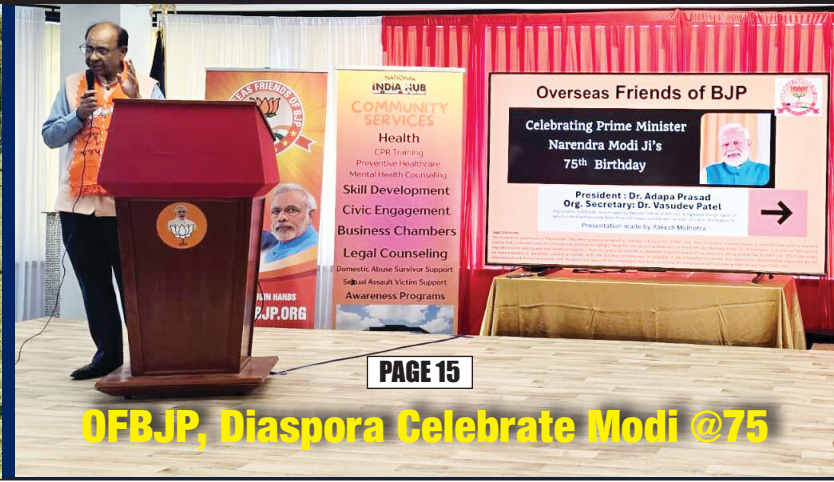




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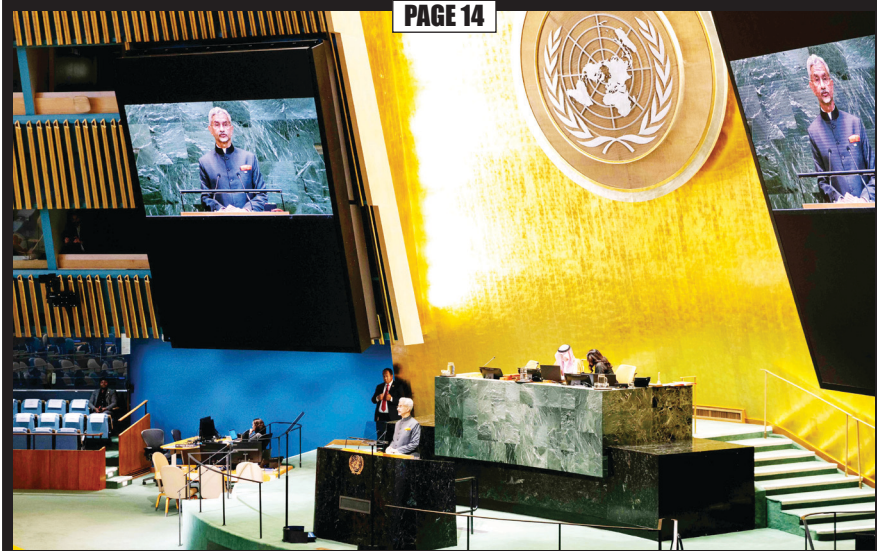
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H-1B visas approved by country in FY 2024

PLACE OF BIRTH	TOTAL NUMBER
India	283,755
China	46,722
Philippines	5,258
Canada	4,227
Korea, South	3,987
Mexico	3,335
Taiwan	3,103
Pakistan	3,055
Brazil	2,641
Nigeria	2,275
Nepal	2,157
United Kingdom	1,727
Colombia	1,646
Turkey	1,432
France	1,281
Iran	1,237
Vietnam	1,213
Bangladesh	1,173
Spain	1,043
Germany	1,030

Source: USCIS



Top 10 employers of H-1B visa holders as of June 2025

Amazon Com Services LLC	10,044
Tata Consultancy Services Limited	5,505
Microsoft Corporation	5,189
Meta Platforms INC	5,123
Apple INC	4,202
Google LLC	4,181
Cognizant Tech Solutions US Corp	2,493
JPMorgan Chase and Co	2,440
Walmart Associates INC	2,390
Deloitte Consulting LLP	2,353

Data as of June 30, 2025
Source: USCIS

PAGE 8

**Where H-1B visa holders are from,
who hires them and what they earn**

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The US' \$100,000 Mistake That Hands India The Future

By VIVEK WADHWHA

The US has announced a \$100,000 fee on every H-1B visa application. President Donald Trump believes this will protect American workers. What it will actually do is slam the door on the doctors, scientists, and engineers who built America's greatest industries. It is the immigration equivalent of his tariffs—loud, clumsy, and self-defeating. The outcome will be a weaker United States and a stronger India.

I have never defended the H-1B system. It has long been abused by third-tier outsourcing companies that treat it as a lottery to be gamed. They flood the system with applications, bring in workers by the planeload, and then rent them out at low wages. American corporations have been complicit, using the program to create a low-paid and captive workforce. Because of the decades-long green card backlog, these workers cannot change jobs or start companies. They wait in line while their employers hold the power. It is a modern form of indentured servitude.

Trump's new fee one-ups his mindless tariffs. Instead of fixing the abuses, raising wages, or clearing the backlog, he is making the program prohibitively expensive for everyone. The true victims will be hospitals that need doctors, universities that depend on international faculty, startups that rely on global talent, and laboratories that thrive on collaboration. America's strength has always come from immigrants. One third of Nobel Prize winners in science were born abroad. More than half of Silicon Valley's startups were founded by immigrants. They now lead not only technology firms in the Valley but companies across the American economy.

This will be a disaster for U.S. competitiveness because location is no longer a barrier to innovation, as I have seen firsthand with my company, Vionix Biosciences. When I first tried to build the company in Silicon Valley, I could not find the hardcore engineers and

scientists I needed. So I turned to India. At IIT Madras I found brilliant researchers working on deep, fundamental problems. These were people I could never have brought to the U.S., because the immigration system would have kept them out or forced them into decades of waiting. They were already advancing the frontier, eager to contribute, and ready to tackle challenges that most American graduates shy away from.

I also found extraordinary medical researchers and lab technicians at India's leading institutions such as AIIMS and IISc. Their skills were matched by an unmatched work ethic. The same spirit defined the machine learning graduates I hired from across India. In Silicon Valley, the first question many applicants ask is about perks and stock options. In India, the first question was always about career progression. Within four months, these developers were delivering at Silicon Valley standards at a fraction of the cost—and without the entitlement that has crept into the Valley's workforce.

With today's collaboration tools, distributed teams can produce world-class results from anywhere. You do not need to bring talent to America to build advanced technologies. You can leave it in Bangalore or Hyderabad and still achieve global standards. By attaching a \$100,000 price tag to visas, Trump is accelerating this shift. American companies will stop trying to bring people over and build their labs abroad. The knowledge, the patents, the startups, the wealth, and the tax revenues will stay outside the United States.

For India this is a historic opening. For decades, its brightest minds left because the U.S. was the only place they could do cutting-edge work, and the H-1B visa was their bridge. The U.S. has a shortage of high-end skills in fields such as artificial intelligence, deep science, hardcore engineering, computing, and biotechnology. These are not roles that can be filled by retraining displaced factory workers.

For the United States, a fix is still possible. It would mean clearing the green card backlog so workers can

change jobs and build lives, raising wages so visas cannot be used to undercut Americans, shutting out the outsourcing companies that game the lottery, and prioritizing genuine talent. Imagine if Trump told the million-plus skilled immigrants stuck in limbo that their paperwork would be processed immediately if they bought or built a home. Even if half took up the offer, it would trigger more than 600 billion dollars in economic activity—hundreds of thousands of homes sold, construction jobs created, and local tax revenues soaring. The immediate economic jolt would be larger than anything Trump's tariffs can ever deliver.

India, meanwhile, should treat this as an opportunity. It should hang a sign on Route 101 in Silicon Valley saying: If America does not want you, India does. The country now offers far more than elite schools. It has a thriving digital economy, a proven track record of scaling technologies like UPI to hundreds of millions, world-class hospitals, pharmaceutical manufacturing at global scale, and a startup ecosystem with ambition and capital. Add to this a young workforce, lower costs, and a government eager to back science and entrepreneurship, and the advantages are obvious.

Companies like mine have already discovered that India can deliver breakthroughs at global standards. If India builds on this momentum, it can become the place

where the talent and entrepreneurs America is shutting out choose to create the future. America's loss can once again become India's gain.

Vivek Wadhwa is the CEO of Vionix Biosciences and has held academic appointments at institutions including Harvard Law School, Stanford, and Duke University.



PHOTO: COURTESY VIVEK WADHWHA

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BUSINESS

How Google Views Trump's New H-1B Visa Policy

By ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

The Trump administration's latest immigration policy change, requiring a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas, sparked concerns over its potential impact on the tech industry, which greatly benefits from foreign skilled workers from countries such as India and China. But on Tuesday (September 23, 2025), Google's Senior Vice President James Manyika assured that the new H-1B visa policy won't disrupt the company and its current employees.

"I think it's quite important to continue to invest in American and U.S. talent," Manyika said at The Washington Post Live Global AI Summit. "But it's no secret for us that the U.S. and companies like ours having access to the best talent, from wherever they are, is a competitive issue we care deeply about."

Last week, President Donald Trump signed an executive order requiring new applicants approved for the H-1B visa to pay a \$100,000 fee. The policy would make it harder for foreigners to obtain legal



Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet.

work permits in the United States, carrying out Trump's promise to secure jobs for Americans.

The abrupt shift shook up Silicon Valley and sparked confusion for its foreign skilled workers. According to a report

released in August by the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the tech industry is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the skilled worker program. Tech giants such as Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Apple

and Meta are among the top companies employing workers with H-1B visas.

Workers in "computer-related" fields made up 64 percent of approved H-1B visa recipients in 2024. The new policy applies only to new visa applicants. Current H-1B visa holders and renewals won't be affected.

According to Manyika, Google is staying in close contact with its employees who are H-1B visa holders to make sure they know they won't be impacted by the policy change. Manyika says the company's biggest concern surrounding the new policy is maintaining its competitive edge when it comes to hiring talent, domestic or foreign. Google employs more than 4,100 H-1B visa holders, making it the sixth-largest employer of skilled workers with the visa type behind Amazon, Tata Consultancy, Microsoft, Meta and Apple.

"I think that even today the people on H-1B visas for us is a small portion of our talent," Manyika said. "But for us as a company, I think we'll work our way through this."

-THE WASHINGTON POST

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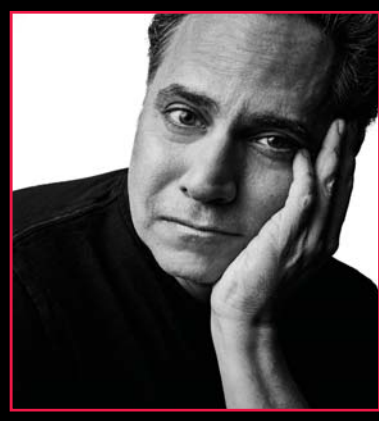
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Trump's Immigration Curbs Make Indian Students Rethink The American Dream

BY CHANDINI MONNAPPA, RISHIKA SADAM AND
MANOJ KUMAR

Paridhi Upadhaya was packing her bags after securing a computer science scholarship in the U.S. until headlines of President Donald Trump's H-1B visa crackdown last week prompted her family in Lucknow, India to scrap the plan.

"Trump's unending onslaught against immigrants is forcing us to consider other destinations for her," the 18-year-old's father Rudar Pratap said.

Upadhaya is among thousands of Indians for whom the American dream of world-class education, lucrative careers, better quality of life and social mobility, is turning sour due to rising U.S. visa restrictions and policy unpredictability.

For decades, the H-1B visa has been the gateway to a new life: a chance for young engineers and scientists from India, China and other countries to turn years of study into high-paying jobs and the possibility of permanent residency.

But last week, Trump said new H-1B visa applications would cost \$100,000, up from the roughly \$2,000 to \$5,000 employers were paying to sponsor workers.

Over 13,000 kilometres (8,000 miles) from Lucknow in Dallas, Texas, an Indian student pursuing a master's degree in computer science is staring at \$80,000 in debt and an uncertain future.

"Right now, the only aim is to finish my degree, find an internship, and try to recover my debt," said the student, who asked not to be named for fear of being targeted by immigration officials.

"I'll move to Canada or Europe — anywhere that actually wants us."

H-1B VISA: GATEWAY NOW CLOSING?

While supporters credit H-1B visas with bringing in vital talent, Trump argues it suppresses wages and sidelines qualified U.S. workers, making it one of the country's most divisive immigration policies.

Some of the high-profile Indians who used the program include Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, IBM CEO



U.S. and Indian flags and U.S. H-1B Visa application forms are seen in this illustration taken, September 22, 2025.

Arvind Krishna and Google parent Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, all of whom arrived in the U.S. as students.

India was by far the largest beneficiary of H-1B visas last year, accounting for 71% of approved beneficiaries, while China was a distant second at 11.7%, U.S. government data showed.

The H-1B visa, typically issued for three years and renewable for another three, has enabled U.S. tech firms to hire millions of skilled foreign workers to fill talent gaps.

Foreign students who graduate from U.S. universities often use the Optional Practical Training program to get work experience and then obtain the H-1B. The visa has become the key bridge to long-term employment and, for many, permanent residency — the coveted Green Card.

But young Indians are now rethinking their plans to pursue higher studies and careers in the U.S. and scoping other immigrant-friendly destinations, education consultants, professors and students told Reuters.

"Many students and parents are now in 'wait and watch' mode, weighing options like the UK, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand," said Piyush Kumar of IDP Education.

The U.S. hosted 465,000 Indian students in 2023, the

most among 1.3 million abroad, followed by Canada, the UK and Australia, Indian government data showed.

"Students are asking for a Plan B upfront because return on investment matters," Patlolla Bharath Reddy, managing partner at Uni Planet Overseas Education, said.

Others are urging students to look at the longer term. "We've been reassuring them that the order may face legal hurdles and things could change by the time they graduate," said KP Singh of overseas education consultancy IMFS.

AS U.S. SHUTS BORDERS, CHINA OPENS DOORS

Countries including China, South Korea, UK and Germany are actively seeking to redirect foreign talent.

Philipp Ackermann, the German ambassador to India, said in a post on X this week that his country's migration policy is "like a German car — reliable, modern, and predictable".

An Indian computer science student at the University of Minnesota is considering Germany over the U.S. for further studies, citing stable immigration policies, strong demand for skilled workers and affordable, high-quality education.

"Someone from a rural background like me is unlikely to be able to afford staying here," he said.

While Germany offers stability, China is aggressively recruiting global talent with new incentives.

Beijing has unveiled a new visa category that will allow successful applicants to enter, study, and work in China without having first received a job offer or research position.

On the day Trump signed the \$100,000 H-1B visa fee, Chinese cities such as Jinan and Nanjing hosted massive job fairs targeting overseas talent — Jinan featured over 2,000 employers, while Nanjing offered more than 20,000 jobs.

"Ultimately, it's a losing proposition for America," Deepa Ollapally, research professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, said.

-REUTERS

The H-1B Visa Needs Surgery, Not A Sledgehammer

President Donald Trump wants to dramatically change a visa program for high-skilled workers, but he faces legal uncertainty and limited options when acting alone. Though everyone knows he is no fan of working with Congress, the extra effort could improve his plans — and make them stick.

The H-1B visa program brings 85,000 high-wage, specialized workers to the United States each year. Trump has been inconsistent on legal immigration, and some of his businesses have used visa programs to hire guest workers. Many MAGA allies, however, are unhappy with this system. Immigration restrictionists have long argued that the H-1B program leads to lower wages for high-skilled American workers.

This led the administration to announce last week that it would add a \$100,000 annual fee for all H-1B visas — up from \$215 currently — and change the rules of the lottery that issues visas to prioritize higher-paid workers. In response to backlash from business leaders, the White House said it would be a one-time \$100,000 charge for new visa holders. Some business leaders are warming to the idea, but beware of big companies that welcome new regulations or taxes.

A large fee, the argument goes, would eliminate the need for the lottery, which has long been abused by outsourcing firms that submit petitions and farm out visa winners to other companies. While the higher fee would



President Donald Trump at the White House on Sept. 19.

make it much harder for employers to game the system, it would also primarily benefit established companies able to afford it. That would put scrappy start-ups at an even bigger disadvantage as they try to displace incumbents. And for rural or community hospitals already operating on narrow margins, it could be financially devastating. (The Post employs a number of H-1B holders.)

Upending the H-1B program has wider consequences. Anyone seeking evidence of its success need only glance at the C-suites of Silicon Valley. Tech mogul Elon Musk,

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Zoom founder Eric Yuan all have held H-1B visas.

Such visa holders boost the number of patents issued for new inventions and fill labor shortages in crucial industries such as health care. One study estimates that the program is responsible for 30 to 50 percent of the country's productivity growth between 1990 and 2010. The government doesn't need to shut down this economic engine to stop companies from abusing it for the purpose of hiring cheaper IT contractors.

There's another problem: Trump probably doesn't have the authority to implement the fee on his own. The H-1B system was established by Congress, and lawmakers have not granted the president any power to tax the visas. The executive order draws from a 1952 law that allows the president to "suspend the entry" of any immigrant who is "detrimental to the interests of the United States." If that feels like a reach, it's because it is.

The president would find a Congress eager to work on this issue. Sen. Jim Banks (R-Indiana), for instance, recently introduced a bill that would similarly raise wage requirements for H-1B holders and replace the visa lottery with a bidding system. Does Trump want a quick win that disappears after he leaves office — or a more comprehensive reform that will last for years to come?

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WHERE TO WATCH?

Where H-1B Visa Holders Are From, Who Hires Them And What They Earn

By MAHAM JAVAID, ADRIÁN BLANCO RAMOS

President Donald Trump's newly announced policy of charging \$100,000 for H-1B visas, which allow companies to temporarily hire nonimmigrant foreign workers for certain roles, in cases where employers cannot find those skills in the domestic workforce, came as an abrupt shift for U.S. employers and workers around the world – especially in a few key countries and sectors.

While the new fees and entry restrictions do not apply to current visa holders or those renewing them, and are not set to kick in until the next visa lottery cycle, the policy left companies and workers scrambling.

Here is where the most recent slate of H-1B visa holders originate, along with who employs them across which sectors and how much they earn.



Reuters videograb of President Trump signing new regulations for skilled worker visas.

WHERE MOST H-1B VISA HOLDERS ARE FROM

About half-a-million people in the U.S. hold H-1B visas. India accounted for 71 percent of H-1B visa holders in the 2024 fiscal year, which began in October 2023 and ended in September 2024, according to data from the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a DHS agency that administers immigration and naturalization processes. Other countries are set to see a major impact, especially China, which accounted for 11.7 percent of total H-1B visas.

In a statement, India's foreign ministry said that "skilled talent mobility and exchanges" have made major contributions to "wealth creation in the United States and India."

WHICH INDUSTRIES AND COMPANIES EMPLOY H-1B VISA HOLDERS?

USCIS data. PHOTO: Courtesy The Washington Post "Computer-related" occupations made up the bulk of H-1B employment in the 2024 fiscal year. Many of these jobs include systems analysis programming, according to a report released in August by DHS and USCIS.

Tech companies have a deeply entrenched culture of hiring immigrant workers. Uncertainty over the new policy has rattled Silicon Valley, as some companies advised immigrant employees on highly skilled visas not to leave the country.

Tech companies and outsourcing firms such as Tata and Cognizant employ the largest share of workers on such visas, but manufacturers, financial institutions and universities also import skilled workers from other countries.

Tech giants Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Meta are among the top employers of workers with H-1B visas. Amazon told employees that active or approved H-1B visas will not be affected by the new policy.

HOW MUCH DO H-1B VISA HOLDERS MAKE?

The fields with the highest median salaries for H-1B

H-1B visas approved by country in FY 2024

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Turkey	1,432
France	1,281
Iran	1,237
Vietnam	1,213
Bangladesh	1,173
Spain	1,043
Germany	1,030

Source: USCIS

Data from Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

H-1B visas approved by field in FY 2024

A total of 399,395 H-1B visas were approved in FY 2024

OCCUPATION	NUMBER OF VISAS	PERCENTAGE
Computer-related	255,250	64%
Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	40,669	10%
Education	23,778	6%
Administrative specializations	21,669	5%
Medicine and Health	16,937	4%
Math and Physical Sciences	11,246	3%
Life Sciences	7,393	2%
Managers and officials	6,622	2%
Professional, technical and managerial	4,899	1%
Social Sciences	3,385	1%
Unknown	2,699	1%
Law and Jurisprudence	1,819	1%
Art	1,743	0%
Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	397	0%
Miscellaneous	337	0%
Writing	270	0%
Entertainment and Recreation	147	0%
Religion and Theology	123	0%
Sales and Promotions	12	0%

Top 10 employers of H-1B visa holders as of June 2025

Amazon Com Services LLC	10,044
Tata Consultancy Services Limited	5,505
Microsoft Corporation	5,189
Meta Platforms INC	5,123
Apple INC	4,202
Google LLC	4,181
Cognizant Tech Solutions US Corp	2,493
JPMorgan Chase and Co	2,440
Wal-Mart Associates INC	2,390
Deloitte Consulting LLP	2,353

Data as of June 30, 2025

Source: USCIS

USCIS Data.

visa holders include law and jurisprudence – but data shows that fewer than 2,000 visas were given out for these jobs in 2024.

The median salary for computer-related occupations, which accounted for the bulk of H-1B visas in 2024, was \$101,000 for those who had their visas approved for these jobs for the first time and \$135,000 for those who have been working in their fields in the U.S. for longer.

These median salaries highlight the scale of the \$100,000 fee – 99 percent of the median salary for new visa holders.

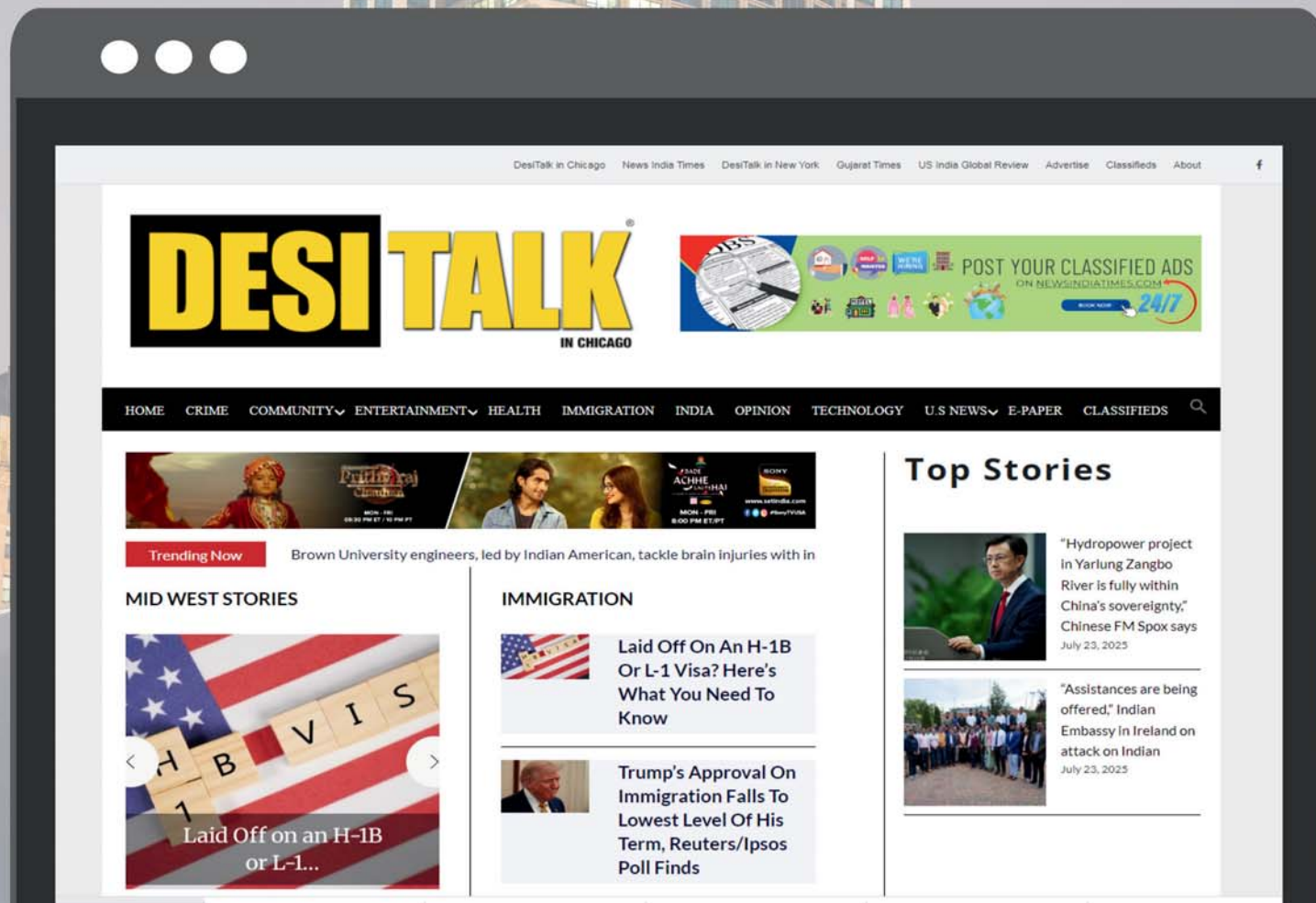
The real median household income in the U.S. was \$83,730 in 2024, the U.S. Census Bureau reported in September.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Income in dollars for workers with H-1B visas approved in FY 2024

OCCUPATION	NEW VISAS	MEDIAN INCOME (NEW VISAS)	RENEWED VISAS	MEDIAN INCOME (RENEWED VISAS)
Computer-related	75,428	\$101K	179,822	\$135K
Architecture, Engineering and Surveying	15,123	\$97K	25,546	\$126K
Education	13,725	\$68K	10,053	\$140K
Administrative specializations	9,270	\$94K	12,399	\$76K
Medicine and Health	8,492	\$80K	8,445	\$141K
Math and Physical Sciences	4,781	\$104K	6,465	\$140K
Life Sciences	3,927	\$77K	3,466	\$100K
Managers and officials	2,589	\$110K	4,033	\$155K
Professional, technical and managerial	2,345	\$125K	2,554	\$162K
Social Sciences	1,806	\$97K	1,579	\$130K
Unknown	1,202	\$82K	1,497	\$124K
Law and Jurisprudence	946	\$207K	873	\$230K
Art	813	\$80K	930	\$112K
Museum, Library and Archival Sciences	197	\$93K	200	\$145K
Miscellaneous	224	\$53K	113	\$72K
Writing	145	\$71K	125	\$92K
Entertainment and Recreation	94	\$64K	53	\$74K
Religion and Theology	93	\$49K	30	\$81K
Sales and Promotions	5	\$78K	7	\$84K

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Indian Overseas Congress USA Hosts Memorial For Harbachan Singh, Honors MPs From India

By A Staff Writer

The Indian Overseas Congress USA (IO-CUSA), in association with its New Jersey, Telangana, and Kerala Chapters, hosted a solemn memorial September 26, 2025, at Royal Albert's Palace, Fords, New Jersey, to pay tribute to Harbachan Singh, the long-serving Secretary-General of IOCUSA, who passed away recently.

Singh's demise "marks an irreplaceable loss to the organization and the Indian diaspora," a press release from IOCUSA said.

The program was attended by leaders and members representing multiple IOCUSA chapters. Praveen Singh, daughter of the late Harbachan Singh, offered floral tributes on behalf of the family.

The Chief Guests at the event, Indian Members of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy of Telangana, and Hibi Eden of Kerala, spoke warmly of Harbachan Singh praising his decades of dedicated service. Both leaders used the occasion not only to honor his memory but also to engage with the community on key issues facing India today. They spoke at length about India's current development trajectory, the challenges that must be addressed to achieve inclusive growth, and the critical role of the overseas Indian community in making the country more vibrant and self-sustainable.

They also highlighted the growth and opportunities



PHOTO: IOCUSA

Solemn memorial service held Sept. 26, 2025, at Royal Albert's Palace, NJ, for Harbachan Singh, leader of the IOCUSA who passed away recently.

in their respective states, underlining the potential in export, innovation, and other emerging sectors, and encouraged diaspora members to contribute their expertise and investments to further strengthen these areas.

Messages of condolence were also shared from Sam Pitroda, Global Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, and national leader of the Congress Party Rahul

Gandhi, who described Harbachan Singh as a pillar of IOCUSA's activities in the United States, particularly in the New York area.

They praised his simplicity, dedication to the nation, and selfless work, calling his passing a "huge loss to the IOC family and to the nation."

Others present at the event were IOC USA Vice Chair George Abraham, National President Mohinder Singh Gilzian, Working President Pradeep Samala, and New Jersey Chapter President Peter Kothari, along with Telangana Chapter President Rajeswar Reddy and Chairman Ram Gadula. From the Kerala Chapter, Chairman Paul Karukappally, Rajender Dichpally, IOC Leader, Deputy Chairman R. Jayachandran, and NJ Kerala Chapter President James George, who introduced MP Hibi Eden all took part in the program.

Vice President Baldev Randhawa, Treasurer Joshua Jai Singh, General Secretary Sophia Sharma, and IT Focal Point Rajiv Mohan also joined, as did Jose Charummood, who delivered a moving eulogy together with Mohinder Singh and George Abraham. Other senior leaders, such as Rajiv Gowda, President of the Karnataka Chapter, Srinivasa Rao, President of the AP Chapter, Imran Pasha, president of the New York Chapter, along with other prominent people, including social activists, and friends of IOC USA were also in attendance.

Asia Society To Honor Kiran Nadar At 12th Annual Asia Game Changers Awards Gala In New York City

By A Staff Writer

Asia Society will honor Kiran Nadar, a leader in the Indian art world credited with "profoundly" shaping it and increasing the visibility of Indian Modern and Contemporary art worldwide, through the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), a global platform established in 2010, to showcase and promote that country's art. Nadar, who lives in Delhi with her husband Shiv Nadar, will be honored at the Asia Society's 12th Annual Asia Game Changers Awards Gala scheduled to be held October 15, 2025, at Cipriani 25 Broadway in New York City.

Nadar's continuously expanding, diverse art collection today comprises more than 15,000 plus artworks representative of all major phases of modern and contemporary Indian art. Under her guidance KNMA also drives outreach programs to nurture a museum-going culture among Indian youth, a press release from Asia Society said.

Asia Society praised Nadar's initiatives including her collaborations with globally renowned museums including the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Tate Modern (London), Musée Des Arts Asiatiques, (Nice), Sharjah Art Foundation (Sharjah), Barbican (London) and Musée Guimet (Paris) in a short span.

Nadar is also credited with being the driving force behind the India Pavilion: Collaboration of Ministry of Culture, KNMA, CII and NGMA: Our time for a Future caring: at the 2019 La Biennale, the Venezia. Additionally, she also serves as an International Council member of the Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA).

The KNMA is set to open a new state-of-the-art building near Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.



PHOTO: COURTESY ASIA SOCIETY

Visionary collector, philanthropist, and museum founder Kiran Nadar will be among the honorees at Asia Society's 12th Annual Asia Game Changers Awards Gala on October 15, 2025, at Cipriani 25 Broadway in New York City.

Covering 100,000 square meters (over 1 million square feet), the building is expected to be an architectural marvel, and to be a global cultural hub for visual arts, music, dance, and theater. The new space will feature changing exhibitions, permanent displays, and performances, making it a versatile space for artistic expression. With its strategic location on National Highway (NH8), KNMA aims to become an international cultural destination accessible to a diverse audience.

Besides art and institution-building, Nadar is an acclaimed international-level Bridge player. She is one of the top Indian players of competitive Bridge and represented India at 2018 Jakarta Palembang Asian Games, winning Bronze in the mixed team category. She has also

won several laurels as a member of the "Formidables" team, leading it to victory at the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships 2018, bringing gold to India after 12 years. She is the driving force behind the HCL International Bridge Championship, which has been in existence for 18 years now.

She shares her husband's commitment to philanthropy. Shiv Nadar, apart from being the founder, HCL, is the Founder & Chairman of the Shiv Nadar Foundation which has invested US\$1.5 billion to create institutions of transformational education, to help create India's next-generation of leaders, including private engineering colleges around the country, as well as, in the schools' space, VidyaGyan schools in Uttar Pradesh and greater Delhi, bearing the Shiv Nadar name.

Kiran Nadar is a member of the Rasaja Foundation which has been involved in a joint initiative with the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation to promote the education of the Dalit and Muslim girl child in some of the most backward districts in Uttar Pradesh in India.

She has received numerous awards, including the Padma Shri from the Indian government, the CSP Hero's Award presented by the Australian High Commissioner for promoting Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between India and Australia. In 2023, she was bestowed with the title of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French civilian award.

She was also recognized globally as one of the 100 most influential individuals in the contemporary art world, by the UK-based ArtReview and has also been included in Artnews' Top 200 Collectors. Additionally, Forbes Asia Magazine recognized her as a 'hero of philanthropy' in 2010, for launching Kiran Nadar Museum of Art – India's first philanthropic private museum of modern and contemporary art.



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AAPI Kicks Off Preparations For The 44th Annual Convention To Be Held In 2026 In Florida

BY A STAFF WRITER

The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) announced the details regarding the venue for its 44th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, scheduled for the July 4th weekend in 2026 in Tampa, Florida. The announcement was made during a 'mini' kick-off event and formal contract signing ceremony held recently to officially launch preparations for the flagship event.

"We are delighted to share this exciting milestone as we prepare for the AAPI Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Tampa," announced President of AAPI Dr. Amit Chakrabarty. "This week's contract signing and kick-off meeting bring together physicians, leaders, and community partners, setting the stage for an exceptional and historic event."

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished group, including the Mayor of Tampa Jane Castor, officials from Visit Tampa Bay, senior executives from Marriott International, and representatives from the Florida Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (FAPI). The signing formally committed the AAPI leadership and



Leadership of AAPI with the Mayor of Tampa Jane Castor at the kick-off event for the 44th Annual Convention to be held in 2026.

convention partners to hosting an event expected to attract more than 2,000 AAPI members and international delegates, a press release from AAPI said.

Dr. Chakrabarty, joined by Convention Chair Dr. Sagar Galwankar and Convener Dr. Raghu Juvvadi, welcomed guests and expressed pride in the organization's collaborative spirit. "The involvement of our community, partners, and leadership underscores the unity and commitment that

will make this convention truly special," said Dr. Chakrabarty. "Together, we are preparing not just an assembly, but a celebration of unity, knowledge, and cultural pride—right in the heart of Tampa."

Dr. Galwankar, who will be leading the planning efforts, emphasized the dedication and hard work of the convention committee members, many of whom hail from the Tri-State region. "We've been working tirelessly to design an attractive

program for our annual gathering, featuring educational activities and opportunities for family enjoyment," said Dr. Galwankar. "We anticipate a record turnout and encourage early registration to secure your place and avoid disappointment."

The AAPI Convention provides a unique forum for attendees to engage directly with leading physicians who play pivotal roles in healthcare innovation and decision-making. Dr. Raghu Juvvadi, Convention Convener said.

As a prominent ethnic medical organization representing nearly 100,000 physicians and fellows of Indian origin, AAPI aims to serve as the collective voice of its members, providing a platform to address their diverse needs and advocate for the wellbeing of their communities both in the US and India. "The annual convention is a vital space for networking, sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and renewing dedication to improving health and wellbeing for people everywhere," the press release said.

AAPI will be issuing updates as the planning proceeds, organizers said. For more information about registration, sponsorship opportunities, and program details, please visit: www.aapiconvention.org and www.aapiusa.org.

South Asian Leaders Meet In DC For Impact Summit, Gala And Hill Day, Award Achievers

BY A STAFF WRITER

The South Asian Impact Foundation hosted its annual Summit & Gala and its inaugural South Asian Hill Day on National Citizenship and Constitution Day, September 16 and 17, 2025, in Washington, D.C. The two-day meetings brought 500 South Asian American leaders from refugee organizers to healthcare experts, CEOs, artists, students, and elected officials, a press release from the organization said.

Highlights of the events included:

South Asian Hill Day, where more than 150 participants held more than 50 direct meetings with Members of Congress and staff to promote urgent priorities around immigrant rights and community safety amidst rising hate and discrimination.

The Summit, which saw two days of plenaries, grassroots trainings, and wellness sessions anchored by the theme *Desis Persist: Our Stories, Our Strength*, spotlighting the resilience and leadership of South Asian Americans across generations.

The Gala, which was emceed by comedian Abby Govindan, celebrated excellence in South Asian leadership and honored this year's awardees.

Among the high-profile invitees and members who addressed the gathering were several Members of Congress: U.S. Senators Andy Kim, Cory Booker, Mark Warner, Alex Padilla; U.S. Representatives Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, and Suhas Subramanyam; From the refugee and immigrant community, leaders such as Dr. Badar Khan Suri and Robin Gurung of Asian Refugees United; Leading healthcare experts, such as Maryland Secretary of Health Dr. Meena Seshamani and



U.S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, and Suhas Subramanyam speak during a panel moderated by Simi Shah at the Impact Summit: *Desis Persist* hosted by the South Asian Impact Foundation on September 17, 2025 at the Washington Marriott Georgetown in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Vin Gupta; Advocates and activists like Mini Timmaraju, President of Reproductive Freedom for All.

On Hill Day, the partner organizations present included AAPI Equity Alliance, AAPI Victory Power Fund, Asian Refugees United, Chalo Vote, Desi Rainbow, the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA), the North American Association of Indian Students, the Roundglass India Center at Seattle University, SAATH, Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus, SAIVA, Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, the South Asian American Justice Collaborative (SAAJCO), the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI), South Asian Americans for Change, the South Asian Bar Association of DC, South Asian SOAR, South Asians

for America, Stop AAPI Hate, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), the Raj Mehta Day of Good, the Sikh Coalition, and They See Blue.

Those recognized with various awards at the Gala were:

- The Dr. Shyamala Gopalan Harris Award- presented by Indrani Goradia – honored Kavita Mehra, Executive Director of Sakhi, for courage, determination, and commitment to allyship and the cause of civil rights.
- The Dalip Singh Saund Award- presented by Montgomery County Commissioner Neil Makhija – recognized Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi for outstanding public service and dedication to civic engagement.
- The Champion of Civic Engagement Award – presented by Rep. Ami Bera and NC Senator Jay Chaudhuri – recognized Raghu Devaguptapu for his decades of service promoting civic engagement within the South Asian American community and advancing representation in public service.

According to the South Asian Impact Foundation, South Asian Americans are the second-largest immigrant community in the U.S. and one of the fastest-growing electorates.

"In this moment, we showed the power of the South Asian diaspora: standing together in Washington, D.C., guided by our values and determined to act. We were not silent. We built community, forged new connections, and reminded ourselves of our collective strength," Chintan Patel, executive director of South Asian Impact Foundation, is quoted saying in the press release. "Attendees left feeling inspired, united, and ready to carry this energy back to their communities across the country," Patel added.

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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

ARIES: Entrepreneurs can look forward to promising results by forming new collaborations abroad. Expressing your thoughts clearly at work will help you progress faster. Romantic possibilities seem bright, especially for those who've been hesitant to speak their heart. Spending time guiding your children in their projects will bring joy and strengthen bonds. Steady determination this week will increase your chances of accomplishing long-term ambitions.

TAURUS: Your commitment to fitness may inspire appreciation from loved ones, boosting your morale. Travel to your dream place might need to be postponed for now. A balance between professional duties and personal life will keep relationships smooth. Building strong social connections could open doors to new opportunities. Avoid hasty decisions in property matters and evaluate options carefully.

GEMINI: Carefully analysing each plan will bring better results than acting on impulse. Perseverance combined with calm thinking will serve you more than sheer excitement. Sudden expenses could arise, but your stable finances will help you manage smoothly. A new romantic spark may fill your heart with thrill and closeness. Hosting friends at home will allow you to share warmth and joy.

CANCER: Your cheerful outlook may remain intact throughout the week. Conversations with family regarding your career could turn supportive if approached wisely. Recognition at the workplace may uplift your confidence. Reviewing investments to reduce avoidable losses would be sensible. Sticking to a fitness schedule will gradually improve your stamina. Planning a short trip with your partner could bring freshness. This phase may bring meaningful life changes.

LEO: This week allows you to follow your passions and explore new avenues. Positive vibes around you can lead to refreshing experiences. Those aiming for the entertainment world might find an encouraging break. You may need to find extra income sources to meet aspirations. Avoid chasing quick-money schemes. Regular exercise is essential to maintain health, so stop skipping it. A quiet moment with your partner will deepen love. Postpone real estate moves until certainty is assured.

VIRGO: Optimism will play a key role in helping you reach milestones. Stay determined and put in consistent effort. Keeping household finances in check will prevent wasteful spending. Joint ventures with friends could bring success if executed wisely. An unexpected visit from a relative might trigger old emotions. Be patient before forming judgments. Maintain a light and healthy diet to support your system. Strengthen your bond with your partner by spending more time together. A short scenic trip may help you relax and rejuvenate.

LIBRA: Think carefully before making career or money-related choices this week. Avoid im-

pulsive purchases or investments. Those planning a career change should wait for a more suitable time. Strengthening communication with your partner will eliminate misunderstandings. A property deal may work out well through influential contacts. Family gatherings could ease ongoing tensions and encourage better bonding. You may also find new ways of reconnecting with siblings on a positive note.

SCORPIO: It's time to use your skills more actively instead of staying in your comfort zone. Your charm and determination will help you overcome challenges. A thoughtful approach toward expanding your venture will secure long-term growth. Relationships appear steady, and some may consider formal commitments. Fitness enthusiasts should allow the body adequate rest for recovery. Open dialogue with family members will nurture harmony at home. Planning memorable experiences can give lasting happiness.

SAGITTARIUS: This could be one of the most rewarding weeks for you. Completing a tough project successfully may prove to be a turning point in your career. Investments in long-duration plans can yield strong gains. Introducing innovative services or products could attract appreciation. Your resilience will reflect positively on your health too. Romantic happiness may bring couples closer, perhaps through a cherished trip. Socially, your kind actions may earn praise. A short break from routine could feel refreshing.

CAPRICORN: Volunteering for significant assignments may put you in the spotlight at work. Letting go of past emotional pain will help you move toward brighter experiences. Fitness goals can be achieved through adventurous physical activities. Hosting events may turn out enjoyable, especially with friends' support. Smartly calculated risks can bring substantial financial rewards. Others may look up to you for guidance. Property-related plans appear stable and promising. Plan a fun outing this weekend for relaxation.

AQUARIUS: Practising meditation will help sharpen focus and mental clarity. Extra workload could extend hours, but it will enhance your professional growth. Seek support from your partner when challenges arise, as their advice can make things easier. Parents hoping to see children settle down may receive encouraging news. Trusting your instincts will guide you in taking the right decisions. Keep your energies aligned with your goals to achieve steady progress.

PISCES: Travelling with children or young family members could bring delightful memories. Romantic progress may feel slower if your partner is busy with priorities. On the work front, strategies are likely to bring you recognition and success. Positive vibrations in personal connections may create satisfaction and inner peace. The kindness you extend to others is likely to return to you in meaningful ways.



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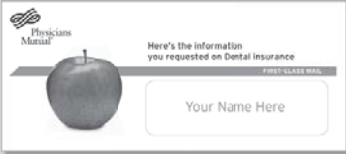
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Declaring The UN Is In Crisis, And Terrorism On The Rise, India's EAM Jaishankar Demanded Structural Change Saying India Ready For More Responsibilities

By A Staff Writer

In a speech that took several swipes at Pakistan without naming that country, demanded global action against terrorism, and pointed fingers at emerging unfair trade regimes, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar drove home the need for reorganizing the international body with a view to meeting new challenges.

New Delhi has for years, made the case for permanent membership in the UN Security Council, and did so again, albeit obliquely, indicating it was ready for taking on more responsibility.

"An objective report card will show that the UN is in a state of crisis. When peace is under threat from conflicts, when development is derailed by lack of resources, when human rights are violated by terrorism, the UN remains gridlocked. As its ability to forge common ground diminishes, belief in multilateralism also recedes," Jaishankar said.

Central to the erosion of UN's credibility has been resistance to reform, he said, saying it was imperative to purposefully address the reform agenda.

"The historical injustice done to Africa should be redressed. Both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council must be expanded. A reformed Council must be truly representative. And India stands ready to assume greater responsibilities," said Jaishankar, a point New Delhi has been making for many years, and being stymied by members like China in the Security Council, who hold veto powers.

India approach to the contemporary world is guided by three key concepts, Jaishankar said, Atmanirbharta or self-reliance, Atmaraksha or national security, and Atmavishwas or self-confidence.

National security means "zero-tolerance for terrorism, robust defense of our borders, forging partnerships beyond and assisting our community abroad," Jaishankar told the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Sept. 27, 2025.

"As the most populous nation, as a civilizational state, as a rapidly growing major economy, we are confident about who we are, and what we will be. Bharat will always maintain its freedom of choice. And will always be a voice



India's EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar addresses the 80th session of the UN General Assembly Sept. 27, 2025.

of the Global South," Jaishankar pledged.

Mincing no words, Jaishankar challenged the world body: "We must ask ourselves today: how has the UN lived up to expectations?" Pointing to Ukraine and Middle East as flashpoints, the slow progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030, which "presents a sorry picture," he went further, without naming the United States, pointed to Washington as the source where climate action itself is being questioned.

The Covid pandemic exposed the discrimination in access to vaccines and to travel; energy and food security have been casualties of this discrimination; and countries have "gamed rules and regimes" in the area of trade," Jaishankar maintained.

"On top of that, we now see tariff volatility and uncertain market access," he noted. All these changes require more international cooperation not less, he urged.

He slammed Islamabad without naming it, as the "epicenter" of terrorism.

"Countering terrorism is a particular priority because it synthesizes bigotry, violence, intolerance and fear," he said, adding, "India has confronted this challenge since independence, having a neighbor that is an epicenter of global terrorism. For decades now, major international terrorist attacks are traced back to that one country. UN's

designated lists of terrorists are replete with its nationals," Jaishankar pointed out.

He reminded the audience of the most recent example of cross-border barbarism — the murder of innocent tourists in Pahalgam in April this year. He called for "much deeper" international cooperation against terrorism.

"When nations openly declare terrorism as state policy, when terror hubs operate on an industrial scale, when terrorists are publicly glorified, then such actions must be unequivocally condemned," he declared. "The financing of terrorism must be choked, even as prominent terrorists are sanctioned. Relentless pressure must be applied on the entire terrorism eco-system. Those who condone nations that sponsor terror will find that it comes back to bite them."

India was doing its part to make the world a better place, Jaishankar contended. "That is why we have undertaken more than 600 major development projects in 78 countries, as well as innumerable community-based initiatives. They range from large infrastructure to small livelihoods, from capacity building to people's welfare, from concrete assets to education and training."

Whether it is finance, food, fertilizer or fuel, India has responded to the urgent requirements of its neighbors, and been a 'First Responder' when essential medicines or relief supplies were needed; built field hospitals in 19 nations last year, assisted Afghanistan and Myanmar during recent earthquakes.

He went into some detail describing India's storied history in UN Peacekeeping Operations which continue in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Western Sahara, Central African Republic, Golan Heights, Cyprus, Lebanon, Abyei, South Sudan and Somalia.

"To put it clearly: our soldiers ensure peacekeeping, our sailors protect maritime shipping, our security counters terrorism, our doctors and teachers facilitate human development the world over, our industry produces affordable products, our techies promote digitization and our training facilities are open to the world. These remain the core of our foreign policy," Jaishankar said.

On resolving the Ukraine conflict, he said, "Nations who can engage all sides must step-up in the search for solutions. India calls for an end to hostilities and will support any initiative that will help restore peace."

Technology, Multi-Polarity, Self-Reliance Part Of One Basket: India's EAM Jaishankar On Global Developments

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaking at a panel discussion by the ORF entitled, 'At The Heart of Development- Aid, Trade & Technology', spoke about the responses to global developments, the changing approach to towards a workforce for the global economy and different trade arrangements which will arise globally.

He shared how nations must build capacities and how they can be transposable to people who relate to them.

Speaking about the response to the challenges in the evolving world, Jaishankar said, "Technology, multi-polarity, self-reliance, south-south cooperation are part of one basket, which is a response to what is happening."

He said that it is important for large countries to build capacities, be more self-reliant, and that it is the focus for India.

"You have to build multi-polarity by building national capacities. When you build national capacities and have national experiences, some of it is transposable to people who relate."

Jaishankar gave the example of DPI and said, "There are many societies which find the Indian model of DPI far more absorbable and relevant than a European model or an American model."

Speaking about the global workforce, Jaishankar said, "This world will require a global workforce". Noting that while housing and location may be a political debate,

"There is no looking away that when you look at the demand and demographics, demands cannot be met due to national demographics, you cannot run away from this reality."

Jaishankar highlighted that a big question which the international economy has to address today is how to create a more acceptable, contemporary, efficient model of a global workforce which is then located in a distributed global workplace.

In his conversation, he elaborated about trade and noted that it does find a way much easier in the present day and age due to physical and digital reasons. "There are much smoother trade interfaces than there have been in human existence despite the obstacles which arise."

"As a part of this re-engineered world, we will see new, more, different trade arrangements between countries, which will make decisions that were not made in other circumstances"

"Countries will feel the desire and compulsion to have new partners, regions.

Technology, trade, connectivity, workplace-wise end up in a very different world in a very short while."

EAM Jaishankar is in the US where he spoke earlier at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

-ANI

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's US Senate Run Gets Dozen More Important Endorsements

BY A STAFF WRITER

On September 25, 2025, a dozen current and former elected leaders from across the Quad Cities region announced their endorsement of Raja Krishnamoorthi for U.S. Senate, adding to his growing list of downstate supporters.

The newly announced endorsements include Alderpersons, Township Supervisors, and County officials, a press release from Krishnamoorthi's campaign noted.

"Regions like the Quad Cities are the engine of Illinois — hardworking communities that drive our economy and reflect the values that make this state great," Krishnamoorthi said. "That's why I was proud to kick off my listening tour right here in Moline, to hear directly from the families and small businesses powering our future. I'm honored to have earned the support of local leaders from across Rock Island County, and look forward to working with them to deliver for all of Illinois as our next Senator."

Those who endorsed the Indian American running for the US Senate, praised Krishnamoorthi for being "a thoughtful, principled public servant" who, "understands the concerns of everyday Illinoisans and knows how to turn those concerns into action in Washington,"

PHOTO: POSTED TO FACEBOOK ACCOUNT OF KRISHNAMOORTHI ON SEPT. 27



New endorsements for Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's US Senate run, announced September 27, 2025.

and someone who "truly understands downstate Illinois."

Other leaders said Krishnamoorthi, "knows how to

listen to working families, turn their concerns into action, and deliver solutions that matter," and one of them said, "In Raja, we have a candidate who sees Illinois as more than just its biggest cities. He comes from a place like ours and never lost sight of what it means to serve communities that far too often get overlooked."

- New Quad Cities endorsements include:
- Rock Island County Treasurer Nick Camlin
- Blackhawk Township Supervisor & Rock Island County Board Member Chuck Layer
- Rock Island Township Supervisor John Brandmeyer
- South Rock Island Township Supervisor Grace Diaz Shirk
- Moline Township Supervisor Bonnie Johnson
- Hampton Township Supervisor Gail McIntyre
- Moline Alderperson James Patrick Schmidt
- Moline Alderperson Matt Timion
- Moline Alderperson Dan McNeil
- Rock Island Township Trustee Vince Thomas
- Former Rock Island County Treasurer Louisa Ewert
- Former Rock Island County Board Chair Jim Bohnsack

These officials join a growing roster of Quad Cities leaders supporting Raja — including Moline Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati and former Congressman Phil Hare, both of whom hosted Raja to kick off his Summer Listening Tour in Moline.

Overseas Friends Of BJP-Chicago, NRIs Celebrate 75th Birthday Of India's PM Modi

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday was celebrated with gusto by supporters in the diaspora at the event hosted by Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP)-Chicago at India Hub, September 21, 2025. Modi's birthday falls on September 17. The event also honored Vishwakarma Jayanti and Telangana Day.

More than 100 community members participated in the program, offering prayers and warm wishes for Prime Minister Modi's good health, long life, and continued global leadership. His extraordinary journey — from humble beginnings as the son of a tea-seller in Gujarat to becoming one of the world's most respected leaders — was celebrated as a true story of inspiration, dedication, and national pride.

The gathering paid special tribute to Hasmukh Patel, who has served as a karyakarta of the BJP Pariwar for more than 50 years — first in Ahmedabad, Gujarat (1970-1985) and later in Chicago, USA (1985-2025). He was honored for his unwavering dedication, loyalty, and decades-long contribution to strengthening the party and the diaspora.

Many respected leaders and community members attended, including eminent physician & community leader Dr. Bharat Barai; Amar Upadhyay— Senior OFBJP leader; Rakesh Malhotra— OFBJP representative; as well as Shailesh Rajput, Rohit

PHOTOS: ORGANIZERS



The members of the Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) – Chicago Chapter celebrated the 75th birthday of India's Prime Minister Narendrabhai Damodardas Modi.



Amar Upadhyay – Senior OFBJP leader welcoming members of the Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) – Chicago Chapter

Joshi, Hemant Patel, among others. Speakers highlighted PM Modi's work

as transformative- from Startup India and Make in India, to Fit India, Jan Dhan

Yojana, and programs that connect NRIs with India's growth story. They emphasized how his leadership has elevated India's global standing, fostered pride among NRIs, and strengthened the bond between Bharat and its diaspora.

"Prime Minister Modi Ji has redefined leadership by combining ancient Indian values with modern global vision. He has instilled pride in every Indian, whether living in Bharat or abroad. Under his guidance, India is seen as a rising power, a dependable partner, and a beacon of democracy. On his 75th birthday, we pray for his health and strength to continue serving our nation and the world," Dr. Barai said in his speech.

"Prime Minister Modi Ji is a leader who has raised India's stature globally. His 75 years are a journey of inspiration — from a chaiwala's stall to the world stage — reminding us that with dedication, vision, and values, anything is possible," said Rakesh Malhotra.

Hasmukh Patel said, "For over five decades, I have worked within the BJP Pariwar in India and the U.S. To be honored today, in the name of Narendra Bhai, is my life's proudest moment. This recognition is not just for me, but for every karyakarta who serves selflessly."

About Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP – USA) The Overseas Friends of BJP is a global organization with 20 active chapters across the United States. Its mission is to enhance India's image worldwide and promote community initiatives.



All Photos: Canva

ACTION ALERT



SKILLS

H-1B Proclamation FAQ: USCIS Clarifies \$100,000 Fee

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

On September 19, 2025, President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation requiring a \$100,000 payment for certain H-1B petitions. On September 21, 2025, USCIS issued official guidance and an FAQ confirming how this new policy will be applied. To help employers and visa holders, NPZ Law Group has prepared this FAQ with the most important points you need to know.

Does this new rule end the H-1B program?

No. The H-1B program continues. The Proclamation adds a new \$100,000 fee on certain petitions but does not eliminate the program.

Who has to pay the \$100,000 fee?

The payment applies to new H-1B petitions submitted after 12:01 a.m. EDT on September 21, 2025. This includes the 2026 H-1B lottery and any other new petitions filed from that date forward.

Does this affect petitions already filed or approved?

No. USCIS has confirmed that the new fee does not apply to petitions submitted before September 21, 2025, nor to previously approved petitions.

Will renewals, amendments, or extensions require the \$100,000 fee?

No. The fee is a one-time charge for new petitions only. H-1B renewals and extensions are not subject to this payment.

Can current H-1B visa holders travel internationally?

Yes. Current H-1B holders with valid visas may continue to travel in and out of the United States without paying the new fee.

Does the \$100,000 fee apply per petition or per worker?

The fee is tied to each H-1B petition filed. Employers should expect to pay \$100,000 for each new petition submitted.

What happens if an employer does not pay the fee?

USCIS and the Department of State will deny petitions or entry for H-1B workers if the required payment is not made. Employers must also retain proof of payment for compliance and audit purposes.

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Is there any exception to the fee requirement?

Yes. The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis if employing certain H-1B workers is deemed in the national interest and does not threaten U.S. security or welfare.

What changes are expected in the future?

The Proclamation directs:

- The Department of Labor to revise prevailing wage levels.
- The Department of Homeland Security to prioritize higher-skilled, higher-paid H-1B workers in future adjudications.

Further regulatory changes may follow.

NPZ Law Group's Guidance

Employers and workers should:

- Confirm filing timelines to determine if the new fee applies.
- Plan strategically for increased costs in future filings.
- Monitor official updates from DHS and the State Department.

NPZ attorneys are closely tracking developments and can help you navigate compliance and workforce planning under the new rules.

Contact Information

If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group.

You can reach us by emailing info@visaserve.com or by calling us at 201-670-0006 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at www.visaserve.com for more information.

Indian Consulate, Global Indian Diaspora Fdn., Celebrate India's Vision For 2047

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The Consulate General of India, Chicago, jointly with MY Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, and in collaboration with the Global Indian Diaspora Foundation and FIA-Chicago, hosted the Viksit Bharat Run 2025 at Twin Lakes, Palatine, IL.

The event formed part of the global initiative Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and was a highlight of the Seva Pakhwada/Seva Parv (September 17 – October 2, 2025)—a fortnight dedicated to seva (service), collective responsibility, and community spirit.

The Indian Consulate along with MY Bharat, Global Indian Diaspora Foundation, and FIA-Chicago, also hosted a 3 km Community Run at



India's Consul General in Chicago Somnath Ghosh, addressing the gathering at the #Viksit Bharat Run, Sept. 28, 2025, in Palatine, Ill.

of India in Chicago, extended festival greetings and emphasized the broader vision. He said, "The Viksit Bharat Run is not just about fitness—it is about seva, unity, and progress. India today is the world's fourth largest economy, growing at the fastest pace among major nations. Our diaspora plays a vital role in strengthening India-U.S. partnerships in trade, technology, and innovation. Today's run symbolizes the shared journey of both India and the United States toward prosperity."

The Consulate General of India, Chicago, invited the Indian diaspora, friends of India, local community members, and all Chicago-area residents to continue participating in upcoming events and service activities.

Rakesh Malhotra, Founder of Global Indian Diaspora Foundation, remarked about A Collective Spirit of Seva,

"If India runs, it will go from fourth



The crowd gathered for the #Viksit Bharat Run in Palatine, Ill.



Participants in the #Viksit Bharat Run in Palatine, Illinois.

Twin Lakes, Palatine, as part of Seva Pakhwada/Seva Parv. Participants took the Viksit Bharat & Atmanirbhar Bharat pledges, and trees were planted under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam." With inspiring messages from Consul General Somnath Ghosh and Rakesh Malhotra, the event aimed at building a united diaspora, bringing together families and friends of India in celebrating health, seva, and India's vision of a Developed Bharat @ 2047.

The "One Tree in the Name of Mother" (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam), saplings were planted at the venue to symbolize sustainability and responsibility toward Mother Earth. Hindi Khabar's U.S. representative Vandana Jeevan planted a tree alongside community members, reinforcing the unifying role of the diaspora and media partners.

Somnath Ghosh, Consul General



Flyer advertising the #Viksit Bharat Run.

to third, from third to second, and then to number one. For us in the diaspora, this is a matter of great pride. Wherever we live, our culture spreads fragrance, and through this initiative, we connect our roots to India's growth story."

Seva Pakhwada, also observed as Seva Parv, is a fortnight dedicated to service, responsibility, and collective effort, with activities held across India and abroad. In Chicago, the Viksit Bharat Run inspired civic participation, cultural pride, and community service, strengthening the bonds between the Indian diaspora and their homeland.

The celebration also set the stage for upcoming Consulate-led initiatives, including observances for World AIDS Day and World Heart Day, highlighting holistic community welfare.

Where the U.S. dollar is still strong for travelers

Depending on your dream destination, your bucket-list trip may now be a value vacation. Though the U.S. dollar is slumping at home, it is still strong in many countries around the world. For travelers, this means they may not have to scrimp and save for years to visit such aspirational destinations as South Africa, Japan or South Korea.

“The epic destinations that tend to be on people’s bucket lists for a while are not a dream,” said Steve Born, chief marketing officer for Globus brands, which includes tour operators Globus and Cosmos and the river cruise company Avalon Waterways. “The price point makes them a reality.”

On the domestic front, inflation is high and prices are rising, said Gabriel Mathy, an associate professor of economics at American University.

The Federal Reserve’s decision to lower the interest rate this month could further weaken the dollar. Costs are climbing abroad, too. However, visiting a country with a favorable exchange rate and a lower cost of living can feel like an automatic discount. You can buy more for less. “When the U.S. dollar is strong, it can mean more bang for your buck when you’re in your destination,” said Laura Lindsay, global travel trends expert at Skyscanner. “Travelers may be able to upgrade their arrangements or tack on a few days to their trip while still staying with their designated budget.” Examples roll off the tongues of budget travelers like Matt Kepnes and Sean Keener, co-founder of BootsNAll, an online source for global adventurers. Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, New Zealand, Canada - and that’s just for starters.

Osaka over Buenos Aires

Currencies fluctuate, but a handful of destinations have been consistently affordable because of their weak exchange rate against the U.S. dollar, Mathy said. South Korea, whose won dropped to a record low against the dollar this spring, is newer to this club, joining such stalwarts as South Africa, Thailand and Japan.

The Japanese yen has been declining for decades and has lost more than a third of its value in recent years. Foreigners are jumping on the opportunity. Nearly 37 million people visited last year, including more than 2.7 million Americans, 33 percent more than in 2023, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

Accommodations are surprisingly reasonable. The Hotels.com Hotel Price Index, released in June, flagged Osaka as one of its “best value stays,”



Photos: Canva

averaging \$152 a night last year. Though room rates in Kyoto and Tokyo increased by 13 and 12 percent, respectively, between 2023 and 2024, the Japanese cities are still significantly cheaper (\$190 and \$200) than New York (\$328) or Boston (\$303). “Because of the exchange rate, combined with the good value that already existed there, you’re double dipping on getting a good deal,” said Melanie Fish, a Hotels.com travel expert.

To meet demand, the Globus company has expanded its Japan tours. The 12-day Cosmos tour “Classic Japan: Land of the Rising Sun” works out to less than \$300 a day, Born said. Guests on these group tours are paying 35 percent less than they would have a few years ago, he noted.

The tour operator also added South Korea to its portfolio, a rising star among cost-conscious travelers. Another sign of its growing popularity: On Sept. 12, after launching service to Tokyo Narita International Airport, Alaska Airlines started nonstop air from Seattle and Seoul on Hawaiian Airlines. It celebrated the route with a “buy one, get one free” offer. Since these trips are still big investments, especially when you factor in international airfare, it’s wise to keep tabs on a country’s economy. Lindsay urges travelers to track currency movements and “strike when the dollar is the strongest to get the most bang for your buck.” For Argentina, that moment could be waning. Since President Javier Milei took office, inflation, which hit a record high in 2023, has been falling. Mathy described its peso as overvalued and its position as a cheap travel destination “in the rearview.”

Born said that though the exchange rate advantage has narrowed, Argentina remains a good value. To take advantage of a favorable exchange rate, you don’t need to jet off immediately. But you should lock in the heavyweight expenses - accommodations, transportation, tours - as soon as possible. And remember to prepay in the local currency.

Take the Big Mac challenge

Plugging numbers into a currency conversion calculator is easy. Understanding the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar can be more challenging. The McDonald’s hamburger can help.

When researching destinations, Mathy recommends the Big Mac Index, a tool created by the Economist that uses the fast-food chain’s burger to compare currency values. Because the McDonald’s meat patty is standardized around the world, you can ascertain how far your money will stretch in different countries. In Argentina, for example, he said you’d pay \$6.55 for a burger, much more than in South Africa, where a Big Mac costs \$2.85.

“Your dollar would go further in South Africa,” Mathy said. “It might be better to skip the flight to Buenos Aires and think about safaris in South Africa instead.”

For a snapshot of a country’s cost of living, Kepnes will use Expatistan, which lists the price of goods and services in a specific city or country, and compares expenses between destinations. For example, in Lima, Peru, a cappuccino in an expat area is listed at \$3.82, and a beer in neighborhood pub goes for \$2.60. Living in Peru is 55 percent cheaper than in the United States, according to the site’s calculations. Expatistan is based on crowdsourced information and could be dated, so Kepnes advised using it as a “rough idea” of conditions on the ground.

Kepnes also suggests browsing guidebooks for prices. Even if the book was published a year or two ago, he said, “there could be some inflation, but it’s not going to triple and go from \$5 to \$25.”

If you’d rather not do the math on exchange rates, Mathy recommends visiting a destination that uses the U.S. dollar as its official currency. Ecuador, Panama and El Salvador all accept greenbacks and are cheaper than the currency’s home country.



Book Review: Kiran Desai's New Booker Prize Finalist Is A Magnificent Saga

By DIANA ABU-JABER

The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny. By Kiran Desai. Hogarth. 670 pp. \$32

Have patience, Rilke once advised, and try to love the questions. This brave approach to living is central to "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny," Kiran Desai's first novel since 2006, when she released her Booker Prize winner, "The Inheritance of Loss." Her marvelous new novel, a finalist for this year's prize, is as much question as it is narrative – an exploration of the way perspective alters perception, of the way reality itself may become malleable, shaped by dreams, stories and fears.

Dickensian in spirit and vaster even in scope, this lavish story doesn't open with the titular characters but with their grandparents, tracing through generations the ways in which destinies are created through primal, often intangible, forces.

Dadaji and Ba are worried about their granddaughter, Sonia, a creative-writing student at a snowbound college in Vermont. Sonia is afflicted by chronic loneliness and weeps through their phone calls. But they can't quite fathom her unhappiness: The idea of loneliness in America has a different flavor from the loneliness of the crowded, servant-filled spaces back home in Delhi. Isolated on a campus emptied for winter break, Sonia falls under the spell of a fame-obsessed, eccentric painter named Ilan de Toorjen Foss. Desperate for human connection, she becomes caught in his shimmering undertow.

Meanwhile, Dadaji recalls that his old chess partner, the Colonel, happens to have an unmarried grandson, Sunny, living in New York City. The older generations put forth a matchmaking proposal, but Sunny already has an American girlfriend, and Sonia is secretly entangled with Ilan. Fate, however, is not so easily deferred. Betrayed by her lover, Sonia returns to India. She is on a train, reading, when Sunny – who is there to help his best friend, Satya, find a bride – walks by and attempts to make out the title of her book. The frisson between them is subtle, almost mystical.

Desai is masterful at excavating the layers of motivation beneath action, demonstrating how things are often not as they seem, how the forces of history repeat, oceanic and inescapable, affecting individuals in ways that evade their own awareness. When Sonia writes a story about a boy who becomes a monkey, Ilan considers it a kind of self-stereotyping, which he labels with his own stereotype. "This is the Great Indian Rope Trick," he tells her. "What Westerners did to you, you are doing to yourself."

The narrative is punctuated with nuanced, frequently devastating insights into the knottiness of race and representation, the legacy of orientalism, and the complexities of interracial and intercultural relationships. At one point, Sunny's White American girlfriend catches him eavesdropping on a phone call, and Desai writes: "Why was it that in the Western world, snooping

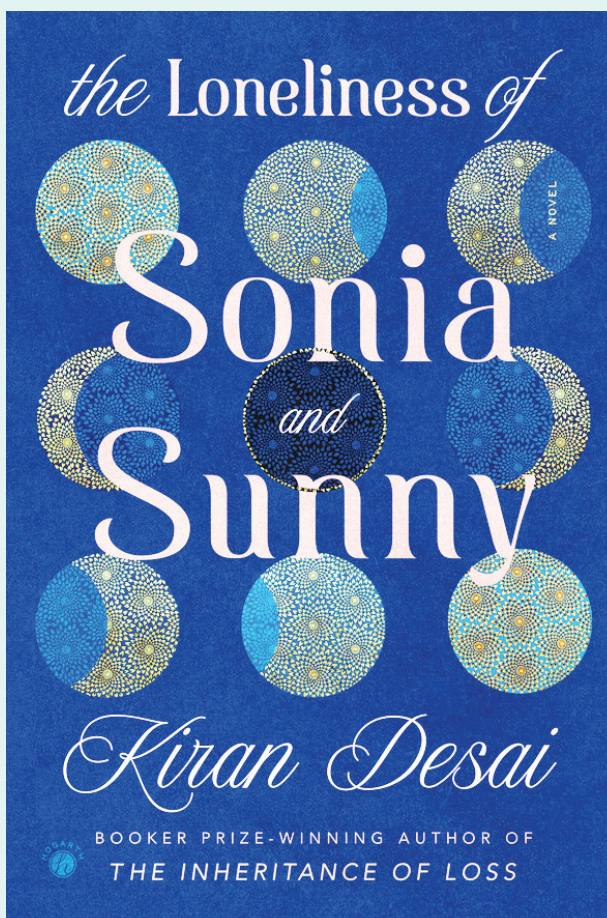


PHOTO: HOGARTH. COURTESY THE WASHINGTON POST

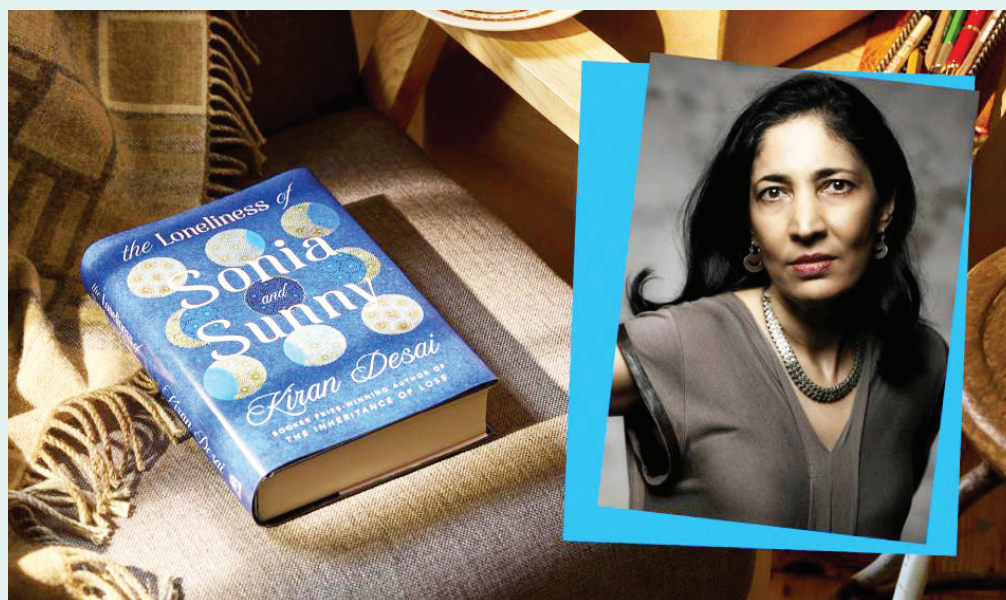


PHOTO: THEBOOKPRIZES.COM

Author Kiran Desai and the book jacket of her work, "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny".

to uncover a crime was a worse crime than the actual crime! Ulla's civilization was built upon not snooping and wandering about naked. Sunny's civilization was based on donning your clothes and listening to every conversation."

The authorial voice is both incisive and witty, splicing serious observation with humor, as in Sunny's deconstruction of the idea of Italian "charm":

"A train that is late and breaks down in a charming way is Italian. A train that breaks down in a not-charming way is Indian.

"Laziness in India is infuriating and equals animosity. In Italy it indicates an enjoyment of life's pleasures.

"Candlelight in a trattoria is romance. In India it equals power failure and a testing of romance."

"The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny" depicts love as an act of questing and discovery, a struggle to re-create the self by creating a third joint-self; the vulnerability this requires is its own act of bravery. The question becomes whether people can get out of their own ways. Sonia is left traumatized in the aftermath of her terrible affair with the painter, while Sunny is drained by his controlling mother and corrupt family. These presences shift around Sonia and Sunny like parts of a grand theater, each of them affected by forces as vast as the legacy of war, the subjugation of women, the devastation of White colonialism and India's subsequent self-subordination.

Equally vast is the novel's emotional and sensory world, detailed with animals, plants, food, clothing, gems and art, as well as continual allusions to water – clouds, vapor, pools, rain, rivers and ocean. Wisps of magic churn at its edges, suspending the story between dreams and reality: A ghost hound menaces the lovers, then vanishes; a talisman confers uncertain powers; spells are cast and broken. Even the beautiful prose has a touch of the mystical about it. Cement urns bear "soufflés of snow," Dadaji's house contains "long, thin, prayerful doors," a character recollects "slow purring bees."

The meditations on the uses and nature of art are especially ardent. An artist's paintings of bottles are "solemn, austere, and moral," Desai writes. "They were the opposite of money and war, of time tearing ahead without concern. How could so much be conveyed by an empty bottle; how could an empty bottle be the keeper of one's conscience?"

India is ever-present in these descriptions and characters, majestic, broken and uncontainable. As its mirror, the novel is both journey and immersion, expansive, leisurely, wondrous. It unfurls in its own time, creating not only a world but a universe.

Eventually the novel circles one central question, posed by two adversaries:

"Why do we try to solve other problems? There is only one that is necessary to solve."

"Loneliness?"

"The other problems would melt away in importance."

More question than answer, "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny" is as much about the making of art and love as it is a love story, as much a reflection as a creation. This novel floats upon itself, a gazing eye, a voice, a thought, a magnificent vision.

Diana Abu-Jaber is the author of "Birds of Paradise," "Origin" and the culinary memoir "Life Without a Recipe." Her most recent book is "Fencing With the King."

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