

## 'Midnight's Children' to kick off New York Indian Film Festival

New York: The 13th Annual New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) will kick off April 10 with an exclusive screening of acclaimed director Deepa Mehta's "Midnight's Children" based on award-winning writer Salman Rushdie's novel.

Mehta and Rushdie, who also adapted the screenplay, producer David Hamilton, cast members Sarita Choudhury and Samrat Chakrabarti, too would be in attendance, according to festival organizers, the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).

Paladin and 108 Media will be officially releasing "Midnight's Children" in major US cities starting

in New York City on April 26.

Mehta, who returns to NYIFF after her Oscar-nominated film "Water" opened the film festival in 2005, said: "We have had a very long and creatively fruitful relationship with NYIFF. 'Fire', the very first film in the elemental Trilogy was shown there and almost every film I have made since."

"It is enormously pleasing for me to be once again collaborating with NYIFF and bringing to their extremely discerning audience "Midnight's Children", a film that I have been dreaming of doing since I first read the book over 30 years ago," she said.

## Texas-based Firm indicted for misuse of H1B Visa

Washington, DC: An Indian American company based in Texas has been indicted by federal authorities on charges of fraud in the H-1B visa category and using it to create a low-cost workforce in the United States. The multi-count indictment filed last month against top officials of the Dibon Solutions of Texas—Atul Nanda, Jiten 'Jay' Nanda, Siva Sugavanam, Vivek Sharma, Rohit Mehra and Mohammad Khan—alleges that the company paid H-1B visa-holding employees only when there was work.

According to the 15-page indictment filed last month and unsealed

this month, the Nanda brothers, the owners of the company, along with others named in the court conspired to defraud the H-1B system.

The indictment alleges that Dibon hired foreign workers on H-1B visas and instead of paying them, used them to work for a third company and gave them the salary only when they worked for the third company.

The company "sponsored the workers on H-1B visas with the stated purpose of working at Dibon headquarters in Carrollton, Texas, but, in fact, required the workers to provide consulting services to third-party companies located elsewhere,"

the indictment alleges.

"Contrary to the representations made by the conspirators to the workers (and the government), the conspirators paid the workers only when the conspirators placed the workers at a third-party company and only if the third-party company actually paid Dibon first for the workers' services," it said.

Additionally, in Dibon's visa paperwork, it falsely represented that the foreign workers had full-time positions and were paid an annual salary, as required by regulation to secure the visas, the indictment alleges.

### IN BRIEF

#### Bhangra at the Bell 2013: First Bhangra competition in Philly

Punjab's Bhangra, glamour, vivacity and passion were recreated at the Irvine Auditorium in Philadelphia on Saturday March 2, 2013 as energetic college students from ten universities/private dance teams from the USA went head to head to prove their mettle at the first Bhangra Competition of its kind in the city of brotherly love "Bhangra at the Bell" hosted by MNK event services.

About 200 dancers from the following teams participated including Anakh E Gabroo from New York, NY; Bruin Bhangra from Los Angeles, CA; Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Bhangra, Pittsburgh, PA; Cornell Bhangra from Ithaca, NY; DC Bhangra Crew (DCBC) from District of Columbia, USA; Drexel University Bhangra, Philadelphia, PA; F\*A\*U\*J, Boston, MA; Joshiley Jawan, Clifton, VA; Shaan Mutiyaaran di (SMD), New York, NY; University of North Carolina (UNC) Bhangra Elite, Chappell Hill, North Carolina; Mesmerizing exhibition dance by USciences (USP) "Dhadkan" from Philadelphia; Promotional classical sense of dance from TCNJ Jiva (The college of NJ); Special performance by Ricky Jatt and his crew from Washington D.C. The program began with American National Anthem followed by Indian National Anthem sung by Annjela John and then was followed by 13 performances portraying the beauty of Bhangra dance and culture. An



Winner of the Bhangra at the Bell 2013

enthusiastic young crowd of over 1,000 attended the sold out event. The event master of ceremonies was DJ Gaurav.

The judges for the event included Benny Singh from Virginia, Jagdeep Tooray from Los Angeles, Sumjit Bajwa from Michigan & Waleed Mahmood from Washington D.C.

The Bhangra competition provided a platform for Indian-American dancers and choreographers to showcase their talent and demonstrate a connection between modern techniques and traditional forms. The wide array of bhangra performed brought the magic of Punjabi culture, colors and energy on stage.

The first place was bagged by FAUJ Bhangra from Boston, second place- CMU Bhangra from Pittsburgh and third place- Joshiley Jawan from Virginia.

#### Hindus laud offer of free yoga, meditation for female veterans in Pennsylvania

Hindus have commended Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) and the Montgomery County Veterans Center in Pennsylvania for offering free yoga and meditation for female veterans.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada called it a "step in the right direction" and urged the community colleges all over USA to offer similar free yoga and meditation programs for both female and male veterans in collaboration with US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rajan Zed further said that yoga, although introduced and nourished by Hinduism, was a world heritage and liberation powerhouse to be utilized by all.

No prior yoga experience is needed but documentation of military service is required for this program called "Warrior Yoga", which is starting April one in Blue Bell campus of MCCC. "Studies have shown that yoga has several health benefits, including improved sleep, better management of stress and anxiety, improved focus and increased fitness", its announcement says.

#### FIAF presents Fashion Talks 2013 with Naeem Khan

The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) has organized Fashion Talks 2013 on March 27 at 7 pm at Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th Street with acclaimed designer Naeem Khan.

The talk will be in English and moderated by Pamela Golbin, Chief Curator of Fashion and Textiles at Les Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

More info on [fiaf.org](http://fiaf.org).

#### Indian Health Camp of NJ to hold annual health fair on April 28

On Sunday, April 28, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a health screening and disease awareness and prevention fair will be held at 36 Meridian Road, Behind Unity Bank, off Oak Tree Road in Edison, NJ.

The health fair will be organized by the Indian Health Camp of New Jersey and supported by the Indo-American Council of Seniors of Edison, NJ. The health fair will be open to all pre-registered participants between the ages of 45 and 64 without any medical insurance.

The health screening will include blood test, EKG, vision screening for glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, physical examination, cardiology and physical therapy counseling, various types of cancer screening and prevention education, chronic disease self management via ask your doctor, dietary and diabetes counseling and pharmacy counseling.

Approximately 25-30 physicians and other allied health care professionals from various specialties of internal medicine, cardiology, ophthalmology, gynecology, urology, physical therapy, dietary and nutrition, pharmacist, phlebotomists, EKG techs, medical assistants, nurses, social workers and medical students will provide their services on this day to screen and educate patients on diabetes, hypertension, cardiac diseases, high cholesterol, various types of cancer and other chronic debilitating diseases specifically targeted to the South Asian community. The blood test reports will be reviewed by the physicians and mailed it to all participants with a counseling note, if any abnormalities are detected in the test. The



dedicated team from the State of New Jersey Commission for the blind will provide thorough eye screening to qualified patients on this day to promote their noble cause of preventing blindness in the community.

Indian Health Camp of NJ and their dedicated committee members and volunteers will provide their self-less and dedicated service to support the health fair activities on this day.

All pre-registered participants are requested to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of the screening and recommended to be fasting from mid-night. The participants can continue to take their regularly prescribed medications and can drink water even in the morning of the blood test.

The breakfast after the blood test and lunch will be provided to all participants and volunteers on this day.

The registration form to participate in this health fair is available on organization web site at [www.IHCNJ.ORG](http://www.IHCNJ.ORG) or Gujarat Darpan and Tiranga. The deadline to receive the completed form to IHCNJ, P.O. Box 5686, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 is by April 12, 2013.