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**Anger and grief in
Ahmedabad after
India's deadliest crash
in decades**



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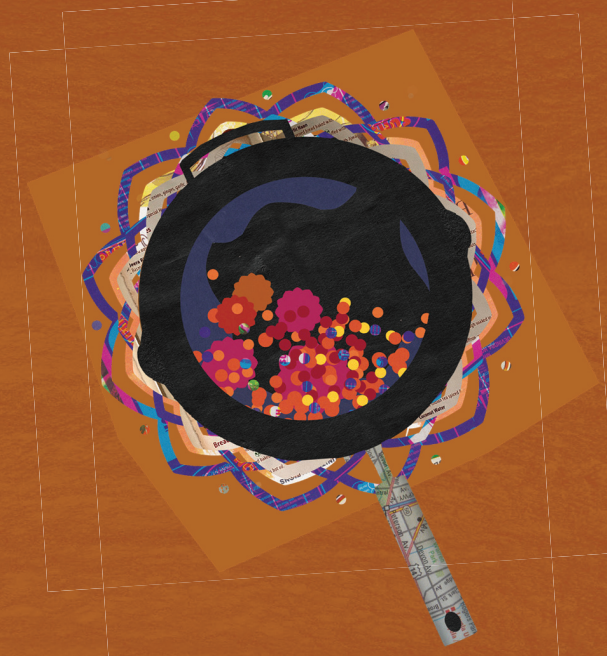
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How AI And Charter Schools Could Close The Tutoring Gap

By GAUTAM MUKUNDA

The greatest school in history isn't Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard or any other university you know. And no matter how hard you try, your kids won't get in. Why? Partly because it was so selective it only admitted one student – but mainly because it closed in 336 BC. For me, Aristotle's seven-year tutelage of Alexander is the education against which all others should be judged (after all, more than 2,300 years later we still refer to the lone pupil as "The Great"). It's the ultimate testament to the power of tutoring – a power that artificial intelligence is poised to unlock.

The problem with tutoring is it can't scale. Or it couldn't. Because even as we're besieged by concerns that AI-aided plagiarism is destroying education, we're starting to see evidence that AI-enabled tutoring might supercharge it. Getting the technology right, though, will require lots of real-life experimentation. While there's a limit to how much our traditional public school system allows for this kind of test-and-learn approach, this need creates an opportunity for the country's growing crop of charter schools to make a unique contribution to the future of education.

The wealthy's appreciation of tutoring did not die with Alexander. I paid rent my first year out of college as a private math tutor and today there are a host of companies offering tutoring services, with those at the high end often charging more than \$1,000 per hour.

But for every student who can afford tutoring, there are hundreds more who could benefit from it. A meta-analysis of dozens of experiments with K-12 tutoring, conducted with students of all socioeconomic statuses, found that the additional academic attention significantly boosts student performance. And let's say you could overcome the cost issue – with more than 50 million students in US primary and secondary schools, there will never be enough tutors to work with them all.

Early experiments with AI-based tutoring suggest it might help fill the gap. In a study of three middle schools in Pennsylvania and California, researchers found that a hybrid human-AI tutoring model – where the technology supported human tutors, allowing them to work with many more pupils – generated significant improvements in math performance, with the biggest increases going to the lowest-performing students. And in a study of four high schools in Italy, researchers replaced traditional homework in English classes with interactive sessions with OpenAI's Chat-GPT-4 and found that all the AI-aided groups did at least as well as those engaged in traditional homework – with some performing significantly better.

It could help at a college level, too. In a Harvard University physics course, for example, professors trained an AI tutor to work with some students (replacing their normal class time) while others had a traditional instructor-guided class. Students with AI tutors performed better – in fact they learned twice as much – and were more engaged with the lessons than those in the normal class, even though they had less interaction with a human instructor.

The most impressive findings may come from the developing world. Rising Academies, a network of private schools with more than 250,000 students across Africa, has implemented Rori, an AI-based math tutor for students, and Tari, a support system for teachers, both powered by Anthropic's Claude and accessible via WhatsApp. Students who used Rori for two 30-minute sessions twice a week for 8 months showed an improvement in their math performance "equal or greater than a year of schooling."

None of this means AI-aided tutoring is a panacea. But it does suggest that such tutors are, if well-designed and implemented, very likely to be helpful even if they remain inferior to the best human options. Since many families can't access or afford traditional tutoring, what matters is if they are better than no tutors at all.

But "well-designed and implemented" is a crucial

part of that sentence. We don't yet know what the best practices are for AI tutors. Learning this will require extensive experimentation. And, much as it pains me to say this as a proud product of public schools, that kind of free-form experimentation is likely to be a struggle for public school bureaucracy.

Research by the Department of Education and the Center on Reinventing Public Education at Arizona State University suggests that charter schools, which operate with more freedom about how they staff and teach, are often more innovative than traditional public schools. And because charters are not private schools, they cannot charge tuition or be selective about who they admit. This lets them generate useful data about what does and doesn't work.

Of course, this doesn't mean that charter schools are better than their public counterparts. Most innovations fail. But however painful failure is for an individual school, it can actually benefit the system because even bad outcomes produce useful information. Successful AI-based tutoring programs pioneered at charters can and will be adopted by public schools, and failed ones avoided. Given the potentially revolutionary change

in education AI is driving, learning should be our primary goal – and charters are likely to be our best instrument toward it.

Gautam Mukunda writes about corporate management and innovation. He teaches leadership at the Yale School of Management and is the author of "Indispensable: When Leaders Really Matter."

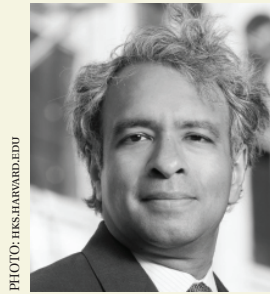


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EDUCATION

Princeton University Announces New Endowed Chair Funded By Indian American Couple

By A STAFF WRITER

Princenton University announced earlier in June that seven new University Professorships have been endowed at the higher education institute through major gifts to the Venture Forward campaign. Among them is one entitled, The U. Krishna Veeraraghavan and Sejal Shah University Professorship.

Veeraraghavan, a 1999 graduate of Princeton, and his wife Sejal Shah, are endowing the professorship to attract highly accomplished individuals to the University.

The University Professorship is the most prestigious honor Princeton can bestow on a faculty member, the University said in a June 2 announcement. Recipients of the honor are recognized for demonstrating scholarly preeminence in their professional accomplishments, as well as making exceptional contributions to the University's research and teaching community.

Shah is a board-certified dermatologist and the founder and medical director of SmarterSkin Dermatology, a private cosmetic dermatology clinic in New York City; Veeraraghavan is global co-head of the mergers and acquisitions group at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,

Wharton & Garrison LLP.

"I've always been proud of Princeton's single-minded pursuit of excellence. Coming back to campus last spring for my 25th Reunion and seeing all my classmates and friends reiterated how lucky I am to be a part of this University for my entire life. I think of where I am today, and it all started with my time at Princeton," Veeraraghavan said in a statement.

"As Sejal and I thought about ways to give back, one of the things that became clear to us was the importance of attracting the best and brightest professors," he added, a step that was essential to the future of the University.

"So much has changed in just the past few years when you consider where we are on AI, quantum computing, the biosciences and the role of the humanities in all those disciplines. By establishing this University Professorship, we hope Princeton will honor brilliant teachers who've not only produced world-class research — but who also have a capacity for even greater future growth."

In addition to support of Annual Giving, Veeraraghavan and Shah previously made a gift to Princeton in 2019 that established the Krishna Veeraraghavan '99 Fund in support of college access.



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Sejal Shah and Krishna Veeraraghavan.

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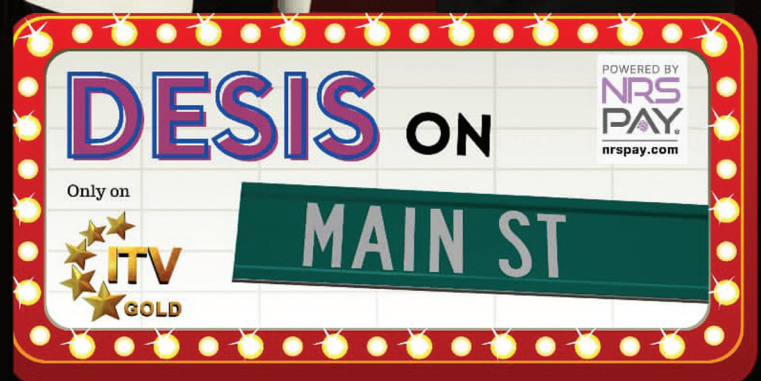
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Anger And Grief In Ahmedabad After India's Deadliest Crash In Decades

By SAHAL QUERESHI, KARISHMA MEHROTRA, SUPRIYA KUMAR

-AHMEDABAD, INDIA

Nayan Vagadaya had driven more than three hours to the hospital when he heard his uncle was among the victims of the Air India plane crash, which has traumatized and captivated this nation.

The 23-year-old arrived to a postmortem room filled with 50 charred bodies and scattered limbs but couldn't identify his uncle, who had been traveling to London to escort his daughter to her wedding.

The shock and grief inside Ahmedabad's Civil Hospital and the nearby B.J. Medical College were still raw Friday morning, and the full scale of the tragedy was still coming into view. The plane had ripped through the dining hall of the medical college – on the perimeter of the airport – as students were eating their lunch.

At least 269 people were confirmed dead, according to senior police official Vishaka Dabral, including all but one of the 242 passengers and crew aboard the flight. But students and faculty at the college expected the death toll to climb, considering how busy the dining hall was at the time of the crash.

The disaster unfolded with stunning speed. Closed-circuit television footage verified by The Washington Post showed the plane lifting off and then, within moments, inexplicably falling from the sky.

"In a minute, everything has changed," Vagadaya said from the hospital auditorium, where relatives waited Friday to give blood samples to help identify their loved ones. On Thursday, the room had been filled with panic and confusion; now, it had become a place of mourning.

Flight 171 had been carrying 169 Indians, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese nationals and one Canadian, according to Air India. The 12 crew mem-



Daksha Patni mourns for her relative Akash Patni, 14, who died when an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft crashed during take-off from an airport, as she waits outside the post-mortem room at a hospital, in Ahmedabad, India, June 13, 2025.

bers were Indian.

The pilots of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner – Capt. Sumeet Sabharwal and First Officer Clive Kunder – issued a "Mayday" distress call shortly after takeoff Thursday, India's civil aviation regulatory authority said in a statement provided on WhatsApp. There was no further communication from the cockpit, it said.

Air India did not respond to requests for comment.

Aviation experts said it was too soon to reach conclusions about what caused the crash. India's civil aviation minister tweeted Friday that investigators had retrieved the plane's flight data recorder, one of two "black box" recorders that airlines typically have. "This marks an important step forward in the investigation," Ram Mohan Naidu said.

Mohan Ranganathan, a former Boeing 737 instructor pilot, said the CCTV foot-

age shows the aircraft's nose rising again during descent, a possible indication that the pilot stalled while attempting to regain lift. He said preliminary findings can generally be issued two weeks after recovering the flight data recorder, but a final report can take more time.

Other analysts pointed to abnormal takeoff configurations. Jeff Guzzetti, a former Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said the videos appeared to show the landing gear remained down, and the flaps were still up.

"It happened during the daytime. The visibility was good. So what went wrong?" wondered Jitender Bhargava, a former Air India executive director and author of a book about the financial turmoil of the airline.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Air India Crash Seen Triggering \$475 Million In Insurance Claims

By SAIKAT DAS AND MIHIR MISHRA

Air India's deadliest plane crash in more than a decade is set to send shock waves through the aviation insurance industry and trigger one of the country's costliest claims, estimated at around \$475 million.

"This aviation insurance claim could be one of the biggest in India's history," said Ramaswamy Narayanan, chairman and managing director at General Insurance Corporation of India, one of the firms that has provided coverage for Air India.

The claim for the aircraft hull and engine is estimated at around \$125 million, according to Narayanan. He estimates additional liability claims for loss of life for passengers and others will be around \$350 million. The sum is more than triple the annual premium for the aviation industry in India in 2023, according to GlobalData.

The financial repercussions of the crash that killed 241 people on board and others as it fell in a densely populated part of Ahmedabad in western India on Thursday, June 12, will ripple through the global aviation insurance and reinsurance market. It's also likely to make insurance costlier for airlines in India.

Insurance premiums across the aviation industry are expected to rise in India, either now or at the time of policy renewals, according to people familiar with the matter.

On the Air India insurance payout, totals could climb, since there were foreign nationals killed in the accident, and those claims will be calculated according to the rules in their respective jurisdictions, the people said, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

A spokesperson for Air India did not immediately reply to request for comment.

Insurers will first settle the hull claim followed by liability claims, according to Narayanan. "It will take some time for liability claims to be settled," he said.

The impact on the domestic market will be partly mitigated by the fact that both companies only generated about 1% of their total insurance premium from aviation, and ceded most of it to global reinsurers, according to GlobalData's insurance data.

Broadly, domestic insurers have offloaded more than 95% of their aviation insurance direct written premium, or DWP, to global reinsurers.

Due to this, "the financial burden will predominantly fall on international reinsurers, leading to the hardening of the aviation reinsurance and insurance market," said Swarup Kumar Sahoor, senior insurance analyst at GlobalData in a release on Monday (June 16).

-BLOOMBERG

Air India Crash Is First Involving Boeing's Long-Range 787 Dreamliner

By IAN DUNCAN, LORI ARATANI

The deadly Air India crash Thursday is the first involving Boeing's 787, a fuel-efficient jet the manufacturer introduced in 2011 as the future of long-distance travel and dubbed the Dreamliner.

Boeing calls the plane the best-selling large airliner ever, crediting it with opening hundreds of new routes around the globe.

On Thursday, a 787-8 carrying 242 passengers and crew members slammed into a dorm for medical students shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad airport in India. The jet that crashed was manufactured in the Seattle area in 2013 and delivered to Air India in early 2014. Since then it had taken off and landed more than 8,000 times, according to data analytics firm Cirium.

The crash investigation is likely to focus on actions of the pilots, the airline, maintenance of the jet and Boeing, which has struggled for years to fully recover from two air disasters involving a smaller jet, the 737 Max, in 2018 and 2019. Those crashes, which combined killed 346 people in Indonesia and Ethiopia, were linked to a design flaw and rocked confidence in the centu-



PM Narendra Modi's post on X- date of post is June 13, 2025. Visited the crash site in Ahmedabad today. The scene of devastation is saddening. Met officials and teams working tirelessly in the aftermath. Our thoughts remain with those who lost their loved ones in this unimaginable tragedy.

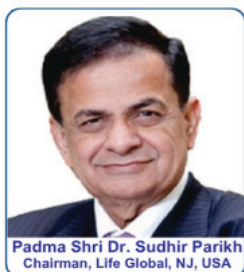
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Joy of Sharing

A Visionary Visit: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel Applauds Life Global Partner Charity, Project 'Life' in Rajkot, Gujarat

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Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh
Chairman, Life Global, NJ, USA

We are deeply honored by the visionary visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel to Life Global partner charity, Project 'Life', in Rajkot. His appreciation reinforces decades of dedicated service in health, education and women empowerment. At Life Global, we are grateful for his wholehearted support of our shared mission for a Thalassemia-Free Gujarat and India, and a healthier, brighter future for all.

On a mission to strengthen the bridge between visionary leadership and grassroots humanitarian work, the Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, visited the renowned non-profit organization Project 'Life' in Rajkot. Established over 47 years ago, the organization has become a lighthouse of selfless service across Gujarat, with significant contributions to Voluntary Blood Donation, Thalassemia Prevention, Educational Upliftment and Women Empowerment. He expressed special appreciation for the impactful outreach of Project 'Life', commending its tireless efforts in uplifting lives across urban and rural Gujarat-reaching the last mile with compassion, innovation, and service.



CM Bhupendrabhai was received with honors including a traditional turban, presented by Ms. Meetal Koticha Shah, Joint Executive Trustee and CEO of Project 'Life' and personally toured Project 'Life's' campus on Race Course Ring Road, Rajkot. Ms. Meetal introduced him to key projects spanning health, blood donation campaigns, and large-scale awareness drives to eliminate Thalassemia - a genetic blood disorder plaguing thousands across India & urge for joint statewide campaign between the State Health Department and Project 'Life' to make a Thalassemia-Free Gujarat.

One of the cornerstone efforts highlighted by Ms. Meetal Shah was the Life Blood Centre, a high-impact voluntary blood donation program in which distributed over 750 Thousands units of blood to patients in need. CM Bhupendrabhai learned that since 1991, the organization has successfully conducted Thalassemia testing for over 700 Thousands youths. Project 'Life', has developed infrastructure of 121 Government Primary Schools and benefited over 35,000 students of rural Gujarat every year and empowered over 12,000 underprivileged women - setting a remarkable benchmark for how civil society can drive inclusive development and strengthen the backbone of public infrastructure through compassionate action.



CM Bhupendrabhai's presence was further honored by a ceremonial welcome by Project 'Life's' Executive Trustee Shri Chandrakant Koticha, Dr. Sanjiv Nandani, Medical Director of Life Blood Centre along with Mr. Rushikesh Pandya, COO of Project 'Life', Rajkot. Also present were MLA Shri Ramesh Tilala and, Dr. Vikrant Pandey, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, reaffirming the government's active interest in community-rooted welfare initiatives.



Reflecting on the visit, Mr. Rushikesh Pandya shared, "The Chief Minister's recognition energizes our mission. His encouragement strengthens our resolve to push further and dream bigger - for a Thalassemia-free Gujarat and a healthier, more compassionate society."

As CM Bhupendrabhai concluded his visit, the moment echoed a profound truth - that true nation-building begins with compassion, care, and community. In Project 'Life', he witnessed not just a service organization, but a living embodiment of humanity in action - reaching the unreachable, healing the unheard, and inspiring a future where every life counts.

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Anger And Grief In Ahmedabad After India's Deadliest Crash In Decades

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Rahul Bhatia, a student at the medical college, was frantic Friday morning, switching between phone calls and responding to WhatsApp groups, trying to help classmates find the missing.

He was still in shock from the stories coming in. A friend's wife, seven months pregnant, was killed in the dormitory when the plane ripped through the ceiling.

"I'll remember this for the rest of my life," Bhatia said.

Major aviation disasters are rare in India, though Air India, which became privately owned in recent years after decades as the country's national carrier, has been involved in deadly incidents before.

In 2020, a flight operated by Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, skidded off a runway during a heavy downpour in southern India and broke into pieces, killing 21 people on board. In 2010, 158 people were killed when an Air India Express plane overshot the runway while landing in the western city of Mangalore.

There has been "no accountability," said Ranganathan, the former pilot instructor.

Since its privatization in 2022, Air India – now owned by the Tata Group – has faced regulatory setbacks. In March, Air India fired a simulator trainer pilot after a whistleblower alleged that the pilot had failed to properly discharge his duties and misrepresented the number of training hours.

Two months before, India's civil aviation regulator fined the airline about \$35,000 after it allowed a pilot to operate a flight without completing the mandatory number of takeoffs and landings. In March 2024, Air India



PHOTO: REUTERS/ADNAN ABIDI

A police officer stands in front of debris at the crash site after an Air India aircraft, bound for London's Gatwick Airport, crashed during take-off from an airport in Ahmedabad, India June 12, 2025.

was found to be in violation of flight duty time limitations – rules that help prevent pilot fatigue – and fined around \$93,000.

None of those violations could explain Thursday's crash, Bhargava said. But "at the end of the day, the accountability is with the airline," he said.

Thursday's crash was the first involving Boeing's 787, a fuel-efficient jet introduced by the company in 2009 and dubbed the Dreamliner. The jet that crashed was delivered to Air India in early 2014; it had taken off and landed more than 8,000 times, according to Cirium, an aviation analytics firm.

Analysts said the inquiry will probably focus on the actions of the pilots, the airline, jet maintenance and Boeing – which has struggled for years to recover from two air disasters in 2018 and 2019, both involving a design flaw in a smaller jet, the 737 Max. Those crashes killed a combined 346 people in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

"I will not judge by previous controversies," Bhargava said. "I will judge by the safety track record of the Dreamliner." More than 1,100 Dreamliners in service worldwide had carried 1 billion passengers with no fatal crashes until this week, according to Boeing.

In a news conference Thursday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy said the NTSB and FAA were deploying investigators to assist India.

Duffy added that the inquiry was in its early stages but promised to act if safety failures were identified. "When one of these planes go down, we take it very seriously," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site Friday, touring the wreckage and speaking with Viswashkumar Ramesh, the flight's sole survivor. News outlet ANI released an image of Modi looking up at the aircraft's mangled tail jutting out from the wall of the college. The prime minister did not speak to reporters.

Back at the hospital, still bedridden from his injuries, Ramesh spoke briefly to local media.

He told the state-run broadcaster Doordarshan that he was on the side of the plane that crashed into the ground floor of the hospital. "When the door broke, I saw that there was some space for me to get out," he said, his voice quivering. "I really don't know how I survived."

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Air India Crash Is First Involving Boeing's Long-Range 787 Dreamliner

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ry-old plane manufacturer. U.S. lawmakers subsequently said a battery fire on a 787 in 2013, also linked to design problems, foreshadowed those 737 crashes.

But in the years since the battery fire, the 787 has had a good safety record with no fatal crashes, according to a database of aviation incidents managed by the Flight Safety Foundation. Boeing says the aircraft has carried 1 billion passengers. More than 1,100 Dreamliners are in service with airlines around the world, serving some of the longest routes airlines operate, and Boeing says it has a backlog of 889 more.

Aviation analyst Henry Harteveltd said the 787 Dreamliner is one of the "workhorses" for airlines' long-haul operations, operated by more than 70 carriers around the globe. He said airlines value the flexibility and reliability of the various models, while speaking highly of the aircraft's amenities, which include larger than average windows.

Air India has 34 in its fleet, according to Cirium.

The airline was founded in 1932 and was taken over by the Indian government in 1953. In recent years, the carrier struggled financially amid growing competition from private carriers and budget upstarts, but it has generally had a good record on safety. The last fatal crash involving the carrier was in 2020 when 21 people died after an Air India Express flight skidded off a runway in southern India. In 2011, it faced allegations from its own pilots that the company failed to pay them on time and forced them to fly when ill.

In 2022, the carrier was sold to Tata Sons. The new owners have invested heavily in the carrier, launching an

aggressive push to upgrade training for pilots and flight attendants and to improve maintenance procedures, Harteveltd said. The carrier also has ordered hundreds of new jets to replace older planes.

It was too early to say Thursday morning whether any issues at Boeing will be shown to be a factor in the crash. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said it was leading a team of American investigators to India to assist in the investigation, which is standard practice for crashes involving a U.S. manufacturer.

"We are in contact with Air India regarding Flight 171 and stand ready to support them," Boeing said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the passengers, crew, first responders and all affected."

A confirmation hearing this week for President Donald Trump's nominee to run the Federal Aviation Administration served as a reminder that Boeing is still under scrutiny by regulators and lawmakers after the 2018 and 2019 crashes and an incident last year in which a panel blew off the side of a 737 Max.

The nominee, Bryan Bedford, the chief executive of regional airline Republic Airways, told Senate committee members Wednesday that he would focus on holding Boeing accountable for producing high-quality planes safely and for listening to its workforce.

The Max crashes cast a long shadow over Boeing. The jet, an updated version of its popular 737, was grounded worldwide for almost two years as the company worked to fix design problems and convince regulators that the planes were safe. No one was killed in last year's door panel blowout, but it was linked to an error on Boeing's production line, and the FAA imposed a cap on the number of Maxes it could produce each month.

A crash in December that killed 179 people at a South

Korean airport involved an older version of the Boeing 737. It has been linked to the jet colliding with birds before making an emergency landing on a runway that ended at a concrete barrier.

The wide-body 787 has also recently suffered from manufacturing problems related to its lightweight carbon-fiber composite structure – an innovation that made the jet lighter and more fuel efficient. The FAA said last year that it was investigating claims by a company whistleblower that sections of the jets had been fastened together improperly, but Boeing said the issues raised did not pose a safety risk.

As part of its turnaround efforts, Boeing hired a new chief executive, Kelly Ortberg, last summer, putting an engineer in charge of the company. Previous leaders had moved the company's headquarters to Chicago and then the Washington region, but Ortberg based himself in its traditional Seattle home.

Boeing avoided criminal culpability last month in a case brought in connection with the 737 crashes that accused the company of misleading regulators. It struck a deal with prosecutors at the Justice Department that involved admitting to some of its misconduct and establishing a \$444.5 million fund for the victims. In exchange, a criminal charge would be dropped, angering the families of the victims who wanted the company held to account in court.

The same month, Ortberg joined Trump in Doha, Qatar, to announce that Qatar Airways had placed an order for 130 of Boeing's 787s and dozens of other jets, a purchase that could be worth as much as \$96 billion.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

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Lunch Plates Abandoned, Plane Parts Embedded In Walls After Air India Jet Hit Doctors' Hostel

By SUDIPTO GANGULY AND
ABHIJITH GANAPAVARAM

Lunch break at a doctors' hostel in India's Ahmedabad turned fatal for many in the dining area when parts of an Air India aircraft crashed through its roof as the plane hurtled to the ground moments after takeoff, killing more than 240 people.

Only one passenger survived the crash of the London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner jet on Thursday, the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade. As many as 24 people on the ground were also killed, according to local media.

A day later, Thakur Ravi, who worked in the kitchen at the B.J. Medical College hostel, is still searching for his mother – a cook there – and his two-year-old daughter, who he left under her care.

The last time he saw them was before he set off to deliver lunch boxes to senior doctors at the hospital, about half an hour before the crash.

"All the other ladies who cook food at the hostel managed to escape, but my mother and daughter got left inside ... I have searched everywhere but have not found them," he told reporters on Friday.

At least four undergraduate students and five relatives of students were killed in the crash, a resident doctor, who is part



Debris lies at the crash site after an Air India aircraft, bound for London's Gatwick Airport, crashed during take-off from an airport in Ahmedabad, India June 12, 2025.



Many students were seen with injuries, fractures, and damaged belongings.

of the junior doctors' association at the college, told Reuters on the condition of anonymity.

Images of the dining area shortly after the incident showed wheels and other parts of the aircraft embedded in the walls, while debris and belongings of the students, including clothes and books, lay scattered on the floor.

Steel tumblers and plates still containing some food lay on the few tables that were left intact, with a section of the air-

craft that was partially wedged on top of the damaged building giving an indication of the devastation inside.

A strong stench of jet fuel hung in the air at the site on Friday, as authorities used cranes to remove charred trees and debris, while a portion of the wall of the top floor of the hostel lay on the ground.

Loud wails could be heard at the home of Akash, a resident of Ahmedabad who was charred to death as he rushed to save

his mother who ran a tea stall near the hostel and was caught in the blaze of the crash but managed to escape.

"Her son ran in to save her but got blinded by the smoke and...was completely burnt. He died in front of our eyes," Akash's aunt, Jasi, told Reuters, adding that his mother sustained burn injuries and was undergoing treatment.

-REUTERS

Sole Survivor Of Air India Crash Recounts Seeing Others Dying As He Escaped

The sole survivor of the Air India plane crash that killed more than 240 people said on Friday he hardly believed he was alive as he recounted seeing others dying near him as he escaped out of a broken emergency exit.

Ramesh Viswashkumar, who police said was in seat 11A near the emergency exit and managed to squeeze through the broken hatch, was filmed after Thursday's crash limping on the street in a blood-stained T-shirt with bruises on his face.

That social media footage of Viswashkumar, a British national of Indian origin, has been broadcast across India's news channels since the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner erupted in a ball of fire after it plummeted onto a medical college hostel moments after taking off from Ahmedabad.

It was the worst aviation disaster in a decade and his escape is being hailed as the "miracle of seat 11A" in the British media.

"I don't believe how I survived. For some time I thought I was also going to die," 40-year-old Viswashkumar told Indian state broadcaster DD News from his hospital bed on Friday.

"But when I opened my eyes, I realized I was alive and I tried to unbuckle myself from the seat and escape from where I could. It was in front of my eyes that the air hostess and others (died)."

He was travelling with his brother Ajay, who had been seated in a different row,

members of his family have said.

"The side of the plane I was in landed on the ground, and I could see that there was space outside the aircraft, so when my door broke I tried to escape through it and I did," Viswashkumar said.

"The opposite side of the aircraft was blocked by the building wall so nobody could have come out of there."

Viswashkumar suffered burns and bruises and has been kept under observation, an official at the Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad told Reuters by phone, requesting anonymity.

"His escape ... and without any grievous injury, was nothing short of a miracle. He also realizes that and is a bit shaken by

the trauma of it too," the official said.

FAMILY HEARTBROKEN OVER BROTHER

Police said some people at the hostel and others on the ground were also killed in the crash. Rescue workers were searching for missing people and aircraft parts in the charred buildings of the hostel on Friday to help find the cause of the crash.

Air India has said the investigation will take time. Plane-maker Boeing has said a team of experts is ready to go to India to help in the probe.

Viswashkumar said the plane seemed to come to a standstill in midair for a few seconds shortly after take-off and the green and white cabin lights were turned on.

He said he could feel the engine thrust increasing but then the plane "crashed with speed into the hostel".

At the family home in Leicester, central England, Viswashkumar's cousin Hiren Kantilal said they had spoken with him via video call that morning and relatives were urgently trying to make arrangements to travel to India.

Asked about Viswashkumar's brother, Kantilal said: "We can't describe in the words, we are totally heartbroken."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived in his home state of Gujarat to visit the crash site, met Viswashkumar in hospital on Friday.

-REUTERS



Members of local community stand outside family home of Ramesh Viswashkumar, a British survivor of the London-bound Air India aircraft crash near Ahmedabad Airport in India, in Leicester, Britain, June 12, 2025.



The sole survivor of the Air India plane crash that killed more than 240 people said he got out of a broken emergency exit after the aircraft hit a medical college hostel in the city of Ahmedabad.

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NIH Scientists Have Been Angry For Months. Some Rebel, Send Dissenting Letter To Director Jay Bhattacharya

By Carolyn Y. Johnson

More than 90 staffers at the National Institutes of Health signed their names to a letter of dissent to Director Jay Bhattacharya in a rare sign of open resistance by career government employees.

The letter warns that Trump administration policies such as terminating peer-reviewed grants, interrupting global collaborations and firing essential staff are wasting public resources, undermining the NIH's mission and harming the health of people in the United States and beyond.

"The life-and-death nature of our work demands that changes be thoughtful and vetted. We are compelled to speak up when our leadership prioritizes political momentum over human safety and faithful stewardship of public resources," the letter says. "Many of us have raised these concerns to NIH leadership, yet they remain unaddressed, and we are pressured to implement harmful measures."

Officials who administer grant portfolios, early-career scientists and longtime staffers are among those who signed, calling the document the "Bethesda declaration" for the city in Maryland where the NIH is headquartered. The letter is modeled after the Great Barrington declaration, Bhattacharya's dissent to the government's covid



National Institutes of Health Director Jay Bhattacharya speaks in the Oval Office as President Donald Trump signs executive orders on May 5.

policies in 2020, which was written in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and helped catapult him to prominence.

"The Bethesda Declaration has some fundamental misconceptions about the policy directions the NIH has taken in recent months, including the continuing support of the NIH for international collaboration," Bhattacharya said in a statement. "Nevertheless, respectful dissent in science is productive. We all want the NIH to succeed."

The Trump administration has described its actions as eliminating red tape, increasing accountability of science and removing ideological influence. It has said that a new policy for grants that include subawards to researchers in foreign countries increases accountability. Another target has been funding that includes diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives aimed at broadening participation in science.

Michael Kratsios, director of the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy, said in a speech in May that "political biases are displacing the vital search for truth," adding that efforts to make science more inclusive "degrade our scientific enterprise. DEI represents an existential threat to the real diversity of thought that forms the foundation of the scientific community."

Some NIH employees – a number of whom have participated in protests and walked out of a town hall featuring Bhattacharya – say the Trump administration's actions have raised existential questions about the state of science in America.

Since the inauguration, dozens of employees who work at the National Institutes of Health have spoken with The Washington Post on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution. They described a climate of fear and anxiety and an inability to perform routine tasks due to the administration's disruptions.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Across The U.S., More Than 45,000 Participate In 100 BAPS Charities Walks



Ribbon cutting ceremony of the BAPS Charities Walk in Lansdale, PA in support of the Autism Cares Foundation and Liz's Birthday Closet, raising awareness for children with special needs and those facing hardship.

By A Staff Writer

More than 45,000 Americans across 100 cities participated in the annual BAPS Charities Walk-Run this past weekend, the result of a nationwide initiative to support local organizations.

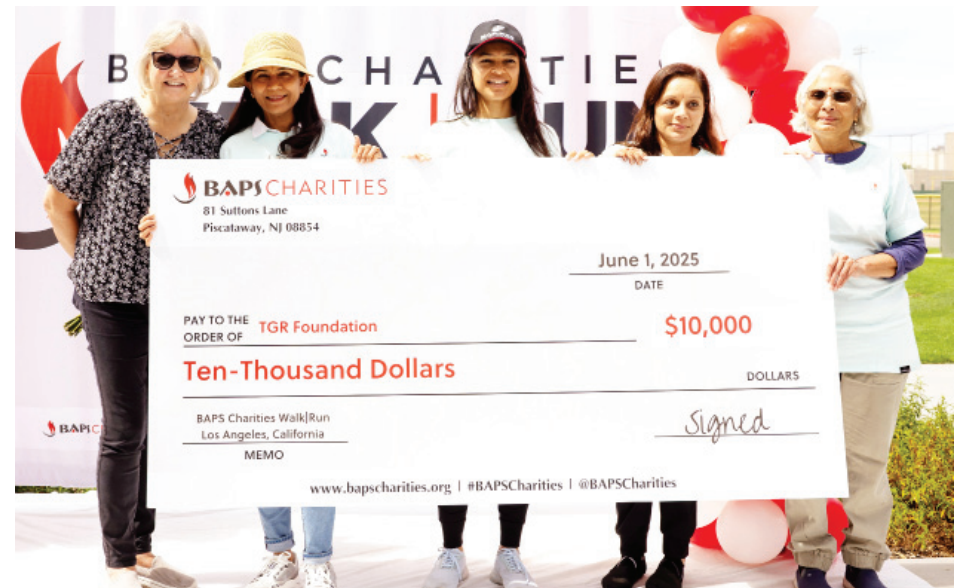
The initiative ended up supporting more than 50 local organizations—from fire and police departments to groups serving veterans, seniors, women, and the homeless, a press release from BAPS said. More than 20 health-focused nonprofits also benefited, including those advancing mental health, cancer care, and family

wellness. Several schools and education programs received support as well.

There was significant volunteer effort behind the initiative. From 16-year-old Aarav Dubal in Robbinsville, New Jersey, to seniors walking with canes in Los Angeles, California, the energy was contagious, organizers said.

This year's theme was "Spirit of Service."

In Houston, TX, the walk supported NAMI Greater Houston, helping fund mental health services in a city where post-pandemic demand has surged. In San Jose, CA, thousands laced up to provide essential resources for local public schools. Orlando, FL walkers raised funds for a children's cancer camp. The Dallas,



A \$10,000 donation from BAPS Charities Walk in Los Angeles supports the TGR Foundation's mission to empower youth through education and career readiness programs.

TX community rallied behind local veterans to ensure they receive the support they deserve. In Detroit, MI, participants walked to support their community, and in Albany, NY, the walk also benefited the local fire department. Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, PA, walkers gave back to underserved neighborhoods and community centers. In Sugar Land, TX, hundreds joined the walk, including Mayor Joe Zimmerman, who lauded the effort: "Your community makes a real difference in Sugar Land. What you do matters."

"Wonderful charities like BAPS Charities are helping to fight the stigma around mental health, and we appreciate you for that," said Angela Hudson, CEO of NAMI Greater Houston.

"It's one thing to care," said Bhargav Ashier, a participant in Edison, NJ. "But it's another thing to show up. And this weekend, America showed up in force, proving that compassion is a powerful force for change."

BAPS Charities has cultivated a grassroots model over two decades, with more than 1,100 Walk-Runs held across North America in that period. President of BAPS Charities Nilkanth Patel, describes the expansion as "the kindness ripple effect," adding "From New York to Houston, and San Jose to Detroit, our interconnected community is driven by compassion, ensures our work touches lives in cities all across the country."

This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

E-mail: psharma@premaastrologer.com Contact No - 01147033152/40532026



ARIES: This week brings crucial moments where your decisions could shape your long-term journey. Academic challenges might surface, demanding your full attention and hard work. Work responsibilities could pile up, keeping you busy and on your toes. Even with financial stability, it's wise to be mindful of unnecessary expenditures. A thoughtful gesture from someone close will uplift your spirits. A family celebration may fill your heart with joy and offer a chance to reconnect. A short trip to rejuvenate may also be on the cards. .

TAURUS: Helping someone in need is likely, but it's best to do so without expecting anything in return. Efforts at work are set to bring positive outcomes, paving the way for new opportunities. Academic progress remains steady, keeping you on track. If you are eyeing a big purchase, evaluating your budget first would be wise. Seeking advice from an experienced person may help you get back in shape. Family gatherings are predicted, bringing happiness and nostalgia.

GEMINI: Someone might observe your progress, but you are unlikely to give them any reason to complain. Academic pursuits may demand more of your time and focus this week. Planning an event may pose some logistical challenges, particularly in coordinating with others. You may sense a slight distance in your romantic relationship, making it a good time to understand their perspective. Keeping track of your expenses will aid in maintaining financial security.

CANCER: You may find it challenging to lead without participating fully this week. Those in marketing and business development could see significant progress. A colleague's unexpected support may come as a pleasant surprise. Academic goals seem attainable if you remain dedicated. Organizing a social event can enhance your reputation and help you build stronger connections. Financially, careful planning will be essential to maintain balance.

LEO: This week, setting aside personal goals to help others may be necessary. Opportunities in property investment or real estate might come your way. Some may even get the chance to drive a new vehicle. Financial gains are likely as past investments begin to bear fruit. A new fitness regime could lead to long-term health benefits. A fresh look or style change could be on the cards, adding a touch of vibrancy to your life. .

VIRGO: This week presents a good opportunity to approach influential people for assistance. Your contribution to a social cause might earn you recognition and respect. At work, your proactive nature will keep you ahead of expectations, leaving a lasting impression. Academically, things look promising as your hard work begins to

show results. Thoughtful financial decisions will help you stretch your budget and save more effectively.

LIBRA: Handling multiple responsibilities may be demanding, so it's important to pace yourself. Your efforts at work are likely to be appreciated, boosting your confidence. Academically, challenges may ease, leading to satisfying outcomes. Family matters might require collective decision-making, so open dialogue is crucial. Social engagements will likely enhance your image, while your health remains stable.

SCORPIO: Managing responsibilities independently at work could test your patience, but you are likely to handle it well. Achieving your goals might not be straightforward, but perseverance will lead to success. Academic pursuits seem promising, with efforts paying off. A cheerful outing with friends or family is anticipated. Romantic developments might surprise you, brightening your mood. Property matters may bring financial benefits.

SAGITTARIUS: This week is set to bring fruitful results for your hard work. Opportunities to display your skills may arise in both professional and social spaces. Academic progress remains steady, boosting your confidence. Financially, maintaining a conservative approach will ensure stability. Health issues are likely to improve, bringing comfort and peace of mind. .

CAPRICORN: A reunion with someone from your past may evoke nostalgic memories. Travel plans might take shape, offering a refreshing break. Work-related tasks are likely to be completed smoothly and efficiently. Women at work may find themselves balancing professional and personal lives effortlessly. Your innovative ideas could catch the eye of superiors, enhancing your career prospects. Academic matters remain steady and manageable.

AQUARIUS: Staying ahead at work will be essential to maintaining your position. Starting a new fitness routine might help you achieve your health goals. On the academic front, it's wise to be satisfied with what you have instead of pushing too hard. Romantic relationships seem to blossom, bringing joy. Plans for a social event may require some adjustments.

PISCES: An unexpected work opportunity may present itself, promising good outcomes if seized. You might encounter someone's mood swings, but it's best to remain unaffected. Socially, minor setbacks may occur, but they are manageable. Academic efforts might require extra focus to overcome hurdles. Financially, improvements are likely, providing a sense of relief. Health remains strong and energetic.

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Dealing With Sunday Scaries? Here's How To Address That Anxiety

By TEDDY AMENABAR

Sarah Redmond, a 27-year-old ultrasound technician, said she feels some form of dread “pretty much every Sunday.”

“It’s not that I hate the job itself,” said Redmond, of Louisville. “It’s just being in, like, a cage - in an office all day.”

When the weekend comes to a close, Redmond said it feels like “my freedom is ending.” One Sunday, she recorded a video on TikTok to “I Dreamed a Dream,” a song from the musical “Les Misérables” about a life that has fallen apart. The video of Redmond, wrapped in a blanket, lip-synching the song, has been played more than 7 million times.

“I get the Sunday scaries on Friday evening,” one person replied on TikTok.

Anxiety is a normal human emotion many people feel in anticipation of what’s to come, such as the workweek, experts said. Sunday scaries is “a lovely alliteration for something that people have been feeling for generations,” said Kathleen M. Pike, a professor of psychology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and the chief executive of One Mind, a nonprofit that funds research on mental health care and workplace wellness.

Not everyone has Sunday scaries, but anxious people identify with the feeling, said Judson Brewer, a professor at Brown University’s School of Public Health and the author of the book “Unwinding Anxiety.” The term becomes part of a person’s lexicon, and videos on social media amplify the message and reinforce their perception, he said.

Redmond has mixed feelings about the millions of views for her TikTok video. She said that it’s nice to know so many people feel the same way and that it helps to laugh about it together, but that “it’s also kind of sad.”

“I do feel kind of stuck. And, I feel like a lot of people feel that way. Especially in their mid- to late 20s,” Redmond said. “You feel like you’re getting older. You feel like you’re running out of time.”

WHY DO PEOPLE FEEL THE SUNDAY SCARIES?

A person can feel anxious on a Sunday for two reasons, said Jack Nitschke, a psychologist and neuroscientist at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. You’re anticipating plans for the upcoming week, and the future is inherently uncertain.

“It’s exactly the same thing that’s driving morning anxiety,” he said. “It’s the anticipation of what lies ahead in the day.”

Erik Davies, a 35-year-old resident physician in Cleveland, said he had a sense of dread returning to work on Monday after a week on vacation in North Carolina.

“I just knew when I open my email, or step back into the clinic, my email will be blowing up,” he said. “Anticipating that on Monday was really getting to me.”

Morra Aarons-Mele, host of the podcast “The Anxious Achiever,” said our jobs and managers hold an overwhelming power over our mental health. Earlier in her career, she said, her Sunday anxiety got so bad her husband suggested she quit.

“It really overtook my life. It’s visceral,” Aarons-Mele said. “Sunday scaries is a cute name, but the feeling isn’t cute.”

Everybody feels anxiety; it’s “an ancient emotion,” Aarons-Mele said. And it’s common to feel anxious about your job. Our

jobs provide our well-being, livelihood and purpose in society, she said. Looming layoffs, or other signs of economic uncertainty, can create uncertainty and lead us to feel anxious about the future.

“Of course you’re anxious. How could you not be?” she said. “The headlines are terrifying.”

It is “totally appropriate” to feel anxious the Sunday before your first day on a job or the night before a big presentation, Aarons-Mele said. You’re going to feel anxious when you’re challenging yourself. But if you feel anxious every Sunday, or before every check-in with a manager, that’s a feeling to investigate further, perhaps with a therapist.

Recognize how anxiety makes you feel, Aarons-Mele said. What are the signs that you’re anxious? And at what points in time do you feel anxious?

“If there’s one person at your job who is triggering all that anxiety, that’s really important to know,” she said.

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR ANXIETY ON SUNDAY

Try to reframe how you think of your Sunday. The term Sunday scaries frames the day through “anxiety-colored glasses,” Brewer said. However, Sunday is neither good or bad - and people have control over how they perceive the day, he said.

“The part that we don’t have control over is the fact that Sunday turns into Monday,” Brewer said. “But what we do have control over is how we relate to that, or how we view that.”

Before dinner on Sunday, sit down and rehearse the week, Aarons-Mele said. Include your partner or kids, if you want. People are often anxious when they feel

a loss of control, she said. Go day by day through your responsibilities at home and work. Planning minimizes uncertainty and helps you identify what’s within your control.

When you start to feel overwhelmed during the week, write down “a very detailed to-do list,” Aarons-Mele said.

“It’s an old cognitive behavioral therapy tool, but it really works,” she said. “It’s about being really, really granular and accounting for your time.”

Keep track of all the good things that happen on Monday and Tuesday. For two months, document the positive feedback you get at work, or the enjoyable moments spent catching up with co-workers, Nitschke said. Test whether there’s any merit to your Sunday anxiety.

“There’s often a lot of good things that happen on Monday and Tuesday, and, yet, we’re spending all this time on Sunday having Sunday scaries,” Nitschke said. “As is often the case with anxiety and worry, we’re fabricating a future that’s miserable.”

Elizabeth Pearson, a 28-year-old supply-chain manager who lives in Chicago, said that when she starts to spiral into a loop of anxiety, she falls back on a list of simple activities she does to feel grounded, such as calling her mom or walking her dog.

“It’s really easy to get wrapped up in all that worry about the future,” Pearson said. “You’re spiraling so much that you’re not able to exist in your body, in this moment.”

-THE WASHINGTON POST

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NIH Scientists Have Been Angry For Months. Some Rebel, Send Dissenting Letter To Director Jay Bhattacharya

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The letter represents a new level of concern from people within the agency, with some now willing to be identified: It was signed by 92 people by name and 250 additional people anonymously.

Jenna Norton, an NIH program director who said she was speaking as a private citizen, said the fear of being punished for signing the letter was outweighed by the fear of not saying anything.

“We wanted a way to speak up together, to make it clear to ourselves and our colleagues that this isn’t who NIH is,” said Norton, who oversees grants, with a focus on research to address health disparities in kidney and urological diseases. “We aren’t here to harm people. We’re here to help people - and we aren’t being heard when we raise concerns in more traditional ways.”

Ian Morgan, a postdoctoral researcher focused on combating antimicrobial resistance who also said he is speaking as a private citizen, has been at the NIH off and on for nearly 15 years, starting with a summer internship. Morgan said he sees the document as a letter of hope that the course can be corrected.

“I feel like if I put my head down and I didn’t say anything, my research would be somewhat unobjectionable

to the current administration and I could get by - but where would that leave the world around me,” Morgan said.

The letter argues that the administration has politicized research by canceling \$9.5 billion of peer-reviewed grants and \$2.6 billion in contracts. It says the administration is abandoning the process that ensures the most meritorious science is funded, citing the decision to fund an “unvetted” flu vaccine project led by two of the institute’s leaders. It opposes administration policies such as capping the funding that supports the administrative and facilities costs of doing science, and the firing of essential staff.

“What I would like the public to know is that these were carefully vetted projects. Just because they have some buzzwords in them, please look a little bit deeper. These went through peer review, panels of experts who read every word carefully,” said Benjamin Feldman, an NIH scientist who uses CRISPR gene-editing technology in zebrafish.

The letter also details a widespread fear that the massive slowdown in NIH spending over the past five months could mean the agency will not be able to use all its funding this year - which could be used to justify the budget cuts proposed by the Trump administration.

A group of biomedical advocacy organizations met with Bhattacharya in late May to express concern that the NIH’s current budget might not be spent. Bhattacharya said he would spend all the money allocated to the NIH, according to a letter those agencies sent to him last week.

“We are deeply grateful to you and your staff for taking the time to meet with us on Thursday, May 29. Most importantly, we appreciate your commitment that NIH will fully obligate all FY25 funds by the end of the fiscal year,” the advocacy groups wrote to Bhattacharya.

An accompanying letter signed by prominent scientists, including multiple Nobel laureates, argues that the Make America Healthy Again initiative refers to an “undefined time in the past.” The letter cites massive gains against heart disease, childhood leukemia and measles since 1960.

“Certainly, much work remains to better treat disease and improve the health of Americans, such as addressing increased rates of obesity, diabetes, and opioid dependency. But, glamorizing a mythical past, while ignoring important progress made through biomedical research, does not enhance the health of American people,” the outside scientists wrote.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Lamb Chops With Lemongrass And Cumin Are A Feast For The Senses

By G. DANIELA GALARZA

“During the summers in Kamakura, the part of Japan where I grew up in, my grandmother would bring out a round cast-iron griddle to cook Genghis Khan Mongolian barbecue and invite the neighbors,” Sonoko Sakai writes in her cookbook “Wafu Cooking,” a collection of recipes from around the world adapted to use Japanese ingredients or techniques. It’s a style of cooking known as wafu.

The barbecue Sakai describes, called jingisukan in Japan, features lamb or mutton marinated in a variety of aromatics and spices, mainly ginger and cumin. Sakai’s grilled lamb chop recipe, a nod to her grandmother’s cookouts and the sensational smokiness of jingisukan, is infused with ginger, garlic, cumin and the grassy, citrus-like flavor of lemongrass.

Like Taiwanese-style Mongolian barbecue, jingisukan is not based on a recipe from Mongolia; it’s a signature dish of Japan’s northernmost main island, Hokkaido. The dish owes its existence and popularity to lore, history and regional pride: “During the party someone would retell the legend of Kublai Khan’s attempts to conquer the Japanese archipelago in the twelfth century with 4,400 ships and 140,000 soldiers, which were thwarted when typhoons known as kamikaze (‘divine wind’) destroyed their fleet,” she wrote.

In his 2024 “Japan: Hokkaido” guide, travel writer Tom Fay calls jingisukan “probably Hokkaido’s most famous specialty.” The cast-iron griddle is traditionally dome-shaped, “to resemble the helmet of Genghis Khan,” Fay writes, explaining that, as the lamb cooks on top, its fat and juices run down to the bottom rim, where vegetables are added to cook and pick up some of that smoky, gingery flavor. This recipe, for Lamb Chops With Lemongrass and Cumin, puts that element in play: After cooking the meat, you’ll use the same skillet, greased with rich lamb fat, to cook chopped zucchini - or any vegetable you’d like.

Fay ends his jingisukan missive with a warning I found amusing: “Beware, some establishments can be a little smoky and can leave your clothes smelling quite flavoursome.” I’m tempted to print that and post it in the entryway to my apartment, because if I’m making a recipe like these lamb chops, things are going to get smoky.

Turns out, that was an element of Sakai’s grandmother’s feasts, too. “The smoke from the griddle hurt my eyes, but I wanted to stay close to the action,” she wrote.

When I called Sakai recently, she elaborated on the setup, which sounds similar to the one at establishments that specialize in the dish: “My grandmother would place this huge round cast-iron griddle over charcoal and wood, with meat and vegetables on top, and we would just surround it and eat,” she told me.

“Jingisukan is more than just a meal,” Hermann Candahashi writes in “The Evolution of Japanese Cuisine,” “it’s a social event. Typically, friends and family sit around the grill, everyone takes what



PHOTO: Rey Lopez/For The Washington Post

Lamb Chops with Lemongrass and Cumin.

they want, and the shared meal can last for hours.”

Sakai wanted to capture those flavors and that feeling, but in a way that better fit her life in California today. She has always loved lamb, a meat she says is not very popular in Japan because of its strong flavor. But she has long preferred quick-cooking chops to a large cut. So, for her wafu take on jingisukan, she calls for rib chops. (Loin chops will also work here.) Her marinade is based on a teriyaki sauce, sweet and salty, with garlic, ginger, green chile and cumin. She also adds lemongrass, just because she always has some growing in her garden.



PHOTO: Rey Lopez/For The Washington Post

Prepping lemongrass for mincing.

I love how the lemongrass plays off the earthy, musky cumin. Though there’s a relatively small amount of cumin here, you can taste it next to the ginger and garlic. The sweetness of mirin and depth of soy sauce are evened out by a finishing squeeze of lime juice.

“That’s the thing about wafu cooking,” Sakai said. “It means Japanese style, but it also means harmony.” Smoky but bright, rich yet tempered, these lamb chops are wafu, through and through.

LAMB CHOPS WITH LEMONGRASS AND CUMIN
2 to 4 servings (makes 6 to 8 lamb chops and 3 cups zucchini)
Total time: 30 mins
Lemongrass adds a minty, citrus-forward flavor to these quick-cooking lamb

chops. The marinade also includes ginger, soy sauce, garlic, green chile and cumin, while mirin adds a touch of sweetness. Adapted from cookbook author Sonoko Sakai’s “Wafu Cooking,” the dish is an homage to Jingisukan, or the “Genghis Khan” barbecue dishes served in Hokkaido, Japan, where lamb has been raised since the late 19th century.

Marinate the lamb for as short as 10 minutes or as long as 10 hours; either way, the flavors clinging to the exterior of the meat are enhanced by a quick sear in a very hot pan. While the cooked lamb is resting, use the residual fat in the pan to cook a fresh, sturdy vegetable - in this case, hunks of zucchini. As the squash softens and browns, it will pick up the charred bits of the lamb and marinade left behind.

Make ahead: The marinade can be made and refrigerated 1 day in advance. The lamb needs to marinate for at least 10 minutes and up to 10 hours before cooking.

Storage: Refrigerate for up to 4 days.

Where to buy: Fresh lemongrass can be found at farmers markets, Asian markets and well-stocked supermarkets.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 2 (3-inch) stalks fresh lemongrass, trimmed, dry outer layers discarded, minced
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced or pressed
 - 1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger, minced or finely grated
 - 2 tablespoons soy sauce, preferably low-sodium
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons mirin
 - 1/2 serrano pepper, stemmed, seeded and minced (optional)
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 6 to 8 lamb rib chops (1 1/2 pounds total), about 3/4 inch thick, patted dry
 - 3 tablespoons high-heat cooking oil, such as vegetable or sunflower, divided
 - 2 medium zucchini (1 pound total), coarsely chopped

- 2 limes, cut into wedges, for serving
 - flaky sea salt, for serving (optional)
- STEPS**
- In a large bowl, stir together the lemongrass, garlic, ginger, soy sauce, mirin, serrano, if using, cumin and black pepper until combined. Add the lamb and, using your hands, toss until well coated with the marinade. Add 1 tablespoon of the oil, toss again to coat and let marinate for 10 minutes, or cover and refrigerate for up to 10 hours. Allow the lamb to come to room temperature before cooking.
- When you’re ready to cook, remove the lamb from the marinade and use a knife to scrape off any excess clinging to the meat, as it will burn during cooking.
- In a large (12-inch) cast-iron or carbon-steel skillet over high heat, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil until it begins to shimmer. Working in batches as needed to prevent overcrowding, add the lamb chops, leaving about an inch of space between each one, and sear until well browned with a bit of char on the edges, 2 to 3 minutes. (A little smoke is okay, but if it gets to be too much, reduce the heat to medium-high.) Flip, and cook the other side until browned and lightly charred, another 2 to 3 minutes. For medium-rare, an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of a chop away from the bone should read 130 degrees. Remove from the heat, transfer the lamb to a platter and cover loosely with foil to keep warm.
- Return the skillet to medium heat. Add the zucchini to the skillet and sauté, stirring constantly, until browned all over with some blackened spots, 5 to 7 minutes, then remove from the heat. Uncover the lamb, and transfer the zucchini to the platter. Garnish with the lime wedges and sprinkle with flaky sea salt, if desired, and serve, family-style.
- Substitutions: If you can’t find fresh lemongrass >> skip it. Prepared lemongrass paste is too finely ground for this recipe, and may burn during cooking. In addition to lime wedges >> you could garnish the chops with fresh mint or cilantro. If you don’t have fresh ginger >> use additional garlic. (It’s best not to use dried ginger here, as it will burn during cooking.) Mirin >> 1 teaspoon granulated or light brown sugar. If you can’t find lamb rib chops >> substitute lamb loin chops. No lamb? >> Use pork chops; boneless, skinless chicken thighs; or slabs of extra-firm tofu, with adjustments to the cooking time. Zucchini >> sliced carrots, chopped butternut squash, snap peas, corn on the cob or chopped kale. Limes >> lemons.
- Nutrition per serving (2 lamb rib chops and 3/4 cup zucchini), based on 4, using half the marinade: 478 calories, 7g carbohydrates, 112mg cholesterol, 35g fat, 1g fiber, 34g protein, 13g saturated fat, 273mg sodium, 4g sugar
- This analysis is an estimate based on available ingredients and this preparation. It should not substitute for a dietitian’s or nutritionist’s advice.
- Adapted from “Wafu Cooking” by Sonoko Sakai (Knopf, 2024).

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



All Photos: Canva

Reentry Risks for Green Card Holders: What to Know Before Traveling Abroad

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani David Nachman Ludka Zimovcak Snehal Batra

At NPZ Law Group, we are hearing that other of our colleagues are seeing increased enforcement actions at U.S. ports of entry involving lawful permanent residents (LPRs) returning from extended international travel. If you hold a green card and plan to stay outside the U.S. for six months or more, you could face serious consequences—even if your trip is less than one year.

Why This Matters Now

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are applying stricter scrutiny to green card holders who have been outside the country for six months or longer. This includes questioning travelers about their ties to the United States, their intent to return, and, in some cases, pressuring them to voluntarily surrender their green card.

What Are the Risks?

If CBP officers believe you have abandoned your permanent resident status, they may:

- Issue a Notice to Appear in immigration court
- Ask you to sign Form I-407, relinquishing your green card
- Place you in removal proceedings, with hearings that may take months
- Deny bond or detain you upon return, especially if you have a criminal record or unresolved arrest

In some cases, individuals who leave the U.S. after being placed in proceedings could be issued a removal order in absentia, resulting in a 5-year bar from reentry.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself

To avoid these complications, NPZ recommends that green card holders planning an extended trip consider applying for a Reentry Permit (Form I-131) before departing the U.S.

Key points:

- A Reentry Permit is valid for up to 2 years and signals your intent to maintain U.S. residency
- You must be physically present in the U.S. to apply and attend biometrics
- If you are already abroad, you may need a Returning Resident (SB-1) visa, which is difficult to obtain

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Attorney
Parveen K Goyal
Fluent in Hindi & Punjabi Languages

Additional Considerations

- Do not sign Form I-407 at the border without speaking to an attorney
- Be aware that green card status can't be revoked by a CBP officer alone
- Individuals with past criminal issues face heightened risks and should seek legal advice before travel
- High-net-worth individuals should also consider the tax implications of abandoning U.S. residency

Need Advice?

NPZ Law Group can help you plan your travel, preserve your green card, and avoid the risks of abandonment. If you're abroad or preparing to travel, contact us for a personalized consultation.

Contact Information

If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group. You can reach us by emailing info@visaserve.com or by calling us at **551-400-6461 extension 104**. We also invite you to visit our website at **www.visaserve.com** for more information.

Sunjay Kapur Dies At 53 Following Rare Medical Emergency During Polo Match In England

By A Staff Writer

Business magnate and former celebrity spouse Sunjay Kapur has died at the age of 53 after a tragic medical incident during a polo match in England on June 12. Kapur, a U.S. citizen, reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack brought on by a severe allergic reaction after inadvertently swallowing a bee while on the field.

Sources say the sting occurred in or near his mouth, triggering anaphylactic shock, a rapid and life-threatening allergic response. Despite urgent medical efforts, Kapur could not be revived.

Kapur was best known in corporate circles as the Chairman of Sona Comstar, a major international automotive technology and component supplier. He assumed control of the company in 2015 after the passing of his father, Surinder Kapur, who founded it in 1995. Under Sunjay's leadership, the company grew significantly, expanding to 12 manufacturing plants and employing over 5,000 people globally. His net worth was estimated



Sunjay Kapur

at \$1.2 billion, as reported by Forbes.

While his contributions to industry were substantial, Kapur also remained a fixture in the public eye due to his personal life. He was previously married to Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor, with whom he had two children—Samaira and Kiaan. The couple's 2003 marriage ended in a highly publicized divorce in 2016, which included legal disputes and allegations of domestic issues.

After his separation from Kapoor, Kapur married fashion designer Nandita Mahtani, and later former model Priya Sachdev. With Sachdev, he fathered a son named Azarias and became stepfather to her daughter from a prior relationship.

Kapur's sudden death has left many in both the business and entertainment industries stunned. He was known for his strategic leadership, love for polo, and his ability to balance public life with a growing industrial legacy.

Tributes from friends, colleagues, and public figures continue to surface, mourning the untimely loss of a man who made his mark in boardrooms and on social pages alike.

Chhal Kapat Is Taut And Slick, So Was The Post-Climax Needed At All?

By Rajiv Vijayakar

Under 30 minutes of seven episodes, each tightly structured and crisply narrated. No side issues, flirting with characters, red herrings, needless sex sequences—just focused storytelling. And a sort of unexpected climax. And—Wow!!—no gay angle either in any relationship!

Applause Entertainment's latest offering, Chhal Kapat—The Deception ticks all the right boxes. If was a binge-watcher, I would have watched the story at one go, for the total length is less than 170 minutes, and it would have made for a first-class whodunit thriller as a film. But, but, but.....!

A post-climax, as unnecessary as a postal stamp on a couriered parcel, spoils the pleasure of this taut murder saga. The murder, obviously made to look like either a suicide or an accident, happens at a destination wedding venue where the victim, Shalu (Yahhve Sharma), a social media ace, is found dead in a "pond". The wedding is of her best friend, Alisha (Kamya Ahlawat) with Jugal (Smaran Sahu). Their two other close friends are Mahek (Ragini Dwivedi), who is married to political heir Vikram Chandel (Anuj Sachdeva) and Ira (Tuhina Das), who has a physically-challenged child.

Bit by bit, newly appointed (and just-widowed) SP Devika (Shriya Pilgaonkar) unravels the complex threads



Shriya Pilgaonkar in ZEE5's Chhal Kapat—The Deception.

of lies (which everyone tells for assorted reasons!) and deception, aided by her devoted aide, inspector Dubey (Vijay Kaushik), and homes in on the truth.

The series' strength lies in its lack of garnishing and the gripping narrative, but, as I said at the beginning, the impact is a shade vitiated with the needless post-climax. If this is related to a new season to come, maybe my view might get modified, but as of now, I was a shade disap-

pointed!

Ajay Bhuvan is the director, and we see him using weird close-ups of the eyes and hands of Devika and the various people she interrogates. All that looks a little weird overall, as if a prose narrative in third person ("Devika saw that X was wringing his hands nervously!") has been attempted to be shot with a camera! The BGM (Soutrik Chakraborty) is competent, and so is Rajkumar Chaturvedi's razor-sharp editing.

The script is taut, with a rare scene that may be extra-neous. I loved the character of Devika, and her menacingly sweet smile, and Shriya Pilgaonkar is superbly in sync with her character's seemingly whimsical yet terrific traits. I also liked Vijay Kaushik as Dubey—he was a complete delight and his smile was genuinely infectious, though not meant to be humorous. Yahhve Sharma as Shalu is quite a find, but Anuj Sachdeva as Jugal and Kamya Ahlawat as Alisha need to work on the acting department. Pranay Pachauri as Rohan and Keshav Lokwani as Sapan fare better. But overall, except for Shriya, Vijay and Yahhve, no one is exceptional, while Kamya, Ragini and Smaran need to brush up on their skills from a little bit to a lot.

However, despite these significant shortcomings, the series worked for me as I did not see the post-climax (related only to Shriya's character) coming. No spoilers. Watch and enjoy the show until the denouement!

Rating: ***

Prime Video Drops Much-Awaited Trailer Of Panchayat Season 4

By Rajiv Vijayakar

Produced by The Viral Fever, Panchayat Season 4 is created by Deepak Kumar Mishra and Chandan Kumar, written by Chandan Kumar, and directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra and Akshat Vijaywargiya. The new show is now set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide on June 24.

In the latest season of this popular rural comedy drama, fan-favorite characters including Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Faisal Malik, Chandan

Roy, Sanvikaa, Durgesh Kumar, Sunita Rajwar and Pankaj Jha are returning to the show.

Set in the fictional village of Phulera, the new season promises to bring fresh challenges, familiar faces, and plenty of comic twists capturing the rhythms of small-town life with humor, warmth and nuance.

The trailer for the latest season offers a hilarious sneak peek into the turf war brewing between two spirited frontrunners—Manju Devi and Kranti Devi. With rally songs, lofty pledges and lots of fanfare, the village turns into a buzzing battleground. As both camps race to out-

shine and out-scheme the other, Phulera transforms into a carnival of chaos. And while the smiles are wide and slogans louder, behind the scenes it is all about planting whispers, questioning each other's "values," and throwing just enough shade to keep things spicy. With foot-tapping, desi anthems setting the mood, the trailer promises viewers a full-blown rural ruckus—packed with the chaos of Phulera's fiercest showdown yet.

Ahead of the launch, fans played a pivotal role in shaping the release date. Through a specially designed interactive website—www.panchayatvoting.com, a record 6.5 million votes were cast for their

favourites—Team Manju Devi or Team Kranti Devi—each vote pushing a live meter closer to its final point. What started as a virtual showdown quickly turned into a massive celebration, ultimately leading to the release date being moved to June 24 in response to the fans' enthusiasm to have their beloved series on screen sooner.

Chandan Kumar, creator and writer of Panchayat Season 4, shared, "Writing Panchayat has been a journey of deep discovery and gratitude. What makes this series special is how each season unfolds organically—building naturally on the one

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

The Washington Post

By Hannah Sampson

TEA TIME ON WHEELS:

This fancy D.C. tour bus is made for TikTok



All Photos: Marvin Joseph

Bite-sized feast

We arrived on the bus with an appetite, and it was a good thing; our table settings included three tiers of sandwiches, appetizers, scones and sweets. We paid \$129 each for the “luxe” package, which came with caviar, shrimp, a lobster roll and smoked salmon bite along with more standard finger sandwiches and snacks. A “spring delight mocktail” tasted like sparkling juice with a spear of blackberries. With two scones apiece and a plate full of cream puffs, cake pops and other sweets, we were still snacking by the end of the tour – and brought leftovers home in an appropriately pink box. There were some misses; my mom deemed her first ever taste of caviar “interesting” while I found it bland. Some bread was dry, a chip was tough, and the deviled egg was too heavily truffle-infused. The egg salad? My mom’s version was better. There was an intense, inedible amount of ricotta on a mushroom snack. While the website mentions six teas, we ended up trying four, served in tumblers with a top to avoid spills. Fine print on the company’s website mentions passengers can taste up to three teas during a ride. And though we expected we might be able to choose one from the menu, they came out as small pours with explanations by a “tea specialist,” wine-tasting style. He described the English breakfast as a “wonderfully full-bodied, well-rounded black tea” and told us the mint “calms the mind, soothes the stomach.” I wanted cream, but was offered powdered creamer. I needed help to find sugar packets. For all the finery, those options didn’t make me want to put a pinkie up. Still, we all loved the peach raspberry blend, and got an extra pour for the road as we departed the bus.



Tea-bus takeaways

The \$129 price tag felt steep for several swigs of tea, even in a flowery tumbler with earnest explanations, and small bites to eat along with sights you can see for free. But the experience was more than just a bus ride with treats – and one I would probably pay for again, though maybe without the caviar. What I enjoyed most was laughing with my mom, toasting with our teas and comparing notes on our nibbles. We delighted in the unexpected musical performances and picturesque surroundings. And we loved complimenting fellow passengers on their outfits and congratulating the ones who were celebrating special occasions. “I feel so spoiled,” my mom said. To me, that was priceless.



Growing up with five brothers, Ballina Koroilavesau enjoyed a good teatime – on her own. “I had tea parties with me, myself and I with my toys,” said the 39-year-old Maryland resident. But on a recent sunny day, she was practically squealing with delight as she made her way down the aisle of one of the more unusual tea offerings in D.C. Tea Around Town is a double-decker tour bus decked out in plentiful flowers, shades of pink and pops of gold. Fancy hats known as fascinators are optional but often opted for, along with gloves. Instrumental version of pop songs fill the air. It feels like “Bridgerton” on wheels. I was sitting in my own pink-and-white-striped booth admiring the serving stand full of finger foods when Koroilavesau walked by. She was with her soon-to-be daughter-in-law and a friend to celebrate the upcoming wedding. “Look at all the pastries,” she said. “I’m so excited!” I had spotted the company’s buses in downtown D.C. – they are hard to miss – and wondered about this tea-themed experience. So I booked tickets while my mom was visiting from Florida; she sent pictures of flowered outfits to choose from before packing her suitcase. I considered wearing my go-to little black dress but dug deep for color so I wouldn’t get tossed off the bus for ruining the palette. On the day of our tour, we looked for floral patterns to find our fellow passengers. There was a mother and daughter in Amazon-purchased fascinators. A pair of sisters who attend tea regularly were stunning in purple. The bride-to-be found her dress at a thrift store. Ryan Prescott, a spokesperson for TopView Sightseeing, which runs the tours, said passengers have seized the opportunity to dress up. “You’re around people that are doing the same, so it’s a camaraderie,” he said.

Seeing the D.C. sights

The tour is advertised as 90 minutes, with 75 of those actually on the road. After leaving from a spot near the National Archives, the route visited the expected museums, memorials and monuments while the guide read from a script. While the PA system on our bus sometimes cut out, we caught some efforts to add unexpected details to the tour. The guide pointed out the massive blue rooster atop the National Gallery of Art’s East Building and highlighted Thomas Jefferson’s “fabulous leather trench coat” at his memorial. Most unexpected, to us, was that the soundtrack suddenly switched to jazz and our tour guide started singing on several occasions. It turns out that’s a standard part of the tour – and most people tend to be surprised by it. Between live songs, tunes like “Despacito” and “Toxic” played. Prescott said the company is trying to attract locals who want something special to do while also appealing to tourists who want a new way to see the city. Kathy Williams and Anita Fogan, sisters from D.C., were gifted the tour by their goddaughter for Mother’s Day. They attend teas regularly in D.C. – had the perfect purple outfits, hats and shoes at the ready – and said they enjoyed the service, food and experience. Fogan, a retired human resources specialist, called the food “scrumptious” and said she liked sampling different teas. “It was very nice observing our city from the upper tier of the bus,” said Williams, a retired attorney. She said she enjoyed the company of her fellow passengers as well. “We all sort of gelled together,” she said. “I thought that was nice.”

‘Social media moment’

My take on the tea itself: the drink was secondary to the decor, the food and the mood. “It’s beyond the tea,” Prescott said when I spoke to him a few days later. “It’s a social media moment, it’s an opportunity for sightseeing.” Indeed, many of the passengers I spoke to had first seen the bus on TikTok or Instagram. London boasts multiple tea bus tours. Hong Kong has a dim sum bus tour. “We thought, you know what? People love tea,” Prescott said. “Let’s do our own version and introduce it as the first one in the U.S. And let’s make it beautiful.” The company launched its D.C. tour a year ago after starting in New York City in 2023 and expanding to Philadelphia. Tea Around Town has five buses in Washington and is now in Atlanta, Houston, Dallas and, as of a month ago, Austin. Prescott said the company is expanding to new cities every two to three months. Beyoncé made news when she was pictured on a Tea Around Town bus in New York with her family in 2023. Stars of the latest season of “RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars” held an event on one of the buses this year.

20 Years Of Vidya Balan: A Trip Down Memory Lane

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

She came in 20 years ago into Hindi movies with Parineeta, released on June 10, 2005 to critical acclaim and with good success at the b-o. In the title-role, Vidya Balan made perhaps the finest debut of that decade in terms of her in-depth performance.

But her greatest triumph lies simply in her grounded nature remaining on terra firma even today after she is a big star who does not need a big hero to count. I met her first at her residence in Chembur weeks after her debut, and to this date, whenever I have met her at an event or interviewed her (once even on video), she has been the same warm, affable and yet perceptive individual she always was.

So flawless and impactful were her performances, whether in Parineeta or her follow-up Lage Raho Munna Bhai, that detractors needed something to pull her down. So they decided to focus on her “poor dress sense” in a few later films like Salaam-E-Ishq, forgetting not only the awful sartorial sense of great older actresses (and actors) but also the fact that filmmakers too have a say in the make-up, hairdo and costumes, and this does not take anything away from great performances. A few even homed in on Vidya’s ‘figure’, which was not in sync with the glamor dolls abounding!

But then, Vidya wasn’t one. From the beginning, even in mediocre films like Halla Bol, Kismet Connection or Heyy Babyy, she made her own quiet mark. And a few years down the line, bolstered by Vidya-centric hits Kahaani and The Dirty Picture, the actress decided that she would go in for films that required deep substance from her, irrespective of scale, big-ticket names or perceived commercial potential.

Not that these films did magic at the b-o. (Te3n, Bobby Jasoos, Kahaani 2, Tumhari Sulu, Begum Jaan, Ekk Albela in which she enacted the late Geeta Bali), and some were even released on OTT during that unfortunate 2020-onwards phase (Shakuntala Devi, Sherni, Jalsa, Neeyat). But the actress was undeterred. Yes, she did a couple of South films, but just about the only hit she had then was Mission Mangal, involving R. Balki, who had given her the meaty role of Abhishek Bachchan’s wife and Amitabh Bachchan’s mother in Paa!

Her determination (Vidya never shied away even from female co-stars in her films) won the day as, last year, her Anees Bazmee-directed Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 was a massive Diwali hit. Manjulika, her iconic character in the 2007 Bhool Bhulaiyaa, was reprised again here, and her ‘rival’ was Madhuri Dixit-Nene!

Married happily today to Siddharth Roy Kapur of Roy



Vidya Balan has completed 20 years in Hindi cinema.

Kapur Films, Vidya continues to count commercially as well today whenever a role of substance demands her mettle. But what is most important is that she remains the same humble being she was two decades back, when all she had done were a few negligible regional film appearances, ad commercials, and a couple of TV shows, such as Hum Paanch. Stardom, which sits well on her now, had not even touched her then.

And perhaps the best way to illustrate her alluring persona is to recall some of her significant quotes from my many interactions with her.

2005—OUR FIRST INTERVIEW

“Yes, I came to Mumbai to act, though I did every ad

film with as much conviction as I did Parineeta. Actually, things went right, because education was my priority then, and ad films were manageable in terms of time, while films would have messed up my studies. I first completed my M.A. (Masters in Arts) in Sociology, because I felt that films could come to me later as well.”

“I am inquisitive about people in general. So, I question my director and writer a lot. I also began watching films of the period shown in Parineeta, and since I was a shade plump, I began to go to a gym. But I lost too much weight and had to put on some again! I am not a switch-on, switch-off artiste, I do need lots of inputs.”

2009

“I think that acting is about feeling, about believing deeply in something and then reacting and expressing what you feel. I enjoy acting to an extent that I have not thought of another profession. But as an actor, while I am acting, I am not closed to other things. I want to do my own thing, act on my own terms, have space and time for myself and my other interests like watching films, attending classical musical concerts, traveling a bit, and doing workshops in theatre or films. I want to take one day at a time, not plan for next week, and work only to the extent that I enjoy life.”

2017

“For me, every time I play a character, it is not me. That distinction is very clear. Until Kahaani 2, I was not really willing to experiment with the dark side of life. But now, I am getting comfortable with that.”

2021

“It’s very nice of you to say that I have done the kind of variety even our legendary actresses have not, but I guess this happened because I am always desperate to keep myself excited, motivated and engaged. I look for different kinds of stories and characters, and I am grateful for the variety that I have been able to do. I can get bored very fast!”

2022

“After four back-to-back films on OTT, I have thought of doing web series, and I have got so many offers, but none worth my while in terms of the time I will have to put in and the quality of work I would like to do. I will break into the web only with the right show!”

Here’s hoping then that we get to watch Vidya Balan dazzle in a web show in the near future. Here is where even her illustrious seniors like Dimple Kapadia, Madhuri Dixit-Nene, Manisha Koirala, Kajol and Tabu have scored.

Prime Video Drops Much-Awaited Trailer Of Panchayat Season 4

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

before it while still leaving room for the journey to continue. Our effort remains to keep the narrative fresh, by introducing new characters and dynamics, while ensuring it stays true to the emotional rhythm of Phulera. The story evolves in a way that feels both grounded and engaging. With Season 4, the world of Panchayat takes on richer dimensions—through its narrative and evolving character relationships.”

Neena Gupta, who plays Manju Devi, said, “Portraying Manju Devi has been deeply fulfilling, especially as she’s grown into one of the most loved and relatable characters on screen today. Across

seasons, it’s been exciting to watch her journey from a hesitant pradhan to a confident voice in Phulera’s affairs. With each chapter, Panchayat adds depth not only to village life but to every character’s evolution. Season 4 brings unexpected twists—making the narrative all the more compelling. The trailer offers only a peek, but trust me – what lies ahead is fun, feisty, and full of surprises.”

Jitendra Kumar, who plays the Sachivji (secretary), adds, “Panchayat is a prime example of authentic storytelling that resonates across geographies, age groups and viewing preferences. Its humor, charm and grounded characters have turned it into a cultural phenomenon, and we are incredibly proud to bring yet another exciting season of this beloved

series to audiences. Working with this team has always felt like a creative homecoming—there’s mutual trust and a shared love for storytelling that really shines through. The trailer gives a fun peek into the new dynamics at play, and I’m truly looking forward to how audiences respond to the next phase of this beloved journey.”

At the base level, for me, Panchayat remains among the best fare on OTT, and certainly one of the topmost names among non-crime dramas. Season 2 seemed more than a shade forced and a letdown, though it garnered popularity, while Season 3 was comme ci, comme ça and continued to garner love for the franchise. Let us hope for the best in this coming season.



The poster of Panchayat Season 4, set to stream from June 24.

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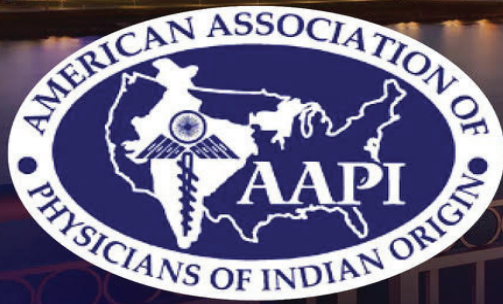
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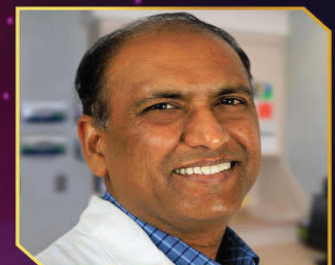
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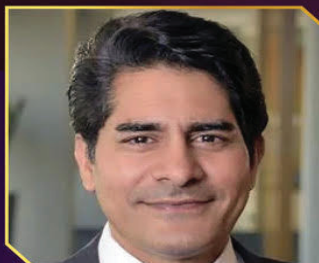


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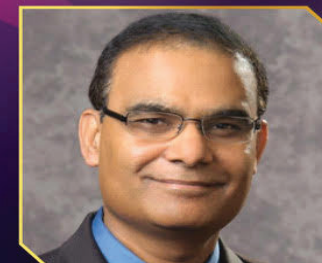


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