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Randhir Kumar Jaiswal is New Consul General of India in New York



Bharatiya Vaidya Bhavan USA
Executive Director Deepak
Dave Dies at 59

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Promises to build on former chairman Ramesh Patel's legacy and take the FIA to new heights

The Federation of Indian Association of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate) has appointed Ankur Vaidya as its new chairman. Vaidya is joined by Bipin Patel, as vice chairman and Jayesh Patel as the general secretary. The current Board also includes Ramesh Gadhavi, Chandrakant Trivedi, Prabir Roy, Dr. Parvin Pandhi, Andy Bhatia, Srujal Parikh, Anand Patel, Dipak Patel and Kanu Chauhan. FIA veterans, Dr. Sudhir S. Parikh and H. R. Shah was chosen as senior advisors, while Albert Jasani, of Royal Alberts Palace, was chosen as the Unifying-Unity Trustee of the group, along with Yash Paul Soi as vice chairman, emeritus, for FIA's golden jubilee year.

The election was held during FIA's first internal meeting at its offices in Spotswood, N.J., since the COVID-19 pandemic, and after losing the Chairman of the Board, Ramesh Patel. The meeting was called by FIA President Anil Bansal, in concurrence with the majority of the Board of Trustees and was held under the supervision of independent counsels. Attendees included President Anil Bansal, Secretary Parveen Bansal, and 14 out of the 16 current Board members.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to address the inter-organizational review and brainstorm ways to point the organization in the right trajectory towards serving the community in these testing times.

Vaidya, 41, has served FIA as its president for two consecutive years - 2014 and 2015.

He is one of the youngest members of the Board, and the youngest to be chosen as its chairman.

In his new role, Vaidya wants to expand FIA's presence and outreach, and work with the wider diaspora, "from Rhode Island and Massachusetts to Washington, D.C." He noted that the Indian American community in some of these areas is "highly segregated," but has a lot to contribute. "I want to make FIA a pan-Indian organization representing the diversity of the diaspora."



Voluntary Content Compilation
FIA NY-NJ-CT and
Community Volunteers

Voluntary Editor
Bhargavi Kulkarni

Voluntary Graphic
Compilation
Gracia Marcom



The newly appointed chairman highlighted some of the changes the organization has implemented since March. "Covid-19 has been a learning curve for all of us," Vaidya said, adding that the organization is moving toward digital compatibility, including virtual meetings and events, as well as a revamped website and a newsletter. He hoped that these changes will help FIA increase its footprint beyond the tristate area.

Vaidya also expressed a desire to work more closely with the Consulate General of India in New York, as well as the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. "So far we have been a grassroots organization. Now we want to have more visibility in political education and engagement, as well as more engagements with lawmakers and influencers."

Vaidya indicated that an independent women's wing could be in the pipeline, "to provide women a platform to lead, connect and network." There is also a desire to build a community center, he said, where members could congregate, socialize with their families, and also have a place to host and conduct cultural and community events.

Although this year, the organization's golden jubilee year, will be sans a parade, due to the pandemic and the social distancing and public events mandates, Vaidya said FIA is determined for "a parade for the ages," next year. Agreeing that it is a challenging year, Vaidya said he, and his team, are dedicated and energized to carry forward Patel's vision and legacy.



Randhir Kumar Jaiswal is New Consul General of India in New York



The Federation of Indian Association of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate) welcomes Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, the newly-appointed Consul General of India in New York. He will replace Sandeep Chakravorty who recently finished his New York tenure and returned to New Delhi. He is expected to assume office in about three weeks.

Jaiswal is currently the Joint Secretary cum Social Secretary to the President of India Ramnath Kovind. A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Jaiswal heads the foreign affairs office of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and advises the President on India's foreign policy.

Prior to that he served as the Consul General of India in Johannesburg in South Africa. He also worked as a counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

FIA Hosts Farewell Reception for Outgoing Indian Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty



Outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, right, with FIA President Anil Bansal at a farewell reception hosted by FIA in New Jersey, June 27.



FIA Executive Committee presents a memento to outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty and his wife, Taruna, outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty. From left, President Anil Bansal, Treasurer Amit Ringasia, Secretary Praveen Bansal, Executive Vice President Himanshu Bhatia, Sandeep Chakravorty, Taruna Chakravorty, Vice President Saurin Parikh and immediate past president Alok Kumar.



FIA President Anil Bansal is flanked by H.R. Shah and Dr. Sudhir Parikh, at a farewell reception for outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, hosted by FIA in New Jersey, June 27.



Taruna Chakravorty, wife of outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, speaks outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty

Outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, addresses guests at a farewell reception hosted by FIA in New Jersey, June 27.



BAJANA Present a memento to outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty and his wife, Taruna, outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty. From left, President Dr. Avinash Gupta, Sandeep Chakravorty, Taruna Chakravorty, Vinay Singh and Alok Kumar.

The Federation of Indian Association of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate) hosted a farewell reception for Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, on July 8. FIA president Anil Bansal and members of the executive committee as well as the members of the Board of Trustees attended the event.



Chairman FIA, Ankur Vaidya with outgoing Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty

Bansal, in his speech, congratulated Consul General Chakravorty for a successful tenure. Everyone present has mixed feelings, he said. "We are happy that you are going home, but at the same time, we will miss your counsel, and your company." On behalf of FIA, Bansal congratulated Chakravorty for always being



a valuable friend of the organization. "You have been unbelievably approachable, and so helpful," he said.

Chakravorty, in his address, informed the attendees that since his posting to New York in 2017, he has interacted with four different presidents at FIA. In 2017, it was Andy Bhatia; while Srujal Parikh led the organization in 2018, followed by Alok Kumar in 2019, and the current president, Anil Bansal.

"We had great plans for FIA for 2020," he said, and added: "50 years of FIA and 40 years of the parade." He said he likes the format and the workings of the FIA because "it is a pan-Indian organization." He said he hopes the organization expands and reaches more heights and "becomes more inclusive with a broader base and a huge presence." That he said, would be a befitting tribute to the late Ramesh Patel.

After his arrival in New Delhi, Chakravorty has been appointed as the new joint secretary of the AMS (Americas) division that handles all issues related to the U.S. and Canada.

A member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1996, Chakravorty has served in India's Missions in several countries. Prior to becoming Consul General of India in New York in August, 2017, he was the Ambassador of India to Peru and Bolivia. Earlier he had been India's Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangladesh. He has also served in Indian Embassies in Madrid and Bogota. In India's Ministry of External Affairs he has held several positions including Press Relations Officer, Staff Officer to Minister and worked on desks dealing with Central Asia, East Asia and China. Before joining the Government, Chakravorty worked with civil society organizations dealing with natural resources and environmental issues. He has a Master's degree in Advanced Studies in International Security from Geneva University, a Master's degree in Sociology besides a Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University. He speaks Hindi, Bangla and Spanish fluently.

FIA Mourns the Untimely Death of Community Leader Naishad Pandya

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Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA Executive Director Deepak Dave Dies at 59



Indian American community residing in the greater New York and New Jersey area is shocked by the sudden demise of Deepak Dave, executive director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA. Dave, 59, died of a massive heart attack in his office in New York City, June 29. He is the son of renowned Gujarati poet, Shri Harindrabhai Dave.

A well-known actor and voice over-dubbing artist, Dave has acted in 15 TV serials and nine films, and performed in over 70 plays. Apart from Gujarati, Dave also acted in plays in English, Hindi and Marathi languages.

Dave shot to fame with his 1998 Gujarati film "Nano Diyariyo Ladko." His play "Chingar" was also well-received. He was proficient in English, Gujarati, Hindi and Marathi. Dave joined Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, in 2003 as program director. Later, he started working as a program manager at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA, in 2005. He has been the executive director since 2008.

He helped the Bhavan with its programming and promoted India's rich culture and heritage, music, dance, languages, and philosophy. A very soft spoken, hardworking, dedicated and diligent human being, Dave has carved his name in Bhavan's history. With Dave's death, FIA has lost a friend and well-wisher, an able administrator, a brilliant artist, an orator and a multi-talented personality.

Amitabh and Abhishek Bachchan are Diagnosed With COVID-19; Admitted to Mumbai Hospital

The Federation of Indian Association of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate) wishes a speedy recovery to superstar Amitabh Bachchan and his son, Abhishek Bachchan who have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Both have been admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital.

"I have tested COVID positive ... shifted to hospital ... hospital informing authorities ... family and staff undergone tests, results awaited," Amitabh Bachchan, 77, said in a tweet. He also urged anyone who had been close to him in the past 10 days to get tested.



A few minutes later, his 44-year-old son Abhishek Bachchan also tweeted he had been infected.

"Both of us having mild symptoms have been admitted to hospital. We have informed all the required authorities and our family and staff are all being tested," he said. "I request all to stay calm and not panic."

A hospital official told The Indian Express newspaper that he was in a stable condition.

Since March, Amitabh Bachchan has been helping the Government of India get its message across in the fight against coronavirus.

His last film "Gulabo Sitabo," released directly on Amazon last month. Directed by Shoojit Sircar, the film also stars Ayushmann Churner.

According to a Reuters report, the pandemic has infected over 820,000 people and killed over 22,000 in India. In the previous 24 hours, India recorded 27,114 cases, making it the nation with the third-biggest outbreak behind the United States and Brazil in confirmed infections. Mumbai has recorded over 84,500 COVID-19 cases, of which 4,899 have died.

Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) NY-NJ-CT

Please let us resolve to
**No hugs and
No handshake.**

We can come back to all
that after this
pandemic is over.
Which it will. It always has.

Just
Namaste!