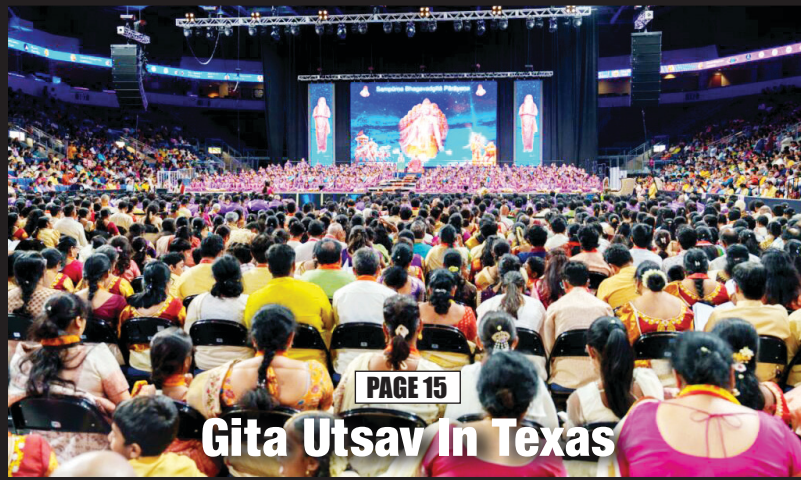


PAGE 8 Sahara Home Care Providing Quality Homecare Services By Caring Professionals

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Sahara Home Care's Initiative



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Gita Utsav In Texas

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IN CHICAGO



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Thousands of Jains gather in Chicago to enjoy 23rd Biennial JAINA Convention



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Space: Another frontier for stronger US-India ties

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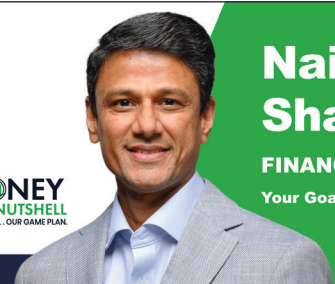
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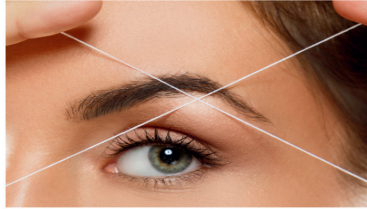
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Preparing For The Next Y2K Moment

By VIVEK WADHWA

Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration anticipates a trillion-dollar opportunity. Rest of India should log in.

The government of Andhra Pradesh issued the Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration earlier this week, committing to transform the state capital into a global hub for quantum innovation. The plan includes installing an IBM Quantum System Two by early 2026, building India's largest open quantum testbed (QChipIN), supporting the launch of 100 quantum startups, and training 5,000 specialists annually by 2030. The goal is to test 1,000 quantum algorithms a year and achieve 1,000 effective qubits by 2029.

This is a smart move because a trillion-dollar opportunity is opening up.

In the late 1990s, a looming crisis galvanized the Indian technology industry like nothing before: the Y2K bug. As the world braced for computer systems to fail when the calendar flipped to 2000, companies and governments scrambled to fix outdated software written decades earlier. What followed was a windfall for India. Tens of thousands of young engineers, fresh from university or retraining boot camps, stepped in to debug code and modernize systems.

Now, a quarter-century later, the world is headed toward another such moment — a problem of breathtaking complexity, urgency, and scale. Only this time, it won't be about two-digit dates. It will be about quantum computers and their ability to shatter the cryptographic codes that underpin nearly every system we rely on — from banking and e-commerce to messaging apps and government databases.

This will be the mother of all Y2Ks, made possible by a radically new type of



PHOTO: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

BM_Quantum_Computer_Demo. By Dev Jadiya – Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0.

computer.

Unlike classical computers, which store data in bits that are either 0 or 1, quantum computers use qubits, which can be 0 and 1 at the same time — a property called superposition. They also take advantage of entanglement, a quantum phenomenon that links particles so the state of one instantly affects the other. These properties allow quantum machines to solve certain problems exponentially faster than classical ones, especially those involving complex patterns or massive search spaces.

At the heart of the current threat lies Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA) encryption, a technology that secures online banking, emails, WiFi routers, and even cryptocurrency wallets. Its security comes from the mathematical difficulty of factoring large prime numbers.

Today's classical computers would take thousands of years to break it. But

quantum computers, with their ability to perform parallel calculations at massive scale, could theoretically crack RSA in hours or minutes using an algorithm known as Shor's algorithm — once they reach sufficient scale and stability.

Until recently, this danger seemed comfortably far off. Experts estimated that it would take a quantum computer with 20 million error-corrected qubits to break RSA-2048 encryption. No one had anything close. But a new study this year showed it might be possible with just one million qubits — a number that suddenly feels within reach.

Google's latest 100-qubit "Willow" chip demonstrated exponential error reduction, a crucial step toward fault-tolerant computing. IBM has already built a 1,121-qubit processor, the Condor, and laid out a roadmap to large-scale, modular quantum systems by 2029. Microsoft is experimenting with topological qubits that could make error correction far more efficient.

These are still early days, but the trajectory feels eerily familiar when you look at what happened with artificial intelligence (AI). As recently as 2020, most people — outside a handful of research labs — had never heard of large language models.

The idea that a machine could generate essays, summarise legal contracts, create lifelike videos, or simulate entire conversations felt like science fiction. Then came the breakthroughs: GPT-3, ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Claude, and more. Suddenly, AI wasn't decades away — it was everywhere, transforming industries in real time.

The same may be true for quantum computing. We may not see it coming until it is already here — and by then, it may be too late to react.

When the first organization, whether a corporation, a rogue nation, or a hacker collective,

demonstrates the ability to break RSA encryption, the world will be thrown into a frenzy. Every secure system will need to be upgraded, digital certificates replaced, encrypted databases reprotected, and network protocols rewritten.

This isn't just a mega IT project, it is a global infrastructure overhaul that will touch every major company, government, and connected device. In complexity, it will make the Y2K bug look small.

To make things worse, most companies are still unaware of what cryptographic algorithms they use, let alone whether they are quantum-safe.

In the Y2K era, Indian engineers-built trust by solving hard problems at scale. Now, with millions of trained coders, hundreds of thousands of cybersecurity professionals, and a rising ecosystem of quantum researchers, cryptographers, and startups, India is better prepared than any other nation to take the lead.

Imagine what will happen when a global quantum alert is triggered — when banks, telecom companies, and governments race to upgrade their cryptographic systems. They will need trusted partners who can move fast, understand both legacy software and next-gen cryptographic libraries, and operate across borders.

India needs to have ambulances and fire trucks ready — training a new generation of software developers in post-quantum cryptography, upgrading tools, contributing to open-source frameworks, and preparing global response teams.

That is why the Amaravati announcement matters. If the rest of the country follows Andhra Pradesh's lead — investing in talent, infrastructure, and startups — India can save the world again.

Vivek Wadhwa is CEO, Vionix Biosciences. The views expressed are personal.



PHOTO: COURTESY VIVEK WADHWA

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

US Designates Pahalgam Attackers As Terrorist Organization

By A STAFF WRITER

The United States has designated The Resistance Front as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

The State Department announced the action July 17, saying, "TRF, a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) front and proxy, claimed responsibility for the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack which killed 26 civilians," adding that, "This was the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks conducted by LeT. TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024."

These actions taken by the Department of State "demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack."

The US House Foreign Affairs Committee Majority on Saturday said President Donald Trump strongly backed the administration's decision to designate The Resistance Front (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, calling it a deserved move

against those responsible for killing civilians in India, ANI reported.

"President Trump calls it like it is. The Resistance Front is a foreign terrorist organisation and deserves the designation. When you butcher civilians, you don't get a pass—you get JUSTICE," the Committee posted on X.

TRF and other associated aliases have been added to LeT's designation as a FTO and SDGT pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Executive Order 13224, respectively. The Department of State has also reviewed and maintained the FTO designation of LeT.

Amendments to FTO designations go into effect upon publication in the Federal Register.

India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar responded on X, calling the terrorist designation my Washington, "A strong affirmation of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate @SecRubio and @StateDept for designating TRF—a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) proxy—as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Zero tolerance for Terrorism. #OpSindoor"



PHOTO: X @INDIANNEWYORK

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



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Trump Says India Trade Agreement Is Close, Europe Deal Possible

By JASPER WARD AND ISMAIL SHAKIL

The United States is very close to a trade deal with India, while an agreement could possibly be reached with Europe as well, but it is too soon to say whether a deal can be agreed with Canada, President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Real America's Voice on Wednesday, July 16.

To press for what Trump views as better terms with trading partners and ways to shrink a huge U.S. trade deficit, his administration has been negotiating trade deals ahead of an August 1 deadline, when duties on most U.S. imports are due to rise again.

"We're very close to India, and ... we could possibly make a deal with (the) EU," Trump said, when asked which trade deals were on the horizon.

Trump's comments come as EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic was



A mobile crane carries a container at Deendayal Port in Kandla, in the western state of Gujarat, India, April 5, 2025.

headed to Washington on Wednesday for tariff discussions, while an Indian trade delegation arrived in Washington on Monday for fresh talks.

"(The) European Union has been brutal, and now they're being very nice. They want to make a deal, and it'll be a lot different than the deal that we've had for years," he added.

Asked about the prospects of a deal with Canada, which like the EU, is readying countermeasures if talks with the U.S. fail to produce a deal, Trump said: "Too soon to say."

His comment was in line with the assessment of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who said earlier on Wednesday that a deal that works for Canadian workers was not yet on the table.

Trump also said he would probably put a blanket 10% or 15% tariff on smaller countries.

-REUTERS

Kumar Mangalam Birla Joins US India Strategic Partnership Forum

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan organization, announced July 11, the appointment of Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, to the USISPF Board of Directors, as a Member of the Board's Executive Committee.

Aditya Birla Group is the largest Indian greenfield investor in the United States, with investments exceeding \$15 billion and operations spanning 15 states across metals, carbon black, and chemicals, noted a press release from USISPF.

"It is an honor to join the USISPF Executive Committee. In a short span, USISPF has become a strong force in shaping and strengthening the strategic and economic ties between the United States and India. Its work in fostering dialogue, collaboration, and trust between the two nations has made a meaningful difference," Kumar Mangalam Birla is quoted saying in the press release. "We are very proud to be the largest Indian investor in the United States and are committed to expanding our investments in the country. The U.S.-India partnership is among the most consequential partnerships in the world, and I have long believed that when our two nations come together with purpose and clarity, they can shape the arc of global commerce and innovation for the better. I look forward to working with USISPF to continue our collective efforts in building an even stronger alliance."

Birla recently received the Global Leadership Award at the 2025 USISPF Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., in recognition for his business leadership and commitment to strengthen the U.S.-



Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, speaking at the USISPF Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

India economic partnership.

John Chambers, Chairman of USISPF and Founder and CEO of JC2 Ventures said "What stood out to me at USISPF's recent Leadership Summit was the team's commitment to continuous innovation by adding to its roster of stellar minds, business leaders, and visionaries. I was honored to present the 2025 Global Leadership Award to Mr. Birla, who is a leading figure of the Indian business community. Mr. Birla joining the Executive Committee will help steer USISPF to new horizons and uncharted paths, as we continue to grow and define this accelerated partnership."

"We are delighted to welcome Mr. Birla to the USISPF Executive Committee and Board of Directors. His visionary leadership and transformative impact on global business make him an invaluable addition to our efforts in strengthening the U.S.-India partnership. His commitment to fostering mutual prosperity through investments, innovation, and commu-

nity development aligns perfectly with USISPF's mission. As a leader who exemplifies integrity and excellence, Mr. Birla will undoubtedly help us chart new paths in advancing the strategic and economic ties between our two nations" said Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO, Adobe and Vice Chair, USISPF Executive Committee.

"I'm pleased to welcome Mr. Birla to the USISPF Executive Committee," said Raj Subramaniam, President and CEO of FedEx Corporation, and Vice Chair, USISPF Executive Committee. "His exceptional leadership, global vision, and entrepreneurial drive will strengthen the Board and our mission, and we look forward to collaborating with him to expand economic opportunities for businesses and communities in the United States and India."

"We are proud and honored to welcome Mr. Birla to the USISPF Executive Committee and Board of Directors. A household name in India, Mr. Birla is one of the country's most distinguished busi-

ness leaders. The Aditya Birla Group has a rich legacy of nation-building and has made significant contributions to India's economic growth," said Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO, USISPF. "What distinguishes Mr. Birla is his belief in the Gandhian principle of trusteeship and giving back to society. The Aditya Birla Group touches millions of lives annually through its community welfare and development initiatives, exemplifying a deep and enduring commitment to inclusive growth. As the largest Indian Investor in the United States, we look forward to working with Mr. Birla to shape the next chapter of the U.S.-India strategic partnership."

Under Birla's nearly three-decade leadership, the Aditya Birla Group – India's third largest conglomerate – has grown into a \$66 billion multinational with operations in over 40 countries and a market capitalization exceeding \$100 billion. The Group holds leading positions across all major sectors in which it operates, including cement, chemicals, metals, textiles, fashion and financial services. Its growth is underpinned by a meritocratic culture and a global workforce of 180,000 employees. Birla has also spearheaded over 60 acquisitions in India and abroad, among the highest by any Indian multinational.

The Aditya Birla Group's U.S. subsidiary, Novelis, is the world's largest aluminum recycling company and is seen as playing a critical role in revitalizing and advancing the U.S. manufacturing sector. Among the Group's most ambitious projects is a \$4.1 billion investment in Bay Minette, Alabama, which will establish the first fully integrated aluminum rolling and recycling plant in the U.S. in four decades and represents the largest industrial investment in Alabama's history.

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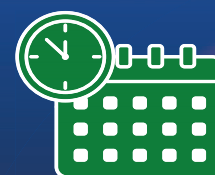
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Sahara Home Care Launches Back-To-School Supply Giveaway Series Across Chicagoland

By BHAILAL M PATEL

Despite a light summer drizzle, Sahara Home Care's annual Back-to-School Supply Giveaway kicked off with heartwarming success at its Corporate Office in Lombard. Local families braved the rain to collect free backpacks filled with essential school supplies, ensuring their children are well-prepared for the new academic year.

The event highlighted not only the resilience of the community but also Sahara's unwavering commitment to giving back beyond healthcare. "We were overjoyed by the turnout," said the Sahara Home Care team. "The smiles on the children's faces as they chose their backpacks made every moment meaningful."

Children received vibrant, age-appropriate backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, crayons, and more. Families also engaged with Sahara staff to learn about the company's home care services, all while enjoying a sense of shared community spirit—rain or shine.

Upcoming Giveaway Locations & Dates

Following the success in Lombard, Sahara Home Care is proud to continue the giveaway at its branch offices throughout Illinois:

- Bolingbrook – Tuesday, July 22 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Melrose Park – Monday, July 29 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Justice – Wednesday, July 30 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Mount Prospect – Thursday, July 31 | 1:00 PM

– 4:00 PM

- Skokie – Saturday, August 2 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Devon – Tuesday, August 5 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Rockford – Thursday, August 7 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Hanover Park – Saturday, August 9 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Event Guidelines:

- Backpacks are distributed first-come, first-served while supplies last.
 - Limit one backpack per child.
 - Families with multiple children are encouraged to bring each child in person.
- These events are free and open to the public—no registration required. Just arrive, connect, and leave with supplies and smiles. Supporting Families, One Backpack at a Time

With over two decades of trusted service, Sahara Home Care is proud to be more than a healthcare provider—it is a partner in community well-being. The Back-to-School Giveaway is part of Sahara's broader mission to uplift families through service, compassion, and care.

Providing Quality Care by Caring Professionals. Sahara Home Care. To learn more about Sahara Home Care's wide range of home care services or future events, visit www.saharahomecare.com or follow us on social media.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Assemblywoman Dr. Jasmeet Bains Declares Run For US Congress From California's 22nd District

By A STAFF WRITER

Family physician Dr. Jasmeet Bains announced her campaign for Congress from California's 22nd District, July 16, 2025, pledging to bring new leadership if she wins in the 2026 general elections. She accuses Washington D.C. of often ignoring the Central Valley.

"I'm a doctor, not a career politician — and I've spent my life on the frontlines, listening to Valley families and fighting for their health, their safety, and their future," Bains said in a press release declaring her candidacy. "I'm running for Congress because we deserve better than broken promises and backroom deals, and our communities are tired of getting left behind. We deserve a representative who will actually show up, and stand up, for the Valley."

Dr. Bains is a family and addiction doctor who serves as the Central Valley's Chief Medical Officer for the California Medical Assistance team, which organizes emergency health services across the state.

Raised in Delano, the daughter of immigrants, and the first in her family to become a doctor, Dr. Bains represents the Kern County area in the State Assembly.

She was elected to the State Assembly in 2022 with strong bipartisan support. She is an advocate for underserved communities and rural healthcare, as well as an experienced physician in the field of addiction and the fentanyl crisis.

To date three candidates are in the running for the House seat in the Nov. 3, 2026 election. The incumbent is Republican Rep. David Valadao, who, she says has voted for gutting Medi-Cal, slashing food assistance, and



Dr. Jasmeet Bains

backing a budget that she says would devastate working families in the Central Valley. Valadao has been in Congress from 2013 through 2019, and then 2021 to the present. The two Democrats on the ballot so far are Rudy Salas and Randy Villegas.

The Cook Political Report and Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball both rate District 22 and leaning Republican.

Valadao won the 2024 elections with a 7 percent lead over his Democratic opponent Rudy Salas.

CA-22 includes Bakersfield, Delano, Hanford, and communities across Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties — one of the most diverse regions in California.

"For too long, politicians in both parties have treated the Central Valley like an afterthought," Dr. Bains says, "I'm running to change that — because this district is my home, and I'll never stop fighting for it."

Dr. Bains is a two-term California State Assembly member who represents District 35. She is a graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology in biology, and earned her medical degree from the American University of Antigua.

Dr. Bains completed a primary care psychiatry fellowship at the University of California-Irvine in 2019.

Her career experience includes working as a physician at Clinica Sierra Vista in Bakersfield and Omni Family Health and as a medical director of Bakersfield Recovery Services, her biography on the campaign website, dr.jasmeetbains.com says.

Bains volunteered with the California Academy of Family Physicians and the California Medical Association. She was the chair of the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and a volunteer physician for the Central Valley Unit Medical Team for the State of California's Emergency Medical Services Authority.

In the State Assembly, she is credited with securing \$20 million to fight fentanyl addiction and drug trafficking, and led an effort to build a University of California medical school in Kern County.

She was named Legislator of the Year by CalPACE, the Alzheimer's Association, and Crime Victims United; honored by the American Sikh Council for breaking barriers; and recognized as Physician of the Year by the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce.



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Rep. Jayapal Introduces Bill To Prevent ICE From Detaining U.S. Citizens

BY A STAFF WRITER

U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, has introduced legislation that seeks to prohibit federal immigration authorities from arresting, detaining, or deporting U.S. citizens. The proposed legislation—titled the Stop ICE from Kidnapping U.S. Citizens Act—aims to address a series of cases in which citizens have allegedly been unlawfully detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jayapal called the move long overdue, citing what she describes as a pattern of misconduct by ICE, particularly targeting Latino and immigrant communities. “ICE is acting like a rogue force, kidnapping and disappearing people off the streets with no due process,” Jayapal said in a statement. “When ICE is conducting immigration enforcement, arresting and detaining U.S. citizens is illegal — and deporting U.S. citizens is illegal, full stop.”

The bill seeks to codify existing legal protections and hold immigration agents accountable for violating them. It would also establish penalties for agents found to have unlawfully detained or placed citizens into immigration proceedings.



Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

Rep. Sharice Davids Of Kansas Endorses Dr. Tina Shah's Run For US Congress From New Jersey

BY A STAFF WRITER

Rep. Sharice Davids (KS-03) announced her endorsement of Dr. Tina Shah, July 17, 2025, in the Indian American physician's campaign from New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, in the race for the November 3, 2026 general elections.

This is the first endorsement from a Member of Congress in the race to flip the 7th District, a press release from Shah's campaign (<http://www.drtnashahforcongress.com/>) said.

The seat is currently held by two-term Congressman, Republican Thomas Kean Jr. and at least 8 Democrats, including Dr. Shah have declared their candidacies, according to information on the Ballotpedia website. The date for the Republican



Dr. Tina Shah

and Democratic primaries are yet to be announced.

“I'm proud to endorse Dr. Tina Shah for Congress in New Jersey's 7th District,” Congresswoman Davids is quoted saying in the press release. “Tina has spent her career showing up for people — whether it's at the bedside as a physician or advocating for smarter healthcare policy. She knows how to take on tough challenges, bring people together, and get things done. I know she'll be a strong voice in Congress for working families — just like she's always been.”

“I'm proud to have earned the support of Congresswoman Davids,” Shah said. “Congresswoman Davids has consistently stood up for her constituents and all Americans to address rising costs and increase healthcare access. I've dedicated my career to doing the same for my

patients and my community, and I look forward to joining her in Congress to continue the work.”

Shah is an intensive care doctor, a triple board-certified physician, and has served under three presidential administrations, her campaign press release said. Among other positions, Dr. Shah was a Senior Advisor to US Surgeon General; She served as a Fellow and special advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs serving as the first National Director of Clinician Wellbeing. She has also served in the private sector.

District 7 in New Jersey is among the most competitive districts according to news reports, and the Shah may face an uphill battle ousting the other Democrats running for the seat.

IMMIGRATION

Global Organization Of People Of Indian Origin Hosts Webinar On Immigration

BY A STAFF WRITER

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) inaugurated its new international webinar series on July 12, 2025, with a session titled “Indian Diaspora and Immigration Upheavals – Path Forward.”

Immigration attorneys, policymakers, and community leaders participated. Webinar Series Chair Sunil Vuppala, who is also GOPIO's Associate Secretary welcomed everyone including the Chief Guest Lord Bhikhu Parekh, a member of the House of Lords in London, a press release from GOPIO said.

Moderated Dr. Maya Chadda, Professor Emeritus at William Paterson University and a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the webinar tackled pressing issues faced by Indian students and immigrants—ranging from visa backlogs and restrictive reforms to evolving international student work policies in the USA, Canada and UK.

“Our goal is to create a global platform that not only informs but equips the Indian diaspora to navigate complex immigration landscapes with clarity and purpose,” Thomas Abraham, founder and chairman of GOPIO said.

GOPIO President Prakash Shah called the series “vital” for the community in North America and other countries, adding, “we want to galvanize the Indian Di-



GOPIO Immigration Issues Webinar Organizers, Chief Guest, Moderator and Panellists: First Row: Prakash Shah, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Gaganjot Mundra; Second Row: Prof. Maya Chadda, Dr. Sudhir Shah, David Nachman; Third Row: Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Sid Jain, Shaima Ammal; Fourth Row: Stephanie Dy, Raj Punjabi and Kumu Gupta.

aspora for a greater contribution to reshape the future of global migration.”

Lord Parekh reflected on the Indian diaspora's resilience historically; David Nachman, Esq., a New Jersey-based immigration attorney covered what the Big Beautiful Bill meant for immigration which needed to be considered by the present and future diaspora members planning to immigrate to US not only from India but also from Australia, UK, Europe to rejoin their extended family.

Chicago-based Parikh Law Group Immigration attorney Stephanie Dy, addressed changes in high-skilled visas, explained stricter H-1B and L-1 vetting protocols.

Other speakers included London-based solicitor and advocate Shaima Ammal; Dr. Sudhir Shah, Mumbai-based immigration specialist; Gaganjot Kaur, Toronto-based immigration expert, discussed ripple effects of U.S. border security measures on Canadian student policy.

A tribute was paid to well-known immigration attorney Michael Phulwani. Some initiatives were adopted such as encouraging HR teams to implement visa tracking systems and sponsor risk policies; requesting immigration lawyers to provide timely guidance on new regulations and higher denial trends; counselling international students to comply with work hour limits and timely OPT applications.

The next webinar on AI and Technology is set for August 9, 2025, the press release said. Several other events are also planned.



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Thousands Of Jains Gather For 23rd Biennial JAINA Convention Held In Chicago

By A Staff Writer

Thousands of Jains from across North America and beyond arrived at the Jain Center of Metropolitan Chicago July 3 to 6, for the 23rd JAINA Convention, “filling the venue with energy and excitement,” organizers said. Sessions were held at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, and Hyatt Regency.

Every day the theme “Unity in Diversity: A Path to Peace, guided the program which was full of programs, with non-stop cultural and social events, a distinguished lineup of speakers, discussion panels, and participation by all ages.

Dance competitions showcased talent from around the US, a Temple Dwar Opening Ceremony brought devotees together on the first morning, led with sacred chants filling the halls.

The Exhibition Inauguration on the first day displayed Jain art, culture, and innovation. A colorful procession celebrating the theme was held outdoors.

The first evening wrapped up with an opening ceremony on the main stage, with blessings from dignitaries and a performance of the Sthulibhadra & Kosha Nritya Natika.

Every morning, attendees enjoyed Yoga and Meditation sessions. On the 2nd day, the yoga and meditation session was led by several experts like Samani Dr. Pratibha Pragyaji & Punya Pragyaji, Mayuri Bhandari, and Samani Shrutpragyaji, according to the Facebook posts about the Convention.

The keynote speech was delivered Dr. Gyanvatsal Swamiji, followed by Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muniji and Manu Shah. The afternoon featured a mix of talks, panels, and spiritual sessions. Highlights included: True Ahimsa with Dr. Faraz Harsini; Spiritual Intelligence by Dr. Sonal Jain Jayaswal; Energy Healing with Hemang Srikishan; Women's Empowerment session with Judge Neera Bahl; and parenting sessions. The main speakers at the Women Empowerment session also included Hemal Patani, Seema Jain, Prajati Shah, Asha Jain, Ginni Doshi, Sonal Jain Jayaswal, Dr. Sunita Jain, and Mayuri Bhandari.

A play by JSMC Pathshala kids and a “Festivals of the World” cultural extravaganza brought the second day to a close.

On the third day of the JAINA Convention, the keynote speaker was Jessica Cox, “the world's first licensed armless pilot, whose story of resilience inspires all,” organizers noted on Facebook. Shruti Pragyaji delivered a religious sermon among the many activities that transpired.

JAINA Awards were presented, each celebrating community excellence. The remaining day featured a number of panel discussions. One of them was around the theme of Unity and Diversity moderated by Ajay Sheth, exploring the strength of collective harmony.

Concurrently, other sessions featured Pinkesh Shah's Digital Karma, examining AI's impact on people's choices and souls; Samani Punya Pragyaji's talk on Live Like an Arhat; and Surbhi Pandya's insights on reversing chronic diseases without medicines.

The Jain Connect helped those over 43 to network; On the same day, Pujya Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muniji's Strength in Unity session was held.

Other sessions included Swanubhuti Jain's Unfollow to Unlock; Shrenik Gala's Shivmastu Sarv Jagatah; Jinay Shah's Ekta ne Vikalp Nah; and Dr. Darshita Shah's exploration of Jainism & Rajdharm.

Discussions shifted to practical applications, with Dr. Tushar Mehta's Thriving on a Vegan Diet, Samani Dr. Pratibha Pragyaji's Liberation Here and Now, and Jamie Shah's Outperform & Outlast; Also among these was Dr. Hetal Gandhi's Ahimsa to Arteries, and Dr. Pritesh Mutha's Lifestyle Medicine.

Spiritual talks like Mantra Ki Shakti and Nirdosh Vishwa took place in various session rooms.

JAINA awarded its most prestigious award of JAINA Ratna to its past president Mahesh Wadher of California. Both co-conveners Vipul Shah and Jignesh Jain



Thousands of Jains from North America and beyond attended the JAINA Convention 2025, held in Chicago July 3-6.



Jain nuns dressed in traditional religious attire at the 23rd JAINA Convention in Chicago July 3-6, 2025.



Photo (left): Colorful dances performed during the JAINA Convention.



Photo (right): An exhibition of Jain art and culture was part of the JAINA Convention in Chicago. Seen in photo is Lokesh Muniji and other top leaders of JAINA.



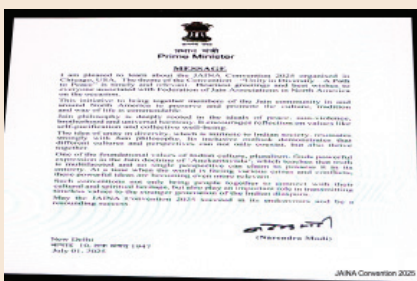
Performers being awarded prizes.



Several individuals honored at the Awards Ceremony during the JAINA Convention.



Jessica Cox speaking at the JAINA Convention.



Letter from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating those who organized the JAINA Convention, and attendees.



Sparsh Shah, one of the keynote speakers at the JAINA Convention 2025.



Comedian Ojas Rawal.

addressed the convention with details of planning, organizing and historical aspects of Jain Conventions.

The much anticipated Jains Got Talent awards and performances, followed by a Bollywood orchestra, headlined by special guest Sonu Sood, Indian actress and playback singer Sugandha Mishra, Little Champs star Avirbhav, and five more young prodigies who “set the stage ablaze with their electrifying performances, leaving the audience spellbound,” organizers said.

The last day of the JAINA Convention saw fond farewells from early morning yoga and meditation session,

to the closing ceremony on the Main Stage. Blessings were showered on the gathering by the revered Sadhu-Sadhvi.

Keynote speaker Sparsh Shah, a prodigy whose voice and story, have inspired thousands around the country, delivered a message of resilience and hope.

Ojas Rawal's comedic performance left the audience in good spirits as the Convention concluded.

A JAINA Kids Convention was held concurrently, that including both teaching sessions and joyful activities.



This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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

ARIES: Don't let a promising offer slip by while you chase uncertain options—secure what's tangible. The cosmic alignment encourages travel, making this a great time to map out your dream getaway. You may soon find a living arrangement that cuts down commute time. At work, consistent initiative will help you stay ahead. Romance may blossom unexpectedly through a special connection.

TAURUS: A rigid mindset could create unnecessary friction, so keep your approach flexible. Academic priorities demand full focus. Steer clear of workplace conflicts, especially those that don't involve you directly. If your budget permits, a luxurious break might be on the cards. Committing to healthier habits may result in a noticeable shift in your well-being.

GEMINI: Consulting a planner or expert can prevent avoidable setbacks. Now's the moment to reflect on your career journey and future prospects. Careful budgeting will help maintain financial stability. Addressing minor health issues early will keep things in control. You might need to skip a social plan due to a prior promise but make an effort to reconnect soon.

CANCER: Speaking negatively about others could come back to haunt you, so maintain discretion. Any home upgrade project requires your careful supervision. Work might feel monotonous, draining your energy. Avoid miscommunication by being extra clear with key people. Creative individuals may land a lucrative opportunity. You're likely to score excellent bargains while shopping.

LEO: Trying a new fitness plan or natural remedy may bring unexpected improvements. Focused efforts will reflect positively on your work progress. Adding qualifications can open new doors in your career path. An insightful financial suggestion could bring gains. Calm and positivity at home will give you peace of mind.

VIRGO: A small issue in your social circle might seem bigger than it is—stay rational. You may feel disappointed if you can't attend a family event due to official duties. Focus is crucial to avoid errors at work. A wrong academic move could complicate things, so choose wisely. Regular exercise may be necessary, especially if you're into sports. Love life could take a serious turn.

LIBRA: This week may bring positive outcomes across multiple areas of life. Explor-

ing new dining spots can refresh your spirit. A professional journey may turn out to be unexpectedly enjoyable. Pride in a family member's success will lift your mood. Sharing relaxed moments with your partner will build emotional closeness. Leave approval for personal plans looks favourable. Studies remain on track.

SCORPIO: Keep your superiors informed before taking any major decision at the workplace. Strategic moves may lead to advancement in your professional position. Delayed academic responsibilities require immediate action. A family guest might help improve strained relationships. Nurturing romantic ties will bring encouraging results.

SAGITTARIUS: Your budgeting skills will help you manage expenses related to an upcoming occasion. Dedication at work will bring appreciation. Someone who's been distant may become more open—just be genuine. A tough academic challenge may require your full focus. A recently launched effort could begin yielding results. You may soon be invited to a festive event.

CAPRICORN: Timely decisions will still help turn things around in your favour. A lighter workload may finally offer some breathing space. If you've been away, this could be the perfect time to visit loved ones. A candid heart-to-heart might deepen your bond with a partner. A basic homemade remedy may work wonders for minor health concerns.

AQUARIUS: Eligible singles may find promising prospects on the horizon. A long-pending personal idea may now gain social momentum. There's a good chance you'll outshine a family competitor. Love life looks thrilling if you make time for it. Handle sensitive work issues with careful communication. Avoid shady investment offers. Watch out for minor health ups and downs.

PISCES: Make sure you're clear about your priorities before taking a big leap. Your career could see a positive development or new opportunity. Those looking for employment may receive favourable news. Success in difficult exams is strongly indicated. A new health routine might bring you closer to your fitness goals. Committed couples will find their relationship growing more vibrant.



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Axiom-4 Mission: A Saga Of 12 Million Kilometers And 282 Orbits Aboard ISS

By INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

(The following are extracts from ISRO's account of the Axiom-04 Mission. The full account is available on isro.gov.in)

July 15, 2025:

The Axiom-04 mission has successfully concluded with the return of ISRO Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla, marking a proud moment both for ISRO and India as he returned after a historic 18-day scientific mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Launched on June 25, 2025, aboard the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, the mission was conducted in collaboration with NASA, Axiom Space, ESA, and other international partners.

During his stay aboard the ISS, Shubhanshu Shukla adapted exceptionally well to the microgravity environment. Despite the physical and psychological challenges of spaceflight, he maintained optimal health throughout

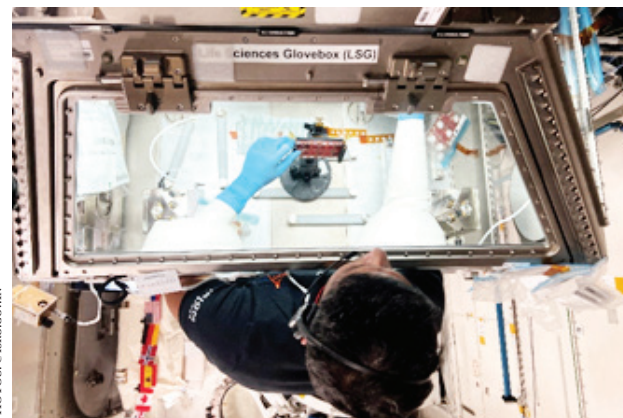


Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla with the Indian National Flag flying high on board the International Space Station.

in India's space diplomacy. On July 03, 2025, Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla interacted with school students from Trivandrum and Lucknow through a video link, where he answered many questions on how to become an astronaut and life onboard the International Space Station.

This was followed by two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) sessions that enabled real-time conversations with school students. The first session was held on July 4, 2025, with students and engineers at URSC, Bengaluru, where Shukla fielded questions on life in space, daily routines aboard the ISS, and the significance of scientific research in microgravity. The second session, conducted on July 8, 2025, connected students from seven schools in Northeast India through a coordinated link with NESAC, Meghalaya, providing them with a rare opportunity to speak directly with an Indian astronaut in orbit.

On July 6, 2025, Shukla also held a teleconference with the Chairman of ISRO, updating him on the progress of



Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla conducting experiments aboard the ISS.



Meal time for astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and colleagues on ISS.



Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla coming out from Dragon after successful mission.

the mission. He captured a wide array of photographs and videos documenting life and work in orbit.

ISRO-LED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS COMPLETED

Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla completed a suite of seven microgravity experiments developed by Indian research institutions under the Human Space Flight Centre's (HSFC) coordination. These experiments explored muscle regeneration, algal growth, crop viability, microbial survivability, cognitive performance in space, and the behaviour of cyanobacteria—each aimed at enhancing understanding of human spaceflight and microgravity science. The experiments are listed below

- Space Microalgae (ICGEB & BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi): Growth and radiation response of edible algae
- Myogenesis (BRIC-InStem, Bengaluru): Muscle regeneration with supplement treatment
- Sprouts (UAS & IIT Dharwad): Microgravity growth of methi and moong
- Tardigrade (IISc, Bengaluru): Resilience and ageing patterns of tardigrades
- Electronic Displays (IISc, Bengaluru): Cognitive testing with in-flight user interface displays
- Cyanobacteria in Microgravity (ICGEB, New Delhi): Comparative growth and proteomics
- Food Crop Seeds (IIST & KAU, Thiruvananthapuram): Impact of microgravity on seed physiology

All experiments were completed successfully, and samples have been returned for detailed post-flight analysis.

Shubhanshu Shukla worked in close partnership with members of Axiom-04 Crew and Expedition 73, contrib-



Earth to Space: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla who is aboard ISS.

uting to the daily rhythm of ISS operations and supporting joint science, maintenance, and outreach efforts. He participated in integrated crew timelines, shared resources aboard the Harmony module, and coordinated multiple crossover activities, fostering international cooperation in space.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Axiom-04's public outreach component was an integral part of the mission, connecting India's space achievements with its citizens and students. These events underscored the importance of inspiring the next generation while celebrating national pride.

On June 28, 2025, Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla participated in a historic live interaction with Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi from aboard the International Space Station. During the conversation, the Hon. Prime Minister commended Shukla's contribution to India's space journey and spoke of the pride the nation felt in seeing its flag represented in orbit. The broadcast reached millions across India and marked a symbolic milestone

the Indian science payloads and sharing preliminary observations. The exchange reinforced the strong operational link between ground teams and the astronaut, ensuring real-time alignment of mission objectives.

These engagements not only enhanced visibility of the mission but also served to bridge the gap between India's space program and its young aspirants, creating lasting inspiration across generations.

FINAL MISSION PHASE EVENTS

The formal Farewell Ceremony for the Ax-04 crew was conducted aboard the ISS on July 13, 2025, at approximately 19:25 hrs. IST.

Expedition 73 crew members and mission control teams expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts and marked the occasion with symbolic gestures of international friendship, including commemorative mission patches and final photographs in the Harmony module.

Following the ceremony, the crew proceeded with hatch closure and vehicle ingress, and the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft undocked from the ISS later on July 13, 2025 at 16:45 hrs. IST, beginning its return journey to Earth. The undocking was carried out with nominal systems performance, monitored by NASA and Axiom Space flight controllers in coordination with SpaceX's MCC-X in California.

After an Earth-orbiting free flight lasting nearly 22 hours and 30 minutes, the splashdown of Dragon occurred successfully on July 15, 2025, at approximately 15:03 hrs IST in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of California. The capsule was recovered promptly by SpaceX's recovery teams, and Shukla was extracted in stable condition. The mission concluded with nominal deorbit operations and vehicle performance.

Thousands Unite for Gita Utsav 2025 in Texas, Celebrating 10 Years of the Global Bhagavad Gita Memorization Movement

By T. VISHNUDATTA JAYARAMAN,
SOUTH ASIAN HERALD

This is the largest ever event in the United States dedicated to celebrating the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

The SGS Gt Foundation, in collaboration with Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple, Frisco, and Yoga Sangeeta, hosted the Sampoorana Parayana of the Srimad Bhagavad Gt on July 12, 2025, at the CUTX Event Center in Allen, Texas, as part of the Gt Utsav 2025 celebrations.

His Holiness Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, founding pontiff of Avadhoota Datta Peetham, Mysore, India, affectionately known as Sri Swamiji, envisioned the "Gt Mahayajna program to empower children, youth & adults with the life transforming teachings from the Bhagavad Gt. His vision gave birth to the SGS Gita Foundation to conduct Gt Mahayajna program."

A day prior, on July 11, as part of the Gita Utsav, Sri Swamiji blessed his devotees with "Srinivasa Raga Sagara" a Music for Meditation and Healing Concert. The special concert featured special guest Padma Vibhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam and Sri Swamiji's Celestial Message Troupe, creating an immersive meditative experience for attendees. Proceeds from the concert benefited the SGS Vagdevi Centre, a globally respected institution that empowers individuals with hearing impairments and communication disorders through early intervention and inclusive education, according to the organizers. In addition, Bhagavata Saptaha, a week-long discourse on the divine Srimad Bhagavad Gita in Telugu was conducted by Sri Swamiji.

The Gt Utsav 2025 marked a historic milestone as the largest Bhagavad Gt-centered gathering in U.S. history. More than 500 memorizers and 500 fluent readers from the 2025 graduating batch of the Gt Mah Yajna program joined thousands of alumni to recite the Gt in unison, filling the auditorium with spiritual energy and devotion.

This year also commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Gt Mah Yajna program, envisioned in 2015 by Sri Swamiji. What began with a handful of memorizers has now grown into a global movement: over 7,000 have memorized the Gt in full, and more than 10,000 are fluent readers worldwide.

The organizers explained that participants typically memorize the entire Bhagavad Gt in just 10 months. Among those who completed the program, around 3,000 memorizers are under 10 years old, and about 2,000 are working professionals who balanced their careers with intense Gt study. The initiative spans 14+ countries, supported by 500 trained volunteer teachers. In the United States alone, there are 30 teaching centers and 250 volunteers. The youngest 2025 graduate was just 3 years old, and the oldest, 85 years old.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott, in a congratulatory message, recognized the cultural and spiritual significance of the event, noted, "From the Gulf Coast to the High Plains, many Hindu Texans live out their faith each day. Hinduism is also



Thousands of Sri Swamiji's devotees from around the world gathered during the Sampoorna Parayana of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita on July 12, 2025, at the CUTX Event Center in Allen, Texas.



marked by a vibrant culture that inspires people from all backgrounds," adding "As you gather to honor your faith traditions through meditation, memorization and recitation, I join our fellow Texans in celebrating our diverse culture and reflecting upon the values we share."

During the program, Sri Swamiji addressed the audience, emphasizing the momentous nature of the occasion. "Today marks a significant milestone for students, the audience, and the larger Sanatani community. This is the tenth year since we witnessed the first Sampurna Bhagavad Gita Parayana. In this decade, this has become a truly global movement with over 17,000 students."

He acknowledged the dedication of participants from all age groups who devoted themselves to learning the Bhagavad Gt, calling it the greatest treasure of "Sanatana Dharma." Reflecting on the recitation, Sri Swamiji shared, "I witnessed Sri Krishna glowing in every face. The Bhagavad Gita guides us on our journey of self-realization, distinguishing true, eternal happiness from fleeting, momentary pleasure."

He conveyed that, with the blessings of Sri Krishna, Lord Dattatreya, and Gt Mt, the lives of these students were now enriched with bliss, joy, and prosperity. He praised the unwavering commitment of volunteers, Maha Yajna families, and the Gita Utsav event team, whose service reflected the teachings of the Gt.

Looking ahead, Sri Swamiji shared an

ambitious vision. "Soon, we shall expand this into an event, Laksha Gala Gita Parayana, a gathering of 100,000 people chanting the Bhagavad Gita together in one single place." To support this, the SGS Gita Foundation will begin training 100,000 students worldwide.

He explained that chanting the full Gt carries the spiritual merit of a Vajapeya Yajna, benefiting not only the chanters but even those who listen.

"By repeating the sacred words of the Lord and absorbing His teachings, everyone present became like Arjuna... the Lord Himself comes to guide," Sri Swamiji said, reinforcing the timeless relevance of spiritual education.

In a moment of light-hearted reflection, Sri Swamiji remarked on Dallas's spiritual resonance. He imagined a time during Pangea when perhaps, "Lord Krishna once walked these lands as a cowboy, speaking Texan, wearing a hat, and riding a horse."

"It feels miraculous that on this distant continent, devotees could chant the Bhagavad Gita together—even when pronunciation seemed challenging. Yet, by Datta's grace, the children recited flawlessly," Sri Swamiji added. "Lord Krishna, ever playing his divine flute, showered his blessings; and the gentle rain outside was like angels offering flowers..."

Sri Swamiji recognized the contributions of teachers, food service teams, cleaning staff, and managers, comparing their precise coordination to a perfectly designed film set. Distributing certificates

and medals to graduates, he said.

"You have given your word to Swamiji; this made Swamiji feel deeply happy and proud."

He also urged all those present including graduates, alumni, and devotees to chant at least one chapter of the Gt daily, a request to which the entire hall responded with collective affirmation. He offered a loving message to young memorizers, encouraging them to listen to their parents, study well, and limit screen time, while enjoying their childhood responsibly.

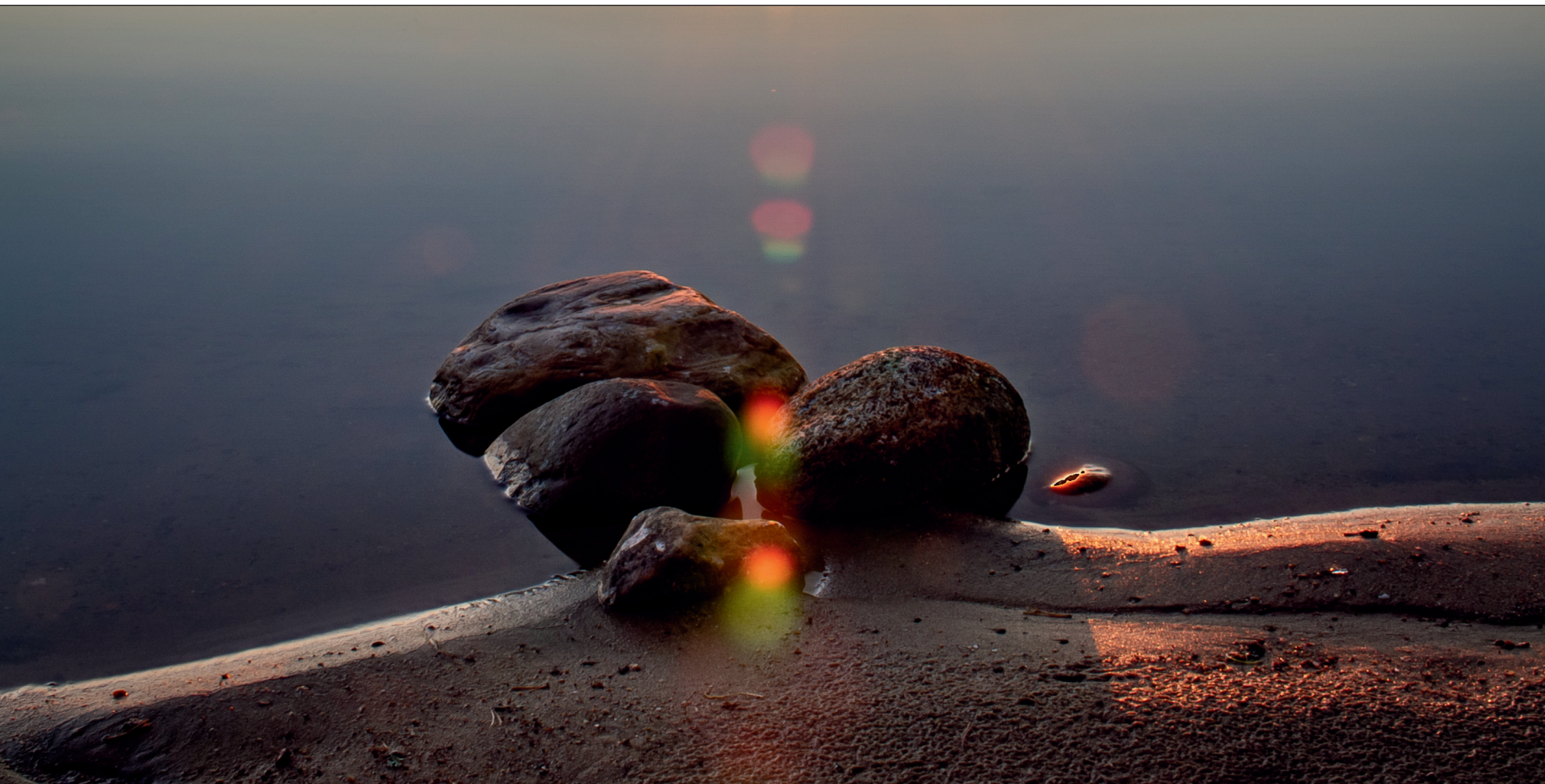
He extended special gratitude to Gt Coordinator Srikanth Challa and the teaching staff for their unwavering commitment.

Sri Swamiji also mentioned about the Golden Jubilee of his first U.S. visit in 1976, which will be celebrated in 2026. He encouraged all to participate and explore his life's teachings and history for deeper spiritual connection.

Referring to Frisco Agraharam as "Little India" and comparing Dallas to Tirupati, Sri Swamiji also acknowledged the region's rising spiritual prominence.

With over 100 Ashramas and temples established globally, Sri Swamiji continues to be celebrated for his healing music concerts, over 350 performed at prestigious venues around the world, and for his contributions to Datta Kriya Yoga and meditation music.

-(USED UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAH)



All Photos: Canva

Can You Travel Internationally This Summer? Key Advice for Immigrants in the U.S.

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

Summer is a popular time for vacations, but for immigrants in the United States, international travel comes with additional risks and responsibilities. Whether you're here on a visa, a green card, or you're a naturalized U.S. citizen, it's important to understand what to expect before leaving—and when trying to return.

At NPZ Law Group, we've been receiving an increase in questions from clients asking, "Is it safe to travel abroad and come back?" The answer depends on your immigration status, your personal history, and how well-prepared you are.

Traveling on a Nonimmigrant Visa? Be Extra Cautious

If you're in the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa such as B-1/B-2 (tourist), F-1 (student), or H-1B/L-1 (work), remember: entry to the U.S. is never guaranteed. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at ports of entry have broad discretion to inspect your documents, your phone, and your reasons for travel. Red flags—like missing information about where you'll stay or questionable content in your phone—can result in denied entry, visa revocation, or even detention.

Tips for nonimmigrant visa holders:

- Always travel with proof of your return plans (e.g., roundtrip ticket).
- Be prepared to show a valid reason for your stay and a place to stay in the U.S.
- Never misrepresent yourself or hide past activities—especially political or employment-related.
- If you're a student, make sure your SEVIS record is active, and travel with financial proof and school documents.
- If you've worked without authorization, even briefly, reconsider traveling.

H-1B Workers: Prepare Your Employer and Carry Documentation

H-1B visa holders should ensure their employment remains in good standing while abroad. CBP may contact your employer to verify job details—even while you're in transit.

Best practices:

- Let your employer know your travel dates.
- Carry a recent employment verification letter.
- Travel with pay stubs and an updated I-797 approval notice.
- If you're going for visa stamping, confirm your job and documents are in order.

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Final Travel Tips for Summer

- If you're a tourist, make sure to bring proof of where you're staying and your plan to return home.
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Contact us today to schedule a consultation and get peace of mind before your next trip.

The Hunt Is A Gritty, Gripping Procedural Narrative

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

The real-life assassination of India's premier, Rajiv Gandhi, in May 1991, shook and shocked the nation. After a grueling investigation, the coterie of culprits was caught. Happily, no corrupt cop was involved, though there was incredible red tape for such a prestige probe, especially towards the end of the investigation.

The story has been documented in a book named *Ninety Days: The True Story of the Hunt for Rajiv Gandhi's Assassins*, by Anirudhya Mitra, and that forms the background of this 7-episode series named *The Hunt: The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case*. Procedural dramas, even in fiction or cinema, tend to be by nature plodding and stretched, and this one is no different.

The series is made for obvious reasons in both Hindi and Tamil, as the backdrop was Tamil Nadu and the culprits were affiliated to LTTE (The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, also known as the Tamil Tigers, a militant organization that fought for Tamil Eelam, a separate state in the north and east of Sri Lanka). The



Amit Sial and team of actors enacting the Special Investigation Team that solved the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case in 90 days.

PHOTO: TRAILER VIDEO GRAB

Tamil accents even for the Hindi version makes things authentic but quaint, but one wishes still that the docu-drama was speeded up.

Amit Sial plays the leader of the team, D.R. Kaarthikeyan, with aplomb, and heads a team of doggedly diligent police officers who put together the pieces of the puzzle with grit and rare integrity. Sleepless nights, sudden failures, official criticism from the powers above, clashes with the Tamil Nadu police—the

obstacles are many and humongous. But they scythe through all these and come up trumps, nailing the one-eyed mastermind, Sivarasan (Shafeeq Mustafa), but sadly not alive. However, Anjana Balaji as Nalini, Sai Dinesh as Murugan live to tell the tale of how things were set in place, apart from what was found out from interrogations of others and evidence that came in, sometimes through lucky breaks. The dry run conducted a fortnight earlier on Prime Minister V.P. Singh remains a chilling truth

and is not known to many, though.

While the screenplay is leisured, the actors are all brilliant. Kaarthikeyan's core teammates, Amit (Sahil Vaid), Amod Kant (Danish Iqbal), Ragothaman (Bagavathi Perumal), Radhavinod (Girish Sharma) and Ravindran (Vidut Garg) are precise and hit the bull's-eye in their sharply delineated characters. The 'baddies' are no less. Sivarasan (Shafeeq Mustafa) is outstanding, while Anjana Balaji as Nalini and Sai Dinesh as her husband Murugan score high, especially in the jail sequence where Ravinder tricks them into a confession. Yes, the police torture scenes tend to become a shade repetitious.

Technically, the series is state-of-the-art and the most brilliant aspect of it is Sangram Giri's cinematography, which reproduces the feel (as expressed in films of that era) of the early 1990s. Tapas Relia's background score is excellent.

The script (Rohit G. Banawlikar, Nagesh Kukunoor and Sriram Rajan) and direction are first-rate. Kukunoor gets everything pitch-perfect and is in his element yet again after many great movies and the classic series, *City of Dreams*.

Another ace from SonyLIV, this one.

Rating: ****

Tanvi—The Great Makes It To List Of Best Movies On Persons With Disabilities

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

Most movies on protagonists with disabilities tend to be successful. But that is the commercial viewpoint, which is valid because exposure to understanding diverse such ailments (some rare) is a must even in 2025 India where ignorance and social stereotyping still thrive. And without entertaining the audience enough to work at the box-office, such enterprises, however diligently made, are fruitless. Example: if a film is to be made on staying on in one's motherland, it should be as heartfelt as *Naam* (which hit the jackpot), not as boring and unrealistic as *Swades* (which flopped).

Weeks ago, we watched the brilliant *Sitaare Zameen Par*, the spiritual sequel to another masterly film, *Taare Zameen Par*. And now, making a gigantic evolution as filmmaker and writer, Anupam Kher directs a sensitive, sensible, thought-provoking motion-picture experience named *Tanvi—The Great*. Thankfully, it joins a fairly long and illustrious list that also comprises *Koshish*, *Iqbal*, *Black*, *Barfi!* and *Hichki*. And if *Jagga Jasoos*, *Sparsh* and *Khamoshi—The Musical* did not make it, there were individual-specific reasons for it, again in the crucial department of audience appeal.

Tanvi... centers around Tanvi (Kher has taken inspiration from real-life niece, Tanvi, who is an autistic and features prominently in the post-climax, along with his mother Dulari, all of 97 today, and brother Raju Kher). The reel Tanvi here is essayed by his student, (in his academy, *An Actor Prepares*) Shubhangi Dutt, who can be described by the French as *c'est magnifique*. If she does not win an award, it will devalue the award and not her.



Shubhangi Dutt in *Tanvi—The Great*.

PHOTO: UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS

Shubhangi has apparently spent a fortnight with the real Tanvi and had been instructed by Anupam to "observe her soul" rather than mimic her. And what she has achieved will last her a lifetime as an understanding actor and an evolved human being. Every expression, gesture, movement and reaction seem to have come from someone who must have lived an autistic person within here for the duration of the film's making!

The story is set between Delhi and Lansdowne, a hill resort where there is also a military base in Uttarakhand. Tanvi is Vidya Raina (Pallavi Agnihotri)'s autistic daughter, and her husband, Captain Samar Raina (Karan Tacker) had died in an enemy explosion, on the way to realize his

dream of hosting the Tricolor at Siachen, the world's highest battleground.

When Tanvi's mother has to attend a lo-o-o-ong convention (the only hyperbole element in the story, and avoidable at that!) on Autism in New York, the 'burden' of looking after Tanvi falls on Samar's grandfather, Col. Pratap Raina (Anupam Kher), a widower now who lives alone in Lansdowne. Pratap initially does not understand Tanvi and almost wants Vidya to cancel her trip so that he is not left alone to look after her. But Vidya predicts that he will come to understand her slowly, and her prediction is not just bang-on but comes true beyond expectations!

As Tanvi, who makes friends pronto, wins over not just her grandpa but also

her music teacher there, Raza Saab (Boman Irani) and Brigadier Joshi (Jackie Shroff), she also discovers her father's unrealized dream (she was 7 when he died) of hoisting the Tricolor at Siachen after foraging through his room (which has been lovingly preserved by Pratap).

Her only dream now is to fulfil that, but there are two obstacles: she has to join the Army, as only their personnel can go there, and the Army does not allow autistics in the force! And now, despite reasoned discouragement from her grandfather, Tanvi begins and completes her military training and appears for the interview. What happens next?

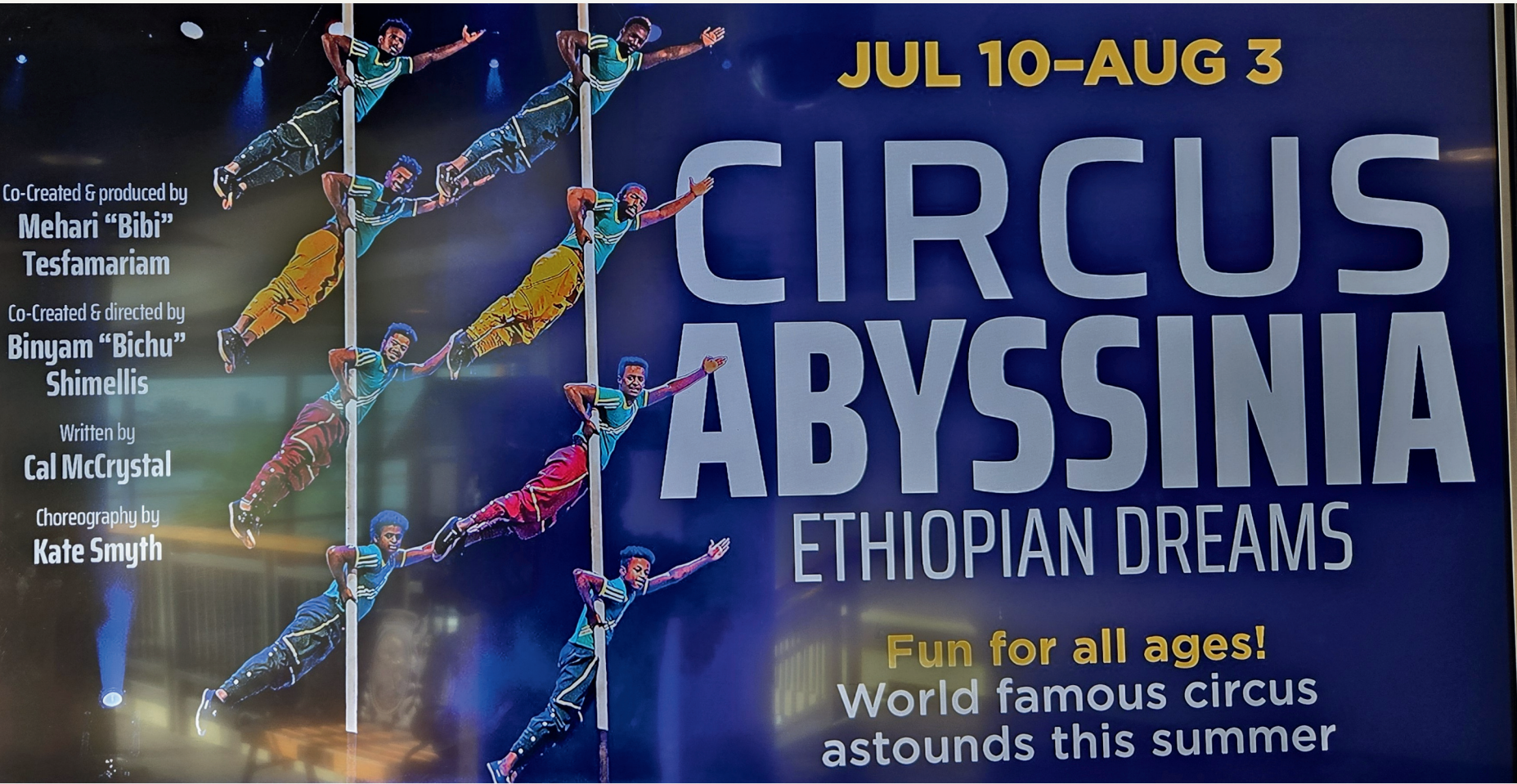
The thrill element at the end becomes a shade less in impact because of the Utopian end and a slight excess in length. But for a message film like this, the rather implausible climax can be overlooked.

Anupam Kher and Jackie Shroff (both especially), Pallavi Joshi, Boman Irani (totally charming in his demeanor), M. Nassar (in the recruiting interview), Arvind Swami, Gautam Ahuja as Joshi's son and Devender Madan as Joshi's mother strike home in their performances along with Iain Glen and Ashish Kautsik in smaller roles.

The script is heartfelt, the dialogues wonderful (Kher with Ankur Suman and Abhishek Dixit) and the production values superb. Kher's direction is passionate and if it can be faulted at all, it is in the underuse of the brilliant songs of M.M. Keeravani and the spot-on lyrics of Kausar Munir. It is to the writers' credit that the written word does not resort to melodrama and yet stirs our emotional chord. The background score too is perfect.

Watch this film for its passion, its magic and the takeaways.

Rating: ****



Circus Abyssinia Brings Color, Culture, and Acrobatics to Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Chicago, IL – July 16, 2025

Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier has welcomed a thrilling burst of international performance to its summer season with “Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams,” a limited engagement that dazzles audiences with acrobatics, storytelling, and cultural celebration.

The 70-minute show, performed in the Jentes Family Courtyard Theater, is a high-energy fusion of movement and music, filled with awe-inspiring feats of strength, flexibility, and coordination. From gravity-defying tumblers to mesmerizing contortionists and lightning-speed jugglers, the production has quickly become a favorite for families and theatergoers of all ages.

At its core, Ethiopian Dreams tells the real-life story of brothers Mehari “Bibi” Tesfamariam and Binyam “Bichu” Shimellis, who grew up in Jimma, Ethiopia, where they taught themselves circus arts with homemade props and unwavering determination. After years of performing on city streets, the brothers went on to found Circus Abyssinia, the first professional Ethiopian circus company, giving talented performers from their homeland an international platform.

The performance is co-created and directed by Bichu Shimellis, written by Cal McCrystal, and choreographed by Kate Smyth. Set to a vibrant soundtrack of traditional and modern Ethiopian music, Ethiopian Dreams pays tribute to the troupe’s cultural roots while celebrating human creativity and resilience.

From the moment the lights dim, audiences are drawn into a world where physical limits are pushed and imagination reigns. The intimate theater setting allows guests to witness up-close the sheer precision and artistry of the performers, whose movements frequently draw spontaneous applause and audible gasps from the crowd.

This production aligns seamlessly with Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s long-standing commitment to bringing global voices and innovative storytelling to its stages. Since its opening on Navy Pier in 1999, the theater has built a reputation for presenting classic works with fresh vision while also showcasing bold new performances from around the world.



Following the run of Ethiopian Dreams, Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s upcoming season includes a reimagined production of Much Ado About Nothing, set in 1940s Chicago, and a world premiere adaptation of The Tempest incorporating modern dance and multimedia elements.

The season promises to continue the theater’s mission of embracing diverse perspectives and expanding the boundaries of traditional performance.

With Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams, the theater once again affirms its role as a cultural hub in Chicago—one that invites local audiences to experience the extraordinary stories and talents of artists from across the globe.

By Lina Shah, Freelance writer

A Freelance writer, Editor, Teacher, Social worker, Financial professional, a multi-talented suburban Chicagoland wife and a mother of two, also enjoys cooking, social gathering, and event planning.

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Remembering A Musical Legend: Salil Chowdhury Left An Indelible Mark On South Asian Culture

By BISHWAJIT BHATTACHARYYA, SOUTH ASIA MONITOR

The legendary Indian music composer Salil Chowdhury 'completes' 100 shortly. 'Salilda', as he is fondly known, was born in a village in West Bengal on 19 November 1925; he left on 5th November, 1995. On his passing away at 69, Lata Mangeskar grieved thus: "I could not do more for Salil Chowdhury", highlighting respect she had for Salilda! Salilda-Latadidi combination of "na jeona" (Bengali) or "o sajana" (Hindi) from the film Parakh remains amongst my all time favourites.

Salilda was deeply influenced by Tagore; on Tagore's death on 7 August, 1941, Salilda cried! Salilda said: "that was the first time in my life that I consciously felt the loss of someone close to me! I went into mourning...I used to come to College barefoot...I did not eat fish or meat."

Salil Chowdhury was known for his socially conscious music addressing social justice. This aligned with world saint Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of addressing societal issues. So, Tagore's and Swamiji's influence on Salil Chowdhury is evident.

FUSION OF WESTERN AND INDIAN MUSIC

Salilda's unique contribution is fusion of Western and Indian music. This made him a world music composer. When I sang "old Hindi film melodies" in August 2010 in Kathmandu on the invitation of my friend Rakesh Sood, then India's High Commissioner in Nepal, the moment I started "Zindagi kaisi hai paheli haye" the 1000-strong audience in the packed Army Auditorium clapped in unison. In the SAARCLAW conference in Dhaka in December 1996, barely a year after Salilda left, I noticed huge respect for Salilda; same in Karachi in the SAARCLAW conference that I attended in February 2004. Salilda has left an indelible mark on South Asian culture.

So, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Salil Chowdhury constitute world saint, world poet and world music composer respectively, India's contribution to soft power.

Salil Chowdhury spent his childhood in the tea gardens of Assam. His father, Dr.Gyanendra Chowdhury, was a medical officer in a tea estate. Though Salilda's mother was not a musician, she greatly encouraged her child. So did Salilda's father who had a collection of westerns



Salil Chowdhury stamp issued in 2013 by India Post, Government of India.

classical songs of singers like Bach (1685-1750) from Germany, Mozart (1756-1791) from Austria, Beethoven (1770-1827) from Germany, and even Chopin (1810-1849) from Poland. Exposure to Western classical music greatly influenced Salil Chowdhury. He used to listen to western orchestral music in gramophone of Dr.Maloni, an Irish national, who was the chief medical officer of the tea estate.

World War II (1.9.1939-2.9.1945) and the Bengal famine (1943) devastated Salilda. He was still in his late teens then, having joined Bangabasi College, Sealdah in Kolkata. The British diverted food supplies from Bengal. Salilda witnessed millions dying on the streets of Kolkata during famine. He protested. And became a member of IPTA (Indian People's Theatre Association), an association of artists, to bring cultural awakening in India. Some of the prominent initial members of IPTA were Prithviraj Kapoor (1906-1972), Balraj Sahni (1913-1973), Pandit Ravi Shankar (1920-2012), Ritwik Ghatak (1925-1976) and Salil Chowdhury (1925-1995). Even Shailendra (1923-1966), the legendary lyricist, joined ITPA; IPTA gave a fillip to the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942.

BOLLYWOOD BREAK AND PATH-BREAKING FILM

After India's independence, Salilda continued with his musical passion in greater vigour. His best friend, filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee (1922-2006), brought Salilda and film director Bimal Roy (1909-1966) together. Bimal Roy gave Salilda the biggest break of his life. Salilda entered Bollywood in the film "Do Beegha Zameen", released on 16 January, 1953.

The film portrayed peasant exploitation in West Bengal. Salilda's role in the film was not only as a music composer, but also as the script writer of a short story "Rickshawala"; Roy enmeshed Salilda's "Rickshawala" and Tagore's "Dui Bigha Jomi" to convert them into a path-breaking film. The film remains a trendsetter. It became the first film to win the Filmfare Best Movie award, and the first Indian film to win an international award. It took Salil Chowdhury's career to new heights.

A MUSICAL GENIUS AND GURU

Salilda was 27 when he achieved this break in 1952-53. Till his last day he never looked back. He composed music in 143 films, 75 of them in Hindi, 41 in Bengali and 27 in Malayalam. Besides, he composed music in 13 languages. He was adept at playing flute, piano, esraj and harmonium.

Both Rahul Dev Burman (1939-1994) and Hriday Nath Mangeshkar considered Salilda as their musical guru. When in creative or personal distress, R.D.Burman often turned to Salil Chowdhury for guidance, despite being the son of the legendary S.D.Burman.

From my boyhood in Calcutta from 1961 onwards I used to hear "Anurodher Asor" every Sunday afternoon. I used to give marks to each song; I must say that two songs made me weep everytime I heard them. They are both Salida and Latadidi combinations: first: "O Bansi keno gaye amare kandaye" and second: "Jare Jare Ude Jare Pakhi"! As I write, droplets fall from my eyes. Salilda is immortal!

(The writer is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court Of India, former Additional Solicitor General Of India and a hobby singer of timeless classics. Views expressed are personal. He can be contacted at bbhatta@gmail.com)

-(USED UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTH ASIA MONITOR)

Nikita Roy Sees Sonakshi Sinha In Superb Form

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

As a film, it is better than good, and as a first film of a director, it is better than even that. To the point, sans melodrama, sans gimmicks, following a genre and yet not suffused with tropes, Nikita Roy is a clever piece of entertainment that balances manoranjana with craft as well as a social comment.

Spiritual leader Amardev (Pareesh Rawal) has a loyal clientele and followers in London, but Sanal Roy (Arjun Rampal) of the Rationalist Society suspects that all is not above board. He plants Freya (Kallirroi Tziafeta) there as a follower and plans to expose the man. However, before he can do that, he dies an untimely death, after ghastly and ghostly things happen to him.

His sister, Nikita Roy (Sonakshi Sinha), devoted to him and then in India, is summoned to London. She point-blank refuses to believe that his death was either an accident or suicide, and when Sanal's colleagues in the Society dissuade her from investigating Amardev, begins her own inquiries, aided by Sanal's friend who has also always loved her, Jolly (Suhail Nayyar).

The first stop is obviously Freya's far-out cottage, but in front of them, the seemingly-possessed girl slits her own throat. It is now time for Nikita to confront Amardev, who coolly tells her that she has just three days to live when Nikita threatens to expose him within a week.



Sonakshi Sinha and Arjun Rampal in Nikita Roy.

So what is the mystery's solution? Is it Amardev doing something in the occult department? Is there more? What evil force acted on Sanal and Freya and has now begun to act on Nikita too?

A tight under-two hours thriller, Nikita Roy is a vast im-

provement on recent (coincidentally) UK-based thrillers revolving around heroines (Savi, Ulajh, The Buckingham Murders) in terms of story and content. It has a neat plot, without loose ends or loopholes, and the only weakness is that the denouement, though sensible, is too hasty and possibly a tad complicated for the layman. In this matter, the scriptwriters including the director err significantly for the Indian audience.

Except for this, Kussh S. Sinha's debut as a director is easily among the brightest ones this year. The cinematography (Anshul Chobey), production design (Sunil Nigvekar) and editing (Ritesh Soni) are of high standards, and the BGM (Amar Mohile) is better than Mohile's normal over-the-top standards.

The script is tight, devoid of cliches, and the dialogues sharp and to the point. As always, the songs are forgettable.

Sonakshi Sinha is absolutely fantastic in the title-role and Pareesh Rawal, sorry to employ the contrasting word, is divine! Arjun Rampal and Kallirroi Tziafeta score high, and Suhail Nayyar is perfectly in-sync as Jolly.

In a milieu where overconfident producers have under-promoted the film, one wishes that this movie had released directly on OTT. It deserved much better than the reception it is likely to get and could have been another Jaane Jaan (2023) in terms of audience viewership as well as critical acclaim.

Rating: ***1/2

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MOTEL

MOTEL HELP WANTED

ST. LOUIS MO
Wanted Housekeeper for Franchise Motel in St. Louis MO
Good Salary and Accommodation Provided. Legal Status Required.
CALL 314-497-3292 or 314-330-4621

07/18-08/08 -MS

PHILADELPHIA AND NEW JERSEY
Need Legal Front desk and Housekeeping Couple.
Accommodation provided.
Min. 2 years experience.
CALL 732-447-7281

07/25-08/22 - JG

MOTEL HELP WANTED

NEW YORK:
Need Housekeeping Couple for Motel in Buffalo, NY 14225. Free accommodation provided.
Call Raj Patel (716) 481 9889 / (716) 697 2317.

07/11-08/01 SL

MOTEL HELP WANTED

VIRGINIA- MARYLAND & NORTH CAROLINA
Hotels are looking for skilled Front Desk, Housekeeping & Laundry attendants.
If you are experienced & ready to contribute,
Pls call/text: 540-324-8786

11/15/24 - 12/19/25 -SH

NEW JERSEY
Franchise Hotel in NJ is looking for Single/Couple for: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Maintenance. Good salary and accommodation will be provided. Also looking for Hotel Sales Associate. (Experience and good communication skills required)
Call: Nick 201-637-5062 (Contact between 9 AM to 7 PM.)
• Vivian (757) 620-9207 •
Hina (201) 936-8762

08/02-TFN-SD

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-SL

FLORIDA
Urgent Help Needed
Franchise Multiple Motels in Florida needs experienced live-in manager- Housekeepers couple, Night auditor, Accountant and front desk person and Wyndham,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

07/25-08/15-sd

GREENVILLE - SOUTH CAROLINA
Need Experienced Manager / Front Desk (Computer literate, Fluent English & Legal Must) Also Housekeeping / Laundry couples needed. Free Accommodation.
Call: 864 787 2632 / Superlodge9@gmail.com

07/25 -08/22 - SL

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

04/18/25 - 04/17/26 -SL

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

05/23/25- 05/15/26 - SL

VIRGINIA
Looking for Front Desk Employee & Housekeeping employee for franchise motel in Virginia.
Legal status. Accommodation provided
Call: 276-806-3375
Email: p.patel10@yahoo.com

07/25-08/15-SH

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

07/11-07/25-SH

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

05/23/25 - 11/18/25 -SH

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

09/27/2024 - 09/19/2025-SL

MOTEL HELP WANTED

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA:
NEED SINGLE or COUPLE for General Manager & Front Desk Clerk positions. Residence / Accommodation available.
Call PATEL-828-446-3080

07/11-08/08-SL

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

07/11-08/01-Sd

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

07/18-07/25-SH

MOTEL HELP WANTED

KENTUCKY
Single Front Desk help for Days Inn Motel in KY. Free accommodation provided.
Call Patel (918) 424 8871.

07/25 -08/22 - SL

MOTEL HELP WANTED

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
Need experienced Couple for Franchise Motel housekeeping and front desk help. Fluent English & Computer literate preferred. Accommodation provided on premises.
Call (267) 644 5324

07/25 - 08/15-SL

MOTEL HELP WANTED

SMITHFIELD, VA
Established 72-room interior corridor hotel seeks experienced Operations Manager, Housekeeping Couple, and Maintenance Staff.On-site accommodations provided. Must have **legal authorization to work in the U.S.**
Call or text 757-542-0123 for details.

07/25-sd

MOTEL HELP WANTED

PHILADELPHIA AND NEW JERSEY
Need Legal Front desk and Housekeeping Couple. Accommodation provided. Min. 2 years experience.
732-447-7281

07/25-08/22 - JG

MOTEL HELP WANTED

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA:
NEED SINGLE or COUPLE for General Manager & Front Desk Clerk positions. Residence / Accommodation available.
Call PATEL-828-446-3080

07/11-08/08-SL

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MATRIMONIAL

FEMALE

FEMALE

Seeking US born and/or raised groom for 5 '2", well educated, 32 year old US born daughter, finance professional working in a major bank as a vice president. Please email your bio-data and recent picture to:
matrimony528@gmail.com

07/18-08/22 MS

Parents invite matrimonial correspondence for their beautiful, well educated Pharmacist, 32 yr old daughter. Groom must be in the medical field, family oriented & from the US. Email details:
liladhar2347035@gmail.com

07/04-07/25 SH

MALE

EVENTS

34 year old practicing attorney, born and raised in NY, Height 5'9", looking for a suitable Hindu match .
Email: matrimony01345@gmail.com

07/25- SH

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