

THE DIASPORA

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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 73



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

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FIA Organizes '3-in-1' Grand Event Celebrations at Boston



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New York Passes \$4.2bn Environmental Bond Act on Midterm Ballot



FIA ORGANIZES ITS 3RD EDITION OF SOUP KITCHEN

The Federation of Indian Associations organized its third edition of "Diwali Soup Kitchen-Spreading Lights of Happiness" in Trenton, New Jersey, under the leadership of FIA Women Committee Chair and Joint Secretary Smita Miki Patel, along with the FIA team. Nearly 1,000 meals were served during this direct outreach effort by the FIA women's team. Smita Miki Patel stated, "I am proud to serve in this very selfless cause of curbing hunger in our communities. All of our women volunteers have not just brought

the meals, but they have packed them, added additional items such as sweets and if we ran out of sweets, we added cookies to make sure a full wholesome meal is served complimentary and by doing that, we are spreading the happiness and joy that is brought by the festival of lights, *Diwali*, to millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists across the world. It has been my honor to lead and serve this selfless initiative by FIA along with the executive team and the board", she said.

Diwali Soup Kitchen was initiated two years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to

offer free meals to tri-state soup kitchens that were in need at the time to cope with the elevated demands. FIA's association with the Salvation Army and other official soup kitchens was to work towards curbing hunger in our communities.

Through its annual Diwali Soup Kitchen Drive, FIA is

continuing to work towards the goal of serving 10,000 meals during this year's holiday season. FIA will partner with Jaipur Foot USA Prem Bhandari, AIA-NY Harish Thakkar and AIANA Sunil Nayak for its next round of Soup Kitchen, which will occur this holiday season.



FIA Organizes '3-in-1' Grand Event Celebrations at Boston

Veterans Day, Famous Book Launch-Snakes in the Ganga & Diwali

FIA New England on November 8, 2022 supported the book launch of - Snakes in the Ganga - written by the renowned Indologist, Rajiv Malhotra.

Present at the Book launch were the eminent author Rajiv Malhotra, Shrewsbury Fire Chief Mr. Jim Vuona, Dr. Mrinalini Darswal (who is from the IAS cadre and currently pursuing a Doctorate degree from Harvard), Deputy CEO of National Health Authority IPS Vipul Aggarwal, Amresh Mishra (IPS) and Professor Dr. Bal Ram Singh, Sandeep Asija along with the host of other guests and dignitaries.

Abhishek Singh, President

of FIA-NE has appealed to the community to read this book thoroughly and said it is not just a book, it is kind of a doctrine to understand the problem of the modern world and the best possible solutions. He praised Rajiv Malhotra's effort and for his visionary and thought-provoking book and re-appealed to the community at large to read it.

The event, held in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and Harvard faculty club, was attended by over 600 people -- students from Ivy League colleges of Harvard and MIT, UMASS. More than 200 copies were sold out within half an hour into the event.

Speaking at the event, Rajiv Malhotra, a renowned scholar,

successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of the Infinity Foundation, said that the book unveils uncomfortable truths concerning India's vulnerabilities. He thanked the FIA for its unconditional support.

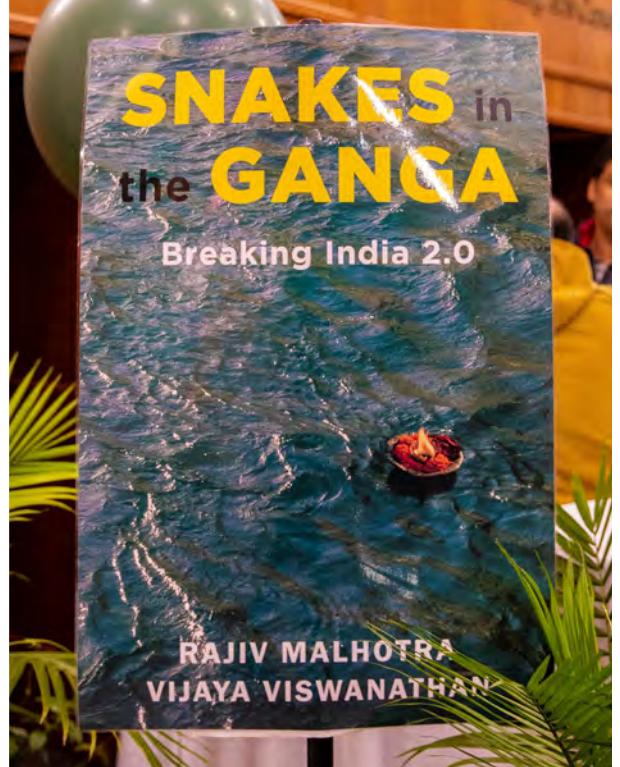
Professor Francis Xavier Clooney, an American Jesuit priest and scholar in the teachings of Hinduism said he is focused on the work being conducted in the Divinity School and mentioned the plans to expand Hindu Studies there.

Prof. Dr. Bal Ram Singh described the event as an important one for the academic and intellectual community. Persons like Rajiv Malhotra and Francis Clooney, although coming

from different backgrounds of business and spirituality, have dedicated themselves to the good of society through intellectual and academic enterprise. Rajiv has been a listening post who blows the horn in the public interest. He thanked the prominent members of the audience, which also included faculty and researchers from Harvard, some members of the Indian civil service, and several business and community leaders.

Dr. Mrinalini Darswal urged lumping together various forms of discrimination is not productive. To counter the Anti-India narrative in the West, she opined that the current

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Indian government under our nationalistic and visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lent us an excellent platform to create our own well-informed narrative using the New Education Policy.

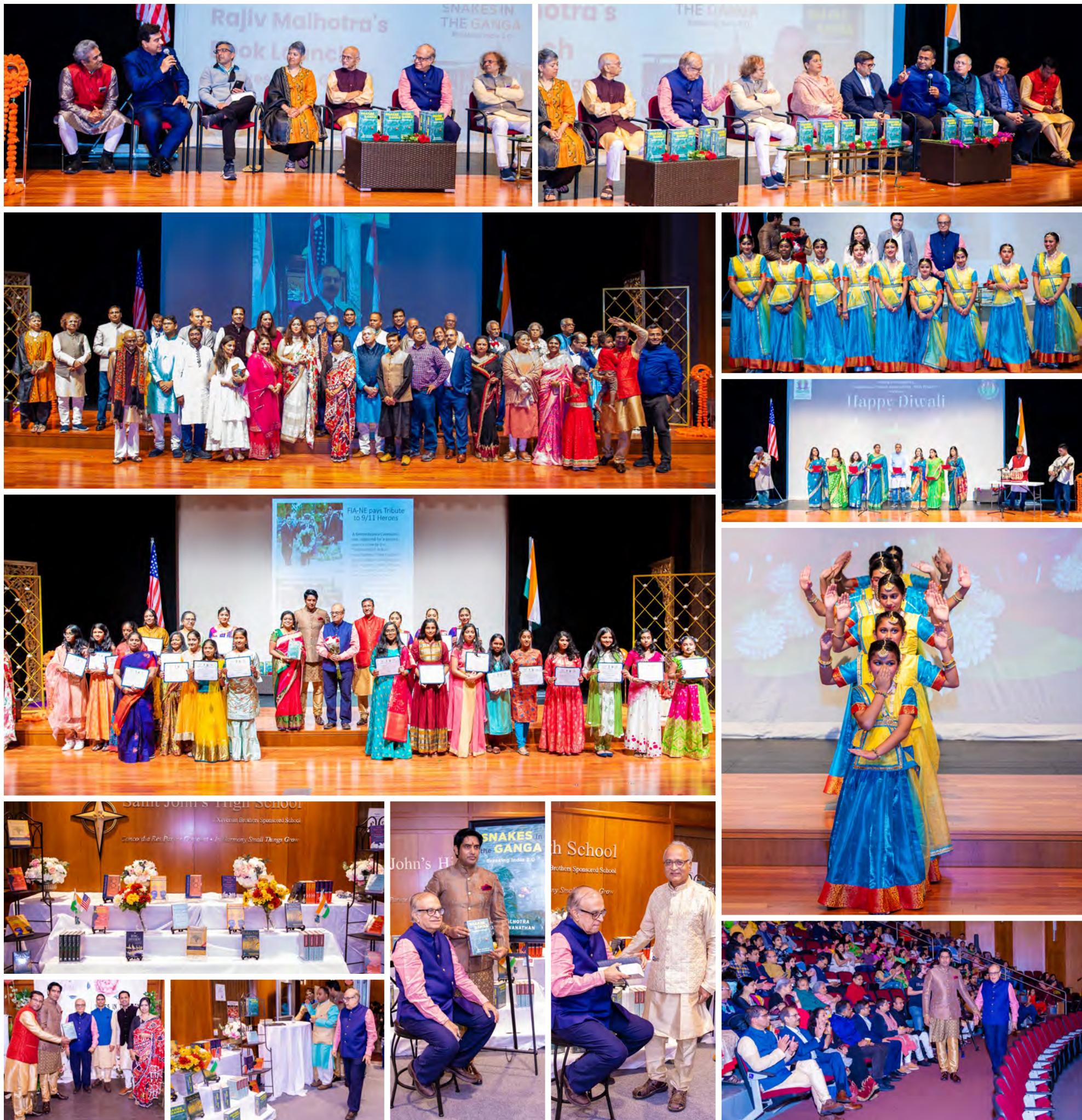
The extravaganza event started with the national anthems of the USA and India and was followed by the lighting of the lamp ceremony by Rajiv Malhotra, Dr. Abhaya

Asthana, Pankaj Adaval, and Deepak Rathore after the cultural performances by the Amudhashri Dance Academy, Saisha Dance School, and Vandana Rao foundation. FIA-New England has remembered and recognized the supreme sacrifices of veterans and honored them during the event. Shrewsbury Fire Chief Jim Vuona was present during the ceremony and special Governor's proclamations were provided

by Sanjay Gokhale and Chandan Sukija to Kaushik Patel and Pramod Pandey and Dr. Abhaya Asthana.

Jyoti Singh and Mukta Munjal were the Masters of the Ceremony (Emcee) of the whole event. Anand Sharma, Rakesh Kavsari, Ajay Pulapurthi, Amol Penshanwar, Jay Smrity Thakur, Ankit Loonia, and Himanshu Chauhan, along with dozens of FIA-NE executives, distributed

the T-shirts to the students and gifted the Diwali souvenir to all the invited guests to show their gratitude to the Kumar food vendor, Mohikas' for souvenirs and gifts, Joyfull Inc., kV & Rashik photography, and praised their efforts to join the ceremony during the weekdays in such a large number. In the last, FIA honored all the senior citizens and students with certificates.

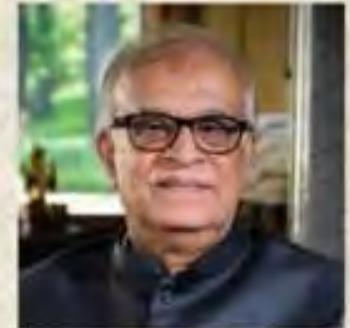
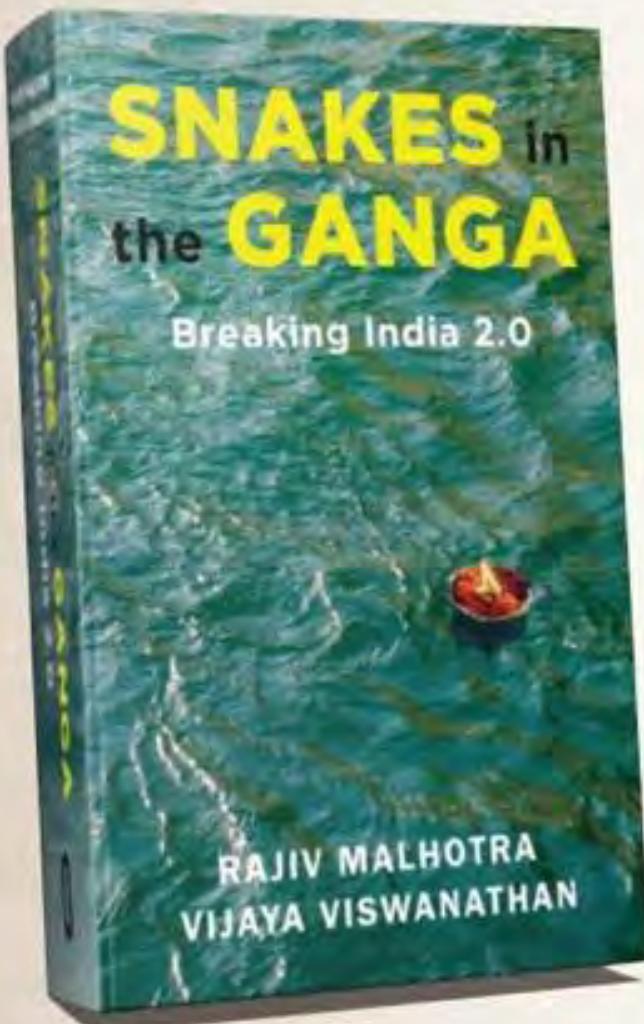




Infinity Foundation and Federation of Indian Associations
cordially invite you to the Book Launch

SNAKES in the GANGA

Breaking India 2.0



Shri Rajiv Malhotra
(Author)

With support from



Anil Bansal
(Chairman, Bansal Charitable Foundation)



Kenny Desai
(President, Federation of Indian Associations)



Seema M. Singh Esq.
(Director, Singh Law LLC)

**Date -
Wednesday, 30 November,
2022**

**Time -
6:00 PM-10:00 PM**

**Venue -
Akbar Restauraunt,
21 Cortlandt St #1,
Edison, NJ 08837**

IF's social media links

- <https://www.facebook.com/RajivMalhotra.Official>
- <https://twitter.com/InfinityMessage>
- <https://www.instagram.com/infinityfoundation.official/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/RajivMalhotraOfficial>

FIA's social media links

- <https://www.facebook.com/fianynjct.org>
- <https://twitter.com/FLANYNJCTNE>
- <https://www.instagram.com/federationofindianassociations/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYixzpBmEHAY5LCU9Mura0Q>

Asian American Republican Coalition Organizes Grand Launch in New Jersey



AARC- Asian American Republican Coalition previously known as SARC - South Asian Republican Coalition, headquartered in New Jersey, organized its Grand Launch on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Royal Albert's Palace, Fords, NJ which had an unpresented success with more than 350 distinguished personalities and leaders from Republican Party and Asian American Communities attended on a busy weekday.

Event started with singing the American Anthem, God Bless America and citing the Pledge of

Allegiance. Sanjiv Pandya, AARC-VP, Public Relations and Media Outreach and a well-known media personality and well-respected community leader opened the event by stating the current environment in America and what needs to be done to bring back the glory of our great nation America.

Hemant Bhatt, Founder and Chairman, in his welcome address, while welcoming the distinguished gathering, stated that AARC is very much inspired by the overwhelming support it received from the members of the community who shared the same

values and beliefs for the Grand Old Republican Party. It was then we realized that we need to take SARC to the next level to reach out the Asian American Community nationwide and that's when the "AARC" is formed with its chapters in Pennsylvania, Texas, Georgia, Chicago, Florida and with many other states to join the AARC. In one of the most pivotal mid-term elections 2022 is shaping up to be a historic, decisive moment in American politics. It's important to remind the Asian Community that the country faces significant challenges ahead and it's important to restore the values

and integrity of our country and Americans.

Sridhar Chillara, AARC's Founder and national President, outlined in detail the organization's vision, goals and objectives down the road for its successful journey going forward. AARC is working on civic education, US citizenship, English Learning and many community outreach programs, among other goals. Deepak Malhotra, AARC's Founder and National Vice President, explained the importance of voting to bring about the desired change in

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these crucial times. Juned Qazi, AARC's NJ President, and the Council President for Marlboro, NJ Township Council stated to the audience that AARC will become the nodal organization for Asian American Communities for their awareness about the subjects of their interests.

Jack Ciattarelli, a former NJ Assemblyman who ran for NJ

Governor, losing by only a few thousand votes, stated in his fiery speech that AARC is doing great work and let us all work hard for our bright future. Steven Rogers, member of the AARC Advisory Board, congratulated AARC and its team on a successful launch and is looking forward to its future. Sue Kiley, Paul Degroot, Samuel Thompson, NJ Assemblyman, Edward Durr, NJ Senator, Dominick Nick

Dirocco, Commissioner, Robert Bengivenga, MCRO chairman and others spoke at the occasion.

Dharmesh Patel, an active member of AARC gave statistics showing how Asian-American communities can bring victory to the candidates running for office.

AARC's event sponsors, reception committee members and other active members, including Mehul Patel, Roshan Shah, Nimish Patel, Ravi Patel,

Dr. Jayesh Patel, Yash Pandya, Praveen Thadkamala, Dilip Patel, Pavan Kuchana, Ravi Kolla, Ashish Raval, Sarvesh Kumar Dharayan, Neeta Ramekar, Vijay Shah, Dilip Bhatt, Jinesh Patel, Samir Raval, Marthy Pillai, Atul Vadodaria, Bhargava Gorthy, Vasant Shah, Ankit Goyal, Neeta Tyagi, Anita Gupta and many have worked very hard with dedication to make the event very successful.



India Should Decrease its Dependence on Russia: US

The US has stated that India should lessen its reliance on Russia and reiterated that the US is committed to working with India on its transition away from Russia.

Responding to a query on India becoming Russia's largest oil customer after China and expansion of their trade ties, US State Department Spokesperson, Ned Price said, "Russia isn't a

reliable source of energy and security assistance. It's not only in the interest of Ukraine or of the region, India decreases its dependence on Russia over time, but it's also in India's own bilateral interest, given what we've seen from Russia."

"We have been intentional about exempting the oil and gas - energy sector - from sanctions imposed on Russia. The fact that India continues to seek oil

and other forms of energy from Russia - isn't something that runs afoul of sanctions that have been imposed," he added.

Meanwhile, Price also reiterated that the US is committed to helping India in its transition away from Russia. The US has consistently made the point that it is a relationship that developed and was cemented over the course of decades.

"When it comes to Russia's -

India's relationship with Russia, we've consistently made the point that it's a relationship that developed and was cemented over the course of decades, really came to be during the Cold War at a time when the United States was not in a position to be an economic partner, a security partner, a military partner to India."

New York Passes \$4.2bn Environmental Bond Act on Midterm Ballot

New York state voters passed a ballot measure that would fund up to \$4.2bn for environmental improvement projects – including increasing flood resiliency, reducing

greenhouse gas emissions, electrifying school buses and creating more green and open spaces.

The proposal also aims to reach communities most affected by the climate

crisis. If approved, it will allow the state to sell bonds in order to raise funds to finance several projects.

This funding would allow the state to sell

bonds to raise funds to finance several projects.



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Aruna Miller Becomes First Indian-American to be Maryland Lt. Governor

On November 8, Aruna Miller made history by becoming the first Indian-American politician to win the race for Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland.

Miller, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, was on the Lieutenant Governor ticket along with Wes Moore -- the Democratic Governor elect.

Soon after the polling closed on Tuesday evening, Moore and Miller were declared elected against their Republican challengers.

Both President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris had campaigned in favour of Moore and Miller.

"Maryland, tonight you showed the nation what a small but mighty state can do when democracy is on the ballot. You chose unity over division, expanding rights over restricting rights, and hope over fear. You chose Wes Moore and me to be your next Governor and Lieutenant Governor," Miller said in her victory speech.

"Ever since I came to this country in 1972, I've never stopped being excited for the promise of America. I will never stop fighting to make sure that promise is available to everyone. And this promise begins with a commitment to deliver a Maryland where we leave no one behind," she said.



Justice DY Chandrachud Takes Oath as 50th Chief Justice of India

Justice DY Chandrachud succeeded Justice Uday Umesh Lalit as the 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The appointment of DY Chandrachud as CJI is notable since he is the first son to hold the office that his father, former CJI YV Chandrachud, had held in the Indian court.

CJI Chandrachud took the oath in English and in the name of God in the presence of Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was not present at the event, tweeted, "Congratulations to Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud on being sworn in as India's Chief Justice. Wishing him a fruitful tenure ahead."

Justice Chandrachud as CJI will have a term of two years and will head India's judiciary until November 10, 2024, a day before he completes 65 years.



UK Court Rejects Nirav Modi's Appeal Against Extradition to India

India praised a British court decision on November 10 dismissing the appeal filed by fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi to avoid being extradited to India in connection with a bank loan fraud case.

"We welcome the UK high court's decision to dismiss the appeal against extradition of Nirav Modi," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"We will continue with our efforts to get Nirav Modi back, as well as other economic offenders so that they are brought to justice," he said.

The spokesperson said India has been vigorously pursuing the extradition of economic fugitives so that they face the legal process in the country.

"Pulling these various strands together and weighing them in the balance so as to reach an overall evaluative judgment on the question raised by Section 91, we are far from satisfied that Mr. Modi's mental condition and the risk of suicide are such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him," states the ruling.

United Airlines announces the Launch of Air Taxi Service: Manhattan to Newark in 10 Minutes

United Airlines' announcement that air taxi service is coming to New York. It is the first ever official announcement of an air taxi service in the U.S. The Pier 6 Manhattan Heliport, on the East River close to Wall Street, will transport passengers to Newark Liberty International Airport in less than 10 minutes.

Airplane manufacturer Archer has a United Airlines order for 100 of its Midnight eVTOL air taxis. "We're excited to be confirming New York as the first of many routes we'll be announcing alongside United as we work to build out our national UAM network", said Archer CEO, Adam Goldstein. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with United and to working closely with state and local government leaders in the New York and New Jersey area as we bring this exciting new form of transportation to life."



Community News

Kannada Koota of NY Celebrated Kannada (Karnataka) Rajyotsava with NYC Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan

In the event of the 67th Kannada Rajyotsava, the Kannada Koota New York organization celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava on November 5, 2022 at Alley Pond New York. Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment, and Innovation from New York City Mayor's Office, participated in the event. The Deputy Commissioner hoisted the Karnataka flag along with members of Kannada Koota.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the community and emphasized the cultural importance for future generations. On behalf of NYC Mayor Eric Adams, Dilip Chauhan conveyed his message to all the members. Several cultural events followed after that, like the singing of *Karnataka Nada Geethe* (the state song) and other Kannada patriotic songs, which were performed by members. Kannada Rajyotsava is a public holiday in the Karnataka state of India.

It is always celebrated on November 1. It is also known as Karnataka Formation Day.

Kannada Koota New York's Executive Committee organized the event under the leadership of Ajith Bhaskar, President of Kannada Koota New York.

Kannada Koota New York will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in April 2023 and is looking forward to community participation and support.



Member of Kannada Koota during Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration with NYC Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan, President Ajith Bhaskar and Board Members of KK NY



Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan Conveyed a Congratulatory Message on behalf of NYC Mayor Eric Adams to all the members of KK NY on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration



NEWSMAKERS

Indian-American Computer Science Professor bags Amazon Research Award

Professor of Computer Science at Kansas State University Pavithra Prabhakar received the Amazon Research Award to research how to minimize negative user experiences.

According to a 1, 2022, press release from KSU, Prabhakar, who is the Peggy and Gary Edwards chair in engineering, received the award to design a tool that highlights changes between different versions of machine learning software systems with the goal of reducing negative experiences by users.

Prabhakar is currently on sabbatical from KSU to be a program director at the National Science Foundation. She was one of 74 recipients of the awards from Amazon, which also includes an unrestricted gift, access to more than 300 Amazon public datasets, and Amazon Web Services' artificial intelligence and machine learning services and tools, the press release said.

"The broad objective of the project is to automatically characterize how much two versions

of machine learning-based systems are similar or different," Prabhakar is quoted saying in the KSU press release. "These systems are regularly retrained to achieve superior performance; however, this does not often translate to a better user experience," she said, adding, "This can be mitigated by equipping the design team with an automated tool that could highlight where and by how much the systems changed between different versions, thereby aiding the

team in making decisions regarding the acceptability of the changes from a user experience perspective."



Photo: K-state.edu

US Midterm Elections: 4 Indian American Lawmakers Re-elected

In the fiercely contested midterm elections, four Democratic Party lawmakers from the Indian-American community, including Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, and Pramila Jayapal, were elected to the US House of Representatives.

Shri Thanedar, a Democrat and former entrepreneur turned politician from India, defeated Martell Bivings to become the first Indian-American to win a Congressional seat from

Michigan. Shri Thanedar, currently represents the 3rd District in the Michigan House.

In the 8 Congressional District of Illinois, Raja

Krishnamoorthi, was re-elected for the fourth consecutive term by a comfortable margin. He defeated his Republican opponent, Chris Dargis.

In Silicon Valley, Indian-American Ro Khanna, defeated his compatriot Republican opponent Ritesh Tandon in the 17th Congressional District of California.

Chennai-born Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the only Indian-American woman lawmaker in the House of Representatives, defeated her GOP rival Cliff Moon in the 7th Congressional District of Washington State.



Raja Krishnamoorthi, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Shri Thanedar (L to R)



Religious Events

Ved Mandir



1 Ved Mandir Dr, Milltown, NJ 08850 Ph: (732) 821-0404

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AARTI TIMES

Morning Aarti -- 7:00 AM, Evening Aarti -- 7:00 PM

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19 Nov - 108 GAYATRI MANTRA CHANTING - 5:00 PM onwards

26 Nov - SUNDERKAND PATH - 5:00 PM onwards

www.vedmandir.org

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir)



1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ-08807, Ph: (908) 725-4477

Mon - Fri: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Saturday, Sunday & National Holidays: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Every Sunday - Vishnu Sahasranama - 8:30 AM - 9:15 PM

www.venkateswaratemple.org

The Hindu Temple Society of North America Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355, Ph: (718) 460-8484

Weekdays: 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM; Weekends: 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM

16 Nov - Sri Ayyappa Mandala Pooja - 8:15 AM onwards

19 Nov - Ekadasa Rudra Parayanam - 4:00 PM onwards

21 Nov - Kartika Somavaram- 4:30 AM onwards

Pradosham - 6:00 PM onwards

<https://nyganeshtemple.org/>





ROH

(2019 / Malaysian / Horror / Netflix)

SIMPLISTIC, MINIMALISTIC AND RUSTIC... WHAT SETS APART THIS HORROR!

Director

Emir Ezwan

Cast

Farah Ahmad, Mhia Farhana, Harith Haziq, Namron, June Lojong, Putri Qaseh



Photo: ROH trailer

Plot

A poor widowed woman lives in the middle of a forest with her two kids, leading a lonely, bare-bones life.

When they take in a seemingly lost, bedraggled, mysterious young girl roaming in the forest, they have no idea they are bringing a bad omen upon their life.

I chanced upon this wonderful film in the Asian Horrors section of *Netflix*. I must use this opportunity to express my admiration for the algorithms and classifications of this platform. The sheer range of their catalogues, their suggestions and the way they pick up your preferences is unmatched.

What caught my fancy in the

trailer was the rustic setting. I have observed that period and country settings work very well in this genre. It is an element on its own that adds mystique.

This film, which won quite a few accolades at the Malaysian Film Festival, is one of the most simplistic horror films that I have ever watched. With minimum elements, they have been able to create excellent atmospherics that probably set apart this film.

Analysis

It is a fantastic debut film by Emir Ezwan. The screenplay is definitely the star here. What's even more interesting is the shoe-string budget it was made on.

There's a relentless foreboding

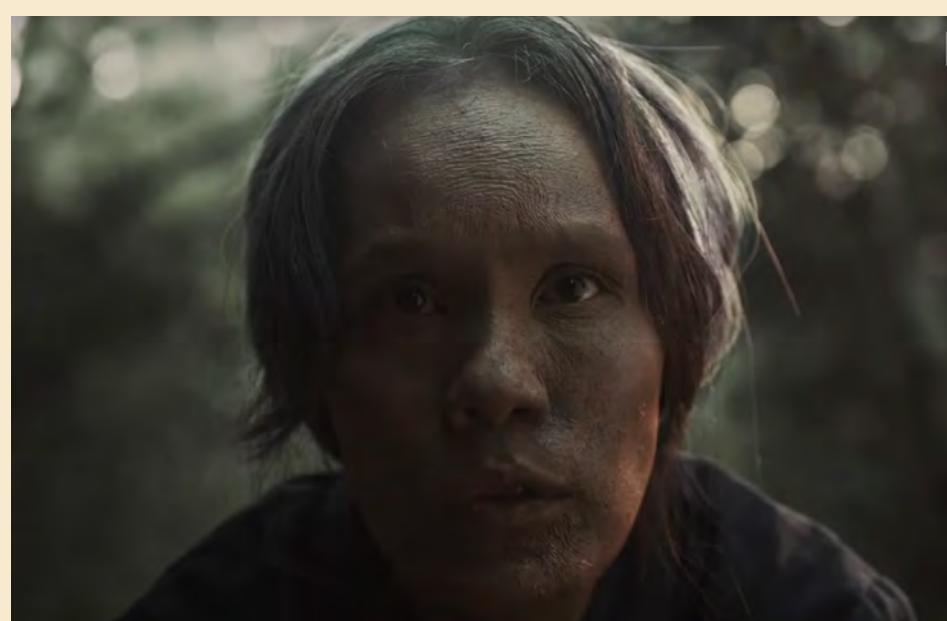
feeling throughout, even during the daytime picturization, and that is something I consider a commendable virtue in horror. There's also an intrigue factor that holds throughout, and they even manage to throw in a twist towards the end.

Even though there seems to be an element of the occult, it avoids usual tropes, jump scares, contorted faces, special effects or VFX. His story telling brings in the desired effect and it does that well.

Emir has also been able

to successfully create an empathetic bond with the family even without using any dramatics. To enable that, I would say that the three titular actors have done a fine job. I was quite impressed with the natural and realistic performance by Farah Ahmad, who plays the mom.

I could confidently say it is a must-watch for horror fans. The craft of the film maker is sheer pleasure and worth appreciation.



Photos: ROH trailer

LOVING ADULTS

(Danish / Thriller / Netflix)

INFIDELITY, HATRED, MURDER AND TWISTS IS A GOOD MIX FOR A THRILLER!

Director Barbara Røthenborg

Cast Sonja Richter, Dar Salim, Sus Wilkins, Mikael Birkkjaer

Photo: Loving Adults Trailer

The film starts with pearls like

"Almost all murders have something to do with love"

and ends with

"Love is more dangerous than its reputation"

These are the words of an investigator talking about one of his cases that still haunts him.

A case that begins with a wife discovering that her husband is cheating on her and then goes on to get complex beyond imagination.

The husband is desperate for the new life and the wife wants to hold on to her old life.

This thriller offers a deadly mix of infidelity, passion, blackmail, hatred, revenge and murder.

When the story gets rolling, the very first scene is a crucial one and then we see the backstory in a flashback.

That led me to wonder, if the revelation is where the film starts, where is it going to lead us?

Well.... The answer to this comes after many twists and turns, one of which was majorly unexpected.

The narrative style adds a lot to the suspense. Performances grow on you and out of the two central leads, I found Sonja's performance very layered and apt.

Towards the climax, as we proceed through the twists, you might find a couple of loopholes that require some amount of suspension of disbelief as far as the criminal investigation goes.

Now you have a choice there. Either you nit-pick and let it mar your experience or just take it in your stride and enjoy the thrilling ride. I opted for the latter.

The film might not boast of a water-tight investigation but with its suspense factor, unexpected twists, setting, performances, pace and crisp run of 1 hr 45 min, is a good one time watch for thriller lovers.



Photos: Loving Adults Trailer

Sean Penn Gives Ukrainian President His Oscar as a 'Symbolic' Gesture

Actor Sean Penn has gifted one of his Best Actor Oscars to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The 62-year-old actor, who won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 2004 and 2009 for 'Mystic River' and 'Milk' respectively, has presented one of the statuettes

to Zelensky in the capital city of Kiev as a "symbolic" gesture to the politician and his people in Ukraine, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

In a video shared on the president's Telegram channel, Sean told him: "It's just a symbolic silly thing, but if I know this is here then I'll feel better and strong enough for the fights.

When you win, bring it back to Malibu, because I'll feel much better knowing there's a piece of me here."

The trophy will remain in the country until the end of the ongoing war with Russia. In return, Penn was honoured with Ukraine's *Order of Merit*.

Photos: *indiatimes*



Guillermo del Toro to be Honored at MoMA's Film Benefit

The Museum of Modern Art in New York City has announced that Guillermo del Toro will be honored on December 8 at its upcoming 2022 Film Benefit, presented by Chanel.

Del Toro's illustrious film resume includes nominations for six Academy Awards, including wins for best director and best picture. At the Museum, much of del Toro's work has appeared in several of its exhibitions, starting all the way back in 1994 with his first film, "Cronos," which was selected for the annual New Directors/New Films festival. More recently, the Museum has

screened "The Shape of Water" as a part of The Contenders 2017 and "Nightmare Alley" as a part of The Contenders 2021.

"Guillermo del Toro has been a treasured member of the MoMA family for the last 30 years, from the debut of 'Cronos' in New Directors/New Films 1994 to our upcoming exhibition devoted to his latest masterwork, 'Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio,'" Rajendra Roy, MoMA's Celeste Bartos chief curator of film, said in a statement. "We can't wait to honor the man who loves cinema with his whole heart in front of the Museum's adoring film community."

"Guillermo del Toro: Crafting

Pinocchio," an exhibition devoted to the craft and process behind the filmmaker's first feature stop-motion animation film, will open on December 11 and run through April 15, 2023. The exhibition will provide behind-the-scenes looks at the creative process needed to realize the director's upcoming film. In addition to the gallery presentations, MoMA will screen "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio," present a retrospective of del Toro's films and host a Carte Blanche

film series curated by the director.



Ashley Tisdale to Star in CBS Comedy 'Brutally Honest'

A comedy for CBS that is largely based on the High School Musical star's life will include Ashley Tisdale as the lead.

The network has moved the single-camera comedy *Brutally Honest* into development with Ashley, 37, also serving as an executive producer, according to an article by *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The series inspired by Ashley looks at how having a baby can ruin, save, change, destroy and inspire your marriage ...all before lunch.

The project being produced by CBS Studios will feature a script written by Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern, who were behind ABC's critically acclaimed comedy *Trophy Wife* and the 2019 feature film *Booksmart*.

The Crew's Crew: Tabu, Kriti, and Kareena

The *Crew* is a comedy movie starring Tabu, Kriti Sanon and Kareena Kapoor. The Ekta Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor-produced movie

will begin production in February of next year.

The movie promises to be a laugh fest, as the plot centers on three ladies who hustle and work hard to get by in life.



Afghan Dreamers is Ali Fazal's Next Hollywood Project

The actor's upcoming film, *Afghan Dreamers*, is being directed by Bill Guttentag, a two-time Oscar winner. For his two short films, *You Don't Have to Die* and *Twin Towers*, Bill has received the esteemed Academy Award.

Afghan Dreamers will be shot over the course of 50 days, with the majority of the scenes taking place in Budapest and Morocco. The shoot just got underway in Morocco. The movie is based

on a real-life initiative that Afghan tech entrepreneur Roya Mahboob founded in 2017 to support young women in developing their abilities in science and technology despite a strongly patriarchal environment in the nation from which they originate.

The film throws light on the chaotic, sometimes dangerous backdrop of the country's politics. The story tells the tale of the team of Afghan girls who traveled across the world and

Alia-Ranbir Become Parents, Stars Pour in Love



And in the best news of our lives :-

Our baby is here..and what a magical girl she is ❤

We are officially bursting with love -
blessed and obsessed PARENTS!!!!

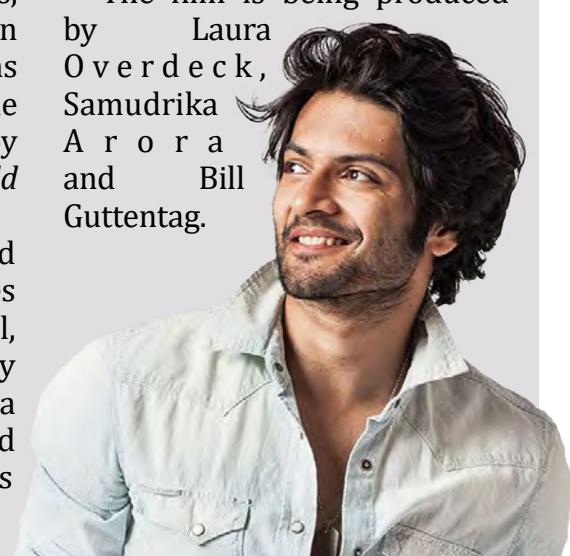
love love love
Alia and Ranbir 🌸

Bollywood couple Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are now parents to a baby girl. The duo welcomed their first child on November 6. Alia announced on Instagram that the couple have welcomed

a baby girl with an adorable post featuring the sketch of a cute lion family.

Soon after the news of Alia's birth became public, heartfelt wishes began to pour in from her fans and industry colleagues.

The film is being produced by Laura Overdeck, Samudrika Aurora and Bill Guttentag.



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PUBLISHED BY

Federation of Indian Associations
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Voluntary Content
Chandrakant Trivedi
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Voluntary Design & Graphics
Gracia Marcom

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