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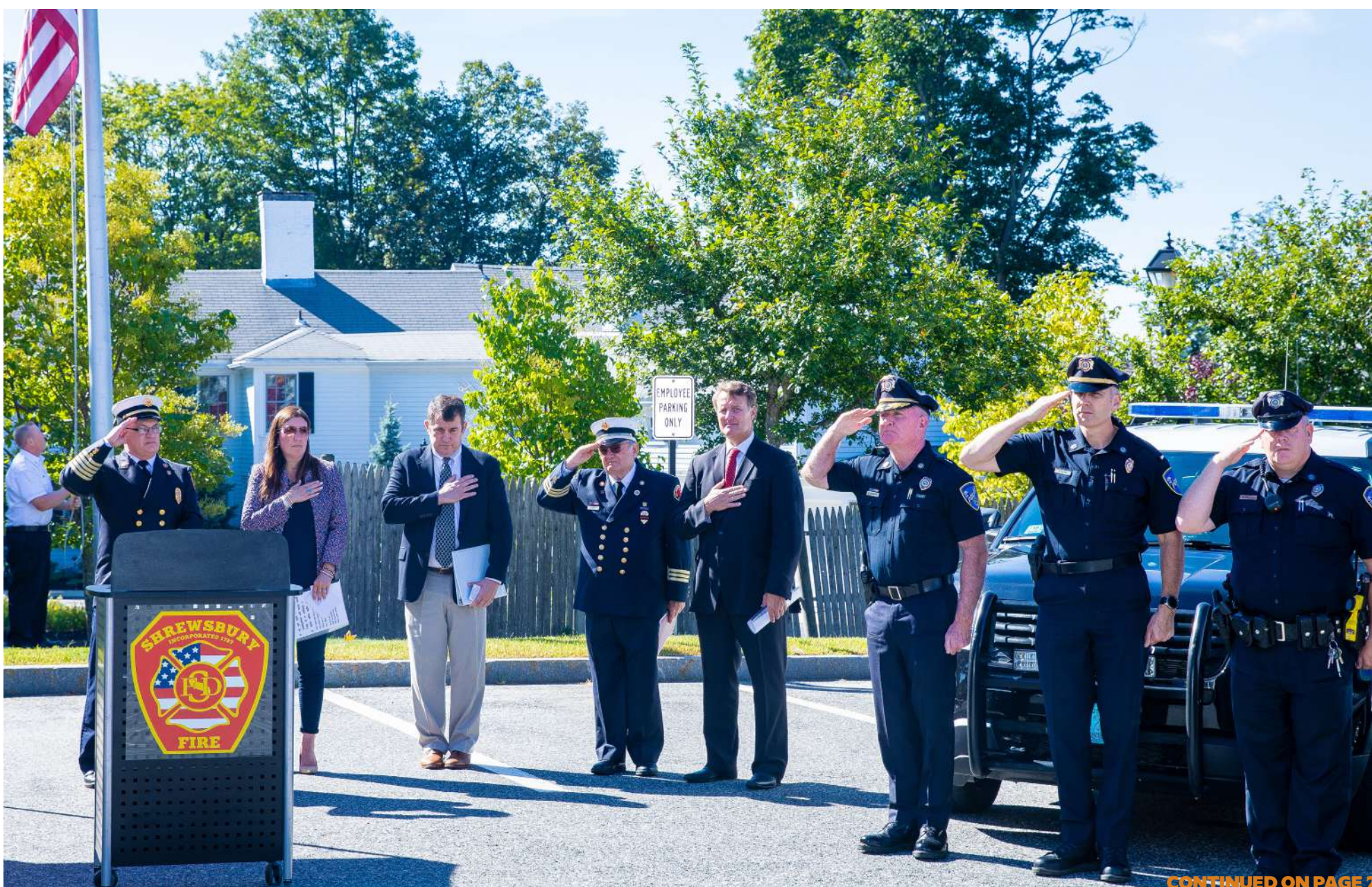
Indian-American community and diaspora meets minister at a community reception

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PM Modi US Visit

FIA AND INDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF NEW ENGLAND MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Federation of Indian Association (FIA) and Indo-American Community of New England region joined with Shrewsbury, MA Fire Department in their 20th anniversary of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks remembrance ceremony held on Saturday, Sept 11, 2021, at the Shrewsbury Fire headquarters.



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Several members of the FIA and Indian American community of New England gathered for Moment of Silence in the remembrance of 9/11 deceased

Federation of Indian Association (FIA) and Indo-American Community of New England region joined with Shrewsbury, MA Fire Department in their 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks remembrance ceremony held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at the Shrewsbury Fire headquarters. Several community leaders along with a number of the public attended the event and showed their heartfelt support.

September 11 attacks also called the 9/11 attacks involved a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants of the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history. Some 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed after the passengers attempted to retake the plane). Police and fire de-

partments in New York lost more than 400 personnel who were involved in the rescue work. The attacks caused extensive death and massive destructions.

The morning program started with Apparatus roll out of bays to the appropriate location in front of the station and followed by all fire department personnel and guests assemble at attention in front of the apparatus and maintained silence. Then the entire program conducted in the sequence of Ringing of Bell - 4 sets of 5 chimes each; Lowering of station flag to half-mast; 1 minute of complete silence; Prayer, followed by Firefighter's prayer; Ringing of Bell- 4 sets of 5 chimes each; Raising of the flag.

In the prayer, all the brothers and sisters who lost their lives on sept.11, 2001 were remembered with compassion and asked God to give the families strength to bear with their losses. In addition, give us faith to see that in death the gate of eternal life, so

that in quiet confidence we may continue to serve with honor, dignity, and courage.

Michael O. Moore, Massachusetts state senator for the Second Worcester District spoke on the ruthlessness of the attacks and said, "Today, we not only remember those we lost on this day 20 years ago but also honor the first responders who risked their lives in their rescue mission and remain committed to honoring the memory of those we lost."

Hannah Kane (Republican Party) is a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 11th Worcester District remembered the pain of the people who lost their loved ones in the attack and said that we need take enormous safety measures to combat terrorism.

"We can never let time dull the pain of that tragic day, so it's an honor for us to remember the legacy of those we lost 20 years ago today," Chief James M. Vuona said in a statement. The local Law

Enforcement officer also spoke on the occasion.

"We can feel the pain of our American brothers and sisters due to 9/11 attacks as we have also experienced similar pain due to Mumbai 26/11 attacks. We all should make sure that there is no place for such terrorist attacks in any corners of the world" Founder and President of FIA and Indo-American Community, Abhishek Singh said in his speech. Indian community leaders namely Subu Kota, Sivendra Singh, Mohan Nannapaneni, Raj Gupta, Gaurav Dixit, and many others also paid their homage to the victims of the attacks.

Abhishek Singh, Udgit Mankad, and Raj Gupta chanted Indian Vedic Peace Prayers and Mantras in Sanskrit for peace and harmony everywhere in the universe and ended their recitation by saying 'May there always exist in all peace and peace alone. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti to us and all beings!'



Indian American Community mourns as leaders and families mark 20th anniversary of 9/11 attacks



Abhishek Singh, President of FIA New England embraces message of peace

Indian-American community and diaspora meets minister at a community reception

“India Stands For Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”: Minister To Indians In US

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, who was in New York on an official visit, addressed members of the Indian-American community at a community reception hosted at the Consulate General of India in New York on September 8, 2021

“India stands for friendship, goodwill and cooperation,” Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said. “We believe in working for the well-being of mankind and not causing disruption.” In her address, she said members of the Indians are innovators, engineers and have “contributed to the well-being of your adopted nation”.

Speaking at the reception, Minister Lekhi highlighted the need for the UN to be in tune with modern times and thanked Indian-Americans for their commitment to strengthening their ancestral homeland.

Minister Lekhi also spoke of the economic strides made in India for betterment of women, ed-



Abhimanyu Mishra honored by Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs.

ucation, housing, infrastructure and sanitation. She called those in the diaspora, “Ambassadors of India” who could reach beyond the official Ambassador, to other Americans.

Other speakers included India’s Consul General Jaiswal and the new Deputy Consul General of India Varun Jeph. Other attendees included Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of

Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, actor Anupam Kher, Srujal Parikh, joint secretary of the Federation of Indian Associations, Dr. Avinash Gupta, president of the Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America, and Chess Grandmaster Abhimanyu Mishra, who was presented a plaque during the event.

Deputy Consul General Jeph thanked Minister Lekhi for an

inspiring speech that spoke of a ‘New India’ and her words of encouragement for the Indian-American community.

He also thanked the leaders and representatives of the community for participating in the in-person event as well as coming on line virtually. He said he looked forward to getting to know Indian-Americans during his tenure in New York.

photo courtesy : ITV Gold



Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi addressing members of the Indian community in New York Twitter @IndiainNewYork



Chess Grandmaster Abhimanyu Mishra speaking at the Sept. 8, 2021 event at Indian Consulate in New York, with his father to his right at back, and Srujal Parikh, Joint Secretary of FIA, right, holding Mic

PM Modi to attend Quad Summit at White House

PTI

The leader of India, Australia, and Japan are meeting with Joe Biden to discuss COVID cooperation, the climate crisis, and Indo-Pacific issues

U.S. President Joe Biden will host the first-ever in-person Quad summit on September 24, 2021. The summit will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia and Japanese premier Yoshihide Suga.

The four leaders would discuss deepening their ties and advancing practical cooperation on areas like combatting COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, White House Press

Secretary Jen Psaki said.

In March, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in a virtual format that vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, sending a subtle message to China.

“President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will host the first-ever Quad Leaders Summit at the White House on September 24. President Biden is looking forward to welcoming to the White House Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan,” Ms. Psaki said.

The Biden-Harris administration has made elevating the

Quad a priority, as seen through the first-ever Quad Leaders-level engagement in March, which was virtual, and now this Summit, which will be in-person, she said.

Indo-Pacific

“Hosting the leaders of the Quad demonstrates the Biden-Harris administration’s priority of engaging in the Indo-Pacific, including through new multilateral configurations to meet the challenges of the 21st century,” she said.

According to the White House, the Quad Leaders will be focused on deepening their ties and advancing practical cooperation on areas such as combating COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, and promoting a free and open



Indo-Pacific.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

Mumbai Skyline at night /wikipedia.org

A new report from Deloitte indicates that FDI into India will stay robust.

REUTERS

The International investors are optimistic about the long-term growth of India. The Deloitte’s survey with 1200 business leaders confirms this optimism.

FDI in India has hit an all-time high during COVID-19 with total inflows amounting to US\$81.72 billion in 2020/21, 10% higher than the previous fiscal year.

The survey conducted at the peak of the second pandemic wave shows 44% of people in US, UK, Japan and Singapore plan to invest more in India soon

Nearly two-thirds of new investors are planning to invest in

India within the next couple of years, statistics revealed.

Utilities, financial services and healthcare were three leading sectors that people predict will see a lot of future investments. The public voted for utilities at 57% and finance at 49%. Healthcare came in third place with 48% of the votes.

A study by Deloitte found that FDI is widely considered the foundation for accelerating a country’s economic growth.

“While foreign investment inflows into India have been consistently rising over the past few years, they have not contributed proportionately to the country’s capital formation and GDP,” the report said

India’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in 2019 said that India aimed to be a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. It has currently close to \$3 trillion in GDP.

Many economists have said that the pandemic put at risk the country’s \$5 trillion economy goal by 2024. They say it will take at least an additional two years to achieve it.

Deloitte predicts that in order for India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2026/27, it needs to invest a total of \$8 trillion. This includes investments into new greenfield projects or capital expenditures altogether.

India will need an estimated \$400 billion, cumulatively, over six years, in FDI

India is seen as a politically and economically stable country, but it scored lower on institutional stability i.e., regulatory clarity and efficient judicial redress & mechanisms.

One factor cited as contributing to investor reluctance was inadequate infrastructure.

“The Deloitte survey is a positive validation of the underlying strengths of the Indian economy, in particular its appeal for spending by international investors,” said Punit Renjen, Global CEO of Deloitte. “After the challenges over the last 18 months or so, it’s clear that India offers a conducive environment for business and is now firmly on growth trajectory again.”

Bhupendra Patel takes over as 17th Gujarat CM

PTI

First-term MLA Bhupendra Patel was sworn in as Gujarat chief minister today (Monday) two days after Vijay Rupani's surprise exit from the post, a year ahead of the Assembly polls

Patel (59), unanimously elected BJP legislature party leader on Sunday, was sworn in as the state's 17th chief minister by Governor Acharya Devvrat

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and chief ministers of some BJP-ruled states were among those present at the Raj Bhavan ceremony. As decided by the party, only Patel took oath today. The council of ministers will take the oath during the next few days, BJP sources said.

The governor had on Sunday invited Bhupendra Patel, the leader of BJP's Legislature Party, to take oath as chief minister. He accepted the invitation and formed

the new government.

With the 2022 state Assembly polls fast approaching, the BJP is banking on Patel for poll victory. In 2017's Assembly elections, BJP won 99 of 182 seats and Congress got 77.

Born in Ahmedabad, Patel is an MLA from the Ghatlodia seat and has the highest winning margin of any candidate in 2017. Ghatlodia is part of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency represented by Shah



Patel, who holds a diploma in civil engineering, has served as Ahmedabad municipal councillor and as the chairperson of the Standing Committee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority.

Vibhav Mittal Sworn in as First South Asian Judge on Orange County Superior Court

INDIA WEST

Indian American attorney Vibhav Mittal, of Yorba Linda, California, became the first judge of South Asian descent on the Superior Court of California, County of Orange, after being sworn in Sept. 10 by Assistant Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez.

California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Judge Mittal on Sept. 3, 2021, according to a SABA-SC press release. Before that, the Indian American lawyer was an Assistant United States Attorney, Deputy Chief in the Santa Ana Branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. In his ten years as a federal prosecutor, Judge Mittal tried 13 criminal trials to verdict, including a groundbreaking public-corruption matter where a state traffic court clerk accepted over \$400,000 in bribes, a \$24 million Ponzi scheme fraud case, numerous drug-trafficking and gun-related cases, and cases involving child exploitation.

Judge Mittal also served as an instructor

for trial advocacy and was a member of the office's hiring and diversity committees. His career as a prosecutor earned him awards from the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Treasury, noted the release.

Earlier in his career, Mittal was a law clerk for Amul Thapar, the first U.S. federal judge of South Asian descent. He is a graduate of NYU School of Law and received his undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering, computer science, and political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

On behalf of the SABA-SC, which endorsed Judge Mittal's candidacy for the Orange County bench, Marize Alphonso and Rohit D. Nath praised the appointment: "We are thrilled about Judge Mittal's appointment to the Orange County bench, an appointment that reflects the significant and growing South Asian population in the region. Judge Mittal has dedicated his career to public service, and he has also been an integral part of the South Asian legal community. The governor could not have

photo courtesy : SABA-SC



Indian American Judge Vibhav Mittal.

found a better pick to blaze this trail for the South Asian community in Orange County."

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