

THE DIASPORA

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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 68

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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Riya, Founder of Purple Paint Leading Girl's Dignity and Empowerment Project

DEVI SRI PRASAD (DSP), SHANKAR MAHADEVAN, ALONG WITH A HOST OF OTHER CELEBRITIES, TO BE PART OF THE AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV CELEBRATIONS IN NYC

Photos: Vijay Shah, Freelance Media USA



President Kenny Desai presented the flyer of Grand Marshal Allu Arjun during the Parade Council Meeting



Mr. Ankur Vaidya addressing the Parade Council Meeting

FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai announced that Rockstar Mr. Devi Sri Prasad, popularly known as DSP, along with renowned singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan will be the guests of Honors at Indian National Flag hoisting ceremony at Times Square on 15th August 2022.

He further announced that the Hon. Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbados, Mr. Gaston Brown, accompanied by cricketing legends Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose and also Miss Universe Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu, will be part of the India Day Parade in New York City on August, 21st, 2022.

Speaking at the occasion,

FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai, said that ever since the announcement of Mr. Allu Arjun as the Grand Marshall for the India Day Parade, an overwhelming response has been received from all quarters.

He yet again thanked all the volunteers for their time, efforts, and dedication without which the grand events lined up

for the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav would not be possible.

FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya said it's a matter of pride for the whole Diaspora that the Largest Tricolor in the world, on the occasion of India completing its 75 years of Independence, would be flown in New Jersey / New York.



Mr. Saurin Parikh addressing the Parade Council Meeting



Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh addressing the Parade Council Meeting



**THE
DIASPORA
BI-WEEKLY**

75 years of
India's Independence

Wednesday, August 03, 2022

✉ info@fiannjct.org

🌐 www.fiannjct.org | www.fianewengland.org

2



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS
NY-NJ-CT-NE

**THE WORLD'S LARGEST
INDIA DAY PARADE NYC**

POWERED BY
amneal



FREE EVENT

FREE PARTICIPATION



**Grand Marshal
Pan India Super Star
ALLU ARJUN**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2022

MADISON AVE. NYC | 12:00 PM

**FREE
PROGRAMS**

**FREE
PERFORMANCES**

PARADE

Madison Ave. from
E38ST to E27ST

FOOD FEST & BOOTHS

E26ST from Madison Ave. to Park Ave.

Madison Ave. from E26ST to E25ST

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Madison Ave. from
E25ST to E24ST



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FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE

**HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY
TO BE PART OF
GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPTS**



Dedicating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Celebration of Freedom) to the Global Community with Most Different Flags Flown from across the world and Celebrating with Ancient Musical Instrument Damaru



FREE REGISTRATION OPEN

Scan QR code to **REGISTER AS PARTICIPANT** or Visit the link below



**OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT 1**

**MOST DIFFERENT
FLAGS**
FLOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY



**OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT 2**

**LARGEST ENSEMBLE
DAMARU**
2 SIDED DRUMS

<https://fiannjctne.org/guinness/registration>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2022

**8:00 AM ET | MADISON AVE AND 26TH STREET IN NYC
DURING OUR ANNUAL INDIA DAY PARADE**

CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE



Certificates



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Caps



Goggles



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Bag

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Federation of Indian Associations- New England



Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



**BIGGEST
INTERNATIONAL
INDIA DAY
PARADE
BOSTON HARBOR**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022

FORMATION POINT

Christopher Columbus
Water Park, Boston, MA

WHEN

10 AM

FLAG HOISTING

Boston Harbor
(India Street)

Governor Charlie Baker proclaims **August 15** as India Day for Massachusetts

Powered By



32+ Participating Countries



220 Feet India-US Flag over Boston



Parade Led By Big Band of Veterans



India USA Freedom Gallery



Flag Hoisting at Boston Harbor

Program Information



SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

WHERE

Rhode Island State House, Providence

WHEN

6 PM
Onwards

FLAG HOISTING

Capitol Building,
Rhode Island

HIGHLIGHTS

Cultural and Musical Show

Register Here



Abhishek Singh +1 573-821-1785 President: FIA-New England | www.fianewengland.org
Sponsorship: 339-221-1181 | 508-810-2291 | 781-608-0879 | Cultural Program: 301-580-0986 | 804-931-2269 | 508-424-8117 | 781-696-3229
Parade Info: 603-560-5391 | 774-287-1086 | 508-298-9596 | 612-877-2703

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FIA NEW ENGLAND-INDIA DAY PARADE IN BOSTON

FIRST TIME EVER INDIA INTERNATIONAL DAY PARADE IN BOSTON

Excited to celebrate India's 75th Independence with the First India International Day Parade at Boston Harbor (India Street).
You all are invited to be part of this historical event.

WHO: All people with India Heritage and Their Friends and Sympathisers with ANY OTHER HERITAGE.
WHEN: August 13, 2022, 10 AM to 3 PM

REGISTRATION: Families register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BostonParadeReg>
Groups register at: <https://tinyurl.com/paradegroupreg>

All registered people will be issued a tag. Boston Police will NOT allow anyone without a tag.

OCCASION: To observe 75 years of India's Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav). To emphasize our community's commitment to Service to the Elderly, Homeless, and assert our common values of democracy and excellence.

FLOATS: Around 15 floats, themes ranging from Contribution of Indian Community, Freedom Fighters from India and USA, Service, Art, and Culture. This is still WIP.

HOW LONG AND WHERE: The parade will be 0.7 miles long. Starts at 641 Lewis Wharf, Boston and Concludes at Christopher Columbus Park, 110 Atlantic Avenue, Boston.

CHILDREN: Bring your childrens and let them be proud of their heritage and values. Inspire them to achieve even greater success than the first generation and above all be a good citizen. Truly, this parade is for them.

SENIORS: Senior citizens are specially invited to witness and bless this occasion. If they find it hard to walk the 0.7-mile distance, they can watch from the sidewalk and attend the flag hoisting in Christopher Columbus Park across from Quincy Hall.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS: There will be marchers and performers from people of other heritage to express their goodwill toward India and people from India. IAGB will also be having its traditional celebration at Hatch Shell on Charles River Bank in the afternoon.

TRANSPORTATION: Closest T station is AQUARIUM (only 200 ft from the Park) on the Blue line. The STATE, GOVT. CENTER and HAYMARKET are within 1/2 mile from the Parade route. You can buy a Charlie ticket with a credit card at any T station and transfer among different lines without buying another ticket. The value of a Charlie ticket can be entered when you buy it at a self-service machine outside any T station. A trip within the T system costs \$2.40. If you are coming by car, you will find many public parking garages but they can be expensive (since it is the Boston downtown area), so you can carpool to save money.

FOOD: There will be some food. But due to the uncertainty of numbers, it is best to go across the street to QUINCY MARKET which has over 75 food kiosks of all types of food and is one of the biggest tourist attractions of Boston.

CELEBRITIES: Many dignitaries from Government as well as Celebrities such as famous cricketers will be coming. Their names will be made public in the future.

SAFETY: This parade is being organized under the supervision of the Boston Police department. Honor them, cooperate with them and follow their instructions.

ORGANIZERS and SPONSORS: The federation of India Associations (FIA New England) and many co-sponsors are organizing this event. For becoming a sponsor, please talk to the people at the contact numbers below.

Abhishek Singh - 573-821-1785
President: FIA-New England

Sponsorship

339-221-1181 | 508-810-2291 | 781-608-0879

Cultural Program

301-580-0986 | 804-931-2269 | 508-424-8117 | 781-696-3229

Parade Info

603-560-5391 | 774-287-1086 | 508-298-9596 | 612-877-2703

Riya, Founder of Purple Paint Leading Girl's Dignity and Empowerment Project

Fifteen-years-old Riya Dadheech pledged to build 500 toilets in schools in India. Her mission is simply to make sure every girl gets the education they deserve. Riya strongly believes that every girl has a right to education.

Riya is a rising sophomore school girl, and lives in Parsippany, NJ. A couple of years ago during a visit to India, Riya met a girl named Aisha, who had dreams of becoming a doctor but had to drop out of the school due to lack of toilets in her school. Later, more girls narrated a similar story. Riya was moved by the plight of the girls in India, who drop out of school because of no toilet in the school and due to unhygienic conditions. She decided to solve the problem at her level, much above the level of a teenager. Riya decided to help by using her artistic skills to raise the funds to support these girls. She pledged to build 500 toilets. And then the project "Girl's Dignity and Empowerment" was born.

Riya is gifted with a talent for drawing and painting. She can bring life to any subject of nature. A few years ago, a lion named Cecil was poached in South Africa. Riya was so touched that she created a charcoal painting of Cecil. When the manager of the hotel, where they were staying, saw the sketch, he wanted to purchase it immediately. That is when Riya realized, I could use my skills to help others. Later in 2018, she attended several charity events where she sold her paintings and donated 100 per cent back to those charities supporting children with special needs and supporting children's education. As they say, "Purple Patch" is when you have a streak of good luck and great times. Similarly, Riya wants to spread a little bit of Purple in the lives of

other children and that is how "Purple Paint" was created.

During summer of 2019 (just before COVID) when every other kid was playing and vacationing, Riya was working hard creating her paintings. She made 48 paintings, out of which 35 were sold in an exclusive art exhibition

at the *Asian American Heritage Festival* and *Gandhi Going Global* events to spread awareness and raise funds for the project. She speaks at different events spreading the word about her project. She spoke at the Gandhi ji's 150th birth anniversary celebration at Gandhi Temple,



and silent auction facilitated by Parsippany Mayor Michael Soriano. All the proceeds, \$10,000 went to support *Girl's Dignity and Empowerment* project.

Since then, she got onto the mission with *Girl's Dignity and Empowerment Project*, taking the message to different forums and groups. Later, she set up booths

Wayne, NJ. At an event in New York, she discussed her project with Bollywood celebrity Vivek Oberoi and invited him to become brand ambassador of *Purple Paint* and its mission. Riya continues to meet several famous personalities from various walks of life to find support for this project. She anticipates that



such support will help accelerate progress of this project. Riya does all this in addition to her regular school and other activities. In addition to being a great painter, Riya is also a great dancer.

Riya thinks this is not just a project but a movement and that everyone should get involved. Each toilet costs about \$650. One way to help is to sponsor a toilet. You can also make a donation of your choice since every penny matters. Riya is happy to travel to other places where she can display her artwork and raise funds to support this project.

So far, she has been able to raise \$50,000 and build around 62 toilets. She has been able to impact over 4,500 girl students and is planning on building 100 more toilets in the coming year with funds already raised. That will impact another 5,000 girls. Riya says, "This may sound great but it is not enough. I need your help and support and together we can make sure each and every young girl is given the equal opportunity to go to school. The future of these girls is at stake and we need to work harder to make sure they are able to go to school."

Now, Riya is creating new artwork in preparation for the upcoming Art Exhibition and Silent Exhibition in June 2022. Riya is also planning to visit India in 2022 to get a first-hand understanding of the situation and impact of her work.

To learn more about Riya you can visit her website

<https://bit.ly/3vyr5js>



Rutgers' Researchers Track a Rise in Hinduphobia on Social Media, Other Messaging Platforms

Members of the Network Contagion Lab at Rutgers University-New Brunswick (NC Lab), found evidence of a sharp rise and evolving patterns of hate speech directed toward the Hindu community across numerous social media platforms, according to a new report.

"Anti-Hindu Disinformation: A Case Study of Hinduphobia on Social Media" details how white supremacist and 4chan genocidal Pepe memes about Hindus are being shared prolifically within extremist Islamist web networks on messaging service *Telegram* and elsewhere.

Researchers at the Rutgers NC Lab used artificial intelligence to better understand the development of a disguised and coded language pattern shared on social networks. According to their analysis of 1 million tweets, Iranian trolls disseminated anti-Hindu stereotypes to fuel division as part of an influence campaign

to accuse Hindus of perpetrating a genocide against minorities in India.

Student analysts, like Prasiddha Sudhakar, worked with high school students from the New Jersey Governors' STEM Scholars program to assemble and analyze the data. They taught them about cyber social threat detection through machine learning, open-source intelligence gathering and the dimensions of anti-Hindu disinformation.

"I appreciate the opportunity to bring awareness to this underrepresented subject matter," said Sudhakar, who graduated from Rutgers in May with a double major in computer science and economics and minor in critical intelligence studies.

"Educating young people on how to detect open-source hate messaging is a vital first step in helping vulnerable communities prepare for and respond to emerging threats," said Joel Finkelstein, Chief Data Scientist at the NCRI and a senior research

fellow at the Miller Center, who directed the student research.

In July, the signal on the Hinduphobic code words and memes reached record highs that could inflame a spill out to real world violence, especially in light of escalating religious tensions in India and the recent beheading of an Indian shopkeeper. Social media platforms largely are unaware of the code words, key images and structured nature of this hatred even as it is surging.

"There is, unfortunately, nothing new to the bigotry and violence faced by the Hindu population," said John J. Farmer Jr., Director of both the Miller Center and the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. "What is new is the social media context in which hate messages are being shared. Our prior work has shown a correlation between the intensity of hate messaging over social media and the eruption of real-world acts of violence."

"Our hope is that the report

serves as a timely warning before the hate messaging leads to real-world violence," said Denver Riggleman, former US congressman and Miller Center Research fellow and visiting scholar.

The analysis follows a series of reports that NCRI and Rutgers Centers have released since 2020 that examine the use of conspiracy theories and social media networks to instigate widespread and real-world violence. The NC Lab is a cyber-social threat identification and forecasting center, developed through a partnership between the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), the Rutgers Miller Center for Community Protection and Resilience and the Rutgers Center for Critical Intelligence Studies. The NC Lab's next report, expected in August, will focus on reciprocal radicalization. All reports are available here.



US Senate Moves to Deepen Ties with India on Defence

A key US Senate committee has sought to strengthen and expand the US-India defense collaboration through more cooperation in intelligence collection, drones, and fourth & fifth generation aircraft.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's (SASC) action comes only a week after the House

of Representatives approved a legislative amendment as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that waived punitive CAATSA sanctions against India. The *Senate Armed Services Committee* released its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023. It includes a Section on Enhancing the Major Defense Partnership with India, which

envisages greater cooperation in intelligence collection, drones and fourth and fifth generation aircraft. It also includes depot-level maintenance, joint research and development, 5G and Open Radio Access Networks (RAN); cyber and cold-weather capabilities.

The Section also asks the defence secretary to explore other areas for expanding cooperation

with India, including a description of the challenges, agreements and authorities that may be required, and also an articulation of security considerations, including protection of research and development and intellectual property. Among other things, it also asks the defense secretary to identify opportunities for the private sector to work with the Ministry of Defense in India.

New York City Declares Monkeypox a Public Health Emergency

Officials in New York City declared a public health emergency due to the spread of the monkeypox virus on July 30th, calling the city "the epicenter" of the outbreak.

The announcement by Mayor Eric Adams and health Commissioner Ashwin Vasan said

as many as 150,000 city residents could be at risk of infection. The declaration will allow officials to issue emergency orders under the city health code and amend code provisions to implement measures to help slow the spread.

In the last two days, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul declared a state disaster emergency declaration

and the state health department called monkeypox an "imminent threat to public health."

New York had recorded 1,345 cases as of Friday, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. California had the second-most, with 799.

"We will continue to work

with our federal partners to secure more doses as soon as they become available," Adams and Vasan said in the statement. "This outbreak must be met with urgency, action, and resources, both nationally and globally, and this declaration of a public health emergency reflects the seriousness of the moment."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi Visits Taiwan, Flouting Chinese Threats and Biden's Concerns

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi landed in Taiwan on Tuesday, 2nd August, a highly anticipated visit amid increasingly harsh warnings of Chinese retaliation and escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing.

In a statement, the California Democrat noted her visit was the first official trip to Taiwan by a US House speaker in 25 years.

"Our congressional delegation's visit to Taiwan honors America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy," Pelosi said in the statement. "America's solidarity with the 23 million people of Taiwan is more important today than ever, as the

world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy."

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement minutes after she landed that condemned her visit as "a serious violation" of the one-China principle that maintains Taiwan is part of China.

The statement accused the United States of emboldening "separatist forces" in Taiwan. Pelosi's visit "has a severe impact on the political foundation of China-US relations and seriously infringes upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the ministry said. "These moves, like playing with fire, are extremely dangerous," it said.



Photo: usatoday

White House Names Monkeypox Response Coordinator as Virus Spreads

The White House on Tuesday, 2nd August named a Federal Emergency Management Agency official as coordinator for the monkeypox response, as the virus spreads in the United States.

The naming of a national coordinator for the monkeypox response, Robert Fenton, comes as the Biden administration looks to step up its response to the

virus.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) official, Demetre Daskalakis, will serve as the deputy coordinator. Fenton brings operational experience and Daskalakis, public health expertise.

"We look forward to partnering with Bob Fenton and Demetre Daskalakis as we work to end the monkeypox outbreak in America," said Secretary of

Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra. "Bob's experience



in federal and regional response coordination, and Demetre's vast knowledge of our public health

systems' strengths and limits will be instrumental as we work to stay ahead of the virus and advance a whole-of-government response."

The move to better coordinate response efforts comes as the administration has faced some criticism for not moving fast enough in its response to monkeypox, with the first U.S. case confirmed in May.

Rishi Sunak Remembers Parents' "Hard Work & Sacrifice"

Prior to enrolling at Stanford University in California and Oxford University, Rishi Sunak worked as a waiter in an Indian restaurant.

Rishi Sunak, one of the two finalists to take charge as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, said on Monday, 25th July, that the "hard work and sacrifice" of his parents helped provide a better future for him and added that those are the "values that I will champion as the

prime minister."

"I'm standing here because of the sacrifice and love of my parents. They worked day and night, saved and sacrificed to provide a better future for their children," the Indian-origin politician said during a debate with rival Liz Truss, the UK's foreign secretary.

Sunak shared about the struggle faced by his family after they immigrated to the United Kingdom, 60 years ago.

"My family immigrated here

60 years ago. My mom ran a local chemist shop at Southampton. That's where I grew up delivering medicines. I worked as a waiter at an Indian restaurant down the road. I am standing here because of the love, the hard work and the sacrifice of my parents and the opportunities they provided to me, and that's why I want to be the prime minister because I want to show everyone that your children and grandchildren had the opportunity that I had. Those values of hard work and aspirations,

those are conservative values and those are exactly the values that I will champion as the prime minister," he said.



Winners of New Jersey USA Beauty Pageant



Isabella Galan

Miss New Jersey, Teen,
USA 2022

Isabella Galan from Wayne, New Jersey is a 17-year-old high school junior at Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA).

As a lifelong student of a Catholic School education, she knew that IHA was where she wanted to continue her academics. At IHA, she has prospered in their community of women of valor and continues to leave her mark on the school.



Alexandra Lakhman

Miss New Jersey, USA 2022

Alexandra Lakhman is a 26-year-old, first-generation Ukrainian-American from Hoboken, New Jersey.

The Old Bridge native, who now lives in Hoboken, is a Digital Marketing Associate Manager for Newell Brands, a Fortune 500 company.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS
NY-NJ-CT-NE

WISHES IT'S READERS A

VERY HAPPY

Raksha Bandhan

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Droupadi Murmu Scripts History, Becomes India's First Woman Tribal President

Droupadi Murmu was elected as the 15th President of India. Her victory is significant as Murmu has become India's first tribal and second woman President of the country.

She was sworn in to the highest constitutional post at the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi on July 23rd, 2022. Before the swearing-in function, Droupadi Murmu visited Rajghat in Delhi to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. She is also the first president born in independent India.


Photo: firstpost

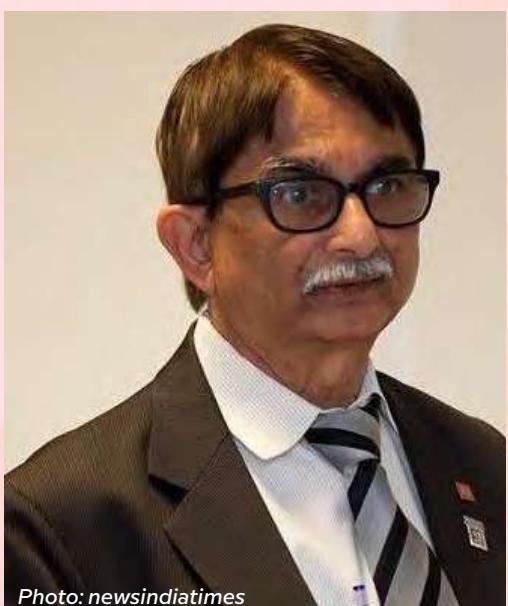
Pradeep Shukla Appointed Vice Chair, Global Alliances Advisory Board, National Association of Realtors

Indian-American Pradeep B Shukla, has been appointed Vice Chair of Global Alliances Advisory Board of National Association of Realtors (NAR).

The NAR is one of the biggest trade associations in the US representing more than 1.5 million members. The institution is more than 100 years old and is a supervisory body of more than 1,600 local realtor boards and associations, a press release from Shukla said.

The National Association of Realtors has affiliates in more than 80 nations to advance ethics and professionalism and promote bilateral trade in regions of the world where real estate rules are still in their nascent stage.

Shukla has been representing NAR as a Global Ambassador to India for the past three years.


Photo: newsindiatimes

Senate Passes Bill to Boost US Chip Production and China Competition, Sending to White House

The Senate passed bipartisan legislation aimed to help the US compete with China by injecting tens of billions of dollars into the domestic production of semiconductor chips.

The bill, known as the CHIPS-plus or Chips and Science Act, passed in a 64-33 vote. It will now head to the House, where lawmakers hope to pass it and send it to the White House for President Joe Biden's signature before Congress leaves town in early August.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the chip bill "is a major victory for American families and the American economy" when it passed a key Senate vote earlier in July.

The package includes more than \$52 billion for US companies producing computer chips, as well as tax credits to encourage investment in chip manufacturing. It also provides funding to spur the innovation and development of other US technologies.

President Biden Chooses Indian-American to Fill Key Position

President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate three individuals to key positions July 21, 2022, one of them an Indian-American.

Shailen P. Bhatt is the President's choice for Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, at the US Department of Transportation. Bhatt will have to be approved for the position by the US Senate.

Bhatt is Senior Vice President of Global Transportation Innovation and Alternative Delivery at AECOM, a multinational infrastructure consulting firm, which described him as "a visionary transportation leader and policymaker" on his appointment. AECOM is considered a leading infrastructure consulting firm, delivering professional services across the project lifecycle – from planning, design and engineering to consulting and construction management.



Photo: delawareonline

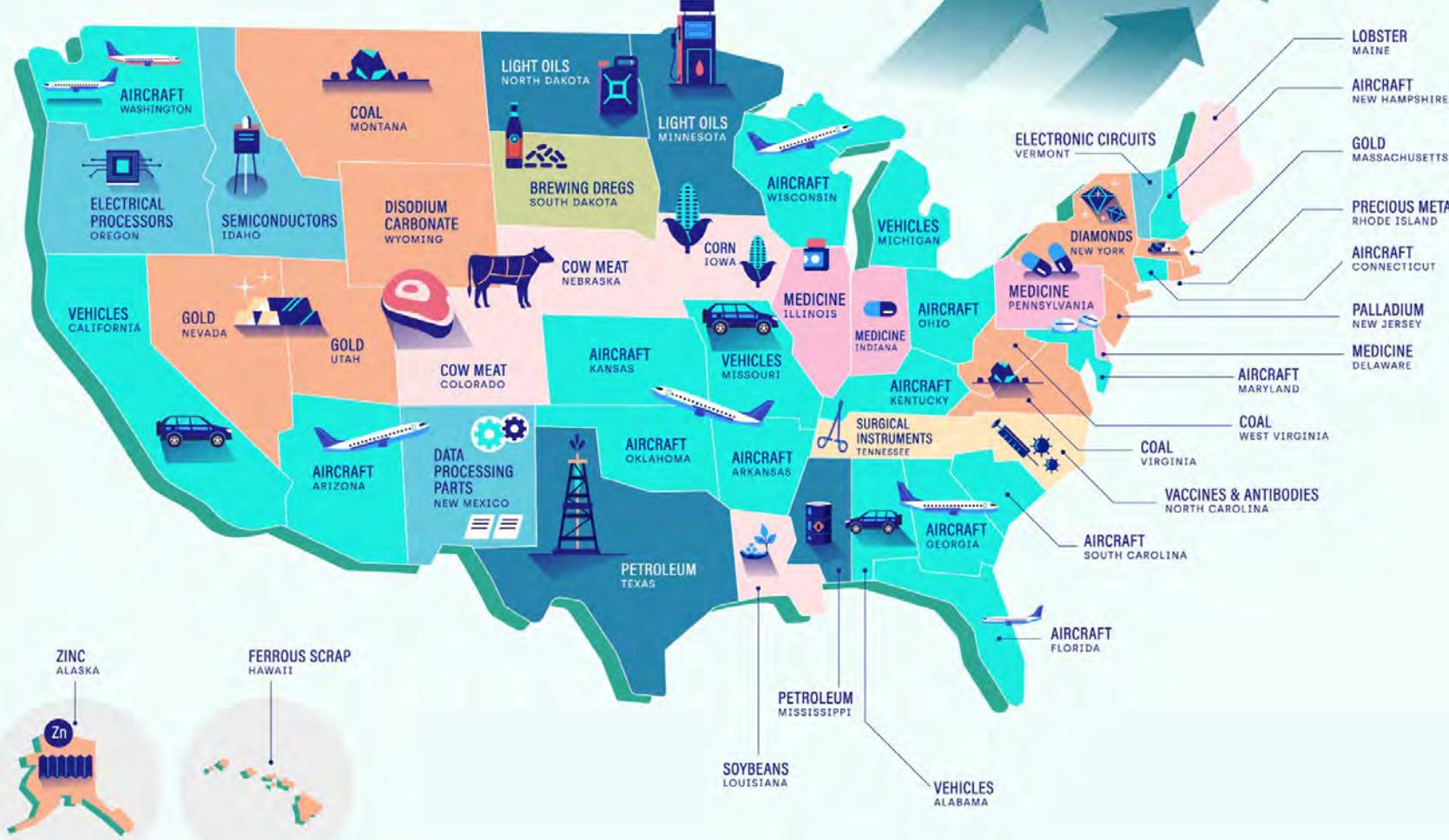
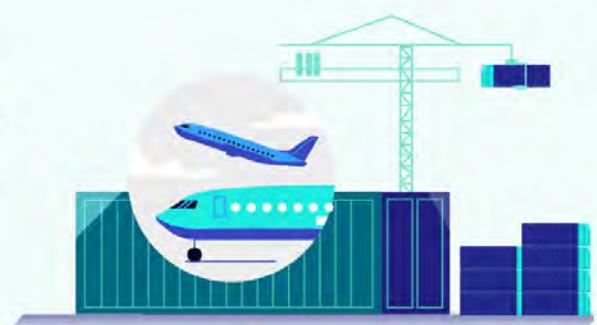
THE TOP EXPORT IN EVERY U.S. STATE

Aircraft are the most common top export in 14 states. Profits on U.S. Aerospace and Defense (A&D) industry exports halved from \$79.3 billion to \$40.6 billion in 2020, according to the Aerospace Industries Association. Despite this, A&D exports made up 6.3 percent of all U.S. exports in 2020.

Vaccines have become America's fifth most valuable export, after Aircraft, Gasoline, Natural gas, and Oil, according to Forbes. However, only North Carolina can count Vaccines and Antibodies as its top export. North Carolina is home to a 262-acre vaccine production plant owned by pharmaceutical manufacturer Merck & Co.

CATEGORIES

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THE
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75 years of India's Independence

Wednesday, August 03, 2022

✉ info@fianynjct.org

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RADIO YA APP MIRCHI SABKA BAAP



NY/NJ



DALLAS



BAY AREA





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AUGUST 13TH, 2022 SATURDAY, 2 PM TO 4 PM EST, AT:

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THE INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL
presents

**"ERASING BORDERS" and
"INDIA@75" DANCE FESTIVAL**
August 6-8 at the Ailey Citigroup Theater

Program A: live, Saturday August 6, 7 pm

Program B: live, Sunday August 7, 7 pm

Program C: virtual, Monday August 8

August 6 & 7 at Ailey Citigroup Theater, 405 West 55 Street, NYC

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/festival-of-india75-605699>

The Indo-American Arts Council announces the always eagerly anticipated dance performances, this year including special events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day, August 15. The celebration will feature two live performances, August 6 & 7 at the Ailey Citigroup Theatre, and a virtual August 8th streaming with artists from India, Canada, Singapore and the U.S. Since its founding 15 years ago, the Indo-American Arts Council has distinguished itself with its presentations dedicated to embodied living practices of the arts of South Asia.

India@75

Program A: Saturday August 6, 7 pm
featuring

Sanjib Bhattacharya and **Lagannath Laienjam** in

Manipuri-Pung Cholom (Drum Dance)

Kavya Ganesh in contemporary Bharatanatyam
Bhavana Reddy in Kuchipudi with introductions by the legendary Raja Reddy

India@75

Program B: Sunday August 7, 7 pm

featuring

Jin Won in Kathak with live music

Ailey II in "Saa Magni"

Mythili Prakash in contemporary Bharatanatyam

Erasing Borders Dance Festival-virtual

Program C: Monday August 8, premiers at 7 pm.

Streaming is available until August 22

featuring choreography by

Tanya Saxena

Tanveer Alam

Liz Lea and danced by **Subastian Tan** and **Shahrin Johry**

Mythili Maratt Anoop

Deepali Salil with **Nilava Sen**, **Shubhamani Chandrashekar**, **Athul Balu**

Community News

FIA Mourns the Loss of 3 Indian Americans in a Car Accident in Logan Island

The Indian American Community lost three young prospects, in a horrific car accident. Puneet Singh Nijjar, Amarjit Singh and Harpal Singh Multani died after their car rammed into a tree and caught fire during the early morning on Sunday, July 24, 2022, in New York's Logan Island area, USA.

Puneet Singh Nijjar and Amarjit Singh were the only sons of their parents. Puneet Nijjar was the son of Jassi Nijjar of the Subzi Mandi grocery store chain.

FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya, said that it is indeed very sad news indeed and the whole community stands with them in their time of grief.

As a mark of respect, prior to the start of the meeting, silence was observed in FIA's 5th Parade Council Meeting to honor the departed.



Amazon Fresh Opens in New Jersey

Retail giant Amazon is making its highly anticipated debut in the Garden State's supermarket scene.

The company's first Amazon Fresh grocery store in New Jersey opened at 7 am on Thursday, July 21, in Paramus. The new 40,000-square-foot store is located at 30 E. Ridgewood Ave. Store hours are 7 am to 10 pm, seven days a week.

Amazon Fresh is known more as a grocery delivery service for Prime members than a brick-and-mortar store. There are more than 35 locations across the country.

The stores offer "Just Walk Out Shopping," a feature that lets customers avoid a checkout line. Instead, they are charged once they leave the store.

New Jersey is expected to get an additional three Amazon Fresh stores at some point, but details are limited. Amazon purchased a Fairway Market building in Woodland Park in 2020, with plans to open an Amazon Fresh there, as well as stores in Eatontown and Holmdel.



FBI Joins Search for Jersey City College Student Missing Since 2019

A Jersey City woman missing for more than three years has been placed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most-wanted list as a missing person.

Mayushi Bhagat, 28, has been missing since April 29, 2019. She was last seen leaving her apartment in Jersey City with colorful pajama pants and a black t-shirt, according to the FBI, which posted her photo in a tweet.

She has black hair, brown eyes, weighs 150 to 160 pounds, and has a medium build.

Her family reported her missing on May 1, after not hearing from her for two days. Bhagat was attending the New York Institute of Technology on an F1 student visa at the time of her disappearance. A *Times of India* story in 2019 said that she had told her parents she would be back in Jersey City on May 3.

Bhagat speaks English and Hindi-Urdu, and she has friends from South Plainfield, according to the FBI.

Anyone with information concerning Bhagat is urged to call the FBI office in Newark at (973) 792-3000 or file an anonymous tip at tips.fbi.gov.

MAYUSHI BHAGAT

April 29, 2019
Jersey City, New Jersey





Community News

Gowri Natarajan Sharma Becomes First Person of Color to Chair Dallas Museum's Board

The Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) in Texas has named Gowri Natarajan Sharma as its new board president, making her the first person of color to chair the board in the institution's 119-year history.

Sharma had been on the DMA's board since 2017, and is currently a member of the acquisitions committee. In addition to her philanthropic endeavors at UNICEF's North Texas chapter, the Texas Women's Foundation, the Lamplighter School, and other institutions, she serves as an architectural adviser to her family's business.

With an endowment of around \$270 million, the DMA is one of the country's biggest museums.



Indian-American Man Found Guilty of Kidnapping His Own Child

A 38-year-old Indian-American has been convicted of international parental kidnapping after he took his US-born child to India and later failed to bring the kid back to the mother in the United States.

Amitkumar Kanubhai Patel from Vadodara, who formerly lived in Edison, New Jersey, was convicted last week of one count of international parental kidnapping following a five-day trial before US District Judge Renee Marie Bumb in Camden federal court in New Jersey.

The international parental kidnapping offense of which Patel stands convicted carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. He will be sentenced in November this year.

Indian-American Sentenced to Jail for Defrauding Senior Citizens

An Indian-American has been sentenced to three years of imprisonment in the US for laundering cash proceeds from a telemarketing scheme that defrauded senior citizens.

Hirenkumar P Chaudhari, 29, of Illinois pleaded guilty last year to a federal money laundering charge, said John R Lausch, US Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, as he announced the sentencing on Thursday.

Hirenkumar P Chaudhari played a pivotal role in a telemarketing scheme by laundering money received directly from elderly victims, he said.

According to federal prosecutors, Hirenkumar P Chaudhari used a phony Indian passport, false name and false address to open multiple bank accounts in the US to receive money from victims of the telemarketing scheme.

The scam involved phone calls from people falsely claiming to be associated with, among other agencies, the Social Security Administration and US Department of Justice, stating that a victim's identity had been stolen and that it was necessary to transfer money to various bank accounts, including the accounts opened by Chaudhari.

Boston Set to Host First South Asian Theater Fest

Off-Kendrik is organizing the first ever South Asian Theater Festival in Boston. It is organized with the goal of raising awareness about underrepresented South Asian theater. This year the festival has representation in Punjabi, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada and English.

They will have renowned theater directors like Rohina Malik, Suman Mukhopadhyay and Vijay Kenkare participating in this event. It is big in every possible way. The organizers would love your participation in helping them spread the word and fundraising.

Any help, no matter how small, will help them make this theater festival a success. Any help is appreciated. Be there to support Indian theater on the weekend of 19th to 21st August at Mosesian Center for Arts, Watertown.

For more information contact ec@offkendrik.com
Website <https://www.saathfest.com/>





Mr. Ram Gupta

March 22, 1940 - July 22, 2022

The Indo-American Community and the Federation of Indian Associations-New England honor the memory of Professor Ram Gupta, Professor Emeritus at Roger Williams University. He passed away on Friday, July 22nd.

Professor Ram Gupta grew up in Jhansi, India. He completed his undergraduate education at the Roorkee Engineering College and earned his Ph.D. from New York University. He was a Fulbright Scholar, a Rotary International Foundation Scholar, and Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, Kathmandu University, and Galgotias University.

Professor Ram Gupta made valuable contributions to the Indian community in New England, especially in Rhode Island. He was the founder of Hari Vidya Bhawan and taught Hindi, Sanskrit and Indian culture to Indian-American students. Professor Gupta also served on the Board of Trustees of the Rhode Island Hindu Temple Society. In October 2021, Rhode Island's Governor Daniel McKee recognized the many incredible contributions of Professor Ram Gupta at an event celebrating Diwali inside the Governor's Reception Hall at the Rhode Island State House.

FIA-New England offers its deepest condolences to Professor Ram Gupta's family, friends and colleagues. We salute his decades long selfless service and his many contributions. May his soul attain *Sadgati*.

Om Shanti



SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION



SONIA DATE

Today I decided to have my coffee from the set that Ma had bought from somewhere. When she proudly presented me with the set, I gushed over it, and promptly forgot about using it. It sat forgotten in the crockery

cabinet, waiting for the right occasion. We are lazy when it comes to taking out a cup and saucer for our brew. For guests, one goes the extra mile.

While sipping my coffee, I thought of Ma. I miss her, that's given. And I console myself that she's still with me. In the things she's gifted me, in the life that she's given me, that smile of mine, that mannerism, the particular recipe, the way I run my house, my values... To be honest, there are too many things to jot down.

Usually, when we get gifts from our loved ones, we don't think of the thought behind it. The hours

of pondering over making the right choice, worrying if it will meet the recipient's approval or the money spent. I know Ma would plan ahead, sometimes keep some money aside, take a day out to pick it up after checking out innumerable shops in the markets, and call me excitedly saying she would come over. Each gift would reflect all of this and that abundant love. These cups reminded me of all this and so much more. The coffee tasted so much better.

And now, when I see the pattern of gifting repeated by her daughter, I do hope that my girls

will know the value of the gift their mother has picked for them. It's just not a gift, it's endless love, deep and all-consuming.



Religious Events

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AARTI TIMES

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Everyday Online Session by Mandir Priests

5:00 PM To 7:00 PM

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

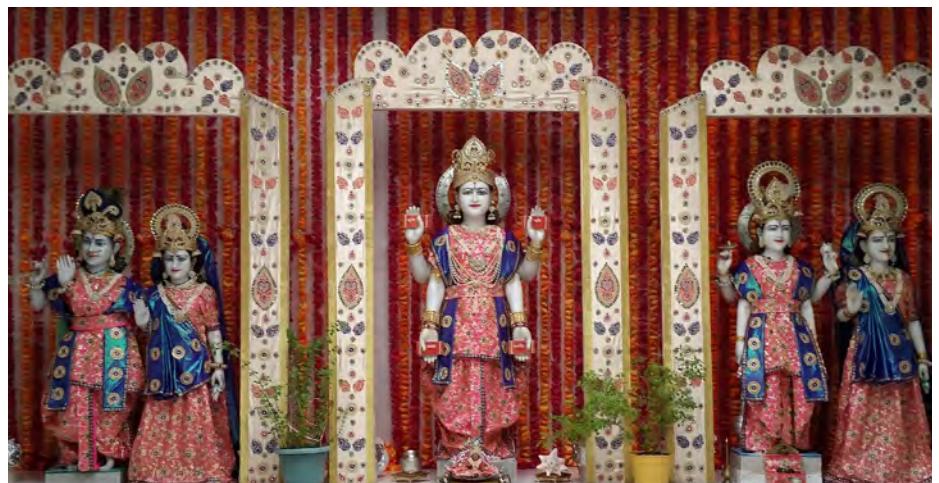
Upcoming Events

6th August - HANUMAN CHALISA PATH- 5:00 PM onwards

13th August- MATAKI CHOWKI- 3:00 PM onwards

14th August - SATYANARAYAN KATHA- 5:00 PM onwards

www.vedmandir.org



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

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

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www.venkateswaratemple.org





THE WITCH: PART-1 THE SUBVERSION

(Thriller / Korean / 2018 / Prime)

'A GOOD THRILLER THAT SURPRISES WITH ITS TWISTS AND SLICK ACTION'

The story revolves around a young girl who remembers nothing about her past and is being chased by some very dangerous people.

Director Park Hoon-jung

Cast Kim Da-mi, Jo min-su, Choi Woo-shik, Go Min-si, Park Hee-soon

Writer Park Hoon-jung



Photo: The Witch: Part-1 The Subversion Trailer

Plot

A young girl of 8 escapes from some kind of facility and finds refuge with a childless couple.

10 years later, her past, which she remembers nothing of, comes back to haunt her now serene, quiet life.

Analysis

There are so many things I love about Korean cinema. There would be twists and turns and, most often, the unexpected. Whether it's a

horror, thriller, or a sombre story, there's something about their storytelling that makes it very engaging, thrilling, and often genre-bending.

Let me clarify that *The Witch*, with a title that I would call a misnomer, is not a horror. It could more accurately be described as a thriller at best, if I am not to give away the spoiler in my enthusiasm to place it in a genre.

The story begins on a very intriguing note, then jumps time periods and dwells

upon the quiet, serene life of our protagonist. It leaves you perplexed for quite some time when the monsters from the past come back to haunt her. While you are busy making your calculations and guesses, wham comes the first twist. And then, while you recover and empathise, comes another.

Along with such twists and turns, comes amazing slick action. I quite enjoyed rewinding and replaying some of the action sequences.

Technically and BGM-wise

too, I always find their films impressive and that is the case here too.

Recommendation

Let me admit that the IMDB rating of 7.1 and the misnomer had significantly raised my expectations. But keeping that aside, it was quite a good watch.

Recommended for those who love Korean cinema, psychological thrillers, and good action.



Photo: The Witch: Part-1 The Subversion Trailer

HIT: THE FIRST CASE

(Thriller / 2022 / Hindi / Cinema Release)

THIS THRILLER BOASTS OF A GRIPPING STORY AND A SUPERBLY INTENSE RAJKUMMAR RAO!

Director Sailesh Kolanu

Cast Rajkummar Rao, Sanya Malhotra, Akhil Iyer, Jatin Goswami, Milind Gunaji

Writer Sailesh Kolanu

Photo: HIT - The First Case Trailer

Plot

Vikram is an investigating officer reeling under PTSD and fighting demons from his past.

Neha, his love, is a forensic expert. When she goes missing, he realises that he has to not only find her but also another girl who went missing two months ago, and that the two cases might be linked.

Analysis

This film is a dark suspense thriller, a genre I love. And having to see an actor like

Rajkummar Rao in an intense and grim avatar is a rare treat.

The film begins with an investigation, and we get to know Vikram's expertise in solving cases. Though it was not too detailed, a premise like this always provides for an engaging watch.

Vikram's psychological complications have been ably supported by Rajkummar Rao's acumen as an actor. He, as expected, excels in portraying Vikram's intense pain, his horrifying memories and his mental trauma.

Sanya, though has limited

presence but shines in all her scenes.

Dilip Tahil gives fine support. It was good to see Milind Gunaji after a long time. But what made me happier was to see Jatin Goswami (as Akshay), albeit in a very small role. Have been a huge admirer of his performance in Babumoshai Bandookbaaz years before. It is disappointing to see actors of his potential being hardly utilised. Shilpa Shukla (as Sheila) fails to make a mark.

The investigations proceed and continue to be superbly engaging. It is always a pleasure to be jumbled up in the cues thrown in and, especially, when they get more baffling.

The only grouse that I could probably add to give an all-rounded review is that the resolution of the case had scope of improvement. It did leave some loose threads in

case you get to nit-picking. But that does not discount out the grip the film has over you throughout its length. Not for a minute did we feel any lag in pace.

The mystery and Rajkummar Rao keep you thoroughly invested.

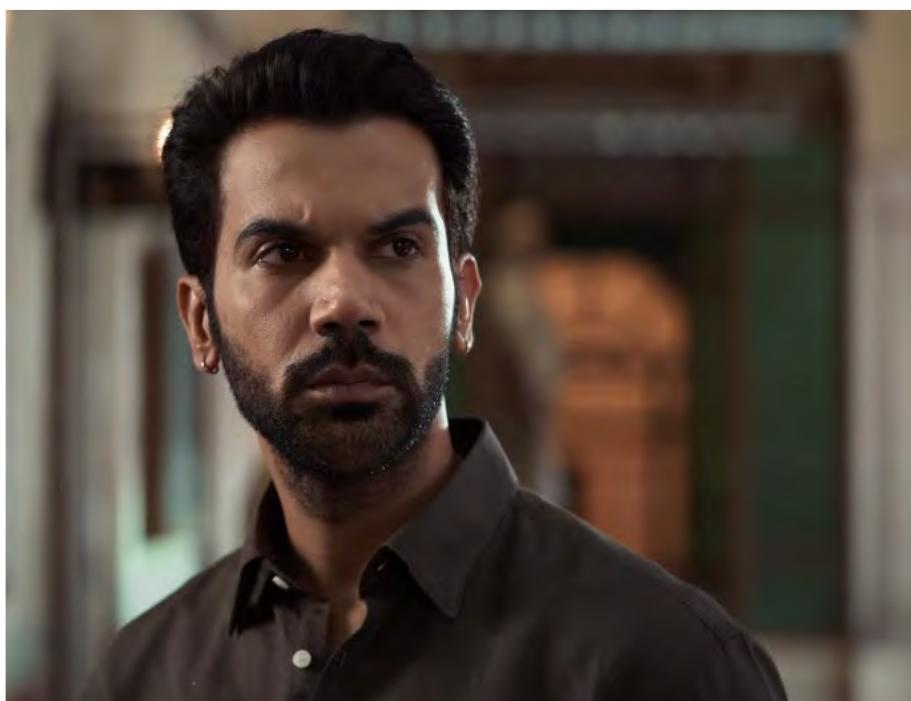
The film has two songs and both were melodious, well-worded and added to the feel.

I have not seen the original and I presume that since the writer and director are the same, he must have done justice.

Recommendation

It was a good watch. Quite recommended for those who love suspense thrillers and Rajkummar Rao.

Score 3 on 5



Photos: HIT - The First Case Trailer

SHAMSHERA

(2022 / Action / Fantasy / Period / Drama)

RANBIR AND BGM ARE TERRIFIC BUT THE FILM TOO DULL AND DARK!

Director Karan Malhotra

Cast Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Vaani Kapoor, Ronit Roy, Saurabh Shukla, Iravati Harshe

Writer Nilesh Mishra, Khila Bisht

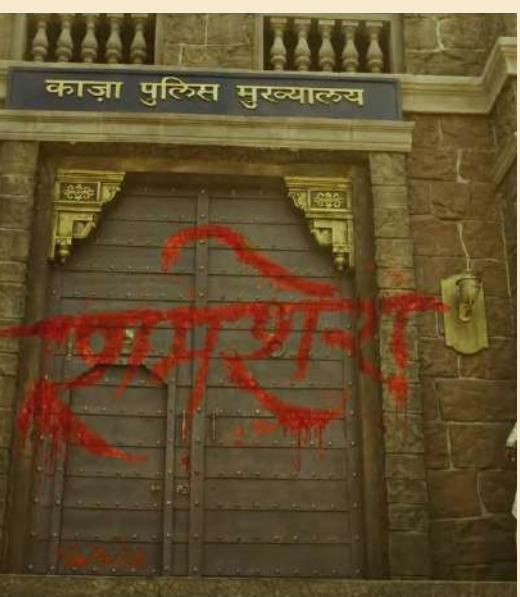


Photo: Shamshera Trailer

Plot

Set in pre-independence times, it is the story of a clan, the Khameran and its head, Shamshera, fighting for their freedom.

Analysis

Ever since the onslaught of south films, the audience can be hypothetically divided into two categories – those who wholeheartedly loved RRR and KGF and those who did not.

The problem with *Shamshera* is that it will not be wholeheartedly received by either.

Disclaimer: This review comes from someone who belongs to the latter.

I have been a great fan of Karan Malhotra ever since *Agneepath*, which I consider to be amongst the handful of remakes that have been done extremely well. In fact, I loved his Akshay-Siddharth starrer *Brothers* too, which incidentally was not that well received.

In *Shamshera*, Karan Malhotra seems heavily under the influence of an audience demanding those larger than life, fantasy fiction kind of period dramas that are the forte of south.

When the film begins with a terrific Ranbir Kapoor amidst terrific BGM, it sends your adrenaline soaring. And let me tell you that these two aspects remain terrific throughout the film, which goes on to follow the graph like your ECG. Sporadic bursts of energy and goosebump moments and music which get

dominated by dark, macabre, heart-breaking proceedings, which mostly pull you down.

We all love larger than life, gravity defying, logic defying action and can be very selective in accepting it. We love Robin Hood-esque heroes fighting but are happy only to see them winning. A big problem with *Shamshera* is that the gloomy moments far outnumber the joyous one; violence that makes you

cringe and the downtrodden being crushed most of the time. There are portions which stand out and there are portions that seem a drag.

Throughout this rollercoaster watch, what I could admire was Ranbir Kapoor's sincerity towards his role and Karan Malhotra's efforts in a genre that he seemingly tries to handle at his best. The cinematography and the background score

are his comrades in arms. They are a great support throughout. Loved Piyush Mishra's lyrics in "Hunkara".

It is the writers who do not deserve any sympathy for doling out such a dull affair. The story is a big let-down. Songs seem way too many.

This fantasy genre works best in mythological fare like *Bahubali*. But otherwise ends up looking like a mish mash. Remember how *Thugs of Hindustan* was ruthlessly rejected by the audience? But Yash Raj is neither short of money nor persistence, they do have an awfully short record of getting it right though.

Looks like Ranbir has a lot banking upon the much-awaited *Brahmastra*. My heart goes out for him. As an actor, he needs to be out of this patch. It was a pleasure watching him after a long time. Wish the film was as much a pleasure.

Recommended

For Ranbir Kapoor fans, even though you'll need to have a heart to see him beaten to pulp most of the time.

For those who like larger than life period / fantasy kinds of cinema.

For those who are Bollywood loyalists like me and want to support their films that are reeling under the comparison with south.

Score 2 on 5



Photo: Shamshera Trailer



Taron Egerton to Star in Thriller 'Carry On'

Rocketman star Taron Egerton and *Jungle Cruise* Director Jaume Collet-Serra are teaming up for the action thriller feature *Carry On*. The film marks the first production under the overall deal Amblin signed with Netflix last June, reported *Deadline*.

Carry On revolves around

Ethan Kopek, a young TSA agent who gets blackmailed by a mysterious traveller to let a dangerous package slip through security and onto a Christmas Day flight. TJ Fixman penned the first draft of the screenplay, with Michael Green writing the most recent version. Dylan Clark will produce the film.

As for Egerton, he had been

weighing several offers following the recent premiere of *Black Bird* and instantly clicked with the material once he got his hands on the script.

Sources say he was the only actor to read and meet on the project; he and Collet-Serra instantly hit it off and a deal to sign on quickly followed.

Drake Pays Homage to Sidhu Moosewala at Toronto Concert

Drake pays tribute to the late Indian singer-rapper Sidhu Moosewala at his Toronto performance by wearing a t-shirt with his picture.

Drake, who has previously condoled Moosewala's demise on various platforms, including social media and his radio show, chose the white t-shirt for his

performance in his hometown Toronto, Canada, the videos from which are going viral on the internet. The gig was held on Thursday, 28th July at History, a new venue in Toronto.

Following his demise, Drake shared a picture of the "So High" hitmaker with his mother on Instagram and captioned it:

"RIP MOOSE @sidhu_moosewala." He also paid a

tribute to Moosewala on his radio show *Table for One* on Sound42 station on SiriusXM, where he played the Punjabi singer's tracks "295" and "G-Sh**".

Drake started following Moosewala on Instagram in 2020. Moosewala, who counted Drake as one of his musical influences and followed him on social media, was a regular performer at live shows in Canada.



Photos: dissdash

Nichelle Nichols, Trailblazing 'Star Trek' Actress, Dies at 89

Actress and singer Nichelle Nichols, best known for her ground-breaking portrayal of Lt. Nyota Uhura in "Star Trek: The Original Series," has died at age 89, according to a statement from her son, Kyle Johnson.

"Last night, my mother, Nichelle Nichols, succumbed to natural causes and passed away. Her light, however, like the ancient galaxies now being seen for the first time, will remain for us and future generations to enjoy, learn from, and draw inspiration," Johnson said in a

statement shared to Nichols' official site. "Hers was a life well lived and as such a model for us all." Nichols died from natural causes, he said.



GoodFellas, That Championship Season Actor Dies at 83

The Tony-nominated star played bad guys as well as cops, including Det. Phil Cerretta on 'Law & Order.'

Paul Sorvino, the burly character actor who made a career out of playing forceful types, most notably the coldhearted mobster Paulie Cicero in Martin Scorsese's *GoodFellas*, has died. He was 83.

Sorvino, the father of Oscar-winning actress Mira Sorvino (Mighty Aphrodite), died on Monday of natural causes, his wife, Dee Dee, announced.

"Our hearts are broken, there will never be another

Paul Sorvino, he was the love of my life and one of the greatest performers to ever grace the screen and stage," she said.



Priyanka Chopra, Diljit Dosanjh, Lilly Singh's ROFL "Bowing" Competition

Priyanka Chopra posted photos with singer Diljit Dosanjh after attending his Los Angeles concert with pal Lilly Singh. She had a great time at Diljit's concert and then clicked pictures with him and Lilly "bowing" for each other with folded hands.



Photo: Instagram/Priyanka Chopra

 priyankachopra There are a few things that will warm your heart as much as a taste of home. Also, when your people are in town! You show the F up!! I had a much-needed super fun night out watching @diljitdosanjh doing what he does best! He had the audience wrapped around his finger! None of us sat even for a moment! You're such a superstar, @diljitdosanjh. I highly recommend you get tickets to Diljit's current tour!

Also, kudos to the team that made it so comfortable and awesome for my friends and me! Thank you, @lilly, for always having the best ideas for nights out! Lots of Love!

Aamir Khan in Midst of Controversy Before Laal Singh Chaddha's Release

Just a few days before its theatrical release, Aamir Khan's upcoming project, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, became the unwilling centre of controversy after "#BoycottLaalSinghChaddha" started trending on Twitter. Aamir Khan, who stars in the titular

role and has also co-produced the film, recently reacted to the boycott trend regarding his film and told news agency PTI: "That Boycott Bollywood... Boycott Aamir Khan... Boycott Laal Singh Chaddha... I feel sad also because a lot of people who are saying this in their hearts believe I am

someone who doesn't like India... They believe in their hearts... And that's quite untrue. " The actor added, "I really love the country... That's how I am." It is rather unfortunate if some people felt that way. " Asking his fans and the audience to give his film a fair chance, Aamir Khan told PTI:

"I want to assure everyone that it's not the case so please don't boycott my films, please watch my films."

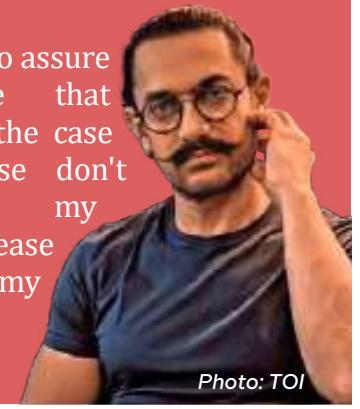


Photo: TOI

Bollywood Celebs Get Death Threats

IActor Salman Khan has been issued an arms license after he applied for a weapon license for self-protection in the backdrop of threat letters that he received recently," the Mumbai Police said in an official statement.

The 56-year-old star's criminal record and background were checked before the firearm license was issued. The approval from the Mumbai Police headquarters came after standard procedure steps were cleared.

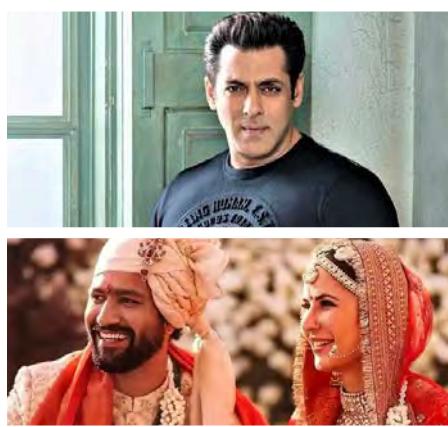
Recent reports also claimed that Salman upgraded his vehicle to a bulletproof Land Cruiser ever since he received the threat. The vehicle has apparently been fitted with armour and bulletproof glass.

After receiving the death threat letters from Lawrence Bishnoi and the gang for the blackbuck poaching case, Salman Khan had taken the legal route to protect himself and his family.

Earlier, Bollywood actors and famous couple, Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, also received death

threats and a case was registered at the Santacruz Police Station.

It noted, "Case registered at



Santacruz PS on the complaint of Vicky Kaushal u/s 506(2),354(D) IPC r/w sec 67 IT Act. He complained that one person has been threatening and posting threat messages on Instagram. He stated that the accused has also been stalking his wife and threatening her: Mumbai Police." Subsequently the man responsible - a small time actor Manvinder Singh was arrested.

There has been a growing concern after Sidhu Moosewala assassination earlier this year.

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