



PAGE 12

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PAGE 12



PAGE 19

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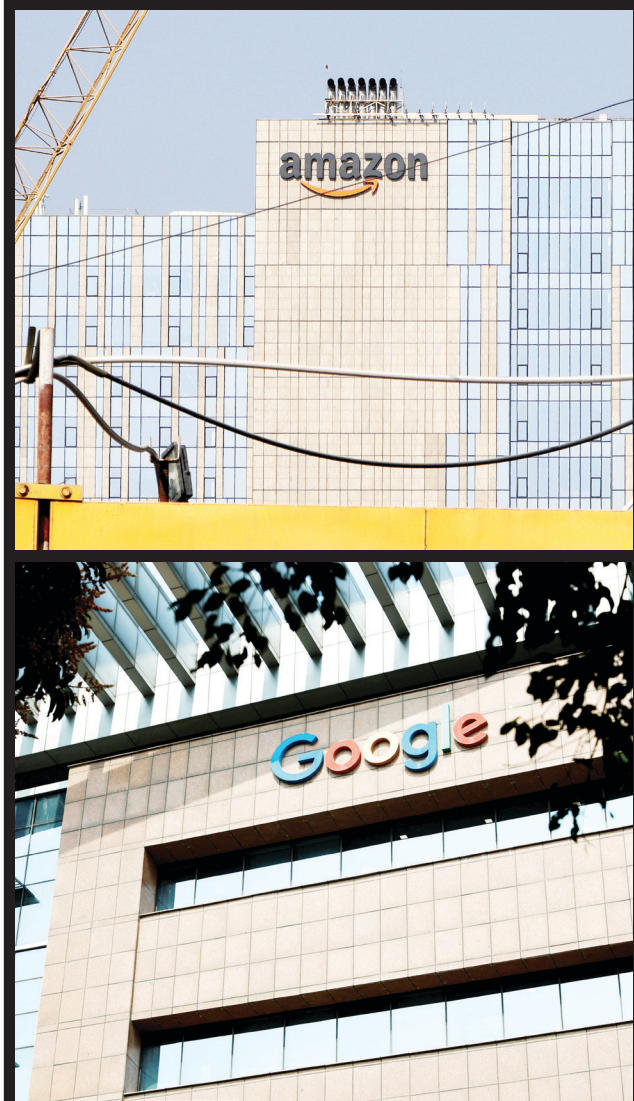
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PAGE 8

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10 Ways To Keep Children Safer And Happier Online

By SHIRA OVIDE

It's not your fault if you feel outmatched raising children in a world of powerful and alluring technology.

Technology companies for years promoted parental controls and child safety features that are little used and don't necessarily work. Silicon Valley insiders and litigation have raised allegations that companies knew their apps harmed kids. Teens can feel unhappy if they aren't where their friends are online, but also unhappy if they are.

But now there's a growing movement of people working to empower families and push technology companies, schools and governments to help children be safer and happier online.

To guide parents and citizens, I posed these questions to 10 people from this diverse movement - parents, mental health researchers, advocates for children, public officials, industry insiders and policy specialists:

-What's one thing that families can do to improve their children's safety and experiences online?

-What's one policy measure that can meaningfully improve children's safety and experiences online?

You'll see that they don't necessarily agree on tactics. The effects of technology are nuanced, and there are no magic fixes for the downsides. But they do agree that we need new approaches to prioritize children's well-being in digital experiences.

JEAN TWENGE, AUTHOR

For families: Give kids basic phones instead of smartphones until they are 16.

Twenge mentioned basic phones from Gabb, Pinwheel and Troomi. Wirecutter also reviewed phones tailored to children.

Washington Post technology writer Heather Kelly said that an Apple Watch - using the setting to restrict the device during the day - lets her 11-year-old call and text home but not much else.

For policymakers: Twenge praised proposed social media age restrictions in some states. Florida's measure, for example, would bar younger teens from having social media accounts.

Twenge recently published "10 Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World."

JIM STEYER, ADVOCATE FOR CHILD-SAFE TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA

For families: Have honest conversations with your children as young as elementary school about what digital media they use and what they like or don't like about it.

Steyer said that you want to build trust so kids can come to you with bigger questions or worries. (Kelly and the American Academy of Pediatrics have guides to family technology conversations.)

For policymakers: "We blew it on social media to some extent. We don't want to blow it on AI."

Steyer is focused on dueling California bills about conversational artificial intelligence chatbots. The governor signed one of the measures Monday. Steyer urged passage of the second bill that would allow AI chatbots to reach children only if the chatbots have demonstrated they will not encourage self-harm, drug use or other harmful behavior.

Steyer founded Common Sense Media in 2003.

RAÚL TORREZ, NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL

For families: "The safest choice is to keep children off social media altogether."

For policymakers: Torrez said that Congress should

clarify a contentious law that's a legal bedrock for digital sites and ensure that apps "are built with safety at the core."

(There's at least one measure proposed in Congress, the Kids Online Safety Act, that would make social media companies responsible for designing their sites for children's safety.)

Torrez has sued Snap and Meta over allegations that their product designs harm children. Snap has said in court that key allegations are inaccurate and recently released an online safety training for teens and families. Meta has opposed the allegations in its case.

LINDA CHARMARAMAN, ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING RESEARCHER

For families: Asking children about their Snapchat "streaks," online influencers they follow and discussions in group chats helps open a portal to "a world that is deeply central to their peer groups and to how well they might function in daily life."

Try not to punish children if you hear something distressing in those conversations, Charmaraman said, because you might close off future communications.

Charmaraman is director of the Youth, Media & Wellbeing Research Lab at the Wellesley Centers for Women.

EVAN GREER, DIGITAL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

For families: "Kids are safer when we teach them to advocate for themselves," Greer said.

Parents can empower children by helping them think critically about what they're watching and engaging with online; feel comfortable discussing difficult topics including bullying, sexual health and substance use; and learn digital privacy fundamentals, Greer said.

For policymakers: Greer opposes many of the policy measures that other experts suggested here and said they're counterproductive attempts to scrub bad stuff from the internet.

"The most important things that lawmakers could do to protect kids online are policies that have nothing to do with the internet," Greer said. "If every child in this country had a safe place to sleep at night, healthy food to eat, a mental health counselor in their school and access to affordable health care, there would be way fewer kids vulnerable to online harms."

Greer is director of Fight for the Future, which seeks protections for digital privacy, civil liberties and free expression.

CASEY STEFANSKI, CHILD SAFETY ADVOCATE

For families: Parents shouldn't trust the age ratings on apps and instead do their own research to decide which apps are right for their kids.

For policymakers: The App Store Accountability Act "rejects the false idea that parents just need to 'do more,' and instead places responsibility on the companies that profit while concealing the danger," Stefanski said.

The proposed federal bill - and similar measures in multiple states - would require Apple and Google to verify the ages of people using their smartphone app stores and require parental consent for teens to download apps.

Google cited its support for different legislation and said that "protecting kids online is a shared responsibility and no single company can solve this alone." Apple has pushed a different age-verification approach that the company says is less intrusive.

Stefanski is executive director of the Digital Childhood Alliance, a coalition of advocacy groups that back app store age verification measures.

DAVID INSERRA, FREE EXPRESSION RESEARCHER

For families: "Parents must take an active role in parenting their children's access to technology. What exactly this looks like will be different from child to child and family to family."

Inserra mentioned parental control features built into devices, such as Apple's Screen Time, and software from companies such as Qustodio, Aura and Bark.

(Twenge in a recent Washington Post Opinions guest column said that it's too difficult to use many parental control technologies.)

For policymakers: "If we merely try to shield children from harm without teaching them how to avoid and handle it themselves, then we have done a poor job preparing them for adulthood."

Similar to Greer, Inserra said many proposed child safety policies would harm free speech, privacy and security. He pointed instead to a legislative blueprint to teach digital literacy and get children discussing risks they may face online.

Inserra is a fellow for free expression and technology at the Cato Institute, a research organization whose focus includes individual liberties and limited government.

GRAHAM DUGONI, YONDR CEO

For families: Set up phone-free spaces at home.

"Part of the reason technology is so difficult to resist is that it becomes reflexive and habitual, Dugoni said. "Physical boundaries help disrupt those impulses and allow new healthier habits to emerge."

Research has backed keeping phones out of bedrooms and making the dinner table phone-free for adults and kids.

Yondr makes locked pouches used by many school districts that restrict students' phone use.

SARAH GARDNER, CHILD SAFETY ADVOCATE

For families: "As a parent, I feel my only choice is to delay giving my kids a smartphone and not allow them access to social media, which I believe are as addictive and harmful as cigarettes."

Gardner is CEO of Heat Initiative, which pushes technology companies including Apple and Meta for stronger child safety measures.

MAURINE MOLAK, ANTI-BULLYING ADVOCATE

For families: "Hold out as long as they can before they get their kid a phone or allow them to have social media accounts."

Molak also said that it's unfair to make parents choose "between isolating their kids and allowing them to go on unsafe platforms."

For policymakers: Molak supports the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), a measure proposed in Congress that would make social media companies responsible for designing their sites for children's safety.

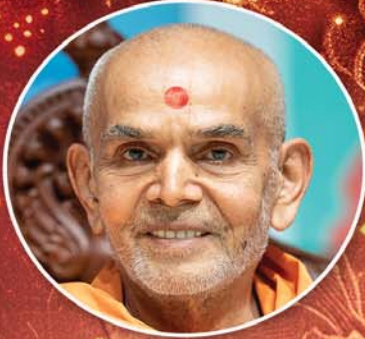
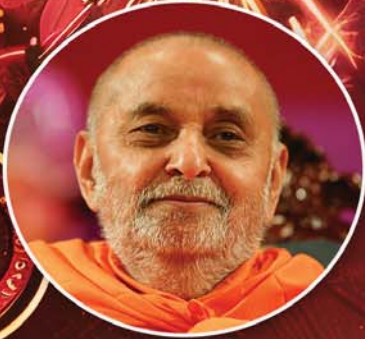
"These companies know how to create a safer product and this legislation would require that they do so, once and for all," Molak said.

(Some technology companies, including Apple, support the bill while Meta and others oppose it.)

Molak co-founded David's Legacy Foundation and ParentsSOS, a group of families who link their children's deaths to online harms.

Shira Ovide writes The Washington Post's The Tech Friend, a newsletter about making your technology into a force for good. She has been a technology journalist for more than a decade and wrote a tech newsletter at the New York Times.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



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How Trump's \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee Is A Smart Bet On Innovation

By PASCAL-EMMANUEL GOBRY

President Donald Trump's decision to charge a \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa applications provoked instant outrage, not just from the predictable corners but also from friends of the administration in Silicon Valley who say it will hurt innovation. Actually the opposite is true: It is a smart move for fostering a culture of creativity and development.

Two points are critical to consider.

First, early-stage start-ups don't rely on H-1B visas in large numbers. The program's complexity, lottery uncertainty and legal expense make it a tough fit for a small team racing to bring a product to market. According to an analysis last year, government and attorney fees routinely cost about \$9,000 and could exceed \$33,000 - and this was just to enter the lottery with no guarantee of a result. The federal government randomly selects applications to process when the visa cap is exceeded. Start-ups already have too much risk to manage.

Second, countless H-1B visas have flowed to outsourcing and staffing firms that underpay relative to direct-hire tech roles. According to a Bloomberg investigation, some firms flood the lottery with multiple applications for the same workers, dramatically increasing their odds while crowding out legitimate applicants. These companies are unlikely to be bringing in the next generation of innovators; the main attraction appears to be simply that the visa-holders are less expensive than their American coun-

terparts as lower-level workers. The information technology firm Infosys paid its H-1B workers a median salary of \$91,520 in the fiscal year ending last September, while Tata Consultancy Services paid \$88,000. The median salary overall for computer and information technology jobs is \$106,000.

A salary minimum for H-1B workers was set by Congress in 1998 but was never adjusted for inflation. At the time, it was \$60,000 for some H-1B visa holders, equivalent to \$119,000 today. Putting pressure on American tech wages and importing more lower-level workers when AI is displacing entry-level software jobs is lunacy. It undercuts Americans who have worked hard and earned engineering degrees. And, in the long run, that hurts innovation by making STEM fields less attractive.

The theory behind the H-1B program is sound. Bringing in top workers has helped drive economic growth in America, especially in sectors such as technology. The problem is that time, and exploitation of loopholes, has caused the program to diverge significantly from its intent.

The new fee helps solve this problem by removing the financial incentive for outsourcing shenanigans. Instead, it frees up visa spots for U.S. tech firms to bring in actual innovators. At a time when Meta is reportedly offering hundreds of millions of dollars to top AI engineers, a \$100,000 fee won't deter Big Tech companies from recruiting people they genuinely believe are the best of the best.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick put it perfectly:

"The company needs to decide ... is the person valuable enough to have a \$100,000-a-year payment to the government, or they should head home and go hire an American?"

It's not just the administration saying this. Netflix co-founder and chairman Reed Hastings - a Democratic megadonor and no friend of the White House - posted on X: "I've worked on H-1B politics for 30 years. Trump's \$100k per year tax is a great solution. It will mean H1-B is used just for very high value jobs, which will mean no lottery needed, and more certainty for those jobs." (White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt has clarified that the new fee is not an annual cost but a one-time expense for new applications.)

The H-1B program doesn't help innovation because start-ups hire star engineers on visas. That's largely a myth. Instead, it works like this: Major tech companies such as Google, Microsoft and Meta use the visas to lure genuine global talent. These engineers work at tech firms, learn the American business culture, build networks and eventually obtain green cards. And then they start or join or invest in start-ups. The new reform will ensure that more H-1B visas go to these types of stars.

Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry is the publisher of PolicySphere, a newsletter for right-of-center policy professionals in D.C.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

American Workers Are Hurting — But Not Because Of Immigrants

By MARCELA ESCOBARI

The White House is making it harder - and vastly more expensive - for the United States to attract global talent. That will hurt American workers. The administration unveiled a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa petitions last week, squashing a program that enables companies to recruit foreign-born workers with specialized skills. Restrictions on student visas have also been proposed. Though courts might still weigh in to block these changes, the intended chilling effect is already driving away students and highly skilled workers.

These moves are sold as protecting American workers. The reality is far from that: Though American workers face problems, immigrants didn't cause them. The real squeeze on U.S.-born workers has been increasing for decades. Shifts including technological change and offshoring have eroded the middle class by hollowing out demand for middle-skill jobs such as bank tellers and quality control inspectors. This bifurcation of the labor force - in which jobs are increasingly concentrated in high- or low-paying sectors - is a key reason wages have lagged for many and why millions of prime-age men have left

the workforce.

Restricting high-skilled immigration won't fix that. In fact, it locks Americans out of the employment benefits that immigration creates. Research shows that immigration typically pushes U.S.-born workers into higher-paying managerial and leadership positions. That job creation could alleviate some of the middle-class squeeze by providing a ladder up to better-paid roles.

Further, when firms add H-1B workers, they don't cut U.S.-born workers. Particularly at smaller companies, hiring H-1B workers has a job-creating effect.

Immigration also improves firm health. Companies that won all of their applications to the H-1B lottery - the process by which the government allots the limited visas - saw revenue rise by more than 20 percent and were 2.5 percentage points more likely to survive. The firms are then able to make more investments and buy more business services, creating positive, economy-wide ripple effects that translate to employment growth.

In short, maintaining legal immigration pathways is overwhelmingly positive for U.S.-born workers, creating jobs and lifting wages. A tax on talent will only hurt competitiveness. Workers on H-1B visas generate innovation, particularly in

the tech industry, and earn high, taxable wages. For their part, international students contributed more than \$50 billion to the U.S. economy in 2023, and their tuition payments increase domestic student enrollment.

There is no question that our immigration system needs fixing. Many of the legal pathways to work in the U.S. were created more than 30 years ago, and short-term patches haven't kept up. Indeed, there are instances of H-1B workers edging out local hires and of some firms abusing the program to suppress wages.

But there are reforms that would limit harm to U.S.-born workers: (1) Make H-1B visas portable across employers so workers aren't bound to their sponsoring company, preventing the job lock that can allow employers to artificially suppress wages. (2) Expand availability of labor-based green cards to reduce reliance on H-1B visas. (3) Prioritize visas for the roles most necessary to fill critical, documented labor shortages in job categories such as specialized nursing or cybersecurity. (4) Enforce the H-1B visa program's rules.

Similarly, there's no scarcity of policy ideas that could help Americans earn higher wages and navigate a changing labor market. Between 2019 and 2024, for instance, wages grew substantially for

low-wage workers due to policies such as expanded unemployment insurance and child tax credits that gave them leverage to demand better pay and find better positions. Improving such programs - combined with more apprenticeships and opportunities to learn new skills - can help workers advance.

Such fixes require collaboration among workers, universities, businesses and government - a muscle that is underdeveloped in America's labor system. Ambitious, long-term reforms are more difficult than pointing fingers at a foreign-born engineer or an international student. What's often sold as a solution - aggressive cuts to legal immigration - achieves the opposite by harming the employment and wages of U.S.-born workers.

Our labor market does have problems - not jobs "stolen" by immigrants, but a workforce hollowed out at the middle and a skills system that hasn't kept up. Scapegoating foreign-born workers is a cheap shot, not a solution.

Marcela Escobari is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, where she leads the Workforce of the Future initiative.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



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Trump Visa Curbs Push U.S. Firms To Consider Shifting More Work To India

By SAI ISHWARBHARATH B, HARIPRIYA SURESH
AND RISHIKA SADAM

-BENGALURU/HYDERABAD

Donald Trump's H-1B visa crackdown will hasten U.S. firms' shift of critical work to India, turbocharging the growth of global capability centers (GCCs) that handle operations from finance to research and development, economists and industry insiders say.

The world's fifth-largest economy is home to 1,700 GCCs, or more than half the global tally, having outgrown its tech support origins to become a hub of high-value innovation in areas from design of luxury



U.S. flag and mock passport, displayed tech companies logos are seen in this illustration taken September 26, 2025.

the H-1B and L-1 worker visa programmes, targeting what they called loopholes and abuse by major employers.

If Trump's visa curbs go unchallenged, industry experts expect U.S. firms to shift high-end work tied to AI, product development, cybersecurity, and analytics to their India GCCs, choosing to keep strategic functions in-house over outsourcing.

Growing uncertainty fuelled by the recent changes has given fresh impetus to discussions about shifting high-value work to GCCs that many firms were already engaged in.

"There is a sense of urgency," said Lalit Ahuja, founder and CEO of ANSR, which helped FedEx, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Target and Lowe's set up their GCCs.

REASSESSING INDIA STRATEGIES

Such a rush could lead to "extreme offshoring" in some cases, said Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, a former managing director of Cognizant India, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic had shown key tech tasks could be done from anywhere.

Big Tech, including Amazon, Microsoft, Apple and Google parent Alphabet, along with Wall Street bank

JPMorgan Chase and retailer Walmart, were among the top sponsors of H-1B visas, U.S. government data showed.

All have major operations in India but did not want to comment as the issue is a politically sensitive one.

"Either more roles will move to India, or corporations will near-shore them to Mexico or Colombia. Canada could also take advantage," said the India head of a retail GCC.

Even before Trump's hefty fee on new H1-B visa applications and plan for a new selection process to favor the better-paid, India was projected to host the GCCs of more than 2,200 companies by 2030, with a market size nearing \$100 billion.

"This whole 'gold rush' will only get accelerated,"



An Amazon logo is seen on the facade of its corporate office building in Hyderabad, India, January 29, 2025.

car dashboards to drug discovery.

Trends such as growing adoption of artificial intelligence and increasing curbs on visas are pushing U.S. firms to redraw labor strategies, with GCCs in India emerging as resilient hubs blending global skills with strong domestic leadership.

"GCCs are uniquely positioned for this moment. They serve as a ready in-house engine," said Rohan Lobo, partner and GCC industry leader at Deloitte India, who said he knew of several U.S. firms reassessing their workforce needs.

"Plans are already underway" for such a shift, he added, pointing to greater activity in areas such as financial services and tech, and particularly among firms with exposure to U.S. federal contracts.

Lobo said he expected GCCs to "take on more strategic, innovation-led mandates" in time.

U.S. President Trump raised the cost of new H-1B visa applications this month to \$100,000, from an existing range of \$2,000 to \$5,000, adding pressure on U.S. firms that relied on skilled foreign workers to bridge critical talent gaps.

On Monday, Sept. 29, U.S. senators reintroduced a bill to tighten rules on



A logo of Google is seen on its office building in Hyderabad, India, January 29, 2024.

Ahuja said.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

Others were more skeptical, preferring a "wait and watch" approach, especially as U.S. firms could face a 25% tax for outsourcing work overseas if the proposed HIRE Act is passed, bringing significant disruption in India's exports of services.

"For now, we are observing and studying, and being ready for outcomes," said the India head of a U.S. drugmaker's GCC.

India-U.S. trade tension has spilled into services from goods, with visa curbs and the proposed HIRE Act threatening to reduce India's lower-cost edge and choke cross-border flows of services.

While the \$283-billion IT industry that contributes nearly 8% of India's GDP may feel the strain, surging demand for GCC services could cushion such a blow, however.

"Lost revenues from H-1B visa reliant businesses could be somewhat supplanted by higher services exports through GCCs, as U.S.-based firms look to bypass immigration restrictions to outsource talent," Nomura analysts said in a research note last week.

-REUTERS



Employees of Indian IT services exporter LTIMindtree work inside its office in Bengaluru, India, September 24, 2025.

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Study Shows Indian Americans Have Invested \$3 Billion In American Universities

BY A STAFF WRITER

From students to benefactors, Indian Americans have invested some \$3 billion in American universities, according to a new study done by the San Francisco-based non-profit organization Indiaspora.

“From landmark donations to local colleges, a tradition of giving is unlocking innovation, strengthening research, and expanding access nationwide,” the organization said in a press release October 2, 2025.

Over the years, Indiaspora has looked at the impact of Indian Americans in the United States, most recently highlighted in the 2024 Impact Report produced in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group.

Building on that work, Indiaspora has taken a closer look at the role Indian American philanthropy plays in strengthening higher education across the United States.

“New research conducted by Indiaspora, reveals a powerful pattern: Indian Americans, many of whom credit their undergraduate and graduate experiences at U.S. universities as the foundation of their professional success, are giving back in transformative ways,” the study showed.

• Notable findings of the report include:

- 78% of Indian Americans hold a bachelor's degree or higher—far exceeding the national average.
- Approximately 270,000 Indian students are currently enrolled in American universities.
- Indian students contribute nearly \$10 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting an estimated 93,000 American jobs.

“By investing in universities, Indian American donors who value education

“Through philanthropic donations to US-based educational institutions, Indian Americans are not only transforming lives today—they are building a meaningful legacy in and for this country and the world: one that multiplies across generations and ensures that American universities will continue to shape future leaders, foster innovation, and advance knowledge for the benefit of all,” said Executive Director of Indiaspora Sanjeev Joshipura.

Beyond the major universities, Indian Americans are quietly supporting com-

display a commitment to Indian culture and heritage with monies going for South Asian, Hindu, and Indian studies.

The level of support indicates the Indian American community's “deep belief in the power of education to inspire innovation and uplift communities” according to Indiaspora.

Major donors across the Midwest and South include Monte Ahuja, who has championed Ohio universities, and Satish & Yasmin Gupta, who have benefited institutions throughout Texas. Dr.

Kiran and Pallavi Patel are leading philanthropists in Florida, in the field of medical education.

In the Northeast, Chandrika and Ranjan Tandon's historic \$100 million donation to New York University's School of Engineering represents a

milestone in higher education philanthropy. Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Desh Deshpande established an early benchmark in 2002 with his \$20 million gift to MIT, creating the Center for Technological Innovation. More recently, Indra Nooyi's landmark \$50 million contribution to the Yale School of Management stands as one of the largest business school donations in history.

Indiaspora members have made substantial contributions as well, the organization said, naming Deepak Raj, Niraj Shah, Raj Gupta, and Venky Harinarayan.



Desh Deshpande



Kiran and Pallavi Patel



Sumir Chadha



Chandrika Tandon



Monte Ahuja



Satish and Yasmin Gupta

are “putting their money where their mouth is. They are also demonstrating a larger commitment to America, supporting Americans of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds to thrive,” Founder & Chairman of Indiaspora MR Rangaswami, is quoted saying in the press release.

Since 2008, Indian Americans have donated more than \$3 billion to U.S. universities, “creating a powerful ‘flywheel effect’ that strengthens the U.S. educational ecosystem while reinforcing professional and cultural ties between India and America,” Indiaspora said.

munity colleges, state schools, and city universities, demonstrating a deep commitment to broadening access to education nationwide, the study shows.

It also revealed that the vast majority of publicly known donations have gone towards Medical & Health Sciences, Engineering and Business Education. In addition to professional fields, \$140 million has been directed toward cultural programming. This includes a substantial donation by Sumir Chadha to Princeton University, which established the Chadha Center for Global India. Endowments

CITY VIEWS

Desi Talk Chicago 6th Annual Diwali Mela Cancelled Due To Unforeseen Circumstances

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

D-Chicago, IL — October 6, 2025
Desi Talk Chicago regretfully announces the cancellation of its much-anticipated 6th Annual Diwali Mela – Festival of Lights 2025, originally scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the National India Hub, located at 930 National Parkway, Schaumburg, IL.

Due to unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, the organizing committee has made the dif-

ficult decision to cancel this year's event in the interest of the safety, convenience, and overall experience of our community members, sponsors, and partners.

The Desi Talk Diwali Mela has long been one of the Midwest's premier South Asian cultural celebrations — bringing together thousands of attendees each year to experience the colors, lights, music, dance, food, and spirit of Diwali. Since its inception, the event has symbolized unity, diversity, and cultural pride, while showcasing the immense talent and entrepreneurial spirit of our community.

“We share the disappointment of everyone who was eagerly looking forward to this year's Diwali Mela,” said a spokesperson for Desi Talk Chicago. “Our team explored every possible option to move forward, but certain logistical and operational factors made it impossible to deliver the high-quality, safe, and joyful experience our community deserves. We remain deeply grateful for the continued love and support from our sponsors, vendors, and attendees.”

All partners, vendors, and ticket holders will be contacted individually with details regarding next steps and any applicable refunds or rollovers for future

events.

Desi Talk Chicago remains committed to celebrating and uplifting the South Asian community through cultural programming, media initiatives, and future events. Plans are already underway to bring back the Diwali Mela – Festival of Lights in an even bigger and brighter way in 2026.

For updates and official announcements, please visit www.desitalkchicago.com or follow @DesiTALKChicago on social media.

In loving memory of



TASNEEM KHAMBATI

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Tasneem Khambati, on September 18, 2025, at the age of 43, after a courageous battle with cancer. Tasneem was born in 1981 in Nairobi, Kenya, before moving to America. She spent many years in New York before later making Calgary her home. She will be remembered for her lively and bubbly spirit, her adventurous nature, and the joy she brought into every room she entered. Her boundless energy, kindness, and laughter touched the lives of all who knew her.

She is survived by her devoted husband Hozefa Khambati and cherished daughter Zahra Khambati, her loving mother, her two siblings, and her many nieces and nephews who adored her. Tasneem's family was the center of her world, and she shared her love generously with each of them.

A hardworking and dedicated woman, Tasneem balanced her professional life with a passion for helping others. She volunteered her time in the community, always striving to make a positive difference in the lives of those around her.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends, who will forever remember her strength, resilience, and warmth. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.



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Chicagoland Nepali Community Celebrates At Dashain-Tihar Musical Gala 2025

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

More than 300 guests unite for a night of culture, music, and community spirit in Chicago. The Chicagoland Nepali Friendship Society hosted its highly- anticipated Grand Dashain-Tihar Musical Event 2082 (Bikram Samvat) on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. Drawing more than 300 attendees from across the Chicagoland area and neighboring states, the event celebrated Nepal's vibrant cultural heritage through music, dance, food, and togetherness.

The evening showcased Nepali artistry and community pride. Renowned Nepali musicians Badri Pangeni, Pratap Das, and Elina Chauhan headlined the musical segment. The energy of the night was amplified by DJ Oza of Chicago, whose music kept guests dancing and engaged between live sets.

Attendees were also treated to an array of authentic Nepali cuisine.

High profile attendees included President Narayan Khadka, host Anita Kun-



Chief Guest Baram Ghimire giving a speech at the Dashain-Tihar Musical Event held Sept. 28, 2025 in Chicago.

war, and Chief Guest Baram Ghimire, alongside representatives from several local Nepali organizations.

Established in August 2007, the Chicagoland Nepali Friendship Society aims to preserve and promote Nepal's rich cultural traditions within the broader

American landscape. Through annual programs like Dashain-Tihar, the Society continues to foster unity among the growing Nepali community while bridging generational and cultural connections.

Reflecting on the event's success,

Shyam Parajuli, Advisor and Former General Secretary of the Society, expressed heartfelt gratitude: "We're proud to keep our cultural spirit alive here in Chicago and are grateful to everyone who came together to make this event truly memorable."



Singers Badri Pangeni, Pratap Das, & Elina Chauhan with Nepali Friendship Society members, at the Sept. 28, 2025, Dashain-Tihar Musical Event.

18th Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council & 12th Hindu Mandir Priests' Conference 2025: A Resounding Success

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council (HMEC) and Hindu Mandir Priests' Conference 2025, were a resounding success, according to HMEC.

Organizers described it as a "landmark gathering of Hindu temple leaders, priests, scholars, and community members from across North America."

This year's Conference theme was Hindu Diaspora: Mahakumbh of Sanatan Tradition, and it was held at the Dallas-Fort Worth Hindu Temple Society (Ekta Mandir) in Irving, Texas, September 12 to 14, 2025.

Organizers said the event provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and cultural celebration, and for strengthening the role of temples as beacons of dharma and community empowerment in the diaspora.

It also made networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among Mandirs, Gurudwaras, Ashrams, and Derasars across the continent.

Recent HMEC initiatives include – publishing books on Hindu rituals and practices, conducting alerts and webinars on temple safety and security, organizing educational webinars in collaboration with the Hindu University of America, supporting temples in the aftermath of Hinduphobic attacks, and building positive narratives on Hindu symbols such as the Swastika.

The Sept. 12-14 Conference discussed pressing issues such as priest training, youth engagement, community leadership, interfaith awareness, and temple sustainability. Spiritual discourses, cultural programs, and interactive workshops kept attendees engaged and were aimed at carrying forward the legacy of Sanatan Dharma.

"Together, we are ensuring our temples remain centers



Landmark gathering of Hindu temple leaders, priests, scholars, and community members from across North America. Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council.

of dharmic strength, cultural continuity, and spiritual nourishment for future generations," said the HMEC leadership.

A much-awaited highlight was the release of Mandir Vani (HMEC Souvenir Magazine), celebrating the contributions of temples to the preservation of heritage and spirituality in America.

A discussion took place on the 60-minute documentary 'Caste Rush' which focused on caste and its place in temple traditions. The film, shot across India, investigates key questions like, Are Dalits allowed in temples? Can non-Brahmins become priests?

The HMEC 2025 Conference also recognized the work of Himani Shukla, a renowned expert in marble vigraha

(idol) restoration and beautification. She has worked on deities at Durga Mandir (VA), Satyanarayan Temple (NY), Shree Siddhidham Temple (NJ), and many others. A temple trustee is quoted saying, "Through her artistry, Himani Shukla restores not only the idols but the divine radiance of our temples."

The Conference also recognized October this year as the 5th Anniversary of Hindu Heritage Month (HHM) "Hindu Heritage Month allows us to celebrate with pride while inspiring the next generation to cherish and uphold our timeless values," HMEC said., Communities are invited to register events free of cost at HinduMonth.org and participate in this nationwide celebration of Hindu unity.

ASTROLOGY

This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

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

ARIES: Don't let potential professional hurdles in the coming week discourage you, Aries. Your dedication to family and focus on health will remain your strengths. A strong financial base supports your plans for future investments. Exciting possibilities for romance may brighten your days. Travel promises enriching experiences and personal growth. Property matters seem stable, giving you peace of mind. Even if academics or personal pursuits feel challenging, growth is still possible. Trust yourself, embrace challenges, and keep your goals in sight.

TAURUS: This week brings rewarding professional prospects, Taurus. Investments in cryptocurrency or precious metals could turn favorable. At home, resolving small issues among children may need your attention. Prioritize wellness and natural remedies for health improvement. Rather than seeking constant validation in love, use this phase for personal growth. Exploring new hobbies or destinations may lead to fulfilling experiences. Property disputes, if any, may lean in your favor. Academically, students can expect encouraging progress and career opportunities.

GEMINI: Financially, this week looks promising for Geminis, thanks to careful planning and effort. You may feel energetic and motivated, though regular self-care is essential. Love and romance bring joy, while family time will be rewarding. Career growth is possible if you remain consistent, and job interviews may favor fresh graduates. Travel might be tiring, so plan accordingly. Real estate dealings could bring good opportunities, including affordable rentals. Academic and personal growth remain on track, encouraging perseverance.

CANCER: A vibrant week awaits Cancerians, filled with varied experiences. Romance may bring a delightful surprise. Finances look stable, with savings likely to grow. Preparations for a family event could begin soon. If health feels low, rest and proper diet should be prioritized. The professional sphere may test your patience, but you'll manage steady progress. Travel promises excitement, with adventure sports adding thrill. Communication skills will help in property matters. Students may face challenges but can find optimism through persistence.

LEO: For Leos, the week seems encouraging professionally, with chances of appreciation, raises, or promotions. Wise financial moves and budgeting bring security. Focusing on self-care benefits overall health. Family interactions may test your patience, but understanding and openness will help. Romance may feel slow, but fresh travel opportunities uplift your spirit. Property-related matters may bring favorable deals. Academic pursuits also look positive. Strive for balance between work and personal life for greater satisfaction.

VIRGO: Virgos can expect a mixed week ahead. Harmony is indicated in family relations. Finances remain secure, and repayment schedules for loans appear manageable. Romance shows promising growth, while professional progress, though steady, may feel gradual. Good health will depend on discipline—avoid overindulgence and unhealthy habits. Travel plans require caution to prevent setbacks. Negotiating better property terms could work in your favor. Academic demands will be higher, but persistent effort ensures success in the long run.

LIBRA: Libras can look forward to a productive professional week. Quick thinking and networking may bring recognition. Family life is harmonious, and it's a favorable time for celebrations or new beginnings at home. Financial stability strengthens resilience. In love, meaningful discussions help nurture relationships. Health appears strong, with ample vitality. Property investments, particularly commercial ones, may be fruitful. A budget-friendly family trip could be on the horizon. Academics also show encouraging progress and achievements.

SCORPIO: Scorpions are set for an eventful week with steady progress in career matters. While family relations remain generally positive, finances may demand stricter control. Love life could bring mixed emotions, requiring patience and composure. Health remains moderate; avoid neglecting lingering issues. Travel may open doors to refreshing experiences. Property investments show potential for long-term benefits. Students can expect progress in academics, with new opportunities to grow and improve skills.

SAGITTARIUS: Sagittarians can look forward to improved finances and enhanced well-being this week. Spending patterns may stabilize, boosting confidence. Romance appears favorable, promising warmth and excitement. Career growth may feel slow, but family support helps you stay positive. A refreshing outing or trip is recommended. Property matters are encouraging, possibly indicating relocation or upgrades. Students have excellent prospects, making it a great time to invest in learning. Embrace the positivity and make the most of your luck.

CAPRICORN: Capricorns are likely to shine professionally this week, with promotions or recognition rewarding dedication. Home life feels joyful, with children adding happiness. Finances remain strong, supporting long-term ambitions. On the health front, extra effort may be needed, while relationships benefit from nurturing care. Exciting travel opportunities could come your way. Real estate prospects look favorable, especially for new acquisitions. Academic goals are well within reach, with excellent chances of success. Personal and career growth both take center stage.

AQUARIUS: Aquarians may experience a mix of emotions this week. Good health can uplift both career and personal life. Family differences may create tension, but patience helps maintain harmony. Engaging in outdoor activities or adventures will refresh the mind. Financial matters may be average, but academic pursuits promise good outcomes. Focus on self-improvement and maintaining wellness. Keep faith in joyful activities that bring balance. Stronger connections in personal and professional spheres will pave the way for growth.

PISCES: Pisces natives can expect a positive week, with career opportunities leading to success and recognition. Romance brings happiness, and some may even find life partners through new avenues. Health looks strong, with high energy levels. Family life feels balanced, ensuring smooth coordination between work and home. Financial stability is steady, though property-related concerns may need extra care. Academically, students are likely to perform well and gain appreciation. Overall, the week brings joy and accomplishments across various fronts.

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Indian American Physicians Announce 2026 Global Healthcare Summit To Be Held In Bhubaneshwar

AAPI PRESS RELEASE

The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has unveiled plans for its 19th Annual Global Healthcare Summit (GHS), scheduled for January 9–11, 2026, in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa. The event is set to address urgent health issues including Tuberculosis (TB), Diabetes, and the role of Ayurveda in contemporary medicine, alongside showcasing advancements in artificial intelligence and healthcare technology.

AAPI President Dr. Amit Chakrabarty stated that the summit aims to confront some of India's most significant healthcare challenges while encouraging collaboration and innovation among medical professionals. "This summit will bring together expertise from India and the global diaspora to tackle critical issues and foster new research," Dr. Chakrabarty said.

SUMMIT PRIORITIES: TB ERADICATION, DIABETES, AYURVEDA, AND TECHNOLOGY

The summit's agenda spotlights three main themes: eradicating Tuberculosis, managing Diabetes, and integrating Ayurveda into mainstream medical practice. Following a meeting with Indian President Droupadi Murmu, AAPI pledged support to the national effort for a TB-Free Tribal India, led by Dr. Manoj Jain. Diabetes management initiatives will be directed by Dr. Smitha Joshi, while Ayurveda Consortium activities will be coordinated by Dr. Amit Shah and Dr. Arti Prasad.

"AAPI's Global Healthcare Summit is dedicated to making quality healthcare both affordable and accessible in India," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI. This year, the summit also emphasizes cutting-edge technology and artificial intelligence as transformative tools for patient care.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND DISTINGUISHED



2024 photo of executives of AAPI at the Global Healthcare Summit on Cancer Risk and Heart Attack Prevention.

PARTICIPATION

The summit will feature keynote speeches and academic sessions led by top physicians and researchers from India and abroad. Topics will include new medical advancements, Continuing Medical Education (CME), Evidence-Based Learning (ELS), research methodology, and scientific writing. Medical Jeopardy competitions and research poster presentations are expected to draw participation from leading Indian medical schools, with panel discussions led by international experts and officials from the National Medical Council Board.

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL HEALTH CHALLENGES ON THE AGENDA

GHS 2026 expands its focus to chronic disease prevention, rural health, climate change, and global health concerns. The CEO Forum will address equity, ethics, and physician burnout, while the Women's Forum will discuss gender bias and leadership in medicine. Dr. Manoj Jain will present ongoing efforts of the CETI (Collaboration to Eliminate TB in

India), with support from the CDC and USAID, offering updates on TB elimination projects and strategies for future engagement. Additional activities include CPR training, mental health awareness campaigns, and initiatives to combat childhood obesity and non-communicable diseases.

NETWORKING, COLLABORATION, AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

The summit also provides opportunities for alumni networking, strategic engagement between AAPI and Indian partners, and recognition of outstanding contributions through AAPI Awards. Efforts in diabetes prevention and TB eradication will be highlighted, reinforcing AAPI's commitment to public health initiatives.

"AAPI GHS is an unmatched opportunity to connect with leaders shaping the future of healthcare," said Dr. Meher Medavaram, President-Elect of AAPI. "We look forward to launching new initiatives and continuing the legacy of our organization's leaders."

LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, AND INDIA'S HEALTHCARE GROWTH

AAPI's membership includes prominent medical professionals holding leadership roles worldwide. Vice President Dr. Krishan Kumar noted, "Collaborative relationships fostered by AAPI have paved the way for an exceptional event, with over 300 Indian-origin physicians and surgeons expected to attend."

Secretary Dr. Seema Arora emphasized AAPI's mission to advance healthcare delivery in both the US and India by promoting partnerships and sharing knowledge. Treasurer Dr. Soumya Neravetla highlighted the importance of support from international and Indian medical associations in driving the summit's evolution.

India's healthcare sector is undergoing rapid expansion with growing investments and medical tourism. The summit's international attendance and participation from hundreds of US-based physicians underscore the importance of global collaboration for advancing healthcare in India. Since its inception in 2007, the Global Healthcare Summit has been instrumental in building alliances and driving medical progress across the country.

"We anticipate active involvement from international healthcare industry leaders in research, development, and philanthropy," said Dr. Chakrabarty. "GHS 2026 will be a milestone event for exchanging ideas, influencing policy, and shaping next year's healthcare agenda."

Registration and additional information are available at www.aapiusa.org. Physicians and healthcare professionals worldwide are invited to attend the summit in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, January 9–11, 2026, to help define the future of global health.

For more details, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

Treasurer Of Cook County, Illinois, And Indian Consul General To Recognize Indian Community Leaders

BY A STAFF WRITER

Cook County, Illinois, Treasurer Maria Pappas and Indian Consul General Somnath Ghosh will host a Diwali celebration to honor Indian American community leaders, activists, and entrepreneurs for their outstanding contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic life of Cook County. The event is scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, in the Cook County Treasurer's Office, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago. Honorees represent the vibrancy and economic vitality of the Indian American commu-

PHOTO: FACEBOOK @COOK COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE



Cook County, Ill., Treasurer Maria Pappas.

nity across the region, Pappas' office said. Pappas will present certificates of recognition to the honorees for making a meaningful impact in fields such as business, education, public service, advocacy and the arts.

Honorees include Consul General of India Somnath Ghosh, Sanjeev Kumar Pal, Indian Consulate Official, Sunil Shah, financial services professional, Lion Kishen, president, Chicago Indo-US Lions, Nick Gakhol, trucking executive, Smita Shah, business owner, Lion Avani, AUCI CEO, Lion Shina, mental health professional, Ajit Singh, commercial realtor, Thomas Abraham, lawyer, Brij Kukreja, entrepreneur, Parminder Singh

Goldi, entrepreneur, Anu Malhotra, yoga instructor, Hitesh Ghandhi, medical specialist, Brighesh Patel, Core Company CEO, Mercedes Kaltenecker, BCBS community director, Jay Trivedi, medical executive, Jiten Modi, finance executive, Vipul Patel, hotel owner, Sudhir Sakhuja, engineering sales, Subbu Iyer, developer, Sukwhinder Singh, business owner.

"The Indian American community plays an essential role in shaping the identity of Cook County," said Pappas. "It's a time to come together and reflect on the good in the world—and to honor the individuals who bring light into the lives of others through their service, leadership, and accomplishments."

Indian Consulate And Mount Sinai Hospital Host Conference On Healthcare, AI, And Cancer

BY A STAFF WRITER

The intersection of AI, healthcare, and cancer, was the focus of discussions October 1, 2025, at a conference held in the Consulate of India in New York, bringing some of the best and the brightest from India and the United States together to mull over how to meet the challenges confronting both countries.

India's Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan joined the more than hundred invitees from US and India, there to shine a light on how the two countries could strengthen collaboration in healthcare. Consul General Pradhan, who gave the concluding remarks on the conference, expressed deep appreciation to all speakers and panelists for their insightful contributions that enriched the day's discussions. He emphasized that the Consulate will prepare a detailed report to capture the wide range of ideas and innovations shared. He also thanked Dr. Ashutosh Tewari for thoughtfully curating an engaging and impactful day of dialogue and collaboration.

The leading speaker and organizer was Dr. Ashutosh Tewari, chairman, Milton and Carroll Petrie Department of Urology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and a world-renowned urologist and prostate cancer specialist.

"It's a great gathering of minds focusing on cancer, longevity, health care, India, US, and AI and technology," said Dr. Tewari, "We are here to interact with each other, understand what the issues are, and possibly come up with the synergies which will advance the field and take it to the next level," he emphasized in an interview with ITV Gold.

The attendees, included medical professionals, policy makers and medical entrepreneurs, several of whom addressed the gathering.

"It's been an exceptionally produc-



Renowned urologist from Mount Sinai Hospital Dr. Ashutosh Tewari speaking at the conference on AI, cancer and healthcare held at the Indian Consulate in New York, October 1, 2025. Looking on is Vivek Natarajan, research scientist at Google DeepMind.



India's Consul General in New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, addressing the conference on AI, Cancer & Healthcare, held October 1, at the Consulate.



More than a hundred invitees attended the AI, cancer, and healthcare conference at the Indian Consulate in New York.

tive event. I know I have met some really great people here and forged a lot of really great relationships. And overall, it was a smashing success," said Dr. Deepak Bhatt, director of the Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital and the Dr. Valentin Fuster Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Speakers and experts delved into how there can be further collaboration between AI and healthcare, and between experts in the United States and experts in India.

Dr. Avinash Gupta of Monmouth Medical Center, called it an amazing event organized by Mount Sinai Hospital and the Indian Consulate on healthcare,

AI, and cancer. "We are learning new things and how to collaborate between India and US in this field. AI can help the Indian population in a big way. India and US can work together for global health care. We have great potential," Dr. Gupta said.

Vivek Natarajan, research scientist at Google DeepMind, where he leads research at the intersection of AI and science and medicine, called it an honor to be at the meeting, "I truly think that India and USA together with all the brilliant minds in both countries can really advance cancer research and the delivery of care for people who need it," he told ITV Gold, saying he was "super inspired" by the exchange of ideas. "I have) tons of ideas that have emerged from listening to these talks, and also hoping that this is part of a lot of interesting collaborations as well," Natarajan said.

"I believe this is the first time that an event of such a scale in the sense an entire half-day event spanning six hours," has been held, said Smitha Rajagopal, emcee of the event. "It is a tremendous meeting of minds, ... its talking about a confluence of experts coming together from different sectors but still talking under one broad umbrella of AI, cancer and health care, and the partnership between India and the US."

Both US and India face challenges in health care that could supplement each other, the experts noted. They spoke of how US with great quality of care faces the challenge of high costs, and India has the advantage of low cost delivery, but healthcare is not reaching all who need it equitably. The two countries could help each other meet those challenges and be an example for other countries.

The discussions highlighted how in India, 70 to 80 percent of healthcare costs are paid for by people out of pocket. And if one is at the bottom of the income levels, it becomes challenging to get a decent quality of affordable health care.

Experts Discuss AI's Role In Healthcare

BY A STAFF WRITER

The Indian Consulate in New York held an informative session on the "Role of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for Underserved Communities" jointly with Wheels Global Foundation, October 6, 2025.

It brought together experts and innovators from India and the U.S. to explore how AI can make healthcare more accessible and equitable, according to a post on X @IndiainNewYork.

Dr. Ritu Khurana, Physician and Author on AI Ethics and Privacy, introduced the theme and highlighted how technology, when used responsibly, can transform outcomes for underserved populations.

Dr. Chris Dickey, Director, School of

Global Public Health, spoke about the applications of AI in strengthening public health systems.

Devika Bhalla from @ServiceNow discussed how enterprise technology and digital infrastructure can play a pivotal role in expanding healthcare reach.

The session concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Khurana, featuring Dr. Parag Mehta (Chief Medical Officer, NY Methodist Hospital), Dr. Raj Shah (Chair, Health Council, WHEELS Global Foundation), Eric Cruzen (SVP & Chief Data & Informatics Officer at Northwell Health, and Muthu Krishnan, founder & CEO of Kencor Health Inc.

The panel emphasized the need for collaborative innovation, data ethics, and AI-driven solutions tailored for real-world healthcare challenges.



Speakers and the audience, at the Oct. 6, 2025, meeting on AI and Healthcare, held at the Indian Consulate in New York.



All Photos: Canva

What to Know Before Marrying a U.S. Citizen on a Tourist Visa – Risks & Realities

IN MEMORIAM

By David H. Nachman, Esq



Michael Phulwani David Nachman Ludka Zimovcak Snehal Batra

Many couples find themselves in love and ready to marry while one partner is in the U.S. on a tourist visa. While marriage to a U.S. citizen is legal, the immigration path afterward can be far more complicated. Missteps can lead to denials, long separations, or even removal from the United States.

Here's what couples should understand before making that decision.

1. Marriage Is Legal – But Staying Is the Challenge

You can legally marry a U.S. citizen while in the United States on a B-1/B-2 visitor visa or through the Visa Waiver Program. But marriage itself does not guarantee permanent residency. Immigration authorities will examine your intent at the time of entry. If they believe you entered the U.S. planning to stay permanently, this can be considered "preconceived intent" – and could cause problems with your green card application.

2. The 90-Day Rule – Why Timing Matters

If you marry and file for adjustment of status within the first 90 days of arriving, immigration officers often assume you misrepresented your purpose for entering. Waiting a reasonable time before applying helps show that the decision to stay arose after arrival.

3. Long Processing Times and Possible Separation

Adjustment of status cases can take many months or more than a year. During that time, the foreign spouse's visitor status may expire. In some cases, couples face difficult periods of separation until the green card process is resolved.

4. Travel Risks While the Case Is Pending

If the foreign spouse leaves the U.S. while the application is pending, reentry is not guaranteed. Border officials may deny return if they believe the person intended to immigrate at the time of entry. Advance planning – and in some cases, advance parole – is essential.

5. Work Restrictions and Financial Pressure

The foreign spouse cannot work until USCIS issues an employment authorization document (EAD). This waiting period can create financial stress, and unauthorized employment can damage the immigration case.

6. Expect Close Scrutiny

Marriage-based green card cases are carefully reviewed to prevent fraud. Officers will evaluate the timeline of your relationship, your intent when entering, and the authenticity of your marriage. Couples should prepare strong evidence of a genuine relationship, such as shared finances, photos, and joint commitments.

7. Consider Alternative Immigration Options

Sometimes, a different approach is safer:

- Applying for a fiancé (K-1) visa before entering.
- Marrying abroad and pursuing a spousal visa through consular processing.
- Starting the process from the home country, even if it takes longer.

These routes may reduce the risk of suspicion and help avoid complications.

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8. Professional Guidance Is Key

Because these cases often balance on fine details, couples should consult an experienced immigration attorney before filing. A lawyer can evaluate your situation, explain risks, and help prepare a strong, credible application.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Is it legal to marry a U.S. citizen while on a tourist visa?

Yes. The marriage itself is valid. The challenge lies in proving your intentions were genuine at the time of entry.

2. What is the 90-day rule?

If you marry or apply for a green card within 90 days of entering on a tourist visa, USCIS may presume you misrepresented your purpose for entering the U.S.

3. Can I work while waiting for my green card?

No. You must wait until USCIS approves your work permit (EAD). Unauthorized employment can harm your case.

4. What happens if I leave the U.S. during my case?

Leaving without advance parole may result in being denied reentry, even if your green card application is pending.

5. What is the safer alternative to marrying on a tourist visa?

A fiancé (K-1) visa or a spousal visa through consular processing often provide a more secure and less risky path to permanent residency.

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.

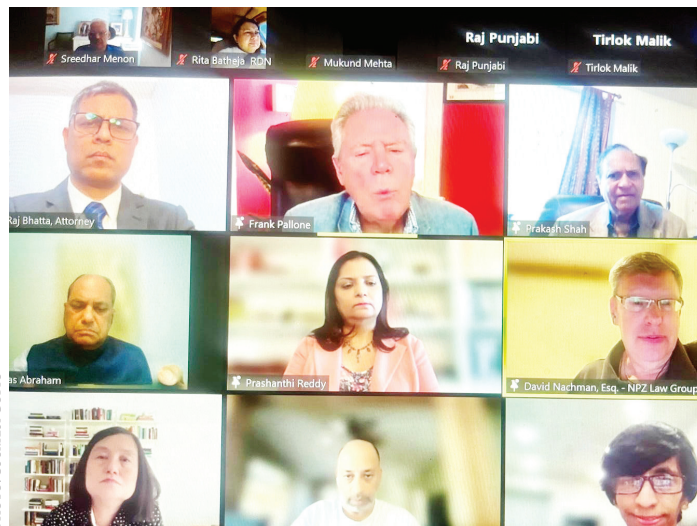
Congressman Frank Pallone Calls For Early US-India Dialogue To Remove Obstacles In Strategic Partnership

By A Staff Writer

Congressman Frank Pallone, D-NJ, a long-time 'Friend of India' called for an early resolution to obstacles in the US-India strategic partnership, and criticized the \$100,000 additional fee for H-1B visas, as well as the tariff regime slapped by President Trump on India which was coming in the way of trade negotiations between the two democracies.

At a webinar held Oct. 4, 2025, by the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) entitled, "H-1B Visa Storm, Current Challenges and Pathways Forward," Pallone, a Padma Bhushan recipient and member of Congress for 18 terms, said the Trump administration is focusing on the wrong priorities. Rep. Pallone emphasized that rather than investing in training programs to develop locally qualified talent, billions are being spent on a fee that does not address the root problem. Linking the \$100,000 H-1B fee to tariffs, was like adjusting the lottery to favor higher-paid employees, and disadvantage small businesses creating economic distortions, the press release from GOPIO said.

Congressman Pallone contended there was a broad bipartisan support in Congress for continuing the H1B Visa program. He said the Indian American community and organization such as GOPIO should engage with the Members of Congress to help develop a consensus



Rep. Frank Pallone with GOPIO officials and speakers at the Webinar. From l. to r., Top Row: Dilli bhatta, Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., Prakash Shah; Middle Row: Dr. Thomas Abraham, Prashanti Reddy, David Nachman; Bottom Row: Stephanie Dy, Siddharth Jain and Vatsala Upadhyay.

towards a more considered approach towards preserving the many benefits of the H1B Visa program that has led to many positive outcomes for the US economy, the GOPIO press release said.

He also warned that in the global competition for

talent, countries like Germany and China are ready to attract highly qualified professionals, which could ultimately weaken the U.S. economy instead of strengthening it.

He also expressed some concern about what he saw as India's growing turn toward China and Russia.

"Meanwhile, India's pivot toward countries such as Russia and China – partially in response to U.S. policy – raises additional strategic and economic concerns." He called for an early US-India dialogue to remove the current hiccups.

The webinar began with a welcome from GOPIO's Associate Secretary and Chair of Webinar Series Sunil Vuppala. GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham noted how "shocked" everyone was when President Trump announced \$100,000 fee for H-1B Visa on September 19, and described the benefits of the visa program to the US economy.

The Moderator for the panel discussion was New York Immigration Attorney Dilli Bhatta. The panelists included Immigration Attorneys David Nachman, Stephanie Dy, and Prashanti Reddy.

Panelists described in detail, the impact of the new \$100,000 fee. They also noted that the current policy upheaval extended far beyond H-1B visas, affecting tariffs, lottery mechanisms, and international competitiveness, all of which could have lasting consequences for U.S. innovation and global leadership and stressed the urgency of proactive community engagement and informed advocacy.

Two Indian-Origin Scientists Among 18 Finalists Named For Prestigious Blavatnik National Awards For Young Scientists

By A Staff Writer

This September 9, the Blavatnik Family Foundation and the New York Academy of Scientists announced the Finalists for the 2025 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists. Three of the 18 will go on to be named Laureates and receive a \$250,000 prize at a Gala ceremony in New York City on October 7, 2025.

The Young Scientists Awards recognize scientific advances made by researchers in the United States across the following disciplines: Life Sciences, Chemical Sciences, and Physical Sciences & Engineering, a press release from Blavatnik said.

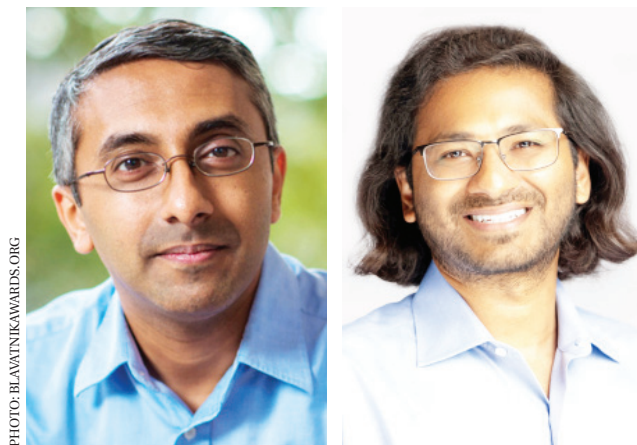
Former Director of the National Science Foundation and current President of the Global Learning Council in Switzerland Dr. Subra Suresh, will announce the three 2025 Laureates at the awards ceremony to be held at the American Museum of Natural History.

An independent jury of expert scientists selected this year's Finalists from a pool of 310 nominees representing 161 academic and research institutions across 42 U.S. states.

Each Laureate will receive an unrestricted award of \$250,000, the world's largest unrestricted science prize, available for early-career scientists in the U.S. The remaining 15 Finalists will each receive \$15,000.

The two Indian origin 2025 Finalists are Yogesh Surendranath, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Inorganic & Solid-State Chemistry), in the Chemical Sciences category; and Prateek Mittal, PhD, Princeton University (Computer Science) in the Physical Sciences & Engineering category.

Surendranath is recognized for pioneering molecular-



Yogesh Surendranath

Prateek Mittal

level control of catalyst surfaces and electrostatic environments to revolutionize chemical reactions, enabling sustainable fuel production and significant reductions in carbon emissions.

Mittal is recognized for pioneering work powering the security and privacy of the internet, generating over 2.5 billion cryptographic certificates and securing more than 350 million websites.

Surendranath is the Donner Professor of Science at MIT. A B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in Physics from the University of Virginia, he received his Ph.D. from MIT, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Berkeley.

According to his Research Summary on Blavatnikawards.org, Surendranath's pioneering work gives a new understanding of how electric fields at catalyst surfaces

control key chemical reactions. His breakthroughs advance sustainable chemistry by reducing carbon emissions and unlocking new routes for converting abundant resources like carbon dioxide and methane into valuable products.

According to Blavatnik, "Surendranath's research reshapes fundamental catalysis science and drives technologies essential for a low-carbon future, making it highly deserving of recognition."

Mittal is a Professor of Computer Science at Princeton University. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, he has a Master of Science and a Ph.D. from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

According to Blavatnik, in our increasingly digitized world, the privacy and security of the information we transmit online is of paramount importance, and "Research being led by computer scientist Prateek Mittal, PhD, seeks to ensure that our data is safeguarded against those who would try and take it for their own benefit."

By discovering and fixing security vulnerabilities in well-known protocols, "Mittal has already transformed the methods being used to secure our internet data – leading to hundreds of millions of websites, both private and government-run alike, being secured," the award-giving organization said.

Internationally recognized by the scientific community, the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists, has at the close of 2025, recognized more than 500 scientists from 120 international research institutions and awarded prizes totaling nearly \$20 million.

To date, Blavatnik Awards honorees have founded 50 companies after receiving the award, six of which are publicly traded and collectively valued at over \$10 billion.

What’s open during the shutdown?

A running list for travelers.

By Hannah Sampson, Andrea Sachs, Natalie B. Compton

The shutdown of the federal government this week has sent some travelers into a state of disappointment and confusion as they weigh plans to visit properties managed by the National Park Service. While outdoor national parks remain largely open, there are no workers to staff some historic sites and visitor centers, or direct some tours. Some sites are closed off. Some are allowed to stay open. Or left in a partially functioning state. Figuring out what is still accessible requires legwork; specific information has been sparse on government websites that are typically updated to reflect weather emergencies and traffic anomalies. (Air travel will continue mostly unimpeded; Transportation Security Administration officers and air traffic controllers have exemptions to work without pay, which could contribute to long lines and delays.) As of Friday, most park system websites carried a uniform message with scarce information: “National parks remain as accessible as possible during the federal government shutdown. However, some services may be limited or unavailable.” They directed people to a site that shares the Interior Department’s contingency plan but not location-specific information. Social media pages echoed the nonspecific language for the most part, leaving potential visitors to beg for more information in the comments. “I guess I have to drive there to see if the gate is closed,” one person wrote on the Facebook page for Shenandoah National Park. (The park and its hotels and campgrounds are open, while visitor centers are not.)



Photo: Craig Hudson/For The Washington Post

A message on Recreation.gov, a federal travel-planning site and reservation system, said it would stay operational during the shutdown, but customers might not be able to complete future reservations or purchases for passes. People with reservations at shuttered locations might get an email with more information, the site said - or might not. It directed people to check local offices or agency websites directly. Bill Wade, executive director of the Association of National Park Rangers, said the parks were already operating with skeleton crews because of a nearly 25 percent reduction in permanent National Park Service staffers that occurred earlier this year. According to the National Parks Conservation Association, the system could lose more than \$1 million in fee revenue every day buildings are closed. Nearly two-thirds of the Park Service - more than 9,000 people - have been furloughed. To protect the parks, Wade recommends visitors follow some of the golden rules of backcountry hiking, such as “pack it in, pack it out” (including waste) and carrying your own supply of toilet paper. He also urges people not to “do anything stupid,” because the response times of search-and-rescue or law enforcement might be slower than usual. “Be a little bit more careful, so you don’t get in trouble and have to rely on an already very short-staffed park,” Wade said.

National park sites that are open

- **Great Smoky Mountains:** According to the nonprofit Friends of the Smokies, the national park in Tennessee and North Carolina has raised funds to stay open through Saturday, Oct. 11.
- **Grand Canyon:** According to the Grand Canyon Conservancy, the park’s nonprofit partner, a lot is open: roads, lookouts, trails and campgrounds, plus its retail stores, the Kolb Studio art gallery, Desert View Watchtower and the Backcountry Information Center. Ranger-led programs and tours have been canceled. Collection fee booths and Park Service buildings, such as visitor centers, are closed. The conservancy will still hold events; visitors should check for location changes. Amenities and services run by third parties are available, including lodging, restaurants, bicycle rentals, tours and park shuttles. Commercial river trips are still on.
- **Yellowstone:** A statement posted by the vendor running lodges at Yellowstone National Park says entrances and roads will remain accessible. Lodges, restaurants, gift shops and bathrooms will remain open.
- **Yosemite:** According to the Yosemite Conservancy, gates are open but unstaffed. Roads, trails, campgrounds and backcountry and wilderness areas remain open. The conservancy will keep running its art classes and volunteer programs. Lodging, hotels, stores and restaurants are open.
- **Utah national parks:** The state’s five national parks - Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Zion and Bryce Canyon - are open, but some services are limited. The Utah Office of Tourism announced Friday that the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity will cover expenses for visitor centers to continue operating at the five national parks and Cedar Breaks National Monument.
- **Colorado national park sites:** The eight sites in Colorado that collect fees - Rocky Mountain National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado National Monument, Dinosaur National Monument, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Great Sand Dunes, Hovenweep National Monument and Mesa Verde National Park - will continue to operate on fee revenue. Visitor centers and historic buildings will be closed, but gates will stay open and custodial services will continue, according to the governor’s office. The state expects those sites to stay open until fee revenue dries up.
- **Hawaii national parks:** Haleakalā National Park in Maui is open with advanced reservations for sunrise. Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park has limited services and facilities; the welcome center at Kilauea Military Camp, Volcano Art Gallery and Volcano House are open. Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in Kaua’i is open with advanced reservations; the visitor center and gift shop are closed.
- **Pearl Harbor:** Historic sites in Hawaii including Pearl Harbor National Memorial, home of the USS Arizona Memorial; Battleship Missouri Memorial; Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum; Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum and USS Bowfin submarine will remain open and operate at normal hours during the government shutdown.
- **Mount Rushmore:** Travelers can still visit the South Dakota national memorial. Restrooms, restaurants and the gift shop remain open.
- **D.C. museums and monuments:** For now, many of D.C.’s most popular museums are open. The Smithsonian Institution - which curates 17 museums in the city and the National Zoo - said on Friday that all of its properties will remain open to the public “through our scheduled closing time on Saturday, Oct. 11.” Locations will be closed

- starting Oct. 12 if the shutdown continues. Some museums that are funded by a combination of federal appropriations will be open at least in the short term. The Holocaust Memorial Museum said online it would be open through Friday, Oct. 17. The city also has many private museums that will not be disrupted by the shutdown. Visitors can still access D.C.’s most famous outdoor sites, including the World War II Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. However indoor services, such as visitor centers, gift shops and restrooms probably will be closed.
- **Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island:** Both New York sites, which are reachable by ferry, remain open “thanks to the leadership of President Donald J. Trump,” a statement provided by the Interior Department said. The department did not answer questions about how long the attractions would stay open or what level of services would remain available, but tickets have remained on sale.
 - **Kennedy Space Center:** The Florida center’s visitor complex, which is operated by a NASA contractor, is open. Exhibits and attractions are available, according to the website. That includes the Kennedy Space Center bus tour and other special-interest tours.
 - **Alcatraz Island:** The famous prison in the center of San Francisco Bay has reopened after closing earlier in the shutdown. The website for Alcatraz City Cruises, an authorized seller of trips to the island, says all tours are operating as scheduled.

Parks and monuments that are closed

- **Liberty Bell Center:** Philadelphia’s Independence National Historical Park has several closed attractions, including the famously cracked bell, according to a list from Visit Philadelphia. Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the Constitution created, is also closed, as is the Benjamin Franklin Museum. The tourism office provides this tip: “The Liberty Bell is visible through a window on the east side of its building.”
- **Gateway Arch:** Ticketing and tram operations at the St. Louis landmark are suspended, according to the website, and ticketed events have been canceled. Tickets for the tram rides, the documentary movie or VR experience will be refunded for people who have reservations during the shutdown. Riverboat trips and helicopter tours, which are not part of the National Park Service, are still open.
- **Carlsbad Caverns:** Entry to the New Mexico caverns, access to the visitor center, roads leading into the park and nighttime bat flight programs are not available during the shutdown, the national park’s Facebook page said in response to a user’s question.
- **Petrified Forest:** The national park in Arizona, famous for its fossils, ancient village and Painted Desert, is “completely closed,” its Facebook page said in a comment responding to questions.
- **Muir Woods:** The national monument north of San Francisco is closed, according to its website. Parking reservation fees will be refunded.
- **D.C. attractions:** Several sites are closed in the nation’s capital, according to a list compiled by Destination DC, including the Library of Congress, the National Archives Museum, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the Air Force Memorial, the U.S. National Arboretum and the Washington Monument. The National Gallery of Art is closed until further notice.

Cricket-Tension Lingers As India And Pakistan Skip Handshake In Women's World Cup

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Pakistan counterpart Fatima Sana skipped the customary handshake before a women's cricket World Cup match on Sunday amid ongoing tensions between the rivals that plagued the men's Asia Cup last month.

India-Pakistan relations have significantly deteriorated following military conflicts in May that nearly escalated into a full-fledged war between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

India beat Pakistan three times in the men's Asia Cup, including in the September 28 final in Dubai, but refused to shake hands with their counterparts before or after the matches.

They also declined to receive the winners' trophy from

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Mohsin Naqvi, who is Pakistan's interior minister.

The frosty relations were evident in Colombo too where Kaur and Sana did not shake hands at the toss, nearly ignoring each other's presence.

Sana won the toss and elected to field against India, who have never lost to Pakistan in a women's one day international.

"We're going to bowl first, looks like there could be some moisture on the wicket," Sana said.

"On this wicket, anything under 250 would be a good total to defend and hopefully we can restrict them."

India won a tri-series in Sri Lanka, also involving South Africa, in May and captain Kaur said that experience

would stand them in good stead.

"It was a good series for us," Kaur said.

"We played a lot of cricket here and, yeah, we have experience. Now it's only about staying positive and playing good cricket."

Bilateral cricket remains suspended between India and Pakistan, who play each other only in multi-team events at neutral venues.

India are the hosts of the ongoing women's World Cup but Pakistan will be playing all their matches in Colombo under an agreement approved by the International Cricket Council.

-REUTERS

Cricket-India Name Gill ODI Captain, Rohit, Kohli In Squad For Australia Tour

Shubman Gill was named India's 50-overs captain on Saturday in place of Rohit Sharma, who was named in the squad along with batting stalwart Virat Kohli for three one-day internationals in Australia this month.

Both Rohit and Kohli have quit test cricket and T20 Internationals and are only available for India only in the 50-over format.

Gill took over as test captain after Rohit quit the long format in May, and he is vice captain of India's T20 squad led by Suryakumar Yadav.

Rohit and Kohli last played for India in the Champions Trophy final in March in which they beat New Zealand.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who is recovering from a fractured foot and was ruled out of the ongoing test series against West Indies, was not selected



Cricket - International Test Match Series - Fifth Test - India Practice Session - Kia Oval, London, Britain - July 30, 2025 India's Shubman Gill during practice



Cricket - ICC T20 World Cup 2024 - Group A - India v Pakistan - Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, United States - June 9, 2024 India's Rohit Sharma celebrates with Virat Kohli after hitting a six

for the tour Down Under.

India will play three ODIs in Australia followed by five T20 Internationals.

India's ODI squad: Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (vice captain), Axar Patel, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel (wicketkeeper), Yashasvi Jaiswal

India's T20 squad: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (vice captain), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wicketkeeper), Varun Chakaravathy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (wicketkeeper), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

-REUTERS

Cricket-Test Opener Renshaw Bats Way Into Australia's ODI Squad For Upcoming Home Series Against India

Former test opener Matt Renshaw is in the frame for a long-awaited one-day international debut after being named in Australia's squad for this month's home series against India.

Renshaw played the last of his 14 tests against India in New Delhi nearly three years ago but has earned a surprise place in the Mitchell Marsh-captained squad released on Tuesday after piling on the runs for Australia 'A' against Sri Lanka 'A' in July.

The 29-year-old lefthander was one of four additions to the 15-man squad, joining fast bowler Mitchell Starc and all-rounders Matt Short and Mitchell Owen.

With Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis recently retiring from ODI cricket, Renshaw and power-hitter Owen could form part of a new-look Australian middle order in the lead-up to the 2027 World Cup.

Starc, meanwhile, returns to international action for the first time this summer after resting from the South Africa tour.

Australia will play three ODIs against India starting October 19 in Perth, followed by a five-match T20 series.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh will continue to lead the ODI



Cricket - South Africa v Australia - Fourth Test - Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa - April 2, 2018 Australia's Matt Renshaw in action.

side in Pat Cummins's absence, with the fast bowler recovering from a back injury ahead of the home Ashes.

Selectors also named a 14-man squad for the first two T20s in Canberra (October 29) and Melbourne (October 31), with Josh Inglis to replace Alex Carey as wicketkeeper after recovering from a calf strain.

Carey, who helped Australia beat New Zealand 2-0 in the recent T20 series at Mount Maunganui, was included in the ODI squad but will miss the series-opener to play red-ball cricket in the domestic Sheffield Shield.

Australian ODI squad: Mitchell Marsh (captain), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

Australian T20 squad (first two games): Mitchell Marsh (captain), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Matt Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

-REUTERS

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09/12-10/10 SD

KENTUCKY:
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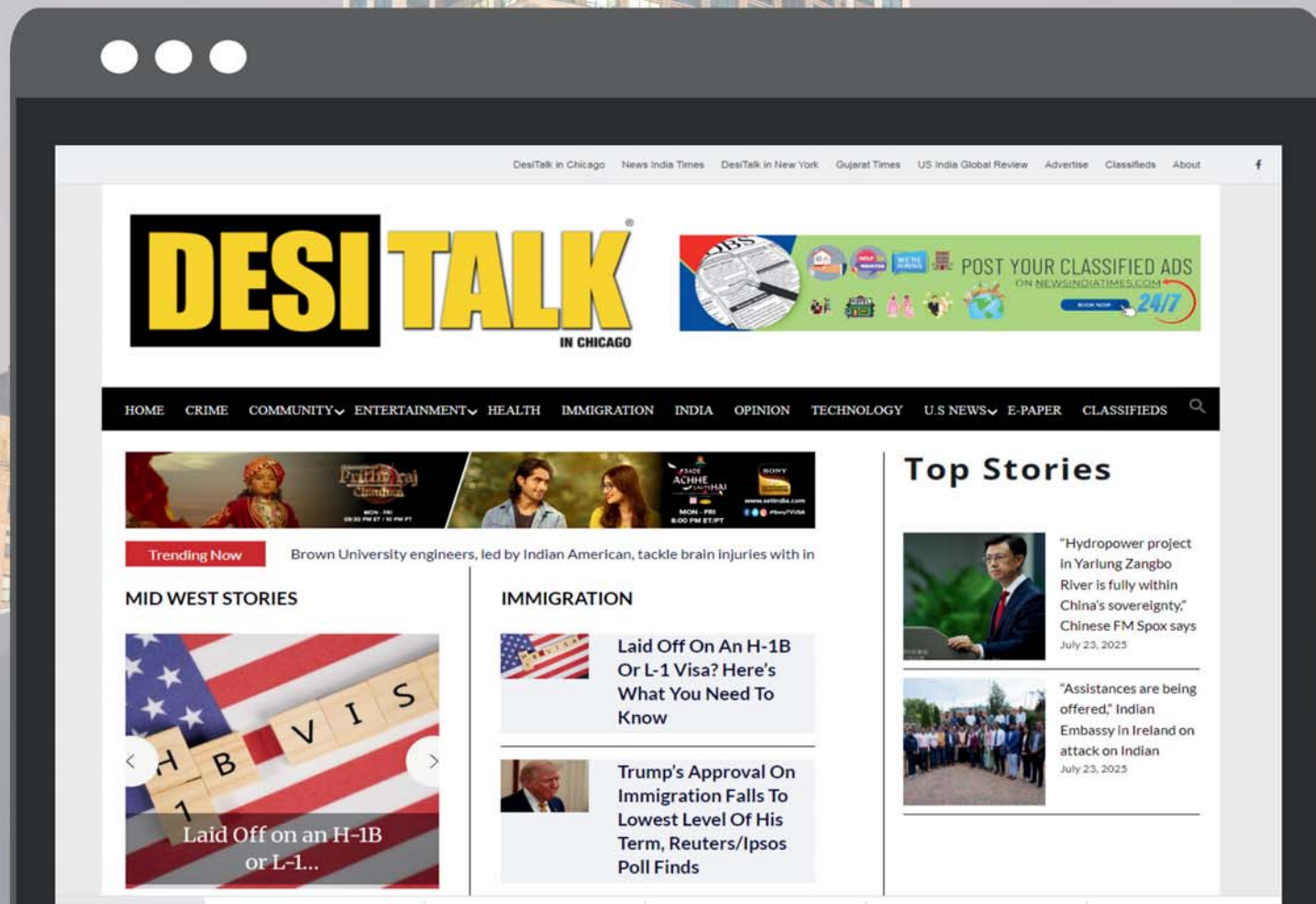
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