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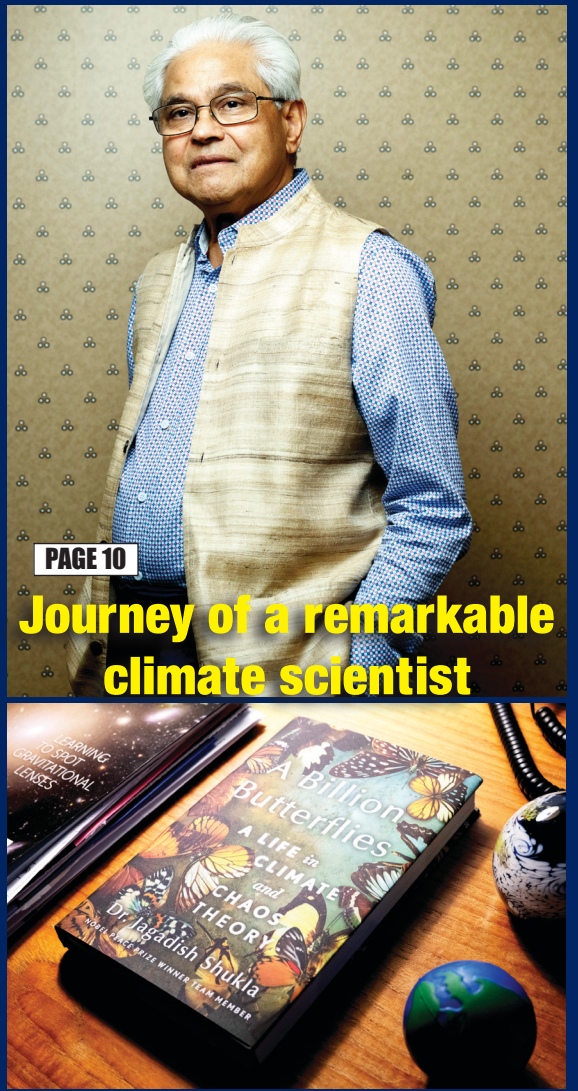
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With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Erin, beloved daughter-in-law of Smt. Bhanuben and Shri Rambhai Gadhavi.

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Though her journey ended far too soon at the age of 53, Erin's presence leaves behind an indelible mark on all who knew her. Even as she bravely faced the challenges of ALS, she and Mehul together showed us the true meaning of courage, dignity, and resilience.

While we deeply mourn her loss, we also celebrate the love, joy, and inspiration she so freely shared. Her spirit will continue to guide her family and all whose lives she brightened.

We join in prayer for Mehul, Jalen, Tej, Alaina, and the entire Gadhavi family, that they may find comfort in her everlasting love and strength in our collective support. May her soul rest in eternal peace.



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In Trump Tariff Threat, Wake-Up Call For India

By VIVEK WADHWHA

India once had a love affair with Donald Trump

Long before the rest of the world figured him out, Indians were cheering his every move. He was, at one point, more popular in India than in much of the US. His bluster, bravado, and disregard for political correctness struck a deep chord. In a country weighed down by colonial bureaucracy, obsolete laws, and a culture of red tape, Trump's instinct to bulldoze through institutions appeared not just refreshing but necessary.

He wasn't seen as just another politician — he was embraced as a wrecking ball aimed at a system that had long ceased to serve its purpose. India, hungry for its own disruptors, welcomed him as a kindred spirit. The stadium rallies, choreographed slogans, and orchestrated pageantry may have looked theatrical, but they reflected something real: A belief that boldness could substitute for reform, and disruption could shortcut progress.

Then came the backlash. Tariffs, visa caps, immigration crackdowns, and punitive trade threats landed one after another. India, which had positioned itself as a respectful partner playing by the rules, suddenly found itself on the receiving end. The betrayal was jarring, but in hindsight, it may have been the best thing that could have happened, because it forced a re-examination of assumptions that had gone unchallenged for too long.

Trump was never moved by principle or diplomacy. He responded to flattery, theatre, and spectacle. The Pakistanis understood this dynamic early and played him with skill — offering symbolic wins like a Nobel Peace Prize nomination and effusive praise for his social media outbursts. None of it cost them anything, but it got them attention. India, by contrast, clung to formality, protocol, and outdated instincts, believing that rational behaviour would win out.

What might have worked better was a Bollywood-style spectacle. A Pulitzer



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves next to U.S. President Donald Trump as they attend the "Namaste Trump" event at Sardar Patel Gujarat Stadium, in Ahmedabad, India, February 24, 2020.

for his tweets, a Nobel for bringing peace to South Asia (or at least for trying in all caps), an Oscar for best improvisation in a geopolitical drama, and maybe even an IIFA for lifetime achievement in melodrama — handed to him by Amitabh Bachchan with a dramatic pause and thunderous applause — would have done magic. It would have been absurd, yes — but with Trump, the absurd often outperformed the rational.

The re-examination of assumptions is required across domains. As is the need to change existing systems and policies. In business, for instance, entrepreneurs still wade through overlapping regulations and outdated procedures. Scientists are slowed not by the complexity of their research, but by the paperwork it takes to get it funded, approved, or applied. Starting a business often requires not just innovation, but navigation — of licences, inspections, and gatekeepers. Scaling

one demands even more: Deep networks, institutional patience, and a working knowledge of which rules to quietly ignore. The outside world sees the scale and talent India offers. But too many of its own citizens remain trapped in systems designed to manage scarcity, not unlock abundance.

It's not a shortage of talent — it's a surplus of red tape.

This moment is an opportunity to clear the air — by eliminating redundant licences, enforcing real-time single-window clearances, and implementing presumptive approvals so that silence from a regulator becomes a green light, not a dead end. Tariffs that raise the cost of advanced manufacturing and research tools should be eliminated, and clarity must be brought to

export-import procedures still wrapped in a control-era mindset.

State governments should be empowered to compete not only on slogans but on actual performance — startup outcomes, business registration timelines, R&D output, and regulatory speed. Private universities and research institutions need to be liberated from micromanagement so they can scale without asking for permission. Industry-academia partnerships should be fast-tracked. Patents, tech transfer, and procurement should be modernised and made transparent.

India doesn't need to look outward for validation. It has the data, the scale, the engineering depth, and the hunger to lead from within. Health, agriculture, climate, manufacturing, mobility — the datasets alone are a strategic resource waiting to be unlocked. Add to that an unmatched pool of ambitious entrepreneurs, builders, and scientists, and the country becomes not just a participant in the global innovation race, but a driver of it. That's exactly what companies like mine, Vionix Biosciences, saw in India — not just scale, but scientific and operational depth that can deliver breakthroughs the West struggles with because it no longer has the talent.

Trump may have actually done India a favour. He exposed the fragility of its diplomatic assumptions and reminded it that performance must be matched by persuasion — and execution by storytelling. India has been handed lemons — by Trump, by its own bureaucracy, and by the inconsistencies of the global market. The time has come not to complain, delay, or

tread cautiously, but to make something from it: To turn those lemons into lemonade, to scale the process, bottle it with confidence, and serve it to the world as proof of what is possible when ambition meets execution.

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



PHOTO: COURTESY VIVEK WADHWHA

CITY VIEWS

Illinois Doctor Sentenced To 34 Months For Evading \$1.6M In Taxes And Healthcare Fraud

By A STAFF WRITER

Indian-origin Illinois doctor, Krishnaswami Sriram of Lake Forest, Illinois, was sentenced August 20, 2025, to 34 months in prison for committing health care fraud and for hiding assets and lying to the IRS about his ability to pay approximately \$1.6 million in taxes, penalties, and interest.

In addition to his prison sentence, the court ordered Sriram to serve three years of supervised release and to pay approximately \$1.7 million in restitution to the United States, the press release from the Justice Department said.

The press release from the Justice Department gave the following information quoting from court documents and statements made in court:

From approximately 2011 to 2017, Sriram evaded payment of approximately \$1.6 million he owed to the IRS.

Among other evasive steps, Sriram transferred ownership, in name only, of two rental properties to his children without their knowledge while he continued to receive income from the properties. He also transferred approximately \$700,000 from bank accounts he controlled in the United States to accounts in India.

To reduce the money he owed, Sriram submitted documents to the IRS as part of an offer-in-compromise that omitted an investment account in the United States, bank

and investment accounts in India, and ownership of the rental properties.

"In total, Sriram caused a tax loss to the IRS of approximately \$1.6 million," the press release said.

Between 2012 and 2022, Sriram also caused false Medicare billings to be submitted for episodes of in-home physician care that did not occur. Specifically, Sriram claimed to provide care for Medicare beneficiaries on dates when those individuals were either deceased or resided at inpatient facilities other than their homes. Sriram's false statements in medical records relating to these episodes of care resulted in \$136,980.36 in false billings to Medicare.

IRS Criminal Investigation investigated the case.



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Indian American Congressmen Introduce Legislation Putting Conditions On Sale Of AI Chips To China

By A Staff Writer

Ranking Members Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL, and Dr. Ami Bera, D-CA, introduced the No Advanced Chips for the CCP Act of 2025, legislation on August 22, 2025, to prevent advanced artificial intelligence semiconductors from reaching the People's Republic of China (PRC) unless both the Executive Branch and Congress explicitly approve the transaction.

The bill creates a national-security-driven review and places the approval of Congress as a condition for any exports under consideration to the PRC. U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda, D-HI, has also joined the bill as an original cosponsor.

"This legislation comes in direct response to President Trump's recent announcement that he is open to permitting exports of downgraded versions of NVIDIA's advanced Blackwell series chips to China," a press release from the Congressmen said. Krishnamoorthi and Bera contend that even "downgraded" chips could accelerate Beijing's ability to build AI supercomputers, threatening U.S. technological leadership and national security.

By requiring congressional approval, the No Advanced Chips for the CCP Act "ensures that these critical decisions will not be made unilaterally or traded away in backroom deals, but will instead undergo transparent and rigorous scrutiny con-



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL.

sistent with America's security interests," they said.

"For years, the Chinese Communist Party has treated America's cutting-edge chips like an all-you-can-eat buffet, fueling surveillance, military modernization, and influence campaigns," Krishnamoorthi is quoted saying in the press release. "This bill puts an end to that practice. If an advanced AI chip is headed to the PRC, the U.S. government must prove that its export to China serves our national security. Either Congress says 'yes,' or it doesn't go at all."

"Decisions about exporting our most advanced AI chips shouldn't be made unilaterally behind closed doors," said



Congressman Dr. Ami Bera, D-California.

Congressman Bera. "This bill reasserts Congress' authority and ensures that any such transfer to the People's Republic of China is subject to full scrutiny. Our national security demands a deliberate and lawful process, not ad hoc deals that risk handing over our technological edge to the PRC."

WHAT THE BILL DOES

- Requires dual approval for any export, reexport, or transfer of an advanced AI semiconductor to the PRC: (1) approval by the Secretary of Commerce after an interagency review with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretaries of Defense, Energy, and State; and (2) enactment of a joint

resolution of Congress approving the specific transaction.

- Mandates national-security review factors, including impacts on U.S. national security and technological leadership; risks of enabling PRC military applications or human rights abuses; availability of comparable technology from other sources; and economic impacts on U.S. companies and workers.
- Requires transparency to Congress via a detailed report on the chip, the intended Chinese recipient and use, the analysis conducted, and the basis for any approval.
- Provides narrow exceptions for humanitarian purposes, U.S. diplomatic/consular operations in the PRC, and returns for repair or replacement of previously lawful exports.
- Includes a three-year sunset to allow Congress to revisit and refine the regime as technology and threats evolve.

HOW THE BILL DEFINES "ADVANCED AI SEMICONDUCTOR"

A chip is covered if it exceeds any of the following thresholds: total processing performance above 2,400 or performance density of 1.6 or higher; DRAM bandwidth above 4,100 GB/s; interconnect bandwidth above 1,100 GB/s; or combined DRAM + interconnect bandwidth above 5,100 GB/s.

Indian American Lawyer Hetal Doshi Running For Colorado Attorney General

By ELA DUTT

Hetal Doshi, a practicing lawyer for close to 20 years, announced recently she is running for the top spot of Attorney General of Colorado, a state she has already served as an Assistant AG and later Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division.

The election for Attorney General is scheduled to take place November 3, 2026. Numerous candidates are vying for the post, five of them, including Doshi are Democrats, and one is a Republican, according to the current list available on Ballotpedia. The incumbent AG is Phil Weiser who leaves the term-limited office in 2026, and aims to run for Governor, according to news reports.

Doshi faces an uphill battle against her Democratic competitors in the primary, the date for which is yet to be announced, but is expected to take place in 2026.

Among Doshi's competitors is Boulder, Colorado District Attorney Michael Dougherty; former state House Speaker Crisanta Duran; and Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold who has a strong list



Hetal Doshi, candidate for Colorado Attorney General.

of endorsements already.

In an August 11, 2025, post on Facebook, Doshi explains her reasons for running. "For over a decade at the U.S. Department of Justice, I took on bullies, cheats, and crooks to protect working families....Now, the threats to our democratic values and economic opportunities are striking closer to home than ever before. States are on the front lines of this fight and I'm running for Attorney General

to keep fighting and winning here in Colorado. ...Grateful for the chance to share how my DOJ service inspired me to meet this moment."

Doshi has handled significant cases, "prosecuted monopolies, cartels, fraudsters, scammers, and public officials – and won," says her bio on the campaign website hetaldoshiforag.com. Her caseload over her career has included leading more than 800 public servants in landmark cases against as Deputy Assistant Attorney General; taking on Google, Apple, and Ticketmaster in "historic" cases; stopping mergers that would have made groceries and air travel more expensive; combatted hate crimes and the rise of extremism in Colorado, handling complex white-collar crimes, and holding global investment banks accountable, her website says.

A first-generation immigrant born to Indian parents, Doshi says she is running to is running "to make sure that streets are safe, the economy is fair, and that every Coloradan's rights and dignity are respected."

Doshi's Facebook posts show she has vocally opposed policies that she says politicize the Justice Department. In one post on August 18, 2025, in response to a

news headline which read, "Trump Says He Wants to Get Rid of Mail-In Ballots" – Doshi posted the following – "Taking advice from Putin on free and fair elections? Come on. Reality check: if Trump's coming for our elections here in Colorado, he will lose. The Constitution gives states the power to conduct our elections and we'll fight to protect that authority — in court and at the ballot box. Colorado's democracy isn't negotiable."

She has also posted moving tributes to her Indian and immigrant origins, as this post of August 17, 2025, shows – "Growing up, weekend dinners with the few South Asian families that lived nearby were where I first saw the American Dream in action. Now, walking into a similar gathering, I feel that same spirit – where tradition meets purpose. I'm proud to stand with a Colorado community rooted in hope and possibility."

On August 21, the PAC Indian American Impact Fund, announced it is endorsing Doshi for AG of Colorado. Chintan Patel, executive director of Impact Fund said Doshi is a "proven fighter Coloradans need."

Doshi, in her statement said she was "deeply honored" by the endorsement.



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FIA Chicago Estd.1980 Concludes Historic Independence Week With Patriotic Gala & Grand Parade On Devon Avenue

By BHAILAL M PATEL

-CHICAGO, AUGUST 24, 2025

The Federation of Indian Associations Chicago (FIA Chicago estd 1980) – concluded its 79th Indian Independence Day celebrations with a week of inspiring, colorful, and deeply patriotic events that will be remembered as one of the most remarkable chapters in its 45-year legacy. From the Flag Hoisting at Daley Plaza to the Tiranga Car Rally, the Grand Patriotic Gala, and finally the Independence Day Parade on Devon Avenue, FIA successfully united thousands of Indian Americans, community leaders, and supporters of U.S.-India friendship under one theme: “Nothing But Patriotic Festivities.”

FIA Chicago's Patriotic Gala – A Night of Tribute, Unity, and Pride: On August 22, 2025, FIA Chicago hosted its much-anticipated Independence Day Gala in Chicago, bringing together more than 800 guests, dignitaries, elected officials, veterans, and community leaders. The gala set the tone for the weekend, weaving together moments of reflection, cultural pride, and emotional tributes to Bharat Mata.

The evening began with a moment of silence in honor of the 26 martyrs of Pahalgalam, followed by the ceremonial Diya Prajvalan, the Indian and American national anthems, and a stirring rendition of Vande Mataram.

One of the most moving highlights was a Kuchipudi dance by Divya Prakashini to the iconic song “Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon.” As her performance brought many to tears, FIA President Hemant Patel stepped onto the stage holding a portrait of Bharat Mata. Overcome with emotion, he invited veterans—including Flight Lt. Sanjay Sharma, Rakesh Asthana, Capt. Preeti Gupta, and FIA's Arvind Ankleshwaria—to join him for a heartfelt salute. The audience gave a standing ovation, declaring it “the soul of the evening.”

Honoring Legacy & Celebrating India's Contributions

The gala also featured a documentary film chronicling FIA Chicago's 45 years of community service, cultural leadership, and civic engagement. Leaders including Illinois State Senator Michelle Mussman praised FIA's contributions and conveyed their warm Independence Day wishes.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh and Dr. Santosh Kumar, Banquet Chair and founder of MAAF, UMAS, and Vedic University, also addressed the gathering.

In his Presidential Address, Hemant Patel: Paid tribute to India's freedom fighters and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose 150th birth anniversary was honored throughout the celebrations. Highlighted India's civilizational gifts to the world—zero, the decimal system, binary code, yoga, trigonometry, and radio wave technology. Reflected on India's growing stature as the world's 4th largest economy and 4th strongest military, with achievements spanning from the Moon to Mars. Urged global unity against terrorism and religious extremism, calling for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Recognitions & Cultural Showcase, The evening included a tribute video to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the unveiling of FIA's Annual Souvenir with greetings from U.S. and Indian leaders, and an inspiring 15-foot “WE ARE ONE” banner carried by community leaders to sym-



A tribute video to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Ironman of India, and a massive 15-foot “WE ARE ONE” banner held by community leaders, business owners, and organization heads symbolized the spirit of solidarity, at Independence Day Gala at MahaLaxami Auditorium, Manav Seva Mandir.



Consul General Somnath Ghosh is addressed the gathering at FIA Chicago's Patriotic Gala.



Kuchipudi performance by Divya Prakashini on “Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon” left the audience emotional.



Waves of American and Indian flags lined the streets, while FIA executives and trustees donned tri-color jackets resembling a national uniform. Businesses, organizations, and community leaders proudly walked with banners, distributing juices, gifts, and patriotic-themed freebies. Cheers of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai!” and “Long Live America!” echoed throughout the parade route. The event was led by FIA trustees, executives, and community leaders. President Hemant Patel emceed the parade, welcoming floats and acknowledging participants. Hon. Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India in Chicago, delivered an inspiring address to the gathering.

bolize unity.

Congressman Danny Davis (IL-7), along with MEATF and Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, honored President Patel for his fearless leadership and selfless community service.

Cultural performances by Vrinda Pandav, Mihir Acharya, Darshna Patel, Phani Krishna, DJ Chirag Patel, and others kept the energy alive throughout the night. Certificates of appreciation were presented to artists and volunteers by FIA Executives. The evening concluded with a musical patriotic finale, filling the hall with songs

of freedom and pride.

FIA Chicago's Independence Day Parade – Devon Avenue Comes Alive: On August 24, 2025, just two days after the gala, FIA Chicago transformed Devon Avenue into a spectacular stage of patriotism with its Grand Independence Day Parade.

Beginning at Devon & Western and concluding at Devon & California, the parade featured: 13 beautifully decorated floats representing India's diversity, 5 classic cars and trucks, including contributions from community members, 16 walking groups and 2 live bands, infusing the streets with music and rhythm. Hundreds of Indian and American flags waving proudly along the route.

Community groups, faith organizations, and businesses distributed refreshments, patriotic gifts, and messages of solidarity.

Streets rang with chants of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai!” and “Long Live America!” while FIA leaders and volunteers wore custom tri-color jackets, giving the parade a unique national flavor.

Highlights of the Parade: A dedicated float honoring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, featuring a 6-foot portrait of the Ironman of India. A 15-foot “WE ARE ONE” banner, again reinforcing the theme of unity. Participation from more than 60 organizations and businesses, including temples, cultural associations, senior groups, political leaders, and small businesses across Chicagoland. Traditional Garba dance performances, celebrating both patriotism and cultural heritage.

Leadership & Community Resilience: The parade was emceed by President Hemant Patel and Trustee Sanhita Agnihotri, with Dr. Santosh Kumar leading the organizing team. Hon. Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India in Chicago, delivered an inspiring address, praising the Indian American community for its unity and cultural strength.

In a poignant moment, President Hemant Patel acknowledged the spirit of service: “Our parade was possible because of the dedication of volunteers who put community first. One stage owner, despite losing his younger brother last night, still fulfilled his commitment. And DJ Chirag Patel stepped in at the last minute to save the day. This is the true meaning of seva.”

The parade's success was widely described as “the return of FIA's golden spirit,” achieved without Bollywood celebrities, proving that patriotism alone can draw thousands together.

A Week to Remember – Looking Ahead The Flag Hoisting at Daley Plaza, the Tiranga Car Rally, the Patriotic Gala, and the Grand Parade together created a weeklong festival that celebrated freedom, honored India's heroes, and strengthened U.S.-India bonds.

FIA leaders emphasized: “If we put the nation first, community support will always follow. Our celebrations are not just about entertainment, but about paying tribute to freedom fighters, reminding us of our shared duty, and inspiring humility and service.”

About FIA Chicago: Since its founding in 1980, the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) Chicago has been at the forefront of Indian American civic, cultural, and community life in the Midwest. Representing dozens of organizations and thousands of families, FIA continues its mission to celebrate India's heritage, promote inclusivity, and foster strong U.S.-India ties.



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How One Scientist, Jagadish Shukla, Used 'A Billion Butterflies' To Predict The Weather

BY ANUSHA MATHUR

Standing in his home office in Rockville, Maryland, meteorologist Jagadish Shukla gestured at the high-resolution satellite map of India hung on the wall. It shows every groove of his home country's geological landscape in vivid detail.

He swept his hand over the deep blue of the Arabian Sea and the bits of bright-white snow atop the Himalayas, launching into an impassioned mini-lecture on ocean temperature.

"The trick is how to find predictable components in a chaotic system," Shukla told me.

Shukla, who is 81, spends his days finding patterns, building models and defining boundaries to make sense of Earth's climate. He's come a long way from his childhood village in northern India, where he spent his summers playing outside and praying for rain.

The most anticipated season of each year was the annual monsoon, he writes in his memoir "A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory." Monsoons follow India's hottest period and last for months, providing both relief from the sun and fertility for the land.

But the monsoon also can be a source of suffering. Some years the rain brings intense flooding, while in others there's too little for a good harvest – or worst of all, drought and famine.

This unpredictability planted an idea in Shukla's mind: What if we could know? If the village had a monsoon forecast, farmers could plan for wetter years or brace themselves for drought.

In 1970, a nervous but optimistic 26-year-old Shukla arrived in Boston to pursue his doctorate at MIT. His goal: find a way to predict the Indian monsoon's seasonal impact.

At the time, weather forecasters relied heavily on "initial conditions" – how volatile factors such as temperature, pressure, wind or jet stream today might affect the weather tomorrow. As a result, meteorologists generally believed that predicting the weather beyond 10 days was a hopeless pursuit.

Soon after arriving at MIT, Shukla learned about the "butterfly effect," coined by renowned meteorologist Edward Lorenz. Lorenz observed that even the tiniest changes in initial weather conditions – something as small as a butterfly flapping its wings – could make an entire system chaotic over time.

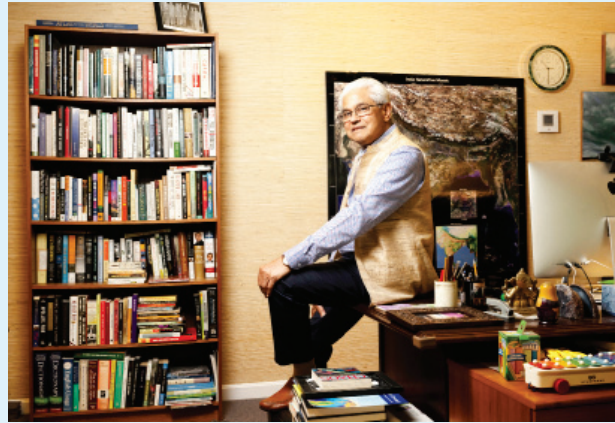
"The idea is that if you change just one decimal point in your initial condition, you will get a different forecast after 10 days," Shukla said.

Lorenz's work made many scientists skeptical about whether seasonal predictability was worth focusing time or research on. But Shukla felt sure that – at least for the monsoon – there was knowledge to be gleaned from the chaos.

"He was constantly seeing the glass half-full and that we should keep looking, whereas the scientific community was saying that you're lucky to get anything out of that glass," said Timothy DelSole, an atmospheric and climate science professor at George Mason University who worked closely with Shukla.

Then came the breakthrough. While daily weather is driven by volatile initial conditions, seasonal averages are shaped by something else, "boundary conditions" such as ocean temperature, soil moisture, snow cover and vegetation. And these boundary conditions are a source of predictability.

"He was the one who really cared, who took those ideas and developed them and convinced other people," said David Straus, a climate dynamics professor at George Mason University who worked with Shukla. "Shukla had a really outsize role in saying, 'Look, all these little pieces of evidence in the past are there, we can use



Jagadish Shukla at his home in Rockville, Maryland, in June.



A copy of Shukla's book sits on a desk in his home.

them together."

In paper after paper, Shukla explored the interactions between Earth's surface and atmosphere – not just for the monsoon but in weather across the world. He founded the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere (COLA) at the University of Maryland, one of the first research groups dedicated to studying these interactions. COLA is now affiliated with George Mason University.

The ultimate proof of predictability came from Shukla's "billion butterfly" experiment.

"This question kept gnawing at me," he said. "People had already started believing seasonal predictability, but I had not written a paper exactly using the language of Lorenz."

Shukla's team ran simulations in which they dramatically changed the initial conditions – the metaphorical flutter of billions of Lorenz's butterflies – while keeping the boundary conditions fixed. Despite the day-to-day instability, the seasonal outcomes remained consistent. It was the origin of the phrase "predictability in the midst of chaos," which became the title of Shukla's bellwether paper, published in the journal Science in 1998.

"The result was stark," said James Kinter, current director of COLA. "The other papers that had come before that were all just little bricks in the wall, they're all just pieces. But the '98 paper was able to synthesize all that."

As Shukla deepened his work on dynamic seasonal prediction, a new scientific field was emerging: climate change. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Shukla's colleagues repeatedly asked if he would turn his attention to global warming. Shukla always declined.

He's quick to reject the label of skeptic but admits he "wasn't convinced yet" about global warming. He worried the claim of human-induced climate change was too bold, too early.

"I thought that was very dangerous for our field because suppose it gets delayed 10 years, then scientists will be blamed," Shukla said. "I was worried that we don't have enough data to prove it really convincingly."

Finally, in 2004, he accepted an invitation to serve on the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to work on its fourth comprehensive assessment of the climate. Coordinating lead author of the report David Randall said that Shukla was chosen for more than just his scientific background.

"Shukla, I think, is effective in both oral and written communication," Randall said. "He's a very persuasive guy in a kind of unaggressive way."

As Shukla listened to hundreds of experts, read comprehensive papers on climate change and saw the results from sophisticated models worldwide, he moved from ambivalence to alarm. He became convinced that global warming was real, rapid and human-induced.

In the bombshell IPCC report, published in 2007, Shukla and his fellow scientists declared that the "warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and identified "discernible human influences." That year, the panel received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work, along with former vice president Al Gore, with Shukla sharing in the honor.

"I cannot accept something simply on faith and belief," Shukla said. "The reason 2007 got the Peace Prize was because it was the first time our model said, 'Oh, it's now beyond the uncertainty.'"

Shukla believed the IPCC report would be a moment of reckoning. Instead, the report provoked forceful backlash from the fossil fuel industry. Companies began establishing coalitions and campaigns to sow the seeds of doubt about global warming and lobbied politicians to stall climate regulation.

In 2015, frustrated by the power of these fossil fuel corporations, Shukla wrote a letter to President Barack Obama, co-signed by dozens of his colleagues, urging the president to investigate energy companies for misinforming the public about climate change.

"Many people say: 'Oh, you're a scientist. You shouldn't say anything about it.' I don't agree. We're scientists, but we're also citizens of this society," Shukla said.

"I counseled against it at the beginning," Kinter said. "I didn't think it was a good idea because it would draw this huge spotlight of attention from bad actors. But he felt very strongly that it needed to be done."

In response, House Republicans accused Shukla's nonprofit of partisan political activity and demanded an investigation. The National Science Foundation's inspector general launched a formal probe.

"We knew that it was David and Goliath. We knew that this was a going up against a very powerful and well-funded machine," Kinter said. "But it was above and beyond what any of us expected."

It was one of the most "cruel and chaotic" times of Shukla's life. He shielded his colleagues from the details of the investigation at work, but back home was constant stress. Shukla was interrogated about the ins and outs of expense reports, handed over hundreds of documents and says he needed pills to sleep through the night.

"I already had heard about things like this, but when I experienced it firsthand, I knew how vicious it could be," Shukla said. "Before that, we used to just laugh and ignore all of it. Now, how can you laugh?"

After turning over thousands of records and receipts, the investigation came up empty.

Shukla squeezed a small plush ball on his desk, a blue sphere with green, continent-shaped blobs. Even scientists who dedicate their lives to predictability, he told me, must accept that outside of the lab, chaos reigns. Still, Shukla somehow always seems to be hurtling himself into the center of a storm. He set down the ball and looked straight at me.

"It's a small price to pay to defend the integrity of climate science," he said. "If we don't defend it, who will?"

-THE WASHINGTON POST

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ITV Gold-Parikh Worldwide Media Welcome BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chug

BY A STAFF WRITER

Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary Tarun Chug visited ITV Gold studios in Edison, NJ, August 19, where he delivered a rousing speech about a rising India and the changes Prime Minister Narendra Modi had brought about toward the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, 'Developed Bharat 2047' – on the 100th year of its independence.

Chug, who is one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most trusted leaders, and the author of the book, Modi's Governance Triumph, dwelt on the major changes he said were brought about in the daily living conditions of the poor with healthcare insurance, toilets, tap water, gas for cooking, village roads, access to loans for the smallest roadside businesses.

He dwelt at length on the massive infrastructure expansion he said had taken place since Modi came to power in



Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary Tarun Chug at a Meet & Greet held in ITV Gold studio, Edison, NJ, August 19, 2025.



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chug, center, being welcomed by Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, 2nd from right, at the Meet & Greet August 19, at the ITV Gold studios in Edison, NJ.



From left, Rohit Vyas, veteran journalist, Jagdish Sewhani, community leader, Mrs. Tarun Chug, BJP leader Tarun Chug, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and Amit Taneja, at the Aug. 19, 2025, Meet & Greet in ITV Gold studios, Edison, NJ.



Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, speaking at the meet and greet with Tarun Chug, national general secretary of the BJP, at the ITV Gold Studio in Edison, NJ.



Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, speaking at the meet and greet with Tarun Chug, national general secretary of the BJP, at the ITV Gold Studio in Edison, NJ.

2014. Hundreds of thousands of miles of new roads, railway lines, airports, medical and healthcare facilities, startups (half of them started by women), all of which had raised millions of people above the poverty line.

Chug began by praising the Indian American community for its accomplishments and global renown. Speaking mostly in Hindi, Chug said, "I salute your journey and struggle."

Pointing to the video that was played about Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, he concurred saying he appreciated the sentiment – Hum Bharat se door hain, per Bharat humse door nahin – We may be far from India, but India is not far from us.

"India lives in your breath," he said, adding "Even though I have met Sudhir ji once, it seems like I have a very old

relationship with him."

Dr. Parikh welcomed Chug describing him as "a very senior" member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, RSS, and "3rd generation Swayamsevak" as well as most trusted lieutenant of PM Modi, who had been entrusted with the responsibility of putting together the electoral plan which had brought his leader to power 3 times, starting in 2014.

Speaking about the years of the Covid pandemic, he noted India had surpassed expectations in the speed with which it was able to not only provide the care, but also develop two vaccines to counter the dreaded disease. The 'lockdown' he said prepared the nation to fight Covid, get beds ready, hospitals ready, get masks and build capacity and great speed.

As for the defense of the country, he said Prime Minister Modi and the nation as a whole, were determined never to let any attack go unanswered with equal ac-

tion and force.

"Today, we stop the water, stop the trade, and give the armed forces a free hand to build the strategy," to counter any attacks, he said mentioning Operation Sindoor as an example. But while countering any attack, he said, India did not attack civilians.

He said the nation has moved forward from the colonial mindset under Modi's leadership. He criticized the Congress Party for its policies, and previous administrations for acting against people "who say Jai Shri Ram."

"The Bharat in your heart is moving forward fast, and it is in secure hands," Chug said, guided by a person dedicated to grow the country. He touched on the revocation of Article 370 which gave Jammu & Kashmir autonomy, and harked back to the expulsion of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits from their homeland.

Chug spoke of the rise of women in

various spheres from the armed forces and space research to village panchayats. As for the youth, he said, their opportunities were being expanded with tech hubs and startup opportunities.


"In every sphere, India is moving forward," he said, including in energy production, agriculture, and farmers' rights. He also pointed to the hundreds of Indians, including children, who had been brought out of war zones from around the world, to the safety of India. "Our administration hears the voice of our citizens, whether in the Middle East or in Nepal."

The whole world is looking at India and to India for its message of peace and brotherhood, he said, clarifying – "But peacer through strength."

He urged everyone to join India in reaching the goal of Viksit Bharat.

A brief question and answer session followed.

ASTROLOGY




This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA


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




ARIES: You may not be easily swayed by someone's efforts to impress you this week. A sudden financial gain could surprise some of you. It's time to shake off laziness and commit to your fitness goals. Family matters might eat into your work hours. A drifting focus in studies can lead to setbacks, so stay sharp. Workplace politics could drain your energy. Your romantic life could use some emotional spark.



TAURUS: Don't act impulsively—evaluate advice before you follow it. Professional demands may pull you in multiple directions, but you'll manage with grace. An investment might not yield as expected just yet, but patience is key. Academically, progress may feel slow, but it's no reason to lose hope. Keep going.




GEMINI: Workplace circumstances seem to tip in your favour. You're likely to make a strong impact in your academic pursuits. A job well done earns you recognition. A joyful family gathering may be on the horizon. Be attentive to your partner's emotional cues—they're trying to say something important. A spontaneous travel opportunity should not be missed.




CANCER: Taking a break from the routine may recharge your spirit. Your efforts on the social front will earn you appreciation. Someone may extend unexpected support when you most need it. Flirtatious vibes may rise as you seize an exciting romantic opportunity. Home renovations may finally get the go-ahead.




LEO: You'll find strong support just when you need it most. Reuniting with close friends or relatives will lift your spirits. Your social calendar might get busier and more exciting. Work becomes less intense, offering a breather. Be cautious of someone buttering you up for their benefit. You may find yourself admiring even your competitor's success.




VIRGO: Keep certain things private to avoid being taken advantage of. A festive event will uplift your mood. You won't hesitate to spend generously on loved ones. Work may throw a few challenges your way—handle them with poise. Take extra care of a recurring health issue, especially due to seasonal changes.




LIBRA: Trying to manipulate outcomes may backfire—adopt a sincere approach instead. Your professional inputs will enhance your credibility. Academically, you may complete something important with finesse. Vacation plans are likely to bring excitement. Rekindle old connections—you'll enjoy the reunions. Your romantic equation improves with emotional honesty.




SCORPIO: You might be tempted to switch jobs, but don't rush—things aren't always greener elsewhere. Your thorough preparation gives you confidence in studies. Clarify new responsibilities at work with superiors. Surprise your partner with a heartfelt romantic gesture. A lingering ailment is likely to ease this week.




SAGITTARIUS: Hosting someone from out of town may earn you admiration. Work responsibilities could feel overwhelming. Academically, it's time to get serious to avoid falling behind. Love life looks fun and full of light moments. A family member may indulge in unnecessary expenses. Handle business matters with care. Take precautions health-wise in this weather.



CAPRICORN: Delays in taking initiative may lead to missed chances—act proactively. Entrepreneurs can expect positive momentum. Profits from earlier investments may exceed expectations. Health improves with changes in daily habits. Fitness goals become more attainable. Adjusting to a new work environment might be necessary. Domestic matters may demand serious attention.



AQUARIUS: You may sense a major change approaching, along with a touch of anxiety. Think twice before taking bold steps at work. Avoid launching new ventures for now—wait for the right moment. Academic performance needs improvement to stay on track. Be cautious with stock market dealings this week.



PISCES: Avoid making jokes at someone's expense—it could backfire. Feeling unmotivated is temporary, so ride it out. You may soon acquire new property or land. A smart solution you offer at work will earn you praise. Lingering tensions will begin to dissolve. Health initiatives start showing results.

THIS WEEK WITH

Dr. SUDHIR PARIKH



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Trump Administration To Vet Immigrants For 'Anti-American' Views

By Andrew Jeong

Immigrants seeking lawful work in the United States and a legal pathway to citizenship will now be subject to screening for "anti-American" behavior, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said Tuesday.

In a policy alert summarizing the updated guidance, USCIS said officers will have discretion to determine whether applicants for benefits, such as a green card, harbor anti-American views or have "endorsed, promoted, supported, or otherwise espoused the views of an anti-American or terrorist organization or group," including those that "support or promote antisemitic terrorism."

The agency also said, separately, that it would expand the types of benefits requests subject to social media vetting.

Experts say the new policy risks slowing down benefits processing for applicants and would deter immigrants from speaking out on political or social issues. More broadly, the guidance is reflective of the Trump administration's efforts to restrict both legal and illegal immigration.

In a news release, USCIS spokesman Matthew Tragesser said: "America's benefits should not be given to those who despise the country and promote anti-American ideologies. ... Immigration benefits – including to live and work in the United States – remain a privilege, not a right." USCIS did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Tuesday.

In its policy alert, USCIS did not provide specifics about how the new guidance would be applied, but it



The seal of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seen after a news conference in Del Rio, Texas, U.S., September 19, 2021.

said espousing such views would be considered "an overwhelmingly negative factor" in an applicant's request.

The guidance is effective immediately and applies to pending and new application requests, USCIS said.

"This is a new powerful weapon in President Trump's arsenal against politically disfavored groups," said David J. Bier, the director of immigration policy at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Washington.

The new policy says anti-American ideologies and activities are defined as those listed under the Immigration and Nationality Act, which prohibits those affiliated or associated with a broad range of topics including antisemitism, terrorism and "world communism" from receiving citizenship.

Bier predicted the changes would bog down adjudications, with immigration officials requiring more time and

documentation as they vet social media "and then make assessments against these vague criteria."

It will also deter millions of people from expressing criticism of or opposition to President Donald Trump and his administration, he said.

"When mere 'affiliation' or 'association' with poorly defined, unpopular political speech is enough to trigger the loss of jobs, family, or any chance to remain in the United States or become a U.S. citizen, the pressure to avoid controversial views will be immense for anyone interacting with the immigration system," he said.

The USCIS policy update comes amid a host of other changes applied since Trump took office again, including a more subjective standard for how citizenship applicants are assessed on "good moral character."

Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a lawyer and senior fellow at the American Immigration Council, described the move as "McCarthyism." The term "anti-American ideologies or activities" mentioned in the alert has no precedent in immigration law, he said in a post on X, "and its definition is entirely up to the Trump admin."

Trump has launched a massive domestic deportation operation aimed at deporting up to 1 million immigrants within the first year of his second term, The Washington Post reported. He has also threatened to strip U.S. citizenship from some of those who have been naturalized. And in April, USCIS announced it would screen immigrants' social media for purported antisemitic activity and use any posts it finds as potential grounds for denying visa and green-card applications.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

U.S. Citizenship Reviews Will Sharpen Focus On 'Moral Character,' Memo Says

By Grace Moon

The Trump administration has signaled it will further scrutinize immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship by ordering authorities to double down on efforts to determine whether applicants have "good moral character," according to a recent policy memo issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

On Friday, USCIS called for a more "rigorous, holistic and comprehensive" approach to evaluating those applying for naturalization, stating that "good moral character" is defined by an individual's "behavior, adherence to societal norms, and positive contributions." USCIS officers have been instructed to judge "on a case-by-case basis," the memo stated.

Experts say the directive and its vague language are reflective of the Trump administration's broader moves to limit legal immigration, leaving wiggle room for USCIS officers to make subjective choices about who gets to become a U.S. citizen.

While the order "is not necessarily a break from past practice," it emphasizes USCIS officers' ability to "impose their subjective interpretations of this fuzzy concept in their evaluations of naturalization applicants," said Jane Lopez, an as-



Software developer Sundari Narayanan, poses with President Trump holding her Citizenship certificate at the White House following a Naturalization ceremony Aug. 26, 2020.

sociate professor of sociology at Brigham Young University who specializes in immigration and citizenship policy.

According to Lopez, all applications for U.S. citizenship, permanent residency, tourism visas and student visas are by default subject to evaluation by one or more USCIS officers. These officers already have the "authority to deny that application for a multitude of reasons," she added.

The latest move could "make it harder

for noncitizens to obtain legal belonging in the United States," she said, since USCIS officers "must evaluate something they cannot consistently describe or define."

President Donald Trump has cracked down on immigration in his second term, launching what may be the largest domestic deportation operation in U.S. history and threatening to strip U.S. citizenship from some of those who have been naturalized. In April, USCIS also announced it would screen immigrants' social media for purported antisemitic activity and use any posts it finds as potential grounds for denying visa and green-card applications.

During his first term, Trump issued a sweeping executive order that significantly revamped the federal government's approach to illegal immigration by allowing the removal of those who "in the judgment of an immigration officer ... pose a risk to public safety or national security."

"Good moral character" has been a requirement for obtaining U.S. citizenship since the Naturalization Act of 1790. But Lopez said citizenship applicants are now faced with the additional burden of proving they have "positive attributes," rather than simply demonstrating they have not been convicted of crimes or taken part in other kinds of misconduct.

The USCIS memo cites "family caregiv-

ing, responsibility, and ties in the United States" as examples of positive attributes, as well as educational achievement and long-term community involvement.

In response to a question from The Washington Post about how "good moral character" will be defined, USCIS spokesman Matthew J. Tragesser said in a statement said that the memo ensures officers are accounting for applicants' contributions to U.S. society, "including community involvement, achievements, and financial responsibility rather than the absence of their misconduct." He said that U.S. citizenship should be offered only to "the world's best of the best."

Gabriel J. Chin, a professor and scholar of immigration law at the University of California at Davis, said the latest guidance is "so loose and discretionary that it is obviously susceptible to arbitrary enforcement."

"Many birthright U.S. citizens do not have sufficient educational or economic achievements that would entitle them to a visa to immigrate to the United States," Chin said in an email. "If they had not been born here, they would not make the cut."

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Trump Nominates Personnel Chief Sergio Gor, To Be U.S. Ambassador To India

By PRANSHU VERMA

President Donald Trump said Friday that he will nominate his head of presidential personnel, Sergio Gor, to be the U.S. ambassador to India, naming a close adviser to helm a post that comes as relations between New Delhi and Washington reach a decades-low over the issue of tariffs and India's purchase of Russian oil.

In a Truth Social post announcing Gor's nomination, Trump called him a "great friend, who has been at my side for many years" and claimed that as director of presidential personnel, Gor hired almost 4,000 people into government roles, a figure that could not be independently verified. Gor previously ran a pro-Trump political action committee and a publishing firm that paid Trump millions of dollars for his books.

The position of ambassador requires Senate confirmation, and Trump said Gor would remain in his current role until that happens. The president also said he will name Gor special envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs. It is unclear when Gor will start that role, as it may be made by appointment.

"For the most populous Region in the World, it is important that I have someone I can fully trust to deliver on my Agenda," Trump said.

Gor, who has worked for Trump in many capacities over the years, is a relative unknown among South Asia experts. In his White House role, Gor was viewed as a fire wall against foreign policy job seekers who espoused more hawkish views on military intervention than Trump, according to Justin Logan, a foreign policy expert at the libertarian Cato Institute.

The Trump adviser repeatedly clashed with billion-



Director of White House Office of Presidential Personnel Sergio Gor poses on the red carpet during the 26th Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., U.S., March 23, 2025.

aire Elon Musk – who formerly oversaw the U.S. DOGE Service – over recommendations for government appointments, notably the president's nomination of Musk ally Jared Isaacman to head NASA. Gor provided Trump printouts showing Isaacman's history of Democratic donations. Trump told Musk he was pulling Isaacman's nomination over loyalty concerns.

If named as U.S. ambassador to India, Gor will be responsible for managing a frosty diplomatic relationship between Washington and New Delhi.

The United States and India seemed primed to strengthen ties when Trump returned to the White House, but in recent weeks, the relationship has soured after Trump levied 50 percent tariffs on India for what he cited as punishment for New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil. The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has responded by signaling it will strengthen relations with the BRICS bloc, which includes Russia, China and Brazil.

The relationship has also been made more complicated after Trump's repeated claims that he helped broker a ceasefire in the May conflict between India and Pakistan. Indian officials have been upset that Trump is taking credit, because it goes against their long-standing position that issues with its nuclear archival should be handled bilaterally. Pakistan thanked the president for his help and nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Gor previously served as spokesman for Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky). The post of U.S. ambassador to India has been vacant since Eric Garcetti, the former Los Angeles mayor who was appointed to serve in New Delhi by President Joe Biden, left the role in January.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitive Cindy Rodriguez Singh Located In India And Returned To United States

By FBI PRESS RELEASE

AUGUST 21, 2025

FBI Dallas Special Agent in Charge R. Joseph Rothrock, the Everman Police Department, and the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office announced on August 21 that Cindy Rodriguez Singh has been returned to the United States and is now in custody at the Tarrant County Jail. On July 1, 2025, Rodriguez Singh became the 537th addition to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List. She was wanted in Tarrant County, where she faces a capital murder charge in connection with the death of her young son, Noel Alvarez, who hasn't been seen since October 2022.

On March 20, 2023, at the request of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Everman Police Department officers conducted a welfare check on Noel. During the welfare check interview, Rodriguez Singh lied to officers when she explained that the boy was living with his biological father in Mexico and had been there since November 2022. On March 22, 2023, Rodriguez Singh, her husband, and six other



Cindy Rodriguez Singh

juvenile children boarded an international flight bound for India. The missing child was not present, and did not board

the flight. Indian authorities located Rodriguez Singh, and the FBI transferred her back to the United States and into the custody of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office on August 21.

"The return of Cindy Rodriguez Singh from India is a new chapter in the search for answers in the disappearance of Noel Alvarez. This successful outcome resulted from international collaboration between the FBI and our domestic and global partners. It proves, once again, that justice has no borders. We hope that the residents of North Texas can rest a little easier knowing that Rodriguez Singh is in custody in the United States and will now face charges," said FBI Dallas Special Agent in Charge (SAC) R. Joseph Rothrock.

SAC Rothrock would like to thank the government of India, the U.S. Department of State, the FBI's attaché office in New Delhi, the FBI International Operations Division, and the FBI Criminal Investigative Division for their assistance in coordinating the transfer of Rodriguez Singh back to the United States.

The fugitive investigation was conducted by the FBI's Fort Worth Resident Agency and the Longhorn Violent Crime

Task Force. The capital murder investigation is being led by the Everman Police Department and Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, with assistance from the Northeast Tarrant County Child Abduction Response Team, Texas Rangers, and FBI. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services also provided valuable assistance.

The FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list was established in March 1950. Since its inception, 537 fugitives have appeared on the list, and 498 have been apprehended or located—many due to tips from citizens. Since its inception, there have been eight fugitives wanted from the North Texas region placed on the list. In addition, five fugitives that have been placed on the list were arrested in the North Texas region. The mission of the FBI is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States. For more information, visit [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov).

Additional information concerning Rodriguez Singh and the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives can be found by visiting the FBI's website at [fbi.gov/wanted/](https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/) topten.



All Photos: Canva

Understanding Administrative Processing (INA §221(g)) in 2025: What Visa Applicants Need to Know

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

For many visa applicants, the consular interview feels like the last step in the process. However, some are told at the end of the interview that their case cannot yet be approved and will undergo “administrative processing” under Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This status can be frustrating and uncertain, but understanding why it happens — and how to respond — can help you prepare and avoid unnecessary delays.

What Is Administrative Processing?

Administrative processing occurs when a U.S. consular officer determines that a visa application needs additional review before a final decision can be made.

Under INA §221(g), a case may be temporarily refused until:

- Additional documents are submitted, or
- Required background, security, or interagency checks are completed.

The Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) directs officers not to disclose the specific reason for the review, but applicants are typically told if further documents are needed.

How It Appears in the System

When a case is in administrative processing, the Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) often lists the status as “Refused” under §221(g). This does not mean the application has been denied permanently — it is a temporary hold until the requested action is completed.

Common Reasons for Administrative Processing

1. Missing or Incomplete Documentation

- Required records — such as certified court or police documents, employment verification, or academic credentials — are missing or insufficient.
- The case will remain pending until the applicant provides the requested information.

2. Security Clearances

- Cases may require interagency review if there are concerns related to national security, prior travel history, or sensitive fields of study or work (e.g., those on the Technology Alert List).
- Name similarities to individuals on U.S. government watchlists can trigger additional checks.

3. Database “Hits”

- Biographic or biometric information matches government records that require verification before proceeding.
- Past immigration violations, visa refusals, or certain criminal histories may prompt a deeper review.

Special Categories of Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs)

In some situations, consular officers request a formal Security Advisory Opinion from the U.S. Department of State before issuing a visa. Examples include:

- Visa Donkey — name or identity matches that need to be cleared
- Visa Mantis — sensitive or dual-use technology concerns
- Visa Condor — nationals of countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism

Typical Timelines

- The U.S. Department of State notes that most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days of the interview. However, timelines vary depending on the complexity of the case and the type of review required.

Applicants should:

- Apply for their visas well in advance of anticipated travel
- Be prepared for possible delays beyond the standard processing time.

Practical Tips for Applicants

- Prepare in Advance — Bring all required and supporting documents to your interview to reduce the risk of delays.
- Respond Quickly — If you receive a §221(g) notice requesting additional documents, provide them promptly.
- Monitor CEAC Status — Regularly check the online portal for updates.
- Allow Extra Time — Do not make non-refundable travel plans until your visa is issued.
- Seek Guidance — If your background, work, or travel history might trigger additional checks, consult an immigration attorney before applying.

Final Thoughts

While administrative processing under INA §221(g) can be an unwelcome surprise, it is a routine part of U.S. visa adjudication for certain cases. By preparing thoroughly, responding quickly to requests, and allowing extra time before planned travel, applicants can improve the chances of a smooth resolution.

At NPZ Law Group, we guide clients through the visa application process, including cases placed in administrative processing, to help minimize delays and protect travel plans.

FAQs

Q: Does “Refused” on CEAC mean my visa is denied?

A: Not necessarily. Under §221(g), “Refused” often means your case is on hold pending additional action.

Q: How long will my case be in administrative processing?

A: Many cases are resolved within 60 days, but some require more time depending on the circumstances.

Q: Can I speed up administrative processing?

A: While you cannot bypass required checks, you can avoid delays by submitting all requested documents promptly and ensuring your application is complete from the start.

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 551-400-6461 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at www.visaserve.com for more information.

Trying To Cut Sugar? Here's The Latest Science On Sugar Substitutes

By TRISHA PASRICHA, MD, MPH

Q: Could you tell people like me with Type 2 diabetes what you recommend we eat and drink? Everyone knows we should minimize sugar, but what else does the science show helps?

A: The most common tenet for an eating plan with diabetes – minimizing sugar and refined carbohydrates – still holds. But that doesn't mean you should be eating a lot of sugar substitutes.

In recent years, the use of sugar substitutes in ultra-processed foods has risen. At the same time, newer data has emerged challenging the assumption that these sweeteners are entirely “healthy.”

This category includes natural non-sugar sweeteners, such as steviol glycosides, and artificial sweeteners such as aspartame and sucralose. For people with diabetes, these sweeteners have been long advised in place of sucrose, or table sugar, because they don't create elevations in blood sugar that can increase the risk of damage to the eyes, kidneys, blood vessels and heart.

But mounting evidence suggests that long-term use of diet beverages and non-sugar sweeteners may worsen our ability to regulate glucose – among other concerns. In fact, in 2023, the World Health Organization recommended against non-sugar sweeteners for weight loss, citing an increased risk of Type 2 diabetes but also heart disease and early death.

My advice: Focusing on whole foods, rather than ultra-processed foods, is the backbone of a healthy diet – whether you have Type 2 diabetes or not. So while occasional diet drinks as a substitute for regular soda is probably fine, most of the time, water remains the ideal option for people with Type 2 diabetes and everyone else.

Stick with me now. It doesn't have to be all bland. I recommend trying to substitute sweetened beverages with sparkling water, unsweetened coffee or green teas, or – my personal favorite – infusion water. Just add a few slices of lime or cucumbers to your water for a spa-like beverage. These can give you fun options without the additives or sugar.

WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS ABOUT SUGAR SUBSTITUTES

One prominent cohort scientists have examined is the CARDIA study, which recruited about 5,000 healthy adults without diabetes ages 18 to 30 during the mid-1980s from four U.S. cities. The study found that in the long term, diet beverages and sugar substitutes like aspartame and saccharin were linked to greater body mass intake and waist circumferences – a well-studied predictor of insulin resistance – over the subsequent 25 years of follow-up.

An abstract presented at the meeting of the American Society for Nutrition in May performed another analysis of the CARDIA cohort and showed that people with the highest intake of diet beverages were linked to a 129 percent greater probability of developing Type 2 diabetes compared with those who drank them the least – even after adjusting for possible confounders like exercise, obesity and other aspects of diet quality. To be clear, these analyses don't prove causality, but the patterns raise concerns.

WHICH SUGAR SUBSTITUTE IS HEALTHIEST?

Emerging data is telling us that not all sugar substitutes are created equal – and that we still have to make sense of some conflicting data. Here's what to know about some common versions:

Aspartame: This is the artificial sweetener in many diet sodas and is classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans by the World Health Organization – though the data has been somewhat varied.

Sucralose: Sucralose is also present in many “zero sugar” packaged foods. It has been found to increase blood flow to the hypothalamus, an area of the brain that helps manage appetite. Compared with table sugar, sucralose can increase feelings of immediate hunger. This has led some scientists to hypothesize that consuming sucralose could lead to overall increased calorie consumption. (By contrast, calorie restriction has been shown to improve insulin sensitivity.) Still, the studies don't all perfectly align. In the recent CARDIA analysis, researchers didn't find that sucralose intake led to higher rates of Type 2 diabetes.

Saccharin and stevia: A recent study in Cell found that several non-sugar sweeteners – including saccharin, sucralose, aspartame and stevia – disrupted the microbiome of healthy adults who did not otherwise consume them. It also found that sucralose and saccharin, in particular, also caused worsening of glucose tolerance.

Even though the data gives me pause, let me just clarify that the advice here isn't that people with Type 2 diabetes should use table sugar. No doubt, sugar substitutes are more helpful compared with table sugar for people with Type 2 diabetes. Just keep in mind that non-sugar sweeteners are not a win-win, and you should think of them as a treat – not a staple of your diet.

HOW TO PLAN MEALS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES

The advice around the best diet for Type 2 diabetes can feel murky. Should you adopt the Mediterranean diet? Low-carb? Plant-based?

The low-carbohydrate framework is recommended by the American Diabetes Association. This can be compatible with the Mediterranean diet, which involves eating whole grains, fruits, vegetables, healthy fats and minimal

amounts of meat, and carries health benefits well beyond glucose tolerance. But this framework can also work with a plant-based or vegetarian diet or other low-carbohydrate diets.

To plan your meals, make half the plate a non-starchy vegetable, such as broccoli, spinach or Brussels sprouts. Then save a quarter of the plate for a lean protein like chicken, salmon or tofu. And finally, another quarter for healthier carbs like whole grain bread, fruit or low-fat yogurt (without added sugar). Check out this visual from the American Diabetes Association to help with planning.

Whatever diet you follow, take an approach that emphasizes higher protein and fiber intake, which are processed more slowly and evenly by the gut, and reduce consumption of highly processed carbohydrates, which otherwise would cause glucose spikes.

IS THE KETO DIET GOOD FOR PEOPLE WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES?

In 2022, researchers performed a head-to-head crossover study of the Mediterranean diet vs. a ketogenic diet for people with prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes. (The ketogenic diet involves eating very little carbohydrates and plenty of fats.)

Both diets did equally well controlling blood sugar and aiding weight loss. However, people had much more trouble sticking with the ketogenic diet long-term. This diet was also lower in some important nutrients like fiber and may increase the risk of heart disease, which is a serious problem for people with Type 2 diabetes.

The key is to find an eating pattern that will work for you in the long run. The goal is to maintain the pleasure of eating and to eat foods you love based on personal or cultural preferences, so speaking with a registered dietitian for more individual advice can help.

WHAT I WANT MY PATIENTS TO KNOW

Look out for non-sugar sweeteners in common ultra-processed foods. They're in everything, some of which may surprise you. Think shelf-stable bread, yogurt, canned soup and protein or snack bars.

And food labeling is so tricky. For instance, products that say “no artificial sweeteners” may, in fact, still be laden with steviol glycosides because that is, technically, a “natural” sweetener (it's also 200 to 400 times sweeter than table sugar).



Photo: The Washington Post

Trisha Pasricha is an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Papa John's To Re-Enter India With Plan For 650 Pizza Stores By 2035

By PRAVEEN PARAMASIVAM

U.S. pizza chain Papa John's International plans to return to India by October, said a master franchisee executive, aiming to open 650 stores over the next decade in a market where fast-food chains have been struggling to sustain sales growth.

The world's third-largest pizza delivery company, which exited India in 2017 citing underperformance,

follows U.S. rival Little Caesars, which opened in India earlier this year with a target of 100 stores by the decade-end.

Papa John's will open its first store in the southern city of Bengaluru, Vish Narain, managing partner at Pulsar Capital, told Reuters. The Indian investment house and UAE-based PJP Investments Group are Papa John's joint master franchisees in India.

The pizza chain had revealed plans in April 2023 to re-enter the “complex market”.

Its return comes as fast-food chains grapple with weakening sales in the country, as cash-strapped urban consumers – the key customer base – cut back due to slow wage growth and as rising competition bites.

One of India's two Pizza Hut franchisees, Devyani International, has been closing underperforming stores, while the smaller operator, Sapphire Foods India, has been cautious with its expansion plans.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

BLOOMBERG , THE WASHINGTON POST

How to perfect self-care at 30,000 feet, Dr. Barbara Sturm’s way

By Mark Ellwood



Photo : instagram@drbarbarasturm



A hot water bottle is the secret to staying cozy on a chilly airplane.

I love to take a warm water bottle with me. Lufthansa is quite cold, always. More often than not, there’s too much air conditioning or not enough heating. My favorite for staying warm, especially on long-distance flights, is the White Company Super Soft faux fur hot water bottle.

And I always pack some nasal drops so I don’t catch a cold; I like Coldstop nasal oil. Airplanes can be breeding grounds for viruses and bacteria, so it’s better to keep your nose hydrated. For a while, there was a doctor in Marina del Rey that I went to see a bunch of times, Dr. Richard Schulze. He had supplements and stuff, and an antiseptic lemon or grapefruit spray that I would spray all around me when I would come on the plane.

Here’s how to avoid tourists if you hit Amalfi in summer.

We go over and over again to Positano. We stay at Villa Treville, Zeffirelli’s old villa, with just a few rooms; I actually spent Covid there—I think I was there for four months. You overlook Positano, but you’re a little separate. Then we take the boat and go everywhere that way. You need to travel by water on the Amalfi Coast. Go to Lo Scoglio, which is my favorite place, and Kasai in Praiano.

Some of the most spectacular scenery in the world is off-limits to most travelers these days.

Siberia was amazing. The nature is stunning. I would go back there in a heartbeat just because I was blown away by its nature. We went over the fjords by helicopter, which was cool—they’re probably called something different in Siberia, but I would call them fjords. But I don’t know when we can go back there now.

There’s only one place in the world where she truly relaxes.

I first came to the Maldives in 2013. You get up early, you do your sport, walk on the beach. You unwind, because there’s not much to do. You are forced to relax, which for me is almost impossible; I feel like I’m a 24/7 workaholic. I only drink water. There’s no champagne—it’s not the thing. They have spa treatments like you wouldn’t find anywhere else. It’s two weeks of healthy living.

The best way to tackle Parisian flea markets is to be focused.

If you go to the Marché aux Puces in Paris, you need to decide what you want to shop for. I’m not going over the entire place, because then you’re tired and exhausted and that’s not fun. Are you looking for furniture this time? Or maybe some vintage clothes?

At Bloomberg Pursuits, we love to travel. And we always want to make sure we’re doing it right. So we’re talking to road warriors to learn about their high-end hacks, tips and off-the-wall experiences. These are the Distinguished Travel Hackers. Barbara Sturm’s skin-care products (now part of Puig Brands SA) are a staple in the bathrooms of luxury hotels—and the at-home cabinets of the people who stay in them. Sturm counts Victoria Beckham, Angela Bassett and Stella McCartney among her ardent fans. The German-born “anti-inflammatory pioneer,” whose original field is orthopedics, is marking her namesake line’s first decade with the release of new products, like the hydration and radiance-boosting Ceramide Drops face oil, as well as a new spa and boutique opening in Miami’s Design District. Sturm typically racks up at least 100,000 miles a year, though she scaled back last year. “I used to travel to the States every two seconds,” she says, which nearly earned her Lufthansa’s highest freq-

uent-flyer status: “I was almost ‘Hon Member,’ and that wasn’t a good thing. I decided I need to slow down a little bit.”

She still relies on Lufthansa’s first class for transatlantic flights, where there are just eight seats in the whole cabin. **“I like to be always a little bit separated, and I like to use a bathroom that’s rather clean,”** she says. Plus the comfort allows her to get right off the plane and down to business, she says. “If I don’t come there rested, then it’s just a waste of my time and waste of my energy there.”

These days, Sturm spends more time at home in Gstaad, Switzerland (her younger daughter, age 10, is an avid ski racer), but she still has plenty of wisdom to share about how to travel well.

“I grew up in the GDR [the former East Germany], and we weren’t allowed to travel. It was like being in prison. And now I don’t make compromises with traveling well,” says Sturm.



Photo : dreamstime



Photo : dreamstime

There’s this one little shop in the big market hall on the left, Artemise et Cunegonde. And they have the most amazing vintage clothes. I always find something there. I bought a Gaultier jacket from the 1990s, with short sleeves. Old Hermès coats that are more like robes, and an old Chanel bomber jacket. Everybody always asks where I got that from.

Gstaad-like many ski towns-is great in the off season.

Most people come to Gstaad for the season or when there’s Rosey weekend, but it’s so great off-season because of the community. It’s a very energetic, blessed place.

The best restaurant for me is Rössli in Feutersonoy, which is 10 minutes away—they have the most amazing apple tart, which they make fresh. The second-best place is probably Sonnenhof, and everybody says the stroganoff with rösti is the best.

And at Grand Chalet you have to eat the Kaiser prawns, the king prawns. The best hike is around the Arnensee: you see little waterfalls, and you can swim in that lake. I sometimes go swimming in November there.

Need to reduce airport stress?

Find one where no commercial carriers clog up the runways. My favorite airport is Saanen Gstaad. I drive in there with my car, they load the plane, and then they take me anywhere in Europe. When you land there, two minutes later I’m at home. It’s just the best thing ever. It’s all private, no commercial airlift.

Manish Malhotra Debuts As Producer With 'Gustaakh Ishq'

After excelling in the world of fashion, ace designer Manish Malhotra has made yet another big move in the world of cinema, debuting as a producer with 'Gustaakh Ishq.'

The teaser for the film was unveiled on Monday, August 25, giving a glimpse from Manish Malhotra's "daring story of love – ishq."

The teaser hints at a period romance, focusing on the budding love story between the characters of Vijay Varma and Fatima Sana Shaikh. Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah also makes an enigmatic appearance, adding more layers to the narrative.

Set in the bylanes of Purani Dilli and the fading kothis of Punjab, 'Gustaakh Ishq' promises a love story of passion and unspoken desire, from a world where architecture holds memory and music carries longing, the makers said, as per the press release.

Directed by Vibhu Puri, the film has a talented ensemble with music from Vishal Bhardwaj, lyrics from Gulzar, sound by Resul Pookutty, and cinematography by Manush Nandan.

Besides Vijay Sharma, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Naseeruddin Shah in the lead



Gustaakh Ishq teaser.



Screenshot of YouTube video trailer release.

roles, the film also features actor Sharib Hashmi in a prominent part.

Opening up about his debut as a film producer, Manish Malhotra said "My love for cinema began in childhood. The silver screen was my doorway to the world. Watching colours, clothes, music, and lifestyles unfold in cinema halls shaped my imagination and inspired me to become a designer. Today, stepping into

film production feels like my way of giving back to the medium that has given me everything. With Stage5 Production, the journey ahead is about embracing the unexpected; through stories, genres, and films that continue to surprise and inspire."

Produced with his brother Dinesh Malhotra, under his own banner, Stage5

Production, 'Gustaakh Ishq' marks a new chapter for Manish Malhotra, one that looks back at the magic of classic storytelling while stepping into the future of Indian cinema.

The film is set to hit theatres in November 2025.

-ANI

LIFESTYLE

Papa John's To Re-Enter India With Plan For 650 Pizza Stores By 2035

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The company will also face stiff competition from Domino's Pizza, which has more than 2,200 outlets in India, Pizza Hut with about 950 stores, and smaller upscale chains such as Pizza Bakery and PizzaExpress.

Pulsar Capital is betting on India's long-term potential, mirroring consumer-facing companies such as Dove soapmaker Hindustan Unilever and brewer Heineken that are continuing to invest in the country with an eye on its population of 1.4 billion.

The fast-food "category is underpenetrated, so we are many years away from saturation," said Narain.

Papa John's plans to tailor its pizza to local palates while also offering its signature pies, joining fast-food rivals offering similar fare. KFC sells a paner zinger burger, Domino's offers a chicken tikka pie, and Subway serves a potato-patty sandwich.

-REUTERS

Muslim-American Veteran Battles PTSD In Powerful Social Impact Film "Almost Home"

By NIDHI KATHURIA

Almost Home is a deeply moving portrayal of a soldier caught between the battlefield and the home front. Directed by Menhaj Huda and written by Kamal Khan, the film tells the story of Aamir, a Muslim-American Marine who returns home physically intact but emotionally fractured. Haunted by a traumatic encounter during his service, he is sometimes 'frozen again' as his kids describe him, and sometimes he drifts through his own life like a ghost.

The film captures the intimate struggles of PTSD with unflinching honesty. Aamir's journey is not just about healing from war but navigating the prejudices and misunderstandings he faces from his community. His wife, portrayed with remarkable depth, is the emotional anchor—strong yet vulnerable—urging him, "Fight for us like you fight for your own country." This line resonates as both a personal plea and a broader reflection on societal fractures, touching on issues of religious prejudice and communal tensions.

Kamal Khan delivers a powerful performance, bringing authenticity and nuance to Aamir's inner turmoil. Bernard White and Erica

Ibsen provide equally compelling support, rounding out a cast whose performances are sharp and emotionally resonant. The screenplay is taut and gripping, balancing tension with moments of quiet reflection.

Almost Home is also a social impact project, dedicated to Muslim-American veterans and mental health awareness, highlighting the sacrifices and challenges faced by families coping with PTSD. Set against post-war America, it is a film that speaks to both personal and societal reconciliation. As the poignant message of Aamir's wife reminds us: "Don't lose the people who love you."

Having earned official selections at the Burbank International Film Festival and DC South Asian Film Festival, with prior screenings in London and NYC, Almost Home is a compelling, socially relevant, and heartfelt story that lingers long after the credits roll.

Director: Menhaj Huda

Cast: Kamal Khan, Bernard White, Erica Ibsen

Writer: Kamal Khan

Executive Producer: Faran Tahir

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXNNlw6n3R8>

Site: <https://www.almosthomemovie.com/>

IG: https://www.instagram.com/almost_home_movie



Above, Kamal Khan as Aamir in 'Almost Home'. Below, a scene of the battleground.



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Chicago Suburb Franchise Hotel Single/Couple for housekeeping/ laundry. Accommodation provided. Hotel Looking for Front Desk/Laundry/Maintenance Position, Fluent in English.
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04/18/25 - 04/17/26 -SL

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08/22-09/19 SL

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Need Single/Couple for Housekeeping and Frontdesk help for Franchise hotels in Illinois and Iowa. Accommodation Provided. Legal must.
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08/08-08/29 JG

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Franchise Motels in (1) Chickasha, OK (2) St Antonio- TX need Front desk help (3) Utica- Upstate New York need Housekeeping help. Couple or single (for all locations). Accommodation provided.
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08/29-09/19-SD

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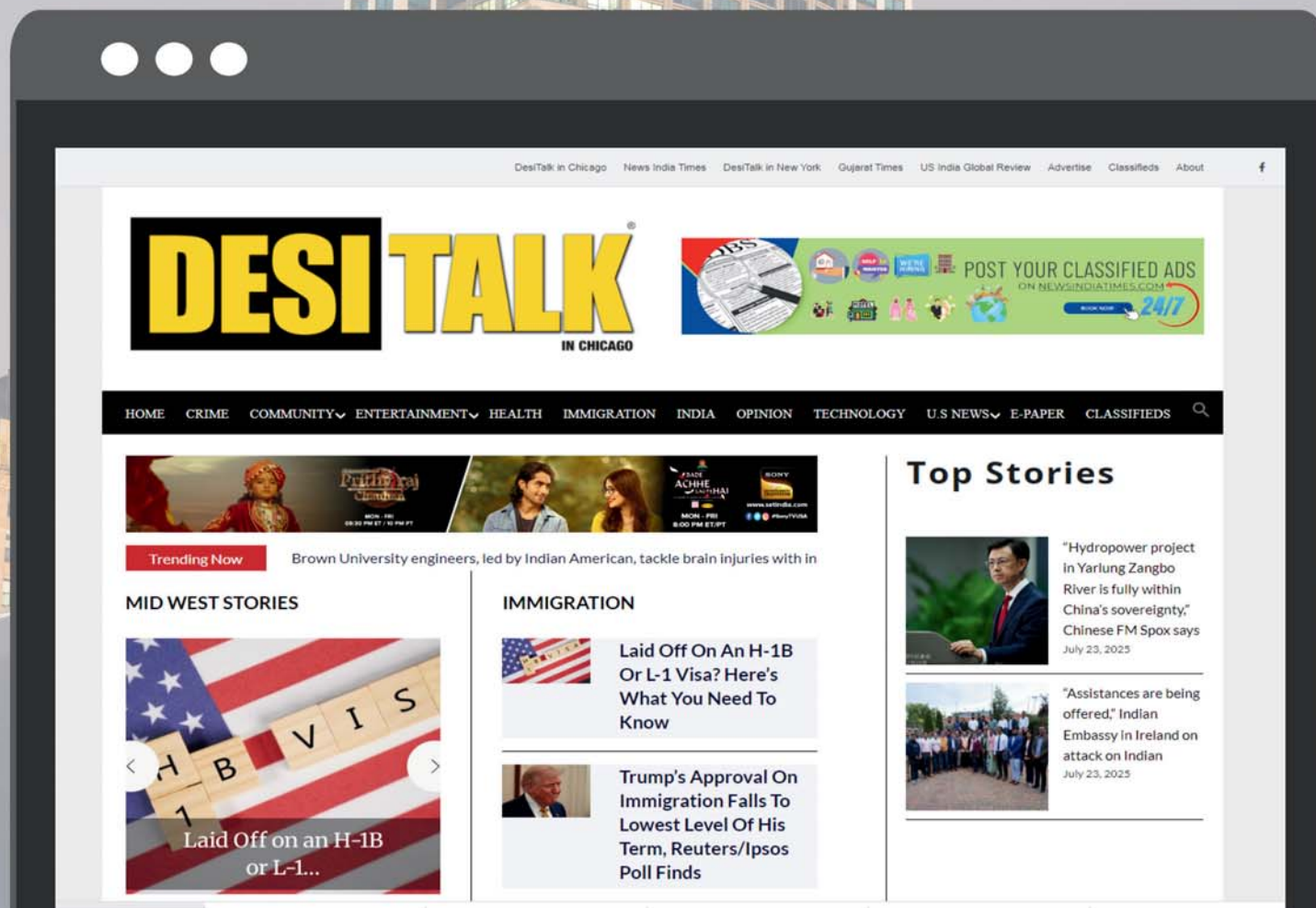
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