

THE DIASPORA



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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 65

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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SPIRITUAL GURU UNVEILS FIA'S THEME FOR 2 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS



Junapeethadhiswar Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Avdhesanand Giri ji unveiled the theme for FIA's attempts at 2 Guinness World Records

Indian Spiritual leader and Guru, His Holiness Junapeethadhiswar Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Avdhesanand Giri ji unveiled the theme for FIA's attempts at 2 Guinness World Records during the India

Day Parade at Manhattan on 21st August 2022. The records being attempted are the largest numbers of flags flown, a record currently held by the Government of Australia and the Largest Damru (2-sided-drum associated with Hindu, Buddhist and Tibetan

Culture) Ensemble. Swami Avdhesanand Giri, a Guru to several thousand and an inspiration to millions, is in the USA to lead the International Yoga Day celebrations in the US this year by attending a grand event at the iconic Times Square

in New York. Present at the occasion was FIA Convener & Chairman of Jaipur Foot Mr. Prem Bhandari, FIA's Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Vice President Mr. Saurin Parikh, Former President Mr. Alok Kumar, **CONTINUE ON PAGE 2**

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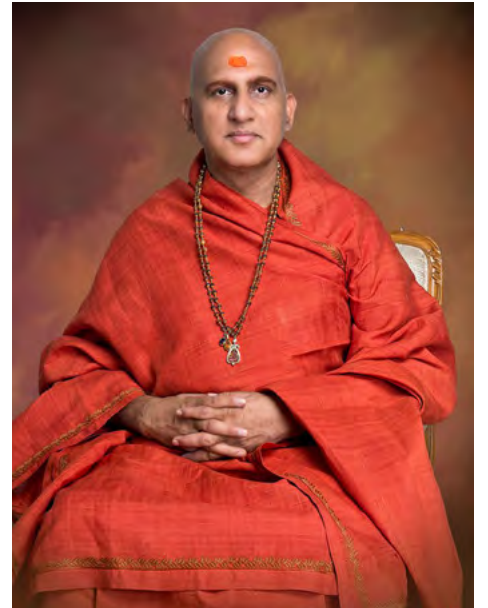
Youth Chair Mr. Krish Vaidya, and PTI's Mr. Lalit Jha. Mr. Ankur Vaidya presented flowers and FIA souvenirs to the Swami ji.

Speaking at the occasion Swami ji lauded the FIA's efforts to keep the glory of India intact on the world stage. He further mentioned that it is heartening to see the faith that the Indian

Americans have in the Indian culture, traditions and values.

Swami Avdheshanand Giri Acharya Mahamandleshwar Juna Akhara is also the President of world renowned Samanvaya

Seva Trust- Bharat Mata Mandir, Haridwar. President : Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha and is also on Amarnath Shrine Board



[CLICK HERE FOR SWAMI JI'S MESSAGE](#)



FIA NY NJ CT President Mr. Kenny Desai Meets Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel

Federation of Indian Associations tristate President, Mr. Kenny Desai, met the Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patelji to seek his support and blessings for the upcoming celebrations of Azadi Ka Mahotsav, marking 75 years of Indian Independence.

After the meeting, Honorable Chief Minister unveiled the theme for the events lined up to mark the celebrations, which also include attempts at two Guinness Book of World Records.

Honorable Chief Minister said that it's a matter of pride for all the Indian Diaspora and regretted that he would not be able to attend the celebrations in person due to his extremely busy schedule in the coming months.

Federation of Indian Associations President, Mr. Kenny Desai, expressed his admiration for Honorable Chief Minister's invaluable service to the state of Gujarat and expressed gratitude and full support from Federation of Indian Associations in community initiatives.



FIA supported Consulate General of India New York in celebrating International Day of Yoga at Times Square

FIA supported the Consulate General of India - New York as it celebrated the International Day of Yoga as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence. The Day coincides with the Summer Solstice - the longest day of the year and was aptly named Summer Solstice New York - Mind over Madness.

The event, which was thronged by thousands, was led by His Holiness Junapeethadhiswar Acharya Mandleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri ji. Also present were Hon Consul General of India- New York Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Deputy Consul General Dr Varun Jeph, Chairman of Jaipur Foot & FIA Convenor Mr. Prem Bhandari and Times Square Alliance President Mr. Tom Harris.

In his opening statement, Hon. CG Mr. Randhir Jaiswal said that the very fact that this day is being celebrated across many countries spread over all the continents is proof that Yoga has been embraced globally. He mentioned the fact that it was the 20th anniversary of Yoga Day being celebrated at Times Square.

Swami Avdheshanand Giri ji, addressing the gathering said that it's his immense pleasure to be part of the event in New York - the financial capital of the world and the center of many cultures. 'Evenness of Mind is Yoga- Yoga means union of the mind, body, and soul- a journey towards divinity and completion of life. Practice of Yoga gives peace, joy and ultimate bliss' - he said. He further added that practicing yoga unlocks oneself

to become infinite and absolute, leads to firmness of mind so that the mind is neither excited nor depressed easily. He mentioned that there is more to Yoga than the physical exercise itself and explained in brief the other four forms of yoga - mainly Karma Yoga, Bhakta Yoga, Raj Yoga and Gyan Yoga. It unlocks the unique key to ultimate happiness. He thanked the Indian Government, Mr. Randhir Jaiswal and Mr. Prem Bhandari for inviting him to

attend the event. The free session, which was open to the public, was started by the renowned Holistic Yoga instructor and Chairperson of the Art of Living Foundation USA Ms. Ruchika Lal.

Celebrations for the day had begun earlier when the India Embassy at Washington DC held it on June 18, 2022, a Saturday, to allow for wider attendance to participate.



SAVE THE DATE

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE



MADISON AVENUE
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK



SUNDAY
AUGUST
21ST
2022

**INDIA DAY
PARADE**



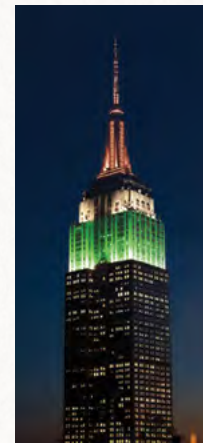
MONDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2022

**KHADI NATIONAL
FLAG HOISTING
@TIMES SQUARE, NYC**

**220' KHADI
TRICOLOR OVER
THE HUDSON RIVER**

**EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
INDIAN TRI-COLOR
LIGHTING**

**BILL BOARD
AT TIMES SQUARE**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2022

**INDIA DAY PARADE
@MANHATTAN, NYC**

**THE HISTORIC ATTEMPT TO SET
TWO GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS**

**CULTURAL SHOW
EXTRAVAGANZA**

BOOK YOUR BOOTH NOW

45+
BOOTHS &
FOOD COURTS



BOOK YOUR FLOAT NOW

40+
COLORFUL
FLOATS



Sign Up for
The Marching Groups to
Show Your Patriotism!



FREE EVENT

For Sponsorship: 848-248-0707, 732-325-7891, 201-709-6428

For Float: 516-652-7862 | For Booth: 973-879-6452

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www.fianewengland.org



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

40TH
FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS

MADISON AVENUE
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

SUNDAY
AUGUST
21ST
2022

INDIA DAY
PARADE

REGISTRATION OPEN

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPTS



OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT **1**

**MOST DIFFERENT
FLAGS**
FLOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY



OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT **2**

**LARGEST ENSEMBLE
DAMARU**
2 SIDED DRUMS

ON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2022

REGISTER FOR GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPTS

Scan QR code to REGISTER AS PARTICIPANT
or Visit the link below

<https://fianyjnctne.org/guinness/registration>

FREE EVENT | FREE REGISTRATION



CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE



Certificates



Caddie Bibs



Caps



Goggles



Water Bottle



Bag

REGISTER NOW TO BOOK YOUR SPOT

info@fianyjnct.org | www.fianyjnct.org | www.fianewengland.org

US President Biden Signs Bill To Establish Asian Pacific History Museum

Photo: The Quint

President Joe Biden signed a bill on Monday 13th June, creating a committee to look into the possibility of building a national museum dedicated to the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

At a White House event, he remarked, "I'm honored to sign into law something that has been long overdue."

Biden was joined at the ceremony by Vice President Kamala Harris, the first person of Indian descent to be elected to

the position. Harris' mother was Indian.

Harris said such a museum will help fight ignorance and dispel misinformation about Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander people in the US.

The Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act creates an eight-member commission to study how to make such a museum a reality in Washington, including whether it should be part of the Smithsonian Institution.



The Senate majority and minority leader each would name two members of the study commission, and the House speaker and House

Canada: Will extend 'super visa' stays, relax health-insurance restrictions to ease family reunifications

From July 4, the federal government will extend how long Canadians' visiting parents and grandparents can stay in this country and allow them to use foreign health insurance during their time here —two long-sought adjustments to this country's controversial "super visa" program.

The surprise announcement from Immigration Minister Sean Fraser on Tuesday came in the wake of an ongoing review by the parliamentary immigration committee of a private member's bill, C-242, to amend the law to make those exact changes. It was a bid to ease family reunification for Canadians who have parents and grandparents abroad.

"The enhancements to the super visa program allow family members to reunite for longer in Canada, which helps everyday Canadian citizens and permanent residents succeed and contribute to society, while affording their parents and grandparents invaluable opportunities to spend

time with their family in Canada," Fraser said.

The committee had already held three meetings and heard from witnesses in response to the Reuniting Families Act, which also sought to ask immigration officials to prepare and table a report on reducing the minimum income requirement that a Canadian sponsor must meet in order for their parents or grandparents to stay here for an extended period.

The changes introduced Tuesday will allow the immigration minister to designate international medical insurance companies to provide coverage to super visa applicants. Details of designated providers will be posted on the department website later. Last week, a senior immigration department official told the parliamentary committee that there was no need to bring in changes to the super visa program.

"Under the current super visa, clients can request extensions while here, meaning that they

already have the possibility to stay for five years or even longer without needing to leave Canada," said Michele Kingsley, a director general of the immigration department.

"Allowing foreign providers as proposed by the bill would require consultations with

health-sector experts, as well as with provinces and territories to determine which criteria should be included in such a designation scheme. Simply put, there are many unknown impacts of broadening health insurance to foreign providers."

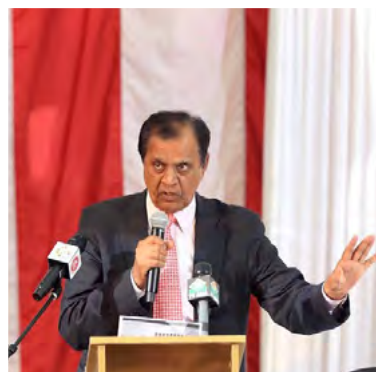
Photo: theglobeandmail



Remembering The Founding Father of FIA On His 2nd Death Anniversary



Late Ramesh Patel
Emeritus Chairman, FIA
April 20th, 1942 - June 6th, 2020



A Visionary with an Exceptional spirit of Community Service who lives on in our hearts

"Death is never an end, but a To Be Continued..." – Renée Chae

FIA's tribute to a selfless community leader, Jaswant Mody—who led by example in sincere service to our community.



Jaswant Mody

May 20, 1938 - July 4, 2021

The Federation of Indian Associations (NY, NJ, CT & NE) fondly remembers the Late Jaswantbhai Mody on his 1st Death Anniversary, whose untimely accidental passing away on July 4, 2021 has created an irreparable loss to society.

A noble soul who optimized hard work and dedication to community service.

His devotion to our American Indian society distinguishes him as an inspiring role model for the FIA fraternity.

His 40+ years of dedicated service to FIA and other notable Tri-state area organizations will continue to inspire his family, friends, and the FIA fraternity.

Pray to the almighty God to bless his divine soul.

Om Shanti

Deputy CM Tarkishore Prasad pushes for investment in IT & Tourism in interaction with the NRI diaspora

In a bid to connect with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) of Bihar origin in the USA, Dy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Tarkishore Prasad held talks through video conference with members of the Bihari diaspora in the USA.

Bihar Foundation USA, East

Coast Chapter, in association with the Consulate General of India, New York, organized this virtual event on 12th June 2022 at 11:30 am EST to interact with the Honorable Dy CM of Bihar. Heads of community organizations like BJANA, BANA, Sparsh Foundation, and North America

Maithili Manch, along with 130 members of the Bihari diaspora, participated in this event.

While welcoming the Dy CM Prasad, Shri Alok Kumar - Chairman of Bihar Foundation East Coast Chapter, said, we want the (Bihar) government to involve us in the development

of Bihar, especially in the field of technology and education. Shri Alok Kumar added that Bihar is moving on the right path of growth and will move furthermore to become the best in every sphere of development. Shri Kumar is the former president of FIA (NY

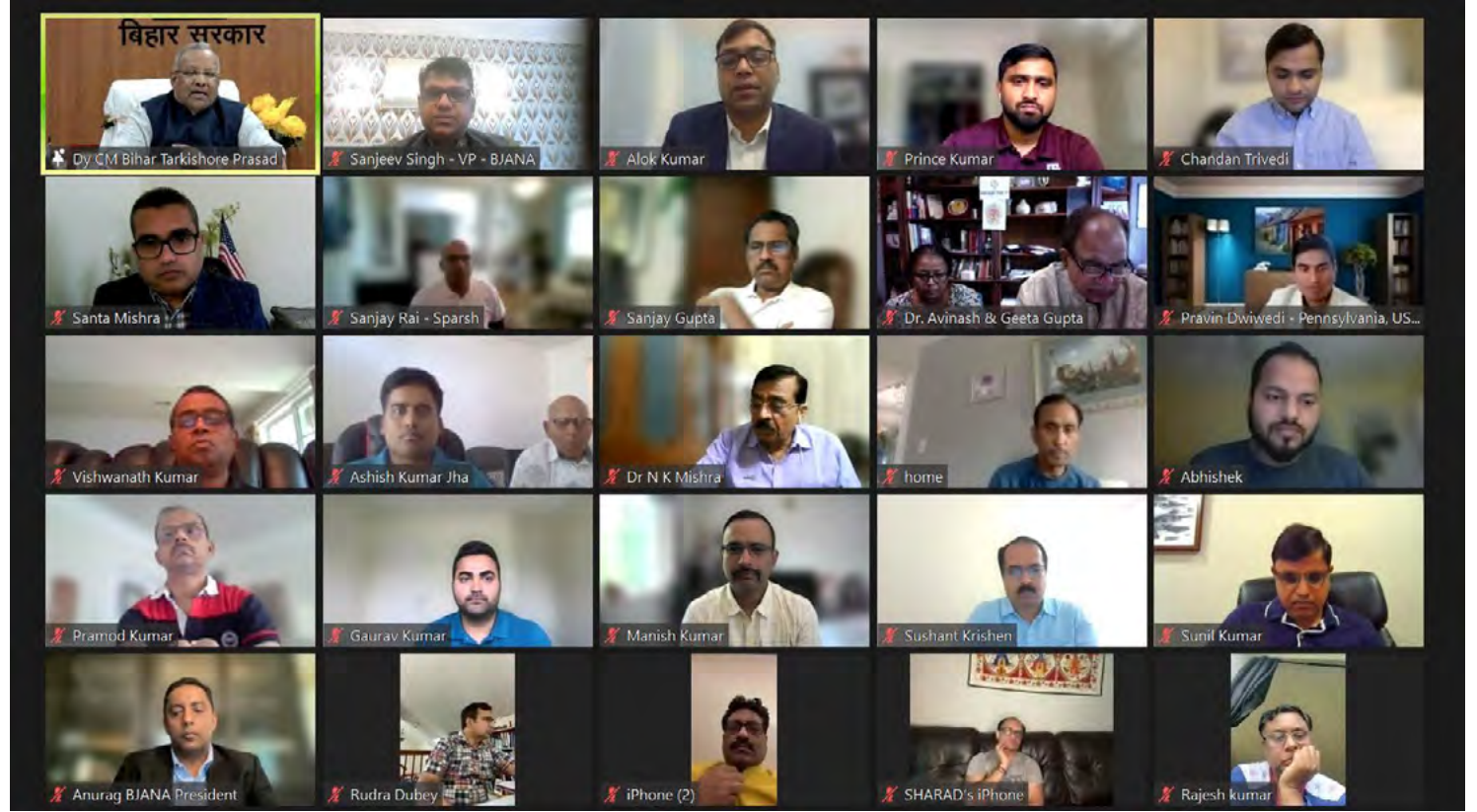
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NJ CT), an umbrella organization of all Indian-origin community groups in the USA.

Detailing about the progress made in the state, Dy Chief Minister Shri Tarkishore Prasad said that more Special Economic Zones and dedicated industrial areas would be established to promote exports and attract companies to set their units in Bihar. The Dy CM said that per capita income in Bihar has increased. All villages have been electrified and linked with metalled roads. He also added that tourism is being promoted across the state, and steps are taken to explore avenues of eco-tourism.

Expressing thanks to the NRIs born in Bihar, Shri Prasad said that as a global feeling has come alive for developing the state, it shows a bright future. Assuring the diaspora of all necessary help, the Dy Chief Minister said that time-bound clearance of official processes would be ensured for



whoever sets up industry here. He also answered a few questions asked by the diaspora and said that the government is willing to listen to your suggestions.

Shri Manoj Chaudhary presented the vote of thanks towards the end of the meeting. He thanked the entire Bihar

foundation east coast chapter team for organizing this event.

Shri Manoj Choudhary is the founder of ORNOJ INFOTECH which offers IT services in the Rural Banking sector. He has collaborated with NABARD to provide electricity in villages by constructing an innovative

floating Hydel Power Plant on the Mahananda River. As a social worker, Shri Chaudhary has contributed immensely to eradicating child labor and improving healthcare services in rural Bihar.

President Biden selects three Indian-American women for top offices

Radha Iyengar Plumb of New York, has been selected by the President to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense replacing Alan Ray Shaffer. He sent her nomination to the Senate June 15.

Iyengar Plumb is currently the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, a position she has occupied since February

2021. As Chief of Staff, she is responsible for leading the Deputy Secretary's executive staff and providing counsel and advice to the Deputy Secretary and ensuring Deputy-led governance processes align with key leadership priorities.

Roopali H. Desai, of Arizona, whose nomination was also sent to the U.S. Senate June 15, is the President's choice to be United

States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Andrew David Hurwitz.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Desai would become the first Indian-American to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the 9th Circuit, if confirmed by the Senate. Desai is a partner at Coppersmith Brockelman where she has practiced since 2007

On June 6, President Biden announced a slew of nominees, among them another Indian-American woman Sopen B. Shah as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin. Shah is Counsel at Perkins Coie LLP where she has practiced since 2019. She was previously a Deputy Solicitor General of Wisconsin from 2017 to 2019.



Sopen B Shah



Roopali H Desai



Radha Iyengar

Jewellery Store Robbed at Gunpoint in Broad Daylight-Community's sense of Safety Compromised

Jewellery Store Robbed at Gunpoint in Broad Daylight-Community's sense of Safety Compromised

A group of armed robbers stole from a jewellery store in New Jersey on June 10, 2022. The thieves, who were wearing masks, entered the store, Virani Jewellers, at Oaktree Road, Iselin, New Jersey, wielding automatic

weapons, and allegedly made off with over \$1 million dollars' worth of jewellery. It happened at 7.45 pm, just before closing time. The CCTV footage has gone viral on social media.

This broad daylight robbery has left the Indian American community stunned.

In a statement issued to FIA by the Mayor of Woodbridge,

Middlesex County, New Jersey, Mr. John E. McCormac said:

"We are horrified by the jewelry store heist from last week but are very thankful that nobody was seriously hurt." Our police department has reached out to every jewelry store owner in the district, and we have increased our police patrols. We are working on setting up a meeting

with everyone to further discuss future plans to help maintain the Oak Tree Road shopping and dining district as one of the premier locations in the tri-State area."

[Click Here for the Video Footage](#)

Statement issued to FIA by the Mayor's Office

To Federation of Indian Associations NY NJ CT NE

We are horrified by the jewelry store heist from last week but are very thankful that nobody was seriously hurt. Our Police Department has reached out to every jewelry store owner in the district and we have increased our police patrols. We are working on setting up a meeting with everyone to further discuss future plans to help maintain the Oak Tree Road shopping and dining district as one of the premiere locations in the tri-State area.

The Woodbridge Police Department (WPD) is the lead agency investigating the robbery and issued the following report: On June 10th, at approximately 1945 hours, a robbery occurred at Virani Jewelers, 1394 Oak Tree Road, Iselin. Near closing time, a group of armed individuals wearing masks and gloves followed an employee through the front door of the business. They forced store employees to the floor then smashed numerous glass display cases and removed the jewelry inside before running out of the store. The total amount of loss has yet to be determined. Some employees sustained injuries, none of which were serious or life threatening. Anyone with information is asked to please contact Woodbridge Police Detective Perry Penna at 732-624-7700. The video was released by the store owners.

Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac contacted the owner of Virani Jewelers and members of the Iselin Business Association to advise that the Woodbridge Police Department will actively investigate the robbery and further advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined the investigation. It is important to note that the WPD has also met with many of the store owners located along the Oak Tree Road shopping district in the Iselin section of the Township and have advised regarding increased security at their store locations. The WPD has also increased patrol activity throughout the Iselin shopping district and will continue to monitor all store locations.

John R., Hagery
Mayor's Office of Communications
Township of Woodbridge
New Jersey

Indian Restaurant "Chai Pani" Is Voted Best In US

The Asheville, North Carolina, eatery was named America's most Outstanding Restaurant at the James Beard Foundation Awards in Chicago on Monday, topping nominees such as Brennan's in New Orleans. Chai Pani, which serves affordable Indian street food in North Carolina, has been named as the best restaurant in America.

It was the first time the honors were awarded in two years, after being canceled in 2020 and 2021 so the foundation could remove systemic bias and as lockdowns to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus forced the temporary closure of many US restaurants.

The awards also come as Americans are paying the highest prices for food in four decades amid surging inflation that is threatening the broader economy.

This year's award recipients and the nominee slate were more diverse to better reflect the makeup of the US. There was also more geographic variety, rather than years past when many winners came out of New York or

Chicago.

The menu at Chai Pani, whose name literally translates to tea and water, features Indian snacks called "chaat" that are known for a mix of spicy, sweet and tangy

flavors. Other winners included the Native American restaurant Owamni in Minneapolis, where the staff is 75% indigenous, as Best New Restaurant.

Photo: aspicyperspective



Getting a Real ID or any driver's license in N.J. just got a little easier

The process of getting a coveted Real ID driver's license — which can be used as identification for domestic air travel and to gain access to federal buildings after May 3, 2023 — just got a little easier.

Starting on June 15, drivers will no longer need to show a social security card or other documentation to prove their social security number thanks to changes in the federal Real ID law that allow a social security number to be electronically verified with the Social Security Administration database. MVC officials said this "change applies to Real ID and standard driver's licenses as well as non-driver ID cards."

State Motor Vehicle Commission officials announced the change on Monday to conform with the federal Real ID Modernization Act. That law streamlined the application process by eliminating the requirement for a driver to provide documents to prove their social security number.

MVC Chief Administrator Sue Fulton issued a waiver to conform with the federal law on Monday, which takes effect on Wednesday.

That federal law, passed in December 2020, supersedes a 2019 state law that requires applicants for New Jersey licenses or non-driver IDs to present documents, such as a Social Security card or W-2 form, to prove their Social Security number. That change also gives drivers who apply for a standard license the same break.

President Biden to Nominate Dr. Arati Prabhakar to Lead Office of Science and Technology Policy

President Biden announced his plans to nominate Dr. Arati Prabhakar to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and, once confirmed, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. Dr. Prabhakar will serve as the President's Chief Advisor for Science and Technology, co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and a member of the President's Cabinet in this role.

"Dr. Prabhakar is a brilliant and highly-respected engineer and applied physicist and will lead the Office of Science and Technology

Policy to leverage science, technology, and innovation to expand our possibilities, solve our toughest challenges, and make the impossible possible," said President Biden. "I share Dr. Prabhakar's belief that America has the most powerful innovation machine the world has ever seen. As the Senate considers her nomination, I am grateful that Dr. Alondra Nelson will continue to lead OSTP and Dr. Francis Collins will continue to serve as my acting Science Advisor."

Prabhakar has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate before, to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and was

the first woman to hold that role. She later served as director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the birthplace of breakthrough technologies like stealth aircraft and the Internet. If confirmed to lead OSTP, Prabhakar would become the third Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander to serve in President Biden's Cabinet, joining Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai. Today's nomination is historic, with Prabhakar being the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour nominated to serve as Senate-confirmed director of OSTP.

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

As of 12:01 AM ET on June 12, 2022, the CDC will no longer require air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight.

This means that as of 12:01AM ET on June 12, 2022,

all air passengers, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, are no longer required to show a negative viral COVID-19 test result, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19, before boarding a flight to the United States.

As a result of a court order, effective immediately and as of April 18, 2022, CDC's January 29, 2021 Order requiring masks on public transportation conveyances and at transportation hubs is no longer in effect. Therefore, CDC will not enforce the order. The CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time.

Mask Recommendation

Everyone aged 2 years or older—including passengers and workers—should properly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator in indoor areas of public transportation and transportation hubs, especially in locations that are crowded or poorly ventilated, such as airport jetways.

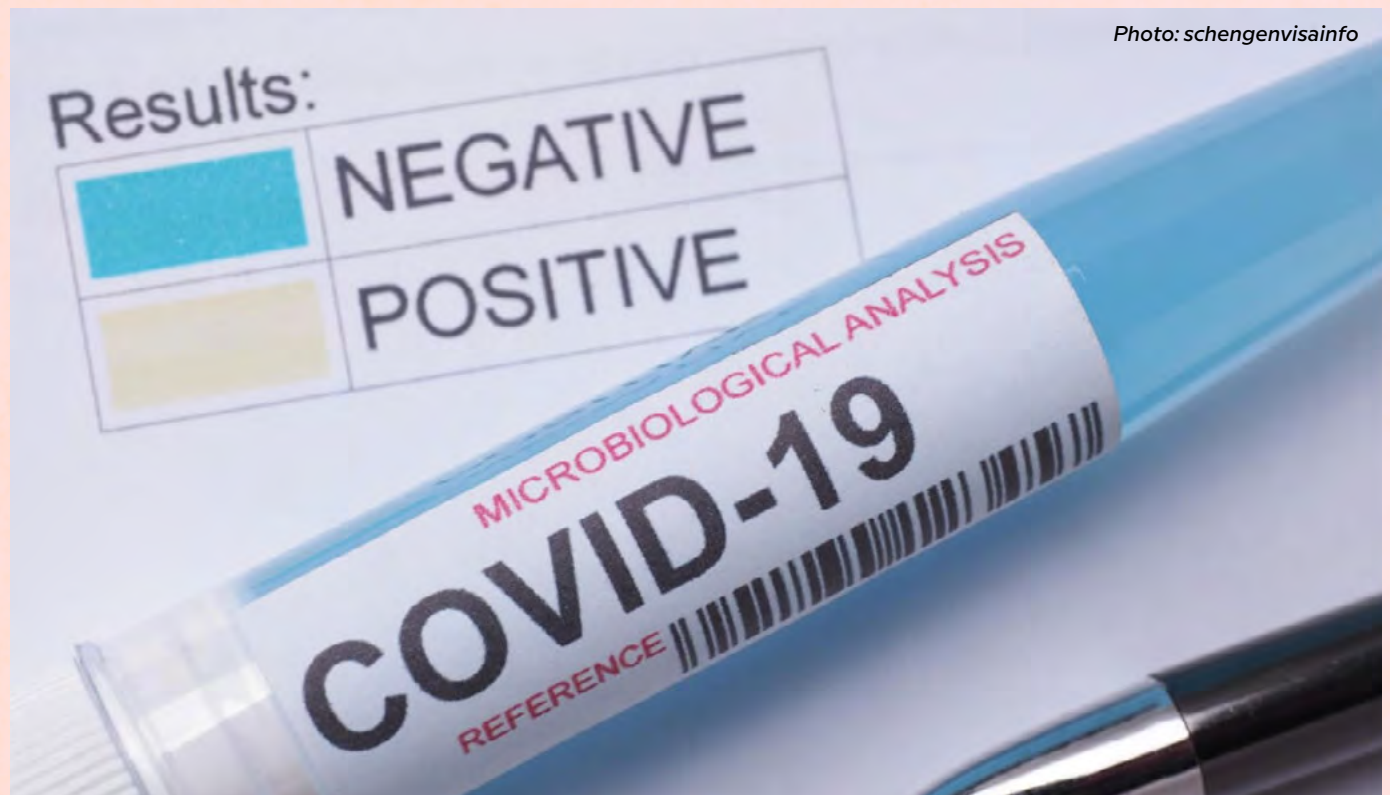


Photo: schengenvisa.info

New Jersey records its first monkeypox case

New Jersey's Department of Health said on Monday, 20th June, that the Garden State's first probable case of the virus was confirmed following a test that was conducted on Saturday.

The sample will be sent to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to confirm if it is the monkeypox virus. The case originated from Jersey City, according to social media posts from the city's official accounts.

"Our health officials are working closely with the CDC," read a post from the city's Instagram account.

The state Health Department said the individual is isolating at home.

"The local health department is conducting contact tracing to identify any individuals who may have been exposed to the [infected]," the department added, Monkeypox can cause blisters and pimples on the skin. Patients also report having rashes after the blisters. The virus can spread through the sharing of bodily fluids or clothing with an infected person or animal, the health department said. It can also be contracted by breathing in respiratory droplets while speaking to someone. New Jersey residents who experience flu-like symptoms and swelling of lymph nodes should contact their doctor. transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals," a statement issued by the UN read on Friday.

US General on Chinese Infrastructure Build-up Near Ladakh

A top US general has said that Chinese activity near Ladakh is "eye-opening" and some of the infrastructure being created is alarming.

General Charles A. Flynn, Commanding General, US Army Pacific, described it as "destabilizing and corrosive behavior" by China as he talked about the Chinese infrastructure build-up across the Himalayan frontier.

"I believe that the activity level is eye-opening. I think some of the infrastructure that is being created in the Western Theatre Command is alarming. And so much, like across all of their military arsenal, one has to ask the question, why," the General, who oversees the Asia-Pacific region, told a select group of journalists.

General Flynn said China's "incremental and insidious path, and destabilising and corrosive behaviour" projected on to the region was "simply not helpful".

"I think it is worthy of us working together as a counterweight to some of those corrosive and corrupted behaviors that the Chinese [demonstrate]," said the General.

India and the US are set to conduct high-altitude training missions at an altitude of between 9,000-10,000 feet in the Himalayas as part of the Yuddh Abhyas exercises this October. The location has not been specified. Indian forces will then train in similar extreme-cold weather conditions in Alaska.

The exercises are meant to be extremely high-level joint operations across the gamut of high-altitude warfare.

This includes new technology, Air Force assets, attack aviation, logistics, and information sharing on a real-time basis. "These are all invaluable opportunities that the Indian Army and the US Army can capitalize on," General Flynn said.

UN Chief Appoints Indian Diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill as Envoy on Technology

Senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General as his Envoy on Technology, with the world body describing him as a "thought leader on digital technology" who has a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

"A thought leader on digital technology, he brings to the position a deep knowledge of digital technologies coupled with a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals," a statement issued by the UN read on Friday.



Photo: iofc.ch

Arun Subramanian Nominated for Federal Judgeship in Southern District of NY

Based on Senate Majority Leader Schumer's recommendation, President Biden on June 10 nominated Arun Subramanian for a federal judgeship in the Southern District of New York.

Subramanian is a partner at the law firm Susman Godfrey, for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He once clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The nomination has to be approved by the Senate to move forward to the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District and Eastern District of New York.

His law firm's website said he "has been actively involved in a variety of landmark matters for Susman Godfrey. No matter the arena, Arun has a proven track record of success."



Mukesh Ambani's Venture Wins IPL Digital Streaming Rights in Bidding War

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's media venture won the digital streaming rights to the Indian Premier League, outbidding giants from Walt Disney Co. to Sony Group Corp., according to a person familiar with the matter. Online rights to the popular annual cricket tournament were awarded to Viacom18 Media Pvt., a joint venture between Paramount Global and Mr. Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd., the person said, asking not to be identified as the information isn't public. The Board of Control for Cricket in India, the local governing body for the sport that kicked off the auction on June 12, has yet to officially announce the winners. The Financial Times reported that Viacom18 bought the rights for about \$2.6 billion, while the New York Times reported that the deal was almost \$3 billion. Disney, however, did bag the television broadcast rights to the matches for about \$3 billion, the FT said.

The five-year digital contract is a crucial victory for Mr. Ambani's conglomerate, which has ambitions to vault into the club of global media and online streaming behemoths. Described as the Super Bowl of cricket, the IPL is one of the world's fastest-growing sporting events with a cult-like status in South Asia and among the subcontinent's diaspora. Luring more than 600 million viewers, it's also seen as the quickest way to pile on eyeballs and scale up any platform's audience in India, the world's largest consumer market with almost 1.4 billion people.

The ruling party takes strong measures to address the protests registered by its Arab trading partners

After BJP spokesperson Ms. Nupur Sharma made controversial remarks during a televised debate, which were seen as offensive and Islamophobic, India's ruling party disciplined the two officials involved.

MS Sharma later withdrew her remarks and said it was never her intention to "hurt anyone's religious feelings." On Twitter, Sharma said her words were a response to derogatory comments made during the debate about a Hindu god. "If my words have caused discomfort or hurt the religious feelings of anyone whatsoever, I hereby unconditionally withdraw my statement," she said.

Another BJP spokesperson, Naveen Jindal, who has since been expelled, had also made comments about the Prophet on social media.

The BJP said on June 5 that it had suspended Sharma and expelled Jindal from the party. The



Photo: Times of India

Bharatiya Janata Party is also strongly against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion. The BJP does not promote such people or philosophy, "the party said in a statement on June 5 without directly referring to the comments from Sharma or Jindal. Police in the Indian capital Delhi have also registered cases against Sharma and several others accused of disrupting public tranquillity and incitement, according to a tweet from the Delhi police's official Twitter account.

White House adviser calls relationship with India 'most important for the United States'

White House Indo-Pacific adviser Kurt Campbell called relations with India "the most important for the United States in the 21st century" on Thursday as he discussed the strategy to compete with China in the region.

Campbell, US President Joe Biden's coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs, said next steps in that strategy would involve teaming with allies to offer more security guarantees to India.

Other steps he discussed included opening new US embassies for some Pacific Island nations and a further development of AUKUS, the nuclear submarine pact the US signed with Australia and Britain last year.

Mithali Raj, bids adieu to her record-breaking international career

Mithali Raj, the legendary Indian batter, retired from international cricket on June 8, bringing an end to a magnificent 23-year career.

Mithali's career, which began when she was 16 years old in 1999 and has spanned over 23 years.

Mithali finished her international career with a staggering 10,868 runs – the most in women's cricket. She scored 7805 ODI runs in 232 matches, at an average of just over 50 while has 2364 runs in 89 T20Is, as well as 699 runs in 12 Tests, including a century and four half-centuries.

The 39-year-old Mithali, who captained India to the final of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017, also holds the record for the most matches (28 matches) captained in Women's World Cups, breaking Australian legend Belinda Clark's record during the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 in March.

She also led India to four consecutive Asia Cup triumphs — 2005-06, 2006-07, 2008, and 2012. However, perhaps Mithali's most significant achievement as captain came in 2014 as India sealed a historic Test series victory in England, with Mithali guiding the team home with an unbeaten 50 in the second innings.

As a skipper, Mithali has 89 wins out of 155 – the most by any player in women's ODIs. Her 155 matches as captain are also the highest in women's ODIs.

The batter also became the second youngest centurion after she scored a century on ODI debut in 1999. At 16 years and 205 days, she became the youngest centurion in women's internationals. The record was only broken 22 years later in 2021, when Ireland's Amy Hunter achieved that feat on her 16th birthday.

The veteran has also most runs in a series by captain. In the 2014-17 ICC Women's Championship, Mithali scored 535 runs in 17 matches, the most by an India captain in an ODI series.

The 39-year-old Mithali also played most matches (232) and hit most fifties (64) in women's internationals ODIs. Mithali is also the only Indian woman to score a double century in Tests. Her score of 214 (v England in 2002) is the second-highest individual score in women's Tests.



Photo: eastmojo



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Community News

Four members of FIA's New England Volunteer Team were elected as Town Meeting members in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

OSU names Jayathi Murthy its next president

Oregon State University's Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to confirm Jayathi Murthy as the university's next president.

Murthy is currently dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of California Los Angeles, where she's the first woman to hold that position. She's also a professor in UCLA's mechanical and aerospace department.

She'll be the first-ever woman of colour to lead Oregon's largest public university.

"This is the right place and right time," Murthy said in a statement Tuesday. "I am very impressed by Oregon State University. OSU is well-positioned to address the many challenges in how higher education will be best provided in the years ahead thanks to the university's excellent faculty, staff and leaders, and its commitment to student success, inclusive excellence and its long experience and leadership in online education."

Murthy said she will ensure all OSU students have "strong student support services," such as advising and financial aid.

Murthy will step into her new position at OSU in September. She will replace the university's interim president, Becky Johnson, who has been in the position since May 2021.

Photo: opb



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jigger

Jayenge wapas ek din zaroor beshak

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-By Kumu Gupta

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पर मत सोच ए दिले नादान , मार मिटेंगे यहीं पर

अब घर वतन है अमेरिका हमारा देश

फिर भी दिल है हिंदुस्तानी मेरे यार दोस्त ऐ जिग्गर

जायेंगे वापस एक दिन जरूर बेशक

देहकना है बस कब किस दिन कब तक

-By Kumu Gupta

Remembering the Emergency

My father's prison mates were Haji Mastan and Sukhar Narayan Bakhia

JUNE 21 2021

L K Advani had famously chastised Indian media during the Emergency saying "You were asked only to bend, but you crawled." It should have ideally covered some spineless politicians too. During the Emergency thousands were put in jail and no one knew when the dark era would end.

My political activist father K R Sundar Rajan, who was also a journalist working for a national English daily in Mumbai and would write articles for the foreign press too, was picked up at night and taken to Arthur Road jail in Mumbai. His prison mates under MISA were smugglers Haji Mastan and Sukhar Narayan Bakhia. My father said Haji Mastan was having a grand time in the jail with home food and choicest

liquor. He offered this fare to my father who said thanks but as "I am a state guest I have to refuse, though I am highly tempted." In the prison of irreproachable character were Mrinal Gore and P W Khandekar, an HR manager at an MNC. They were held in the Baroda Dynamite Case. One of the charges against my father too, was participating in this case - although he didn't know the difference between dynamite and cigarette sticks.

One night when my dad was in prison, his dear friend and professional colleague Abdul Hameed, press secretary to the then president, visited us. He said that he was on an official tour and used the opportunity to give us a morale booster. I must say the government official had some guts.

My father's media house stopped his salary but some

of his colleagues passed the hat around. They would call me to meet them at a different restaurant and without much ado, I would be clandestinely handed an envelope containing the salary.

The tangible provocation to jail my father was his final signed article in the foreign press after many assumed names. He was followed and his colleagues in Mumbai handed over his mail to the authorities. My mother was grilled gestapo style till she broke down, but would not and could not help the investigators as she was not familiar with the names of foreign editors and their publications which the questioners reeled off at her.

How does this sordid tale of the loss of freedoms end? The Emergency was lifted by Mrs Gandhi whose coterie of

advisers felt it was a grand success. Trains were on time; people were not complaining. Elections were announced. This overconfidence was misplaced. The Congress was trounced. The Indian voters had proved their maturity despite all odds.

By- Deccan Herald



I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me.

He handed me a laminated card and said: 'I'm Wasu, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk, I'd like you to read my mission statement.'

Taken aback, I read the card. It said: Wasu's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.

This blew me away. Especially when I noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wasu said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.'

I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.'

Wasu smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, lassi, water and orange juice.'

Almost stuttering, I said, 'I'll take a Lassi.'

Handing me my drink, Wasu said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have The Hindu, Times of India, ET and India Today.'

As they were pulling away, Wasu handed me another laminated card, 'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.'

And as if that weren't enough, Wasu told me that he had the air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for him.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know that he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

'Tell me, Wasu,' I was amazed and asked him, 'have you always served customers like this?'

Wasu smiled into the rear-view mirror. 'No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard about the power of choice one day.'

'Power of choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle.'

'If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining!'

'Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'

'That hit me right,' said Wasu.

'It is about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So, I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more.' 'I take it that has paid off for you,' I said.

'It sure has,' Wasu replied. 'My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on it.'

Wasu made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles.

A great Thought...

"You don't die if you fall in water, you die only if you don't swim.

That's the real meaning of life.

-Prashant



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JANHIT MEIN JAARI

(2022/ Comedy/ Social Drama/ Cinema Release)

This Bold Attempt at A Taboo Topic Is Entertaining and Worth A Watch!

Director Jai Basantu Singh

Cast Nushratt Bharuccha, Vijay Raaz, Paritosh Tripathi, Anud Singh Dhaka, Ishtiyak Khan, Brijendra Kala, Sapna Sand

Writer Raaj Shaandilyaa



Photo: Janhit Mein Jaari Trailer

One thing that you can be sure of in a Raaj Shandilya film is the fantastic comic punches. And when you have a superb cast of actors voicing them with their own nuanced touches, the results are a notch higher. And that is the trump card of this film.

Despite a many-times-seen small-town premise and a desi dialect combo, what made it most delightful for me was the entire cast, each of whom made it a pleasure to watch.

Manokamna is a sassy small-town girl who, in a desperation to escape marriage, lands up a job of marketing condoms.

Ranjan is a small-town boy belonging to a large family

and an extremely dominating, regressive chauvinist father.

When the two fall in love, her job is about to create upheavals, some hilarious and some life-changing.

The film follows a simple and somewhat predictable storyline, lingering on characters and their mutual interactions, smartly using the dialogues and performances. And thereby, the first half is a breeze and you thoroughly enjoy the quirky, funny, and adorable characters.

In the latter part of the second half, they kick in the social message about the taboo around condoms and the importance of protection and avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

And in trying to induce that aspect and the social activism part, the story comes across as slightly off the mark and lagging. But even then, the performances and the relentless touch of humour act as a boon and keep you hooked.

And of course, there is no denying the fact that the message is quite bold. Balancing it with humour must not have been an easy task.

Music is another element that I liked about the film. The songs are a good combination of peppy (the Holi song), melodious (the Punjabi number) and trendy (the rap in the post-film credits). The lyrics were good too. Speaking of performances, that would be a good long list.

Nushratt Bharuccha rules all the frames with aplomb. She looks great. I absolutely loved Paritosh Tripathi as the cute and funny Devi. Sapna Sand as the mother was adorable and hilarious. Loved every scene of hers. Vijay Raaz is great as always and adds zing to his character. Anud

Singh Dhaka does justice to his role, though I admit I liked him more in Tajmahal 88. Ishtiyak Khan and Brijendra Kala were great. All the actors in the supporting cast added to the film in their own ways.

Even though I feel the film could have been crisper and its duration shorter than 2 hours 27 minutes, I was thoroughly engaged and invested throughout.

The makers make a daring attempt at a taboo topic and deliver a film that is not only entertaining but conveys important messages (sometimes too preachy, sometimes laced with sarcasm or humour, but all well-meant). There were many laugh-out-loud moments as well as emotional ones.

On the whole, I think the film was wholesome entertainment worth recommending. Total paisa vasool and you walk out of the theatre happy.

Score 3 on 5



Photo: Janhit Mein Jaari Trailer

With her Tony Award triumph, Jennifer Hudson earns an EGOT

Photos: theguardian

Jennifer Hudson's award for producing the musical 'A Strange Loop' at the 2022 Tony Awards earned her the title of 'EGOT.' Individuals who have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony during their careers in the entertainment sector are known as EGOTs.

Hudson won an Oscar in the category of best supporting

actress for her performance in 2006's 'Dreamgirls'. She is a two-time Grammy winner, having nabbed her first one for her 2009 self-titled album, and was honoured with Daytime Emmy for producing the VR-animated film 'Baba Yaga'.

Hudson is the third Black EGOT winner and the fifth woman to achieve the acclaimed awards status.



Photos: independent.co.uk

Celebrities With Coronavirus: See Who Has Had COVID-19

In a new Instagram post, Hugh Jackman revealed he had tested positive

for COVID for a second time, while Mick Jagger announced that he had to cancel a concert due to his diagnosis.

Even celebrities aren't immune to the coronavirus. Even more than two years after the pandemic hit the United States, celebrities

are still being hit with symptoms and positive tests. The first celebs to confirm they had contracted the disease in March 2020 were Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, and many other stars have also come forward to share their stories about testing positive.

Joker 2: Lady Gaga in talks to play Harley Quinn; Joaquin Phoenix's sequel to be a musical

Photos: allmaa.in

The Joker sequel was recently announced and it has been confirmed that director Todd Phillips is working on a script for the same along with co-writer Scott Silver. As per The Hollywood Reporter, Joker 2 may be a musical and will also introduce the character of Harley Quinn. The title of the sequel has been announced as Joker: Folie à deux by Phillips.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Lady Gaga is in talks to play Harley Quinn in the musical. This will mark the singer's superhero debut if a deal does

work out. Previously, the role of Quinn has been played by Margot Robbie in the other DCEU films, including Suicide Squad and also a standalone film, Birds of Prey. Robbie last essayed the role in James Gunn's The Suicide Squad, which was released last year.

As for Phoenix's return as the Joker, the report stated that Warner Bros is yet to close a deal with the actor who appeared as the troubled DC villain in Joker, which was released in 2019. The film became not only a massive commercial success but also won critical acclaim. Joker bagged 11 Oscar nominations, including

best picture, and also won best actor for Joaquin Phoenix and

best score for Hildur Guonadottir.



R Madhavan's 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' trailer launched at Times Square

Photo: newsindiatimes

Bollywood actor and filmmaker R. Madhavan's biographical drama movie 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' based on the life of renowned scientist Nambi Narayanan, launched the trailer on the NASDAQ billboard at Times Square on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Making quite an impression at the Cannes Film Festival, The Nambi Effect captures the spy scandal that changed Narayanan's life forever and unravels the truth behind it.

Madhavan, who has directed, produced, written as well as starred in the film, was present

at the trailer launch along with former Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) scientist and aerospace engineer Nambi Narayan.

Addressing the trailer being screened on the Nasdaq billboard at Times Square, Madhavan said, "It is all very surreal! Time has gone by so quickly - it feels like it was only yesterday we were shooting the film and now, here we are, a few days away from the film's release, screening the trailer on the world's most coveted billboard! With God's grace, I'm thankful for all the love and affection we have received so far. We are looking forward to



seeing you in the theaters on July 1st!"

The 12-day promotional tour will also see Madhavan

traveling to Chicago, Houston, Dallas, Arizona, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, along with Nambi Narayanan.



Anupam Kher bags a new international project, 'The Son-in-Law'

Vamong others, has recently signed on for a new international show titled 'The Son in Law'. The Son in Law, which also stars Reema Sampat, Chris Sullivan and Meera Simhan, follows a salt-of-the-earth man, Jake (Sullivan), who finds himself seeking the approval of his new fiancée Asha's (Sampat) sophisticated parents, including a difficult-to-impress father-in-law. In the show, Kher will be seen essaying the role of Om Mehta,

the conductor of the New York Philharmonic who lives with his wife Khushi (Simhan) in an 18,000-square-foot Fifth Avenue penthouse and hobnobs with an A-list circle of friends and celebrities. Despite that, Om, who was raised in relatively modest circumstances, is completely unaffected by the trappings of wealth.

Deepika Padukone, who is in Hyderabad shooting for her upcoming film Project K, was rushed to a private hospital. According to sources, the actress felt unwell after her heart rate increased, and she was immediately taken to Kamineni Hospital in the city, where the doctors examined her. Soon after treatment, Deepika returned to the sets to shoot with Amitabh Bachchan as her heart rate stabilized.

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Federation of Indian Associations (NY-NJ-CT-PA-MA-NH-VT-RI)




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