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## TCS-FIA WITH BOSTON MARATHON

**Boston Marathon had a successful event this year from previous year cancellation.  
FIA, TCS, NE, BAA took active participation in the event.**

**T**ata Consultancy Services (TCS) with other New England partners namely, Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Indo-American Community, World Hindu Council of America (NE), and Team Aid has partnered with the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) in its Boston Marathon to sponsor and enhance the information kiosks and tables frequented by marathon runners and spectators throughout the race on Monday, October 11, 2021. Many TCSers and its clients' employees and the partner organization's members took an active part as runners and hydration station volunteers who distributed energy drinks and water to the runners of the 125th Boston marathon.

The Boston Marathon, the world's oldest annual marathon, runs from Hopkinton, Mass. to Boylston Street in Boston. In

2020, the annual race went virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic but before this, it was cancelled. The marathon usually takes place on Patriots' Day in April, but this year, in its first in-person instalment since 2019, it took place on Indigenous People's Day, the same day as the U.S. holiday, Columbus Day, a day meant to celebrate Christopher Columbus's voyage to the Americas. Among twenty thousand participants, 18,000 were runners and the rest were regular and medical volunteers.

'BAA required all participants in the 2021 Boston Marathon to be either fully vaccinated or tested negative before the race. As a matter of fact, 93% of the runners were fully vaccinated against COVID and almost all the rest tested negative, CEO of BAA Tom Grilk said.

Tata Consultancy Services is a global leader in IT services, con-

sulting & business solutions with a large network of innovation & delivery centers and has been the official technology consulting partner for the Boston Marathon since 2010. Surya Kant, Chairman, North America, TCS, says, "We sponsor running events across the world because we want to inspire local communities to live healthy and active lifestyles, and because of the obvious parallels between marathons and the growth and transformation journeys that we help our customers undertake. Running a marathon makes you feel that there's nothing you can't do. With each step, you're building on belief."

Number of TCS employees and other partner organizations' members gathered at about 6:00 am at the University Drive, Natick MA. Under the guidance of the BAA volunteer's lead and other volunteers' assistance, they

set up the tables and tents and filled thousands of cups with energy drinks and water. They also displayed nicely TCS and organizations banners and Bhartiya and American flags and created a patriotic and pride ambiance. They not only served water and energy drinks but also cheered up the runners by shouting 'You can do it', 'Good Job', and 'Keep on running.' At the end, Kenya runner reigned supreme in Boston Marathon. Kenyans Benson Kipruto and Diana Kipyogei won the men's, women's elite categories respectively. In the men's wheelchair category, Marcel Hug of Switzerland won and Manuela Schär, also of Switzerland, won for the women.

2018 Boston Marathon runner, Abhishek Singh who represented TCS- BAA partnership and FIA as President, thanked BAA for giving them an opportunity to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



*President of FIA New England Ahishek Singh volunteering in Boston Marathon*



*Indian-American crowd cheering up at the Boston Marathon*



*FIA members volunteering in Boston Marathon*



*FIA marking its presence in Boston Marathon*

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associate with BAA and providing volunteer and technical service and gaining new experience in life. He said that we will surely come back next year to work with BAA. 'We take pride in being BAA volunteers' said Deepak Sharma from FIA. He also thanked all

the TCS, FIA, and Indo-American Community members especially their volunteers namely, Captain Mike, Bret, Geetha Patil, Jyoti Singh, Raj Gupta, Om Gautam Patel, Ronav Muktha Munjal, Sanju Ajay Palapurthi, Priyanka Jaiswal, Deepak Rathore, Rakesh Kumar, Himanshu Bhagat, Harish Parmar, Madhavi Parmar, Prashad,

Anand Sharma, Shankar, Santosh for volunteering and making the event a great success, and cleaning up the roads properly after the event.

In this auspicious Hindu Heritage Month as a call to render service to the community, I wanted to let you that I enjoyed immensely volunteering at the B.A.A' Pres-

ident of World Hindu Council, New England chapter Kaushik Patel said.

'It was exciting to be here, and everything went very well. The other volunteers were terrific, and every race competitor was gracious and thanked us for being there' Rama Penumathi of Team Aid told the reporter.

# Meet and Greet Organized by FIA to Support Sam Joshi, Edison Township Mayor Candidate

**FIA organized a meet and greet with Sam Joshi who has been running for the mayor's election in Edison.**

On October 1st 2021, the Federation of Indian Association held a meet and greet with Mr. Sam Joshi at Edison, NJ. The main agenda about the meet was to discuss about the upcoming elections and to discuss about the campaigns for the same. Mr. Joshi touched on few points which he is taking to take immediate action on if he gets elected. As Mr. Joshi grew up in the same neighborhood, he is very much aware of the problems faced by the citizens and what is the scope of development in the area. After the pandemic hit, Ed-

ison has faced a lot of issues related to the economy. The biggest issue which the neighborhood faces is of unnecessary development happening and hindering the community. He also talked about making the Edison town more safe and secure for the people residing in the community. He will be looking into the matter of reducing the local truck traffic in the residential neighborhood. He will work on developing a strategy to get cheaper, faster internet for the people and to implement municipal broadband so that it is faster and cheaper for the citizens residing in the neighborhood. To

look into reducing the tax burden on the citizens. He wants to connect to the people on one-to-one basis. He talks about forming a committee for the Master Plan to develop Edison. The committee will directly hear from the people of Edison on what are the changes they need in the town and what are the new opportunities they

need. He also emphasized on improving the infrastructure of the roads by having an in-house team for the same. The team will look onto to the matters of potholes and damaged roads as soon as possible.



*Team FIA organized Meet and greet to support Sam Joshi.*

# FIA Welcomes Dr. Varun Jeph, new Deputy Consul General of India, New York

**FIA organized a virtual welcoming meet with Dr. Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General of India, New York. Plans on developing the Indian-American relations are on the key list.**

**F**ederation of Indian Associations (FIA) New England chapter and Indo-American Association jointly organized a virtual welcoming event for honourable Deputy Consul General of India (DCGI), New York, Dr. Varun Jeph on Saturday morning, October 19, 2021. Presidents of more than 35 organizations operating actively in the New England region along with many community leaders and the audiences attended the program.

The program started with the Ganesh Vandana & National Anthem of Both (USA & India) the countries by Lochan. Then, the Vice President of FIA, Sanjay Gokhale formally welcomed the Honourable DCGI Dr. Varun Jeph and described in brief about the Socio-cultural, and politico-economic activities of FIA. He said that FIA was established in 1970 and became an effective organization of organizations and represents various issues that concern a growing Indian community at the local, state, and national levels. Later Dr. Jeph was warmly welcomed by the prominent members of the Indian diaspora one by one.

Well-known community leaders namely Mohan Nannapaneni (Team Aid Founder), Prof. Balam Singh (Founder of Institute of Advanced Sciences), Subu Kota (The Boston Group), Sefali Kalyani (Nashua Soup Kitchen, NH), Bharat Shah (Gujarati Association), Ram Gupta (Hari School), CT Narayana (Tamil Sangham Association, RI), Raju Datla (Seva International), Vikas Deshpande (Hindu Sevak Sangh), Balinder Singh (Granthi Gurudwara), Shiwendra Singh (Rajput Association of North America), Ali Rizvi (Indian Representative of Lexington County), Sandeep Jad-

hav (Sankalp Marathi Mandal), Pratima Penumarthy (Volunteering for Seniors, Inc.), Kanwal Multani (Mera Sangeet.com), Ashish Pathak (Swaminarayan Temple), Subha Ramu (Tamil Mukkamal, NH), Mahesh Patel (Trustee of RI Temples), Karthik Ramu (Tamil Nādu Foundation of Greater Boston), Dr. Saraswati (Indian Medical Association), Paul Ignatis (Malayali Association), Joe Boy (Kerala Association) Rama (Telgu Association), Subha Raman Venkat (Tamil Association), Anindita Nanda (International Performing Artist, CT), Amrender (Bihar and Jharkhand Association of North America), Mita Patel (Patidar Samaj) warmly welcomed the Honourable DCGI Dr. Jeph while highlighting the close working relationship with the Consulate of India and assured Dr. Jeph of full cooperation in all the future endeavors.

From the FIA team, Deepak Sharma, Gautam Patel, Geetanjali, Deepak Rathod, Raj Gupta, and Geetha Patil also welcomed the honourable DCGI Dr. Jeph and expressed a wiliness to work with him in his projects. Kaushik Patel from World Hindu Council of America, NE chapter welcomed the honourable DCGI Dr. Jeph and expressed that VHPA has been working very closely with the consulate office and looks forward to strengthening the partnership and collaborating with engaging relationships to serve the Indian Diaspora in the New England region. He requested everyone to participate actively in the Hindu Heritage Month's activities.

The Honourable DCGI Dr. Varun Jeph was introduced by Mukta Munjal to the audiences as a versatile man with many talents and he has a dynamic personality and law-based management ap-

proach.

'India is a land of Knowledge, spirituality, human progress, civilization, wealth and rich in culture, tradition, and heritage. He asked everyone to nurture and preserve Indian heritage. He talked about various services provided by the consulate and explained various situations by giving examples. He said that he looks forward to collaborating with the Indian community in extending the services and welcomes new ideas to build enriching Indo-US partnership programs in areas of science, technology, engineering, innovation, economy, healthcare, vaccine development, and many more and making our experience

a truly delightful and inspirational. He also shared his dream ideas, mission, and vision to be accomplished before the centenary celebration of India's Independence. Indo-US relations are set to be 'defining pathways of the century', says India's new DCGI of NY Dr. Jeph. Later, He an-

swered logically all the questions of the audience.

Closing remarks were presented by FIA President Abhishek Singh. He thanked the Indian Consulate General office of New York and specifically Hon. DCGI Dr. Varun Jeph for addressing all community's relevant questions and doubts and also thanks to all the representatives of the community organizations and the audiences for their enthusiastic participation. He appreciated the efforts of Amol Panshanwar & Gaurav Dixit for all his technical support & Q&N session and Mukta Munjal for moderating the program.



**FIA welcomes Dr. Varun Jeph, New Deputy Consul general of India.**

# Navratri: A 9-Day Festival Dedicated to Goddess Durga

**CHANDRAKANT TRIVEDI**

Navratri is a popular, auspicious, religious and cultural festival that spans nine nights and ten days and is celebrated every year in the autumn (September/October). It symbolizes unity in diversity as is evident by the way it is celebrated in different parts of India. According to Hindu philosophy, lunar calendar and age-old traditions, there are four seasonal Navratri. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival known as Shardiya Navratri which is the most-observed. The festival, which is celebrated in honor of the Divine Goddess Durga, falls in the beginning of the Lunar month of Ashwin. According to ancient Hindu scriptures, Shardiya Navratri is associated with the prominent battle that took place between Goddess Durga and Demon King Mahishasur. It signifies victory of good over evil.

## The 9 Days of Navratri

Historically, Goddess Durga and her nine avatars - the Navadurga - have been given special significance, and are assigned different names for each day for these nine days of the festival.

Day 1: (Starts on the first day of Ashwin Shukla Paksha): Shailaputri (daughter of the mountain): Incarnation of Parvati and Mahakali.

Day 2: Brahmacharini: Another incarnation of Parvati. Is worshipped for moksha and endowment of peace and prosperity.

Day 3: Chandraghanta: Another form of Parvati.

Day 4: Kushmanda: Believed to be the creative power of the universe.

Day 5: Skandamata: The mother of Skanda (Katrikeya).

Day 6: Katyayani: Incarnation of Durga. She is a form of Maha Lakshmi, the warrior Goddess.

Day 7: Kalaratri: Incarnation of Goddess Durga, who killed the demons, Sumbha and Nisumbha. She is the most ferocious form of Goddess Durga.

Day 8: Mahagauri: Four arms

with the fairest complexion of all the Durga Shaktis. Peace and compassion radiate from Her being and She is often dressed in a white or green sari. She holds a drum and a trident and is often depicted riding a bull.

Day 9: Sridhidatri: Sitting on a lotus, she is believed to possess and bestows all types of Siddhis. Also known as Shri Lakshmi Devi.

These nine manifestations of Goddess Durga that are worshiped with fervor during Navratri, are believed to lift divine spirit in us to help us overcome obstacles and get liberated from unnecessary qualities to be filled with new freedom and purity. All these nine names of Goddesses are described in "Devi Kavacha" of the Chandipatha scripture. Also called "The Devi Mahatmyam" or "Devi Mahatmya" ("Glory of the Goddess") it is a Hindu religious text describing the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura. As part of the Markandeya Purana, it is one of the Puranas or secondary Hindu scriptures, and was composed in Sanskrit around c. 400-500 CE, with authorship attributed to the sage (Rishi) Markandeya. "Devi Mahatmyam" is also known as the "Durga Saptashati" or "Chandi Patha." The other important work that focuses on veneration of the divine feminine is "Devi Bhagavata Purana" ("The Old Book of the Goddess"), also known as "Shrimad Devi Bhagvatam" or the "Devi Bhagavatam."

It is celebrated for nine days, and culminates in Vijaya Dashmi. This Navratri is also known as Maha Navratri and Sharada Navratri. Shardiya (Sharada) means autumn and forms a major part of crop harvesting time. Chaitra Navratri: It is the second most famous Navratri whose name represents spring. It is observed during Chaitra month that is during March and April. These nine days long festival starts from the first day (pratipada) of the first month of the Hindu Lunar calendar Chaitra. It is also known as Vasant Navratri and Rama Navratri. Rama Navami, the birthday of Lord Rama usually falls on the ninth day during Chaitra Navratri. Most of the rituals and customs are the same as followed during the Shardiya Navratri. All nine days during Navratri are dedicated to nine forms of Goddess Shakti.

## Different Types of Navratri

We are normally aware of two types of Navratri: Chitra Navratri and Shardiya Navratri. But Navratri falls four times in a year.

Shardiya Navratri: The most popular and significant of all Navratris, it falls in the months of September or October (Ashwin).

of Mahakali is revered. In West Bengal, Durga Puja is the most important annual religious festival as well as a social and public event. In North India, Navratri is marked by the numerous Ram Leela events.

The traditional celebrations include fasting and worshipping Navdurga. During the nights, Raas-Garba is held on the streets, on open grounds, in big halls and in private clubs. Professional singing groups with orchestra, regale the participants, mostly girls, women and young boys, who are dressed in colourful, traditional clothes, and dance in circles with rhythmic claps and dandiyas. In fact, Raas-Garba is the unique identity of Gujarat and Gujaratis worldwide.

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Magha Navratri: This is the Navratri which falls in the winter season. It is more popularly known to people as Vasant Panchami. This falls during the months of January and February.

Ashada Navratri: This falls in the month of June and July and comes during the hail of monsoon.

How Navratri is Celebrated Across India

Navratri is celebrated in different ways throughout India. Some fast, while others feast. Some revere the same Mother Goddess, but different aspects of her, while others revere avatars of Vishnu, particularly Ram.

In the north eastern and eastern states, it is celebrated as Durga Pooja, where the form

of Mahakali is revered. In West Bengal, Durga Puja is the most important annual religious festival as well as a social and public event. In North India, Navratri is marked by the numerous Ram Leela events.

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## Navratri Festivities in the U.S.

In the United States Navratri is celebrated nationwide by the young and the old alike. Whether it's Durga Puja or Raas-Garba, Indian Americans come out in large numbers to mark the occasion.

While Bengalis congregate for Durga Puja celebrations across the country, the festival is mostly identified by the various Raas-Garba programs held at various venues. Hosted at community halls, school gymnasiums, temples and big houses, the Raas-Garba festivities are not just restricted to the Gujarati community; they are popular among Indians from all states.

Renowned singing groups from Gujarat and Mumbai keep the dancers engrossed till late night. The India Cultural Society in Wayne, New Jersey, was a pioneer in promoting Raas-Garba in the state in the 1970s. Similarly, the Indo-American Cultural Society, under the leadership of Peter Kothari, made Navratri famous by organizing large-scale Raas-Garba events in New Jersey. Another leader in organizing celebrations during the nine nights of Navratri is the Gujarati Samaj of New York encouraging Raas-Garba. Many temples organize religious activities during Navratri as well.



# Air India back to the Base: Tata Sons Emerge Highest Bidder for Air India

**Tata's have regained the bid of the most prestigious airlines Air India, now they will have the opportunity to regain the trust and image which they enjoyed earlier.**

**B**y the divestment process, the center declared Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace as the highest bidder for Air India. Talace stated an enterprise value of Rs 18,000 crore for Centre's 100% ownership stake in Air India, as well as Air India Express and AISATS. Talace would keep Rs 15,300 crore of the Rs 18,000 crore, while the balance will be handed to the Center as a cash component.

They placed a higher bid than the association led by industrialist Ajay Singh. The bid was of Rs 15,100 crore. On its part, the Center had stipulated a reserve price of Rs 12,906 crore. At the end there were only two bidders left.

"The next step will be to issue the Letter of Intent and then sign the SPA following which, the conditions precedent would need to be satisfied by the successful bidder, the company and the government," an official communique said. "It is expected that the transaction will be completed by December 2021."

Job security will be provided to Air India employees for a year, stated by Civil Aviation Secretary Rajeev Bansal. At the moment Air India has a total strength of 12,085 employees, which includes 8,084 permanent ones. Air India Express has 1,434 employees. If the employees had to be removed, they will be given Voluntary Retirement Scheme option. Also, employees will be provided gratuity and provident fund benefits. Along with that post-retirement medical benefits will also be provided.

Overall, the company will get assets such as human resources, get more 140 aircraft as well as 8 logos. In total there will be four aircrafts airlines, Vistara, Air India, Air India Express and Air Asia India and a cargo company named AISATS. They will get

4,000 domestic and 1,800 international routes.

More than three million people are members of Air India's frequent flyer club. Eight brand logos would be transferable to the Tatas which they have to retail for a period of five years. Tatas will need to take care of the Rs 20 crore loss per day that the company suffers.

There is also a three-year business continuity clause in the agreement. Tatas would also need to maintain 51 percent ownership in the airline for at least one year. The transaction, on the other hand, excludes non-core assets worth Rs 14,718 crore that would be transferred to the Government of India's Air India Asset Holding Limited. Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, tweeted: "Welcome back, Air India!" "The Tata Group winning the bid for Air India is great news! While admittedly it will take considerable effort to rebuild Air India, it will hopefully provide a very strong market opportunity to the Tata Group's presence in the aviation industry," he said.

SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said: "I congratulate the Tata Group on winning the bid for Air India and wish them all the success. It was my honor and privilege to be shortlisted for bidding for Air India. I am confident that the Tata Group will restore the glory of Air India and make all of India proud." "I would also like to congratulate the government on the successful disinvestment of Air India. They ran a transparent and flexible process and gave new impetus to India's disinvestment program." According to N. Chandrasekaran, chairman, Tata Sons: "At the Tata group, we are delighted to be declared as the winner of the bid for Air India. This is a historic moment, and it will be a rare privilege for our Group to own and operate the country's flag bearer airline." "It will be our endeavor to build a world-class airline which makes every Indian proud. On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to J.R.D. Tata, pioneer of Indian aviation, whose memory we cherish."

*Photo: India West*



*Air India founder Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata*

## 7-Eleven: Welcomed in India by Reliance Retail

7-Eleven the biggest convenience store is ready to set its mark in India. Reliance Retail is franchising the stores with the first one in Mumbai.

**R**eliance Retail is all set to welcome the first store of 7-Eleven in Mumbai. They have set up a franchise agreement with the 7-Eleven.

Reliance, India's biggest retailer, said in a statement that the stores would offer the usual convenience store range of drinks, snacks and other items chosen to suit local tastes, with "affordability and hygiene at its very core." It didn't say if the stores will be selling 7-Eleven's famous Slurpees. "India is the second largest country in the world and has one of the fastest-growing economies," 7-Eleven's president and CEO, Joe DePinto, said in a statement. "It's an ideal time for the largest convenience retailer in the world to make our entry into India."

In India, 7-Eleven will compete with local brands such as Twenty-Four Seven and In & Out. Local Indian stores fear their existence in the market as they think that the western stores will give them a huge competition. But the stores will be very convenient to the people who juggle for late night and early morning snacks.

7-Eleven says it runs franchises or licenses more than 77,000 stores in 18 countries and regions, about a fifth of them in North America. It recently announced plans to expand into Laos and Cambodia.

*Photo: Business Standard*



# Astronaut Sirisha Bandla -Newest Addition to Board of Kalpana Chawla Project, International Space University has graduated five KC Scholars

**Sirisha Bandla the second Indian born woman who travelled to space has been appointed on the Board of Advisors of the Kalpana Chawla Project. Along with that many Indians graduated from the Space Studies Program.**

**I**ndian American astronaut Sirisha Bandla has joined the Board of Advisors of The Kalpana Chawla Project, which was set up to honor Indian American astronaut Dr. Kalpana Chawla with a focus on developing strong technical and leadership abilities in outstanding Indian women.

*Photo: Business Standard*



*Astronaut Sirisha Bandla*

"I am honored to join the Board of Advisors of The Kalpana Chawla Project for Innovation, Entrepreneurism and Space Studies. Dr. Kalpana Chawla was not only a great inspiration for me, but also for millions of other young Indian women and girls. This year's UN World Space Week is particularly relevant because

it celebrates the importance of women in space," said Bandla in a press release from EINPresswire.com.

Bandla is not only an aeronautical engineer but also an astronaut. She was born in Guntur, India, and later immigrated to the United States, where she earned a B.S. in Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University and an M.B.A. from George Washington University. She is the second Indian born woman to fly into space. She has worked with Virgin Galactic since 2015 as the vice president of Government Affairs and Research Operations.

The International Space University's Kalpana Chawla Project for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Space Studies has announced the graduation of five outstanding scholars from the 2021 Space Studies Program. They are as follows:

Richal Abhang is a Mechanical Engineer, she specializes in designing and manufacturing prototypes.

Sucheshna Patil, a biotechnology engineer works at worked in prestigious research institutes such as MD Anderson Cancer Center, Methodist Research Institute.

Dr. Saswati Das, an MD biochemist. She looks upon chemical pathology diagnostics, molecular medicine, and quality management.

Monica Ekal, a Ph.D. student at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, Portugal, is working on a project to reduce dynamic uncertainty in on-orbit free-flyer operations.

Dr. Garima Patel is a senior physiotherapist who has worked in neurological rehabilitation for over eight years. She is now conducting research on functional rehabilitation following spinal cord damage and stroke.

The Dr. KC Scholars programme has been supporting talented young Indian women to attend ISU since 2017. To date, 16 KC Scholars have been selected.

# The US Naval Chief will visit India next week to strengthen bilateral ties.

*Photo: DT Next*

**A**dmiral Mike Gilday, the United States' Chief of Naval Operations, is visiting India next week. He is meeting various leaders like Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and other senior leaders from the Indian Navy and the government. Gilday is visiting India to reaffirm the growing level of naval cooperation between the two nations.

During the meeting, security problems in the Indo-Pacific area would be thoroughly discussed. "Make no mistake, India is one of our closest strategic partners, and our relationship is a stronghold of a free and open Indo-Pa-

cific," said Gilday. "This visit is a great opportunity for me to meet with my counterpart in India and discuss areas for continued mutual cooperation. No doubt, there are many areas where we can partner and collaborate," he said.

There is no better signal of the U.S. Navy's desire to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific than operating in the region.

"I am grateful for our navies' continued cooperation in the Indo-Pacific to create an inclusive, free and open rules-based order," said Gilday. "And by continuing to work closely with the Indian Navy, we will increase our interoperability for decades to come as well as maintain secu-

rity, stability, and prosperity."

The visit will nurture the strength between the two nations, and to work as like-minded partners to promote shared goals. The United States designated India as a Major Defense Partner in 2016.



# 152nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Celebrated Across U.S.

On the birth occasion of Mahatma Gandhi, many events were held in the entire U.S with the presence of many leaders like Consulate General of India, Mayor of Skokie and Indian-American state Senator.

**INDIA-WEST STAFF  
REPORTER**

**O**n the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi many events were organized across the U.S. to honour his legacy. One such occasion was coordinated by the Consulate General of India in Chicago in a joint effort with the Gandhi Memorial Foundation of Chicago. Indian American president of the American Multi Ethnic Coalition, USA, Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, announced that they will be establishing the first Gandhi King Legacy Center in North America in Chicago, Illinois.

Prabhakar presented the AMEC colors to Amit Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago for his "inclusive leadership and dynamic accomplishments, including initiating the First Gandhi King Legacy RoundTable Summit in North America Feb. 24, 2021.

Also, his efforts led to the defeat of the Anti-India Resolution in the City of Chicago Council March 24, 2021. Mr Kumar recalled and talked about Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for making India and independent nation. Also, about his non-violence movements and about his teachings and principles in life.

He likewise introduced the AMEC colors to the energetic Indian band Rudra Garjana Dhol Tasha group, driven by Mandar Pitre from Maharashtra, which performed at the occasion.

The Mayor of Skokie- George Van Dusen, says that Skokie is very fortunate to host the life-size statue of Gandhi in Heritage Park since 2004.

President of the Gandhi Memorial Foundation of Chicago, Santoh Kumar appreciated the donation of 12-foot statue by Dr. Chadrakant Modi and his wife Dina Modi. Also, the Vice President of the organization present-

ed a set of Gandhian books to Dusen for the Skokie Public Library

Ram Villivalam the Indian-American state Senator in Illinois launched the Gandhi Memorial Foundation of Chicago's Global Gandhi Youth Council at the event, which includes six members from the U.S., three from the U.K., and two from India and South Africa. The Indian American Muslim Council held events in Dallas, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois.

President of IAMC, stated "Mahatma Gandhi and non-violence are synonymous. During India's struggle for independence from British rule, Gandhi taught the world how to stand up for

one's rights and achieve victory over a formidable enemy without resorting to violence."

Dr. Raj Kumar, the organization's founder, introduced Senate Bill SB 332 in the Hawaii Legislature in 2014, which was unanimously passed by the Senate and House and signed into Act 5 by Governor Ige in April 2015, making Hawaii the first state in the nation to declare October 2 as "Mahatma Gandhi Day."



Photo: DT Next

Rudra Garjana Dhol Tasha performed at Chicago

# Shree Saini: First Indian American to Win the Title of Miss World America

Miss World America Shree Saini had survived facial burns and she is Pacemaker patient with complete heart block.

**S**hree is the first Asian woman to become the title holder of Miss World America. When she was five, she moved to Washington DC in the United States. She is a trained ballerina. With that she has completed her Non-Profit Management at Harvard University,

Performing Arts at Yale School of Drama, and Social Entrepreneurship at Stanford

University, and Journalism at the University of Washington. During an interview with ABC7, she said that "It was her childhood dream to be Miss World and she wants to inspire others to rise above their challenges and achieve their dreams".

Shree has faced a fair share of discrimination in her school days. But she overcame all the difficulties whether it was about having a heart condition or facing racism or being a survivor of an accident. Her problems were never the driving force behind her life choices; it was her drive that propelled her to achievement.

Shree in an interview with NRINEWS24x7 stated that "Thank you, GOD, for blessing me

with the service job of Miss World America 2021. I feel so endlessly grateful to everyone who has held my hand, encouraged me, corrected me, and guided me on my life journey. I am a heart patient with a complete heart block, I am a facial burns survivor and with your blessings, I have overcome many other problems in my life. I'm now your first American of Indian origin and the first Asian to become Miss World America. Because of the historicness of my crowning, I believe this is a collective win." "It's not just my win. It's a win for our inclusive "America", It is a win for our diverse America, for every race, for everyone. I am honored to represent that Inclusivity that America has."

"I want to share my life story

and message that with hard work and endless kindness we can create a loving world. It's not always easy to talk about my deepest pains but I will talk so that I can help and strengthen others. I've dealt with 2 major life-threatening events in my life. Each time I have tried to convert my pain into purpose. A few years ago, I suffered from facial burns due to a car accident. I am also a heart patient with a complete heart block, I have a pacemaker in my heart to keep me alive. I got my heart surgery at age 12 and I will be having heart surgery soon. It's a win for hard work. I've worked so hard for this moment. I have lovingly and with great humility served over 100 non-profits focusing on "Heart and Emotional Health".



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# 2022 New Horizons 'Oscars of Science' Prize in Physics will be awarded to two Indian American women researchers

**Vedika Khemani and Mansi Kasliwal will be felicitated with the New Horizons 'Oscars of Science' award.**

**T**he Breakthrough Prize Foundation has recognised Indian Americans Vedika Khemani, an assistant professor of physics at Stanford University, and Mansi Kasliwal, an astronomy professor at California Institute of Technology, as beneficiaries of the New Horizons in Physics prize. The sponsors of The Breakthrough Prize Foundations are Sergey Brin co-founder of Google, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan, Russian-Israeli entrepreneurs and venture capitalists Yuri and Julia Milner and Anne Wojcicki, CEO of the personal genomics company 23andMe.

Two Indian scientists from the University of Cambridge in England likewise won the current year's prize. Sir Shankar Balasubramanian of the University of Cambridge's Department of Chemistry received the Life Sciences prize for developing next-generation sequencing technologies that allowed for the rapid identification and characterization of the Covid-19 virus, as well as the rapid development of vaccines and real-time monitoring of new genetic variants.

Prior to their innovations, re-sequencing a full human genome could require numerous months and cost a large number of dollars; today, it very well may be done inside a day at the expense of around \$600. This brought about an upheaval in science, empowering the disclosure of unsuspected hereditary variety with significant ramifications from cell and microbiome science to biology, crime scene investiga-

tion and customized medication," noted the Breakthrough Prize Foundation in a press statement.

According to a press release, Suchitra Sebastian, a condensed matter physicist at the University of Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory, was awarded the New Horizons Prize in Physics for her work with "high precision electronic and magnetic measurements that have profoundly changed our understanding of high temperature superconductors and unconventional insulators." Time crystals, like all crystals, are structurally structured in a repeating pattern, according to a Stanford press statement. While normal crystals, such as diamonds or salt, have a layout that repeats in space, time crystals have a pattern that repeats in time. The specialist portrayed her work as making a "checklist" of what really makes a time crystal, and the estimations expected to tentatively set up its reality, both under great and reasonable conditions.

K h e m a n i sees great promise in these types of quantum experiments for physics. "While

many of these efforts are broadly motivated by the quest to build quantum computers – which may only be achievable in the distant future, if at all – these devices are also, and immediately, useful when viewed as experimental platforms for probing new non-equilibrium regimes in many-body physics," she said, in a press release issued by Stanford.

"None of the world is in equilibrium; just look out your window, right? We're starting to see into these vastly larger spaces of how quantum systems evolve through experiments," said Khemani, who is on the faculty in the School of Humanities and Sciences and a member of Q-Farm, Stanford's broad interdisciplin-

ary initiative in quantum science and engineering.

"I'm very excited to see what kinds of new physics these new regimes will bring. Time crystals are one example of something new we could get, but I think it's just the beginning," she said.

Kasliwal's team was among the first to see the collision in visible and infrared light, thanks to the Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen initiative, a global network of telescopes dedicated to capturing short-lived explosive events like this. To convey the rich multi-wavelength dataset, the GROWTH team created a visual of a cocoon coming out.

Photo: Indian Star



Mansi Kasliwal



Vedika Khemani

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