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PAGE 14

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DESI TALK

IN CHICAGO



Dr. Sudhir Parikh
Founder, Chairman and Publisher Parikh Worldwide Media & ITV Gold



PAGE 6



Shaun Illingworth



Shatrughan Dawani

Dr. Sudhir Parikh and 7 other eminent Indian Americans inducted into Rutgers Living History Society and the Oral History Archives



Hemant Patel



Prakash Parab



Rajesh Mehta



Shobha Mirchandani



Suresh Kumar



Deepak Khare



Satish Punj

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Immigration In USA: Trump's Empty Boast Around H-1B Visa Fee

By VIVEK WADHWA

TTrue reform would have addressed the green-card backlog. But the US's message that foreign talent is expendable has reversed brain drain, which benefits India

The headlines screamed disaster. Donald Trump's \$100,000 H-1B visa fee was supposed to crush Indian dreams. Immigration lawyers sounded the alarm, the Indian media fumed, and social media erupted over the fate of Indian engineers who built America's tech future. Then came the fine print. The rule applies only to new H-1B petitions filed for people outside the US or a few status changes. It doesn't affect the hundreds of thousands already there or most renewals. In reality, it changes almost nothing. It was another Trump taco — a policy built to roar, not to reform.

The pandemic proved innovation no longer needs a US address. India's digital economy has reached critical mass. (Shutterstock)

The pandemic proved innovation no longer needs a US address. India's digital economy has reached critical mass. (Shutterstock)

That was a relief, but also revealing. The fee turned out to be a toothless tiger, yet its roar did real damage. It showed once again that Washington has traded policy-making for performance. America's message to global talent was unmistakable: You can work here if you pay, but don't ever expect to belong. Anti-immigrant groups cheered the \$100,000 fee as a great victory, waving it like a trophy. In truth, they were celebrating an illusion — a loud, empty gesture that fixed nothing and fooled many.

Tech companies didn't complain for long. Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and Meta can afford the cost. What mattered to them stayed untouched — the decades-long green-card backlog that keeps foreign engineers dependent, the golden handcuffs that make the system work in their favour. The H-1B visa was meant to attract talent; instead, it traps it. A worker waiting for a green card cannot easily change jobs or start a company. For many Indians, the wait can stretch beyond 50 years. The result is modern day indentured servitude — legal, efficient, and deeply profitable for employers.

These workers rarely complain because their future depends on their sponsor's goodwill. They work longer hours, accept less pay, and live with constant uncertainty. For the companies that employ them, it's the perfect setup: Skilled talent with limited freedom, ambition contained by design. That's why Big Tech keeps lobbying for more H-1Bs but never for green-card reform. Permanent residents can leave; visa holders can't. The imbalance is intentional and keeps the system full of people who can't move or compete.



PHOTO: REUTERS/HEMANSHI KAMANI/FILE PHOTO

High-rise building are pictured in India's financial capital Mumbai, July 24, 2024.

The pandemic proved innovation no longer needs a US address.

India's digital economy has reached critical mass.



PHOTO: REUTERS/JAMES LAWLER DUGGAN/FILES

A man exits the transit area after clearing immigration and customs on arrival at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia, U.S., September 24, 2017.

Over 1.2 million immigrants are stuck in the employment-based green-card queue, most of them from India. Many have lived in the US for decades, paying taxes and driving innovation, yet remain "temporary". Their children risk deportation when they turn 21. This new rule, like so many headline-chasing moves before it, does nothing for them. It doesn't shorten the wait or make the system fairer; it simply creates noise without progress, pretending to act while leaving the core problem untouched.

For India, though, this dysfunction

has become an advantage. Washington's message that foreign talent is expendable has quietly reversed a decades-old flow of brains and ambition. Talented Indians who once built their lives around the American dream are now building their futures at home.

The pandemic proved innovation no longer needs a US address. India's digital economy has reached critical mass. Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Gurgaon now offer what Silicon Valley once did — capital, mentors, talent, and global reach. Returnees and Indian-Americans

like me are founding companies in India in Artificial Intelligence (AI), clean energy, and biotechnology and venture investors are following them. Every act of exclusion from Washington speeds up this shift. When the US closes doors, the world opens them.

Supporters of the Trump fee claim it protects American jobs. It doesn't. Industries that rely on high-skill workers — from chipmaking to software — are already short of talent. Raising costs or adding red tape won't create new engineers; it just sends work abroad. The geography of innovation is changing, and this policy accelerates it.

America's success has always come from attracting the best minds, not shutting them out. Nearly half of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children. Turning that pipeline into a toll road weakens the country that once led by openness — and strengthens those that still believe in merit.

Real reform would take the opposite approach. It would increase the number of employment-based green cards and perhaps, tie them to homeownership. Every skilled immigrant who buys a home could get a faster path to residence. That single step could spark an economic boom — new homes, jobs, and tax revenue. The US should also recapture unused green-card slots, remove per-country caps, and decouple legal status from employer control so that talent can move freely. These aren't radical ideas; they'd strengthen the economy and restore fairness. But that reform never comes. True change would shift power from corporations to individuals — from those who control visas to those who hold them.

Once, America attracted the world's best by offering opportunities. Now it greets them with red tape and empty gestures. The \$100,000-fee fixed nothing, it only reminded the world that America's openness can no longer be taken for granted.

India, meanwhile, gains what America loses. Its innovators are returning with global experience, building companies that serve worldwide markets, and creating high-skill jobs at home. The country that once exported its talent is learning to keep and import it.

The Trump taco sizzled for a month

and then fell apart, like most things built for headlines. Nothing changed except the message — that in Washington, theatre has replaced thought. And in that void, India is quietly winning.



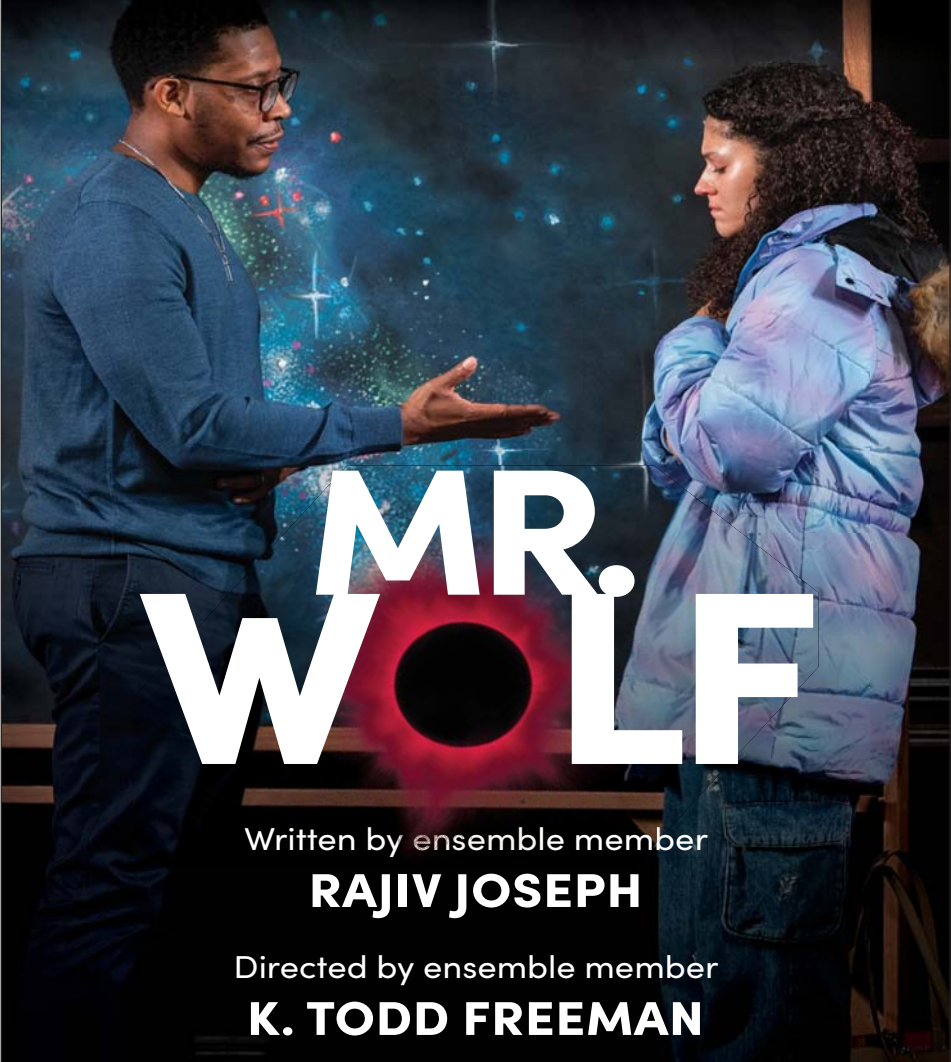
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(Vivek Wadhwa is CEO, Vionix Biosciences. The views expressed are personal)

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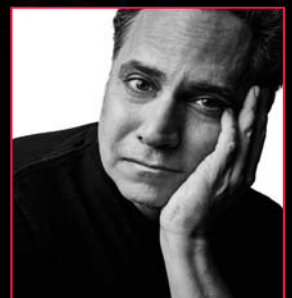


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Dr. Sudhir Parikh And 7 Other Eminent Indian Americans Inducted Into Rutgers Living History Society And The Oral History Archives

By A Staff Writer

In a solemn ceremony attended by family and friends, Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, and 7 other Indian Americans were formally inducted into the Rutgers Living History Society and Oral History Archives.

They were recognized for their lifetime accomplishments and achievements, and for a life well-lived in the service of others as well as their contributions to the American social and political fabric. The Indian American Club led by President of IAC-NJ Shatrughan Dawani, collaborated to make the project a reality.

The inductees included Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Deepak Khare, Hemant Patel, Prakash Parab, Rajesh Mehta, Satish Punj, Shobha Mirchandani, and Suresh Kumar. One of them, Satish Punj was represented by family members including his wife.

The story of each of the 8 inductees has been memorialized in a special publication, a coffee-table book, which was presented to each of them at the ceremony.

Director of the Oral History Archives, Shaun Illingworth, spent time with each of the inductees in the



Dr. Sudhir Parikh, 2nd from right, being presented the book and bouquet during the induction ceremony October 25, 2025, by the Rutgers Living History Society and Oral History Archives. On right, Shaun Illingworth, head of Oral History Society, and on left is Middlesex, NJ County Commissioner Shanti Narra.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh speaking at the October 25, 2025, induction ceremony by Rutgers Living History Society and the Oral History Archives.



The inductees speaking at the Rutgers Living History Society and Oral History Archives event Oct. 25, 2025. From left: Hemant Patel, Prakash Parab, Rajesh Mehta, Shobha Mirchandani, Suresh Kumar, Deepak Khare and Satish Punj. They were presented book, flowers and mementos for induction and recognized by Shaun Illingworth of Oral History Archives at Rutgers, Oct. 25, 2025.

months preceding this event, to personally interview each and record in their own words, their life histories. These life histories are available free to students, researchers and others for educational purposes. More than 30,000 visitors check the site on an annual basis.

At the event, each inductee was introduced by Shaun Illingworth, along with an audio recounting their lives in their own words. They all thanked Illingworth and the Indian American Club, in their speeches, as they were presented with a bouquet and the coffee table book describing their life journey in their own words.

Dr. Parikh, in his speech, recounted how as a qualified pulmonologist, allergist and immunologist, he began acquiring medical practices around the region, cold-calling those run by physicians above the age of 65. Today, he has 27 practices employing 350 doctors, nurses, practitioners and supporting staff working for him. And he has all along helped India in whatever way possible. "We all come from humble backgrounds, and I always felt a debt to the Government of India. For becoming a doctor I paid 200 Rupees a semester. It was my turn to give," he said. That spurred to work on strengthening US-India relations through organizations like the Indian American Forum for Political Education to empower the next generation to enter politics. "Today, over 300 Indian American children are at different levels (on Capitol Hill), and this makes a big difference to US-India policy." He noted how Indian



From left, Mrs. Patel, Hemant Patel, Shanti Narra, Dr. Sudha Parikh, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, at Oct. 25, 2023, induction ceremony for Rutgers Living History Society and Oral History Archives event.

Americans had influenced the founding of the India Caucus and the US-India Civil Nuclear Deal, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice that he go into the media world, to help dispel misrepresentation of India in Western media. He also dwelt on his philanthropic work

with Life Global and Project 'Life' for building 108 schools in India, and his support for leading NGOs like Ekal Vidyalaya and Akshaya Patra. "Education is the best philanthropy," he said.

Other awardees also spoke about their achievements and thanked Illingworth and IAC-NJ's Dawani, for selecting them and doing the hard work for the Rutgers archives.

Suresh Kumar thanked Illingworth, saying, "You asked some very big, probing questions that brought out a lot of my history."

Rajesh Mehta echoed the sentiment, "I want to thank Shaun for coming to my home and interviewing me and get out of me whatever I never told anyone."

Shobha Mirchandani said, "Shaun's probing questions have put my life in a little, concise, few pages. And my parents from up, they must feel very proud. ... In the world of 9-11, all the brownie points I scored with mental health were the only reason I have a green card and the citizenship today."

Hemant Patel thanked everyone including those who designed the publication recording the inductees' achievements.

Daughter and wife of Satish Punj, accepting his induction into Oral History Archives at Rutgers Oct. 25, 2025.

Satish Punj's daughter spoke of how the current generation was thriving because of all the hard work done by people like the inductees, including her own father.

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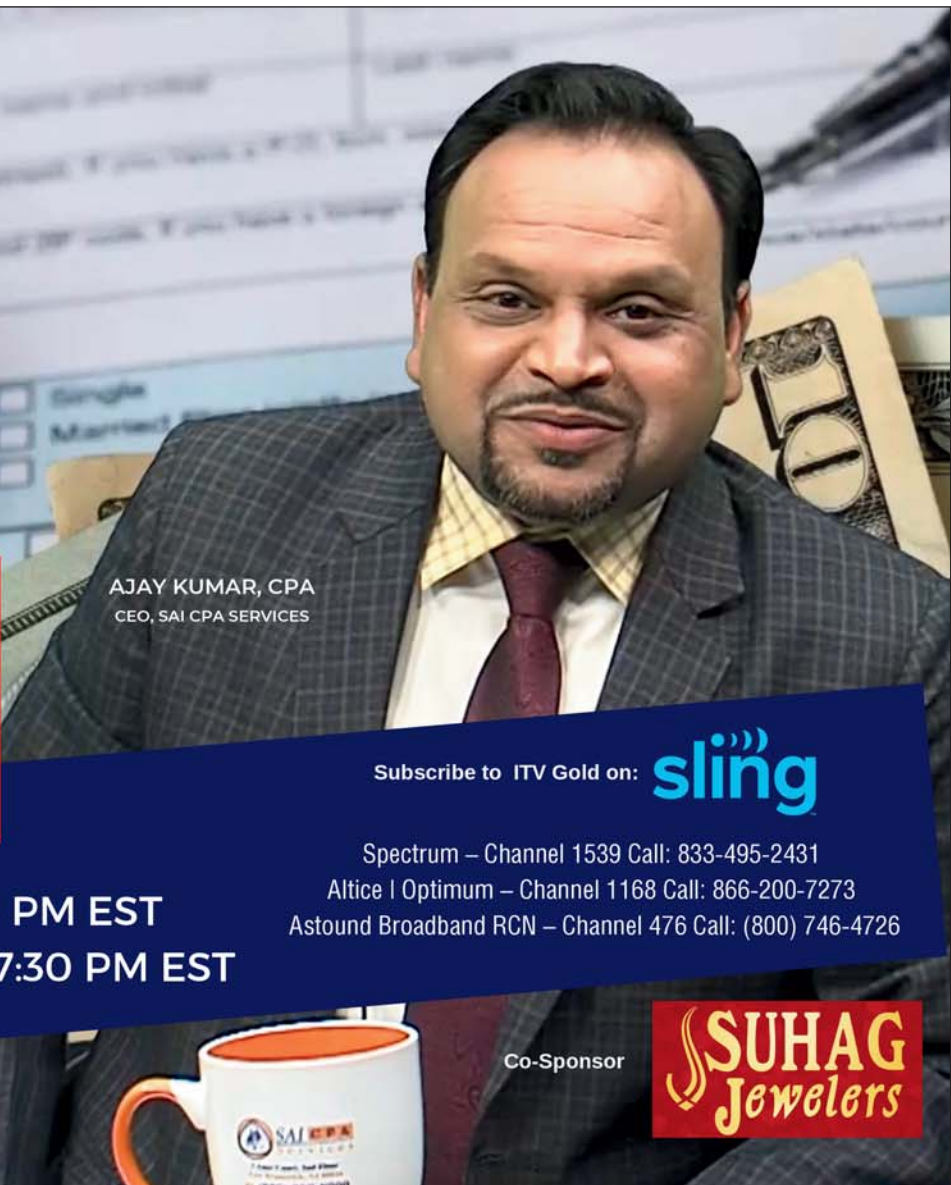


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President Trump Lights Diya At White House Diwali Celebrations, Addresses US-India Relations

FROM NEWS DISPATCHES

President Donald Trump participated in festivities at the White House on Tuesday, October 21, connecting the national recognition of the festival to broader US-India relations in his speech. He extended his warmest greetings to the people of India and Indian Americans on the occasion.

During his remarks, President Trump praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a "great person" and a "great friend," while highlighting US-India ties in trade and regional peace. He noted, "Let me extend our warmest wishes to the people of India. I just spoke to your Prime Minister today. Had a great conversation. We talked about trade... Although we did talk a little while ago about let's have no wars with Pakistan. The fact that trade was involved, I was able to talk about that. And we have no war with Pakistan and India. That was a very, very good thing." He added, "He's a great person, and he's become a great friend of mine over the years."

Highlighting the symbolic importance of Diwali, President Trump said, "In a few moments, we'll light the diya as a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness... It's knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. During Diwali, the revellers recall ancient stories of enemies defeated, obstacles removed, and captives freed." He further added that the diya's flame reminds everyone "to seek the path of wisdom and to work with diligence and to always give thanks for our many blessings."

Following his remarks, Trump lit the diyas to celebrate the festival at the White House. The event was attended by senior



President Trump lighting the diya during Diwali celebrations in the White House. Seen on left is India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

tor Patel saying, "It's an honor to be a first generation Indian American whose parents lawfully immigrated to this country. Under your leadership, so many more millions of Americans are living that dream... Indian Americans around the world are thrilled that you are such a profound leader in sharing this diversity with the world."

The CEOs present lauded Trump's policies, dwelt on public-private partnership which has encouraged innovation, and noted how their companies were creating jobs and investing in the economy. Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon, as well as Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard also made brief remarks praising Trump.

Ambassador Kwatra, on Wednesday posted on X, "Deeply honoured to join President Donald J. Trump at the White House today to celebrate Diwali. Wished him on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a Happy Diwali and thanked him for this beautiful gesture. Warm Diwali greetings to all celebrating, especially the vibrant 5-million-strong Indian diaspora in the U.S."

US Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, and Brian Fitzpatrick introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US House of Representatives to recognize the religious and historical significance of Diwali.

According to a press release from Krishnamoorthi, the resolution honors Diwali's cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to over three million Indian-Americans, including Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs. It reflects the growing recognition of the Indian diaspora's contributions to the US.

A Diwali celebration was also held on Capitol Hill where several Senators and

Presidential Message On Diwali

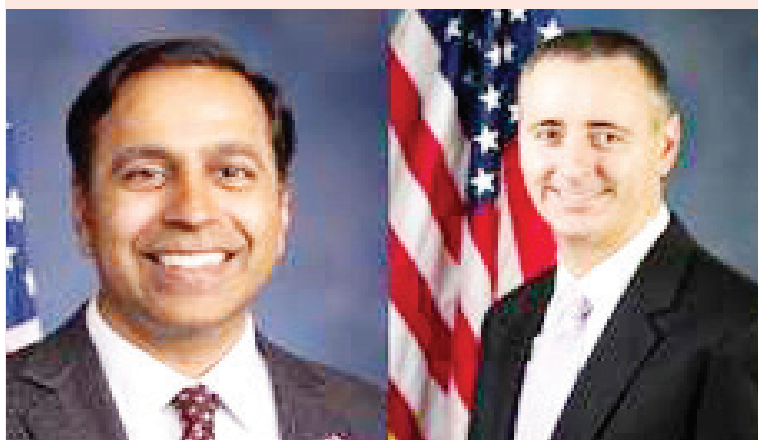
- THE WHITE HOUSE
OCTOBER 20, 2025

Today, I send my best wishes to every American celebrating Diwali—the "Festival of Lights."

For many Americans, Diwali is a timeless reminder of light's victory over darkness. It is also a time to bring families and friends together to cel-

brate community, draw strength from hope, and embrace a lasting spirit of renewal. As millions of citizens light diyas and lanterns, we rejoice in the eternal truth that good will always triumph over evil.

To every American celebrating Diwali, may this observance bring abiding serenity, prosperity, hope, and peace.



US Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Brian Fitzpatrick.



President Trump celebrated Diwali at the White House October 21, 2025, where he was joined by Indian American community leaders, business representatives, and those occupying positions in his administration.

officials from the Trump Administration, including FBI Director Kash Patel, ODNI Director Tulsi Gabbard, White House Deputy Press Secretary Kush Desai, Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra, and Ambassador of the US to

India Sergio Gor.

Among the business leaders present at the White House Diwali were IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, Palo Alto Networks

CEO Nikesh Arora, South Asian Herald reported.

Some of the guests attending the event also addressed the gathering when President Trump invited them to speak. South Asian Herald quoted FBI Direc-

Representatives attended and spoke, not only about the Festival of Lights but also on other issues troubling US-India relations, such as the H-1B visa fees, pending trade deal, and the tariffs on India.



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Indian American Scholar Charged In Classified-Records Case Denies Leaking To China

By SALVADOR RIZZO

A U.S. foreign policy adviser who is accused of keeping more than 1,000 pages of classified records in his basement has been cooperating with investigators since his arrest and was released from jail to home confinement Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Ashley J. Tellis, an expert on Indian and South Asian affairs who has worked in Washington think-tank and diplomatic circles for more than 20 years, was arrested this month after the FBI searched his Vienna, Virginia, residence and found a trove of classified records in a basement home office area. Federal prosecutors charged Tellis, 64, with one count of retaining national defense information.

A former staffer on the National Security Council during President George W. Bush's administration and senior adviser to the U.S. ambassador to India, Tellis maintained a top-secret security clearance through his roles as an adviser to the Defense and State departments. His attorneys pushed back on a Justice Department legal filing in the case that suggested

Tellis may have been leaking classified defense records to China.

Prosecutors have not charged Tellis with transmitting classified records.

"Any insinuation that Dr. Tellis has disclosed classified information – let alone to a foreign government – lacks any evidentiary basis," defense attorneys John Nassikas and Deborah Curtis said in a court filing. "Regrettably, investigators appeared to interpret his routine professional duties, such as liaison work and international travel, as clandestine activity, reading something sinister into what were standard think-tank and scholarly foreign policy engagements."

In an affidavit, an FBI agent described how Tellis had dined with Chinese officials in Northern Virginia at least four times from 2022 to last month. At the first of those meetings, according to the FBI affidavit, Tellis arrived with a manila envelope that he did not appear to have as he departed. At the most recent dinner last month, Chinese officials gave Tellis a "red gift bag," the FBI agent said.

Tellis's attorneys said the mention of the gift bag implied "that something nefarious occurred."

"But the red gift bag contained tea – a common gift in Asian cultures," the attorneys said. Tellis's wife showed the bag to the FBI during their search, and although it was initially marked as potential evidence, the agents later removed the marking and left it at the residence, Nassikas and Curtis said. Inside the manila envelope, they added, was probably a printout of an article Tellis had written, as he was known to hand those out at meetings.

"There's nothing wrong to be meeting with military attaches from China, from Pakistan, from whatever country," Nassikas said at a hearing in Alexandria, Virginia, federal court Tuesday. In foreign policy circles, it's considered "routine" to exchange modest gifts, he said.

"The sole charge against him involves the unlawful retention of national defense information – not its dissemination," the attorneys wrote. "There is no allegation, let alone evidence, that Dr. Tellis ever shared, attempted to share, or intended to share national defense information with unauthorized individuals."

A federal magistrate judge granted a joint request from prosecutors and Tellis's attorneys for home confinement pending

trial. Tellis had been in jail since his arrest Oct. 11.

"For those entrusted with our country's most sensitive information, protecting it is a privilege and solemn responsibility," Sue J. Bai, a top prosecutor in the Justice Department's National Security Division, said in a statement Tuesday. "With the hard work and dedication of our prosecutors and agents, we will hold this defendant accountable for breaching that trust and exploiting his security clearance to unlawfully retain classified information detailing our military capabilities."

Tellis will be meeting for the first time with prosecutors and FBI officials on Nov. 4 to discuss "possible resolutions of the case, including any potential resolution prior to indictment," according to court records. U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema agreed to extend to two months the usual one-month deadline to obtain an indictment after an arrest as negotiations continue, according to a court order.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Kamala Harris Says She May Run For President Again

By NAFTALI BENDAVID

Former vice president Kamala D. Harris said in an interview that she "possibly" will run for president, adding an early twist to what is already likely to be a hard-fought and complicated race for the 2028 Democratic presidential nomination.

Speaking to the BBC for a segment that will air Sunday, Harris said she has not yet decided whether to seek the White House for a third time.

But when she was asked if her nieces would see a woman president, Harris said, "In their lifetime, for sure," and then asked if it might be her, she added, "Possibly."

"I am not done," Harris said in the interview, part of a tour she is conducting in conjunction with the publication of her book, "107 Days," about her lightning-fast campaign for the presidency last year after President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign.

"I have lived my entire career a life of service, and it's in my bones ... There are many ways to serve. I have not decided yet what I will do in the future beyond what I am doing right now."

Harris appeared to bristle when the interviewer, BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, suggested that Harris has not performed well in early polls for the 2028 Democratic primary race.

"I think there are all kinds of polls that will tell you a variety of things," the former vice president said. "I never listen to polls. If I had listened to polls, I never would have run for my first office or my second office, and I certainly wouldn't be sitting here in this interview."

While many Democrats insist they will not focus on the 2028 race until after next year's congressional elections, party leaders are privately engaged in intense conversations over what kind of image and message

they should present to voters after last year's devastating second loss to Donald Trump.

Among those considered potential candidates are several prominent governors, including California's Gavin Newsom, Illinois' JB Pritzker, Pennsylvania's Josh Shapiro, Maryland's Wes Moore and Kentucky's Andy Beshear. Other figures – including former Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, former Transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Rep. Ro Khanna of California – are also said to be considering running.

The race promises to be a fight between a variety of figures with vastly different ideas on how the Democratic Party can recover from the Trump era. It will feature an unusually blunt debate over what the party should be in the years to come, given the broad rejection of the Democrats by large majorities of rural voters and those without college degrees. In the meantime, the party has been slow to complete a thorough autopsy of what went wrong in 2024.

Against that backdrop, Harris presents a complex figure for Democrats. She is appreciated by many in the party as the first woman to serve as vice president, and the first Black and Asian American person to fill that role.

When Biden abruptly ended his reelection effort in July of last year, Harris picked up the mantle and ran what many Democrats believe was an impressive campaign under very difficult circumstances.

Many in the party are eager to look forward and shed any ties with the Biden era, and Harris is a reminder of a presidency that ended with voters deeply concerned about Biden's age and abilities. Harris's book is in part an effort to deal with that reality.

The former vice president wrote that it was "recklessness" to leave Biden to decide, along with first lady Jill Biden, whether he should have sought reelection at age 80.

She acknowledged that she "perhaps" should have weighed in, but she said she worried it would have looked "incredibly self-serving" and disloyal for her to do.

"The stakes were simply too high," Harris wrote in her book. "This wasn't a choice that should have been left to an individual's ego, an individual's ambition. It should have been more than a personal decision."

Harris's 2020 campaign for president was a notable failure, as she was forced to withdraw early in the primary season, only to be chosen as Biden's running mate once he won the nomination.

Her loss last year was traumatic for many Democrats, who viewed Trump as an existential threat to American democracy. The Democratic National Committee this year has been paying down millions in debt that the Harris campaign amassed during her run.

Although Harris says she has yet to make a decision about a 2028 run, she has taken steps that make such a candidacy possible.

In July, she said that she would not run for governor of California, passing up a race where she would have had a strong chance of victory and pointedly leaving open the door for a White House run.

"I look forward to getting back out and listening to the American people, helping elect Democrats across the nation who will fight fearlessly, and sharing more details in the months ahead about my own plans," she said at the time.

Harris's book has given her the opportunity to not only to clarify her role in Biden's initial decision to seek reelection, but also to take shots at potential 2028 rivals, including Shapiro and Buttigieg, both of whom she considered as potential running mates last year before settling on Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

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Muslims 4Jack Hosts Community Dinner For NJ Gubernatorial Candidate Jack Ciattarelli

BY A STAFF WRITER

A large number of supporters from the Muslim community gathered in support of New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidate Jack Ciattarelli, Saturday, October 18, 2025, at The Bhutta House in Piscataway, NJ. Among the leading organizers of the event was New Jersey-Muslim Relations Executive Director Dr. Ibrar Nadeem.

The Muslims 4Jack Meet & Greet was held to honor the values of faith, family, and freedom that unite the group and Ciattarelli's dedication to defending family values, protecting religious liberty, and serving the community with justice and integrity, a program flyer from the organizers said.

Ciattarelli was warmly welcomed by the crowd, each of them shaking his hand or hugging him. "No community has welcomed me as you have," Ciattarelli said in his speech.

The meeting was addressed by a number of Muslim leaders among them Marlboro Township Councilman Juned Qazi, Anjan Karnati, candidate for Middlesex County Commission, and a number of leaders who were introduced by Dr. Nadeem and brought to the stage for a photo-opportunity with Ciattarelli.

Qazi said Ciattarelli was "for the whole community," and had visited various places of worship including a Hindu



Candidate for New Jersey Governor Jack Ciattarelli speaking at the Muslims 4 Jack meet and greet event October 18, 2025, at The Bhutta House in Piscataway, NJ.



Ciattarelli was presented a special hat at the meet-and-greet event October 18, 2025, in Piscataway, NJ, hosted by members of the Muslim community.

temple, a Jewish synagogue etc. "He is going to win New Jersey – 200 percent he will be our governor. He has the dedication, the energy." He urged those present to promise to bring 10 people to the polls to vote come November. "We want to see our own man as the governor."

Karnati said, "Nobody else can fix New Jersey.... New Jersey is broken. He (Ciattarelli) can fix taxes, safety, and our electricity bills."

Dr. Nadeem spoke of his experience of achieving the American Dream after he immigrated from Pakistan. "We are proud of our religion. I'm going to ask him (Ciattarelli) tonight in front of my

people – We want you to fix our schools," He said the community was sending children to Islamic schools because public schools were not meeting their needs. He also emphasized, "We want a seat at the table. We want to be in those rooms where all the decisions are made." He went on to say "We are not for same-sex marriage." He also said his other ask of Candidate Ciattarelli, "We want safe communities."

In his speech, Ciattarelli recounted his meeting with Dr. Nadeem 8 months ago, where the Muslim leader told him, "I am going to help you be the next Governor of New Jersey."

Ciattarelli was presented a special hat

at the meet-and-greet event October 18, 2025, in Piscataway, NJ, hosted by members of the Muslim community

Speaking about the diversity of New Jersey, Ciattarelli said the 350,000 strong Muslim community in the state has made New Jersey "culturally and economically strong," and that the values of the Muslim community were aligned with Republican values. He encouraged Muslims to participate more in the political process.

He gave an account of his own parents who were immigrants and worked hard to prosper and bring up their four children. They taught him about commitment and opportunity, he said.

Anuj Dixit Raises More Than \$430,000 Since Entering Race For Congress From California

BY A STAFF WRITER

Voting rights attorney and Democratic candidate for Congress, Anuj Dixit recently announced that he has raised more than \$430,000 since entering the 2026 race for Congress from California's 48th District in May. (anujdixitforcongress.com)

"I'm honored to have the support of so many Southern Californians who are ready for a new generation of leaders in Congress who can take on the affordability crisis head on," Dixit said in a press release October 15. "I got into this race to bring down everyday costs and to protect quality affordable health care, so families like the one I grew up in have a fair shot to get ahead. MAGA Republicans have turned their backs on Riverside and San Diego Counties, and it's time we had a leader in Washington who will fight for families instead of wealthy insiders."

In August, Dixit announced that when Prop 50 redistricting passes, he intends to run in California's 48th Congressional district challenging MAGA Republican Congressman Darrell Issa.

Since launching his campaign, the young Indian



Anuj Dixit, candidate for the 2026 elections to the US Congress from District 48 in California.

American has received endorsements from Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Congressman Dave Min, and ASPIRE PAC, the political arm of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Dixit grew up on March Air Force Base in Riverside County. His father is a six-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. As a lawyer, Dixit defended the voting rights of working and middle-class Americans who he says, "had them unfairly ripped away by extreme, and illegal, forms of gerrymandering."

On his website, Dixit's biography reveals the tragedy that happened in his family. He lost his grandparents, aunt, and cousins in the Pan Am 103 (Lockerbie) bombing. He came of age during the 9/11 disaster.

According to him, the American Dream that he grew up believing in, is today not as much of a reality. "...for too many working and middle-class families here in the Inland Empire, that dream has slipped further and further out of reach."

In court, Dixit has represented the Democratic National Committee, the AME Church and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, etc. In Congress, he has represented universities, civil rights organizations and individuals, the biography says.

Apart from his professional work, Dixit also helps run his family's health clinic.

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: This week brings favourable outcomes for Aries in health and finances. Invest wisely to make the most of opportunities. Adding nutrient-rich foods and supplements can boost your well-being. Career prospects look bright, with chances of a raise or fresh offers. Romance may vary, but some could move toward engagement. Travel plans may face hurdles, so it's better to stay focused on family matters. Spending time with children or elders will be rewarding. Property possession may come earlier than expected, while academic focus ensures improved results.

TAURUS: Taurus natives may enjoy financial security this week, with salary hikes or promotions likely. Celebrations within the family bring joy and togetherness. Though finances remain favourable, health demands attention—adopt healthier habits to stay fit. On the romantic side, couples may need to improve communication for harmony. Students aiming for top universities must work on raising their scores. Property matters may see progress, while adventurous souls could explore new cuisines and cultures through travel.

GEMINI: This week brings promising opportunities for Gemini natives. Fresh graduates may find excellent job openings. Focus on fitness through exercise, yoga, and balanced meals. The romantic front is set to blossom, with proposals for some. Family life shines with joyful get-togethers, helping ease conflicts. Be mindful with money, as new property investments could involve risks. Domestic or spiritual trips bring satisfaction and peace. Students may receive scholarships, while socially, the week offers plenty of engaging interactions.

CANCER: Cancer natives can expect growth and positivity this week. Smart investments in shares or assets can strengthen wealth. Health receives a boost through expert guidance. Love grows stronger with mutual trust and affection. Home life feels harmonious, and leadership opportunities may come your way. Work prospects look encouraging, with chances of promotions. Property dealings could bring good profits. However, travel plans may not be favourable right now, so postponing them is wiser.

LEO: Leos may enjoy good health this week by embracing yoga, fitness, and balanced meals. Domestic happiness grows, and reunions bring cheer. Romantic life may see consistency but also face occasional challenges. Professional growth might slow due to heavy workloads and delayed recognition. On the brighter side, opportunities in property, relocation, or home renovation may arise. Travel plans could finally come true, while academic progress remains strong with scholarship chances for some.

VIRGO: Virgos are likely to reap rewards for consistent efforts this week. Professional recognition from superiors boosts confidence. Health remains stable, allowing you to stay active. Romance could be fulfilling, with surprises from your partner. Financially, smart stock investments may prove fruitful. Family matters could feel strained due to disagreements or visiting relatives. Balancing personal and work life becomes essential. Budget-friendly travel with a group may help you unwind and create happy memories.

LIBRA: Libras can expect lively family moments this week, making home the centre of joy. Financial progress may come through wise plans and successful investments. Romance may flourish, with date nights bringing cherished memories. Stress management and fitness routines enhance health. Work life looks bright. Promising property deals could be discovered, while students may achieve progress in academics. Unplanned trips might create stress, so strive to balance commitments and personal time.

SCORPIO: Scorpios may witness financial growth through smart investments. Career prospects appear stronger with timely completion of tasks. Even if health needs attention, regular exercise and relaxation can keep things balanced. Family bonds strengthen, with reunions or visits from distant relatives adding warmth. Romance, however, may face ups and downs due to misunderstandings. Property goals could be within reach with proper planning. Academics show progress, and a short leisure trip may refresh the mind.

SAGITTARIUS: Sagittarians may strike a balance between energy and composure this week. Professional achievements look promising, and a favourable transfer may come through. Family gatherings and visits create happiness at home. Romance shines, with blessings for marriage or deeper commitments. Financial dealings like borrowing or investing may not be wise right now. Adventure lovers may find joy in forest trails or trekking. Property purchases become easier with good loan options. Overall progress seems steady.

CAPRICORN: Career advancement and growth this week. A promotion could improve finances and family life. Money management ensures stability, but responsibilities of caring for elders may weigh on you. Emotional challenges in love may arise due to unreciprocated feelings. Still, health remains positive and allows you to handle tasks smoothly. Renovations may materialize, while travel offers fresh perspectives. Students can benefit by learning stress management techniques for focus.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius natives may enjoy overall stability this week. Excellent health supports progress in all areas of life. Career growth looks favourable. Finances remain steady, though caution is advised. Romance may thrive with date nights or trips, while family disputes may require careful mediation. Be a guiding influence for younger family members. Property-related ventures, could succeed. Prioritizing wellness pays off.

PISCES: This week is a blend of positives and challenges. Romance remains fulfilling, and family brings peace. Finances look strong. Healthy routines ensure well-being. Professionally, delays and pressures could frustrate some. Long-awaited travel may finally happen. Property possession may arrive sooner than expected. Academics may need extra focus. The week encourages finding balance between work and personal happiness.

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Krishnamoorthi Responds After Florida Politician Calls Congressman A “Foreign Occupier”

STATEMENT FROM OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

After Florida politician Chandler Langevin—who recently called for the mass deportation of Indian Americans—attacked Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's name and heritage, calling him a “foreign occupier” in response to the Congressman's earlier condemnation of his racist comments, Congressman Krishnamoorthi issued the following statement:

“It's telling that rather than apologizing for calling for the mass deportation of Indian Americans, Mr. Langevin chose to double down with racist mockery. I was born in India, raised in Peoria, and elected by the people of Illinois—there's nothing ‘foreign’ about standing up for my fellow Americans. Hate may be loud, but it will never drown out the values of decency and democracy that unite us.”

PHOTO: X @CONGRESSMANRAJA

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi @CongressmanR... · Oct 22 ...
.@ChandlerForPB, you can just call me Raja. I guess we can just call you... racist

Chandler Langevin @ChandlerForPB · Oct 19
@DHSgov I would like to report a foreign occupier.

Name: Unpronounceable

Country of origin: Tatooine



Home / Media / Press Releases

**Krishnamoorthi
Denounces
Anti-Indian
Hate Speech by**

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi condemned recent remarks by Palm Bay, Florida, City Council Member Chandler Langevin calling for the mass removal of Indian immigrants:

“It's unacceptable—and dangerous—that in 2025 we're hearing elected officials call for the mass removal of Indian Americans. This rhetoric echoes the cruelty of Donald Trump's mass ICE raids and fuels a climate of fear that harms families across our nation.

When hate speech is normalized and communities are scapegoated.

Racist post by Florida politician Chandler Langevin on Twitter, reposted by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois.

Man Accused Of Stabbing Two Teens With Metal Fork During Flight

By KELLY KASULIS CHO

A man allegedly stabbed two teenagers with a metal fork and attempted to slap a crew member aboard a Lufthansa flight from Chicago to Germany over the weekend, causing the plane to divert to Boston, authorities said Monday.

A short way into Saturday's flight, just after the meal service, one of the victims, a 17-year-old boy, awoke to find the accused, Praneeth Kumar Usiripalli, 28, standing over him in the middle seat, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts said in a news release.

The Indian national allegedly stabbed the boy in the left collar bone area with a metal fork before stabbing a second boy, also 17, who was seated beside him in a center row, in the back of the head with the fork, causing a laceration.

The victims have not been publicly identified.

As flight crew members attempted to subdue Usiripalli, authorities say he formed an imaginary gun with his fingers and gestured that he was shooting himself in the mouth. The man then slapped a female passenger to his left and attempted to slap a flight crew member, charging documents state.

The plane, which took off from Chicago O'Hare International Airport at approximately 4:26 p.m. Saturday bound for Frankfurt, was in the air for about two hours before it landed early due to the incident, according to FlightAware. Usiripalli was taken into custody at Boston Logan International Airport, authorities said.

Usiripalli was charged with one count of assault with a dangerous weapon with the intent to do bodily harm. He faces up to 10 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a maximum fine of \$250,000, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

“Usiripalli presently does not have lawful status in the United States,” the U.S. attorney's office said, adding that he had previously been admitted to the country on a student visa and was recently enrolled in a master's program for biblical studies.

The Massachusetts State Police, Lufthansa Airlines and the Transportation Security Administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Federal Aviation Administration has warned that airlines have seen “rapid growth” in unruly passenger incidents in recent years. It defines such incidents as those “where airline passengers have disrupted flights with threatening or violent behavior.” The FAA has documented at least 1,205 unruly incidents so far this year.

Earlier this year, a 35-year-old Massachusetts man was sentenced to time served and five years of supervised release after spending 26 months in prison for attempting to stab a flight attendant in the neck with a broken metal spoon aboard a United Airlines flight from Boston to Los Angeles in March 2023.

Last year, a man aboard an Alaska Airlines flight from Seattle to Las Vegas was arrested after authorities said he stabbed a fellow passenger with an improvised weapon made of several pens bound together by rubber bands.

FIA Chicago Honors Iron Man Of India: Unity Walk Marks 150th Birth Anniversary Of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel



The event was attended by a distinguished group of FIA Trustees and community leaders, including: Kantibhai N. Patel, Dr. Rashmi Patel, Rakesh Malhotra, Hina Trivedi, Executives Amar Upadhyay, Joy (Dipen) Shah, Anil Singh, Arvind Ankleshwaria, and leaders Haribhai Patel, Sanjay Vora, Manish Patel, Hashmukh Patel, Vandana Jhingan, Anurag Awasthi, Dipti Desai, Ravi Narumanchi, Phani Krishna, Harish Patel, Bhavesh (Bob) Patel, Harish Topiwala, Bhanubhai Vyas, Smitesh Shah, Harshad Shah, Prakash Anturkar, Gokul Shah, and many others.

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

Braving a crisp 50°F (10°C) morning, over 60 members of the Indian-American community gathered along the

Walking Lake at 950 West Shabbat Road October 25, 2025, to participate in a Unity Walk organized by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) (Chicago).

The event was part of global celebrations marking the 150th birth

anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Iron Man, who many consider, shaped the destiny of modern India. Participants waved the

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson & Indian American Business Council Host Diwali Celebration At City Hall

BY A STAFF WRITER

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson hosted Diwali celebrations October 20, 2025, at Chicago City Hall in partnership with the Indian American Business Council,

The festivities opened with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, with Ajeet Singh, president of the Indian American Business Council, leading the rite, joined by Mayor Johnson, Consul General of India Somnath Ghosh, City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Irvin, Alderwoman Shweta Baid of Aurora, Alderman David Moore; and community leaders Neil Khot, Sunil Shah, Harish Kolasani, Ganesh Kar, Harry Mohan, and Keerthi Ravoori.

Music and interactive dance, guided by Ajanta Chakraborty and her team, was performed on stage, a press release from Asian Media USA said. Ajanta Chakraborty emceed the event

"As long as I'm mayor, we will always host the Diwali celebration at City Hall," Mayor Johnson is quoted saying at the event. He praised Chicago's diversity as a global strength and lauded Indian Americans' contributions to its essence. "Now more than ever, we require peace and joy," to establish Chicago as a beacon of inclusion, prosperity, and dignity, he said.

Mayor Johnson received dandiya sticks and participated in the lively dance



Mayor Brandon Johnson and India's Consul General Somnath Ghosh, as well as Indian American Business Council representatives conducting the lamp-lighting ceremony Oct. 20, 2025, at City Hall, Chicago.

accompanied by Consul General Ghosh and other dignitaries.

City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Irvin offered Diwali greetings, declaring, "Diversity is our strength—our superpower." Addressing the children, she noted, "You embody the world's goodness." She acknowledged Consul General Ghosh and Ajeet Singh, concluding, "This builds bridges: today yours, tomorrow mine."

Consul General Ghosh wished every-

one a Happy Diwali, and thanked officials and organizers. "Diwali's smallest flame dispels the deepest darkness, delivering peace to turmoil, prosperity to want, and love to hatred." He urged a return to inner light, reflecting Chicago's collective humanity.

Ajeet Singh's welcome address thanked Mayor Johnson for leading four consecutive Diwali events at City Hall, each surpassing the last in excellence. The

"Indian American community is forever indebted for your generosity in hosting Diwali festivities," he said.

Keerthi Kumar Ravoori, chair of the Indian American Business Council, closed by thanking the mayor for utilizing City Hall's quadrangle for the reception and thanked the Mayor and Consul General of India for exemplifying the spirit of Diwali.



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson poses for a picture with the young performers and their teacher Ajanta Chakraborty, at the October 20, 2025, Diwali celebrations at City Hall.

FIA Chicago Honors Iron Man Of India: Unity Walk Marks 150th Birth Anniversary Of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

tricolor, walked in solidarity, and shared stories of the leader who transformed a divided subcontinent into a united republic.

The Unity Walk began with the American and Indian national anthems, symbolizing the shared democratic ideals of freedom and equality between India and the United States.

FIA President Hemant Patel welcomed the attendees and reflected on Sardar Patel's impact on India's unity.

Born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat, Sardar Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel rose from a modest background to become one of India's greatest nation-builders. Trained as a barrister in London, Patel returned to India to serve his people and soon became a key figure in India's freedom struggle, deeply inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of truth and non-violence.

Patel's leadership during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, where he led farmers in a successful protest against unjust British taxes, earned him the affectionate title "Sardar," meaning "Leader."

After India's independence in 1947, he became India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister,

and was critical to the building of a unified country out of 565 princely states. He is also credited with the foresight to establish the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS).

Sardar Patel passed away on December 15, 1950, but his vision of national unity endures. The Statue of Unity in Gujarat — the tallest statue in the world at 597 feet is a global symbol of his courage and patriotism.

"Without Sardar Patel, there would be no united India," said FIA Chicago President Hemant Patel said. "Today, we honor not just his legacy but his message — that true strength lies in unity, courage, and service to the nation."

Hemant Patel also reminded participants that Sardar Patel had received the highest number of votes to become India's first Prime Minister, highlighting his immense popularity and respect among India's freedom fighters.

FIA Executive Amar Upadhyay paid tribute to Sardar Patel's decisive role in integrating Hyderabad and Junagadh, ensuring India's complete territorial unity.

"He didn't just unite states — he united hearts," said Upadhyay. "Sardar Patel's legacy is not confined to history books; it lives in the idea of India itself."

Community leaders Hari Patel, Dr. Rashmi Patel, and

Sanjay Vora proposed building a Statue of Unity replica in Chicagoland, as a lasting symbol of Patel's ideals for future generations of Indian Americans.

A particularly emotional moment came when 89-year-old FIA Trustee Kanti N. Patel shared firsthand memories of how Sardar Patel's leadership inspired rural communities to resist British oppression and reclaim their dignity, his voice trembling with emotion.

The one-mile Unity Walk saw participation across generations. 9-year-old Aarav Ankleshwaria, walking beside Kanti Patel (age 89). Both, along with Kalpana Shah, were honored with Unity Walk medals as a token of appreciation.

The crowd echoed chants of "Long Live Sardar Patel!" and "Jai Hind!" as tricolor flags of India fluttered in the breeze. As the Unity Walk concluded, the participants stood together for a moment of silence — honoring Sardar Patel's contribution to India's unity and reaffirming their commitment to uphold his ideals.

"If one man, without technology or political power, could unite an entire subcontinent," said Hemant Patel, "Then together, we — as the Indian diaspora — can unite hearts across the world."

Navigating the November 2025 Visa Bulletin: Stability with Slight Family-Based Movement

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

The November 2025 Visa Bulletin brings another month of largely stable Employment-Based categories and slight movement in some Family-Based preferences. With limited visa number availability early in FY 2026, the Department of State maintains consistency to manage demand, while the EB-4 Religious Worker program remains “Unavailable.” Here’s what you need to know.

Employment-Based Preferences: Final Action Dates

EB-1: Priority Workers

- India: Still at February 15, 2022
- China: Still at December 22, 2022
- All Others: Current

EB-2: Advanced Degree / Exceptional Ability

- India: Still at April 1, 2013
- China: Still at April 1, 2021
- All Others: Still at December 1, 2023

EB-3: Skilled Workers & Professionals

- India: Still at August 22, 2013
- China: Still at March 1, 2021
- All Others: Still at April 1, 2023

EB-3 Other Workers

- India: Still at August 22, 2013
- China: Still at December 1, 2017
- All Others: Still at July 15, 2021

EB-4 & Religious Workers

- All Countries: EB-4 remains at July 1, 2020
- Religious Workers: Still “Unavailable”

EB-5: Unreserved

- India: Still at February 1, 2021
- China: Still at December 8, 2015
- All Others: Current

EB-5 Set-Asides (Rural, High Unemployment, Infrastructure)

- All Chargeability Areas: Current

Family-Based Preferences: Final Action Dates

F1 (Unmarried Sons/Daughters of U.S. Citizens)

- India/China/Other Countries: Still at November 8, 2016
- Mexico: Still at November 22, 2005
- Philippines: Still at January 22, 2013

F2A (Spouses/Children of LPRs)

- All Countries: Still at February 1, 2024
- Mexico (exempt): Still at February 1, 2023

F2B (Unmarried Sons/Daughters of LPRs)

- India/China/Other Countries: Advances slightly to December 1, 2016 (from November 22, 2016)
- Mexico: Still at December 15, 2007
- Philippines: Still at October 1, 2012

F3 (Married Sons/Daughters of U.S. Citizens)

- All Countries: Still at September 8, 2011
- Mexico: Advances slightly to May 1, 2001 (from April 15, 2001)
- Philippines: Still at September 22, 2004

F4 (Siblings of U.S. Citizens)

- India: Still at November 1, 2006
- Mexico: Still at April 8, 2001
- Philippines: Still at March 22, 2006
- Others: Still at January 8, 2008

By David H. Nachman, Esq

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All Photos: Canva

Key Takeaways

- The Employment-Based categories remain unchanged, reflecting ongoing efforts to stabilize FY 2026 allocations.
- EB-4 Religious Worker category remains unavailable; congressional reauthorization is still pending.
- Minor advances in the F2B and F3 Mexico categories indicate small adjustments based on demand.
- No retrogressions reported this month – good news for applicants in most categories.
- Expect more movement in early 2026 as demand data becomes clearer.

FAQ: November 2025 Visa Bulletin

Q1: Why is the November Visa Bulletin mostly unchanged?

The Department of State is managing demand early in FY 2026 to avoid rapid retrogressions later in the fiscal year.

Q2: What does it mean that the Religious Worker category is “Unavailable”?

This means that no visas can be issued in this category unless Congress renews the program. If extended, it will reopen immediately using the same EB-4 cutoff date.

Q3: Is it normal to see little movement right after a new fiscal year starts?

Yes. Early in a fiscal year, visa usage is assessed cautiously, and adjustments typically occur between December and March.

Q4: Should applicants in F2A or EB-2 act now?

Yes. Since those categories remain relatively favorable, eligible applicants should file as soon as their priority date is current.

Need Strategic Help? Visa cutoffs can shift without warning. For individualized legal guidance, contact NPZ Law Group at info@visaserve.com or call 551-400-6461, ext. 104. Stay informed at www.visaserve.com

BAPS Mandir's Festival Of Lights Illuminates Bartlett, Illinois

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett, Illinois celebrated Diwali October 21, 2025, weaving together the threads of faith, tradition, and unity.

Weeks before the event, volunteers of all ages came together to prepare the Mandir and its surroundings. The temple grounds were decorated with intricate rangoli designs, and displays of glowing diyas.

Devotees and guests admire the Annakut — a mountain of vegetarian offerings — during Diwali celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett, Illinois.

A highlight of the celebration was the grand Annakut, or “mountain of food,” consisting of hundreds of vegetarian dishes lovingly prepared by devotees. These offerings, arranged beautifully before the Deities, symbolized gratitude, abundance, and devotion, while reflecting the community’s dedication and collective spirit.

It was a celebration for all ages. Along with sacred rituals, there were interactive exhibits, cultural displays, fireworks, and



The Mandir illuminated with hundreds of diyas representing the triumph of light over darkness.



Candles were lit everywhere giving a wonderland atmosphere.



Devotees and guests admire the Annakut — a mountain of vegetarian offerings — during Diwali celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett, Illinois.

educational programs designed to share the meaning and values of Diwali.

“I was so honored to visit BAPS Chicago for this year’s Diwali celebration,” shared Meghan Paulas of the American Constitution Society (ACS). “My fourth-grade son joined me and was amazed by the rangoli! The unity theme deeply resonated with us, and we’re inspired to carry that lesson forward at work and at home.”

From India, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj shared his Diwali bless-

ings, urging all to let the light of unity illuminate their hearts and communities.

Candles and diyas shimmered throughout the temple complex.

BAPS mandirs across North America and the world hosted similar Diwali and Annakut celebrations, bringing together people from all walks of life to honor timeless traditions. The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett continues to be a place where individuals and families

gather to celebrate heritage, strengthen values, and build bridges of understanding.

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (B.A.P.S) is a worldwide Hindu spiritual and volunteer-driven organization dedicated to fostering individual growth through faith, service, and harmony. There are more than 120 mandirs in North America and 5,000 centers globally

Community Organization, Indian Seniors Of Chicago, Holds Annual Diwali Festival



An estimated 500 members and guests of Indian Seniors of Chicago attended the Annual Diwali Festival hosted by the organization October 11, 2025, in Bensenville, Ill.



The lamp lighting, Deep Pragatya, ceremony, seen from left – Kantibhai Patel, Ashwinbhai Patel, Dilip Patel, Haribhai Patel, Rajendra Chauhan, Dr. Narsinghbhai Patel, Dahyabhai Prajapati, Chhotalal Patel, Bhailal Patel.

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The spirit of Diwali illuminated Manav Seva Mandir in Bensenville, as the Indian Seniors of Chicago, ISC, celebrated its Annual Diwali Festival which attracted 500 members and guests, to enjoy music, dance, and community networking.

The event began with the traditional Deep Pragatya (lamp lighting ceremony), symbolizing the victory of light over darkness. Chief guests Chhotalal Patel, Dahya Prajapati, Hari Patel, Bhailal Patel, Rajendra Chauhan, joined President Dilip Patel and Narsingh Patel in performing the auspicious ritual.

Treasurer Hemant Modi, in his welcome address, an-

nounced that next year’s Diwali celebration will coincide with the organization’s Jubilee Year, marking a major milestone for the group. President Dilip Patel greeted guests with floral bouquets and expressed appreciation for the continued unity and dedication among senior members.

Chhotalal Patel, in his keynote address, emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle through exercise, hydration, balanced nutrition, and positive thinking, drawing applause from attendees.

The lively program was conducted by Secretary Navin Patel and Daksha Parikh. The stage came alive with a devotional Shankar Stuti, followed by a graceful dance to “Satyam Shivam Sundaram” performed by Panna Shah and Jayshree Seth.

A talent show followed, featuring karaoke songs by Jayanti Oza, Hemant Modi, Pushpa Parekh, Daksha Parikh, Ashwin Thakkar, Jashwant Seth, and Arvind Kotke. The audience cheered as performers showed their creativity and confidence.

Performers were felicitated by President Dilip Patel and Vice President Kanti Patel, recognizing their dedication and artistry.

The musical finale featured popular singer Rajesh Chalam, who performed Hindi melodies that had everyone tapping their feet and singing along.

The Indian Seniors of Chicago is seen as a pillar of the Chicagoland Indian community. It aims to uphold traditions and foster connections among seniors through cultural, social, and wellness activities.

The Washington Post

8 city parks in the U.S. worthy of a trip

By Hannah Sampson

Some travelers make a quest of visiting all 63 of America's national parks, and we love that for them. But the National Park Service does not have a monopoly on green space in the United States. Some of our most epic parks are nestled into the heart of American cities. All of the majesty of nature - without the schlep. More urban parks have sprouted up as city leaders try to attract new residents and businesses, building on old infrastructure or industrial sites. Catherine Nagel, executive director of City Parks Alliance, points to projects in Miami, Detroit, Philadelphia, Houston and Atlanta as part of "this incredible wave of park-making or park restoration" in the past 50 years. "I think these parks provide ... a way to get to know a city in a very special way and the history and the people who made that city what it is," Nagel said.

New York's Central Park? Of course, amazing, highly recommend. Here are eight other city parks - old and new - that are worth considering, too.

South Pointe Park, Miami Beach

South Beach is famous for its party scene, but this 19-acre park tucked into the southernmost part of Miami Beach is a haven away from the revelry.

Local residents jog, bike and inline skate along a waterfront promenade with stunning views of downtown Miami, pricey Fisher Island and - at certain times - cruise ships on their way out to sea.

The vistas make for glorious sunsets.

Long swaths of palm-tree-dotted grass provide the perfect place for playing tag, while elevated paths and a beach dune restoration area create zones for calm reflection.

Kids can cool off in a splash pad or right in the Atlantic Ocean.

A 450-foot pier lets you venture out past the shoreline for fishing or staring out to sea.

Don't miss: Take a short walk to grab an A-plus picnic lunch from the take-out side of local institution Joe's Stone Crab, featuring the best deal in town: half a fried chicken for \$8.95.

Lincoln Park, Chicago

At 1,214 acres, this is Chicago's largest park, with 7.5 miles of lakefront trails, nature and history museums, a conservatory and the Lincoln Park Zoo. "I used to live nearby, and I would just go jogging through the zoo and watch the seals play while I was on a run," said Jessica Mlinaric, a travel writer and author of two books about Chicago. The Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool reopened recently after renovations and will close for the season Nov. 8; Mlinaric describes it as "a little oasis in the city."

Don't miss: Check out the Peoples Gas Education Pavilion, a honeycomb-like landmark at the Nature Boardwalk, for gorgeously framed views and (probably) local couples taking engagement photos.

Forest Park, St. Louis

The 1,300-acre park is home to cultural landmarks including the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Saint Louis Science Center, the Missouri History Museum, the Saint Louis Zoo and The Muny, an outdoor theater. The park served as the site of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, with one permanent structure - now the art museum - remaining. The Grand Basin, which served as the centerpiece for the fair, has since been restored. "It's a beautiful body of water that sits right at the base of the art museum, which itself is a beautiful building," said John O'Gorman, senior vice president of development and community initiatives at the nonprofit organization Forest Park Forever. "That's a lovely area to walk around." The park is also home to preserved forests and restored prairie habitats.

"It's really neat to be in the city and then to walk through these reestablished Missouri prairies just to listen to the insects as well as watch the birds fly around," he said.

Don't miss: The Great Forest Park Balloon Race, a weekend event in September, includes an evening activity that allows people to walk among the glowing balloons before they race the next morning.

Dorothea Dix Park, Raleigh

Dix Park is relatively young, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, but a new "adventure playground" in June catapulted it onto the map of must-see destinations in North Carolina.

Gipson Play Plaza, with 18.5 acres of towers, slides, swings, waterfalls, sensory mazes and child-size streetscapes, has "exploded the interest level," said Ruffin Hall, president and CEO of the Dix Park Conservancy.

The 308-acre park adjacent to downtown Raleigh has plenty for all ages: a grove with a skyline view, a walking trail through pine trees and multiple art installations, including towering sunflower power poles and a family of steel deer.

Don't miss: Find the family of five trolls made of reclaimed wood and other natural materials from Danish artist Thomas Dambo after their October move-in date. You might have company:

"The trolls attract people from around the world," Hall said.



Little Island, New York City

You'd be forgiven for rubbing your eyes at first glance of this 2.4-acre park over the Hudson River in Manhattan. Is that a park on stilts? Yes, kind of.

Little Island - a \$260 million project funded mainly by the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation - was built on 132 "tulip" pots above the old Pier 54 near West 13th Street. "They look like high-heel shoes," said Ronald Simmons, a licensed tour guide with Tours by Foot who brings visitors to the island. Visitors can catch performances, lounge in a garden and meander around paths to popular overlooks. Little Island opened to an enthusiastic reception in 2021, but the site has a storied history.

Pier 54, the remains on which it is built, is where survivors of the Titanic arrived on the Carpathia in 1912. The doomed Lusitania left from the pier in 1915; during its voyage, German U-boats torpedoed the vessel. "It's not just a sightseeing oasis," Simmons said.

Don't miss: Get a cool park twofer by adding a visit to the nearby High Line, an art- and nature-filled trek that stretches over nearly a mile and a half of elevated rail tracks on Manhattan's West Side.



All Photos:Canva

Gathering Place, Tulsa

Another act of largesse is responsible for this Tulsa park on the Arkansas River, which opened in 2018 at just over 66 acres thanks to a \$465 million gift from multiple donors led by the George Kaiser Family Foundation. Classes, concerts and festivals are held on a great lawn, and visitors can wander multiple paths and gardens. There are water play areas and free kayaks and pedal boats when it's warm, and a lodge with a solarium and two-story fireplace when things get chilly. Kids love the kingdom-themed adventure playground with towers and suspension bridges. "It's always a special event for our family whenever we say we're going to go to Gathering Place," said Jonathan Huskey, senior director of communications for Tulsa Regional Tourism, who said his 6-year-old son is "just off and running" when they visit.

Don't miss: The "Cabinet of Wonder," an installation by artist Mark Dion, features "unique curations from around Tulsa and around the world" including trophies, ornaments, postcards and photographs.

Washington Park, Portland

Tree lovers can find something to cheer at most parks. But this 410-acre site two miles from downtown Portland has tons to offer aspiring arborists: the Hoyt Arboretum with 12 miles of hiking trails, a Japanese Garden and the World Forestry Center's Discovery Museum. Through January, catch the museum's Sasquatch: Ancestral Guardians exhibit featuring work by Indigenous artists. The park, first established in 1871, is also home to the Oregon Zoo and a reservoir "that was just renovated and remodeled in a beautiful way," said Schreiner, who now lives in Portland.

Don't miss: Thousands of roses representing more than 600 varieties bloom at the International Rose Test Garden from late May through October.

Griffith Park, Los Angeles

If Griffith Park looks familiar, you've probably seen it in a movie. You've probably seen several parts of it in multiple movies, given its location. With more than 4,200 acres, it also covers a lot of ground.

Casey Schreiner, author of Discovering Griffith Park and founder of the Modern Hiker blog, said the park is special because of its unexpected nature: It's not the beach, or Hollywood Walk of Fame.

He used to live near the park and hiked there two or three times a week.

"L.A. does not have a lot of free and open public space for people just to go and be with each other without spending money," he said.

"Whatever you want to do, you can pretty much do it in Griffith Park."

That includes visiting the L.A. Zoo, going horseback riding, seeing the Autry Museum of the American West or checking out the railcars at the Travel Town Museum.

Don't miss: The Griffith Observatory is famous for a reason: It's a great spot to see the Hollywood sign, an incredible vantage point for sunset and a gorgeous place to stargaze.

When To Introduce Kids To Peanuts To Help Avoid Allergies, According To Experts

By SABRINA MALHI

Feeding peanut products to infants was connected with a 43 percent lower association with developing peanut allergies, according to a study published recently in the journal Pediatrics.

Researchers analyzed medical records of about 120,000 children younger than 3, comparing cohorts of children before and after varying guidelines and recommendations that shifted.

The findings come nearly a decade after guidelines began encouraging parents and caregivers to introduce peanut-containing foods earlier in babies' diets.

For decades, medical experts had recommended waiting until children were 3 years old to introduce peanuts. But that started to shift after the 2015 Learning Early About Peanut Allergy study, which showed that letting children as young as 4 months try peanuts earlier reduced the risk of developing allergies.

"This monumental public health effort in food allergies appears to be having an effect," said David Hill, an attending allergist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and senior author of the study. "For every 300 children with food allergies, at least one is being spared from developing a peanut allergy."

About 5.8 percent of children in the United States had a food allergy according to 2021 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

And although this recent study is encouraging, Hill said, he does not want parents of children with food allergies – whether they introduced allergens early or not – to feel "left behind"; many experts have said allergens and their causes still warrant further investigation.

Here's what experts say about when to let your children try peanuts and how to introduce other potential allergens into their diets.

WHEN AND HOW SHOULD I INTRODUCE PEANUTS TO MY CHILDREN?

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases advises parents to start with a diluted and small amount of peanut-containing food, then wait 10 minutes to watch for an allergic reaction. (Some medical providers recommend options such as peanut butter thinned with breast milk or formula or pureed into a food your child already eats, or a puffed corn snack made with peanuts called Bamba.)

Pediatricians also say infants should be meeting developmental milestones before the introduction of an allergen, including being able to hold their head up and having good oral motor control.

"If they're developmentally ready, that's the time to start introducing allergenic foods like peanuts," said Zachary Rubin, a pediatric allergist in the western suburbs of Chicago.

Babies with eczema have a higher risk of developing a food allergy, so some may benefit from earlier introduction under the guidance of a pediatrician.

"The way I like to describe it to families is that the immune system is plasticky early on, and then it hardens," said Rubin. "If you have a baby that's at risk of developing a food allergy, and you intervene earlier, you may be able to prevent the food allergy from developing, but it's not 100 percent."

Experts say that when a child has food allergies, there is not only a physical toll but a mental one. Studies have found that children with food allergies are more likely to have anxiety and reduced quality of life compared with their peers who do not have allergies.

"Children can't be carefree, and for parents it's very stressful because allergies influence where families can go: from restaurants to sporting events to social activities," said Ruchi Gupta, director of the Center for Food Allergy and Asthma Research at Northwestern University,

who also serves on the board of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Allergy and Immunology.

WHAT SYMPTOMS INDICATE AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

Most infants will not have a reaction the first time they try peanut products or any other allergens, experts say.

The most common symptoms are hives, redness or a rash that appears within minutes of eating the product. Some babies may vomit or appear uncomfortable. A mild reaction often involves a few scattered hives or mild stomach pain that resolves quickly.

Severe reactions are less common but require immediate attention. Parents should call 911 if a child has trouble breathing, persistent coughing or swelling of the tongue, or if the infant turns pale or blue.

"If you're scared and you feel like you can't manage it at home, don't hesitate to call," said Sara Anvari, director of clinical trials and translational research in the Food Allergy Program at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

For mild symptoms, an antihistamine such as diphenhydramine or cetirizine – commonly known by the brand names Benadryl and Zyrtec – may help relieve hives or itching, but parents should consult with their pediatricians.

And if more than one part of the body is affected, such as the skin and the respiratory or gastrointestinal system, doctors consider it a severe reaction and recommend using epinephrine if available and seeking out emergency care.

Sabrina Malhi is a National health-care reporter covering infant and maternal health.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



PHOTO: @SAHAJKAURKOHILI

LIFESTYLE

Ask Sahaj: We Both Cheated. Now What?

By SAHAJ KAUR KOHLI

Dear Sahaj: Roughly seven months ago, my relationship hit a significant rough patch. There was cheating from both parties, and since then we have been working on things and it's been going fairly smoothly. However, she's been pushing me away recently, and she's been very hot and cold. She went through my phone and read private conversations with friends I had during our rough patch, when I was on the fence with what to do with our relationship. I understand that some of what she read upset her.

She said she doesn't see our relationship as a priority anymore and is focusing solely on herself. I support her wanting to focus on herself and grow, and I'm trying to find a way to understand and be empathetic toward her. I love her, but I don't understand where she's at with everything at times. She says she loves me and she's happy she's with me, but her behavior doesn't feel like it. What can I do?

– Ruptured Relationship

Ruptured Relationship: I don't know what you two have done to repair the trust that is broken from your mutual infidelity, nor do I have information about the history of your relationship. Cheating changes the level of intimacy between two people, and takes a toll on self-esteem and mental health.

Cheating can sometimes be a product of built-up

resentment that needs to be surfaced, acknowledged and addressed to facilitate healing. More than that, the impact cheating has doesn't get canceled out when both people in a relationship do it. If anything, it further complicates the issues that need to be confronted to minimize resentment and repair what's broken.

Most importantly, you will need to take some time to figure things out for yourself. It's not clear what you want from your question. You mention that you want to understand where your partner stands, and yes, you love her, but you don't say how you want things to work out. What, if anything, has changed for you since the rough patch and infidelity seven months ago? I suggest you reflect on how willing you are to heal the hurt and betrayal that is lingering in your relationship, or if you are just hoping to avoid conflict and keep the peace.

Your partner told you you're no longer a priority. This may be because she feels the need to protect herself from getting hurt by you again, or maybe she's trying to move on altogether. She also looked through your phone, so it's clear she still doesn't trust you and is navigating her own pain. You both need clarity on what you want and need from this relationship, now.

The relationship will need to feel different for you both to truly move forward together, so I encourage you to try to explicitly address the following with your partner: What does safety and trust look like to each of you? How do you know you have forgiven each other, and how will you know you have been forgiven by the other?

To truly repair what was broken, there needs to be a mutual understanding and accountability for why things fell apart in the first place, how things will actually be different and both of your roles in contributing to the emotional disconnection that led to infidelity. This will require your partner to also be invested in working through these issues with you; regardless of how much you want things to work out, you won't be able to fix it alone.

You'll have to give room and time for mutual healing to occur, while understanding that you both may not be affected by the infidelity in the same way. If there's a desire from both parties to move forward and you still feel stuck, couples counseling is always an option.

Remember that two things can be true at the same time. You can each feel hurt, and you shouldn't be continuing to hurt or punish each other. You can each

feel guilty, and you each need standards for what you'll accept or need in the relationship. You can both be sorry and want to fix things, and you'll need time and honesty to truly repair what was ruptured.

Sahaj Kaur Kohli is a therapist and the creator of Brown Girl Therapy.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



PHOTO: @SAHAJKAURKOHILI

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10/31-11/21-MS

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY FY 23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Pursuant to the provisions for federal regulation 24 CFR Part 570 and 24 CFR Part 91, Franklin Township, New Jersey is providing notice of the availability of its FY 24 Consolidated Annual Performance and

Evaluation Report (CAPER). The performance report has been prepared and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development prior to the submission deadline of November 24, 2025.

The CAPER will be the subject of review and discussion at a public hearing to be held on November 19, 2025 where comments on the Township's performance and the CAPER will be solicited.

The Township's CAPER is available for review on the Township web site at www.franklinnj.org beginning November 7, 2025. Persons wishing to comment on the grantee performance report may do so by responding to the Township Clerk through the Township website during the comment period ending November 24, 2025.

10/31-JG

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<p>AKRON,OH Franchise hotel in Akron, Ohio needs a couple for housekeeping. Guaranteed 20 to 30 rooms per day. Hotel has interior corridor with 2 elevators. Accommodation will be provided with a kitchen. Legal status must. Competitive pay. Contact: 330-861-9157/ 330-861-9142</p> <p>10/03-10/31 SL</p>	<p>OHIO Need Single / Couple for Housekeeping, Houseman, Front Desk (Second Shift & Night Shift) help for Franchise Motel in Toledo, Ohio. Ready to train. Free on-site accommodation with a personal kitchen provided. Call / Text (313) 598 4785 Leave Message.</p> <p>10/03-10/31 SL</p>	<p>VIRGINIA- MARYLAND & NORTH CAROLINA Hotels are looking for skilled Front Desk, Housekeeping & Laundry attendants. If you are experienced & ready to contribute, Pls call/text: 540-324-8786</p> <p>11/15/24 - 12/19/25 -SH</p>
<p>OAKDALE, LA Oakdale, Louisiana Independent motel needs a couple or single (Legal) to manage or to lease the Motel Accommodation- Fully furnished House in the property provided. Good pay. Year around good weather. Sumant Patel: 318-613-0770 Email: sumantpatel65@hotmail.com</p> <p>10/17-11/14-SD</p>	<p>LANCASTER,PA Franchise hotels in Lancaster, PA very close to Harrisburg needs couples or singles for housekeeping and front desk work. Legal status must. Accommodations will be provided. Homely atmosphere. Please call NC Desai at 717-314-8429 for additional information. If no answer, please leave a message,will return calls immediately.</p> <p>10/31-11/21-SD</p>	<p>BALTIMORE, MARYLAND Franchise Hotels seek Front Desk help. 7 days per week, 8 hours shift \$950/week. Legal must. Free accommodation provided. Call / text (410) 231-3621</p> <p>05/23/25- 05/15/26 - SL</p>
<p>PITTSBURGH, PA Hiring Housekeeping Couple, Night Auditor & Laundry Help in Pittsburgh Area! Must have legal status. Contact on WhatsApp: 678-576-9037</p> <p>10/10-10/31-JG</p>	<p>NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY FRANCHISE HOTEL NEED Couple for Housekeeping and Single for Front Desk Help (English must). Good pay with free accommodation. Legal must. Call Nishith: 5163739274 / Nick (201) 637 5062</p> <p>04/18/25 - 04/17/26 -SL</p>	<p>NEW JERSEY Franchise Hotel in NJ is looking for Single/Couple for: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Maintenance. Good salary and accommodation will be provided. Also looking for Hotel Sales Associate. (Experience and good communication skills required) Call: Nick 201-637-5062 (Contact between 9 AM to 7 PM.) • Vivian (757) 620-9207 • Hina (201) 936-8762</p> <p>08/02-TFN-SD</p>
<p>TEXAS Need experienced Single / Couple for Front Desk, Night Auditor & Housekeeping / Laundry help for Franchise Quality Inn & Suites in Junction, TX 76849. Legal must. Free accommodation provided. Call Prerna (830) 377 4331</p> <p>10/17-11/14 SL</p>	<p>EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA Franchise Branded Hotel needs a couple for laundry and breakfast help. Good pay with free accommodation provided. Legal must. Call : Ken (434) 422 2626</p> <p>10/17-11/14 SL</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA & NEW JERSEY : Need Single / Couple Front Desk & Housekeeping help for Franchise Motels in the Philadelphia area, Pittsburgh - PA and Cherry Hill - NJ. Free accommodation provided. Call Ghanshyam Patel (610) 279 0150.</p> <p>09/26/2026 - 09/18/2026-SL</p>
<p>PERRYVILLE, MARYLAND: Immediate Hire: Need Single for Front Desk Help (Experienced, Fluent English,Computer literate) and Couple for Housekeeping help. Experienced preferred but ready to train. Accommodation provided. Legal must. Call (410) 504 3444.</p> <p>10/17-11/14 SL</p>	<p>NEWARK, DELAWARE Need experienced General Manager and Front Desk Clerks for Franchise Hotel / Motel in Newark, DE. Accommodation provided. Legal status must. Call / text (732) 423-1725 / email resume: joinmyhotel@gmail.com</p> <p>10/03-10/31 SL</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-833-807-0159</p> <p>NY SCAN</p>
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