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The Vocal Trinity

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Dr. Navin Nanda AAPI Lifetime Achievement Award	Dr. Ravi Parikh Most Distinguished Young Physician Achievement Award	Dr. Krishan Kumar AAPI Most Distinguished Physician Award	Dr. Satheesh Kathula Outgoing President of AAPI	Dr. Bobby Mukkamala President of the American Medical Association	Dr. Sudhir Parikh Padma Shri recipient and chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media
					
Dr. P.K. Vedantham AAPI Most Distinguished Physician Award	Dr. Jagdish Gupta AAPI Outstanding Service Award	Dr. Avi Singh Gandhi AAPI Most Distinguished MSRF Award	Dr. Amit Chakrabarty , incoming President of AAPI and Dr. Satheesh Kathula, outgoing President of AAPI	Dr. Mario Capecchi Nobel Laureate	Aftab Pureval Mayor of Cincinnati

PAGE 4 Indian American physicians hold highly successful 43rd National Convention

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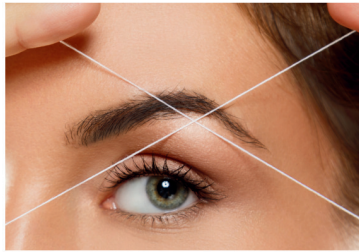
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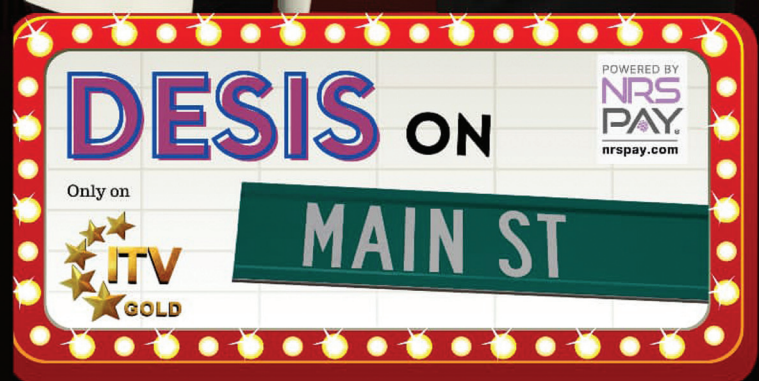
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Indian American Physicians Hold Highly Successful 43rd National Convention

By A Staff Writer

More than a thousand Indian American physicians met in Cincinnati, Ohio for the 43rd Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, AAPI, July 24-27, 2025. It was a highly successful meeting that sought to bridge medical expertise with technological innovation and networking to build a better health care system for future generations.

Among the highlights of the convention was the handover of the gavel from outgoing President Dr. Satheesh Kathula to incoming President Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, as well as Dr. Hetal Gor taking charge as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The packed schedule included Continuing Medical Education classes, seminars on AI in Medicine, Health & Wellbeing, a Women's Forum, CEO Forum, Bollywood Extravaganza, Medical Research and Jeopardy



Dr. Satheesh Kathula, outgoing President of AAPI, right, handing over the gavel to incoming President Dr. Amit Chakrabarty.



President of the American Medical Association Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, addressing the AAPI 43rd Annual Convention in Cincinnati.



Padma Shri recipient and chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media Dr. Sudhir Parikh speaking at the AAPI convention in Cincinnati, OH.



Dr. Ravi Parikh being recognized with Most Distinguished Young Physician Achievement Award at the AAPI Board of Trustees luncheon during the AAPI 43rd Convention in Cincinnati, OH.



Dr. Krishan Kumar receiving the AAPI Most Distinguished Physician Award.



Dr. P.K. Vedantham receiving the AAPI Most Distinguished Physician Award.

contest.

The Convention was held at the Cincinnati Marriott at RiverCenter and Northern Kentucky Convention Center, concluding with a colorful gala and the official handing over of leadership.

Dr. Chakrabarty's executive committee consists of President-Elect Dr. Meher Medavaram, Vice President Dr. Krishan Kumar, Secretary Dr. Seema Arora, and Dr. Soumya Neravetla as Treasurer. Dr. Gautam Kamthan will serve as the President, YPS, and Dr. Priyanka Kolli is the President, MSRF, both, representing the Medical Students and Fellows at the national AAPI.

Dr. Chakrabarty called it a "sacred beginning" for the largest ethnic medical association, and said he was committed to unifying it, and strengthening links with policymakers. "With this new chapter, we honor our heritage, step forward with courage, and vow to lead with integrity."

AAPI represents the interests of over 120,000 Indian American physicians, Residents, and Fellows, and is the second largest medical organization after the American Medical Association.

Outgoing President Dr. Kathula highlighted the programs and initiatives he and his executive committee had fulfilled in the past year. He presented Presidential Awards to Dr. Bhushan Pandya, Dr. Sunil Kaza, Dr. Vemuri Murthy, and Dr. Dwarkanda Reddy for their accomplishments and contribution to AAPI and to the larger society. And Dr. Kathula was honored for his outstanding leadership, commitment to AAPI's mission.

Among the leaders who organized the Convention, Dr. Vijaya Kodali was recognized for her hard work.

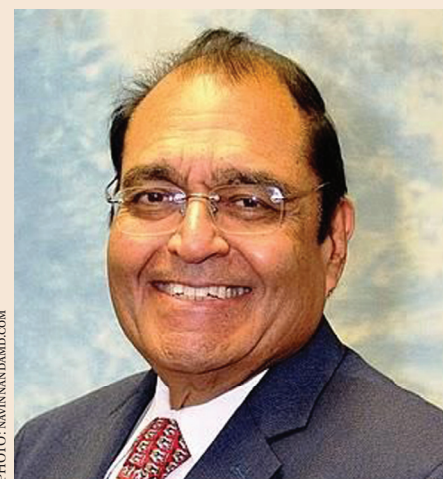
At the BOT luncheon, physicians with distinguished



Dr. Jagdish Gupta getting the AAPI Outstanding Service Award at the BOT luncheon during the AAPI Convention in Cincinnati, OH.



Dr. Avi Singh Gandhi receiving the AAPI Most Distinguished MSRF Award. (MSRF- Medical Student Resident Forum)



Renowned cardiologist Dr. Navin Nanda received the AAPI Lifetime Achievement Award.

achievements were honored with AAPI's prestigious awards -- Dr. Navin Nanda, Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. P K Vedantham, Most Distinguished Physician Award, Dr. Krishan Kumar, Most Distinguished Physician Award, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, AAPI Outstanding Service Award, Dr. Ravi Parikh, Most Distinguished Young Physician Award, and Dr. Avi Singh Gandhi, Most Distinguished MSRF Award.

Winners of the Research/Poster Presentation from across the nation were honored with cash awards.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, was a distinguished guest.

He spoke about his inspiring journey and his philanthropic work. From being a physician, and working to strengthen US-India relations, establishing a major publishing house with the goal of empowering the younger generation and bringing the American public closer to India. His work as a philanthropist, including with Life Global USA, establishing more than 100 schools in India. As the incoming President of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, GAPIO, he aims to help train young physicians in India and bring experts from around the world to

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Indian American Physicians Hold Highly Successful 43rd National Convention

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help improve India's healthcare services, enable placement of doctors coming to US in various hospitals, and also strengthening exchanges with top universities in US.

Dr. Sunil Kaza, the outgoing BOT Chair, spoke of challenges faced and Dr. Gore shared her journey to becoming Chair of the BOT, and her plans for the future of AAPI.

Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky Jacqueline Coleman was joined for the lamp-lighting and ribbon-cutting ceremony, by Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president of the American Medical Association, Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, and AAPI executives. The national anthems of both the US and India were performed by Dr. Aarti Pandya.

Apart from Dr. Mukkamala and Dr. Reddy, other speakers at the Convention included Dr. Lyuba Konopasek, MD, Senior Vice President, Intealth/ECFMG, Executive Director, FAIMER; Michael Suk, MD, BOT Chair, AMA; George Abraham, MD, Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards.

Dr. Mario Capecchi, a 2007 Nobel laureate in Medicine/Physiology for his contributions to the development of "Mouse knockout technology" delivered the keynote address.

And Dr. Mukkamala, in his keynote address, said, "I've been an AAPI member since I started medical school, and I'm an AMA member. But it's like having a left hand and a right hand that don't interact much. And that needs to be improved." He added, "I'm excited to be the first Indian descent president of the AMA to integrate that more. So that AAPI and the AMA both work together to improve physicians' ability to take care of patients and the health of this country. Both are critical to make that happen, and if two critical aspects aren't working together. We can work together, and we can watch them grow exponentially. When we work together, it will be exponential growth for both organizations."

Kentucky Lt. Governor Coleman praised AAPI members for their sacrifices, adding, "...you are the reason that the Governor and I refer to you as a title you have truly earned, which is Healthcare Heroes. So, thank you for what you do."

Mayor of Cincinnati Aftab Pureval, shared his life story as a child born to refugees from the Himalayas, to the United States. "And it's because of trailblazers like you that next generations like me and my brother can pursue our dreams in whatever field that may be. Congratulations everybody! So excited for you to choose Cincinnati, and I hope you have a wonderful conference."

Artificial Intelligence emerged as a critical theme, with Dr. Suresh Reddy and Dr. Nageshwar Rao explored AI's transformative potential in healthcare delivery and patient management, while highlighting ethical considerations in medical technology.

Daily morning programs focused on sleep techniques and anxiety management, providing physicians innovative strategies for personal and professional well-being, emphasizing holistic professional development.

The Medical Licensing Forum, led by Dr. Amol Soin, brought together state medical board representatives to discuss critical practice pathways and professional standards.

AAPI executives like Dr. Krishan Kumar, Dr. Neravetla, and others praised the Convention's collaborative effort to shape the future of healthcare on a global scale.

On July 24th, AAPI delegates enjoyed a cruise on the majestic River Queen Boat. The Biryani Nite with Bollywood music on the banks of the Ohio



Dr. Sunil Kaza, outgoing BOT chair being recognized for his contributions with the AAPI Presidential Award.



Kentucky Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman being greeted at the AAPI 43rd Convention in Cincinnati.



Nobel Laureate Dr. Mario Capecchi, speaking at the AAPI 43rd Convention.



More than a thousand members and their families attended the AAPI 43rd Annual Convention and Scientific Convention in Cincinnati.



Mayor of Cincinnati Aftab Pureval addressing the AAPI Convention in his city. Mayor Pureval is of Indian and Tibetan heritage.



Scenes from the AAPI Convention in Cincinnati.

River that went into midnight was yet another experience for the AAPI delegates at the convention.

(The 44th annual convention will be held in

Tampa, FL from July 2-5, 2026. For more information on AAPI and the 44th convention, please visit: www.aapiconvention.org. For more details on AAPI, visit: www.aapiusa.org).



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Punjabi Cultural Society Joins Khalsa Aid For Summer Parade In Streamwood, Illinois

By A STAFF WRITER

The Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago (PCS) www.pcschicago.org, joined Khalsa Aid volunteers to participate in the Chicago suburb Streamwood's Summer Celebration parade on July 26, 2025, to kick off the 29th annual celebration. The theme for the year 2025 was "CandyLand – A Sweet Time", a press release from P.C.S. said.

The parade with 70 entries, stepped off at 10:30 AM at the intersection of Bartlett Road and Streamwood Blvd and concluded about a mile and half away at the festival grounds located at Hoosier Grove Park. (700 W Irving Park Road).

The P.C.S. and Khalsa Aid volunteers' participation in the parade was coordinated by Dilpreet Kaur, Sarwan Singh and Rajinder Singh Mago. The contingent consisted of a decorated vehicle, Punjabi Dhol drum beat music, US flags and banners, and was fervently applauded by the spectators.

"We are here to stay. In addition to our own festivals, our communities must come out and participate wholeheartedly in the mainstream activities in the towns



Scene from the Streamwood, Illinois Summer Celebration Parade where Punjabi Cultural Society and Khalsa Aid joined to celebrate the occasion.



Members of Khalsa Aid and Punjabi Cultural Society pose for a photo.

they live in," said Rajinder Singh Mago member, board of governors Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago.

Over 10,000 people attended the Summer Celebration over the three-day festival featuring Parade, food, drinks, music, games, carnival, rides and entertainment.

This annual event is held during the last full weekend of July at Hoosier Grove

Park in Streamwood Illinois.

P.C.S. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer community service organization devoted to promoting Punjabi culture, performing arts, language, education, sports, and good citizenship in the Chicago Metropolitan area and beyond.

Khalsa Aid, is a non-profit humanitari-

an organization headquartered in the U.K. with branches worldwide that provide disaster relief, keenly support refugees, and tirelessly work to aid communities globally. Founded in 1999, it operates under the principle of selfless service, no matter who you are.

FIA Chicago And Hindu Mahotsav Host Summer Picnic Celebrating Indian Culture And Unity

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) Chicago, in collaboration with the Chicago Hindu Mahotsav Group NFP, proudly hosted a joyful and culturally rich Summer Community Picnic that brought together over 150 Indian American families on a hot and spirited August day.

FIA Chicago – A Legacy Since 1980; Established in 1980, the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) Chicago stands as one of the oldest and most respected Indian American umbrella organizations in the Midwest. With a mission to unite diverse Indian regional communities under one banner, FIA has led the way in promoting Indian heritage, organizing civic and cultural events, and engaging in philanthropic causes for over four decades. Through annual celebrations, parades, awareness campaigns, and interfaith partnerships, FIA continues to amplify the voice of the Indian diaspora while fostering unity, inclusion, and pride.

A Day of Fun, Culture, and Connection; Held at a suburban park, the picnic featured an inviting mix of authentic Indian cuisine, family-friendly games, live karaoke, youth dance showcases, and a rousing session of traditional Garba, celebrating Indian music, dance, and community spirit.

Esteemed Guests & Community Leaders, The picnic was honored by the presence of several community pillars, including, the Past FIA Presidents and Trustees: Bhailalbhair Patel, Kantibhai S. Patel, Kantibhai N. Patel, Rakesh Malhotra, Dr. Rashmi Patel, and Raj Patel, Mafatbhair Patel, founder of the iconic Patel Brothers grocery chain, Religious leaders from Harisumiran Mandir: P. Guruprasad Swamiji, P. Harisanmukh Swamiji, and Himanshubhai Sheth. These dignitaries extended their blessings and invited the community to upcoming spiritual and cultural programs, including one on August 10.

Special Announcements & Performances, Vineshbhai



President Hemant Patel with trustees of Federation of Indian Associations Chicago east:1980.



Lf to RT: Shailish Patel ,Jyoti K Patel ,Kanti S Patel,Hashmush K Patel, Kanti N Patel, Bhailal M Patel and Amar Upadhyay

Virani, President of VHPA, shared details about the "Support a Child" initiative taking place on August 9 at Manav

Seva Mandir. Abhinav Raina introduced the community to the upcoming film "The Bengal Files", inviting all to attend its premiere. Talented youth artists Shikha and Tirth presented expressive Garba performances, while the Saraswati Singers Group led an energetic karaoke session, bringing devotion and delight to the day.

Community Thanks & Recognition, Hemant Patel, President of FIA-Chicago, extended deep gratitude to Shailesh and Bela Rajput of Hindu Mahotsav for their leadership and collaboration, DJ Chirag Patel (Angel's DJ) for providing lively music and atmosphere. All volunteers and sponsors for their unwavering support and generosity

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FIA Upcoming Signature Events – Join Us in Celebrating India's Independence The FIA Chicago team—Hemant Patel, Shailesh Rajput, Rohit Joshi, and volunteers—invite the community to attend the following key events celebrating India's independence and cultural pride: August 10 | 10:30 AM – ICO Naperville Parade Walk with FIA August 15 | Morning – Indian Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Daley Center, Downtown Chicago August 15 | Evening – Patriotic Diaro at Manav Seva Mandir August 16 | 1:00 PM – Triranga Car Rally at National India Hub August 22 | 6:00 PM – Patriotic Gala at Manav Seva Mandir August 24 | 10:30 AM – India Independence Day Parade on Devon Avenue

For 45 years, FIA Chicago has been a pillar of cultural unity, civic engagement, and Indo-American representation in the Midwest. The 2025 picnic serves as a joyful reminder of our shared values, family roots, and enduring heritage.



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Promising Army Cadet Neil Edara Of New Jersey Dies During Training

By A Staff Writer

The U.S. Army Cadet Command (ROTC) reported the death of one of its cadets in the course of training in a post on Facebook July 26, 2025.

An investigation is ongoing into the death of Cadet Neil Edara of Ridgewood, N.J., who was attending Cadet Summer Training in Kentucky.

"Cadet Edara was one of the most dedicated and promising young leaders I've had the privilege to know," Lt. Col. Timothy Sorensen, professor of military science, Rutgers University, said. "His calm collected demeanor and unwavering commitment to excellence left a lasting impact on everyone around him. His loss is deeply felt across the entire ROTC and Rutgers community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time."

He passed away during training on the Land Navigation site on July 24, 2025, on Fort Knox, Ky, the FB post said.

Edara joined ROTC at Rutgers University in September 2021. He was attending



Army Cadet Neil Edara.

Cadet Summer Training as part of 9th Regiment, Advanced Camp.

Edara became unresponsive while conducting Land Navigation Training. "He received immediate medical attention and was medically evacuated by helicopter to the University of Louisville, where he was



Neil Edara updated his profile photo on FB on July 27, 2021.

pronounced deceased by medical professionals," the Army Cadet Command said in the FB post.

At this time, the cause of death is under investigation.

The agency said the safety of cadets and cadre remains U.S. Army Cadet Com-

mand's top priority as training continues, and that the Cadets have access to religious affairs or spiritual counseling and support as required.

A web search indicates, Neil Edara was the son of Varalakshmi L. Edara, a licensed Social Worker, and Srinivasa Edara, a software engineer. Other relatives include Nina Edara, and Praveena Edara. A call to the number listed for Varalakshmi Edara received no response.

Several posts by parents of ROTC cadets, on theridgewoodblog.net, speak of their experience and condole the Edara family for its loss.

One Anonymous post says, "My son was good friends with him throughout RW schools. Always a sweet respectful boy with a great family. Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Heart-breaking!"

Neil Edara's Facebook site @neil.edara, contains no new posts since July 27, 2021. It lists 132 friends. It includes an intro saying, "RHS class of 2021 RU class of 2025 Rutgers Ravens: Air Force ROTC Detachment: 485".

Indian-American, 4 Others, In US Physics Team Earn Gold Medals At The 2025 International Physics Olympiad

By A Staff Writer

The U.S. Physics Team, represented by the five traveling members, including Indian American Agastya Goel, competed with student scholars from 85 nations at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) held July 17-25 at PALAISEAU, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France.

The five Gold Medal winners of the 2025 US Physics Team are:

- Agastya Goel
- Allen Li
- Joshua Wang
- Feodor Yevtushenko
- Brian Zhang

Each of these team members from the US, earned a Gold Medal, and the US Team is the only Country-team to achieve five Gold Medals, noted the American Association of Physics Teachers, AAPT, based in Maryland, in a July 25 press release.

The coaches for the 2025 U.S. Physics Team are Academic Director, Tengiz Bibilashvili; Coaches, Kellan Colburn, Natalie LeBaron, Rishab Parthasarathy, and Elena Yudovina; and Junior Coach, Evan Erickson.

The 2025 International Physics Olympiad reflected the theme "Physics Beyond Frontiers."

"AAPT proudly congratulates these young physicists and their coaches for this outstanding representation of the United States as ambassadors of curiosity, of rigor, and of discovery on the global stage," AAPT said in the press release.

The Closing Ceremony is available on YouTube and contains information about additional awards and prizes presented.

The U.S. Physics Team is spon-



US Physics Team for International Physics Olympiad 2025, poses for a photo. From left, Feodor Yevtushenko, Brian Zhang, Joshua Wang, Allen Li, and Agastya Goel.



Agastya Goel playing on the guitar and singing "Tonight we are young."



Agastya Goel delivering a Ted talk in 2022, on "Adventures with Data."

sored by private donors, the American Institute for Physics and the numerous member societies of the American Institute of Physics.

Goel is from Palo Alto, California. A student of Gunn High School with a diploma in mathematics and computer science, who also describes himself as a "Singer/Actor" on LinkedIn, says, "I love thinking about computer science and physics and finding ways to apply them to my everyday life. I also enjoy performing through choir and theater, as well as playing tennis and board games."

This is not Goel's first Gold Medal. He also won the Gold Medal as the US Physics Team Member in 2024, as well as the Gold Medal at the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) in 2023 and 2024.

His teacher Harold Polo, posted the following online when Goel won the IOI Gold Medal a year ago –

"I am thrilled to announce that Agastya Goel, one of my MIT PRIMES students, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning a gold medal at the 35th International Olympiad in Informatics, which was hosted this year in Hungary.

Agastya's achievement is a testament to his talent and perseverance, and it inspires us all to reach for the stars in the pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

I applaud Agastya for this outstanding accomplishment and wish him continued success on his journey."

He was attending the Stanford Online High School from August 2020 to May 2025, according to his bio on LinkedIn.

He has been an Eagle Scout, and a member of the Palo Alto Children's Theater since 2017 to the present. He gave a Ted talk in 2022 on "Adventures in Data."

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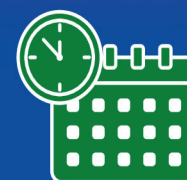
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First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath Leaving IMF To Rejoin Harvard

BY A STAFF WRITER

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced July 21, that Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD), would be leaving the Fund at the end of August to return to Harvard University. Gopinath was the first female Chief Economist in IMF history.

At Harvard, Gopinath will be the inaugural Gregory and Ania Coffey Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics, Harvard University said in its press release.

Gopinath joined the Fund in January 2019 as Chief Economist and was promoted to First Deputy Managing Director in January 2022.

The IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva is quoted saying, "Gita has been an outstanding colleague—an exceptional intellectual leader, dedicated to the mission and members of the Fund, and a fabulous manager, always showing genuine care for the professional standing and wellbeing of our staff."

Georgieva added, "She (Gopinath) came to the Fund as a highly respected academic in macroeconomics and international finance. Admiration for Gita only grew through her time at the Fund, where her analytical rigor was paired with practical policy advice to the membership during an especially challenging period, which included the pandemic, wars, the cost-of-living crisis, and major shifts in the global trading system."

Gopinath oversaw the Fund's multilateral surveillance and analytical work on fiscal and monetary policy, debt, and international trade. She is credited by IMF of making a "a strong contribution to systemic country surveillance and to Fund country programs, including those for Argentina and Ukraine."

Georgieva also praised Gopinath for her role in international forums like the G-7 and G-20, and for ensuring that the annual World Economic Outlook report "remained the preeminent report on the global economy"; spearheading the Fund's work on the Integrated Policy Framework (IPF); co-authoring the Pandemic Plan on how to end the COVID19 crisis – especially important for laying out targets to vaccinate the world at a feasible cost.



PHOTO: TWITTER @NARENDRAAMODI

Gita Gopinath, right, meets PM Modi at G20 meetings in Bali Nov. 14-15, 2022. IMF chief K. Georgieva, left, looks on.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @GITA_GOPINATH, POSTED NOV 20, 2024

World Bank chief Ajay Banga with IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath at the G20 Rio Summit.



PHOTO: X @GITAGOPINATHI

Gita Gopinath

"I am truly grateful for my time at the IMF, first as Chief Economist and then as First Deputy Managing Director, Gopinath said, praising her colleagues, and Georgieva

"I now return to my roots in academia, where I look forward to continuing to push the research frontier in international finance and macroeconomics to address global challenges, and to training the next generation of economists," Gopinath added.

She first joined Harvard in 2005. She will begin with a new slate of course offerings next spring, Harvard said in its press release.

"I am the guilty one who raided Harvard University from one of their top talents, Gita Gopinath, a class-act economist, and a wonderful person, gracious, kind, elegant and of course extremely smart," the Harvard press release quotes former IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, saying. Lagarde, who is now president of the European Central Bank, went on to say, "She (Gopinath) also proved a great leader at the IMF, a demanding institution, also full of smart economists."

India-US Interim Trade Deal Prospects Dim Ahead Of Tariff Deadline, Sources Say

By MANOJ KUMAR

The prospects of an interim trade deal between India and the United States before Washington's August 1 deadline have dimmed, as talks remain deadlocked over tariff cuts on key agricultural and dairy products, two Indian government sources said.

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened a 26% tariff on Indian imports in April but paused implementation to allow for talks. That pause ends on August 1, though India has yet to receive a formal tariff letter, unlike over 20 other countries.

India's trade delegation, led by chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, returned from Washington after a fifth round of talks without a breakthrough.

"An interim deal before August 1 looks difficult, though virtual discussions are ongoing," one of the Indian government sources said, adding a U.S. delegation was expected to visit New Delhi soon to continue negotiations.

Talks are stalled as New Delhi is refusing to open its politically-sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors, while Washington is resisting India's demand for relief from higher tariffs on steel, aluminium and autos.

Officials are exploring if these issues can be deferred

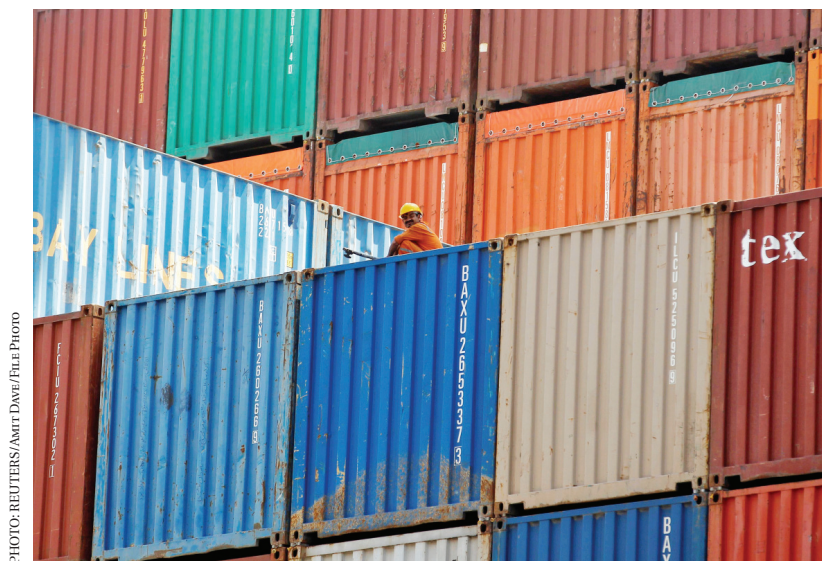


PHOTO: REUTERS/AMIT DAVE/FILE PHOTO

A worker sits on a ship carrying containers at Mundra Port in the western Indian state of Gujarat April 1, 2014.

to a later stage, after an interim deal, the second Indian official said.

Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian

Export Organisations, warned sectors like gems and jewellery could be hit hard if 26% tariffs are imposed.

"However, this could be temporary, as both countries aim to sign the deal over time," he said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNBC on Monday that the Trump administration was more concerned with the quality of trade agreements than their timing.

Asked if the deadline could be extended for countries in talks, he said it was up to Trump.

Indian officials remain hopeful of clinching a broader deal by September or October, in line with what was agreed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump in February.

"Given that there have been five rounds of negotiations and another U.S. delegation is expected, we remain optimistic about finalising a trade pact," a third government source said.

The sources requested anonymity as negotiations are not public.

The Indian commerce ministry and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office did not immediately respond to emailed requests for comments.

-REUTERS

This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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



ARIES: This week brings a sense of alignment between your desires and actual outcomes. Open-hearted talks with close ones will provide a sense of peace. You're likely to find support easily in managing household responsibilities. Your input at work could place you in high regard, and others might rely on your expertise. A romantic bond may move to a more serious level. A light-hearted getaway could be just what you need to recharge.

TAURUS: Someone close may need emotional reassurance, so pay attention to their feelings. It's a reflective time to evaluate your core values. While pursuing your dreams feels tempting, staying realistic is crucial. You might finally visit someone you've had on your mind for a while. If the current job feels restrictive, it may be time to take proactive steps to avoid discontent.

GEMINI: A flurry of social events keeps your energy upbeat all week. A notable milestone at work may open new avenues. Academic efforts bring encouraging progress, motivating you to aim higher. A prestigious event invite may come your way—put your best foot forward. Emotional connections grow stronger as you invest quality time in them. Minor health concerns may ease off.

CANCER: Letting others take the initiative might surprisingly lead to better results. Work may present challenges that require added focus and resilience. A demanding routine may interfere with personal time. However, work-related travel might yield fruitful results. Uncontrolled spending could strain finances, so be mindful. It's advisable not to force your views in social settings. General well-being remains on track.

LEO: Academic goals get a boost through timely advice or help from a guide. Your charm and confidence attract attention in social settings. Romance might develop unexpectedly and bring joy. At work, your enthusiasm may position you as a leader. Newlyweds may find deeper understanding and harmony. Travel plans could bring excitement. Property-related ventures seem promising.

VIRGO: A candid comment might unsettle you, but it encourages self-growth. Your performance at work can help build influence with key people. Efforts toward approvals or permits will find support through strong networks. Social initiatives may earn praise. Domestic life flows smoothly, fostering peace. A quiet spark at the workplace could hint at

budding romance.

LIBRA: A long-cherished desire may come to life now. Marriage prospects look hopeful for the eligible. Financial strength is likely to improve through past savings or investments. New business opportunities may lead to better income. Compliments from seniors will inspire you to perform even better. A long-pending meeting or reunion may finally take place. Physical energy remains high.

SCORPIO: Help may arrive unexpectedly when you face obstacles. Professional recognition from superiors is likely. Emotionally, you may feel more content as someone draws closer. A new offer could enhance your financial condition. Friends and family will offer moral support. Health shows signs of improvement, especially if something has been bothering you recently.

SAGITTARIUS: Staying ahead at work may require putting in extra hours. Building authentic bonds helps expand your social circle and reputation. Family members may feel proud of your efforts. Couples might begin planning for a shared future. Newlyweds will likely experience warmth and companionship. Watch your expenses to avoid dipping into savings..

CAPRICORN: A surprise encounter with an old acquaintance may lift your spirits. Career advancements appear likely with consistent effort. Study-related goals may be met with success. Romance is on the rise, as a partner becomes more affectionate. Keep track of property matters—they may bring good results. Overall, health remains in a balanced state.

AQUARIUS: You might be drawn toward making necessary purchases or upgrading things around you. A positive environment at work boosts your efficiency. Your planning and ideas could benefit your team. A considerate act will boost your image within family and social groups. Women juggling household and professional duties may feel accomplished. Progress in real estate matters is likely.

PISCES: Taking unnecessary risks might not work in your favour now. A current task may feel overwhelming without proper guidance, so speak up early. A dip in earnings may prompt budget revisions. On the health front, a new fitness goal may spark your interest. Someone's chatter may distract you—manage your time wisely. You may feel more spiritually inclined.



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DESI TALK

Philanthropist And Padma Shri Recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh Visits Life Blood Center In Rajkot, Gujarat

By A Staff Writer

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, recipient of India's Padma Shri award, and chairman of Parikh World-wide Media, recently visited the Life Blood Center (LBC), the first stand-alone blood center from India to receive the prestigious ISBT Award for Developing Countries. The LBC is a Project 'Life' endeavor based in Rajkot, Gujarat.

Organizers and leaders of the initiative called it a 'memorable' visit which "added great value" to the efforts of the charitable work of Project 'Life'.

The visit, which took place July 13, 2025, was among the many philanthropic commitments and humanitarian healthcare efforts for the underprivileged in India, in which Dr. Parikh is involved.

During the visit, Dr. Parikh was accompanied by Rushikesh Pandya, COO of Project 'Life', who provided a comprehensive overview of LBC's operational processes and quality protocols. He also familiarized Dr. Parikh with the recent milestones, innovations, and ongoing community outreach initiatives under Project 'Life'.

Dr. Sanjiv Nandani and key leadership of LBC welcomed Dr. Parikh warmly and took him on an extensive tour of the Centre.

Among the noteworthy points about LBC that he was told about, were:

LBC, established in 1981, is the first licensed blood bank of Saurashtra and a pioneer in blood transfusion services in the region. It serves a large population in Rajkot and neighboring districts across Saurashtra and Kutch — nearly one-third of Gujarat's population.

LBC's blood collection and distribution efforts are entirely reliant on voluntary blood donations. It has to date, provided more than 750,000 units of blood/components to poor patients and Thalassaemia Major children.

The LBC uses state-of-the-art technology and scientific practices for safe and efficient blood services, leaders of Project 'Life' noted.

During Dr. Parikh's visit and discussions with the local leaders, special emphasis was placed on the strong collaboration with Life Global USA, of which Dr. Parikh is the head. This partnership has played a crucial role in various ways, in advancing the goals of LBC, say the leaders on the ground there.

These benefits of the collaboration include supporting free transfusions for economically disadvantaged patients; and enhancing the health outcomes and quality of life for Thalassaemia Major children.

INTERACTION WITH BENEFICIARIES:

Dr. Parikh spent a significant proportion of his visit to interact with children battling Thalassaemia. "His compassionate interaction brought comfort and encouragement to both patients and their families," organizers said.

He shared his insights during a discussion on the Centre's future. He applauded LBC's world-class infrastructure and encouraged its positioning as a "second to none, ultramodern blood centre" in India.

Dr. Parikh also held a meeting with Trustees of LBC, focusing on the future. The meeting including Founder & Executive Trustee of Project 'Life' Chandrakant Koticha, and Joint Executive Trustee & CEO, Project 'Life' Meetal Koticha Shah, as well as COO of Project 'Life' Rushikesh Pandya,

The discussions centered around short, medium and long-term strategic goals for LBC. They also discussed strengthening global collaboration between Project 'Life' and Life Global USA to amplify reach and impact.

Dr. Parikh praised the "tireless efforts" of the entire Project 'Life' team and expressed his ongoing support for their noble mission of serving humanity through healthcare excellence.



PHOTOS: COURTESY PROJECT 'LIFE'

Dr. Sudhir Parikh visited the Life Blood Centre in Rajkot, Gujarat, July 13, 2025. He was warmly welcomed by Dr. Sanjiv Nandani and other leaders of LBC.



During his visit to the Life Blood Center July 13, 2025, Dr. Sudhir Parikh interacted with children.



During his visit to the Life Blood Center, a Project 'Life' initiative, June 13, 2025, Dr. Sudhir Parikh met with the executives, including Chandrakant Koticha, left photo, and Meetal Koticha Shah, and Rushikesh Pandya, right photo.

Analysis: Impact Of Trump Bill's \$250 Fee Addon For Some Foreign Travelers. Start Date Not Yet Announced

By ANDREA SACHS

For many foreign nationals, a new visa fee will increase the cost of traveling to the United States by \$250.

The "visa integrity fee," included in the sweeping policy legislation that President Donald Trump signed into law this month, will require visitors traveling on a nonimmigrant visa to pay an additional \$250. This group includes leisure and business travelers as well as international students from a wide range of countries such as India, China, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and the Philippines. Applicants must pay this amount on top of other visa fees that often total nearly \$200.

The Department of Homeland Security can adjust the fee based on inflation, starting in October. The bill does not specify when the fee will go into effect.

In a statement, DHS said the new law "provides the necessary policies and resources to restore integrity in our nation's immigration system. The visa integrity fee requires cross-agency coordination before implementation."

The department did not answer questions from The Washington Post about when the fee will be implemented and how visitors will pay it. The State Department did not respond to a request for comment.

The fee could be refundable once the visitor visa expires, typically in 10 years for business and tourist visas, according to Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association, a nonprofit that advocates for the travel industry.

The fee does not apply to travelers from more than 40 countries covered by the Visa Waiver Program, such as Australia, Chile, France, Qatar and Singapore. These visitors, however, will also feel a new financial pinch. Under the law, the application fee for the Electronic System for

Travel Authorization will increase from \$21 to \$40.

Freeman said the ESTA fee will be split among a travel promotion fund, Customs and Border Protection, and a general Treasury fund. The visa integrity fee, which he called a "junk fee that would make Ticketmaster blush," will go toward deficit reduction.

"Let's steal money from foreign travelers, money that they would have spent in U.S. restaurants and hotels and with small businesses," Freeman said. "Now they're going to give it to the U.S. government."

The fee could scare off potential visitors, said Steven Brown, an immigration lawyer based in Houston. He said a family of four headed to Disney World on a tourist visa called a B-2, which costs \$185 per person, would have to pay more than \$1,700 before they even set foot in the Magic Kingdom.

"People might question, 'Hey, is this an extra expense we want to pay?'" Brown said.

According to the new law, travelers may receive a refund if they comply with several stipulations, such as leaving within five days of the preapproved departure date and not accepting unauthorized employment. The provision does not provide details on how a traveler would receive a refund. Brown said DHS and the State Department will oversee the refund process.

Freeman doubted that visitors will ever see a check.

"The U.S. government is not a bank that's going to be setting aside people's money and give them interest on that amount when we return it to them in 10 years," he said. "It is a cynical way to create an offset on the backs of foreigners."

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the fee will generate \$28.9 billion through fiscal 2034, though it is not clear whether that projection factors in the yet-to-be-announced implementation date.

The United States is gearing up for two of the world's preeminent athletic events, the FIFA World Cup, which

the U.S. will co-host with Canada and Mexico next summer, and the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, which will stage the international competition for a third time, holds the record for hosting the most profitable Games in Olympic history, the 1984 Summer Games.

The World Cup could be even more lucrative. A Fédération Internationale de Football Association analysis released in March said the country could garner \$6.4 billion in tourist spending.

"Tourism forecasts for the FIFA World Cup 2026 are promising," the study noted. "This influx of visitors will likely generate billions of dollars in economic activity, benefiting the hospitality, transportation, and retail sectors."

The wildly popular soccer tournament will overlap with America's 250th anniversary, a year-long celebration marking the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The timing of the visa fee is inopportune, Freeman said. According to the association, international visits declined 3.4 percent in the first half of 2025 compared with last year. The number fell 5 percent in June alone.

"Before the pandemic, we had 79 million visitors. Last year, we had 72 million visitors," Freeman said. "This year, we're going backwards."

Though the majority of visitors originate from visa-waiver countries, 45 percent "must go through hurdles to get a visa," Freeman said.

Brand USA, which promotes international travel, also took a hit, losing \$80 million of its federal funding for the 2026 fiscal year.

Freeman said the association and other travel industry entities plan to push back against the visa integrity fee.

"This is just dumb policy," Freeman said.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

State Department To Investigate Harvard's Use Of International J-1 Visas

By NIHA MASIH

The State Department on Wednesday, July 23, opened a new investigation into Harvard University's eligibility as a sponsor of visas through the Exchange Visitor Program, intensifying the Trump administration's battle with the Ivy League institution.

In a statement, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said all program sponsors need to comply with government regulations and ensure they do not undermine U.S. foreign policy or compromise the country's national security interests.

"The American people have the right to expect their universities to uphold national security, comply with the law, and provide safe environments for all students. The investigation will ensure that State Department programs do not run contrary to our nation's interests," the statement said. It did not outline any specific misconduct on Harvard's part.

In an emailed statement Wednesday, Harvard said it remains committed to compliance with all Exchange Visitor Program regulations.

"This investigation is yet another retaliatory step taken by the Administration in violation of Harvard's First Amendment rights," a spokesperson said, adding that the university continues to enroll and sponsor international scholars, researchers and students.

The Exchange Visitor Program provides nonimmigrant visas, also known as J-1 visas, for those coming to the United States in various educational and cultural capacities, including as students, professors, au pairs, camp counselors, interns and researchers.

President Donald Trump's targeting of higher education institutions to bring them in line with his political



Harvard University.

agenda has involved actions such as freezing of billions of dollars in federal research funding. His administration has tried to revoke Harvard's ability to enroll international students and has focused on visa applications related to the nation's oldest university for additional federal scrutiny.

Harvard has pushed back against the administration's claims, including that it is not taking sufficient action against antisemitism on campus. This week, in a case that could have significant ramifications for higher education in the U.S., Harvard's lawyers argued that the Trump administration's reasons for withholding federal funding were "cooked up" and unconstitutional. The hearing

before U.S. District Judge Allison D. Burroughs concluded without a ruling.

In May, when the Department of Homeland Security revoked Harvard's ability to admit international students, the university sued and won a temporary block of the ban. There are more than 10,000 foreign students and scholars from over 150 countries at Harvard in the current academic year, according to its data.

Days later, the State Department directed its embassies and consulates to undertake extra scrutiny of visa applicants requesting travel to Harvard, including students, faculty, workers, guest speakers and tourists.

Last month, Trump issued a proclamation – which typically does not have the force of law – seeking to restrict the entry of international students and scholars looking to study or research at Harvard. Soon afterward, a court blocked the administration from targeting student visas, following which the State Department instructed consulates to resume processing such applications.

Harvard says it has taken numerous steps to address antisemitism in the wake of campus protests last year over the war in Gaza. Earlier this month, the Harvard Crimson reported that the school told international students to expect enhanced screening at Boston Logan International Airport and warned them that their social media could be vetted for pro-Palestinian posts.

While Harvard's legal fights continue, other institutions have sought to compromise with the administration. Columbia University on Wednesday agreed to pay the federal government more than \$200 million to settle a dispute over funding. The deal reinstates most of the \$400 million in frozen research grants and closes investigations into the school.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



All Photos: Canva

What to Do If You Lose Your Job on an H-1B or L-1 Visa: Practical Guidance

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

Losing your job while holding a U.S. work visa can feel overwhelming—legal status, career plans, and financial stability are at stake. If you're on an H-1B, L-1, or a similar work visa, here's what you need to know to protect yourself and plan your next steps.

1. The 60-Day Grace Period: Understanding Your Safety Net

When your employment ends, H-1B and L-1 visa holders are generally granted a 60-day grace period. Key facts:

- **Start Date:** The grace period begins the day after your final working day (not the last day of payroll or severance).

During the grace period, you can:

- Secure a new job and have the new employer file a visa transfer, or
- Change your status to another lawful category (such as student or dependent)

Important: Being on severance or paid leave does not count as maintaining valid H-1B or L-1 status for immigration purposes.

2. Why You Should Act by Day 45

Transferring to a new employer requires a certified Labor Condition Application (LCA) from the U.S. Department of Labor, which can take up to a week. Delaying the process puts you at risk of overstaying.

Tips:

- Begin your H-1B transfer or change of status process by Day 45 of the grace period.
- If you haven't secured a new position by then, consider applying to change to a visitor (B-2) or another temporary category to avoid falling out of status.

3. Considering Other Visa Types

EB-5 Investor Visa

If you have the financial means, an EB-5 visa (minimum \$800,000 investment in a qualified U.S. project) offers a direct path to a green card without employer sponsorship. You may also qualify for concurrent Adjustment of Status, allowing you to live and work in the U.S. while your case is pending.

F-1 Student Visa

Returning to school is another option, but proceed with caution:

- Avoid programs promoting "Day One CPT"—they are under increased scrutiny.
- Only enroll in reputable, accredited institutions to avoid future immigration complications.

4. Temporary Status Changes

If your spouse holds valid H-1B or L-1 status, you may qualify to switch to a dependent visa (H-4 or L-2). This can give you more time to remain in the U.S. while you look for new employment.

Note: If you later receive a job offer, a new visa petition and possibly consular processing may be required to return to work.

Always consult an immigration attorney before making any changes.

By David H. Nachman, Esq

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5. Special Considerations for L-1 Visa Holders

The L-1 visa is employer- and position-specific. You generally cannot transfer to a different company unless it's a qualifying affiliate and a new petition is filed.

If no internal transfer is available, your options may be:

- Changing to a different nonimmigrant status
- Departing the U.S. before the grace period ends

6. Green Card (PERM) Sponsorship: What If You're in Process?

If your green card application was tied to your job (through PERM/Labor Certification) and you lose that job, the process typically cannot continue. A new employer will need to start from scratch.

If you're close to the fifth year of H-1B status and anticipating layoffs, speak to an attorney immediately to build a backup strategy.

Final Thoughts

Losing a job on an H-1B, L-1, or similar visa is not the end of your U.S. journey—but time matters. The 60-day grace period moves quickly. Know your options, act early, and make informed decisions to stay protected.

NPZ Law Group Can Help

Whether you're navigating a layoff, exploring your next visa option, or planning for long-term U.S. residence, the attorneys at NPZ Law Group are here to support you. We provide personalized guidance and help clients make smart transitions across all visa categories.

Contact us today to schedule a consultation and take the next step with confidence.

Contact Information

If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group. You can reach us by emailing info@visaserve.com or by calling us at 201-670-0006 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at www.visaserve.com for more information.

Britain And India Sign Free Trade Pact During Modi Visit

By Alistair Smout and Manoj Kumar

Britain and India signed a free trade agreement on Thursday during a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sealing a deal to cut tariffs on goods from textiles to whisky and cars and allow more market access for businesses.

The two countries concluded talks on the trade pact in May after three years of stop-start negotiations, with both sides hastening efforts to clinch a deal in the shadow of tariff turmoil unleashed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The agreement between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies aims to increase bilateral trade by a further 25.5 billion pounds (\$34 billion) by 2040.

It is Britain's biggest trade deal since it left the European Union in 2020, although its impact will be a fraction of the effect of leaving the orbit of its closest trading partner.

For India, it represents its biggest strategic partnership with an advanced economy, and one which could provide a template for a long mooted deal with the EU as well as talks with other regions.

It will take effect after a ratification process, likely within a year.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the deal would bring "huge benefits" for both countries, making trade cheaper, quicker and easier.

"We've entered a new global era, and that is one that requires us to step up, not to stand aside... by building deeper partnerships and alliances," Starmer said.

Modi said the visit would "go a long way



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India pose for a photo after Britain's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds and Piyush Goyal, Minister of Industry and Supply of India, signed a free trade agreement at Chequers near Aylesbury, England, Thursday, July 24, 2025.

in advancing the economic partnership between our nations".

They also agreed a partnership covering areas such as defence and climate, and said they would strengthen co-operation on tackling crime.

WHISKY, CARS

Under the trade agreement, tariffs on Scotch whisky will drop to 75% from 150% immediately, and then slide to 40% over the next decade, according to the British government. On cars, India will cut duties to 10% from over 100% under a quota sys-

tem that will be gradually liberalised.

In return, Indian manufacturers will gain access to the UK market for electric and hybrid vehicles, also under a quota system.

The ministry has said 99% of Indian exports to Britain would benefit from zero duties under the deal, including textiles, while Britain will see reductions on 90% of its tariff lines, with the average tariff UK firms face dropping to 3% from 15%.

While it is Britain's biggest deal since Brexit, the projected boost to British eco-

nomics output, of 4.8 billion pounds a year by 2040, is small compared to the country's gross domestic product of 2.6 trillion pounds in 2024.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has forecast that UK exports and imports will be about 15% lower in the long run compared with if Britain had stayed in the EU.

In its first year in power, Britain's Labour government has launched a reset of ties with the EU in order to smooth trade friction, while also clinching some tariff relief from the United States and the India trade deal.

"In an era of rising protectionism, today's announcement sends a powerful signal that the UK is open for business," said Rain Newton-Smith, the chief executive of the Confederation of British Industry.

The India deal will also facilitate easier access for temporary business visitors, though visas are not covered. Britain and India also agreed to ensure workers no longer have to make social security contributions in both India and Britain during temporary postings in the other country.

Under the trade deal, British firms will be able to access India's procurement market for projects in sectors such as clean energy, and it also covers services sectors such as insurance.

India didn't succeed in its efforts to get an exemption from Britain's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – which could levy higher taxes on polluters from 2027 – as part of the deal. Meanwhile talks over a separate bilateral investment treaty are continuing.

-REUTERS

Factbox-Key Wins From UK-India Trade Deal – Investments, Jobs, Exports

By Manoj Kumar and Alistair Smout

Britain and India signed a landmark free trade agreement on Thursday during a visit to the UK by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sealing a deal to cut tariffs on goods from textiles to whisky and cars and allow more market access for businesses.

Here are the key points of the agreement:

TARIFF CUTS

India to reduce tariffs on nearly 90% of UK goods.

Whisky and gin levy to fall from 150% to 75%, then to 40% in a decade.

Automobile tariff to fall from 100%-plus to 10% under quota.

Tariffs to be cut on other goods including cosmetics, medical devices, salmon, chocolates, biscuits.

UK to offer duty-free access to 99% of Indian items, according to Indian commerce ministry, covering nearly 100% of trade value.

India's average tariff on UK goods will fall from 15% to 3%.

Key reductions include:

*Aerospace: From 11% to 0%

BENEFITS FOR INDIAN SECTORS

Duty-free access for about 99% of Indian exports could unlock \$23 billion in new opportunities, said Piyush Goyal, India's trade minister.

Indian exports such as textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, furniture, auto components, chemicals, machinery, sports goods and other items likely to have zero duties, down from current levels of 4%-16% in the UK.

Indian farmers to get access to the UK's \$37.5 billion market.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India walk on the ground at Chequers near Aylesbury, England, Thursday, July 24, 2025.

INVESTMENTS, GDP IMPACT

Nearly £6 billion in investments and export wins announced.

UK GDP projected to rise by £4.8 billion a year.

UK consumers to benefit from cheaper Indian garments, footwear and food items.

MAJOR BUSINESS WINS

Airbus and Rolls-Royce: Over £5 billion in aircraft contracts with Indian carriers.

Carbon Clean: £7.6 million investment in Mumbai innovation centre.

Zerowatt Energy – £10 million investment to set up a UK headquarters.

SERVICES

UK to allow temporary stay of Indian business visitors and contractual service providers, yoga instructors, chefs and musicians.

Nearly 75,000 Indian workers to be exempted from paying social security contributions in the UK for three years.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

UK firms to access India's non-sensitive federal government tenders above 2 billion rupees.

The deal will give UK businesses access to India's public procurement market, comprising about 40,000 tenders with a value of about 38 billion pounds a year, according to UK government estimates.

INDIAN FIRMS TO BENEFIT

Indian textile and apparel manufacturers such as Welspun India, Arvind Ltd, Raymond, Vardhman likely to benefit from duty-free access for exports to the UK.

Footwear manufacturers such as Bata India, Relaxo, auto manufacturers like Tata Motors, Mahindra Electric and also Bharat Forge could benefit, according to industry analysts.

UK COMPANIES TO GAIN

UK firms including whisky distiller Diageo, auto manufacturer Aston Martin and Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover could benefit from access to fast-growing Indian market.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

To ramp up joint efforts against organised crime, illegal migration, and agreement on framework for a criminal records sharing agreement.

Sensitive items such as dairy, apples, and edible oils excluded from tariff cuts.

-REUTERS

Discovering the Pacific Northwest Gem – Portland, Oregon

By Lina Shah

This summer, we set out to explore a perfect blend of urban culture and natural beauty in the Pacific Northwest gem—Portland, Oregon. Often called the “City of Bridges,” Portland is a captivating mix of mountains, markets, microbrews, green trails, and progressive urban living. Following our memorable visit to Mount Rainier last year, we planned a road trip from Tacoma, Washington, to Portland in late May, utilising the incredibly helpful resources available at [TravelPortland.com](#).

Though just a couple of hours away, our journey began with a detour to Mount Saint Helens. At the Forest Learning Centre and Visitor Centre, we dove into the story of the dramatic 1980 eruption through interactive exhibits and learned about the mountain’s ongoing volcanic activity. Hiking the nearby trails offered awe-inspiring views and unforgettable photo ops of the majestic peak. We continued to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, situated along the Columbia River, where we uncovered the region’s early 19th-century fur trade history through the legacy of the Hudson’s Bay Company.

To relax and recharge, we checked into Violet Suites PDX, a boutique hotel that redefined our travel stay. This beautifully curated three-bedroom suite featured high-end touches like heated floors, a spa-style shower with built-in steamer, in-suite laundry, and smart, modern furnishings. It was quiet, elegant, and instantly felt like home—an elevated experience that made our trip even more special.

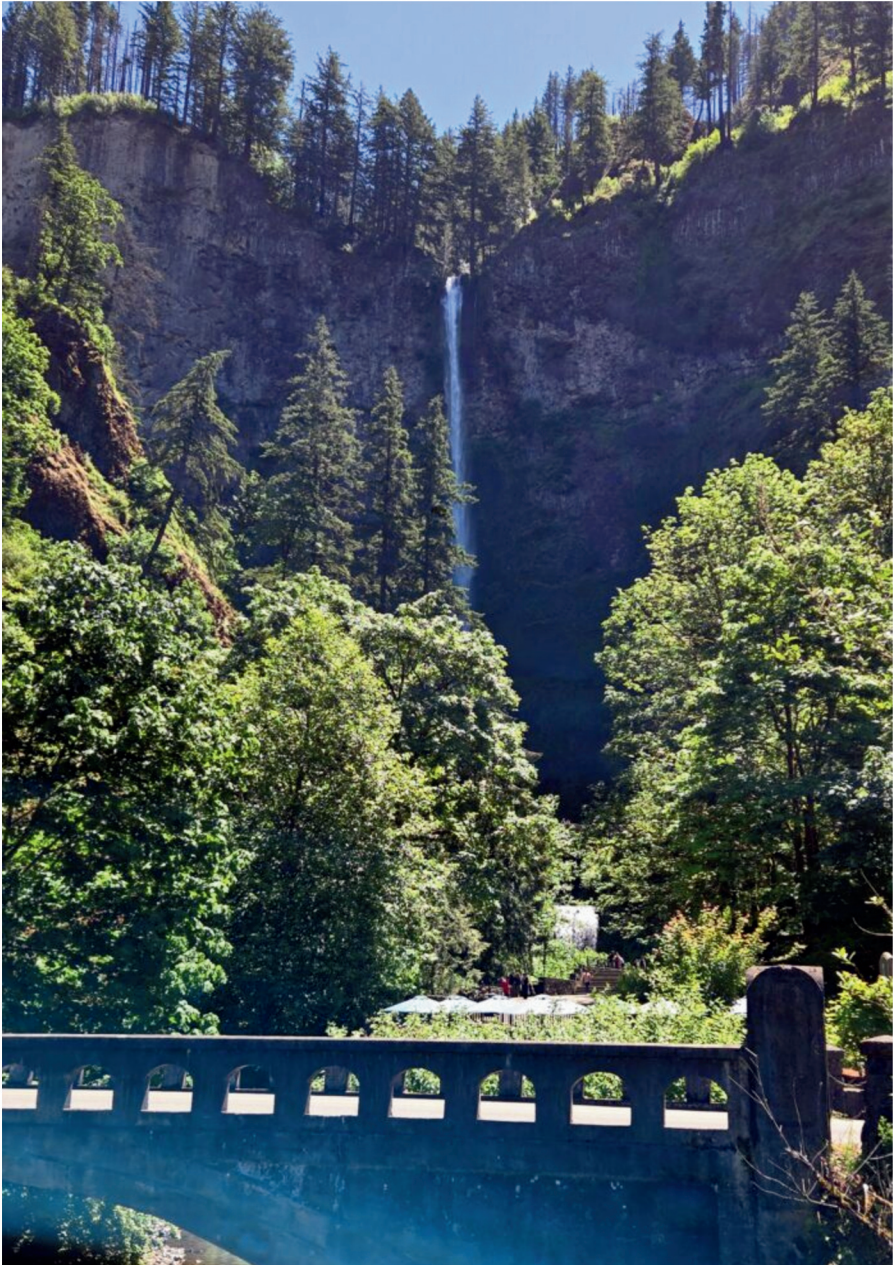


Mount Saint Helens after 1980 eruption

The next morning, we started at the famous best of a kind, vegan-dedicated Doe Donuts and headed to the tranquil Portland Japanese Garden, nestled in Washington Park’s scenic West Hills. Widely regarded as the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan, offers a peaceful and meticulously designed escape. Just steps away, we wandered through the Portland International Rose Test Garden, where more than 10,000 rose bushes—representing 600+ varieties—were in full bloom. It was the perfect time of year to visit, and the fragrance, color, and history (including its WWI-era roots) made it a photographer’s dream.

We toured the stately Pittock Mansion in the afternoon, a historical icon perched high above the city. The blend of French Renaissance and Victorian design, paired with cutting-edge innovations of the early 1900s, told a fascinating story of Portland’s past. That evening, we dined at Mirisata, a vegan Sri Lankan street food restaurant that started as a pop-up. Their spicy pigeon pea fritters and jackfruit-potato croquettes left a flavorful impression.

A peaceful visit to Lan Su Chinese Garden in Old Town Chinatown began next day. This authentic Ming Dynasty-style scholar’s garden brought serenity and beauty into the heart of the city. We sipped traditional Chinese tea at Yun Shui Teahouse, housed in the elegant Tower of Cosmic Reflection, enjoying the delicate ambience.



Multnomah Falls

In the afternoon, we took a short drive to Multnomah Falls, Oregon’s tallest year-round waterfall and a true Columbia River Gorge icon. On the way, we caught striking views of Mount Hood, another postcard-perfect moment. The legend Multnomah maiden, who gave her life to save her people, added spiritual depth to the natural beauty. The 2.4-mile round-trip hike offered stunning views and peaceful moments, and our final scenic stop at Vista House at Crown Point gave us a panoramic sweep of the Gorge—an unforgettable sight.

Back in the city, we spent the evening in the Pearl District, once the epicentre of Portland’s arts scene. We explored galleries, strolled the famed “Brewery Blocks,” and immersed ourselves in literary wonder at Powell’s City of Books—the world’s largest independent bookstore with over a million volumes. A quick loop through the historic West End offered a final taste of Portland’s vibrant blend of fashion, creativity, and nightlife.

On our last day, we started at Jam on Hawthorne, a lively, art-filled cafe, with delicious vegan varieties. We visited the Grotto, a peaceful 62-acre sanctuary known as the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother. Set atop Rocky Butte, the Grotto features a lower-level shrine carved into volcanic cliffs and an upper-level botanical garden accessible by elevator. Highlights included the Meditation Chapel with panoramic views, a labyrinth, and international shrines nestled among quiet gardens.

Our journey through Portland, Oregon, deepened our appreciation for the region’s vibrant mix of nature, culture, and community. From tranquil gardens to urban energy, waterfalls to historic mansions, this city has a soul that stays with you long after the trip ends.

Lina Shah is a Freelance Writer, Editor, Teacher, Social Worker and Financial Professional. Inspired by her father, she is a multi-talented suburban Chicagoland wife and a mother of two, who also enjoys cooking, social gathering and event planning.

Photo credit: Lina Shah

Photo credit: Lina Shah

Mukesh-Rafi-Kishore: The Musical Fortnight That Is July 22 To August 4

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

The Vocal Trinity that RULED Hindi cinema for decades—which by no means is to belittle the remaining legends—Manna Dey, Mahendra Kapoor, Talat Mahmood and Hemant Kumar—seems to have another common point besides their legendary status: this fortnight!

Mukesh was born on July 22 and Kishore Kumar on August 4. In-between, Mohammed Rafi passed away on July 31. Never mind if their years are all different. Let us poignantly recall another common point: they all passed away before time, and while Mohammed Rafi at least was conferred the Padma Shri, the other two did not get any such honor.

More: while Manna Dey was deservedly awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke trophy, the other two, like many others in film music, never won it. As per the official rule, posthumous Phalke recognition is very rare, but even if it is, these giants were never considered for it.

The final common point: Mukesh's and Kishore's idol was K.L. Saigal, but it was Rafi who got to sing the portion Roohi Roohi Roohi in Shahjehan (1946), with Saigal in his last film. Kishore, in the later decades, refused to sing a cover version of Saigal hits, in case his idol's singing was unfavorably compared to his!

One more crucial aspect: As Shahid Rafi, Mohammed Rafi's son, put it, "Everyone who knew my father called him a farishta (angel), but in those times, all the male singers were angels by nature."

BEGINNINGS:

Mukesh: Nirdosh (1941), in which he was also the hero. The music was by Ashok Ghosh.

Mohammed Rafi: Pahele Aap (1944) is considered his first release in Hindi, but his duet with G. M. Durrani, Aji dil ho qaabu mein for Gaon Ki Gori (released only in 1945) was his first Hindi recording under Shyam Sundar. In 1941, a 17 year-old Rafi recorded his first song, a duet with Zeenat Begum, for the Punjabi film Gul Baloch (released in 1944). This was in Lahore and also under the direction of composer, Shyam Sundar.

Kishore Kumar: While he started as a chorus singer in S.D. Burman's Shikari (1946), his debut as a featured singer happened with Khemchand Prakash in Ziddi (1948).

STRUGGLES AND BREAKTHROUGHS:

Mukesh: Mukesh worshipped K.L. Saigal and would imitate his tenor. His first hit was Dil jalta hai to jalne do from Pehli Nazar (1945) under Anil Biswas. Reportedly, Saigal even wondered when he had recorded the song when he heard it! In that sense, his true breakthrough came with Andaz and Barsaat in 1949, especially the latter, where Shankar-Jaikishan extracted him out of the Saigal shell.

Mohammed Rafi: He went from strength to strength with no particular breakthrough, right from the 1940s (Anmol Ghadi, Jugnu, Dulari and more). Rafi was inspired by G.M. Durrani but soon evolved his own style and also became known for singing in the higher octaves. Durrani was an actor-singer then, and his last appearance was lip-synching the Rafi hit Unnke khayal aaye to in the 1972 Lal Patthar.

Kishore Kumar: The Eternal Eccentric would charge a full rupee (in times when a middle-class family could survive comfortably on Rs. 20 a month!) for singing a Saigal song for his brother, Ashok Kumar's friends at parties! Always trying to be an actor, he continued to sing for himself while also recording for Dev Anand frequently in the 1950s (and later too) under S.D. Burman. It is said that he really arrived on the scene with Aradhana as late as in 1969, when Rafi was unavailable abroad, and the composer and filmmaker homed in on Kishore to record three of the five songs of the upcoming hero,

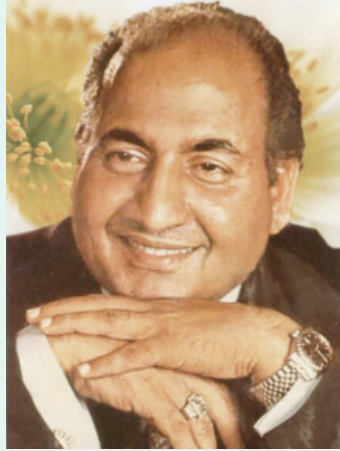


PHOTO: PUBLICITY PHOTO

Mohammed Rafi has sung 7000 songs in his career of 37 years.



Mukesh has sung fraction of the number sung by other major male and female singers and is still considered in the same league.

Rajesh Khanna.

MOST FREQUENT ASSOCIATIONS

Mukesh: Actors Raj Kapoor, Manoj Kumar Composers Shankar-Jaikishan, Kalyanji-Anandji, Laxmikant-Pyarelal and distinguished collaborations with Salil Chowdhury and Roshan Co-singer: Lata Mangeshkar

Mohammed Rafi: Actors Shammi Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, Dharmendra, Johnny Walker, Dev Anand, Rajendra Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Jeetendra, Biswa-jeet, Joy Mukerji, Bharat Bhushan, Sunil Dutt, Sanjay Khan and distinguished collaborations with Rishi Kapoor, Raaj Kumar and Rajesh Khanna. Composers Laxmikant Pyarelal, Shankar-Jaikishan, Naushad, Kalyanji-Anandji, O.P. Nayyar, Ravi, Chitragupta, Roshan, Usha Khanna, R.D. Burman and distinguished collaborations with Madan Mohan & C. Ramachandra. Co-singers Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Suman Kalyanpur, Kishore Kumar & Manna Dey.



Son Amit Kumar records a song for his father, composer-singer Kishore Kumar.

Kishore Kumar: Actors Dev Anand, Rajesh Khanna, Randhir Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan and Kishore himself. Distinguished collaborations with Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Shashi Kapoor and Sanjeev Kumar in later years. Composers S.D. Burman, R.D. Burman, Kalyanji-Anandji, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Bappi Lahiri & Rajesh Roshan and distinguished collaborations with Shankar-Jaikishan and O.P. Nayyar. Co-singers Asha Bhosle, Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi and Manna Dey.

MOONLIGHTING:

Mukesh: He produced two films, Malhar and Anurag in

the 1950s, scoring music for the latter. He acted in a few films.

Mohammed Rafi: He acted as himself in Kala Bazar (1959), but his actual performances came in Laila Majnu and Jugnu in the 1940s.

Kishore Kumar: The greatest all-rounder Hindi cinema has known, Kishore was a top star in the 1950s and early 1960s and also composed music for 10 films, nine of which starred himself. He produced, wrote and directed several films and was also a lyricist in many of his own productions. However, in a special case, he wrote a song (along with Anand Dutta) named Jai Kaali Kalkattewali for Shankar-Jaikishan in Joy Mukerji's Love In Bombay.

CAREER:

Mukesh: Including other languages and non-film, is said to have recorded around 1300 songs until his death on October 27, 1976, and yet is ranked among the topmost singing legends of Hindi cinema. His last recording was Chanchal sheetal nirmal komal for Laxmikant-Pyarelal's Satyam Shivam Sundaram. After his death, many songs came out, mostly composed by L-P. However, his last two released songs came under Jaidev in the 1997 TV serial, Chand Grahani. They were recorded for a film that was shelved.

Mohammed Rafi: His tally is said to be around 7000. His last recording was for Shaher mein charcha hai (with Lata) for Aas Paas under L-P. After that duet, he sang the four-liner Tere aane ki aas hai dost for the same film. His last film song (recorded again for a shelved film) came out in 1989 and was filmed on Govinda in Farz Ki Jung.

Six songs recorded for an incomplete Chitragupta composed film were however re-mastered and released in 2009 as his last songs. There were also similar solos for Madan Mohan and Naushad released later. Rafi, incidentally, has sung in the maximum number of languages, including six foreign languages!

Kishore Kumar: His last recorded song (a few days before his death on October 13, 1987) was Guru guru in Bappi Lahiri's Waqt Ki Awaz in 1988. Several songs released subsequently until the early 1990s. However, he was heard as late as 2013 in the delayed film, Love In Bombay with music by Shankar-Jaikishan. This was also his last-released film as an actor: he played the lead along with Joy Mukerji. His score is 3000 songs.

THE VOICES THEY INSPIRED:

Mukesh: His son, Nitin Mukesh, had a natural resemblance to his father that could not possibly be jettisoned to prevent being called a clone. Just like his father, he had a very high percentage of hits. Manhar, and Pankaj Udhas also had similar vocal tenors. Later, Dr. Kamlesh Awasthi, Babla Mehta and Nalin Dave sang in similar voices as clones.

Mohammed Rafi: Anwar was the first to sing in a Rafi-like voice and appeared during Rafi's lifetime. Shabbir Kumar, Mohammed Aziz, Sonu Nigam, Debashish Dasgupta, Vipin Sachdeva and Gurcharan. Mahendra Kapoor, Rafi's student (he had tied the ganddaa) also had a somewhat similar vocal quality. Udit Narayan claimed to follow his style. Roopkumar Rathod's singing also echoes Rafi's timber.

Kishore Kumar: Son Amit Kumar, who started out in his father's time, was made to sing in the same mold but always tried to make his own style. Kumar Sanu, Abhijeet and Shaan (to an extent), Sudesh Bhosle (when forced sometimes!), Vinod Rathod and Babul Supriyo also sang like him and Sanu, Rathod and Supriyo had similar voices.

And suffice to say that every orchestra and musical group has a 'Rafi', 'Mukesh' or 'Kishore' in it. And these three singers' oeuvre allow them all to earn a great living.

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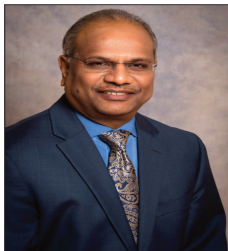
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ST. LOUIS MO
Wanted Housekeeper for Franchise Motel in St. Louis MO
Good Salary and Accommodation Provided. Legal Status Required.
CALL 314-497-3292 or 314-330-4621

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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

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

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 •
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08/02-TFN-SD

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

PITTSBURGH AREA, PA
Need General Manager position for Franchise Motel with minimum 2-3 years experience and minimum One year of Hotel Supervisory experience. Legal status must. Accommodation provided.
Email Resume: vsmanagement303@gmail.com

07/25 -08/22 - SL

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

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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.
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

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

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

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

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.

09/23/25 - 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.
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09/27/2024 - 09/19/2025-SL

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Call Patel (918) 424 8871.

07/25 -08/22 - SL

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

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

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

NEWARK, DELAWARE :
Need General Manager, Front Desk Clerks and Housekeeping Couples for Franchise Hotel / Motel in Newark, DE. Accommodation provided. Legal status must.
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FEMALE

Gujarati Parents invite matrimonial correspondence for their beautiful 27 Years old Daughter. Preferable Gujarati Family But Open for Any Indian Hindu Family. We Value Family and are Looking forward for Someone with Same Morals. Contact With Recent Photo and Biodata. We will Not Respond to Any Email Without Recent Photo Provided. Email: jayshreekrishna0730@gmail.com

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MALE

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

FEMALE

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

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