

INDIA WEST

Vol. III, No.2 • June 14, 2024

JOURNAL

www.indiawest.com

NEW DELHI (ANI) – Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister for his third successive term at an impressive ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9 evening with 71 MPs from the BJP and its allies joining the party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office at the ceremony which was attended by leaders from India's neighborhood and Indian Ocean region.

Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Afif and Bangladesh PM Sheik Hasina attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Ministers

The council of ministers is a blend of youth and experience with senior BJP leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and

Modi-NDA 3.0



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the leadership that was sworn in to constitute the cabinet.

S Jaishankar taking oath of office and all of them retaining their portfolios. Several young leaders from BJP and allies, including first-time MPs, also made it to the council of ministers. Actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi, who is the first BJP MP from Kerala and Harsh Malhotra, who won Lok Sabha polls from East Delhi, are among the first-time MPs in the union cabinet.

BJP chief JP Nadda also took oath as union minister in an indication that the party could have a new chief.

The government now has 30 cabinet ministers, five Ministers of State with Independent charge, and 36 Ministers of State. Most MPs took the oath in Hindi while some took it in English.

The Union cabinet also has five former chief ministers – Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar, HD Kumaraswamy, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Allies of BJP in the party-led

Contd. on P20

Spelling Bee Champ Wants To Donate His Prize Money



Seventh grader Bruhat Soma secured the prestigious Scripps Cup trophy and took home a \$50,000 cash prize.

India-West News Desk

ANNAPOLIS, MD – In a night filled with anticipation and excitement, 12-year-old Bruhat Soma from St. Petersburg, FL, emerged as the champion of the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Bruhat clinched victory in the second-ever spell-off, a dramatic tiebreaker round, by correctly spelling 29 words within 90 seconds. His final and winning word was "abseil," meaning "a descent in mountaineering by means of a rope looped over a projection above."

The seventh grader not only secured the prestigious Scripps Cup trophy but also took home a \$50,000 cash prize. Expressing his excitement about winning the championship, Bruhat said, "When I won, I was excited and happy because I had been working hard for the past year. Winning felt like a dream come true."

The prize money of \$50,000, Bruhat intends to donate it. "I've decided to donate the \$50,000 to a good cause, but I haven't chosen the cause yet. It will be for a good cause," he said.

Soma said, "In India, I'm from Telangana. I might go back during any summer vacation or for my relative's wedding. But, yeah, it depends. I'll probably go back pretty soon." Bruhat's victory is significant for many in India who were rooting for him. "A lot of my relatives are in India. They've sent congratulations and watched the video. It's exciting to know that all my relatives back in India were supporting me," he said.

Bruhat's journey to the top was remarkable, especially considering

Contd. on P8

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Mahesh And Usha Wadher Honored By Community

India-West Staff Reporter

NORWALK, CA – The Indo-American Senior Heritage (IASH) in collaboration with Gujaratis of North America (GONA), on June 1 honored Mahesh and Usha Wadher of The Wadher Family Foundation with a “Lifetime Achievement Award,” highlighting their enduring legacy of service to humanity.

The event, held at the Sanatan Dharma Temple Hall here, was attended by over 550 guests, a press release said.

The Wadhers were felicitated by their daughter, Amisha Kapadia, and their granddaughter, Amira Kapadia, who delivered a heartfelt speech about her grandfather. Their son, Sujay Wadher lauded his father in a speech. Manubhai and Rikaben Shah delivered a moving talk, and Dr. Nitin Shah made a presentation on the contributions of Mahesh and Usha Wadher.

The Mayor of Cerritos, Naresh Solanki, presented a proclamation from the city recognizing



the Wadhers for their lifelong dedication to humanitarian causes.

The event featured Sanjay Garodia’s entertaining drama “Be Adhi Khichdi Kadhi.”

The program was conducted by Jagdish Purohit and supported by Rasik Patel of IASH.



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OPINION

Why The BJP Lost Ground, What To Expect From Modi 3.0

As the ruling Bhartiya Janta Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) formed the government for the third consecutive time, here are some key observations:

* The BJP-led NDA was expected to outperform its last two results by winning 400 seats, this time out of 543 in the

lower house of the parliament in the general elections; the BJP's race seems to have concluded much lower than that.

* The BJP will need to ensure that its pre-poll coalition partners adhere to the party's leadership and do not join the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A alliance to form a government because, as an NDA coalition, the BJP has the needed numbers to form the government.

* The opposition, including the I.N.D.I.A alliance has performed exceedingly well in the elections, and there are many reasons for this, including anti-incumbency in certain states, resistance to BJP's 'Hindutva' ideology among minority groups, state-specific local issues, and unemployment.

* The BJP is in a coalition government, which is often unstable and runs into conflicts of power and interests. Smaller parties demand bigger stakes in the government now and then.

* Although the BJP has formed the government, it needs to do a lot of rethinking and introspection, especially regarding why its development politics did not convince the voters this time.

* As the clouds clear, it will be interesting to see whether the minority Muslim population voted for the BJP or not because the BJP's 'Hindutva' ideology is often seen as conflicting with the Constitution's secular nature.



Why the BJP lost:

– The assumption that the BJP was undefeatable under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose two terms have seen India's economic rise, seems misplaced.

– In states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, which bring the largest share of the seat tally to any party, BJP has suffered huge losses.

– The regional parties have made a comeback in national politics, particularly in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal—all have gone to regional parties allying with the I.N.D.I.A alliance.

– The BJP continues to face challenges in winning significant support in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala due to the strong presence of regional parties. The BJP's 'Hindutva' philosophy, rooted in Hindu nationalism, encounters resistance in these states because the Southern states still stick to their historical and cultural roots of social justice and regional identity.

– The BJP was expecting the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya—a disputed site between Hindus and Muslims for decades and finally won by Hindus in the apex court as their place of worship. It would help them earn the most Hindu votes. But Hindu votes have been largely divided.

Modi 3.0: Challenges and Prospects

– The BJP-led NDA government has promised to make India the third-largest economy by 2017, which will not be difficult, considering the current GDP

growth rate of 8.5 percent. However, a coalition government always runs into trouble, especially when devising economic plans. The coalition's compulsions will be a catalyst in the development sector.

– The BJP faces the challenge of addressing large-scale unemployment, which seems to have worked in the opposition's favor as they focused on it in their election campaigns and manifesto. The BJP was seemingly in denial of the scale and status of unemployment in India.

– The BJP will need to introspect its reliance on Hindu voters, as this group is increasingly divided. While the construction of a temple in Ayodhya has been a significant issue, it may not be sufficient to secure their votes. Economic concerns, social issues, and regional dynamics are also crucial factors that the BJP must address to maintain broad support among Hindu voters.

Foreign policy in the next five years

– In his third term, Modi's foreign policy goals will focus on securing India's permanent membership in the UN Security



Council, forming strategic alliances, effectively addressing the China challenge, revitalizing ties with neighboring countries, and playing a pivotal role in world politics.

– Modi 3.0 may usher in comprehensive economic reforms aligned with the aspirations of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. These reforms will likely include market reforms, a push for free trade agreements, an emphasis on digital infrastructure and energy transition, and building economic resilience to absorb global financial shocks.

– The China challenge remains

substantial, with the PLA continuing to claim Indian territories. The BJP will focus on upgrading India's defense capabilities and enhancing infrastructure along the India-China border.

– Ties with the United States have strengthened under Modi's leadership. India finds a welcoming space in the United States. Following recent cooperation in the trade and tech sectors, bilateral cooperation is expected to grow further.

– Modi will continue to maintain traditional ties with Russia despite the growing bond between Moscow and Beijing and mounting pressure over the Ukraine issue.

– India has developed a thick skin on the Ukraine issue. While advocating for a peaceful resolution of the war, it also focuses on its national interests, including buying oil and defense equipment.

– India will seek a leadership role in the Global South and present itself as a strong voice for Global South countries. The G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023 provided momentum for Indian foreign policy, which Modi 3.0 will certainly aim to continue.

– **By Rishi Gupta, Assistant Director, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi.**

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COMMUNITY

Sewa International Honors Donors In Los Angeles And Detroit



The Agarwals were felicitated at the home of Dr Krishna Reddy.

The Paranjpe couple thanked Sewa International, Foot Soldiers for Health, and Susheena Health Foundation for their efforts and encouraged the younger generation to continue their philanthropic endeavors.

In Los Angeles, philanthropists Bramara and

Krishna Reddy hosted an event at their residence on May 19 in honor of the Agarwals. The Agarwal family contributed over a million dollars to the Swami Vivekananda Health Mission to build a hospital in Vrindavan, India during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their generous contribution was appreciated by Sewa International's Global Coordinator and a member of Sewa USA's Board of Advisors, Shyam Parande, and highlighted by Sandeep Khadkekar, Vice President for Marketing, for their pivotal role in healthcare development.

Saumitra Gokhale, a member of Sewa USA's Board of Advisors, summarized Sewa's humanitarian work and emphasized the importance of philanthropy and Hindu contributions to the world.

"Sewa" in Sanskrit means selfless service. President Joe Biden recognized Sewa International's work during the pandemic in 2021.

India-West Staff Reporter

HOUSTON, TX – Sewa International recently honored prominent donors at separate events in Los Angeles and Detroit. At these events, Sewa International felicitated Uma and Avadhesh Agarwal of California, and Sheela and Suresh Paranjpe of Michigan for their significant contributions to large healthcare projects in India.

At an event at the home of Hema and Avinash Rachmale in Detroit, it was noted that the Paranjpe family donated over a million dollars to the Newborn Child Vision Protection Program in India, focusing on Retinopathy of Prematurity and low vision. Their donation aims to improve access to essential eye care services, reduce preventable blindness, and enhance overall eye health outcomes for underserved communities, a press release said.

Swami Bhoomananda To Hold 5-Day Gita Retreat In SoCal



Swami Bhoomananda's lectures will be in English.

BY HEMA RAVIKUMAR

TUSTIN, CA - An uplifting spiritual enrichment opportunity with a five-day Bhagavad Gita knowledge immersion retreat conducted by the spiritual master and social reformer Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha Maharaj, founder of the Narayana-shrama Tapovanam based in Thrissur, Kerala, will be held here from June 16-24.

Swamiji who recently turned 91 years old, belongs to a lineage instituted by Adi Shankaracharya and received his initiation at the age of 23 from Baba Gangadhara Paramahansa of West Bengal. His lectures based on spiritual texts and his personal experiences have been positively impacting and transforming thousands of lives all over the world.

The current US lecture program organized by the Center for Inner Resources Development North America commenced in the Bay Area on June 3. It will continue until July 11 with public programs scheduled

in SoCal and Ohio. Accompanying Swamiji to SoCal from June 16-24 will be long-time disciples Swami Nirvishesananda and Swamini Gurupriya who will also give discourses.

Organizers said attendees can look forward to an infor-

mative time absorbing the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita in a format specifically designed to provide answers to existential queries and dispel doubts. The Gita's ultimate goal is filling one with inner strength, peace, harmony, right purpose and fostering an enthusiastic yet dispassionate commitment to enlightened living. The focus of Swamiji's selfless life of knowledge dissemination and continuous service has always been with the goal of alleviating humanity's suffering.

While sharing the light of spiritual texts to dispel the darkness of ignorance is one way Swamiji helps and serves a grateful public, conducting charity camps and projects for the needy, and being an exalted refuge for those who seek him as a guide to re-awaken contentment, and peace within themselves are others.

The free retreat will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Marriott and the Residence Inn Marriott in Tustin. Light prasad lunch and dinner will be served. For more information: Shanthi Narayanan (949) 529-4756.



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COMMUNITY

Rohini Kosoglu To Join Victory Sports Media



India-West Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES, CA — Victory Sports Media, a sports content production company specializing in film, television, and digital media, has announced the addition of Rohini Kosoglu to its leadership team as a senior advisor. Kosoglu will bring experience from her previous roles in the White House, where she served as the former Deputy Assistant to President Joe Biden and as Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Victory expects her to act as both a leader and a liaison between the worlds of sports, entertainment, and policy. Her role is to ensure

that Victory’s content not only captivates audiences on screen but also makes a meaningful impact on society, the company said in a statement.

Victory Sports Media, founded by Jai Khanna and Parag Parikh, has been committed to amplifying women’s sports content. Upcoming projects include a groundbreaking docuseries about HBCU women’s gymnastics, a documentary in development on the life of a current WNBA superstar, and a highly anticipated docuseries highlighting the Indian women’s Cricket Team U.P. Warriorz.

It has also launched a collaboration with Ellevest, an investing and wealth management company created by and for women. The first project from this collaboration was the feature documentary “Dream Big: The Michelle Wie Story,” which premiered on NBC and Peacock on May 18 to positive reviews.

Kosoglu currently serves as a policy fellow at the Stanford University Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence.

Spelling Bee Champ

Contd. from p1

his previous performances in the Bee. He tied for 163rd place in 2022 and improved to 74th place in 2023. He has become the 28th Indian American champion, continuing a notable trend over the past two decades.

Bruhat faced stiff competition from Faizan Zaki, a fellow 12-year-old and Indian American from Texas, who spelled 20 words correctly but stumbled on four. The spell-off was intense, with Bruhat’s rapid pace setting a high bar early on.

The Bee final featured eight competitors. Rishabh Saha from Merced, CA, was eliminated in the first round after misspelling “desmotrope.” Shrey Parikh from San Bernardino, CA, the youngest finalist at 12, finished in the Top 4 after misspelling “kanin.” Aditi Muthukumar from Denver, CO, improved her ranking from tying for 74th place last year to finishing in the Top 5 this year, before being eliminated on “Lillooet.” Ananya Prassanna from Charlotte, NC, who tied for 74th place in 2023 and 49th in 2022, ended her Bee journey after misspelling “murrina,” finishing as a finalist in her last Bee.

Looking ahead, Bruhat said, “I want to be a doctor when I grow



Rishabh Saha from Merced, CA, was eliminated in the first round after misspelling “desmotrope.”



Shrey Parikh from San Bernardino, CA, the youngest finalist at 12, finished in the Top 4 after misspelling “kanin.”

up, and this championship will help me get into a good university

to study medicine better,” he emphasized.









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PEOPLE

Indian American Grandfather Summits Everest

BY S. K. GUPTA

LEONIA, NJ – After years of training and climbing various mountains, Jafar Ismail signed up to climb the world’s tallest mountain, Mt. Everest, which stands at 29,032 feet.

A resident of Leonia in Bergen County, Jafar and his wife, Lubna, both grew up in India. They have five children and a precious young grandchild, Zakaria. Jafar graduated from Marine Engineering College, Kolkata (also known as DMET) and holds a graduate degree in Computer Science from Iona University, NY.

In January 2023, after climbing Mt. Aconcagua (22,837 feet) in Argentina—the highest peak in the Americas—Jafar contemplated climbing Mt. Everest before time ran out. “I am 59 years old,” he told India-West, “and I wanted to fulfill this childhood dream before time ran out!”

To prepare for this challenge, Jafar focused on cardio training. He acclimatizes well to high altitudes and wanted to be in the best cardio health for Nepal so as a part of this quest, he completed the NYC Marathon in November 2023 and ran several other half marathons.

As part of his Everest training, Jafar did a practice climb on Lobuche (20,075 feet). Then, with the team, he went through “rotations,” where climbers ascend to higher camps, such as Camp 3, and return to base camp. This helps climbers acclimatize to higher elevations. After some rest and recuperation, Jafar said they waited at Everest Base Camp for the weather to clear.



Jafar Ismail in his moment of triumph.

Jafar said he spent the time recording and sending Bollywood love songs to Lubna, who laughingly told India-West that he can’t carry a tune!

Detailing the sequence of events, Jafar said that once the weather cleared, they moved to Camp 1, spent a night, then moved to Camp 2 where they spent two nights, and then to Camp 3. The next day, they finally arrived at Camp 4 around 4 pm for the final leg of their climb. The summit push started at 7:30 pm. From base camp, they climbed about 11,000 feet over 14 miles, reaching the summit at 7:24 am Nepal time on May 19, 2024.

The way down had some unnerving moments. Jafar’s oxygen mask started leaking, causing his vision to blur, he said. The descent, which usually takes about five hours to Camp 4, took him nine hours. Upon reaching Camp



Jafar Ismail with fellow climbers.

2, the lead Sherpa decided it was too dangerous for Jafar to climb down in his condition, and a helicopter evacuation was ordered.

Fortunately, after a few days of rest at a hospital and hotel in Kathmandu, Jafar headed home to his wife and family in New Jersey. Jafar left his corporate job in 2022 as an Information Technology Manager to join Lubna’s business. They now run several restaurants and franchise businesses.

“It was very stressful to watch his attempt from halfway around the world,” said Lubna, “but I am glad he is home and now I am locking up all his mountaineering gear forever!”

“The mountains are more beautiful, majestic, and inspiring than any picture or a thousand pictures can capture,” said Jafar. “Certainly one of the most awesome creations of God. And Mt. Everest—it beats them all.”



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PEOPLE

Vivek Ranadive Wants To Make Sacramento A Sports Hub



This is in line with Ranadive's vision to make Sacramento a hub for sports. "I want people to have something to do every single night of the year. I want them to have multiple options, not just one," he said.

Ranadive said that bringing the A's to Sacramento was a test for a permanent MLB team. "They are planning to create a new team on the West Coast, preferably in California. This is a showcase for us. If we can demonstrate that there's a viable market here and make the team successful, I believe we're in a strong position to secure the new franchise," media outlet KCRA 3 quoted Ranadive as saying.

About MLB's long-term presence in Sacramento, he acknowledged there were no guarantees. "We have to prove ourselves," Ranadive said. "I have full confidence that with our incredible city and the best fans in the world, we can make it happen."

India-West News Desk

SACRAMENTO, CA – Sacramento Kings owner Vivek Ranadive announced a deal to host the Oakland A's at a renovated Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento for the next three seasons, with an option for a fourth, as the team's permanent home in Las Vegas won't be ready until 2028. The A's current lease in Oakland expires after the 2024 season.

Alternative interim options such as Salt Lake City were also discussed, but Sacramento emerged as the preferred choice after months of negotiations.

CalTech Professor Wins Shaw Prize In Astronomy

India West News Desk

PASADENA, CA – Shrinivas R. Kulkarni, has been honored with the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his pioneering discoveries related to millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical objects.

Kulkarni is the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at the California Institute of Technology's Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy.

The Shaw Prize Foundation announced the 2024 laureates on May 21, highlighting Kulkarni's significant contributions to time-domain astronomy. His work led to the creation and leadership of the Palomar Transient Factory and its successor, the Zwicky Transient Facility, which dramatically advanced understanding of the variable optical sky.

"The Shaw Prize in Astronomy is awarded to Shrinivas R. Kulkarni for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects," the foundation stated. "His



contributions to time-domain astronomy culminated in the conception, construction, and leadership of the Palomar Transient Factory and its successor, the Zwicky Transient Facility."

Alongside Kulkarni, the other Shaw Prize awardees for 2024 include Swee Lay Thein and Stuart Orkin, who received the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine, and Peter Sarnak, who was awarded the Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences. Each of the three annual prizes carries a monetary award of \$1.2 million. The award ceremony is scheduled for November 12, in Hong Kong.

Shrinivas R. Kulkarni grew up in Karnataka and began his academic journey began with a Master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in 1978, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1983.

His university webpage says, "I love music and like my research, I switch my focus every few years. I have successively been a fan of Salsa, Qawali, Latin Jazz and music from Mali. I am a great student of macro-finance and especially financial meltdowns. Finally, I love rabbits since they best reflect my personality."

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This Publication was supported by funding awarded by CA VOCA XE23 01 1316 through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

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PEOPLE

Avneet Singh Wins Chapman University's Faculty Award



India-West Staff Reporter

ORANGE, CA – Avneet Singh was recently honored at an intimate ceremony with a faculty award for academic achievement from Dr. Henrik Cronqvist, Dean and Professor of Finance at Chapman University's George L. Argyros College of Business and Economics.

Avneet, who has just graduated from the school with an MBA, had served as an entrepreneur-in-residence and participated in the accelerator program, working

on his own startup.

Avneet has over 15 years of experience in leadership roles and is a dynamic leader in commerce and business development. Throughout his career, Avneet has focused on leveraging data, practicing servant leadership, maintaining a customer-obsessed mindset, and excelling in relationship management.

He has managed diverse teams for large enterprises such as Zappos, Zalando, Cole Haan, and, most recently, Walmart.

Krish Pai Wins \$50,000 Regeneron Young Scientist Award

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and the Society for Science on May 17 announced that Krish Pai, 17, of Del Mar, California, received the second Regeneron Young Scientist Award at the 2024 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). This is the world's largest pre-college science and engineering competition.

Indian American Krish was awarded a \$50,000 prize for his innovative machine-learning research aimed at identifying microbial genetic sequences that can be modified to biodegrade plastic.

Krish has developed a groundbreaking software called Microby, which scans databases of microorganisms to determine which ones can be genetically altered to biodegrade plastics. During testing, he identified two microorganisms that could be modified to degrade plastic at a cost he estimates to be ten times less than traditional recycling methods.

In total, over \$9 million was awarded to finalists for their creativity, innovation, and depth of scientific inquiry. The competition featured nearly 2,000 young



scientists from 49 U.S. states and nearly 70 countries, regions, and territories worldwide.

Other Indian American winners included Tanishka Balaji Aglave, 15, of Valrico, Florida, and Ria Kamat, 17, of Hackensack, New Jersey.

Tanishka received the H. Robert Horvitz Prize for Fundamental Research of \$10,000 for her investigation into a natural alternative treatment against citrus greening, a disease that threatens citrus farming worldwide and is currently only treated with antibiotics. She injected the trunks of infected trees with an extract from the curry leaf tree and found that this method could effectively and sustainably

manage citrus greening disease.

Ria, a student at Bergen County Academies, received the Dudley R. Herschbach SIYSS Award, which provides finalists an all-expense-paid trip to attend the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar during Nobel Week in Stockholm, Sweden. Her project examined the relationship between tumor-induced osteoclastogenesis and osteoprotegerin. Other Indian Americans among the 450 finalists were also recognized for their innovative research and received \$5,000 as prize money:

Biomedical Engineering – Ayush Garg, Dublin, California; Divij Motwani, Palo Alto, California; Akash Ashish Pai, Portland, Oregon.

Chemistry – Akilan Sankaran, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Arjun Suresh Malpani and Siddharth Daniel D'costa, Portland, Oregon.

Earth and Environmental Sciences – Nikhil Vemuri, Durham, North Carolina.

Physics and Astronomy – Harini Thiagarajan and Vishal Ranganath Yalla, Bothell, Washington.

Technology Enhances the Arts = Anant Khandelwal, Sritan Motati, and Siddhant Sood, Alexandria, Virginia.



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Nikesh Arora Named Second Highest-Paid CEO In US By Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) – In the midst of the debate over the outrageous sums being earned by top managements across corporates becomes more and more transparent and is drawing the ire of many, Nikesh Arora, the India-born CEO of Palo Alto Networks, has been ranked as America's second-highest-paid CEO in 2023.

A total of 17 Indian-descent CEOs are in the top 500 rankings, according to an analysis published by The Wall Street Journal on May 21.

Shantanu Narayen of Adobe is the second-highest-paid Indian-descent CEO, ranked 11 overall. Arora and Narayen earned \$151.43 million and \$44.93 million, respectively, more than Tesla's Elon Musk, who did not receive any compensation in 2023, according to the report.

Meta's Mark Zuckerberg earned \$24.40 million, while Alphabet's India-born head Sundar Pichai earned \$8.80 million during the period under review.

A product of Delhi's Air Force Public School, Arora first drew international attention as the chief business officer at Google, which he left in 2014 to head SoftBank with a reported compensation that was



Technology (63rd, \$25.28 million), Ajei Gopal of Ansys (66th, \$24.63 million), and Reshma Kewalramani of Vertex Pharmaceuticals (118th, \$20.59 million).

Others included Arvind Krishna of IBM (123rd, \$20.40 million), Badrinarayan Kothandaraman of Enphase Energy (135th, \$19.53 million), Sanjiv Lamba

said to be a record for Japan.

Arora has been heading Palo Alto Networks, a cybersecurity company, since 2018. His compensation at Palo Alto Networks consists mostly of equity awards that include shares granted over three years.

Narayen, who was born and raised in Hyderabad, has been the CEO of Adobe since 2007 after joining the company in 1998.

Hock Tan of Broadcom topped the list with earnings of \$162 million.

Ranked third, fourth, and fifth among Indian Americans were Sanjay Malhotra of Micron

of Linde (143rd, \$19.20 million), Surendralal Karsanbhai of Emerson electric (158th, \$18.32 million), Anirudh Devgun of Cadence Design Systems (172nd, \$17.34 million), Shankha Mitra of Wellflower (174th, \$17.20 million), Sumit Roy of Realty Income (268th, \$13.13 million), Satish Dhanasekaran of Keysight Technologies (319th, \$10.75 million), Prahlad Singh of Rewity (357th, \$9.13 million), Sundar Pichai of Alphabet (364th, \$8.80 million), Udit Batra of Waters (367th, \$8.74 million), and Sundarrajan Nagarajan of Nordson (389th, \$6.98 million).

Musk Lauds Ashok Elluswamy Who Leads AI At Tesla



SAN FRANCISCO, CA (IANS) – Lauding engineer Ashok Elluswamy, who was the first recruit of Tesla's Autopilot team, Elon Musk on June 9 expressed gratitude towards him, saying that "without him and our awesome team, we would just be another car company looking for an autonomy supplier that does not exist".

This comes after Elluswamy, in his detailed note, said that Musk has been the key driver of AI and autonomy at Tesla. "He has always pushed us to achieve great things, even when such ideas were seemingly impossible at the time," it added.

Later, the tech billionaire quoted Elluswamy's post on X and wrote, "Thanks Ashok! Ashok was the first person to join the Tesla AI/Autopilot team and ultimately rose to lead all AI/Autopilot software".

"Btw, I never suggested that he say anything, and I had no idea he

wrote this until I saw it 10 minutes ago," he added.

Elluswamy, in his note, shared an instance that goes back to 2014, when "autopilot started on a ridiculously tiny computer".

"Back in 2014, Autopilot started on a ridiculously tiny computer that only had about 384 KB of memory and puny computer (didn't even have native floating-point arithmetic). He asked the engineering team to implement lane keeping, lane changing, longitudinal control for vehicles, curvature, etc.," the engineer wrote.

"Many, even in the team, thought that the request was crazy. Nonetheless, he never gave up and pushed the team to achieve this very difficult goal. In 2015, beyond all odds, Tesla shipped the world's first Autopilot system. The second closest such product only came to market many years later," he added.

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Every Tuesday	Lord Hanuman Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
Every Thursday	Shiridi Sai Baba Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
Every Thursday	Guru Gajanan Maharaj abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
Every Friday	Goddess Siva Kameswari Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
Every Saturday	Lord Venkateswara Abhishekam	Abhishekam	10:30 AM	\$54
Every Saturday	Navagraha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	11:45 AM	\$54
Every Sunday	Satsang Bhajan Keertan	Satsang	10:30 AM	-
June 16th - Sunday	Samoochika Satyanarayana Puja	Puja	10:00 AM	\$54
June 19th - Wednesday	Budha Pradosham Shiva Puja	Puja	7:00 PM	\$54
June 21st - Friday	Purnima - Sri Chakra Navavarana Puja	Puja	4:00 PM	\$116
June 22nd - Saturday	Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Abhishekam	Abhishekam	5:30 PM	\$54
June 24th - Monday	Sankata Hara Chaturthi	Abhishekam	6:00 PM	\$54
June 30th - Sunday	Monthly Seniors Day	-	10:30 AM	-

JULY 2024 - UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 3rd - Wednesday	Pradosam - Shiva Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
July 6th - Saturday	Mataki Chowki	-	6:30 PM	-
July 6th - Saturday	Varahi Navratri	-	12:00 AM	-
July 7th - Saturday	Rahu Kala Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:00 PM	\$54
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Vanguard Names Salim Ramji As Its CEO



wealth management, including a decade as a senior leader at BlackRock Inc., leaving in January 2024. Before joining BlackRock, he was a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company. He started his career as a lawyer at Clif-

ford Chance in London and Hong Kong. Ramji commented, "The current investor landscape is changing, and that presents opportunities for Vanguard to further its mission of giving people the best chance for investment success, which is more relevant today than at any time in the firm's five-decade history."

Ramji earned a bachelor's degree in economics and politics from the University of Toronto, an MA degree in law from Cambridge University, and is a CFA charter holder. He is a trustee of Graham Windham, a New York-based child-care agency, and on the International Leadership Council for the University of Toronto.

Founded in 1975, Vanguard is one of the world's leading investment management companies.

India-West News Desk

VALLEY FORGE, PA – Vanguard has announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Salim Ramji, a longtime financial services executive, as the Company's new Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board, effective July 8, 2024. Ramji succeeds Tim Buckley, who, as previously announced, will retire and step down as Chairman and CEO.

Ramji, whose parents are Indians from Tanzania, and was raised in Canada will be the first outsider to helm the \$9 trillion asset manager overseeing the retirement assets of millions of Americans.

He is a senior financial services executive with more than 25 years of experience in investments, capital markets, and

Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Aurobindo Recall Products In US



WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) – Drug makers Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharma and Aurobindo Pharma are recalling their products in the US due to manufacturing issues.

According to the latest Enforcement Report by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), Dr Reddy's Laboratories is recalling Javygtor (sapropterin dihydrochloride) Powder for Oral Solution (100mg) due to it being a 'Sub-potent Drug'.

Sapropterin dihydrochloride is used to treat hyperphenylalaninemia (HPA), which is characterized by elevated amounts of phenylalanine in the blood. The company is also recalling an additional lot of sapropterin dihydrochloride for the same reason.

As per USFDA, the drug maker started the Class I recall in the US on April 8.

In addition, the USFDA mentioned that Sun Pharma is recalling 11,016 vials of Amphotericin B Liposome for Injection, which

is used to treat fungal infections.

The drug maker initiated the Class II recall on April 19 due to being "Out of specification for assay".

Similarly, Aurobindo Pharma is recalling 13,605 bottles of Clorazepate Dipotassium Tablets (3.75 mg and 7.5 mg) from the US market. Clorazepate Dipotassium Tablets are used to treat anxiety.

According to the USFDA, the recall is due to "Discoloration: Dotted and yellow spots on tablets". The company began the Class II recall on April 24. Additionally, the USFDA mentioned that FDC Ltd is recalling 382,104 units of Timolol Maleate Ophthalmic Solution, which is used to treat glaucoma. The drug maker is recalling the affected lot due to a "Defective Container".

Earlier this month, drug makers Cipla and Glenmark recalled their products from the US market due to manufacturing issues.

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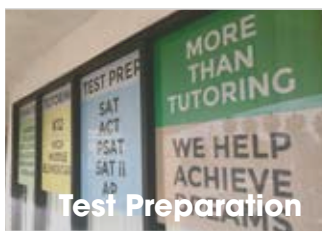


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Purdue Educated Ram Mohan Naidu, 36, Is Youngest Ever Union Minister

AMARAVATI, (IANS) – Telugu Desam Party's Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu has become the youngest-ever Union Minister after he took oath as a member of the Narendra Modi-led Cabinet on June 9. He will handle the civil aviation ministry.

The 36-year-old was elected to the Lok Sabha from Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh for a third consecutive term in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

The US-educated leader is carrying forward the political legacy of his late father K. Yerran Naidu, who too had served as a Union Minister.

Yerran Naidu, a top leader of the TDP, had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in the United Front government between 1996 and 1998.

One of the prominent faces of TDP, Ram Mohan Naidu retained the Srikakulam seat with a massive margin of over 3.27 lakh votes.

Born on December 18, 1987, in Srikakulam district, the young leader is one of the key faces of the TDP from north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

He pursued his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University, followed by a postgraduate degree in MBA from Long Island, NY

Yerran Naidu's death in a car



Ram Mohan Naidu.

accident in 2012 brought Ram Mohan into politics. At the age of 26, he contested and won the Lok Sabha polls from Srikakulam in 2014, making waves as the second youngest MP in the 16th Lok Sabha.

Ram Mohan, like his late father, is closely associated with TDP President N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Serving as a national General Secretary of the TDP, he is considered one of the key loyalists of Naidu, who is set to become the Chief Minister of the state.

Ram Mohan, along with Chandrababu Naidu's son Nara Lokesh, played a key role in Delhi in mobilizing support for the TDP chief

when he was arrested last year in a corruption case.

With fluency in English and Hindi, Ram Mohan has become an asset for the TDP who always accompanies Chandrababu Naidu during his visits to Delhi.

He served on various Parliamentary committees, underscoring his grip over diverse subjects. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing.

He also served as a member of the Standing Committees on Railways and Home Affairs, the Consultative Committee on Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and the Committee on

Welfare of Other Backward Classes and Official Language Department in the 16th Lok Sabha. Ram Mohan was honored with the Sansad Ratna award in 2020 for his performance as an MP.

Married to Shri Sravya in 2017, Ram Mohan was blessed with a girl in 2021. Ram Mohan has also broken stereotypes in politics. His decision to take paternity leave during the 2021 budget session for his wife's pregnancy sparked healthy discussions on gender rights and education. One of the first MPs to advocate for menstrual health education and sex education in the Parliament, Ram Mohan also actively campaigned for the removal of GST on sanitary pads.

He also took various initiatives to encourage youth participation in politics, conducting youth direct internships both in his constituency and in the Parliament over the last decade, with over 175 individuals interning with him virtually or on the field. The young leader's hobbies include photography, which he pursued seriously during his college days. He is also an avid sports enthusiast, with a particular fondness for basketball and cricket.

Ram Mohan's uncle K. Atchen Naidu is the President of TDP's Andhra Pradesh unit.

Modi Sworn In For Third Term

Contd. from p1



Nitish Kumar - key player.

NDA including JD-U and TDP joined the union government during the swearing-in ceremony and Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy was the first among the BJP's partners to take oath of office and secrecy.

Business

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani along with son Anant, Gautam Adani and Kumar Mangalam Birla were also present.

Trouble

NCP did not join the government with its chief Ajit Pawar stating that they did not think it right for their party leader Praful Patel to accept the charge of Minister of State with independent charge as offered by the BJP as he had served as a cabinet minister earlier during the UPA government.

Saahas Announces New Collaboration with UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Post-Partum Depression (PPD) prevalence has increased by 105% from 2010 to 2021 in Southern California, with some South Asian populations experiencing a twofold increase in risk of PPD. Saahas for Cause is excited to announce a new program in our Family & Women Wellness Initiative called "Spill the Chai Ma" to prevent this issue.

Over the course of 2025, Saahas will implement peer support groups at communal chai gatherings for pregnant women and women with young children. Using clinical techniques, expressive art therapy, and community support, participants will experience a decrease in depressive symptoms and an increase in social support. By applying a variety of support methods in a linguistic and culturally sensitive manner, this new program will comprehensively and holistically combat PPD among local South Asian women.

Saahas is immensely grateful to the

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Through their Health Equity Challenge, they are fiscally sponsoring our program with a generous grant of \$50,000. Congratulations to Supraja Saravanakumar for winning the challenge and selecting Saahas as the beneficiary of her project proposal. During the six-week mentorship, Supraja worked closely with Sheetal Ayyatan, our Clinical Manager, and her team to prepare the proposal. This collaborative has played a pivotal role in securing this award.

Saahas would like to thank Sheetal and the members of the Saathi Program for their hard work researching the disparities, life cycles, and experiences of immigrant communities. Their contributions have allowed Saahas to successfully advocate for South Asian women over the last five years.

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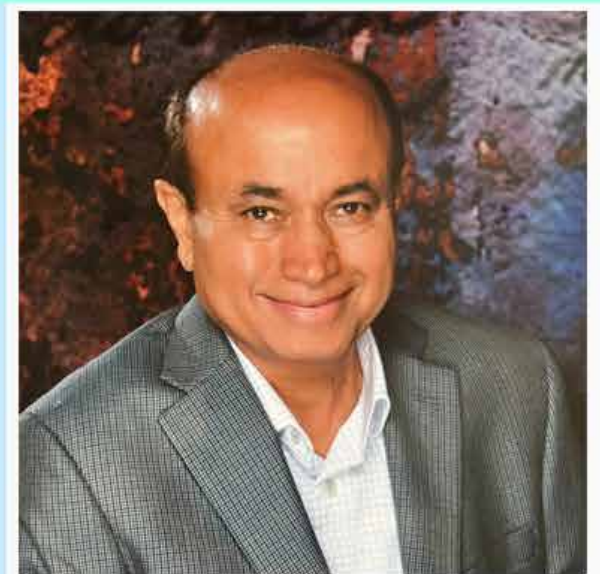
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ELECTIONS

Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar From Texas Becomes Union Minister In India

AMARAVATI, (IANS) – Telugu Desam Party's Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, the Indian American doctor who took oath as Union Minister of State on June 9, is a first-time MP and the richest with declared family assets of more than Rs 5,705 crore. He has been given Rural Development and Communications.

The 48-year-old was born in a humble family in Burripalem village of Guntur district, he studied at Narasaraopet Municipal School till Class 10 standard and did his intermediate in Guntur. Though he studied in a government school in Telugu medium school, with dedication and excellent performance, he secured 27th rank among 60,000 students who appeared for the EAMCET exam in 1993-94.

After attaining the MBBS degree from Osmania Medical College, he went to the United States for further studies. He completed his post-graduation studies and internal medicine at Geisinger Medical Centre in Pennsylvania. Later, Chandra Sekhar served as Professor and Physician at Sinai Hospital at Johns Hopkins University for five years. He completed his medical licensing exam in the United States, and at the time, he faced hardships in getting training and accommodation in the US.

To mitigate such hardships for students like him, Chandra Sekhar compiled his training material into a book and made it

available to students appearing for the Medical Licensing Examination.

His effort to make the study material available to students at the lowest price won him accolades. He was only 25 years old then.

Chandra Sekhar started an online training platform UWorld for medical students attending medical licensing exams in the US. Through this, he earned fame and goodwill in the US. Now, the platform provides training in other areas, such as nursing, pharmacy, finance, Law, commerce, and accounting.

As per the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, Chandra Sekhar and his wife Koneru Sri-ratna both are in business. He is also a member of the Forbes Business Council and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

He has helped to accommodate a hundred borewells in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh since 2010, establishing Reverse

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ELECTIONS

Ashwin Ramaswami, 24, Wins Dem Primary



India-West News Desk

ATLANTA, GA – Ashwin Ramaswami, the Gen Z Indian American candidate running for a seat in Georgia’s state senate, has won the Democratic primary. “In November, I’ll face Republican Senator Shawn Still – who was indicted alongside Donald Trump for being a fake elector in 2020. It’s the most flippable State Senate seat in Georgia,” Ramaswami, posted on social media.

Ramaswami will be the legally required age of 25 by November’s general election.

Ramaswami will now take on GOP incumbent Shawn Still, who was indicted last year alongside former President Donald Trump for trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election. When the indictment happened, Ramaswami has told the media, he decided to quit his job and run for office.

He lives with his parents in Johns Creek and while running his campaign graduated Georgetown Law School this week. With this result, he plans to defer taking his bar exam. Ramaswami’s parents immigrated to the US from Tamil Nadu in 1990.

Thanedar’s Main Opponent Is Disqualified Advancing Reelection Chances



India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Shri Thanedar’s main opponent in the Democratic primary for his reelection has taken a turn with Adam Hollier being disqualified for not submitting the necessary number of valid voter signatures.

Thanedar had formally challenged the validity of Hollier’s petitions, asserting that his fellow Democrat should be removed from the ballot.

Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garret’s staff report said that Hollier had submitted signatures of 1,553 voters. Of these, only 863 were found to be valid against the mandatory signature of 1,000 voters. Thanedar in his challenge had drawn attention to 575 signatures. The report said many of the signatures had clear indications that they were not genuine. Hollier can still appeal the verdict. In his statement, he alluded to the idea that he had trusted the process as a candidate and become a victim of fraud.

Thanedar said, “I personally collected hundreds of signatures and enjoyed

talking to my constituents directly and listening to their concerns.” Local media are now speculating what the Black Caucus, which had endorsed Hollier will now do. There have been reports of racial anger, as Michigan’s 13th District is predominantly Black and Thanedar is the first non-black representative in the area.



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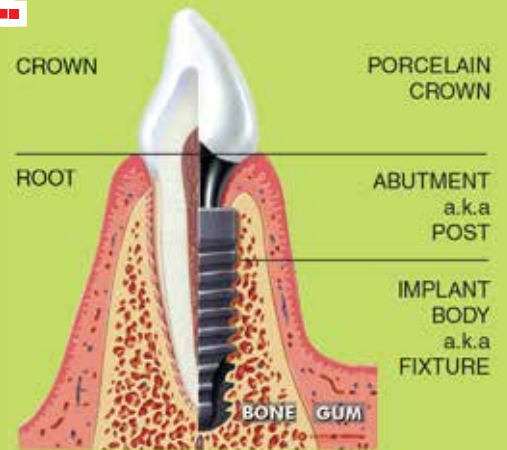
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ELECTIONS

Ravi Bhalla Runs Fierce Campaign But Is Defeated By Menendez

India-West News Desk

HOBOKEN, NJ – Hoboken Mayor Ravi Bhalla has been defeated by Rep. Rob Menendez (D-Jersey City) in the Democratic primary for New Jersey’s 8th congressional district, following an intense and costly campaign.

Bhalla, who made history as one of the first Sikh mayors in the US, ran on a platform of reform, criticizing Menendez for his family connections and the recent federal corruption charges against his father, Senator Bob Menendez. Bhalla argued that New Jersey needed to move beyond the Menendez family’s influence in politics.

Despite Bhalla’s strong show-

ing in the Jersey City and Hoboken areas, Menendez secured a decisive lead in Newark, Elizabeth, and other towns within the district, the New Jersey Monitor said. Menendez, 38, first won his congressional seat in 2022, capitalizing on his position as a Port Authority commissioner and his father’s political network. However, the bribery charges against Senator Bob Menendez last fall turned those connections into a significant vulnerability for his



son’s campaign.

Financially, the race was highly competitive, with Bhalla spending \$1.6 million and Menendez \$1.3 million by mid-May. Additionally, independent expenditure groups injected at least \$1.8 million into the district, predominantly supporting Menendez and opposing Bhalla.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus’s BOLD PAC was a major contributor, aiming to ensure the continuation of Hispanic representation in New Jersey’s congressional delegation.

Rajesh Mohan Wins GOP Primary In NJ House Race



India-West News Desk

BURLINGTON, NJ – Rajesh Mohan has secured the Republican nomination in the primary race for New Jersey’s 3rd District House seat. He will face Democrat Assemblyman Herb Conaway in the November election to fill the seat currently held by Andy Kim, who has won the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate.

Mohan, whose previous political experience is a run as an independent for the Holmdel Township Committee in 2022, defeated immigration consultant Shirley Maia-Cusick and two others.

Mohan’s campaign focuses on stronger border protection, ensuring the longevity of Medicare and Social Security, investing in domestic manufacturing and small business growth, increasing investments in mental health care, and reducing out-of-pocket medical costs by reforming the Affordable Care Act.

The 3rd District has been held by Democrats since Andy Kim ousted Republican Rep. Tom MacArthur in 2018. Despite this, the New Jersey Monitor notes that the district remains competitive.

Mohan and his wife, Nandini, have been married for 33 years and have two sons; one is an engineer and the other a lawyer.



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NY Man Shoots Brother Dead, Injures Mother, Kills Self

NEW YORK, NY (IANS) – An Indian American man, shot his brother dead, injured his mother, and then killed himself, according to police.

Karamjit Multani, 33, shot his brother Vipanpal, 27, on June 9 in their home in the Richmond Hill neighborhood and went out

and turned the gun on himself, police said.

Police said that when they went to their house after getting a call about a shooting, they found Vipanpal “unresponsive” with several gunshot wounds, and their 52-year-old mother with an injury to her stomach. Later, Multani was found dead

near a street corner with a gunshot wound to his head and a gun nearby, according to police.

The mother, who was not identified by name, was taken to a hospital where she was said to be out of danger.

Richmond Hill has a large concentration of Asians, most of them



Karamjit (on right), with his brother and sister. Source: CBS2

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of Indian descent from India or the Caribbean, accounting for 26 percent of the area's population.

According to the city, “The southern portion of Richmond Hill is home to several tight-knit communities, such as the Punjabi Sikh”.

CBS New York reported that the man's father, Bhupinder Multani, told the station that he did not know what set off his older son.

Asked by the station's reporter if the sons had any issues, he said: “Not big problems. Sometimes little disagreements, no problems.”

He said that the family had settled in for a quiet evening with pizza when Multani opened the door to his brother's room and shot him without warning. The father said that he ran to the house of a neighbor to seek help. The neighbor told the station that when she entered the house, she found Vipanpal wounded and pleading for help.

“He told me, ‘Please, don't let me die,’” the neighbor said, and died

later “in my hands”.

Jaspreet Singh, the brother-in-law of the two men, told the station that Multani “was one of the nicest, coolest guys, always joking around”. “What could be going on in his mind to explode like that,” he wondered.

The New York Post reported that, according to his family, Multani was the father of three and was financially sound with no known problems. A neighbor, Alvin Debieen, told the New York Daily News that they thought it was firecrackers going off when they heard the sound, but when they heard the police sirens, “we kind of just figured someone was shot”.

“It had to be something really serious, or he just snapped,” Debieen said.

A neighbor from where Multani's body was found, told the newspaper that “His body was right there laid out in the open and there was a lot of blood”.

FBI Sacramento Wants Indian Americans To Report Extortion

India-West Staff Reporter

SACRAMENTO, CA – In a public statement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office has warned of an extortion scheme affecting individuals with familial or business ties to India.

The field office is tracking several instances throughout its 34-county area of responsibility in which people were targeted for extortion and threatened with violence. These criminal acts are believed to be underreported.

“The FBI and its law enforcement partners urge the public to report these crimes to ensure the individuals committing these alleged crimes face justice,” it said.

“We are deeply concerned for the safety and economic security of our neighbors of Indian descent who have been targeted,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Mark Remily, who leads the FBI Sacramento Field Office. “Criminals are targeting hard-working, law-abiding business owners and are using thug tactics to extort them in clear violation of the law. Timely reporting of attempted extortion to the authorities will

help law enforcement to identify and disrupt this criminal scheme, ensuring the safety and economic security of the community.”



In recent extortion attempts, subjects demanded a large sum of money and threatened physical violence or death if the demand was not met. Individuals who disregarded the demands subsequently became victims of violence, including targeted shootings at their residences and vehicles, the FBI said.

Anyone who believes they are in immediate danger should call 911. Threats of violence intended to extort victims for a specified sum can be reported to the FBI by calling the local field office, submitting a tip online at tips.fbi.gov, or calling 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).

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Raising Human Rights Concerns In India Does Not Undermine Ties With US Say Lawmakers

India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Indian American lawmakers emphasized their commitment to addressing human rights issues in India but noted that lecturing New Delhi on the matter is counterproductive. Instead, they advocated for a dialogue with Indian leaders to express their concerns constructively.

At the “Desi Decides” Summit of Indian American Impact on May 16, Congressman Ro Khanna, co-chair of the Congressional India Caucus, highlighted the need for a nuanced approach.

Joining Khanna in the panel dis-

ussion were lawmakers Shri Thanedar, Pramila Jayapal, and Dr. Ami Bera. Moderated by ABC national correspondent Zohreen Shah, the discussion touched on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s relations with India’s Muslims.

Khanna suggested a more constructive approach: “Having a conversation about the imperfections in our democracy and India’s, and how to



collectively advance democracy and human rights, is more productive.”

Bera echoed Khanna’s sentiments, stressing the importance of India’s secular nature. “If India loses its secular identity, it changes its essence and global perception,” Bera said. He however expressed concerns about press freedom and the viability of opposition in India. “A vibrant democracy requires freedom of speech, press, and

opposition. I hope India’s democracy remains robust,” he added.

Pramila Jayapal agreed with Bera and Khanna, underscoring the responsibility to critique both domestic and international issues. “We shouldn’t lecture, but we must consider all U.S. interests, including values like freedom of religion and press,” Jayapal stated. She stressed that raising concerns about human rights aligns with American values and does not undermine U.S.-India relations.

Shri Thanedar supported a strong U.S.-India partnership, urging India to solidify its commitment to the U.S. “India should recognize its economic power and role in countering China’s aggression.



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Rihanna Wears Sabyasachi, Manish Malhotra For Fenty Event



LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) – It was a moment to highlight for Indian designers Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Manish Malhotra when singer-songwriter Rihanna wore neckpieces designed by both at a fashion event for her brand Fenty Hair in Los Angeles.

However, a whiff of controversy filled the air as Manish concealed Sabyasachi's design by cropping out his long necklace from the picture and showcasing only his choker necklace in the image, giving the impression that Rihanna exclusively wore his design.

When the Sabyasachi brand used the entire picture of Rihanna showing both his and Manish's designs, it was apparent that Manish had not played the game well. Many Netizens slammed Manish for unfairly hogging the entire credit.

The 'Love The Way You Lie' hit-maker donned an oversized zipper jacket, skirt, and camisole in the shade of ruby. She accessorized her look with a three-drop rubellite necklace from Sabyasachi and a choker necklace by Manish Malhotra.

While Sabyasachi's necklace was made with tourmaline crystals with brilliant cut diamonds, Manish's design was crafted in 18K gold and custom-cut rubies encrusted in diamonds.

How Raghavendra Rathore Designed Diljit Dosanjh's Look For North America Tour

MUMBAI, (IANS) – Couturier Raghavendra Rathore, who has collaborated with Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh for his ongoing 'Dil-luminati North America' tour, has shared how the latter struck a chord with the AI-Gen-Z audience who crave for authentic experiences that pay homage to their traditions while pushing creative boundaries.

The lifestyle designer has showcased Indian heritage and craftsmanship on a global platform through Diljit's connection with audiences worldwide.

Talking about the same, the founder of the bespoke brand 'Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur' said: "Diljit is an unstoppable force, not just as one of India's biggest musical sensations, but also as a proud ambassador of our rich cultural heritage."

For the Vancouver opener, Dosanjh donned Rathore's signature black Jodhpur bandhgala kurta, featuring intricate tonal thread work. The black handcrafted kurta was paired with a lustrous pure silk chadra (traditional Punjabi outfit, thoughtfully crafted to complement the ensemble).

The look was completed with a turle wali pagri (Punjabi turban) styled by turban artiste Gurpartap Singh Kang.

"By seamlessly blending his Punjabi roots with a modern sensibility, Diljit has struck a chord with the AI-Gen-Z audience who crave authentic experiences that pay homage to their traditions while pushing



creative boundaries. Our collaboration for the Dil-luminati tour is a celebration of this very spirit – fusing timeless Indian craftsmanship with contemporary global appeal," he shared.

Rathore added: "As Diljit takes the stage in my bespoke ensembles, we are showcasing to the world the unparalleled artistry of Indian haute couture on prestigious international platforms." The tour kicked off in Vancouver, Canada, on April 27, and will continue across major cities in Canada and the United States until July 13.

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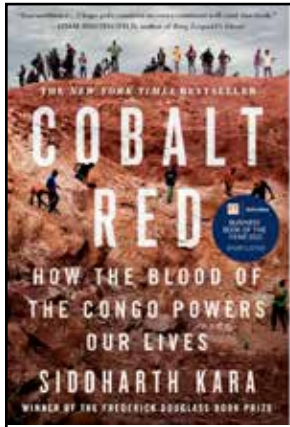
Siddharth Kara Named 2024 Pulitzer Finalist

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Amongst the 2024 Pulitzer Prizes announced by Columbia University, Siddharth Kara's groundbreaking work "Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives" received recognition as a finalist in the General Non-fiction category.

"It is an enormous triumph for the people of the DR Congo that "Cobalt Red" has been named a finalist for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in non-fiction. As their voices are heard around the world, justice becomes inevitable," Kara posted.

"Cobalt Red" serves as an eye-opening exposé, delving into the cobalt mining operations in the Southeastern Congo. Through meticulous research and firsthand accounts, Kara sheds light on the harrowing realities of modern-day slavery, revealing the inhumane working conditions and human rights abuses endured by miners, including men, women, and children, who extract the precious metal essential for vari-

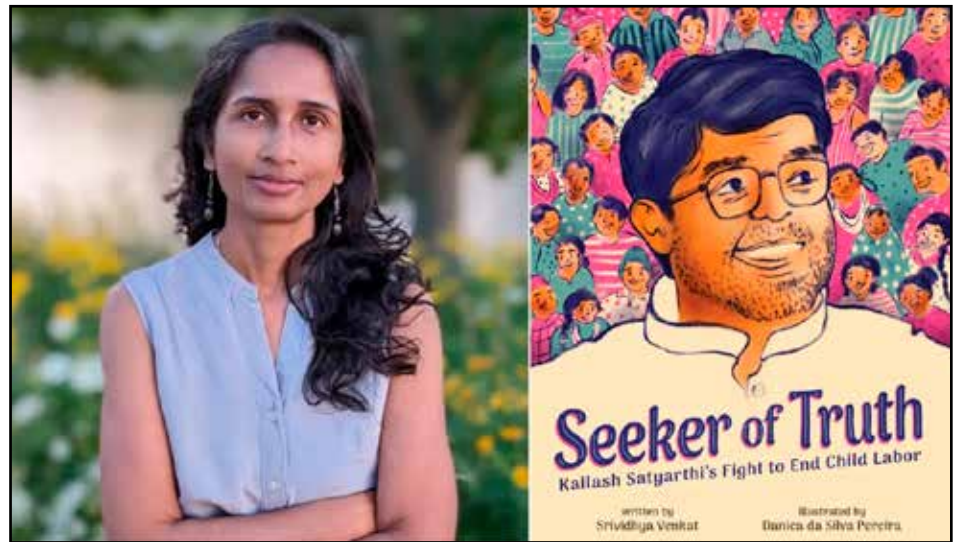


ous technological devices like smartphones, computers, and electric vehicles.

Kara's investigation takes readers deep into the heart of cobalt territory, documenting the voices of the Congolese people themselves, who bear the brunt of the exploitation. From militia-controlled mining areas to the supply chain tracing child-mined cobalt to tech giants, Kara uncovers a system rife with suffering and tragedy.

A British Academy Global Professor and associate professor at Nottingham University, Kara has dedicated his career to shedding light on contemporary forms of slavery. His previous books on the subject have garnered acclaim, with one, "Trafficked" adapted into a Hollywood film.

Kara was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, to Indian parents of Hindu and Parsi background. He has degrees from Duke and Columbia Universities. He has taught at Harvard, UC Berkeley and speaks regularly at international forums. He is married to neuroscientist Aditi Shankardass.



Chicago Author To Release Children's Book On Kailash Satyarthi

CHICAGO, IL – Children's author Srividhya Venkat is set to release her latest picture book, "Seeker of Truth: Kailash Satyarthi's Fight to End Child Labor," on July 23. Illustrated by Danica da Silva Pereira and published by Little Bee Books, this biography highlights the extraordinary life and work of Kailash Satyarthi, a tireless advocate for the eradication of child labor.

Satyarthi has dedicated over 40 years to rescuing children from exploitation and advocating for their rights. His innovative approaches to education and empowerment have helped countless children break free from the cycle of poverty and become future leaders. His global awareness campaigns and advocacy for international laws against child slavery have earned him worldwide

recognition, culminating in the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Srividhya Venkat, who has lived outside of India for over half her life and is now based in the Chicago area, draws inspiration from her motherland in her writing. "I wrote this book to create awareness that child labor still exists today and to showcase the transformative impact of one individual's efforts," Venkat explains. Through this poignant and beautifully illustrated story, she aims to inspire readers of all ages to strive to make a difference in their communities and around the world.

"Seeker of Truth: Kailash Satyarthi's Fight to End Child Labor" is a compelling addition to Venkat's body of work, which often reflects her deep connection to Indian culture and social justice themes.

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BOOKS

Indian American Creatives Celebrate Heritage And The Power Of Names

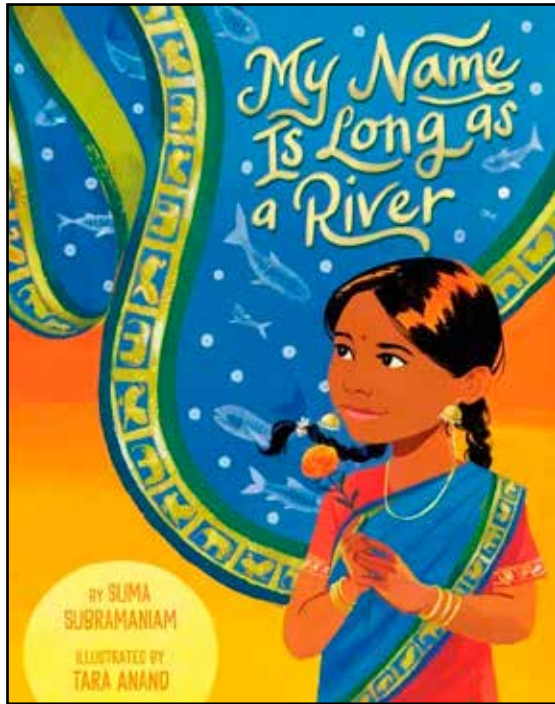
India-West Staff Reporter

‘My Name Is Long as a River,’ Penguin Workshop, for children aged 4-8

In a new picture book, ‘My Name Is Long as a River,’ author Suma Subramaniam and illustrator Tara Anand tell the story of a young girl named Kaveri who learns to appreciate the beauty and significance of her long name. The tale, inspired by Subramaniam’s own heritage, highlights the importance of cultural identity and the pride that comes from understanding one’s roots.

Kaveri Thanjavur Jayalakshmi Ganesan, often preferring to be called “Kav,” initially sees nothing special about her lengthy name. However, her grandmother, Paati, reveals the deep connections her name has to her family’s heritage, her birthplace, and the powerful river they cross for the Pushkaram Festival. Through this journey, Kaveri discovers the magic and history embedded in her name, leading to a newfound sense of empowerment.

Subramaniam reflects on the inspiration behind the story, noting, “A name when pronounced correctly is a comforting feeling to everyone involved. It is like seeing



a friendly face or the sound of a familiar and well-loved piece of music. Even though some names may seem long or difficult to say, they can be embraced with a little bit of practice. For children, nothing could be more self-boosting and reassuring than holding a piece of history and the warmth of their families inside them.”

Kaveri’s name is rich with significance. It is shared with the sacred Kaveri river in India, revered

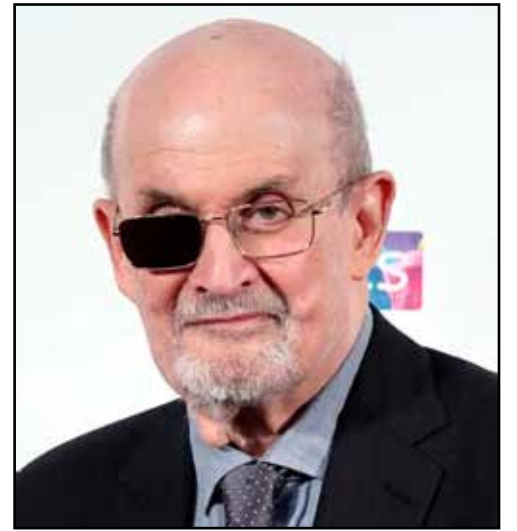
as the Goddess Kaveriamma, and the author’s grandmother. Thanjavur is a historic city in South India where the author’s ancestors lived. Jayalakshmi, used for special ceremonies, connects Kaveri to the author herself, while Ganesan is a tribute to Subramaniam’s grandfather.

Suma Subramaniam is an accomplished author of several children’s and young adult books, including Namaste Is a Greeting, She Sang for India, The Runaway Dosa, and A Bindi Can Be.... She holds an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and resides in Seattle.

Illustrator Tara Anand, based in New York City and has worked on various editorial and children’s book projects. She primarily uses gouache in her artwork and enjoys reading in her spare time.

Alex Gibney To Direct Salman Rushdie Documentary Based On Memoir ‘Knife’

LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) – A documentary centered around novelist Salman Rushdie, based on his memoir ‘Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder’, will be directed by Oscar-winner Alex Gibney. Gibney is known for making films such as ‘Taxi to the Dark Side’ and ‘Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief.’



Tentatively titled ‘Knife’, the documentary is inspired by Rushdie’s memoir ‘Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder’, a gripping account of surviving an attempt on his life 30 years after a fatwa was ordered against him. The book, released in April, not only details the author’s life and career but also recounts the 2022 assassination attempt against the Indian-born, British-American novelist and the long recovery that followed. Rushdie was stabbed 15 times in Chautauqua, New York, by a 24-year-old New Jersey man with a knife.

The attack targeted Rushdie’s neck, eye, and chest, causing him to collapse on stage during a talk

he was giving at Chautauqua’s amphitheater stage.

He lost vision in one eye and was left incapacitated in one hand. Through Rushdie’s wife Rachel Eliza Griffiths’ footage, which has never been seen by the public, the documentary will follow the writer during not only his physical recovery but also the recovery of his spirit and hope for the future reports variety.com.

In ‘Knife’, Rushdie writes, “it’s a story in which hatred, the knife as a metaphor of hate, is answered, and finally overcome, by love.”

“I’m delighted we have Alex working with us on this film,” said Rushdie.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Documentary 'The Audacity To Dream' Screened At Beverly Hills, Aims For Scholastic Equity

India-West Staff Reporter

BEVERLY HILLS, CA – A thought-provoking new documentary is catalyzing a ground-

swell of support for overhauling America's education system. On May 20, the non-profit Vibha and A North Production hosted an exclusive screening of 'The Audac-

ity to Dream,' at the Beverly Hills Library, here. Vibha's poignant film spotlights the transformative power of learning opportunities.

Directed by Sharon Angel, the



Above & below: Director Sharon Angel (second from left) with guests and moderating a panel discussion.



documentary follows Manisha, a young girl from rural India determined to become a doctor – her family's multi-generational dream stymied by lack of access. For Angel, a fellow Indian native who reaped the benefits of education, Manisha's story was profoundly inspirational.

"I set out to capture Manisha's journey and underscore how education is not just a privilege, but a fundamental human right," explains Angel. "The film showcases how Vibha equips underprivileged youth like Manisha with quality schooling and English skills to unlock their full potential."

The screening drew a coalition of education advocates, civic leaders, and influencers. Among them was Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Dr. Sharona Nazarian, signaling the city's prioritization of scholastic reform. Shauna Shapiro represented Showcase Entertainment, while Emmy-winning journalist Stella Inger-Escobedo moderated an insightful panel discussion.

Attendees included Nalini and Daniel Jokmels from Capstone, social justice attorneys Jennifer Sahota and Nileema Gavini of Gavini Law, and Vibha board member Monika Erande, who embodies the non-profit's grassroots efforts.

During the event, Erande participated in several interviews where she emphasized: "English serves as a global language, essential for international communication. In the context of India, higher education often takes place in English, making it crucial for children to learn the language to access better educational opportunities."

Though set in India, the film casts a glaring spotlight on the crisis afflicting American public schools, where two-thirds of children struggle with basic reading literacy. Through Manisha's perseverance, the documentary encapsulates how access to quality education can transform lives and communities.

"Our children's futures hinge on equipping them with essential skills like communication and critical thinking to thrive in our rapidly evolving world," Angel urges. "By fostering collaboration between educators, parents and stakeholders, we can nurture each student's unique talents and identities."

As "The Audacity to Dream" continues its screening tour, Vibha hopes it will be a clarion call that unites a broad coalition to dismantle systemic barriers.

For more: www.vibha.org/TheAudacitytoDream



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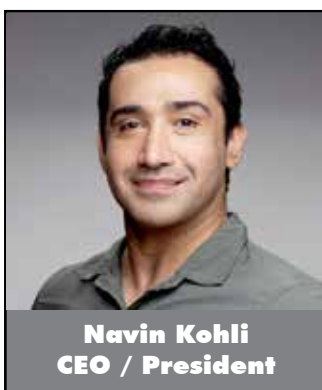
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Hrithik, Sussanne Khan Attend Son's Graduation In Boston



BOSTON, MA (ANI) – Recently, Hrithik Roshan and his ex-wife Sussanne came together for their son Hrehaan's graduation ceremony from the Berklee College of Music here. Their younger son Hridhaan too, joined them.

She took to her Instagram handle to share a video from Hrehaan's graduation ceremony. He was seen in a green robe, smiling with his batchmates. Her post was a compilation of all the special moments from the graduation ceremony.

She can be seen posing with Hrithik, Hrehaan and Hridhaan. Hrehaan also cut

a huge white cake on this special day.

"From here to eternity let this journey of your passion take you to the highest level of joy and love. God bless you my darling may the Universe shine brightest over your ever action... and your every tune fill the hearts of everyone. P.S I know you never going to Stop This Train," she added as John Mayer's song was added as the background music.

Hrithik is currently dating actor-singer Saba Azad. On the other hand, Sussanne has been in a relationship with actor Arslan Goni.

Netflix Renews 'Heeramandi' For Season 2



MUMBAI (ANI) – Loved watching Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'? If yes, then a new update regarding the hit show will bring a smile to your face.

Streaming giant Netflix has renewed the series for a second season, Variety reported.

Within the first week of its May 1 launch, the series danced its way up Netflix's worldwide non-English TV chart in 43 countries, becoming the most-viewed Indian series for the streamer globally. The series has been reigning in the No. 1 spot in the India Top 10 chart since its launch.

Spanning 1920 through 1947, when the subcontinent was partitioned into India and Pakistan, Season 1 of the lavish story is set in the Heeramandi district of Lahore, British India, the milieu of the tawaifs. As with the geisha of Japan, tawaifs were trained in music and dance and courted by the nobility. At the show's center are Mallikajaan (Manisha Koirala), the scheming queen of Heera-

mandi, and her vindictive niece Fareedan (Sonakshi Sinha), who has ambitions to take her aunt's place.

Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Aditi Rao Hydari, Fardeen Khan, Shekhar Suman, and Taha Shah Badussha also feature in the show.

"It takes a lot to make a series. This one has taken a lot. After 'Gangubai' [Berlinale title 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'] released in February 2022, from that to now every single day I have worked without a break. So, the responsibility is huge on the series," Bhansali told Variety.

"In 'Heeramandi 2,' the women now come from Lahore to the film world. They leave Lahore after the partition and most of them settle in the Mumbai film industry or Kolkata film industry. So that journey in the bazaar remains the same. They still must dance and sing, but this time for the producers and not for the nawabs. So that's the second season we are planning, let's see where it goes," Bhansali added.

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Kareena Kapoor Is "Obsessed" With Adam Driver

MUMBAI (ANI) – Kareena Kapoor Khan is most impressed with Oscar-winning actor Adam Driver.

She took to her Instagram stories and shared a screenshot of his character from his biographical sports drama film 'Ferrari'.

Along with the picture, she wrote in the caption, "Obsessed". Driver made his Broadway debut in 'Mrs. Warren's Profession' in 2010 and later appeared in 'Man and Boy'. He began his film career in supporting roles in 'Lincoln' in 2012 and was also seen in 'Frances Ha' and 'Inside Llewyn Davis'. He played Enzo Ferrari in Michael Mann's biopic 'Ferrari'. 'Ferrari' is a 2023 American biographical sports drama film directed by Michael Mann and written by Troy Kennedy Martin. Kareena is currently basking in the success of 'Crew', in which she shared screen space with Kriti Sanon and Tabu. Helmed by Rajesh A Krishnan, 'Crew' revolves around the journey of three working women set against the backdrop of the aviation industry.



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We are seeking an experienced individual or management couple candidate that has a knack for independent motel operations, great customer service skills, possesses strong work ethic and the ability to multi-task and wear different hats on property. The successful candidate must align with ownership operational goals on how to run/market the property effectively as that will be the key to success. Typical roles and responsibilities include but are not limited to: front desk, light (towels only) laundry, housekeeping, maintenance. Location: Vallejo

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This is a on-site housekeeping and laundry position. Couple Preferred. Some maintenance experience is a plus. Accommodations provided. Copy the link below and paste in web browser and review job description. DO NOT CONTACT ME IF YOU WANT CASH ONLY, NO WORK VISA OR HAVE NOT READ THE JOB DESCRIPTION. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13kxq7A8CaASA2ps0D6NTkHZOPfbvON6KJsv1uEFI034/edit?usp=sharing> Contact Number : 530-921-2038/h.patel.ms@gmail.com

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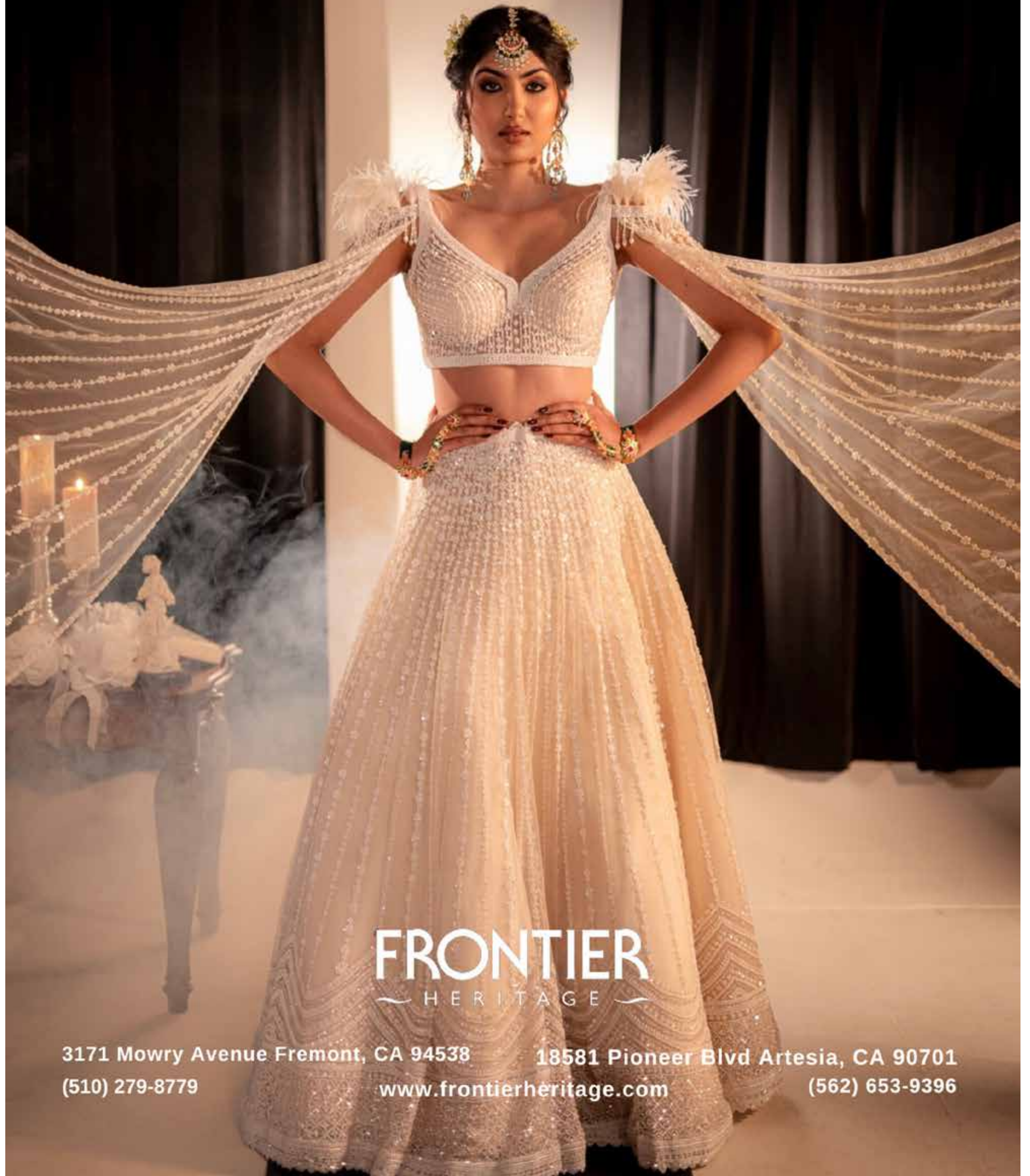
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