

# THE DIASPORA

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**BI-WEEKLY**

Issue: 66



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

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**FIA New England Enlists for Adopt a Highway Volunteer Programme**



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**Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Wins Democratic Primary from Illinois**



## FIA HELD 3<sup>RD</sup> PARADE COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW JERSEY ON JUNE 23

FIA held its 3rd Parade Council Meeting on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at Akbar Restaurant - Edison, New Jersey

Photos: Vijay Shah



FIA committee members addressing the gathering

**P**resent at the occasion were the President Mr. Kenny Desai, Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Past Presidents - Mr. Anil Bansal, Mr. Srujal Parikh & Mr.

Alok Kumar, Vice President Mr. Saurin Parikh, Secretary Mr. Parveen Bansal, Jt. Secretary Ms. Smita Miki Patel, Treasurer Mr. Amit Ringasia and Jt. Secretary Mr. Mahesh Dubal. Also present

were TV Asia Chairman Padma Shri Mr. H.R. Shah, BAJANA's Dr. Avinash Gupta and Mr. Anurag Kumar.

The meeting also saw the participation of the working

committee and new volunteers who have come forward to support and ensure the success of the events lined up for celebrations for the Azadi Ka

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## MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022

HOISTING OF  
THE KHADI INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG  
AT TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK

AERIAL DISPLAY OF 220' KHADI TRICOLOR  
OVER THE HUDSON RIVER - MANHATTAN

BILLBOARD AT TIMES SQUARE

LIGHTING OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING  
IN THE TRICOLOR OF  
THE INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG

## SUNDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2022

ATTEMPTS AT  
2 GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

LARGEST FLAGS FLOWN - A RECORD CURRENTLY  
HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

LARGEST DAMRUS (2-SIDED DRUM) ENSEMBLE

LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE AT MANHATTAN  
COMPRISING MARCHING GROUPS, FLOATS,  
BOOTHES, CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

FIA'S GALA AT THE HISTORICAL  
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL AMERICAN-INDIAN CENTER  
IN DOWNTOWN NEW YORK

### Amrit Mahotsav.

Mr. Kenny Desai welcomed the gathering and gave a brief update on the Executive Committee's trip to India for the Press Conference in New Delhi and the Unveiling of the Theme for celebrations of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by noted guests, including Hon Minister for Defence Shri Rajnath Singhji, Hon Minister for Health & Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviyaji, and Niti Aayog Chairman Shri Amitabh Kantji, amongst others.

Mr. Ankur Vaidya thanked and lauded the executive and the working committee, who continue to work tirelessly, and requested the new volunteers for their wholehearted participation.

Shri Kenny Desai & Shri H.R.



Shah unveiled the theme in the presence of all.

Updates were given in detail by the various subcommittees tasked with the planning and execution of each event. Objectives were reviewed, ideas were exchanged, and where needed, clear directions were given as all strived hard to ensure that no stone is left unturned in making all the events a success.



# Guinness World Records Attempt

## Highest Number of Flags Flown

The purpose of FIA's ambitious mission of highlighting flags of global countries — a symbol of their pride and popularity — also glorifies unity in diversity and displays the beautiful borderless world at this historic, world-renowned flagship event of the annual India Day Parade 2022. It also emboldens our Vaidik Philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. (The world is one family)

Besides being a spectacular attraction, this will enhance the historic Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Global Celebration (75 years of India's Independence).

## Damrus Display

The purpose of displaying Damrus — the unique musical drum representing the great and rich cultural and religious heritage of India, is also to remind us that Lord Shiva's favorite drum signifies that music has no boundary and universal appeal. FIA's flagship annual India Day Parade 2022 in the world's best financial center — New York City — is the ideal platform for this purpose.

Besides being an unprecedented attempt by FIA for a Guinness World Records, it will add new dimensions to the historic global celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India's 75 Years of Independence).



# FIA New England Team Members Shine in Township Elections

**F**our team members of FIA's New England Chapter won the township elections in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Influenced and encouraged by the speech of Indian origin Congress member Raja Krishnamoorthi, given during FIA's launch of Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsav on May 12 event in DC, where FIA was honored with the Congressional record.

Congress member Krishnamoorthi, in his speech, emphasized the need for more and more diaspora members to represent their communities by engaging in elections in order to ensure that the community is

better represented.

FIA New England President Abhishek Singh praised the team members and said that it's a significant step that will certainly enhance our community. Abhishek Singh and FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya expressed their joy and praise for the victory team. Ankur Vaidya said that he wishes

this be a turning point for this decade, where we see a few dozen new lawmakers of Indian origin enter the political eco system to enhance our representation and make us all proud. The onus now is on the community to support them and equip them for their road to higher political ground.



Mr. Gaurav Dixit



Mr. Anand Sharma



Mrs. Geetanjali Virmani



Mr. Pankaj Adaval

## FIA New England Enlists for Adopt a Highway Volunteer Programme

**V**olunteer members of FIA New England enlisted for the Adopt A Highway Volunteer Programme.

Massachusetts' Department

of Transportation offers this program that allows volunteer teams to help beautify state highways.

FIA New England President Mr. Abhishek Singh said that

volunteering for such programs will not only help in keeping the environment clean but also give a sense of civic pride to the community.

FIA NE invites volunteers

for this program. Click here for Details

<https://bit.ly/3P0dCIi>



FIA NE President Mr. Abhishek Singh & FIA community chair Gaurav Dixit with Mr. James R Means of MASSDOT



# City of Bridgeport, Connecticut to Support Construction of International Standard Cricket Stadium, Practice Facilities in the City

## BRIDGEPORT, CT

**T**he City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, today announced its support for the development of an International Standard Cricket Stadium and Practice Facilities in the city of Bridgeport, capable of hosting International level matches with an eye towards bagging a game or two in the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the US and the Caribbean. The stadium proposal was presented by Connecticut Cricket Inc. (CCI), who anticipate the successful completion of the new stadium in time for the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup in the hope of hosting matches at the venue.

CCI leaders find Bridgeport to be the ideal location to bring top-level cricket to the Northeast United States. "Bridgeport has the perfect mix of accessibility, infrastructure and cricket history", said Ravi Nichani, a

CCI principal. "The support and interest of the municipal leaders is gratifying, and we look forward

to a long relationship between cricket and the City", added Mr. Nichani.



Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim offered strong support of the City of Bridgeport to the future development of the cricket stadium in the city. "Bridgeport is impressed with the experience and capabilities of the CCI leadership and their proposed plan and looks forward to working together to achieve this goal of bringing the 2024 World Cup to Bridgeport, as well as establishing Bridgeport as an international cricket location", Mr. Ganim said.

Bridgeport, Connecticut is located 60 miles northeast of New York City, adjacent to the Long Island Sound and is well connected by Metro North, ferries to Long Island and interstate highways that connect Bridgeport to New York and New Jersey.

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# G-7 Leaders Stand United Behind Ukraine, Target Russian Oil Money

Photo: apnews

**L**eaders of the world's biggest developed economies said on Tuesday, June 28 that they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Russia's income from oil sales that are financing its invasion of Ukraine and struck a united stance to support Kyiv for "as long as it takes" as the war grinds on.

The final statement from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe

and immediate economic costs" on Russia.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.





## FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

MADISON AVENUE  
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

40<sup>TH</sup>  
SUNDAY  
AUGUST  
21<sup>ST</sup>  
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 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2022**

**8:00 AM ET** | MADISON AVE AND 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN NYC  
DURING OUR ANNUAL INDIA DAY PARADE

## REGISTER FOR GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPTS

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

<https://fianynjctne.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

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# GiveIndia and Indiaspora Announce Strategic Philanthropy Partnership

July 5, 2022 — GiveIndia and Indiaspora announced today that they are entering into a strategic, long-term partnership to amplify philanthropic giving from institutions, foundations, and high-net-worth individuals from the United States to social impact initiatives in India.

Indiaspora works to position the global Indian diaspora as a force for good. Through its philanthropy initiatives, Indiaspora encourages greater philanthropic giving from the Indian diaspora, with a significant focus on giving to India. Between 2020 and 2021, Indiaspora, along with its partners, mobilized \$15 million in funding to support COVID relief efforts both in India and in the United States.

"We are delighted to join hands with GiveIndia, given the significant and complementary strengths of both organizations," said Indiaspora's Founder

and Chairman of the Board MR Rangaswami. "Leveraging Indiaspora's network of prominent Indian diaspora leaders and GiveIndia's network of on-the-ground nonprofit partners, we look forward to accelerating global philanthropic giving to India."

GiveIndia works to alleviate poverty by enabling all donors—everyday givers, high-net-worth individuals, corporates, and foundations—to give to causes in India through its trusted and verified network of Indian nonprofits. Since its inception, GiveIndia's community of more than 2 million donors and over 250 partners have supported more than 2,500 nonprofits, serving more than 15 million people across India.

"We are excited about the opportunities that this partnership with Indiaspora brings," said Atul Satija, CEO of

GiveIndia. "U.S. philanthropists played an invaluable role in our COVID response work over the last couple of years. This partnership allows us to bolster these existing relationships and significantly scale our support for India's social sector."

The partnership will operate as GiveIndia in the U.S. and will aim to support over 500 nonprofits in India through philanthropic contributions from more than 200 partners over the next three years.

"I am very excited to hear about this partnership between Indiaspora and GiveIndia," said Sunil Wadhvani, philanthropist, Founder of WISH Foundation and Co-Founder of the Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence. "This is the type of bold collaboration that is needed to strengthen the bridge between U.S. philanthropists and the Indian social sector. It is an

opportunity to make a quantum leap in giving to India."

Ashish Shah, formerly Senior Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement at Indiaspora, will lead the new venture as CEO of North America. The partnership will initially be supported by a 3-member team and will look to grow to a team of more than 25 people over the next few years to increase its impact.

"This partnership could not be more timely," said Ashish Shah, "Recent increases in intensity and giving show that this is truly a transformative moment for philanthropy to India. Through the combined strengths of both organizations, this partnership will allow us to capitalize on this moment and empower U.S. donors and institutions to give both generously and strategically to make a meaningful impact on India's development."

## About Indiaspora

Indiaspora ([www.indiaspora.org](http://www.indiaspora.org)) is a nonprofit community of powerful global Indian leaders from diverse backgrounds and professions who are committed to inspiring the diaspora to be a force for positive impact by providing a platform to collaborate, engage, and catalyze social change.

## About GiveIndia

GiveIndia ([www.giveindia.org](http://www.giveindia.org)) exists to alleviate poverty by enabling the world to give. Established in 2000, it is the largest and the most trusted giving platform in India. It enables individuals and organizations to raise and donate funds conveniently to any cause they care about, with offerings including crowdfunding, corporate giving, cause marketing, and philanthropy consulting.

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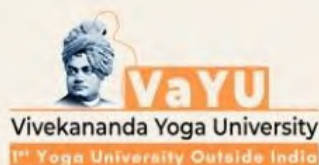
Take a deeper dive into Yoga, with a full two-year MS program in one of the specializations of your choice - Yoga Therapy, Yoga Philosophy or Yoga Research.

There is never a better time than now. Our next academic year starts soon, in August 2022. Enroll in the Online MS Program in Yoga from VaYU, USA.

**To find more, register now for the online Open House on Wednesday, July 6th, 2022 at 6 pm Pacific time. Find out how to get 10% off on the first-semester tuition.**

Looking forward to seeing you at the Open House!  
Feel free to forward this email to your friends who may be interested!

**Click to register for the Online Open House!**



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**Join our Online Open House  
July 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM Pacific**

**ADMISSIONS OPEN  
for Fall Semester 2022**



# Supreme Court Strikes Down New York Law Limiting Guns in Public

**T**he Supreme Court ruled that Americans have a broad right to arm themselves in public, striking down a New York law that placed strict limits on carrying guns outside the home and setting off a scramble in other states that have similar restrictions.

The decision is expected to spur a wave of lawsuits seeking to loosen existing state and federal restrictions and will force five states — California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey (home to a quarter of all Americans) — to rewrite their laws. The ruling follows the mass shootings last month

in Buffalo and Uvalde, Texas, and was handed down on a day when the Senate passed gun control legislation that would enhance background checks for prospective gun buyers ages 18 to 21, provide incentives for states to enact so-called red-flag laws and tighten a federal ban on domestic abusers buying firearms. It was

Congress' most significant action on gun legislation in nearly three decades. The 6-to-3 decision again illustrated the power of the six conservative justices, all of whom voted to strike down the New York law, in setting the national agenda on social issues. The court's three liberal members dissented.

# Majority of Americans Disapprove of SCOTUS Roe v. Wade Reversal, According to a Poll

**M**ost Americans disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade, according to a CBS News/YouGov poll conducted on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25 in the immediate wake of the ruling.

A 59 per cent majority of US adults disapprove, with 41 per

cent approving. About half (52 per cent) call the decision a step backward for America, with 31 per cent calling it a step forward and 17 per cent saying it's neither.

Among women, two-thirds (67 per cent) disapprove of the ruling, with just 33 per cent approving. A 56 per cent majority of women say that the decision will make the lives of most American

women worse.

By more than a 20-point margin, Americans call it a step backward rather than a step forward for America. And women, by more than three to one, think the ruling will make women's lives worse rather than better.

Most Americans now say they believe it's at least somewhat likely that the Supreme Court

will eventually end or limit same-sex marriage (57 per cent), and access to birth control and contraception (55 per cent). Only 33 per cent say they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the Supreme Court, with 23 saying they have just some confidence and 44 saying they have very little confidence in the Supreme Court.

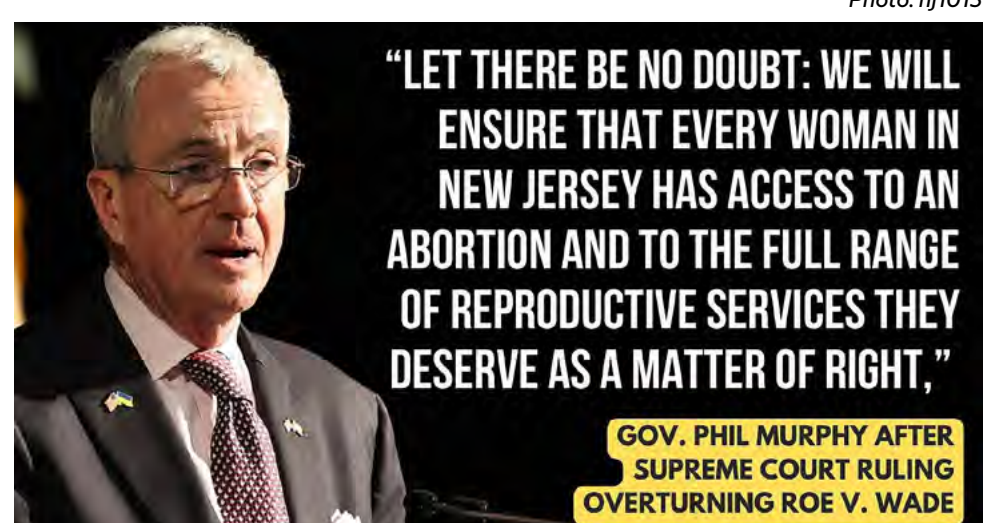
# After US' Abortion Ruling, Companies Reach Out to Help Women Employees, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to Reach Out

**S**everal US companies said they would help their employees if they had to travel out of state for abortion services after the US Supreme Court overturned "Roe v. Wade" that recognised a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

The major companies offering the benefits are Apple Inc. Microsoft, Amazon, Walt Disney, Netflix, Citigroup, JP Morgan, Starbucks, American Express, Uber to name just a few.

Hours after the US Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to an

abortion, Gov. Phil Murphy said on Friday that he is ready to "expand access to reproductive freedom" and that he looks forward to "working collaboratively" with legislative leaders to "further strengthen access to reproductive care and protecting a women's right to her own body." But his fellow Democrats have shown no willingness in working with Murphy to go beyond codifying a woman's right to an abortion into law. State lawmakers, including Senate President Nick Scutari and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, have not given clear support for Murphy's proposed legislation



to expand care and protection of women. The Supreme Court ruling has no impact in New Jersey because Murphy signed a

law earlier this year, the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, codifying the protections in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Photo: nj1015



# Raja Krishnamoorthi's Statement on Supreme Court's Decision Overturning Roe v/a Wade

**The Supreme Court Strikes Down Roe and Casey in Unprecedented Ruling**

Last week, the US Supreme Court took the extraordinary step of overturning two landmark decisions, Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, stripping women of the right to make their own choices about their bodies and rolling back nearly half a century of reproductive rights and the right to privacy. Since the news broke on Friday, I've had dozens of conversations with friends, family members, constituents, and colleagues as we all confront a future when the fundamental rights of women, minorities, and all Americans may be increasingly curtailed by the Supreme Court. A woman's fundamental right to make her own health decisions, in consultation with her doctor and her loved ones, must be

protected, and that's why I will continue to work unyieldingly with my colleagues to enshrine Roe v. Wade in law.

As your Member of Congress, I will always fight to secure and protect a woman's reproductive freedoms. That's why I cosponsored and helped to pass through the House the Women's Health Protection Act to codify the right to privacy and bodily autonomy in federal law. While the Senate has blocked the passage of that legislation, I'm working with my colleagues in Congress and President Biden to use all the tools at our disposal to expand access to safe reproductive care while fighting back against every extremist attempt to criminalize women making their own medical decisions.



## Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Wins Democratic Primary from Illinois

With more than 71 per cent of the vote, Raja Krishnamoorthi, who has high popularity in Illinois' 8th Congressional District, beat Junaid Ahmed.

"I am honoured that the Democratic primary voters in Illinois' 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District voted in an overwhelming and decisive fashion in support of my re-election campaign for Congress," Mr Krishnamoorthi said.

"My constituents want peace, progress and prosperity. In Congress, I

have for the middle class, for women's reproductive rights, and against inflation and increasing gas prices. I will continue to work tirelessly to address these issues in the important months ahead," he said.

"We now turn our attention to November, where our fundamental freedoms and human rights are on the ballot," Mr. Krishnamoorthi said.

The three-term Congressman faces Republican Chris Dargis in the November 8 general elections.



# Biden Signs First Significant US Gun Control Law in Decades

**P**resident Joe Biden signed into law the first significant federal bill on gun safety in decades, saying that while it falls short of what's really needed, it will "save lives."

"While this bill doesn't do everything I want, it does include actions I've long called for that are going to save lives," he said at the White House before leaving for

two major diplomatic summits in Europe.

The gun legislation includes enhanced background checks for younger buyers and federal cash for states introducing "red flag" laws that allow courts to temporarily remove weapons from those considered a threat.

However, much tougher measures wanted by Biden and other Democrats did not make it

in, including a ban on military-style rifles often used by the lone gunmen, who typically carry out mass shootings. Also absent is a long-time push for mandatory background checks on all gun purchases.

Reeling off a list of notorious mass shootings, Biden said the message from victims "was" do something... for God's sake, just do something. "Well today, we did."

Referring to political gridlock in a near evenly divided Congress, Biden said the new law, which had rare strong support from both Republicans and Democrats, was "monumental." When it seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential," he said. "I know there's much more work to do and I'm never going to give up."

Photo: daily-sun



## Drivers Can Renew Licenses For Free

**A**ssemblyman Paul Moriarty, D-Gloucester, sponsored legislation that has just been signed by Gov. Phil Murphy that will "waive the fee for renewal of your driver's license, motorcycle license and commercial driver's license or even for a non-driver ID card for a one-year period."

Instead of having to pay a \$24 fee to get their license renewed, they'll pay nothing,

and that applies to not just driver's licenses for cars but also motorcycles and commercial vehicles," said Moriarty.

New Jerseyans with a driver's license that expires any time from October of this year until the end of September 2023 won't pay a renewal fee.

He said this is part of a larger effort to find ways to help people in New Jersey at a time when inflation continues to spike higher.





# THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

## Business Tycoon Pallonji Mistry Passes Away at 93

Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, the billionaire realtor and industrialist and Chairman Emeritus of the venerable Shapoorji Pallonji Group, passed away at his home on June 28.

He was 93 years old and is survived by his sons Shapoorji and Cyrus P. Mistry, the latter of whom was in the spotlight for a major business squabble with the Tata Group a few years ago, and two daughters, Laila and Aloo, the latter of which is married to Noel Tata, Ratan Tata's half-brother. A low-profile philanthropist, he was awarded the coveted Padma Bhushan award in 2016 for contributions to Indian industry.

(SP) Group, which runs a sprawling construction business dating back over 150 years, was also the single-largest shareholder (18.4 per cent) of Tata Sons, the main investment entity of the \$103-billion Tata Group.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoling the death of Mistry tweeted: "Saddened by the passing away of Shri Pallonji Mistry. He made monumental contributions to the world of commerce and industry. My condolences to his family, friends and countless well-wishers. May his soul rest in peace."

"Pallonji Mistry, the end of an era. One of life's greatest joys was to have witnessed his genius, his gentleness at work. My condolences to the family and his loved ones," Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Z Irani tweeted.



Photo: hindustantimes

## Adani to Donate Rs 60K Crore for Social Causes

On the year of the centenary birth anniversary of Gautam Adani's father Shri Shantilal Adani, and Gautam Adani's own 60th birthday, the Adani Family has committed a donation of Rs 60,000 crore to a range of social causes. This corpus will be administered by the Adani Foundation, a June 23 press release said.



Photo: harbourtimes

## Akash Ambani Appointed Reliance Jio Chairman

Akash Ambani has been named as the chairman of Reliance Jio while his father Mukesh Ambani has resigned from the post of the Managing Director of the firm effective June 27, the firm's board announced.

"Akash's elevation as Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm recognises the specific contributions made by him to the digital services journey and rededicates him to even higher levels of responsibilities, going forward," noted Reliance in an official statement.



Photo: business-standard



## Joe Biden Greet Narendra Modi at G7

Ahead of the G7 Summit at Schloss Elmau in Germany, as world leaders came together for a group photograph, US President Joe Biden was seen walking up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to greet him. The latter was at the time shaking hands with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

India, along with South Africa, Indonesia, Argentina and Senegal, are the guests at this year's G7 summit.

"All of you will also agree with this that energy access should not be the privilege of the rich only. A poor family also has the same rights on energy. And today, when energy costs are sky-high, due to geopolitical tensions, it is more important to remember this thing," PM Modi said in his remarks at a session of the summit on "Investing in a better future: Climate, Energy, Health".



Photo: thehindu



Photo: freepressjournal

## Eknath Shinde Sworn as New Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Mr. Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra and BJP leader and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as the deputy chief minister on Thursday, June 30, 2022.

Mr. Shinde became the state's 20th chief minister a day after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray resigned as CM, ahead of a floor test, effectively ending his Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition's 31-month rule.

With Mr. Fadnavis next to him, Mr. Eknath Shinde thanked the BJP leadership. "I express my deep gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and Devendra Fadnavis. This government will fulfill the aspirations of the common man. We will see a strong government in Maharashtra. I will ensure the confidence and trust Fadnavis has in me as CM is not compromised," he said.



## Community News

### Biden Nominates Indian-American Legal Expert Anjali Chaturvedi for Key Post

Prominent Indian-American legal expert Anjali Chaturvedi has been nominated by US President Joe Biden as General Counsel in the Veterans Affairs department, the latest from the community to be named for a key position in the administration.

Ms. Chaturvedi is a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the US Department of Justice, according to the White House website.

Ms. Chaturvedi has been nominated as General Counsel, US Department of Veterans Affairs.

The main vision of the department is to provide veterans with the world-class benefits and services they have earned — and to do so by adhering to the highest standards of compassion, commitment, excellence, professionalism, integrity, accountability and stewardship.

During her career, Ms. Chaturvedi has worked in all three branches of the government and in private practice. Prior to returning to government service, Ms. Chaturvedi was the Assistant General Counsel and Director of Investigations for Northrop Grumman Corporation, leading the company's global investigations team.

Ms. Chaturvedi earlier served as an Assistant General Counsel at British Petroleum and as a partner at the Washington, DC law firm of Nixon Peabody. Before entering private practice, she was a federal prosecutor.



Photo: event.law

### Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh Honored

Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, was honored for his social service and philanthropy at a June 23, 2022, event held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in the presence of well-known journalists and leading literary personalities and medical practitioners.



Photo: newsindiatimes



## Indian-Origin Man Found Shot Dead While Sitting in Parked Car In New York

A 31-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in Queens as he sat in a borrowed SUV parked down the street from his home, days after an Indian national was killed after sustaining an apparent gunshot wound to his head in the US state of Maryland.

Satnam Singh was sitting behind the wheel of a black Jeep Wrangler Sahara that was parked in South Ozone Park when a gunman approached and started shooting at him around 3:45 pm on Saturday, June 26, a report in The New York Daily News said.

Police said Singh lived just down the street from where he was shot. Singh was struck in the chest and neck and was rushed to a local hospital, where he died later, according to police.

Detectives were trying to "determine if the gunman was aiming at Singh or was hoping to kill the SUV's owner and was unaware who was inside," the report said, adding that no arrests have been made so far in the case.

## Indian-Origin Man Arrested in the US For Alleged \$45 Million Investment Fraud

A 50-year-old Indian-origin tech entrepreneur has been arrested in the US for an alleged investment scheme that defrauded over 10,000 victims of over \$45 million and netted him several luxury cars and real estate.

Neil Chandran, of Las Vegas in Nevada, was arrested on Wednesday in Los Angeles, the Department of Justice said.

Mr. Chandran owned a group of technology companies that he used in a scheme to defraud investors by falsely promising extremely high returns on the premise that one or more of his companies, operating under the banner of "ViRSE," was about to be acquired by a consortium of wealthy buyers.

According to the indictment, Mr. Chandran directed others to make materially false and misleading promises to investors, including those investors in his firms would soon get huge returns when one or more of those companies was bought by a group of affluent purchasers.



Photo: ndtv

## 2 Indian-Americans Plead Guilty to \$1.2 Million Robocall Fraud

Two Indian-Americans have pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit fraud by obtaining \$1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the country, a US attorney said.

Arushobike Mitra (27) and Garbita Mitra (24) were part of an international fraud under which India-based call centers targeted US residents, particularly the elderly, through robocalls, according to a media release.

US attorney Philip R Sellinger said that after contacting the victims through automated calls, other members of the racket would coerce or trick them into sending large sums of money either physically or through wire transfers.



# Instagram Adds New Age Verification Feature

Instagram for years has been looking for better ways to manage and engage with younger and older users — not just to be more compliant with regulations, but to better target age-appropriate and relevant content and advertising to them. In the latest move, the Meta-owned platform is testing a new set of features — video selfies, vouching from adult friends and providing an

ID — designed to verify ages when people say they are 18 and older.

The test covers US users, who will now potentially see these options if they try to change their age from under 18 to 18 and over.

There are two basic use cases for this new verification system: adults who have registered as teens by mistake and trying to enter their correct age; and teens

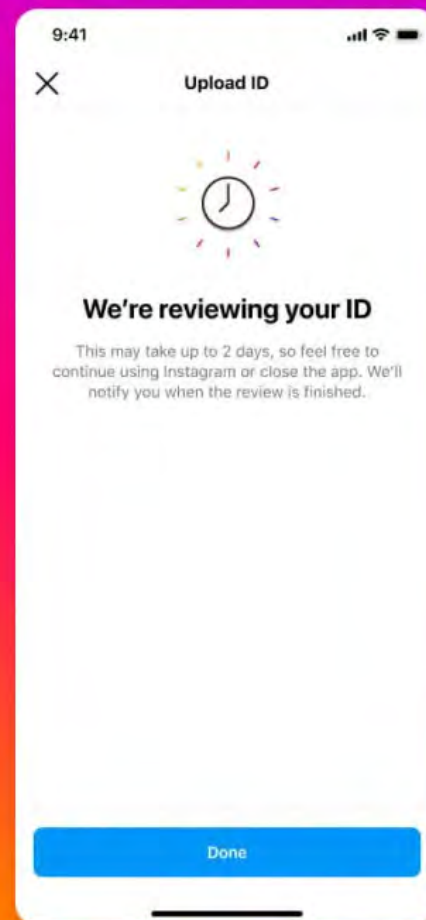
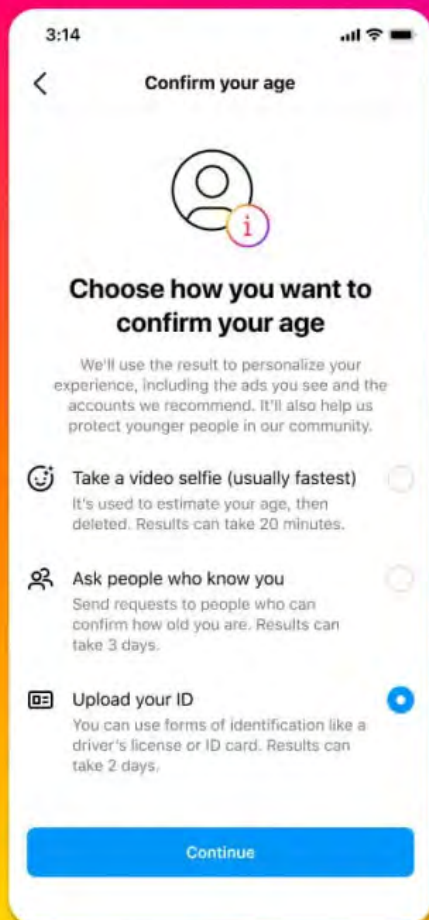
who are trying to circumvent the platform's age-appropriate restrictions. Instagram made periodic modifications to those restrictions, including making accounts for younger people default to private mode.

Notably, this doesn't change the check at the registration process where you have to enter your birth date. According to the company's rules, you need to be at least 13 years old to sign up

for the service.

In the US, when you're changing your age from under 18 to 18 and over, you'll be prompted to select one of the options mentioned above. You can provide an ID card like a passport or a driver's license for verification. The company will store your ID for 30 days on its servers before deleting it.

Photo: about.fb



# Now Write Long-form Stories on Twitter

Twitter, a major social media network, is testing a new tool that will let users publish lengthy articles both on and off its platform.

The social media website posted a brief video on Twitter announcing a feature it was testing that would allow users

to compose longer texts on its platform.

Twitter said that it is currently testing the feature with a small group of writers. "We plan to gradually expand the number of people with access to this feature. The timing will depend on what we learn during the current test," said the company.

The new feature will let users create a Note with up to 2,500 words and with around 100 characters for the title. Based on the graphic shared by Twitter, to compose a note users will be required to click on the 'Write' option on the left side.





# Jasprit Bumrah's Incredible World Record of Highest 35-Test Runs in One Over



Jasprit Bumrah, India's star fast bowler and the captain of India's Test team against England at Birmingham on the second day July 2, 2022, created a new world record

of scoring 35 runs in a one over of England's top-notch bowler Stuart Broad. This is now a world Test record of maximum runs scored in one over.

Before this, there were 3 records of a maximum of 28 runs in an over.

- Brian Lara, West Indies, scored 28 runs in the Johannesburg Test, 2003
- George Bailey scored 28 runs in the Perth Test, 2013
- S.A. Keshav Maharaj scored 28 runs at Port Elizabeth, 2020

Incidentally, India's Yuvraj Singh in the T-20 World Cup in 2007 had hit six consecutive sixes (36 runs), which is in a different T-20 form of cricket.

Another interesting thing about Jasprit Bumrah is that the bowler is named the captain of the Test team of India after 35 years after Kapil Dev. Rohit Sharma, due to medical reasons, originally supposed to lead India in the Test, was unable to lead and vice-captain Bumrah was entrusted

with India's captaincy. Bumrah has captured 123 Test wickets in 29 tests.

Bumrah -- born on December 6, 1993 in Ahmedabad -- started playing for India's ODI (2016) and Test (2018). He is the first Asian bowler to take five wickets in Test innings in South Africa, England, and Australia in the same calendar year. Bumrah is an unorthodox fast bowler, considered amongst the current world's best fast bowlers.

Photo: thenews

Photo: sports.ndtv



## The Incredible Hardik Pandya

In the recently concluded, increasingly popular Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament, in his maiden appearance as a newly formed Gujarat Titans Skipper Hardik Pandya, a formidable all-rounder, led Gujarat Titans to the champions of 2022 team. Impressed by his incredible performance and leadership attributes, Hardik Pandya was appointed as the relatively young and talented T-20 team for the recently concluded two T-20 match series with Ireland team, defeated Ireland team in both the matches and won the series. The matches were played on team Ireland's home ground in Dublin. This has added new dimensions to Hardik Pandya's diversified talents and promising captaincy.



# SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION

## The Land of Ahimsa

Dolly Vyas-Ahuja can never forget the evening of April 16, 2014. She had just returned from walking the dog and was surfing the net for a recipe when she heard "The Best Speech Ever" by Gary Yourofsky, a speech that spoke about the cruelty animals are subjected to in the process of becoming our food. Recalling the day, she says it hurt her "so deep down to her core" that she had a breakdown on the kitchen floor. She became a vegan overnight, "no longer willing to ingest anxiety, grief, and torture in her body."

This was just the beginning in Dolly's journey to veganism. Determined to become a voice for animals, she began speaking at temples, global conferences, and radio talk shows to create awareness about the cruelty of animal agriculture and the dairy industry, as well as its impact on animal rights, personal health and the environment. Just like her grandfather, a freedom fighter who marched alongside Gandhi to liberate India from British rule, she strove for animal freedom and liberation. Although she was born into a Gandhian family that believed in Ahimsa, she says, she did not realize its true meaning until her awakening five years ago.

Dolly found several receptive takers for her message of non-violence. She was invited by Mitha Jain, a vegan and the President of the Jain Society of Houston - Urvashi Jain to speak to the members of the temple. Several attendees showed an interest and after her talk, the temple stopped serving milk to the Sunday school children and began using plant-based milk for tea. Ghee was substituted with coconut oil for lighting divas at the temple and Urvashi became a vegan.

Dolly, who is based in Houston, is currently working on "The Land of Ahimsa" a documentary that seeks to inspire and encourage India to adopt a vegan lifestyle. India is the land of Ahimsa, which

means non-violence to all living beings. The mission of this documentary is to convince people to bring Ahimsa back into their daily lives by avoiding the use of dairy, honey, silk, eggs, leather and meat.

The film touches Dolly's transformation to veganism, the vegan movement in India and covers activists, plant-based doctors, sanctuaries, athletes and vegan businesses. Imagine, she says, if one-billion people



*Dolly with the spinning wheel that her grandfather used*

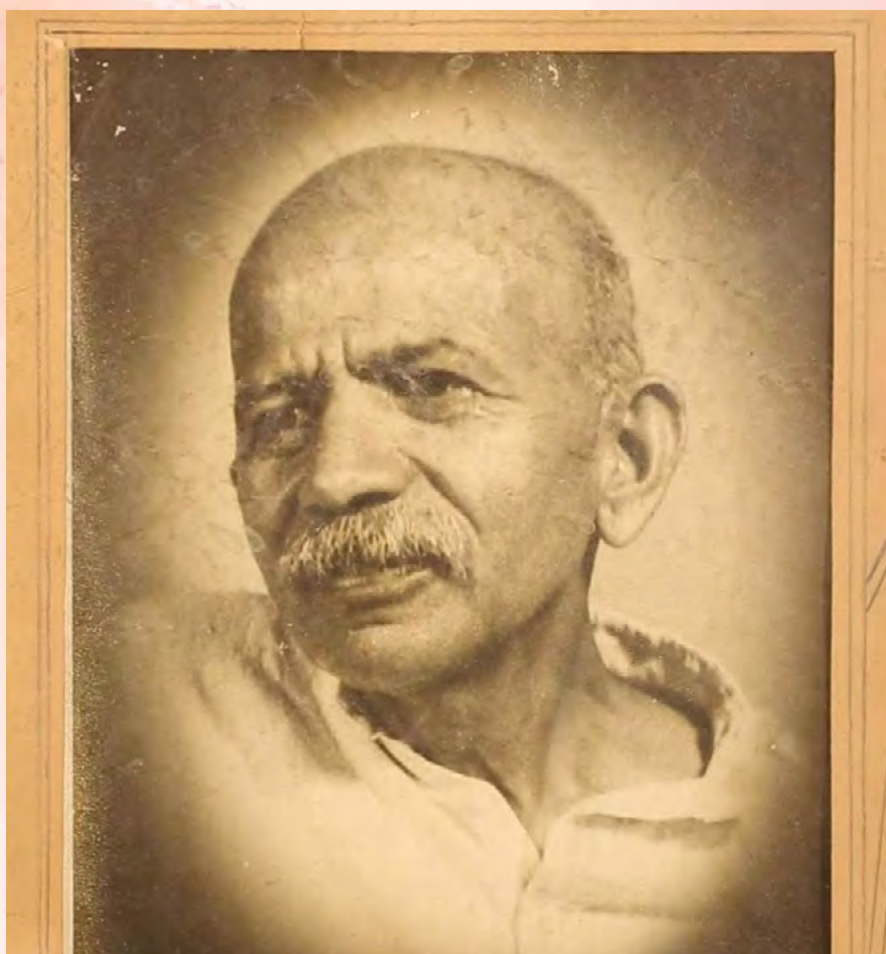
led a compassionate vegan lifestyle. The impact would

reverberate through the entire world. The film is directed by award winning Bollywood director Aryeman Ramsey.

Born in a vegetarian Gujarati family, Dolly says she got her first taste of meat in school. At 13, she visited her grandfather in Rajkot, who asked her what Ahimsa meant and if they ate meat. She now understands why he was asking her those questions. He was trying to teach her the true meaning of Ahimsa and choosing peace



*Dolly as a child with her grandfather*



*Mr. Chhaganlal Joshi- Dolly's Grandfather*



over violence.

Gandhi once said, "The moral of a nation can be judged by the treatment of its animals." Like Gandhi and her grandfather, Dolly has a dream that India will rise to the true meaning of non-violence, choosing justice over habit and creating a new divine imprint.

Website  
**[TheLandofAhimsa.com](http://TheLandofAhimsa.com)**

A link to the latest trailer of the documentary

**<https://bit.ly/3I6SUod>**

Indiegogo Crowdfunding Campaign

**<https://bit.ly/30TcJ4m>**



# The Joy in Small Things



**SONIA DATE**

I've ordered jars for my kitchen, and I'm excited about it. The act of opening the cardboard

boxes, exclaiming over them, and then storing cereal in them makes me happy. Does this qualify me as a stereotypical homemaker? Who cares?

In hindsight, small things do add joy to your life, or make you pause from the monotony of it, smile and wonder at your blessings. Whether it's your exercise routine back on track, chatting over mundane topics with your neighbour, a book that you have ordered, and finished,

or a bright and shiny shower gel and cream set that looks perfect in your cabinet because of its burst of colours. Little pleasures like a pleasant day when the mercury is down a few degrees, a dear friend's long phone call, a social media post that touched you, a visit to the temple, or a song that struck a chord somewhere. Random things.

A warm tight hug, a bone crunching one, a lingering kiss, a casual wave, a compliment,

simple affirmations of showing you that you are a valuable part of someone's life.

And better still the happiness on your face when you ignore the unpleasant and move on. Because you only live once, and it's not the things that should make you happy, it's the belief that happiness can be found anywhere.

## Religious Events

### Ved Mandir

1 Ved Mandir Dr, Milltown, NJ 08850 Ph: (732) 821-0404

Open Every day -- 7:00 AM to 7:30 PM

**AARTI TIMES**

Morning Aarti -- 7:00 AM, Evening Aarti -- 7:00 PM

Everyday Online Session by Mandir Priests

5:00 PM To 7:00 PM

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN LIVE SESSION via ZOOM**

**Upcoming Events**

9th July - Mata Ki Chowki - 3:00 PM onwards

16th July - Gayatri Mantra Chanting - 5:00 PM onwards

17th July - Satyanarayan Katha - 5:00 PM onwards

[www.vedmandir.org](http://www.vedmandir.org)



### Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir)

1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ-08807,  
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Mon - Fri: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Saturday, Sunday & National Holidays: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Every Sunday- Vishnu Sahasranama - 8:30 AM -9:15 PM

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[www.venkateswaratemple.org](http://www.venkateswaratemple.org)





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★★★★★

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# SUZHAL

(Series/Prime Video/2022/Thriller/available in various languages)

**"A NAIL-BITING MYSTERY WITH CULTURAL  
NUANCE, THAT SUCKS YOU RIGHT IN!"**

**Director** Anucharan Murgaiyan, Brama G  
**Cast** Kathir, Sriya Reddy, R Parthiban, Aishwarya Rajesh  
**Writer** Pushkar Gayathri



Photo: Suzhal Trailer

## Plot

A quaint small town, that is preparing for the mesmerising Mayana Kollai festival, is reeling under a factory workers-owner dispute and strike.

On the first evening of the festival, a mystery fire destroys the factory and a

young girl goes missing.

As the police begin to investigate the cases, they get sucked deeper and deeper into the vortex of lies, deceptions and revelations and so are you!

## Analysis

The story walks you

through many days of the festivities, its enthralling rituals laced in faith, mythology and folklore. It also lends a great backdrop with a tinge of darkness and mystery to the story in forefront. At a certain point, you almost feel they have blended.

This series turned out to bring in many firsts for me. The first regional language series I have watched. The first time I binge watched something for a duration of 6-7 hours. It creates as much a sense of urgency, for the audience, to unravel the mystery and get to the crux, as for the protagonists on the job.

It also brought together many aspects that I love – a mystery thriller, a small-town hilly area setting lending perfect atmospherics, backdrop of a famous festival lending the story a cultural nuance and riveting mix of folklore, metaphors, mystery, myths and message.

The fantastic background score and cinematography were like an icing on the cake. The cherry on top was the emotional chord and the

message it ends with. The thriller aspect of the series is great right from the first episode, but what surprised me was the emotional chord that it managed to strike.

The performances, I confess, grew on me gradually and by the end I found myself admiring many of the characters and actors.

## Recommendation

Mighty engrossing right from the first episode, the story gets more and more captivating as the mystery reveals itself in layers drawing you in its vortex.

Highly recommended for thriller lovers.



Photo: Suzhal Trailer



# ER Actress Mary Mara Dead at 61 after Suspected Drowning in New York River

Photos: caknowledge

**M**ary Mara, the actress who portrayed Loretta Sweet on *ER*, died at the age of 61 after a suspected drowning incident.

Mara was found dead on June 26 after a suspected drowning incident while swimming in the St. Lawrence River, according to a New York State Police press release. Authorities said in the release that Mara's body showed

no signs of foul play.

The cause of death has not yet been released, pending an investigation from the Jefferson County Medical Examiner's Office.

During her expansive career in television drama, Mara held a recurring role as Loretta Sweet on *ER* from 1995 to 1996. Beyond the popular soap opera, Mara made appearances on *Hope & Gloria*, *NYPD Blue*, and *Dexter*.



## For the First Time Since the War Began, a Feature Film is Shooting in Ukraine



Photos: hollywoodreporter

**S**ince early May, Ukrainian shingle Mamas Production has been shooting the feature *The Day I Met Spider-Man* in and around several Ukrainian cities, including Lviv, Kyiv and Irpin. The project, jointly backed by the Organization of Ukrainian Producers (OUP) and AMO Pictures, is the first

fiction film to start production since the war began.

The plot of the film follows a war volunteer who discovers supernatural powers within her that enable her to save a boy from the massacre of Bucha, the suburb of Kyiv where, according to substantial photographic, video and satellite imagery evidence, Russian forces systematically murdered civilians as

they withdrew from the city.

"You may know the story of Peter Parker, who became Spider-Man. You may have heard the story of Bruce Wayne wearing a Batman outfit. We will tell you the story of Katya — a volunteer, who felt an inner superpower," said Anton Skrypets, a co-producer on *The Day I Met Spider-Man*, who came up with the original idea for the film.

## Ms. Marvel Premiere Brings Muslim Representation Bollywood References to the MCU

**A**fter giving us *WandaVision*, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, *Loki*, *Hawkeye* and *Moon Knight*, the Marvel Cinematic Universe is on an expansion course with *Ms. Marvel*. Headlined by Iman Vellani's Kamala Khan aka Ms. Marvel. The show is the newest Phase 4 entry and perhaps the most ground-breaking. The series is created by Bisha K. Ali with Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah leading the directors' team and starring Vellani, Matt Lintz, Yasmeen Fletcher, Zenobia Shroff, Mohan Kapur, Saagar Shaikh, Rish Shah

and more. As the first episode of the six-part series drops today, the MCU is finally getting its first Muslim superhero. And that's a huge win for diversity.

*Ms. Marvel* is a coming-of-age story and it's distinctly South Asian in not just its casting but on a cellular level. The most fun moments from the first two episodes made available ahead of the show's release are the Shah Rukh Khan shoutouts and the refreshing music but the show digs so much deeper. From the get-go, it becomes clear that it understands the cultural background of its characters.

Right from the music to the

movie references, Bollywood is officially a part of the MCU. The show is serious about offering its homage to King Khan, and it comes up as naturally as it does in real life. In the second episode, Kamala says, "There's no such thing as a bad Shah Rukh Khan movie," which is a fact. What makes the shoutouts extra special is that he is one of the most beloved Muslim stars in the world. Moreover, the show casts Bollywood star Farhan Akhtar and Pakistani star Fawad Khan as a part of its inclusive ensemble.



Photos: cnet



# Anil Kapoor Confirms the Sequel of No Entry Starring Salman Khan

In a recent interview to Filmfare Anil Kapoor has confirmed that a sequel of *No Entry* with Salman Khan and filmmaker Anees Bazmee will be made. He also mentioned that the timeline of the shoot will be decided upon soon by Anees and Salman.

After receiving critical acclaim for his comedic performance at Jug Jugg Jeeyo, Anil Kapoor is now basking in success. The actor has also diverted his attention towards the upcoming projects. Speaking to a leading news portal, the actor commented that he is now looking at a sequel to *No Entry*.

In a statement given to

a news portal, Anil Kapoor said that people were looking forward to *No Entry 2*, he was also looking forward to getting back to the franchise. He added that Salman and Anees would be deciding on a timeline for the shoot soon.

*No Entry* was released in 2005, and centred around the lives of Anil Kapoor and Fardeen Khan as frustrated husbands. Their lives take an interesting turn when Salman Khan comes into the picture. The movie also starred Bipasha Basu, Lara Dutta, Esha Deol and Celina Jaitley in pivotal roles.



Photo: cinestaan

# KGF 3 - ?

KGF 2, starring superstar Yash, was released in April this year. Now, director Prashanth Neel, who helmed the first two films, has shared his thoughts about *KGF 3*, and he says that there is a possibility.

In a recent interview with Filmfare, Prashanth Neel revealed that he wants the film franchise to continue. "KGF Chapter 3 is possible. Cinema is the major force behind the success. Many have

fallen in love with these cinematic characters. Thus, we want the story to continue. But when? We don't know, but we are going to keep it going," he added.

The update sounds promising. In fact, the producer of KGF, Vijay Kiragandur, said that "*KGF 3* will go into production in October this year and is expected to arrive in cinemas in 2024." People have accepted the KGF world, he said.



Photo: KGF 2 Trailer

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

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