

THE DIASPORA

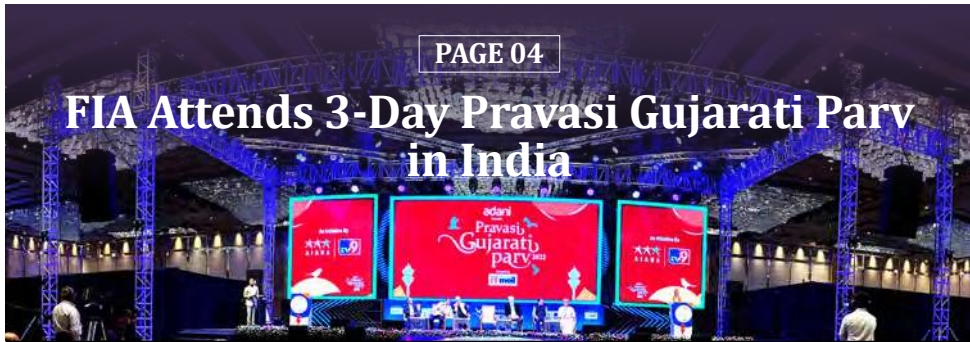


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Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE. 501(C)3. The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Eight-state of NY-NJ-CT-NE



INDIAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZES 'MARCH FOR UNITY'



Photos: Vijay Shah and Bimal Dharmi

In collaboration with the Indian Consulate General, about 40 or more Indian community organizations in the US staged a "March for Unity" in Edison on October 30.

The 1.5-kilometer walk drew over 400 participants. Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, was the chief guest, whereas the Mayor of Edison, Sam Joshi, was the guest of honor.

The event was held along the lines of 'Run For Unity' and

other such events that have been organized to commemorate the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a prominent figure in India's freedom movement. This year's celebration is also special with India celebrating 75 years of Independence.

Speaking at the occasion, Consul General Randhir Jaiswal said, "It is truly a delight that Ekta Diwas is being celebrated and people have gathered from different communities to

celebrate this. This message of unity will continue to hold the Indian Diaspora across the globe in good stead."

The Mayor of Edison, Sam Joshi, said that it is heartening to see such a turnout and that unity in diversity is our strength and the binding factor that holds us together no matter which state, religion or linguistic background we come from.

Participating organization FIA's President Kenny Desai welcomed the CG and the Mayor

of Edison and other dignitaries, which included H.R. Shah of TV ASIA, Sudhir Parikh of Parikh Worldwide Media, Dr. Avinash Gupta from BJANA, and Alok Kumar from the Bihar Foundation of India, amongst others. He said that this March is an endeavor to unify the diverse Indian Diaspora and is the need of the hour. He also went on to elaborate on the role of Sardar Patel in unifying India after gaining Independence.

Ankur Vaidya, chairman of the

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Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) - one of the participating organizations - said that the march was organized specifically at Oaktree Road since it's the hub of the Indian community. The aim of the peaceful march is to convey a message of peace, harmony, joy and co-existence with Unity in Diversity, he further added.

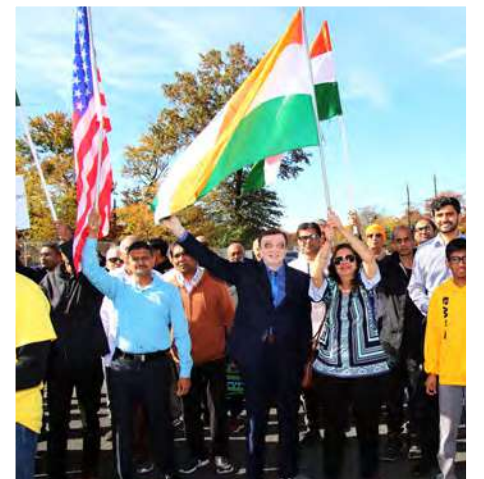
The event took place on Sunday morning instead of Monday to facilitate wider participation from the community, said organizers.



Edison Mayor Sam Joshi, was presented with a plaque by FIA during the March for Unity



DCG in New York, Hon. Varun Jeph, addressed the gathering



Executive team of FIA poses for a picture in Edison, N.J. during the March for Unity



For the Unity March, more than 40 Indian community organizations came together

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FIA Chairman, Ankur Vaidya addresses the media at the Unity March event



Padma Shri Sudhir Parikh, India's CG in NY Hon. Randhir Jaiswal, FIA President Kenny Desai, DCG in New York Hon. Varun Jeph gathered at the occasion



FIA Attends 3-Day Pravasi Gujarati Parv in India



FIA President and Chairman attend the 3-day Gujarat Global Conclave at Ahmedabad in India, showcase its achievements to global Gujaratis

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) President Kenny Desai and Chairman Ankur Vaidya, on invitation, attended the three-day Gujarat Global Conclave -- *Pravasi Gujarati Parv* – the first ever global gathering of Gujaratis from more than 20 countries, including India. The Union Home Minister of India Amit Shah inaugurated the multi-day mega event on October 15 in Ahmedabad.

The event was jointly organised

by the Government of India and Gujarat in association with Tv9, AIANA (Association of Indian Americans in North America). The one of its kind and maiden global Gujaratis conclave held in the UNESCO listed Heritage City of Ahmedabad -- from October 15 to 17, 2022 -- was sponsored by the Indian business conglomerate Adani Group.

The multi-day *Pravasi Gujarati Parv* saw over 200 prominent leaders and business tycoons

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Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Home Minister, Government of Gujarat, honored FIA President Kenny Desai at the Pravasi Gujarati Parv



BJP Gujarat chief C.R. Patil, CM of Gujarat Bhupendrabhai Patel, AIANA President Sunilbhai Nayak, Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Labour Party member of the House of Lords, UK, FIA President Kenny Desai and FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya addressing the gathering (left to right)

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from across the world and featured more than 30 mega conclaves and conferences covering a clutch of business domains and verticals.

The FIA President Kenny Desai was a keynote speaker at one of the conclaves on Gujarat Capital and Wealth. Highlighting the achievements of FIA, he said that right from rising up to the call of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, achieving the two Guinness World Records, flying the largest (220 ft) Khadi Tiranga (Indian tri-color) over Hudson River in the US to having the largest India Day Parade outside India – FIA has showcased our motherland and its rich cultural heritage to the world.



FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya was felicitated at the Pravasi Gujarati Parv



FIA Dedicates Guinness World Records to PM Narendra Modi

At the 'The Pierre' in New York, FIA dedicated Guinness World Records to PM Narendra Modi

In a ceremony held at the 'The Pierre', a Taj Hotel in New York, Federation of Indian Associations dedicated the 2 Guinness World Records, successfully achieved as part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations, to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The prime minister has given the call to celebrate the

Mahotsav globally as it marks the completion of 75 years of Indian Independence.

Present on the occasion were Minister of State for External Affairs of India V. Muraleedharan, Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, FIA President Kenny Desai, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya,

Chairman of Jaipur Foot and FIA convenor Prem Bhandari and Bihar Foundation Chairman Alok Kumar.

Speaking at the occasion, Minister Muraleedharan said that the Indian diaspora has done their motherland proud and lauded the whole team of FIA for keeping the Indian culture and heritage alive on The American soil.

Chairman Ankur Vaidya said

that given the current times, this celebration highlights the need of the hour for our very diverse diaspora, which is to unite and reinforce the bond we share. He emphasized that importing media-hyped and politically motivated on-the-ground



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occurrences from the motherland here in our homeland will add no value to our community. On the contrary, it will equip forces working to cause a divide

within the community. The community, our current and future generations, are here to stay. Let us give them a peaceful, harmonious, and progressive future where they can coexist with unity and diversity. That is the message FIA will continue

to share and spread.

A camp, organised jointly by FIA and Jaipur Foot USA, in celebration of the historic occasion was jointly announced by Prem Bhandari and Kenny Desai, which will be held in January 2023.

The coordinator for the camp, Alok Kumar, said that the camp, which is being organized in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, will provide over 1,075 free-of-cost artificial limbs to the needy.



FIA dedicated the 2 Guinness World Records to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi

FIA Hosts Indian Dignitaries



FIA hosted a meet and greet event with the Ambassador of India to the United States, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and the Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal.

Both the dignitaries interacted with the Indian diaspora in Boston. Also present at the event were Geoff Diehl, candidate

running for the Governor's office in Massachusetts, Vaishali Gade, President of Indian Association of Greater Boston.

In his speech, FIA New England President Abhishek Singh thanked the diplomats for their unwavering support to the Indian diaspora and for interacting with the Indian Community.



FIA Launches India Corner in Massachusetts

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, FIA launched an *India Corner* in the Northborough Library, MA. The event was attended by Congressman James P. McGovern.

Speaking at the occasion, FIA New England President Abhishek Singh thanked The Biden-Harris Administration for carrying forward Mahatma Gandhi's initiative and holding a conference in the White House on nutrition, health and the fight against hunger.

India Corner is an initiative

through which FIA will donate books relating to philosophy, spirituality, history and yoga. It

would also include biographies of important Indian figures.



White House
Conference on Hunger,
Nutrition, and Health

Ending Hunger, Improving
Nutrition and Physical
Activity, and Reducing
Diet-Related Diseases and
Disparities



Diwali Celebrations at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandirs across North America

Colors, lights and food fused with joy and tradition as Diwali –The Festival of Lights –was celebrated at the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandirs across North America. Diwali is the most widely celebrated festival by Indians and Hindus around the world. October is being celebrated as Hindu Heritage Month, and community leaders, as well as policymakers, including US President Joe Biden, are participating in lighting lamps and offering best wishes for the festivities.

Visitors were greeted with a festive and traditional welcome at the temple entrance by a colorful Rangoli, an ornate floor design made from colored powder, displaying various traditional Hindu symbols.

In preparation for the festivities, many devotees, young and old, gave their time to help

create decorations, prepare for children's Diwali, and set the stage for the most significant ritual of Diwali, 'Annakut'. Annakut, which literally means 'a mountain of food', is traditionally offered to God to celebrate the beginning of the Hindu New Year. Annakut was celebrated on October 26, 2022, with over 1500 food delicacies being offered to Bhagwan.

This year, millions of devotees and well-wishers across the globe are taking part in the centennial celebrations of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual guru and leader of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. After darshan of the Annakut, visitors got to view an exhibition-themed "Century of Service," which gave an immersive experience into the Life of Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj lived by the principle, "In the joy of others, lies our own." He dedicated his life to selflessly serving others

for the greater good of humanity, traveling across the world as an ambassador of peace, harmony, and faith; all while maintaining firm faith in God and adhering to His teachings. Pramukh Swami Maharaj visited over 250,000 homes across more than 50 countries and replied to over 750,000 letters, personally counselling individuals, helping them through struggles, and inspiring them to live value-centric lives. His virtues and life's work transformed individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

Ami Shah, a visitor said, "I start my year at BAPS Mandir. Annakut is awesome and I love coming here. This year the exhibition on Pramukh Swami Maharaj was just too good. It was amazing to know that this was created by youths who were explaining various sections enthusiastically."

"I experienced my culture

while getting a taste of fine Indian cuisine. Every person I met had an expression of warmth and happiness on their face. I truly felt at home," said Jignesh Patel.

The multiple days of Diwali are steeped in traditions and rituals that symbolize new beginnings and a renewed commitment to family. The bright colors of Rangoli, the lamps, the elaborate offering of vegetarian food (Annakut) to Bhagwan, all mark a renewal of the good within and the goodwill towards all around us.

This year His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj celebrated Diwali and Annakut in Gondal, in the state of Gujarat in India. He blessed the devotees for a happy and peaceful new year. He also stressed that since this year is also the centennial celebration of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, may all be blessed to live according to his virtuous life.



Diwali lights at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Robbinsville, NJ



Diwali lights at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Los Angeles, CA



Diwali lights at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago, IL

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Diwali Fireworks at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Atlanta, GA



Diwali Fireworks at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Houston, TX



Century of Service, an immersive exhibition on the life of Pramukh Swami Maharaj at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Robbinsville, NJ



Annakut at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Los Angeles, CA



Annakut at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Atlanta, GA



Annakut at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Houston, TX



Annakut at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Robbinsville, NJ



Annakut at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago, IL



Drone Light and Sound show at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Houston, TX



Diwali Fireworks at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago, IL



Diwali wishes greeting visitors at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Los Angeles, CA

Governor Murphy, Mayor Joshi and County Commissioners Announce Promising Plans for Middlesex College

Middlesex College will go through a significant makeover that will allow it to continue to address academic, cultural, athletic, and civic needs well into the future. Governor Murphy, Mayor Sam Joshi and Commissioner Director Ron Rios unveiled the plans before a full house of onlookers at the College's West Hall.

"This is incredible news for the residents of Edison, the County and the entire State," stated Mayor Joshi. "This type of vision and significant investment is exactly what happens when local, county and state leaders come together under a shared policy initiative. Our residents' lives will be significantly enhanced because of the educational, athletic, cultural and civic improvements we are announcing here today."

Today's announcement was the result of a shared goal that culminated in the County's Community, Innovation, and Opportunity Strategic Investment Plan. The Plan calls for:

1. An open-air Multipurpose Community Venue for concerts, cultural events, and multiple sports such as baseball, soccer, or lacrosse
2. A Workforce Development & Conference Center
3. A new Community Park featuring an educational children's amenity
4. A new Student Center which will include campus and community amenities
5. A new Middlesex County Magnet School, the Middlesex County Magnet School of the Future
6. A Destination Athletic Complex featuring 14 multi-sport synthetic fields; 16 tennis courts and a state-of-the-art recreational cricket



Photo: Tapinto

field; and much more

7. An expansion of the existing exterior spaces, activating these areas by adding public art, seating, and water features.

According to the County's press release, dignitaries shared the significance of these investments in education and infrastructure in Middlesex County and the positive impact they will have on its students, staff, parents, and the region. Today's program included Governor Phil D. Murphy; New Jersey General Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin; Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios; Edison Mayor Sam Joshi; Middlesex College President Mark McCormick; Superintendent of Schools Jorge E. Diaz; Middlesex County Administrator John A. Pulomena; and Middlesex College Alumni Trustee Anvay Patel.

"We are excited to get this significant project off the ground - and we'll be working closely with President McCormick and the Board of Trustees at Middlesex College, as well as the Middlesex

County Magnet Schools, and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, to move a number of these initiatives forward today. From cultural to world-class recreational opportunities, from athletic to scholastic, this plan will improve the lives of so many in our community," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "This project is an unprecedented opportunity not only to cement Middlesex College's place as one of the best two-year colleges in America by not only expanding the educational offerings of both the College and the Magnet School System, but to turn the campus into a multi-faceted destination for the community here in Middlesex County and this entire region. The Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan will drastically transform the outdoor activities available to families and individuals across both Middlesex County and the State of New Jersey."

"Middlesex County has long epitomized the best our state has to offer: economic opportunity,

family-oriented communities, and schools that prepare our children to reach their full potential not just as students, but as community members and future leaders," said New Jersey Governor Phil D. Murphy. "The Community, Innovation, and Opportunity Strategic Investment Plan announced today will further promote educational opportunities, community engagement, and the arts among Middlesex College students and residents of all ages. Together, these improvements will further solidify Middlesex College as a crucial anchor in a community that will continue to grow and flourish for generations to come."

"A continuation of the transformative projects that have taken shape in Middlesex County to boost our regional competitiveness, this strategic investment plan is another feather in the cap of our visionary county leadership," said New Jersey General Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. "By expanding educational opportunities that inspire innovation and entrepreneurship, and providing greater access to the arts and to athletics, this project will enhance people's quality of life now and into their futures, transforming New Jersey for the better over the decades to come."

"As a Trustee, I am excited by the bold new directions with which Dr. McCormick and the Board are leading our college and grateful to the Governor, State Legislature, and the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners for their tremendous support of Middlesex College and the students we serve," said Middlesex College Alumni Trustee Anvay Patel. "I am honored to be present on such an auspicious occasion. And I would especially like to take the opportunity to express gratitude on behalf of the college community to everyone for their vision and commitment for the new student center."

Indian-American Doctor Awarded Humanitarian Award for Covid-Relief Work in India

Indian-American doctor Avinash Gupta was conferred with the humanitarian award by Monmouth Medical Center-Southern Campus for his exemplary work in public health and social service, especially for the Covid-19 related relief work in India and the US.

Dr. Avinash Gupta, Chief of Cardiology and President-elect of the medical staff at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMSC) in New Jersey USA, launched teleconsultation service that provided relief to the poor during the deadly second wave of Covid-19 in 2021 in India.

He and his wife, Dr Geeta Gupta, who hail from Ranchi, attended to over 1,000 patients, easing the pressure on overburdened hospitals. He raised over \$250,000 (over ₹ 2 crore) for medical relief in India and helped AASTHA,

Patna-based NGO to establish a 10-bed Covid Care Center. He coordinated with other doctors to arrange medicines and send oxygen concentrators to India.

He virtually attended to many distraught Indians in the US, who didn't have medical insurance and couldn't visit a medical facility during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Dr. Avinash Gupta has been helping Indian students visiting

the US for training, workshops, conferences, and internships. He and Dr. Geeta Gupta have been jointly helping such people not only at his place of stay, even providing free accommodation, food, etc., but also elsewhere in the USA, utilizing their wide and vast contacts and friendships, which they have in abundance.

In the US, Dr. Gupta led a team of 50 doctors and healthcare

professionals to vaccinate 3,500 Indian Americans in Ocean County in the state of New Jersey.

Under his presidency of MOCAAPI 2021 the organization donated \$150,000 to fulfill the food bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties to help fight hunger in Ocean County.

He played a pivotal role in founding the Siddhivinayak Temple and Indian Cultural Center in Toms River in 2012, an organization for which he has personally donated hundreds of thousands of dollars, countless hours and sleepless nights.

After graduating from Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi, Dr. Gupta came to the United States in 1986 and went on to complete his Internal Medicine residency and Cardiology fellowship in New York.



SHRI RANDHIR JAISWAL, CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA IN NEW YORK

My congratulations to Dr. Avinash Gupta on being conferred the Humanitarian award by Monmouth Medical Centre, New Jersey, USA. That he truly deserved it is an understatement. We have seen his commitment to serving people during the pandemic, and not just in the US but as far away as India. Dr. Gupta's service is an inspiration for many. His community leadership continues to grow - Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York.



DR. VARUN JEPH, DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL

Dr. Avinash Gupta has been rendering selfless service to the community-both in his karmabhoomi USA and his matrabhoomi India. His invaluable online consultations to COVID patients in rural Jharkhand and Bihar, sending medicines, equipment, and other necessities to the poor and needy, and providing financial assistance to the underprivileged are truly remarkable and an inspiration to the Indian diaspora worldwide.



ANKUR VAIDYA, CHAIRMAN FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS, NY-NJ-CT-NE

It is my honor to extend this message to MMSC Humanitarian Gala Honoree Dr. Avinash Gupta. His service to the community as a cardiologist and as a devout and selfless philanthropist states volume about his love and care for both the motherland and our great homeland, the USA. Along with my peers at FIA, I wholeheartedly commend his service and congratulate him on this distinguished recognition.



ALOK KUMAR, CHAIRMAN, BIHAR FOUNDATION US, ETZ & PAST PRESIDENT, FIA

Alok Kumar, with his team, congratulated Dr. Gupta and said it's an honor to be recognized for great humanitarian work, both in the US and India on the eve of Diwali.



BJANA TEAM

BJANA President Anurag Kumar, Vice President Sanjeev Singh, and the entire BJANA executive committee congratulated Dr. Avinash Gupta on achieving a new high in serving the community here in the United States and back home in India to fulfill the needs of the underprivileged. He has not only dedicated his life to serving the community but also became an example and motivation for others in society to feel and serve the underprivileged and help people in their surroundings.

Minimum Wage for Upstate New York Set to Increase from December 31

In areas outside New York City, Long Island and Westchester County, the minimum wage will rise from \$13.20 per hour to \$14.20, an increase of 7.5 per cent, according to the state Labor Department. In those other three areas of the state, the minimum

wage is already at \$15 an hour and will not increase further.

The new minimum covers all of Upstate New York, including the Syracuse area. It is set to take effect from December 31. The hike means an extra \$40 a week for someone working full time in a minimum wage job.

Fast food workers were on a different schedule for raises. They already earn \$15 an hour everywhere in the state.

The new minimum still has to go through a formal rulemaking process before it's officially approved. That includes a public comment period.

Photo: chalkbeat



NYC Will Pay for Foster Students' College Expenses

New York City will cover the college tuition and housing costs for students in foster care, Mayor Eric Adams announced on October 4.

"A young person in foster care can attend the college of their choice without having to worry about the financial nightmare," said Jess Dannhauser, the commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services, which oversees the city's child welfare system.

"College choice will provide college students in foster care with the support they need to complete their college education successfully and attend the school of their choice, regardless of cost," said Mayor Adams. "This new program provides our young people in foster care help in covering up to \$15,000 in tuition costs each year not covered by financial aid, as well as room and board, and even provides a daily stipend for food or clothes. Growing up has never been more challenging, so we are holding up the torch to support our young people. No student's chances for success should depend on factors outside of their control. Now, our youth in foster care can attend a community college, a CUNY, a SUNY, an Ivy League, an HBCU, or any other school they dream of without worrying about how they pay for their education."

Indian-American Food Delivery Agent Stabbed in New York

An Indian-American *Uber Eats* delivery person has been stabbed several times in an attack in the US by a career criminal with more than 100 arrests on his rap sheet, according to a media report.

Bharatbhai Patel was stabbed at the Lower East Side, New York on Tuesday, 27 September, by the ex-con described by police as a "super perp", *The New York Post* reported.

"Nobody helped," Patel told *The Post*. "He killed me here, here, here and here," he said, referring to the career-criminal suspect

and pointing to his wounds.

"He asked nothing. Not, 'I need money.' Nothing," the report added.

"Maybe they need money or something for my bike," he said. "But the guy asked me nothing."

Patel said he saw around three people near him, during the 3 am attack, who did nothing to help -- leaving him to call 911 himself, the report added.

He speculated that the people may have been drunk.

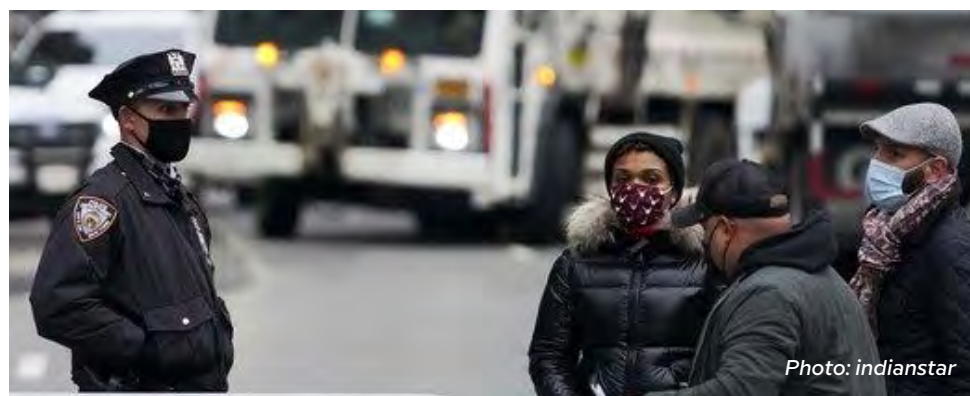


Photo: indianstar

NYC Mayor Adams Declares State of Emergency Over Migrant Crisis

New York City Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency on Friday, October 7, in response to the continued arrival of illegal migrants from southern states.

More than 17,000 migrants have been bused to the city since the spring, a small fraction of the migrant encounters at the border

over that timeframe. *Fox News* cameras at the Port Authority transportation terminal filmed eight buses arriving on Friday, after nine arrived on Thursday.

Adams said that one in five people in the city's shelter system is a migrant, which is creating the "crisis."

"This is a humanitarian crisis that started with violence and

instability in South America and is being accelerated by American political dynamics," Adams said. "Thousands of asylum seekers have been bused into New York City and simply dropped off, without notice, coordination, or care — and more are arriving every day," Adams added.



JallosH Dhol Tasha

JallosH (जल्लोष) meaning 'Celebrating with Community' is a Pathak (band) of like-minded Vadaks (instrumentalists) who have a penchant for playing Dhol-Tasha-Zanj-Lezim, a combination of Indian drum based percussion instruments. This tradition dates back to 16th century, when it was used as a war weapon and to boost soldier's morale in Shree Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Maratha empire (present day Maharashtra, India). Later in 1960s, it was introduced into civilian lifestyle by Dr. Appaji Pendse with a focus on developing personality, promoting team building, instilling discipline, realizing cultural values and to unite youth for social change, which then became a very common practice during Ganesh festival in modern days.

What started as a mere thought with a handful of friends coming together conceiving an idea and nurturing the seeds has allowed JallosH to blossom into becoming a brand ambassador of Indian Roots that signify what enjoying true passion, cultivating rich heritage and giving back to the needy should be all about. JallosH was formed in 2013 and is a registered non-profit under "Indian Roots, USA" as per IRC section 501(c)(3) with a troupe of 100+ members. JallosH virtues of passion, purpose and charity are also being passed to the newer generations.

For every beat of a Dhol and Tasha, dollars are raised that go towards social causes in India with a focus on the Tribal and Nomadic Kids' education. Till date, JallosH has raised and donated \$122,000 by performing at more than 200 religious celebrations, social events, national days, and community festivals in and around New Jersey and New York.

Charity goes towards deserving organizations on an annual basis that are shortlisted after a meticulous review. Some of the beneficiary organizations that have received support from JallosH are Chhatra Prabodhan, Sewa International, Institute for Psychological Health (IPH), Astitva Pratishthan, Ashramshala, Ekal Vidyalaya, Gharkul and Vivekanand Vidyapeeth. This year, JallosH donated \$25,000 (Rs 20 Lakhs) to Chhatra Prabodhan, which has been consistently working for the last 25+ years on multi-dimensional personality development of thousands of kids and youths in rural parts of Maharashtra.

Year 2022 became a special year for JallosH team where it collaborated with the Federation of Indian Association (FIA) team, the organizer of massively ambitious Guinness World Record event, by making sure that the Dhol-Tasha practices were well-rehearsed and well-coordinated with the FIA team and that the final combined performance of Damru and Dhol-Tasha beats got played in synch on India's Genius Music Composer A.R. Rahman's Maa Tuze Salaam song.

JallosH team has dedicated its Guinness World Record accomplishment to 2 important segments namely: the unknown soldiers and unsung heroes of India's Freedom struggle and to its selfless cause supported by its dedicated members to give back to the less fortunate people and needy charities.

JallosH is an exemplary model of inclusiveness where professionals from different walks of life join as performers and volunteers to help the needy and less fortunate segments. Few examples of professionals include (but are not limited to) financial & IT developers, PhD scientists, creators, technology leaders, writers, videographers, entrepreneurs, doctors, medical professionals and Moms & Dads. JallosH also breaks the gender stereotypes as majority of women spearhead training & performances and also hold prominent roles. Kids and college students also have a special spot in JallosH, who are not only players but star performers being groomed to carry on this legacy in coming years.

Team JallosH expresses gratitude to its performers & volunteers, who put their heart & soul to pedal JallosH towards progressive path. JallosH has always been grateful to event organizers, charitable organizations, authorities & individuals for their trust & long relationship enabling JallosH to fulfil its Vision & Mission.

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Lt. General Anil Chauhan (retd.) Appointed Next Chief of Defence Staff

The Indian Government on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, appointed former Eastern Army Commander Lt. General Anil Chauhan as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

The post has been vacant since the death of the country's first CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in December 2021.

"The Government has decided to appoint Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the next Chief of Defence Staff who shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.



In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan had held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India, the statement said.

Born on May 18, 1961, Lt. Gen. Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

Diamond Tycoon Nirav Modi Warns of Suicide Risk from India Extradition

Nirav Modi, a former diamond tycoon accused of a \$2 billion loan fraud in India, urged a London court to block his extradition to his home country, claiming it could push him to suicide.

Modi suffers a "long-standing depressive condition" and sending him to a "hostile environment," where people burn his effigies could worsen his situation, his lawyer Edward Fitzgerald said in court. "He is even now at suicide risk and that suicide risk will be exacerbated if extradited."

He has contested his extradition order saying concerns over his mental health weren't properly considered. His lawyer also denied allegations of fraud.

The Indian authorities opposed those arguments, saying depression is curable and it can't be concluded that his mental health will only deteriorate, according to Helen Malcolm, a lawyer for the nation.

India has made assurances relating to prison conditions, health monitoring and proper treatment. "This is an extremely high-profile case in India and that means there will be many eyes on him," Malcolm said.

Man Held for Attacking Aged Hindu Women, to Face 63 Years Jail Term if Found Guilty

A 37-year-old man with a criminal record, named Lathan Johnson, reportedly attacked 14 older Hindu women in California and stole their necklaces during a two-month hate crime spree that began in June, according to authorities.

According to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, Johnson, a Palo Alto resident, targeted Hindu women, who turned out to be between ages 50 and 73.

Almost all the victims were wearing a sari, bindi, or other types of ethnic attire when they were attacked. The majority of the incidents, which began in June, occurred in San Jose, Milpitas, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara.

He was accused of forcefully removing jewellery from the necks of the women before making off in a getaway vehicle. In one such instance, he pushed a woman to the ground before punching her husband in the face, ripping off her necklace, and jumping inside a getaway car. In another such case, a woman's wrist was broken during the attack, the report added.

If convicted, Johnson will face a maximum jail term of 63 years. The next hearing in the case will take place on November 4. All of the stolen necklaces are estimated to be worth roughly \$35,000.

Over \$300,000 Raised for Indian-origin Sikh Family Killed in California

The grieving relatives of the four Indian-origin Sikhs killed in the US have raised more than \$300,000 to support their families in California but also their elderly parents back in India.

The Sikh family of four -- 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh -- were kidnapped and killed by a former employee of their trucking company last week.

A *GoFundMe* fundraiser is collecting funds for the Singh's extended family and has raised more than \$300,000, according to *abc7news.com*.

Jesus Manuel Salgado, a former employee at Jasdeep and Amandeep's trucking company, has been arrested and charged with murder and kidnapping. His brother Alberto Salgado was also arrested and charged with aiding him. *NBC News* could not identify a lawyer for either suspect.

FDA Authorizes Covid Omicron Booster Shots for Kids as Young as 5 Years Old

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on October 12 authorized Covid booster shots that target the omicron variant for pre-schoolers through elementary school students.

Pfizer's new omicron boosters are now authorized for children ages 5 to 11, and *Moderna's* shots for kids ages 6 through 17. The shots are administered two months following completion of the two-dose primary series or the most recent booster shot with the first-generation vaccines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still has to issue its recommendations before pharmacies can administer the new shots to kids. The CDC's advisory committee has meetings set for next week when independent vaccine experts will review the available data.

Pfizer's new boosters were cleared for people ages 12 and up in September, while *Moderna's* were authorized for adults ages 18 and older.



Dr. Murthy: Representative on WHO Executive Board

Indian origin surgeon Dr. Vivek Murthy, 45, will serve in the new position alongside his continued duties as the US Surgeon General.

"While serving as the 21st Surgeon General, Dr Murthy is focused on drawing attention to and working across government to address a number of critical public health issues, including the growing proliferation of health misinformation, the ongoing youth mental health crisis, well-being and burnout in the health worker community, and social isolation and loneliness," said the White House.

Elon Musk Ropes in Indian-Origin Technology Executive to Revamp Twitter

Sriram Krishnan, an Indian-origin technology executive, is "helping out" *Twitter's* new owner Elon Musk as he revamps the social media giant following its acquisition by the billionaire entrepreneur.

Krishnan is a general partner at Silicon Valley venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz (a16z).

"Now that the word is out: I'm helping out @elonmusk with *Twitter* temporarily with some other great people. I (and a16z) believe this is a hugely important company and can have a great impact on the world and Elon is the person to make it happen," Krishnan tweeted.

Krishnan added that he is "still very much in my day job" at @a16zcrypto. "If you're a crypto founder, you know how to find me!"

Community News

Livingston Receives a Proclamation Declaring October to be Hindu Heritage Month

The Hindu community in Livingston received a proclamation designating October as Hindu Heritage Month. This is indeed an honor and a privilege.

Present at the occasion were Mayor of Livingston Ed Meinhardt, Deputy Mayor Councilman Michael Vieira, Immediate Past Mayor Shawn Klein, Councilman Al Rudy Fernandez, Town Attorney Jarrid Kantor, and the entire staff of the Livingston township along with FIA's Falguni Pandya who is also the member of AAPI Commission - advisory body to NJ Governor Phil Murphy.



Edward Meinhardt
Mayor
Michael M. Vieira
Deputy Mayor
Council Members:
Alfred M. Anthony
Rudy Fernandez
Shawn R. Klein



Barry R. Lewis, Jr.
Township Manager
973-535-7974

Carolyn Mazucco
Township Clerk
973-535-7940

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Hinduism is the third largest religions in the world, with millions of followers in the United States, including many in Livingston; and

Whereas, The Hindu heritage, culture, traditions and values provide invaluable solutions to many of life's problems and often serve as a source of inspiration, reflection and contemplation for the millions of individuals who look to the teachings of Hinduism for guidance; and

Whereas, Hinduism demonstrates through a living enlightened civilization that global peace is achievable and sustainable, and this begins with individual peace and spiritual awakening; and

Whereas, each year during the month of October, the Hindu community Livingston, and across our great nation will collectively celebrate its heritage by focusing on its culture and the diverse spiritual traditions rooted in India,

Whereas, the Hindu community of Livingston comes together to honor their shared heritage and spiritual traditions, and we recognize the many contributions the community has made to our beloved State;

Now, Therefore, I, Ed Meinhardt, Mayor of the Township of Livingston, do hereby resolve and proclaim:

The Month of October as
HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

In perpetuity

And urge all the citizens of the Township of Livingston, NJ to take cognizance of this this event and participate fittingly in its observance.



Ed Meinhardt
Ed Meinhardt, Mayor

Adopted: October 17, 2022

Community News

Chhath Puja at Donaldson Park, Highland Park New Jersey

The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) continued its 6th year celebration of Chhath Puja.

BJANA started organizing the community-wide chhath puja five years ago, which has now become their signature event. A large number of people attended the event, which shows the importance of this festival not only among the diaspora of Bihar and Jharkhand, but it spread across other states. People from MP, UP, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, and Nepal witnessed this spectacular event. Many of the parents from these states came for the first time and completely enjoyed the event.

Over 1500 members attended the celebration, according to a press release.

The event was attended by the Honorable Rajya Sabha MP, Beeda Masthan Rao Yadav from Andhra Pradesh. He congratulated BJANA for organizing this event on such a large scale and wished the people of the Indian diaspora on this festival. He offered arghya to Sun God and prayed for the prosperity of the community.

Chhath Puja is one of the most auspicious festivals in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The festival is dedicated to Surya Bhagwaan (Sun God), which people believe sustains life on the earth. Chhath is celebrated globally with the same level of emotion, zeal, and fervor.

This festival in North America was pioneered by the community known to work for the social welfare of people from Bihar and Jharkhand, BJANA. According to a press release by BJANA, around 30 Vratis (people who keep fast) carried out the puja together this year.

Consul General of India in NY Shri Randhir Jaiswal and Dr. Abha Jaiswal ji joined the aarag and congratulated the BJANA Team for arranging the Chhath at the mega level which brings the community together.

Its volunteers and committee members conduct the event with meticulous execution over a duration of 4 days. BJANA president Anurag Kumar welcomed all the vratis and devotees to this Mahaparv and thanked them coming in such a huge number. He thanked to all BJANA family here in New Jersey/New York /Pennsylvania /Connecticut for celebrating chhath puja with this energy. This reminded him of the Chhath celebration back home.

The BJANA executive committee organized the distribution of prasad (food offering to God). The event was broadcast live on Facebook and other social media platforms.

BJANA Vice President Sanjeev Singh said, "More and more people are getting associated with the organization and the festivity and grandeur of the festival ripples through air in which BJANA has proved its niche".

Volunteers and committee members made the prasad in large quantities so that no visitors would leave without it. Vratis observing the 36 hours fast blessed all visitors after offering the morning arghya to the rising sun.



NEWSMAKERS

4 Indian-American Teens Win Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

Four Indian American teens have received the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, a national award recognizing inspiring, public-spirited young people

Four Indian-American winners are: Karina Samuel, 17, Florida; Karun Kaushik, 17, California; Laalitya Acharya, 18, Ohio; and Sri Nihal Tammana, 13, New Jersey.

This year's Barron Prize winners include those who are helping the homeless; promoting STEM education; protecting wildlife; inventing devices to benefit world health; and raising awareness and funds for important environmental issues, according to a media



Karina Samuel, Karun Kaushik, Sri Nihal Tammana, Laalitya Acharya

release. "These outstanding young people saw a need and came up with creative solutions to help others and make a real difference," says founder T. A. Barron.

"By honoring and supporting these young heroes and their amazing work, we hope to inspire even more youth to

pursue their big dreams of changing the world."

Karina Samuel founded the Florida chapter of *Bye Bye Plastic Bags*, an international student-led non-profit committed to reduce the amount of plastic on the planet.

Karun Kaushik created *X-Check-MD*, Artificial Intelligence (AI) software

that can diagnose Covid-19 and pneumonia with 99 per cent accuracy in under one minute.

Laalitya Acharya invented Nereid, a low-cost, globally applicable device that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect water contamination within seconds.

Sri Nihal Tammana created *Recycle My Battery*, a non-profit that installs free battery recycling bins and educates young people and adults about battery recycling.

Indian-American Doctor-Economist Wins 16th Doshi Bridgebuilder Award

Indian-American doctor-economist Jay Bhattacharya has received the 16th Doshi Bridgebuilder Award in recognition of his consequential research focusing on the economics

of health care around the world.

Bhattacharya gave a lecture exploring "The Economic and Human Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Policy Responses" at the

presentation ceremony on September 13. "The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone on the planet," said Christopher Key Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology



and founding director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies.

Arby's Names Rita Patel it's Brand Chief Marketing Officer

The popular food chain Arby's announced on October 5, 2022, that Rita Patel has been named Brand Chief Marketing Officer (CMO).

"Arby's is a truly differentiated brand with

a maverick approach to marketing, and I am excited to work alongside Jim and the entire Arby's team to bring meaty sandwiches and delightful experiences to our guests," Patel is quoted saying in the press

release. "I've learned so much during my time with *Buffalo Wild Wings* and look forward to applying those learnings in my new role." "Rita has been a key driver of brand marketing and innovation strategy,

and I'm thrilled to formally welcome her into this new role at Arby's," Taylor said. "This move is a great example of how *Inspire* is cultivating top talent and supporting them in their career journey."

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

www.vedmandir.org

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir)



1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ-08807, Ph: (908) 725-4477

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

www.venkateswaratemple.org

The Hindu Temple Society of North America Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355, Ph: (718) 460-8484

Weekdays: 8:00 am to 8:30 pm Weekends: 7:30 am to 8:30 pm

<https://nyganeshtemple.org/>



CHART OF THE WEEK

Most Expensive Cities in the World

The Economist Intelligence Unit's bi-annual cost of living survey compares more than:

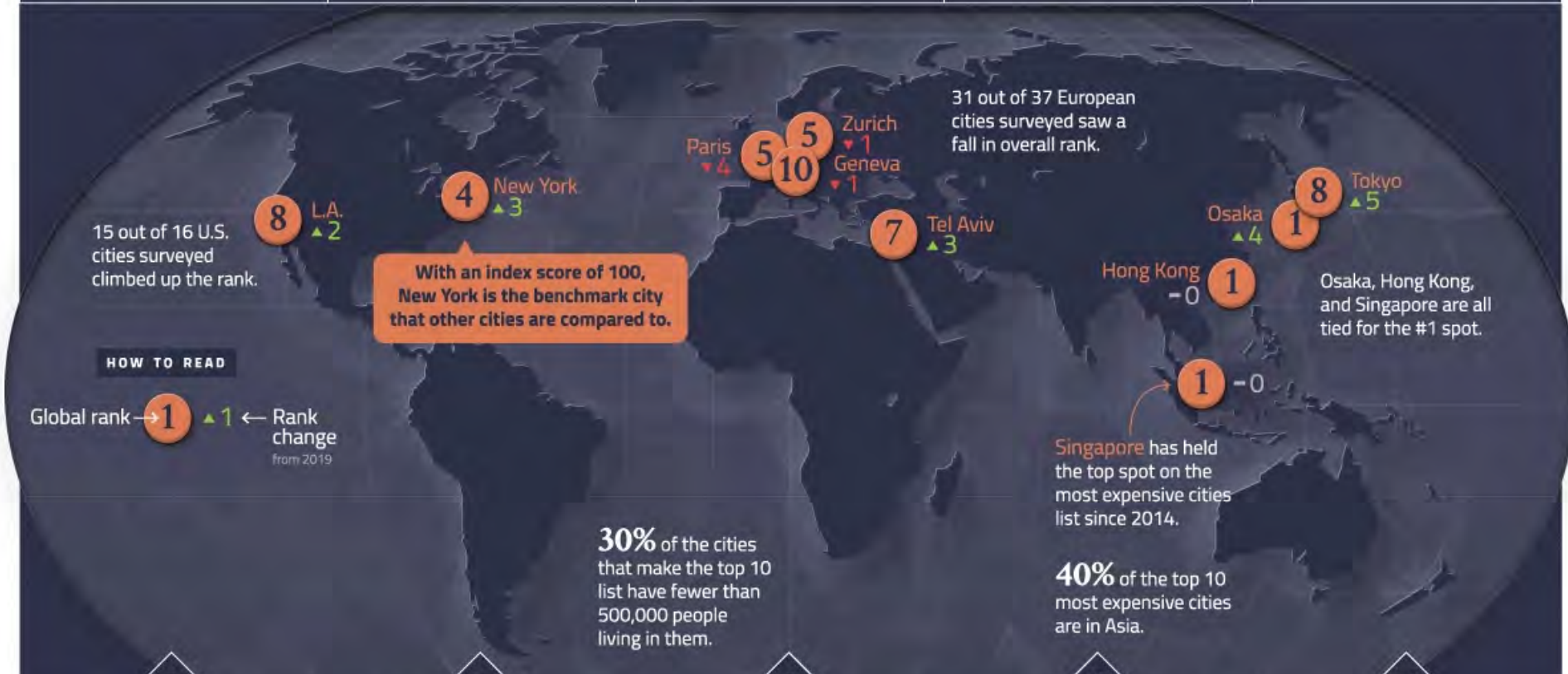
- 400** individual prices
- 160** products & services
- 133** cities

City Name *Index Score*

↑ Millionaires per 100,000 people

▣ Price per square meter to buy apartment in city center (US\$)

<p>1</p> <p>Singapore 102</p> <p>3,854 ↑↑↑ \$18,687 ▣</p> <p>Singapore is known to be particularly expensive for buying a car, with a Volkswagen Golf costing US\$110,000 on average compared to US\$44,000 in Norway.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Hong Kong 102</p> <p>3,059 ↑↑↑ \$31,803 ▣</p> <p>The cost of buying property in Hong Kong makes it the most expensive real estate market in the world, with ownership out of reach even for people with higher salaries.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Osaka 102</p> <p>4,374 ↑↑↑↑ \$6,233 ▣</p> <p>The Japanese city is often named as one of the best cities in the world for foodies, but it is also one of the most expensive places to buy groceries.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>New York 100</p> <p>4,039 ↑↑↑↑ \$14,807 ▣</p> <p>New York's population of 8.3 million people drives the price of basic services up. For example, the average cost of a woman's haircut in the Big Apple is currently US\$210.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Paris 99</p> <p>5,163 ↑↑↑↑↑ \$12,469 ▣</p> <p>Dropping five places from the top spot in just one year, France's capital remains the most expensive city in Europe along with Zurich.</p>
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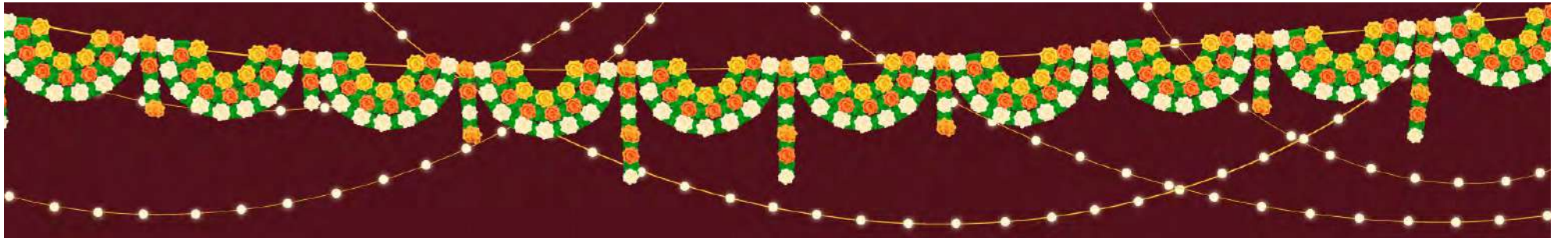


HOW TO READ

Global rank → **1** ▲ 1 ← Rank change from 2019

<p>5</p> <p>Zurich 99</p> <p>27,113 ↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑ \$12,886 ▣</p> <p>The Swiss city is listed as the #1 city in the world for quality of life. The city also ranks second in terms of the highest salaries, driving up the cost of rent and groceries.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Tel Aviv 97</p> <p>8,076 ↑↑↑↑↑ \$12,546 ▣</p> <p>As the only Middle Eastern city in the rank, Tel Aviv's rising transport costs, such as car ownership, have resulted in the city rising three places in the last year.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Los Angeles 96</p> <p>4,343 ↑↑↑↑ \$8,035 ▣</p> <p>Similarly to New York, the high cost of living in LA is influenced by the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and firm domestic demand.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Tokyo 96</p> <p>3,017 ↑↑↑ \$11,082 ▣</p> <p>Tokyo boasts the largest population in the ranking at 9.2 million people strong, resulting in a high cost of living and a 1kg loaf of bread costing US\$7.41 on average.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Geneva 95</p> <p>20,882 ↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑ \$13,329 ▣</p> <p>The Swiss city boasts high salaries and low taxes, and has seen a decrease in its cost of living in the last year, dropping five places in the rank.</p>
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Sources: Yahoo Finance, CBRE, Knight Frank, New York Post, Numbeo



SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION



SONIA DATE

Diwali is around the corner. And just like that, my heart is lighter yet fuller. My worries are hidden, tucked away, obscure, and meaningless. The weather is better, the sun brighter yet less harsh. The evenings are more pleasant, with the sky lit in brilliant autumnal hues. The evening breeze makes me want to float away like a weightless feather. Far, oblivious to life's burdens. The sky is incandescent with small lanterns. Some of them are glowing with the radiance of the loved ones that we have lost. Luminous with their aura of blessings and love.

Diwali is around the corner. This time I haven't thought about what my life lacks. I look at my house and my blessings. The dust is swept away, the cobwebs are cleaned, and the glass is crystal clear with Colin. The cushions are fluffed and plumped, the floors scrubbed and sparkling. All of it is old yet new. Diwali has given me a different-looking glass.

My home is ready to welcome people. Just like my heart. It's time to remove prejudices, anger, grief, and worries. Just like my home, it's time to clean its inner recesses.

My saris are sent for ironing. The blouses are for alteration. So, what if I can't fit into them? I'm thankful that there's been good food on my table, and I have gained happiness with

the delicious treats. Let their shimmering, vibrant jewel tones adorn my body. The ruby reds, glittering greens, and perfect purples with the shiny Zari. I look forward to wearing them. Some are over two decades old, but bought with love, kept with care, and worn with pride.

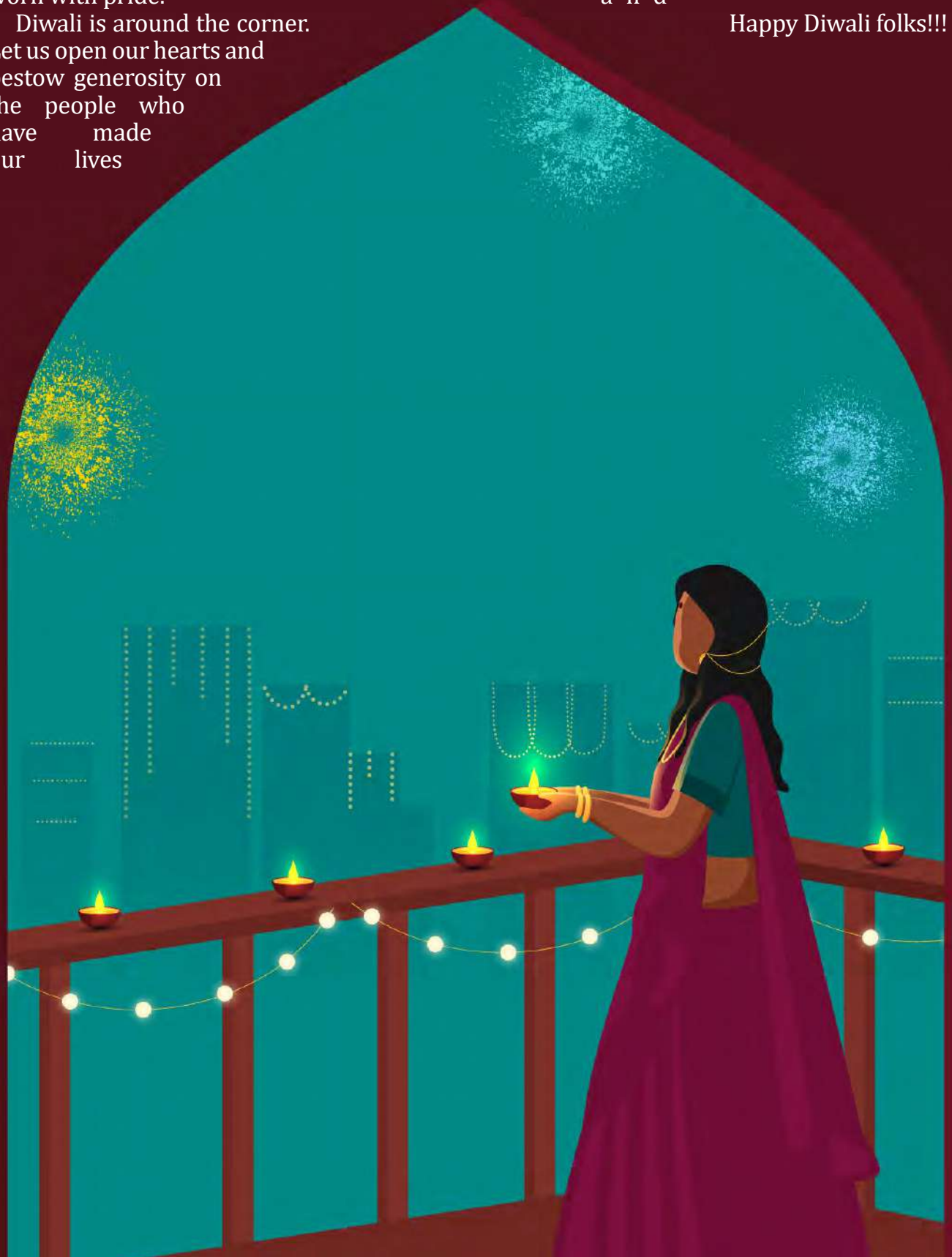
Diwali is around the corner. Let us open our hearts and bestow generosity on the people who have made our lives

comfortable. Let us say a huge prayer for all our gifts. This includes the gift of a healthy body and accepting its imperfections. Let's give our family and friends tighter hugs and warmer greetings for making our lives brighter and

more beautiful.

Let the fragrance of the marigolds, the sweetness of the mithai, and the richness of the dry fruits always enrich our lives. Let the light of the diyas obliterate the darkness all around us. Not just for this Diwali, but for the entire year.

Happy Diwali folks!!!



A - 359746

A - 359746

★★★★★

BHAVNA TALKIES

Ms. Bhavna Kant

<https://bit.ly/37Aa6nT>

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

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



VIKRAM VEDHA

(2022 / Hindi / Masala entertainer / Cinema Release)

ACTION, DIALOGUES, SWAG AND A TERRIFIC DUO!

Writer / Director Pushkar Gayathri

Cast Hrithik Roshan, Saif Ali Khan, Radhika Apte, Satyadeep Mishra, Sharib Hashmi, Rohit Saraf



It's always a terrific feeling to watch a film with all the ingredients of a masala blockbuster, aka adrenaline pumping BGM, claptrap dialogues, full on action and guns blazing.

Though I am not too glad about the remake spree that Bollywood seems to be on but that opinion had been conveniently set aside in the excitement to see two of my favourite actors onscreen. Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan can be single handedly my reason for watching a film. Imagine the excitement to see them together.

The film starts on a bombarding note with Saif in total swag.

Love the way Saif wears his characters, confident and totally at ease, whether it is a goofy one like in *Go Goa Gone*/*Kaala Kaandi* or intense ones

like *Bullet Raja*, *Bazaar* or *Laal Kaptaan*. As a crime branch cop here, he is totally in his elements. I also admire the way he chooses to style his physique. Not in the race for 6 or 8 packs but fit and beefed up. He looks superb.

Our hearts had to wait a while to get to see Hrithik, but it was worth the wait. When he enters, it's worth whistles and claps, with full on swag.

And we realise that the moment he joins the story, it gets exhilarating. His encounters and scenes with Saif are the highlights of the film. He provides what could be called as the food for soul to the masala genre lovers, the BGM booming and adrenaline pumping scenes.

It was a pleasure to see them clashing, dialogue for dialogue and blow for blow. The narrative style brings intrigue that grips you till the end. Radhika Apte, Sharib Hashmi, Rohit Saraf and

Satyadeep Mishra add good support.

While nothing could ever dampen my love for these two stars whose standing, charm and charisma go beyond any box office numbers or validation, I feel the film, minus these two brightening star elements, did have some aspects that dampened my over-all feeling for the film.

The screenplay had a lot of scope for improvement.

The backstories, which were very crucial to the main story, surprisingly seemed to pull down the film every time. Vikram's backstory seemed too rushed and stuffed up. Vedha's backstories seemed to drag and were too cliché.

The side characters were not able to create much impact. And a special word for Vikram's team. They seemed so clueless; he might as well have borrowed

Singham's team; at least they would have brought in some humor.

The dialects were not too precise, but I was thankful that they didn't go all over the place like in some other films by renowned filmmakers from the south.

The overall length could have been shortened, and that might have helped the pace too. Having been blown away by Pushkar Gayatri's *Suzhal Vortex*, I had higher expectations from the duo. But that's just my perspective.

Having said that, there is no denying the fact that the film was totally *paisa vasool*. Saif and Hrithik, along with the invigorating moments, intrigue, action, and dialogues, make it worth your while.



(an additional .5 for Hrithik and Saif)



DAHAN: RAAKAN KA RAHASYA

(DisneyHotstar / Horror / Series)

FOLKLORE MYTHS VS SCIENCE GIVE THIS HORROR AN INTERESTING TINGE

Director Vikrant Pawar, Jai Sharma

Cast Tisca Chopra, Saurabh Shukla, Rajesh Tailang, Pankaj Sharma, Rohan Joshi, Lehar Khan, Mukesh Tiwari



Photo: Dahan Trailer

Plot

IAS Avani (Tisca) seeks a posting to a strife ridden town where the superstitious locals headed by an occultist (Saurabh Shukla), and a mining company, are at loggerheads regarding a mining project.

The corporate is eyeing a rare mineral, the govt is aiming for the development of the area and the locals are bent on protecting the mines that holds captive an evil spirit.

It's a complex play of greed, fear, faith, science and beliefs that is further complicated by bewildering happenings and a dark past.

Someone has to solve the puzzle before it's too late.

Analysis

Horror is a rare genre as far as Hindi series go, and when you get it along with a good cast, it was bound to get me excited. The trailer looked kickass and intriguing.

The biggest plus point is that the story uses folklore myths and superstitious beliefs, which sets it apart from the typical paranormal stuff. While

there's a constant fear factor, it gets superseded by curiosity about the truth behind the inexplicable developments.

The rural setting and the occult practices shown lend an earthy authentic touch. There is a constant intrigue factor that has been maintained throughout the series. The mystery is intense even though you would partly decipher it and make your guesses. The atmospheric work very well because of the locations used. The story doesn't give in to horror tropes or jump scares even though they had the opportunity.

But there are so many aspects that could have been better. The special effects and the studio scenes seemed bad. Logic was really thrown out of the window in many places. Most of the cave scenes were so bad visually and logic-wise that they seemed laughable.

For the visual deficits, I can understand the budget constraints, but it would have required just a little more effort to take care of the screenplay loopholes. It also conveniently

leaves some unanswered questions.

The cast and their performances contribute a lot to the overall feel of the series. Any lesser actors or performances and this would have ended up looking like B grade stuff.

A special word for the star of the series (in every way)

Tisca delivers well, one of the meatiest roles that I have seen her in. She plays the various shades to her character with aplomb and I could easily say that her performance is pivotal

in bringing the story to shine.

While I am a fan of and quite liked the presence of Saurabh Shukla and Rajesh Tailang, it was actually some other actors that impressed me.

Would look forward to see more of Pankaj Sharma (Sachet Singh) and Rohan Joshi (Anay)

The series is far from perfect but keeping in mind that it is impossible to get it totally right in this genre, I would say that it is a very good attempt.

It is a good watch for the horror / thriller lovers.



Photos: Dahan Trailer

Rob Wade to Replace Charlie Collier as Fox Entertainment CEO

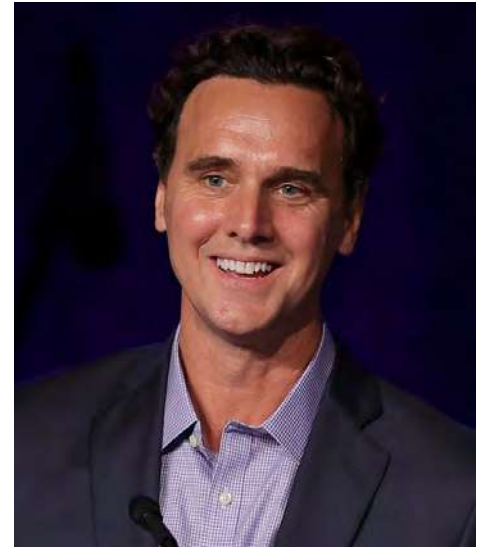
Rob Wade, the broadcast network's head of alternative entertainment, has been promoted to CEO of *Fox Entertainment*. The move comes two weeks after the announcement that previous CEO Charlie Collier was leaving to head up Roku's media business.

"Since the formation of *Fox Entertainment*, Rob has been an integral part of the leadership team responsible for delivering on its long-term strategy of creating

an independent media company built on broadcast, developing an owned content portfolio and maintaining a disciplined in-house infrastructure," Fox Corp. executive chair and CEO Lachlan Murdoch said in a statement. "Given Rob's sharp creative instincts and proven operational acumen, he is well-suited to lead *Fox Entertainment* in what promises to be an exciting next chapter in its rich history."

"I am honored to be entrusted with leading Fox

Entertainment into the future with an exceptionally talented team, whom I know very well, as we build and expand on Fox's legacy of storytelling excellence, entrepreneurial energy and innovation," said Wade. "It's a transformative time across the global entertainment landscape, presenting limitless opportunity and, above all, creativity, making the outlook ahead bright and exhilarating."



Veteran Reporter Nikki Finke, 68, Dies

Nikki Finke, the veteran reporter who became one of Hollywood's top journalists as founder of the entertainment trade website *Deadline.com* and whose sharp-tongued tenacity made her the most-feared columnist in show business, has died. She was 68.

Finke died on October 9 in Boca Raton, Florida, after a prolonged illness, according to *Deadline*.

A famously reclusive blogger, Finke began writing LA Weekly's "Deadline Hollywood" column in 2002 and made it essential reading for gossip and trade news. Four years later, she launched *Deadline Hollywood*

Daily as a website.

Blogging at *Deadline.com*, Finke made a pugnacious media empire of scoops and gossip, renowned for her "live-snarking" award shows and story updates that blared "TOLDJA!" when one of her earlier exclusives proved accurate.



Photos: nytimes

Alec Baldwin Settles Lawsuit with Family of Cinematographer Killed on 'Rust' Set

Alec Baldwin settled a lawsuit filed by loved ones of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, who was killed on the set of his movie "Rust" last year.

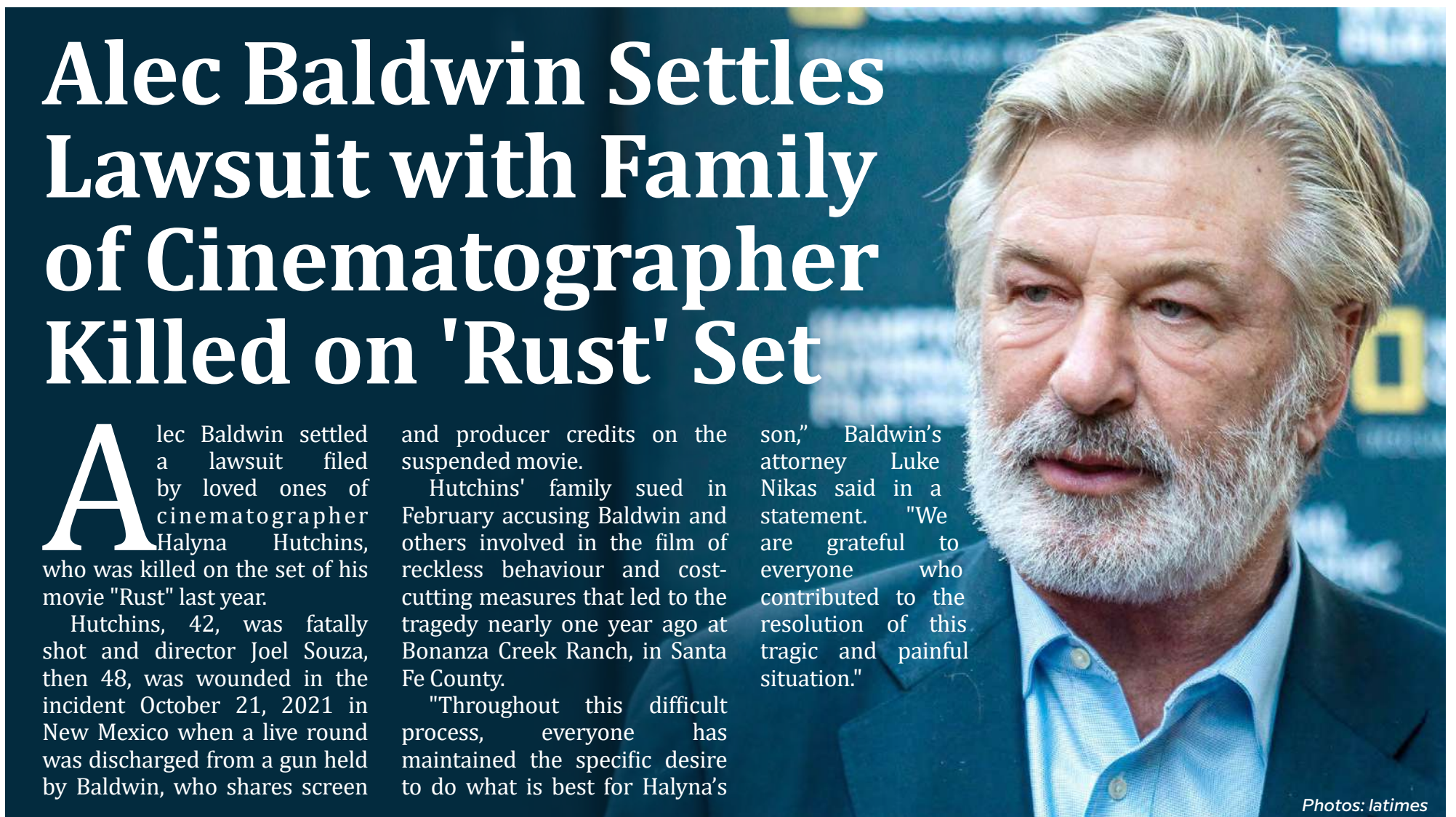
Hutchins, 42, was fatally shot and director Joel Souza, then 48, was wounded in the incident October 21, 2021 in New Mexico when a live round was discharged from a gun held by Baldwin, who shares screen

and producer credits on the suspended movie.

Hutchins' family sued in February accusing Baldwin and others involved in the film of reckless behaviour and cost-cutting measures that led to the tragedy nearly one year ago at Bonanza Creek Ranch, in Santa Fe County.

"Throughout this difficult process, everyone has maintained the specific desire to do what is best for Halyna's

son," Baldwin's attorney Luke Nikas said in a statement. "We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the resolution of this tragic and painful situation."



Photos: latimes

Deepika Padukone Stuns at Paris Fashion Week

The star attended the Paris Fashion Week show dressed in a grey-colored and uniquely structured mini dress from the *label's* latest collection and teamed it with bold glam picks and accessories from the brand.

Deepika Padukone is breaking out internationally making high-profile appearances being the global ambassador for sought-after brands, including *Adidas*,

Levi's, *Louis Vuitton*, and *Cartier*.

She spoke to Brand of Fashion's digital magazine and said she had always wanted to be a model growing up, and it was her athletic background that contributed in making her who she is today.

"*Cartier* is committed to creating meaningful authentic links with extraordinary talented individuals. Deepika Padukone is a multi-layered actress, creative and philanthropist with an open-



mind, outspoken nature which has made her resonant beyond any borders," said Arnaud Carrez,

chief marketing officer of *Cartier* told BOF.

'RRR' Heads to Oscars 2023

The makers of RRR are reportedly pushing for the mega film in 14 categories under the 'For Your Consideration' (FYC) campaign.

Reportedly, the 14 categories under which the film is being considered include Best Director for SS Rajamouli, Best Actor Jr NTR and Ram Charan, Best Supporting Actor and Actress for Ajay Devgn and Alia Bhatt, respectively.

The foot-tapping number 'Naatu Naatu' is being pushed for the Best Original Song category and MM Keeravani is being nominated for Best Original Score.

Apart from performances and music, 'RRR' is also being nominated for categories such as Best Original Screenplay, Best Costume Design, Best Sound, Best Production Design, Best Editing, and Best Makeup and Hairstyling.



Sushmita Sen to Play Transgender in Her Upcoming Biopic 'Taali'

Actor Sushmita Sen is all set to essay the role of transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant, in an upcoming biopic, titled 'Taali'



sushmitasen47 • Taali - बजाऊंगी नहीं, बजवाऊंगी।

#firstlook as #ShreegauriSawant

Nothing makes me prouder & more grateful than to have the privilege of portraying this beautiful person & of bringing her story to the world!! ❤️

Here's to life & to everyone's right to live it with dignity!!! 🙏🏻 love you guys!!! #duggadugga 🥰❤️

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