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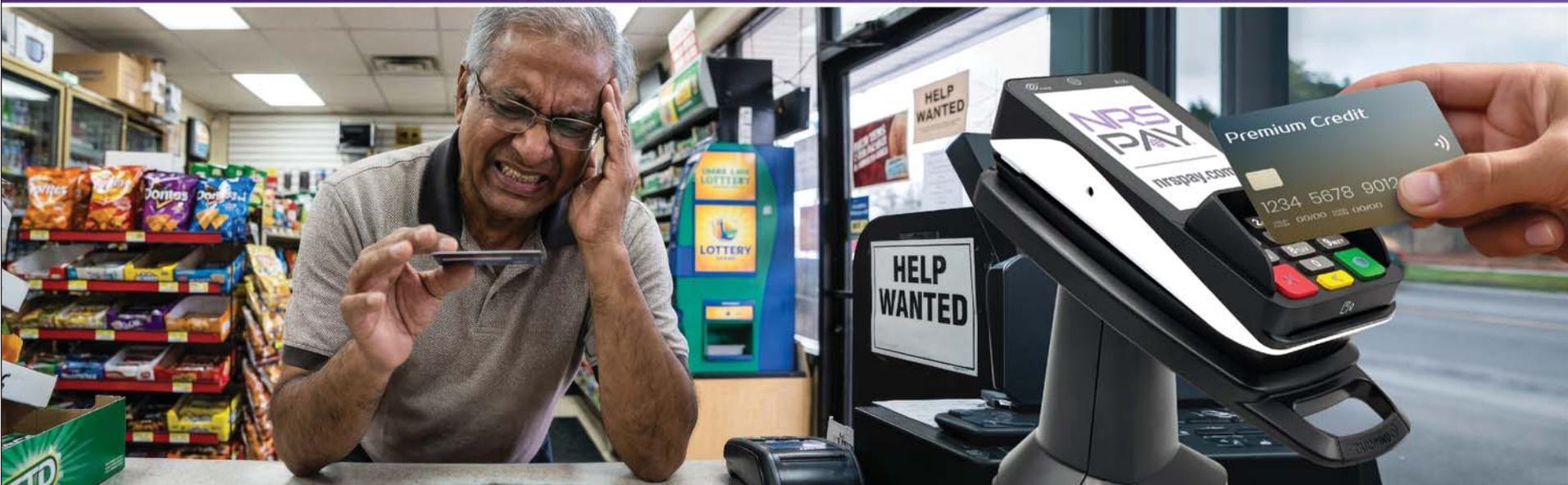
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# Samson And Bumrah Star As India Beat NZ To Retain T20 World Cup Title

By AMLAN CHAKRABORTY

India became the first team to retain the men's Twenty20 World Cup title after handing out a 96-run demolition of New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

India also became the first team to lift the title three times, while New Zealand's wait for a maiden white-ball World Cup continues.

The victory will taste particularly sweet for India since it came at a venue where they were beaten by Australia in the final of the 50-overs World Cup three years ago.

Put in to bat, India capitalised on a 98-run opening stand between Sanju Samson (89) and Abhishek Sharma (52) to rack up 255-5.

Number three Ishan Kishan smashed 54 but James Neesham bowled a three-wicket over to apply the brakes on India's



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Suryakumar Yadav lifts the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

## BATTING CARNAGE

Rachin Ravindra dismissed Abhishek with his first ball to bring relief to the New Zealand camp, ending the opener's 21-ball knock that included three sixes.

With Samson continuing in the same vein and Kishan joining him in a batting carnage, there was hardly any respite for New Zealand.

Both found boundaries with remarkable regularity as India reached the 200-mark in the 15th over.

Samson, who smacked Ravindra for three sixes in a row, was finally caught in the deep off James Neesham, who also removed Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav in a three-wicket over.

India could not maintain the tempo after the departures of their set batters and yet comfortably breached the 250-mark.

New Zealand's top order wilted early in their chase and they could never re-



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Ishan Kishan celebrates after taking a catch to dismiss New Zealand's Tim Seifert off the bowling of Varun Chakravarthy.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with Hardik Pandya after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Mitchell Santner.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 New Zealand's Mitchell Santner is bowled out by India's Jasprit Bumrah.

scoring rate towards the end of the innings.

Chasing such a daunting target, New Zealand could not recover from a top-order collapse and were all out for 159 in 19 overs despite defiant knocks by Tim Seifert (52) and Mitchell Santner (43).

"This feels extremely special because I've played one final in my home venue but couldn't win that one, but today I won," said India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, whose 4-15 fetched him player of the match award.

"I knew the wicket was a flat one so had to use all my experience."

Samson, who smashed his third successive 80-plus knock, was adjudged player of the tournament.

Earlier, wary of having to bowl with a hard-to-grip, dew-soaked ball later in the evening, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner elected to field.

New Zealand used four different bowlers in the first four overs but could not stop India from milking 92 without losing a wicket after the six powerplay overs.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India players celebrate after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

ally recover after being reduced to 47-3 inside five overs.

Finn Allen, who smashed a 33-ball hundred in the semi-final against South Africa, got a reprieve when Shivam Dube dropped him in the first over from Arshdeep Singh.

Allen could not capitalise on it though, and holed out against spinner Axar Patel in the third over.

Bumrah dismissed Ravindra with his first delivery and Axar got rid of Glenn Phillips to rattle New Zealand.

Stymied by lack of partnerships and faced with a spiralling required run-rate, Seifert had to go for the jugular but it did not pay off.

Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had Seifert caught in the deep as New Zealand lost the top half of their batting for 72 to effectively drop out of the hunt.

Santner, dropped on 26, went on to make 43 but India had the match in the bag by then.

-REUTERS



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## Life Health & Wellness Centre's Inspiring Journey of Health, Harmony and Community Service



**Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman, Life Global, NJ, USA**

For more than 2 decades, Life Health & Wellness Centre has been nurturing a culture of preventive health and holistic living. Its remarkable journey reflects the transformative power of yoga and mindful practices in strengthening individuals and communities alike. I congratulate the entire team for their dedication to this noble mission.



In an era where modern lifestyles are increasingly characterized by stress, sedentary habits, and rising lifestyle-related illnesses, the importance of preventive healthcare and holistic wellness has never been greater. For more than two decades, Life Health & Wellness Centre (LHWC) - a pioneering initiative of Project 'Life' - has been dedicated to guiding individuals toward healthier and more balanced lives through the timeless science of Yoga and holistic well-being.



Members embracing the timeless practice of Yoga for holistic health and inner harmony.

Established in 2003, LHWC was founded with the mission of making the transformative practices of Yoga, Pranayama, and Meditation accessible to society. Guided by the philosophy that true health arises from harmony between the body, mind, and spirit, the centre has grown into an active hub for wellness education and preventive healthcare. Over the past 23 years, LHWC has positively impacted **more than 900,000** individuals through regular Yoga sessions, workshops, wellness camps, and training programs, promoting physical fitness, mental clarity, emotional resilience, and a culture of healthy living within society.

A distinguishing strength of LHWC lies in its commitment to authentic Yogic education supported by reputed national institutions. The centre maintains meaningful associations with **Indian Yoga Association and Kaivalyadhama**, one of the world's oldest and most respected Yoga research institutions. These collaborations have enabled the centre to maintain high standards in Yoga education while integrating traditional yogic wisdom with modern scientific understanding of health and wellness.



**Shri Subodh Tiwariji, CEO - Kaivalyadhama, Lonavala, being felicitated by Project 'Life' for his inspiring guidance and contribution towards promoting holistic health and wellness**

The Life Health & Wellness Centre (LHWC) regularly conducts workshops and Shibir on Pranayama and Meditation, integrating traditional yogic wisdom with modern scientific understanding. These programs are organized in the authentic lineage of Kaivalyadhama, a globally recognized institution renowned for its pioneering work in yoga research and education. The workshops are unique in the region and aim to deepen participants' understanding of breathing techniques, meditation practices, and their scientifically validated benefits for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.



**Participants along with renowned Yoga expert Shri Sudhir Tiwariji during the successful 5 days 'Pranayama to Meditation' Shibir held in February 2026**

Participants have consistently reported positive outcomes, including improved stress management, enhanced mental clarity, and better overall health. Conducted periodically, these sessions are guided by experienced yoga practitioners and internationally acclaimed experts. Through such initiatives, LHWC continues to advance authentic yogic traditions and promote holistic wellness within the community.

Following the historic announcement by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the United Nations that led to the declaration of the International Day of Yoga**, the Centre has actively contributed to the global Yoga movement. **Since inception in 2015, LHWC has organized and participated in International Day of Yoga celebrations through large-scale Yoga sessions, awareness campaigns, and promoting wellness.**

One of the most remarkable dimensions of the centre's outreach has been its effort to take the message of wellness beyond conventional spaces. These initiatives have contributed meaningfully to promoting emotional balance, mental well-being, and positive lifestyle changes among participants.

The Centre has initiated a lecture series titled "How Not to Fall Sick," under which **over 330 educational lectures** have been delivered by renowned doctors. These sessions focus on mental health, physical well-being, lifestyle management, and holistic health awareness, promoting preventive healthcare and healthy living within the community.

Looking ahead, Life Health & Wellness Centre remains committed to promoting Yoga-based wellness and inspiring people to adopt balanced, healthy lifestyles. The Centre continues to emphasize that regular practice of Yoga, Pranayama, and Meditation is key to achieving holistic health and inner well-being.

Successfully conducted Yoga and wellness Shibir across 21 prisons in the State of Gujarat, provided an opportunity to experience the transformative benefits of Yoga, meditation, and disciplined living.

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# Samson Rises From Year Of Struggle To Become India's World Cup Hero

BY SURAMYA KAUSHIK

India opener Sanju Samson's rise from not being a preferred opener to finishing as the player of the tournament became the campaign's most compelling redemption arc as the hosts retained the men's Twenty20 World Cup title.

The 31-year-old arrived at the tournament under scrutiny after enduring a prolonged slump in form through last year and into the early stages of this one.

His returns were modest and inconsistent, and questions grew over whether India could continue backing a player whose promise often outpaced his output.

Samson, who did not play a game in the 2024 edition despite being in the squad, made 46 runs in five T20 internationals against New Zealand before the start of this year's World Cup and his place in the team looked anything but guaranteed.

"Right after the New Zealand series, I was broken, I was completely out of my mind," said Samson in the post-match presentation.

"I was like my dreams have shattered, what else can I do?"

Samson played only one game against



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Sanju Samson walks after losing his wicket.

Namibia in the T20 World Cup group stage and scored 22 off eight balls. He returned against Zimbabwe in the Super Eight but scored only 24.

The narrative changed when the stakes rose.

The wicket-keeper-batter peaked in the knockouts, reeling off three successive 80-plus scores and finishing as the tournament's third-highest run-scorer with 321 runs.

"God had different plans," he said.

"I suddenly came back into the crucial



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Sanju Samson celebrates with teammates after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

games, and did what I could for my country. So I'm very proud and happy that I was courageous enough to dream about it."

Samson struck 89 in India's total of 255-5, setting up a 96-run win over New Zealand in the final and registering the highest individual score in a T20 World Cup final, capping a campaign in which he also hit a record 24 sixes in a single edition.

He credited India legend Sachin Tendulkar for his preparation and mindset.

"From the last couple of months, I've

been in constant touch with Sachin (Tendulkar) sir... reached out to sir and had huge conversations with him," Samson said.

"Getting guidance from someone like him, what more can I ask for – that clarity, game preparation, awareness and sense."

## SPECIAL TALENT

Head coach Gautam Gambhir hailed Samson's performances and called him a 'special player' whose surge validated the value of backing talent through lean stretches.

"He deserves a lot more than actually he's got till now," Gambhir said.

"There was never any doubt on his talent. It was just about going out there and just be as free as he wanted to be.

"He has shown it to everyone that when you start believing in yourself, nothing matters to you apart from that."

Samson's turnaround mirrored India's own – less about personal peaks and more about collective purpose.

"Imagine if he would have been playing for a milestone, probably we wouldn't have got 250," Gambhir said.

India have now become the first team to lift the T20 World Cup title three times.

-REUTERS

## Celebrate Trophies, Not Personal Milestones, Says India Coach Gambhir

BY SURAMYA KAUSHIK

India's success has been powered by a deliberate move away from celebrating individual milestones, head coach Gautam Gambhir said on Sunday after the team retained their Twenty20 World Cup title.

India thrashed New Zealand by 96 runs at the Narendra Modi Stadium to become the first team to win the tournament three times, sealing back-to-back titles after their 2024 triumph.

Gambhir, appointed shortly after they lifted the trophy in 2024, said he set the tone early in his tenure that personal landmarks would not determine selection, and that approach helped India commit fully to a dominant style under captain Suryakumar Yadav.

"My simple philosophy with Surya has always been that milestones don't matter. It's the trophies that matter," Gambhir told reporters.

"For too long in Indian cricket, we've spoken about milestones. And I hope that till I'm there, we're not going to talk about milestones."



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – Final – India v New Zealand – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India – March 8, 2026 India's Suryakumar Yadav lifts the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

He pointed to opener Sanju Samson's run of form as an example of the team's evolving mindset.

Samson, who was out of form last year and struggled for runs at the start of the World Cup, struck his third successive 80-plus score in the final and repeatedly lifted India in knock-out games.

"Sanju made 97 not out (against West Indies)... Imagine if he would have been playing for a milestone,



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.

room than a captain."

With India now holding three T20 World Cup titles, Suryakumar said the side would definitely aim to chase gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, when they will also target another T20 World Cup crown.

-REUTERS

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# Why You Should Worry About The Other War On Iran's Border

By MIHIR SHARMA

Since Pakistan declared “open war” on the Taliban regime in Kabul last week, it has sent waves of jets over its disputed border with Afghanistan. It continued to do so even as Iran, which neighbors both countries, was attacked by the US and Israel and Israel and retaliated with drone and missile strikes across the region. It takes a particular kind of self-assuredness to push an already unstable situation to the brink. But when it comes to its neighbors, Pakistan's military has never run short of confidence.

They should know better. Two live conflicts in this same broken, mountainous arc mean risks have more than doubled. Frontiers are already porous here, crossed by smuggling routes, refugee trails, and militant hideouts. A descent into chaos will offer armed groups an inviting landscape that is controlled by nobody. As they have done so often before, threats born here will spill out onto the world. And, once again, Pakistan will be on the frontline of a global threat.

Islamabad began by saying that it was carrying out “intelligence-based, selective operations,” but that doesn't quite match its subsequent actions. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar insisted that more than 300 Taliban officials had been killed in strikes on Kabul and two other cities. Meanwhile, the Afghans claimed that more than 50 enemy soldiers had died along the border.

Pakistan's “establishment” - the catch-all term for its military-led deep state which hoards the real power - has clearly lost patience with its one-time partners. For more than a decade, they were the most assiduous propagators of the “good Taliban” theory: That the Islamist movement included harmless Pashtun nationalists who would just turn to governance if the evil West left them alone.

When President Joe Biden eventually abandoned Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan's generals were overjoyed. For over five decades their primary security strategy had been to nurture Islamic extremists. They kept at it, although not even once had it turned out well for them. But, as black-turbaned men drove their flat-bed trucks into Kabul, it seemed to them that their big gamble had finally paid off.

It hasn't, and for reasons that were entirely predictable. For one, Pashtun nationalists will always have problems with a border that slices their heartland in two. In addition, it is fundamentally unlikely

that the Taliban, “good” or otherwise, would have cracked down on their co-ideologues who believe in doing to Islamabad what they have done to Pakistan.

As a consequence, Tareek al Taliban Pakistan's ambition and audacity has only grown over the past three years. Early in February, a suicide bomber targeted a Shia mosque in the capital, killing 31 people. The conflict data platform ACLED counted 600 TTP attacks in the year to October 2025, and argued that the group is now “positioning itself as an alternative center of power” in the tribal borderlands.

Some in the West will be tempted to

see this as the generals' chickens coming home to roost. The Pakistani state has mobilized against the Taliban over the past week with as much energy as it expended hampering NATO's campaign in Afghanistan in the two decades after 2002.

The administration in Washington, however, is much more favorably inclined to its new friends in Pakistan. It has stressed the country's right to defend itself. The generals, meanwhile, have named their attack “Operation Righteous



A displaced Afghan family who fled following exchanges of fire between Pakistani and Afghan forces at a border crossing arranges their belongings in a makeshift camp as they take refuge in Lal Pur district in eastern Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, March 4, 2026.



Smoke rises above the city, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 5, 2026.

Fury,” which chimes with America's Operation Epic Fury in Iran.

Islamabad is not yet willing to indulge in a bit of self-reflection. It has blamed this upsurge in terrorism on the ingratitude of its erstwhile proteges, as well as on Indian meddling. What is certain is that the army made a strategic error that it will have to find a better way to live with than regular airstrikes on the Taliban. Unlike the US, it cannot withdraw from the neighborhood.

It does have other instruments in its arsenal, however, and is using some of them - for example, a blockade of trade into landlocked Afghanistan. With Iran at war with the US and Israel to its west and a closed border to its east, Kabul may be forced to rely on highways going north that travel through dangerously rebellious parts of the country.

But it's unclear what outcome the generals hope to precipitate with this offensive. Regime change is presumably impossible without a full-scale invasion of Afghanistan, and that's never gone well for anyone. Negotiations have been ongoing for years, but trust on both sides has broken down. And Islamabad clearly isn't winning hearts and minds in Kabul.

What it has done, however, is reunite Pakistan's political class in support of the army, including the recalcitrant Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. That party's jailed leader, the former prime minister Imran Khan, is himself a Pashtun, and made his name in politics by grandstanding against NATO airstrikes on the Taliban. The PTI, which is in power in the Pashtun-majority province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, refused to back strikes on the Taliban last year; but has now been forced to join a broad national consensus in favor of this war.

But it has also meant that the broader region is even more unstable. The theocrats in both Tehran and Kabul at least kept a lid on the Islamic State presence in

the region, which poses a major threat to Central and South Asia. If these two centers of power are simultaneously fighting for their life, what comes after might be even worse.

**Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, he is author of “Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy.”**

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# The Most Modern Solution To The Dating Crisis Is Also The Oldest : Arranged Marriage

BY SHADI HAMID

It's a moral panic but perhaps one that's wholly justified. In recent weeks, more data has emerged on how young people are struggling to find love and don't know where to find it in the first place. Over two-thirds of young adults have either not dated at all or only gone on a few dates in the last year. One of the main reasons? They lack confidence and don't know how to approach the opposite sex, according to a report on America's "dating recession" from the Wheatley Institute and the Institute for Family Studies.

If trends continue, one-third of young adults will not get married and one-fourth won't have kids. Some cities are worse than others. In San Francisco, half of all men remain unmarried by age 40. As sociologist Brad Wilcox told me, "We've never been in a cultural moment where so many young adults are headed toward a life without immediate kin." The implications are staggering: a generation of permanent bachelors - and bachelorettes - untethered from the bonds that have given life its deepest meaning.

This dire situation is the backdrop against which Stanford graduate student Henry Weng created Date Drop, a matchmaking platform that has swept through elite campuses. The premise is simple: answer a lengthy questionnaire about your values, preferences and political views, and the algorithm assigns you a single match weekly. No swiping, no infinite menu of options. Just one name.

As the Wall Street Journal recently reported, roughly two-thirds of Stanford's undergraduate population signed up. The platform has expanded to nearly a dozen other schools and attracted over \$2 million in venture funding. But I'm drawn less to the start-up success story than to the underlying confession embedded in it. Simply put, the most accomplished young people in the country - students who have optimized every dimension of their academic lives - can't quite figure out how to ask someone out for coffee.

This isn't just a Stanford problem, though it might be a particularly Stanford-ish version of a universal one. Again, the numbers are striking. Only 1 in 3 young men say they feel comfortable approaching someone they're attracted to, according to the dating recession report. And barely more than one-third of young adults say they can pick up on social cues during a date. This is a generation that has been told that relationships are among the most important things in life but has never been taught how to build one.

Part of this is the obvious, almost banal point about how American life is organized. We have constructed an elaborate conveyor belt - degree, internship, graduate school, first job, promotion - that demands total devotion during precisely the years when people are biologically and emotionally primed to form lasting attachments. The implicit message is: be impressive first, be human and figure out the love part later. It's not that anyone decided this consciously. It's more that we drifted into it.

There's something else going on though, something harder to quantify. I've written before about what French theorist René Girard called "mimetic" desire - the idea that we want what the people around us want. If the people around you are oriented toward marriage then you absorb that orientation almost without thinking. You date because dating is what people do. You commit because commitment is what's expected.

The dating recession is a crisis of mimetic desire

in reverse. We have stopped socializing young people toward marriage and family so fewer of them pursue it - not because they've arrived at some principled rejection of the institution but because few people around them are modeling it. The culture says: focus on yourself, build your brand, keep your options open. And so they do, until they look up at 35 or 40 and realize they've optimized everything except the thing that might actually make them happy. I know this because I've lived it.

This is where Date Drop becomes interesting as a cultural document of the weird times we live in. The platform works because it imposes structure on chaos. It is largely the opposite of Tinder's infinite scroll, which flatters the illusion of limitless choice while producing paralysis and disappointment. Date Drop succeeds precisely because it constrains. It decides for you - and in doing so, it frees you from the tyranny of deciding for yourself.

You don't have to squint too hard to see the analog to what religious communities once provided. The church, the mosque, the synagogue: These were never just houses of worship. They were matchmaking institutions, places where young people met amid communal structure and accountability. You didn't have to be particularly confident. The community did much of the work for you, pairing families, creating occasions, organizing awkward dinners and applying gentle (and sometimes not-so-gentle) pressure. I don't want to romanticize this. The old system had real costs, especially for women. But it also had a benefit that we're now beginning to appreciate: It made courtship and marriage the default.

As Hoda Abraham, a matchmaker who founded the service Love, Inshallah for Muslim singles told me, "When community and family networks naturally brought people together, you didn't need us. But those structures have thinned out." Or, as Maria Avgitidis, chief executive of Agape Matchmaking, put it to me, "We were never meant to date alone." In the pre-online dating era, other people were always "constantly meddling" in our love lives. The meddling, it turns out, might have been a good thing.

Date Drop is a very secular, Silicon Valley version of this communal function - an algorithm doing what grandmothers used to do. I admire it. But I also find something melancholy in the enterprise, because the fact that a computer science student had to code his way to a solution suggests the depth of what's been lost.

There is a detail from the Journal's story that I keep returning to. One student who helped bring Date Drop to Stanford admitted the platform hadn't produced romantic connections for him - but it had generated a few LinkedIn ones. He then listed the relationships he feared missing out on: his soulmate, his co-founder, his business partner, the chairman of his future board.

Soulmate and co-founder in the same sentence struck me as odd. I don't blame him. He is a product of a culture that has taught him to see every relationship through the lens of optimization.

I've been writing about the dating recession for a while. The data on marriage and happiness is clearer than many of us think. Married mothers are about three times as likely to say they're "very happy" as single, childless women. The pattern holds for men too. Yet when I cite these numbers, the most common response isn't disagreement with the data. It's something more like annoyance - as though pointing out the benefits of marriage is itself a kind of aggression against those who haven't found it.

I understand the annoyance, because I feel it, too. I reached age 40 without getting married or having

children. The data indicts me as much as anyone. But I'd rather be honest about what the evidence shows than pretend the question doesn't matter.

Not all problems have solutions. But while there may not be an obvious fix, some influential voices have advocated matchmaking as a replacement for dating apps. Meanwhile, Wilcox makes a case that I find both compelling and unsettling: just get married young. The conventional wisdom says there's time to hold out for the "perfect" person. But Wilcox argues that this is a risky bet. The pool of eligible partners is bigger in college and your early 20s. After that, it shrinks - and the culture of dating only gets harder to navigate. "Drifting through your 20s without a thought for your family future," he told me, "is its own kind of loss."

I can relate to this because I'm one of those people who drifted. And I'm not sure I was wrong to do so - life is complicated, and not everyone meets the right person at 23. But I also can't pretend the assumption was costless.

This is where matchmaking comes in as a potential corrective. Murray Hill Guy, a controversial dating influencer who's become a must-read for New York singles, told me that matchmaking appeals to people now because it addresses the thing apps are worst at: intentionality. "When both people show up knowing the introduction was made on purpose," he said, "they tend to take the date more seriously. That alone makes the experience feel more human and less transactional."

Matchmakers aren't algorithms. They ask about values, about life vision - the things a profile photo will never capture. And they hold people accountable. That word - accountable - matters. Accountability is what community used to provide free. Now we pay for it, because the community isn't there anymore.

There's an irony here worth sitting with. The most modern solution to the dating crisis turns out to be one of the oldest: a person who knows you knows the other person and thinks the meeting is worth both of your time.

I know how it sounds when a columnist suggests that marrying younger or hiring a matchmaker might be the way to go. And the idea of marrying so young still makes me more than a bit uncomfortable. Knowing even what I know now, I probably still wouldn't have done it. But the alternative - the thing we have been doing, which is drifting and hoping and swiping and burning out - simply isn't working. The return to matchmaking, whether algorithmic or personal, reflects something I find genuinely hopeful. The same goes for marrying young. Rather than a regression, it's about refusing to let the most important decision of your life be the one you keep postponing.

The dating recession won't be solved by any single app or matchmaker or cultural sermon. But it might begin to ease when we stop treating marriage as something that happens to you after you've finished becoming yourself - and start treating it as one of the ways you become yourself in the first place.



PHOTO: THE WASHINGTON POST

**Shadi Hamid is a Post columnist. He is also a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and the author of several books, including most recently, "The Case For American Power."**

-THE WASHINGTON POST

# She Matters Global Foundation Launches With Tribute To Women In Downers Grove



Members of the organizing team perform the traditional diya lighting ceremony during the launch of the "She Matters - A Grand Tribute to Womanhood" event hosted by the She Matters Global Foundation on March 7, 2026, at Ashyana Banquets in Downers Grove, Illinois. The ceremony marked the official opening of the celebration honoring women's achievements and leadership within the community.

Award recipients and organizers pose for a group photo during the "She Matters - A Grand Tribute to Womanhood" launch event hosted by the She Matters Global Foundation on March 7, 2026, at Ashyana Banquets in Downers Grove, Illinois. The event celebrated women's achievements and honored community leaders through the Women Excellence Awards while bringing together supporters, entrepreneurs and artists for an evening of recognition and empowerment.

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

**D**OWNERS GROVE, Ill. (March 7, 2026) — The She Matters Global Foundation, a new nonprofit focused on empowering and supporting women, officially launched Saturday with an event titled "She Matters - A Grand Tribute to Womanhood" at Ashyana Banquets in Downers Grove. The celebration brought together community leaders, entrepreneurs, artists and supporters to recognize women's achievements and contributions across various fields. The organization was founded by

Rajkumari Rathod, who said the foundation was created to ensure women receive recognition, support and opportunities to succeed. "This event was not just a celebration — it was the start of a vision that is very close to my heart," Rathod said. "She Matters was created to uplift women, celebrate their achievements, support women entrepreneurs and build meaningful connections within our community." The evening featured the Women Excellence Awards honoring women making positive impacts in their communities. Guests also enjoyed cultural dance performances, live music, a gala dinner, giveaways and a DJ celebration. According to organizers, the foundation

aims to create platforms that empower women through recognition programs, networking opportunities, mentorship and community initiatives designed to promote leadership and growth. Attendees described the event as an evening of empowerment and unity that highlighted the strength, resilience and talents of women from diverse backgrounds. Rathod said the foundation plans to host future programs and initiatives that support women's entrepreneurship, leadership development and community engagement. "This is just the beginning," she said. "Together, we are building something meaningful — a space where women feel

encouraged, respected and empowered." Photos and videos from the launch event are expected to be shared in the coming days. About She Matters Global Foundation The She Matters Global Foundation is a nonprofit initiative dedicated to empowering women, celebrating their achievements and supporting women entrepreneurs. Through events, recognition programs and community initiatives, the foundation seeks to build a strong network of women leaders and inspire women to grow and make a difference.



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# Ro Khanna's Wealth Tax Support Fuels Primary Challenge In Silicon Valley

By ELIYAHU KAMISHER

**R**epresentative Ro Khanna is facing backlash from billionaires for supporting a California wealth tax. Now a tech entrepreneur wants to turn that anger into a June primary challenge for Khanna's Silicon Valley seat.

The bid by Ethan Agarwal, 40, is a long shot given Khanna's national profile and campaign war chest of nearly \$15.5 million. But Agarwal said he is counting on support from deep-pocketed tech executives such as Gary Tan, the CEO of Y Combinator, an influential startup accelerator, and venture capitalist Chamath Palihapitiya.

Tan's spokesperson Sam Singer confirmed he is donating to the campaign, but didn't say how much. Palihapitiya said he hopes Khanna "loses his reelection badly," but didn't disclose if he's contributing to Agarwal.

Khanna's embrace of a proposed one-time 5% tax on California's billionaires shattered his Silicon Valley support, said Agarwal, who has dropped his previous campaign for governor. The wealth tax was "the straw that broke the camel's back, but it's been fomenting for a long time," said the Democrat, citing the congressman's role in Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign and his calls to set up guardrails around artificial intelligence.

The contest for California's 17th Congressional District, one of the country's richest, will test the ability of Khanna, 49, to bridge the tax-the-rich policies he has promoted nationally while reassuring tech executives that he



Rep. Ro Khanna.

is an advocate for the industry and for sustaining the AI boom.

His balancing act came to a head in December when the progressive posted his backing for the tax on billionaire wealth in California, a proposal that rattled Silicon Valley but has yet to qualify for the November ballot. Google co-founder Sergey Brin and a group of fellow billionaires are bankrolling a series of competing California

ballot initiatives that would nullify the proposed levy being pushed by a politically powerful health-care workers union.

"I have been completely shocked at how easily Ro betrayed his constituents," Palihapitiya said in a statement. "Silicon Valley is the epitome of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. Ro is sadly none of these things."

Following the backlash, Khanna, who's considered a potential 2028 presidential candidate, tempered his endorsement by floating alternative proposals and saying the levy's structure shouldn't "undermine the innovation miracle of Silicon Valley." He is also pushing the tech industry and labor leaders to meet this month to pursue a compromise agreement over the tax, which has divided Democratic officials in the state.

Besides targeting his opponent over the tax, Agarwal plans to appeal to the South Asian community, which Khanna already counts on as a base of support.

The tech entrepreneur, who founded a fitness app and a financial management platform catering to young and wealthy customers, also characterizes Khanna's stock trading as hypocritical since the congressman campaigns on easing inequality. Khanna has proposed a ban on congressmembers trading individual stocks.

"Khanna is focused on building his own national profile and is completely ignoring the needs of his district," said Agarwal.

-BLOOMBERG

# Indian American Launches Bid In Crowded Democratic Primary For US Congress From NY-7

By A STAFF WRITER

**P**ublic Defender Vichal Kumar launched his campaign for New York's 7th Congressional District March 3, 2026, with a kickoff event in Bushwick. He also released his campaign launch video available on social media (Instagram and TikTok) outlining his vision to "Resist. Reclaim. Reimagine"

The event at Kings County Brewers Collective brought together supporters, advocates, and neighbors from across Brooklyn and Queens, according to the press release from his campaign (Kumar4ny.com). Kumar highlighted the campaign's focus on immigrant justice, economic opportunity, and institutional accountability in his speech.

The Democratic primary is scheduled for June 23, and a dozen candidates, including Kumar are vying for their party's endorsement. He is a registered candidate on the Federal Election Commission website (fec.gov) but its too early for any contributions to the campaign to be listed there.

"This campaign is about more than winning a seat — it's about restoring confidence that government can work for working people," Kumar told those present at the launch. "We need bold ideas, and we need leaders who understand how to implement them. I've spent more



Vichal Kumar in campaign launch video released March 3, 2026.

than twenty years inside courtrooms and public institutions, reforming systems that weren't serving people. That's the experience I'm bringing to Congress."

Describing himself as the son of working-class immigrants, Kumar says on his campaign website, "I didn't plan to run for Congress," adding, "my goals were far less lofty: emulate my parents' values of caring for your community and to try to make them proud."

Which is what he did through law school and beyond, he notes in the biographical information on the website,

where he says he has represented immigrants, tenants, and fellow working-class New Yorkers throughout his career, "building a reputation for principled advocacy and strategic reform."

His campaign, he says, will center on defending immigrant communities, expanding health care access, protecting workers, strengthening economic mobility, and redefining the role of governmental institutions.

"In our communities, ICE is tearing apart families with impunity and democratic norms are being undermined in plain sight," Kumar said at the event. "This moment calls for more than rhetoric. It calls for someone who understands how to hold agencies accountable, how to use the law to protect people, and how to legislate in a way that reimagines what our country can do for working families."

Kumar served at The Bronx Defenders, where he advocated for community members confronting housing instability, job insecurity, loss of public benefits and healthcare barriers. "Every day I worked to undo the harm they were facing, every night I went to law school."

In Harlem, Kumar says, he built a new model with the sole purpose of creating a system of representation and care, one that saw the whole person and worked to deliver impactful outcomes in every facet of their life.

"At Partners for Justice, I worked to

scale that model nationally, across urban and rural cities, large and small states, and everywhere in between," he said.

"On their worst days, at their most vulnerable, I showed up and fought to ease their burden. I had a simple plan: do good work, navigate broken systems, and make life a little less difficult for the families who came through our doors," he says.

"And it worked. We kept countless families together and people in homes. We helped them access employment, food assistance, Medicaid, and other essential support," he adds.

Kumar is a past-President of the South Asian Bar Association (SABA), which has a nationwide membership. "In that role, he advanced civil rights advocacy, expanded community-based legal services, and supported leadership development within the legal profession," the press release says.

"Kumar is building a grassroots campaign across Brooklyn and Queens focused on accountability-driven leadership and community engagement," his campaign said.

The expectation is that his decades of advocacy for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, and people in other states, will make him stand out in the crowded field of Democratic aspirants.

Kumar did law at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, New York (Linkedin.com/in/vichalk/).

# L-1 New Office Petitions in 2026: Why “Market Reality” Now Matters More Than Projections

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani David Nachman Ludka Zimovcak Snehal Batra

The L-1 New Office petition has always required a credible business plan. But in 2026, USCIS officers are scrutinizing these cases more closely than ever – especially when projected growth does not align with real U.S. market conditions. If your foreign company is opening a new U.S. entity and transferring an executive, manager, or specialized knowledge employee, future projections alone are no longer enough.

USCIS wants to see operational reality.

### What Is an L-1 New Office Petition?

An L-1 New Office petition allows a foreign company to:

- Establish a new U.S. entity
- Transfer a qualifying executive, manager, or specialized knowledge employee
- Launch U.S. operations

Unlike an established office case, a new office must prove that:

- The U.S. entity has secured sufficient physical premises
- The business will become operational within one year
- The company will support an executive or managerial position within that first year

The first approval is typically valid for one year. After that, USCIS evaluates whether the business has grown enough to justify extending the L-1 status.

### What Has Changed in 2026?

Recent adjudication trends show officers focusing heavily on:

- Realistic revenue projections
- Documented U.S. demand
- Verified sales pipeline activity
- Staffing plans tied to actual funding
- Clear explanation of the executive or managerial role

Business plans based solely on “anticipated growth” or general market optimism are drawing Requests for Evidence (RFEs).

In other words, the question is no longer:

“Can this business grow?”

The question is:

“Is there evidence it will grow within the first year?”

### Where Cases Are Being Challenged

Based on current trends, RFEs are frequently issued when:

- The company proposes multiple U.S. hires before generating revenue.
- Revenue projections appear inflated or unsupported.
- The executive’s duties resemble hands-on operational tasks.
- There is no documented evidence of U.S. market traction.
- Funding appears insufficient to sustain projected growth.

USCIS is looking for alignment between:

Funding → Market Entry → Revenue Timing → Hiring → Executive Oversight

If that sequence does not make sense, credibility becomes an issue.

### Why the Executive Role Is Under the Microscope

For new office petitions, the biggest challenge is proving that the transferee will primarily:

- Direct the management of the organization, and
- Oversee professional employees or a key function.

If the U.S. entity has:

- No employees yet, or
- Only clerical support

USCIS may question whether the beneficiary is truly functioning at an executive or managerial level.

The first-year structure must make operational sense.

### How to Strengthen an L-1 New Office Filing

A strong petition in 2026 typically includes:

1. Lease agreement for real office space

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Photo: Canva

2. Evidence of capitalization and funding source
3. Confirmed customer interest or signed contracts
4. Realistic revenue projections
5. Phased hiring plan
6. Clear job description distinguishing executive duties from operational work
7. Organizational chart showing growth stages

A phased growth model often works better than aggressive front-loaded hiring.

### Comparison: Weak vs. Strong New Office Structure

Issue	Weak Filing	Strong Filing
Revenue Forecast	Aggressive projections	Supported by pipeline evidence
Hiring Plan	Large team immediately	Phased hiring tied to revenue
Executive Role	Operational involvement	Strategic oversight
Market Data	Global industry statistics	U.S.-specific demand data
Financial Plan	Generalized assumptions	Detailed operating budget
First-Year Plan	Vision-focused	Evidence-driven

### Real-World Scenario

In recent cases, RFEs have questioned:

- Whether the company could realistically support the executive position within one year.
- Whether projected staffing levels were justified by actual demand.

## “Rejoicing In The Victory Of Good Over Evil”: US President Trump Extends Holi Greetings

US President Donald Trump extended his greetings on Wednesday to those celebrating Holi, characterising the Hindu festival as a vibrant celebration of spring's arrival and the victory of righteousness.

The official statement, shared on X by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt under the title “Presidential Message on Holi,” expressed the first family's support for the festivities.

“Melania and I send our best wishes to all who celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi, a day welcoming the arrival of spring and rejoicing in the victory of good over evil,” Trump stated.

The President further noted the global significance of the occasion, adding, “Today, as communities gather around the world to celebrate this festival of colours, I wish all Americans who observe Holi a day filled with hope, peace, and unity.”

Commonly known as the festival of colours, Holi is a major event in India and amongst the global Indian diaspora, representing renewal, social harmony, and the deepening of communal ties.

The celebrations reached the iconic New York City sky-



PHOTO: COURTESY ANI

line on Wednesday, where a festive display appeared in Times Square on 4 March. The Consulate General of India in New York shared the moment on social media, stating, “Wishing everyone a vibrant and joyous Holi from the heart of New York City. #TimesSquare May this festival of colours bring renewed hope, harmony and happiness to

all.”

In the US capital, the Embassy of India in Washington DC also conveyed its wishes, noting that the holiday has evolved into a global symbol of multiculturalism and social equity.

Reflecting the rising influence of the Indian-American community, Texas recently became the third US state, following Georgia and New York, to formally acknowledge the festival. A resolution introduced by Senator Sarah Eckhardt was passed by the Texas Senate to honour the event.

The resolution noted that “The origins of this jubilant festival can be traced back many millennia, and the holiday is recognised and celebrated throughout the world by people of all backgrounds who relate to the festival's themes of love, renewal, and progress.”

This legislative milestone was supported by the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), with the Texas Senate highlighting how the festival enriches cultural diversity and reinforces community connections.

-ANI

## Raj Goyle Outlines Affordability Push, Pension Reforms In New York State Comptroller Race

BY A STAFF WRITER

Raj Goyle, founder of PhoneFree New York and board chair of Fire Boro Institute, discussed his campaign priorities and vision for public service during an interview with Piya Jyoti Kachroo on ITV Gold.

A former Kansas legislator and civil rights lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union, Goyle has also worked in technology and civic engagement. He co-founded Bodhala, a tech company aimed at reducing corporate waste, and helped launch Indian American Impact to expand South Asian political participation.

If elected, Goyle could become the first South Asian and Asian American elected to statewide office in New York, according to the program's introduction.

Goyle said his interest in public service was shaped by growing up as a South Asian in the Midwest and later working as a civil rights attorney and labor organizer.

“We never thought we could have that seat at the table,” he said, reflecting on how many South Asians in earlier decades did not imagine themselves in elected office.

### “MOST POWERFUL OFFICE YOU’VE NEVER HEARD OF”

Explaining the role of the New York State Comptroller, Goyle described it as “the most powerful office you’ve never heard of,” noting that the comptroller manages a roughly \$300 billion pension fund and serves as the state's chief auditor with oversight of public contracts and spending.

He said the powers of the office can be used to reduce costs for New Yorkers, strengthen retirement security, and increase accountability in government.

### TOP PRIORITIES: ICE DIVESTMENT, UTILITIES, PENSIONS

During the interview with Kachroo, Goyle outlined three priorities if elected:

1. Divesting from investments he says support immi-



PHOTO: ITV GOLD

Raj Goyle speaks during an interview with ITV Gold host Piya Jyoti Kachroo, discussing his campaign for New York State Comptroller and key issues including affordability, pension oversight, and transparency in government.

1. Migration enforcement operations
2. Working to freeze utility hikes and address the state's affordability crisis
3. Strengthening pension performance so retirees receive greater financial security

He connected his candidacy to fear among immigrant families, citing concerns within his own household. Goyle said his mother, a long-time U.S. citizen, asked whether she could face deportation or denaturalization amid increased immigration enforcement.

### PENSION INVESTMENTS AND GAZA COMMENTS

Discussing pension fund investments, Goyle said public funds should reflect state values while also generating strong financial returns. He expressed support for divesting from fossil fuels and criticized what he described as underperformance by the current comptroller compared with broader market benchmarks.

Goyle also raised concerns about the state's foreign bond investment program, saying that approximately \$350 million has been invested in bonds tied to Israel, compared with about \$230 million across the rest of the world combined. He said he would prefer to redirect those funds toward investments within New York.

During the interview, Goyle also stated that he has criticized Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza, saying he believes it has constituted war crimes and does not align with what he described as New York values.

### ADDRESSING UTILITY COSTS

Kachroo also asked about rising utility costs and affordability challenges for New York residents. Goyle said the comptroller could use oversight authority to audit the Public Service Commission, the state body responsible for approving utility rate increases.

He argued that rate approvals often lack transparency and suggested audits could reveal unnecessary charges passed on to consumers.

### TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Goyle said transparency and accountability would be central to his approach as comptroller. He pledged to use the office's auditing authority aggressively to identify “waste, fraud and abuse” in government spending.

He also emphasized engagement with underrepresented communities and called for stronger anti-discrimination efforts amid concerns about rising hate incidents targeting South Asian and immigrant communities.

“If you don't have a seat at the table, you're on the table,” he said.

### PHONEFREE NEW YORK INITIATIVE

Goyle also discussed his work through PhoneFree New York, an initiative advocating restrictions on cell phone use in schools. The effort helped pass legislation limiting cell phone use in classrooms in New York, which he said aims to improve student mental health and reduce distractions.

### ENCOURAGING CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Concluding the interview, Goyle urged viewers to remain engaged in civic life and public policy.

“Please believe that we can make change,” he said, adding that government should work to improve affordability, strengthen pensions, and address rising costs for residents.

# Indian American Savitha Shan, Star Student, Among 3 Killed In Austin Shooting

FROM NEWS DISPATCHES

**A** bright star in the eyes of her parents and teachers, with a promising future, Savitha Shan's life was cut short in the mass shooting March 1, 2026, in Austin, TX.

"As a dual-degree student at the University of Texas at Austin, I blend a strong foundation in Management Information Systems and Economics with a passion for using technology to solve complex business problems. With hands-on experience in technology strategy consulting, product management, and business analytics ...," Shan's accomplished bio on LinkedIn goes on.

Her death was caused by a gunman who opened fire in a crowded bar, killing 3 and injuring 14 others. Other victims were identified as Ryder Harrington (19), and 30-year-old Jorge Pederson. The gunman was killed in an exchange of fire with police officers. The incident is being investigated as a potential terror attack, FBI told media, coming on the heels of the US-Israel attack on Iran, newsreports said. A law enforcement official



PHOTO LINKEDIN

Savitha Shan, 21, killed in the Austin, TX mass shooting incident March 1, 2026.

told Associated Press the shooter, 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne, was wearing clothes with an Iranian flag design and bearing the words "Property of Allah" during the attack.

Shan's professor Russ Finney posted the following on X on March 3 – "Savitha was one of our superstar students at the UT Austin McCombs school of business – she was set to graduate this May, and then she was on to start her career at a big professional services firm. She was a double major with honors. Involved in student organizations – a light in the classroom. Absolutely crushing to lose her."

Shan served as a student volunteer at the Austin Tamil Sangam for 4 years and 8 months starting in August 2021, her LinkedIn profile reveals. She was also a budding entrepreneur on Etsy for almost 4 years starting in 2020, where she says she, "Oversaw and operated sticker/apparel shop on Etsy with 110+ unique sticker designs resulting in 14K sales/8K+ 5-star reviews." She "Managed social media accounts with 22K followers on Instagram and TikTok by posting audience-tailored graphics consistently."

# Pakistani Man Convicted In Iran-Backed Plot To Kill Trump

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

**A** Pakistani man was convicted Friday of a plan to work with the Iranian government to murder President Donald Trump and other high-ranking officials, in a trial that coincided with the United States' escalating war with Iran.

Asif Merchant was arrested in July 2024 and found guilty of attempted terrorism and murder for hire. His case in federal district court in Brooklyn focused on what prosecutors said was an attempt to steal documents, launder money and hire hit men to attack American politicians. In court this week, Merchant said he had been recruited by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, though he said he was motivated to act because he feared for his life and safety.

In an email, Merchant's lawyer, Avraham Moskowitz said, "although we are disappointed in the result, we are grateful for the jury's careful attention and hard work."

He added, "there are complex and significant legal issues yet to be decided. We remain confident that we will ultimately achieve a favorable result for Mr. Merchant."

Merchant's plot was foiled before he made any attempts on officials' lives. But his case has played out amid a broadening conflict in the Middle East. As the war enters its second week, Trump early Saturday said the number of targets in the war would expand. Israel also ramped up its strikes across Iran, with jets targeting Tehran and Isfahan, including Revolutionary Guard Corps targets and missile storage units, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

Iran also said it launched "large-scale" strikes on American posts in the region. Neighboring countries like the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia reported intercepting attacks.

Merchant said he didn't have explicit instructions



PHOTO: COURTESY ANI

on whom to kill. But at times, his handler mentioned Trump, former president Joe Biden and Nikki Haley, the former governor of South Carolina who was also the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in Trump's first term, according to prosecutors.

Iran has sought to assassinate Trump since the airstrike that killed Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani in January 2020, during Trump's first term. Iranian officials have also threatened some of Trump's former advisers, including Mike Pompeo and John Bolton.

In the last week, alongside messages of regime

change and the destruction of Iran's missile capabilities, Trump has also described personal reasons for wanting to strike Iran. He told ABC News last week that the country's efforts to assassinate him partly shaped the U.S.-Israeli operation that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"I got him before he got me," Trump said. "I got him first."

No evidence has connected Iran with the two attempts on Trump's life in 2024. But those incidents and broader security threats weighed heavily on the campaign at the time.

U.N. Ambassador Mike Waltz also pointed to Iran's moves to target Trump as rationale for striking the country.

"It is responsible for a series of unprovoked armed attacks against the United States and Israel, violations of the U.N. charter, and threats to international peace and security across the Middle East," Waltz said at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council. "It has even attempted to assassinate the U.S. president, President Trump."

In a statement after the conviction, Joseph Nocella Jr., U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said Iran sent Merchant "here to sow mayhem and murder." FBI Director Kash Patel said despite Merchant's plans, law enforcement "stopped that deadly plot."

Merchant was at a Houston airport in April 2024 when he was initially searched and questioned by immigration enforcement, including about recent travels in Iran. He was released but ultimately had his plot fall apart after meeting with an acquaintance who, unbeknownst to Merchant, was an FBI informant, the New York Times reported. Merchant had explained his plans and did not know he was being recorded.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

**ASTROLOGY**



**This week for you**

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

**ARIES:** This week, you may sense limited emotional backing which can shake your motivation. Workplace adjustments may not go smoothly. Overthinking negative possibilities can drain your emotional strength. Support from a close friend proves helpful. Setting goals beyond reach may lead to dissatisfaction. An unexpected policy decision could alter the outcome of an important issue.

**TAURUS:** Household concerns may weigh on your mind. Money given out earlier might not return on schedule, requiring adjustments. Arranging necessary resources for professional tasks could take extra effort. Careless remarks about others may create problems. Trying to influence opinions against someone may not yield desired results. Sudden shifts in loyalty could come as a surprise.

**GEMINI:** Progress in studies brings a sense of relief. Financial conditions show improvement, supporting a more comfortable routine. Continued effort helps you secure a desirable assignment or responsibility. Emotional bonds deepen, especially for those open to new relationships. Showing interest in matters that are not your concern may invite unnecessary complications. Concentrating on personal priorities allows you to maintain inner peace.

**CANCER:** Professional duties may extend beyond regular hours. Careful attention during studies enhances performance. Addressing a financial misstep promptly saves you from future discomfort. Emotional gaps in relationships begin to close through open communication. Maintaining daily routines supports steady physical health. Depending on others to manage savings may reflect poorly, making self-management a better option.

**LEO:** Your initiative and drive earn recognition from senior figures. Decisions related to property show favourable returns. Ignoring meals due to work pressure may affect health. Focused attention in academics is required to meet expectations. Successfully completing a major responsibility enhances confidence. You may receive an invitation to an exclusive event this week.

**VIRGO:** Family encouragement boosts confidence and positively influences academic efforts. Those involved in real estate may benefit. A renewed commitment to fitness supports better health choices. Time spent apart strengthens emotional longing between partners. Spiritual interests offer mental peace and clarity. Making last-minute changes at work may not help, so following the original strategy is advisable.

**LIBRA:** Pending plans begin moving forward. A thoughtful gesture for your partner adds affection to your bond. Disciplined routine improves overall well-being. Some individuals may choose to start a new course. Relying on assumptions while studying could lead to errors, making preparation essential. A change of surroundings brings refreshing moments and enjoyable experiences.

**SCORPIO:** Spending meaningful time with loved ones lifts your spirits. Singles may encounter someone who brings emotional fulfillment. Creative professionals could see an increase in workload. Improvement in an elder's health offers comfort and reassurance. Your expectations motivate others to put in extra effort. Financial matters remain favourable, with opportunities for rewarding investments.

**SAGITTARIUS:** A shift in career direction brings better income prospects and added advantages. Research-oriented individuals may successfully explore innovative ideas. Family gatherings create joyful memories and emotional closeness. Adopting healthier daily habits supports physical well-being. Students and trainees gain recognition through consistent dedication. Even if academic motivation fluctuates, preparation keeps progress steady.

**CAPRICORN:** Your dedication at work earns appreciation and positive feedback from seniors. Academic challenges feel easier with encouragement from friends. Newly married couples may think about setting up a separate household. Revisiting old memories with someone close brings emotional comfort. Financial growth shows encouraging signs. Career demands stay high, keeping you actively engaged throughout the week.

**AQUARIUS:** A long-awaited luxury purchase may become possible. Overindulgence in food or drinks could affect health. Social activities related to sports may introduce a compatible connection. Engineering professionals experience steady advancement in their field. When new opportunities arise, quick decisions prove beneficial, as timing plays a crucial role.

**PISCES:** Those handling demanding responsibilities achieve success. Organising a function earns appreciation for leadership skills. Employed individuals may notice an increase in financial benefits. Paying close attention to health helps maintain balance. Pressure from multiple directions requires firm choices. Offering guidance to someone who needs clarity strengthens understanding and mutual respect.

**L-1 New Office Petitions in 2026: Why "Market Reality" Now Matters More Than Projections**

By DAVID H. NACHMAN, Esq

Continued From Page 13

**W**hen filings were revised to:

- Reduce initial staffing
- Tie hiring to confirmed revenue milestones
- Clarify executive-level duties

Approvals followed. The difference was credibility — not ambition. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Is the L-1 New Office category becoming harder? It is not harder by law, but adjudications are more detail-oriented and evidence-focused. Can projections alone support approval? Projections are required — but they must be grounded in evidence. How much funding is required? There is no fixed minimum. However, funding must support projected operations and staffing. Do I need signed contracts before filing? Not always, but evidence of real customer engagement strengthens the case significantly. Can the executive perform operational tasks in the first year?

Limited involvement may be acceptable, but the primary duties must remain executive or managerial. Is a business plan still required? Yes — and it must reflect realistic U.S. market entry and financial sustainability. Final Thoughts The L-1 New Office category remains an excellent tool for international companies expanding into the United States. However, 2026 adjudications are emphasizing substance over projection. Growth must be defensible. Staffing must be financially supported. The executive role must be credible from day one. Companies that align their market-entry strategy with actual operating conditions are far more likely to secure approval — and extension after the first year. Contact Information If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group. You can reach us by emailing [info@visaserve.com](mailto:info@visaserve.com) or by calling us at 201-670-0006 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at [www.visaserve.com](http://www.visaserve.com) for more information.

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# Chicago Celebrates 396th Birth Anniversary Of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj With Grand Cultural Tribute At Vhpa-National Office

By BHAILAL M PATEL

The 396th Birth Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was celebrated on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at The Vishwa Hindu Parishad America (VHPA) National Office: 200 New Bond St, Sugar Grove, IL 60554 with great pride and enthusiasm in Chicago through a grand community event organized by CSM 350 (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Monument in Chicago), Maharashtra Mandal Chicago (MMC), and Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHP-A), with participation and support from the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) and several Indian-American community organizations.

The event brought together community leaders, families, youth, and cultural performers to honor the extraordinary legacy of the legendary Maratha ruler whose leadership, courage, and commitment to justice helped shape the course of Indian history and continues to inspire millions around the world.

The celebration began on a patriotic and emotional note with the singing of the national anthems followed by Vande Mataram, creating a powerful atmosphere of unity and pride. The program featured patriotic songs, inspiring speeches, and vibrant cultural performances highlighting the life and ideals of Shivaji Maharaj.

A musical highlight of the evening was a dynamic performance by singer Vira Adimulam, originally from Andhra Pradesh, who captivated the audience with a powerful Shivaji-themed song from the film Chhava. Her energetic rendition electrified the audience and brought the



Welcome guest and invite at Vishwa Hindu Parishad America National Office 200 New Bond St, Sugar Grove, IL 60554.



Celebrations started with prayer to Celebrates 396th Birth Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with Grand Cultural Tribute at VHPA-National Office.

heroic spirit of Shivaji Maharaj to life.

The keynote address was delivered by the President of INDIC Avatans, who presented an insightful and engaging talk on Shivaji Maharaj's visionary leadership, military brilliance, and progressive governance, emphasizing how his ideals remain deeply relevant in today's world.

Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) President Hemant Patel emphasized the enduring legacy of Shivaji Maharaj. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj represents courage, justice, and visionary leadership. His life teaches us how a leader rooted in values can transform society. His ideals continue to inspire generations across the world, and it is our responsibility to pass these values on to our youth," said Hemant Patel.

Several FIA members attended the

celebration along with representatives from multiple community organizations, highlighting the strong unity and cultural pride within the Indian-American community in the Chicago area.

During the program, VHP-A General Secretary Amitabh Mittal also addressed the audience and spoke about the importance of awareness and community responsibility in protecting and guiding the younger generation. "Our community must stay vigilant and proactive. Parents—especially mothers—play a critical role in guiding and protecting our children. Cultural awareness, family values, and community support are essential in today's fast-changing world," said Amitabh Mittal.

Voices from Organizers and Youth: Organizers of the event emphasized

that celebrating Shivaji Maharaj abroad carries deep significance for the Indian diaspora. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not just a historical figure—he is a timeless symbol of courage, strategic vision, and the protection of cultural identity. Celebrating his birth anniversary here in Chicago strengthens our connection to our heritage and inspires the next generation of leaders," said one of the event organizers from CSM 350.

Members of Maharashtra Mandal Chicago highlighted the importance of cultural education for youth growing up in the United States. "For many of our children born and raised in America, events like this help them understand the greatness of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

## KV Subramanian Becomes First Indian Economist To Win Chicago Alumni Award

The University of Chicago has honoured Professor Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian with the Alumni Award for Professional Achievement, making him the first Indian economist to receive the distinction in the award's 85-year history, according to an official press release.

Subramanian, who served as the 17th Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India from 2018 to 2021 and as an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, is the first Indian economist to receive the honour since it was established in 1941.

Reacting to the achievement, Professor Subramanian stated, "To be included in this academic lineage is profoundly humbling. What makes it meaningful is that this is recognition for work done from India and for India. To follow, in my modest way, the inspiring footsteps of Indians who did their finest work based in India,



PHOTO: COURTESY ANI

from C. V. Raman and Homi J. Bhabha to Vikram Sarabhai and M. S. Swaminathan, is a genuine privilege."

The award places him among a distinguished group of past recipients

that includes at least 14 Nobel laureates and global thought leaders such as Paul Samuelson, Gary Becker, Claudia Goldin, Carl Sagan, and Philip Kotler, the release added.

According to the University's official citation, Professor Subramanian's Economic Surveys of India were described as a "landmark" document that provided "the intellectual foundation for India's approach to self-reliance, anchored in competitive markets, policy autonomy, and inclusive growth".

The citation also credits his early diagnosis of the COVID-19 crisis as a supply-side disruption and notes that his public articulation of a V-shaped economic recovery "helped anchor confidence in India's economic resilience", the release stated.

Significantly, the work recognised by this award was undertaken predominantly from India and for India, unlike many

prior honourees whose work was primarily based in Western academic institutions.

During his tenure as Chief Economic Adviser, Subramanian authored three Economic Surveys and contributed to macroeconomic strategy during one of the most volatile periods in modern global economic history. His subsequent role at the IMF further extended India's policy perspective into multilateral economic discourse, the release added.

With this honour, Subramanian has now received distinguished alumnus awards from all three of his alma maters: the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, and the University of Chicago.

He currently serves as a Professor of Finance at the Indian School of Business and is the author of "India@100".

-ANI

The Washington Post

# Why do airlines hate basic economy passengers?

By Andrea Sachs

Since December, my American Airlines membership account has been frozen at 55,361 miles. And so it will remain as another basic economy benefit bites the dust. For more than a dozen years, the lowest fare ticket category has been a boon for budget travelers willing to trade comforts for a cheaper price. However, the major airlines have been pecking away at our perks, forcing us to reckon with a hard truth: Our devotion is unrequited.

“What the airlines are basically doing with these changes is telling the basic economy traveler we don’t value you or your business,” said Henry Harteveltdt, founder and president of Atmosphere Research Group, a consulting firm. “The actions will not induce many of these travelers to become loyal.”

From the get-go, basic economy has been bare-bones, with no advance seat selection or ticket changes or cancellations allowed. Passengers are often the last

## Restrictions galore

The major carriers created the lowest economy tier to woo travelers away from such budget airlines as Frontier, Spirit and Allegiant, which were encroaching on their territory. Today, most domestic and international airlines offer a “basic” or “lite” economy class.

When booking, the airlines are up-front about the restrictions. After you click on the fare, a comparative chart will pop up, displaying all the perks you are sacrificing to save a few bucks.

The biggest drawback for many travelers is the strict nonrefundable and nonchangeable policy. To alter a ticket, passengers must cancel their flight and then rebook with the credit, plus pay a change fee and the fare difference. In higher ticket classes, most airlines waive the fee.

Nick Ewen, senior editorial director

bags are on the house. (United is the outlier, charging \$65 to gate-check a bag.) WiFi is gratis for all passengers (JetBlue) or loyalty members (Delta, United, American). Passengers can watch free movies and TV shows on the seat-back entertainment system or the airline’s app.

“When you’re onboard, it is very much like everyone’s on a level playing field,” Ewen said. “It’s not like they lock you into a box and you can’t come out until you land.”

One day in April 2025, Jeb and Suzanne Brooks tested basic economy on three airlines. Jeb said the idea originated from followers who had shared their surprise at the tight restrictions. The couple experienced many of the disadvantages that budget fliers frequently complain about.

On the Delta leg from Los Angeles to Dallas, they had to gate-check their bags because the bins were stuffed. They were stuck in middle seats. They had better luck on the American flight from Dallas to Chicago O’Hare, seated together in the back row with a sliver of recline. For the United trip to Reagan National Airport, they had to pay to check their bags, which pushed their fare above regular economy.

When asked if they would book basic economy for nonresearch purposes, he said that was “doubtful.”

Sally French, lead writer at NerdWallet, dances between basic and standard economy. For a low-risk, low-investment trip such as a Vegas bachelorette party or a family visit in Southern California, she will book basic economy. For a more expensive and momentous vacation, such as an \$800 flight to Hawaii, she will spring for higher-priced economy.

## Airlines can be like the bad boyfriend

Gary Leff, founder of the travel blog View from the Wing, compared the carriers to the bad boyfriend whose affections you try to win over.

“We’re going to treat you really badly, so give us more money and we promise we will treat you better,” said Leff, channeling the carriers.

Harteveltdt said basic economy passengers are not essential on high-demand routes; enough people pay higher fares to make the flight lucrative. Budget travelers, he added, are often cast as seat fillers. In response to my query about the perceived snub of basic economy fliers,

to board, and at least one airline charges for a carry-on bag. The most recent target: frequent-flier miles.

In December, American informed basic economy passengers that they no longer qualify for miles. As of April 2, United will institute a similar policy, with some exceptions. Delta Air Lines eliminated the benefit in January 2022. Southwest, JetBlue and Alaska Airlines still permit travelers in this seat category to collect miles, but at a reduced rate.

Without the incentive of free travel, budget fliers might find themselves at a crossroads. They can resist the pressure to upgrade and remain steadfast in their lane. They can give in, paying more for a standard economy seat with fewer restrictions. They can switch to the even more stringent ultra-low-cost carriers. Or they can learn how to play the game.



Photo by: Canva

at the Points Guy, warned that if the cancellation fee exceeds the ticket price, you may not receive a credit.

Additionally, basic economy fliers cannot select their seats in advance, the bane of families with young children. Passengers board in the last group, increasing the odds of having to gate-check bags because the overhead bins are full. They are often assigned the inglorious middle seat.

“I don’t think the big airlines really want to sell you basic economy tickets,” said Jeb Brooks, a travel content creator who co-founded GreenerGrass.com with his wife, Suzanne. “During the online booking process, they’ll usually discourage you from buying these types of tickets.”

Still, compared with the low-fare carriers, the major airlines are fairly godmothers, even at the basic level. Drinks, snacks and carry-on

United reassured me that it loves all of its customers. American, meanwhile, reminded me that it allows passengers to bring two carry-on items in the cabin.

For budget travelers considering switching to the ultra-low-fare airlines, French listed all of the reasons not to: more restrictive rules, no perks, less frequent flights and fewer routes, subpar apps and customer service.

“I’ve had United flights canceled and the app immediately says, ‘Here’s your next option’ and makes it really, really easy,” French said. “With the budget carrier, it’s like, ‘Good luck.’ You’re on some massive phone tree with one customer service person.” French cautioned against abandoning the major airlines over the most recent slight. Frequent-flier miles aren’t worth much anyway - less than two cents per mile, according to NerdWallet calculations.

“It may psychologically bum you out, but from a true cost standpoint, I would happily lose my ability to earn \$3 worth of United miles to save a bunch of money on my flight,” she said.

## Alternative ways of banking miles

Basic economy fliers can still accrue miles and valuable points through other channels.

Through an airline’s loyalty programs, you may be able to accumulate points that will raise your status level, opening the door to perks such as free checked bags, priority boarding and seat upgrades. Each carrier’s plan is different. On United, basic economy passengers can bank Premier Qualifying Points but not Premier Qualifying Flights, Ewen said.

Travelers can also earn miles by flying partner carriers in a global airline alliance such as Star Alliance (United), oneworld (American) and SkyTeam (Delta).

You know those in-flight credit card pitches? Pause the movie and listen up. In addition to a signing bonus, the cards allow their holders to accumulate miles on goods and services. Call it smart shopping or sweet revenge, but you can collect miles on your next purchase of a basic economy ticket.

“Those cards can help offset some of the basic economy restrictions,” Ewen said.

**CORRECTION:** A previous version of this article incorrectly said Jeb and Suzanne Brooks took a Delta Air Lines flight to Reagan National Airport that required them to pay to check their bags. The flight was with United Airlines.

The fast-moving and rapidly changing situation in the Middle East has raised concerns not only about its impact on India's economy but also for its more than 9 million citizens living in that region. New Delhi, and governments around the world, are grappling with the logistics of repatriating those who want to return home. Below are some aspects of the situation unfolding. As this goes to press, we carry only snippets from the impact on the Indian diaspora.

## Analysis-Iran War To Weigh More On Indian Growth Than Inflation, Keeping Interest Rates Low

By JASPREET KALRA AND IRA DUGAL

The U.S. and Israel's attack on Iran is expected to weigh more on India's economic growth than its inflation, which will encourage the Reserve Bank of India to keep interest rates low, three sources familiar with policymakers' thinking and analysts said.

The conflict, which has rippled out across much of the Middle East, has pushed up oil prices by about 15%, disrupted gas flows from the region and triggered selloffs in Indian equity, debt and currency markets, with the rupee hitting a record low and bond yields rising due to concerns about India's current account deficit and the risk of higher inflation.

Despite a weaker rupee and higher crude prices, the central bank is unlikely to take a hawkish turn, all three sources familiar with policy deliberations said.

Current assessments could change, one of the sources cautioned, in case of extreme developments in the Middle East.

The thinking of policymakers appears to have diverged from the market reaction.

Interest rates have risen in emerging and global markets since the Gulf conflict broke out. Traders in India's swap markets have added to bets on at least one rate increase over the next 12 months.

"I don't feel the market has sufficiently priced the risk from oil prices rising significantly and there could be room for swap rates to move even higher if Brent oil holds above \$80 per barrel over the next couple of weeks," said Ritesh Bhusari, joint general manager for treasury at South Indian Bank.

The RBI's rate-setting panel, which meets for its next policy review in about a month, paused rate cuts at its last meeting in February after reducing the policy repo rate by 125 basis points in 2025.

PHOTO: MAHID ASGARPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS



Smoke rises following an explosion, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran, Iran, March 5, 2026.

The sources declined to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media. An email sent to the RBI on Wednesday seeking comment was not answered.

Conflict in the Middle East has muddied the picture for central bank policy projections globally. Traders have pushed back wagers on rate cuts by the Federal Reserve while adding to bets on a hike by the European Central Bank.

A rise in oil prices above \$100 per barrel or a faster-than-expected pass-through of costs could run the risk of turning global monetary policy more hawkish, according to analysts at Goldman Sachs.

### QUICKER HIT TO GROWTH

An immediate risk to India's growth comes from disruptions to gas supplies.

On Tuesday, Indian companies reduced natural gas supplies to industries in anticipation of tighter flows from the Middle East, a move that could hurt output in sectors including fertilisers and power.

If gas supply disruptions persist for more than four weeks, they could hurt economic growth for at least a quarter, one of the sources said.

If oil prices remained above \$90 to \$95 a barrel for three to four quarters in a row, the source said, India's expected 7%-plus economic growth in the next financial year would take a more sustained hit.

Under that scenario, growth could slow to about 6.5% from the current expectation for more than 7%, the person added.

Cuts in gas supplies to fertiliser and power companies could reduce output in those sectors in the near term, weighing on growth with a lag in the first and second quarters of the next fiscal year, a second source said.

"If oil prices remain high for an extended period, the 'Goldilocks phase' for the Indian economy will end," the person added.

### INFLATION BUFFERS

Inflation, meanwhile, is likely to rise more modestly in the near term.

Retail fuel prices in India have not moved in tandem with global crude prices, as fuel retailers often hold prices steady. The government can also cut excise duties to shield consumers if global prices remain elevated, the first source said.

"There is plenty of room on the inflation front," the third source said. "If inflation were closer to 5%, there might have been a case for a pre-emptive hike, but it is currently near the lower end of the RBI's tolerance band."

India's retail inflation was at 2.75% in January, closer to the lower end of the RBI's 2% to 6% tolerance range.

A 10% to 20% rise in global oil prices could lift Indian inflation by 25 to 50 basis points if fully passed through to consumers, according to a Deutsche Bank estimate. With a partial pass-through, consumer price inflation could rise to the 4.5% to 5% range, it said.

-REUTERS

## US Energy Chief Defends Waiver On Russian Oil Sanctions; Brings Some Relief To India, Others

By KATHARINE JACKSON AND CURTIS WILLIAMS

Trump administration officials on Sunday (March 8) defended a decision to temporarily lift some sanctions on Russian oil and predicted that a sharp increase in gasoline prices resulting from the Iran war would last only weeks.

Appearing on multiple TV talk shows, Energy Secretary Chris Wright and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz said a waiver issued last week to allow Indian purchases of Russian oil would alleviate pressure on the global market.

"It's a 30-day pause to allow, which is just kind of common sense, to allow the millions and millions of barrels of oil that are sitting out on ships to go to Indian refineries," Waltz said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Wright told CNN's "State of the Union" that the waiver can help "tamp this fear of shortage of oil, tamp the price spikes and the concerns we see in the marketplace."

With the war now in its second week and no end in sight, Americans are grappling with higher prices at the pump, a new complicating factor for the U.S. economy, which unexpectedly lost 92,000 jobs in February.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TATIANA MIEHL/FILE PHOTO



Suez Fury crude oil tanker is seen anchored at the terminal Kozmino in Nakhodka Bay near the port city of Nakhodka, Russia, December 4, 2022.

As of Friday, the national average price for regular gasoline stood at \$3.32 a gallon, up 11% from the previous week and the highest since September 2024, according to data from the motorists group AAA. Diesel was at \$4.33, up 15% from a week ago, surging to the highest level since November 2023.

"We believe this is a small price to pay to get to a world where energy prices are returned back to where they

were," Wright said on the "Fox News Sunday" program.

There is no shortage of oil or natural gas, said Wright, who asserted that the price increases are based on "fear and perception" that the Iran operation will be a drawn-out affair.

"But it won't be," Wright said, echoing President Donald Trump's prediction that the war will last weeks rather than months.

Trump, in a Reuters interview on Thursday, predicted that gasoline prices will "drop very rapidly" when the war is over.

Senator John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican, criticized energy speculators.

"The oil prices have gone up because you've got a bunch of oil traders out there in their Gucci loafers, with their caramel Frappuccinos who are bidding up the price," Kennedy said on "Fox News Sunday."

Political analysts say a persistent rise in gasoline prices could hurt Republicans in the November midterm elections when control of the U.S. Congress will be at stake. A Reuters/Ipsos poll last month found that most respondents rejected Trump's characterization of the economy as "booming."

-REUTERS

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02/20-03/13-SL

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

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ఈ ఎన్నికలు మన సమాజ భవిష్యత్తుకు అత్యంత కీలకం. మనం ఇప్పటికే చూసింది ఏమిటంటే —

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నీల ఖోట్ ఈ అనుభవాలను స్వయంగా ఎదుర్కొన్న వ్యక్తి. అందుకే మన కుటుంబాల గౌరవం, భద్రత మరియు అవకాశాల కోసం ఆయన దృఢంగా నిలబడతారు.

మన సమాజ స్వరం బలంగా వినిపించాలంటే, మార్చి 17న ముందస్తు ఓటు వేయండి లేదా ఎన్నికల రోజున తప్పకుండా పాల్గొనండి.

આ ચૂંટણી આપણા સમુદાય માટે મહત્વપૂર્ણ છે. આપણે જોયું છે કે:

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இந்தத் தேர்தல் நமது சமுதாயத்திற்கு மிகவும் அத்தியாவசியமானது. இதுவரை நாம் கண்டுள்ளவை:

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