

THE DIASPORA

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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



PAGE 02

Community Gears to Participate and Witness Historic State Visit in DC June 22

PAGE 05

H-1B Visas for Hiring Foreign Health Professionals Bill introduced in US



SHAM-E-DHUN Hosts Fund Raising Event for the Siddhivinayak Temple NJ



FIA Team



FIA Board Member Alok Kumar, Hon. Consul General of India Shri Randhir Jaiswal, FIA Executive Vice President Dr. Avinash Gupta and Founder, DHUN Musical group USA Rajeev Singh

kick off. It's as if the universe itself acknowledged the importance of this event and the noble cause it stands for.

The founder of the DHUN Musical Group, Rajeev Singh has been actively serving the community through their performances for various fundraising events and hosting musical events of its own while keeping its vision to find, develop and provide a platform for their talents, particularly lesser known.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of its distinguished Chief Guest Randhir Jaiswal, Consular General at the Indian Consulate of New York, who was seen delightfully enjoying the rendition of the singers.

The event was also graced with our several prominent community leaders and dignitaries including FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, Bihar Foundation Chairman and FIA BOT/past President Alok Kumar, BJANA President Anurag Kumar, BJANA Vice-President Sanjeev Singh, BJANA past Presidents Shashi Sinha and Vinay Singh, Bihar Foundation Vice Chairman Ranjeet Kumar, and community media person Jyotsna Sharma

The event was inaugurated by the chief trustees of the temple Dr Geeta Gupta, and the chairman Dr Avinash

Gupta through a deep prajwalan ceremony. The event's success was amplified by the enthusiastic engagement of the audience. The "lead-host" of the event Anubha Raj incorporated interactive elements and created a memorable experience for everyone.

The talented singers of the Dhun Team-Amrisha, Bhavisha, Sonal, Shahroz, Srividhya, Sandeep, Sudhaker, Rajib, Vinay and Rajeev himself paired up with a live orchestra band led by Shekhar da. Everyone had an amazing evening with successful fundraising for the temple.

In their message, both the head of the event organizer Dr Avinash Gupta and Rajeev Singh thanked temple volunteers and the committee for their exceptional hard work and support towards the memorable success of this event. They also thanked Padmashri Dr Sudhir Parikh who was also a special guest of the event and media partners ITV Gold.

Chairman Dr. Avinash Gupta thanked the DHUN group, all the Gurukul kids, sponsors and volunteers for their support and Aarzu for catering the delicious dinner.

The DHUN Musical Group was back again with the 4th Edition of their annual fund-raising concert for the Siddhivinayak Temple located in the Toms River area on Saturday May 29th 2023.

The singing event left the audience captivated and enchanted as it showcased an exceptional level of organization combined with unparalleled talent. From meticulous planning to flawless execution and record attendance, every element of the event contributed to its resounding success. This well-organized singing event showcased the perfect blend of organization, talent, and passion.

The generosity of Mother Nature and the strength of positive vibes of all devotees, volunteers and performers were surely at play with the rains stopping just in time for the event to



Shaam-E-DHUN Group



USA State visit of
Hon. Prime Minister of India,



NARENDRA MODI

THURSDAY
**JUNE
22,
2023**



Hon. President of the USA

JOE BIDEN

Hon. Prime Minister of India

NARENDRA MODI

WITNESS AND CELEBRATE HISTORY IN THE MAKING

📍 **WHITE HOUSE SOUTH LAWN**

Community Gears to Participate and Witness Historic State Visit in DC June 22

Indian American communities in synergy with the Indian Consulate General plans to celebrate Modi's First ever historical US State Visit on June 22, 2023.

The invitation to witness the ceremonial welcome of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is to be facilitated by more than 70 Indian American communities enthusiastically working

together. The event will take place on the lawns of the White House with a Gun salute and Arms salute by the US Armed Forces.

The gathering will address the unity of the Indian American Communities in the US, it's a 45 minutes event which will commence at 10:00 am and the entry to the White House will begin several hours before the

commencement of the reception.

The function will include several hours of standing and the facilities regarding transportation will be provided for all the registered citizens. Further itinerary and pickup/drop location time and details are to be declared soon. A notification will be sent once it is confirmed.

FIA honors the Selfless Volunteers during the 3rd Parade Council Meeting

Edison New Jersey - The 3rd Parade Council Meeting was held on 19th May 2023 at Akbar Restaurant.

FIA General Secretary Nishi Dhami opened the meeting and introduced the agenda to the audience.

Present were the Executive Members and members from the Board of Trustees.

FIA Vice President Saurin Parikh along with FIA Jt Secretary Mahesh Dubal gave the latest updates on the progress made on all aspects related to

the upcoming India Day Parade.

FIA also recognized and honored their volunteers, namely Deepak Goel, Vishal Akshar and Ankush Roy for their selfless services and especially for their tremendous contribution in making the Mann Ki Baat a huge success.



FIA General Secretary Nishi Dhami opened the meeting.



Executive Vice President
Dr. Avinash Gupta



FIA Board Member
Alok Kumar



Above & Beyond
FIA volunteer
Deepak Goel

- He joined as a volunteer in June 2021
- His first volunteering was for International Yoga Day in Liberty Park, NJ
- He has been a tremendous help and support for several major and special events in 2022 and 2023 (Guinness World Records, Parade, Floats, Dance Pe Chance)
- He was extremely helpful in 100th Mann Ki Baat event in April 2023

THANK YOU Deepak, for your selfless service

Above &
Beyond FIA
volunteer

Vishal Ashar

- He was introduced to FIA in April 2023
- His technical help was instrumental in the seamless execution for the ticketing in 100th Mann Ki Baat event

THANK YOU Vishal for your selfless service



FIA Team



Above & Beyond FIA
volunteer

Ankush Roy

- She was introduced to FIA just before 2021 by her husband, Deepak Goel
- She has volunteered for FIA's digital marketing and enhancing its website
- However, she was a very big support in the technical team for 100th Mann ki Baat event

THANK YOU Ankush for your selfless service

Mann Ki Baat volunteers

US Lawmakers of Bipartisan leadership invite Honorable India's PM Narendra Modi to address a Joint Address to Congress

Co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans issued a letter on May 23, 2023, requesting Kevin McCarthy to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a joint address to Congress.

The bipartisan leadership of an Indian-focused group of US Lawmakers of the House of Representatives: Co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus and Indian-Americans, Congressman Ro Khanna, D-California and Michael Waltz, R-Florida initiated a letter on May 23, 2023, to Speaker of House Kevin McCarthy requesting to extend an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for delivering a joint address to

congress during his upcoming state visit at June.

The letter begins by, "As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence and U.S. – India relations, we write to you as Co-Chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans with a shared commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship between the United States and India."

The aim of this joint letter is that by inviting a joint address to Congress, Reps. Khanna and Waltz laid out the importance of strengthening and highlighting the partnership along with the bilateral relationship between India and the United States.

"As State Dinners have come to signify the President's utmost respect for visiting heads of state, granting a joint address to Congress is a commensurate honor for the leader of the world's largest democracy and perhaps the most critical partner to countering China in the 21st century," the lawmakers wrote.

No further indications were supporting that Speaker McCarthy would agree. But, if he does and Prime Minister Modi accepts the invitation, he will be the first Prime Minister to deliver a joint address to Congress for the second time, the first was held in June 2016.



PC: Swarajya

Basant Gupta takes oath as Planning Board Member in NJ

The Indian-American Political Leader and Philanthropist Basant Gupta take oath as the Planning Board Member in New Jersey.

Recently, Gupta was appointed as the Planning Board member of Egg Harbor Township, NJ in a planning board meeting held in New Jersey. The Planning Board members are responsible for evaluating and rendering decisions on applications

for development such as site plans, subdivisions and variances.

The oath for the planning board by the successful entrepreneur Basant Gupta was administered by the Solicitor of the board, John Ridgeway. Also, planning committee members like – Mayor Laura Pfrommer, Chairperson Manuel Aponte, and the Planning board members Charles Aikin, James



PC: New India Abroad

Galvin, Paul Hodson, Riyaz Rajput, Paul Rosenberg, Victoria Schiffler, Stephen Slusarsky, Marita Sullivan, Marita Sullivan etc. were present.

On this occasion, his wife Chitra Gupta was present and Basant expressed his gratitude for addressing both India and America as the powerful democratic nations of the world and said, "India and America are strong friends, working together can create a better world."

The respected community leader Gupta is the founding member of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and Hindu Jain Mandir Pomona New Jersey, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the South Jersey Indian Association in America, Planning Board Member of Egg Harbor Township New Jersey and Member of the Cultural and Heritage Committee on the Atlantic County Advisory Board. Along with being a trustee, has also been the former president of Lions Club International of Kanpur.

H-1B Visas for Hiring Foreign Health Professionals Bill introduced in US

Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Delia Ramirez on Wednesday introduced, the 'Expansion in Health Care Providers for Veterans Act'

The legislation was introduced the aim to hire foreign healthcare professionals on H-1B visas to help the United States Department of Veteran Affairs to meet the medical needs of people in the US. The Expanding Health Care Providers for Veterans Act was introduced by Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Delia Ramirez on Wednesday.

Department of Veterans Affairs and State Veterans Homes as cap-exempt institutions for the H1-B visa programme are particularly designated in the Bill.

"Our veterans deserve high-quality healthcare, and our district knows first-hand the importance of providing access to care, especially mental health services, for veterans who need it the most," Tlaib said. "We cannot just express our gratitude to our veterans for their service to our country, we must do more to ensure that every veteran has the support they need to live healthy lives," she said.

"I am proud to introduce this

legislation to expand healthcare providers for our veterans by welcoming health professionals who are immigrants to care for them, and I will continue to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten when they return home," Tlaib said.

Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said about the necessity of the Bill, "We have a duty to uphold our commitment to our veterans, who are being affected by the health worker shortage in our nation."

"We can address this shortage with the immigrants in our communities

who are ready and want to work, but face so many hurdles to do so. We can and must address this," she said.

The Expanding Health Care Providers for Veterans Act was introduced due to hiring difficulties imposed by the H1-B visa cap, Detroit VA Medical Centre was on the verge of closing down its methadone clinic which provided life-saving care to more than 90 local veterans.

Tlaib's intervention helped to prevent complete closure of the clinic and the Bill was introduced to avoid such a situation in the future, a media release said.



PC: wikipedia



PC: wikipedia

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Neil Makhija nominated for Montgomery County Commissioner race

Neil Makhija possibly will be the first Asian American and first Indian American to serve as the Commissioner in Montgomery County which is the highly populated AAPI district.

The American Politician Makhija was first elected for democratic nomination on May 16 for the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania commissioner's seat. He is also the Lecturer of Law at University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and Executive Director of Indian American Impact, the Nation's leading South Asian civic organization.

There are two open spots on the three-member Montgomery County Board of Commissioners for which Five Democrats and three Republicans are contesting against each other. Democratic nominations were secured by Makhija and Jamila Winder. Now, four of these candidates will head to the Nov. 7 general election and only two of them with the highest votes will secure the open Commissioners' seats.

Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller tweeted congratulating Makhija: "Congratulations to my friend, Neil Makhija, on becoming the Democratic nominee for Montgomery County Commissioner!" Rep. Pramila Jayapal from D-Washington also congratulated Makhija through a tweet.

Public Interest Lawyer Makhija also stated in his May 17 letter to supporters, "At a time when our fundamental rights and democracy itself are on the line, voters of Montgomery County chose a candidate who will fight to protect democratic principles and values." He thanked his wife, Dr. Rachel Nash, for winning the primary election, and said, "We ran a positive campaign and inspired a new and diverse coalition of voters to turn out to vote in every corner of the county."

The 36-year-old Lawyer and the representative of IMPACT has \$842,000 for his primary bid which is more than all of his opponents combined, reported The Philadelphia Inquirer. Makhija stated that he aims for expanding mental health services, build more housing for low-income and un-housed people, and a plan for addressing the climate change.



PC: the pioneer

Indian-American Duo reaches Finals for European Inventor Award

The Indian-American duo are leading in the race of European Inventor Award, the result will be declared on July 4 in Valencia, Spain.

The award was launched by the European Patent Office (2006). The Indian Professor Kripa Varanasi working together with his American student and competition partner David Smith from Massachusetts Institute of Technology is bolstering the race for European Inventor Award and has secured their position as the finalist. Since 2013, the votes of the public invited have chosen the winner of a Popular Prize among the finalists.

The invention of the duo, the LiquiGlide was founded in 2012 and assists in the dispersion of viscous liquids such as mayonnaise, lotion, as well as glue, in easy and frictionless manner from their textured packaging. Also, helpful in the Skincare and Dental Hygiene Industry. Biotechnology companies create a customised chemical coating for medical products in a vast range.

The coating is the first of its kind which repels the products present in the packaging and helps in aiding the process of smooth and effortless discharge of waste products like tomato ketchup, toothpaste, paint and many such products leaving no traces behind. Study shows that it takes around 500 years to fully biodegrade a toothpaste tube and globally over one billion toothpaste tubes are disposed of in the land-fills annually.

The idea for the invention was inspired by the conversation between Varanasi and his wife when she was struggling to retrieve honey from a jar. The Varanasi Smith duo has already won the Audience Choice Award at the MIT-\$100K business plan competition causing "a perfect storm of great things that came together," as Varanasi describes. The final event will be streamed online for those who are interested.

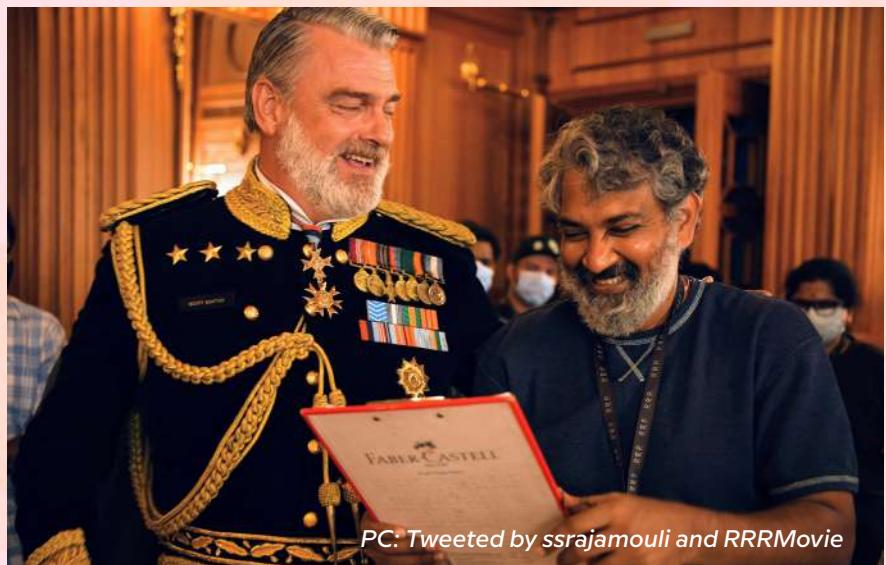
RRR Director Rajamouli pays Tribute to Actor Ray Stevenson

The blockbuster Film RRR Director SS Rajamouli pays tribute to late Ray Stevenson saying: "Working With Him Was Pure Joy."

The 58 year old actor passed away with the cause of death unknown. The Villain of RRR film was also famous for his renowned role in "Thor" movies and Two Star Wars Series. The actor was remembered by Director SS Rajamouli on Tuesday who played the role of Villainous British Governor, Sir Scott in RRR and said that he was someone that brought "infectious" energy to film sets.

Stevenson died in Italy on Sunday, four days before his 59th birthday, his publicist confirmed with entertainment website Variety. No cause of death was available. In a Twitter post, Rajamouli said that it was shocking and posted a throwback picture with Stevenson on RRR sets: "... Just can't believe this news. Ray brought in so much energy and vibrancy with him to the sets. It was infectious. Working with him was pure joy. My prayers are with his family. May his soul rest in peace."

The official Twitter page of RRR, shared a behind-the-scenes photo of the late actor filming a crucial action scene in the movie and the tweet reads: "He was 56 years old when we were shooting this difficult scene but he did not hesitate while performing this stunt. We will forever cherish having you on the sets of #RRR, Ray Stevenson. Gone too soon,"



PC: Tweeted by ssrajamouli and RRRMovie

PEN American Gala honored Salman Rushdie

Author Salman Rushdie's first emotional and unexpected appearance in PEN'S American Literary Gala to receive PEN's Centenary Courage Award.

Rushdie's first appearance attending the annual gala of Poets, Essayists, Novelists (PEN) America, a non-profit organisation of writers focused on freedom of expression through literature, by giving the event's final speech as he accepted a special prize, the PEN Centenary Courage Award, just nine months after being stabbed repeatedly and hospitalised.

He addressed his award to all the people who rescued him at that event. He said, "I accept this award, primarily on behalf of those who came to my rescue and saved my life. I was the target that day, but they were the heroes."

On this occasion, Rushdie dedicated his whole 8-minute speech praising every person who helped him throughout his journey of recovery. He surprised the audience on May 18 by his appearance in the PEN American Gala.

He allured the audience with his witty lines: "It's nice to be back as opposed to not being back, which was also an option. I'm pretty glad the dice rolled this way."

Rushdie also acknowledged reporters by saying that his first appearance will be on PEN: "I've had such a long relationship with PEN. If there was an event to choose (to make my first appearance) it had to be this one."

Novelist Rushdie was the PEN America President (2004) and served his tenure of two years. In his speech, he said, "It is a way of coming back to the world of books, of human rights: the world I have inhabited all my life. I'm happy to be back in it."



PC: CNN

Goldwater Scholarship awarded to Subhashish Mukherjee

Subhashish Mukherjee is among the 413 scholars named in the Barry Goldwater Scholarship 2023. The scholar is a junior at the Mellon College of Science chosen from a group of more than 5,000 college sophomores and juniors. The Barry Goldwater Scholarships have been awarded to around the top 10,000s since its inception.

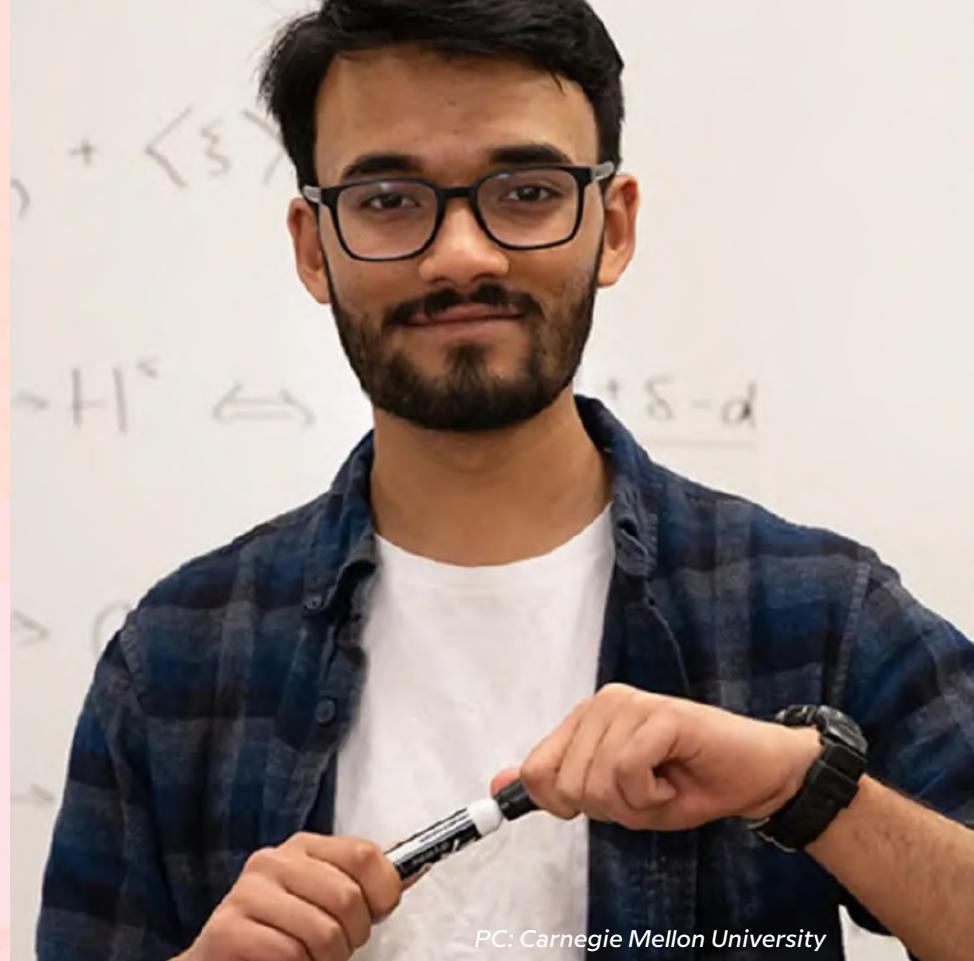
Each Goldwater Scholar is provided with an annual sum up to a maximum amount of US\$7,500 for an academic year. This sum is sufficient enough for their cost of tuition, required fees, books and lodging, and they are relieved from boarding financial aid received from other sources as their expectation from them is reduced.

Mukherjee, the Carnegie Mellon University student who studies mathematical sciences, was congratulated by Richelle Bernazzoli, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholar Development, stating that, "Our 2023 Goldwater Scholars highlight CMU's strengths in key areas of mathematics and science research."

Mukherjee has a keen engagement with Linear Algebra through Matrix theory and has served as a teaching assistant for it twice at Mellon University. "It made me want to do more math," Mukherjee said. "It was my favourite class when I got here, and I think it's my favourite class too TA." He has served as TA four times and helped students to understand vector analysis by Matrix theory which focuses on the aspects of linear algebra.

In 2022 Mukherjee started working with Ian Tice, an Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences, their studies' primary focus was on the nonlinear partial differential equations and his work on function spaces enables researchers to identify novel characteristics of differential equations. About this Tice said, "Subhashish has displayed remarkable prowess in undergraduate math research." He also added, "This is due to a combination of his remarkable drive and passion for math as well as the extensive training he received in the math department's Honors Program. We expect a very bright future for him."

Subhashish is further aspiring to start Ph.D. in Mathematics as he will complete his graduation in 2023. While continuing teaching, he wants to study by adopting an interdisciplinary strategy so that he may work in many fields while honing his mathematical abilities and making new connections.



PC: Carnegie Mellon University

"Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai" Actress Vaibhavi Upadhyay dies in Car Accident

The news has been shared by producer JD Majethia via Instagram Story.

Vaibhavi Upadhyay was a famous TV personality, well-known for her role as Jasmine in popular TV show "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai". The sad demise of Vaibhavi was shared by producer JD Majethia by an Instagram story. Actress was travelling with her fiancé when the car went out of control.

JD Majethia knew Vaibhavi Upadhyay for 15 years and tweeted, "Life is so unpredictable. A very fine actress, dear friend Vaibhavi Upadhyay popularly known as 'Jasmine' of Sarabhai vs Sarabhai passed away. She met with an accident in the north. Family will bring her to Mumbai tomorrow morning around 11 am for last rites. RIP Vaibhavi (sic)."

The 32 year-old Indian Actress, Upadhyay also worked in 'Chhapak'(2020) alongside Deepika Padukone and in 'Timir'(2023).



PC: Sputnik India

Community News

Over 30 Ambassadors visit the BAPS Hindu Mandir, in Abu Dhabi, UAE

The momentous visit of more than 30 ambassadors from around the world gathered to promote intercultural understanding and witnessed the progress of the region's first traditional sprawling 27-acre construction site of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

His Excellency Sunjay Sudhir, Indian ambassador to the UAE, praised the UAE and India's friendship rooted in history, culture and trade. He added, "This mandir represents the collective aspirations of faith of the broad Indian community living in the UAE, especially the saints and volunteers of BAPS who are serving tirelessly and selflessly to build this mandir of tolerance and harmony."

All the dignitaries were adorned with garlands and they were also acknowledged by the comprehensive overview of the mandir's historical significance, construction process, and the impact anticipated through the captivating video presentations and personal narratives.

Dr S Jaishankar Minister of External Affairs conveyed his heartfelt video message to express hopes for the significance of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in the UAE. He also added, "Real change is when different cultures connect with each other respectfully encompassing equality and fairness".

Pujya Brahmavahidas Swami, Head Swami of BAPS Hindu Mandir, Abu Dhabi, warmly welcomed the ambassadors and their families, "Celebrating the past, addressing the present and recalibrating the future, BAPS Hindu Mandir amalgamates ancient art and architecture, modern science and technology, universal values and spirituality. Your presence here sends a hopeful message of harmony and is a testament to the belief that dialogue, exchange, and engagement can bring us all closer together and make this world a happier place."

The distinguished guests were given a guided tour of the construction site and participated in a symbolic act of sprinkling flowers on the bricks that will form the mandir. They were astounded to discover that the mandir's façade immortalized cultural tales from Arabian, Mayan, Greek, and other civilizations, promoting peace, tolerance, and harmony.



Traditional welcome of ambassadors at the BAPS Hindu Mandir, Abu Dhabi.



BAPS volunteers the guests with garlands.



Ambassadors connect deeply with the BAPS Hindu Mandir, embracing its sacred History and civilizational impact



Esteemed guests listen to Dr. S. Jaishankar's heartfelt tribute to the magnificent BAPS Hindu Mandir



Swami Brahmavahidas expresses gratitude and outlines the inspirational and civilizational impact of the Mandir



Ambassadors applaud and appreciate the Mandir's presentation



HE Sten Arne Rosnes, Norway's Ambassador to UAE, marvels at the exquisite craftsmanship of the mandir.



Israel Ambassador HE Amir Hayek congratulates Swami Brahmavahidas for generating a climate of peace & confidence in the region & around the world



Swami Brahmavahidas with HE Antoine Delcourt - Belgium Ambassador to UAE



Community's Condolences



ABRAR (SAM) KHAN

Bi-partisan Community Leader/Unifier - Entrepreneur - Activist - Politician

FIA mourns the loss of Sam Khan

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un

We pray to the Almighty to keep you
resting in eternal Peace!



NEWSMAKERS

Indian-Origin NYPD Officer awarded by Presidential Medal of Valour

Sumit Sulan, an Indian origin and a New York Police officer was honoured by President Joe Biden with the Medal of Valour.

On the day of the incident they received a call from a distressed woman who was threatened by his son, her son was attacking both the woman and her brother.

They reached the place of incidence and as Sulan was a rookie, he was with the victimized woman and son and the two senior First grade detectives Mora and Rivera engaged with the aggravated man and they got injured by the Gunman. Now, Sulan took charge of the situation and used his service weapon and struck down the gunman. He handled the whole deadly incident within 45 seconds from the point of beginning.

Due to his bravery and courageous decision he was able to save the lives of the civilians and protected his seniors

while handling the deadly situation single handedly. Officer Sulan was promoted with the rank of detective on February 22. According to a tweet by Commission Sewell, he was presented with shield No. 332, "symbolizing three brothers from the 32nd Precinct."

Praising the efforts of Sulan, the President said, "There's no greater responsibility of the government than to ensure the safety of the American people and those who serve and protect us all. We're incredibly proud of all of you, and I mean that. We're going to have your back as long as we need to." He also added that, "To the honourees, I don't know all of you, but I do know you. From small towns to big cities, you're cut from the same cloth. You run into danger when everyone runs away."



PC: Tweet by WhiteHouse

Prof. Emerita Vidya Dehejia of Columbia University received Freer Medal

Vidya Dehejia is an Indian and South Asian Art Professor, the Barbara Stoler Miller and Emerita of Indian and South Asian Art in Columbia University is the 14th Recipient of the Freer medal 2023 by Smithsonian



PC: Columbia News

National Museum of Art.

Dehejia is the first scholar of South Asian art to receive Freer Medal for understanding the arts of Asia throughout their career, recognising her dedication to Indian and South Asian Art. Smithsonian remarked: "Dehejia's ground-breaking research spans millennia of art and history, from ancient Buddhist rock-cut architecture to colonial-period photography."

Dehejia published 24 books and many papers in the field of Indian and South Asian Art throughout her career and shaped generations of scholars for decades. About this Smithsonian noted that "At Columbia University, as professor of South Asian art history from 1982 to 2003 and as the Barbara Stoler Miller Professor of Indian and South Asian Art from 2003 to 2021."

Her works recognised and highlighted by Smithsonian are: "Devi,

The Great Goddess: Female Divinity in South Asian Art (1999), India through the Lens: Photography 1840–1911 (2000), The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India (2002), The Body Adorned: Dissolving Boundaries between Sacred and Profane in India's Art (2009), The Unfinished: Stone Carvers at Work on the Indian Subcontinent with Peter Rockwell (2015) and The Thief Who Stole My Heart: The Material Life of Chola Bronzes from South India, c. 855–1280 (2021), based on her A.W. Mellon lectures in 2016."

She wrote on wide-ranging topics which includes: visual narrative, gender, the meaning of the unfinished, medieval yogini temples, Chola bronzes and artistic production during the British Raj. Dehejia is the Padma Bhushan (2012) honoured scholar, she received it from President of India Pratibha Patil.

Indian-American honored by HFA for Anti-Hunger Initiative

Founder of HungerMitao movement Raj and Aradhna Asava were honoured by HFA in an annual gala.

This movement is grass-rooted to raise awareness and a process of channelling resources from Indian Americans while improving community engagement to fight against Hunger in America.

The HungerMitao movement (2017) is an initiative that has enabled more than 50 million nutritious meals for food-challenged individuals and families and in the corona pandemic expanded their model of mobilising to the Chinese and Hispanic American communities to support them in the fight against hunger.

Randhir Jaiswal, the Indian Consul General in NY attended the gala and congratulated the philanthropist couple for their contribution to attain food security by their HungerMitao campaign. On this fortunate occasion, Raj said, "Anna and I accept this award on behalf of the four million strong



Raj & Anna Asava

Founders of HungerMitao

Indian diasporas in the US, who, in the spirit of 'give where you live', enabled over 50 million nutritious meals for food insecure individuals and families across America."

Applauding the Asavas, CEO of Hunger Free America Joel Berg said, "At a time when more than 35 million Americans are facing food insecurity and pandemic-era food benefits have been rolled back, our mission to end hunger in this country has never been more important. I am particularly inspired by the work of Anna & Raj Asava, so it is a particular joy to honour them and the entire Indian American community."

The Indian Origin couple and resident of Texas have served in many firms as leaders for decades and at the end decided to reciprocate by Community Participation Model (HungerMitao Movement).

PC: LinkedIn Raj Asava

Indian-Americans Esteemed with Ellis Medal of Honor

Ellis Medal of Honor annually represents both American and naturalized citizens of America. Formerly known as NECO (National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations) is now Ellis Island Honors Society (EIHS).

According to the organisation, the Medal recognizes citizens who are: "Individuals who have made it their mission to share with those less fortunate, their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity. They do so while acknowledging their debt to their ethnic heritage as they uphold the ideals and spirit of America."

Chennai-born Indian Americans Chandrika Tandon and Ram Shriram are among the other 90 individuals who are honored with this medal.

Tandon is a Grammy-nominated artist for her album "Soul Call" and an Indian American Businesswoman. The chair of the President's Global Council, and chair of the board of the

Tandon School of Engineering. She was also the Inaugural distinguished alumnus of both the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and Madras Christian College (MCC).

Ram Shriram is a philanthropist and an Indian American Businessman; he was one of the first investors and founding brothers of Google. He is a technology industry insider for more



PC: CNBC

than 30 years. In 2008 and 2009 he was number three on the Forbes list of top tech deal makers.

EIHS was established in 1984, and its medal has been awarded annually since 1986, also, officially recognised by both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate and in the past, has honoured eight Presidents of the USA.



PC: SHERPALO

Tata Sons Head honoured with France's Highest Civilian Award

Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran is honoured with the Highest Civilian Award by France's Legion National Order of the Legion of Honour.

He is the first non-Parsi and professional executive to head the Tata Group.

Legion of Honour is the highest rank in both civil, merit and military, it was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. Chandrasekaran is awarded for enhancing the relationship France and India. France is the 11th largest investor in India which incorporates 1.70% of total direct investment inflows into India. Apart from that India is the largest scientific partner of France with over 25 research and development centres and 15 Indo-French Research Laboratories. Tata has deep-embedded relations with France as Jamshedji Ratan Tata was born in Paris and was half-French. A picture of Natarajan with Elon Musk is also tweeted on Tesla Club India which depicts that he is followed, recognised and honoured globally.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed as chair of B20 India and he was appointed as CEO in 2009. He was also the chairman of Tata Motors and Total Global Beverages. He also got a five-year extension as the chairman of Tata Sons, and is the promoter of more than 100 companies with total annual revenue generated more than

\$100 billion.

He was also Director on the Board of India's Central Bank and Reserve Bank of India, in 2016. Additionally, he was appointed to the International Advisory Council of Singapore's Economic Development Board in 2016.



PC: Twitter Catherine Colonna

Indian American wins Cutler Bell Prize for High School Computing

Srihaasa Nallamothu, including the three other high-school students won Cutler Bell Prize.

The Cutler Bell Prize was founded in 2015 by avid Cutler and Gordon Bell. The award was introduced to promote and encourage students in computer science, to empower young and aspiring high school students in the USA. Gordon Bell and David Cutler Endowment Fund is financially supporting the award by a \$1 million endowment.

All the four recipients including Nallamothu will each be awarded a \$10,000 prize and a trip to the ACM/CSTA Cutler-Bell Prize Reception. Srihaasa Nallamothu of University High School in Normal, Illinois' project that was selected by a panel of judges was based on ingenuity, complexity, relevancy and originality.

Srihaasa used Modern technology and computer science for her project

to address the research gap to predict Vasovagal Syncope which leads to sudden drop in heart rate and blood pressure leading to fainting-in Patients with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS).

According to a news release, Srihaasa is the first person to conduct an Institutional Review Board research study and collect human

subject field data on POTS patients in the real world using non-invasive technologies.

Her project was inspired by a Tiktok video and after some research she found that there is no study on the issue or consumer solutions to predict syncope on real-world data.

She wrote a Python script to extract the 15-minute window signal data of heart rate, blood volumetric pressure, EDA, temperature, and accelerometer data, the release added.

Girls Who Code club was founded by Nallamothu at her Middle school, which developed and taught coding curriculum/activities, managed grants/funding. Also networked and planned events.

Srihaasa plans to work toward creating a consumer product and pairing her algorithm with a smart watch, after the completion of her research.



PC: The Hans India

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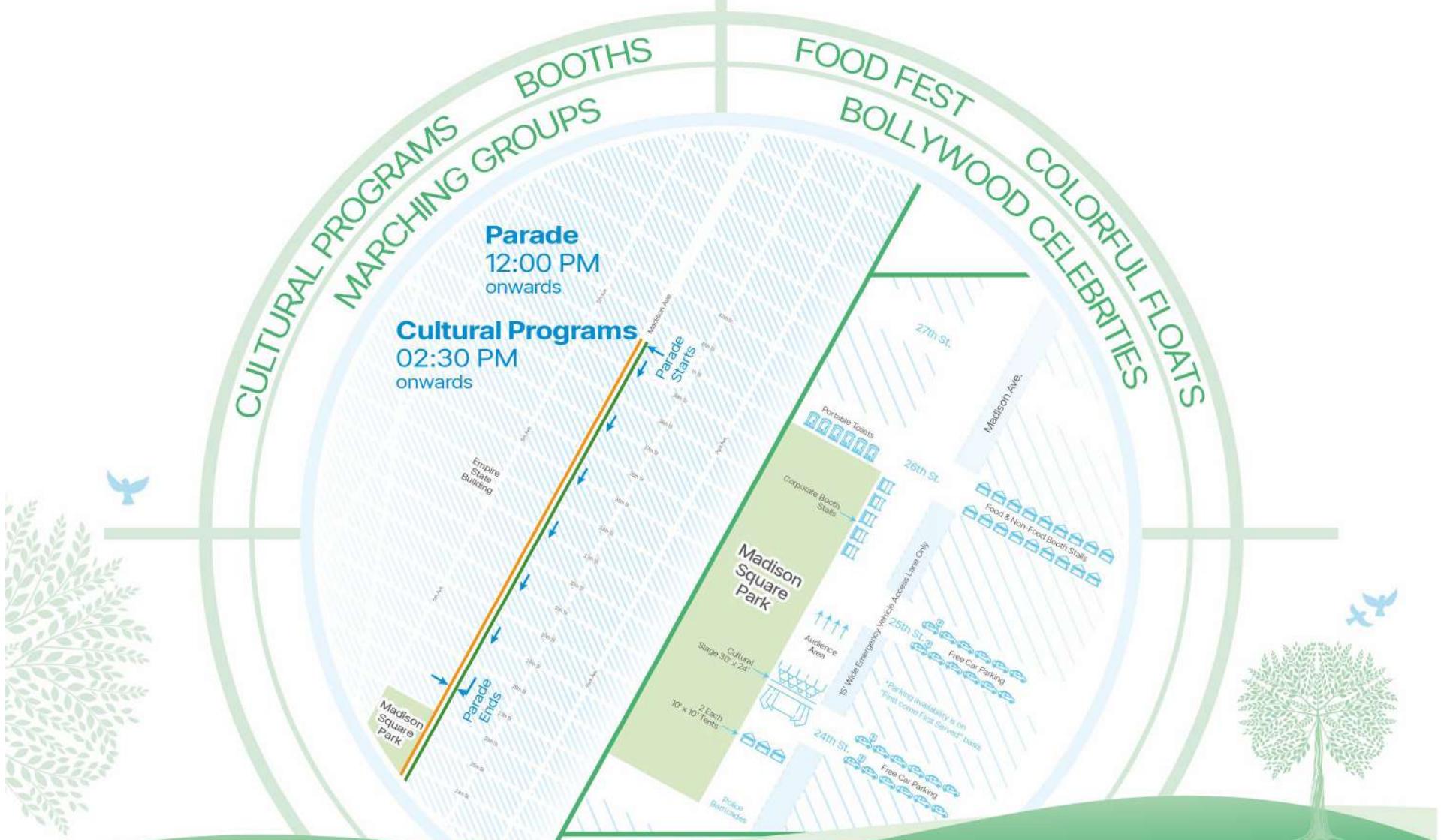
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Dahaad

(Prime Video Series/ Slow Burn Thriller)

THIS DAHAAD LEAVES YOUR HEART AND MIND THUMPING !

Created By Reema Kagati, Zoya Akhtar

Cast Vijay Varma, Sonakshi Sinha, Gulshan Devaiah, Sohum Shah

**U/A
16+**

Dahaad is a stinging social commentary cleverly woven into the warp and weft of an extremely gritty thriller that keeps you on tenterhooks.

In a small town in Rajasthan, a plucky policewoman, Anjali Bhati (Sonakshi) unearths a string of cases of missing girls that could be linked to each other. As revelations mount up, so does the difficulty of the police to nail the culprit.

The audience have been made privy to the perpetrator. It is not a whodunnit but a procedural thriller which, in the course of investigation, gives us a glaring look into the social milieu that is an equal culprit for the fate of the girls.

As the chase quickens up, so do our heartbeats. The cold simplicity with which crimes have been done is scary, the culprit terrifying and the reasons that enabled all this with such ease is heartbreaking.

Somewhere amidst all this crime drama, we see a woman fighting out tenaciously against caste and gender prejudice, departmental politics, repugnant male gaze and societal pressure to conform.

There's an honest police officer struggling at home front against deep rooted conditioning.

There's an ambitious officer with an honest heart within, who is struggling with his inner fears.

The characters are well etched out and each of their sub-story is a character study that has something to convey. So do most dialogues, conversations, gestures, looks, even the poem/ story being read. It is actually the way they have infused the subtextual that sets it apart.

There's so much they say and how !

Casteism, patriarchy, caste politics, corruption, misogyny, gender prejudice, societal pressures and conditioning ,marital relationship, dowry and most prominently -plight of the marginalised. The sheer list shouldn't put you off. You'll have to watch this stellar piece of cinema put together by two amazing filmmakers to see how cleverly they have done so.

The pace is slow in first two episodes but picks up its grip on you as it proceeds, becomes very taut 5th onwards but the last episode seems tad hurried. Performances have a lot to their credit in bringing to life this well written and well directed drama.

Those who thought Vijay Varma is loathsome in Darlings , will have to watch this one. The man defines sheer terror. As a simple well behaved, educated, soft spoken family man, without an iota of help from dramatised looks or gestures or actions, he brings to the table

something beyond Darlings. Gulshan Devaiah as Sonakshi's senior is fabulous. That soft toned voice quality and the effortless naturalism he lends to his characters is what I love most about him. And man, the way he emotes with just his expressions! Sohum Shah, mostly seen in serious roles, is superb in a lighter role this time. Together these three amazing actors add heft to the show.

Sonakshi looks dashing as the straight faced (too straight faced to be honest) and resolute policewoman (loved her riding the bike like a pro).

She gives her best and it felt good to see such actors pushing the envelope, so much more than being song and dance prop and playing aide to mega heroes.Her performance though lacked the nuance that the character deserved.

The show is recommended for not only being a gritty slow burn thriller,with a fine set of performances, (one of which has raised the bar and is already the talk of the town) but for the way it leaves your hearts and mind resonating with its daaad!



Photo: Dahaad Trailer

Jason Momoa steals the show in Fast X.

In the latest Fast X series, John Cena, Charlize Theron, Jason Statham and even Helen Mirren have made an appearance, but it was not enough to save the film. The charming antagonist Jason Momoa steals the show.

Fast and Furious has been a media franchise for over 20 years, centered largely on a series of action films. The world has dramatically changed but the franchise hasn't. Many characters have come and gone but the main theme of the series remains the same, the latest installment Fast X is starring Vin Diesel as Dominic Toretto, but the viewers of this installment grew fond of the unbeatable villain Jason Momoa.

Jason Momoa is an American actor renowned for his dreadful role in "Game of Thrones" as 'Khal Drogo' and for his role as 'Aquaman'. His debut role was in "Baywatch: Hawaii"(1999-2001) and since then, he has been portrayed with very distinguished

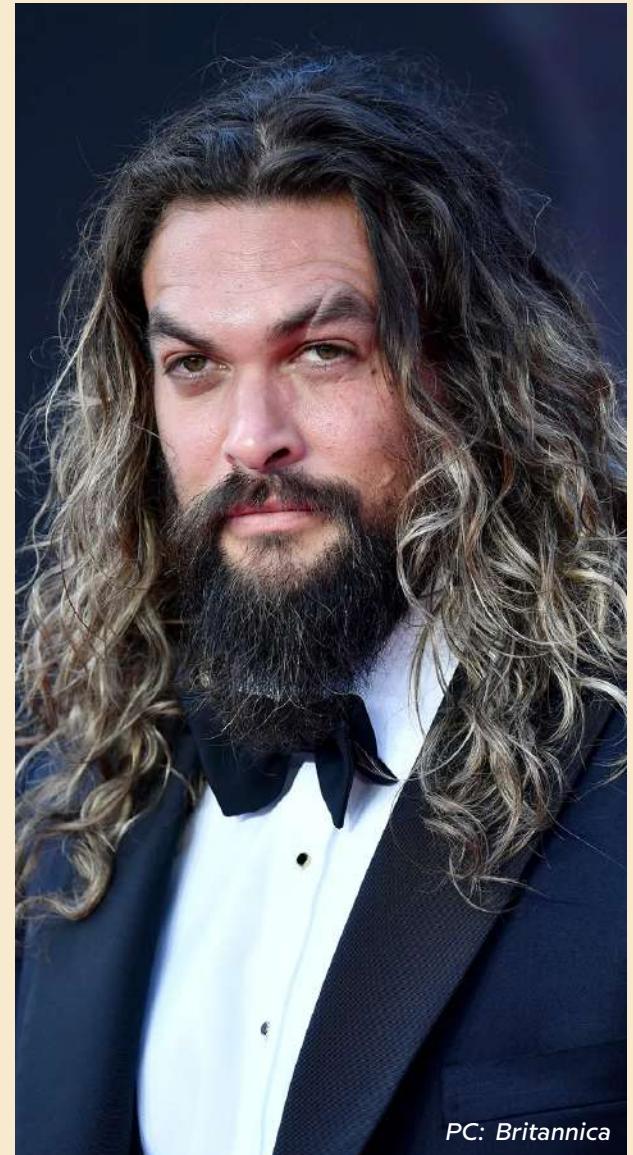
roles. Jason unexpectedly steals the show in the latest installment Fast X as the unstoppable enemy Dante and it's such a delight to watch Momoa

as the flamboyant villain. While the action and car chases are fun and fabulous as ever, the plot of this series was not as par the expectation. It includes Rome which is destroyed by a spherical bomb and Toretto is merely seen roaming around Portugal and London protecting the 'family' from the enemy Dante and nothing can stop him!

The franchise has made 10 films of this series with selective possibilities for beloved characters who can only go in a limited number of directions. But anyway, the makers have grossed around 8\$ Billion dollars and are the eighth most successful film franchise in the world and Universal's most successful series.



PC: Vanity Fair



PC: Britannica

Sequel of Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse to be released on June 2

The series of Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse was to be released on June 2 but, the notable thing is that this time the film is to be released first in India on June 1.

It presents the plot of Multiverse where other spider-people are living together and are charged with protecting their very existence. Regarding this Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head of Sony Pictures Releasing International (SPRI) India said that it is due to Indian fans' overwhelming excitement and interest for the film, "To fulfil this unprecedented demand in our market, we've decided to release the film a day prior, and again to reiterate in 10 languages."

Spider-Man is the American fictional Superhero of Marvel Comics. The latest soon to be released film is to be set a year after the reuniting with Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld), the Spider-Man is catapulted to the

Multiverse, where he encounters a team of Spider-People. This whole team of Spider-people along with Spider-man are charged with the responsibility of protecting their very own existence from an enemy Miles Morales. But, the team of Spider-people clashes about the way to handle the threat Miles Morales(Shameik Moore) who is

pitted against a wide range of Spidey-themed enemies, including Spider-Cat.

In India, the movie will be available in 10 languages which includes English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, and Malayalam. The Indian cricketer Shubhman Gill lends his voice to Indian Spider-Man/Pavitr Prabhakar for the film's Punjabi and Hindi dubbed versions. The upcoming sequel has some big shoes to fill here, as the first film Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film in 2019.



PC: IMDb

Indian Stars' Fashion Flaunted at Cannes 2023



The Festival of Cannes 2023 was the 76th edition, it was one of the biggest entertainment and fashion events of the year, it commenced on May 16 at French Riviera.

Many of the Bollywood celebrities walked their debut on the red-carpet of this season. Some everlasting shining stars and veterans of Bollywood like Aishwarya Rai were outstanding in portraying their supreme fashionable extravaganza and she never disappoints her audience.

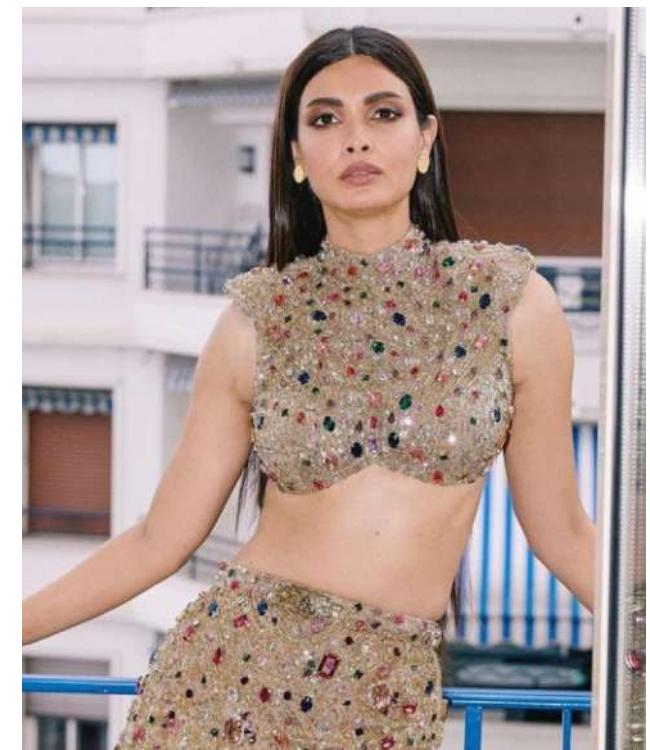
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is one of the regulars and without her the festival is incomplete, she wore a behemoth silver hood with silver gown and black bow which took the fashion world by storm when she arrived for the screening of the film Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.

Several Bollywood stars debuting this year in Cannes 2023 looked mesmerizing like Sara Ali Khan who chose to wear all traditional and opted for an ivory and beige Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla lehenga. While the Sita Raman star Mrunal Thakur was a sight to behold in a Falguni Shane Peacock bespoke couture, another star who chose to rock with the same designer was Diana Penty. The former Miss World Manushi Chiller looked stunning in white tulle gown by fashion designer house Fovari. Esha Gupta flaunted a pastel pink gown designed by Nicolas Jebran Couture, while Urvashi Rautela stunned in a pink gown at the opening ceremony.

Not just the Bollywood Stars, but some social-media influencers had their debut and walked with grace on the red-carpet were Dolly Singh, Masoon Minawala, Niharika and Diipa Buller Khosla.



PC: Vogue India, India Today and The Indian Express



Sydney Film Festival screens hits of Amitabh Bachchan

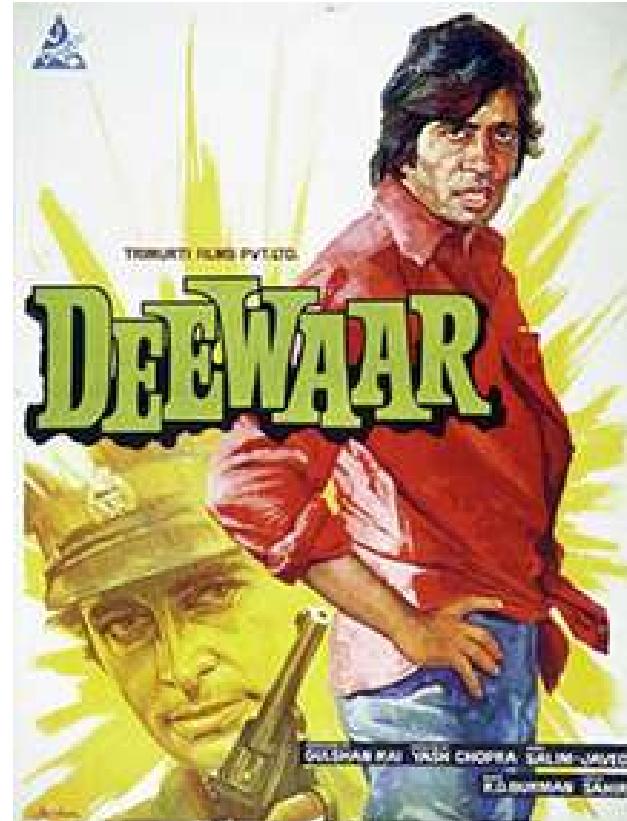
The films selected are from 11 curated and restored ones from Film Heritage Foundation. They are Kaala Patthar, Amar Akbar Anthony, Don, and Deewar. The Film Heritage Foundation in 2022 screened these 11 films in 19 Indian cities to mark Bachchan's milestone 80th birthday.

The 70th Sydney Film Festival (SFF) 2023, is to be held at 13 iconic venues across Sydney and this festival organisers chose four films of the Legendary Actor Amitabh Bachchan from 70s and 80s. The films are scheduled to be screened from June 7-17 at various venues. These selected films are based on Bachchan's popularity as the 'Angry Young Man' of that time.

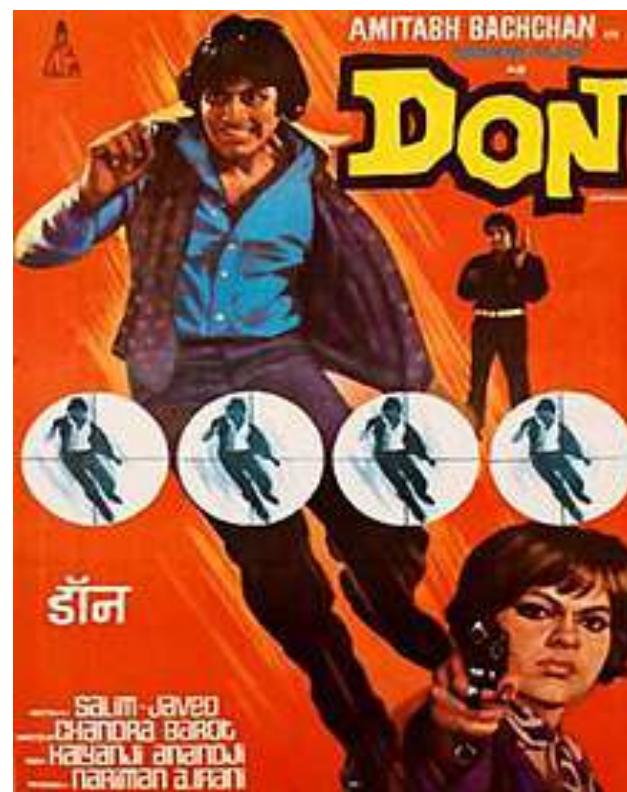
The successful music of these films also contributed prominently, they are: Keh Doon Tumhe, Khaike Paan Banaras Wala, Arey Deewano Mujhe Pehchano, Yeh Mera Dil Pyaar Ka Deewana, Jiska Mujhe Tha Intezaar, Taiyabali Pyaar Ka Dushman, Parda Hai Parda, Shirdi Wale Sai Baba, are all evergreen songs that people still groove on.

The outstanding combination of high-voltage action and drama with great music is the significant constant in Bachchan's films.

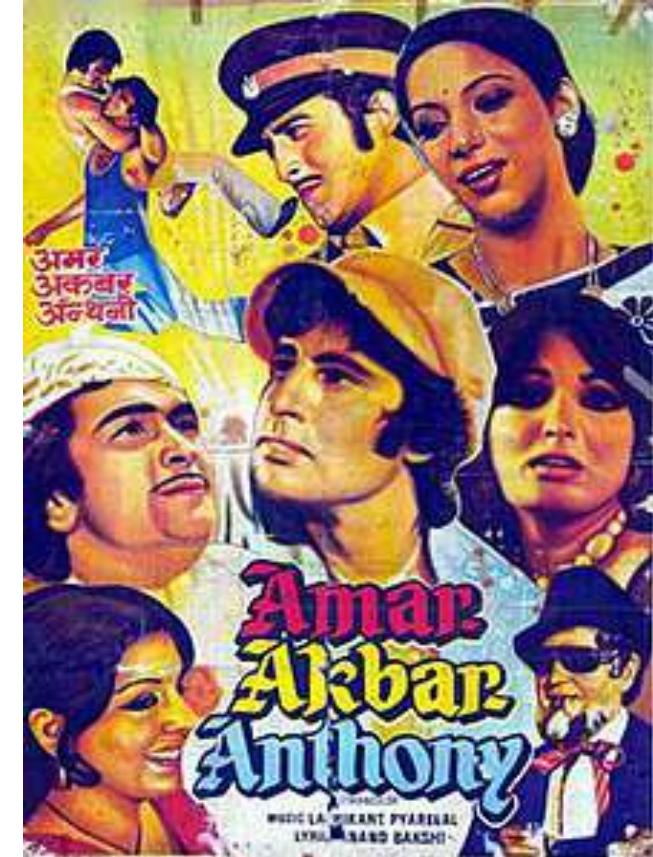
His film Deewar had a significant impact by Bachchan's criminal anti-hero vigilant character resonating with audiences and took his career to new heights. In the Film Amar Akbar Anthony, Bachchan's role as Gonsalves had a lasting impact on pop culture with its catchy songs and quotable one-liners. Bachchan's Don won Golden Jubilee by box office and his role as an India's one of the most powerful criminals in Mumbai who always eludes the authorities despite being wanted in eleven countries is still very famous and in Kaala Patthar, he was much acclaimed for his portrayal of an ex-Navy captain now working in mines, in order to forget his past.



Deewar will screen on June 7 at the Art Gallery of New South Wales at 7:00 p.m.



Don will be screened on June 10 and June 17 at the NSW Art Gallery (1:45 p.m.) and Casula Powerhouse (7 p.m.) respectively.



Amar Akbar Anthony will play on June 10 and 11 at the NSW Art Gallery (10:15 a.m.) and Casula Powerhouse (1 p.m.) respectively.



Kaala Patthar will screen at Event Cinemas George Street – Cinema 9 on June 12 at 1:15 p.m.

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