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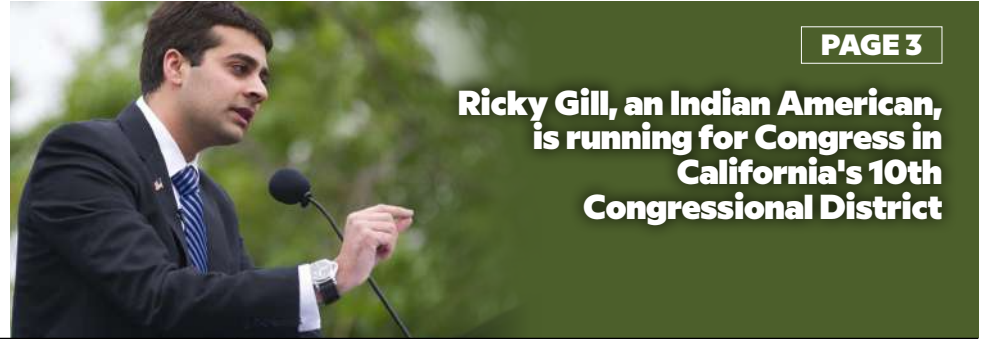
Issue. 50

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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While Biden undergoes a colonoscopy, Kamala Harris makes history by briefly serving as President.



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Ricky Gill, an Indian American, is running for Congress in California's 10th Congressional District



Consulate General of India, New York and Indian American Community of NY-NJ
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Two Indian Americans are among Forbes' 'Culture 50 Champions.'

Forbes magazine has named its Culture 50 Champions, including Indian Americans Mythili Sankaran and Serrena Iyer. The list recognises Black and Brown industry professionals who have made a significant impact and supported underprivileged areas.

From software innovators and TV executives to social justice activists and scientists, these 50 Champions are not only succeeding in their industries, but also actively shifting the narrative of neglected and marginalised populations, the magazine reported.

"The champions on this list are not only driving their respective fields forward, but they're effecting real change in Black and Brown communities by increasing access to their crafts, using their voices and resources

Photo: hbs.edu



Serrena Iyer

to invest in underserved communities, and intentionally building community to eradicate the racial wealth gap and create Black generational wealth," Ali Jackson-Jolley, assistant managing editor of Forbes, said in a statement.

The list of Culture 50 Champions is divided into three categories: Superstars, Blazing Stars, and Rising Stars. Sankaran is the co-founder and CEO of neythri.org, a professional network for South Asian women that connects them to the resources they require. He is a strategic leader and angel fund investor. Forbes says that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Sankaran "led her 2,000-member organisation in hosting 100 events aimed at connecting women in business to the resources they need." In March 2021, she also launched the Neythri Futures Fund, a venture

Photo: India west



Mythili Sankaran

fund that positions South Asian women as key stakeholders and investors, it said.

She is now an independent advisor and consulting CXO to early-stage firms, advising them on operations, product ideation, funding, and company growth. She is a member of numerous women-led investment networks that promote female entrepreneurs, as well as an active participant in various non-profits focused on girls' education. According to her bio, she serves on the Regional Board of Room to Read, is a mentor for the Duke Technology Scholars programme, and is a worldwide adviser to How Women Lead. Sankaran holds a master's degree in physics from Texas Tech University as well as an Executive MBA credential from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Iyer told Voyage LA that she had only been in Los Angeles for a year and a half when the COVID-19 crisis hit. "In the first couple weeks, I noticed classmates posting about Off Their Plate in other cities," she said. She said OTP was launched in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 15 by her "incredible HBS (Harvard Business School) classmate, Natalie Guo." When she read about OTP, she thought "it was an in-

credibly elegant way to help a lot of people." When she messaged Guo to suggest a restaurant in Los Angeles, Iyer found out that the nonprofit had "just launched" in the city and was looking for someone to take over running and grow the operation. That's when Iyer joined them.

"Given I still have a day job that I love, I was a bit daunted by the task," she told Voyage LA, adding that she realised "this was one of the most impactful ways I could personally help fight this crisis that's affecting so many people. So I felt compelled to jump in and do my best."

Calling it her "one of the most rewarding experiences," Iyer told Voyage LA of the growth OTP LA has made in a short time. "In only a few short weeks, our LA team has grown to be 25-strong, made up of folks ranging from management consultants and lawyers, to culinary students and college freshmen, every single one of them, an unpaid volunteer balancing OTP with work or school," she said. "Because of this team and the broader OTP movement, we've grown rapidly. We are working with 25 hospitals/health clinics and 19 restaurants across the county," according to the report.

While Biden undergoes a colonoscopy, Kamala Harris makes history by briefly serving as President.

BETHESDA, Maryland — President Joe Biden will briefly transfer power to Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday when he undergoes a "routine colonoscopy" at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the White House said.

Biden will sign a letter to the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives stating that he is unable to discharge his duties while under anaesthesia, appointing Harris as acting president, and will send them another

letter once the procedure is completed, indicating that he is able to resume his duties.

During her brief tenure as acting president, Harris will make history as the first woman, person of colour, and person of Indian American origin to serve in the White House. Once Biden resumes his duties, she is planned to go to Ohio later in the day.

"As was the case when President George W. Bush had the same procedure in 2002 and 2007, and following the process set out in the Constitution, President Biden will transfer power

to the Vice President for the brief period of time when he is under anaesthesia," she said. "The Vice President will work from her office in the West Wing during this time."

Biden, 78, had his last full exam in December 2019, when doctors found the former vice president to be "healthy, vigorous" and "fit to successfully execute the duties of the Presidency," according to a doctor's report at the time. Biden, who turns 79 Nov. 20, is the oldest person to serve as president, and interest in his health has been high since he declared his

candidacy for the White House in 2019.

Photo: indiawest



Vice President Kamala Harris will briefly serve as president.

Ricky Gill, an Indian American, is running for Congress in California's 10th Congressional District

Ricky Gill, an Indian American, confirmed his candidacy for a U.S. House seat in the Modesto region of California's 10th Congressional District on November 12.

Gill is a Central Valley native who has served on the State Board of Education, as a senior adviser

Photo: Lodinews



Ricky Gill

at the US State Department, and as the head of the White House National Security Council.

Gill said in a statement that "I'm running for Congress because I believe America is on the wrong track and the people of our Central Valley community deserve better." "Higher taxes and rising food and energy costs are

crushing local families and small businesses. Our valuable Valley water resources are being depleted, threatening local famers' livelihoods," "Parents are being marginalized in their own children's education and the high cost of this administration's dangerous foreign and border policy is hitting hard right here at home. We need to change course – and quickly – with fresh, bold representation and new leadership. Together, we can turn things around."

Gill's campaign announcement was accompanied by various endorsements, including one from former National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien.

"During his time as a director at the National Security Council, Ricky served with distinction. His leadership embodied the spirit of our America First foreign policy," O'Brien said in a statement. "Whether it was his work to pre-

vent the completion of Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline or counter Chinese Communist Party influence in Europe, Ricky's efforts furthered U.S. national interests and helped to make Americans safer and more prosperous at home. I have no doubt that he would bring the same commitment and resolve in representing the people of this district."

Added Texas Congressman and former chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee Pete Sessions: "Ricky Gill has what it takes not just to serve, but to lead in Congress. He's a generational leader who would elevate the Central Valley's issues to the forefront in Washington. Ricky's experience shows he will champion fiscal responsibility, stand up to China and fight to preserve America's energy independence and national security."

Ishan Shah, CEO of Indian American Quest Diagnostics, has been named President of the New Jersey Leadership Program.

The New Jersey Leadership Program, a non-partisan non-profit organisation dedicated to educating and encouraging Indian American and other South Asian adolescents in New Jersey to participate in public service, governance, and politics, just named a new president and board of directors.

Ishan Shah, manager of government affairs at Quest Diagnostics, will succeed Amit Jani as president of the Guttenberg, New Jersey, organization, according to a press release. Shah previously served in the office of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and as Chief of Staff to New Jersey Assemblyman Kevin Rooney, as well as on NJGOP chairman Bob

Hugin's U.S. Senate campaign in 2018. "I thank Amit and the NJ Lead team for building such an incredible program and I am glad to be able to take over during a time of great interest and success in political engagement within the South Asian community," said Shah. "It has never been more important to get the young people more involved. NJ Lead through its Summer Fellowship Program seeks to develop the next generation of South Asian political leaders." Jani was an original co-founder of NJ Lead and served as its president since its inception in 2015. He previously served as the National Asian American Pacific Islander director for President Joe Biden, and has worked for several elected officials in-

cluding New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, as well as Members of Congress Frank Pallone, Jr. and Judy Chu, noted the release.

"I am incredibly excited that Ishan will be leading NJ Lead along with the new board leadership," said Jani. "We are incredibly proud of helping to start this program with the help of a village and that we have had close to 60 alumni of South Asian descent in New Jersey graduate from our program over the past six years, many of whom decided to continue in public service. This new leadership will help to bring in fresh ideas and initiatives, helping NJ Lead to continue developing into the premier program it has become."

Jani will remain on the board of directors. Meet Patel, vice president, and Kunal Papaiya, general counsel, are among the incoming NJ Lead leadership. Darshan Jha and Aadi Kulkarni will be added to the board of directors.

Photo: Indiawest



Ishan Shah president to the New Jersey Leadership Program

Photo: INDIAWEST



Qaisar Nizami, a Kashmiri singer-musician, has been nominated for a Grammy Award.

Noted Qaisar Nizami, a Kashmiri singer and musician, has been nominated for a Grammy award for his collaboration song "Nazninay" ('O Beauty'), which forms a part of the U.S.-based music composer and santoor player Ehsaan Matoori's multinational "The Voice and Bridges" project. The nominations for the 2022 Grammys (or the 64th Grammy Awards) will be officially unveiled on Nov. 23 at a livestreamed event.

Nizami's nomination statement reads: "It is a matter of joy that the famous composer Eh-

saan Matoori, in collaboration with the greatest musicians of the world, brought out an album in which many countries lend their voices, and the voice of Qaisar Nizami, the legendary singer of the Valley, is also included in the album titled "The Voices and Bridges," which speaks in itself about the music and poetry."

It is the first time in Grammy history that a Kashmiri performer has received a nomination. The nominees' first-round voting finished on November 5. The following round will take place between December 6, 2021, and January 5, 2022, in preparation for the event

on January 31, 2022.

Never before has any singer from the Valley had the privilege of having had any of his songs chosen for the Grammy Awards, Nizami said, urging all Kashmiri music lovers to participate in the online voting process. According to previously published media reports, Nizami was connected with Matoori when he found himself stranded in the U.S. as a result of the first COVID-19 lockdown in India.

Nizami had travelled to the United States to participate in a performance at the University of North Texas College of Music

in Denton, Texas, when the lockdown was declared, causing all foreign flights to be cancelled. Sadaf Munshi, a university lecturer, introduced him to Matoori, who had been working on the "The Voice and Bridges" project since 2019 to examine the musical traditions of many nations. Nazninay alternates between Kashmiri and Farsi lyrics; Kashmiri poet Ibrahim Miskeen's 'Pur Mah '(Full Moon) in Kashmiri and late Iranian poet Fereydoon Moshiri's 'Beneshin Mara '(Stay With Me) in Farsi.

The 52nd International Film Festival of India pays tribute to the late Sean Connery by screening five of his films.

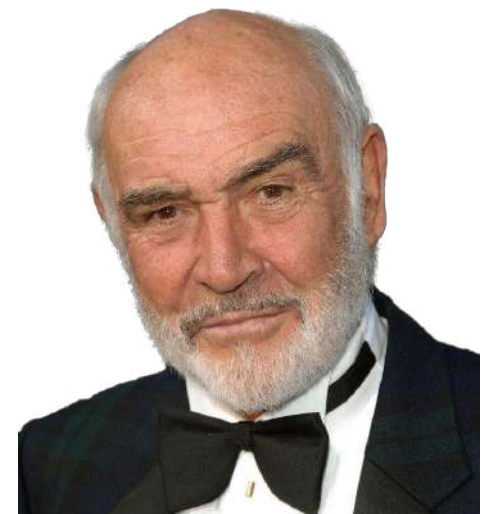
The 52nd International Film Festival of India will honour Hollywood star Sean Connery, the first actor to play renowned British spy James Bond, by screening five of his most beloved flicks.

The five films that are to be screened as part of the special tribute to the legend are: "From

Russia with Love" (1963), "Goldfinger" (1964), "You Only Live Twice" (1967), "The Hunt for Red October" (1990), and "The Untouchables" (1987), which won him an Oscar in 1988.

The Scottish actor, best known for his portrayal of James Bond, died in his sleep late last year. Connery, known as the original James Bond, was the first to say

one of the most famous movie lines of all time: "the name's Bond... James Bond." His acting career lasted seven decades, and he starred in seven Bond films. His iconic portrayal as Agent 007 in Ian Fleming's Bond films established him as one of Hollywood's most assured performers. Connery also played many outstanding roles in different movies.



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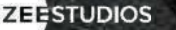
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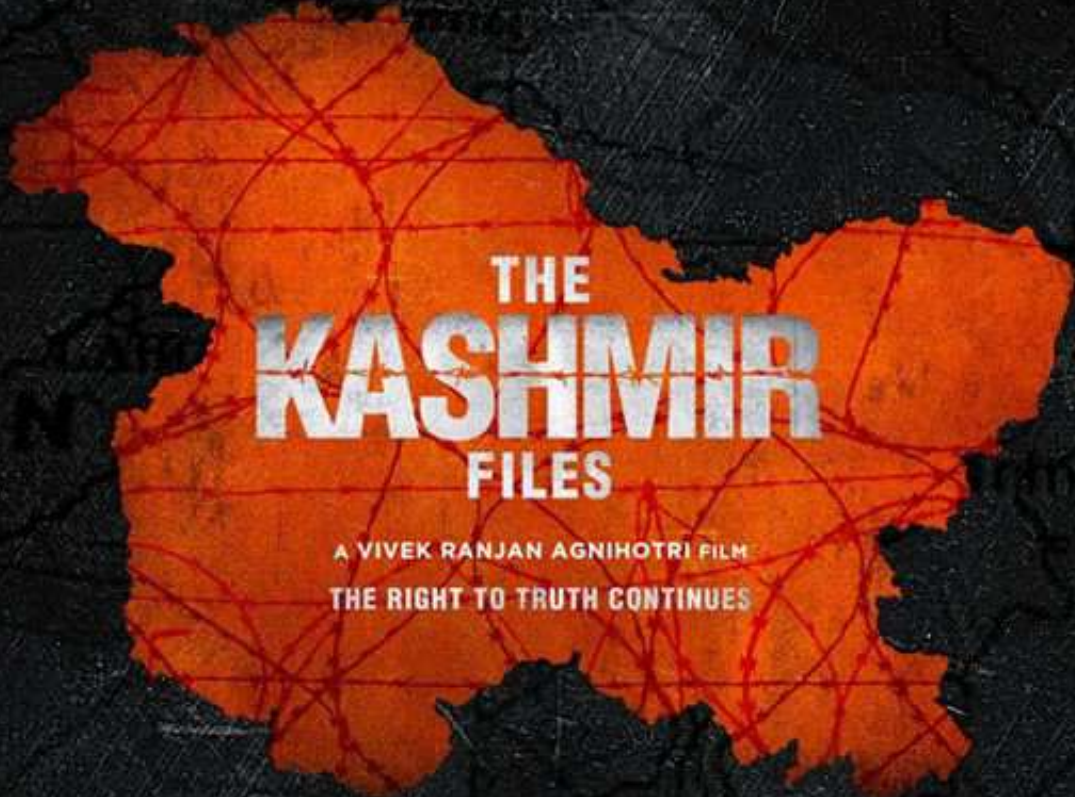
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