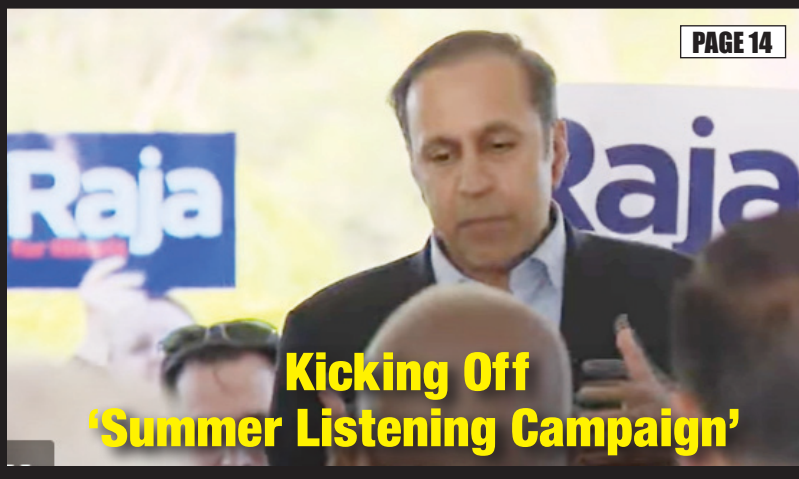


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# What The Democratic Establishment Should Learn From Mamdani's Win

By KAREN TUMULTY

New York City is a political ecosystem all its own, one that doesn't translate - or set the direction - for the rest of the country.

Consider how many of its modern mayors have been misled by the prominence - and the hype - that comes with their posts atop the nation's most self-important city. John Lindsay, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio ranged across the political spectrum but had one thing in common: Once they got west of the Hudson River, their presidential aspirations turned to dust.

So on a national level, it's doubtful that the victory Tuesday of 33-year-old socialist Zohran Mamdani over former governor Andrew M. Cuomo in New York's Democratic mayoral primary, stunning as it was, will prove to be the pivotal moment both the left and the right are claiming.

Nor is it cause for the massive freak-out taking place among the party establishment.

I don't know how far Mamdani will get as he seeks to turn his agenda - a rent freeze! free buses! government-run grocery stores! - into reality. It's not even a sure thing that he will win the November general election. And his refusal to condemn the arguably antisemitic slogan "globalize the intifada" is troubling.

What's more, his victory comes amid trends in the other direction. It's worth remembering that only seven months ago, nearly every neighborhood in the city shifted toward Donald Trump in the presidential election. And in deep-blue metropolitan areas across the map, there has been a backlash against progressive governance in favor of harder-nosed policies on crime, homelessness

and the delivery of basic services.

Still, there are messages Democrats should take from Tuesday's result. Chief among them is that candidate quality matters. Voters have lost their tolerance for being force-fed unappealing, deeply flawed candidates by their party's leadership.

Cuomo left the governor's office in disgrace four years ago amid credible allegations of sexual harassment by 11 women (which he denies). That he nonetheless garnered the endorsements of a raft of labor unions and party elders, including former president Bill Clinton, and got \$24 million in support from the largest super PAC in city history, speaks to a breathtaking level of cluelessness.

All that energy and those financial resources would have been better spent on convincing Cuomo not to run. It is an echo of where the party went wrong in 2024 when its leadership acquiesced when an octogenarian of diminishing capacities sought a second term as president, until it became clear on a debate stage that Joe Biden simply wasn't up to it.

Any reasonable doubts voters had about electing a mayor of such little experience as a three-term state assemblyman were overcome both by the unpalatable alternative and by Mamdani's talent and optimism.

In contrast with Cuomo's joyless and unengaging campaign, Mamdani seemed to be everywhere. He also positioned himself as an antidote to the cynicism that has arisen around the ethical problems of the current mayor, Eric Adams, who will be on the ballot in November as an independent.

On Friday, Mamdani walked the length of Manhattan and produced a riveting campaign video of the New Yorkers he met along the way. "To everyone who pulls me aside to whisper, with the best intentions, 'You have already won,' I am sorry but the days of moral victories

are over," he said in his narration.

And while his policies may not be the solution to the city's problems, he correctly identified the biggest challenge: the fact that it is increasingly unaffordable for people to live there.

"We have won because New Yorkers have stood up for a city they can afford," Mamdani said in his victory speech. "A city where they can do more than just struggle. One where those who toil in the night can enjoy the fruits of their labor in the day."

This is a message that smart Democrats across the board have been urging the party to embrace. Earlier this month, Rep. Mikie Sherrill, a far more centrist candidate, won the nomination for governor of New Jersey, running on what she called an "affordability agenda."

Most important of what establishment Democrats should take from Mamdani is the lesson he offers in addressing what is probably the party's biggest problem: reconnecting with younger voters.

Going into a panic about a candidate who calls himself

a socialist isn't the answer. Instead, Democrats should take a hard look at their own brand, and why, instead of looking toward the future, they keep putting forward flawed and unacceptable figures from their not-so-glorious past.

**Karen Tumulty is an associate editor and columnist covering national politics.**

-THE WASHINGTON POST

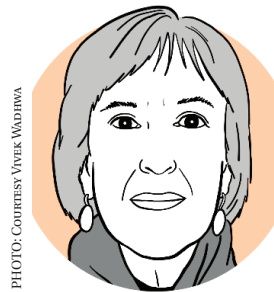


PHOTO: COURTESY VIVEK WADHWA

## Immigrants, Especially Asians And Hispanics, Drive Population Growth In A Graying America, Census Shows

By MARIE-ROSE SHEINERMAN, NICK MOURTOUPALAS,

Immigration is driving U.S. population growth and helping offset a broader demographic shift as the baby boom generation ages, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

U.S. children outnumber older adults, but older adults' share of the population is growing, the census data released Thursday shows.

From 2023 to 2024, the number of Americans 65 and older climbed by 3.1 percent while the population under 18 declined by 0.2 percent. There are more older adults than children in nearly half of U.S. counties, and the pattern is particularly strong in sparsely populated areas, the bureau said.

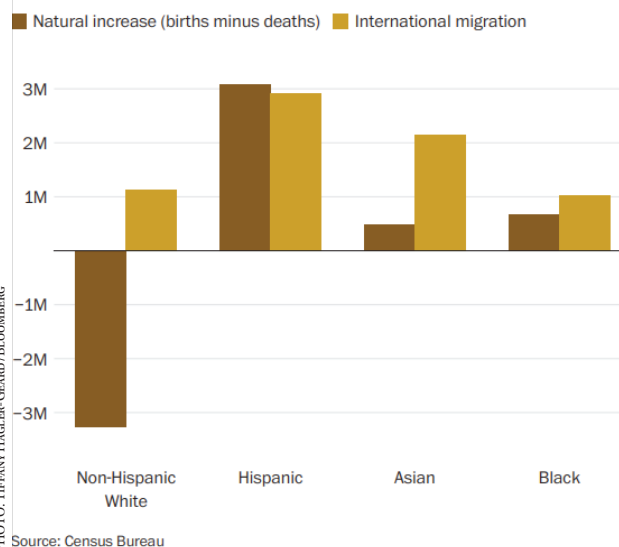
The gap between the two groups "is narrowing," in part because of a decline in births this decade, said Lauren Bowers, chief of the Census Bureau's population estimates branch, in a statement Thursday.

At the same time, a historic rise in immigration, particularly among Hispanics and Asians, has counteracted some of that population decline. The Hispanic population in the U.S. rose by about 9.7 percent from April 2020 to July 2024, including both immigration and births, while the Asian population grew by about 13 percent. (This analysis applies the Census Bureau's classification of the non-Hispanic racial groups as excluding people who also identify as Hispanic.)

"This past year, the population gain was bigger than it's ever been before," said Bill Frey, a senior demographer at the Brookings Institution, a think tank. "Overall, it's because of immigration."

A sharp drop in the number of White children is a major factor in the declining number of American children overall, and that decline has been partially offset by the

Estimated population change from 2020 to 2024 by race and origin



Screenshot of graphic provided by The Washington Post.

rising number of non-White youth, Frey said, based on his analysis of the census data.

White Americans accounted for 57.5 percent of the total population last year but for 47.5 percent of the population under age 18. By comparison, Hispanic people accounted for 20 percent of the total population and 26.9 percent of children.

Still, the median age is rising across every racial group in the United States.

"There is a gradual change in the racial and ethnic profile of America's children," said Steven Martin, a senior research associate at the Urban Institute, which conducts economic and social-policy research. "But a more useful way of thinking about it is the age structure of the population is changing for everybody, and it's changing in a way that the retired population is increasing rapidly for everybody."

The decline in U.S. birth rates since the late 2010s has sparked interest from policymakers. President Donald Trump campaigned on mandating that federal and private insurers cover the costs of in vitro fertilization and this month touted a proposal for \$1,000 tax-deferred investment accounts for babies that he called "Trump accounts."

At the same time, Trump is leading a crackdown on immigration, tightening some visa requirements and increasing deportations of unauthorized immigrants.

"There's a lot of discussion about whether we should have federal programs to have women have more babies because that's going to increase the size of the young population, but I'd like to make the case that immigration could help us have a bigger younger population or a smaller decline in the younger population," Frey said. "It's not all about having women have more fertility, but it also can mean we should have more immigration."

The number of metro areas across America with more older adults than children shot up from 58 in 2020 to 112 in 2024, now representing nearly one-third of all metro areas.

Eleven states - including Maine, Vermont, Florida, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia - had more

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





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Our final print edition will be published on June 27, 2025, and we are thrilled to announce that Desi Talk Chicago will begin its all-digital chapter starting July 4, 2025, as we proudly celebrate Independence Day—marking a new era of freedom and innovation in how we deliver news to you.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to continuing to inform, entertain, and engage with you in the digital era.

Warm regards,

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# Axiom Mission 4 Astronauts, Including Shubhanshu Shukla, Enter Space Station, Begin Research Mission

By A Staff Writer

**A**t 8:14 a.m. EDT on Thursday, June 26, 2025, the hatch opened between the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft and the International Space Station following the arrival of Axiom Mission 4. The spacecraft docked at 6:31 a.m. to the space-facing port of the space station's Harmony module. The four astronauts aboard included one from Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), a NASA update said.

Former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Sławosz Uznanski-Winiewski of Poland, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary now are aboard the space station after launching at 2:31 a.m. on June 25, on the company's Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida for the fourth private astronaut mission to the orbiting laboratory, Axiom Mission 4.



The Axiom Mission 4 crew gathers inside the International Space Station's Harmony module shortly after docking aboard the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. From left are, Mission Specialist Sławosz Uznanski-Winiewski, Commander Peggy Whitson, Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla, and Mission Specialist Tibor Kapu.

The private astronauts plan to spend about two weeks aboard the orbiting laboratory, conducting microgravity research,

educational outreach, and commercial activities for about two weeks before a return to Earth and splashdown off the

coast of California.

"Congratulations to Axiom Space and SpaceX on a successful launch," said NASA acting Administrator Janet Petro as the astronauts lifted off on 25th. She also said, "America has expanded international participation and commercial capabilities in low Earth orbit. U.S. industry is enabling astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary to return to space for the first time in over forty years."

A collaboration between NASA and ISRO allowed Axiom Mission 4 to deliver on a commitment highlighted by President Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send the first ISRO astronaut to the station, NASA said. The space agencies are participating in five joint science investigations and two in-orbit science, technology, engineering, and mathematics demonstrations.

NASA and ISRO have a long-standing relationship built on a shared vision to advance scientific knowledge and expand space collaboration," the agency added.

## Democratic Lt. Governor's Association Announces \$1 Million Investment In Virginia Candidate Ghazala Hashmi's Race

By A Staff Writer

**T**he Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association (DLGA) announced June 27, 2025, that it will make an initial investment of \$1 million to support Indian American Ghazala Hashmi's campaign for lieutenant governor. This investment marks the largest investment in a Virginia lieutenant governor's campaign to date, and is also double the size of investment the Republican Governors Association is making in Virginia.

"The DLGA is proud to make this historic \$1 million investment in support of Ghazala Hashmi's campaign for Lieutenant Governor—the largest ever made to a lieutenant governor candidate in Virginia," said DLGA Chair and Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Austin Davis, in the press release. "As a State Senator, Ghazala has been a tireless champion for Virginians—leading efforts to protect Medicaid, safeguard access to reproductive healthcare, and strengthen Virginia's public schools. The ongoing chaos of the Trump administration, the rising cost of living, and the Trump-ordered layoffs of Virginia's federal



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

workforce raise the stakes of this critical race, and the DLGA is proud to work alongside Ghazala to make history this November."

This investment comes a week after Hashmi secured the nomination in a competitive Democratic primary. Hashmi's opponent in the run to the November general elections, is Republican John Reid.

Senator Hashmi is the first Muslim and the first Indian American to serve in the Virginia Senate. She came to the US as a four year-old with her mother and older brother from India to the United States where they joined her father in Georgia as he was completing his PhD in international relations and beginning his university teaching career.

She grew up in the small college town as public schools were being desegregated. After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class and receiving multiple full scholarships and fellowships, Hashmi earned a BA with honors from Georgia Southern University and her PhD in American literature from Emory University in Atlanta.

If elected in November, as Virginia's next Lt. Governor, Hashmi will be the country's first female statewide elected Muslim American.

### COMMENTARY

## Immigrants, Especially Asians And Hispanics, Drive Population Growth In A Graying America, Census Shows

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

older adults than children in 2024. In 2020, there were only three such states.

The pattern is particularly strong in sparsely populated areas, the Census Bureau said in a statement. Last year, Maine's population was the oldest and Utah's the youngest.

By region, the West and South had the lowest median ages, at 38.4 and 38.8, respectively, while the Northeast had the highest (40.6), followed by the Midwest (39.3).

The Census Bureau's report also found that women outnumbered men by 3.4 million, making up 50.5 percent of the U.S. population in 2024.

Racial distribution also varied heavily by region, according to the report. While the percent of Latinos in the total population climbed to 20 percent for the first time,

only nine states in the country were at least 20 percent Hispanic.

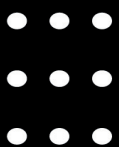
The Asian population saw the largest percent change in growth across racial demographics, rising by 4.2 percent between 2023 and 2024, followed by Hispanics, who saw a 2.9 percent rise. The Asian population saw the largest gains in California, followed by Texas.

-THE WASHINGTON POST





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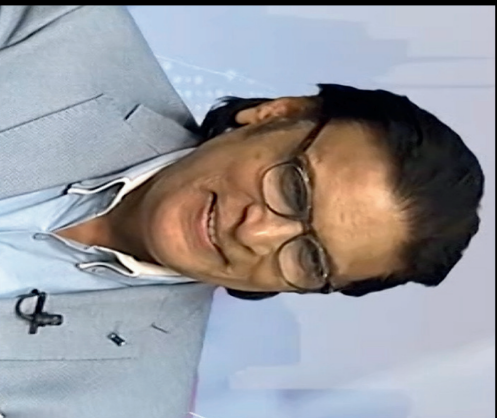


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# NYC Democrats Rebuke Establishment With Vote For Zohran Mamdani

By LAURA NAHMIA, NACHA CATTAN  
AND GREGORY KORTE

**Z**ohran Mamdani is poised to become the Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City after the 33-year-old democratic socialist forced his opponent Andrew Cuomo, the former governor of the state, to concede within hours after polls closed.

Mamdani, who just months ago was an unfamiliar name to most New Yorkers, racked up commanding leads across Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, even pushing Cuomo close in what was meant to be his stronghold of the Bronx.

"Eight months after launching this campaign with the vision of a city that every New Yorker can afford, we have won," Mamdani told his supporters at a crowded bar in Long Island City early Wednesday morning.

Cuomo, 67, spoke to a somber crowd at a union hall on Manhattan's West Side.

"Tonight was not our night," he said. "I want to applaud the assemblyman for a really smart and good and impactful campaign. Tonight is his night. He deserved it. He won."

In the first round of ranked-choice voting, Mamdani garnered 43.5% of the vote and Cuomo 36.4%, according to preliminary results from the New York City Board of Elections with more than 96% of the ballots counted. Coming in third on the first round was city Comptroller Brad Lander, at 11.3%.

Mamdani exceeded more than 60% of the vote in vast swathes of the city, building a multi-ethnic coalition across brownstone Brooklyn, working-class Queens and upper Manhattan.

"The surge by Mamdani is something I've never seen before in New York City politics," J.C. Polanco, a political analyst and assistant professor at the University of Mount Saint Vincent, said before the results were known. "It's been an incredible campaign that understood social media and marketing like no other."

New York Democrats voted in sweltering triple-digit temperatures Tuesday, with overall turnout on the verge of 1 million votes with 96% of voting machines reporting – the highest at least since the terrorism-disrupted mayoral primary of 2001.

Under the city's ranked-choice system, a candidate is declared the winner after receiving more than 50% of the votes. In each round, a candidate will be eliminated and their voters' No. 2 choice will be distributed to the remaining candidates. The process is repeated until a candidate receives a majority. Lander and Mamdani had cross-endorsed each other, virtually ensuring Mamdani will increase his vote total more than Cuomo will. The results aren't official until a ranked-choice runoff on July 1.

Cuomo said he plans to "look at all the numbers as they come in and analyze the rank-choice voting," according to a statement, which suggested he may run for mayor as an independent in the November election.

The Democratic nominee for mayor of deep-blue New York has typically been a shoo-in in the general election. But this year Mamdani still needs to face Mayor Eric Adams, who won the 2021



Zohran Mamdani during an election night event in New York, early on June 25.

election as a Democrat but is running this time as an independent. Adams, a former police captain, dropped out of the Democratic primary this spring after becoming the first sitting mayor in the city's modern history to be indicted on federal charges. The Trump administration ordered those charges dismissed earlier this year, kicking off fresh controversy over whether Adams would be beholden to Trump.

Other candidates in November include Republican Curtis Sliwa, a radio talk show host and founder of the Guardian Angels, and independent Jim Walden.

Mamdani and Cuomo offered starkly different visions on taxes and policing in a race that at times mirrored the divisions roiling the Democratic Party nationally. The election also became a microcosm of New Yorkers' views on ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, with Cuomo pledging support for Israel as Mamdani criticized the country's wars in Gaza and Iran.

Mamdani has vowed to freeze rents and make city buses free by raising the state corporate tax rate and imposing a new 2% income tax on city residents who earn more than \$1 million a year. The moves, which would require state approval, have raised anxiety among some of the region's business elite, who poured billions of dollars into supporting Cuomo's candidacy. He has also called for the creation of city-owned grocery stores.

The former governor, the oldest candidate and the person with the most experience working in government, pitched himself as a seasoned moderate who can manage New York's problems – from crime in the subways to a universally acknowledged affordability crisis. He touted his achievements running the state, including the much-lauded renovation of LaGuardia Airport and the opening of the Second Avenue subway line.

But his campaign struggled as rivals repeatedly attacked him for the sexual

harassment allegations that led to his resignation in 2021, as well as his handling of Covid in nursing homes. Opponents formed a group – Don't Rank Evil Andrew for Mayor – while Cuomo's campaign frequently focused on attacking Mamdani. Cuomo largely avoided media interviews and public appearances, a strategy that some political analysts called a mistake.

If elected, Mamdani would be New York's youngest mayor in a century, its first Muslim mayor and the first person of South Asian descent to lead the city. He rose in the polls from virtual obscurity thanks to extensive social media outreach, a sophisticated volunteer network, massive donor support and direct mail that resonated with young and progressive voters.

In a victory speech filled with soaring rhetoric, Mamdani promised to build a city "where rent-stabilized apartments are actually stabilized, where buses are fast and free, where child care doesn't cost more than CUNY and where public safety keeps us truly safe." CUNY is the publicly funded City University of New York.

But he also said that New Yorkers' concerns extend beyond the five boroughs.

An activist for Palestinian causes, Mamdani faced questions over his ability to lead the largest population of Jews outside of Israel. He has refused to say that he supports Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum issued a statement condemning Mamdani's defense of the use of the phrase "globalize the intifada," a reference to the armed Palestinian uprisings against Israel. That's drawn attacks from Republicans and will likely be another flash point in the November general election.

Mamdani, who was first elected to his seat in 2020, was backed by the New York City branch of the Democratic Socialists of America, US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

Both congratulated him after Cuomo conceded, with Sanders praising his grassroots campaign and Ocasio-Cortez slamming the money that fueled Cuomo's candidacy.

"Billionaires and lobbyists poured millions against you and our public finance system. And you won," she said on X.

A super PAC backing Cuomo, Fix the City, raised nearly \$25 million from finance and real estate billionaires including Michael R. Bloomberg, the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP, as well as Bill Ackman, Daniel Loeb and Steven Roth. Home Depot Inc. co-founder Ken Langone and delivery app DoorDash Inc. have also contributed.

The PAC's effort was the single largest independent expenditure in a city election in the 15 years since the Supreme Court paved the way for virtually unlimited outside spending.

"This is a stunning victory for progressives," said John Mollenkopf, director of the Center for Urban Research at CUNY. Mamdani's win "shows that the negative ads and big independent expenditures for Cuomo did not have the desired effect."



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

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# Indian Consulate And Chicagoland Residents Celebrate 11th International Day Of Yoga



Consul General of India in Chicago Somnath Ghosh inaugurated the IDY flagship event.



Photo (right): Large number of attendees took part in the IDY celebrations in Chicago.

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

**T**he Consulate General of India in Chicago led the vibrant celebration of the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2025) with a landmark event at Navy Pier's Polk Bros Park on Saturday, June 21, drawing over 400 yoga enthusiasts from across the region. Themed "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," this year's celebration reaffirmed yoga's role as a unifying global practice for individual and planetary wellness.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh inaugurated the flagship event with inspiring opening remarks, calling yoga "India's timeless gift to the world," and emphasizing its spiritual and ecological relevance in today's global landscape. "Yoga transcends borders and faiths—it is a holistic way of living that fosters inner balance and universal harmony," said the Consul General.

Set against the iconic backdrop of Lake Michigan, participants performed the Common Yoga Protocol, guided by acclaimed instructors Ms. Anu Malhotra, Ms. Vimi Shukla, Ms. Parna Mazumdar, Ms. Pam Brockman, and Ms. Saba Haider. The event was energized by clear blue skies, lush lawns, and the vibrant rhythm of breath and movement.

Supported by State Bank of India, Chicago, and in

partnership with over 20 community organizations, the event underscored Chicago's deep-rooted ties to India's spiritual traditions. Key collaborators included Art of Living – Chicago, Sewa International USA, Isha Foundation, Brahma Kumaris, Heartfulness, Sahaja Yoga, Yogapathic, FIA-Chicago, Indian Community Niles Township, United Senior Pariwar, and TV Asia, among many others.

## COMMUNITY YOGA CELEBRATIONS ACROSS CHICAGOLAND

In addition to the Navy Pier gathering, the celebrations continued on Sunday, June 22, at Gurukul Swaminarayan Temple in Arlington Heights. The session—led by yoga instructors Jignesh and Hina Dixit—was co-organized by FIA-Chicago, ICNT, USPC, and Gurukul Swaminarayan, with the support of the Consulate General. The temple's serene ambiance provided a perfect setting for practicing asanas and fostering community connection.

The event also featured a powerful gesture of unity when both FIA groups came together to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Consulate General—a symbolic moment that celebrated collaboration and cultural solidarity.

A dedicated team from Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) led the yoga session with focused discipline and devotion, enhancing the spiritual depth of the day's practice.

## YOGA'S REACH EXPANDS ACROSS THE MIDWEST

Beyond the central Chicago events, IDY 2025 celebrations rippled across the Midwest. With active support from the Consulate, additional yoga sessions were organized in: Niles Township, IL – Led by Mindful Meditation and United Senior Pariwar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL – Yoga on the historic Main Quad, St. Louis, MO – Hosted by the St. Louis Indian Cultural Association, Indiana – Organized by Chinmaya Mission, Pewaukee, WI – Sanskriti's regional celebration, Michigan – Multiple cities including Troy, Novi, Canton, and Farmington Hills, Iowa – Indo American Association of Iowa in Johnston.

These diverse events—held in temples, universities, parks, and wellness centers—reflected yoga's universal appeal and its growing integration into American mainstream culture.

## A UNIFIED MESSAGE: HEALTH, HARMONY, AND HERITAGE

Across every venue and community, the 11th International Day of Yoga was a resounding reminder of yoga's timeless relevance. From the scenic shores of Navy Pier to the spiritual halls of Arlington Heights, yoga united people of all backgrounds in the pursuit of mental clarity, physical vitality, and spiritual peace.

As Chicago joins millions around the globe in celebrating IDY 2025, the message is clear: Yoga is not just a practice—it's a way of life.



Large number of attendees took part in the IDY celebrations in Chicago.



FIA Chicago (estd 1980) groups came together to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Consul General of India in Chicago Somnath Ghosh, at the IDY celebrations held in the Windy City.

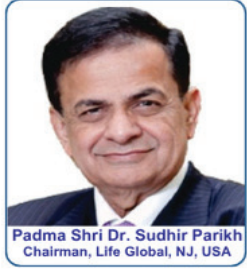




*Joy of Sharing*

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

**Endorses Collaborative Thalassemia-Free Gujarat Initiative;  
Lauds Decades of Selfless Humanitarian Service**



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

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



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

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



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



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

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

### Global Head Quarters



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# Candidate For Congress Bushra Amiwala Gathers Community Support In Illinois' District 9

By A Staff Writer

**B**ushra Amiwala, a Pakistani-American running for the US Congress from Illinois' 9th District, is hot on the campaign trail, building a diverse coalition to increase her chances of getting to Capitol Hill.

According to a press release from Asian Media USA, Amiwala hosted a fundraiser at Khan B.B.Q Restaurant in Little India on Devon Avenue, June 26, 2025. The fundraiser was attended by community leaders, supporters, and activists. Amiwala displayed the coalition she has built that could propel her to the US Capitol.

On her campaign website bushraforcongress.com, Amiwala describes herself as "an innovative problem solver" who has made history "as the first Gen Z elected official in the United States." She put herself through college getting an MBA from Kellogg Northwestern's School of Management, and a B.S in Information Systems and a double minor in Community Service Studies and Public Policy Studies from DePaul University.

In 2019, she was elected to the Skokie School District 73.5 Board of Education, and re-elected in 2023. According to Amiwala, her decision to run for Congress was "because the rich are getting richer, the middle class is shrinking, special interest groups are plaguing our elections, there are humanitarian crises worldwide: and our taxpayer dollars are paying for it."



Collage of photos from the Bushra Amiwala fundraiser in Chicago.

Her District 9, she says, "deserves someone homegrown, and willing to advocate for all of the people who make up the district, not just a select few."

According to the Asian Media USA press release, attendees were diverse, a reflection of the District—58% White (including an estimated 11% Arab Americans), 15% Asian, 14% Hispanic, 9% Black, and 4% other; and sponsorship tiers ranged from Bronze (\$200) to Platinum (\$2,000+).

Sohan Joshi, Director of the Alliance of

Indians in America and North American College, gave a speech endorsing Amiwala, saying, "Bushra Amiwala is the new generation of leadership we need—active, intelligent, and ready to represent us in Washington. It's our job to ensure she wins, and our support will send her to Congress to fight for us."

Zakiuddin Mohammad, Vice Chancellor of North American College and a director at the Alliance of Indians in America, echoed Joshi's enthusiasm. "We're here to raise funds and build a movement for

Bushra," Mohammad said. "Her campaign for District 9 is about uplifting every voice in this diverse community. With the support of Khan B.B.Q and our dedicated team, we're confident she'll make a difference."

Sufyan Feroze, who drove from Naperville with his wife Neha Shagufta, described Amiwala's race as historic. "Bushra is the youngest Muslim congressional candidate for District 9, and I believe in her vision," Feroze said. "I urge everyone to show up, donate generously, and join this movement. She's here to make a difference, not just history."

Amiwala addressed the gathering with a message of unity and action. "Assalamu alaikum, peace be upon you all," she began. "I've served this community for seven years, from education to nonprofit work, and now I'm running to represent Illinois' 9th District in Congress. We're facing a national crisis, and I'm committed to fighting for healthcare over medical bankruptcies, education over student debt, and housing over homelessness. I refuse to be bought in this election—my priority is the everyday voices of this district."

Among Amiwala's recognitions over her career, are being recognized as Glamour Magazine's College Woman of the Year, Seventeen Magazine's Voice of the Year, and a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree. She is also an International Peace Ambassador Award recipient from the United Nations, the Asian Media USA press release said.

## 7th Annual Mandala Festival Showcases South Asian Performing Arts In September

By A Staff Writer

**T**he Mandala South Asian Performing Arts organization, which is celebrating 10 years of connecting audiences with the variety of traditions from South Asia, will hold its seventh Mandala Makers Festival later this year.

This annual platform for supporting multidisciplinary South Asian performing artists takes place September 5–7 at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, Chicago. The Mandala Makers Festival is known for encouraging artists who progress and challenge traditions of the South Asian diaspora, a press release from the organization said.

The three programs this September include classical and contemporary dance; classical, folk, and contemporary music; Bollywood dance; and, for the first time, EDM. Major funding for the Mandala Makers Festival has been provided by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

"As a new generation of the South Asian diasporic population matures in the U.S., this year's Mandala Makers Festival reflects on the aesthetic and creativity of these artists and the audience," said Artistic Director Pranita Nayar. "The festival reveals how they honor the traditions they were born into and new works they are making as they encounter new cultural, social, and global influences."



Artists' and performers collage.

## Global Indian Diaspora Foundation To Host Pre-Release Screening Of The Bengal Files In Chicago

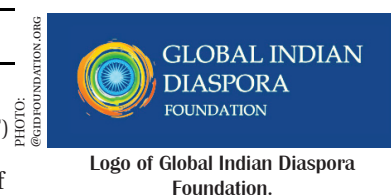
By Bhailal M. Patel

**T**he Global Indian Diaspora Foundation (GIDF) will host an exclusive pre-release screening of Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri's powerful new film, *The Bengal Files*, on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at AMC Naperville.

Following the critical acclaim of *The Kashmir Files*, Agnihotri's latest work explores the tragic and often-overlooked events of Direct Action Day and the Noakhali massacres of 1946. The film sheds light on one of India's most painful yet forgotten chapters that preceded Partition.

"This film confronts buried truths and awakens historical memory," said Rakesh Malhotra, GIDF President. "It's a must-watch for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of India's path to independence."

The Chicago screening is part of the national "One Truth. Ten Cities." tour in partnership with I Am Buddha Foundation, CoHNA, and GKPD, and is sup-



ported by several community organizations, including Indica USA, Bengali Association of Greater Chicago, and VHP.

The event will include a red-carpet welcome, addresses by Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi, and a community discussion session.

Community support for this event is strong, with endorsements from: Bengali Association of Greater Chicago, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Chicago Kali Bari, Federation of Indian Associations estd.1980, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, and Indica USA.

*The Bengal Files* officially releases worldwide on September 5, 2025. Chicago audiences will get an early, exclusive look at this powerful film on August 9.





## This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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

**ARIES:** A serene evening is set to bring you much-needed relaxation. Family relationships remain strong, adding joy and warmth to your personal life. Exciting developments in your love life are likely, bringing a renewed sense of happiness. Long-awaited travel plans may finally take shape, allowing you to explore new destinations. There are positive signs for property matters, with buying or selling options emerging. Your determination at work will help you expand your influence.

**TAURUS:** Keeping a low profile while tasks are being assigned may help you dodge unnecessary responsibilities. A chance to acquire premium property or shift to a more luxurious setting looks favorable. Your professional connections will continue to be strong and advantageous. If you've been facing distractions academically, focus is set to return soon. Financially, this week promises stability, providing a sense of security.

**GEMINI:** Your knack for resolving intricate matters will earn you appreciation. An adventurous outing may soon be on your list. Maintaining good relations with influential colleagues could prove beneficial. Academic accomplishments may pave the way for new opportunities. Socially, keeping things simple will not impact your standing. Wise investments are likely to bring steady growth. Love life remains balanced and satisfying.

**CANCER:** Complaints may seem unnecessary as things fall into place smoothly. Your support to family members will be deeply valued. Romance brings a spark to your personal life, creating joyful moments. A short getaway with loved ones is on the cards. Positive returns from property dealings are expected, adding to your financial comfort. At work, evaluating competition before making moves will be beneficial. Minor academic hurdles may arise, but they are manageable.

**LEO:** Challenges that seem intimidating may turn out to be simpler than expected. Romance brightens your week, bringing excitement into your life. Travel plans appear promising, with a long-desired vacation likely to happen. Property investments are set to materialize, adding value to your assets. Your efficiency and hard work will ensure smooth operations at the workplace. Family matters might need your patience and understanding.

**VIRGO:** A surprise meeting with someone from your past may evoke nostalgia. Your choices at work will lead to noticeable progress. Opportunities for higher studies or international travel could emerge. A business started with modest investments

may show promising growth. Fitness routines will start reflecting positive changes. Romance may require some effort to revive its charm.

**LIBRA:** Controlling your moods will help you avoid unnecessary stress. Your dedication at work is set to elevate your reputation. A delightful evening with your partner seems likely. Your instincts on the academic front are sharp and may bring you success. Travel plans might be influenced by weather conditions. Adopting a healthy routine could inspire positive changes. Thoughts of home improvements may occupy your mind.

**SCORPIO:** Taking the lead might be essential if you want things done right. Your fitness efforts are likely to show visible results. Work situations may require reassessment to overcome challenges. Achieving something unique in academics might be demanding but possible. Temporary feelings of doubt may arise, but they won't last long.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may find yourself drawn to spiritual practices, offering peace of mind. Weather changes could bring a romantic touch to your days. Your helpful nature will be appreciated by those around you. Career efforts are likely to bear fruit, bringing promising results. Academic hurdles will be managed effectively. Healthy eating habits will support your well-being.

**CAPRICORN:** A packed schedule may make it difficult to finish everything as planned. Balancing romance and professional life might need extra effort. Thoughtful decisions at work will help avoid unnecessary stress. Family responsibilities may require your involvement. Financial caution is advised to handle rising costs effectively.

**AQUARIUS:** This week, you may find yourself enjoying special attention from loved ones. If you're married, expect thoughtful gestures that warm your heart. Love takes a prominent place in your life, bringing joy. Opportunities for professional freedom in creative projects may arise. Admission to a respected institution is possible. Smart investments are set to bring favorable returns, and travel plans might unfold smoothly.

**PISCES:** Observing situations before taking action at work will help you stay ahead. A chance meeting with an old friend may stir nostalgia. Encounters with someone from your past may rekindle old feelings. Travel plans are likely to proceed without a hitch. A property matter that has been pending may finally see resolution. Thoughtful financial decisions will contribute to stability.



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# Rep. Krishnamoorthi Kicks Off Summer Listening Tour In Campaign For US Senate

By A STAFF WRITER

**F**ifth-term Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, announced July 1, 2025, he will kick off his summer listening tour with a meet and greet in Moline, Illinois with Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati and former IL-17 Congressman Phil Hare, who are supporting his Senate bid.

While in the Quad Cities, he will meet with leaders from the Tri-City Building & Construction Trades Council and union officials representing federal workers on the

Rock Island Arsenal.

For the month of July, Krishnamoorthi will be on the road, traveling across the state “to hear directly from Illinoisans about how Trump’s agenda is impacting their communities and the importance of having fighters in Washington standing up to him every chance they get,” a press release from his campaign office said.

Krishnamoorthi announced his bid for the US Senate in early May, with a hefty campaign war chest that Politico reported equaled \$19 million, and considered among the front-runners contending for the seat being vacated by Senator Dick Durbin.



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, with his family.

## Real Estate Professionals Host Legal & Professional Update Seminar For South Asians

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

**T**he Association of South Asian Real Estate Professionals (ASARP) successfully hosted a dynamic and insightful evening event on Friday, June 27, 2025, at its Des Plaines Conference Center. Centered on the theme “Informed Professionals Build Resilient Communities,” the event brought together leading voices in the real estate sector to address emerging legal, regulatory, and technological shifts shaping the industry.

The program opened with a heartfelt welcome by Past President Shirin Marvi, who acknowledged the absence of ASARP President Sunita Kakarlapudi due to a leg injury. Marvi underscored ASARP’s enduring mission of fostering knowledge-sharing and professional growth among South Asian realtors.

ASARP Chairman Pradeep B. Shukla delivered a powerful keynote, citing Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.: “The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience.” Shukla highlighted the need for real estate professionals to stay attuned to evolving compliance standards and legal frameworks. He previewed upcoming dis-



PHOTO: COURTESY ASARP

From left to right (front row): Pradeep B. Shukla, Laurie Murphy, John Gormley, Lynn Madison, Kantibhai Patel, Bhailal Patel, Nimesh Jani; Second row (right to left): Phani Krishnan, Madhu Dave, Raj Patel, Late Sax, Harsha Gohil, Nick Verma, Harsha Shukla, Dipti Dave, Tanvi Gandhi, Marsha Collins, Shirin Marvi, Anjali Mohanti, Rita Shah, Vinita Nil, Ami Mehta; Third row (left to right): Stacy Mathis, Jayesh Patel, Debajit Sirkar, and other distinguished guests.

cussions in ASARP’s July session on pivotal topics such as the One Big Beautiful Act, EB-5 & Golden Visa programs, expanded public listing access, global property platforms, and the welcome news that NAR dues will remain unchanged in 2025.

Harsha Shukla introduced Laurie Murphy, Director of the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR) – Real Estate Division. Murphy shared vital state-level regulatory updates, outlined enforcement priorities, and reaffirmed the Department’s commitment to

promoting professionalism and public trust within the real estate community.

One of the evening’s highlights was a detailed presentation by Lynn Madison, Vice Chair of Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED) and a nationally respected real estate educator. Madison broke down recent changes to the NAR Code of Ethics, MLS policies, and evolving professional standards, providing attendees with actionable guidance and clarity on ethical practices.

Adding to the evening’s impact, John

Gormley, CEO of the Mainstreet Organization of Realtors, unveiled new initiatives aimed at boosting member engagement and public accessibility. He introduced Chicagoland Homes, a new public-facing portal that enhances consumer listing access while emphasizing the value of working with licensed Realtors. His forward-looking vision for tech-driven, transparent communication was met with enthusiastic applause.

ASARP Treasurers Nick Verma and Raj Patel managed event logistics with seamless efficiency, ensuring a smooth and engaging program. Harsha Shukla concluded the event with a warm vote of thanks, recognizing the outstanding contributions of the speakers and the commitment of attendees. He praised the real estate community’s dedication to continuous learning and upholding the highest standards.

The evening concluded with a networking dinner, allowing guests to reflect on the insightful discussions and forge new professional connections. The collective message of the evening was clear and timely:

Being informed is no longer a choice—it’s a responsibility.

### IMMIGRATION/BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

## Supreme Court Limits Nationwide Orders That Have Blocked Trump’s Birthright Citizenship Ban

By ANN E. MARIMOW

**T**he Supreme Court on Friday (June 27, 2025) backed President Donald Trump’s request to scale back nationwide orders that have for months blocked the administration’s ban on automatic citizenship for the U.S.-born babies of undocumented immigrants and foreign visitors, a signature piece of Trump’s efforts to restrict immigration.

The 6-3 decision, with the liberal justices dissenting, sends the cases back to the lower courts to determine the practical implications of the ruling and leaves open a path for challengers to try to continue to block the president’s policy.

The justices were not directly addressing the constitutionality of the president’s birthright citizenship order, which opponents say conflicts with the 14th Amendment, past court rulings and the nation’s history.

Instead, the Trump administration had asked the justices to limit the scope of orders imposed by three lower-court judges that blocked his policy from taking effect nationwide while its legality is tested in court.

Writing for the majority, Justice Amy Coney Barrett said such universal injunctions likely exceed the power that Congress has granted to the federal courts.

“Some say that the universal injunction ‘give[s] the Judiciary a powerful tool to check the Executive Branch,’” Barrett wrote. “But federal courts do not exercise general oversight of the Executive Branch; they resolve cases and controversies consistent with the authority Congress has given them. When a court concludes that the Executive Branch has acted unlawfully, the answer is not for the court to exceed its power, too.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor read a lengthy summary of her dissent from the bench to emphasize her strong disagreement with the opinion, which she called a “trav-

esty” and warned would “cause chaos for the families of all affected children.”

The ruling was one of six expected Friday, the final day of the Supreme Court term.

Presidents in both parties, members of Congress and several Supreme Court justices have long decried such nationwide injunctions for giving outside power to individual judges to halt a president’s agenda. The broad orders temporarily block a policy or regulation while litigation is underway if a judge believes the action may be unconstitutional or that implementing it would cause immediate harm.

In the background of the debate over nationwide injunctions is the underlying question of whether Trump can legally deny automatic citizenship to babies born in the United States when neither parent is a citizen or a

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# Supreme Court Limits Nationwide Orders That Have Blocked Trump's Birthright Citizenship Ban

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

permanent legal resident.

The ban is just one of the Trump administration's initiatives to dramatically restrict illegal and legal immigration. Trump has barred the entry of travelers to the United States from more than a dozen countries and has taken steps to fast-track deportations of alleged gang members from Venezuela, suspend refugee admissions and remove legal protections for more than 530,000 migrants.

On his first day back in the White House, Trump signed an executive order to end automatic citizenship for the U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants and

foreign visitors. Twenty-two states and immigrant advocacy groups sued, saying the order conflicts with the Constitution and past court rulings.

The 14th Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, established citizenship for freed Black Americans as well as "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." The citizenship clause reversed the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, which had denied citizenship to Black Americans.

Trump and his allies say they can ban birthright citizenship because unauthorized immigrants are in the country without permanent legal status and, therefore, are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the U.S. govern-

ment.

But most legal scholars, as well as the Democrat-led states and immigrant rights groups challenging the policy, say Trump's argument would require a reinterpretation of the 14th Amendment – and conflicts with settled Supreme Court precedent that protects citizenship for most everyone born on U.S. soil, except for the children of foreign diplomats.

The Supreme Court upheld the guarantee of birthright citizenship in 1898, when it ruled that Wong Kim Ark, a child born in San Francisco, was a citizen even if his immigrant parents were "subjects of the Emperor of China."

-THE WASHINGTON POST

## TECHNOLOGY

# Crypto Platform Kraken, Led By Co-Executive Arjun Sethi, Plans To Launch Competitor To Venmo, Block's Cash App

By Emily Nicolle

Crypto exchange Kraken is developing a financial services app targeting remittances and payments, further diversifying the company's revenue streams ahead of a potential stock market debut.

The new app, named Krak, will allow businesses and consumers globally to send and receive both crypto and traditional currencies across borders at little to no cost, Kraken said in a statement Thursday. At launch the app will support more than 300 assets, but will operate in a partially closed system where customers can only send cash to other Krak users or withdraw to their own bank account.

Physical and virtual debit cards allowing Krak users to spend the money in their accounts will be launched in the coming weeks, Kraken Co-Chief Executive Officer Arjun Sethi said in an interview. The company is also planning a range of credit services, including loans and credit card programs.



Arjun Sethi

"One of the reasons why I invested in Kraken and came here was around how to be able to make much more evenly distributed products," said Sethi, who is also chairman of venture capital firm Tribe Capital Partners LLC.

The app deepens Kraken's expansion into financial services, and puts the company in closer competition with other neobanks and money transfer apps like Revolut Ltd., Block Inc.'s Cash App and PayPal Holdings Inc.'s Venmo. The crypto exchange, which plans to go public early next year, rolled out commission-free trading for US-listed stocks and exchange-traded funds in April, after acquiring retail futures platform NinjaTrader for \$1.5 billion a month earlier.

Crypto companies are increasingly focused on developing more bank-like services, blurring the lines between digital assets and fintech. Coinbase Global Inc. launched an e-commerce payments platform earlier this month, partnering with Shopify to allow merchants to accept the Circle Internet Group Inc. stablecoin USDC. Circle also launched a payments network for cross-border transactions in April.

Krak will allow users to earn rewards of up to 10% on certain digital assets, the company said in its statement. For example, eligible users will earn up to 4.1%

on balances of USDG, a stablecoin issued by the Global Dollar Network consortium of which Kraken is a member.

Kraken won't be charging fees for transactions, Sethi said, or lending against customer assets. Instead he sees Krak as another avenue to acquiring customers who don't already trade crypto, but want to reap the benefits that digital assets can bring.

"I'm able to leverage my exchange and my liquidity to be able to offer these products to a larger distribution base," Sethi said.

"In the same vein as YouTube being free and monetizing it another way – at least for their first, formative years before they went into premium TV – I'm doing the same thing here, which is these products already exist for my customers for free, and I monetize them differently," he added. "I want to make this free to every customer worldwide for this very specific value proposition. There's no reason why we can't."

-BLOOMBERG

# Mineralys' Drug Significantly Cut Blood Pressure In Key Study, Author Manish Saxena Says

By Michelle Amponsah

An experimental drug from Mineralys Therapeutics Inc. significantly lowered blood pressure in patients with treatment-resistant hypertension in a new study, though several stopped taking it because of side effects.

Patients taking the drug, called lorundrostat, saw their blood pressure fall twice as much as those given standard care in a key study needed to get US approval, according to the findings published Monday in JAMA. The medicine targets aldosterone, the main hormone that controls blood pressure.

The study involved 1,083 patients, one of the largest conducted on novel drugs like lorundrostat for high blood pressure, said Manish Saxena, an author of the



Manish Saxena, Speciality Research Co-Lead, Cardiovascular, North London Research Delivery Network.

paper and a cardiovascular physician at Barts Health NHS Trust in London. There's an unmet need for new therapies that target the hormone, a key driver in hypertension and treatment-resistant hypertension, he said.

"The drug works consistently in all types of patients," lowering blood pressure regardless of sex, age, race and body mass index, Saxena said. "It's just about trying something novel, which could make a big difference to your blood pressure."

Mineralys didn't respond to a request for comment.

The drug, a tablet taken once daily, works by reducing production of aldosterone in the adrenal glands. All of the participants were taking between two and five hypertension drugs and still had elevated blood pressure.

In the study, lorundrostat lowered systolic blood pressure, the first number in

the reading, by 16 mm Hg, or millimeters of mercury, compared with a decline of just under 8 mm Hg for those who took a placebo for three months. A normal blood pressure reading is 120 mm Hg over 80 mm Hg. Saxena said the results were exciting because of the need for new therapies for hard-to-treat hypertension.

Nine patients given the drug dropped out of the study because of side effects, including high potassium levels, low sodium and impaired kidney function. Roughly half of those in the study experienced mild-to-moderate side effects after starting treatment. Most were transient, Saxena said.

About one in three people globally have high blood pressure, one of the main risk factors for heart disease, the researchers wrote.

-BLOOMBERG

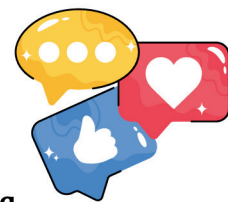




All Photos: Canva



## F, M & J Visa Applicants Face New Online Vetting by U.S. Consulates



IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

The U.S. Department of State has announced significant updates that will impact international students and exchange visitors applying for F, M, and J nonimmigrant visas. These changes reflect enhanced security vetting protocols, with a particular emphasis on reviewing social media presence and online activity.

### What You Need to Know:

Starting next week, all F, M, and J visa applicants will be required to set their social media profiles to "public" prior to their visa interviews. This new directive allows consular officers to examine online activity to identify any content that may raise concerns about the applicant's eligibility for a U.S. visa.

### Key Points:

- Lack of visible online presence or refusal to make social media public could delay processing or result in a visa refusal under INA 221(g).
- Officers are instructed to review posts for any hostile views toward U.S. laws, institutions, culture, or citizens.
- Screenshots of applicants' online activity may be taken and retained as part of the visa review.
- Those with past political activism or controversial public content may face increased scrutiny.
- Additional interviews may be requested if "potentially derogatory" information is found online.

### Impact on Summer Visa Processing:

Due to the time-intensive nature of these new procedures, fewer visa appointments will be available, even during peak student processing season. While expedited appointment requests may resume, priority will be given to:

- J visa applicants who are physicians.
- Applicants attending U.S. institutions with a low international student population (less than 15%).

### National Security & Policy Background:

These updated procedures stem from recent Executive Orders focused on protecting the U.S. from foreign security threats and combating antisemitism. Officers will assess whether applicants might engage in activities such as:

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# Critical Minerals To Top Modi's Agenda In Five-Nation Tour

By SUDHI RANJAN SEN

**S**upply agreements for critical minerals will dominate Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ghana, Namibia, Brazil, Argentina and Trinidad & Tobago starting Wednesday as the South Asian country's industry grapples with restricted supplies from China.

"We have achieved good progress in Argentina," Dammu Ravi, secretary for economic relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, told reporters in New Delhi on Monday ahead of the five-nation tour. "India's state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. and NMDC Ltd. are looking at part-

nerships in Africa."

China, the world's biggest producer of rare earth elements, has begun restricting exports of the minerals as it increasingly uses its dominance for geopolitical leverage. The export curbs on rare earth magnets – used in everything from mobile phones to electric vehicles – are worrying Indian automakers fearing disruption to production.

Khanji Bidesh and Coal India Ltd. have four mining concessions for rare earths in Latin America and India is speaking with Argentina, Peru and Bolivia to acquire more concessions, Periasamy Kumaran, secretary in India foreign ministry, said.

-BLOOMBERG



Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, center, during a news conference at Parliament House in New Delhi, India.

## India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Calls For Unity Against Terrorism At UN Exhibit

By ARCHANA ADALJA

**I**ndia's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, urged the member states of the United Nations to unite against all acts of terrorism in the world and to bring the perpetrators to justice. He also called for establishing a global protocol to deal with terrorism and terror attacks.

"Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to humanity. It is the antithesis of everything that the UN stands for," Jaishankar said.

He was speaking at the inauguration of 'The Human Cost of Terrorism' exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on June 30, 2025. Organized and curated by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, the exhibition will be on display at two locations in the UN Headquarters from June 30 to July 3 and July 7 to July 11.

The exhibition begins just the day before Pakistan takes on the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, the news outlet IANS noted.

It highlights twenty nine major terror attacks around the world, including the 9/11 attacks in the US, the 2006 Mumbai train bombings, the 2008 Mumbai assaults, the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam attack, the 2016 Uri attack, the 2019 Pulwama strikes, the 2016 Brussels bombings, the 2019 Sri Lanka Easter bombings and more.

A separate digital screen provides information related to the attacks. It includes a list of the perpetrators of the attacks, number of victims and those injured, their nationalities, details of the terrorism set ups and individuals responsible for the attacks.

Strongly expressing the need to bring terrorist attacks to the attention of the world community, Jaishankar referred to Pakistan's role in the terrorist attack on unsuspecting tourists in Pahalgam.

"When terrorism is supported by a state against a neighbor, when it is fueled by the bigotry of extremism, when it drives a whole host of illegal activities, it is imperative to call it out publicly and one way of doing so is to display the havoc that it has wreaked on global society," he said.

Speaking of the trauma and pain that the families of victims of terrorism undergo, Jaishankar said the exhibition aims to express solidarity with those families. "Their pain is a stark reminder of the urgency of our shared responsibility to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said.

The exhibition also displays the global response to ter-



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who inaugurated the terrorism exhibition set up by India at the UN, July 30, 2025.



India's EAM S. Jaishankar, speaking at the inauguration of the exhibition on terrorism put up by the government of India at United Nations July 30, 2025.

rorism along with steps taken by India to combat terrorism, protect human rights and foster regional cooperation. These include the Delhi Declaration against terrorist misuse of tech and AI.

Jaishankar referred to the recent UN Security Council condemnation of the terrorist act in Pahalgam, where the UNSC demanded that its perpetrators be held accountable and brought to justice.

He called for a renewed global commitment to end terrorism. "Here at the United Nations we must not just remember and honor but commit ourselves anew to act to protect and to uphold those very values and human rights that terrorism seeks to destroy," he said.

Keeping in view how terrorism anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere, Jaishankar urged the UN to set up protocols to deal with the threat of terrorism.

"It is time the world came up with some basic ways to deal with terrorism," he said and listed universal measures such as no impunity to terrorists, no treating them as proxies and no yielding to nuclear blackmail. "Any state sponsorship must be exposed and must be countered," Jaishankar said, without naming Pakistan.

The exhibition, he said, "is a fitting reminder of the challenge before us."





Photo by: Ricky Carlot

# These places usually offer relief from dangerous heat. Not this week.

By Brady Dennis, Scott Dance, Ruby Mellen

INDIAN BEACH, North Carolina - For Allison Johnson and her family, the beach was no place to linger this week. Rather than setting up a tent and spending Tuesday afternoon at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean here, they pulled their lounge chairs right into the surf. Maybe, the 51-year-old said, she would bring her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters back at dusk, when the sun sank low and the sand would no longer sear their feet. "If you're not in the water, it's just not bearable," Johnson said, looking down the beach to where a smattering of fellow tourists sat under tents, reading books and listening to Jimmy Buffett music. "I've come down here my whole life. I cannot remember when it has been this hot for this long." As a stubborn heat wave parked over the eastern United States this week, it was impossible to escape the sweltering conditions even at the beaches, lakes and forests that typically offer cool relief. From mid-Atlantic beaches to New England hamlets, humidity surged to extremes and temperatures soared to record highs that converged and overpowered the typical cooling effect of sea breezes and forests. Heat alerts affecting some 100 million people stretched into areas that usually only face such conditions every few years, far more rarely than urban areas.

The records underscored how the planet's warming is making such heat waves far more likely to occur, even in places with historically cooler climates. Not only is it raising the baseline for temperatures, but scientists have also found evidence linking climate change to atmospheric patterns allowing heat waves to remain stubbornly in place for days. That was a key finding of a study published this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

The muggiest spot in New York on Monday wasn't the concrete jungle of Manhattan - but the town of Whitehall, some 200 miles north on the Vermont border. The heat index there hit 117 degrees Monday afternoon - the highest ever observed in a network of weather stations established across the Empire State over the past decade. That surprised even some staff at the New York Mesonet, the observation network based at the University at Albany. It was a function of geography, and copious amounts of moisture converging with the intense heat dome settled over the eastern United States. Whitehall sits on the southernmost shores of Lake Champlain, which straddles New York and Vermont, providing an extra source of moisture evaporating into a mass of air already laden with water vapor from the Gulf of Mexico, said June Wang, the mesonet's director. Plus, after record-setting rainfall in May, the ground remains saturated, creating another well from which the heat was evaporating moisture, Wang said. That allowed the dew point - a measure of humidity more typically in the upper 60s or lower 70s on a muggy summer day - to reach 81 degrees in Whitehall on Monday, with air temperatures peaking in the mid-90s, as the heat stagnated over the Champlain Valley, Wang said. Boston hit 102 degrees on Tuesday, a record for June; Manchester, New Hampshire, hit triple digits for only the ninth day on record, according to Weather Channel meteorologist Jonathan Erdman.

In beach towns like Atlantic City, sea breezes normally help counteract the fact that humidity is highest close to the ocean, said Alex Staarmann, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Mount Holly, New Jersey. They develop as land warms up more rapidly than the water, sending hot air rising and allowing cooler ocean air to rush onshore.

But this week, the ocean breeze offered little relief, if it developed at all. In Atlantic City - where, unlike other beach towns, official weather observations are collected near the coast - temperatures rose to a record high 102 degrees Tuesday, breaking its previous June 24 mark by three degrees. Factoring in humidity, the heat index surged as high as 106 degrees in Atlantic City. "Typically in the summer, it's pretty humid at the shore," Staarmann said. "It's just the temperatures are usually cooler so it doesn't feel quite as oppressive." On the North Carolina coast, balmy water temperatures were not helping conditions: 80 degrees in Avon, 82 near Nags Head, 81 in Beaufort. And in Oregon Inlet, 86 degrees. "That's crazy," National Weather Service meteorologist Ryan Ellis said. Ellis, the science and operations officer at the Weather Service office in Newport, North Carolina, looked at previous occasions in which his office had issued an alert known as an "extreme heat warning" - meaning heat indexes of 110 degrees or higher for two hours or more. There had been three such advisories issued in 2024, all of them in July. But never more than one in any other year dating from 2016.

Wake said that in recent years the town has implemented cooling centers and installed air conditioning in public buildings. But more needs to be done: Many buildings still have flat, tar roofs that suck in heat. And the city is pushing to plant more trees to create more shaded areas. Even in regions used to hotter weather, the dangerous heat required some adjustments. One school district in New Jersey had to shorten a graduation ceremony and postpone others because of health concerns. In Baltimore, where a sanitation worker died of heat-related illness last year, the city suspended trash collection Tuesday afternoon. A utility in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley delayed grid work because it would have left some residents temporarily without electricity or air conditioning, the Morning Call in Allentown reported. On the North Carolina coast, some of the normalcy of summer continued unabated. Boats skimmed along the glistening Intracoastal Waterway near Atlantic Beach. Not far away, children sprinted through the mist at a local splash pad. Workers in oversize hats sweated through a roofing job on a beachfront condo in Pine Knoll Shores. Another crew nearby was ripping out an old air conditioning system and installing a new one at a seaside house in Emerald Isle. "I've been drenched all day," said Tyler Turnage, 24, who had ditched his shirt early in his shift. "I've made four different dips into the ocean." Mike Norman had not let the recent heat stop him from fishing for the shrimp he sells from a shack in Salter Path. "We've dealt with this before," Norman said. "We don't stay home just because it's hot." But he makes sure to ice down the shrimp he catches and cover them with a tarp, trying to keep them from spoiling until he gets back to shore. He also said he starts early, often before the sun, and hoses himself down with water on his boat deck as needed. Nearby, on the sand in Indian Beach, Allison Johnson said she had no plans of shortening her family's vacation, or doing much different at all. But she said she planned to heed a simple set of heat-inspired rules: "Extra sunscreen. More water. Less beer."

"Today would definitely be in the 'oppressive' category," Ellis's colleague, forecaster Roger Martin, said as he surveyed the satellite images, temperature reports and forecasting models on his work monitors. Health experts feared that this wave, which came on early and fast, could be especially perilous. "Research has shown that the first heat waves of the summer can be the deadliest," said Renee Salas, an emergency medicine physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. "People are out of the habit of thinking about heat and adjusting their behavior to stay safe, and their bodies haven't had a chance to acclimatize yet." MShe added that people who live in places that are historically cooler can get sick more easily. A 2019 study found that heat-related hospitalizations in the Northeast began to peak at a heat index of around 85 degrees Fahrenheit, while in the South it peaked at around 105 degrees. "This makes heat waves like this event so much more dangerous because people, their homes and cities are used to handling summer days in the 80s - not a heat index of 110," Salas said. And many of those places are not built for the climate they are now experiencing, said Cameron Wake, the director of the Center for North Atlantic Studies at the University of New England. "We're not set up to deal with extreme heat, both from an infrastructure perspective and a cultural perspective," said Wake, who focuses on climate change in the region and spoke from Kittery, Maine.



# On R.D. Burman's Birth Anniversary, Looking At The Moonlighting Composers Like Him

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

June 27 marks the 86th birth anniversary of composer R.D. Burman, who was among the early composers to moonlight—that is, do something in cinema outside music. Many composers have become playback singers, some are also lyricists frequently or rarely (Prem Dhawan, Ravindra Jain, Rajesh Roshan, Anu Malik, Nadeem of Nadeem-Shravan, Lalit of Jatin-Lalit, Vishal of Vishal-Shekhar, Sajid-Wajid, Himesh Reshammiya and Mithoon among them!). There have been quite a few films in which composers have made cameos as themselves too.

As a very much-justified grouse is that Pancham (as R.D. Burman is known) has been celebrated at every birth and death anniversary and other composers are ignored, I am 'using' his anniversary to highlight all composers (including him!) who have tried their hand at other cinematic departments.

Pancham acted in comic roles in Bhoot Bungla and Pyar Ka Mausam with great timing, and one wishes one had seen more of him in that department. But both these films came before he became extremely busy as a composer.

Here is an alphabetical list of the others.

**A.R. Rahman** produced a musical named 99 Songs.

**Anu Malik** made an appearance as himself here and



PHOTO: Video Grab

R.D. Burman and Mehmood enact a comic scene in Bhoot Bungla, marking the composer's first film as actor and second as music director.

there, but what counts are his roles as a pandit (!) in Guridner Chadda's Bride And Prejudice and as an irascible talent judge in LSD 2!

**Bappi Lahiri** has acted in Mr and Mrs Khanna as a singer named Victor, and also produced three films—Rock Dancer, Love Story 1998 (for which he was also billed as 'writer') and the Bengali Lal Dorja.

**Dr. Bhupen Hazarika** was a multifaceted genius as writer, producer, director and actor in Bengali and Assamese cinema besides as lyricist, composer and singer. In Hindi cinema, he acted in and produced Ek Pal and wrote Chingaari besides scoring music and singing.

**Hemant Kumar** remains a famous film producer in addition to being a singer-composer: he has produced films as memorable as Bees Saal Baad, Kohra, Biwi Aur Makaan and Khamoshi.

**Himesh Reshammiya**

Himesh made a superbly successful acting debut in Aap Kaa Surroor, and since then, he has acted in over 10 films, produced a few (like Badass Ravikumar) and even penned scripts for that film, Tera Surroor, The Expose, Khiladi 786 and Damadamm! But he is a unique case here, for he made a highly successful debut first as the producer, story writer and title-song composer of TV serials, led by Andaz before gravitating to film music!

**Hridaynath Mangeshkar**

In Hindi cinema, Hridaynath Mangeshkar co-produced the film, Lekin.

**Laxmikant-Pyarelal**

Laxmikant Kudalkar and Pyarelal Sharma began their careers as child artistes even as they were learning music.

Among them were Laxmikant's Ankhen and Narsi Bhagat. Pyarelal was also a child actor, and his films included Shammi Kapoor's debut release, Rail Ka Dibba.

**Naushad** produced Babul, Uran Khatola and Maalik and wrote the stories of Palki and Tere Payal Mere Geet. Unofficially, he is said to have also co-scripted and even financed other films!

**S.N. Tripathi**, apart from being a well-known composer (especially of mythological and historical films) with an inclination towards classical music, was a prolific actor (over 50 films), director (reportedly 18 films) and writer of a few films as well. In all the latter three departments, he was largely associated with the same genres.

**Salil Chowdhury** directed Pinjre Ke Panchhi and was the story writer for Bimal Roy classics like Do Bigha Zamin and Parakh. He also penned the screenplay of Roy's Prem Patra. The composer also was the story writer for Naukri, directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee in 1981.

**Shankar Mahadevan (of Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy)**

Though never in Hindi movies, Shankar Mahadevan essayed the sterling role of a musician in the Marathi classic, Katyaar Kaaljaat Ghusali, a film with liberal usage of Hindi and Urdu.

**Shekhar Ravjiani (of Vishal-Shekhar)** was leading lady Sonam Kapoor's love interest in Neerja.

**Wajid (of Sajid-Wajid)**

Sajid and Wajid both played cameo roles occasionally, with Sajid playing a significant role in Wanted.



A.R. Rahman produced the Hindi film, 99 Songs.



PHOTO: Publicity Photo

Himesh Reshammiya is composer, singer, actor, writer and producer and began his career as a TV producer, writer and singer.

## Aamir Khan Reveals His Unexpected 'Biggest' Critic

By RAJIV VIJAYAKAR

Fresh off the success of Sitaare Zameen Par, Aamir Khan is riding high. The actor, known for his perfectionist streak and an instinct for emotionally-resonant storytelling, recently appeared on On The Right Angle with Sonal Kalra. The show, produced by Gautam Thakker Films, gave fans a glimpse into the personal side of the usually reserved star.

When asked who his biggest critic is, Aamir offered an unexpected yet deeply touching response. "All of my kids (Junaid Khan, Ira, Azad Rao) are honest with me and they critique my work," he said with a smile, before pausing and then saying, "But I think Reena, is one of my biggest critics."

In a heartfelt moment, Aamir shared how Reena's feedback has always mattered to him for her unwavering honesty. "She's always honest with me, and that's something I've always respected!" he said about his ex-wife.

After watching Sitaare Zameen Par, Reena texted him. "She said, 'Hey, Aamir, you were great. Loved the film!'" And that meant a lot to me," he added. "For her to say that, it told me the film had really landed."

The film has crossed Rs. 95 crore nett in India in 8 days."



PHOTO:Spice PR

Aamir Khan in Sitaare Zameen Par.



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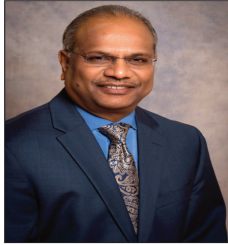
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07/04-SL

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

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08/02-TFN-SD

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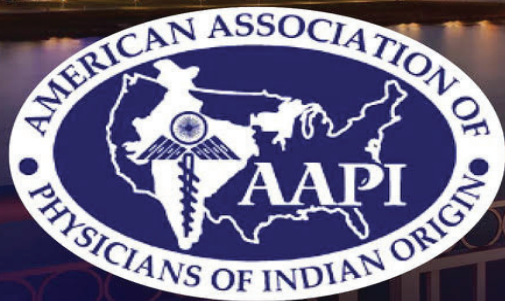
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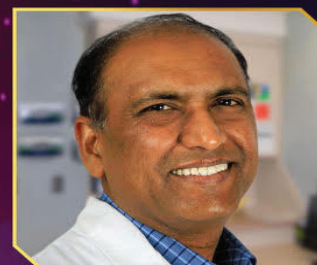
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