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



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**Empire State Building
illuminated for Diwali**


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**Sam Joshi, an Indian American
councilman from Edison, is the
city's first Indian American
mayor.**


KENNY DESAI: FIA PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 2022

Kenny Desai, a veteran community leader and philanthropist, has been named FIA President for the year 2022.

-Chandrakant Trivedi

A special meeting of the distinguished members of the Board of Trustees of Federation of Indian Associations of the Tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut was held on Wednesday, October 20th 2021 at Akabar Restaurant, Edison, New Jersey to discuss and take action on the agenda notified to the members. The board members present during the meeting

were Andy Bhatia, Ram Gadhavi, Dr. Pravin Pandhi, Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Srujal Parikh, Anand Patel, Bipin Patel, Jayesh Patel, Prabir Roy, Padma Shri H.R. Shah, Chandrakant Trivedi, Ankur Vaidya.

Three members committee comprising Ram Gadhavi, Prabir Roy and Dr. Pandhi informed the members that due to Corona Pandemic it is advisable to select FIA President and executive committee for the year 2022. Instead of traditional elections. That proposal was approved and after

consensus with all Board members.

The nominations received for 2022 were Himanshu Bhatia, Hemang Champaneria, Kenny Desai, and Avinash Gupta. Successful businessman and philanthropist Kenny (Kirti) Desai is recommended as the President of FIA Year 2022. The other committee members elected for the year 2022 are Himanshu Bhatia, Saurin Parikh, Anil Bansal, Haresh Shah, Parveen Bansal, Smita Miki Patel, Amit Ringasia and Mahesh Dubal.

President Elect Kenny Desai thanked the FIA Board and articulated his vision for diversified activities under FIA during the year 2022, a historical year to be celebrated as Azadika Amrit Mahotsav. FIA chairman Ankur Vaidya, current President Anil Bansal and others congratulated Kenny Desai. Mr. Desai completed his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Baroda, India, before moving to New Jersey for his Master's, which he was awarded by the Stevens Institute of Tech-

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022



HIMANSHU BHATIA
Executive Vice President



SAURIN PARIKH
Vice President



HARESH SHAH
2nd Vice President



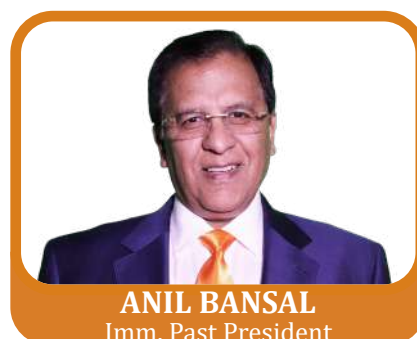
PARVEEN BANSAL
Secretary



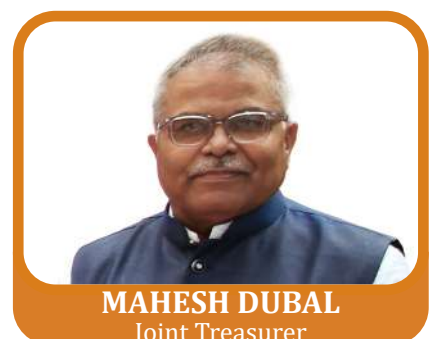
SMITA MIKI PATEL
Joint Secretary



AMIT RINGASIA
Treasurer



ANIL BANSAL
Imm. Past President



MAHESH DUBAL
Joint Treasurer

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nology at Hoboken.

Kenny Desai has over 30 years of construction and real estate development experience. Mr Desai has successfully led the TAK Group, a conglomerate of enterprises involved in general construction, construction management, design build projects, real estate development, multi-family development, along with healthcare and senior housing development and operations.

Over the past 20 years, TAK has focused its development strategies in the healthcare space. With Kenny's experience in construction and real estate development, he has led TAK to be a unique player in the healthcare market by combining his development experience with his operating experience to provide exceptional work and quality care. Currently, TAK has expanded into trade finance and established a venture capital fund in the health care sector. Kenny has had experience in developing and operating medical centers and senior housing facilities, as well as urgent care facilities, surgery centers, and health & wellness spas.

Kenny Desai has actively been involved in different philanthropic activities. His generous personal involvement and contributions have resulted in the successful completion of the Mahatma Gandhi Center and the Hindu Temple in Wayne, NJ. He is the Vice Chairman, Trustee, and Director of the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, a premier cultural and educational institution. He was awarded "The Prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award". He has served as the President of World Vegan Vision and currently he is serving as a trustee and is a member of the advisory board of Share and Care Foundation. He is currently a trustee at Vraj Temple, where he has previously served as chairman, vice chairman, and president.

Kenny Desai's vision for the year 2022 is to be working on the following matters: mega independence parade celebration for Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav 50th anniversary for Fia; attempt to achieve Guinness book records; provide 40,000 plus meals in Diwali-soup kitchen across the USA and India for less fortunate; establish Diwali celebration in the US senate; women's empowerment; youth participation

in entrepreneurship; Dance pe Chance event; establish FIA / Indian community center and help all the community members for any support required in the case of visa or job opportunity.

The other topics which were discussed in the meeting were the on-going project of the

Diwali Soup kitchen. FIA Board members also passed a resolution congratulating Tata and Sons, the father of the Indian Aviation Industry, for reacquiring ownership and management of India's flag bearer national airline, Air India, through a historic deal with the Government of India.

Nominees for FIA President 2022



Himanshu Bhatia



Hemang Champaneria



Avinash Gupta



Kenny Desai addressing the members of FIA



FIA Board Members and Executive Committee



Meet and Greet Hon Senator Bob Menendez organised by FIA. From Left: Ankur Vaidya, Anil Bansal, H R Shah, Former DCG-NY Shri Shatrughna Sinha, Hon Senator Bob Menendez, Kenny Desai



FIA Members Preparing for Soup Kitchen.

FIA Bids Farewell to Prabir Roy, The Senior Most FIA Member

FIA organized a Farewell ceremony of Mr Prabir Roy on 10th November 2021 at Royal Albert Palace, New Jersey. All the members of FIA were present to bid farewell to Mr Roy.

Prabir Roy is associated with FIA, NYNJCT before it was formed officially. He has always been involved with various activities like Latur Earthquake, Dot Bust-

er-against Indian women with Bindi, proper census, right to get social welfare form Indians etc.

He served as a Treasurer in the executive committee before elected as a President in the year 1994-1995. During his presidency Historical Empire State Building started to light up Tri-color Indian Flag. Same year on the eve of India Parade Day New York times published one

full page and New York Newsday published 12-page special coverage to mark our theme "India Is Blooming". Parade had a special attraction when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani released 47 white pigeons and march all along with Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray. Miss universe Sushmita Sen with her crown and veteran artist Smt. Asha Parikh glorified the parade march.



Mr and Mrs. Roy



FIA Board Members, Executive Committee Members along with Prabir Roy Family

FIA participates in Meet and Greet For Minister of State for External Affairs and Education Dr. RajKumar Rajan Singh held by the CGI-NY

Dr. Rajkumar Rajan Singh, Minister of State for external affairs and Minister of State for education, had a meet and greet with the

Consul General followed by lunch, and Kenny Desai participated in the luncheon on behalf of FIA. Mr Singh has published 8 books and made numerous contributions to various national and interna-

tional journals, and publications. During his academic career, Dr. Singh also participated in several national and international consultative meetings on Human Resource Management, Securi-

ty Sector Reforms and Land and Livelihood Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the meeting they discussed about upcoming events and explored educational opportunities in rural areas of India.



From Left: Kenny Desai, Neeta Jain, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Dr. Rajkumar Rajan Singh, Consul General Randhir Jaiswal



Leaders and members of Indian American Community

Over 30,000 meals served under FIA's Diwali Soup Kitchen Meal serving program.

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New England, Bihar and Gujarat are the states where traditional Soup Kitchen was organized.

The Federation of Indian Associations organized its second edition of "Diwali Soup Kitchen-Spreading Lights of Happiness". The FIA initiative is a complimentary meal provision to eight state recognized soup kitchens who serve meals to those in need. The meal drive started from 15th October and will last till 30th October. All over 30,000 plus meals were distributed by Federation of Indian Associations. Some of the

Soup Kitchens with which they worked are "The Salvation Army"-New York, "Trenton Soup Kitchen"-New Jersey, "Open Doors Shelter"- Connecticut, "Eva's Soup Kitchen"- New Jersey, "Diversity Plaza"- New York.

On October 24, 2021, a soup kitchen was held at Manav Mitra Mandal in Motera, Ahmedabad, India. The volunteers provided 500 food meals in the area. On November 1st, it was held at various locations around Ahmedabad, including Vadaj, Sindhu Bhavan Road and Bopal, where 1,000

meals were distributed. On the 28th of October 2021, a soup kitchen was held in Vadodara.

In the US the soup kitchen was organized at Norwalk, Connecticut on 22nd October 2021 and at Trenton Soup Kitchen on 21st October 2021. Soup Kitchen at Paterson was organized on 2nd November 2021. Soup Kitchen at Port Chester was organized on 28th October 2021. Soup Kitchen at Westbury was organized on 27th October 2021.

Andy Bhatia, Kenny Desai, Prabir Roy, Saurin Parikh, Dr. Pravin Pandhi, Haresh Shah, Anil Bansal and other Federation of Indian Associations mem-

bers are distributing the meals.

Many people, including government officials, volunteers, and sponsors, took part in the event at numerous places around the United States and India. The event grew as a result of the modest involvement of the volunteers, and it will continue to grow in the subsequent years. FIA is contributing to serve the tri-state community during the auspicious time of the festival of lights. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, FIA has been actively engaged with the community in assisting at different services.

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Soup Kitchen at Paterson, NJ



DCG Varun Jeph volunteering in Soup Kitchen



Soup Kitchen in Bihar, India



Diwali Soup Kitchen at Westbury, NY



Soup Kitchen in Norwalk, CT



FIA members Prabir Roy, Saurin Parikh, Dr. Pravin Pandhi at Westbury, NY Soup Kitchen



Soup Kitchen at Trenton, NJ



Diwali Soup Kitchen at Port Chester, NY



Diwali Soup Kitchen at Port Chester, NY



Soup Kitchen in Ahmedabad, India



Volunteers for Soup Kitchen in Bihar, India



Haresh Shah, Anil Bansal, Kenny Desai (left to right)



Soup Kitchen in Vadodara, India



Volunteers for Soup Kitchen in Vadodara, India

Empire State Building illuminated for Diwali

Own the skyline in orange as we celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. Federation of Indian Associations of eight states commemorated Diwali, by lighting the World-famous Empire State Building in the colors of the diya. The lighting ceremony was graced by Honorable Consul General Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, popular R&B singer, songwriter and music producer Jay Sean and R&B singer, model and yoga instructor Thara Natalie.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, President Elect Kenny Desai, Past President Alok

Kumar and Executive members Parveen Bansal and Saurin Parikh participated in the event as well. In follow up to a spectacular dance performance by the students of Aum Dance Creations the Empire State Building ceremonial lighting was turned on together by Jay Sean, Thara Natalie and Hon. Consul General Jaiswal. H.E. Randhir Jaiswal conveyed Diwali wishes and thanked the American community for accepting and embracing diversity. Vice President Sales of Empire State Building Patricia Niscior wished the community the world over a Happy Diwali and invited them to participate and visit the World-famous

Empire State Building. FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya and President Elect Kenny Desai also conveyed the Diwali wishes to all the community addressing the media, Jay Sean and Thara conveyed their warm Diwali wishes to the community. This is the fourth year the iconic landmark turned orange for Diwali, a ritual that began in 2018.



Jay Sean, Thara Natalie, C.G. Randhir Jaiswal and Kenny Desai.



Parveen Bansal, Ankur Vaidya, Kenny Desai, Randhir Jaiswal, Alok Kumar, Saurin Parikh, Vaishali Parikh. (left to right)



"FIA"- New England & Indo-American Community Celebrated Diwali with RI Governor, Providence Mayor and, CGI- New York by organizing a massive food drive at Crossroads Homeless Shelter

Federation of Indian Associations – New England ("FIA") and Indo-American Community celebrated Diwali and held a large food donation event in Providence, Rhode Island on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021.

“Diwali is the festival of lights. It symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, Good over Evil, and knowledge over Ignorance. Diwali comprises prosperity and abundance for everyone and that was FIA's motive behind celebrating Diwali with residents of Crossroads Homeless Shelter”, said Abhishek Singh, President of Federation of Indian Associations, New England, in his opening remarks.

The celebrations started at 3.30 p.m. at Crossroads, a homeless shelter in Providence, which provides housing solutions to individuals and families in need.

led by its President Abhishek Singh were present at this event. FIA - New England's Vice President, Sanjay Gokhale, welcomed all the guests. He thanked Mayor Elorza for honoring the Indo-American community by attending the event and for working tirelessly for the people of Providence. He also thanked the leadership of Crossroads and Rhode Island Community Food Bank for accepting the food donations. FIA executive member Raj Gupta said that sharing and caring is FIA's guiding principle, and the food donations are aligned with it.

FIA - New England volun-

items weighing more than 5,000 pounds. Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza cut the ribbon to initiate the food donation. Crossroads team accepted all the donated items their food pantry could hold. Other items will be donated to Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other Food Pantries in New England. Mayor Elorza also read a Citation issued to Aadi G. Dixit, a high school student volunteer who had helped during this and several other community events with great dedication and responsibility.

The Diwali Lighting of the lamp event was held at the Governor's Reception Hall inside the ma-

General Dr. Varun Jeph, former RI State Representative Bob Lancia, President and Minister of Vedanta Society of Providence Swami Yogatmanand, and prominent members of the Indian American community in New England attended this event.

Diwali celebrations inside the State House started with melodious singing of classical Indian music and recitation of Sanskrit Shlokas by the gifted singer Mr. Dhruvit Shah, who is a resident of Rhode Island. FIA - New England President Abhishek Singh welcomed the guests and invited Governor Daniel McKee, Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Deputy



Indo-American & FIA Team, with Honorable Governor RI, Mr. Daniel McKee, Providence Mayor, Mr. Jorge Elorza, CGI, NY Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, DCGI, Dr. Varun Jeph, FIA President Abhishek Singh...Photo by [Brooke Race]

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, former RI State Representative Bob Lancia, Crossroads' President Karen Santilli, its Director of Community Outreach Richard Wild, and FIA - New England team

teers delivered 50 large Pizza to the Soup Kitchen at Crossroads for a Pizza Party for the residents in the evening. FIA - New England also brought a truck full of non-perishable food

items weighing more than 5,000 pounds. Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza cut the ribbon to initiate the food donation. Crossroads team accepted all the donated items their food pantry could hold. Other items will be donated to Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other Food Pantries in New England. Mayor Elorza also read a Citation issued to Aadi G. Dixit, a high school student volunteer who had helped during this and several other community events with great dedication and responsibility.

Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, and Swami Yogatmanand to light the traditional Indian lamp. Swami Yogatmanand then explained the meaning and tradition of

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Diwali and gave his blessings to all the guests.

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal talked about the growing importance of India's relationship with Rhode Island and invited Governor McKee to visit India's consulate in New York City when the Governor is going to be in that city. He thanked Governor McKee for hosting Diwali celebrations at the State House and for his support of the Indian American community. Governor McKee thanked Consul General Jaiswal, accepted Consul General's invitation to visit Indian Consulate in New York, and asked him to visit the Governor's office at the State House whenever the Consul General is back in Rhode Island. Mayor Jorge Elorza also addressed the guests and shared his experiences from visiting India and working with the Indian American community in Rhode Island. He thanked FIA - New England for the generous food donation to Crossroads and Rhode Island Community Food



FIA, New England team with Providence Mayor, Mr. Jorge Elorza, FIA President Abhishek Singh, Mr. Robert Lancia, VP-FIA Sanjay Gokhale, VHPA-President Kaushik Patel, Crossroads' President Karen Santilli, Raj Gupta, Anit Gupta, Gaurav Dixit Photo by [Brooke Race]

Bank. Former RI State Representative Bob Lancia also addressed the guests at the event.

Governor McKee read Citations issued to Mr. Kaushik Patel, Mr. Brij Garg, and FIA - New England for community service and volunteer work. He also read a Citation issued to Professor Ram Gupta, Founder of Hari Vidya Mandir school and Trustee of Rhode Island Hindu Temple for more than 25 years of service in the field of education.

Consul General Randhir

Jaiswal announced a gift of sets of 50 books on India, Indian culture, Indian history, and Indian philosophy to each of Rhode Island State House Library; Providence Mayor's office; and Hari Vidya Mandir school.

Food distribution, Lighting the Lamp, and the entire State House Building light-up ceremony was managed entirely by Emcee Jyoti Singh, Rakesh Kavari, Gaurav Dixit, Dipak Sharma, Anand Sharma, Raj Gupta, CT Narayan, Gautam Patel, Prashant

Shukla, Kashish Khurana, Rama Subramanian, Yogeshwari Patel, Amol Penshanwar and other FIA executives. Diwali celebrations at the State House concluded with a group picture of all attendees outside the beautifully lit State House building. Boxed vegetarian dinners were distributed to attendees at the end of the event.

The majestic State House building was lit on all sides in beautiful colors. The building will be beautifully lit every night for the rest of this week.



Honorable Governor RI, Mr. Daniel McKee, FIA President Abhishek Singh & Mrs. Jyoti Singh Photo by [Brooke Race]



Governor RI, Mr. Daniel McKee, CGI, NY Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, FIA President Abhishek Singh, Mrs. Jyoti Singh Photo by [Brooke Race]



FIA Executive Team with Honorable Governor RI, Mr. Daniel McKee Photo by [Brooke Race]



Diwali-2021 Celebration@ State House Rhode Island Lighting Ceremony ...Photo by [Brooke Race]



Sam Joshi, an Indian American councilman from Edison, is the city's first Indian American mayor.

Joshi, a Democrat who is now vice president of the Edison Township Council, defeated Republicans Keith Hahn and Christo Makropoulos by a large majority.

According to unofficial results, Joshi earned 10,930 votes to Hahn's 9,459 and Makropoulos' 301, with 100% of the precincts reporting. On January 1, Joshi will take over for outgoing Democratic Mayor Thomas Lankey. Lankey declined to run for re-election.

According to My Central Jersey report, when he will be sworn in on Jan. 1, 2022, Joshi, 32, will become the township's youngest mayor and the first Indian American and South Asian to hold the position. Previously Jun Choi, the township's first Asian American mayor, was the youngest to serve in the post.

"I am honored and humbled to be elected as the next mayor of Edison Township," Joshi said in a Facebook post.

"Thank you to all my friends, family, and supporters for making this election possible. I pledge to be a mayor for all of Edison and will work hard every single day to address and solve the issues we're faced with," he said. "Mayor Lankey and I have spoken regarding our transition, and I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I want to also thank Mr.

Hahn for reaching out. I look forward to having the community come together as one as we move forward to a united Edison."

My Central Jersey report said, Joshi and Hahn were the frontrunners throughout the campaign. Both candidates are township natives, supported Edison's open space referendum, a change in local government to a

township council ward system, and planned to serve as mayor full time, the. Joshi campaigned on getting the township's master plan under control and launching municipal broadband to provide a faster and cheaper internet service in town. He also stressed the need to work with the school board to address school overcrowding. According to an earli-

er India-West report, Joshi, who earned his undergraduate degree from Rutgers and a mini-M.B.A. through the Rutgers University Executive Education Program, is an executive vice president at SD Capital Funding, a mortgage financing firm, and a co-founder of Loanscribe, a student loan refinancing firm.

Photo: India west



Edison Township Council vice president Sam Joshi won election as mayor of Edison, New Jersey

FIA participated in American Airlines New York-Delhi direct flight Inaugural

American Airlines celebrated a significant milestone on Friday evening. The airline officially launched nonstop service between John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. American Airlines flight 292 took off from New York-JFK on Friday, November 12th, headed for New Delhi. The Consul General, FIA members, and Indian American community members were present at the inaugural ceremony of the American Airlines



American Airlines members with the Consul General, FIA members, and Indian American community members at the inaugural ceremony of the American Airlines flight from JFK-Delhi.

Nirav Tolia Signs a \$100K Contract with Indian American Entrepreneurs' 'SoaPen' on 'Shark Tank'

SoaPen is a unique and entertaining method for kids to keep their hands clean. The company's goal is to make hand washing enjoyable and accessible to children all across the world.

Indian American entrepreneur Nirav Tolia, who guest stars on Season 13 of "Shark Tank," was faced with the dilemma of whether or not to invest in SoaPen. On the Oct. 29 episode, Shubham Issar and Amanat Anand were able to acquire money for their firm from Tolia, but not without a hitch.

Photo: Latest Page News



Nirav Tolia and Indian American entrepreneurs Shubham Issar and Amanat Anand

The two were aiming to land a \$100,000 agreement in exchange for a 10% stake in their firm.

Despite the fact that SoaPen appeared to be attractive to all of the sharks, no one, including Tolia, rallied behind it since they felt the firm was still in its infancy. Tolia, on the other hand, chose to invest in SoaPen after all after

some thought.

Tolia tells Mark Cuban that he feels he made a mistake when the two leave the tank without a Sharks offer for their kid's soap invention. He pursues them down the corridor and offers them a bargain. "I'm sorry to interrupt. Let me run something by you," he says before adding that he and his wife, Megha Tolia, might be able to help them.

He admitted to the stunned entrepreneurs that even though he saw great potential in them it was still "very early. And there are lots of things that need to happen." So, this was his offer: "I'm happy to put in the \$100,000. I would like to have 10 percent of the company. However, for safety, what I would like to propose is a \$1 royalty that pays back \$1 per unit sold until I reach \$200,000, at which point, the royalty goes away. You have nothing else that

you owe me besides the original 10 percent." He also added that he was in it not just because he believed in their product but because he really believed in them. "I want to see you succeed," he said. SoaPen is non-irritating, non-toxic and free from SLS, parabens, EDTA, phthalates and any animal by-product. SoaPen and a Hand Sanitizer Gel are listed on the SoaPen website. Anand and Issar met at Parsons School of Design in New York.

The two entered the UNICEF Wearables for Good Challenge with the goal of designing for social impact. It cited figures showing that hand washing can prevent more than half of infections that cause death in children under the age of five. The duo won the UNICEF challenge and SoaPen became a reality. They are listed on Forbes 30U30 and named Toyota's Mother of Invention.

In Rome, Prime Minister Modi meets with members of the Indian diaspora.

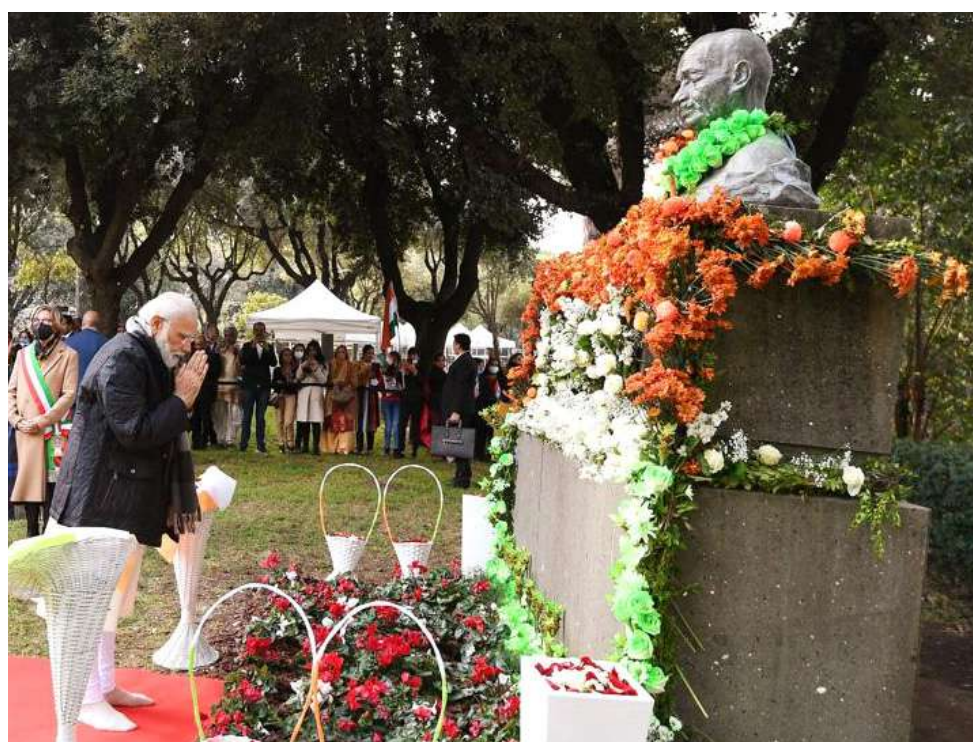
Photo: ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with members of the Indian diaspora in Rome on the first day of his visit ahead of the G20 Summit. On Oct. 29, the prime minister met with numerous Indologists and Sanskrit scholars from Italian institutions and interacted with them.

"The prime minister noted their interest in Indian culture, literature and practice of yoga and Ayurveda and lauded the role played by them in strengthening the ties between India and Italy." Modi also met and interacted with various organizations, including representatives of the Italian Congregation for Krishna Consciousness. The prime minister appreciated their contribu-

tion in several social activities, including spreading the message of Bhagavad Gita in Italy. He also interacted with community members and representatives of the Italian Hindu Union-Sanatana Dharma Samgha and lauded the role played by them in propagating Indian culture in Italy.

In a separate meeting, Modi met representatives of the Sikh community and institutions involved in the commemoration of Indian soldiers who had fought in Italy during World War I and World War II. "The prime minister paid tributes to the valor shown by Indian soldiers in these wars," a release from the Ministry of External Affairs said at New Delhi.



Prime Minister Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, at Piazza Gandhi in Rome.

After more than a year, Bollywood stars return to the Big Screen.

After more than a year apart, Bollywood stars are returning to India's big screens, with the film business hopeful that dropping COVID-19 cases and the festival season would entice consumers back to the theatres.

After more than a year apart, Bollywood stars are returning to India's big screens, with the film business hopeful that dropping COVID-19 cases and the festival season would entice consumers back to the theatres. With many producers opting to distribute their films through streaming services like as Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, and Disney.

"It was tough to hold out for a theatrical release, but we still

believe that audiences will come back to the theaters," Shibasish Sarkar, who was group CEO of producer Reliance Entertainment during the making of the film, told Reuters.

Maharashtra, India's richest state, which accounts for more than 30% of box-office income, only opened theatres with limitations two weeks ago, as cases declined and vaccines increased.

According to Reuters, Rajendra Singh Jyala, head of programming for INOX, the country's second largest multiplex chain, expects demand to return to pre-COVID levels. However, since March 2020, the company has constantly recorded a net loss, and Jyala believes that any wave of coronavirus infections, as well

as any further lockdowns, might severely harm the already troubled business.

"Producers have made money by selling their movies to Ama-

zon and Netflix but it is the theater owners that have really suffered," said Shailesh Kapoor, of Ormax Media, which tracks films before and after release.

Photo : REUTERS



KJo, Kangana, Adnan, and Ekta share their happiness at the Padma Awards.

On Nov. 8, Bollywood was well-represented at the glitzy Padma Awards ceremony for 2020 and 2021, held at the Rashtrapati BhaVan in New Delhi. The four lucky recipients of President Ram Nath Kovind's Padma Shri awards took their social media to share their excitement and thanks.

Karan Johar posted a couple of tweets, which also included a video of him receiving the award. He tweeted: "Today felt surreal! I am honored and humbled that the prestigious Padma Shri Award was bestowed on me. I feel extremely fortunate to receive it from the hands of our honourable President Shri Ram Nath Kovind." His second tweet

read: "This is a monumental day for me, my mother, my kids and my company, and will forever be etched in my memory. Thank you so much for all your wishes and the abundance of love!"

Singer-composer Adnan Sami, wrote: "The greatest honor! I am grateful to the Government of India for this prestigious Padma Shri Award. I am forever indebted to my beautiful people of India who've loved me unconditionally and been an integral part of my journey which has brought me here! Luv you all. Jai Hind!"

Kangana Ranaut shared picture of her with President Kovind. In the caption, she wrote: "Long ago when I started my career, a question bothered me. I asked myself some want money,

some want fans, some seek fame, and some just want attention. What do I want? Deep down I always knew as a girl child I wanted to earn respect and that is my treasure. Thank you India for this gift."

Ekta Kapoor shared a video of the ceremony with the caption: "It is a surreal moment and a matter of great pride." She said she wanted to "dedicate this badge of honour to my pillars of strength" -- her parents, brother Tusshar and son Ravie. "They believed in me with their whole heart and it is because of them I am who I am!" Ekta continued. "I want to thank my family, friends, my team at Balaji Telefilms and most importantly, the audience, for believing in me and support-

ing me." "I hope to always push the envelope, challenge norms, give talents a platform that they truly deserve, instil pride and give back to the country that has fuelled my ambition and dreams. JAI HIND."

Photo : IANS



Karan Johar accepted his Padma Shri award from Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

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