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A Mini Classic

July 11, 2025
Chicago, IL.
Vol. XXIX, No. 28
www.desitalkchicago.com

Published by
**Parikh
Worldwide
Media, LLC.**

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DESI TALK

IN CHICAGO



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Desi Talk Chicago's digital edition launched at celebration with community leaders and dignitaries

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Published weekly
Founded in 1997
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Desi Talk Chicago Celebrates The Grand Launch Of Its Digital Edition With Community Leaders And Dignitaries

BY PRACHI JAITLEY

In a major milestone for ethnic media in the Midwest, Desi Talk Chicago, published by Parikh Worldwide Media, celebrated the official launch of its fully digital edition at a red-carpet event hosted at India Hub in Schaumburg, Illinois. The gathering brought together community leaders, business owners, advertisers, and longtime supporters of the publication.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed Consul General of India, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, who served as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, Mr. Ghosh congratulated Desi Talk for its remarkable contributions in the field of media, acknowledging its consistent efforts to connect and inform the Indian American community. He spoke passionately about the dynamism of the Indian diaspora in the United States, describing it as a powerful and enterprising community that continues to make significant contributions to the American economy across a variety of sectors. Mr. Ghosh also underscored the importance of Indian Americans participating actively in public service and politics, emphasizing that greater representation in decision-making spaces is crucial for the community's future. He concluded by highlighting the need to engage and empower Indian American youth, urging the community to involve the next generation in cultural, civic, and leadership roles to ensure continued growth and cohesion.

Mr. Bhailal M. Patel, Executive Vice President of Parikh Worldwide Media, welcomed attendees and was recognized for his decades of leadership and commitment to the growth of the publication.



Consul General of India in Chicago, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, joins community leaders and Desi Talk Chicago team members for the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, marking the official launch of the digital edition at India Hub on July 3, 2025.



Consul General of India in Chicago, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, delivers the keynote address during the grand launch of Desi Talk Chicago's digital edition at India Hub, Schaumburg on July 3, 2025.



Bhailal M. Patel, Executive Vice President of Parikh Worldwide Media, is honored for his decades of dedicated service and leadership during the Desi Talk Chicago digital launch event at India Hub on July 3, 2025.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media, delivers a special video message celebrating the digital launch of Desi Talk Chicago and thanking the community for its continued support.



Consul General of India in Chicago, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, with community leaders, Bhailal M. Patel, Executive VP of Parikh Worldwide Media, and Ilayas Quraishi, COO, alongside the Desi Talk Chicago staff during the digital launch celebration at India Hub.



Ilayas Quraishi, Chief Operating Officer of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, addresses the audience.



Audience members and dignitaries attentively participate in the Desi Talk Chicago digital edition launch event, held at India Hub in Schaumburg on July 3, 2025.

A special video message was shared by Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV GOLD, who extended his heartfelt thanks to Consul General Ghosh and all the guests for their unwavering support over the years. Dr. Parikh emphasized Desi Talk's mission to serve as a trusted voice for the community and celebrated the digital launch as a major leap toward modern, accessible journalism.

A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the new Desi Talk Chicago digital platform by Ilayas Quraishi, Chief Operating Officer of Parikh Worldwide

Media and ITV Gold. In his remarks, Mr. Quraishi reflected on the paper's 20+ year journey:

"Desi Talk Chicago has always been more than a publication—it's been a voice, a bridge, and a community touchstone. Our move to digital ensures we meet our audience where they are, with content that's timely, mobile-friendly, and more engaging than ever."

He emphasized that the new platform is designed to deliver real-time updates, increase accessibility, and strengthen the bond between readers, advertisers, and the South Asian diaspora.

The event also saw enthusiastic support from local business leaders, many of whom pledged continued advertising and promotional partnerships to back the publication's digital growth.

Among the notable supporters was Harish Kolasani, Chairman – National India Hub, who offered words of encouragement and pledged his support for future collaborations. He praised Desi Talk Chicago for its community-driven mission and shared his vision to work together in promoting diaspora achievements and cultural initiatives through India Hub.

Mr. Sushil Pandit, a visiting senior media professional from the UK, shared brief remarks highlighting the increasing role of diaspora media in global conversations and identity-building.

Editorial and outreach team members from Desi Talk Chicago were present, including Muslima Shethawala, Syed Sheeraz, Prachi Jaitly, Urvashi Verma, and Jai Kishan (JK)—each recognized for their commitment to community-focused reporting.

The evening began with networking and concluded with a celebratory dinner, marking the start of a bold new chapter for Desi Talk Chicago in the digital era.



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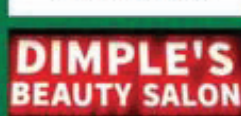
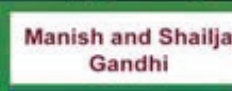


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New York And Other American Cities Need Immigrants

By JUSTIN FOX

A couple of America's leading anti-immigration voices made the shocking discovery in late June that a lot of New York City residents were born in other countries. Right-wing podcaster/provocateur Matt Walsh wrote on X.com that 40% of the city's population is foreign-born, arguing that this meant "NYC isn't an American city anymore by any reasonable definition of the term. It's a tragedy and a disgrace."

"NYC is the clearest warning yet of what happens to a society when it fails to control migration," echoed the man apparently in charge of US immigration policy, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. He added a little later that, "To understand the pace and scope of migration to America in past years, one-third of NYC is foreign-born and almost two-thirds of NYC children live in a foreign-born household."

The most recent estimate of New York City's foreign-born population, from the Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey, has it at 37.5% of the total. The 2024 number, to be released in September, will almost certainly be higher given the large numbers of asylum-seekers who arrived in the city in 2023 and 2024. So Walsh and Miller aren't far off on the numbers. Their insinuation that this is something new is, however, ridiculous. New York City's foreign-born share was higher in the 1800s and early 1900s than it is now, and has risen only slightly over the past quarter century.

Reliable pre-1850 numbers aren't available, but the foreign-born percentage seems to have been somewhat lower than 1850's 45.7% in 1840, and a lot lower for several decades before then because there wasn't much immigration to the US from the American Revolution through about 1820. (New York City did receive big inflows in those days from elsewhere in the US, mainly the New England states.) Before independence, immigration from overseas waxed and waned, but for all of its post-European-settlement history, the city has been home to lots of people who came from someplace else. Without immigration, wave after wave after wave of it, New York would not be New York.

The city's most troubled era in living memory, and possibly ever, came after immigrants fell to just 18.2% of the population in 1970. The subsequent decade was a time of high and rising crime, falling employment and fiscal crisis. You might even say it was a tragedy and a disgrace, although older New Yorkers do sometimes wax nostalgic about the cheap real estate. By almost every measure (economic indicators, health outcomes, crime rates), New Yorkers of all backgrounds are much better off now than they were in the 1970s.

The foreign-born population share for the entire US has never been as high as New York City's at its low point. It peaked at 14.8% in 1890 and appears to be approaching that again now. Given that the US economy experienced perhaps its best decade ever in the 1960s in terms of economic growth and widely shared prosperity gains, it is possible to use national data to craft a narrative in which the low-immigration middle of the 20th century was a golden era and the times before and since less so.

Historical numbers from individual cities, which the Census Bureau compiled in handy format in 1999. (The Census Bureau released another set of historical statistics on the foreign-born population in 2006, but it doesn't have the city-by-city historical numbers, plus many of the spreadsheets are mislabeled.) I have updated with numbers from the 2000 Census and 2010 and 2023 American Community Surveys, mostly tell a different story, or stories. It's not just in New York where high immigrant populations have gone hand in hand with good times and low immigrant populations with struggles. This is surely in part because immigrants are attracted to places with better economic prospects, but I'm guessing there's more to it than that. In the US, where a bias against cities has been present since the nation's founding, it has often been up to newcomers to make them succeed.

When immigrants don't show up, the situation can get pretty dire. Cities in what came to be known as the Rust Belt had some of the highest foreign-born shares



PHOTO: REUTERS

NYC skyline.

in the mid-1800s. In 1850, 63.7% of Milwaukee's 20,061 residents in 1850 were foreign-born. Now, despite modest gains in recent decades, most are in the single digits.

These declines in the foreign-born population share were for a long time accompanied by rising prosperity. In 1950, Detroit was the most affluent city in the country and Cleveland, Milwaukee and Chicago were close. But after that, these cities began to hemorrhage population and wealth to the suburbs and the Sun Belt, with only Chicago experiencing significant immigration inflows after 1970. Cleveland now has only 40% as many residents as it did in 1950, Detroit 35%, St. Louis 33%.

San Francisco had similarly immigrant-driven 19th-century origins followed by a long decline in foreign-born population share, but that began to reverse as early as the 1950s. Other big California cities also experienced relatively early rebounds in immigration, with dizzying gains in the 1970s and 1980s in Los Angeles and San Jose. Economic experiences varied widely, though, with Los Angeles struggling since the 1980s while the San Francisco-San Jose area experienced a world-changing boom.

There's also been an immigration rebound in the cities of the Acela Corridor along the East Coast, although it hasn't been as strong in the other stops as in New York.

Finally, there's the new immigration frontier of the South. In the wake of the Civil War, the region had few immigrants and decades of economic malaise ahead of it. It is now increasingly the nation's economic powerhouse, and its booming cities have higher immigrant populations than ever.

The same isn't true for less-successful Southern cities such as Birmingham, Memphis and New Orleans, which have experienced modest recent immigration gains but have yet to return to their late-1800s foreign-born population shares.

New Orleans was unique in the South as a magnet for immigrants in the 19th century. In the early 1800s, it was flooded with refugees from the bloody liberation struggle in the former French colony of Saint-Domingue, now Haiti, the largest group of which came by way of Cuba. These newcomers transformed the city, helping build it into the financial, cultural and international-trade capital of the South. Miami, which wasn't even incorporated as a city until 1896, welcomed waves of refugees from Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela and elsewhere in Latin America in the 20th century and now plays some of the economic role that New Orleans once did.

Miami is currently the large US city with by far the

highest foreign-born population share, at 55.4%. But one can find even higher percentages in its suburbs, which together with suburbs of New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose and Boston fill out the rest of the list of communities with the highest foreign-born population shares in 2023. (The Census Bureau releases annual data for places with populations of 65,000 or higher.) Some, like first-place Hialeah, are working class. Others, like second-place Doral, are affluent.

The communities with the smallest foreign-born populations include few if any suburbs (Loveland, Colorado; Gary, Indiana; and Lorain, Ohio, are part of larger cities' metropolitan areas but did not start out as bedroom communities). They are instead a mix of mostly shrinking and quite poor older cities in the Midwest and South and growing ones in the Dakotas and Mountain West, plus the booming retirement community of The Villages in Florida.

Some of these low-immigration cities are very nice places, but none has a median household income above the national median of \$77,719, and that's almost certainly not a coincidence. Immigrants to the US tend to congregate in and around the country's most productive, most expensive cities, economists Christoph Albert and Joan Monras concluded in a study published in the American Economic Review in 2022, because many are more interested in maximizing the amount they earn to send to relatives or spend upon their return to their home countries than in their living standards here in the US. This, in turn, has helped counteract the "spatial misallocation of labor" caused by too-scarce housing in such places, Albert and Monras also found, making the US economy a bit more productive and all of us, on average, better off.

This is another element of the role immigrants play in US cities that Walsh and Miller surely did not consider when they decided to bash New York City's foreign-born residents. Instead, they appear to have mainly been grasping for talking points in the wake of Uganda-born democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani's apparent victory (since confirmed) in the city's Democratic mayoral primary. But even there the implied argument - that more immigrants equates to more-leftist politics - doesn't really hold up. Miami and its environs are currently quite Republican, and President Donald Trump probably won the national immigrant vote in 2024. Immigrants do lots of different things. Destroying American cities just isn't one of them.

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US-India AI Alliance Gains Momentum: Experts Demand Action Over Rhetoric

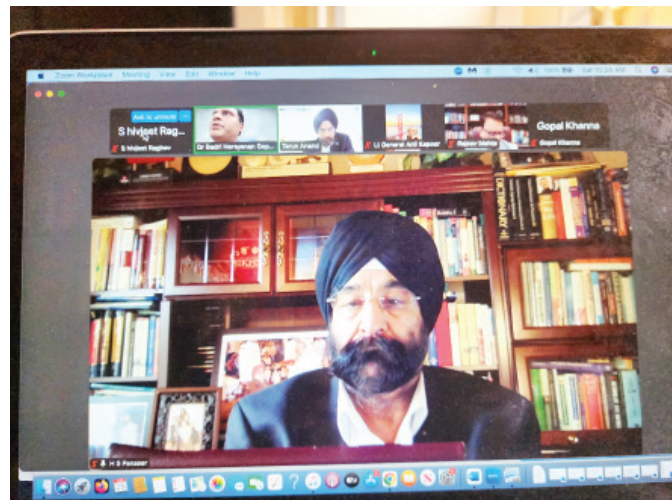
BY A STAFF WRITER

The virtual event “Harnessing AI for Economic Growth: US and India Collaboration Opportunities” brought together leading voices from government, industry, and academia to chart a path forward for deeper AI collaboration between the United States and India. Organized by the Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, USA (GITCC) in association with the Consulate General of India, New York, and the Global Indian Diaspora Alliance (Glo-India), the webinar went beyond the usual pleasantries, issuing a bold call for practical, accelerated cooperation in artificial intelligence.

The session opened with Lt. General Anil Kapoor (Retd.), former Director General of DGEME and board member of TIH, IIT Tirupati, who emphasized the transformational nature of AI, likening it to the advent of electricity in the Second Industrial Revolution. He stressed the critical convergence of quantum technology, semiconductors, sensors, and advanced communications such as 6G, all of which are poised to shape how AI impacts society and the workforce.

Mr. Gopal Khanna, Founder and Chair of the Health AI Institute, underscored the urgency of scaling business-to-business (B2B) and government-to-government (G2G) AI frameworks, noting that despite nine existing bilateral agreements, execution remains slow. Khanna called healthcare for underserved rural communities a top priority and proposed a “mutually assured survival” doctrine for democracies vulnerable to cyber threats.

Education and talent development



H.S. Panaser, Chairman of GITCC, delivers opening remarks during the high-level webinar on US-India AI collaboration.

were central themes in remarks from Mr. Tarun Anand, founder of Universal AI University. Anand highlighted India's immense user base for AI tools like ChatGPT, yet cautioned that the nation still lacks critical infrastructure such as chips, data centers, and next-gen cloud platforms. He advocated for U.S.-India collaboration to bridge these gaps and presented live examples of AI-driven solutions his university is piloting to aid rural populations. Anand also warned of rising threats from deepfakes and cybercrime, urging for joint regulatory frameworks.

The pharmaceutical sector emerged as another key arena for AI innovation. Professor Dulal Panda, Director of NIPER Mohali, and Dr. Rajneesh Kumar, Associate Professor at IIT-BHU, demonstrated how AI is rapidly accelerating drug discovery—

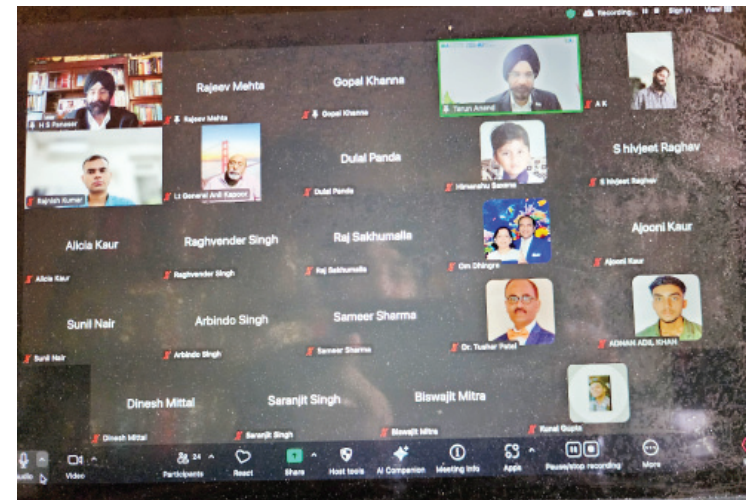
from five-year timelines to just 18 months. However, data hoarding by private firms was flagged as a major roadblock. Kumar called for federated data-sharing models to unlock life-saving innovation.

Adding a corporate perspective, Mr. Biswajit Mitra, Chief Monetary Officer at Cadila Pharmaceuticals, expanded the AI conversation beyond R&D. He stressed the need for AI-driven transformation in marketing, manufacturing, and supply chain operations, especially in India's vital generic drug sector. Mitra called for direct U.S. involvement to help elevate Indian pharma to global standards.

A spirited discussion during the Q&A session addressed the ongoing “brain drain” dilemma. Dr. Saranjit Singh, former professor at NIPER, and Mr. Khanna proposed new government-backed pro-

grams that allow Indian experts abroad to remain connected while gaining global exposure before returning to take leadership roles. The issue of retaining experienced professionals post-retirement was also raised by Prof. Rajeev Mehta, Chair of Glo-India. GITCC Chairman H.S. Panaser pledged advocacy for flexible advisory and contractual roles for seasoned experts, declaring that “wisdom doesn't expire.”

The event concluded with a resounding message: for the US and India to lead in the AI age, they must act decisively. This means closing infrastructure gaps, removing barriers to data sharing, and enabling dynamic public-private partnerships. The opportunity is no longer theoretical—it is a global imperative.



Participants joined a webinar on US-India AI collaboration hosted by GITCC with the Consulate General of India, NY, and Glo-India.

Dr. Tina Shah Announces 2026 Bid For US Congress From New Jersey's 7th District

BY A STAFF WRITER

Practicing physician of Westfield, NJ, Dr. Tina Shah announced July 1, 2025, that she is launching her campaign to be elected to the US Congress from New Jersey's 7th Congressional District. She wants “to put insurance companies and career politicians like Republican incumbent Tom Kean Jr. on notice that it is time to fix what is broken in our healthcare system and in Washington,” the Indian American candidate declared.

“I'm running for Congress because America is in critical condition and enough is enough,” said Dr. Shah.

Congressional District 7 is highly competitive, with several candidates vying for the seat. According to New Jersey Globe, Shah has already put together her campaign team and hired veteran strategist Mollie Binotto, and as her campaign manager Rachel Berlowe, both experienced politicians.

Back in 2023, Shah had looked into running for Congress, but decided not to, the Globe reported.

In October 2024, Cook Political Report, rated NJ 7th District as “Lean Republican” and news reports consider it one of the most competitive districts. But Shah's campaign noted that the Center for Politics rated incumbent Republican Tom Kean Jr. as highly vulnerable and District 7 as one of the only “toss-up” congressional races for the 2026 general elections. Additionally, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has included Tom



Virginia Senator Ghazala Hashmi, candidate for Lt. Governor of Virginia.

Kean Jr. in their 2026 “Districts in Play” list, notes Shah's campaign.

The New Jersey native draws heavily on her profes-

sional experience to define her run. “As a physician I took an oath to first do no harm, but when I go to work in the Intensive Care Unit, I'm up against a system that is designed to make patients broke and sicker, prioritize insurance companies' profits above all else, and burn out a workforce trying to save lives.”

She accused her opponent of doing nothing to lower healthcare costs or expand access to care.

“Instead, he's dodging his constituents while casting the deciding vote to gut Medicaid and attacking access to essential care, including abortion, in New Jersey,” Dr. Shah said.

Dr. Shah continued: “Kean Jr. also supports Donald Trump and RFK Jr. who, with no medical training, are actively gutting lifesaving medical research and putting vaccine deniers in charge of our vaccine system.”

She went on to add, “If we keep going down this road, there's only one outcome: people will get hurt. What we do next is critical. I'm running for Congress to fix what is fundamentally broken and stand up for my patients, my neighbors, my community, and New Jersey.”

Dr. Shah, who has worked in both the private and public sector, is triple board-certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care medicine, and has worked at the local and national level on healthcare issues. She served as senior advisor to US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy during the Biden administration, and was a White House Fellow and special advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs during the Obama administration.



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Zohran Mamdani Clinches Democratic Nomination For NYC Mayor

By Sarah Ellison

New York State Assembly member Zohran Mamdani has won the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York, the Associated Press reported Tuesday, a critical step toward becoming the first Muslim American to run America's largest city.

His win, one week after voters cast ballots and he forced former New York governor Andrew M. Cuomo to concede the primary, has shocked the political establishment. But it is not a guarantee that he will become mayor. He faces a quickly mobilizing opposition ahead of the November election, which could include a rematch with Cuomo; a faceoff with the city's current mayor, Eric Adams; or both.

In the final ranked-choice voting calculation, Mamdani won 56 percent of the vote to 44 percent for Cuomo. The newly adopted system allows voters to rank as many as five candidates on their ballots. Mamdani was ahead when first choices were counted last week, but he did not yet have a majority.

The 33-year-old candidate, a democratic socialist who is backed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York), overtook Cuomo's famed Democratic political dynasty backed by prominent figures from the party's old guard. Cuomo had sought a political resurrection less than four years after leaving the governorship in disgrace amid allegations of sexual harassment.

But in the week since Mamdani's upset, powerful donors, lobbyists and political consultants in both the Democratic and Republican parties scrambled to amass a unified opposition to his candidacy - based largely on his support for liberal economic policies and avowed anti-Zionism.

Cuomo promised he would run in the general election as an independent even if he lost. But his well-funded campaign, which benefited from the biggest super PAC in the city's history, was knocked on its heels by Mamdani's youth-powered volunteer army and voters' reservations about Cuomo's past. Cuomo is reaching out directly to donors and other groups to gauge their support in the general election, according to three people who have fielded those calls and spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.



PHOTO: REUTERS/David Dief Dulgado/File Photo

Zohran Mamdani greets a supporter during a watch party for his primary election, which includes his bid to become the Democratic candidate for New York City mayor in the upcoming November 2025 election, in New York City, U.S., June 25, 2025.

So far, those donors have been mainly unenthusiastic about his candidacy, according to a dozen political operatives and donors active in city politics, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk about private conversations.

Mamdani's campaign, in a statement released after Tuesday's results were announced, said he had received the most votes in a Democratic mayoral primary in 36 years and is "excited to expand this coalition even further as we defeat Eric Adams and win a city government that puts working people first."

Mamdani prevailed in the primary election by focusing on the affordability crisis faced by many New York residents. He pledged to ease the cost of living by providing free child care, freezing rent among the city's 1 million rent-stabilized apartments, opening a collection of city-run grocery stores to provide lower-cost produce and staples, and making city buses free. In a city with the largest population of billionaires in the world, he has proposed to fund his ideas by raising taxes on the ultra-wealthy. And in his effort to become the first Muslim mayor of New York, which has the largest population of Jews outside of Israel, he has run unapologetically as a critic of Israel, saying he would arrest Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu if he came to the city.

Many Democratic voters said those ideas energized them, but they have drawn an array of opponents.

Members of his own party in his own state attacked him. Republicans have demonized him with Islamophobic and racist attacks - while also highlighting his progressivism. Many political donors in New York have scrambled to find a way to combat him.

In addition to Cuomo's potential independent candidacy, Mamdani will also face Adams, a registered Democrat, who elected not to run in the crowded primary and instead is running as an independent in November.

Curtis Sliwa, the Republican primary candidate, could be the fourth candidate on the ballot.

Donors and Republican officials launched a national effort to persuade Sliwa to step aside and endorse Adams. Stephen K. Bannon, a former Trump administration official and far-right podcast host, appeared on former congressman Matt Gaetz's show on One America News last week and described the effort to get Sliwa to step down so that anti-Mamdani forces could coalesce around a single candidate.

Adams also met with donors and

floated the idea that Sliwa, a longtime fixture in New York and the former leader of anti-crime organization Guardian Angels, could accept a job in the Trump administration as an incentive to leave the race.

But Sliwa loudly resisted those calls. "The only job I'm focused on is earning your support to be the next Mayor of #NYC," he wrote on X last week.

Adams won the race for mayor in 2021 as a Democrat but has been increasingly distanced from his party following his indictment on corruption charges in September. Those charges were dropped in April, 2½ months after Adams visited President Donald Trump at one of his Florida golf courses.

Both Adams and Cuomo are unpopular with voters and face an uphill battle to overcome their respective scandals. And both represent a style of campaigning - with institutional endorsements and big-money donations - that is fundamentally different from the small-dollar campaign that propelled Mamdani to victory in the primary.

"The outpouring of support that has come to Mayor Adams has been overwhelming and humbling, and we believe that energy is going to translate as an election for Mayor Adams as the leader of New York City," said Frank Carone, Adams's former chief of staff and a key member of his reelection campaign.

Cuomo's campaign said Mamdani's large showing from voters under 30 was hard to predict. Cuomo did not commit to campaigning in the general election but reiterated that he was "continuing conversations with people from all across the city while determining next steps."

Hedge fund managers Dan Loeb and Bill Ackman have both thrown their support behind Adams, as have a variety of the city's business and industry groups.

Jewish groups such as the New York Solidarity Network, a pro-Israel membership organization that represents center-left Jewish New Yorkers concerned about growing antisemitism, have held discussions about backing either Cuomo or Adams, according to three people familiar with the various calls and conversations such groups have had. Many are waiting to put their money toward a candidate in the fall until they can see how the race plays out in the coming weeks and months, these people said.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Political Organization Says South Asian And Indo-Caribbean Voter Turnout Surged For NYC Mayoral Election

By A Staff Writer

South Asian and Indo-Caribbean voter turnout surged in the NYC mayoral primaries by up to 40% in some communities, says the organization DRUM Beats, which called it "historic."

This turnout, DRUM said was, "an effort that contributed to the powerful election of the NYC Democratic Mayoral

Candidate Zohran Mamdani."

Taking credit for the increase, the organization's Political Director Jagpreet Singh, is quoted saying, "This effort was no easy task." Adding, "Our members from all across the city, of all ages, speaking over 10 languages," had been working since October 2024, "to make sure our communities were informed, voting, and organized."

The organization gave the following breakdown of the increase in voter turnout -

"Bangladeshi voters increased turnout from 25% of registered democratic voters in 2021 to nearly 40% in the 2025 primary; Pakistani voters rose from 21% to 33%; Indian voters from 25% to 31%; Nepali voters from 28% to 29.5%; Indo-Caribbean voters from 15% to 19%"

It also said some neighborhoods like Kensington, Richmond Hill, and Ozone Park, showed significant increase in voter turnout.

DRUM Beats calculated that over the course of the mayoral primaries, its mem-

bers —Knocked on over 10,000 doors; Held over 20,000 phone conversations; Engaged over 150,000 South Asian and Indo-Caribbean New Yorkers; Reached voters in basement mosques, Parkchester iftars, Nepali cultural festivals, and beyond; Engaged community leaders and organizations to knit together coalitions in neighborhoods and in ethnic communities; Conducted outreach in over 10 languages including Bengali, Punjabi, Nepali, Guyanese Creolese, Urdu, Hindi, Tibetan, Pashto, Dari, Bantawa, and more.



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Dr. Amit Chakrabarty And Dr. Hetal Gor Officially Assume AAPI Leadership In Historic Oath Ceremony

BY SOUTH ASIAN HERALD

In a historic first for the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), Dr. Amit Chakrabarty and Dr. Hetal Gor were formally sworn in as President and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (BOT), respectively, during a special ceremony held on July 3, 2025, at the AAPI office in Oak Brook, Illinois.

The oath of office was administered by Dr. Suresh Reddy, a past President of AAPI and an elected Trustee of Oak Brook Township. The ceremony marks an important leadership transition for the organization, as both incoming leaders prepare to guide AAPI through a new chapter of growth and impact, according to a statement from AAPI.

AAPI President, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, emphasized the significance of the occasion: "In accordance with AAPI Bylaws, the President-Elect and Chair-Elect of the Board of Trustees officially assumed office on July 3. While the ceremonial Gavel Transfer will be held during the Annual Convention Gala on July 26, the formal Presidential & BOT Chair Handover Ceremony was held on July 3. This ceremony marks a meaningful leadership transition for our organization."

Expressing his vision for the year ahead, Dr. Chakrabarty stated, "We have the potential to make a significant impact on the healthcare landscape of this country. My goal this year is to unify AAPI by transcending the regional divides that have hindered our progress in recent years. Indian American physicians repre-



Swearing in ceremony of Drs. Amit Chakrabarty and Hetal Gor, by Dr. Suresh Reddy, in Oak Brook, Illinois, July 3, 2025 to head AAPI.



Members of AAPI pose for a photo at the swearing in of new leadership of the organization, July 3, 2025, in Oak Brook, Ill.

sent tremendous talent and potential, and the key to realizing that lies in collective action and a united voice, something I am committed to fostering."

Dr. Gor, a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, brings decades of leadership experience to her new role. She is the Founder and President of the Bergen Indian Medical Association, as well as the U.S. Chapter of the Federation of OBGYN Society of India (FOGSI). A past President of the American Association of OBGYN of Indian Origin, Dr. Gor also chairs the North New Jersey chapter of the Indian American Women Entrepreneurs Association and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, NJ, where she promotes Indian culture and heritage through the arts.

During the ceremony, Dr. Meher Me-

devaram was also sworn in as President-Elect of AAPI. A board-certified family medicine physician and Fellow of the Academy of American Family Physicians, Dr. Medavaram serves as Medical Director at Mount Sinai Hospital's FAQHC Center.

Highlighting the growing footprint of Indian American physicians, Dr. Medavaram noted, "The growing influence of physicians of Indian heritage is evident, as increasingly physicians of Indian origin hold critical positions in healthcare, academic, research, and administrative positions across the nation. We the physicians of Indian origin are proud of our great achievements and contributions to our motherland, India, and our adopted land, the US."

Reflecting on the organization's legacy,

Dr. Kathula added, "Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for the physicians of Indian origin. I trust and believe that the new Team under Dr. Amit Chakrabarty will continue the noble mission and strengthen our efforts to make AAPI reach greater heights."

The statement added that currently, AAPI members serve 1 in every 7 patients in the United States. Beyond their clinical contributions, many hold influential positions that shape healthcare policy, innovation, and delivery—both nationally and globally.

-(USED UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTH ASIAN HERALD)

17th Patotsav Celebration At Shreeji Dwar Haveli Draws Hundreds In Chicago

BY PRACHI JAITLEY, SPECIAL TO DESI TALK

The Shreeji Dwar Haveli in Addison, Illinois, marked its 17th Patotsav (temple anniversary celebration) June 22, 2025, with grandeur, devotion, and strong community participation. The celebration brought together hundreds of Vaishnavs from across the greater Chicago area and beyond, reaffirming the temple's role as a spiritual and cultural cornerstone for the community.

The event was led by Acharya Goswami 108 Shree Madhusudan Lalji Mahoday, affectionately known as Shree Tilak Bawa, who was specially invited from Ahmedabad, India, in Yugal Swaroop (divine couple form). The invitation was extended by Dr. Umangbhai Patel, Chairman of Shreeji Dwar Haveli, on behalf of the community.

The day began with a grand Shobhayatra, a sacred procession through the temple grounds featuring devotional singing, traditional dance, and drumbeats that set a spiritually uplifting tone for the day. Devotees joyfully accompanied the image of Shreeji, expressing devotion and reverence throughout the procession.



Scenes from the 17th Patotsav celebrations held June 22, 2025, in Chicagoland, which attracted hundreds of Vaishnav devotees.

Festivities included a Flower Mandal Manorath (ceremonial floral offering), Tilak ceremony, and Rajbhog Aarti performed by Shree Tilak Bawa. The temple

courtyard came alive with Raas-Garba, where devotees of all ages joined in traditional dance, creating a colorful and joyous atmosphere.



A central highlight was Shree Tilak Bawa's Vachanamrut, a spiritual discourse

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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



ARIES: Someone's sincere advice might offer a fresh perspective—don't brush it aside. Though you mean well, certain limitations may stop you from extending support. Workplace friction could leave you questioning fairness, so try reassessing without bias. Only suggest ideas if you're truly ready to deal with their outcomes. A nagging issue might make you restless, so proceed slowly and stay composed.

TAURUS: Be cautious while sharing personal details with someone new—they might not be as open. A key discussion with a client may shift things positively for your business. Academic pursuits show solid results. Family moments bring warmth and comfort. Romance may blossom when you least expect it. Delayed home upgrades could finally take off. Prioritise your wellness routine for better vitality.

GEMINI: You'll enjoy several uplifting moments as your hard work earns admiration from the right people. A prized assignment could land on your desk. Learning goals move ahead smoothly. Property deals begin to show positive growth. Physical wellbeing stays strong. Upcoming celebrations may spark enthusiasm. Your partner's care brings emotional balance in your relationship.

CANCER: Recovery on the health front boosts your spirits. Your professional efforts align well, making things easier to manage. An unplanned visit from someone close may lift your mood. Stable finances bring peace, especially from growing assets. Academic results inspire you to keep going. Romantic connections remain steady. This might be a good week to adopt healthier habits.

LEO: You may be swamped with event planning, but it brings joy and excitement. Money matters show improvement, possibly beyond your expectations. Fitness may finally return to your routine. Important decisions at home should involve everyone to avoid misunderstandings. Your work might be under review, but reliability helps maintain your image.

VIRGO: Trying to please someone could feel exhausting, but backing out might not be an option right now. Friends may bring new social invites your way. A romantic meeting could turn meaningful. New job rules

might feel complex initially. When planning group expenses, be prepared for someone stepping back from commitment.

LIBRA: Excitement may rise with the arrival of someone dear. You're likely to settle work-related tensions and restore trust. Even if a family plan doesn't succeed, your genuine efforts will be valued. Love life brings special joy—make memories while the mood is right. Keeping a check on spending will help you maintain stability.

SCORPIO: You may feel motivated to pursue something close to your heart. At work, creative freedom helps you shine. A long-postponed household task may get noticed by your partner. Your finances allow you to consider a luxury purchase. Real estate matters may start delivering encouraging results.

SAGITTARIUS: You might find an opportunity to build on something already underway—don't hesitate. Settling old matters brings peace of mind. Job responsibilities could increase, requiring longer hours. A family member may seek your time and support, so show up when needed. Love life may remain on pause due to tight schedules.

CAPRICORN: Feeling left out in a team effort could bother you, so consider engaging more. Career rewards or recognition may be just around the corner. Academic performance opens new doors. Someone special could express romantic interest. Hosting friends or cousins may add cheer to your week.

AQUARIUS: You're thinking ahead and preparing mentally for the next phase. Property dealings may head in a favourable direction. A new idea at work may take time to gain traction. Additional qualifications could lead you closer to your dream job. Keep track of your expenses to avoid financial pressure. Your health is expected to remain stable.

PISCES: You may finally break ground on a goal you've worked on for a while. Your academic diligence earns positive feedback. Decisions at work are likely to benefit your position. Family support boosts your morale. Someone close may extend a financial favour. Romantic moments may be rare this week due to other commitments. Stick to safe food choices.



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Two Indian Doctors Campaign In America To Provide Type 1 Diabetes Care To Children

By A Staff Writer

Two Indian doctors, who are also sisters hailing from Gujarat, Dr. Smita Joshi and Dr. Shukla Raval, are appealing to the NRI community in the US for support in their campaign to provide painless advanced diabetes care to Indian children suffering from type1 diabetes.

In a press release June 30, 2025, they say that after India has the highest number of type 1 diabetic children. The United States ranks second. However, because of the use of painless advanced diabetes care in the West, these children do not have to suffer the pain of daily insulin injections. Also, they say, life expectancy of children in US is 70-80 years, whereas in India, the life expectancy of children suffering from diabetes is only 20-40 years.

According to the two doctors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of Make in India could be a solution to this problem. However, to do research on indigenous manufacturing of affordable Advanced Diabetes Care in India, Drs. Joshi and Raval, are hoping to learn from US examples. They are traveling around the US at their own expense, in the states of California, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio etc., meeting Indian origin experts, renowned doctors, scientists in universities, and other organizations for the next four months i.e. July, August, September and October.

They have started this research campaign from San Francisco, Ca., to seek cooperation from Indian Americans. They are inspired by Delhi All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS, Director Dr. M. Srinivas, who they met while spreading awareness about diabetes type 1 in ten states in India. He told them that the MRI machine in AIIMS Delhi is indigenous and Make in India, which is quite cheap. Whereas, earlier these MRI machines used to come from foreign companies. In these costly machines, the plate is the most important, and that is also made by a company in India.

Both the sisters have been involved in spreading awareness about the condition and engaged in policy-making at the national level in India. In the past, they have also traveled 7,000 kms by car at their own expense



Governor, Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel, Dr. Smita Joshi, Dr. Shukla Raval pose for a photo.



India's Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Dr. Smita Joshi.

from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in India and from west to East coast in states of America. They say that it was because of their efforts that the state governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan have, for the first time in India, taken important decisions in their budget speeches to establish special cells for type 1 diabetes in all the medical and health centers of the state. On the same lines, commendable steps have also been taken in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).

The two doctors are hoping that the Make in India policy in coordination with India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, would be able to produce advanced diabetes care in the country. "Then, not only will we be able to make a commendable contribution to the whole world for diabetes treatment, but we will also be able to

prove the concept of making India a world leader once again," they say.

In addition, manufacturing painless Advanced Diabetes Care in India, would be the humane way to avoid pain for children and their mothers and fathers on a daily basis.

With the support that they are garnering, Drs. Joshi and Raval say, "We all wish that children suffering from diabetes in India get painless treatment and long life."

Among those already helping their campaign are Dr. Anil Raval, trustee of Dr. Vasudev J. Raval Charitable Trust, Unjha, Dist. Mehsana Gujarat; Dr. Ketan Joshi, president of Physician Association of India, Gujarat (2024-25) and Children of Family, Dr. Raja Joshi and Dr. Mann Pancholi.

CITY VIEWS

17th Patotsav Celebration At Shreeji Dwar Haveli Draws Hundreds In Chicago

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

delivered to a packed audience gathered under a large outdoor tent. He spoke eloquently on the significance of Patotsav and the timeless values of Vivek (spiritual discernment), Dhairya (patience), and Ashray (divine refuge). His words were well received and deeply appreciated by the assembled devotees.

The event also showcased youth-led cultural performances. Children from the VYOE and the Tavasm group recited Yamunashtak, presented the five foundational principles of Pushtimarg, and performed an artistic dramatization of the life and teachings of Shree Vallabhacharyaji, the founder of the Pushtimarg tradition. Shree Tilak Bawa commended their dedication and encouraged continued youth engagement



Scene from the 17th Patotsav celebrations held June 22, 2025, in Chicagoland, which attracted hundreds of Vaishnav devotees.

in spiritual practices.

The success of the 17th Patotsav was made possible by the collaborative efforts of the Trustees, Management Committee, Flower Mandal Committee, Kirtankars, Parking and Food Committees, Manorathis, volunteers, and the families of the temple's young Bal Gopals. Shree Tilak Bawa personally acknowledged and honored all contributors for their commitment to seva (selfless service).

The event concluded with the Shayan Aarti and the serving of Mahaprasad (sacred meal), offering a serene and communal closure to a day marked by devotion and unity.

Under the spiritual guidance of Shree Tilak Bawa and the leadership of Dr. Umangbhai Patel, the 17th Patotsav served as both a celebration of tradition and a testament to the thriving Vaishnav community in the United States.

The Quad Takes Aim At Pakistan, China, Adopts Key Initiatives For Indo-Pacific Region



Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stand together at the start of their meeting of the Indo-Pacific Quad at the State Department in Washington, D.C., U.S., July 1, 2025.



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio greets India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the meeting of the Indo-Pacific Quad at the State Department in Washington, D.C., U.S., July 1, 2025.

BY A STAFF WRITER

Without specifically naming Pakistan and China, The Quad, a regional grouping, in its meeting of foreign ministers of US, India, Australia, and Japan, condemned rising threats in the Indo-Pacific, cross-border terrorism such as the Pahalgam attack, in a strong Joint Statement issued July 1, 2025. The recognition of Pahalgam and the acceptance of alleged Pakistani involvement, was a clear victory for India which is engaged in a global campaign to get recognition for Islamabad's role as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi in Washington for the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

At a press briefing the following day, July 2, in Washington, D.C., Jaishankar said what was important for India in The Quad statement was spelling out that perpetrators must be held accountable, and that New Delhi had the right to react and take action against the perpetrators, their financiers and supporters. Jaishankar said he shared with the other three members the nature of the terrorist threat India had been facing for decades, and that it was resolved today to respond to those threats promptly, and that it had the right to do so.

The Quad reaffirmed its "steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, and underscored its "commitment to "defending the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

In an unqualified statement against terrorism, a priority for India, the group said, "The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and renews our commitment to counterterrorism cooperation," going on to say,

"We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, which claimed the lives of 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen, while injuring several others."

Expressing condolences for victims' families, it went on to say, "We call for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay and urge all UN Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard."

Pointing its finger at Beijing without naming China, The Quad "strongly" opposed any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion."

The group announced what it described as a "new, ambitious, and strong

agenda" focused on four key areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technology, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response.

The four countries committed to working with other regional organizations like ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum and Pacific-led regional groupings, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

"We remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea," the foreign ministers said, as the group strongly opposed unilateral actions "that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion," calling the actions by Beijing, without naming it, as dangerous and provocative.

It also addressed the issue of supply chains, specifically any actions that would affect critical minerals. This included the use of non-market policies and practices

for critical minerals, certain derivative products, and mineral processing technology.

The Joint Statement categorically condemned North Korea's "destabilizing launches using ballistic missile technology and its continued pursuit of nuclear weapons in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs)," reaffirming its "commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula consistent with relevant UNSCRs, and we urge North Korea to abide by all its obligations under the UNSCRs."

The statement also touched on Myanmar, saying the countries were "deeply concerned" by the worsening crisis and its impact on the region. It called for a ceasefire by the military junta, and for a peaceful resolution.

Among the initiatives announced was the launch of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative, to secure and diversify critical minerals supply chains.

In addition, the countries expressed their commitment to deepening maritime cooperation, and host the first Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network field training exercise this year to strengthen shared airlift capacity; to launch the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership in Mumbai this year; continue to coordinate responses to regional disasters.

In his press briefing next day, Jaishankar said important takeaways from The Quad foreign ministers' meeting was the deepening of commitments by members, and the emphasis on building their own capabilities. He noted that as a forum The Quad, which had no legal or formal framework and is a "very unique organization", allowed for "open and free-wheeling discussions, with granular analysis of issues. In today's geopolitical situation, he said, "The Quad contributes to stability in an unstable world."

The next Quad Leaders' Summit will be hosted by India later this year and the next Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be hosted by Australia in 2026.



Pictures of those killed in the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, displayed at a Long Island, NY vigil.



All Photos: Canva

Supreme Court Decision Leaves Birthright Citizenship in Legal Limbo

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

On June 27, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a significant decision impacting the legal debate over birthright citizenship. The ruling stems from litigation surrounding Executive Order 14160, signed by President Donald Trump. While the Court did not rule on whether the Executive Order is constitutional, it narrowed the scope of federal court injunctions—reshaping how future immigration policies might be challenged in court.

This decision has major implications for families, immigration practitioners, and advocates nationwide.

Background: Executive Order 14160

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship.” The Order seeks to deny U.S. citizenship at birth to children born in the United States if:

- The mother is unlawfully present or in the U.S. temporarily at the time of birth, and
- The father is not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

This directly challenges the long-standing interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment’s Citizenship Clause, which guarantees citizenship to nearly all individuals born on U.S. soil, regardless of their parents’ immigration status.

The Supreme Court’s June 27 Ruling

In a 6–3 decision authored by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts may no longer issue broad, nationwide injunctions unless specifically justified. This means that court orders blocking federal policies must be limited to the plaintiffs in the specific case—not applied universally.

Key Points from the Ruling:

- **Narrower Injunctions:** Courts can no longer automatically halt a federal policy nationwide based on one lawsuit.
- **No Ruling on Constitutionality:** The Court did not decide whether Executive Order 14160 is lawful under the U.S. Constitution.
- **Delayed Implementation:** The Executive Order is set to take effect on July 28, 2025, just four weeks from today—unless new legal challenges block it.

What Happens Next?

The Court’s ruling limits procedural tools for blocking immigration policies but leaves the core issue of birthright citizenship unresolved. Here’s what to expect:

- **New Legal Challenges:** Several lawsuits are underway, including class-action efforts seeking broader relief under constitutional and statutory claims.
- **Possible DHS Regulations:** The administration is expected to issue new guidance or agency rules, which could trigger further litigation.
- **Future Supreme Court Review Likely:** Given the national significance, this issue could return to the Supreme Court in a future term—this time focusing on substance, not procedure.

Why This Matters

The Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment has been a bedrock of U.S. immigration law since 1868. It was reaffirmed in the landmark case *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898), which established that nearly all individuals born in the United States are U.S. citizens—regardless of race or parentage.

By David H. Nachman, Esq

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The current legal uncertainty affects:

- U.S.-born children of non-citizen parents
- Hospitals, schools, and employers dealing with proof of citizenship
- Immigration attorneys and advocates advising expectant parents

This case also signals how federal courts may be more limited in blocking controversial policies affecting immigrants, even if the policies are eventually found unconstitutional.

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Metro...In Dino Is A Mini-Classic With Music To Match

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

Anurag Basu is indeed a maestro, a virtuoso in the way he orchestrates plots in varied genres, has adapted them in the past if taken from outside sources, and spins a fabric that can be cinematically worn with supreme comfort. Add the (now six-film) support of today's only musical (active in films and hailing from Mumbai) maestro of substance, Pritam, and I knew beforehand that his film, at the very least, will be above-average.

After all, he is the whiz-kid who has helmed gems like Gangster, Barfi!, Jagga Jasoos and Ludo in the last two decades, and a filmmaker's true caliber is known by his best work and not by a few creative mishaps that have valid but undisclosed reasons for them being so (like Kites and Tumsa Nahin Dekha). Anurag began with the gripping Kucch To Hai (which he co-directed) and Murder, followed by the unique Life In A...Metro.

But what I experienced in the movie hall was sheer magic in the way it unfolded. Stories of normal people eking out lives, apparently but not always of their own choices, from school-going teenagers to 70-plus human beings, all intertwined in a remarkably seamless way.

Shibani (Neena Gupta) and Parimal (Anupam Kher) were keen on marrying each other when in college, but things went South for "organic" reasons. Shibani married a chauvinistic man (Saswata Chatterjee) who never gave her space or freedom, and in time, she quashed all her desires and dreams and settled for domesticity.

Their daughter, Kajol (Konkona Sen Sharma) is a hot-headed and volatile soul and has wed Monty (Pankaj Tripathi), who after a few years of marital boredom, wishes to stray (within limits, as he claims!) on "Linger", the film's counterpart of Tinder. Eventually, the unexpected happens and Kajol leaves him, but what happens next with them?

Her sister, Chumki (Sara Ali Khan) is the epitome of CONFUSION! She is now in a



The ensemble cast of Metro...In Dino.

corporate job (after attempts at two other professions) and is engaged to her colleague. Kajol-Monty's daughter (Ahana) is on the fringes of adulthood and in classical 'today' fashion, is unable to fathom whether she is 'straight' or 'gay'!

On the other side (the film straddles Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore) is a blogger, a devil-may-care young man, Parth (Aditya Roy Kapur), who encounters Chumki when she strays into his home in a drunken state and they soon develop an easy friendship. Parth is also friends with Shruti (Fatima Sana Shaikh) and budding musician Akash (Ali Fazal), who are married but financially not comfortable. They have a long-distance marriage finally and Shruti is tempted by her friendship with a colleague who is a single father.

A college union reignites the Shibani-Parimal friendship, and Parimal even invites her home to pretend to be an obnoxious 'stepmother' and somehow make his widowed daughter-in-law (Darshana Banik) leave home and carve her own life after she has lost her husband (Parimal's son) along with Parimal's wife in an accident. She does not wish to get on with her life, though her college friend is in love with her and wants to marry her.

Most of these characters and their traits, trials, joys and tribulations and the tremors in their relationships, tussles and changes in their beliefs, values and obsessions are introduced through a wonderfully interspersed musical series of songs that are beautifully written, composed and filmed, through a band (comprising Pritam. Papon and Raghav Chaitanya) that keeps playing everywhere from rooftops to roads and wherever) with added portions lip-synched by almost every lead character. And in that sense, to an elevated level, this film is a sequel in spirit to Life in a...Metro.

Happily, this time, despite a length of 162 minutes (which could have been shortened a whit in the second half), the proceedings are as light and humorous as they are dramatic. The narrative is decidedly subtle in its messages on relationships. Unconditional acceptance of one's partner, giving space and falling in love with the same person again and again to foster durability in bonding is the core ethos of this lovable film and its exhilarating story and screenplay (Anurag himself). The dialogues, life-like, crisply urban and when needed trenchant and even bold, have been fabulously penned by Sandeep

Shrivastava and Samrat Chakravorthy.

Cinematography (Anurag again with Abhishek Basu) is pristine, and the production scale and values are amazing. Pritam's music completely blends with the narrative it is created for, with eight exceptional lyrics by Sandeep Shrivastava, Anurag Sharma, Neelesh Mishra and Mayur Puri and the use of Momin Khan Momin's and Qaisar-Ul-Jafri's poetry as well. The BGM (Pritam again) is outstanding, though the decibel levels could have been curtailed a tad.

Metro...In Dino is a treasury of great performances. First the flipside: Anupam Kher is shockingly mechanical and Ali Fazal stiff and not as effective as he could have been.

But the rest are magnificent, or at least outstanding. Konkona Sen Sharma, in the complex character and through her mercurial moods, again shows the extraordinary brilliance of her turn in Mr. & Mrs. Iyer. Pankaj Tripathi as Monty, is expectedly exceptional: this man is a living manual on all shades of acting!

Aditya Roy Kapur's expressions, tones and body language stress only one fact: how comparatively mediocre artistes get the fame he deserves but has not acquired even 15 years since he started as a lead! Sara Ali Khan is simply superb and her temperamental switches and eyes create sheer magic, akin to her mother Amrita Singh's formidable forte. Neena Gupta is fantastic, and Fatima Sana Shaikh's acting nuances are indeed commendable.

From the supporting roles, all the three youngsters (Mikhail, Ahana and Vanshika) are fantastic with nothing to choose between their bang-on natural performances. Rohan Gurbaxani scores as Kajol's Goan friend, Darshana Banik as Anupam Kher's subdued and stoic daughter-in-law and Saswata Chatterjee as Shibani's husband, especially when the latter comes into his own in the last 30 minutes of this film.

Miss this one and you miss one of the finest scripts on relationships (not just in the metros and in these days—In Dino) we have encountered in the movies.

Rating: **1/2**

'The Traitors' Grand Finale: "Innocents" Uorfi Javed, Nikita Luther Emerge As Winners

After weeks of drama, strategy, and suspense, the finale of The Traitors finally aired on Thursday, and it came with a twist no one saw coming.

Uorfi Javed and Nikita Luther were crowned the winners of Season 1, taking home the trophy and the prize money.

The show, known for its mind games and betrayals, ended with Uorfi and Nikita—both 'innocent' players—outsmarting 'traitors' Harsh Gujral and Purav Jha. While Purav had been seen as one of the most honest and steady players on the show, he was voted out in the final round table.

The show began with 20 celebrities from across Bollywood, television, and social media, all gathered in a grand palace. Among the participants were Maheep Kapoor, Anshula Kapoor, Raj Kundra, Ashish Vidyarthi, Karan Kundrra, Lakshmi Manchu, Apoorva Makhija, Raftaar, Mukesh Chhabra, Sudhanshu Pandey, Sufi Motiwala, Sahil Salathia, Jannat Zubair, Elnaaz



Nourozi, Harsh Gujral, Janvi Gaur, Uorfi, Nikita, and Purav.

The twist? Three of them were secretly chosen as "traitors" by the show's host, Karan Johar. The rest had to figure out who the traitors were through daily challenges and heated roundtable discussions, where they voted out suspected players.

In the end, it was Uorfi and Nikita who cracked the game, exposing the last remaining traitor, Harsh Gujral, in a gripping final episode. The two walked away not only with the cash prize but also with major respect for their strategic gameplay.

Meanwhile, seeing the success of The Traitors, the makers had earlier planned to renew the show for a second season. Recently, Prime Video announced that it has greenlit a second season of The Traitors, following the breakout success of the Indian adaptation of the BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning global format.

-ANI

By Hannah Sampson, Andrea Sachs, Natalie B. Compton

IS RESORT PASS WORTH THE MONEY? WE TRIED IT AT THREE HOTEL POOLS.

Before summer even arrived, we started thinking about pools. Specifically, how to have mini-getaways by the water without taking time off. We had flirted with Resort Pass, a company that books daytime experiences at more than 2,000 hotels, in the past but found options around D.C. were limited and difficult to book. So this year, we got organized. Our team of three travel reporters synced up to search on the same day in early June to book hotel passes two days, two weeks and three weeks out. Here's what we found – and our verdicts on the value.

Omni Shoreham Hotel

For pool time with my mermaid of a 4-year-old, I needed to find a kid-friendly option. That took several bargain-priced, adults-only options off the table but reassured me that my tiny plus-one might not get the evil eye. The Omni Shoreham in Woodley Park, while pricey for an adult day pass at \$100, charged a reasonable \$20 for kids. Children under 3 are free. The heated outdoor pool is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., and cheaper evening passes from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. are often available. Our total came out to just about \$139 with taxes and fees; prices vary by date. Our visit on the day after Juneteenth couldn't have helped the price.

Pros: The hotel has a giant, lagoon-shaped pool where couples, families with kids and a woman reading her book could easily coexist with a bachelorette party toting an eggplant emoji float. There's a hot tub and a small, foot-deep children's pool that my daughter loved, even if she called it the "baby pool." Lounge chairs are plentiful, even if they were mostly claimed by noon, and food and drinks are available to purchase at the pool bar. (Self-serve water was free.) Staffers were polite and efficient at the front desk, the health club and the pool, where one friendly man in a suit walked around checking on everyone's day. Towels, access to the locker room and sauna, lounge chairs and three hours of free valet parking are included with the pass.

Cons: While the pool and grounds are lovely, much of the view is still of the back of a large convention hotel. The pool depth maxed out at three-and-a-half feet, which was fine for us but not for diving. Even though the area is spacious, it was crowded enough that lounge options were limited and shady spots were not available during peak swimming hours. Food prices aren't obscene, but if you plan to eat there, prepare to drop \$5 on sparkling water or \$16 for a hummus plate.

The takeaway: We enjoyed the day, but the Florida native in me craved tropical colors and ocean breezes. It's not the kind of resort getaway I would splurge on for a one-day family outing again – especially when I could join crowds at the (admittedly less impressive) neighborhood pool, free. But like the unbothered woman who turned the pool into her personal library, I would absolutely sign up for a lower-priced solo day.



Photo by: Hannah Sampson

Royal Sonesta Dupont Circle

On the pool deck or in the water, the D.C. sun will find you. For a respite from the heat, the Royal Sonesta Washington DC Dupont Circle's pass combines pool access with a guest room for \$95, plus about \$25 in taxes and fees. Pass holders can bounce between hot and cool, covered space and open sky from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pros: At check-in, a front desk employee handed me a key card as if I were an ordinary guest but asked that I check out in person, because of the inverted hours. The spacious corner room was stocked with a fridge for snacks and drinks, a shower and toiletries to rinse off the chlorine, a closet to hang post-pool attire, a hair dryer to blast a wet bathing suit, and a pair of beds to recover from the physical exertion of lowering yourself into the refreshing water.

My room was one floor above the second-story pool, tucked inside a square of brick buildings. A profusion of artificial pink flowers lent a touch of the tropics. Guests can grab a towel from a stack by the door and park themselves in a cabana, on a chaise lounge or at a cafe table. In the adjoining fitness center, they can run or bike with views of the shimmering blue swimming hole.

Cons: The pool is on the smaller and shallower side – the max depth is 5 feet – so you won't be able to dive or swim laps without bumping your head. There is no shade or umbrellas; for cover, you'll need to snag one of the two gratis cabanas.

Outside food and drink is not allowed at the pool, so your only option is the lobby restaurant, Certo. However, its hours aren't really aligned with poolside dining. Breakfast service ends a half-hour before the pass starts, and weekend brunch wraps up at 1:30 p.m. The happy hour menu runs from 4 to 6 p.m., so you have an hour to order, race your food and drink (in a lidded plastic cup) to the pool and consume your meal before the pass expires. If you abide by the 30-minute-rest rule, forget about a final swim.

The takeaway: With the room at your disposal, you will never get too hot, too hungry, too sticky or too sleepy. I visited on a weirdly cold summer's day, so I had the pool to myself. When the heat peaks, the swimming area might be packed, but you can wait for the crowds to thin from the comfort of your air-conditioned room. For about \$120, or less if you divide the cost by four occupants (the max allowed), the no-sweat retreat was worth the money. I could easily imagine skipping the beach traffic and summering at the Royal Sonesta instead.



Photo by: Andrea Sachs

The Watergate Hotel

With a rainy-day forecast on the horizon, the historic Watergate Hotel looked like a promising escape. For \$65, excluding taxes and fees, you could get a day pass to the Argenta Spa to unwind at the indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna and steam room from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pros: The staff was incredibly welcoming and professional, and the facilities were spotless. Check-in was seamless, and after a quick tour of the space, you're given a locker where you can store your belongings while you relax in the facilities. The cherry on top was the complimentary robe and slippers. After some swimming, sweating and showering, the restaurant upstairs served a mean club sandwich at a high-end hotel price (\$28).

Cons: If you're here on a day pass just to access the pool, not get a spa treatment, you may get stir crazy. When the indoor pool area gets busy, voices screech against the echoey walls. Even if you don't mind the sharp noise, there aren't many lounge chairs around for reading or napping. The pool itself isn't conducive for a day of lap swimming; it's better suited for a romantic dip or family-friendly frolicking. The jacuzzi, sauna and steam room are fine, but the human body can only sweat so much.

The takeaway: The Watergate is a hotel for a spa day, not a pool day. If you're not splurging on a massage, there are better places in the DMV to sweat, dip and steam. Like Spa World, where you can go for a lower day rate and more variety.

Introducing—The Real R.D. Burman!

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

On June 27, Rahul Dev Burman was born—and every year on that date and on January 4, when he cast away his mortal body, he is celebrated like no one else among composers is.

He is supposed to be the king of Remixes and Re-Creations (the difference being in maintaining original lyrics in the first case and modified words and even add-on portions in tune for new films or albums). He is hyped at the expense, principally, of his father, S.D. Burman, his contemporaries and dearest friends, Kalyanji-Anandji and Laxmikant-Pyarelal (his arrangers as well in his first two films) and the indomitable Shankar-Jaikishan.

These fanatics (a sorry situation for a talent of RD's stature!) claim to pay obeisance to an icon of rhythm. But can someone whose music was as advanced as tomorrow be made any more modern at all today? And can devotion be expressed by defiling the very work that has generated it?

There is also that huge coterie of unthinking individuals that have made Pancham some kind of god and take his name as their idol or icon. Trouble is, this is done not with genuine, knowledge-driven reverence, but with casual or distorted and fanatic militant zealots!

R.D. Burman, a man who was always dished out step-motherly treatment in life by a capricious destiny, has become a fashion statement for decades after death, a brand akin of musical Versace, his songs as cool as the latest Reebok, or as hot as the latest MacDonald fast food. His current image as the czar of composers in one stroke decimates the importance and phenomenal contributions of seniors and contemporaries whose total contribution was as great or greater, a fact as unfair to him and to them all as it is painful to the unbiased music buff. And having met him, I know he would have hated it!

I would therefore wish to enlighten such unenlightened fans that are prone to drop his name as rapidly and meaninglessly as inhibitions are shed in an Indian web series since censorship do not exist! And genuine RD lovers are distressed to find a giant composer relegated to becoming a sensation merely because his music had a vision far ahead of his time and a canvas that extended far beyond Indian shores.

Today, the need of the hour therefore is to introduce the real Rahul to this club, in the hope that they can explore the vistas of Pancham-land and either become genuine admirers of the composer or let



R.D. Burman

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM / R.D. BURMAN_FAN

their fickle attention move on elsewhere.

R.D. Burman's basic identity as the son of one Hindi cinema's greatest-ever yet ethnic composers, S.D. Burman, his training under him (and the resultant mammoth exposure to Rabindra Sangeet and East Indian folk) and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, all gave RD a solid Indian core that the composer never abandoned or allowed to be downplayed the way some of the later trendy composers are prone to do.

For Pancham, Western (or any other non-Indian) music was a packaging, an embellishment, and at the most a significant segment of the personality of a song, and in the final analysis the means to an end-product so individualistic that none of his subsequent wannabe clones can hope to imitate, let alone match.

It was if as these Burman beauties were various thoroughbred Indians, one only dressed in a Western outfit, a second wearing a salwar-kameez with a cut similar to a Western suit, a third having lived abroad and adopted some of another culture's most refined or positive qualities that merged seamlessly with the Indian roots and values. And proof of this lay in the fact that everyone from hardcore classicists to the rural masses loved his songs.

To the genuine Pancham-premee, RD was thus more about Jaaoon to kahaan jaaoon (Asha) rather than Baahon mein chale aao (Lata) in the Anamika context, superb though the latter number was. In Bhoot Bungla, we tangoed to a Aao twist karen (Manna Dey) but needed a Jaago sonewaalo (as RD's first-ever excursion with fave singer Kishore Kumar) to linger on as proof of RD's colossal potential as early as in his second film.

These Pancham-ignoramus, as we RD-lovers would like to term the pseudo-fans who swear only by his re-treated and

more plebian (for commercial reasons) songs, would be interested (or is the word 'aghost?') to know that RD first made people sit up and take notice of him, not with the zingy numbers of Teesri Manzil (1966), The Train (1970) or Hare Rama Hare Krishna (1972), but with the raag-soaked Ghar aaja ghir aaye badraa saanwariya from his 1961 debut Chhote Nawab.

And for RD, going as expertly shastriya (classical) as anyone else turned out to be a frequent exercise in films as diverse as Padosan (Ek chatur naar/Kishore-Manna-Mehmood), Buddha Mil Gaya (Aayo kahaan se Ghanashyam/Manna Dey), Amar Prem (Raina beeti jaaye/Lata), Parichay (Lata-Bhupendra's Beete na bitaayi raina and Bhupendra's Mitwa bole meethe baine), Kinara (Lata-Bhupendra's Naam gum jaayega) and all those semi-classical lovelies like Iss mod pe jaate hain (Lata-Kishore/Aandhi), Rimjhim gire sawan (Kishore/Lata separately in Manzil), Bhor bhaye panchhi (Lata/Aanchal), Sajti hai yoon hi mehfil (Asha/Kudrat), Yeh faas-le yeh dooriyaan (Lata/Zameen Aasmaan) and Saagar kinare (Lata-Kishore/Saagar).

Perhaps these RD-bhakts would also like to revisit some of Pancham's solid but 'unfashionable' early beauties if they do not forever defile their image of him as a rhythm king – Paar lagaa de mere and Sharaabi sharaabi mera naam ho gaya (both from Lata in Chandan Ka Palna), Kya jaanoo sajan (Lata /Baharon Ke Sapne), Zamane ne maare jawaan (Rafi from the same film), Waadiyaa mera daaman (Lata/Rafi separately from Abhilasha), Nisultana re (Rafi-Lata), Chekhush nazarein (Rafi), Na jaa o mere humdum (Lata) and Tum bin jaaon kahaan (Rafi/Kishore separately) – all from that perennial music-fest called Pyar Ka Mausam, Bhai battur (Lata) and Kehna hai (Kishore), those two non-hyped lovelies from Padosan and the twin Lata-Rafi highs, Lehrake aaya hai and Kabhi kabhi aisa bhi to from Waris.

Never a Mukesh fan like his father—the style did not fit too well into the RD leitmotif – Pancham nevertheless went on some terrific Mukesh outings like Jis gali mein tera ghar (Kati Patang), Kahin karti hogi (With Lata /Phir Kab Milogi) which met us again as pop singer Annamika's sex-changed 'worse' ion in the '90s!), Suraj se jo kiran ka naata (With Lata / Hungama), Suhani chandni raatein (Mukti) and finally Ek din bik jaayega (Dharam Karam). And Mukesh, Annamika excepted, was no dance floor or remix-material.

And so Pancham could have been a Rahman precursor – but he chose not to be. His compositions dominated over his unique arrangements and sound, rather than vice-versa in the case of the so-called Indian Mozart. The freshness,

the all-pervading innovation and even the 'fusion' lay primarily in the tune (the core) rather than in the sound (the packaging). It is this quality which makes those who compare Rahman with this brilliant colossus guilty of both complete blasphemy and pitiable ignorance.

Let us also examine, to get to first base with the real RD, the music director's rarer experiments with other homespun names like Suman Kalyanpur (Suno ji tum, tum bade woh ho/Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi with Kishore), Parveen Sultana (Ha-mein tumse pyar kitna/Kudrat), Shivaji Chhatopadhyaya (Yeh safar bahut hai kathin/1942-A Love Story), S.P. Balasubramaniam (Hum na samjhe the/Gardish), Suresh Wadkar (Tumse milke/Parinda and Sawan nahin bhadon nahin/Kudrat both with Asha Bhosle), Narendra Chanchal (the title song from Benaam), and both Anwar (Duniya badal rahi hai/Hum Hain Lajawab) and Shabbir Kumar (Betaab) in their respective duets with Lata in these films.

Obviously, Pancham vocal avenues in the Indian milieu—Pandit Vasantrao Deshpande, Faiyyaz, Peenaz Masani, Anup Jalota, Mahendra Kapoor and Shamshad Begum—could be added to this list (though the results were not as fruitful) much more frequently than his indulgences with Westernized voices like Annette, Ursula and Usha Uthup.

Finally, what made RD stand out as a path-breaking maestro was that he did not need a frenetic number to demonstrate his wondrous beats. In an amazing synergy of compositional solidity and superlative orchestral genius, Pancham could effortlessly and incredibly work in rhythm into a slow number.

Not for him the heavy pulsating beats, the high vocal pitches or the techno gimmickry. For Pancham could sway both our souls and soles with numbers as soft -or as tranquil – as Kishore's O hansini (Zeh-reela Insaan), Lata's Dilbar dil se pyare (Caravan), Jab tum chale jaooge (Bullet), Asha-Kishore's Aao jaan-e-jahaan (Gomti Ke Kinare), Ek main aur ek tu (Khel Khel Mein) or the title-track of Yeh Waada Raha and that rare Asha-RD beauty, Aasmaan se ek sitara, from the non-starter Raahi Badal Gaye.

And so, all we genuine RD-aficionados would like to say is that Rahul Dev Burman is mainly about content, not form alone. We need to understand his genius before taking his name only because it is the 'in' thing to do. Being Pancham is not about being 'in' or 'out'.

RD – the real, the original, the unmixed RD – is forever.

25 Years Of KBC: Big B Remembers First Episode With Heartfelt Post

The much-loved quiz show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)', hosted by legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan, completed 25 years on Thursday.

The show first aired on July 3, 2000, and quickly became one of India's most popular TV programs.

On this special occasion, Amitabh, who has been the face of the show since its beginning, shared an emotional message. While preparing for the new season, the 81-year-old actor took a moment to reflect on the show's long journey.

Bachchan also took to his blog to speak about how the

day began like any other, and he had no idea it was such a big milestone until the team informed him.

"Jaldi so jao kaam pr jaana hai; kaam bhi jaldi aarambh hoga, samay pe jaana hai. (Go to sleep early, have to go to work; work will start early too, have to be on time.) at work, on shoot for KBC work, July 3, 2025, Thu 5:30 pm, did not realise. just came to know from the KBC team that. TODAY, 3rd July 2025, 25 years ago. on 3 July 2000. the very first broadcast of KBC took place. goodness 25 years. just went by. Kuch pata hi nahi chala, aur 25 varsh, saal guzar gaye (Didn't even realise, and 25 years just

went by), read his blog post.

KBC started as the Indian version of the British show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?. It was also Amitabh Bachchan's first TV appearance and gave new life to his career. Over the years, KBC became more than just a quiz show. With touching stories from contestants and Bachchan's famous line "lock kiya jaye," the show became a part of people's lives.

-ANI

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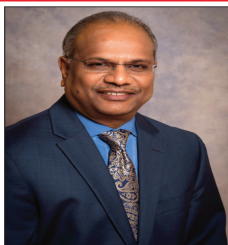
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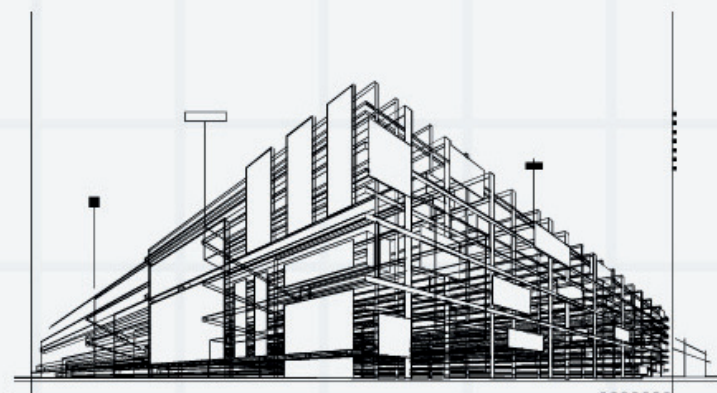
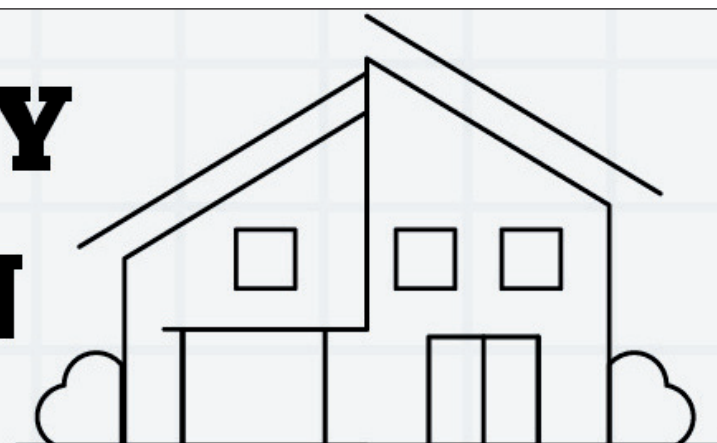
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Legal status must.
Lease option available.
Contact Dev: 630-253-8860

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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.
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06/13-07/04 SD

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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

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MOTEL HELP WANTED

STURGEON BAY, WISCONSIN
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07/04-07/25 SH

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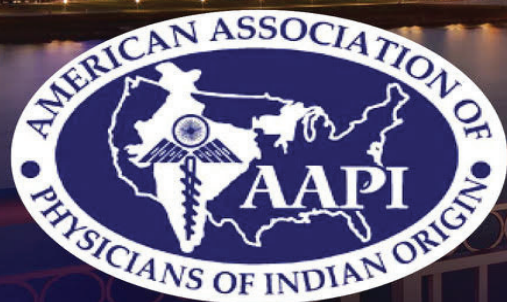
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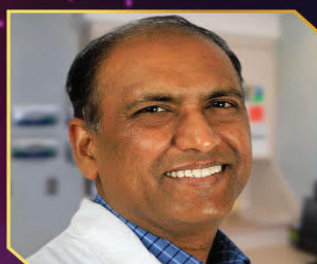
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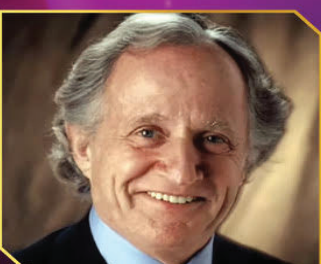
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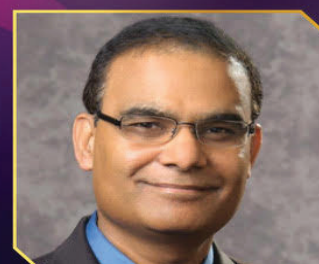


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