



Candidate For Pelosi's Seat



Ambassador To India Sworn-In



Madhuri Dixit In Chicagoland

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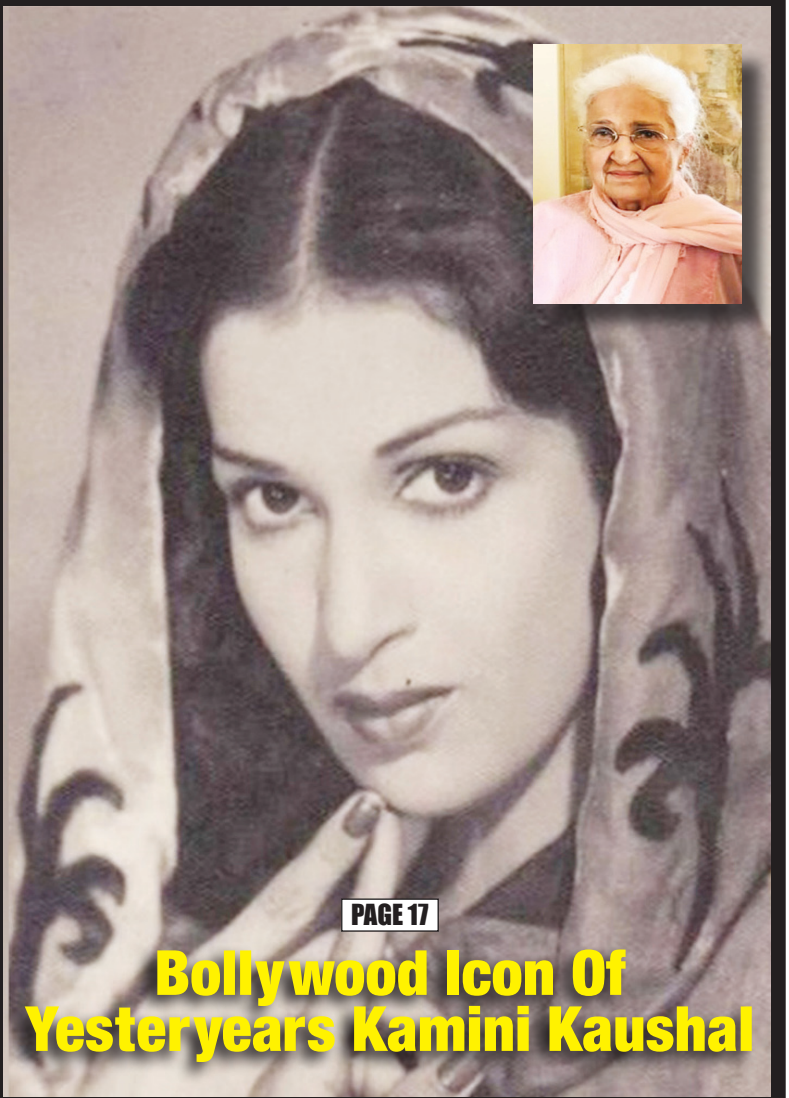
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IN CHICAGO



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Why Ro Khanna thinks Democrats need a total makeover



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Why Ro Khanna Thinks Democrats Need A Total Makeover

By SHADI HAMID

The Democratic Party's crisis isn't just about policy - it's about courage. Or more precisely, it's about what happens when a political party forgets how to fight for anything beyond the preservation of its own respectability.

This became apparent during the recent government shutdown negotiations, when seven Senate Democrats and one independent caved to Republicans while telling themselves they were being responsible stewards of democracy. The episode crystallized a growing chasm between Democratic leadership and a base that's tired of watching its party get outmaneuvered by opponents who understand that politics is about power rather than politeness.

I spoke this week to Rep. Ro Khanna of California, a potential 2028 presidential candidate and one of the first Democrats to call for Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York) to step down shortly before the vote passed on Sunday. "We need a total makeover of the Democratic Party," Khanna told me, his frustration barely contained. "There is no establishment. The powers that be are weaker than they've ever been before."

Khanna's critique points to a generational divide between Democrats who still believe in the fantasy of bipartisan governance and those who recognize that we're living through an authoritarian moment that demands actual opposition. I keep returning to something Khanna told me about Democratic leaders who see themselves as "guardians of institutions as opposed to responding to the populist moment we're in."

There's something almost tragic in that phrase. These are elected officials who came of age believing in a certain version of American governance, where reasoned deliberation eventually wins out, where being "the adults in the room" means something. They've spent decades mastering the choreography of legislative compromise, only to discover that the music has changed entirely.

Here are excerpts from our conversation, edited for clarity.

Shadi Hamid: Briefly lay out the case for why Sen. Chuck Schumer should be replaced.

Rep. Ro Khanna: Sen. Schumer has lost touch with the grassroots base of our party. If you're not going to fight for health care, then what are you going to fight for? The reality is that Schumer deserves credit for being a master legislator during the Biden administration. He and I worked on the Chips Act together, which would never have passed if it weren't for him. But he has failed to meet the moment when it comes to this time in history.

He has been on the wrong side of foreign policy, a cheerleader for the war in Iraq, an advocate for a blank check of funding to [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, a person who refused to endorse [New York Mayor-elect] Zohran Mamdani.

The argument on the opposite side is that Democrats had already made their point. They were able to successfully place the blame on Republicans. The American people responded in turn last week, as Democrats swept elections in key races. But federal workers were feeling the pain. Americans receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, were hurting, with millions facing food insecurity as a result. Why not stop the pain?



Rep. Ro Khanna (D-California) waits to speak with attendees during a town hall at Peralta Canyon Park in Anaheim, California, on March 23. Khanna hosted town halls across three California congressional districts held by Republicans.

That's a political way of looking at it. For me, it's an issue of substantively improving people's lives. Someone just came up to me at an airport two days ago. And they said, "Look, my father is a taxi driver in Arizona. His premium is going to go up from \$44 a month to about \$2,600 a month, and he's got cancer. His deductible is going to go up from \$800 to \$6,000. What am I supposed to do?" We have abandoned those individuals. I believe we could have gotten some relief for them. We could have gotten a one-year extension, if not a permanent extension of Affordable Care Act credits. Republican Rep. Michael Lawler [of New York] already floated that. We could have opened up a conversation about eligibility even and had some compromise on that in terms of the income levels of people who would qualify. But by basically not getting any of that, we have subjected about 20 million Americans to extraordinary pain.

I think there's also some confusion about what actually happened. Schumer himself did not vote with Republicans. It was seven other Democrats and an independent who did. Perhaps they're the ones who deserve more of the blame here? Isn't there a risk of making Schumer into a scapegoat when the problem runs deeper in the Democratic caucus?

Well, this is the D.C. dance. Everyone knows that Schumer was consulted at every step of the way by these

eight senators. The senators have said that themselves, that they were keeping Schumer informed. Schumer's No. 2 person [Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois] is voting for the bill. It's hard to imagine he would do that if Schumer was telling him no. And certainly Schumer never said publicly to members of his caucus don't vote for this. This is something that if Schumer wanted to stop, he could have.

The disappointment with Schumer and Democratic leadership had been building. This is just what pushed things over the edge. In a two-party system, and with President Donald Trump's authoritarian designs, you need the opposing party to actually oppose - and to be seen as fighting. Instead, Democrats have seemed feckless and aimless. The failure to rise to the occasion has been somewhat mystifying. Why do Democrats seem to have so much trouble growing a backbone?

It's a generational issue. You have people who have been in office for 10, 20, 30 years who believe in a certain way of doing things, of being the adults in the room. They think they're acting responsibly and keeping the institutions of government running. I've talked to enough of the Senate to know that they believe the House runs too hot, and that they're the cooler heads that kind of preserve order in our democracy.

So they are viewing things as sort of guardians of institutions as opposed to responding to the populist moment we're in. And that populist moment is saying institutions have failed us. The younger generation gets that. And that's why, you're right, this was building with Schumer. We need a total makeover of the Democratic Party. And it's doable. There is no establishment. The powers that be are weaker than they've ever been before. It's a total open field running for the Congress, the Senate and the presidency.

Isn't there something to be said for preserving institutions and order, considering how much Trump has run roughshod over them? Isn't there an argument for taking the higher moral ground and saying let's not try to burn things down and let's keep the institutions running even if they're flawed?

The traditional Democratic argument is the preservation and restoration of institutions. The Trump argument is that those institutions didn't work, and we need to burn them all down because they led to the hollowing out of factory towns and rural America. The Democratic answer needs to be that we need to have transformed institutions to work in the 21st century, that we certainly need to be building things up instead of tearing them down, but that the institutions of the past have failed the working and middle class, have failed rural communities, and that we need a new institutional framework rooted in our constitutional tradition to address the decline of the American Dream. I call that economic patriotism.

Speaking of transformation, you alluded to Schumer's refusal to endorse Zohran Mamdani. And the same goes for [House Minority Leader] Hakeem Jeffries, who only offered a tepid endorsement at the last moment. Was that a sign that something had definitively gone wrong with Democratic leadership to not support a candidate who won by a clear margin in the primary?

These are cumulative factors. The biggest



Khanna greets people before a town hall in Anaheim on March 23.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Why Ro Khanna Thinks Democrats Need A Total Makeover

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

were the two times that Schumer failed to stand up during shutdown negotiations. But then his knocking [progressive Senate candidate] Graham Platner in Maine. Putting his thumb on the scale on these races has sent a terrible message to young voters and progressives.

His inability to recognize the phenomenal campaign of Mamdani speaks of a tone-deafness. And the reality is, I thought Barack Obama had ended the career of anyone who voted for the war in Iraq. But then, when these people like Schumer - who cheerlead us into the biggest disaster in American foreign policy's modern history - also showed a total moral obliviousness to Gaza, that also contributes to his need to step aside. Look, Donald Trump obliterated the pro-Iraq War con-

stituency from his party. I don't understand why we can't sideline the pro-Iraq War constituency from our party.

What would you say to critics who say that progressives like yourself are using this call for Schumer to step down as a way to create tensions within the Democratic Party in an effort to remake it in a more progressive image? How much of this is a kind of power play for progressives?

If the question is "Will the fight with Schumer help us in the effort to reshape the Democratic Party?" - I plead guilty.

Gaza is a major divide within the party, where you have a leadership that is pro-Israel and deferential to Netanyahu and a base that is increasingly pro-Palestin-

ian. The party risks hemorrhaging young progressive voters if it can't speak truthfully about what happened in Gaza. But how do you resolve that internal tension? Because what that means is that Democrats may not be able to offer a unified front on one of the biggest moral questions of our time.

I believe this will be a fault line in the 2028 election, and the nominee will determine the direction of the party. If you did not vote against the \$14 billion in aid to Netanyahu, then you are basically in a similar position to those Democrats who voted for the war in Iraq. If you're unwilling to recognize the United Nations finding that there was a genocide in Gaza, then you are out of touch with where Democratic voters are.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Saikat Chakrabarti Among Several Democrats Hoping To Fill Seat Just Vacated By Nancy Pelosi

By ELA DUTT

A savvy political operative and fervent supporter of Bernie Sanders, also credited with the success of candidates like Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, has the political landscape somewhat cleared with former Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement she would not seek re-election. He now faces off against several other aspiring Democrats who want to fill the San Francisco vacancy.

The Indian American candidate, Saikat Chakrabarti, who was born in Texas, and moved to San Francisco in 2009, hopes to get the Democratic Party endorsement in perhaps the most high-profile race in the country, aspiring to represent California's 11th Congressional District in the November 3, 2026 election. The primary date is yet to be announced.

Many Democratic contenders have the same ambition as Chakrabarti. Ballotpedia shows at least 5 Democrats are battling for the primary win, as Pelosi declared she was not running for re-election. So far, Chakrabarti has received the endorsement of Track AIPAC, which tracks the powerful American Israel Political Action Committee. Track AIPAC has endorsed other Indian Americans like Chris Ahuja, candidate for the US House of Representatives from California's 32nd District, and Kshama Sawant, candidate for the US House from Washington's 9th District, as well as Junaid Ahmed of Pakistani heritage running from Illinois' 8th District, and scientist Karishma Manzur running for the US Senate from New Hampshire.



Candidate for Congress from California Saikat Chakrabarti on the Muni.



Saikat Chakrabarti talking to a voter.

By September 30, 2025, according to Federal Election Commission data, Chakrabarti had Total Receipts of nearly \$1 million (\$949,096.89). Total Contributions to his campaign amounted to \$229,096.89, almost all of it from individual contributions. Of the total, Chakrabarti received loans of \$720,000.

The FEC data which covers the period January 1 to September 30, shows the candidate had disbursed \$853,712.50. His Cash On Hand equalled \$95,384.39.

In the background Chakrabarti provides on his campaign site, he started his own company in San Francisco, then joined the financial services multinational Stripe, quitting to join Bernie Sanders'

2016 campaign, honing his skills while traveling around the country to help build grassroots support for his Independent candidate.

Chakrabarti ran Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez' 2018 campaign before going into Congress as her Chief of Staff, where I was in charge of writing and launching the Green New Deal.

He currently leads the policy think-tank New Consensus whose mission is to define "how the government can deliver prosperity and economic security for all Americans through an economic mobilization to build a clean economy for the U.S. and the world." He is also involved in several non-profit organizations, he

notes in his biography on the campaign website Saikat for Congress.

Chakrabarti promises to "change the Democratic Party" if elected, so that it fights "for Medicare for All, building millions of units of affordable housing, ending big money in politics, taxing the billionaires and corporations, and other overwhelmingly popular policies."

On his Facebook page, Saikat For Congress, Chakrabarti describes himself as, "Engineer, organizer, policy wonk. Democrat running for Congress to represent San Francisco (CA-11). We need solutions as big as the problems we face."

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“Very Much Looking Forward”: Sergio Gor To Becoming New US Ambassador To India

Sergio Gor, the newly appointed US Ambassador to India, on Wednesday expressed optimism as he takes charge and thanked US President Donald Trump for the opportunity.

In a post on X, he said, “Very much looking forward to being the new U.S. Ambassador to India. Thank you @POTUS @realDonaldTrump! I’m deeply grateful for this opportunity and committed to honoring the faith you’ve shown in me.”

During the swearing-in ceremony of Gor on Tuesday (local time), Trump said he was entrusting Gor to further strengthen strategic, economic, and security ties with New Delhi, while deepening America’s “fantastic relationship” with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“I’m trusting Sergio to help strengthen our country’s one of the most important international relationships, and that is the strategic partnership with the Republic of India. It’s a big deal. India is a home to one of the world’s oldest civilisations, the largest country in the world and it has got over 1.5 billion people and we have a fantastic relationship with Prime Minister Modi and Sergio’s enhanced that because he’s become already friendly with Prime Minister. Knowing that Sergio is going to be the Ambassador, they would call constantly to say, ‘let’s get to know this man’ and they like what they see.”

“I know you’re gonna have a great success over there. It’s a very important relationship. It’s also the fastest-growing middle class and it’s an important economic and strategic security partner in the Indo-Pacific region. It’s an amazing country.”

“As the Ambassador, Sergio will work to fortify our



US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor with President Donald Trump.

country’s bond, promote investments in key US industries and technologies, increase American energy exports, and expand our security cooperation”, he further added.

After taking the oath, Gor thanked Trump for entrusting him with the responsibility of the relationship with India and said, “I look forward to enhancing the relationship between our two nations. I look forward to doing a great job for you”.

In August, Trump nominated Sergio Gor as India’s next ambassador and Special Envoy for South and Central

Asian Affairs.

During his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in September, Gor had emphasised that India is “one of the most important relationships our nation (US) has in the world.”

Ahead of his swearing-in, he had visited India in October and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, EAM S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.

During the swearing-in ceremony Trump remarked, “We have a fantastic relationship with the Prime Minister, (Narendra) Modi, and Sergio (Gor) has only enhanced that because he’s become already friendly with the Prime Minister.”

Underscoring India’s rapid economic growth and its key role in regional security, Trump stated, “India has the fastest-growing middle class and is an ‘important’ economic and strategic security partner in the Indo-Pacific region.”

He continued, “It’s an amazing country, actually, 1.5 billion people. China has 1.4 billion.

Those are two big countries. As Ambassador, Sergio will work to fortify our country’s bond, promote investments in key US industries and technologies, increase American energy exports and expand our security cooperation.”

Expressing confidence in Gor’s appointment, the US President added, “Knowing that Sergio is going to be the Ambassador, they would call constantly to say, ‘let’s get to know this man’, and they like what they see.”

-ANI

Trump Softens Stance On H-1B Visa Reform, Says US Needs To “Bring This Talent” As It Can’t Rely On Long-Term Unemployed

US President Donald Trump has appeared to have softened his stance on his administration’s aggressive push on H-1B visa reforms, acknowledging the need to import specialised foreign talent to fill critical roles in the American workforce.

During an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Tuesday (local time), Trump defended the value of skilled immigrant workers, arguing that the US cannot simply repurpose long-term unemployed Americans for complex roles in manufacturing and defence without extensive training. The US President further noted that while he supports raising wages for American

workers, the US must still “bring this talent” to maintain its industrial and technological edge.

“I agree, but you also have to bring this talent,” Trump said when asked whether H1B visa reform would be a major priority for his administration.

Earlier in September, Trump signed a proclamation that triggered a major overhaul of the H-1B visa petition.

According to the proclamation, there will now be a USD 100,000 fee for new H-1B visa applications, a sharp increase from the previous level of about USD 1,500.

The US State Department later clarified that the new fee requirement applies only to individuals or companies filing new H-1B petitions or entering the H-1B lottery after September 21. Current visa holders and petitions submitted before that date remain unaffected.

Under the proclamation, a USD 100,000 payment must



accompany every new H-1B visa petition filed after the deadline, including those submitted for entries in the 2026 lottery.

When countered during the interview that the US has “plenty of talented people,” Trump countered, “No, you don’t. There are certain skills you don’t have, and people have to learn them. You can’t take people off the unemployment line and say, ‘I’m going to put you into a factory where we’re going to make missiles.’”

The US President further cited an example from the state of Georgia, where, according to him, the removal of skilled foreign workers created difficulties in manufactur-

ing complex products.

“They had people from South Korea that had made batteries all their life. Making batteries is very complicated and very dangerous — a lot of explosions, a lot of problems. They had like 500 or 600 people in the early stages to make batteries and to teach people how to do it,” he said.

Trump was referring to the raids conducted by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials at an under-construction Hyundai plant in the state of Georgia in September, during which hundreds of South Korean workers were arrested and deported.

He emphasised that such industries require specialised expertise that cannot be immediately filled by untrained or long-term unemployed workers.

“You can’t just say a country is coming in, going to invest USD 10 billion to build a plant, and take people off the unemployment line who haven’t worked in five years and they’re going to start making missiles. It doesn’t work that way,” he added.

Trump’s remarks mark a notable shift from his earlier hardline stance on foreign worker visas, particularly the H-1B programme, which has been one of the central topics in US debates over immigration and employment.

-ANI



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Rubio Praises India's Handling Of Latest Terror Attack

By A Staff Writer

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, praised India's handling of the latest terrorist attack in India. He made the remarks during a press conference at Hamilton International Airport in Canada where he was attending the G7 foreign ministers' meetings, also attended among others, by India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar.

The car-bomb blast occurred near India's iconic Red Fort November 10, 2025, killed 13 people and injured several others. India is investigating the explosion under India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, a law used mainly to deal with terrorism-related activities.

Secretary Rubio was asked how concerned he was with latest car explosion incident in light of conflict between India and Pakistan earlier this year.

Rubio responded, "we're aware of the potential that that holds. But I think the Indians are – need to be commended; they have been very measured and cautious and very professional in how they're carrying out this investigation. That investigation continues. Clearly, it was a terrorist attack. It was a car loaded with highly explosive materials that detonated



Foreign Ministers of several countries pose for the group photo at the G7 meeting held in Canada, November 2025.

and killed a lot of people. But I think they're doing a very good job of carrying out an investigation; and I think when they have facts, they'll release those facts."

Conceding that the US administration was aware of the potential the latest incident has and he did speak about it "a little bit today" with his Indian counterpart.

"But I think we're going to wait and see what their investigation reveals. We've offered to help, but I think they're very capable in these investigations. They don't need our help. They're doing a good job, and I thought they were very measured and professional in how they've approached it, as they usually are," Rubio

added.

At a State Department press briefing in Washington on the same day, November 12, spokesperson Tammy Bruce was asked about Pakistan's growing favorable relations with the Trump administration.

"I would say that our relationship with both nations is as it has been, which is good, and that is the benefit of having a president who knows everyone, talks to everyone, and that is how we can bring differences together in this case. So, it's clear that the diplomats here are committed to both nations," Bruce said.

"I can tell you also that there has been a U.S.-Pakistan Counterterrorism Dialogue that was established. At this dialogue in Islamabad, the United States and Pakistan reaffirmed their shared commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations during this latest round of the talks in Islamabad," Bruce added.

"The United States and Pakistan discussed ways to enhance cooperation to counter terrorist threats. And I think that for the region and for the world, the United States working with both those nations is good news and will promote a future that's beneficial," Bruce concluded. r before settling on Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

New York Times: Pakistan Hired Lobbying Firms With Close Ties To Trump

FROM NEWS DISPATCHES

The New York Times reported November 13, 2025, that Pakistan hired lobbying firms with close ties to President Donald Trump; A few weeks later it not only got highly favorable tariff rates, but also "unique access" in Washington.

The article entitled, "How Pakistan's Spending Blitz Helped Win Over Trump and Flip U.S. Policy," notes that while other factors played an important role in a visible reversal of Pakistan policy, the hiring of six lobbying firms by Islamabad for close to \$5 million in April and May, was also an important factor. It notes that the amount Pakistan spent during the Spring, was "at least three times" as much as what India spent, sourcing the information to the Department of Justice.

The lobbyists Islamabad hired, included President Trump's "former business partners and bodyguard." The firms named in the NY Times article include Seiden Law LLP, Javelin, as well as a former bodyguard who served during the first Trump administration.

However, other factors had already played a major role in the reversal of policies toward Pakistan, among them, Pakistan crediting President Trump with ending the conflict with India, and nominating him for the Nobel Prize. Added to that was Islamabad pitching a \$500 million mineral extraction agreement with Washington, and opening up its markets to American farm goods.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Promo Of Christmas Karma Lights Up Times Square

By A Staff Writer

The promo for Gurinder Chadha's newest film CHRISTMAS KARMA lit up the video screen in Times Square ahead of its theatrical release.

Made by famed British director Gurinder Chadha (Bend It Like Beckham, Blinded By The Light), CHRISTMAS KARMA sees one of history's greatest novels – Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol – transformed into a fresh, festive and feel-good Christmas musical.

At Times Square, to celebrate the occasion, dancers from Masala Bhangra Group Fitness accompanied the premiere of the video in the heart of New York City with their special energetic moves and dhol player for a unique promotion.

Now playing in cinemas, CHRISTMAS KARMA stars Kunal Nayyar, Eva Longoria, Billy Porter, and Boy George and has a



PHOTOS: Box Office Guru

Bhangra group joins celebrations at Times Square which lit up with the promo for Gurinder Chadha's newest film, Christmas Karma.

hit soundtrack out now featuring music from Malkit Singh, Jassi

Sidhu, Panjabi MC, Nitin Sawhney and more.



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Five Indian-Origin Students Among 32 Winners Of Prestigious 2025 US Rhodes Scholarship

BY A STAFF WRITER

Five Indian-Origin students among 32 winners of prestigious 2025 US Rhodes Scholarship. On November 16, 2025, the Rhodes Trust announced its selection of 104 Rhodes Scholars from around the world, 32 of them from the United States.

Among the 32 US Rhodes Scholars are at least five of Indian origin. That makes 15.63 percent of the US Scholars, way above the proportion of the Indian and Indian American population in this country.

This year's Rhodes Scholars representing the US go to Oxford University in England to pursue graduate studies.

To get an idea of how competitive the selection process, these students had to undergo a tough vetting over and over again, to be finally elected by 16 independent committees around the country.

The 5 students of Indian origin were among 3,000 applicants; 865 were ultimately endorsed by 243 different colleges and universities. Committees of Selection in each of the 16 U.S. districts then invited 238 finalists to appear before them for interviews. All districts interviewed 14 or more finalists.

Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford (ranked the #1 university in the world in some global rankings) and may allow funding in some instances for four years.

Following are the winning students of Indian origin (Their brief bios were provided by the Rhodes Trust in a press release):

From New York-North Aneesh Muppidi of Schenectady, NY, from Harvard University

Aneesh C. Muppidi, Schenectady, is a senior at Harvard University where he majors in Computer Science and Neuroscience. He has conducted research at Harvard's Computational Robotics Lab, Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, and MIT's Fiete Lab. Aneesh's scholarship also informs his work on AI policy at the OSTP at the White House. Aneesh served as the President of the Harvard Computational Neuroscience Undergraduate Society, CoPresident of the Hindu Students Association, and President of the Harvard Spikeball Club. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Sc. in Advanced Computer Science and a Master's in Public Policy.

From Florida, Angelin T. Mathew of Davie, from Yale University

Angelin T. Mathew, Davie, is senior at Yale University where she double majors in Humanities and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. Her



Aneesh Muppidi



Angelin T. Mathew



Om H. Gandhi



Anushka Nair



Ayush Noori

medical research focuses on palliative care and cancer treatment and she has founded an international research team working across the fields of theology, public health, and clinical medicine to improve end-of-life care. She has won international awards for her research and also launched a lip-care startup focused on the needs of chemotherapy patients. Angelin performs Indian classical dance, is a powerlifter, and speaks three languages fluently. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an M.St. in the Study of Religions and an M.Sc. in Medical Anthropology.

From Illinois, Om Gandhi of South Barrington, IL, from University of Pennsylvania

Om H. Gandhi, South Barrington, is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania where he is completing a B.A. in Neuroscience and Public Health as well as

an M.S. in Bioengineering. His research focuses on novel cancer immunotherapies, and he has completed research experiences at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania Center for Childhood Cancer Research and Penn Medicine. Om does extensive volunteer work with individuals with substance use disorder. He is also a student leader of the Wharton Undergraduate Healthcare Club and the Penn HinduJain Association. As editor-in-chief of the Penn Healthcare Review, Om oversaw a major expansion of the journal's application pool and editorial staff. At Oxford, Om will pursue a D.Phil. in Oncology.

Oregon, Anushka Nair of Lake Oswego, OR, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Anushka Nair, Lake Oswego, is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology where she is simultaneously completing bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Science and Engineering. Her research focuses on the intersection of artificial intelligence and ethics, and her graduate thesis examines how large language models can be used to identify harmful misinformation that is less easily identifiable by human fact-checkers or other automated systems. She has completed internships at Tesla, Oracle, and the United Nations. Anushka is a classical violinist and an amateur filmmaker. At Oxford, she will pursue a D.Phil. in Social Data Science.

From Washington State, Ayush Noori of Bellevue, WA, from Harvard University

Ayush Noori, Bellevue, is a senior at Harvard University, where he is studying for A.B. and M.Sc. degrees in computer science and neuroscience. His research uses artificial intelligence to learn from large-scale biomedical data to identify diagnosis and treatment options, and he has developed an AI model that can be deployed to predict treatment outcomes in bipolar disorder, Parkinson's disease and neuropathic conditions. He has coauthored over 20 peer-reviewed papers in top journals and was awarded the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship for natural sciences. Ayush is the co-founder and co-president of Harvard Undergraduate OpenBio Laboratory, where he manages a team of 36 students and has raised over \$60,000 to support undergraduate biology research projects and support a free summer research program for high school students with backgrounds underrepresented in science. He hopes to complete an M.Sc.(R) in Clinical Neurosciences and an M.Sc.(R) in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics..

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: Avoid letting jealousy show — others may notice it more than you think. A relative's advice can guide you wisely, so listen with an open mind. You may feel drawn toward someone special, but patience will serve you better than haste. Travel or commuting worries begin to settle down. A pleasant financial surprise could uplift your mood.

TAURUS: Home-related matters bring joy and emotional warmth. Your balanced outlook at work helps you progress steadily and win cooperation from others. You'll handle external pressures confidently while staying true to your values. A calm, unhurried approach defines your attitude, encouraging you to take life at a peaceful pace.

GEMINI: Your schedule is filled with get-togethers and social excitement. Ignoring wise advice could backfire, so proceed carefully. Certain situations still require more learning before full control is achieved. Students should review their work to avoid avoidable mistakes. Spending on impulse or unhealthy indulgence may upset your balance — moderation will help.

CANCER: Stay mindful — not everyone offering opinions truly wishes you well. Negative influences could slow your progress, so choose company wisely. Parents or elders may react sharply to minor mistakes. Emotional support from your partner provides comfort. Pending payments may finally clear, and new tasks at work could challenge your adaptability.

LEO: A pressing concern requires prompt attention, so don't postpone action. Your dedication earns appreciation and strengthens motivation. Students preparing for exams will see their efforts rewarded. Guidance from a close family member proves invaluable. Financial luck improves, bringing a promising investment opportunity.

VIRGO: Recognition or a leadership opportunity may come your way. Academic outcomes reflect steady progress. Financial comfort allows you to enjoy well-deserved indulgences. A calm and composed attitude helps you silence argumentative individuals. Love blossoms through your partner's kind and thoughtful gestures.

LIBRA: Wedding prospects may soon brighten for some Librans. Your analytical thinking helps you solve complex work issues effectively. A trip with loved ones rejuvenates your mind and strengthens bonds. Romantic experiences feel heartfelt and memorable. Improved lifestyle choices begin to show visible results. Creative interests bring joy and inspiration.

SCORPIO: Your composed handling of sensitive matters earns admiration. An unplanned trip could turn into an adventure. Creativity and originality shine in professional pursuits. Those in artistic or media fields may attract offers. Leadership skills get noticed, and an elder's guidance restores family harmony. Homemakers may enjoy redecorating their space.

SAGITTARIUS: Rely on your abilities. Overspending could bring regret. Competition at work intensifies, pushing you to perform your best. Family relationships strengthen with your care and attention. Academic concerns about a loved one may weigh on your mind. Stay composed if someone tries to play with your emotions.

CAPRICORN: You'll find your work rhythm returning with ease and assurance. Sometimes silence conveys more than words — let it work for you. Minor disagreements with your partner can be avoided through patience. Promises in love may face short delays, testing your understanding. Long-distance travel could bring mixed experiences but lasting memories.

AQUARIUS: Read every document carefully before signing any agreement. Financial conditions improve significantly, restoring confidence. Recovery from a health issue brings renewed vitality. Colleagues or clients will seek your advice. Domestic peace returns as supportive help arrives. A trip might spark an unexpected romantic encounter.

PISCES: Reconsider your career choices to create a stronger future direction. Your secretive nature may cause confusion among family members, so be open when needed. Keep your romantic life discreet for now to avoid complications. Determination and focus help you outshine competitors. Your cheerful charm draws people toward you, spreading warmth and positivity.



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Indian American Physicians To Host 19th Global Health Summit In Odisha

By A Staff Writer

Hundreds of physicians and global leaders will gather in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, January 9–11, 2026 for the 19th Global Health Summit hosted by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, AAPI.

The Summit's focus will be to address India's most urgent health challenges: Tuberculosis (TB), Diabetes, the integration of Ayurveda with modern medicine, and the adoption of cutting-edge health technology.

AAPI's mission centers on making quality healthcare affordable and accessible in India. "Our goal is to strengthen medical collaboration and foster innovation that truly impacts lives," said President of AAPI and Chairman of the summit Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, in a November 16, 2025, press release.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Hon. Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, is the Chief Patron, who is working with an organizing committee of Odisha's leading healthcare figures, including Dr. Sita Kantha Dash (Chairman, Kalinga Hospital Ltd.), Dr. S. Santosh Kumar Dora (CEO, Kalinga Hospital Ltd.), and Dr. Ajit K. Mohanty (Director General, KIMS). "Bringing together such distinguished leaders ensures the summit benefits from a global viewpoint while addressing local health needs," noted Dr. Chakrabarty.

The summit will focus on three major themes: eradicating Tuberculosis, advancing Diabetes care, and integrating Ayurveda into mainstream medicine. AAPI is pledging active support for the national TB-Free Tribal India campaign,



Dr. Amit Chakrabarty



Flyer on AAPI Global Health Summit to be held in Odisha in January 2026.

spearheaded by Dr. Manoj Jain. "Our collaboration aims to accelerate progress toward a TB-free India, especially in tribal communities," said Dr. Jain.

Diabetes initiatives, led by Dr. Smitha Joshi, will highlight advances in management and prevention.

The Ayurveda Consortium, coordinated by Dr. Amit Shah and Dr. Arti Prasad, will explore the synergy between traditional practices and contemporary healthcare. "We believe Ayurveda can complement modern medicine and help address chronic diseases more holistically," remarked Dr. Shah.

Innovation is a cornerstone of the summit, AAPI says, with sessions spotlighting the role of artificial intelligence and digital health tools in revolutionizing diagnostics and patient care. "Technology is transforming healthcare delivery, enabling us to reach more patients, faster and more effectively," stated Dr. Santosh Kumar Dora.

Keynote addresses and session will cover topics spanning new medical advancements, Continuing Medical Edu-

cation (CME), Evidence-Based Learning (ELS), research methodology, and scientific writing. "Our summit is a launchpad for innovative ideas and medical breakthroughs," said Dr. Ajit K. Mohanty.

Medical students will have the opportunity to participate in Medical Jeopardy competitions and present research posters, fostering scientific exchange and professional growth.

High-level dignitaries are expected, AAPI said, including the President, Prime Minister, and Health Minister of India, alongside professors, deans, and National Medical Board members.

The Summit will go beyond clinical medicine to tackle chronic disease prevention, rural health disparities, climate change effects, and other global health concerns. The CEO Forum will confront issues such as healthcare equity, ethics, and physician burnout, and the Women's Forum will examine gender bias and leadership in medicine.

President-Elect of AAPI Dr. Meher Medavaram said AAPI is committed to addressing not just diseases, but the

systemic challenges that impact health outcomes."

Special sessions will address mental health, childhood obesity, non-communicable disease prevention, and community CPR training, reflecting AAPI's holistic approach to public health.

The summit will also showcase the Collaboration to Eliminate TB in India (CETI), with support from the CDC and USAID, sharing updates on TB elimination strategies and future engagement. The Summit acts as a catalyst for impactful partnerships and real-world solutions, according to Dr. Sita Kantha Dash.

Odisha's selection as host is both symbolic and practical, organizers said. The state's healthcare infrastructure, and institutions like KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, are an ideal setting for advancing medical education and healthcare delivery, says AAPI. "Hosting the summit in Odisha enables us to bring lasting benefits to the region and foster meaningful local collaborations," said Dr. Rabi Samanta. In addition, community outreach is integral to the Summit. "Improving health outcomes requires engaging communities directly," emphasized Dr. Arti Prasad.

Since its inception in 2007 up to the 2026 summit, the annual event has been influencing policy, shaping future health agendas, and reinforcing AAPI's legacy as a bridge between India and the United States, say organizers. "AAPI GHS is an unmatched opportunity to connect with leaders shaping the future of healthcare," concluded Dr. Medavaram. "We look forward to launching new initiatives and continuing the legacy of our organization's leaders."

Registration and more details are available at www.aapiusa.org.

CGI Chicago Marks Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Honoring India's Tribal Freedom Heroes And Honoring Birsa Munda's 150th Anniversary

By Bhailal M Patel

The Consulate General of India in Chicago, under the leadership of Consul General Shri Somnath Ghosh, hosted a grand and deeply meaningful celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas at the National India Hub in Schaumburg, Illinois. The event, held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, brought together community organizations, scholars, youth, and diaspora members to honor the extraordinary courage and legacy of India's tribal freedom fighters.

Organized with the support of the NRI Association of Chhattisgarh (NACHA), Bihar & Jharkhand Association of Midwest, Friends of Madhya Pradesh, IL, North American Manipur Association, and The Odisha Society of the Americas, the pro-



Consul General Shri Somnath Ghosh with Children and diaspora members presented vibrant cultural performances

gram highlighted the remarkable contributions of tribal warriors who shaped India's freedom movement long before mainstream history acknowledged them.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh in his message, Consul General Shri Somnath Ghosh emphasized that Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is not just a day of remembrance but a reaffirmation of India's respect for its tribal communities—custodians of courage, culture, and civilizational wisdom. He highlighted the Government of India's commitment to preserving tribal heritage and promoting greater awareness about their sacrifices.

About Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is celebrated every year to honor the historic struggles, cultural contributions, and sacrifices of India's tribal

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Madhuri Dixit Shines At “Golden Diva Of Bollywood” Celebration At The Matrix Club, Chicago

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

Doors opened at 8:00 p.m., and attendees—draped in shimmering sarees, festive Indo-Western outfits, and celebratory winter colors—entered an atmosphere filled with music, memories, and anticipation. The venue, The Matrix Club in Naperville, Illinois, sparkled like a festive mandap, complete with cascading chandeliers, colorful décor, and the aroma of chaat and festive beverages.

The celebration of Bollywood nostalgia was organized by Rajshri Events, Mauj Entertainment, and Kashif Khan Events and was entitled, “Golden Diva of Bollywood – Madhuri Dixit.” Families, fans, and Bollywood lovers from across the Midwest gathered to see one of Indian cinema’s most beloved icons.

The evening was anchored by Shalin Bhanot, actor and Bigg Boss star, whose high-energy entrance set the tone for the night. With his signature charm, he greeted the crowd with a booming, “Chicago, are you ready?” sparking cheers, whistles, and applause throughout the hall.

Bhanot led a lively fan contest to crown “Chicago’s Biggest Madhuri Dixit Fan.” The competition drew laughter, dance-offs, and a spirited performance by Rita Shah, whose rendition of “Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai” won the crowd’s heart.



Bollywood icon Madhuri Dixit on stage at The Matrix Club in Chicagoland.

The excitement reached its peak as lights dimmed and music swelled. Shalin announced: “Presenting the incomparable, the eternal Madhuri Dixit!” To thunderous applause, Madhuri Dixit-Nene entered in a stunning crimson lehenga, radiating timeless grace and warmth. She greeted the Chicago audience with a heartfelt: “Namaskar! Thank you for braving the weather to celebrate with me tonight.”

What followed was an intimate, unscripted evening filled with conversation, memories, dance, and pure Bollywood magic.

Madhuri shared stories from her journey—her early days as a trained Kathak dancer, her first performances, and candid anecdotes from her decades-long film career. The crowd erupted with joy as she reenacted a moment from her 1991 Chicago tour when a broken heel forced her to dance barefoot with Anil Kapoor.

She delighted fans by performing select steps from her iconic songs, from “Ek Do Teen” to “Dola Re Dola.” Under the Naperville lights, her Kathak spins and expressive grace transported the audience through Bollywood’s golden era.

Shalin added humor and energy with spontaneous skits, including a playful “Devdas” act and a hilarious moment where he donned a ghagra, joking, “Ab samajh aaya why it takes so long to get ready!”

The night also featured: Fan selfies (“Madfies”) with Madhuri, a dialogue-dubbing segment where fans reenacted scenes from Pukar and Hum Aapke Hain Koun, A dance medley by the Mayuri Troupe, A tabla performance by Sunil Rockstar, a fashion show by Amita’s Ethnic Indo-Western Collection.



An unscripted evening with conversations, dance, pure nostalgia happened at The Matrix Club in Naperville, with star Madhuri Dixit.

CGI Chicago Marks Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Honoring India’s Tribal Freedom Heroes and Honoring Birsa Munda’s 150th Anniversary

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

communities. The Government of India declared 15 November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in 2021 to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary tribal freedom hero Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This day recognizes: The resilience of tribal societies, Their role in resisting British colonial rule, Their contribution to India’s civilizational ethos, environmental wisdom, and cultural richness, Their continued impact on India’s identity and diversity.

About Bhagwan Birsa Munda (1875–1900): Bhagwan Birsa Munda, born in present-day Jharkhand, remains one of India’s most revered tribal icons. A revolutionary, spiritual guide, and social reformer, he ignited a powerful indigenous movement against British rule known as the Ulgulan (The Great Tumult).

Key highlights of his legacy: Fought fearlessly against unjust colonial land policies, Inspired tribal communities to reclaim their rights, dignity, and autonomy, Promoted social reforms, unity, and self-respect among the Munda community, Became a symbol of resistance, courage, and tribal pride, Passed away at the young age of 25, yet left an immortal legacy, Today



Children and diaspora members presented vibrant cultural performances.

honored as “Dharti Aba” — The Father of the Earth, 2025 marks the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, making this year’s celebration especially significant.

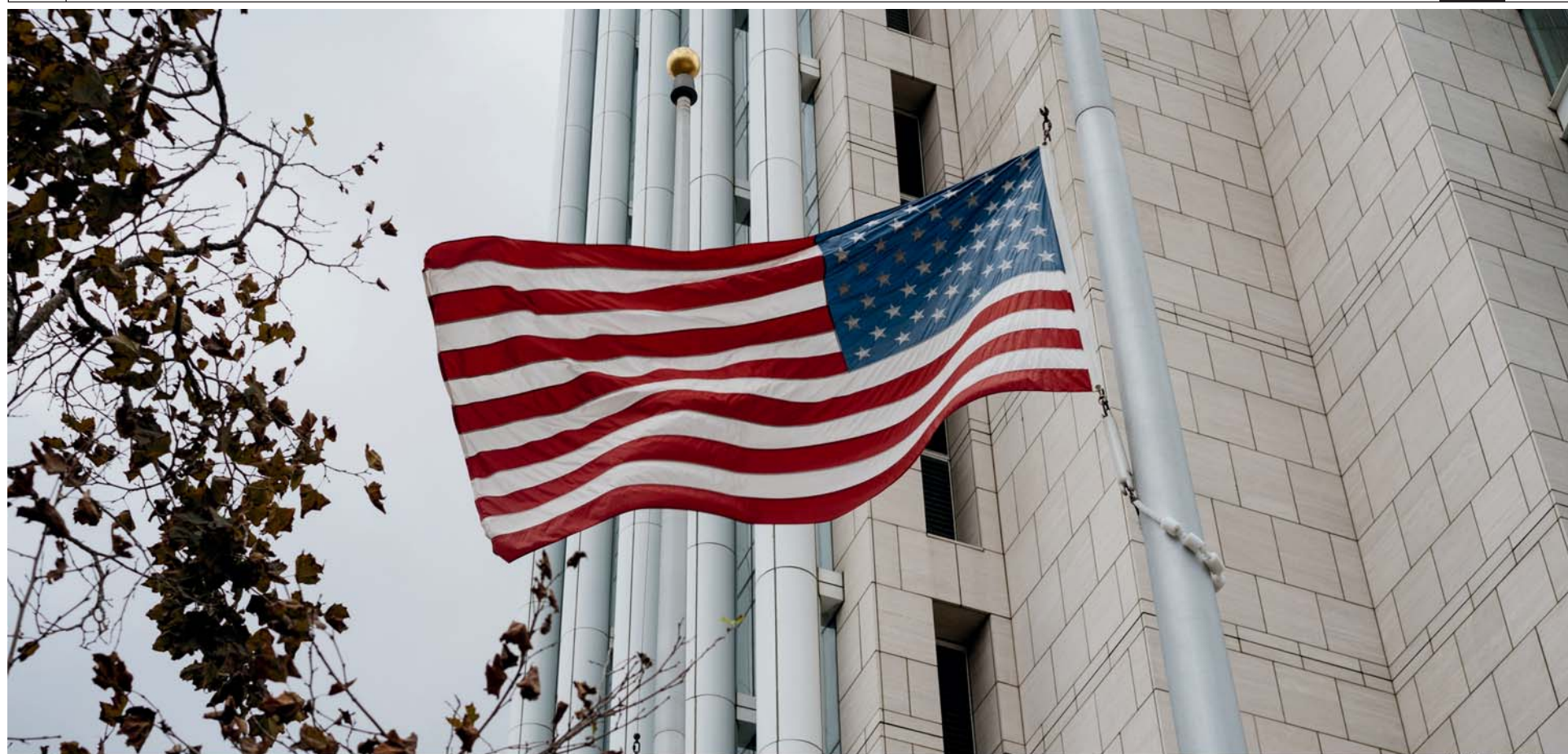
Event Highlights & Tributes, Honoring Tribal Freedom

Fighters Across India; Speakers offered insights into the heroism of historic tribal leaders, including: Chhattisgarh: Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Madhya Pradesh: Tantiya Bhil, Rani Avantibai, Shankar Shah, Raghunath Shah, Bhima Naik, Manipur: Rani Gaidinliu, Odisha: Laxman Nayak, Baji Rout, Veer Surendra Sai, Each narrative highlighted the bravery and sacrifices that strengthened India’s fight for independence.

Cultural Performances: Children and diaspora members presented vibrant cultural performances, folk songs, and patriotic pieces. A stirring rendition of “Vande Mataram” added emotional resonance and pride to the gathering.

Community Collaboration: The event drew enthusiastic participation from partner organizations and community leaders. Attendees registered through QR code and digital forms, ensuring broad engagement and seamless coordination.

The Consulate General of India, Chicago reaffirmed its commitment to promoting awareness of India’s tribal legacy, celebrating their contributions, and strengthening cultural bonds with the Indian diaspora. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas serves as a reminder that India’s tribal communities stand at the heart of its freedom story, cultural diversity, and civilizational strength.



All Photos: Canva

US CONSULATES NOW ROUTING B-1 IN LIEU OF H-1B VISAS FOR EXTRA REVIEW IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

IN MEMORIAM

By David H. Nachman, Esq



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) recently introduced a new review step for applicants under the B-1 in lieu of H-1B category. U.S. embassies and consulates must now send these applications to the Department of State's Visa Office in Washington, D.C. for secondary examination before a visa is issued. This added oversight reflects the government's increasing caution toward how this specialized category is being used.

Overview of the B-1 in Lieu of H-1B Category

This visa classification allows foreign professionals to engage in short, specialized work visits to the United States while staying on the payroll of their foreign employer. To qualify, the individual must continue to receive salary abroad and perform duties that are incidental to their foreign employment, not constituting local U.S. labor participation.

After the \$100,000 "Visa Integrity Fee" for new H-1B petitions took effect on September 21, 2025, authorities began to monitor this category more closely. Some employers may be tempted to use it as a way to avoid the new fee or to bypass the standard H-1B petition process.

Centralized Review and Its Impact

With the DOS Visa Office now reviewing these applications, longer processing times and more detailed evaluations are expected. Employers should take proactive measures to avoid issues, including:

- Demonstrating a valid foreign employer-employee relationship through documentation.
- Confirming that wages are paid outside the United States.
- Ensuring the U.S. assignment is temporary and narrowly defined.
- Preparing for extended adjudication timelines under the centralized system.

Although this visa path remains technically available, it should be considered only when the business purpose clearly fits within permissible parameters.

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For guidance on whether your professional travel qualifies under this category—or if filing an H-1B petition would be more appropriate—contact NPZ Law Group at info@visaserve.com or visit www.visaserve.com

FAQ – B-1 IN LIEU OF H-1B VISA REVIEW

1. Why are U.S. consulates forwarding these visa cases to Washington, D.C.?

To ensure consistent screening and prevent misuse of the category following the implementation of the new H-1B Visa Integrity Fee.

2. What can applicants expect under the new process?

A longer waiting period and a more detailed review of whether the role qualifies for B-1 in lieu of H-1B.

3. How should employers prepare?

Keep evidence of the employee's foreign job status, proof of salary paid overseas, and a clear description of the temporary assignment in the U.S.

Legendary Actress Kamini Kaushal Remembered

Kamini Kaushal was one of the leading actresses of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s era of Indian cinema, where she shared the screen with superstars like Ashok Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Dilip Kumar, and legends like Raaj Kumar and Dharmendra, among many others.

The actress made an indelible mark in the industry with her very first film. Her debut, *Neecha Nagar* (1946), won the prestigious Grand Prix du Festival International du Film at the inaugural Cannes Film Festival and remains the only Indian film to win the Palme d'Or.

It was directed by Chetan Anand and starred Uma Anand and Rafiq Anwar in the lead roles.

The actress reportedly appeared in over 70 films during her illustrious career spanning more than seven decades in the film industry.

She was last seen in the Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan starrer *'Laal Singh Chaddha'*, which hit the theatres in 2022.

She was remembered by many as having left an indelible mark on the silver screen, among them Amitabh Bachchan and Shahid Kapoor.

Taking to his blog, the Amitabh Bachchan expressed his grief over the passing of the actress.

"And another loss. A dear family friend of the days of yore, when there was no partition. Kamini Kaushal ji, legendary artist, an icon, who contributed immensely to our Industry and who remained with us till the very last," said Amitabh Bachchan in a blog.

The actor recalled the relationship between Kamini Kaushal's family and his mother.

"Her family and Maa ji's families were very dear friends in erstwhile pre-partition Punjab. Kamini ji's elder sister was a very close friend of Maaji. They were classmates, and a most joyous bunch of likeminded friends," wrote Amitabh in his blog.

The actor extended his condolences to the family of Kamini Kaushal.

Describing her as "A most pleasant, warm, affectionate and talented artist" ... An era of great remembrance gone, not just for the film fraternity, but as a member of the friends fraternity. One by one they all are leaving us. A most sad moment, filled only now with condolence and prayer."

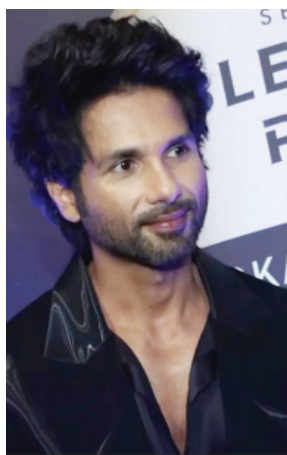


PHOTO: SOURCE/ ANI



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN/ VIA ANI

Shahid Kapoor, Legendary actress Kamini Kaushal.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @SHOOJITSIRCAR

Kamini Kaushal and Shoojit Sircar.

Actor Shahid Kapoor paid a heartfelt tribute to the star remembering her as a "wonderful soul" and praising her professionalism and warmth. Shahid, who shared screen space with Kaushal in the 2019 film *'Kabir Singh'*, recalled his experience working with her as both a privilege and a pleasure.

Speaking to ANI, he said, "She was such a wonderful soul and working with her was just a pleasure and a privilege."

Reflecting on her legacy, Shahid Kapoor added, "She brought a lot of warmth and a lot of dignity to *'Kabir Singh'* and she will always be remembered for being a fantastic artist. When I worked with her, she was so sharp and she was so professional and she was so kind and warm. May her soul rest in peace."

Director Shoojit Sircar remembered his "forever inspiration," Kamini Kaushal, sharing a special memory of the veteran actress and said that Kaushal had a deep impact on him.

On Saturday, November 15, Sircar posted a picture of the two on Instagram. While sharing the photo, he penned an emotional note, recalling how he once had the chance to meet Kaushal during the casting of *'Gulabo Sitabo'*, which he described as a "beautiful memory."

In his post, he wrote, "A beautiful memory, a forever inspiration. I had the privilege of sharing a quiet moment with Kamini Kaushal during the casting of *'Gulabo Sitabo'*. I wish the stars had aligned so we could have created something together; her presence was graceful, warm, and elegant. Rest in peace, dear Kamini ji. You had the sweetest smile and voice."

Kamini Kaushal's final rites were performed on Saturday, with an intimate gathering of close family members in attendance.

The atmosphere at the Worli crematorium remained solemn as loved ones bid their final farewell. Her elder son, Vidhur, performed the final rites, leading the traditional Hindu rituals.

Prior to that, Kamini Kaushal's mortal remains were brought to the crematorium from her residence in Mumbai.

-ANI

SPORTS

Cricket-India Confront Batting Blind Spot After Kolkata Pitch Boomerangs

By AMLAN CHAKRABORTY

India have long curated home tracks that accentuate turn, but the assumption their own batters would master such conditions no longer appears safe following their defeat in the opening test against South Africa.

On a treacherous Eden Gardens' pitch, the ball bounced irregularly and turned sharply and none of the teams posted 200. Touring captain Temba Bavuma's unbeaten 55 was the highest score by any batter.

India, a batter short as skipper Shubman Gill retired hurt in the first innings with a neck injury and did not bat in the second, were bundled out for 93 chasing 124 for victory.

South African spinners claimed 12 of the 18 Indian wickets in the match exposing the home batters' vulnerabilities



PHOTO: ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS/PETER CZIBORRA

Cricket - International Test Match Series - Fifth Test - India Practice Session - Kia Oval, London, Britain - July 30, 2025 India head coach Gautam Gambhir looks on during practice

against the turning ball.

South Africa off-spinner Simon Harmer finished with a match haul of eight wickets to bag the player-of-the-match award.

It was jarring to home fans used to watching nimble-footed and supple-wristed Indian batters dominate spin.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir mounted a spirited defence of the much-maligned pitch on Sunday, shifting the conversation from conditions to competence.

"The point is that you should be able to know how to play turn," Gambhir said in an assessment of their batting that led to the sobering defeat inside three days.

"I felt that if you are willing to put your head down and if you have a solid defence, if you have the temperament, you can definitely score runs.

"Yes, it might not be a wicket which is going to (allow you to) be very, very

flamboyant, where you can play those big shots. But if you are willing to put your head down, definitely it's a wicket where you can score."

Opener KL Rahul's 39 in the first innings was the highest score by an Indian batter in the match.

India have slipped to the fourth place in the World Test Championship standings after the loss and have plenty to ponder ahead of the second and final test in Guwahati.

Gill was taken to hospital and later discharged, but is doubtful for the test in Guwahati beginning on November 22.

India played spin-bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar at number three in Kolkata but B Sai Sudharsan is likely to reclaim his top-order place in Guwahati especially if Gill is not available.

-REUTERS

Between funding freezes and budget cuts, it's been a tough year for national parks. But "now is a great time" to return, said Jim Pattiz, co-founder of More Than Just Parks, which promotes and raises awareness about public lands.

Fall days with cooler temperatures offer a respite from summer heat and peak crowds. The national park system saw sporadic restrictions during the government shutdown, and outdoor parks remained largely open, but there were no workers to staff some historic sites and visitor centers, or direct some tours.

"Now, as operations resume, parks across the country are welcoming visitors back in full," the National Park Service said in a statement Thursday.

"NPS employees and partners are working quickly to restore normal services and ensure visitors can continue to enjoy these treasured places." Pattiz said travelers should remember that employees may have their hands full when they return to work, and that it may take time for cleanup or full access to be restored.

"I would just encourage people to give our park employees words of encouragement when you go see them," Pattiz said. "Thank them for what they're doing."

Here are seven parks that are perfect for a late fall visit.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, one of the lesser visited in the country, promises a variety of West Texas wilderness: mountains, canyons, desert and dunes. The 86,416-acre expanse contains more than 80 miles of hiking trails.

Intrepid travelers with eight hours to spare can take on the 8.4-mile hike to Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas.

In the fall, visitors can expect sun and mild weather; average temperatures in November range from highs around 60 to lows in the 30s (although these estimates drop 5-10 degrees at higher elevation in the park).

Plan your road trip wisely: You'll want to arrive with a full tank, as there are no gas stations available inside the park.

Great Smoky Mountains

The Smokies in North Carolina and Tennessee are a fan favorite - more than 12 million visitors came in 2024, the most of any national park. October is the busiest month as leaf peepers flock to fall colors. That's why Pattiz likes to visit in November, when visitors can still find colorful leaves at lower elevations but avoid traffic jams.

"It's my favorite time to go because the crowds have died off from their crazy peak times and you don't have to deal with trying to find a parking spot and all these things that you do in the middle of October," he said.

He warns that campers should be prepared for "surprisingly low" temperatures at night: At low elevation, the average low is 33 and high is 61. Higher elevations are likely to be colder.

Pattiz said one of the park's "big draws" is the elk, which can be viewed in parts of the North Carolina side, including Cataloochee, Balsam Mountain and Oconaluftee. He also loves to visit Mingus Mill, a historic grist mill. "It's quiet and it feels very sort of Old World; you're taken out of the hustle and bustle of the rest of the park," he said. The interior is temporarily closed for preservation and rehabilitation.

By Natalie B. Compton, Hannah Sampson

The Washington Post

SEVEN NATIONAL PARKS WE LOVE FOR



All photos: Canva

Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park, home to the world's most iconic cactus, is one of the most easily accessible parks in the country, located just outside Tucson - on both sides, actually.

The park is split into two districts with the city in between.

Tucson Mountain District to the west and Rincon Mountain District to the east offer similar landscapes and wildlife, but for more cactus action, head west.

You can bike, drive, hike or horseback around the park's scenic loops to best appreciate the otherworldly plants.

Fall visitors can expect average temperatures of 65 degrees during the day and 40 degrees at night.

The government shutdown limited access to the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, Rincon Mountain District Entrance Road and Cactus Forest Loop Drive, but all other areas of the park are open.

Visit the Saguaro park current conditions website for updates.

Grand Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon's North Rim closed for the season Friday, but the South Rim teems with hiking trails, scenic roads, incredible views and plenty to do.

The park remained open during the government shutdown, but some services such as the South Rim visitors center have been closed; the timeline for a return to normal was not available Thursday.

"It's usually a quieter time to come visit with great weather," said Mindy Riesenber, chief communications officer for the nonprofit Grand Canyon Conservancy.

"It's not hot. It's beautiful, it's great for walking and hiking."

"I find it to be one of the best times of the year to visit."

Average temperatures at the South Rim reach a high of about 52 degrees in November and dip to 27, but things warm up in the inner canyon to an average high of 68 and low of 46.

Everglades National Park

November kicks off the drier - and high - season at this 1.5-million-acre national park in South Florida, a great alternative to the wetter, more humid months. Scanning the river of grass for alligators or wading birds is so much more pleasant when you're not slapping mosquitos away. Expect average lows around 63 and highs of 83. "Visiting the Everglades this time of year is beautiful; it is the least buggy time of year, many migratory birds are coming in, and there are many plants blooming," like pastel-flowered muhly grass, the nonprofit Everglades Institute said in a statement.

The organization offers van tours, paddling tours and "wet walks" to explore the park.

Death Valley National Park

In the summer, Death Valley records some of the hottest temperatures on the planet.

In the fall, visitors will find a climate that's much more humane. November average temperatures range from highs in the 70s to lows in the 40s.

Spend your day hiking through canyons and badlands, then stick around after dark.

The park is ranked the highest (gold tier) level by the International DarkSky Association, and according to its website, "Celestial objects which can be viewed from Death Valley are not visible elsewhere in the world."

Shenandoah National Park

Fall is high season for Shenandoah National Park, but you'll find fewer crowds after the leaves reach their peak and temperatures dip (in November and December, average highs top out around 39 degrees).

That means a quieter time on the park's 500-plus miles of trail, particularly if you go midweek.

Hikers take note: The weather can change quickly, from a clear day at lower elevations to snow on the trails.

Check the park's conditions website before your visit, particularly if you're looking to take a scenic trip along Skyline Drive, which can be closed due to icy conditions.

Deconstructing India's Dramatic 2025 World Cup Victory Through The Gender Lens

By Nisha Sahai Achuthan

Following the extensive coverage of the above (India's 2025 World Cup victory) in both Indian and international media, it would not be out of place to now examine its impact through the gender lens by addressing the following: To what extent does it reflect gender-parity for Indian women in team sports such as cricket by narrowing if not closing the gender gap. And secondly to what extent has it helped in reducing the social bias and stigma attached to women playing cricket.

As regards the first question, there are two differing viewpoints; there are those who point out that the cash reward of INR 51 crore announced by BCCI and the prize money of INR 40 crore by the ICC—totaling 90 crores to the women's team—while narrowing the gap still falls short of gender-parity; as in comparison, the men's team, which won the ICC T20 World Cup in 2024, received a much higher total of Rs 145.4 crore — Rs 20.4 crore from the ICC and Rs 125 crore bonus from the BCCI, which is about Rs 54 crore more than what the women's team got this year. Since in the final analysis it is the quantum of financial resources available that determines the quality of training facilities and more significantly the financial independence it is able to bestow on the players, many of them coming from under privileged families.

Traditionally, for many years, both men and women cricketers had to be in the employ of Indian government undertakings such as the railways, to sustain their cricket careers. For example, both former and current captains—Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur, worked for the Railways. Kaur had moved to Mumbai in 2014,



PHOTOS: REUTERS/FRANCIS MASCARENHAS

ICC Women's World Cup – Final – India v South Africa – DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, India – November 2, 2025 India players celebrate with the trophy after winning the ICC Women's World Cup.

but to sustain herself, she had to work as a clerk in the Railways. In an online interview, she talked about how fatigued she was, travelling in the crowded suburban local trains in Mumbai to reach her place of work from home, leaving her exhausted by the time she reached her training facility. Deepti Sharma, another team-member is a DSP -deputy superintendent of police. Hopefully, the aforesaid cash awards and prize money— even after it is distributed equally to all team members— would place in their hands sufficient cash reserves to sustain a fulltime cricket career, without having to be in the employment of others.

Regarding the lack of gender parity, in the prize and cash awards, a differing viewpoint is held by Mithali Raj—who captained the team from 2004 to 2022—and

who in a recent online interview said: “We should stop comparing Men and Women's prize money and look into the positives and good work done by the BCCI in organizing the 2025 World Cup; also, the evolution of men and women's cricket is very different so you can't compare money....

look at the standard of men's cricket look at the number of events and tournaments they've won so far and they've been doing that for a long time... we've cracked it now so maybe in the next 10 years you probably will see the growth fast forward...”

As regards the second question relating to the social stigma attached to

women playing cricket, this was brought out very graphically by the anchor person interviewing Mithali, who said: You referred to how when you would play, there would be people who would say “her skin will turn dark why are you torturing her?” Mithali responded: “when it comes to social media and trolls... over a period of time you find a way.... build a thick skin and don't allow it to bother you..”

Quite often the supportive role of parents too goes a long way in defying conventional social norms. Aman Jot's father — a carpenter— was taunted for encouraging his daughter to play cricket, but he stood by his daughter. In a ToI interview of 2017, parents of Kaur stated that “they aren't conventional like other Punjab families in restricting the cricketer's social life. They added that they have never asked their daughter to suggest a suitable time and age to marry.... Cricket first...Right from childhood, we wanted her to be a batsman. We can't deny her right to build her career and ability to win laurels for India as a female star...”

The one big transformative societal impact the recent victory has had is to have established once and for all that women's cricket in India, has come of age. It is no longer just a man's sport, the space of which women have been trying to share over the years. It is also interesting to note

that women's sports in India are attracting more and more male viewership, as reportedly 58% of the 2025 world cup event was viewed by men.

The author Nisha Sahai Achuthan, Ph.D., is a retired member of the Indian Administrative Service and a former executive head of the National Commission for Women, Government of India, now based in NYC as a Consultant.



PHOTO: X @PEGOBRYL_EN

“They’re Leaving Too Much To Chance...”: Haddin On India Losing To South Africa On ‘Spin-Friendly’ Kolkata Pitch

Former Australian cricketer Brad Haddin has criticized the Indian team, which lost their first Test at Eden Gardens in 13 years

following a loss to South Africa by 31 runs, saying that they are “leaving too much on chance” by using excessively spin-friendly surfaces and not allowing themselves to play their best cricket.

India's Test woes at home continued as they failed yet another test against quality spin. Simon Harmer haunted India with his sharp turn and bamboozling ways, securing eight wickets in the match and leaving India 31-run short of a modest target of 124 runs. This marked India's fourth successive loss to SENA nations at home in

Tests, after a humiliating 0-3 whitewash to New Zealand last year, which marked their first series loss at home in 12 years.

Speaking on the Willow Talk Podcast, Haddin said, “I just think they are leaving too much to chance. India play

their best cricket when they put a big total on the board, and then they make the opposition claustrophobic with their fields. Their spinners are better than anyone else on those surfaces, but their batters are not that good players of spin on surfaces like that.”

He pointed out that under Virat Kohli's captaincy, Team India used to put up “big scoreboard pressure” with big totals and made their opponents feel “claustrophobic” with aggressive field settings.

“When Virat Kohli took over as captain back then, they batted long and put big scoreboard pressure and left opponents claustrophobic with their fields. They are leaving too much to chance. It brings ordinary spinners into the game. They have taken their world-class batters out of the game. Your skill and the craft of using your drift, using the different angles of the crease go out of it,” he added.

Following the match in the presser, head coach Gau-

tam Gambhir had defended the pitch, saying that there were “no demons on it”.

“There was no demon in this wicket. It was not an unplayable one. This was not a typical turning track. The majority of the wickets were claimed by the seamers. It was more of a test of your technique and mental toughness... Those who defended well scored runs. This is exactly what we wanted, but when you do not play well, this is what happens,” he had said.

Haddin said he heard that Gambhir came out and said that they are happy with the surface they are playing on. “This cost them against New Zealand as well,” he said.

India are 1-0 down in the series and will put their best foot forward in the second Test in Guwahati from November 22.”

-ANI

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Now hiring General Manager – Hampton Inn, Craig, Colorado. Lead operations, manage staff, ensure guest satisfaction. Competitive pay, housing provided, long-term growth. Legal status must.
Apply: ohmhospitalityco@gmail.com | 720-810-5009
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AUGUSTA,GA
2 franchise motels 110 rooms and 65 rooms in Augusta,GA immediately need Single/couple for front desk clerk and Manager. Legal status must. Accommodation will be provided on site. Please call Meena: 706-877-1991, 706-631-2626 meena888patel@aol.com
11/14-12/12-SD

MOTEL HELP WANTED

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN
Looking for a Front desk and Housekeeping couple near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Accommodation will be provided. Attractive wages.
Please contact 262-676-9167.
11/14-12/05-MS

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.
10/31-11/21-SD

NORTH CAROLINA
Choice Hotel needs an experienced single person for the Night Auditor Front Desk. Must be legal. Accommodation provided. Attractive salary.
STUDENTS PLS DO NOT CALL.
Call : 252-767-5252 nc802_27536@yahoo.com
11/14-12/12-SL

Virginia
36 rooms Independent motel in Central Virginia needs two couples for Housekeeping. Good pay and accommodation will be provided.
Call: (540) 486-1333
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MOTEL HELP WANTED

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

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
04/18/25 - 04/17/26 -SL

NASHVILLE, TN
Franchise Hotels hiring Night Desk clerk & Housekeeping couple. Must have own transportation. Accommodation provided. Competitive salary. Legal status must.
Call (615) 594-5454.
11/07-01/02/26-SH

LONG ISLAND, NY
20 Rooms Independent motel in Long Island, NY needs a couple for Front desk help. Experience, Fluent English, computer knowledge and legal status must. Accommodation will be provided. Contact: Ishwar Ahir: (607)-262-0157
11/14-12/05-SD

MOTEL HELP WANTED

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
05/23/25- 05/15/26 - SL

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
08/02-TFN-SD

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.
09/26/2026 - 09/18/2026-SL

PENNSYLVANIA
Hotels in Pennsylvania (PA) looking for following positions 1) Front Office Manager 2) Front Office Agents 3) Housekeeping supervisor 4) Housekeepers. Candidates with Marriott or similar hotel experience preferred. Must be legal.
Please Contact: 717-256-2650
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Email Bio-date / photo : krh835@yahoo.com

10/31-11/21-SL

MALE

Hindu, 55 yr old, non-smoker/non-drinker, established in finance and entertainment. Looking for 45-50 yrs old from good family.
929 666 1363

10/31-11/21-JG

MALE

Gujarati Hindu Patel Family invites correspondence for their son; U.S born, never married; well educated; 42 yrs, 5'10". seeking U.S based, educated, family oriented girl.
Please Email biodata & photo to PMT430@gmail.com

11/07-11/28-SD

FEMALE

Gujarati Brahmin girl, 35 years, US citizen, 5'4"tall, fair complexion, educated, Business Management from Rutgers Univ. NJ, currently working at a pharmaceutical firm looking for educated Hindu groom with legal status.
Phone: 908-720-9624

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