

# THE DIASPORA



An initiative by FIA • 100% VOLUNTEER RUN ORGANIZATION EST. 1970

**BI-WEEKLY**

Issue. 51

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



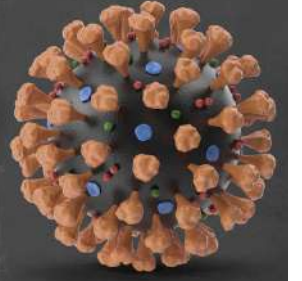
PAGE 5

Indian American community mourns the loss of a Hero of the motherland

PAGE 6

Experts say it's 'impractical' to believe Omicron would cause severe disease and death in India.

**OMICRON VARIANT**



## THE INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY PROMOTES THE 10<sup>TH</sup> VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT - 2022

The Consulate General of India in New York and the Indian American Community of NY-NJ-CT, led by FIA, held a Diaspora Meet and Greet Community Reception on the upcoming occasion of the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2022.



Global Summit Delegates, Consulate General of India, Indian American Community of NY-NJ-CT and FIA Committee.



Diaspora Meet and Greet Community Reception

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**



*FIA community with Shri J.P Gupta, IAS Principal Secretary(Finance)Government of Gujarat*



*Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consulate General of India, New York addressed the crowd.*



*Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit Delegates along with Consulate General of India*



*Shri J.P Gupta, IAS Principal Secretary(Finance)Government of Gujarat addressed the crowd.*



*FIA members welcome the delegates.*



*At the reception, FIA team members Kenny Desai, Ankur Vaidya, Srujal Parikh, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and H.R. Shah addressed the crowd.*

**T**he meet and greet was held on November 28th, 2021, at Royal Grand Manor, NJ. The event was held to discuss and publicize the upcoming 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2022, a biennial event scheduled for January next year.

The Indian delegation consisted of J.P. Gupta, principal secretary (Finance), Government of Gujarat, Jayanti Meghji Patel of the Meghmani Group of companies; Dipesh Shah, executive director (Development, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)); Prashant Choubey, senior executive vice president of the Avaada Group; Sameer G. Patil, chief business officer at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE); Sundeep Sikka, executive director and CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management; and Vikram Limaye, managing director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal, was also part of the delegation.

Approximately 230 people

were present out of the 235 invited to the event, and seating was also set up in circular tables to comply with social distance rules and in light of worry over the new COVID variation.

Two film presentations were shown at the Edison gala regarding Vibrant Gujarat, its roots when current Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Chief Minister of Gujarat, and the influence of this innovative event not just on Gujarat but also on India as a whole.

Principal Secretary Gupta described Vibrant Gujarat as a 'global platform in which all members of the Gujarati community residing outside India, have participated in big numbers.' Prime Minister Modi will begin the three-day January Summit on January 10, 2022. The first day will be devoted to 'Gati Shakti,' or infrastructure, the second to developing a 'Green Economy,' and the third to 'Technology Innovation,' Gupta said those in attendance. "We cordially invite all of you, as well as your friends and colleagues, to the Vibrant Gujarat 2022." "We

greet you with open arms, folded hands, and a spirit of friendship and business," Gupta added.

Jayanti Meghji Patel urged people to invest in Gujarat and India, claiming that a thriving state leads to a wealthy country.

Consul General Jaiswal thanked The Federation of Indian Associations and all member organizations for supporting the event. Speaking to ITV Gold, Jaiswal said the event was a success and the Jan. 10 Vibrant Gujarat will be an "super success," and he wished all those present would come forward and support it. Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph told ITV Gold the delegation from India would be visiting Washington, D.C. and San Francisco as well after being in the tristate area, to spread the word about Vibrant Gujarat. Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, noted that the theme of Vibrant Gujarat this year is "From Aatmanirbhar Gujarat to Aatmanirbhar Bharat' He welcomed those present and encouraged them to take part in the

growth of Gujarat. "I would like to urge all my entrepreneur friends from U.S., particularly the tristate area, please spread the word, tell your entrepreneur friends and colleagues to look into this Vibrant Gujarat and visit Gujarat," Dr. Parikh said.

Kenny Desai, the FIA's president-elect, presented an overview of the organization's activities during Covid, including relief given to India. He also mentioned how he wants to take that type of service to the next level by becoming involved with Vibrant Gujarat's projects.

Ankur Vaidya, chairman of the Federation of Indian Associations, spoke on the significance of India in the lives of Indian-Americans. According to the poet Kalidas, who connected a mother's position with the Country, "a mother is dearer than heaven, so is one's motherland." Because India is the Motherland, and Gujarat is a part of it, Vaidya asked everyone to support and spread the news about creating a thriving Gujarat and the January business conference.

# FIA of NY-NJ-CT-NE honors Padma Bhushan Aroon Purie

**T**he honor recognition was conferred by FIA and was attended by Consul General of India NY - Shri Randhir Jaiswal. Mr. Purie's achievements were awarded citing his stellar career in the media industry which he started in 1970 at Thomson Press as Production Controller and moved on to start the India Today Group with an eponymous magazine in 1975. Today the group is India's most diversified media group with 32 magazines, 7 radio stations, 4 TV channels, 1 newspaper, multiple web and mobile portals, a leading classical music label, and a book publishing arm. Currently, India Today consists of five facilities across India having a national presence. His recognitions include the Padma Bhushan in 2001, the third-highest civilian award of the government of India, for his contribution to Indian journalism. B.D. Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism (1988), Journalist of the Year

1990' award by the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers, the G.K. Reddy Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism among many other recognitions. His associations include several councils, including the Council of Management, Audit Bureau of Circulations (Chairman, 2000-2001). He is on the Executive Committee of The Editors' Guild of India, Council of Management All India Management Association (Special Invitee). He was Chairman of the CII National Committee on Media (2001-2002), chairman of FIPP (Federation of International Periodicals and Publications), and serving Board member of the Global Editors Network since its creation in April 2011.

Consul General of India NY Jaiswal highlighted the contributions of media in keeping the overseas Indians in touch with the workings of the country and offered his support on initiatives that strengthen the US India bilateral relations. He also empha-

sized his undeterred support to the community and extensive efforts that the Consulate has undertaken since the pandemic impact to serve the community which includes the consulate being open 7 days a week. FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya expressed his gratitude to Mr. Purie for allowing FIA the opportunity to celebrate his distinguished career which has brought a trendsetting change in the Indian media industry and provided a brief of the FIA undertaking over the last two years of the pandemic. Anil Bansal, the outgoing President of FIA thanked Mr. Purie for keeping the Indians Abroad in touch with the motherland thru his publications. He also thanked Mr. Purie for accepting the invitation and participating wholeheartedly with the FIA team. Padma Awardee HR Shah addressed the private gathering and thanked Mr. Purie for his friendship and consideration for utilizing his venue of TV Asia Studios in Manhattan for the reception. Mr. Purie thanked the

FIA and TV Asia for the honor and putting together this private ceremony and sharing that the recognition was special for him especially since it was the first one by a reputed community organization in the USA. He expressed his keen interest in engaging with the diaspora activities in the US and taking more interest in community-initiated engagements.

The event was held at the TV Asia Studios in midtown, Manhattan and supported by Padma Shri Dr. H R Shah and President Anil Bansal. FIA team consisting of FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, outgoing President Anil Bansal, Alok Kumar, Parveen Bansal, Saurin Parikh, and the FIA women wing leaders Rohi Singh, Anu Singh, Mitali Chikhalkar and Sapna Patel offered their admiration and congratulations to Purieji on having been recognized and awarded. Prominent community leaders and members included Prem Bhandari, Albert Jasani, Kamlesh Mehta, Shyamal Modi, Piraan Erachshaw.



FIA community with Mr. Aroon Purie



Mr. Aroon Purie honored by FIA.



Aroon Purie, sitting, second from left, being greeted by Ankur Vaidya, chairman of the Federation of Indian Associations - NYNJCT, India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal



Members of FIA honoring Mr. Aroon Purie.



Anil Bansal, Ankur Vaidya, Aroon Purie, Saurin Parikh Parveen Bansal [Left to Right]

# Deconstructing Christmas, a Supreme Religious and Social Mega Celebration Worldwide

America is regarded as the melting pot for all immigrant communities, all ethnicities who have settled here for generations and have gradually adopted American customs, traditions and lifestyle. Similarly, Indian Americans have also been moving in that direction with regards to celebrating some popular mainstream traditions like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day, among others.

Christmas Day falls every year on Dec. 25. It is both a sacred and religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon - observing traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating the Christmas tree, singing Christmas carols, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends, and of course, waiting for the children's favourite Santa Claus to arrive.

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the son of God. The name Christmas comes from the "Mass of Christ" (Jesus). A mass service (which is sometimes called Communion of Eucharist), is where Christians remember that Jesus died for them and then came back to life.

The Christ-mass service was the only one that was allowed to take place after the sun set and before sunrise the next day, so

people had it at midnight. Hence, we get the name Christ-mass, shortened to Christmas.

According to britannica.com, the English term Christmas is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term Yule may have derived from the Germanic jöl or the Anglo-Saxon geōl, which referred to the feast of the winter solstice. The corresponding terms in other languages—Navidad in Spanish, Natale in Italian, Noël in French—all probably denote nativity. The German word Weihnachten denotes "hallowed night."

No one knows the real birthday of Jesus. No date is given in the Bible. The New Testament provides no clues in this regard. Dec. 25 was first identified as the date of Jesus' birth by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 and later became the universally accepted date.

One widespread explanation of the origin of this date is that Dec. 25 was the Christianizing of the dies solis invicti nati ("day of the birth of the unconquered sun"), a popular holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun, the casting away of winter and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer. Indeed, after Dec. 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus' birth, Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of the Son.

A second view suggests that Dec. 25 became the date of Jesus' birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation, when the light was

created, as the day of Jesus' conception (i.e., March 25). Dec. 25, nine months later, then became the date of Jesus' birth. For a long time, the celebration of Jesus' birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism, celebrated in January.

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on Dec. 25 was in 336 A.D., during the time of the first Roman Emperor. The historical significance is the commemorations of the nativity of Jesus.

Christians believe that there can be no "peace" on earth or real "joy" in a human's heart apart from the spirit of Jesus Christ. The gifts of these blessings through the birth of Jesus Christ are worth celebrating and repeating over and over again in all gifts and contributions.

Midnight mass on the eve of Christmas marks the end of the harvest season and the Winter Solstice.

The basic message of Christmas is the announcement that God, the Almighty, the creator of the universe, has come into the world in the human form of a person whose birth name is Jesus. This is the news of God's incarnation in human flesh.

The Vatican is the supreme pilgrimage place for Christians and Pope John Paul is their highest religious and spiritual leader.

Christmas is celebrated by Christians all around the world. It is a time when family and friends come together and remember the good things they have. It is also a time to exchange gifts with the young and the old alike.

Dec. 25, Christmas Day, has been a federal holiday in the U.S.

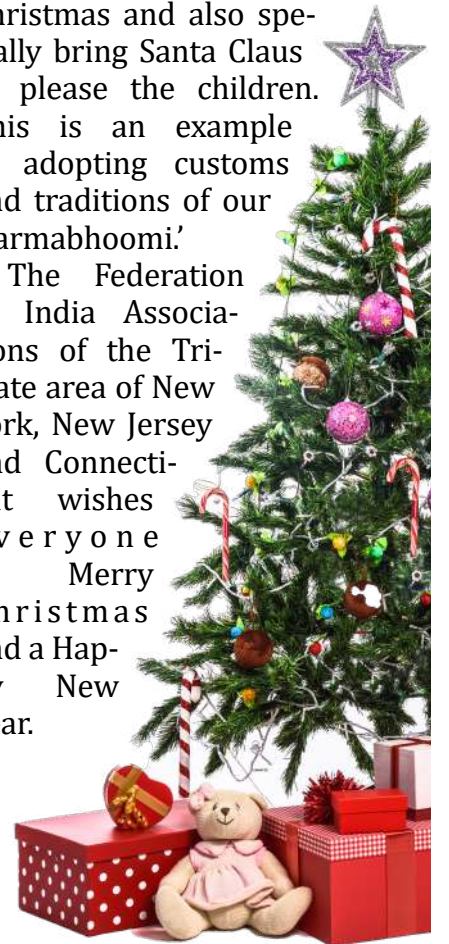
since 1870. 6.

"A Christmas Carol" musical singing glorifies the celebration at school and at parties. The festival is extremely popular with children as they are anxiously waiting to decorate the Christmas tree and receive gifts from Santa Claus.

The name Santa Claus is derived from St. Nicholas, in whose honor the death anniversary of St. Nicholas or "Sinister Klaus" started in the 18th century in New York. The abbreviation of Sinister Klaus because Santa Claus. It was the night before Christmas, a jolly man - Santa Claus, who fills from home to home on a sled driven by reindeers, delivering gifts to children.

Indian American associations arrange parties to celebrate Christmas and also specially bring Santa Claus to please the children. This is an example of adopting customs and traditions of our 'karmabhoomi.'

The Federation of India Associations of the Tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## FIA mourns Loss of Bhartiben Kanubhai Chauhan

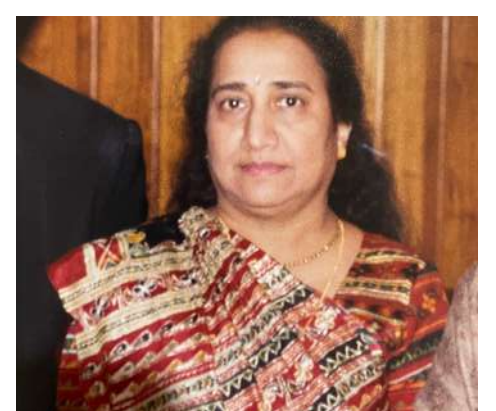
The Federation of Indian Associations mourns the untimely death of Bhartiben Chauhan, wife of FIA's trustee, past president, a legendary Bollywood promoter and successful businessman Kanubhai Chauhan, on Friday, November 19, 2021, due to cardiac arrest.

Bhartiben was a very noble,

devoted, and dedicated wife, a loving mother and grandmother, and a great inspiration and asset to Kanubhai and his Rajsun Entertainment. Married to Kanubhai for 54 years, she is survived by her son Rajan, daughter-in-law Hina, and two grandsons. Her other son, Sunil, passed away a long time ago. The funeral service was held in Elmhurst, New

York and was largely attended by Kanubhai's relatives, friends, and the FIA fraternity on November 24th. We beseech the Almighty God to rest her divine soil in eternal peace, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends as they cope with this tremendous loss.

Aum Shanti



# Indian American community mourns the loss of a Hero of the motherland

**C**hief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 others died in an IAF helicopter crash near Coonoor in the Nilgris district of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday afternoon. They were enroute from an air force base to a hillside military college in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when the Russian-made Mi-17V5 helicopter came down near the town of Coonoor.

Local television footage showed rescuers and army personnel carrying bodies up steep slopes from the mangled wreckage. The chopper crashed in a forest area, reportedly due to poor visibility following heavy fog, official sources said. TV visuals showed the chopper in flames, apparently under the impact of the crash.

Only one of the 14 people on board survived and was in hospital with injuries. "With deep regret, it has now been ascertained that Gen Bipin Rawat, (his

wife) Mrs Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died," the Air Force said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is due to convene at 6:30 p.m. to review the situation resulting from the Wednesday crash of a military helicopter carrying Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and many other officers near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. Among those attending the meeting will be Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The passengers were CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat, Brig LS Lidder, Lt Col Harjinder Singh, NK Gursewak Singh, NK Jitendra Kr, L/Naik Vivek Kumar, L/Naik B Sai Teja & Hav Satpal, ANI tweeted. The sole survivor of the crash was a captain working at the DSSC. He is being treated for his injuries in hospital. One eyewitness told the BBC he heard a "loud noise" before seeing the helicopter fall

from the sky. "Even the electric poles shook. Trees toppled. There was smoke everywhere," said Krishnaswamy, a nearby resident. "There was a raging flame above the trees. I saw just one person with my own eyes, he was burning, and he fell down." Rescue operations were hampered by the accident site's mountainous terrain and dense foliage.

Rawat, 63, was appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in late 2019. The position was set up with the aim of integrating India's three military services - the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Several of the bodies were badly burnt, two government sources said. "Some bodies were so charred that they could not be immediately identified," one of the sources said. Modi said he was deeply saddened by Rawat's death.

"A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernizing our armed forces and security apparatus," the prime minister said.

In a tweet, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called Rawat's death "an irreparable loss to our armed forces and the country."

The Indian Air Force ordered an inquiry into the cause of the accident. India has dozens of Mi-17s in service. They are widely deployed to transport senior army personnel and government ministers. "This is a safe, proven helicopter, I have travelled on it in difficult situations," former army chief J.J.Singh said.

An infantryman with over four decades of military service, Rawat served along India's border with China, the disputed Kashmir region and on a United Nations mission in Africa, before taking charge of the Indian army in late 2016.

In New Delhi, Defence Minister Singh visited Rawat's official residence and the state broadcaster said Modi had summoned a meeting of the cabinet committee on security on Wednesday evening.



Chief of Defence Staff and his wife died in the IAF chopper crash.

# Experts say it's 'impractical' to believe Omicron would cause severe disease and death in India.



**A**lthough Omicron is expected to cause more breakthrough infections, experts say it is "impractical and impossible" that it will infect a large number of people in India, resulting in severe disease and death, if proper precautions are taken. The presence of more than 30 mutations in the virus's spike protein, which it utilises to enter human cells, makes the novel Omicron form of Coronavirus extremely transmissible. The variation contains a significant number of mutations in areas of the spike protein recognised by antibodies, perhaps reducing their efficacy.

"Though Omicron has many more mutations, there are many viral surface particles which are not yet mutated. The people who have some kind of immunity towards the viral surface proteins will have more or less some amount of protection against the new Omicron variant as well," Dipu T.S, clinical associate professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, told IANS.

"So, though breakthrough infections are possible, the chances of Omicron infecting huge numbers at a go is impractical and impossible in the best scenario and the curve will have to go up slowly," he added.

According to a preliminary study by South African researchers released on Dec. 2, Omicron

can increase risk of reinfection by three times as compared to other variants of concern such as Beta and Delta. The study, which was released as a pre-print on medrxiv, which means it has not yet been peer-reviewed, found that recent reinfections occurred in people whose first infections occurred throughout all three waves, with the majority having their primary infection in the Delta wave.

Based on these, can we estimate that an Omicron patient can infect even more or up to 1,000-1,200 people, especially when social distancing norms are being flouted in the country?

"This is not an estimation of the current scenario. Because we need to understand that the immunity was practically zero in April 2020, when ICMR came with its random number of 400," Dipu said. "But as of today, we are dealing with a completely different scenario, where the vaccination has crossed more than 50 percent of the population. And we are almost two years into this pandemic," he added.

According to Mrinal Sircar, director, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Noida, the possibility is that "Omicron will have a milder course in India."

"The larger difference that we need to see here is that a large set of the Indian population has already received the first dose of the vaccine, which was not the case during the Delta variant out-

break," he told IANS.

There's also the natural immunity that comes with being infected with Covid. The ICMR reported in October that the seroprevalence rate in India is 67 percent. This suggests that 67 percent of people were already immune to the Covid-19 virus.

Moreover, "when we say the reinfection is three times more likely, we are comparing it to the original strain. So the chance of breakthrough infections, which has been reported to be 10 percent in a year's span, can be up to 30 per cent, which, though is a worrying number, will happen over a period of time," Dipu said.

"As per current preliminary evidence available from African countries, the reinfection rate among previously infected or vaccinated individual with Covid-19 is very very low (below 1 percent)," Harshal R. Salve, associate professor at the Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS.

But, "compared to Africa with 5 percent vaccination coverage, we have much higher coverage and perhaps thanks to the Delta wave have high seropositivity," Sircar said.

But again, these are all based on the preliminary data and it is too early to predict the behavior of this kind of strain. We need to wait till more data comes on these cases, the health experts noted.

## Monica Bharel, has been named as a senior advisor to Massachusetts Mayor-elect Wu.

**F**ormer Commissioner Dr. Monica Bharel will take on a new role leading the response to another emerging public health crisis after leading the Department of Public Health during the first global pandemic in a century, according to a press release from the Boston-based Massachusetts State House News Service.

Boston Mayor-elect Michelle Wu said on November 10 that she has appointed Bharel as a new Cabinet-level senior adviser to head the city's efforts over the next six months "to address the intersecting crises of substance use disorder, mental health, public safety, and homelessness." Wu stated that the appointment was made in order to fulfil a campaign commitment to address the multifaceted issue at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard with a public health focus. Bharel resigned as DPH commissioner in June after six years in charge. "This ongoing crisis of substance use disorder, mental health issues, and homelessness requires a coordinated response from government, service providers, and our communities," Bharel said. "Mayor-elect Wu is committed to working with our state and regional partners to secure the lasting public health-led solutions that this moment demands and our residents deserve," the Indian American physician added.

Photo: Indiawest



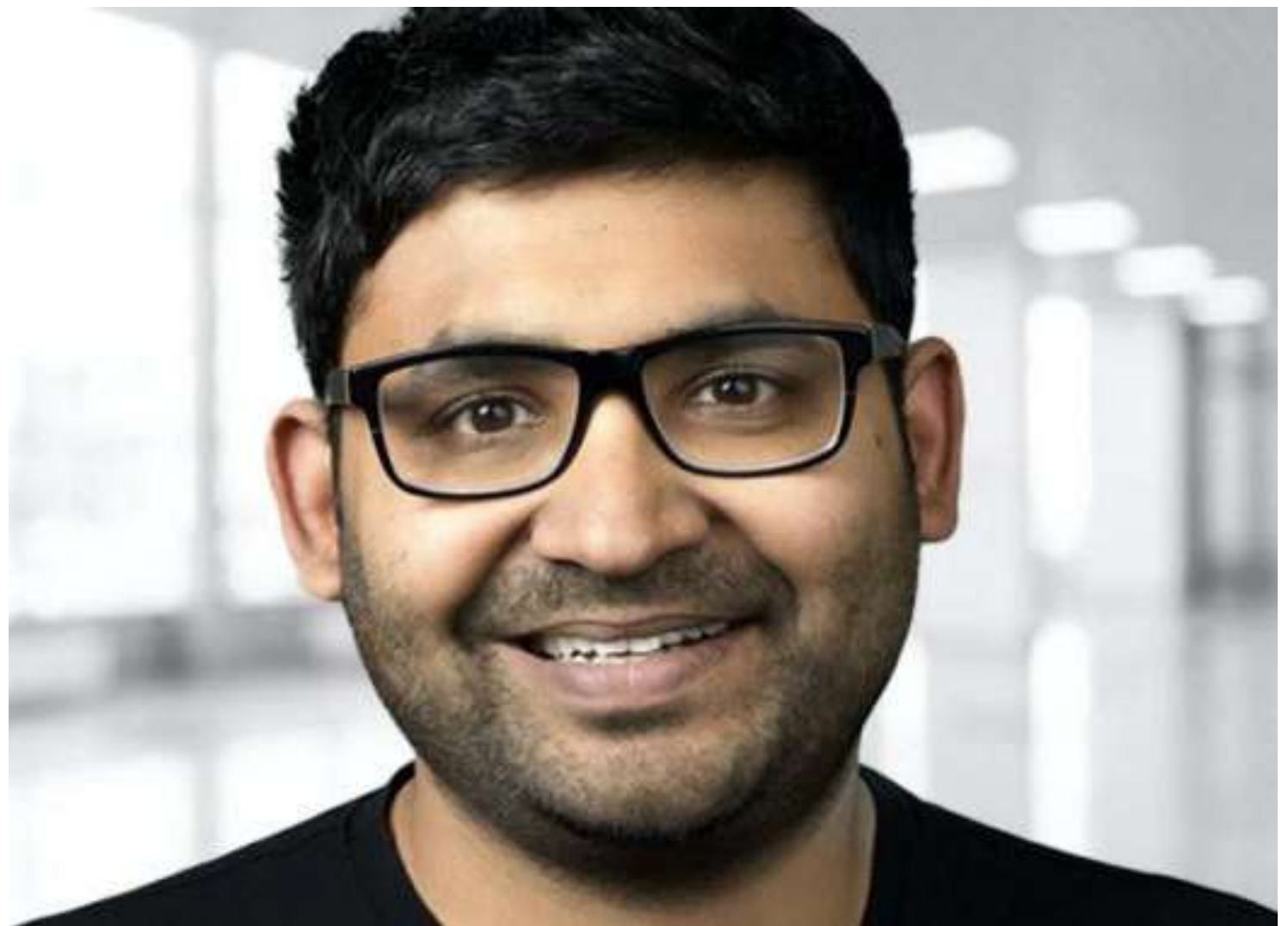
# The Twitter Board of Directors unanimously elects Indian-American Parag Agrawal to succeed Jack Dorsey as CEO.

Photo: Indiatimes

**O**n Monday, India-born Parag Agrawal took over as CEO of Twitter after cofounder Jack Dorsey stood down after 16 years at the helm of the San Francisco-based microblogging network.

Agrawal, an IIT-Bombay and Stanford University alumnus, was Twitter's chief technology officer prior to his sudden promotion. In early trading, Twitter shares rose by as much as 10% in response to the news. Vijaya Gadde, Twitter's policy and safety lead director, will now be one of the company's two most influential Indian employees. "I want to thank the Board for their confidence in my leadership and Jack for his continued mentorship, support, and partnership," Agrawal is quoted saying in the press release. "I look forward to building on everything we have accomplished under Jack's leadership and I am incredibly energized by the opportunities ahead. By continuing to improve our execution, we will deliver tremendous value for our customers and shareholders as we reshape the future of public conversation," he added.

Dorsey will stay on the Board until his term expires at the 2022 stockholders' meeting. "I've de-



cid to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep. His work over the past 10 years has been transformational. I'm deeply grateful for his skill, heart, and soul. It's his time to

lead," Dorsey is quoted saying in the press release.

Bret Taylor, Twitter's incoming Independent Board Chair noted, "Parag understands Twitter and appreciates the Company's unique potential. He has been instrumental in tackling our most

important priorities, including accelerating our development velocity, and I know he'll hit the ground running to strengthen execution and deliver results. The Board has the utmost confidence in Parag."

## The United Nations intends to significantly enhance India's plastic waste management.

**T**he United Nations Development Programme aims to almost triple its plastic waste management to 100 cities in India by 2024, A UNDP executive said, to combat the damaging effects of plastic pollution.

The absence of a systematic management of plastic trash leads to widespread littering and pollution in India's many towns and cities, which are frequently named among the world's most polluted.

Since its inception in 2018, the UNDP initiative has gathered 83,000 metric tonnes of plastic garbage. According to government estimates, India creates around 3.4 million tonnes of plastic garbage each year.

Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, said in an interview that "In India although about 60% of plastic is recycled, we are still seeing the damage that plastic pollution is causing." The UNDP is collaborating with the federal

think tank NITI Aayog to create a "handbook" model for local governments and the corporate sector. "In a country like India with nearly fifth of the world's population, a key challenge is how do we make these models scalable"- Nadia Rasheed.

Rasheed said the government requires tougher enforcement of limits on plastic garbage disposal and has a "far way to go" to promote awareness among families, adding that there is a need for investment in research for alter-

natives.

The programme experienced a setback after the COVID-19 epidemic caused a spike in garbage, especially medical plastic waste, and impacted the lives of collectors, who sometimes labour in dangerous circumstances.

"There was a real need to expand waste collection efforts and that was coming at the same time as lot of (COVID-19 related) restrictions were disrupting the normal waste collection," Rasheed said.

# The Railway Men: Tribute to Unsung Heroes of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

“You know the killer, this story is about the saviors!” says the teaser of Yash Raj Films’ first web series, “The Railway Men.” As a tribute to those who saved countless lives, YRF unveils this project on the 37th anniversary of the world’s greatest industrial trage-

Photo: Indiawest



dy, the Bhopal gas leak.

Shiv Rawail, grandson of famous director H.S. Rawail and son of Rahul Rawail, the man who launched talents such as Kumar Gaurav, Sunny Deol, Amrita Singh, and Kajol, will helm the series, which will premiere on December 2, 2022, precisely a year

later on the same day. Shiv is a YRF native talent who is coached by Aditya Chopra.

Yash Raj Films, one of India’s largest production firms, is therefore foraying into the country’s burgeoning digital content (over-the-top or OTT) scene. YRF’s streaming content production company will be called YRF Entertainment, and it will produce five major projects in its first year.

“The Railway Men” is an homage to the unsung heroes of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, the world’s largest man-made industrial disaster. R. Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon, Divyenndu Sharma, and Babil Khan will star. The attendance of numerous additional great artists will also be announced soon by the corporation.

Akshaye Widhani, senior vice-president of Yash Raj Films, says, “The Bhopal gas tragedy is

the world’s worst industrial disaster that has impacted scores of people since the tragedy struck the city 37 years ago. At YRF, we are constantly trying to develop the best compelling stories for the audience, and this is our tribute to the unsung heroes of the tragedy who, despite saving thousands of lives on that fateful day, are still unknown to people across the world.”

Yogendra Mogre, executive producer at YRF Entertainment, adds, ““The Railway Men” is our salute to their spirit, their courage and their humanity. This is a story that needed to be told. We are not going to leave any stone unturned to ensure that this story reaches out to audiences, across the world, in the best possible way so that they can understand the depth of devastation that this tragedy has caused in India.”

## Indian Lyricist Prasoon Joshi was awarded Film Personality of the Year at the 52nd IFFI

The eminent lyricist and creative writer expressed gratitude to IFFI for attempting to provide such a platform through the 75 Creative Minds initiative after being honoured with the 'Film Personality of the Year' award at the closing ceremony of the 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India.

He said, "IFFI has been more than an awards show, it has been a festival. I think what these 75 Creative Minds can do for the country is what really gives me hope." "I know how difficult it is for someone coming from a small

town to get exposure to cinema."

Pointing out that while films could appear like magic, filmmaking should not, the writer said that what this initiative tried to do was give exposure. "It's a process," Joshi said and pointed out that the chance we attach to filmmaking should reduce. "That is because we have so many brilliant minds waiting and raring to go in this country who want to make great films," he said.

He also said that, "The diversity we have in this country is really amazing. But if we do not get a platform for the diversity, that diversity is not going to reflect in our cinema. It is only going to re-

flect if all these people whom we saw coming from various parts of

the country start telling their stories."

Photo: Indiawest



Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur with Madhuri Dikshit and Goa CM Pramod Sawant present the Indian 'Film Personality of the Year' award to Prasoon Joshi

### WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

We can help you take your brand farther.

Get in touch with us at [diaspora@fianynjct.org](mailto:diaspora@fianynjct.org)

### PUBLISHED BY

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

Voluntary Content  
Chandrakant Trivedi

Voluntary Design & Graphics  
Gracia Marcom

### WRITE TO US!

Got feedback for us? We would love to hear about it. Have an event you want others to know about? Tell us. Clicked a pic worth sharing? Send it across. Your inputs are invaluable. You can mail your comments to [editor@fianynjct.org](mailto:editor@fianynjct.org)

**YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON**

[@fianynjct.org](https://www.facebook.com/fianynjct.org)  
[federationofindianassociations](https://www.instagram.com/federationofindianassociations)  
[@FIANYNJCTorg](https://www.twitter.com/FIANYNJCTorg)





# 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DANCE PE CHANCE COMPETITION CELEBRATING INDIA'S 73<sup>RD</sup> REPUBLIC DAY

OVER  
**19,000**  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN 38 YEARS



SATURDAY  
**FEB.  
19<sup>th</sup>  
2022**  
04:00 PM  
ONWARDS

INDIAN DIASPORA  
OLDEST CULTURAL  
COMPETITION  
ON THE EAST COAST



**CELEBRITY  
TBA**

SIGN UP & COMPETE  
TO WIN  
BEST OF BEST PRIZE  
**\$5,000**

<https://dancepechance.org/event-registration-2022/>

**PATRIOTS THEATER  
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL**  
1 MEMORIAL DRIVE, TRENTON, NJ 08608

FOR SPONSORSHIP CONTACT: [INFO@FIANYNJCT.ORG](mailto:info@fianynjct.org)  
[WWW.DANCEPECHANCE.ORG](http://WWW.DANCEPECHANCE.ORG) | [WWW.FIANYNJCT.ORG](http://WWW.FIANYNJCT.ORG)