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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 71



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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24 Years Feels Like 24 Hours: Roger Federer



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Ogilvy Appoints Devika Bulchandani its Global CEO

NEW JERSEY HINDU AMERICANS CONDEMN, DEMAND RESCISSION OF HATEFUL RESOLUTION BY TEANECK DEMOCRATS

TEANECK, NJ

September 26, 2022

Over fifty-five Hindu American organizations, representing more than 155,000 residents of Bergen County, NJ and surrounding areas, signed a coalition letter condemning a hateful resolution recently passed by the Teaneck Democratic Municipal Committee (TDMC). The resolution recklessly and falsely labels almost every major Hindu American organization in the United States, including Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, Sewa International, and others,

provocative act by Democratic Party activists in Teaneck to demonize the entire Hindu community, their activities, their beliefs, and their political participation in New Jersey. The Hindu American community, considered by many to be a model minority community, has recently experienced numerous instances of hate crimes, including against many Hindu temples in the New Jersey area.

"Just like the 'Dot-Busters' gangs in New Jersey in the late 80s that violently targeted Hindu Americans because of their religious beliefs or skin color, the TDMC chose to also make baseless assumptions and operate from a position

is 'fascist' Hindu," he said.

Civic leaders and officials from the surrounding areas also expressed their support for the Hindu American community while condemning this Hindu hate campaign initiated by the TDMC. New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal, in a strongly worded statement of support for the Hindu American community condemned the resolution and called for its immediate rescission. In his statement, he said, "It is unfortunate that this committee that purports to support the ideals of the Democratic Party would act in a manner that illustrates the type of bigotry and hatred that we are working hard as a country to eradicate

was felt by some to condemn all Hindus, which encompasses many peaceful members of our larger community here in Bergen County and beyond." They added, "Just as we did on the day we were sworn in, we proclaim: Hate has no home in Teaneck."

In the recent Teaneck City Council meeting, Hindu American community members called for an investigation into the individuals and organizations that may have incited the TDMC to pass this defamatory and hateful resolution. The coalition letter stated, "We understand that the TDMC may simply be a pawn in a much larger agenda to malign and denigrate the Hindu American community, but we



Charitable donations and community service by the Hindu American community.

as a fascist organization which promotes hate and terrorism without providing any of those organizations the opportunity to be heard. The resolution has outraged Hindu Americans who see this as a vicious, false, and

of ignorance and hate," said S. Rawal, a New Jersey resident. Rawal was 7-years-old when the 'Dot Busters' announced their campaign in 1987 to eradicate Hindus from New Jersey. "Back then, it was 'dirty' Hindu, today it

from our society." Teaneck City Council Members Keith Kaplan and Michael Santiago Pagan also issued a strong statement in response to the resolution in which they said, "Unfortunately, the TDMC resolution at issue,

wish to impress upon the TDMC that there are real consequences when one makes misplaced, false, and malicious allegations about a law-abiding and peaceful community."

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Interestingly, Alexandra Soriano-Taveras, the TDMC Chairman who signed off on the hateful resolution, is no stranger to stirring up ethnic and religious animosity. Last year, while campaigning for the open State Assembly seat in the 37th district, she was seen suggesting a boycott of Jewish businesses in Teaneck.

The TDMC resolution should be considered in the context of the extensive community

service rendered by the Hindu American community through various organizations; service that has been recognized by government officials at every level. In a recent Congressional Statement, US Congressman Gerald Connolly stated, "Without regard for race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, Sewa International USA has done tremendous work to ameliorate the effects of some of the world's greatest disasters." Hindu American organizations, some of which were demonized by the

TDMC resolution, collectively donated over 30 million pounds of food and over \$50 million dollars' worth of food, supplies, and other essential services during the pandemic to help the elderly or lower-income communities hit hard by the COVID lockdowns. "Our volunteers strive to serve humanity considering that as serving divinity. It is surprising that the TDMC is trying to demonize those that do good in the world with this bigoted and evil resolution that simply promotes Hindu hate. We hope

that during this festival season that sanity prevails, and they rescind this awful resolution," said Rashmita Shanbhag, North Jersey Chapter Coordinator for Sewa International USA.

The letter urged the TDMC to do the right thing by immediately rescinding their hate-filled resolution and apologizing for hurting the sentiments of the Hindu American community and for endangering the security, well-being, and safety of Hindus in New Jersey.

American Hindu Community Stands Together Against The New Jersey's Hateful Resolution

We condemn the recent resolution--dated September 12, 2022--that was recklessly passed by the Teaneck Democratic Municipal Committee (TDMC) of Teaneck, NJ. This resolution wrongly condemns almost every major Hindu American organization in the United States as an organization which promotes hate and terrorism, and it was passed without even providing any of the mentioned Hindu American organizations the opportunity to be heard. As a minority community in the United States that has recently experienced many instances of hate crimes, including against many of our temples in the New Jersey, we take great offense to this hate-filled resolution. We call for the TDMC to rescind this offensive resolution immediately, says the joint press release by Hindu American community.

We believe that the defamatory allegations made in this resolution demonize the entire Hindu American community and Hindu American organizations, and promote further hatred and violence against a minority community in the United States. The resolution falsely labels Hindu American organizations as "Hindu Nationalist Organizations". This

resolution attempts to deny Hindu Americans their right to peacefully protest the hate-filled agenda of the "Dismantling Global Hindutva" conference, in which various speakers openly called for an end to Hinduism, claimed that Hinduism is a danger to democracy, equality, and brotherhood, and singled out Hindu last names (including the last names of many New Jersey residents), labeling them as purveyors of violence and bigotry. This resolution further attempts to strip Hindu Americans of their right to participate in the established political process of this country, including objecting to bills that the community believes are ill-advised, fallacious, or malicious in nature. These are rights afforded to all Americans, including Hindu Americans. This resolution reflects poorly against the long-cherished values of American society, including the importance of liberty, equality, justice and diversity.

We are appalled at the demonization of organizations that have diligently served the elderly, the lower-income families, and the most vulnerable sections of the population without regard to race, religion, nationality, or gender throughout the COVID pandemic in cities across the United States and the world. These Hindu American

organizations collectively donated over 30 million pounds of food and over \$50 million dollar's worth of goods and services during the pandemic to help the elderly or individuals in lower-income communities hit hard by the COVID lockdowns. They served those in need across the United States as well as many other countries around the world, including India, Pakistan, South Africa, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and others without discrimination. Over 5,000 volunteers from these organizations collectively served almost one million individuals of all races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities in big cities and small towns across the United States through weekly food and medical drives distributing food, grocery, hot meals, hygiene kits, and many other essential supplies. At the start of the COVID pandemic, these organizations distributed almost one million N95, KN95, and surgical masks to essential workers in hospitals, schools, and offices in cities across the country. Volunteers from these organizations made more than 100,000 masks by hand for distribution to those who were not able to acquire them elsewhere.

In a time where there is an increased awareness of the need for diversity, inclusion, and mutual

respect, it is ever more important to call out false narratives, bigotry, and hatred as we see it. We have witnessed many instances of violence against Hindus, Hindu temples, and Hindu icons. Here are further details on the growing hate against Hindus in America.

Anti-Hindu attacks grow, from Taco Bell tirade to Gandhi statue toppling - The Washington Post Rutgers Report Finds Increase in Anti-Hindu Disinformation : Rutgers University.

We understand that the TDMC may simply be a pawn in a much larger agenda to malign and denigrate the Hindu American community, but we wish to impress upon the TDMC that there are real consequences when one makes misplaced, false, and malicious allegations about a law-abiding and peaceful community. We, therefore, hope, that the TDMC will do the right thing by immediately rescinding this hate-filled resolution and apologizing for hurting the sentiments of the Hindu American community.

The American Indian Association, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA, Federations of Indian Associations in NY-NJ-CT-MA, ISKCON NJ, and the American Indian Public Affairs Committee are just a handful of the 57 organizations supporting this condemnation.



Shraddhanjali



Late Shree
BIREN PATEL

March 25, 1938 - Sep 19, 2022

FIA Mourns the loss of Mr. Biren Patel
A long time member of FIA

Om Shanti



Indian-American Community Commemorates 9/11 At Times Square

On September 11, Times Square, New York — Indian American organizations, in association with the Federation of Indian Associations(FIA) of NY-NJ-CT-NE, held a non-religious, non-political gathering to lodge a community protest against the recent series of hate-crime episodes. Community representatives also expressed concern over the recent and multiple brazen attacks on Mahatma Gandhi's statue in New York City and other US cities. A

moment of silence and prayers were held to pay tribute to the victims and to the heroes, who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us all safe.

Present at the occasion were Hon. Consul General of India in NY Randhir Jaiswal, Hon. Deputy Consul General in NY Dr. Varun Jeph, Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari, FIA President Kenny Desai, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya and Chairman of Bihar Foundation of North America Alok Kumar amongst others.

Jaiswal paid his tribute to the victims of 9/11. He also

emphasized the need to renew our commitment and resolve to be vigilant against hate crimes and terrorism and to embrace peace-filled harmony and non-violence, fondly known as the Father of the Nation in India

Prem Bhandari said that there is a lot to learn from the values that Mahatma Gandhi embodies and strongly condemned the recent incidents of vandalism where the statue of the great global leader was desecrated and destroyed. He demanded strict action by the government to punish those responsible.

FIA President Kenny Desai said that there is nothing better than a peaceful march to convey our protest and bring the issue to the attention of concerned authorities as they continue to look the other way and take no major steps to address the issue.

FIA Chairman Vaidya said that as we remember and honor those who lost their lives on this day; we should work peacefully with a committed resolve to abolish extremism and hate-crime.

Prayers and hymns were offered during the solemn affair.



Consul General of India in NY Hon. Randhir Jaiswal addressing the gathering



Indian-Americans commemorating 9/11 victims and protesting crimes against community



FIA Members, at the 9/11 commemoration at the Times Square with India's Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph

FIA Felicitated for Grand Celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



DCG in New York Dr. Varun Jeph felicitated with flower bouquets



FIA committee members felicitated with flower bouquets



Consul General of India in New York Hon. Randhir Jaiswal inaugurated the Jaipur foot camp



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New York, September 13, 2022 — A felicitation event was held in New York in recognition of the Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE celebrations of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* - marking 75 years of Indian Independence.

At the occasion Consul General of India in New York Hon. Randhir Jaiswal inaugurated the Jaipur foot camp, which will be held in the 1st week of January 2023 in the 2 states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The camp will provide more than a thousand free of cost artificial foot limbs to the needy.

Present at the occasion were FIA Convenor Prem Bhandari who is also the Chairman of Jaipur foot. He felicitated and congratulated the FIA's leadership for rising up to the call of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the 75th anniversary of

Indian Independence globally.

FIA held grand and historic events to mark the occasion. The Indian Diaspora were made proud as the Indian National Flag was hoisted at Times Square, New York City and the Iconic Empire State Building was lit up in the Tricolors on 15th August – the day of Indian Independence. Same day thousands watched the aerial display of the 220-ft Khadi Indian Tricolor over the Hudson River. The Chief Guests at all the three occasions were Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, more popularly known as DSP, and famous singer and music director Shankar Mahadevan.

On 21 August FIA successfully registered 2 Guinness World Records for the largest number of different flags flown simultaneously and the largest ensemble of *Damaru* - ancient musical instruments. The famous singer Kailash Kher was the lead conductor for the second attempt. FIA dedicated the record to the



global community.

The India Day Parade on 21 August witnessed a massive turnout of over 200 hundred thousand as the Grand Marshal – Pan India Superstar Allu Arjun led the parade with Chief Guests – Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbados, Mayor of New York City Eric Adams and Guru Prakash Rana of Jaipur foot, who is currently in USA, also graced the event with his presence.

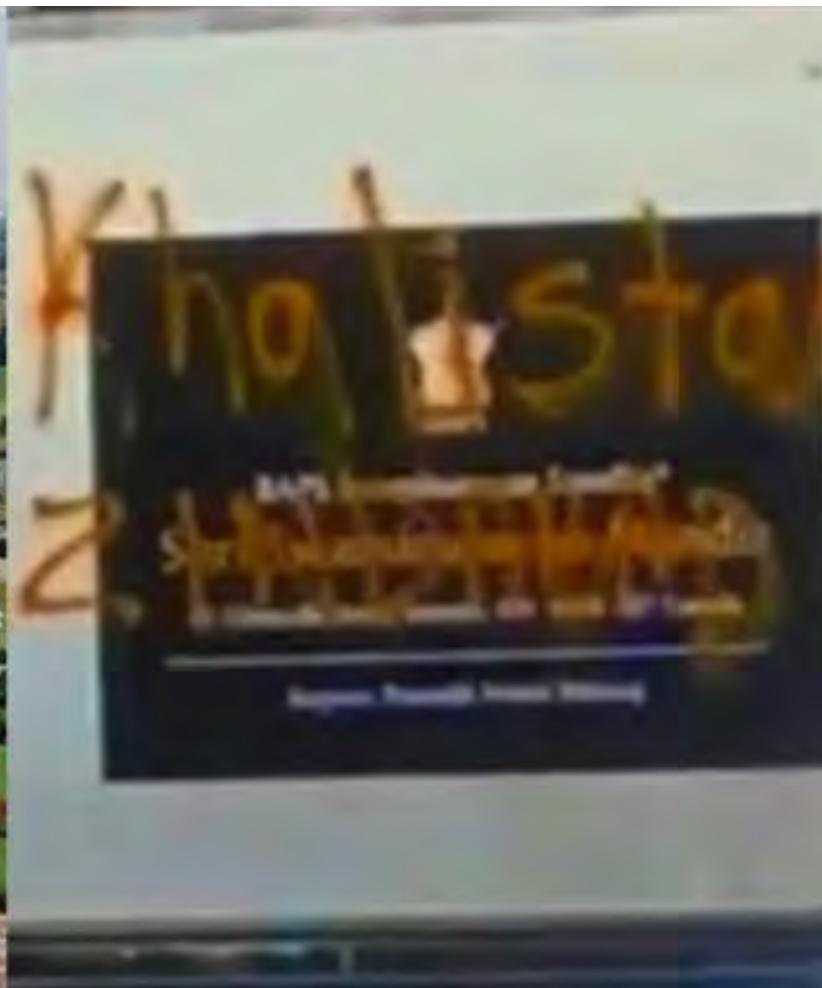
FIA's Chairman Ankur Vaidya, President Kenny Desai, Immediate Past President Anil Bansal and Past President Alok Kumar were felicitated by Prem Bhandari with flower bouquets.

FIA Strongly Condemns the Defacing of Hindu Temple in Canada with Anti-India Graffiti

India has strongly condemned the defacing of *BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir* in Canada and has called for strict action against the perpetrators. The Indian mission has condemned the incident and called for a probe into the matter.

The Indian High Commission on Wednesday tweeted, "We strongly condemn the defacing of BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir Toronto with anti-India graffiti. Have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpetrators."

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya said that the recent spurt in such targeted vandalism in recent times, both in the US and Canada, suggests that anti-Indian forces are at work and the miscreants responsible for these acts should be brought to task. Exemplary punishments should be meted out to deter such acts in the future.



US Capitol Celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Members of multiple Indian American organizations gathered at the US Capitol on Wednesday, 14 September night to celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" -- 75th anniversary of India's Independence. Indian Prime Minister Honorable Narendra Modi blessed the historic gathering of the Indian-Americans, who had gathered from across the country, with his personal message.

"Members of our diaspora have always been admirable ambassadors for our nation. They have spread the fragrance of Indian values by living them - respecting all cultures, mingling seamlessly and enriching societies with their unique contributions," PM Modi said in his message.

As many as 75 Indian American organizations have come together to observe the historic milestone of India's journey after 1947. Prominent among these organizations include US India Relationship Council, Sewa International, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, GOPIO Silicon Valley, US-India Friendship Council, and Sardar Patel Fund for Sanatan Sanskruti.

The theme for Wednesday's celebration was "Stronger Together: US-India Partnership."

"In both, India and America, the dreams of freedom and dignity could have been crushed. But today because of the efforts of those who fought for freedom, the dream of America, and the dream of India is alive. It remains alive in our shared work as President

Joe Biden said to continue to promote freedom and dignity and it remains alive, I believe in every one of you," Raj Punjabi (Senior Director for Global Health Security and Biodefense on the US National Security Council) said.

Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, India's Minister of Health, Family Welfare, Chemical and Fertilizers in his live web address congratulated Indian Americans to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* at the US Capitol. Indian-Americans, he said, have played a great role in India US relationship.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Biden the bilateral relationship has touched new heights, Mandaviya said. "US has been a key partner in India's growth story," he said.

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said that the India US relationship is as old as India's Independence. "I want to tell you that this is a time we are celebrating 75 years of establishment of our diplomatic relations between independent India and the United States of America," he said. "It's also indeed a special occasion for me to be celebrating this at the US Capitol. Congress has played a special role in cementing this fantastic relationship, which we are celebrating today. I have seen this for the last 25 years," he said.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, one of the four Indian-Americans in the US Congress, in his address said India's greatest export is Indian-Americans. "We know all about India from where it started to

where it is now. We know it is the fastest growing major economy in the world. It's one of the largest economies in the world. We know about its great technological developments, great agriculture and inventions. We know about so much progress but let me tell you about its greatest export. Its greatest export is none other than you, Indian-Americans," he said.

"I serve on the Armed Services Committee and really understand how important that relationship is between the United States and India," said Congresswoman Elaine Goodman Luria. She represents Virginia's 2nd Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

"A lot of Indian-Americans are actually representing in California and I'm very, very proud of that. We are working together," said Congresswoman Michelle Steel from the 48th Congressional District of California. China is a great threat to the world, she asserted.

"The only thing we really have to know is that China is a big threat ... because China and India, a great relationship started building with China. (But) very selfishly, they want to spread out and expand the whole world. They're not going to be happy until the takeover," Rep Steel said. So, this is a time to strengthen the India US relationship. This relationship is more important than ever, she said. "That's why I work with the Indian-American community in my district," she said, noting that she is a member of the Indian-American Caucus.

"We are allies and we need to remain allies and work together

because there are countries out there that don't want to see you succeed," said Congressman Buddy Carter from Georgia.

"I am a strong supporter of India and Indo-US relationship," Congressman Brad Sherman said, adding that India is a central anchor to America's Indo-Pacific strategy. He supported CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) waiver for India. India needs to have all options available for its defense in view of the threat being posed by China, Sherman said.

Dr. Jashvant Patel, President of Sardar Patel Fund for Sanatan Sanskruti, President and CEO of the US Indian Relationship Council, and Chairman of the Organizing Committee welcomed the guests. "As a community, we are proud of the significant strides we have made in the past 75 years. This includes everything from the announcements in healthcare technology, human rights, sustainability, environmental health and global warming," he said. Several eminent Indian-Americans graced the occasion -- including Dr Bharat Barai, Harish Thakkar, Narasimha Koppula, and Rakhi Israni. Shri Sajjan Agarwal, CEO Green Hawk corporation commended the efforts of organizers to hold this momentous event.

Ajay Jain Bhutoria, member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders said India US relationship has been deepening in several past years.

The event was marked by spiritual chanting by ISKCON and Siddhivinayak Temple and cultural extravaganza with performances from, Pandit Sandeep Mahavir, Swaradhisht Dr. Bharat Mohan Balvalli, Playback singer and Indian Idol fame Bhavya Pandit, Kriti Yogesh Sharma, Anugraha Sridhar and Kalavant Group headed by Ustad Kadar Khan.



Pramila Jayapal Receives Threat Messages

Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has been receiving abusive and hate messages over the phone from a male caller, who even asked her to go back to India.

Jayapal posted a collection of five such audio messages on Twitter. In all the messages, portions of which have been redacted because of obscene and abusive content, the male caller is heard threatening her with dire consequences and in one instance she is being asked to go back to her country of origin,

India.

"Typically, political figures don't show their vulnerability. I chose to do so here because we cannot accept violence as our new norm. We also cannot accept the racism and sexism that underlies and propels so much of this violence," wrote Jayapal while posting the clips.

A few months ago, a man with a pistol showed up outside the Congresswoman's house in Seattle. The man, identified by police as Brett Forsell, 49, was later arrested.



GIIP to Commemorate Mahatma Gandhi Day as International Day of Nonviolence

The Gandhi International Institute for Peace (GIIP) will host a virtual program to commemorate the 153rd birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on Sunday, October 2, 2022. The program will be presented as a free webinar, broadcast from Hawaii on that day from 2 pm to 4 pm HST, and shared around the world.

Mahatma Gandhi, born in 1869, led India to its independence from British colonial rule by employing non-violent civil disobedience, inspiring subsequent movements for civil rights and the cause around the world.

For his work, he was given the name "Mahatma", which is Sanskrit for "great-soul" and "venerable". He is considered the "Father of the Nation" in India, where his birthday is a national holiday. The gentle grandfather of non-violent protest, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January, 1948 and the entire world wept.

This webinar will feature a spiritual invocation, music and dance. There will also be brief addresses by a variety of international and Hawaii based advocates of non-violent solutions to conflict, including the socio-political peace activists and the keynote speakers Tushar Gandhi, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Diane Jampolsky. Other speakers include Maya Soetoro-Ng from Hawaii, Dr. Suhas

Kshirsagar from California, Dr. David Frawley from New Mexico, Dr. Sundar Arora from Canada, Professor Veena Howard from Fresno, Judith Jenya from Mexico, Prasad Thotakura from North Texas and Kumu Gupta from Massachusetts. Prayers for world peace will be performed by interfaith leaders of Hawaii. Indian dance will be performed by Willow Chang from Bollywood Hawaii and peace music will be presented by Nimo Patel from Empty Hands Music.

GIIPS founder Dr. Raj will do the opening remarks and Harendra Panalal will do the closing remarks in the program.

To sign up and watch this free program, visit:

<http://www.gandhiday.com>

This event is part of the continuing efforts of the Hawaii-born *the Gandhi International Institute for Peace* GIIP to further the cause of peace and non-violence. It arose in response to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Ever since, its members

have been raising awareness about peace and nonviolence, hosting Arun Gandhi in 2011, who continues his grandfather's work as an advocate for world peace, and initiating the process that led to Hawaii Senate Bill, SB 332 establishing October 2 as "Mahatma Gandhi Day in Hawaii in 2015. GIIP will be celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's birthday for the 17th consecutive year through this event. It has also supported the publication of two books: *Gandhi's Wisdom for You*, published by GIIP in 2015 and also *Children as Teachers of Peace and Aloha* in 2018. Its most recent activity was hosting India's Ambassador to United States His Excellency, Taranjit Singh Sandhu and his naval escort, who draped leis at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Waikiki in July 2022.

The GIIP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Hawaii. To learn more about GIIP and how to best support the organization's work or to make a donation visit:

<http://www.gandhianpeace.org>



Web Workshop and
World Prayer

17th Annual Mahatma Gandhi Day & International Day of Non-Violence

Peace Now More
Than Ever

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Gandhi's Great-Grandson
Tushar Gandhi
Founder, Mahatma Gandhi Foundation



**Dr. Diane Cirincione
-Jampolsky**

Director of Attitudinal Healing International

SUNDAY October 2, 2022

2-4pm (HST), 5-7pm (PDT), 8-10pm (EDT)

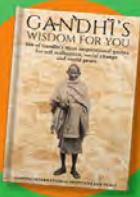
Event includes:

Celebration and Web Workshop,
with Interfaith World Prayer to follow.

Register FREE at www.GandhiDay.com

FREE eBook

for all who register for this event



Gandhi's
Wisdom
For You
101 quotes from
Mahatma Gandhi

For more information:
go to www.gandhianpeace.org

Presented by:

Gandhi International Institute for Peace

GIIP is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are welcome.

**Learn from the Masters of Peace
World Prayer to follow**

Tentative Schedule

Dr. Maya Soetoro from Hawaii

Judith Jenya, Esq. from Mexico

Dr. Sunder S. Arora from Canada

Dr. Suhas Kshirsagar from San Jose

Dr. Veena Howard from Fresno

Dr. David Frawley from New Mexico

Prasad Thotakura of North Texas

Kumu Gupta from Massachusetts

Interfaith World Prayer to follow



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

24 Years Feels Like 24 Hours: Roger Federer

Tennis legend Roger Federer, the first men's player to win 20 Grand Slam titles, has announced his decision to retire from the sport after Laver Cup 2022.

Federer won his first grand slam in the year 2003 when he won the Wimbledon title. He has since gone on to win 6 Australian Open, 1 French Open, 8 Wimbledon and 5 US Open titles.



Photo: cbssports

Indian Wins Global Robotic Surgery Innovation Award

Bengaluru-based Dr. Sandeep Nayak was among the three surgeons from the US, India and Spain who won top honors in the 'KS International Robotic Surgery Innovation Competition' by Michigan-based Robotic Surgery evangelist Vattikuti Foundation.

The three winners were chosen from 100 global entries from the specialities of Urology, Gynaecology, General Surgery, Hepato-biliary-pancreatic Surgery, Colorectal, Head & Neck, Paediatric, Cardiothoracic, and Joint Replacement Surgeries.

For 'Robotic Infraclavicular Approach for Minimally Invasive Neck Dissection' the award went to Dr. Nayak, Director, Surgical Oncology, Fortis Cancer Institute here.

"Dr. Nayak innovated a robotic technique to perform very major cancer surgery of the head and neck to clear the lymph nodes in the neck with quick patient recovery and minimal discomfort," the Foundation said in a statement.



US President Joe Biden Hosts The United We Stand Summit at White House

On September 15, President Joe Biden hosted the *United We Stand Summit* at the White House to counter the destructive effects of hate-fueled violence on the US democracy and public safety, mobilize diverse sectors of society and communities across the country to these dangers, and put forward a shared, inclusive, bipartisan vision for a more united America.

Vice President Kamala Harris opened the summit with remarks on the federal government's ongoing actions to address hate crimes nationwide.

"In 2020, hate crimes in the United States surged to the highest rate in over a decade," the vice president said "As you have heard — as a former prosecutor, as a former United States senator, and now as the Vice President of the United States, I know the horror and the pain these attacks cause."

The summit gathered experts and survivors and included bipartisan local leaders. It also honored communities that have been through hate-based attacks, including the mass shootings that took place at gay nightclub in Orlando in 2016; at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in 2019, where the assailant said he was targeting Mexicans; and the expressly racist shooting that killed 10 Black people in a Buffalo, NY, supermarket earlier this year.

"We need to say clearly and forcefully, white supremacy, all forms of hate... have no place in America," President Biden said. "As to those who say, we bring this up, we just divide the country — bring it up, we silence it, instead of remaining silenced. For in silence, wounds deepen."

The president added that too much oxygen has been given to hate in politics, media and online.

"It's about power and profit. Too much hate that's extremist violence has been allowed to fester and grow," he said, noting that intelligence agencies have determined that white supremacist violence is the greatest domestic terrorist threat today.



Photo: upi

India at United National General Assembly

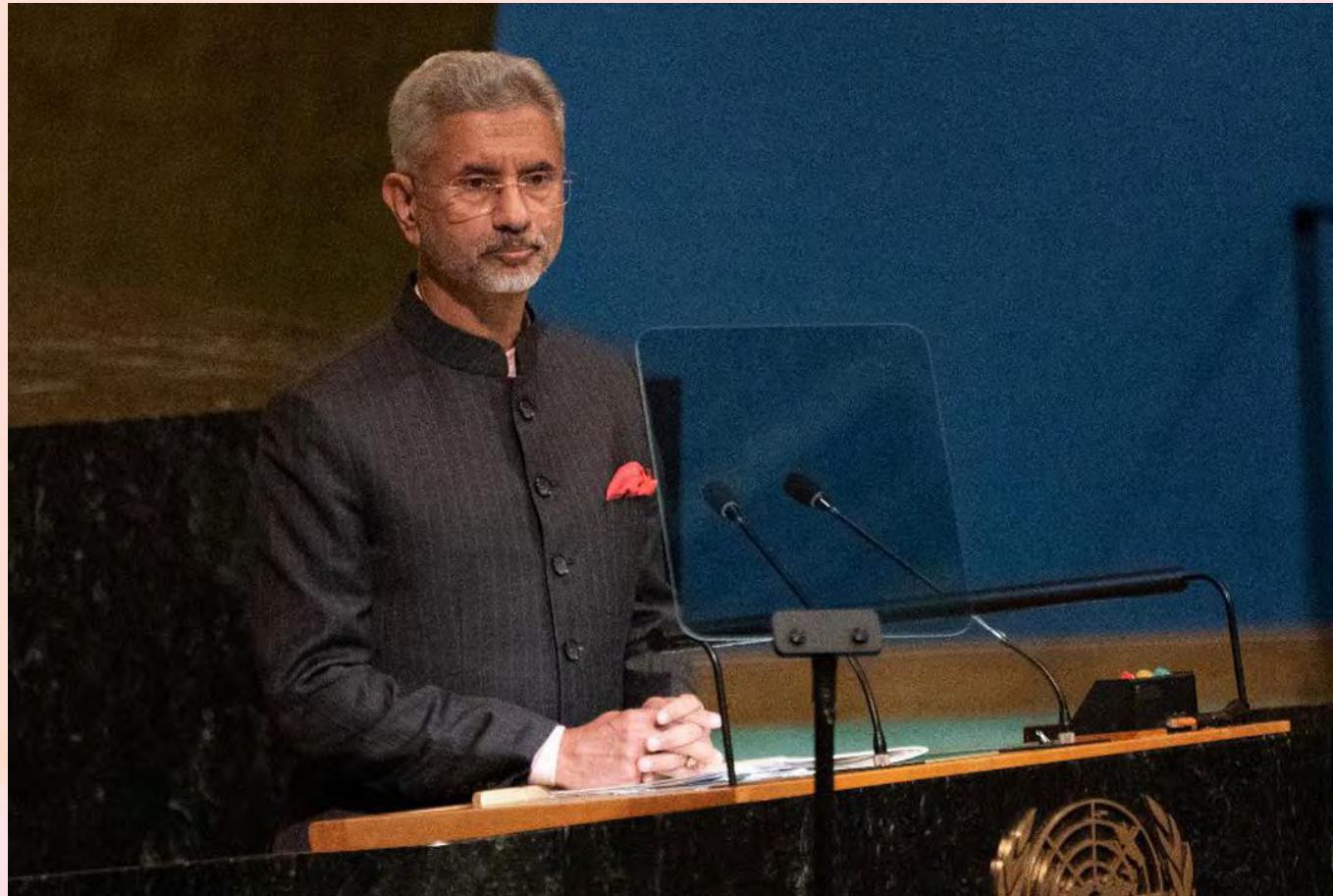
India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar on Saturday, September 24, addressed the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and batted for reforms, especially at the high table of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

"The call for reformed multilateralism — with reforms of the Security Council at its core — enjoys considerable support among UN members," said Jaishankar.

The Indian external affairs minister did not mince words and stated that the current setup of the UN was anachronistic and ineffective and hence needed urgent reforms.

He also reminded the assembly of New Delhi's capabilities by stating, "India would be completing its tenure as a member of the Security Council this year. In our term, we have acted as a bridge on some serious but divisive issues confronting the Council."

He mentioned during his speech that as the Ukraine conflict continues to rage, India is on the side of peace and will remain firmly there and on the side that respects the UN Charter and its founding principles. It is in our collective interest to work constructively, both within the United Nations and outside, in finding an early resolution to this conflict, he added.



S. Jaishankar Takes Dig on American Media for 'Biased' India Coverage

The External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar, on Sunday, September 25 took on the mainstream American media, including *The Washington Post*, for their "biased" coverage of India.

"I look at the media. You know, there are some newspapers you know, exactly, what they are going to write including one in this town," Jaishankar told a gathering of Indian-Americans from across the country amidst.

"My point is there are biases, there are efforts really, to determine, Look the more India goes its way and the people who believe that they were the custodians and the shapers of India lose ground in India the more actually, some of these debaters gonna come outside," Jaishankar said responding to a question on the increase in anti-Indian forces in this country.

Such groups, he asserted, are "not winning in India." Such groups, the minister noted, will try and win outside or try and shape India from outside.

Responding to a question on misrepresentation of the Kashmir issue in the American capital, the external affairs minister said if there is a terrorist incident, it doesn't matter what faith the person who's killed belongs to; if there are Indian soldiers or Indian policemen who are abducted; If there are people working for the government, or citizens going about their business, who will lose their lives.

"How often do you hear people talking about it; pronouncing it, in fact, look at the media coverage. What does the media cover? What does the media not cover? That is how opinions and perceptions are shaped," he said.

NEWSMAKERS

Rohan Chander Wins the Gaudeamus Award 2022

Rohan Chander won the Gaudeamus Award 2022. The young composer-performer received the prestigious incentive prize for young music pioneers on Sunday, 11 Septem-

ber during the final night of Gaudeamus Festival 2022 in TivoliVredenburg in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

In the words of the jury: "Rohan Chander is an electronic artist

and world-builder who demonstrates the ability to synthesize various and disparate elements into a clear, considered and identity-driven work."



Photo: gaudeamus

Devika Bulchandani Appointed Global CEO of Ogilvy

Internationally acclaimed branding company Ogilvy announced September 7, 2022, that Devika Bulchandani has been appointed Global Chief Executive Officer.

In her newly appointed role, she will be responsible for

all aspects of the creative network's business across 131 offices in 93 countries and spanning its Advertising, Public Relations, Experience, Consulting, and Health units.



Dr. Ami Patel becomes the Associate Medical Director-Inpatient Oncology (Chemotherapy Stewardship) at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham & Women's Hospital.



Indian-American Shefali Razdan Duggal Appointed as US Envoy to The Netherlands

US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-origin women's rights advocate and human rights campaigner

Shefali Razdan Duggal as his envoy to The Netherlands. A former Presidential appointee to the United States

Holocaust Memorial Museum, Duggal currently serves as a Western Regional Advisor.

Community News

Ram Lila Held at Plainsboro in New Jersey

The annual Master ji's Ram Lila was held at Plainsboro, New Jersey on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

Hundreds turned out to see the play based on the epic *Ramayana*. It was produced and directed by Laxmi Kant, who started the production way back in 1960 in Bathinda, Punjab. Laxmi Kant has still maintained the tradition of holding it annually.

The chief guests were Plainsboro Mayor Hon. Peter Cantu, and as a special guest, Arun Govil, the celebrated actor who portrayed the character of Sri Rama in the *Ramayana* series in the nineties, who attended over zoom.

Speaking at the occasion, Cantu said that he is honored to be there and it is the beauty of the multicultural city of Plainsboro that the diverse community comes together at such events.



The Jain Samaj of the USA Celebrated Paryushan Mahaparva at Digambar Jain Temple in West New York, NJ



Governor Hochul Announces Free Fall Foliage Shuttle to the Adirondacks Starting This Weekend

Governor Kathy Hochul announced a new, free shuttle service for visitors traveling to see the fall foliage in the Adirondacks starting this weekend in North Hudson. Shuttles will run the first two weekends in October from the Frontier Town Gateway to the Giant Mountain, Roaring Brook Falls, and Rooster Comb trailheads, as well as the Marcy Field Parking Area.

"The most beautiful fall foliage in the world is right here in our state, and New Yorkers deserve to take in the scenery in a safe and convenient way," Governor Hochul said. "To ensure the safety of residents and visitors in the Adirondacks, New York and our many local partners are launching a new October shuttle that will help prevent congestion along crowded corridors in the High Peaks and continue to provide a quality outdoor experience this foliage season."

The free shuttle system operates from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and holidays through Monday, October 10. Users can park at Marcy Field and ride to the Rooster Comb, Giant Mountain/Ridge Trail, and Roaring Brook Falls trailheads. Parking is still available at the trailheads themselves.

Masks are recommended. Stewards will be stationed at Marcy Field to assist with navigating the shuttle system and to educate hikers on responsible recreation, including preparedness, hiking safety, and Leave No Trace™ principles. Pets are not permitted.



Religious Events

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AARTI TIMES

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

Everyday Online Session by Mandir Priests

5:00 PM To 7:00 PM

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN LIVE SESSION via ZOOM](#)

Upcoming Events

1 Oct - MATA KI CHOWKI- 3:00 PM onwards

3 Oct - DURGA ASHTAMI HAVAN & KANYA POOJAN- 4:30 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

[Click Here to Join on Zoom](#)

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

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CHUP

(2022/ Crime Thriller/ Cinema Release)

THIS THRILLER HAS A “KILLER” MESSAGE

Director R Balki

Cast Dulquer Salmaan, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Sunny Deol, Pooja Bhatt

Photo: indiatvnews

Plot

In a spate of ghastly murders, film critics are being killed in a macabre manner.

The serial killer out there not only has a grouse but a message too.

The film opens with a murder and then introduces us to the three protagonists.

An investigator (Sunny, who looks great in the grim avatar)

A florist always talking to himself (Dulquer, who looks absolutely hot)

An entertainment journalist who is passionate about cinema and aims to be a critic someday (Shreya, who looks absolutely charming)

Trust Balki to always come up with unique story lines. As someone who always tries to write honest reviews while holding a soft corner for the makers’ perspective (with exceptions though), the theme comes as close to the heart as

possible.

The most impressive aspect about Chup is its central premise, almost like a parody on the critic-film industry bond. Both need each other but have a complex relationship. The way the concept has been woven into a thriller is what the film deserves accolades for.

Some of the pearls in the film about trade analysis, box office numbers, good critiquing and its relevance to cinema, touch a chord. They really resonated with me.

Fair enough if one does not like a film but to bash it with heartless words just so that the review stands out is something I have found difficult and unethical.

As far as the thriller track goes, there is an intrigue factor that remains throughout and is especially high in the first half. Be prepared that the killings are a tad grotesque.

The suspense builds around the murderer does not amount to much. There are enough hints so no need to pat your back if you get it right. But they do have means to hook you right till the end.

The tribute to Guru Dutt Ji and Kagaz ke Phool is really touching. Its melodious timeless track adorns the entire film beautifully.

Dulquer looks superb and blends into his complex role effortlessly. Have seen him in two more films before this and I must conclude that this man, the way he wears his characters, has a hot charm about him.

Shreya Dhanwanthary looks gorgeous and gives a natural charm to her character.

Loved **Sunny Deol** in the grim and subdued performance.

The film is not without flaws though. There are parts that seem slow but that was a build-up, I guess. The investigative part

could have been better. There are loopholes and tropes not expected from a Balki film. The climax was not very impressive either.

But the film is worth its salt and worth a watch.

Entertainment with good performances and a solid message.

For the audience, to try and view the film from a maker’s perspective.

For filmmakers, to have confidence in their work and take criticism in the right perspective.

And most importantly for the “critics”, to be fair and honest about good and bad films, and especially to be mindful of their words. They should see their outreach as a responsibility rather than an advantage.

**Score 3 on 5
(plus .5 for its message)**



Photo: Chup trailer

DEATH ON THE NILE

(Mystery / 2022 / Disney Hotstar)

"EXOTIC SETTING, PERIOD ERA AND THE CAST ADD CHARM TO THIS CLASSIC WHODUNIT"

Director Kenneth Branagh

Cast Kenneth Branagh, Gal Gadot, Armie Hammer, Tom Bateman, Letitia Wright, Emma Mackay, Sophie Okonedo, Ali Fazal

Based On Agatha Christie's novel by the same name

A wedding party and a honeymoon cruise have dynamics as tense as a bomb about to explode.

That the newlyweds have trampled upon someone's heart and faith seems to be at the centre of it all. That the bride is a filthy rich heiress probably adds to her fears and insecurity.

The initial part of the film provides ample time for guesswork as to who will die. The last part is left to Hercule Poirot's superlative prowess to find the culprit.

For someone who loves watching period era, who is a hardcore mystery fan and who loves films with exotic setting, this film was a virtual treat. Add to it that I have been an avid Agatha Christie fan in my childhood.

Though the peculiar traits of Hercule Poirot and his idiosyncrasies are somewhat faded in my memory owing to decades of gap when I read them last, I loved refreshing them up. That the memories

faded helped me in a way because there was no clash or disappointment with Branagh's Poirot. In fact, I liked the softer side to his persona.

Actor-Director Branagh takes some time building up the premise and dynamics before the actual action starts taking place. But I personally did not mind that even a bit, so lost I was in the locations and setting. The wonderful cast and the small peeps given into the characters keep you occupied. While the dynamics are being portrayed, that gives you an opportunity to play Poirot in your mind. Lucky would be those Christie fans who do not remember this particular novel by now. The suspense would add to the pleasure.

Absolutely loved Sophie Okonedo for the oomph she oozes. Gal Gadot looked amazing and so did Emma Mackay. Armie Hammer did not look as dashing as I saw him last in *Rebecca*. Liked Tom Bateman a lot, though this character was so different from

how I saw him last in "Behind the Eyes". Ali Fazal holds fort in his little role, and I was impressed with his accent. The entire cast was a pleasure to watch.

Contrary to some reviews, I actually liked the build-up. The uncertainty and the intrigue keep you totally engaged. In fact, what I found slightly disappointing was the resolution of the case. There

was something about the third act that made it seem hurried.

As a comparison, *Murder on The Orient Express*, Branagh's first one of a planned three on Agatha Christie's mysteries, was superior to this one.

But nevertheless, it was thoroughly a pleasurable watch. Well... actually, Egypt and the Cruise could have had a role in it.



Photo: Death On The Nile trailer

Emmy Awards 2022: The White Lotus Bags 10 Trophies

The 74th Emmy Awards night saw some of the biggest and most-loved shows compete for TV's most prestigious awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on 12 September, Monday night. While *Succession* took home the 'Best Drama' award, the night saw some records being broken.

The Emmy is considered one of the four major American awards for performing arts and entertainment – EGOT (Grammy – for music, Oscar – for films,

Tony – for stage theatre).

While *The White Lotus* won the most awards at Emmy Awards 2022 – 10, Zendaya-led *Euphoria* & South Korean hit drama *Squid Game* tied for second place with 6 wins each.

Squid Game star Lee Jung-Jae made history as he became the first-ever Asian actor to win the Emmy

Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series. Zendaya also made history as the first black woman to win the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series category twice for her role in *Euphoria*.



Photos: AFP Photo, Instagram

Hollywood Fame Irene Papas Dies at 93



Irene Papas, a Greek actress who starred in films like "Z," "Zorba the Greek" and "The Guns of Navarone" but who won the greatest acclaim of her

career playing the heroines of Greek tragedy, died on Wednesday, 14 September. She was 93.

In an email, a spokeswoman for the Greek Culture Ministry

confirmed her death. He did not know the reason of death, although Papas had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease five years ago.

Jacob Elordi to Play Next 'Elvis Presley' in New Sofia Coppola Film 'Priscilla'

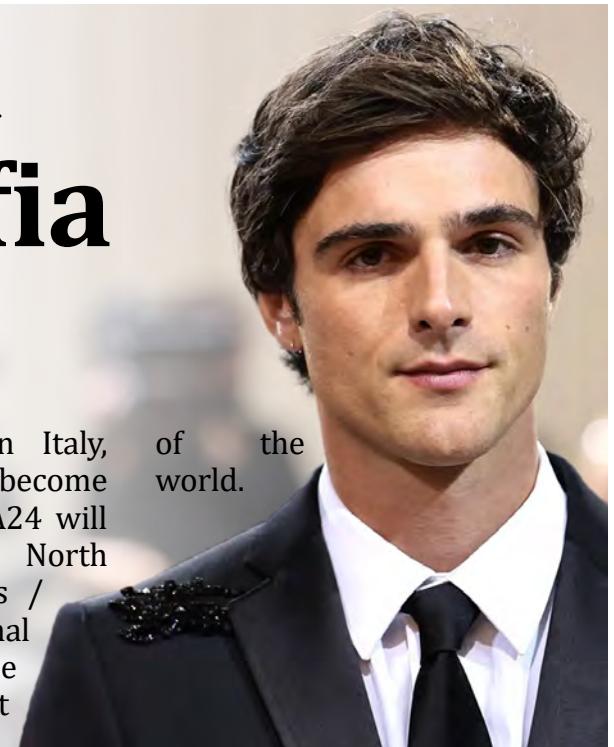
Jacob Elordi has been confirmed as Elvis Presley in Sofia Coppola's next film 'Priscilla,' with Cailee Spaeny, who will play Priscilla Presley.

According to a report, the movie will detail Priscilla's intimate relationship with Elvis

and is based on her 1985 memoir 'Elvis & Me.' The book went on to achieve popularity on a global scale and became a 'New York Times' bestseller.

Coppola scripted and will direct the motion picture. Vision Distribution will

manage distribution in Italy, where it will eventually become a Sky exclusive, while A24 will handle distribution in North America. Stage 6 Films / Sony Pictures International Releasing will handle distribution for the rest



Shabana Azmi British Rom-Com Screened at TIFF

Shabana Azmi graced the red carpet of the Toronto International Film Festival(TIFF) for the screening of her upcoming film "What's Love Got to Do with It".

The film is a British romantic comedy directed by Indian director Shekhar Kapur. The screenplay of the film has been written by Jemima Goldsmith.

Dressed in an elegant red saree, Shabana Azmi charmed the photographers and audience at the International Film Festival. British Actor Lily James also posted on the red carpet alongside

Shabana Azmi and Sajal Aly.

Azmi shared the photo on her Instagram and wrote, "With the lovely Lily James and Sajal Aly at the Toronto Film festival where our film Shekhar Kapur's *what's love got to do with it* received 2 standing ovations!"



Ranveer Singh Awarded for 'Being the Most Loved in South India'

While receiving the honor at the 10th South Indian International Movie Awards, Ranveer said "I'm overwhelmed with gratitude to be able to do this, just to be an artist. I get to do what I love to do for a living. It's because of your love and acceptance, so thank you all. First, and most of all, you know what I love about our country the most is the diversity that we have in our culture. We are the most diverse country in the world. Every state has such richness and vibrancy in its

culture and we as a people must and must celebrate that."

He added, "That's my favorite part about India's 75 years of independence. There used to be a time when language was a barrier but how wonderful it is that we don't live in such a time anymore. Like Bong Joon-ho said on the Oscar stage, I'm so glad and grateful that we are now in a time where people are rising above that one-inch thing called subtitles to be accepting of these most wonderful and amazing stories from different languages and different cultures."

Ranveer further said the South film fraternity and mesmerizing talent that it has to offer inspires him. He said, "You have captured the imagination of the entire and beyond and that's the credit to your craft, that's a credit to the handwork and sincerity. You inspire me!"



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