

# THE DIASPORA

An initiative by FIA • 100% VOLUNTEER RUN ORGANIZATION EST. 1970  
Federation of Indian Associations - New England. 501(C)3.

**BI-WEEKLY**

Issue. 52



PAGE 7

**SACO Honors FIA President Elect Kenny Desai And FIA Senior Advisor Padma Shri Dr. H.R. Shah.**



PAGE 9

**MOCAAPI donates \$300,000 to Food bank and Cultural Center**

## FIA NEW ENGLAND AND THE INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZED A PRE-RELEASE FILM IMPACT PROGRAM ABOUT "THE KASHMIR FILES" AT THE HARVARD CLUB & UMASS



*Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi with team FIA, New England.*

**F**ederation of Indian Associations (FIA) and Indo American Community with many other partner organizations arranged a free sneak preview of 'The Kashmir Files (TKF)' film screening before the formal release of this film on January 26, 2022, that coincides with the Republic Day of India at the Regal

Cinema, Marlborough, MA on the evening of Friday, December 10, 2021. They also organized two exclusive pre-release film Impact programs about 'The Kashmir Files (TKF)' on Wednesday, December 08, 2021, one at Harvard Club, Boston, MA in the afternoon, and the other at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA in the evening. Generally, sneak pre-

views provide additional publicity and word-of-mouth exposure for a movie. A hall full of audiences watched TKF - a remarkable film that brought out the horrible truth about Hindu genocide in the Kashmir Valley with pin-drop silence and much inquisitiveness for what happens next. This film is produced by a well-known and graceful actor Pallavi Joshi Agni-

hotri and is directed and written by an acclaimed director Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri. Both have done great work to expose a tragedy for which India has failed for 31 years to show the real face of the Kashmiri Hindu genocide. This film is made with the intention of creating awareness and education among people about the true

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

stories of Kashmiri Hindus, and to wipe out the false narratives set by some interest groups all these years. In addition, it is also a history of all Hindus for centuries and perhaps all persecuted societies of the world — whether it is Jews by Christian Germany, Christians in Turkey by the Islamic Ottoman empire, or the native religions of Americas and Africa by Christian West, and systematic destruction of Muslims and their countries by Western deep state today.

All the invitees at the Harvard Club had a brief meet and greet program along with veggie wraps and various soft beverages, spending with Vivek Agnihotri (Film Director), Pallavi Joshi (actress), and Mallika (creative producer). Abhishek Singh (President



*Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi at Regal Cinema for the pre-release film screening.*

of FIA, NE) and Jyoti Singh (Emcee of the program) welcomed all the invitees and set the tone of the discussion, and said they

are hopeful the outcome of this discussion will help to prevail the Global Peace, Social Harmony, and humanity. Following a brief clip of

the making of the film, Vivek Agnihotri briefed the audience about his motivation behind making this movie and his thoughts and experiences. Vivek said that his talks with some Kashmiri Pandits made him to uncover the truth behind the unreported/partially reported stories of the Indian history, and highlights of pains, sufferings, struggles, and trauma of Kashmiri Pandits. Then, he realized hypocritical policies adopted by the local and international top leaders and government agencies that raises questions about the principle of democracy, religion, politics, and humanity. It is an honest effort to uncover the truth, and present to the world.

Prof. Bal Ram Singh moderated the panel discussion that comprised of Prof. Sanjay Kaul, Swati Chauhan, a student at Harvard Di-



*FIA -NE team welcoming Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi.*



*A warm welcome of the director and producer*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

vinity School, Dr. Ramesh Kapoor, and Prof . Adam J. Sulkowski of Babson College. The panelists expressed their enlightening thoughts and said that such films, documentaries, and literature will definitely help the educators in teaching the younger generations about the factors and patterns of genocides, and how to address issues of human rights, and world

peace. In his concluding remarks, Vivek said that such issues would not be resolved by being either a leftist or rightist but by being in the middle as Lord Shiva's third eye. It is an eye of wisdom, which provides us the ability to distinguish what is right and what is wrong and leads to oneness and true harmony in the world. The packed Hall of influential intellectuals and local dignitaries applauded his speech. He as well

answered all the questions raised by the audience in a brief interactive session. Pallavi talked about her experiences that came across during her research and requested everyone to watch the film on Friday at Regal Cinema, Marlborough, MA. She urged people to then share their thoughts with family members, friends, and on social media to encourage people to watch this movie which will be released theatrically worldwide

on 26 January 2022, coinciding with India's Republic Day. She asked people to be aware of the real situations and support efforts that are working towards building Kashmir as a heaven on the earth again. Gaurav Dixit, Mukta Munjal thanked all the partner organizations, media, and dignitaries for their participation to the discussion.

At UMass Dartmouth, Prof. Sukalyan Sengupta, Director of



Welcome to the guests who came for the pre-release screening



Indian- American Community with Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi



Several members of the Indian American community had gathered for the Pre-Release Screening of "The Kashmir Files"

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

Center for Indic Studies, and Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering Department led "The Kashmir Files" film screening event in the evening. He welcomed TKF film team, FIA, and Indian-American team members to the event and thanked a hall full of students, and eminent faculty members for their active support and participation.

There are the Kashmiri Muslim and The Kashmiri Hindu views of the exodus but it seems like truth always lies somewhere in the middle. Kashmir is the birthplace of Shaivism and wisdom. It needs to be re-built by moving from ignorance towards knowledge and by following the middle way as symbolized by the third eye of Lord Shiva. We need to embrace the true principles of oneness and social harmony and world peace –said the impactful speaker Vivek

Agnihotri.

The faculty members namely, Prof. Amit Tandon, Prof. Uday Kant Jha, Prof. Jerry Solvvin, and two students - Shristi Bhat and Chinmay Kadrollimath, Raj Gupta (FIA, Executive Board-Director) shared their remarks on the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus and measures to stop such events from occurring in the future. Prof Uday Jha, Decision & Information Sciences, presented a brief historical perspective and factors that lead to the 1990's Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus. In the Q& A session, Vivek answered all the curious questions of the students and faculty in a convincing and amicable manner. Pallavi shared her thoughts about the heartfelt interviews about the situations from the victims and their next-generation youths. Many students and other invitees also asked several questions to Pallavi and got her genuinely satisfactory answers. For the question, why a

female tutor's role and not a male tutor's role was presented in the film, she said that not because females and children are vulnerable but it is a real character of the story. "You will definitely recognize that character when you watch this movie" – said Pallavi. One of the audiences said to the reporter that Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri's film TKF has made both Bharat (India) and the international arena proud of his creativity. Organizers of the program welcomed the filmmakers of "TKF" with royal treatment and rolled out the red carpet for them at the theater. Abhishek Singh, President of FIA highlighted the mission, vision of FIA, and the moderator Jyoti Singh thanked all those in the audience for supporting their efforts. FIA Secretary Rakesh Kasavari welcomed all to watch the movie with the filmmakers Vivek Agnihotri, Pallavi Joshi Agnihotri and their daughter Mallika Agnihotri. Vivek

said to the viewers that whatever he wanted to say here is shown in the film and requested everyone to watch the movie and share their reviews with them and others at large on all the Social Medias. The viewers watched the movie for over two hours to grasp the stories of half million Kashmiri Hindu exodus and genocide in the film, it was an effort to remain sensitive to the emotional capacity of the audience to take the movie in a learning stride, thus an achievement by itself. The film truly makes you appreciate the skills of Vivek and his team in weaving all the true incidents into a heart-breaking story to tell the truth to the world, which could not be possible without an immense effort in thorough research. The movie deeply touches you; it touches your raw nerve and wakes you up from your deep apathy and unawareness. It makes you wonder how the continuous killings and



Exclusive pre-release film Impact programs about 'The Kashmir Files' on Wednesday, December 08, 2021, at Harvard Club, Boston.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

destructions of the most advanced civilization – Bharat is on its last stage of hope. It makes you to ask a question to yourself, 'whether Bharat is going to survive and revive itself or perish soon like any other civilizations.'

The preview audiences who were selected from a cross-section of the population expressed their positive reactions. They said that everyone must watch The Kashmir Files movie to understand the forces that have posed threats to Hindus for centuries. Everyone said that the filmmakers have done justice to the story and every

actor had put a tremendous effort and aided by solid performance in this collective film. All of them have become the real characters and not remained just as actors. The message the audiences took with them is that from now on, we need to stay united unconditionally, raise voice against the minority appeasement and pandering by the political leadership, and stop laying of the lives of our soldiers in the process of eliminating terrorists. We all need to encourage our executive, legislative, judiciary, administrative, and others branches of the Central government to get to the root cause of terrorism and eliminate it from the country.

After the Movie show, Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi answered all the questions of the audiences in an agreeable fashion. Following this, Sanjay Gokhale handed over the citations signed by the Speaker, and the Majority and Minority leaders of Rhode Island House of Representatives to Vivek Agnihotri for his brilliant direction of a true Hindu genocide story, and to Pallavi Joshi for her brave production and excellent acting. Robert Lancia, a former member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives gave another combined citation released by the Governor of Rhode Island, Daniel J. McKee for the producer

and director of the TKF film. FIA board members Mukta Munjal, Gaurav Dixit, Kajal Dixit, Chakshu Sharma, Aanand Sharma, Saunabh Gupta and Kaushik Patel also honored them with Kashmiri shawls and Souvenirs. FIA executives Deepak Sharma and Raj Gupta proposed a vote of thanks and concluded the event.

The husband-and-wife team also talked about the movie and its impact on terrorism in an exclusive video interview on Chai With Manju. During the interview, they talked about the years of research that went into making this movie.



Citations were issued to Mr. Vivek Agnihotri and Mrs. Pallavi Joshi for a pre-release screening of their upcoming movie "Kashmir Files"



Meet and Greet with the guests.



Mrs. Pallavi Joshi was honored by FIA- NE



**We ( FIA ) are very proud and happy to acknowledge and thank that our own Speaker Pro Tempore from Rhode Island and Honorable Governors office gave a citation for this movie "Kashmir files" produced and directed by Vivek Agnihotri , their wonderful team of actors and others .**

**This movie is stating the truth " truth is god " as said by Mahatma Gandhi.**

**The Exodus ( Ethnically Cleansing ) of citizens of Kashmir mostly Hindu Pandits - as shown in this movie hopefully will bring out human cry and consciousness all over the globe to not just heal the hurt but "never again "**

**FIA expressed their deep sense of gratitude to all for promoting the cause for humanity.**

**- Abhishek Singh  
President,  
Federation of Indian Associations NE**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**



FIA- NE addressed Mr. Agnihotri and Mrs. Joshi



Mr. Abhishek addressing to Mr. Agnihotri and Mrs. Joshi



Mr. Vivek Agnihotri addressing the gathering



Mrs. Pallavi Joshi addressing the gathering at UMass.



Abhishek Singh addressing the gathering at UMass



Rhode Island's Governor as well as that state's House of Representatives issued Citations.

# SACO Honors FIA President Elect Kenny Desai And FIA Senior Advisor Padma Shri Dr. H.R. Shah

**T**he 10th Annual SACO Gala Dinner, the State's largest interfaith holiday celebration was held on Wednesday, December 15, at Royal Albert Palace.

This annual interfaith gala showcased the heritage and culture of the vibrant South Asian communities in the State. The South Asian Community Outreach (SACO) mission is to promote South Asians Americans in mainstream public affairs, civic discourse, community outreach, and party politics in USA. SACO is dedicated to advancing the health, empowerment, and solidarity of people of South Asian origin in the USA.

Kenny Desai, a leading philanthropist and distinguished en-

trepreneur in various aspects of construction, healthcare and finance was recognized for his contributions to the diverse South Asian American community as well as the main stream US community. Also honored was FIA's Senior Advisor Padma Shri H.R. Shah, the CEO of TV Asia and an iconic media entrepreneur for his five decades long service to the community. Mr. Shah addressed the crowd "We are 7 million South Asians in the USA and today we stand here united celebrating unity in diversity".

Sam Khan initiated the SACO organization in 2011 with an initiative to bring the South Asian communities here in NY NJ area together and work towards collective goals for the betterment of the community.



*Mr. H.R. Shah and Mr. Kenny Desai were honored at the SACO Annual Gala Dinner*



*New Jersey Assembly Speaker Hon. Craig Coughlin and Sam Khan, founder of SACO honoring Mr. Kenny Desai*

# Community Magazine Honors Saurin Parikh, Vice President- FIA

**M**r. Saurin Parikh, Vice President of FIA, was honored by Magazine Make-up America. Along with Mr. Parikh, other members honored at the event were Asif Jamal, Jay Mir, Viru Patel, Adeel Rana, Sam Khan, and Rehan Siddiqi. They were honored for their remarkable work in the community.



Mr. Saurin Parikh, Vice President of FIA, was honored by Magazine Makeup America.

# 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was commemorated by the CG of India in New York

**F**rom November 29 to December 6, 2021, the Indian Consulate General in New York hosted a Special Week celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence. The week-long event featured dance, music, meditation, language, cultural variety, and the aspirations of India's people, among other things. Some of the programmes were held in person, while others were held virtually.

Dr. Radhika Chopra, a semi-classical vocalist, performed the first event (virtual). This event was co-hosted by the Indo-American Arts Council. The second event was a virtual concert by famous Sarod musicians Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, a world-renowned Sarod master, also played at the end. On the third day, Battery Dance, New York, presented contemporary and classical dance performances. On the 2nd, an event called "Music and Meditation" by Vikram Hazra and Ruchika Lal was organized. The major focus

of the event was on the value of ancient Indian meditation techniques and related music genres in providing a sense of harmony to modern living. Dr. Aruna Sharma, a semi-classical vocalist, performed in collaboration with the Indo-American Arts Council. On the language appreciation Day Young diaspora performers demonstrated the cultural diversity of the Tamil people by performing Parai Isai (drum-based performance) and Bharatnatyam. The Consulate held an online discussion on December 5 with the topic "Aspiring India, Inspiring India- stories from the grassroots."

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, author of 'Katihar to Kennedy: The Road Less Traveled,' told his story of rising from modest origins in a tiny Indian hamlet to the hallowed halls of Harvard University. On the concluding day, an online talk titled "Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Celebrating His Life & Legacy" was held with Dr. Nishikant Kolge (CSDS, New Delhi) and Dr. Shruti Rajagopalan (Mercatus Center, George Mason University).



# MOCAAPI donates \$300,000 to Food bank and Cultural Center

**M**OCAAPI (The Monmouth Ocean County Association of Physicians of Indian Origin) has donated \$300,000—\$150,000 each for a food bank and an Indian Cultural Center in Toms River, making good on its pledge to help the community.

MOCAAPI, which has been able to raise over \$500,000 over the years through its annual charitable galas, popular golf outings, and other events, will continue to work for the betterment of society through its impactful donations. MOCAAPI President Dr. Avinash Gupta said that it was a long-time dream of MOCAAPI members to make an impactful donation, which is being fulfilled today by making a \$150,000 do-

nation to Fulfill Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties and another \$150,000 to the Indian Cultural & Community Center to build a much-needed community hall in Toms River. "With everyone's participation, generosity, and thanks to our past presidents' efforts, we have been able to raise over \$500,000 over the years," Gupta added.

MOCAAPI, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was established in 2003. It continues to bring together all stakeholders in the healthcare space while supporting local charitable causes. MOCAAPI has also partnered with OCHD (Ocean County Health Department) to vaccinate thousands of its residents during the peak of COVID-19, distributed hot meals to health care workers



**It was a long-time dream of MOCAAPI members to make an impactful donation, which is being fulfilled today by making a \$150,000 donation to Fulfill Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties and another \$150,000 to the Indian Cultural & Community Center to build a much-needed community hall in Toms River.**

**- Avinash Gupta  
President BJANA, MOCAAPI**

in local hospitals and vaccination centers, and distributed blankets to the homeless.

MOCAAPI physicians volun-

teering at OCHD were presented with a proclamation from the NJ state senate and general assembly. It was awarded the Healthcare Hero Award by the CMC Board of Trustees.

Fulfill's new CEO and President, Triada Stampas, along with Fulfill's Director of Development, Linda Kellner, attended the event. They were very appreciative of this incredibly generous gift! Ms. Stampas said this donation will provide 450,000 meals. They provide meals to 215,000 residents of Monmouth Ocean counties, out of which 70,000 are children. They even pack meals in the backpacks of 1000 children to go. Ocean County Sheriff

Michael Mastronardy and Commissioner Virginia Haines praised the MOCAAPI doctors for their outstanding service to the community during the pandemic. Dr. Bankim Shah, Mr. Pravin Parekh, and several others from ICCC expressed their appreciation and said it would fulfil the needs of the growing Indian community in the area. They greatly appreciated the leadership and generosity of Dr. Avinash and Geeta Gupta for a personal matching donation of \$150,000 to the Indian Cultural and Community Center to build a community hall where children can learn about our culture and heritage, a senior citizens center, yoga, health care camps, fundraising events, and celebrate festivals together.



MOCAAPI donated to a food bank and an Indian Cultural Center in Toms River.



Dr Avinash Gupta president of MOCAAPI addressing the event.

# In Vermont, the Consulate General of India in NY conducted its inaugural Consular Camp

**T**he Consulate General of India, New York, held its first Consular Camp in Vermont on December 11, 2021, as part of the "Consulate @ Your Doorstep" campaign. Vermont Mandir & Cultural Centre collaborated in the camp's planning (VMCC).

CGI, New York's initiative to come to Vermont was praised by members of the diaspora. At the Consular Camp, they received OCI and other consular services. They also expressed thanks to the Camp for allowing them to speak directly with Consulate personnel and receive answers to their

questions. They also stated that the Consular camp saved them 12 hours of driving time that they would have had to spend to obtain these services otherwise. Earlier this week, the Consul General completed a fruitful visit to the State of Vermont from December 8 to 10, 2021. During his visit, he spoke with senior government officials, the state's startup sector, and the University of Vermont.

Mr. Anson Tebbets, Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Ms. Lindsey Kurrle, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development

(ACCD); and Mr. Tim Tierney, Director of International Trade and Business Recruitment for the State of Vermont were briefed by the Consul General on the potential for growth in trade, commerce, and economic ties between the two countries. The Consul General paid a visit to the Vermont Center for Emerging Technology (VCET) and met Director David Bradbury as part of his outreach to the state's startup community. The Consul General praised VCET for their assistance to start-up businesses in Vermont. Director Bradbury was informed on the vitality of the

Indian start-up industry, and he was asked to meet with Startup India and other key stakeholders on the Indian side.

The Consul General met with Dr. Christopher Koliba, Director of the Office of Engagement, as well as other senior academic and management personnel. He discussed the prospects presented by India's New Education Policy 2020, as well as methods that foreign universities might engage with their Indian counterparts. The Consul General spoke on the India-US relationship and how higher education is at the heart of the two countries' cooperation.



**FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY-CONNECTICUT -NEW ENGLAND**

**Wishes you and yours  
Seasons Greetings**

**Happy Safe and Festive Holidays**



# FIA Congratulates Miss Harnaaz Sandhu- Winner of Miss Universe 2021 Title

Photo: tribuneindia

**T**he Federation of Indian Associations joins the global Indian community in congratulating 21-year-old Miss India, Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu, for winning the very coveted and prestigious championship title of Miss Universe at Eilat, Israel, held on December 12, 2021. She defeated Miss Paraguay, Nadia Ferreira (first runner up), and Lalela Mswane (South Africa) to win this glamorous beauty pageant after a 21-year absence. The Miss Universe Beauty Pageant was started in 1952.

In its almost 69-year history, India has won only 3 titles: 1994's Miss Sushmita Sen, 2000's Miss Lara Dutta and 2021's Miss Harnaaz Sandhu. It was her intelligent answer to a question: what advice would you give to young women watching how to deal with the pressures they face today? Her answer held the key to winning the crown.

Born in Chandigarh, Punjab, Harnaaz was also crowned Liva Miss Diva 2021. The first Indian Miss Universe in 1994, Sushmita Sen, was the Guest of Honor at the FIA's most popular flagship annual India Day Parade in NYC in 1994.

It is interesting to note here that many Indian beauties have won equally prestigious and popular Miss World titles, establishing India's richness in beauty and IT fields. They are Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000), and Manushi Chhillar (2017).

In the year 1994, Indian girls won both the universally prestigious beauty pageant titles: Miss Universe by Sushmita Sen and Miss World by Aishwarya Rai, establishing supremacy in the beauty arena. This must be heartening news. The India Festival Committee, former members of FIA, is celebrating 40 years of its illustrious track record of hosting beauty pageants annually.



## Neil Patel, an Indian-American businessman from Ohio, is running for the United States Senate

**N**eil Patel, an Indian American businessman from central Ohio, is running for the United States Senate. According to his campaign website, Patel is running for the United States Senate so that he can work to guarantee that every Ohioan has the same opportunity that allowed him to succeed—and to safeguard the American ideals that make us an example to the rest of the world.

He has founded and operated dozens of small businesses in Central Ohio over the course of his three decades in business, employing over 1,000 people. He also helped link Columbus to towns all over the globe in trade through the group Sister City International, boosting local exports, according to the site. Immigrating to the U.S. with just \$20 in his pocket, Patel worked several jobs, including selling candy apples on the street—and eventually made enough to open his first small business and “live the American Dream.” As his success and knowledge in business grew over time, so did his self-driven duty to give back to the community and nation that made it all possible, notes the campaign.

Photo: ballotpedia.org/Neil Patel



# Indian-Origin Leena Nair Has Been Appointed as The New Global CEO Of French Luxury Group Chanel

**U**nilever's chief human resource officer, Leena Nair, has been chosen the next global CEO of French fashion label Chanel. She is the second Indian-origin woman to be appointed as a worldwide CEO, following Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo), Leena's mentor.

Nair tweeted that she was "humbled and honored to be appointed the Global Chief Executive Officer of @CHANEL, an iconic and admired company."

Leena Nair's 30-year career at Unilever comes to an end as the company's chief human resources officer and a member of the executive committee. Unilever's CEO, Alan Jope, thanked her for her "outstanding contribution", adding that she "has been a pioneer through her career... a driving force on our (Unilever's) equity, diversity and inclusion agenda... she has played a critical role in building our purpose-led,

future-fit organisation."

"I am grateful for my long career at @Unilever, a place that has been my home for 30 years. It has given me so many opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to a truly purpose-driven organisation," Leena Nair tweeted. "I will always be a proud advocate of @Unilever and its ambition to make sustainable living commonplace," she added in another tweet.

Leena Nair, who was born and raised in Kolhapur, will now be based in London and will begin working for the luxury house at the end of January.

Imran Amed, creator and CEO of the Business of Fashion, a prominent industry news website, described Nair's hiring as "a welcome change from the kind of formulaic model of the executives that tend to run major luxury brands"

While it is not unusual for fashion firms to hire top executives from consumer goods com-

panies, they typically come from marketing departments due to their skill in managing brands – a luxury fashion company's most valuable asset.

However, Chanel's choice to recruit Nair, who has a long history in human resources, highlights the company's attempts to adapt to changing consumer and workplace attitudes toward sustainability and diversity, according to Amed. Rivals such as Kering, which owns Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent, have moved quicker to establish "leading positions" in terms of increased consumer awareness of the industry's environmental effect and the significance of inclusive recruiting as they compete for talent, according to Amed.

Amed stated that Nair has "truly been engaged on these types of problems during her tenure at Unilever." "I believe that is a significant challenge for Chanel as it strives to revamp its corpo-

Photo: Vogue.com



rate culture." Back home, her selection is considered as a proof of the rising status of Indian business executives. It's also a watershed moment for women, because there are so few of them at the helm of major luxury brands, according to Amed.

## Shrina Kurani, an Indian American candidate for Congress in California, has announced the launch of the NFT

**S**hrina Kurani, an Indian American engineer and a pioneer in the clean energy and sustainable business sectors, has stated that her congressional campaign will issue NFTs as a novel way for

Photo: hindustantimes.com



supporters to contribute to the campaign. An NFT (non-fungible token) is a one-of-a-kind, collectable digital commodity that may be sold or traded over the internet.

Kurani is the first candidate

for Congress to utilize NFTs and demonstrates her continued commitment to investing in emerging technologies and digital services for the 21st century, according to a press release.

Kurani will debut the unique collection of 2,022 NFTs through SolSea, an open NFT marketplace that will employ Civic's technology for better security with on-chain liveness certification and will use Solana blockchain to ensure the least effect on the environment. Supporters of SolSea will receive an NFT with Kurani's crypto ideals and thoughts, as well as prospective policy agendas for the future of web3, according to the statement.

Kurani said of her historic NFT launch, "I've always been interested in how we can make things work better. From my work as an

engineer helping companies transition from fossil fuels to building a company democratizing access to funding, I've dedicated my career to building a better future. We have an opportunity to be at the forefront of innovation by supporting emerging technologies and bringing more and more people into the fold, and we must responsibly build and invest in 21st century digital services to continue our journey in transparency, efficiency, and access."

Kurani, a Democrat running for Congress in California's 42nd District, is taking on Ken Calvert, a 30-year Washington veteran. According to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission's most recent design of the congressional district, the new district is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans.



## OUTSOURCING OF VISA SERVICES TO VFS GLOBAL

Beginning Monday, 13 December, 2021 (12:01 AM Eastern Standard Time), all visa applications will be accepted only at VFS Global. The Consulate will stop accepting direct visa applications from 13 December, 2021.

Applicants are required to fill Government of India visa form at

<https://indianinnewyork.gov>

and visit VS Global website

<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind>

to pay fee etc. after creating an account on

VFS' website. In addition to applicable Government of India fees for these services, a service fee of US\$ 15.90 (inclusive of all taxes) per application will be charged by VFS Global. Applicants residing within the consular jurisdiction of the Consulate General of India,

New York may contact VFS Global as per details given below:

### Emergency Visa Service

VFS will accept in-person applications, with prior appointment, on working days as well as on weekends/holidays, from US passport holders of Indian origin and their family members who are required to visit India due to a genuine family emergency, such as critical illness or death of a family member.

Documentary evidence of the emergency will need to be provided and an emergency service fee.

**Monday to Friday | 9AM to 4 PM**

Email : [VFS\\_VisaNYC@vfsglobal.com](mailto:VFS_VisaNYC@vfsglobal.com)

**Weekends and Holidays Only: Between 9AM to 4PM**

Tel : **+1-929-866-2770**

Applicants may also like to avail of e-Tourist Visa facility (free of charge) for a limited period as per details at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

In addition to the above number, applicants could also contact the Consulate on its Emergency Visa Helpline **+1-917-815-7066**

# It's officially here! Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal Are Now Married

Photo: Katrina Kaif's Instagram

Indian stars Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal have been proclaimed man and wife during one of the year's most spectacular wedding celebrations. The Six Senses Fort Barwara hotel in Sawai Madhopur's Chauth Ka Barwara area was lavishly decorated for celebrity couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding festivities.

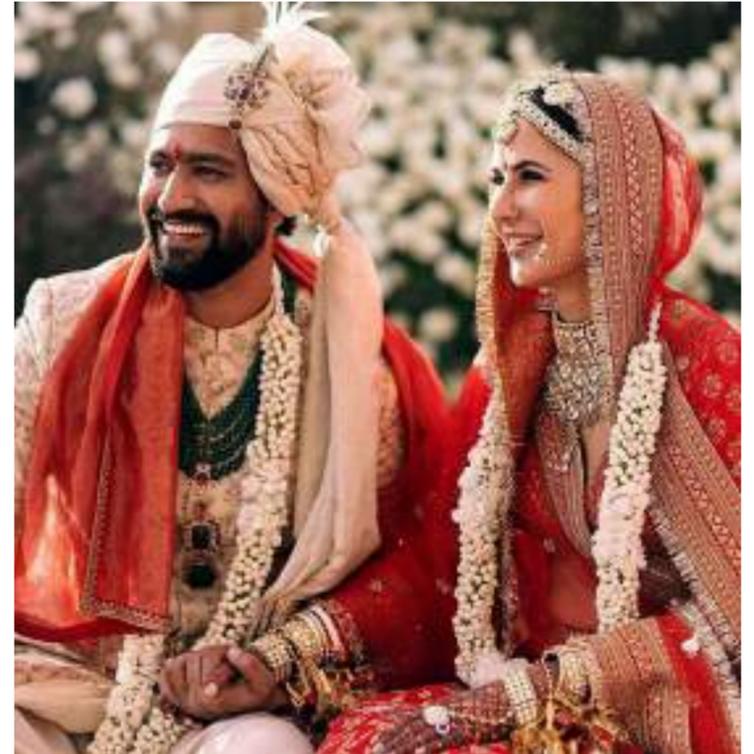
Katrina donned a bridal lehenga designed by Sabyasachi Mukherjee on her wedding day. Vicky is claimed to have dressed in a beige sherwani following his "sehrabandi." The couple also announced that they will give a reception in Mumbai for those who were unable to attend the very exclusive wedding ceremony in Sawai Madhopur. Vicky drove to the mandap in a vintage automobile with his baraatis, which included his brother Sunny Kaushal, good friend Angad Bedi, and family members. The

couple took the pheras in the customary manner, putting the festivities that began on December 7 to a close. The couple's pre-wedding celebrations officially began when Bollywood superstars and close friends, such as Kabir Khan, his wife Mini Mathur, and their daughter Sairah, departed Mumbai for Jaipur. Following suit, Angad Bedi, Neha Dhupia, Sharvari Wagh, Radhika Madan, and Malavika Mohanan increased the tempo of the festivities.

The visitors were greeted warmly and served Rajasthani and Punjabi dishes as the location lighted up the Sawai Madhopur skyline and pyrotechnics added to the drama. Twenty kilogrammes of GI-tagged henna supplied from Sojat on the river Sukri in Rajasthan were used in the 'mehendi' festivities. The 'haldi' ceremony followed, with attendees adhering to the yellow dress code. This was the first time

the journalists saw the guests in the halls of the premium hotel. Following the publication of the photographs on the Internet, the organisers hung curtains on the arches of the fort-hotel to safeguard the privacy of the guests from prying eyes.

Gurdas Maan, Hardy Sandhu, Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, and Manj Musik performed at the 'sangeet' night on December 8 to amuse the exclusive gathering. Moments after Katrina and



Vicky made their wedding photos public on Instagram, Bollywood celebs flocked to wish the couple well.

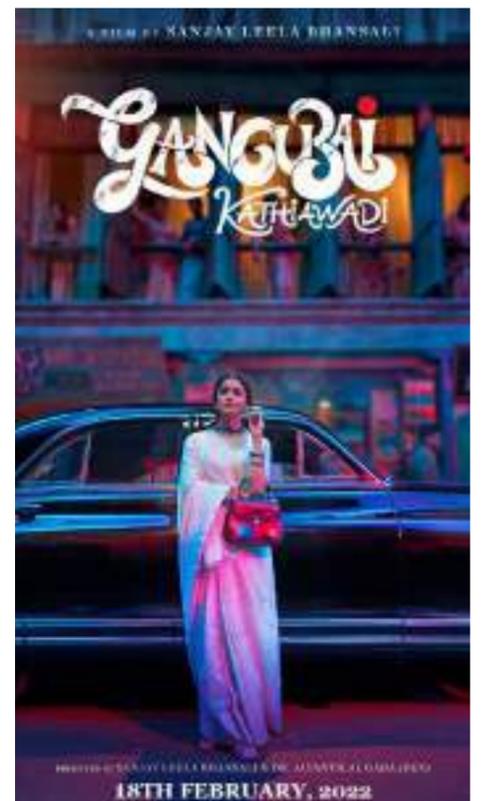
## The 72nd Berlin International Film Festival will screen Gangubai Kathiawadi

Photo: Imdb.com

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's highly awaited film Gangubai Kathiawadi, starring Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn, has been selected for the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival, where it will have its international debut in February 2022. Gangubai Kathiawadi has been selected for screening as part of Berlinale Special, a section of the festival dedicated to showcasing outstanding cinema. The

films chosen for this year's festival were shot during the epidemic. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 10th film has been very significant for him as he commemorates 25 years as a filmmaker. "The narrative of Gangubai Kathiawadi has been extremely important to my heart, and my team and I have given it all to make this dream a reality," Bhansali adds. We are ecstatic to have our picture screened at the famous Berlin International

Film Festival." Producer Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios also shared his thoughts: "I believe in Mr. Bhansali and his craft. It gives me great joy that our film will be presented at the Berlin International Film Festival and I am proud to associate with Mr. Bhansali. Alia has given a great performance and I am thankful to Ajay Devgn too for being a part of this project. It's a story that will engage and appeal to global audiences."



### WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

We can help you take your brand farther.

Get in touch with us at [diaspora@fianyjnct.org](mailto:diaspora@fianyjnct.org)

### PUBLISHED BY

Federation of Indian Associations (NY-NJ-CT-PA-MA-NH-VT-RI)

Voluntary Content  
Chandrakant Trivedi

Voluntary Design & Graphics  
Gracia Marcom

### WRITE TO US!

Got feedback for us? We would love to hear about it. Have an event you want others to know about? Tell us. Clicked a pic worth sharing? Send it across. Your inputs are invaluable. You can mail your comments to [editor@fianyjnct.org](mailto:editor@fianyjnct.org)

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON

[@fianyjnct.org](https://www.facebook.com/fianyjnct.org)  
[federationofindianassociations](https://www.instagram.com/federationofindianassociations)  
[@FIANYNJCTorg](https://www.tumblr.com/fianyjnctorg)



38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DANCE PE CHANCE COMPETITION  
CELEBRATING INDIA'S 73<sup>RD</sup> REPUBLIC DAY



# THE OLDEST DANCE COMPETITION DANCE PE CHANCE is BACK



19,000+  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN 38 YEARS



## BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITY JUDGES



OVER \$20,000  
IN PRIZE MONEY GIVEAWAYS



<https://dancepechance.org/event-registration-2022/>

**FEB.19.2022**

04:00 PM ONWARDS

**PATRIOTS THEATER  
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL  
1 MEMORIAL DRIVE,  
TRENTON, NJ 08608**

CELEBRITIES  
TBA

**SIGN UP &  
COMPETE TO WIN  
BEST OF BEST PRIZE**

**\$5,000**

DOWNLOAD  
FIADPC  
APP TO VOTE



TROPHY TO ALL  
PARTICIPANTS



HALFTIME  
SHOW



RAFFLES



FREE GIFTS



POPULAR  
VOTES PRIZES



STATE OF THE  
ART AUDITORIUM



FREE PARKING

# A GLIMPSE OF DANCE PE CHANCE

