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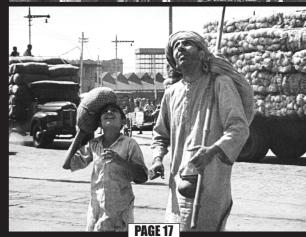
community colors

IN CHICAGO



Gujarati physicians meet in Atlanta for joyful Convention





Bimal Roy's 'Do Bigha Zamin' Goes To Venice

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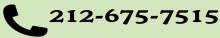




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Nearly 2,000 Medical Professionals And Families Meet At Gujarati Physicians' Convention In Atlanta



Consul General of India in Atlanta Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan being greeted by Ajeet Kothari, chairman of the Gujarati Physicians Convention held June 2-6, 2025.



More than 1,800 physicians and their families attended the Gujarati Physicians Convention 2025, in Atlanta June 2-6.

By a Staff Writer

ore than 1,800 professionals from the medical field and their families met at the Gujarati Physicians Convention 2025, hosted by the B.J. Medical College Alumni Association (BMCAA) and held at the Signia by Hilton Atlanta hotel, from July 2 to July 6, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The event brought together alumni from BMCAA, BJMC, NHL, Jamnagar, Surat, PSMC, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Bombay, Nagpur, and other parts of India and the Gujarati diaspora. The convention was featured a number of CME-accredited sessions, cultural festivities, entertainment, and networking among fellow physicians and their families.

Leaders and pioneers among the Gujarati medical professionals were recognized at the gala. Lead organizers of the event, Dr. Ajeet Kothari, Dr. Gunjan Shukla, Dr. Shirish Patel and Dr. Sumul Raval, called out the names of the pioneers, including Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, Dr. Arun Palkhiwala, Dr. Desai, women presidents of AAPI, the parent organization, among others.

The special guest speaker was India's Consul General in Atlanta Ramesh Baba Lakshmanan. He spoke about India's potential as an investment destination, and especially the increasing role of AI in medicine. He praised the achievements of Indian American physicians. "We are very proud of their contributions in US and India," CG Lakshmanan said.

Dr. Kothari said the reason for this Convention was to work for the betterment of Gujarati physicians and the community. He said the organization planned to work with the Indian Government to improve health care in India. The goal was also to bring about changes where needed in health care and in Medicaid and Medicare. Dr. Kothari told News India Times this was the largest of the four conventions held to date. "We want people to get together to network for the purpose of creating the strength to respond when and where there is a need," he said.

This was the 4th Gujarati Physicians' Convention after the ones in Ohio, Florida, Atlantic City, and now Atlanta.

Dr. Parikh, in his speech, praised the leadership of Dr. Kothari in making the Convention a success, and urged a standing ovation in his honor. He said



Chairman of the Gujarati Physicians Convention Dr. Ajeet Kothari, left, with Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, on stage speaking to hundreds of attendees.



Dr. Ajeet Kothari, chairman of the Gujarati Physicians Convention, speaking about his commitment to the community, at the Atlanta event June 2-6, 2025.

Looking on is Dr. Sudhir Parikh.



India's Consul General in Atlanta Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan, speaking to ITV Gold during the Convention June 2-6, 2025, in Atlanta, as leaders of the Gujarati physicians' community look on.



Dancer Sonali Vyas with her troupe performing. This was one of several cultural performances at the Gujarati Physicians Convention 2025, held June 2-6, in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Kothari worked hard to bring younger medical professionals, the 2nd and 3rd generation of Indian Americans together. "We must work with the goal to empower our organization, and to connect US and

India, and encourage the 2nd generation to give to Mother India," he added, saying he and his media outlet stood ready to help in any way possible.

It was a crowded convention where

attendees could be observed enjoying meeting old friends and colleagues, discussing project initiatives, and inviting support for the work in India.

Dr. Smita Joshi from Gujarat, spoke of her efforts along with her sister Dr. Shukla Raval, to spread awareness about the prevalence of Type 1 diabetes among at least 20,000 children in Gujarat alone. She described how their efforts had resulted in policy changes. Dr. Sumul Raval noted that the Government of India had decided to apportion funds for tackling Type 1 diabetes as a result of their efforts.

Several cultural performances took place over the course of the Convention, with energetic dance troupes, and singers, brought some people to the floor. The Sonali Vyas Dance Company presented a Journey Through the Golden Age of Bollywood; singer Dhruvit Vyas led the program "Bollywood Unplugged"; Mittal Rabari's Ras Garba; a Fashion Show with Archana Kochar's creations; playback singer Aditi Singh Sharma.

CME sessions ranged from gut health to brain tumors and Parkinson's disease, heart disease and stroke prevention, etc.

Other speakers pointed out that Gujaratis make up 20 percent to 30 percent of the more than 100,000 Indian American physicians around the country and their power needed to be harnessed for the greater good.

Dr. Kothari told News India Times that at a certain point, registration for the 2025 Convention had to be stopped. "We were oversold," he said, adding, "The next Convention we expect to be larger than this one."

"Our organization is ready to serve our birth country and the country where we live," Dr. Kothari added.



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To Study In The U.S., International Students Scrub **Their Accounts**

By Sammy Westfall

tudents from around the world who hope to study in the United States are winding down much of their online activity, unfollowing celebrities and politicians, asking friends and family to stop sending news links and scouring their own internet presence for posts that carry even the faintest whiff of hot-button

International student visa applicants told The Washington Post that the sanitization is driven by fear that a single "like" or meme, if taken the wrong way, could derail years of hard work, should it run afoul of sweeping new visa-vetting procedures under President Donald Trump. Tech companies have also been marketing account-scrubbing and screening tools to foreign visitors.

The State Department announced "expanded screening" last month, directing applicants to set their social media accounts to "public." An internal State Department cable obtained by The Post instructed consular officers to find "any indications of hostility toward the citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding principles of the United States.

"Anything that could be seen as having a side, I unfollowed. I unfollowed AOC, Kamala, Biden, Obama, everyone," said Madeline, a visa applicant. She and other students interviewed for this story spoke on the condition that their surnames or full names be withheld, for fear of

derailing their visa eligibility.

"It seems very dystopian," she said.
One applicant said he "went and unliked all [of Kamala Harris's] posts from five months past." Another student said that as a precaution, they unfollowed people with the Palestinian flag or watermelon emoji, a pro-Palestinian symbol, in their Instagram bios.

The new rule applies to visa applicants for academic, vocational and exchange programs in the United States. Last year, more than 1 million international students studied here.

This is a commonsense policy," a senior State Department official said in response to a request for more details on the vetting system. Officials are looking for evidence of "a potential threat to our national security like expressing support for terrorism and hostility towards Americans and our way of life," the official said.

"Applying for a visa is voluntary, and individuals are free to decide whether to pursue travel to the United States,' the department said.

'FOUNDING PRINCIPLES'

Some applicants said they found their precautions - including for fear of appearing to diverge from "founding principles of the United States" - at odds with the impulses that made them want to study there in the first place.

"Surely the founding principles are, you know, being able to speak up," said a visa applicant interested in human rights.

Unsure how broadly the officers would interpret the vetting guidance, the applicant took what he called "the cautious

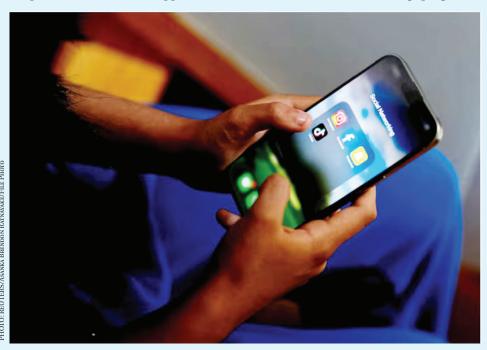


Students walking in Harvard Yard.

approach." He has taken down posts beginning in 2007 and unfollowed Instagram accounts with Arabic names, even cinema groups. This month, he came across an Instagram reel of charity work in Afghanistan: "This is going to sound so silly, but I liked it then unliked it," he said.

Faced with "irrational guidance, your response is irrational," the applicant said. to, or visibility of, online presence could be construed as an effort to evade or hide certain activity.

Caio Fernandes, a master's student of comparative literature in Austria, said nearly all the questions at his June 25 visa interview "were all about the fact that I don't have social media." His visa application for a semester exchange program



One international student said he took down a meme saying "I want to punch a wall" that he posted after learning of a temporary issue with his dance major credits, in case immigration officials flagged that as violent, he said.

On Reddit, nervous prospective applicants have congregated to compare notes, asking: "Is it best to deactivate socials?" Some urged and others warned against the approach, cautioning that it could raise rather than allay suspicion. The State Department told consulates to remind applicants that "limited access was rejected under a broad denial of failing to prove "nonimmigrant intent."
"I think that at the end of the day

basically she thought that I was hiding something," Fernandes said.

The embassy has a very broad discretion to say yay or nay," said U.S. immigration lawyer Richard Herman. "They don't tell you all the reasons why they're denying you. There's no appeal process' and very little oversight.
Still, Herman said, he advises students:

'Take a deep breath. Don't start deleting accounts.

PAY TO SCRUB

The State Department cable instructs consular officers to vet applicants to "the maximum extent possible," including a review of their "entire online presence – not just social media." Now, tech companies focused on data deletion and online screening are seizing the moment to advertise their services to international students.

One company, Phyllo, markets its AI social screening tool with the slogan: 'Your US Journey Shouldn't End Because of an Old Post." It trawls clients' accounts to determine "content risk" on a graphic barometer, assessing for elements including "religious extremism," "political content," and "illegal immigration advocacy."

Redact.dev, which helps users massdelete posts across social platforms, prodded visa applicants a day after the new guidance: "Now is the time to audit your online presence for outdated opinions, overly political takes.

The level of concern over political speech is new, said Dan Saltman, CEO and founder of Redact.dev. The company has been growing 15 percent month over month this year, including with users in East Asia, he said.

The expanded visa screening comes amid a Trump administration-driven crackdown on pro-Palestinian campus activism, including among international students already in the United States.

The State Department cable asks officers to "consider the likelihood" that applicants who "demonstrate a history of political activism" would "continue such activity," and whether that would undermine scholarly activities. It said to pay special attention to activism associated with violence or ineligible views or activity, which include antisemitic harassment and support for

"I would repost so many things" on the war in the Gaza Strip, said applicant Madeline. "On Instagram, my stories would be full of posts all day long." But during the visa process, she told her friends that "from now on, I'm not talking about anything political."

An incoming master's student from India was one of the 76 million Instagram followers of Gigi Hadid, a supermodel of Palestinian descent who has expressed support for Palestinians. "She's such a great model," the student said. "I'm just left wondering, 'Should I even follow her?' Will me following her amount to me supporting a certain faction in a war and would that be, like, the reason for my visa getting rejected?'

The student has made her online personality "bland," she said. "Your self-expression is completely restrained."

Juliano, an incoming exchange student, wondered what happened to people who had been posting on Reddit or Twitter for decades: "What happens if you, for example, change your mind about things that you thought in the past? How will that be judged?

-The Washington Post





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US State Dept Slams India's Stance On Washington Playing No Role In Ceasefire With Pakistan

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

he US State Department on Tuesday, July 8, (local time) criticized India's stance on the US playing no role in the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, describing such claims as potentially

During a press briefing, US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce responded to questions about the diverging narratives from Indian and Pakistani officials regarding US involvement in brokering a peace deal after escalated tensions between the two nations following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and India's retaliation through 'Operation Sindoor' that targeted nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and

Bruce offered a nuanced response to the question, emphasizing transparency in the modern era and suggesting that the factual record is accessible and subject to publicscrutiny.

'So many comments speak for themselves. That's one of the good-news aspects of our modern world is people can see what's really occurring. You're not reliant on a comment to know what has really happened. The world is playing out in front of us in real time on big screens and small screens. Everyone will have an opinion. That's anopinion. Some opinions are wrong. Mine rarely are but other people's opinions can be wrong," she said.



US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce at a press briefing.

"But that's what we get to do is analyze and judgment, and the fact is that we understand in front of us every day the clarity of what's transpiring in our world," she added.

The Spokesperson further highlighted the involvement of key US figures in the ceasefire negotiations, noting, "Donald Trump is

here to help make that easier and to help use this to make things clearer. Secretary Marco Rubio is in the same position. The Vice President of the United States also involved in the negotiations

with Pakistan and India."

The US has repeatedly claimed to have brokered a peace deal between India and Pakistan, based on trade deals, during the escalated tensions between the two nations in May. However, India has consistently refuted these claims, stating that the agreement was made after Pakistani military officials contacted India for dialogue. Earlier on Monday, US President Trump again claimed that he stopped the escalation of the recent India-Paki-

Trump said that the fight would have turned nuclear and that stopping the conflict was essential. "We stopped a lot of fights; the very, very big one was India and Pakistan. We stopped that over trade. We are dealing with India and Pakistan. We said that we are not going to be dealing with you at all if you are going to fight. They were maybe at a nuclear stage...Stopping that was really important," he said during his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.6.

MIT Gets First Indian American Provost



Dr. Anantha Chandrakasan (second from right) and NY Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan (second from left) at a dinner July 1, 2025, in New York to celebrate appointment of Chandrakasan as Provost at MIT.



Colleagues and special guests at the celebratory dinner July 1, 2025 to felicitate Dr. Anantha Chandrakasan on his appointment as Provost at MIT.

By a Staff Writer

r. Anantha P. Chandrakasan, with his appointment as the Provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has become the pride of the Indian American community.

A celebratory event to felicitate Chandrakasan was jointly organized in New York July 1, 2025 by the Foundation of Indian Americans of New England and Indian Consulate of New York. It was attended by several diplomats, academic leaders, dignitaries, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, community leaders and other members of the Indian American community

Beginning his new role as Provost on July 1, 2025, Chandrakasan will lead the academic and administrative operations of MIT, including resource management, strategic planning, oversight of faculty and staff, and external relations, reporting directly to the President.

Chandrakasan joined MIT more than

30 years ago in 1994 after getting his bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California,

Over the three decades, he has excelled in many roles, directing the Microsystems Technology Laboratories, heading the MIT Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and leading the School of Engineering as the Dean.

Last year, as MIT's Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer, Chandrakasan launched many cross disciplinary initiatives including MIT Human Insight Collaborative aiming to bridge STEM fields with humanities and social sciences, MIT Generative AI Impact Consortium and MIT Health and Life Sciences Collabora-

"As Provost, I am committed to advancing excellence in research, innovation, and education. Together, we will shape a future defined by meaningful progress and global impact," Chandrakasan said, expressing his appreciation of the support of the Indian American community.

Lauding Chandrakasan's academic achievements of three decades, Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan said his appointment reflects the growing contribution of Indian Americans in international education and innovation. "We look forward to deeper India-MIT collaborations in research, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies," Pradhan said. Congratulating Chandrakasan, Boston's

Deputy Consul General Shruti Prushottam praised Boston diplomatic community's role in forging academic and cultural partnerships.

President Abhishek Singh of the Foundation of Indian Americans of Boston spoke about the honor Chandrakasan has brought to the Indian American community. "Dr. Chandrakasan's accomplishments will inspire countless young Indian-Americans to dream bigger and lead boldly," Singh said.

Chandrakasan's colleagues and MIT Faculty including Prof. Iqbal Singh Dhaliwal, South Asia specialist Prof. Sana Ayer, Vice President Prof. Jenny Liu of Boston Children's Hospital Trust and more also

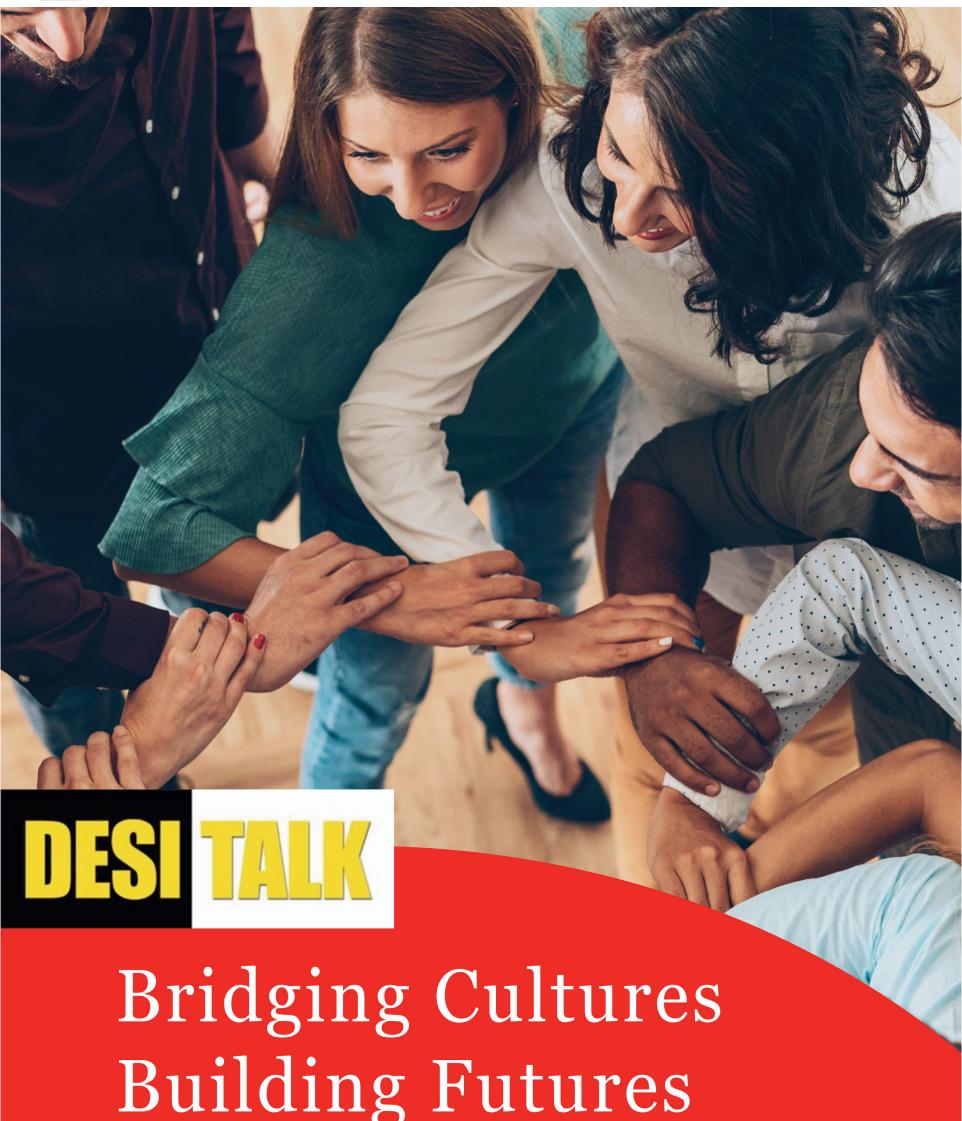
applauded his achievements.

Other guests included Chairman Sushil Tuli of Leader Bank, Chairman Dilip Patel of Jamson Hotel Chain, philanthropists Prashanth and Anuradha Palakurthi, community leaders Sandeep Asija and Inder Kaul, chip design researcher Brij Bhushan Garg of Bell Labs, Vice President Saniay Gokhale of Foundation of Indian Americans, and founders of Dev Patel Hospitality and podcasters Manju and Deepak

MIT boasts of many Indian American scholars on its faculty list, including Abhijit Banerjee who won the 2019 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

Other scholars at MIT include Associate Professor of History Sana Aiyar; STEM professor Sanga Batia; Science, Technology and Society Associate Professor Dwaipayan Banerjee; and Mechanical Engineering Professor Rohit Karnik.





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Hyderabad-Origin Family Of Four Killed In Tragic Car Crash In Texas

By a Staff Writer

family of four from Hyderabad, India, tragically lost their lives in a horrific head-on collision in Greene County, Texas, while returning home from a road trip. The victims—Sri Venkata Bejugam (aka Sri Venkat), his wife Tejaswini Cholleti, and their children, Siddarth (5) and Mrida (3)—were pronounced dead at the scene after their SUV was struck by a truck reportedly driving on the wrong side of

The impact of the crash caused the SUV to catch fire, leaving the bodies severely charred and unrecognizable. Due to the condition of the remains, authorities are relying on dental records and DNA testing for formal identification. A partially burned school ID card found at the scene also aided investigators in confirming the victims.

The family had been living in Sutton Fields, Aubrey,



Texas, near Dallas, and was returning from a week-long visit to relatives in Atlanta. Just before the crash, they had dropped off Venkata's parents in Atlanta, who had traveled with them as part of the trip. The accident occurred less than two hours from their home.

Both Venkata and Tejaswini were employed as software engineers and had moved to the United States from the Suchitra/Trimulgherry area of Secunderabad three years ago. The tragedy has left their extended family and community in deep mourning. At their family's home in Kompally, Hyderabad, silence and grief prevail, as relatives prepare for the final rites.

Authorities are continuing investigations and are coordinating with the Indian Consulate to complete formalities for repatriation of the remains to India once DNA confirmation is completed.

This incident follows a string of fatal accidents in Texas involving Indian-origin families in recent years, raising renewed concerns about road safety in the

FeTNA 2025 Annual Convention Unites Tamil Diaspora In Raleigh, **North Carolina**

By T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman, SOUTH ASIAN HERALD

aleigh, North Carolina: In a powerful demonstration of unity and cultural pride, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) hosted its 38th Annual Convention from July 3–5, 2025, at the Raleigh Convention Center. The event brought together more than 3,000 members of the Tamil diaspora from across the United States and around the world.

The convention opened on July 3 with a welcome address by FeTNA President Vijay Manivel, followed by a keynote speech from Datuk Seri Saravanan Murugan, Member of Parliament in Malaysia and Deputy President of the Malaysian Indian Congress. Nakkheeran Gopal, founder of the renowned Tamil investigative magazine Nakkheeran, delivered a powerful address titled "Journalism as Adventure: Truth-Seeking in a World of Noise

Over the three-day event, attendees engaged in a series of dynamic panel discussions on timely topics such as: "Intrapreneurs at Work: Cultivating a Startup Mindset in Big Business," "AI & The Future of Work: What You Need to Know," "Entrepreneurship Without Borders: Navigating the EB-5 Visa for Visionary Business Lead-"Leading Billions: The C-Suite Sesers," "Leading Billions: The C-Suite Session," "AI & Startups: Driving Disruption & Growth," "The Rise of She-preneurs: Redefining Leadership and Innovation," "The Changing Landscape of Entrepreneurship," and "Academia-Government-Industry Nexus on the Education, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Continuum.

President and CEO of Somerset Pharma, LLC, Dr. Veerapan Subramanian, delivered the closing keynote, while the plenary session titled "Grace in Success, Grit in Failure" was led by former Indian Union Minister Nepoleon Duraiswamy, Co-Chairman of Nobl O.

Consul General Chris Hodges from the US Consulate in Chennai, India, addressed the audience virtually from Chennai, extending congratulations to FeTNA on its 38th convention. Governor of North Carolina, Josh Stein, also issued a



Tamil Sangams from across the United States celebrating at the FeTNA 2025 Convention on July 5, 2025, in Raleigh Convention Center, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

special proclamation honoring the Tamil Diaspora and the work of FeTNA.

In a special message, Indian Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra also commended the organization for its contributions to the community.

"FeTNA's efforts to preserve and promote Tamil language and culture across North America reflect the strength and pride of the Tamil diaspora," added Ambassador Kwatra. "Further, the Tamil community continues to enrich the cultural fabric of the United States through education, dialogue, and civic engagement Tamil, one of the world's oldest languages, is a cornerstone of India's heritage.

Ambassador Kwatra emphasized FeTNA's role in fostering cultural exchange and intergenerational connections and extended his best wishes for the organization's continued success.

Minister (Community Affairs) at the Embassy of India, Jag Mohan, also recognized the organization's impact. Jag Mohan told South Asian Herald "Tamil has been one of the oldest languages and FeTNA has been working systematically over the years for the promotion and preservation of Tamil language culture through various efforts. I wish them the very best for hosting this event. And

thanks a lot for inviting us over here to be part of this event."

Vellore Institute of Technology Founder and Chancellor G. Viswanathan, a longtime supporter of FeTNA, lauded its unifying mission:

Chancellor Viswanathan told South Asian Herald "What makes FeTNA special is its unique ability to bring together Tamil Sangams from across the United States and Canada under one umbrella. That level of unity is rare.

He noted that FeTNA serves as a model for Tamil communities globally and emphasized his continued support for the organization.

Reflecting on the global reach of the event, Datuk Seri Saravanan Murugan, told South Asian Herald"I'm deeply impressed by how this three-day convention unites people from all walks of life, not just from the U.S. and Canada, but also from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and other countries. It's a powerful example of global Indian unity."

Renowned Tamil music director D.

Imman closed the convention with a high-energy concert on July 5. Imman told South Asian Herald, "FeTNA is one of the oldest and most respected Tamil cultural organizations in North America," adding

"Collaborating with them and putting together a concert like this feels like a dream come true."

Imman was joined by singers Vandana Srinivasan, Jithin Raj, Santosh Hariharan, Srinidhi Sriprakash, Soundarya Nandakumar, and Mukesh Mohamed. The team performed a repertoire of his hit songs,

The team performed Imman's hit songs such as Jingunamani Jingunamani Sirichuputta Nenjula Aani; Koodamela Koodavechi Kudalooru Poravale; Ayayayoo Aananthamey; Yeppa Maama Treatu; Soppanasundari Naan Dhaanae; Azhagiya Asura Athumeera Aasai Illaya;

Vaaney Vaaney; Neethane Ponjath; Kannammaa kannammaa Azhagu Poonjsilai; Kurumba En Uyire; Kanna Kaattu Podhum; Paakadha Paakadha Aiyaiyo Paakadha; Sollitaley Ava Kaadhala; and Gaandakannazhagi.

The concert also featured a flashback medley, a whistling segment by Ashwini, an unplugged piano session by Imman, and romantic ballads including Thoovaanam Thoova Thoova, Enn Ala Paka Poren, Yembuttu Irukkuthu Aasai, Myna Myna Nenjukulle, and Kandangi Kandangi Vandha Ponnu, Onna Vitta Yaarum Enakilla Paaru Paaru; and Karuvakkattu Karuvaya.

In addition to its focus on innovation and leadership, the convention celebrated Tamil heritage through traditional folk arts. Vice President of the Dallas Tamil Sangam, Praveena Varadharajan, highlighted the showcase of ancient Tamil art forms.

"This remarkable performance marked a historic first for the FeTNA platform, featuring the debut presentation of Kummi, Perunchalangai, Kattaikal Aattam and Kamabathu Aattam - traditional art forms that embody the vibrant cultural legacy of Tamil Nadu. These forms reflected the spirit, strength, and identity of Tamil heritage, offering global audiences a rare opportunity to witness the richness of folk traditions in their original form," Varadharajan told South Asian Herald.

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12 July 18, 2025 CITY VIEWS DESI

DuPage County, Illinois, Hosts Enjoyable Bollywood Afternoon For Senior Citizens



DuPage Senior Citizen Council members enjoying dancing.



Pancham Sur Beats singer team at seniors event in DuPage County, III.

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

he DuPage Senior Citizen Council
(DSCC) hosted a heartwarming Senior
Lunch Program event at Golconda Restaurant in Naperville, offering not only
a delicious meal but also a memorable
musical experience for local seniors.

This special afternoon was filled with nostalgia and joy, thanks to the live performance by popular Chicago-based musical group Panch Sur Beats.

The group delighted the audience with timeless Bollywood hits from the 1960s and 70s, performing beloved classics such as "Aap Ki Nazron Ne Samjha", "Yeh Dosti Hum Nahin Todenge", and other chart-toppers originally sung by legends like Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Kumar Sanu, and Lata Mangeshkar.

Panch Sur Beats, known for their soulful renditions and community spirit, featured talented performers including Tushar and Nisha Chotalia, Raj and Smita Rai, Jayant Shah, Chetan Ved, and Vibhakar Parikh, with technical support by sound engineer



DuPage Senior Citizen Council's (Site Manager) Sushila Ray and Anjali Khare receiving Book 'India calling 2022' by Jayanti Oza.

Shailendra Bhatnagar. Their three-hour performance had the entire senior audience singing, clapping, and even dancing along to the tunes of yesteryear.

Adding to the occasion, Jayanti Oza presented a copy of "India Calling 2022", a prestigious publication by the Government of India written by Chandmal Kumavat, to Sushila Ray and Anjli Khare, site managers of DSCC. The book honors Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlights global Indian community achievements.

The event wrapped up with smiles and warm goodbyes, as seniors expressed their gratitude for the unforgettable afternoon filled with music, memories, and community bonding.

About DuPage Senior Citizen Council (DSCC):DSCC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults in DuPage County. Through services such as senior meals, wellness checks, and social activities, DSCC empowers seniors to live with dignity and independence

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NASA Assigns Indian American Astronaut Anil Menon To First Space Station Mission

 $By\,a\,Staff\,Writer$

ASA astronaut Anil Menon, one of few Indian American astronauts in the US, will embark on his first mission to the International Space Station, serving for several months as a flight engineer and Expedition 75 crew member, the agency announced July 1, 2025.

Menon will launch aboard the Roscosmos Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft in June 2026, from the Bailonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He will be accompanied by Roscosmos cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina. The three astronauts will spend approximately eight months aboard the orbiting laboratory.

Menon has been assigned to conduct scientific investigations and technology demonstrations to help prepare humans for future space missions and benefit humanity, NASA said.



NASA astronaut Anil Menon poses for a portrait at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The Indian American was selected as a NASA astronaut in 2021. He was a graduate of the 23rd astronaut class in 2024. After completing the initial astronaut candidate training, he began preparing for his first space station flight assignment.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Menon is an emergency medicine physician, a mechanical engineer, and a colonel in the United States Space Force.

He holds a bachelor's degree in neurobiology from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a master's degree in mechanical engineering, and a medical degree from Stanford University in California.

Menon completed his emergency medicine and aerospace medicine residency at Stanford and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

The Indian American astronaut still practices emergency medicine at Memorial Hermann's Texas Medical Center and teaches residents at the University

of Texas' residency program, when time allows.

Menon served as SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the first crewed Dragon spacecraft on NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission and building SpaceX's medical organization to support humans on future missions. He served as a crew flight surgeon for both SpaceX flights and NASA expeditions aboard the space station.

People have lived on the ISS over the last nearly 25 years, to advance scientific knowledge and conduct critical research that could benefit humanity.

"Space station research supports the future of human spaceflight as NASA looks toward deep space missions to the Moon under the Artemis campaign and in preparation for future human missions to Mars, as well as expanding commercial opportunities in low Earth orbit and beyond," the agency said in its press release.



This week for you

By Dr. Prem Kumar Sharma

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

ARIES: A long-awaited opportunity or purchase may finally become available, making it hard to say no. Advice from a friend could turn out to be just what you needed, especially for those exploring ro-

mantic prospects. Keep your love life under wraps for now. A shift to a better location or city may be in the pipeline. Your property goals could get faster approval than expected. Previous financial investments may begin to yield positive returns.

TAURUS: You might be met with an unexpected reaction from someone, but don't allow it to affect your emotional state. Your leadership at work may earn admiration from both peers and seniors. Monetary matters seem to be looking up. A family outing or gathering could bring back smiles. Your

real estate might surprise you. GEMINI: You'll likely handle a significant event with impressive efficiency. A bonus or raise could be in the works. Prioritising responsibilities now may help avoid disorder

later. Financial stability is expect-

partner's thoughtful gestures might reignite old feelings. A sudden chance to acquire

ed as your focus on saving pays off. Friends might come through with much-needed support. Love may be on your mind more than usual, encouraging a heartfelt expression. Your physical energy and wellness re-

CANCER: Supporting someone in trouble may feel more rewarding than expected. Your finances are steadily improving. Beginning a workout or fitness plan could enhance stamina. You may be entrusted

with an important assignment at work. Academic interests that once felt dull may now pique your curiosity. A missed promise may lead to some disappointment in your relationship.

LEO: Handling someone who challenges your position will require tact. If an event you organised didn't receive the attention you hoped for, it might just be a misinterpretation. Take care when requesting time off,

as it may reflect poorly if not handled well. Academic success will demand continued effort. Rechecking your spending patterns can help with future budgeting.

VIRGO: You may face pressure from loved ones to agree to something, and giving in might be the easiest path forward. Steady growth at work could bring you closer to your

goals. You're likely to succeed in a competitive selection or process. Offering assistance to someone may unexpectedly boost your reputation. A job-related move to a desirable location looks likely. Your physical health remains stable and strong.

deepen your bond with someone close.

Avoid mistakes at work that could potentially impact your credibility. Academic responsibilities may demand more time than usual. Think carefully before accepting

a new work assignment. Making minor financial adjustments might ease upcoming obligations. Seasonal precautions can keep you in good health.

SCORPIO:Being overly firm with a colleague may not produce the outcome you want. Your budgeting efforts may begin to show visible improvement. Romantic satisfac-

tion is likely to grow stronger. A short break with a loved one could be just what you need. Family matters may reguire closer supervision to avoid escalation. Health appears strong, though property paperwork might face a slight delay.

SAGITTARIUS: Taking the lead in a social situation may bring positive at-

tention. The way you manage a domestic complication could earn you praise. At work, your sharp mind and precise actions

could accelerate career growth. Good news concerning academics may reach you soon. Emotional bonds with your partner may grow more intimate.

CAPRICORN: Sharing personal concerns may unintentionally spark gos-

sip, so be cautious. A fellow student may get ahead unless you redouble your academic efforts. A sensitive issue involving some-

one at home could come to a head. Keeping something hidden might soon become difficult. Financial gains may be slow, so budgeting carefully is advised.

AQUARIUS: Delaying important tasks

could cost you, so prompt action is vital. A refreshing trip or short holiday may be around the corner. Someone may find themselves attracted to your personal-

ity. Lending a hand to someone in distress might earn you quick gratitude. Seeking your senior's input on a work challenge could prove helpful. Smart saving habits will help maintain your economic stability.

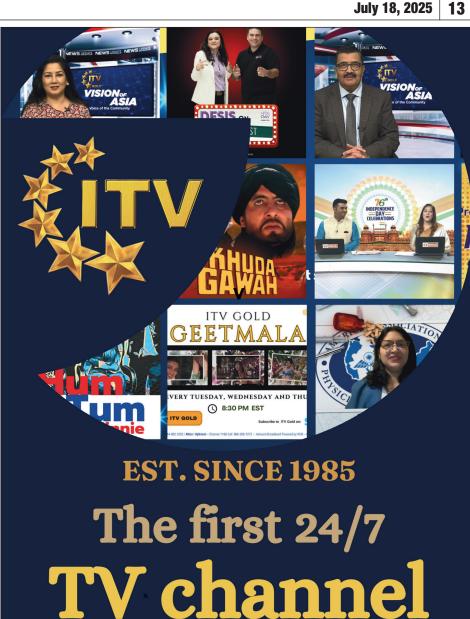
PISCES: Listening to wise counsel may shift

circumstances in your favour. A warm gesture from your partner could brighten your mood. A leisurely break or travel experience may leave you refreshed. Home

décor or improvement projects may inspire homemakers. Your social life appears lively, keeping you engaged and connected. Losing focus on a current responsibility could cause delays, so try to stay on track. Romantic moments may be rare this week due to other commitments. Stick to safe food choices.

LIBRA:An emotional moment could help





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Dozens Of Local Leaders Rally Behind Krishnamoorthi In His Bid For US Senate From Illinois

By a Staff Writer

ore than forty local leaders from communities across Illinois endorsed Raja Krishnamoorthi for U.S. Senate July 14, 2025. This latest slate of local leaders joins two dozen mayors in backing Raja, a press release from his campaign

"Local leaders know their communities better than anyone, and I am honored to have the support of this long and growing list of Illinois leaders," Congressman Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, is quoted saying in the press release. "From Cook County to downstate and everywhere in between, I will continue to collaborate with those who know their residents best so that together, we can build an Illinois where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Local leaders endorsing Krishnamoorthi include:

- Palos Township Trustee Tasneem Abuzir
- Rich Township Clerk Arlene "Sugar" Al-Amin Former Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Frank Avila, Sr.
- Aurora Alderwoman Shweta Baid (Ward 10)
- Former Illinois Senator Michael Bond (SD-31)
- Will County Board Member Herb Brooks Jr.
- Will County Treasurer Tim Brophy
- Schaumburg Township Highway Commissioner Timothy Buelow
- Rich Township Trustee Steven Burris
- DuPage County Recorder Liz Chaplin
- DuPage County Board Member Sadia Covert
- Thornton Township Assessor Cassandra Elston
- Former United States Attorney for the Northern District of IL Zach Fardon
- Schaumburg Township Trustee Holly Fath
- Schaumburg Township Trustee Robert Fiorio Schaumburg Township Trustee Demetrius Gibson
- Russell Hartigan, Retired Judge
- Streamwood Village Trustee Nazneen Hashmi
- Rich Township Trustee Candyce Herron
- Former Hanover Park Village Trustee Syed Hussaini
- School District 54 School Board Member Bob Kaplan
- Poplar Creek Public Library Board Treasurer Asad
- Kane County Board Member Chris Kious
- Cook County Board Commissioner Dr. Kisha Mc-
- Former Chicago Alderman Joe Moore (Ward 49)
- Fox River Water Reclamation District Clerk-Treasurer
- Kane County Board Member Ted Penesis
- Berwyn Township Assessor Jacqueline Pereda
- Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog
- Schaumburg Township Trustee Tom Pirovano
- Former School District U-46 School Board Member
- Hanover Park Deputy Mayor Herb Porter



Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, on one of his campaign stops, in his run for US Senator.

- Former Winnebago County Board Member Dorothy
- Oak Brook Village Trustee Suresh Reddy
- Schaumburg Township Clerk Kathleen Reed
- Former Thornton Township Clerk Jacki Rivera Peoria County Board Member Phil Salzer
- Addison Township Board Trustee Debbie Sandstrom
- Rich Township Trustee Jacquelyn "Jackie" Small
- Kane County Board Member Cherryl Strathmann Kane County Board Member Vern Tepe

"Congressman Raja has always served as a model for public service. As our next U.S. Senator, I know that he will continue that tradition of service and stellar constituent services to every community in Illinois. I am proud to endorse Raja's bid for the U.S. Senate!" said Peoria County Board Member Phil Salzer.

"As a Schaumburg Township Trustee, I have worked with elected officials at all levels to deliver critical services to our constituents," said Schaumburg Township Trustee Holly Fath. "Congressman Raja is a model public servant, and I'm proud to endorse his campaign to join the U.S.

Krishnamoorthi was elected to Congress in 2016 and is now in his fifth term representing Illinois' 8th District, which includes Chicago's west and northwest suburbs as well as the 41st ward of the city.

On his campaign Facebook account, Krishnamoorthi posted, "This campaign is about fighting for every corner of Illinois, and partnering with these community leaders is how we ensure everyone's voice is heard in DC

His biography on the US Congress website, notes he serves as Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, making him the first South Asian American in history to lead a Congressional Committee.

He also serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services. The Congressman is a Vice-Chair of the Equality Caucus and Co-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Immigration Task Force. In addition, he is the founder and Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus to End Youth Vaping and the bipartisan Solar Caucus.

A child of Indian immigrants, Krishnamoorthi was raised in Peoria, Illinois. He attended public schools in Peoria and was a valedictorian of his high school class. Scholarships and student loans allowed him to graduate summa cum laude from Princeton University with a degree in mechanical engineering and a certificate from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

He graduated with honors from Harvard Law School and clerked for a federal judge before practicing law in

Mangalorean Konkan Christian Association Schedules Annual Picnic

From News Release

he Mangalorean Konkan Christian Association, MKCA (mkcausa.org) announced it is holding its Annual Potluck Picnic on Saturday, August 2nd, 2025, at Busse Woods, Grove #18, Rolling Meadows, IL, starting 11 am in the morning.

This event is open to members and non-members. MKCA encouraged people to invite friends and relatives, as guests. "But, please mention that to us in advance by sharing their information, so that we can maintain a count and also add them to our distribution list of events," organizers said in a press release.

This being a Potluck, attendees can bring any dish of their choice. However, organizers would appreciate knowing what attendees are bringing in advance, "so that we can be sensitive to folks who have allergies or



Partial screenshot of the MKCA flyer announcing the picnic.

dietary restrictions, by informing them in advance." At the same time, anyone who has an allergy, is asked

to inform the organizers in advance.

The organizers have ensured that there are some fun games for adults and children at the event, that attendees could participate in or not, according to their choice and

Venue: if you are visiting this venue for the first time or are lost at any point of time, do not hesitate to call Secretary Savio Pais at 848-248-5231 or Jossie at 708-837-6757.

RSVP: To maintain a count and also help in finalizing the numbers for food, etc., MKCA urged attendees to RSVP latest by July 25. Also please RSVP by registering on

People can also reach out to MKCA President, Leonard at 414-628-7401 or email the organization at mkcausa@ gmail.com, for any queries.

Unexpected Fuel Cutoff Preceded Air India Plane Crash, Preliminary Report Says

By Ian Duncan, Joshua Yang

ndian investigators probing the crash of Air India flight 171 said that both engines stopped receiving fuel shortly after takeoff in a preliminary report documenting their findings regarding the nation's worst airline crash in decades.

The new details from India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau about the June 12 crash indicate that the switches controlling fuel to both engines entered the cutoff position early into the flight, causing the plane to lose thrust.

The switches were later flipped back into the run position, a standard procedure for restarting the engines mid-flight.

Audio from the cockpit suggests both pilots were confused over the change to the switch setting. "In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cutoff," write the report's authors. "The other pilot responded that he did not do so."

The switches have safeguards designed to stop them being inadvertently moved.

"Each switch has a mechanical lock where you have lift the switch up and then move it, so it's highly unlikely for switches like this to be inadvertently moved absent some mechanical failure," said Jeff Guzzetti, the former director of the Federal Aviation Administration's Accident Investigation Division.

It is also unusual that both switches inadvertently moved to the cutoff position "one right after another, one second apart," Guzzetti added. Guzzetti did not rule out the possibility the switches may have been intentionally moved, citing the need to also investigate the pilots.

The preliminary report was released around 1 a.m. local time Saturday. The investigation is still in its early stages and is not likely to be complete for more than a year.

The Boeing 787 took off from Ahmedabad airport in western India before crashing down into a dormitory at a medical college, causing a massive fireball. All but one of the 242 people on the plane were killed, as were 19 people on the ground. One passenger made a miraculous



The crash site of Air India Ltd. Flight 171 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, on Friday, June 13, 2025.

escape from the doomed jet.

The airliner was bound for London's Gatwick Airport. The plane appeared to roll down the runway and take off normally, according to experts who have reviewed videos from the scene. But after just a few seconds in the air, the jet stopped climbing. The pilots transmitted a mayday call 23 seconds after the first switch flipped into the cutoff position, according to the report.

The plane's landing gear remained down and video and audio suggests an emergency device known as a ram air turbine, or RAT, had deployed on the plane, experts have said, potentially evidence of a rare double engine failure. The device drops from the bottom of an aircraft, spinning as it moves through the air to provide emergency power.

But in the weeks since the crash it has remained unclear what might have ultimately caused the plane to crash. Aviation news site The Air Current reported this week that investigators were focusing on the movement of fuel switches on the flight deck, citing people familiar with the probe. The switches are typically used to control the flow of fuel when starting and stopping the engine, but they can also be used if an engine needs to be

restarted in flight.

The findings issued Friday are required under international standards governing crash investigations. But they are a summary of facts available to investigators and do not include conclusions about why the crash happened. It is likely to take investigators a year or more to complete their work. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board is leading a team of Americans aiding the probe, but responsibility for releasing information remains with Indian officials.

The report's authors note that they make no recommendations to Boeing, the manufacturer of the plane, or General Electric, the maker of the engine.

Authorities typically provide regular briefings to the public immediately after serious crashes, but in the case of the Air India crash little official information had been shared. That left a void filled in some cases by misinformation and it stoked concern among international safety experts that the lack of transparency would make it difficult for other airlines to know whether there were any broader safety risks that needed to be urgently addressed.

The investigation got off to a slow start. The plane's black boxes, which record conversations between the pilots and log data from the jet's systems, were recovered from the wreckage in the days after the crash. But investigators did not begin to analyze data from them until June 24 at a lab in Delhi. The information in the boxes will be vital to investigators as they piece together what went wrong.

The crash was the first involving a 787, a fuel-efficient Boeing jet first put into service in 2011. The new planes were briefly grounded in 2013 due to a battery fire but have had a good safety record in the years since.

Indian aviation authorities launched a broader review in the immediate aftermath of the crash and stepped up their oversight of the nation's airlines. They found cases of improper maintenance procedures and a flight with worn tires. But they did not find any evidence of broader risks to Air India's 787 fleet.

"This preliminary report answers some questions, but it poses other questions," Guzzetti said..

-The Washington Post

Amid Air India Probe, US FAA, Boeing Notify Fuel Switch Locks Are Safe, Document, Sources Say

By David Shepardson, Abhijith Ganapavaram and Allison Lampert

-WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI/MONTREAL
he U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and
Boeing have privately issued notifications that
the fuel switch locks on Boeing planes are safe,
a document seen by Reuters showed and four
sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The FAA's Continued Airworthiness Notification on July 11 came after a preliminary report on Friday into last month's Boeing 787-8 crash, which killed 260 people, raised questions over engine fuel cutoff switches.

The FAA's notification to Civil Aviation Authorities, seen by Reuters, said: "although the fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing airplane models, the FAA does not consider this issue to be an unsafe condition that would warrant an Airworthiness Directive on any Boeing airplane models, including the Model 787."

When asked for comment, the FAA said it did not have anything to add beyond the notification.

Boeing also referred to FAA's notification in a Multi-Operator-Message sent to the airlines in the past few days, which said the planemaker is not recommending any action, two of the sources with direct knowledge sai

any action, two of the sources with direct knowledge said. When asked for comment, Boeing referred Reuters' questions to the FAA.



Wreckage of the Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane sits on the open ground, outside Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, where it took off and crashed nearby shortly afterwards, in Ahmedabad, India July 12, 2025.

The preliminary investigation report into the crash by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), referred to a 2018 FAA advisory, which recommended, but did not mandate, operators of several Boeing models, including the 787, to inspect the locking feature of the fuel cutoff switches to ensure it could not be moved accidentally.

The report said Air India had said it had not carried out the FAA's suggested inspections as the FAA 2018 advisory was not a mandate. The report noted "all applicable airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins were complied on the aircraft as well as engines."

ALPA India, which represents Indian pilots at the Montreal-based International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, in a statement on Saturday rejected the presumption of pilot error and called for on a "fair, fact-based inquiry."

"The pilots body must now be made part of the probe, at least as observers," ALPA India President Sam Thomas told Reuters on Sunday.

ALPA India, in a letter posted on X, said the preliminary investigation report referred to the 2018 FAA advisory "concerning the fuel control switch gates, which indicates a potential equipment malfunction."

In the flight's final moments, one pilot was heard on the cockpit voice recorder asking the other why he cut off the fuel. "The other pilot responded that he did not do so," the report said.

It said fuel switches had almost simultaneously flipped from run to cutoff just after takeoff. The report did not say how the switches could have flipped during the flight.

Two U.S. safety experts said on Saturday they backed ALPA India's request to be observers in the probe, but said the investigation report did not suggest a bias toward pilot error.

John Cox, a pilot and former ALPA representative, said AAIB's report seemed objective and fair.

-REUTERS

July 18, 2025



Maximizing the H-1B Visa: Cap, Extensions, Transfers, Amendments, Recapture, and Concurrent Employment Explained By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAN



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman





Ludka Zimovcak

Snehal Batra

The H-1B visa remains one of the most sought-after U.S. work visas for employers and foreign nationals alike. But beyond the initial approval, there are several key rules and strategies that can help individuals and businesses get the most out of H-1B status.

At NPZ Law Group, we guide our clients through every phase of the H-1B process—from lottery registration to extensions, transfers, and more advanced options. Here's what you should know.

The H-1B Cap: Understanding the Annual Limit

Each fiscal year, USCIS makes 85,000 new H-1B visas available—65,000 under the regular cap and 20,000 for individuals with a U.S. master's degree or higher. Because demand exceeds supply, most applicants must go through the electronic lottery process.

Key points:

- Registration usually opens in March each year
- Results are typically released by April
- Certain employers, like universities and non-profit research institutions, may be cap-exempt

Employers should plan ahead and ensure compliance with wage and job duty requirements before filing.

H-1B Extensions: Beyond the Initial Three Years

H-1B status is typically granted in increments of up to three years, with a maximum stay of six years. Extensions are common and can be based on unused time or pending green card processes.

Options for extending H-1B beyond six years:

- Recapture unused time spent outside the U.S.
- Extend under AC21 rules if a PERM or I-140 has been filed at least 365 days before the six-year mark
- If the I-140 is approved, extensions may be granted in three-year increments

Timely and accurate filings are essential to avoid gaps in status or employment. Transfers and Amendments: Job Changes and Location Updates

H-1B workers often change jobs, employers, or even move locations while remaining in valid H-1B status. Understanding when a transfer or amendment is needed helps protect both the employee and employer.

Transfers

Allow an H-1B worker to start with a new employer once the petition is filed. The new job must meet all H-1B eligibility requirements.

Amendments:

Required if there are material changes to the job—such as job duties, worksite location, or hours. A change in work location outside the same metropolitan area almost always requires an amendment.

Filing correctly ensures continued compliance and work authorization.

27+ Years Experience Attorney Goyal with a Doctor in Juris & MBA from the U.S. is the Member of Chicago Bar, American Immigration Lawyers Association • IMMIGRATION • DIVORCE • REAL ESTATE & BUSINESS CLOSINGS • DUI & TRAFFIC COURT • WILLS • CRIMINAL DEFENSE • AUTO ACCIDENT • COLLECTION & EVICTION • CORPORATIONS & LLC AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

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Recapturing H-1B Time Spent Abroad

The six-year limit on H-1B status counts only time physically spent in the U.S. If an H-1B worker spent time abroad—for vacation, business travel, or personal reasons—that time may be recaptured and added back.

To recapture time:

- Maintain documentation like I-94 records, flight itineraries, and passport stamps
- Request recapture time in the extension petition
- Time can be recaptured even after the initial six-year period ends, if not already used

This strategy can buy additional time for PERM processing or avoid an unnecessary departure from the U.S.

Concurrent H-1B Employment: Working for Multiple Employers

H-1B workers can legally work for more than one U.S. employer at the same time through a process called concurrent employment. Each job must independently qualify under H-1B rules, and the second employer must file its own petition.

Common examples:

- A researcher working at a university while consulting part-time for a private firm
- A healthcare worker employed at two hospitals under separate petitions The primary H-1B employer must be maintained, and all filings must clearly outline duties, compensation, and schedules.

Final Thoughte

Whether you're applying for the first time or navigating the second half of your H-1B journey, it pays to understand the full range of options available. Strategic use of extensions, transfers, recapture time, and concurrent employment can make a meaningful difference in long-term immigration planning.

At NPZ Law Group, our attorneys work closely with both employers and employees to make every H-1B year count. If you're unsure about your options—or want to plan ahead—contact our office today for guidance tailored to your case.

Reach out to NPZ Law Group to schedule a consultation with our experienced immigration attorneys.

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 201-670-0006 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at www.visaserve.com for more information.

Restored Bimal Roy Classic "Do Bigha Zamin" To Be Screened **At 82nd Venice Film Festival**

By Rajiv Vijayakar

he Venice Film Festival (labiennale.org) announced July 11, 2025, it will be screening the restored Bimal Roy classic "Do Bigha Zamin" which was made in 1953. It will be at the Venice Classics program which this year is presenting 18 film restorations of masterpieces completed over the past year from film libraries, cultural institution and productions around the world. The Venice Film Festival will be held on the Lido di Venezia from August 27 to September

Director of Venice Classics Tommaso Santambrogio, noted while listing the films in the announcement, traveling eastward into India with Do Bigha Zamin (Two Acres of Land) by Bimal Roy, one of the masterpieces of 1950s Indian cinema, with its distinctive Neorealist

Ŝantambrogio(Taxibol, Oceans are the Real Continents) will chair the Jury of Film Students, which – for the twelfth year - will award the Venice Classics prizes for the respective competitions for Best Restored Film, under which Roy's film will be judged, and for the Best Documentary About Cinema. The Jury will be composed of 24 students, each of them recommended by professors of film studies from various Italian universities, DAMS and from Ca' Foscari University in Venice, the Venice Film Festival announcement said.

Venice Classics is the section that since 2012 has presented a selection of the best restorations of film classics at the Venice Film Festival.

Roy's black-and-white film has been restored by Film Heritage Foundation - India's "The Criterion Collection.

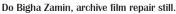
In their press release, FHF said the film will be presented in Venice by the Bimal Roy family represented by his two daughters Rinki Roy Bhattacharya and Aparajita Roy Sinha, his son Joy Bimal Roy and Film Heritage Foundation Director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

The Criterion Collection / Janus Films in collaboration with Film Heritage Foundation have restored the critically acclaimed "Do Bigha Zamin" which was the first Indian film to win the Prix International at the Cannes Film Festival in 1954; the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival award; and won the Best Film and Best Director awards at



Scenes from the Bimal Roy film Do Bigha Zamin.







"Do Bigha Zamin" archive restoration.

the first Indian Filmfare awards.

In an extensive post on the Film Heritage Foundation site, India's leading poet and lyricist, said, "It's amazing that Do Bigha Zamin is restored and will be shown in Venice. This film is historic as it changed the way films were made in India."

According to Gulzar, "The most important element is that all his films right from the Bengali ones which he made and the Hindi films which he made, all these films were based on literature. Not many people know that Do Bigha Zamin is from a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, which was also called Do Bigha Zamin. The script was done by Salil Choudhury.

Gulzar recounted how he started as a chief assistant to

Roy, who everyone called "Dada" since the film "Kabuliwala" was made, and how Roy would work around the clocke to fine-tune and marry the film to the sound, the prevalent technology in those days.

'Bimal Roy was the coolest director I have ever seen. I learnt not only filmmaking from him, but the art of patience and stamina," Gulzar is quoted saying on the Film Heritage Foundation website.

Dungarpur, the founder of FHF, said about Roy's films, "In his films I was struck by the poetic visuals, the silences, the deep humanism and compassion that he showed in the social themes of his films that highlighted the plight of the marginalized, the issues of the migrant labour, and the urban-rural divide that are still so relevant today," adding, "For me "Do Bigha Zamin" changed the face of Indian cinema that brought filmmakers out of the studio to begin shooting on the streets.

FHF also cites a memorable quote about Roy by the late, globally renowned film-maker Satyajit Ray –

(Roy) was undoubtedly a pioneer. He reached his peak with a film that still reverberates in the minds of those who saw it when it was first made. I refer to Do Bigha Zamin, which remains one of the landmarks of Indian cinema."

The restoration of "Do Bigha Zamin" has taken over three years, begun in 2022, in collaboration with The Criterion Collection / Janus Films, FHF says

The process of restoration was complicated. Film Heritage Foundation says it accessed the original camera negative and the sound negative that had been deposited by the Bimal Roy family at the NFDC-National Film Ar-chive of India (NFAI) for preservation.

An inspection of the film found that the elements had deteriorated over time "with huge tears, damage from mould, heavy watermarks."

FHF worked on the repair of these elements before the reels were shipped to L'Immagine Ritrovata in Bologna. The original camera negative did not have the opening titles and the last reel was missing. The sound negative also had problems with poor audio, interrupted dialogues and missing sound.

Fortunately, a combined dupe negative on Dupont/ Kodak stock from 1954-55 of "Do Bigha Zamin" was found at the British Film Institute (BFI), which was used to complete the restoration.

Kusha Kapila Turns Producer With Significant Short, Vyarth

By Rajiv Vijayakar

ctress Kusha Kapila, is set to entertain audiences with her latest venture, the short film, Vyarth. The team behind the film prepares to drop the official poster, offering the very first glimpse into its world.

Kusha is adding another feather to her cap, taking on a significant acting role in front of the camera while also stepping into the realm of production as a co-producer of this new project. This move highlights her growth, demonstrating a deeper commitment to storytelling and a desire to bring impactful narratives to life. It also signifies her potential as a versatile performer, beyond her celebrated online persona.

Talking about the film, Kusha said that Vyarth was more than just a film. "It is a mirror reflecting the very real struggle against typecasting in our industry, a challenge central to Bhumi (her character)'s journey. As an actor, you dive deep into your character's soul, but as a producer, you have to pull back and look at the entire picture. It's a powerful shift from 'How do I deliver this



Kusha Kapila has added one more feather in her cap-of a producer.

line?' to "How do all these elements create impact?' This journey, from making funny videos in my room to acting in films and now co-producing, feels like a natural evolu-

Vyarth is a film around an underrated actress, Bhumi, who is tired of being typecast in conventional roles. Her aspirations are seemingly crushed when she receives an offer for the role of a mother. The plot takes an intriguing turn when Bhumi's younger flat-mate, Meenakshi, seeks her help with the very same audition.

The film is directed and produced by Pankaj Dayani, who has been an assistant director on Newton, and is written by Fahim Irshad. Casting director Romil Modi is also associated with films like Laapataa Ladies and All we Imagine as Light. Monica O My Darling fame Swapnil S. Sonawale is the DOP.

After graduation from the National Institute of Fashion Technology in Fashion Design, she has done many other things like being a copywriter, Fashion Editor and even starring in Music Videos apart from acting in films and web series like Selfiee, Sukhee, Masaba Masaba and more. She has also done reality shows.

18 July 18, 2025

The Washington Post

bess-expensive BEACH VACATIONS IN THE By Hannah Sampson

Maybe this wasn't the summer for a far-flung trip. But even if we're not exploring the Mediterranean or living it up at an all-inclusive in Mexico, we still crave the beach. Especially a beach relatively close to home that won't eat up the rest of the year's vacation fund. Enter professional travel planners, who shared some of their top domestic picks for budget-friendly beaches with us. With free activities, reasonable accommodations and affordable restaurants, these spots can deliver sun and sand without too much of a sting. Hollywood, Florida

For a Florida getaway without South Beach party scenes or sky-high prices, Miami-based travel adviser Sharon Concepcion suggests heading a county north to Hollywood Beach. The Broadwalk, a promenade that stretches nearly 2.5 miles, offers a brick-paved surface for jogging, strolling, biking and rollerblading.

"There's always something fun to find and do," Concepcion said. "Little restaurants, bars, candy shops, clothing shops, better priced, in my opinion, than Miami." An outdoor theater hosts free entertainment Wednesdays through Sundays, and wave riders unimpressed by South Florida's swells can pay for time on a surf simulator at the Margaritaville Beach Resort. If the Margaritaville or Marriott up Ocean Drive stretch the budget, the beach is dotted with mom-and-pop motels. Concepcion suggests families seek out affordably priced chain hotels off the beach and drive or bike to the water; there are several in nearby Dania Beach.

Don't miss: Le Tub, a former gas station turned heralded burger bar on the Intracoastal Waterway. Waits might be long, and the burgers aren't cheap, but the \$17 starting price tag gets you a 13-ounce patty cooked to order. The views and bathroom decor make this a memorable vacation experience.

The Wildwoods. New Jersey

Jennifer Byrne, CEO of the Tropical Travelers, typically posts TikTok videos from luxury resorts in the Caribbean or villas in

But when she took her son to the Jersey Shore this summer. the Philadelphia-based travel agency owner found some different content.

"They have a bar on the beach now, and I tell you this is the place to be day and night," she said from the beach in North Wildwood. The new bar is on the sand at Seaport Pier on the two-plus-mile boardwalk, where visitors can also find rides. water parks, games and restaurants.

The destination touts five miles of free-to-access beaches in North Wildwood, Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, and 12 miles of bike paths, bike lanes and bikeable boardwalk.

A critical mass of mid-century architecture inspired the area's nickname: "Doo Wop Capital of the World."

"That's a hot spot," Byrne said, noting that vintage motels are in demand. Some can be pricey, but there are options under \$250 and even a few under \$200.

Don't miss: The Sightseer Tram Cars, built for the 1939 World's Fair, have been shuttling visitors along the boardwalk for more than seven decades.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Summer is low season on this Caribbean island, and snagging a cheap fare on one of the budget airlines that fly to San Juan can make the getaway gettable if you can abide the heat and

Once there, you could head east to explore the white-sand beaches on the island of Culebra or west to the cliffs of Cabo Rojo. Or you could just get off the plane in the U.S. territory's capital and start your vacation pronto.

"There is a beach right there, Isla Verde, just minutes from the airport," said Concepcion, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico. The city is full of restaurants, things to do, nightlife options and places to stay - including many under \$200 a night. Concepcion said the option is great "for someone that wants to feel they're going to an exotic destination and does not have a

Don't miss: Centuries of architecture and history in Old San Juan, where a self-guided walking tour can take you from fort to church to picturesque plaza.



This laid-back Georgia beach town offers wide swaths of sand, centuries of history and easy access from Interstate 95.

Explore the Fort Frederica National Monument (established in 1736), the St. Simons Lighthouse (built more than 100 years later) and the World War II Home Front Museum to understand the scope of the island's place in American history. A monument at Fort Frederica also honors the family of Robert Abbott, who was born on the island in 1868 to formerly enslaved people and later founded the Chicago Defender, a daily newspaper. Vacation rentals are available throughout the island, as are reasonably priced hotels off the beach such as a Hampton Inn for under \$150 and the Inn by Sea Island, priced for less than \$175 a night. Travelmation travel adviser Heather Honaker, who lived on the island for four years, recommends Porch, known for its Nashville hot chicken, and Southern Soul Barbecue. Both have been featured on "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." She was a big fan of Barrier Island Brewing, a gathering spot with "great food" that often has outdoor music, for date nights.

Don't miss: The "tree spirits." images carved into oaks around the island. Most are on private property, but several are available for the public to find.

Ventura, California

Nestled between Malibu and Santa Barbara, Ventura proudly touts itself as "A Beach Vacation You Can Afford." The city's tourism website shows motels for less than \$150, with pricier hotels in the high \$300s a night. Many beaches have free or low-priced parking.

Travel agency owner Sonia Bhagwan said she highly recommends the place for families and travelers with pets thanks to the dog-friendly beaches, hotels, restaurants and

"It's very big on outdoor activities; there's a walkable downtown," she said.

The city embraces a surf-town vibe, but non-surfers can hit the water via swan-shaped pedal boats at Ventura Harbor Village. Find views and nature by strolling the Ventura Botanical Gardens or hiking the 2,100-acre Harmon Canyon Preserve.

Don't miss: Channel Islands National Park. The park's islands, sometimes referred to as the "Galápagos of North America," can be reached by boat from Ventura.



Gulf Coast spot for its range of activities and hotel options that "don't have to break the bank." Beachfront hotels can be expensive, but farther inland, the area has budget-friendly chains such as Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express for less than \$150 a night in August.

Gulf State Park covers more than 3.5 miles of beaches and encourages visitors to use boxes at access points to grab and leave beach toys; its "Leave Only Footprints" program includes rules and tips on protecting the shores.

Within the park, a backcountry trail system includes more than 28 miles of paved trails for bicycling, jogging, wandering and

Man-made experiences can be found at nearby mini-golf courses, go-kart tracks and water parks. Find a ropes course, beach arcade and gulf shrimp at Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, from a family who embodies the beachy spirit.

(She is the younger sister of the late singer and businessman Jimmy Buffett.)

Don't miss: Several tour companies set off from nearby Orange Beach multiple times a day for dolphin-spotting boat trips.

Some even offer guarantees



Guru Dutt (1925 – 1964) : Unsung Auteur, Resurrected Genius

By C. Uday Bhaskar

he most celebrated films in the Dutt oeuvre

- Pyaasa (1957) and Kaagaz Ke Phool (1959),
explored themes of unfulfilled love, societal
alienation and the struggles of the human spirit,
making him the unsung poet of Indian cinema.

TIME magazine included Pyaasa in its '100 Best Films
of All Time'

Legendary filmmaker Guru Dutt whose birth centenary (July 9) is being recalled with nostalgia and deep affection by film afficionados, died in a tragic manner on October 10, 1964. Was it suicide or an accidental overdoes of sleeping pills?

This gifted auteur would have turned 40 a year later but his life was cut short – perhaps by his own despair and despondency and the many vicissitudes that punctuated his personal life and professional trajectory.

AN AUTEUR FILMMAKER

The most celebrated films in the Dutt oeuvre – Pyaasa (1957) and Kaagaz Ke Phool (1959), explored themes of unfulfilled love, societal alienation and the struggles of the human spirit, earning him recognition as the unsung poet of Indian cinema. TIME magazine included Pyaasa in its '100 Best Films of All Time'

The concept of the auteur filmmaker has its genesis in post-World War II French film criticism of the late 1940s with figures like François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard being key proponents. An auteur is a filmmaker, usually a director, whose personal vision and artistic style are strongly reflected in their work, marking them as the 'author' of the film. Furthermore, auteur directors exert significant personal control over all aspects of production and their films often exhibit recurring themes, stylistic choices, music, lyrics and a recognizable celluloid signature.

While there were other director-producer-actor filmmakers in then Bombay (now Mumbai) at that time, such as Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand – Guru Dutt is distinctive as an auteur. While he directed only eight films – they are all differently memorable. Alas, his aesthetic imprint on Indian cinema remained relatively under-acknowledged during his life and the films now recognized as masterpieces and cult classics were resurrected two decades after his demise.

The most celebrated films in the Dutt oeuvre – Pyaasa (1957) and Kaagaz Ke Phool (1959), explored themes of societal alienation and unfulfilled love respectively. Dutt's USP in these two gems was his sensitive exploration of the angst of the committed artist and the struggles of the human spirit, making him the unsung



Guru Dutt stamp issued by Government of India in 2004.

poet of Indian cinema.

TIME magazine included Pyaasa in its '100 Best Films of All Time' and this is a film that remains a beautifully envisioned, exquisitely filmed (due credit to Dutt's cameraman VK Murthy) and deeply poignant celluloid story of abject materialism and true love that cannot be pursued. Dutt plays the lead role as the disillusioned poet Vijay and debutant Waheeda Rahman is the female protagonist, as the prostitute Gulabo who believes in and loves the poet, even when society has cast him aside as a failure.

The poet becomes increasingly bitter and cynical about capitalism and the depredations of market forces, rejecting the world and at the end of the film, cries out in anguish – 'yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaaye toh kya hai' (what does it mean , even if you win this universe?)

HAUNTING SONGS

The songs in both films are haunting and the biographical overtones with Dutt's own troubled life are more than evident in 'Kaagaz ke Phool' where Dutt plays Suresh Sinha – the highly successful filmmaker who mourns:

Waqt ne kiya kya haseen sitam /Tum rahe na tum, hum rahe na hum / Beqarar dil is tarah mile / Jis tarah kabhi hum juda na the /Tum bhi kho gaye, hum bhi kho gaye / Ek raah par chalke do kadam

(Time has wrought such beautiful tragedy / You're no longer you and I'm no longer me/Our restless hearts met in such a way that / We've never ever been apart / You were lost and so was I / As we walked a few footsteps on the same path)

USE OF LIGHT AND SHADE

Guru Dutt's filmography is varied and it would be misleading to see him as a dark and brooding filmmaker – though his best films do exude that texture. Dutt's first film as a director (Baazi, 1951) a stylish crime drama with mass appeal was made with his lifelong friend Dev Anand under the Navketan banner. The next four years saw Dutt at his box-office peak and Aar Paar (1954) with the impish song 'sun sun zaalima' and 'Mr. & Mrs. 55' (1955) a romantic comedy with social undertones were acclaimed by the audiences. Evocative music and import-laden lyrics burnished the films and nuanced wit and humor (who can forget Johnny Walker as the 'champiwala' and the song 'sar jo tera chakraya') were hallmarks of the Guru Dutt films of that period.

For sheer feminine beauty, grace and delicate sensuousness captured on celluloid – there is nothing (IMO) that can match Dutt's picturization of Waheeda Rehman in 'Chaudhvi ka Chand' and the title song is mesmerizing. This is a clip from the film that must be viewed in its entirety in an unhurried manner (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ud2rsMT5ng) and I am grateful to the multi-talented Mayank Chhaya for rendering a few lines of this song for SAM.

Among the great filmmakers of the last century, the Russian maestro Andrei Tarkovsky (1932-86) was an auteur and his concept of 'sculpting in time' referred to his distinctive style of filmmaking. The temporal becomes a malleable element, akin to clay for the sculptor – and critics aver that Tarkovsky created a cinematic experience which "immersed viewers in the flow of time, using long takes, unedited footage, and a focus on the subtle relationships between moments."

Guru Dutt used light and shade in a distinctive manner in all his films, with bewitching close-up shots and this point merits repetition – much of the magic was due to his accomplished camera artist Murthy. "Sculpting with light" in Mani Kaul's words, to illuminate the darkness of life with a chiseled yet delicate touch, was an amazing feat of cinematic conception and technical execution – given the rudimentary nature of the cameras, lenses and related equipment that were available at the time.

(The writer, an armed forces veteran, is a strategic analyst and an occasional commentator on the arts and cinema. Views are personal.)

(This article appeared on southasiamonitor.org July 9, 2025. Used under special arrangement with South Asia Monitor)

Madhur Bhandarkar Starts Shooting For 'The Wives'

ce filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, best known for his films 'Chandni Bar', 'Page 3', and 'Fashion', is currently working on his new project titled 'The Wives'.

On Tuesday, July 8, 2025, his 16th film went on the floors. Expressing excitement about the shoot, Madhur took to X and wrote, "Today marks the start of my 16th film, #TheWives, an original story set in the captivating world of glamour that we have explored over the last four years."

last four years."
He added, "Finally bringing this concept-driven project to life is a dream come true. Your blessings and support are invaluable as we embark on this journey. Here's to crafting



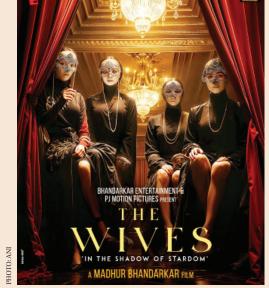
Madhur Bhandarkar.

something truly special. @pranavjain27 #NewBeginnings #TheWives."

As per trade analyst Taran Adarsh, 'The Wives' stars Sonali Kulkarni, Mouni Roy, Regina Cassandra, Rahul Bhatt, Saurabh Sachdeva, Arjan Bajwa and Freddy Daruwala.

He shared that 'The Wives' will delve "into the secret world of Bollywood star wives – a world brimming with scandal, gossip, and jaw-dropping luxury that few ever witness."

The Wives marks Bhandarkar's second collaboration with producer Pranav Jain of PJ Motion Pictures after the 2022 film India Lockdown.



Poster of The Wives, from photos posted by Bhandarkar on X from the Mahurat.

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(Contact between 9 AM to 7 PM.)
• Vivian (757) 620-9207 •
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I need a Hotel Manager with fluent English and Computer knowledge and a Housekeeping Couple. Experience preferred, ready to train. IHG certified Managers also needed. Good salary, free accommodation and Legal must.

Email resume: peter@pdkhotels.com / (503) 888 6455

06/27-07/25-SI

FLORIDA

Urgent Help Needed Franchise Multiple Motels in Florida needs experienced live-in manager-Housekeepers couple, Night auditor, Accountant and front desk person and Whyndham, Choice and Hilton experienced GMS. Must be franchised experience. LOOKING FOR FULL TIME DRIVER HELP. Call or Text: B.P 386-566-8761or email:bps1018@gmail.com

FAYETTEVILLE. NC

29 rooms Independent motel in Fayetteville, NC need single or couple to manage and to run the motel. Good pay and accommodation

will be provided. Legal status must. Lease option available. Contact Dev: 630-253-8860

NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

FRANCHISE HOTEL NEED Couple for Housekeeping and Single for Front Desk Help (English must). Good pay with free accommodation. Legal must, Call Nishith: 5163739274 / Nick (201) 637 5062

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Franchise Hotels seek Front Desk help. 7 days per week, 8 hours shift \$950/week. Legal must. Free accommodation provided. Call / text (410) 231-3621

TEXAS

Need experienced Single / Couple for Front Desk, Night Auditor & Housekeeping / Laundry help for Franchise Quality Inn & Suites in Junction, TX 76849. Legal must. Free accommodation provided. Call Prerna (830) 377 4331

07/04-07/11-SL

07/11-08/08-SL

ST.LOUIS, MO

St. Louis MISSOURI area looking for couple/single Housekeeping staff for Hotel/Motel. We'll provide accommodation.

Please contact 717-538-5980 by text or call.

07/18-07/25-SH

NEW YORK

Need FRONT DESK. HOUSEKEEPING Single/Couples for Franchise Hotels in NY - experienced. legal. Accommodation provided. Call: (973)-903-8552

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Franchise Hotels hiring Front Desk Manager couple And Night Desk clerk & Housekeeping couple. Accommodation provided. Competitive salary. Legal status must. Call (615) 594-5454.

PHILADELPHIA & NEW JERSEY

Need Single / Couple Front Desk & Housekeeping help for Franchise Motels in the Philadelphia area, Pittsburgh - PA & Cherry Hill - NJ. Free accommodation provided. Call Ghanshyam Patel (610) 279 0150

MOTEL HELP WANTED

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positions. Residence / Accommodation

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MOTEL HELP WANTED

Tombstone, AZ

In Arizona, Tombstone small independent motel need a single for front desk and housekeeping. English must. Basic commuter knowledge required. Accommodation will be provided.

Contact: Jimmy: 562-410-6828

MOTEL HELP WANTED

STURGEON BAY, WISCONSIN

Franchise Motel in Sturgeon Bay, WI need Hotel Operation Manager (previous Hotel management experience preferred) and Night auditor. 3.5 hours from Chicago. Good pay and accommodation provided. Legal status must.

Please call at 732-762-7886 for more information.

07/11-08/01-sd

MOTEL HELP WANTED

Harrisburg, PA

An 85-room independent motel needs a General Manager. Must have at least 3 years of experience as a GM in the lodging industry. Must have problem-solving skills, strong leadership, communication, and financial performance. Accommodation will be provided. Legal status must.

Send resume to email: Hariinc@aol.com

07/18-SD

MOTEL HELP WANTED

KENTUCKY

Looking for a Couple/Single For Franchise Hotel Front desk/Manager. Option to Live on site or Off site. There is an opportunity to become a Working Partner After Proving Good Workmanship. Also Looking for Housekeeping staff as well with Long term Commitment only. Must Legal Status. NO STUDENTS PLEASE. Email:

info.hotelmanagement2024@gmail. com

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EVENTS

ANTIQUE LOVERS TAKE NOTE: BRIMFIELD IS HERE-ALL SHOWS! July 8-13 New Shows open daily. Info for 2025: brimfieldantiqueweek.com Dates: July 8-13, September 2-7

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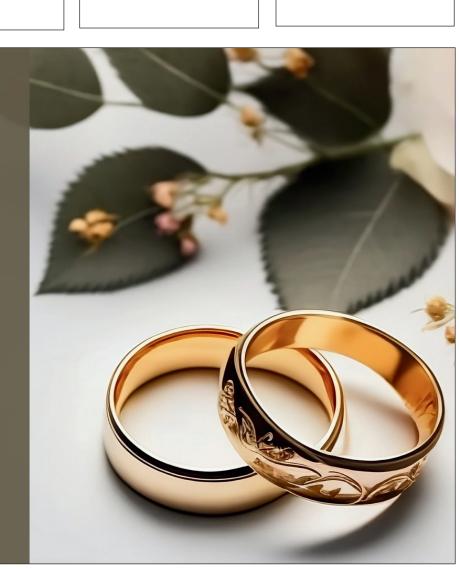
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