

THE DIASPORA

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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 86



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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First Indian-American to create history by representing the US at FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup



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US Spelling Bee 2023 won by Indian American boy Dev Shah

FIA successfully concludes its 4th Parade Council Meeting as the Indian American Community gears up to welcome the Indian PM. Narendra Modi



FIA Team and guests present paying tribute to the Late Community Leader Sam Khan



FIA President Kenny Desai concluding the meeting

The 4th Parade Council meeting was held on 7th June 2023 at Akbar Restaurant, Edison New Jersey.

The meeting commenced with a video address by Hon Consul General of New York Randhir Jaiswal urging the Indian American Community to participate in welcoming the Indian PM and to attend the ceremonial reception at the White House.

FIA Gen Secretary Nishi Dhami introduced the agenda for the meeting and updates were given by FIA President Kenny Desai on the upcoming events and said that this year's parade will be one of the biggest so far.

The meeting was attended by FIA's Board members, Executive Committee and Chairman. The distinguished guests were also present at the meeting.

FIA Jt Vice President, Smita Patel shared that 16 groups are confirmed from different schools which will

present a variety of programmes.

Vice President FIA Saurin Parikh gave details about the upcoming landmark State Visit of Hon. Indian Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. He said that FIA invited organizations across the 10 states of New York, New Jersey and New England, and because of the overwhelming response, the maximum capacity of 1500 persons was reached within a week.

PTI Chief Correspondent, Yoshita Singh was also present in the meeting and praised FIA for works done by FIA "with the community and for the community" and its constant endeavour to bring the Indian Community together

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya lauded the executive committee for the tremendous effort that has gone into the upcoming state visit. The logistics and coordination were a huge challenge, especially since it was on short notice but the team has left no stone unturned in trying to make the

event a huge success.

He also remembered the previous Chairman Late Ramesh Patel on his 3rd Death Anniversary and a one-minute silence was observed in his memory.



FIA Vice President Saurin Parikh updates about both upcoming landmark events

Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce Successfully concluded Supplier Diversity Showcase Event

The Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICC) concluded its eight-part supplier diversity Breakfast event series on June 1, 2023, in Somerset.

The "Supplier Diversity Showcase" was organized by the Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce and the President of AICC, Rajeev Krishna introduced his board. This graceful event was esteemed by the presence of the Honourable Consulate General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal as the chief guest of the event.

Randhir Jaiswal talked about the potential relationship between India and US, he also put forward the idea about how AICC can play a prominent role in this arena. Rajeev

Krishna assured to make AICC the most influential business advocacy organization for the Asian Indian business community in the nation. The keynote speech was delivered by Len DeCandia, former Global Chief Procurement Officer of J&J focused on the future challenges of procurement in the Global economy.

The event arrayed MSP forum sessions, constructive Business Opportunity Exchanges, insightful Fireside Chat hosted by Rakhi Agarwal, Supplier Diversity leader at Sanofi and interactive Breakout sessions, this session included a panel of experts from NYPA, Innova Solutions, Lenovo, Unilever, Teva Pharma, TIAA and JPMC.

An Award ceremony where Sanofi was applauded with the Supplier

Diversity Trailblazer award; and Bristol Myers Squibb was praised with the Supplier Diversity Champion Award. Innova Solutions (IT), CHUGH (Law) and A&J Consulting Engineering Services (Engineering) were honoured with Minority Business of the Year awards.

The event was a resounding success and to conclude the session keynote speech was given by Rekha Sarathy, THE Vice President of AICC, she was also the co-chair of the event along with the President of AICC Rajeev Krishna and Komal Dangi, the Director of Supplier Diversity at AICC. The strategic partners of the event were IIT WHEELS Foundation, Akshaya Patra and TiE New Jersey.



AICC Breakfast Event



AICC Team with chief guest Indian Consulate General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal

Indian American Capitalist Ahead of PM's State Visit Says to Allow Indians to Work on US Defense Projects

Venkatesh Shukla, President of TiE Silicon Valley says, when the PM comes here, he should ask for Indians to work on US Defense projects.

Ahead of the Prime Minister's US State Visit, the President of TiE Silicon Valley and Chair of TiE Global, said that Indians should be allowed to work in the US Defense sector as India has now successfully become the biggest centre for startup innovation, and will increase the bilateral ties between the two nations.

In a PTI interview, Shukla said, "One area that is huge here. It's completely untapped by India, and that area is; it's software for the Department of Defense and all the critical infrastructure."

Allowing Indian Software companies to work in US Defense projects will reduce the sector's vulnerabilities and

will reduce the cost of innovation too. India will be benefited by the boosted bilateral ties and innovation ecosystem in India.

The infrastructure of the nation is vulnerable to cyber-attacks, said Shukla and added, "Because they're running on COBOL, running on 30-year-old Linux systems, they're running on operating systems that have known problems. The US just does not have enough manpower."

Shukla in solution to this said, "If an Indian sitting in India could work on that project. So instead of spending USD200,000; now you spend USD30-40,000 increasing the capacity to improve the system several times."

"But Indians are not allowed to work on defense projects. The Ability of Indians to work on defense projects, the ability of India to work on critical

infrastructure projects in the US. It's a massive opportunity. Massive opportunity. And, if I were to give one piece of advice to Modi it is that. Ask for that."

"It's not that they don't want to do. It's that people don't know what to offer to India. India does not know what to ask for. I'm telling you this is the truth," Shukla told PTI. "Indian citizens should be allowed to work on your defense software projects."



PTI Times of India

US Mission holds Seventh Annual Student Visa Day on June 7

Around 3500 applicants and Consular Officers from New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai were present.

The US Mission in India hosted its Seventh Annual Student Visa Day on June 7. The mission also announced that they are ready to release thousands of visa applications in 2023.

About this, US Ambassador Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday that, "More

Indians come to the United States as students than from any other country in the world. One out of every five student visas were issued right here in India in 2022 which is, by the way, more than the proportion of Indian population in the world. Indians have not only pursued education in the US but for decades have shown excellence. We are on track to process the highest number of visa applications for students in our history."

"In the coming weeks, we will be releasing tens of thousands of student visa appointments for July and August," he added.

According to the records released by the US Embassy, the US Mission in India has issued more than 1,25,000 applicants and the highest in employment visas 65 per cent. In 2022, Indians were the largest group of international visitors in the US which is around 1.2 million people.

Brendan Mullarkey, the acting Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs in India, remarked, "Last year, a record-breaking 1,25,000 Indians were issued student visas, which is more than were issued to any other nationality. One out of every five student visas were issued in India last year. This year, we will interview more students than ever before."

Student Visa Day is organized every June and this year according to Eric Garcetti one out of five student visa applicants were issued from India which is far more than the proportion of the Indian population globally.



PC: U.S. Embassy and Consulates in India ePeople

First Indian-American to create history by representing the US at FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

Mia Elizabeth Bhuta is a 16-year-old USA Football player to represent in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup being hosted in India.

Mia Bhuta is the daughter of Mumbai-born Vyom Bhuta who lives in Mt. Lebanon, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Her father grew up in Rajkot, Gujarat and moved to the US at the age of 16. Mia gets full support from her family and in that regard she said, "I think, the support from my family, my coaches and my teammates around me have made the journey a lot easier."

Midfielder Mia is the most experienced player in the US team at her age and she is one of the three captains for the tournament.

When Mia went to India for FIFA U-17 2022 Women's World Cup, from Oct 11th-30th 2022, she naturally became a favourite among the media and Indian fans. It was like

a homecoming for Mia and she said, "I think just being here, it's amazing. I'm so glad I can share this journey with my teammates and expose them to our culture. I want them to dream big and think that nothing is beyond reach if they work hard. I have seen how much these girls have potential to do well."

The U.S. played its first match on Oct 12th and the teams were divided into four groups of four teams and easily won the match against the host country

India in Bhubaneswar. The U.S. drew with Brazil 1-1, defeated Monaco 4-0; but on Oct. 21, in the Quarterfinal the team lost against Nigeria on a penalty shootout in Navi Mumbai, India. Mia successfully scored her penalty but it was not enough!

Mia is working with Indian organizations along with her teammates to support the young Indian girls by providing help with resources like shoes, football and many such aids.

She feels that women should also get equal opportunity and that more diverse players should be playing soccer. Mia wants women's soccer to gain more popularity.

Mia, while trailblazing as a soccer player, she will continue her passionate journey, and will also continue her studies at Stanford. She will keep inspiring other soccer players with her skills, energy and motivation.



PC: She The People

Register to Know India Programme for Young Overseas Indians 2023

The Know India Programme has opened its application for its 66th & 67th editions.

The official account of the Consulate General of India in New York has tweeted about registering on KIP, the tweet reads, "Register with us to visit India! We invite the young Indian diaspora to register to visit India through Know India Program (KIP). Age group 18-30 years."

The KIP is under the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, it's a two-to-three-week orientation program for Indian youth overseas. The program aims to increase awareness about Indian culture, economy, progress in science & technology, development in the education system and innovations in the field of information and technology.



66th Know India Programme

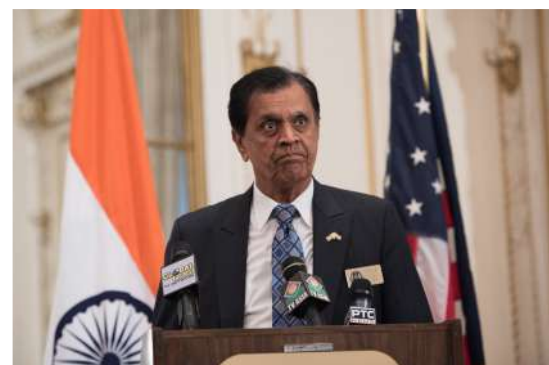
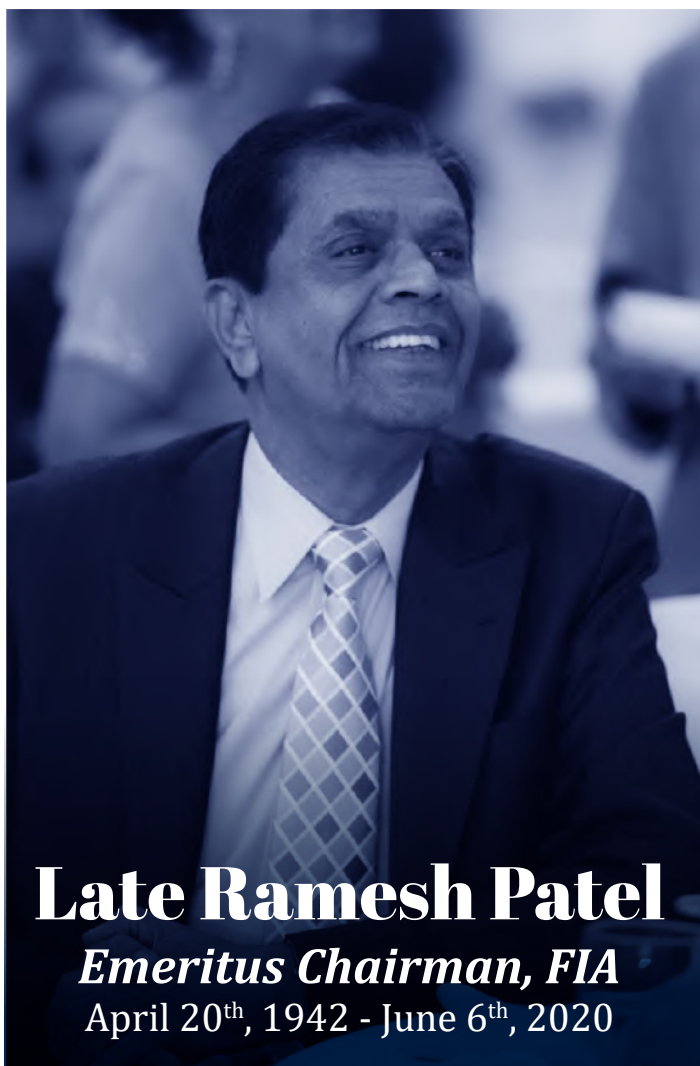
(30 July to 18 August 2023)

Announcement on Website: 17 May 2023

Last Date for Applying: 15 June 2023

PC: tweeted @IndiainNewYork

Remembering The Founding Father of FIA On His 3rd Death Anniversary



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

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

Prayer Meet for Late Abrar (Sam) Khan was held on June 10, 2023 at Royal Ambassador Banquets, Edison, NJ



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

India-US: Discourse over Enhancing Defense Co-operation

The Defense Minister of India Rajnath Singh and Lloyd Austin, the visiting Defense Secretary had a discourse to discuss ways to enhance defense cooperation between India and US.

Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and visiting Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin engaged in a bilateral talk by meeting in Delhi to discuss several areas including, "convergence of strategic interests and enhanced security cooperation" to strengthen the defense cooperation between the nations. US defense Minister Lloyd had arrived for a two-day visit, earlier he visited in March 2021.

Post meeting, the Union Minister tweeted, "Delighted to meet my friend, Secretary Austin in New Delhi. Our talks revolved around enhancing defense cooperation in several areas including the convergence of strategic interests and enhanced security cooperation."

A statement issued by the Defense Ministry described the meeting as "warm and cordial".

Rajnath Singh and Lloyd Austin discussed ways to build resilient supply chains and also reviewed the robust and multifaceted bilateral defense cooperation pursuits and accord upon maintaining the momentum of engagement, the Ministry statement said.

"Both sides will identify opportunities for the co-development of new technologies and co-production of existing and new systems and facilitate increased collaboration between defense start-up ecosystems of the two countries. Towards these objectives, they concluded a roadmap for US-India Defense Industrial Cooperation which shall guide the policy direction for the next few years," said the official statement.

After the visit, US Defense Secretary Austin tweeted: "Great to meet again with my friend Rajnath Singh and thank him for his unwavering commitment to US-India defense relations. His leadership has helped paved the way for deeper collaboration, joint exercises, and technology sharing between our two countries."

The Senior officials who participated in the meeting were from the Ministry, including Chief of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan, Defense Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary, of Department of Defense R&D and Chairman Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Dr Samir V Kamat.



Global Peace Secretariat welcomes Miss USA MA as Spokesperson

Global Peace Secretariat welcomes 2023 Miss USA Massachusetts Annika Sharma, 1st Indian American to win this title, as Spokesperson to spread the message of global peace and is working on a video message soon to be released via globalpeacesecretariat.com

A New Jersey native attending Boston College, Annika Sharma is the first Miss Teen USA 2020 contestant to win a Miss USA state title. She is pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Marketing, and Philosophy at Boston College and will be beginning her career as a Wealth Management Analyst at Bank of America upon graduating. Annika is both a Dean's List student and a recipient of the AHANA scholars prize, celebrating diverse students at BC.

Secretary General Kumu Gupta commented, "It's great to see diversity in our local pageant and have Miss USA MA Annika give voice to global peace."

Miss Massachusetts goes on to compete in Miss USA whose winner then competes for the Miss Universe crown.



US International Trade Official Lago to Visit India to Strengthen Commercial Ties

Marisa Lago's visit to India is to advance the partnership of US-India trade in various sectors.

Lago, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade US, appointed by President Biden in 2021, visits India between May 31 to June 2 to enhance the commercial and strategic partnership between India and US.

According to the official press release, Lago will meet private sector representatives of Bengaluru and China. To enhance the US-India memorandum of understanding she will meet US and Indian semiconductor and related companies.

According to the tweet by ITA, Under Secretary Marisa Lago's official travel to #India kicks off with SIA America, India Chapter for discussions on market opportunities for US industries in India and trends in semiconductor #supplychains.

To increase strength for resilience in supply chain and emerging technologies, Marisa and India's Tech are going to meet and also, she will meet with different companies for joint priorities related to green energy, advanced batteries and electric vehicles, the release added.

During her visit she met with Indian women entrepreneurs and leaders in tech to reaffirm ITA's commitment to supporting gender diversity in tech to help build a sustainable shared US-IN innovation ecosystem. Under Secretary Lago provided remarks today at the Visvesvaraya Museum (A unit of NCSM) Bengaluru which opened a full scale replica of Mars Rover opportunity on 1st June 2023 at the space gallery of the museum.



PC: Wikipedia

PC: @ITA tweeted

Rajinder Singh honored with citation by NYC Mayor

Head of the non-profit organization Science of Spirituality Rajinder Singh is honored by Mayor Adams with Special Citation.

Eric Adams Mayor of NYC honored Rajinder Singh with a special citation at a ceremony at New York City Hall and said, "As New York's first Mayor to champion a plant-based diet, I am pleased to count Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj in this mission, and I applaud his commitment to foster peace and interfaith harmony while inspiring diverse people on the paths to spiritual growth."

The citation recognises Singh's dedication to promoting spiritual growth and peace in all walks of life.

Spiritual leader's wife Mata Rita, son Dr Kunwarjit Singh Duggal, delegates, and several of the mayor's senior advisors, including Dilip Chauhan, New York City's Deputy Commissioner for International Affairs were present at the ceremony.

Rajinder Singh on this occasion, spoke briefly about the significance of spirituality and meditation in one's life to attain peace while reducing stress and balancing tranquillity, serenity and balance. "Not only can meditation help first responders like the police, firefighters, and medical practitioners deal with stress, but it can give students important tools to improve their concentration and leading calmer, more balanced lives."

Mayor Adams also recommended doing some projects for meditation and spirituality for the benefit of citizens. Singh also presented Mayor with copies of two of his best-selling books: Detox the Mind and Meditation and Medication for the Soul, describing his ideas about living stress free life.



PC: The Science of Spirituality

Indian American Innovation Professor shortlisted for Global Energy Prize

The Indian American professor Amit Goyal is shortlisted among 15 scientists from nine countries.

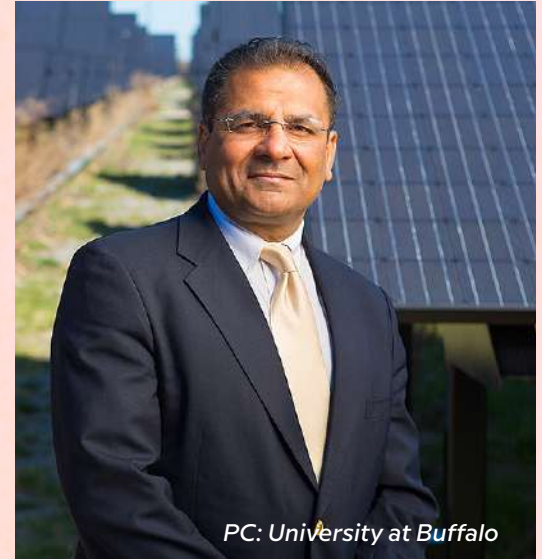
The Indian American SUNY distinguished professor has been shortlisted for Global Energy Prize 2023, it's an international award for outstanding contribution in research and development in the field of energy industry.

The SUNY Empire innovation Professor Goyal was shortlisted among nine other scientists from nine countries for contributing for single crystal-like behavior in long lengths of superconducting wires that allow very high performance with high temperature super-conductor in a cost-effective manner and currently, his scientific interests have now expanded to also include plastics recycling and innovation.

Goyal the Director of University of Buffalo initiative on Plastics Recycling and Innovation has spent more than 20 years in the field of energy solutions known for his work on nanodots and nanorods' 3D self-assembly for device applications, in large-area with low cost and high-performance "flexible-electronic" including photovoltaics, ferroelectrics, multiferroics, and superconductors.

Amit Goyal is a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He currently serves as the Advisory in the Board of NanoTech Briefs, recent Patents on Materials Science and Superconductor Science & Technology.

The Global Energy Prize focuses on the importance of internal cooperations and the weight of involvement of public and private entities in efforts to ensure energy security and energy conservation on a global scale. The recipients will be chosen during a closed meeting of the International Award Committee to be held in early July.



PC: University at Buffalo

American Professor features Indian Non-fiction Sculptures

Elizabeth Kadetsky presents the "The Goddess Complex" which highlights the whereabouts of the Tanesar sculptures.

The Juniper winner in creative non-fiction, Penn State associate professor Elizabeth Kadetsky published a narrative non-fiction "The Goddess Complex" which highlights her journey in tracing the whereabouts of the Tanesar sculptures. A fragment of the book was made the cover story for the American Scholar magazine's Spring 2023 issue.

The Tanesar sculptures are from the sixth century which is a collection of a dozen or more stones and most of them are presenting the mother Goddess (Matrika), which was once kept at a temple in southwest Rajasthan, India. Kadetsky in 2019 said regarding the research for the book, "The story I'm trying to tell is incredibly rich, and gets to what was going on in the U.S. and India during the mid-20th century — capricious historical events came together in one moment."

"It's connected to the mass commercialization of high culture that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. These were people who loved art and thought they had an almost mystical ability to determine what made an object beautiful. They thought that they could understand the sublime and that these sculptures should be in a gallery," she added.

The statues were found in the late 1950s by a well-known archaeologist who reported his discoveries in an Indian Art history journal and the goddesses were stolen around the 1960s when they were known to Westerners and eventually wound up in various collections of prominent art collectors and famous museums of the world.



PC: Penn State

International Year of Millet 2023

Talking about various kinds of cereal to add to our meals, as there are many i.e., quinoa, sorghum, and rice are the most common ones which comes to our mind first but there is one which has not been in any limelight that is a major source of nutrients and ideal for those who are gluten intolerant, we're talking about the 'Golden grains' also known as millets. These are a variety of tiny cereal grains which have been reintroduced into the market.

You must be wondering why the word reintroduced is used here, and yes, you're right!

These grains were a main component of our meals back then in the 19th and 20th centuries. But over the passing years due to the change in our cultures and lifestyles, there have been many modifications made to how we consume food, with some sources being healthy but the majority being unhealthy. As a result, the reinforcing of millet has been done.

Small-seeded millet has been cultivated for centuries in many parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, and Europe. It is recognized for its diversity and nutritional benefits and has long been one of the meals in many cultures.

Millets appear to be a coarse grain, and are healthy for the body, making them a great alternative in today's world of abundant junk food. They come in a variety of tastes, making them more enticing and flavourful to consume. Millet has lately gained popularity in the US because of its various health benefits and suitability for a range of dietary options.

The international millet year aims to raise public awareness of the wide range of nutritious millet options available worldwide. It's a kind approach to make an effort to include millet in everyone's meal.

Since millets are more suited to dry, barren soils than the majority of other crops, they are frequently grown in severe environments, including high temperatures, irregularly low amounts of precipitation, brief growing seasons, and acidic, infertile soils with little water-holding ability. The majority of millets have short life cycles, robust, deep root systems, and can expand quickly when moisture is present.

As we walk through the emergence of millets again, let's dig deep into the history.

The Korean Peninsula has millet cultivation records going back to the Middle Jeulmun Pottery Period (about 3,500–2,000 BC). Millets were consumed widely in India before the Indian Bronze Age (4,500 BC), as evidenced by the identification of foxtail millet (priyangava), Barnyard millet (aanava), and black finger millet (shyaamaka) in some of the oldest Yajurveda texts.

In India, millets were the main grain produced up until fifty years ago. Millets have changed from being a staple food and an essential component of regional food cultures to being despised by modern urban consumers as "coarse grains"—something that their village ancestors may have lived on but had abandoned in favor of a more "refined" diet.

According to the study, millet was introduced to the United States multiple times in the past for a variety of reasons. The slave trade is most likely where millet was first introduced to America. As a fodder crop for cattle, millet gained popularity in America in the 19th century.

During the late 20th century and early 21st century, there has been a growing interest in millet as a nutritious and gluten-free grain for human consumption.

Well according to the source millets have been cultivated in several states, including Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas. However, a sizable portion of the public is still unaware of Millet's expansion. As a rising urban population, people drive demand for products due to trends towards healthy eating in northern America and increasing unsustainable rice and wheat production. The growth of this sector in the future will be further encouraged by increasing awareness of the health benefits linked to millet consumption.

As discussed above it can be said that the millets are the **'powerhouse of nutrition'**.

Stay put to know more, we've some more interesting facts about the golden grain coming up in the next edition.

#IndiaDayParadeNYC
#IYM2023 #YearofMillets

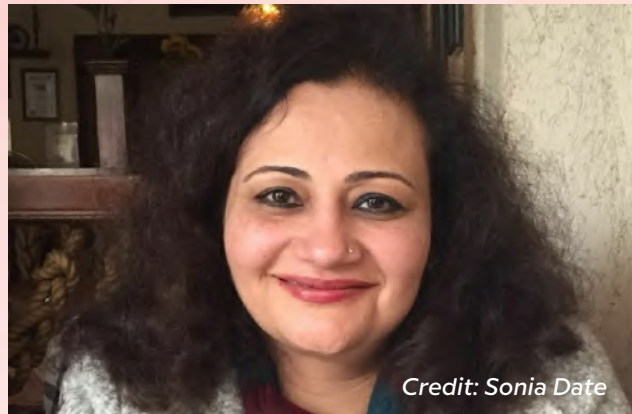
Did you know?

Foxtail millet can increase the levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factors, which benefits many different medical conditions and lowers depression.

(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37258206/>)



SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION



Credit: Sonia Date

Of Capes and Red Lipsticks

Do you ever feel that life is just zipping by and you are struggling to catch up?

Just like the swanky car that overtakes you, its gleaming lines mocking you in its wake.

It's not that you are a tortoise, that you will eventually win the race. For there's no race to win. Just a path that you plod on if the weather is harsh or on a few days you may sprint when everything around you and inside you are bursting with joy.

And then there are days when you look at your thinning hair which is inversely proportional to your thickening waistline. When you wait for the much-promised results of the new diet to take its course. The wait is endless.

Or when you realise that your skin does need help; and that your

favourite red lipstick no longer gives that result.

Ageing is a bitch, and you realise that you have replaced your mom. You look like her, and have the same expression when your children tell you things that are new, and unfamiliar.

It's also when you can't put up with appearances or falsities. When you look back, believe me, there are plenty of days doing that, and you realise that it's you who is that wonder woman. Your cape was just never visible. You just swooshed, picking up the pieces, making others soar high. People who mattered to you, some that were worth it, and some that were fortunate.

So, it's time to bask in that realisation. Nobody ever told you that you were a superhero. The

cape may be faded and worn, but it will always be a part of you. The shoulders may droop because of that weight you always carried. It's high time to lighten that weight. Along your path, you may have lost some people, some that diverted to another path. That was meant to be.

You don't always have to compete, or keep up. You are unique. Do you really need an endorsement? You can never keep up. Because there will always be new cars, driving past you. They have their journey. You are living yours. The red lipstick can be replaced by a lighter shade. The eyes are the same, ready to observe life's beauty and bounty. Learn to live for yourself. Damn, the hair and the waistline.

Air on Prime Video

Ben Affleck's directorial sports film is a delightful watch.

Starring Affleck and Matt Damon, and ably supported by Jason Bateman, this 113-minute film is crisply edited, sans drama with great one liner and takes you down memory lane with its music.

It's about how a basketball sports executive named Sonny Vaccaro at Nike, signed a deal with Michael Jordan in 1984. The movie is not about Jordan but about a shoe that turned around Nike's fortune, the Air Jordan! It was a deal that set a precedent for marketing contracts

with sports persons.

It's highly entertaining with the ensemble cast and provides fun facts for people like me who have practically no idea about basketball.

I definitely recommend it.



PC: Prime Video AIR

SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION



Credit: Yashika Parmar

Legendary & Historic Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra 2023

Everyone is aware of the holy & auspicious Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra. Not only do devotees of Lord Jagannath from India take part in this majestic Yatra but, devotees around the world organize Jagannath Rath Yatra and get immersed in worshipping Lord Jagannath.

The Jagannath Rath Yatra 2023 starts on June 20th in the month of Ashadh, on Dwitiya Shukla Paksha in Odisha from Puri temple.

This auspicious festival of chariot procession is the only one which is celebrated in Western culture and the only temple where three siblings are worshipped as deities together.

Lord Jagannath is associated with the 8th incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the Lord of the Universe. This is the world's largest and oldest

procession of chariots which is dated back to the 12th century. Situated in Eastern India the Jagannath temple is among the 'Char Dham' of India.

Every year in Odisha lakhs of people gather to witness Lord Jagannath with his elder brother Balbhadra and sister Subhadra outside the temple to be among their devotees.

The festival is very popular around the world as the 'Hare Krishna Movement'.

Three chariots are prepared, one for each sibling. The ropes of the chariot are pulled by all the devotees and the chariot ends at the Gundicha temple, it's the place where Vishwakarma, the architect of Gods made the wooden statues of deities.

There are many religious and historic tales connected with this festival of grandeur and devotion but, the most admired story is when Balram in grief carries the partially cremated body of Krishna in Gomti and Subhadra also joins them. While this is happening in Dwarka; (west), King Indra Dyumna (in the east) had a dream of constructing the temple of three siblings and his dream came true.

Since then, Jagannath Temple, Puri is the focal-point where the socio-religious beliefs of Hindus are strongly attached and Jagannath Rath Yatra is accepted in almost all Hindu holy literatures like Brahma, Padma and Skanda Puranas.



NEWSMAKERS

American Indian to develop Software for Career Plan based on Genes

Mohamed Mustafa Saidalavi, DISC Founder has a startup to develop software for planning the career of children based on their genes.



PC: Tweet by WhiteHouse

The Indian Entrepreneur is aspiring to build software which will create a 10-15-year long career plan for young children by taking a sample of their saliva for gene identity and is arguing that it will help build the nation's talent in the right direction.

Mohamed Saidalavi from Genesandyou a biotechnology company based in Mumbai, India, dedicated to consumer & clinical genomics with global reach claims that it will develop student curricula in advance which will create a clear path to follow for them.

In a PITI interview, Saidalavi said, "Every child has a special calibre and special talents. To understand this talent, from genes, we can get the right understanding. Based on that, we are putting a 10-15-year career growth plan and talent plan. So, this is our new startup."

Saidalavi, who is currently in Silicon Valley, is going to take his startup to

the next level and has explained his aim that in every country everything is taught to everyone in school and further by aptitude tests taken by different countries they decide the capability of the student.

Regarding the career planning of the children, "We don't know what the child is capable of. To understand that, from the gene, we take a complete mapping and put a complete roadmap. We can build a better India. It's a nation-building process. Through this particular process we can build the right talent in the right way," Saidalavi said.

Mohamed Saidalavi said about working on an AI-based project focusing on personalised education, health, and wellness, "No doubt. It will change the way people work, people see, people learn. So, the governments all over the world have to come up with strategies towards that."

US Spelling Bee 2023 won by Indian American boy Dev Shah

An Indian-origin boy named Dev Shah won 95th Scripps National Spelling Bee 2023 by spelling the 11 letter word 'Psammophile'.

Dev Shah a 14-year-old of Largo, Florida is the winner of the esteemed US National Spelling Bee 2023 and rewarded a \$50,000 cash prize. His winning 11-letter word was 'Psammophile'; an organism that thrives in sandy areas, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary and in the first 'Top Lookups Right Now'.

Dev previously participated twice in the year 2019 and 2021 competitions and is also reportedly the 22nd champion of the Spelling Bee with a South Asian heritage in the last 24 years.

The winner of the competition in the US state of Maryland, Dev Shah said while lifting the trophy, "It's surreal. I don't know if it's settled in.

My legs are still shaking. My legs are still shaking."

According to the New York Times, Dev asked about the roots of the word and to be on the safe side, he queried about the details, "Psammo meaning sand, Greek? Phile, meaning love, Greek?"

His parents were very emotional as Dev was among the top 11 finalists of the Competition.

Scott Remer, the coach of the six finalists onstage and also a former speller, said he began working with Shah about three years ago, "One of the things that impresses me about Dev is his perseverance and his commitment," Remer said. "He is extraordinarily mature, self-motivated."

Indian Americans have been dominating the National Bee, Harini Logan, an eighth-grader from Texas,



PC: Business Today

won it last year by beating another Indian-American Vikram Raju.

Harvard Appoints Indian American Executive Ritu Kalra as Vice President of Finance and CFO

Currently, Kalra is an assistant vice president of finance and treasury and will assume the new position from July 1.

Ritu Kalra is an Indian-origin executive who was serving as the seasoned leader in financial management and investment banking; and has succeeded as Harvard's vice president for finance and chief financial officer.

About Kalra, Meredith Weenick, the executive vice president remarked, "Her Harvard experience, coupled with her track record as an innovator in private sector banking and finance, positions her well as a leader who will continue to build on what has been strong stewardship of the University's finances in recent years."

Kalra will be managing long-range planning, annual budgeting, endowment fund spending policy, treasury, and financial accounting and reporting as Vice President and

Chief Finance Officer. For her treasury management role, she will oversee and advise on the University's capital structure, including the critical role of forecasting debt and liquidity needs, and managing cash operations and investments.

"Harvard's ability to forge collaborations within and beyond the University, across a breathtaking breadth of disciplines, doesn't happen by accident," said Kalra. "It requires a rare and sustained marriage of strategic leadership and executional excellence. Tom Hollister has been instrumental in kindling this marriage across the organization, and I look forward to working with the broader University community to build on this essential partnership to advance the academic mission."

"Ritu is very skilled at aligning strategic thinking with operational and organizational context, and that unique ability has been evident

since she joined the University," said Harvard Corporation member Timothy R. Barakett, who will become treasurer of the University on July 1.



PC: Harvard Gazette

Indian American Researcher in Mental Health as Chair of Harvard Global Mental Health Department

Indian Psychiatrist Vikram Patel will succeed as the chair of Harvard's Global Mental Health at Harvard Initiative.

Professor of The Pershing Square Global Health in the Blavatnik Institute's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; will be the chair of the Global Mental Health Department in Harvard starting from September 1, 2023.

"Vikram is both a worthy successor and uniquely prepared to carry the torch. A venerable and charismatic educator, Vikram (Patel) was recruited to HMS in 2017," said George Q. Daley, dean of Harvard Medical School (HMS).

According to the statement released by the HMS, announcing the appointment Dean Daley said that Patel's appointment comes at a time of increasing awareness of a growing mental health crisis around the world.

Vikram Patel's work in its centre has an aim to develop a field of Global mental health which galvanizes

policy, civil society and donor action. In 2020, he launched the EMPOWER program as the Global Health initiative to deploy a suite of digital tools and methods to enable frontline health workers to get well-trained and provide evidence-based psychosocial interventions that are necessary to effectively address mental health issues in their communities.

"I am deeply honored to serve as the chair of the department. I am

motivated by the potential of this role at this critical juncture in the long and storied history of a department committed to the goal of health equity in this country and globally," Patel said.

Patel is also the WHO Public Health Champion of India Prize (2016), an additional area of expertise is universal health coverage with a focus on India.



PC: Harvard University

India's First Woman PhD in Botanical Sciences Honoured at Chelsea Flower Show 2023

EK Janki Ammal is commemorated at the Chelsea Flower Show, London along with other seven women.

The Royal Horticultural Society along with Janki Ammal honoured seven women who had achieved prominent success in the field of horticulture at the Chelsea Flower Show, 2023. A special installation for honouring all eight women; called The Monument and commemorated them.

Janki Ammal is the first trailblazing woman to earn a PhD in the field of Botany from the American University of Michigan. She went through success in the field of botany neglecting all the hurdles on her way, as due to the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus's Systema Naturae was published in 1735 wherein he made comparisons of plants with sex lives of humans which produced a shockwave refraining women scholars from this

field of study.

Ammal progressed in the field of Botany by conducting scientific research in cytogenetics (study of chromosomes) and phytogeography (study of the distribution of plants or taxonomic groups of plants). She made her mark through her works by researching the chromosome numbers in plants which were significant for selecting plants for cross-breeding and developing high-yield crops of sugarcane and eggplant.

Ammal was also the Director General of Botanical Survey of India, in 1951 by Jawaharlal Nehru. Before being an Indian Govt. official, she lived and worked in the US and UK for her career. She then in Chennai 1970 became the Emeritus Scientist at the Center for Advanced Study in Botany at the University of Madras and later worked in the Centre's Field Laboratory until her demise in 1984, near Madras.



PC: tweeted by @THERHS

Running for US President: Vivek Ramaswamy, raises concerns over Elon Musk's comments on China

Ramaswamy raised concerns over Elon Musk's announcement about expanding business in China.

The Indian American Republican leader and US Presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy on Elon Musk TESLA'S CEO's first trip to visit China in over three years and meeting with Chinese ministers said that China is using prominent thought leaders of the nation as puppets to "advance their agenda".

In a discussion with the Chinese minister, Musk opposed China-US decoupling and called both countries "conjoined twins" and announced plans to expand the Business in China.

While praising the "vitality and promise" of China, Musk during a meeting with Foreign Minister Qin

Gang discussed the intertwined interest of both nations, according to the Government statement.

Raising concerns over Musk's visit to China, Ramaswamy said, "It's deeply concerning that Elon Musk met with China's foreign minister yesterday to oppose decoupling and referred to the U.S. & Communist China as "conjoined twins." Tesla's VP in China reposted that statement on Weibo in China, but curiously not here in the US."

Ramaswamy said in a tweet that, prominent US businessmen driving Beijing's agenda, "That tilts the global scales of perception in China's favour – and sadly, it's working. The US needs leaders who aren't in China's pocket, yet Biden is just another embodiment of that same problem."



PC: The Columbus Dispatch

Indian American Jatin Patel Applauded with Lifetime Achievement Award

The renowned multi-sports coach Jatin Patel is commended by the Cricket Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jatin Patel is the eighth individual since 1981 to achieve the Cricket Hall of Fame Award. He will be honored with a ring and blazer complete with an insignia during the 43rd induction ceremony on October 7, 2023, in Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

The list of cricketers winning this award includes legendary West Indian all-rounder Sir Garfield "Gary" Sobers, Michael Holding, Lloyd Dixon, Roy Sweeney, Denzel Powell, Tony Becca, and Muhammad Ahmad Qureshi, also known as Maq Qureshi.

Patel is qualified for a State of Indiana, Governor's Long-

Term Public Service Recognition for his 35 years of Professional Career. This will be his third prestigious award for Patel who also received the USA President's Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 for his lifelong commitment to building a strong nation through volunteer service.



Patel said that, "These are memorable achievements for the rest of my life. These are one of the greatest honors I have ever received as my accolades. In cricket terms, I scored a hat trick."

He credited his parents, family, and friends who supported him over the years. "I thank them all. It is not just my award, but this belongs to all of us as a team. We also count our forebears and mentors who provided the inspiration and motivation to serve others," he added.

Dr Shivnarine Chanderpaul, a Cricket Hall of Famer and legendary former West Indies Captain, praised Patel, saying "Jatin deserves such honor for all work he has done with extreme dedication for the sport of cricket."

Indian-origin MIT Alumni Awarded by Knight-Hennessy Scholarship

The two Indian-origins, Bhav Jain and Sreya Vangara from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) were awarded the 2023 Knight-Hennessy Scholarship for their studies at Stanford University up to three years in any subject.

The Knight-Hennessy Scholarship, founded in 2016 is given to create a multidisciplinary and multicultural community of graduate students from across Stanford University. Kim Benard, associate dean of distinguished fellowships in Career Advising and Professional Development, says, "We are so excited for Bhav and Sreya to continue their academic journey through the Knight-Hennessy program, they are not only great scholars, but also leaders who are committed to making change in the world."

Bhav Jain from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is a graduate in computer science and brain and cognitive sciences from MIT in May 2022. Jain, a physician-policymaker, aims to develop high-quality, low-cost healthcare systems to revolutionize clinical treatment on a

worldwide scale. He will pursue his PhD at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Sreya Vangara, Germantown, Maryland is a graduate of MIT in 2022 has a double degree in mechanical and electrical engineering, and computer science. She will pursue PhD at Stanford University's School of Engineering in mechanical engineering and want to create affordable nuclear-generating

equipment for reliable and clean energy in developing nations, inspired by her Indian grandmother's experience living without electricity.

The scholars at the university, additionally take part in the training sessions and workshops for developing significant skills for strong multidisciplinary and intercultural viewpoints, dedicating all to the greater good.



PC: Knight Hennessy Scholars

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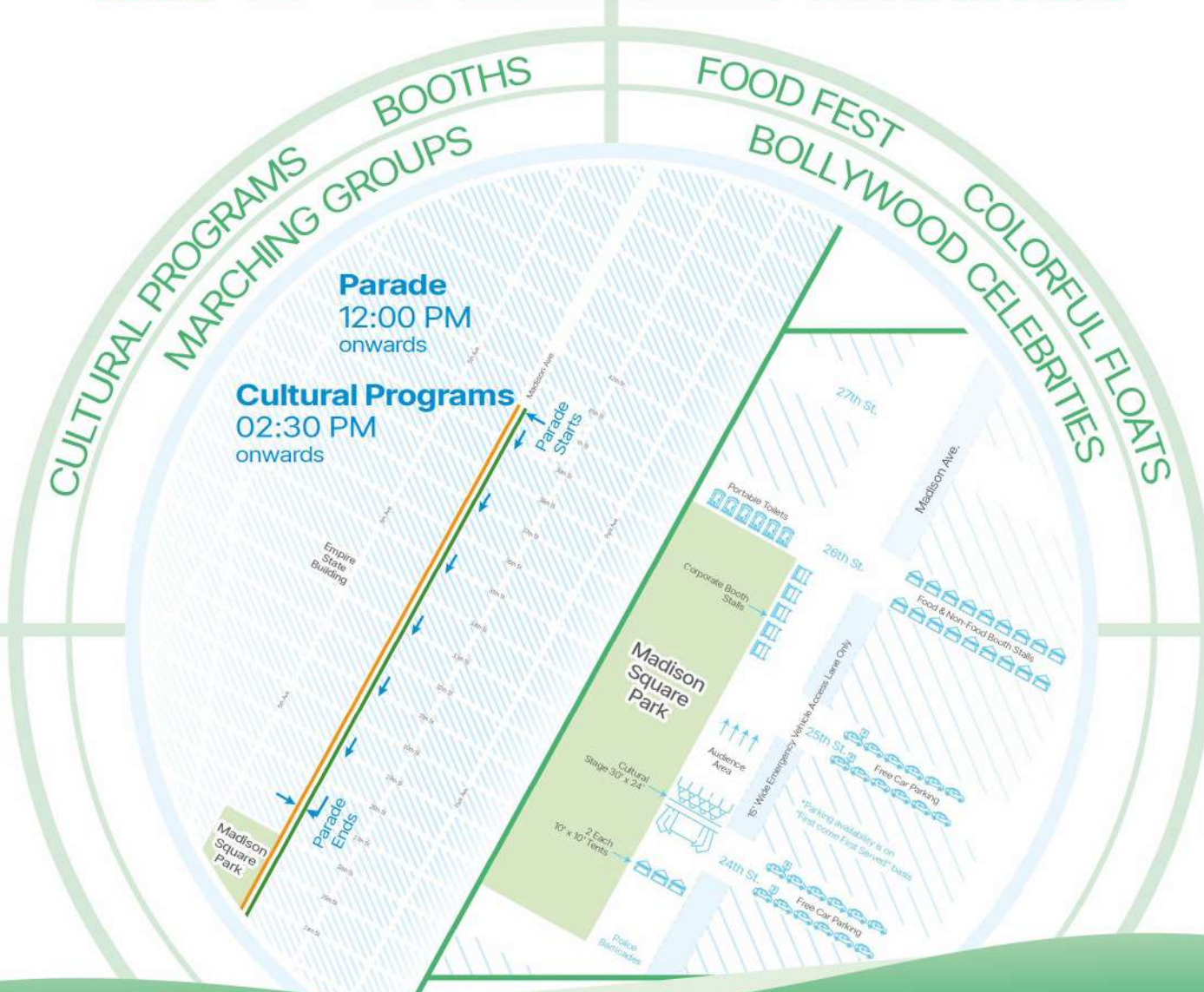
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June is full of Excitement with these Upcoming Movie Releases

The screens of Hollywood in June 2023 are full of highly-anticipated titled movies. From the Spider-Man to the Flash and later The Asteroid and Indiana Jones' release

The opening of the month with the Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse and later release of the much-awaited movies like Asteroid City and Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny. This is the list of upcoming releases this month:

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts- June 9

It's the continuation of the Transformers franchise with its seventh release Transformers: Rise of the Beasts. The plot is set in Brooklyn in 1994. In the movie, Noah Diaz and Elena Wallace band together on a mission to save Earth against their clash between Maximals, Terrorcons and Predacons.



The Flash: Release-June 16

The much-awaited The Flash after many controversies and delays is going to be the next big thing by DCEU in the theatres.

The film is set around Barry Allen who will travel across time to save his mother and this will lead to chaos with not one but two Batman-Michael Keaton's Batman and Ben Affleck's Batman and Supergirl (Sasha Calle).



Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny: Release-June 30

In the last Indiana Jones movie, which is much awaited and also the Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai wore a silver gown inspired by the latest release: Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny. Director James Mangold brings back Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones, joined by his goddaughter Helena Shaw on a mission to retrieve a legendary dial before Jurgen Voller, an ex-Nazi gets his hands on it.



Upcoming Barbie movies' fabulous looks of Margot Robbie

Barbie movies are undeniably famous for the pink world with their amusing soundtracks. The Movie is going to release on July 21.

The 'Barbie' is going to release next month and has already created a buzz due to the attire and looks of Margot Robbie starring as Barbie. The Greta Gerwig-directed American comedy is splashing the audience with its posters and trailers.

The movie is also in the news because it used up excess pink paint for the 'Pink Land' that which created a global pink paint shortage around the world!

Children are already fond of Barbie because of their wide range of attires and fashion styles for different occasions.

Robbie's Retro look is the most renowned with voluminous and wavy looks. The Actress had nude makeup with well-defined lips which highlighted her bright blue eyes.

The Beachy look is all gorgeous

and fantastic which was doll-like with natural makeup, a messy ponytail and thin eyeliner for highlighting her eyes.

Barbie in the Pink Cowgirl outfit is something new and iconic, it caught the attention of all the fashion enthusiasts. For this doll look she did

simple wavy open hair with a white cowboy hat.

The reminiscent striped black & white swimsuit is very chic and every Barbie fan will recognise within seconds that it's from Mattel's iconic Barbie look in 1959 with white sunglasses behind her curly bangs.



PC: tweeted @Pop Tingz

'Adipurush' Anticipated a Blockbuster Movie

Adipurush is an Indian mythological epic film made at the cost of around 500 crores, making it the most expensive film ever made.

The filmmaker Om Raut has already gained acclaim with his film Tanhaji(2020) and now 'Adipurush' the much-awaited movie is finally going to release on June 16, 2023; based on the great Hindu mythological epic Ramayana which is to be around 7,000 years old. The announcement of the film was on August 18, 2020.

The movie will star Prabhas as Lord Rama whose name is later revealed as

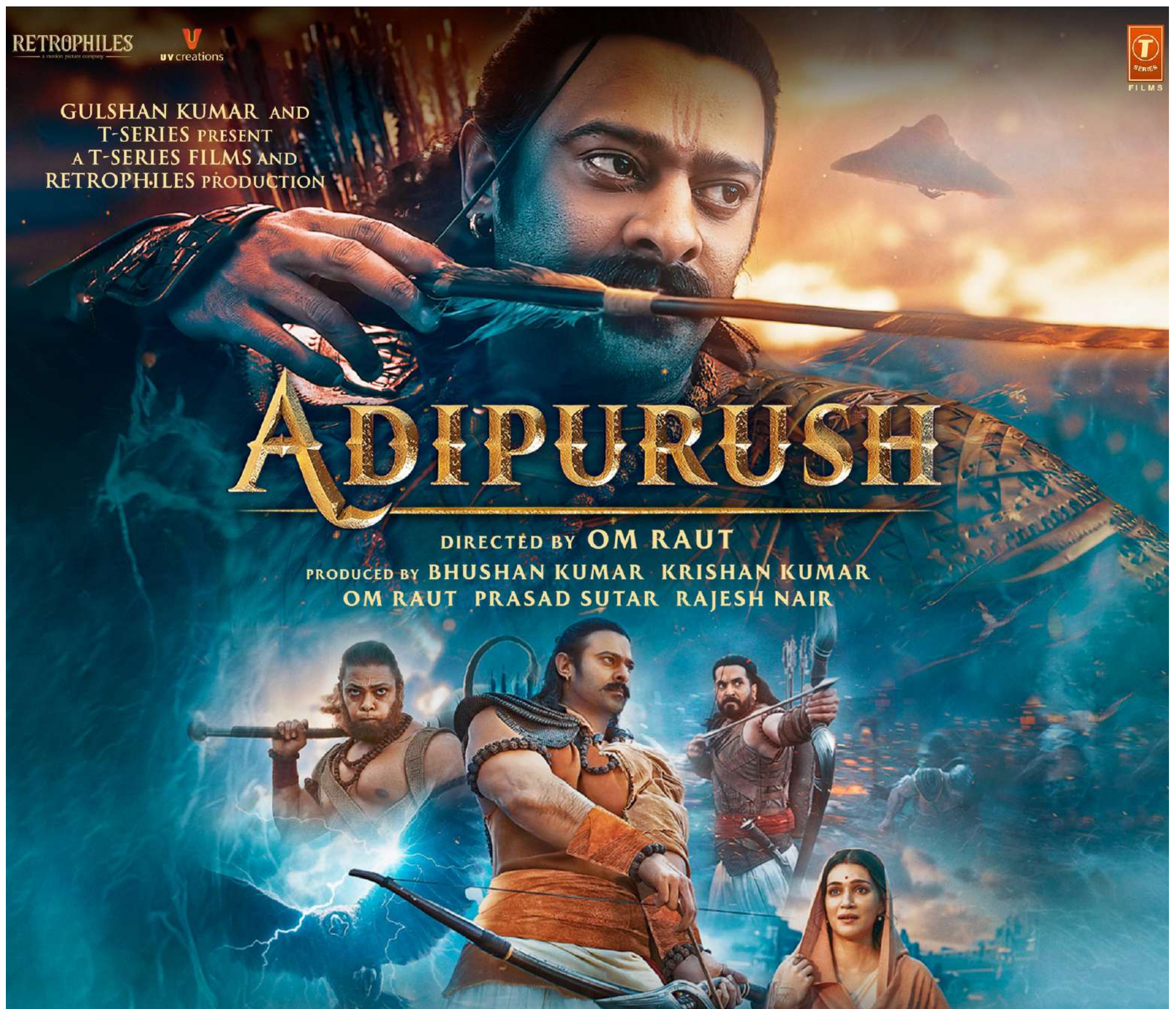
Raghava, Kriti Sanon as Sita, and Sunny Singh as Rama's younger brother Lakshmana. The Tanhaji(2020) antagonist Saif Ali Khan in 'Adipurush' will once again thrill the audience as Ravana with the name Lankesh.

The movie's song is already a hit and all the makers have dedicated one vacant seat for Lord Hanuman and it will remain unsold. A zeal of worship and devotion is flowing through this film.

The Filmmaker's statement read, "Lord Hanuman appears wherever the Ramayana is recited. It is our belief. Respecting this belief, every theatre

screening Prabhas' Rama-starrer Adipurush will reserve one seat for Lord Hanuman without selling it. Hear the history of paying respects to the greatest devotee of Rama. We started this great work in an unknown way. We all must see the Adipurush built with great grandeur and grandeur in the presence of Lord Hanuman."

The film is shot in Hindi and Telugu simultaneously. During the pre-release event for the film the makers erected a huge stage at Sri Venkateswara University Stadium, Tirupathi. The entire cast of Adipurush attends the event except for Saif Ali Khan.



Highlights of IIFA Awards 2023 in Abu Dhabi

The graceful IIFA Awards 2023 was the 23rd edition which took place in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

The event was an extravaganza of dancing, singing followed by an award ceremony. The theme of the IIFA 2023 was exotic and Yas Island, Abu Dhabi is the first destination to host IIFA for the consecutive years.

The blitzkrieg event was opened by Anil Kapoor and co-hosted by Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal. While Varun Dhawan hosted most of the fun part and Sara Ali Khan with Vicky hosted to promote their Zara Hatke Zara Bachke.

The surprising moment was when

R.Madhvan the heartthrob star of Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein won Best Director, he directed his first film Rocketry and Edge passed Ayan Mukherji and Sanjay Leela Bhansali for their Brahmastra and Gangubai Kathiawadi respectively.

The special awards were given to outstanding contributors to Indian cinema like Manish Malhotra and Kamal Hassan for their lasting contribution to fashion in Indian cinema and the golden statuette for Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema respectively. The jubilant couple Genelia-Riteish have honoured their contribution towards fostering regional cinema. Riteish's 2022 directorial debut Ved, produced by Genelia and in which both of them

also do acting duties, was a big success at the Marathi box office.

Evergreens and favourites Shreya Ghoshal and Arijit Singh won the Statuette. While Pritam won for Best Music and Amitabh Bhattacharya for Best Lyrics.

The Bollywood Award show is not complete without its Dance dhamaka. Varun Dhawan's energetic performance of Naatu Naatu and Nora added more heat when she joined Varun for a bit on stage. Kriti Sanon and Nora Fatehi also set the stage on fire while Sunidhi Chauhan's songs rocked the event. In the end the legendary Salman Khan and Hrithik Roshan had their legendary acts and put the event to its conclusion.



PC: IIFA



PC: IIFA



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pc: Telegraph India

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