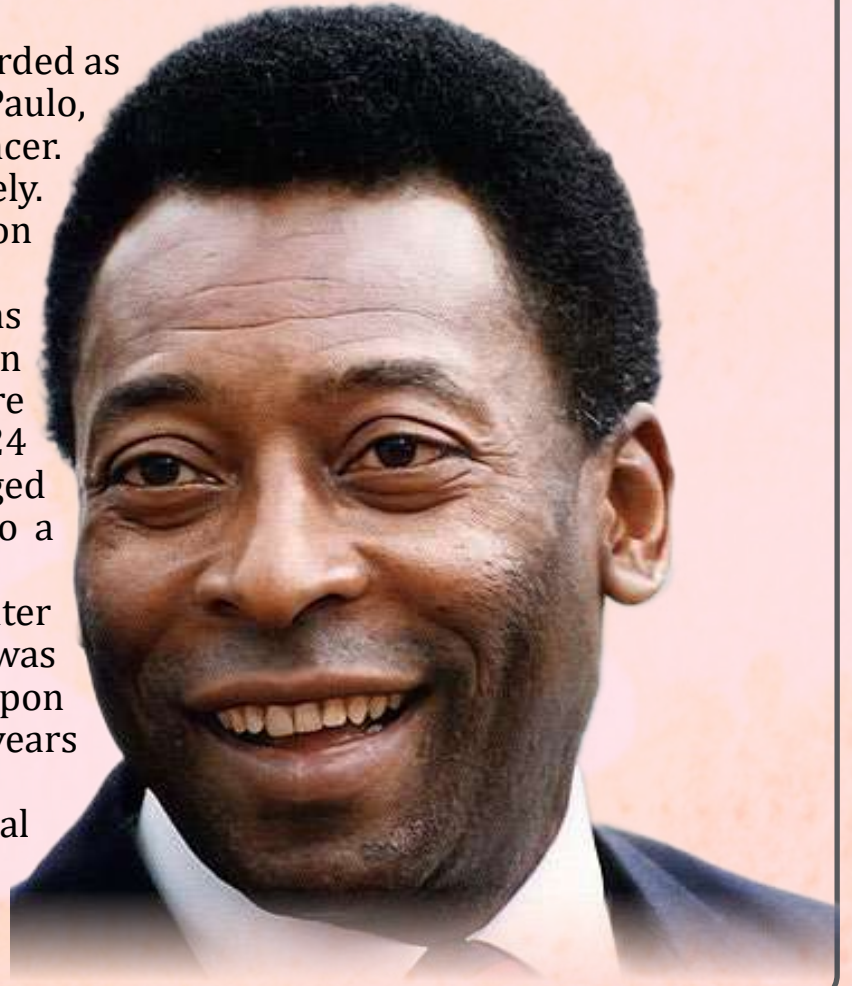
Pelé, a three-time World Cup champion and largely regarded as the best player ever, passed away on December 29 in So Paulo, Brazil, at the age of 82 following a protracted battle with cancer.

"Everything we are is thanks to you. We love you infinitely. Rest in peace," Pele's daughter Kely Nascimento wrote on Instagram.

On January 3, thousands of mourners lined the streets as the football legend was laid to rest in Santos, the hometown of his former club. Pele had been lying in state in the centre of the pitch at the club's Urbano Caldeira stadium for 24 hours, allowing fans to pay their respects. People thronged the streets as his casket was carried on a fire engine to a private family funeral.

Pele's signature tricks and lightning-fast speed helped alter the game and improve football's global popularity. Pele was hailed as "The King" wherever he went, a title bestowed upon him by dramatist Nelson Rodrigues when he was only 17 years old.

He was a global sporting legend as well as a national hero in his own Brazil. Off the field, he worked diligently to improve the lives of society's most underprivileged citizens.



India to Focus on Health Emergency Prevention, During G20 Presidency : Mandaviya

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on January 5 said that India is going to focus on health emergencies prevention, preparedness, and response through a 'One Health' approach and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance during its G20 Presidency.

The first Health Working Group (HWG) conference will be conducted in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, from January 18 to 20. The second HWG meeting will be held in Goa from April 17 to 19, the third in Hyderabad from June 4-6, and the fourth HWG meeting and G20 Health Ministerial Meeting will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from August 17 to 19.

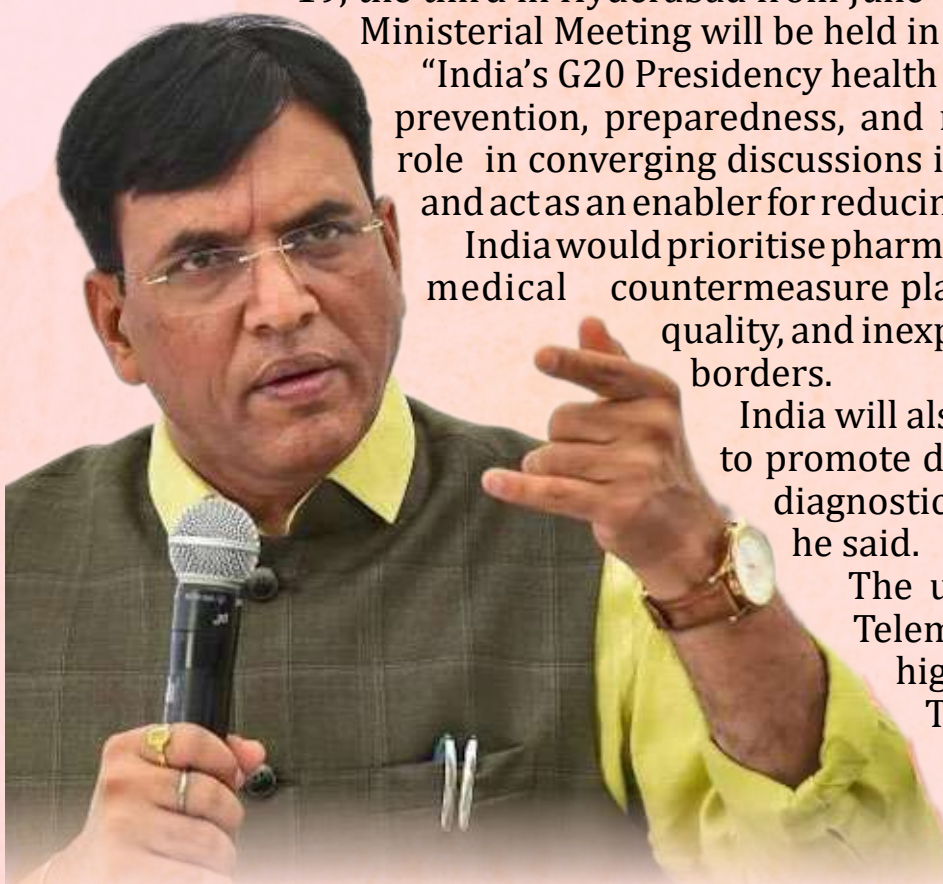
"India's G20 Presidency health priorities will be focussed on health emergencies prevention, preparedness, and response. The country will aim to play a major role in converging discussions in multiple forums for Global Health Architecture and act as an enabler for reducing fragmentation and duplication", said Mandaviya.

India would prioritise pharmaceutical cooperation by establishing a permanent medical countermeasure platform and enabling the availability of safe, high-quality, and inexpensive diagnostic vaccines and treatments across borders.

India will also focus during the G20 Presidency on the agenda to promote distributed manufacturing of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics globally to manage future health emergencies, he said.

The use of Digital Health solutions such as Co-WIN, Telemedicine and the COVID-19 India platform highlighted the advantages of data-driven insights.

The use of technology for accessibility, ease of availability, and affordability in health service delivery will be the main agenda of Digital Health during the presidency.



NEWSMAKERS

3 Indian-Americans Take Oath as County Judges in Texas

Three Indian-American Democrats have taken oath as Fort Bend County Judges in the United States.

Juli A Mathew, KP George, and Surendran K Pattel were sworn in as Fort Bend County judges, along with other newly elected and re-elected officials.

Juli A Mathew, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to a judge's bench in the US four years ago, was re-elected for a second term.

Mathew, was sworn in via videoconferencing and will continue to serve as presiding judge for a period of four years. In a Facebook post after winning the

election, she wrote, "Thank you! I am truly grateful to have been selected to serve the citizens of Fort Bend County for one more



term. I'm grateful for every supporter, prayer warrior, and voter during this

journey."

George, the first Indian-American to hold an office in Fort Bend County, won a second term as the county's



judge in a narrow race in the November elections.

George said he hopes



Photo: siasa

it stays that way now that he's been granted another four years as the chief executive for one of the most diverse and fastest-growing counties in the country. He said that community engagement will be the top priority for his administration.

In addition, the county welcomed District Court Judge Pattel, who won the 240th Judicial District election in November by defeating Republican Edward M. Krennek.

He has been a Texas attorney since 2009, but before that he practised law in India, where he graduated from the University of Calicut with a law degree in 1995.

Moh Sharma In-House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries' Team

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Photo: indicanews

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Indian-Origin Women Becomes First Female Sikh Judge in US

Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as the first female Sikh judge in the United States.

Singh grew up in Houston and currently resides in Bellaire with her husband and two children.

On January 6, she was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas.

"It means a lot to me because I represent H-town the most, so for it to be us, I'm happy for it," she said at the oath ceremony.

Indian-American Judge Ravi Sandill, the state's first South Asian judge, presided over the ceremony, which took place in a packed courtroom.

"It's a really big moment for the Sikh community," Sandill said.

"When they see someone of color, someone a little different, they know that



possibility is available to them. Manpreet is not only an ambassador for Sikhs, but she's an ambassador for all women of colour," he

said.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said: "It was a proud day for the Sikh Community, but

also a proud day for all people of Colour who see the Diversity of the City of Houston in the Diversity of the Court."

NASA Appoints Indian-American as Chief Technologist

AC Charania, a veteran of the aerospace industry, has been named NASA's new chief technologist and will serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson at the space agency's headquarters. He joined the space agency in his new role on January 3.

In his position, Mr Charania will align NASA's agencywide technology investments with mission needs across six mission directorates and oversee technology collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and external stakeholders, NASA said in a statement.

He succeeds Bhavya Lal,

another Indian-American scientist who served as acting chief technologist previous to the former's appointment.

"Technology plays a vital role in every NASA mission. Making sure that we're pursuing the best policy objectives allows

this agency to continue to serve as a global leader in innovation," Bhavya Lal, NASA associate administrator for technology, policy, and strategy, was quoted as saying in the statement.



"Charania is an experienced leader in managing large, rapidly shifting technology portfolios. I am eager for him to apply his knowledge and enthusiasm at NASA," Lal said.

"The rate of advancement we seek in the 21st century is dependent upon selecting and maturing a portfolio of technologies into systems to execute our missions," Charania said.

"With this in mind, there are incredible opportunities in partnerships within and outside of NASA. I now look forward to the opportunity to work with the entire community to increase the rate of space and aviation progress," he added.

Indian-American Usha Reddi Elected to the US Senate

Indian-American Democratic Party politician Usha Reddi has been sworn in as State Senator for District 22 in Kansas state of the US, the media reported.

Reddi, a known community leader, replaced longtime Manhattan Senator Tom Hawk, who last month

announced retirement from the Legislature, KSN TV reported.

"I was sworn in this afternoon as State Senator for District 22. It was great to have my family join me today," she tweeted.

"It's been a very exciting night. I'm thrilled to represent Senate District 22," said Reddi.

Thanking outgoing

Senator Hawk for his dedicated service, Reddi said he led with "sincere love for community and built strong relationships along the way". "Senator Tom Hawk is an outstanding leader, and I'm sure I'll be reaching out to him many times," she said.



Photo: timesnownews

JPMorgan Names Anu Aiyengar Head of Global M&A

JPMorgan Chase & Co. named Anu Aiyengar as the sole head of its global mergers and acquisitions (M&A) franchise after co-head Dirk Albersmeier stepped down from the role, cementing her status as the only female executive leading the franchise at a major Wall Street bank.

The move was announced in an internal memo sent out by JPMorgan's two global co-heads of investment banking, James Casey and Viswas Raghavan. The



Photo: timesnownews

contents of the memo were confirmed by a JPMorgan spokeswoman.

Albersmeier will take on a new "wholly client and transaction-focused role" within JPMorgan, according

to the memo.

"Going forward, Anu will be the sole head of our global M&A business and Dirk will focus exclusively on providing our clients with first-class M&A advice and continuing to mentor the next generation of M&A leaders," the memo said.

Since she was appointed to the position alongside Albersmeier in 2020, Aiyengar, a JPMorgan veteran of more than 20 years, has led the bank's M&A franchise.

Community News

Brown University Physics Chair Meenakshi Narain Passes Away at 58

Meenakshi Narain, a renowned physicist and the chair of physics at Brown University, passed away on January 1, 2023. INDIA New England News named her one of the outstanding women of 2018. She was 58 years old.

The news was first posted by Fermilab. The chair of the physics department at Brown University, she was a member of the CMS Collaboration for many years and previously had been part of the D0 Collaboration at Fermilab, according to the post.

Prof. Narain was an experimental high energy physicist. She worked with particle accelerators, with the CMS experiment, one of two large general-purpose particle physics detectors built on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland, to study the interactions of matter at a fraction of a second after the big bang.



Photo: indianewengland

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Memoirs of a Geisha

(2005/ Period Drama/ Netflix)

A PERIOD DRAMA WITH MYSTIQUE, BEAUTY AND A CAPTIVATING STORY!

Based on Book by Arthur Golden
Adapted by Robin Swicord
Writer & Director Rob Marshall
Cast Zhang Ziyi, Gong Li, Michelle Yeoh, Ken Watanabe, Suzuka Ohgo, Koji Yakusho, Youki Kudoh, Kaori Momoi



Photo: Memoirs of a Geisha

The film opens to the alluring, melancholic, and deeply reflective voice of a woman who tells her life story, the story of a Geisha.

A Geisha, not a prostitute but an artist trained in the arts of dance, music and conversations, etiquette and finesse.

"We sell our art, not our bodies" little Chiyo is told.

And the little girl, throughout her childhood full of stumbles and falls, aspires to be a Geisha, for a very cherished reason.

But these artists are not at liberty to choose their patrons or dream and most importantly love.

Right from the first frame, we are treated to stunning visuals and get transported back to the early nineteenth century where a young 9-year-old, sold

by her parents reeling under abject poverty and illness, lands up in an Okiyo, a lodging house that houses a geisha and her destiny.

The film painstakingly creates that era and gives a peep into the Geisha culture and their world.

I do not know how authentic it was considering some of the reviews by the Japanese community, but I must say I found it mesmerising and quite similar to the Tawaif culture in India in ancient times. Many times I found similarities with the classic gem "Umrao Jaan" though I personally felt Umrao Jaan had a much higher searing intensity thanks to a mesmerising Rekha and superlative film making by Muzaffar Ali.

Chiyo's story and how

she deals with life, heartbreaks, rivalries, terrible lows and lofty highs, heart wrenching circumstances to bright turns of fate, hopeless ones to triumphant ones, is engrossing and captivating.

The mystique of that culture and the charm of that era has been enhanced by the splendid cinematography, art direction and the costume details. The film deservedly won academy awards in all three departments. The music is beautiful, melodious and enraptures you in that world.

Suzuka as the young Chiyo pulls at your heart strings.

Zhang Ziyi enlivens the older Chiyo, her beauty, innocence, earnestness, helplessness, longing and pain. Her performance makes a strong connection between you

and her character.

And it wasn't just the people around her who found those eyes, like water, so special.

I found most of the actors in pivotal roles very good.

Her transformation and training, the twists and turns of her life are intriguing and keep you invested and engrossed. As you walk through her story, you feel emotionally connected.

It is a captivating story of a woman who rose to become one of the most coveted Geishas of her times. It is not a real story but has inferences from the life of Mineko Iwasaki, Japan's most famous Geisha.

This visually enchanting and beautifully regal film is a must watch for those who love period dramas. Watch it for its story, music, visuals and performances.



Photo: Memoirs of a Geisha

LeVar Burton to Host Children's Podcast 'Sound Detectives'

With the launch of the *Sound Detectives* podcast on SiriusXM's Stitcher this spring, LeVar Burton is returning to the world of children's entertainment.

Sound Detectives, created by Burton in collaboration with Julia Smith and Joanna Sokolowski, begins with the idea that sounds are going missing in the globe, and the culprit appears to be the so-called Sound Swindler. Detective Hunch and Audie the Ear

will lead kids on a narrative adventure that will engage their listening abilities as they compare and contrast sounds



Photo: king5

in order to solve the crime. Each episode will also take place in a different part of the world, displaying various cultures as young listeners strive to figure out what a sound is and where it is coming from.'

Speaking at the Consumer Electronics Show, Burton said that as a military kid growing up overseas, he often relied on the radio for entertainment when living in locations without English-language TV. "That is where I discovered that theater of the mind, listening to a story unfold and connecting to it pure-

ly in my imagination based on what I was hearing. It's a really different experience," Burton said. "I loved the opportunity to be able to tap into that aspect of ourselves, the aural nature of the human being and what it can bring to us in our lives."

"It's really about satiating the curiosity of kids, giving them an opportunity to use a different part of their brains and different skill sets than we normally use in a very visually dominated world," Burton said.

Cate Blanchett's *Tár* Wins Best Film at National Society of Film Critics

Todd Field's *Tár* earned Best Film at the newly announced National Society of Film Critics Awards, completing a rare hat-trick of wins this awards season from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the New York Film Critics Circle, where it also won Best Film. Aside from that, Cate Blanchett and Ke Huy Quan won best lead actress and supporting actor, respectively, from these three award bodies.

These critics circle honours, held prior to the

Academy Awards, play a significant influence in

establishing the frontrunners in some of the main categories. *Tár*, directed by Todd Field, extended its excellent run at the critics circle awards, winning Best Film at all three major critics awards: National Society of Film Critics, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, and New York Film Critics Circle. It also won Best Screenplay for Todd Field, while star Cate Blanchett received the Lead Actress Award and Nina Hoss came in second place in the Supporting Actress category.



Photo: slate

Marvel Announces Documentary on Stan Lee

A documentary about Stan Lee's life and work will be released this year, Marvel revealed with a short teaser on the late icon's 100th birthday. The documentary will be released

on *Disney+ Hotstar*.

The announcement was made on Marvel's Instagram and Twitter pages, where a brief teaser titled Stan Lee was shared.



'RRR' Wins Best Song at Golden Globes

Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR won the Golden Globe Award 2023 in Best Original Song category. The song was written by Kala Bhairavi and Rahul Sipligunj and was composed by MM Keeravaani, a veteran music director.

RRR has created history becoming the first Indian film to win a Golden Globe.

The original song nominees were "Carolina," from "Where the Crawdads Sing," music by Taylor Swift; "Ciao Papa," from "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio," music by Alexandre Desplat; "Hold My Hand," from "Top Gun: Maverick," music by Lady Gaga, BloodPop, Benjamin Rice" and "Lift Me Up," from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler, Ludwig Göransson.



Golden Globe Awards
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The winner for Best Song - Motion Picture is @mmkeeravaani for their song "Naatu Naatu" featured in @RRRMovie! Congratulations! 🎬 ✨ 🎵 #GoldenGlobes



Help Remove 'Boycott Bollywood' Trend: Shetty to CM Adityanath

Yogi Adityanath met actors like Sunil Shetty, Subhash Ghai, Jackie Shroff, Rajkumar Santoshi, Manmohan Shetty, and Boney Kapoor to cap off his two-day journey to Mumbai.

Though the agenda of the meeting was to discuss shooting and investment prospects in Noida Film City, Suniel Shetty took the opportunity to put forward the grievances of the film industry.

"I want to talk about this hashtag that's going on -- 'Boycott Bollywood'. It can stop if you say something about it. We are doing good work," the 61-year-old actor said.

Suniel Shetty further requested Yogi Adityanath to

seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support in clearing the stigma around Bollywood.

"It pains me to see this stigma. Ninety-nine per cent of



the people here are good. So, please Yogi ji, take the lead and talk to our prime minister about erasing this stigma," he added.

The film industry has played a major role in connecting India with the world, Suniel Shetty said and requested the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to use

his influence in stopping the 'Boycott Bollywood' trend.

"We have to join hands and try to get rid of the 'Boycott

Bollywood' trend and make people understand that most people in the industry are good. We don't do drugs; we don't harm others.

"I request you to be the person to abolish the stigma. This industry is responsible for connecting India to the world, especially when it comes to music. You're a very big name, sir. If you talk about it, people will listen," the actor said.

Suniel Shetty said it is wrong to label the industry in a poor light because of "one rotten apple".

"Today people think that Bollywood is not a good place. But we have made such good films here. I was a part of such a film too, 'Border', along with others," he added.

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