

# World Vegan Vision celebrates 30th anniversary

**New York:** World Vegan Vision (WVV) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a Thanksgiving dinner and dance event on November 19. The event was attended by over 150 guests and community members including Ragini Srivastava, the Town Clerk, and the first Indian elected representative from the Town of North Hempstead.

World Vegan Vision is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote veganism and a healthy lifestyle. Suman Munjal,



Rakesh Bhargava will take over as president of WVV in January 2023 (Image: Provided)

the President of World Vegan Vision - New York Chapter, welcomed the dignitaries, trustees, sponsors, past presidents, and community leaders at the event.

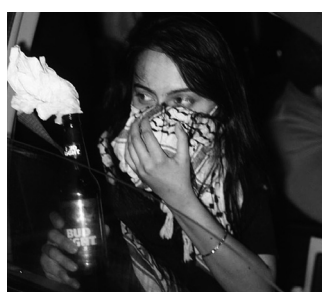
“World Vegan Vision has completed 30 years of its journey and we have been celebrating this milestone throughout this year. Thanks to our Founders HK Shah ji and Malti Shah ji, who has been nurturing this organization with “Tan, man and Dhan” from day 1. And they have been doing it for a good cause, promoting healthy

lifestyle and compassion towards animals,” she said.

Founder and Chairman H.K. Shah in his speech thanked the people for all their help and support over the last 30 years. Shah announced that Rakesh Bhargava will take over from incumbent President Suman Munjal at the expiry of her term in January 2023. Varsha Joshi, the versatile singer from New Jersey, along with her troupe of singers entertained the audience with her melodious voice.

## Pakistani American Urooj Rahman gets 15 months for Molotov bombing

**Brooklyn, N.Y.:** A Brooklyn lawyer who firebombed a police car during a George Floyd protest in 2020 has been sentenced to 15 months in prison on November 18 by a judge who reminded her that she's not in the West Bank or Belfast.



Urooj Rahman holding a black and white striped scarf as she prepared to toss the incendiary device in 2020 (Image: Daily News)

Pakistani American Urooj Rahman, who pleaded guilty to lighting a gasoline-filled bottle and throwing it at a police car, said she regretted her actions, but her remorse was not enough to avoid jail time and \$30,137 in restitution to the NYPD for the damage she caused.

“I'm so incredibly sorry for my reckless and wrong actions,” Rahman said. “I don't think there are enough words to express my sorrow and regret.” She has also been disbarred.

Judge Brian Cogan said at the sentencing in Brooklyn Federal Court that he was disap-

pointed that a trained lawyer had inflicted an “attack on the rule of law,” describing her as having a “Mona Lisa smile” in her post-arrest mugshot.

“You forgot that we're not in the West Bank, we're not in Belfast during the Troubles,” Cogan said. “We're in the United States of America.”

Prosecutors said Rahman tossed a Molotov cocktail into a police car during a May 30, 2020, protest. The car was parked outside Brooklyn's 88th Precinct stationhouse.

Prosecutors were seeking a sentence of between 18 and 24 months, but Cogan praised Rahman's commitment to bettering herself during the two and a half years since her arrest that she has spent in home confinement. The judge ordered her jail time be followed by two years of supervised release.

## Pannikottu's AEG receives funding to develop Zero Pressure Tires for Army

**Washington:** American Engineering Group founded by Kerala-born Abraham Pannikottu is all set to get funding to develop Zero Pressure Tires for US Army. The \$5 million funding is part of the 2022 omnibus appropriations bill signed by President Joe Biden that will spend \$782 billion on national defence spending.

The spending bill also includes next-generation technologies such as AEG's carbon fibre pressure zero tire technology. The development of this manufacturing technology will replace the current run-flat inserts inside military tires for both manned and unmanned-autonomous vehicles.

“After decades of painstaking preparation and lab tire testing, AEG is finally poised for manufacturing, with the first pressure “Zero” tire will be delivered in 2023 bringing this



\$5 million funding is part of the 2022 omnibus appropriations bill (Image: Provided)

military tire from concept to reality has been a long, two-decade journey for AEG,” said Pannikottu.

The project has drawn considerable attention, as it marks AEG's first foray into military tire manufacturing in the city of Akron, Ohio. The Zero Pressure Tire is also symbolic of the recent trend of innovation among small engineering companies for US defence.

AEG received the award for the DOD project to manufacture a carbon fibre tire that will continue running even after being shredded by roadside bombs or gunfire. Though military vehicle tires are now equipped with run-flat inserts, the DOD wants to upgrade to a zero-pressure tire that's better at carrying heavier loads and can quickly move soldiers out of harm's way.

## Akshaya Patra Tri-State Gratitude Gala raises over \$2 million

**New York:** The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA's Tri-state Volunteer Chapter has raised over \$2 million at its 2022 “Gratitude Gala” on November 18. The event was held at Newark Airport Marriott and was attended by over 400 business, nonprofit and philanthropic community leaders and professionals.

The amount will be used to provide midday meals for the school kids in India. “No child in India should be deprived of education because of hunger - is a powerful weapon for the children of underprivileged sections of society to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families. With the midday meal program, the kids and

their parents don't have to choose between food and education - they are both guaranteed,” Dr. Rachana Kulkarni, Board Member of Akshaya Patra USA and Chapter Chair said.

The gala also featured a panel discussion by Author Mitzi Perdue, entrepreneur Ash Ashutosh, and Milind Pant, CEO of Amway Global moderated by Abhishek Mishra. They discussed the impact of education on various aspects of life and businesses and the need for thoughtful philanthropy and the role of Akshaya Patra in that space.

Vikas Nangia was the Emcee for the gala which also featured entertainment by singer Aditya Rao and Broadway singer and actress Suri Marrero.



The Akshaya Patra serves over 2 million school children in over 20,000 government schools across India (Image: Provided)



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