

# Bajpayee proud to see Ind-Ams celebrating I-Day

JASLEEN KHANUJA



Left to right: Prashant Gupta (Bollywood actor), Dr. Romesh Japra (FoG Founder & Convener), Chief Guest Manoj Bajpayee (Bollywood Actor) and Vivek Agnihotri (Bollywood Director)



Actor Manoj Bajpayee auctioning the bike at FoG Red Carpet Awards

FREMONT, CA: Prominent Bollywood Actor Manoj Bajpayee was recently seen in Silicon Valley, California on the occasion of potpourri of celebrations put together by the Festival of Globe Team. The actor enjoyed participating in the wide range of events that inter alia included the Film Festival, Facebook and Google Summit, Red Carpet Gala Award Night and India Independence Day Parade and Fair.

As a Grand Marshall of the Parade, Manoj congratulated the people of Indian roots in America for having kept up the esteemed sentiment of hoisting the tri-colored Indian Flag and showcasing the ultimate diversity and glory via multicultural, multi-state, multi-lingual and multi-colored floats.

The actor felt extreme pride and expressed his heart-felt

mentioned that meeting people of India most of who go through



FoG anchor Jasleen Khanuja interviewing Bollywood Actor Manoj Bajpayee at FoG Red Carpet Gala Awards Show

struggle and fight great odds to be able to celebrate festivals like this is a big thing. He emphasized the principle - Truth always Wins! The anchor tried to get some

to a rope and let go! The actor exclaimed while describing the experience as "Scary!"

Recalling his moments with the serious actress Tabu in films like 'Dil pe Mat le Yaar' and 'Ghaath', Bajpayee revealed that she has been a great friend. "I can call her at 3 am or 3 pm!", says Manoj in a very relaxed fashion. He disclosed about his upcoming projects some of which are also with Tabu namely Ailyaary (with Neeraj Pandey), Love Sonia and In the Shadows (story of a Delhi Boy based in Los Angeles).

Although he appears to be stern from his image derived from some of the characters he has played in movies, Manoj Bajpayee was very personable and nice. The reasoning behind Manoj's humbling gesture could possibly be his belief of not judging his characters but simply playing them as stated by him during his visit to Google Headquarters. The actor has strongly urged the people to watch out the fantastic cinema that he is bringing out next year.

When asked about his wife Neha, who has acted in blockbusters like Fizza and Kareeb, Manoj became a little defensive and said that he would proudly stick to her original name Shabana and that she would make her move back to the industry after few years of break due to parenting. (The couple is blessed with a girl child).

Bajpayee, recipient of two National Film Awards and four Filmfare awards was questioned at the FoG Summit on how to spark creativity. Initially, the actor shirked from answering anything

saying on a rather light note that he would abstain from giving any kind of advice in keeping with Osho's philosophy! But then he said that the key is to listen to your inner self and to your heart. "I can consider myself a rebel. I get up in the morning and if I think of going in the park alone, I don't listen to my wife, I just go in the park. Sometime(s), I think of taking my daughter to the market, I immediately do it. Listening to your heart, not your mind is the beginning point." Dwelling on his life experiences and tenets, Bajpayee also said that being judgmental over people, actions and beliefs is detrimental to openness of mind.

Bajpayee draws inspiration

the audience - "kya khod khod ke keechar uchhal rahe hain hum par, Magar aasman mein thukne walon ko nahin pata ki palat ke thook unhi ke oopar girega - Karara jawab milega" (meaning if you tarnish anyone's image or harm anyone, it comes back to you with a thud!).

Superstar Manoj Bajpayee is known for variety of roles that he has done in Veer Zara, Zubeida, Gangs of Wasseypur, Satya, Bandit Queen, Dus Kahaniyaan and many more. However, he mostly portrays the character of a rural man with strong moral values.

During his struggling days as an upcoming actor, he had also done the famous soap opera

*Manoj congratulated the people of Indian roots in America for having kept up the esteemed sentiment of hoisting the tri-colored Indian Flag and showcasing the ultimate diversity and glory*

*When asked about his best moments with FoG, Bajpayee mentioned that meeting people of India most of who go through struggle and fight great odds to be able to celebrate festivals like this is a big thing.*

gratitude to Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder and Convener of FoG, for the honor given to him across borders on the landmark 25th year of FoG Extravaganza from Aug 5-13.

When asked about his best moments with FoG, Bajpayee

Bollywood insights into his career and lifestyle.

Manoj was frank in stating about the 120 feet fall that he made in the movie 'Aks' that led to a major vertigo! Amitabh Bachchan told him that nothing would happen. So he was tied up

from leaders and orators like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and saints like Osho. During a very interesting session on the words of wisdom, Manoj recalled a dialog from his movie 'Rajneeti' rendered in Atalji's speaking style followed by a huge round of applause by

'Swabhiman' by Mahesh Bhatt. He has also provided the voice of Ram in the animation film 'Ramayana: The Epic'. Besides the mainstream Bollywood, the actor has also done some movies in Tollywood and other regional cinema.

# 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade



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The cultural events were spread for two days under different categories of groups and solo in both Indian and Western dance forms. Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Bhangra, Bollywood and classical dances by kids and adults entertained the audiences thoroughly.

The FOG India Day Mela, besides having the entertainment factor, is the best platform to market your business. The festival offers an opportunity for businesses to provide support, patronage and encourage events that increase and strengthen the cultural diversity and community involvement. There were around 95 trade booths and 15 food booths. The trade booths catered to wide range of business starting from fashion jewelry, clothing, designers, real estate, insurance, credit union, banks, tourist agents, airlines etc. There were stalls carrying multi-colored and elaborately patterned fabrics of saris, shawls and kurtas; intricately designed bangles, toe rings, anklets and earrings.

Sponsors who made this event possible are Airlines partner Air India, Astrology partner Astro Vastu Solution by Vaneet Sharma, Bank of the West, Incredible India, Wells Fargo, Arable/Light MD, MCIS Insurance, Comcast xfinity, Direct TV Now, Sling TV, Turkish Airlines, Calcoast/Intero, McDonalds, PNG jewelers, Nurture kids, Star Plus, Life OK, TV Asia, Dr. Monika Chugh, Union Bank, Excel Test Prep, CEFCU, Unitek, SG Inc CPA, Keen Learners Montessori, Eve Decor, Event Mozo, Raymond James, Charles Schwab, Genze by Mahindra, O Homes, Toll Brothers, Robson Homes, Timothy Crofton.

Commenting on the success of the Festival, Rajesh Verma, President FIA and FOG Event coordinator said, "This is our way of passing on the torch of our pride in our traditions to the future generations of American Indian youth." Festival of India is unmatched in performance, participation and organization by dynamic and talented spirit of Asian Indians. He thanked the volunteers who had worked relentlessly and planned the events for months and made it a huge success.



**BART passengers, train operator save life**

India Post News Service

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: The combination of an alert train operator and quick-thinking BART passengers helped save the life of a person in crisis who went onto the trackway at the Civic Center Station in San Francisco during August 28 afternoon commute.

At about 4:43 pm a man entered the trackway from one of the station platforms, drawing an immediate response from several people on the platform at Civic Center Station. While some riders helped the man out of the trackway, others immediately jumped into action and began waving to alert the operator of the oncoming train. Surveillance footage show a sea of arms in the air along the entire length of the platform and riders coming together during a moment of crisis.

The train operator saw the riders waving their arms and hit the emergency stop button. The train came to a stop one car into Civic Center Station, several car lengths from where the man was in the trackway. Power was cut in the area and BART police responded to the scene within minutes. Officers detained the person in crisis and made sure he got the support services he needed.

**1-Day celebrated at Gandhi Memorial in Dallas**

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**FOG competitions show up youth talent**

LAKSHMIYER  
India Post News Service

FREMONT: This year, the Festival of Globe (FOG) had a variety of competitions that were open to people of different ages such as FOG Dance Competition, FOG Idol singing contest, and FOG Freedom Fighters Reflections Contest.

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**FOG Movie Fest delivers platter of great films**



Hollywood actress, Norma Maldonado-Buha, accepting her award from FOG Ambassador, Prashant Cuptha.  
Pics courtesy INDIV USA & Festival of Globe Facebook Page



Anand Raj Naidu receiving his award from Manoj Bajpayee

LAKSHMIYER  
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: The Festival of Globe (FOG) Movie Fest 2017 was held at Century Theaterson Pacific Commons, Fremont, California from Saturday, August 5 to Friday, August 11.

The international film festival, now in its fourth year, kicked off with three consecutive packed screenings of the docudrama, "Doctor By Heart", a fictional adaptation of Dr. Romesh Japra's life with real footage of past FOG parades and events. The film is written and directed by Dr. Ranu Sinha, PhD.

The other films of the day included:

- The White Coat Chef, a Bay Area documentary directed by Jamie Oi Ping Chung. The film follows Hishen Dang, a second



Actor-director Lom Harsh receiving his award from Manoj Bajpayee for "Yeh Hai India"

generation Vietnamese-American who becomes a chef while following his passion for cooking and later takes the road to medical school to become a doctor and help people.

- French short film, "Le Petit" or "The Little One" - a simple tale of a young boy whose father is bedridden and requires daily care by his mother

and a male nurse. (Owing to issues with obtaining the screening content, this film could not be shown)

- Late night feature "Welcome to Willits", a thriller drama written and directed by Timothy and Trevor Ryan respectively. The story is about the possible dangers of marijuana and centers on a strange couple living in the town of Willits, the gateway to the Redwood forests of Northern California, part of a top marijuana-growing region nicknamed "the Emerald Triangle".

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**Mojo wins 'Best Regional Film' award**

RITU MAHESHWARI  
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: The IT-based film enthusiasts are not in any mode of exaggeration; true to their conviction, Mojo already carries the distinction of bagging an international award in

the "Best Regional Film" category, at the FOG (Festival Of Globe) Film Festival held in Fremont CA, USA, where Mojo saw its maiden world premiere.

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# FOG free health fair attended by hundreds



**VIDYA SETHURAMAN**  
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: For past 25 years, FIA organized Festival of India has come to symbolize the unity, integrity, culture and best of the things that are hallmark of the Indian community in Bay area. Celebrated over two days, this festival has many

that features best of offers for Indian community.

The festival opened on August 12 at 10 am in Paseo Padre Parkway with the "Free Health Fair". The Health Fair had about 20 Indian American physicians and other medical professionals providing free medical services and follow up.

and special consultations on cardiology, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, physical therapy, and chiropractic services were the highlight of the fair. More than 300 consultations were made on the fair.

The fair was organized by FIA team members with physicians and other medical professionals from Pacific Cardiology, Arable Light MD, Kaiser permanente, Capsule RX, Imotion physical therapy, Regeneron, Gilead to name a few. Health fair was coordinated by Naresh Sodhi, Raju Mantena, Sanjeev Sharma and team.

"Our goal is to identify and address medical and dental needs in our community, and provide services to those who are in need of treatment," Naresh Sodhi, Health fair coordinator said. She thanked all the sponsors, media and the public who made this event a grand success.

"We're thrilled with the response from local and regional health-focused companies and agencies that want to come out and be a part of this event to support a healthy community in Fremont and the surrounding areas," Dr Romesh Japra, Chairman, FIA said.

The primary goal is to raise awareness about quality healthcare available in the community. At the health fair, a number of agencies participated to provide information and assistance to local residents on what options and programs are available for healthy living.



popular and well sought after segments such as health fair, grand parade, Bollywood celebrity as Grand Marshal, kids talent programs, cultural programs representing cross section of India and a Mela (fair)

Some of the free health screenings included blood pressure checks, BMI (body mass index), blood sugar screenings, eye exams for glaucoma, retina exams, hearing exams and diabetes risk assessments. Flu shots



### Naperville I-Day rocked with Gov Rauner's presence

ARVIND PATEL, RAMESH SOPARAWALA & HARISH RAO

NAPERVILLE: It was the third year in row that the Indian Community Outreach (ICO) organized India Day celebrations with gusto and with a lot of support from the community at large, the local officials and talented local artists.

Expectations were that the huge success that IOC celebrations had notched in the past two years would ensure a still bigger participation and attendance this year.

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### Chicago Consulate celebrates I-Day with gaiety & fervor

SURENDRA ULLAL & MADHU PATEL

CHICAGO: Consulate General of India, Chicago, celebrated the 71st Independence Day of India on Tuesday August 15 with great enthusiasm starting with the Flag hoisting ceremony at Richard J. Daley Centre attended by a large number of the Indian-American community members and well wishers of India.

A big highlight was that Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner proclaimed August 15 as India Day in the State of Illinois. This proclamation was presented to Indian CG Ms Neeta Bhushan by Governor representative Thomas Chui.

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### Good show by FIA at Chicago Devon Parade

ARVIND PATEL & HARISH RAO

CHICAGO: One of the oldest community organizations for, by and of Indian Americans serving the community for the past four decades, held its annual India Day parade on Devon Avenue in mini India Town. It turned out to be good show despite the fact that no Bollywood celebrity had come to grace the event

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SF Consulate celebrates India's Independence Day

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## Thousands attend 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade

VIDYA SETHURAMAN  
India Post News Service

California's Fremont City, also dubbed as Little India, was alive with dancing, singing and flag waving as the community held its annual weeklong FOG (Festival of Globe) extravaganza. Federation of Indo-Americans of Northern California celebrated its 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade with more than 80,000 in attendance for week-long events including FOG Movie fest, Awards Nite, Summit, dance competition, singing contest, freedom fighters reflection contest, food festival, real estate pavilion, fair and parade.

Billed as the biggest Indian parade in West Coast to celebrate the 70th India Independence Day, the event kicked off on Saturday with Mela and cultural performances. The 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade was held on August 12 and 13 at 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA.

For past 25 years, FIA-organized Festival of India has come to symbolize the unity, integrity, culture and best of the



things that are hallmark of the Indian community in Bay area.

Grand Marshal, kids talent pro-

best of offers for Indian community.

On a breezy weekend with temperature little over 80F and summer coming to a close, 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade opened with a bang in California, which has over 16% of Asian population. It started as a local event some 25 years back and has now grown manifold. It showcases the perfect blend of fun, entertainment and national integration.

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Celebrated over two days, this festival has many popular and well sought after segments such as health fair, grand pa-

grams, cultural programs representing cross section of India and a Mela (fair) that features



# 25th FOG India Day Mela and Parade



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Today it has become a national event attracting participants from as far away as East Coast, says Dr Romesh Japra, Convener of FIA and Chairman, FOG.

The celebrations kicked off with a flag hoisting ceremony on August 11 at the San Jose City Hall. The event was hosted by Councilmember Ash Kalra. The event was attended by Consul General Venkatesan Ashok, Rajesh Verma, Yogi Chugh to name a few. Dr Japra, Chairman and Convener of the FIA, spoke about what the flag raising ceremony meant to him, "Every year it keeps getting better and bigger - I think we realize how fortunate we are to have this freedom, unlike many others. This flag hoisting makes us proud and makes us realize who we are and what we are."



The festival opened on August 12 at 10 a.m. in Paseo Padre Parkway with the "Free Health Fair". The Health Fair had about 20 Indian American physicians and other medical professionals providing free medical services and follow up. The fair was organized by FIA team members with physicians and other medical professionals from Pacific Cardiology, Arable Light MD, Kaiser Permanente, Capsule RX, Imotion physical therapy, Regeneron, Gilead to name a few. Health fair was coordinated by Naresh Sodhi, Raju Mantena and team.



### MOST AWAITED EVENT

FOG parade, the most awaited event started at 11:30 a.m. and lasted for over two hours on August 13. Grand Marshal Bollywood star Manoj Bajpayee led the parade with FIA Chairman Dr Romesh Japra. The Parade route was on the main street of Paseo Padre Parkway. Bajpai, who rode through the parade in a horse-drawn carriage, said the pride he sees in the younger participants and watchers is "very much visible." "They love America, and being Americans, but at the same time they feel so rooted to the place where they come from," said Bajpayee.



Manoj Bajpayee, also credited as Manoj Bajpai, is an Indian film actor who predominantly works in Hindi cinema and has also done Telugu and Tamil language films. He is the recipient of two National Film Awards and four Filmfare Awards. Bollywood director Vivek Agnihotri and Actor Prashant Gupta graced the parade as co-grand marshals.



The Parade was coordinated by Deepak Chhabra, Chair, Parade and there were about 20 floats showcasing the rich culture and heritage of India. Many local ethnic groups such as Sindhi association, Bay Area Tamil Manram, Kannada group, Telangana, Maharashtra, West Bengal participated in the parade with colorful floats and entertainment programs highlighting the state's culture and heritage.

Deepak Chhabra (Chair, Parade) said, "The Parade continues to be the main attraction of Festival of India every year. There is renewed interest, enthusiasm and participation from various parts of community in making the parade a grand success. We are planning to increase the number of floats significantly and leave an indelible impression of rich Indian culture this year."



Cultural events showcasing the talent of Bay area kids and adults went on for all two days. The dance competition was coordinated by Jyotsna Bendapudi, FOG cultural chair.

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