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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

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FIA NEW ENGLAND CELEBRATED 73rd REPUBLIC DAY AT GRAND WORCESTER UNION STATION

India's 73rd Republic Day



Federation of Indian Association (FIA) New England, imbued with great patriotic zeal and fervor, celebrated the 73rd Republic Day on January 25, 2022, at Grand Worcester Union Station, 2 Washington Sq,

Worcester, MA 01604 with the Indo-American Community, and other partners. Due to Covid restrictions, the event was a combination of Zoom/YouTube/Facebook live in front of the 75 invited guests, and more than 1000 online guests.

The event commenced with the hoisting of the National flag by Senator, Michael O. Moore, State Representative Robert Lancia, Congressman Jim McGovern, State Representative Hannah Kane, Ex-congressman Joe Kennedy, Interim Chair,

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Terrick Andey, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and a powerful welcome speech by Abhishek Singh, President of Federations of India Association (FIA) New England

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Chapter. The entire premise of Worcester Union Station was drenched in the hues of saffron, white, and green as the Indian tricolor was unfurled by dignitaries belonging to different caste, creed religion, and colors reflecting the joy of unity amidst diversity and to mark the 73rd anniversary of Republic Day.

In his address, Abhishek Singh, President FIA New England Chapter lauded the valuable contribution of Indian nationals residing in New England in the strengthening of the India-American partnership. He also emphasized the relevance of January 26th, which is a day of pride and honor for all Indians, and the core values enshrined in the Indian Constitution which are Justice, Liberty, Equality, and

Fraternity. He also explained the importance of rights and duties. He said rights have real meaning only if individuals perform duties. A duty is something that someone is expected or required to do. In fact, rights and duties are two wheels on which the chariot of life moves forward smoothly. Life can become smoother if rights and duties go hand in hand and become complementary to each other. Rights are what we want others to do for us whereas duties are those acts which we should perform for others. Thus, a right comes with an obligation to show respect for the rights of others. The obligations that accompany rights are in the form of duties. If we have the right to enjoy public facilities like transport or health services, it becomes our duty to allow others to avail themselves the same. If we have the right to

freedom, it becomes our duty not to misuse this and harm others.

Consulate General of India, New York (USA), Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, and State Representative Hannah Kane conveyed messages to audiences supporting the Indian diaspora's role in Indo-American relations and wished the Federation of Indian Associations, as well as the entirety of the Indian American community, a very happy 73rd anniversary of the Republic of India. "This day represents freedom from oppression as well as official adoption of the Indian Constitution, serving as a reminder of a long, hard battle fought by the Indian community. This special opportunity is also an opportunity throughout New England and honors the integral role and importance in our local town and cities" said Hannah

Kane, State Representative.

Republic Day celebrations witnessed mesmerizing and remarkable dance performances by the students of well-acclaimed choreographer and dancer Kalaimangai Anabalgan from Amudhasri Dance School. India's diverse culture, beauty, power, cosmic power of Shakti Goddess and Lord Krishna were well depicted in the dance performances that mesmerized and spiritually elevated the appreciative audience.

At the end of the event, dinner was served to nearly 75 guests, including dignitaries of different faiths and cultures as well as members of the Indian community from New England. Overall, more than 1000 people of Indian origin, and friends of India attended the event virtually and in person.

A glance at the Republic Day Celebration



Team FIA-NE with Indo-American Community at India's 73rd Republic Day Celebration.



Flag hoisting at Grand Worcester, Union Station.



EX. State Representative Robert B. Lancia addressed the event



Senator Mike Moore addressing the event



Pandit Subrahmanyam (Subbu) Bulusu addressed the event



Scientist Terric Andey, addressed the event.



A glimpse of the Republic Day of India celebration in Boston USA.

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A special video message from Mr. Joe Kennedy.



Video message from Consul General of India, New York Shri Randhir Jaiswal.



Mr. Amarpreet Singh Sawhney addressed the event



Amudhasri Dance School students performed at the occasion.



Mr. Shantanu Gupta launched his book at the Republic Day Celebration.

Grand Worcester, Union Station.

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FIA -NE, imbued with great patriotic zeal and fervor, celebrated the 73rd Republic Day.

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38TH ANNUAL DANCE PE CHANCE COMPETITION
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A GLIMPSE OF DANCE PE CHANCE



Edison has named the state's first female South Asian municipal court judge.

Mayor Joshi nominates Edison & new jersey's first female South Asian municipal court judge

Dipti Vaid Dedhia, Esq., was nominated for a judgeship on the Edison Municipal Court by Edison Mayor Sam Joshi. Dedhia is the first female South Asian municipal court judge in Edison and New Jersey

Photo: insidersnj



history, having been confirmed by the Township Council on Jan. 26. "It was truly my honor and privilege to nominate Dipti Vaid Dedhia as Edison's next municipal court judge," Joshi said during the meeting. "She is the most qualified and ready for the job."

Formerly the Deputy Attorney General in Employment Counsel and Labor for the State of New Jersey, Dedhia graduated from George Washington University before receiving her Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University of Law. She has spent decades litigating complex employment matters, investigating complaints involving violations of law or policy, and representing the governor's office of Employee Relations in arbitrating grievances between the administration and labor

unions, according to a statement released after the meeting.

"When I was young, I didn't know what I wanted to do for my career, but I had two amazing parents who motivated me to strive for a life of significance and conscience. In recognition of their immense impact on my life, one of my main goals in my new role is to be an example to the youth of today. My message to them is simple: though the path may not be clear as you stand here today, your goals are attainable. Achieving your dreams through courage, kindness, and perseverance is not a cliché - I am living proof," Dedhia said in the statement.

Dedhia was the recipient of the Most Successful Mediator Award in the Passaic County Superior Court Clerk's Program, in

addition to her years of expertise offering legal advice on labor laws, anti-discrimination rules, prevailing pay regulations, and best employment practises.

She has also participated in national civil rights competition, is certified in deposition skills by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and is a frequent contributor to Huffington Post, Brown Girl Magazine, and the Aerogram, according to the statement.

Born originally in London, Dedhia moved to New Jersey with her parents at age two and has lived in the state for the past 36 years, 20 of which are as a resident of Edison. She enjoys spending her free time at home with her husband and three young children, ages one, four and seven, according to the statement.

Indian-origin NYPD officer hailed hero for shooting gunman in New York

A 27-year-old Indian-origin NYPD officer is being hailed as a hero after shooting a convicted criminal who murdered one of his colleagues and critically wounded another while investigating a domestic-violence incident in New York City's Harlem neighbourhood.

Sumit Sulan is still struggling to deal with Friday's deadly ambush and "his brain is stuck on the situation", his mother told the New York Post newspaper.

According to authorities, Lawshawn McNeil, a 47-year-old deranged career criminal, ambushed three police officers - Sulan, Jason Rivera, 22, and Wilbert Mora, 27 - who went to the Harlem house to investigate a domestic-violence incident on Friday.

McNeil opened fire, killing Rivera and wounding Mora seriously.

Officer Sulan fired back at McNeil and wounded him during the deadly mayhem. Accused McNeil, a convicted felon, is currently hospitalised in a critical condition. Speaking to the Post, the Indian-origin NYPD officer's mother Dalvir Sulan, 60, said that her son is "shaken" and cannot get what happened out of his head. "I'm proud. Everyone says he did good," she said. "I feel bad for the other (officer). He died. We really feel bad. We're sorry. We're hurt. The other guy is critical and we're hurt," she said from her Queens home. A law-enforcement source described Sulan as a "super rookie," noting that he has been on the job since April and at Harlem's 32nd Precinct for only two months.

"He did a great job," Sulan's mother said of her son, who emigrated from India about 15 years ago. "We're proud of him, but we're sorry for both of (the other officers)," she added.

According to the New York Daily News, quoting a source, the call to the Harlem residence looked to be a normal run until the cops arrived. He added that he expected the problem to be addressed without an arrest after speaking with accused McNeil.

The accused's mother never told the arriving officers that her son was armed, the report said, citing the source. Flags across the five boroughs of New York City flew at half-staff on Saturday to honour Rivera, a son of Dominican immigrants who once wrote that he joined the NYPD to make a difference in "this chaotic city."

Rivera, who was killed after just 14 months on the job, is survived by his wife.

Photo: indiawest



Senator Vin Gopal of New Jersey will lead the Senate Education Committee

In the next 2022-2023 State Legislature, New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal will lead the Senate Education Committee.

Photo: newsindiatimes

“I am looking forward to the new session and my new Senate Committee assignments,” Gopal is quoted saying in a press release dated Jan. 13, 2022. On Twitter, he added, “Succeeding the incredible @SenMTeresaRuiz will not be an easy task but I plan to build on to her incredible tenure in order to stand up for New Jersey’s students.”

In addition to chairing the Education Committee, Gopal, D-Monmouth, will serve on the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and the State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee.

“While my committee assignments have changed, I remain as committed as always to the mission of making Monmouth County and all of New Jersey safer and more affordable for families, seniors, taxpayers, and small busi-

nesses,” Gopal said.

The first and so far he is the only Indian-American to be elected to the New Jersey legislature. He has prior experience in successfully advocating for an additional \$100 million in the FY2022 budget for Educator assistance.

The increased money is intended to assist with exceptional special education and includes an additional \$3.4 million for LD11 school districts, increasing the total amount of extraordinary special education for all Monmouth County schools to \$13.4 million.

Gopal formerly headed the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee wherein he presented many bills that became laws to assist veterans in finding jobs, health care, and other benefits.

He has also introduced in the Senate a package of proposals to enhance conditions in State Veterans’ Memorial Nursing Homes.



Head of White House military office quits citing personal reasons

Due to personal reasons, Maju Varghese, the 44-year-old Indian-origin director of the White House Military Office, has resigned from the coveted position.

Photo: newindianexpress

In a series of tweets, Varghese said leading the White House Military Office (WHMO) was the honour of a lifetime. “Overcome with lots of emotion today as a 2.5-year journey comes to a close. Grateful to have served @POTUS and for the friendships that were forged in the tough days of the early primaries, when we were counted out but bounced back to win it all.

“Grateful to @BidenInaugural for giving the country a day to celebrate despite all the challenges we faced. Grateful to the men and women of the White House Military Office for taking me in and teaching me about service and sacrifice,” he said.

An Obama administration alum, Varghese joined the Biden White House after leading the president’s inauguration efforts and serving as a senior adviser and chief operating officer for Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign, the CNN reported on Friday.

Varghese “is departing his post Friday after several years working in President Joe Biden’s orbit,” it said. The White House declined to say whether a replacement has been selected.

“One thing I learned during two tours here is it’s a demanding place to work and it’s because the work is really important, and we throw all of ourselves into this...Right now, it’s best for me

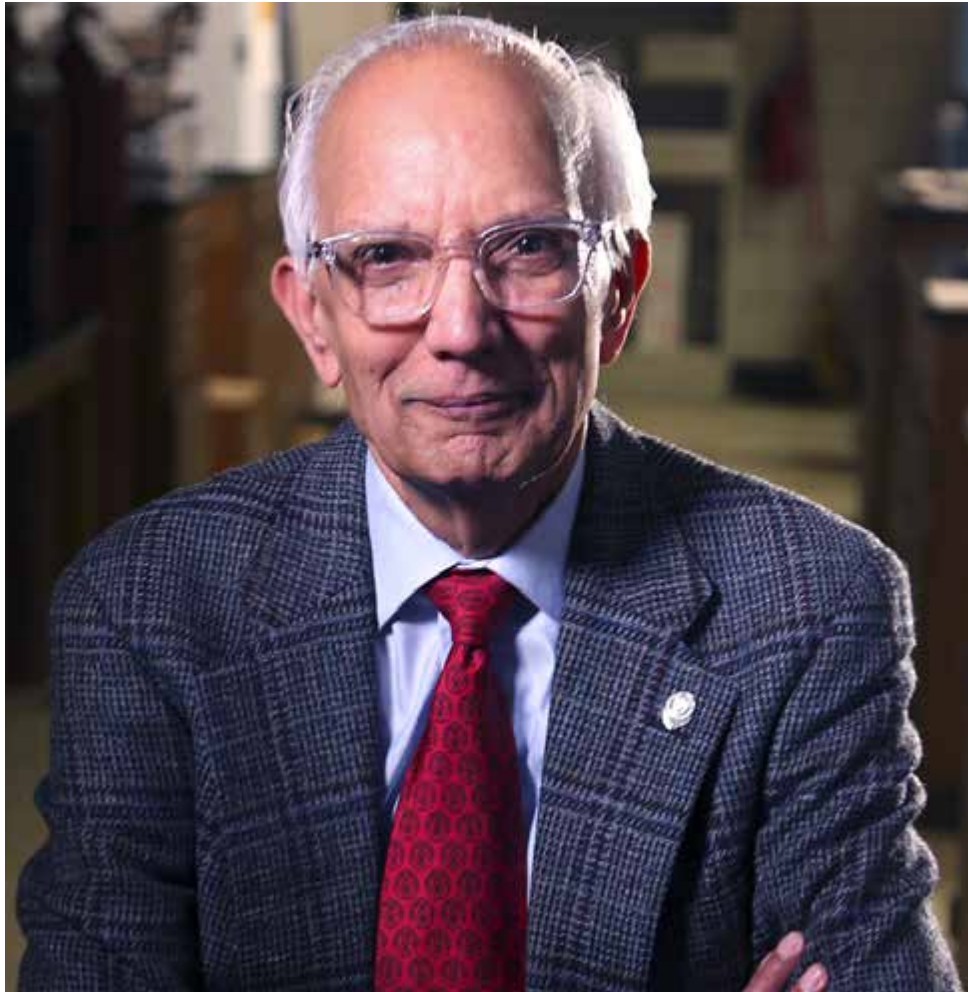
and my family that I kind of just try to strike a little bit more of a balance,” Varghese, who is in his early forties, was quoted as saying to CNN. He, however, did not detail his next endeavours.

As head of the military office, Varghese used to coordinate with the military branches responsible for supporting presidential operations at the White House and on the road domestically and abroad, including Air Force One missions, secure communications via the White House Communications Agency, food services, the medical unit and Camp David, the presidential retreat frequented often by the Biden family, the report said.



Biden named Indian American scientist for key role

Photo: ifdc.org



President Biden indicated on January 14 his intention to select a number of people to significant positions in his government, including Indian American Rattan Lal.

Lal will be appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, according to a White House news release.

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development advises the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on agricultural and higher education issues related to food insecurity in developing nations. Members are appointed by the president and largely represent the academic community.

BIFAD was established by Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act. The Board and Title XII recognize the critical role of U.S. land-

grant institutions in agricultural development, domestically and abroad, and support their representation in USAID development programs, said the release.

Lal, who has a Ph.D., is a Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration at The Ohio State University, noted the release. Lal is also a Visiting Professor at Pontifical Catholic University and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Iceland and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. He is widely regarded as a pioneer in soil-centric agricultural management, which aims to enhance global food security and build climate-resilient agriculture by focusing on soil carbon management and sequestration, long-term soil management, and soil health.

Poornima Padmanabhan: Professor at RIT won NSF CAREER award

Poornima Padmanabhan, an Indian American professor of chemical engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development award, according to a news statement from the institute.

Her CAREER award is from the NSF's division of Materials Research for her research, "Chirality and polymer thermodynamics: frustration and amplification."

According to the announcement, scientists are looking to space for the origins of the solar system, while chemical engineers like Padmanabhan are looking for the origins of life based on minute systems of molecules.

The \$478,476 funding was awarded to research how chiral structures—or mirror-image, en-

tangled molecules—work, which is critical to understanding how different cell types are formed in biological development. The concepts can give information on how to further develop synthetic materials for use in the pharmaceutical business, agricultural or food analysis, and the creation of innovative materials to improve sensing and imaging applications.

"We can think about how proteins fold, how life originated, we can think about how biology forms chiral structures and the reason the work is very exciting is we don't know how these phenomena happen," said Padmanabhan, an assistant professor of chemical engineering in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, in the release.

At RIT, she is co-director of the Computational Materials Research Nucleus Lab with Patricia

Taboada-Serrano and Obioma Uche, both faculty in the chemical engineering department. The team researches development of "extreme" strength polymers, electrochemistry, and alternative energy resources.

Prior to coming to RIT, she was a post-doctoral researcher at Cornell University and received its Alice H. Cook and Constance E. Cook Award, given by the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity for commitment to women's issues and improving the climate for women at the university. Padmanabhan continues to be an advocate for gender diversity and increasing the pipeline

of students in STEM degree programs, the release noted.

Photo: rit.edu



Canada PM Justin Trudeau Vows Action Against People-smuggling After Indians' Death on US Border

Trudeau described the incident as a "mind-blowing" tragedy and stressed that the Canadian government is doing all possible to protect human trafficking victims.

A day after a family of four Indians, including an infant, died from exposure to harsh cold weather on the Canadian side of the border with America, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed his government is doing everything it can and working "very closely" with the US to stop human smuggling.

"It's so tragic to see a family die like that, victims of human traffickers...and of people who took advantage of their desire to build a better life," Trudeau told a news conference. "This is why we are doing all we can to discourage people from crossing the border in an irregular or illicit manner. We know there are great risks in doing so," he said.

According to Canadian officials, the incident was unusual as illegal migrants generally try to cross into Canada from America, rather than the other way round. Border crossings into Canada on foot increased in 2016 following the election of Donald Trump as the president of the United States. On Thursday, the Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that the bodies of four people—two adults, a teen and an infant—were found on the Canadian side of the US/Canada border near the Emerson locality in south central Manitoba on Wednesday.

The family, who were thought to be Gujaratis, perished as a result of the intense cold. Ajay Bisaria, India's High Commissioner to Canada, confirmed the deceased's nationality and termed the situation as a tragic tragedy.

"This is a grave tragedy. An Indian consular team is travelling today from @IndiainToronto to Manitoba to coordinate and help. We will work with Canadian authorities to investigate these disturbing events," Bisaria tweeted.

On Wednesday morning, the Manitoba RCMP received notification from US Customs and Border Protection that a group of persons had entered into the US near Emerson, and that one of the adults was carrying supplies intended for a newborn, but there was no baby with the group.

An urgent search was launched on both sides of the border, and the bodies of an adult male, an adult woman, and a child were discovered by that afternoon. Shortly later, the body of a young male in his mid-teens was discovered.

The US Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota said in a press release that 47-year-old Steve Shand of Florida had been arrested.

A criminal complaint has been filed on Thursday in the US District Court for the District of Minnesota against Shand, who has been charged with human smuggling.

Shand, a "suspected smuggler of undocumented foreign nationals", was arrested near the US/Canadian border on January 19 for transporting two Indian nationals, who were illegally present in the US. The two Indian nationals have been identified as 'SP' and 'YP' in the complaint.

The complaint said that five Indian nationals "illegally present in the United States were also identified and arrested" around the time of Shand's arrest.

Inside the vehicle, US officers found cases of plastic cups, bottled water, bottled juice and snacks in the van. As the officers were taking the trio back to the border patrol station in North Dakota, they came across another group of five Indian nationals walking.

They said they had walked across the border and had expected to be picked up by someone. The group said they estimated they had been walking for more

than 11 hours.

One person in the group had a backpack he told officials he was carrying for a family of four they had become separated from that contained children's items such as clothes, a diaper and a toy.

The bodies found on the Canadian side of the border have been tentatively identified as that family of four, the release from the US Attorney's Office said.

Soon after the discovery of the four bodies on the Canadian side of the border, RCMP Assistant Commissioner Jane MacLatchy called it "an absolute and heart-breaking tragedy".

"At this very early stage of the investigation, it appears that they all died due to exposure to the cold weather," MacLatchy said, adding that the RCMP believe the four people are connected to the group that was apprehended on the US side of the border.

She said all four were located

within 9-12 metre of the border.

MacLatchy said that the group was "on their own in the middle of a blizzard" and "faced not only the cold weather but endless fields, large snowdrifts and complete darkness".

Canadian police said the conditions where the four bodies were extreme and the temperature was 35 below zero degrees with a wind chill.

MacLatchy said work is under way to identify the victims, but at this stage, it appears they all died from exposure to the cold.

The RCMP said it is working with US Customs and Border Protection and the US Department of Homeland Security.

In a statement, the Canada Border Services Agency said it is also working with law enforcement partners, as well as its American counterparts, on the investigation.

Photo: tribuneindia.com



Delhi court: CAA a positive action that gave citizenship

Additional Sessions Judge, Delhi, Amitabh Rawat stated " Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was a positive action to provide citizenship to a particular class of people and in no way took away anyone's citizenship. However, a lot of falsehood and rumours were spread with mischievous intent stating that the Act was against one community and discriminatory in nature. The court further went on to observe that it was correct at one level to state that the Imam had lambasted almost every institution, the Constitution and seems to be sceptical about the

very Idea of Democracy and Secularism and even made vituperative utterances against even the father of the Nation and s

These observations were made by the Indian Court while framing charges of sedition and other offences against JNU student Sharjeel Imam for allegedly giving inflammatory speeches during protests against CAA.

It is further interesting to note Court's observations that -while referring to the 1947 partition of India & Pakistan,

CAA was aimed at conferring citizenship to victims of religious persecution. It added that a special treaty was signed between

India & Pakistan regarding the security and rights of minorities. While Indian Govt honestly abided by the terms of the agreement the same was not done by Pakistan noted by the court.

While allowing for the framing of Sedition Charges against Sharjeel, the court observed that the speech and other materials produced by the prosecution appeared to create public disorder and incitement to violence. The speech also appear to challenge the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. It also appears to create hatred/contempt for lawful institutions and to challenge them by unlawful means.

Vijay Mallya Faces Eviction from London Home

After the UK High Court decided against him in a dispute with the Swiss bank UBS, the fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya faces the threat of being evicted from the opulent Central London residence he presently occupies.

Mallya had a mortgage on the multi-million-pound house, which was located along Cornwall Terrace in one of London's most coveted districts. Mallya, his son Sidharth, and his 95-year-old mother Lalitha are thought to have lived on the property.

On Jan. 18, a judge in the High Court's chancery division denied Mallya's lawyers' plea for a delay on repaying the UBS loan after Mallya missed a prior repayment deadline in April 2020. However, according to COVID laws, UBS was unable to remove the Mallyas. The verdict on Tuesday clears the way for UBS to reclaim the property.

Mallya and his family are said to possess a number of additional properties in the UK and abroad, including a huge rural estate in Hertfordshire, north of London. Mallya has been based in London after fleeing the country after being charged with a Rs 9,000 crore fraud in connection with the demise of Kingfisher Airlines. He has always refuted the allegations. After three years of proceedings, the UK High Court ruled that he be extradited. He is still being held on bail while the UK government evaluates what is believed to be an asylum claim.

Photo: bloomberg



Two Indian-origin faculty at the University of Michigan received prestigious awards

The renowned 2022 Sarah Goddard Power Awards will be presented to University of Michigan faculty members Reshma Jagsi of the Medical School and Bhramar Mukherjee of the School of Public Health.

The Sarah Goddard Power Award honours those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women via their leadership, scholarship, or other professional endeavours, and is named after the late University of Michigan Regent.

Jagsi is the head of the Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine and deputy chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan.

"She has led seminal studies quantifying underrepresentation of women in authorship, editorial, principal investigator and leadership positions in medicine and in comparable compensation," the news report said.

She is internationally recognized for research to strengthen autonomy

in breast cancer patients and to individualize breast cancer care, it added.

"Dr. Jagsi is an international scholar, advocate and leading voice for gender and BIPOC equity, and a well-funded researcher who lifts many women through inspiration, collaboration, and mentorship. She embodies the virtues of Sarah Goddard Power and I cannot support her more highly for this reward," David J.

Photo: eurekalert, timesofindia



Bhramar Mukherjee, Reshma Jagsi

Brown, associate dean and associate vice president for health equity and inclusion, is quoted saying in a nominating letter quoted in the news report.

Dr Bhramar Mukherjee is the chair of the biostatistics department and a professor of epidemiology and global public health. She is also the Rogel Cancer Center's associate director for quantitative data sciences.

"Dr Mukherjee is highly engaged in the Precision Health Initiative and serves as the associate director for cohort development," the news release noted. Her research interests include statistical methods for the analysis of electronic health records, studies of gene-environment interaction, Bayesian methods, shrinkage estimation and analysis of high dimensional exposure data.

India's Navdeep Kaur: Mrs World 2022's National Costume winner

Photo: republicworld

Navdeep Kaur, who won the Mrs World 2022 Costume Round, spoke about her experience and urged people not to lose their individuality, fulfill their aspirations, and trust themselves to achieve success.

She said her "experience was absolutely great" and, "I learned much more than what I had hoped for, the exposure I got is incomparable and this journey of mine was once in a lifetime thing." "Live your dreams, be yourself and trust yourself. Self-love is very important, as the moment you start loving yourself and understanding that you are important, nothing can stop you. Never lose your individuality," she said.

The golden outfit had a large serpent head and snake-like decorations throughout, as well as a serpent cane.

"My costume was inspired by

the Kundalini Chakra, which is a Sanskrit word that means coiled snake. Our body has 7 chakras and the Kundalini Chakra is known as the awakening. Basically, the Kundalini awakening is the form of energy that starts from the spine and comes out of the crown. My costume was inspired by this concept. This has been derived from the feminine energy and how we awaken it inside us," she said.

Navdeep also spoke about her unique costume, "I was blessed to get in touch with Eggie Jasmin, an Indonesian artist. He made sure the concept on which I had to work, the concept of being unique and coming up with an idea, which actually could represent the culture and the heritage, the ideology behind the yogas and asanas that we do. That is when we sat together and brainstormed."



Navdeep Kaur won the Best National Costume award for her Kundalini Chakra-inspired attire.

"My organization, Mrs India Inc, Eggie Jasmin and myself, we had months of discussion and that is when we came up with this concept of Kundalini Chakra which eventually proved to be a very nice and unique topic to work on," she added. "I lived each

moment to the fullest as all of them were very important for. But, if I have to choose then it would be when I wore the national costume and stepped onto the stage, that feeling was fire and I will never forget it."

Antitrust Reform Bill Passed by US Congress to Limit Big Tech

The United States Senate Judiciary Committee has passed a key antitrust measure that would prevent Big Tech from preferring its own services and goods over those of competitors.

The American Innovation and Choice Online Act is a bipartisan bill spearheaded by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Josh Hawley (R-MO), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA).

"I want to stress that this bill is not meant to break up Big Tech or destroy the products and services they offer. Rather, the goal of the bill is to prevent conduct that stifles competition, while ensuring that pro-consumer innovations and offerings are still available," said Grassley. A similar law was

cleared by the House Judiciary Committee last year, but it has yet to be voted on the House floor and must be approved by both chambers of Congress before being sent to US President Joe

operating a marketplace and selling products on the marketplace, including concerns that the dominant platforms rank their own products and services above

prives consumers of the ability to find the products and services that best match their needs," it added.

Earlier this week, media sources stated that tech titans are concerned about potential antitrust laws, with Apple CEO Tim Cook and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai individually "calling and meeting with Senators" to urge them to oppose the proposed legislation.

Only the biggest tech companies are affected: Apple, Amazon, Facebook's Meta, and Alphabet's Google. These platforms would be prohibited from engaging in practices such as favouring their own search results, limiting rivals' access to platform data, and competing against them using non-public data from consumers.



Biden's desk. The White House did not issue any statement on the bill. "Several participants described issues with large platforms both

those of the independent sellers that rely on them to reach customers,' the White House said in a statement late on Jan.21. "One company elaborated that this de-

Photo: indiawest

Valentine's Day - Lover's Paradise

This most popular fascinating day always a long-awaited paradise for lovers is celebrated worldwide on February 14th every year. It is interesting to know the reason for such increasing popularity, history and other facts about it.

It's thought that Valentine's Day originated from a Roman festival.



The Romans had a festival called Lupercalia in the middle

of February - officially the start of their spring time.

It's thought that as part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. They'd be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival and sometimes they get married. Later on, the church wanted to earn this loving festival into a Christian celebration and decided to link St. Valentine's name to it. Gradually St. Valentine's name started to be used by people to express their feelings to those they loved and thus it started getting momentum as Valentine's Day.

The first Valentine's Day was in the year 496! Bible says Love is God. Love binds everything together in perfect harmony. The three things adore humanity- faith, hope and love, where Love is

supreme. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes always perseveres. True love never fails. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love glorifies with sacrifice. Love's fragrance is much stronger than any perfume or spice. Love never fails No one has seen God but God is love, God lives in us and he makes us complete Love has no boundary. A beautiful borderless world is Love's kingdom. Love has no horizon, Love between men and women with your neighbour and encompassing the world as one family is the ultimate.

Originated as a Western Christian feast day honouring Christian Saint Valentine as martyr valentine Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the World.

Valentine's Day is also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of St.

valentine. Valentine's Day at present is celebrated worldwide. Particularly young generations married or lovers make fabulous enchanting plans to celebrate it romantically and displaying their immense love, understanding and sacrifice for each other. February 14 is listed on the Calendar of saints in both the Anglican and Lutheran churches. Valentine of Rome was a Christian martyr. killed on February 14, 496 under the direction of Emperor Claudius II of Rome. It seems the modern celebration of Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday that includes exchanging of cards, chocolates and rose flowers, lately added attraction of Commercialized valentine's cards given as gifts becoming increasingly popular and exciting.

FIA conveys greetings for Happy Valentine's Day to all.

Indian-Origin US Man Jailed for Sexually Abusing Teen

A 41-year-old Indian-origin man in the US has been sentenced to 15 months in prison for sexually abusing a minor boy seated next to him on an airplane in 2019, according to the Justice Department.

District Judge Nancy E. Brasel sentenced Neeraj Chopra, who is from Minneapolis, for engaging in sexual contact on an airplane during a flight from Boston to Minneapolis, according to a statement by the US Department of Justice on Friday. Chopra was found guilty of the offence after a

three-day trial in July of last year.

According to court documents, Chopra knowingly engaged in abusive sexual contact with a 16-year-old victim who was seated next to him aboard a Jet Blue flight from Boston to Minneapolis in April 2019.

Chopra took a blanket from his

backpack and laid it over his lap during the flight, with a piece of the blanket also covering the victim's right leg.

Chopra put his hand under the blanket and began inappropriately touching the victim and ignored the victim's multiple requests to stop, it said.

Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein

Cast - Tahir Raj Bhasin, Shweta Tripathi, Anchal Singh, Saurabh Shukla, Brijendra Kalra, Anant Joshi & Ensemble

Creator - Siddharth Sengupta

Director - Siddharth Sengupta, Rohit Jugraj, Ankkitha Maithy & Varun Badola

Streaming - Netflix

Language - Hindi (with subtitles)

Runtime - 8 episodes with around 40 minutes each

Good or bad, you cannot ignore this web series on Netflix. I've read mixed reviews, but then decided to subject myself to a preconceived notion of it being a torturous watch. It wasn't.

The first 2 episodes were well scripted and directed, and had your attention, even though you had second guessed about the plot. Later it went spiralling down, only to resurface to some of its sheen in a few episodes.

A lot has been written about this series, so let's mention the reason to watch it: Tahir Raj Bhasin. He caught my attention as the cold villain in *Mardani*. Here his eyes do all the emoting, spell binding you. His abject despair and frustration call out to you. A gifted actor, I hope we watch more of him.

Saurabh Shukla and Brijendra Kala are reliable actors. Arunodaya Singh has a small role, why can't we see more of him? I thought the character

Golden played by Anant Joshi was impressive too.

The plot gets convoluted, and makes the audience wish that the writer wouldn't have concentrated on too many turns, there are less of twists actually. It made me fast forward some parts.

The director, Siddharth Sengupta has the popular *Balika Vadhu* series to his credit. And does anyone remember the affable actor, Varun Badola? He has added another feather to



his cap, as a dialogue writer of this series. There is a glaring loophole, but I suppose Season 2 may explain that. It's better not to reveal the plot.

I binge watched it last night, so all I can say is that it ain't bad.

Photo: quint.com



Don't Look Up

Cast - Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Cate Blanchett, Rob Morgan, Jonah Hill, Mark Rylance, Tyler Perry, Timothée Chalamet, Ron Perlman, Ariana Grande, Scott Mescudi

Creator - Adam McKay, David Sirota

Director - Adam McKay

Streaming - Netflix

Language - English

Runtime - 138 minutes

A brilliant cast featuring Leonardo Caprio, Meryl Streep, Jonah Hill Jennifer Lawrence, and Cate Blanchett compelled me to watch this film, as the subject is usually not my cup of tea. A New Year brings with it many beginnings, and it's always good to try out new things. One never knows when one strikes gold.

I was impressed by the clever writing of writer-director Adam McKay. Two scientists stumble upon a comet, hurtling

towards Earth, threatening to destroy it in a few months. Their mission is to warn the authorities about it so that necessary steps are taken to avoid extinction.

The movie offers no tongue-in-cheek humor, it's a simple satire in today's world, governed by greedy politicians, capitalists, media, and the internet. I was told that Adam Mckay's allegory alluded to many people. Save for one or two I couldn't really identify

them, I guess I don't really follow all things American. This movie definitely made fun of the country with its characters shown to be double-faced mercenary leaders, hell-bent on amassing power, unmindful of how it would affect the planet. Sad but true.

The movie has received mixed reviews. Upon browsing the net I chanced upon Prof Matthew England's review, "It parodies our inaction to tackle climate change beautiful-

ly well." Professor England is the co-founder of the Climate Change Research Center in The New South Wales University.

The movie ends with a brilliant one-liner by Leo, when he says, " We really did have everything, didn't we?". It's only when you watch this movie that you will realize its relevance.

By the way, do look out for a blink and miss appearance of Ishaan Khattar.

Photo: Netflix



Alia Bhatt's latest project Ed-a-Mamma is dedicated to children and the environment

Ed-a-Mamma is a children's apparel line that focuses on giving back to the community. The Alia Bhatt-led playwear for kids' company has started a 'Buy1Give1' programme to supply basic apparel to needy children, spreading the joy of giving.

Every purchase made on the website will be matched with a clothing supplied by Ed-a-Mamma for a kid in need as part of this campaign. Ed-a-Mamma has teamed up with Goonj, a well-known NGO based in India that focuses on clothes as a basic yet unmet need.

Alia Bhatt, founder of Ed-a-Mamma, said, "With Ed-a-Mamma, I set out to create a world that nurtures in children, a love of nature, knowing full well that they will look after what they love. With the Buy1Get1 initia-

tive, we hope to make kids understand the joy of sharing with people who are less fortunate."

Ed-a-Mamma is a digital platform that caters to children aged 2 to 14. It is presently available on all major digital marketplaces. The brand promotes high-quality, affordable ecological clothes. Another endeavour to further this concept is their first offline pop-up at The White Crow on Jio World Drive in Mumbai. Customers will get a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with the business and its items at this pop-up. Having already hosted a puppet show aimed at teaching kids about ecological balance, Ed-a-Mamma's pop-up promises invigorating experience for kids and their parents.

Ed-a-Mamma will be a collection of items aimed at helping us prioritise the environment and

raise a conscious generation, one product at a time. Their initial product is a line of mindfully designed children's clothes. All of the textiles are made from plants and are biodegradable. The buttons are made of recycled plastic, and the tags may be used as bookmarks. Fabric scraps are recycled to make colourful accessories and trimmings.

Each clothing includes a little potli with a seed ball, a tree

ready to be planted, and an activity meant to get kids and adults outside.

Photo: newsindiatimes



The Indian movie Jai Bhim's video was featured on the Oscars' YouTube channel

Photo: moviegalleri

Under its 'Scene At the Academy' segment, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has decided to feature a video of filmmaker Gnanavel explaining his critically praised courtroom drama 'Jai Bhim.'

The film's opening sequences are seen in the 12 minute 47 second video clip. It then cuts to filmmaker Gnanavel discussing the film's subject. This is followed by key scenes from the movie.

"The first sequence of the film depicts the police dividing in-

digenous people on the basis of caste," filmmaker Gnanavel says in the video. It might be referred to as the film's theme. How easy a strong system can label oppressed people as frequent criminals based on their caste.

When a person of privilege is in difficulty, their entire community comes out to support them. But what about minorities, such as tribal people? They don't have a chance or a future.

Racism is regarded to be the worst kind of prejudice in the world. Casteism, on the other hand, has several levels of preju-

dice built into it. Those at the bottom can ultimately battle their way to the top if racism is like a spring that spirals up. Casteism, on the other hand, is hierarchical. You are unable to go forward or upward. You will be stopped by one caste. If you get through them, someone else will come after you.

This video isn't simply about indigenous people being subjected to incarceration brutality. It's about how caste prejudice underpins incarceration discrimination.



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