



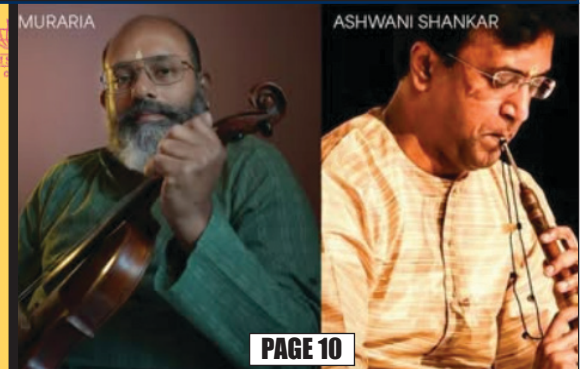
**PAGE 8**

**Rep. Thanedar's  
Town Hall**



**PAGE 8**

**ISKCON Chicago's Sri Rama Navami  
Celebration**



**PAGE 10**

**8th Annual 'Mandala Makers'  
Festival**

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# DESI TALK

**IN CHICAGO**



**PAGE 6**

**FIA-Chicago 1980 elects,  
appoints officeholders  
for 2026-2027**



**PAGE 10**

**India Development  
Foundation's Annual  
Fundraiser**

PHOTOS: MISCELLANEOUS

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**Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh**  
Founder, Chairman & Publisher

**Ilayas Quraishi**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Ela Dutt**  
Editor

**T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman**  
Advisor

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**Digant Sompura**  
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**Hervender Singh**  
Circulation Manager

**Main Office**  
Editorial & Corporate Headquarters  
1655 Oak Tree Road, Suite 155  
Edison, NJ 08820-2843  
Tel. (212) 675-7515, (718) 784-8555  
Fax. (212) 675-7624

**E-mails**  
advertising@newsindia-times.com  
editor@newsindia-times.com  
editor@newsindiatimes.com

**Website**  
www.desitalk.com, epaper.desitalk.com

**Chicago Office**  
8846 Laverne Ave, Skokie IL 60077  
Tel. (773) 856-0545  
editorial@desitalkchicago.com  
adv@desitalkchicago.com

**California Office**  
650 West Vermont Ave., Unit #46  
Anaheim, CA 92805

**Mumbai Office**  
Nikita Ajay Pai-Mumbai

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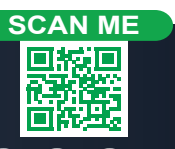
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# Under Trump, Legal Immigration To U.S. Is Falling From Most Countries, Especially India And China

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY, FEDERICA COCCO

The United States issued about a quarter million fewer visas in the first eight months of 2025 compared with the same period in 2024, as the Trump administration introduced policies that have reshaped who comes to the United States legally.

From January to August 2025, the State Department approved 11 percent fewer permanent resident and temporary visas compared with the same period a year before, according to State Department data released in early March. These visas are generally issued for students, workers, and family members of citizens and legal residents. The 11 percent drop doesn't include tourist visas, which also fell during the same period.

India and China bore the brunt of the visa declines. The U.S. issued many fewer temporary visas to international students, cultural exchange visitors, and fiancés and spouses of U.S. citizens from those countries and beyond.

Visa approvals for permanent residency—known as green cards—also declined, with the largest drops in visas for workers, certain relatives, and Iraqi and Afghan nationals who worked with the U.S. military.

Most nations sent fewer immigrants to the United States. In a group of 61 countries with at least 5,000 visa approvals from January to August 2024, just seven received more visas in 2025 than the year before.

The Trump administration's travel ban, a pause on student visa interviews and heightened vetting requirements have all played a role in dampening visa figures. Plus, fewer State Department workers were available to process visas due to federal government cuts.

The preliminary visa data helps paint a fuller picture of immigration declines in the United States. For the first time in at least half a century, more immigrants left the country than entered last year, according to estimates released by Brookings Institution, contributing to weaker job creation in recent months, as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell noted last week.

"There's no policy more important to the present and future of the U.S. economy than immigration," said Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who served as a top economist in the Obama administration. "When we restrict immigration, we don't just shortchange labor force growth today, we also reduce innovation and productivity growth in the future."

In a statement to The Washington Post, State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said: "A visa is a privilege, not a right. Unlike the Biden administration,

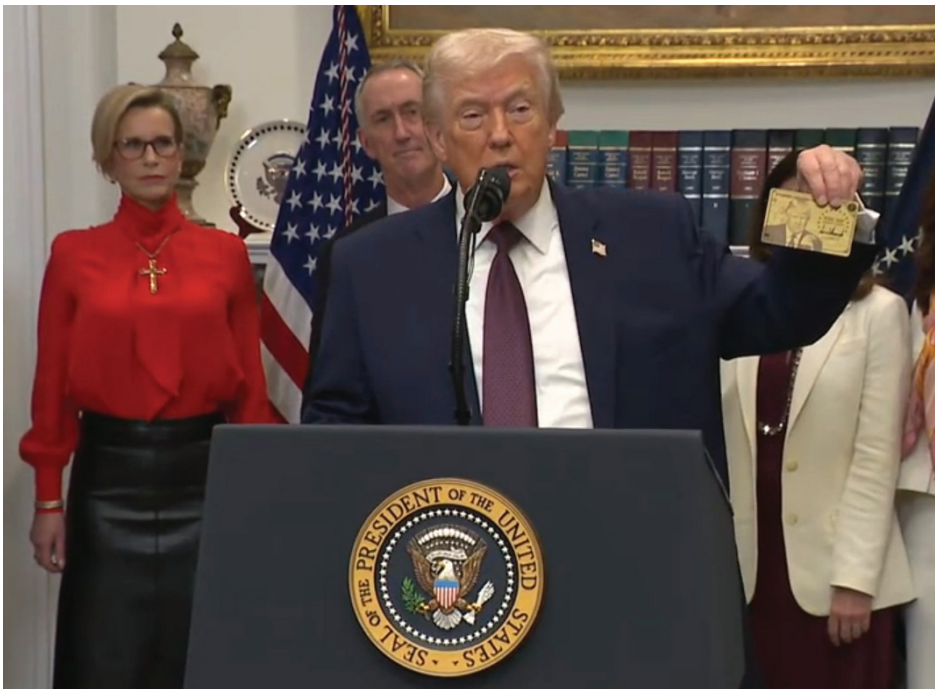


PHOTO: WHITE HOUSE

President Donald J. Trump holds up a sample "Trump Gold Card" while speaking about a new immigration initiative during an event at the White House on Dec. 19, 2025, as administration officials stand behind him.

President Trump is not willing to compromise the safety of American citizens to allow mass migration of unvetted foreign nationals into our country."

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said in a statement that "President Trump was elected with a resounding mandate to put American citizens first and every policy decision he's made has reflected that priority."

Visas for Chinese and Indian nationals fell by about 84,000 compared with the same period in 2024, largely reflecting a drop-off in international students and workers from those countries. Visas for Afghan and Cuban nationals also dropped sharply, reflecting the Trump administration's travel ban, which began in June. Visas also fell by more than 10,000 for citizens of the Philippines and Vietnam.

In June, the administration enacted a travel ban on 19 countries—mostly majority-Muslim countries and those with a contentious relationship with the United States, such as Cuba. Around that time, the State Department also paused student and exchange visitor visa interviews for three weeks, before ordering the vetting of social media accounts for all those seeking for visas.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration began eliminating thousands of positions from the State Department, describing the reductions as an effort to root out "bloat" and inefficiency. Combined with expanded vetting requirements, staffing reductions resulted in fewer consular appointments and longer wait times at certain high-demand consulates.

It's not clear exactly how much the Trump administration's policies and heightened immigration enforcement have directly reduced visa applications.

But some foreigners could have been deterred by Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and canceled plans to come to the United States.

"We don't have a separation of how much of this decline is caused by demand and how much is caused by policy, and they're obviously both putting downward pressure on the number of visas that are issued," said Cecilia Esterline, an immigration analyst at the Niskanen Center, a moderate think tank in Washington.

Business and tourism visas, which include those issued for leisure trip and business travel, fell by about 3.4 percent in the first eight months of 2025 compared with that period a year earlier, a drop of nearly 200,000 visas.

Critics of the heightened restrictions say they limit the United States' competitive edge in the global economy and create enormous uncertainty among families and workers that have been waiting, in some cases for decades, to come to the United States.

"The Trump administration is using the power of the federal bureaucracy to grind the system to a halt, at least with respect to the people that are from countries that the administration finds to be disfavorable," said Jorge Loweree, managing director of programs and strategy at the American Immigration Council, a nonprofit that advocates for immigrant rights.

Limiting visas helps prioritize Americans in the labor market and education system, said Ira Mehlman, a spokesperson for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates for stricter immigration controls.

"It's good for employers if immigrants flood in, which is why they lobby for it. But it's not so great for U.S. workers,"

Mehlman said. "There seems to be this assumption that if foreign workers are not here, their economic output will simply disappear. In most cases, those jobs would be filled by other workers, very often earning higher wages."

Visas issued for family members were generally down, especially for spouses and fiancés seeking temporary visas.

However, permanent green cards for high-priority relatives of citizens, including young children, parents and spouses, increased by 6 percent for the first eight months of the year over the same period in 2024. Those green cards have no limits.

A separate, capped family visa category, which includes adult children and siblings of U.S. citizens, fell by more than 27 percent, or by about 44,000.

International students have been the hardest hit by the Trump administration's clampdown on legal immigration. Visas issued to international students fell by more than 30 percent in the first eight months of 2025.

The drop in student visas coincides with a statement by Marco Rubio in May that the State Department would "aggressively revoke" visas of students from China. Later in the summer, the State Department announced that it had canceled 6,000 student visas for alleged crimes and overstays. Meanwhile, exchange visitor visas, which are used by foreign medical residents to come to the United States, also fell by nearly 30,000.

Omar Mousa, a 31-year-old Palestinian who fled to Ireland during the Gaza War, received a job offer last year from an internal medicine residency at Marshall University in West Virginia. But the State Department denied Mousa an exchange visitor visa this past summer based on doubts that he would return home to war-ravaged Gaza after he completed his program, a requirement of the visa.

The residency program kept his offer open. But in August, the Trump administration suspended visas for Palestinian passport holders, dashing Mousa's dreams.

"I can't stop thinking about this," Mousa said. "I wasn't just someone who just found himself a job. I've spent \$20,000 and five years of my life, preparing, just focusing on this."

## Methodology

The Post analyzed preliminary State Department visa issuance data for the first eight months of 2025, which was most recent available. The Post's analysis of the overall data and the breakdown by country omitted tourist and business visas, to avoid distorting underlying immigration trends for specific countries. Tourist and business visas include those issued for vacations and leisure trips as well as shorter business trips, including conferences and trade fairs.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



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# FIA-Chicago (1980) Elects And Appoints Officebearers For 2026-2027



Above and Below: Executives of FIA Chicago 1980, conducting elections and making announcements at general meeting Mrch 29, 2026.

BY A STAFF WRITER

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA-Chicago), an organization established 1980, and is considered one of the largest umbrella organizations of Indian Americans in the Midwest, held its annual General Council meeting, followed by elections and appointments, March 29, 2026.

President Hemant Patel welcomed attendees and briefly explained FIA's mission.

Election Chair Dr. Bharat Barai and committee member Bhailal Patel, oversaw the procedures involved in the elections. The third member, Kanti S. Patel, was absent due to health reasons.

FIA Trustees, Ex-Officio, Executives, Directors, and delegates were invited on stage one by one. Hemant Patel highlighted 22 events from the past 11 months, many of which were new initiatives. Treasurer Amar Upadhyay presented the financial report, showing impressive results—lower expenses and increased savings despite organizing 22 events, a press release from FIA said.

Dr. Barai was unanimously re-elected as Trustee-Director for the 2026-27 term by the Board of Directors, active trustees, Ex-Officio, Executives, Directors, delegates, and association representatives.

Hemant Patel was re-elected as President along with the following panel:

- Hemant Patel – President
- Anil Singh – Executive Vice President
- Rohit Joshi – Vice President
- Joy Shah – Vice President
- Bhavesh Patel – Vice President
- Arvind Ankleshwaria – Secretary
- Amar Upadhyay – Treasurer
- Yashaswini Desai – Joint Treasurer
- Vira Adimulam – Joint Secretary

Election Chair and Trustee Director Dr. Barai administered the oath to the newly elected executives.

The new Executives appointed Directors and Delegates from various organizations. President Hemant Patel presented Amendment 4.0 for discussion. It was passed unanimously with two corrections.

Community leaders also proposed several initiatives, including a health fair, OCI visa camp, health clinic, and an updated FIA webpage.



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# Rep. Shri Thanedar Hosts Town Hall With Focus On Iran And ICE

BY A STAFF WRITER

Indian American Congressman from Michigan Shri Thanedar, an outspoken critic of the Iran war and ICE operations in his state, held a Town Hall March 21, 2026, inviting constituents to air their views and get updates. Questions from attendees went beyond Iran and ICE to healthcare, social security, and local amenities as well.

"I had a great time hearing from constituents at my town hall this past Saturday! It was an honor to discuss everyday concerns with local Wayne County families and what I can do in Congress to address them. I want to thank everyone who came out to participate," Thanedar said in an email blast.

Here are some of the questions he got and the answers he provided:

**Q: Where does the money come from to pay for the daily cost of the war in Iran?**

It comes from our defense budget, which is supposed to be controlled by Congress, not the President. That's why I will vote NO on any additional funding the President requests for the war in Iran.

**Q: What are some issues you see in common**



PHOTOS: OFFICE OF REP. THANEDAR

Rep. Thanedar's town hall where constituents have the opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions to him at March 21, 2026 every.

**between different parts of the district, and what are some solutions to them?**

Access to housing, our aging sewer system, and issues relating to transportation and infrastructure are all faced by constituents across our district, which I've fought to address by securing federal funding for

local projects to solve them.

**Q: How do we reduce funding allocated to military/ defense and transfer to health care, Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, ETC.?**

Congress has to pass a budget every year that reflects our country's priorities.



Rep. Thanedar greeting a constituent at his most recent town hall.

# ISKCON Chicago Hosts Grand Sri Rama Navami Celebration With Devotion And Cultural Splendor

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

The vibrant spiritual community of ISKCON Chicago came together in a deeply devotional and celebratory atmosphere to honor Sri Rama Navami, commemorating the divine appearance of Lord Sri Ramachandra. Hundreds Gather in Rogers Park Temple for Kirtan, Sundarakanda Presentation, and Community Prasadam

Held at the temple's Rogers Park location, the evening brought together devotees, families, and community members from across the Chicagoland area, united in a shared expression of bhakti (devotion), cultural heritage, and spiritual reflection.

Lord Sri Rama, revered as the embodiment of dharma, compassion, and ideal leadership, was glorified through a thoughtfully curated program blending devotion, art, and philosophy.

An Evening of Spiritual Elevation: The celebration featured a sequence of spiritually enriching segments that engaged and inspired attendees: Soulful Kirtan: The program opened with vibrant congregational chanting, filling the temple with sacred sound vibrations. Gaura Arati: A traditional offering ceremony that deepened the devotional ambiance. Sundarakanda Shadow Play: A unique artistic presentation depicting Lord Hanuman's heroic devotion, capturing themes of faith, courage, and service. Festival Address: Speakers reflected on the timeless relevance of Lord Rama's life and teachings in contemporary society. Grand Prasadam Feast: The evening concluded with a community feast, fostering unity and shared spiritual joy.

PHOTOS: ORGANIZERS



A Tradition Rooted in Timeless Wisdom: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), founded by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1965, represents a spiritual tradition dating back thousands of years.

Since establishing its presence in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood in 1979, ISKCON Chicago has served as a center for spiritual learning, cultural engagement, and community outreach, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds.

Community Spirit and Participation: The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from devotees, many of whom contributed through seva (service) by sponsoring offerings such as flowers, garlands, and prasadam.

Well-organized arrangements and a welcoming environment ensured a fulfilling experience for all attendees, reinforcing a sense of belonging and shared devotion.

A Celebration Beyond Ritual: More than a religious observance, the Sri Rama Navami celebration stood as a powerful reminder of universal values—truth, duty, compassion, and righteousness—as exemplified in the life of Lord Rama.

As chants of "Jai Sri Rama!" resonated throughout the temple, the evening concluded on a note of spiritual upliftment, leaving participants inspired and connected.

ISKCON stands for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, commonly known as the Hare Krishna movement. Founded in 1966 by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in New York City, it is a monotheistic, Gaudiya Vaishnava Hindu organization focused on teaching bhakti-yoga (devotion) to Krishna as the Supreme Deity.

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# Eighth Annual 'Mandala Makers Festival' Begins April 15 In Chicago, Focuses On 'Live Composition'

BY A STAFF WRITER

**M**andala South Asian Performing Arts presents its eighth Mandala Makers Festival, an annual platform that supports multidisciplinary South Asian performing artists. Events showcasing music and dance begin April 15 and continue through October.

The annual multidisciplinary arts festival that celebrates the creativity, diversity, and innovation of South Asian artists in the United States and the global diaspora, was launched in 2019 in Chicago, and provides a platform for emerging and established artists working across dance, music, theater, film, and interdisciplinary performance, both traditional and contemporary expressions.

This year's performances shine a spotlight on "live composition," with skilled performing artists creating in the moment.

"As we have evolved from street performances in the Devon Avenue neighborhood, Mandala proudly presents a citywide festival with the same mission: to promote the new and next in the performance of South Asian dance



Banner photo on Facebook site @MandalaSouthAsianArts

and music. The spontaneity of the artists interacting and responding to each other will make each performance unique," said Founding Artistic Director Pranita Nayar,

quoted in the press release.

The Festival goes on till October. For details of the program visit [mandalaarts.org](http://mandalaarts.org)

# International Development Foundation USA Hosts Annual Fundraising Event In Chicago

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

## Advancing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

**I**DFUSA ORG successfully hosted its Annual Fundraising Charity Event at the Fairfield by Marriott in Schaumburg, convening global leaders, policymakers, and changemakers to strengthen international collaboration and advance sustainable development initiatives.

The event brought together diplomats, elected officials, business leaders, and social impact advocates, highlighting IDFUSA ORG's expanding role in delivering measurable, community-driven impact across India and Uganda.

The evening was honored by distinguished guests



Above and below: Scenes from the event.



including Mr. Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India, and Hon. Sarah Achieng Opendi, Member of Parliament, Uganda, who attended as Chief Guests. Mr. Jayakumar Nair, Delhi State Co-Convenor of the BJP South Indian Cell, joined as Special Invitee.

Prominent leaders such as Mr. Mafat Patel, Co-founder of Patel Brothers, and Dr. Bharat H. Barai, MD, were also in attendance, alongside respected community figures including Mr. Keerthi Kumar, Mr. Ajeet Singh, Mr. Hitesh Gandhi, Mr. Raju Pasumarthi, and Mr. Vijender Doma.

The program showcased ongoing initiatives in educa-

tion, women's empowerment, sustainability, and grassroots development, with a strong emphasis on scalable, partnership-based solutions. Key discussions highlighted future projects in Uganda, including a sustainable sanitary pad manufacturing initiative, a mid-day meal program, and expanded economic development efforts.

Speakers also reflected on IDFUSA ORG's participation at the United Nations CSW70, where conversations centered on "Women and Green Jobs," reinforcing the role of sustainability as a critical driver of inclusive growth.

The event featured recognition of community leaders and innovators whose contributions continue to drive

meaningful social change.

"The evening reflects our shared commitment to compassion-driven action and measurable impact," said leadership representatives, reaffirming the organization's mission to build sustainable, inclusive communities through global partnerships.

### About IDFUSA ORG

IDFUSA ORG is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing social impact through initiatives in education, healthcare, sustainability, and community development across underserved regions.



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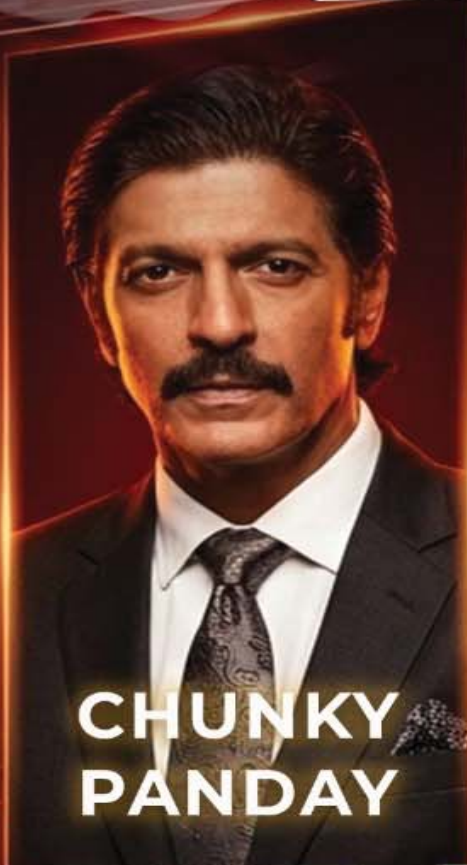
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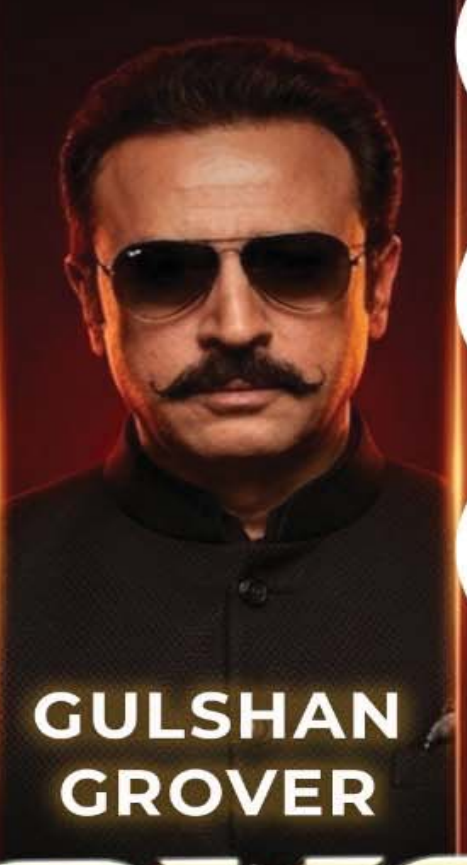
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# Dr. Arun Garg Highlights Integrative Medicine As Key To Combating Chronic Diseases

BY A STAFF WRITER

**ITV Gold interview underscores role of culture, lifestyle and technology in shaping future healthcare**

An in-depth discussion on ITV Gold brought attention to the growing role of integrative medicine in addressing chronic diseases, featuring Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Dr. Arun Garg, a Vancouver-based physician, biochemist and global health leader.

Dr. Garg, founding president of the Canadian Indian Network Society (CINS) and a senior executive member of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), outlined how integrative medicine blends modern scientific practices with culturally rooted lifestyle approaches to improve long-term health outcomes.

During the interview, Dr. Parikh introduced Garg as a leader working to connect Eastern and Western medical philosophies, noting his involvement with global physician networks representing Indian-origin doctors across more than 60 countries.

## ADDRESSING A GROWING HEALTH CRISIS

Dr. Garg emphasized that chronic diseases — including diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease, dementia and mental health conditions — are disproportionately high in South Asian communities.

Recognizing this challenge, he said CINS was established as a nonprofit organization to build cultural, academic and healthcare connections between Canada and India while promoting healthier communities.

“We have a huge problem in the South Asian community,” Garg said, pointing to lifestyle-driven illnesses as a major concern.

## CONCEPT OF INTEGRATIVE AND CULTURAL MEDICINE

Central to Garg’s approach is what he described as “cultural medicine,” a model that integrates modern medical science with traditional knowledge systems such as Vedic and yogic principles.

He explained that while modern medicine remains the foundation of treatment, incorporating cultural habits — including diet, sleep patterns, emotional health and physical activity — helps patients make sustainable lifestyle changes.

“Most chronic diseases have a very big component of lifestyle,” he said, adding that culture significantly influences behavior, including eating habits, sleep cycles and emotional well-being.

Garg stressed that integrative medicine does not replace scientific treatment but complements it by empowering individuals to take control of their health through informed choices.

## FOUR PILLARS OF HEALTH

According to Garg, integrative medicine is built around four key pillars:

- \* Diet and nutrition
- \* Sleep patterns
- \* Physical activity and movement
- \* Emotional health and relationships

These factors, he said, are interconnected and rooted in cultural practices, making them essential to disease prevention and management.

## COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHCARE MODEL

Through initiatives like the South Asian Health Institute in Canada, Garg said healthcare providers



Dr. Arun Garg while his interview with ITV GOLD.

are being trained to recognize cultural influences on patient behavior. Outreach programs in community spaces such as temples and gurdwaras are also helping educate people about nutrition and preventive care.

He noted that many individuals are unaware of how strongly diet and lifestyle contribute to diseases like diabetes, and simple behavioral changes — such as eating earlier in the day — can significantly improve outcomes.

Central to Garg’s approach is what he described as “cultural medicine,” a model that integrates modern medical science with traditional knowledge systems such as Vedic and yogic principles.



Yoga enthusiasts.

In some cases, he added, lifestyle interventions have even helped reverse aspects of Type 2 diabetes.

## ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SELF-MANAGEMENT

The conversation also highlighted the increasing role of technology in healthcare, including wearable devices like smartwatches and health-tracking rings.

While such tools can promote awareness, Garg acknowledged concerns about anxiety caused by over-monitoring. He emphasized the importance of guided interpretation through healthcare providers and community support systems.

“The goal is education, not stress,” he said, advocating for support groups and community-based clinics where individuals can better understand and act on health data.

## FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE: SOCIAL PRESCRIPTION

Looking ahead, Garg predicted a shift toward “social prescriptions,” where doctors will recommend lifestyle changes alongside medications. This approach includes guidance on diet, exercise, emotional well-being and behavioral habits.

He said the United States is already leading in areas such as functional and integrative medicine, while Canada is beginning to adopt similar models.

“The burden of chronic disease is too large to be addressed by pharmacotherapy alone,” he said. “We need to engage people so they want to be healthy.”

## BUILDING A HEALTHIER SOCIETY

Garg also highlighted ongoing collaborations between organizations like CINS, GAPIO and global healthcare institutions to build a “healthy civil society” through education, engagement and empowerment.

The interview concluded with a call for greater awareness, emphasizing that combining medical science with cultural understanding can lead to more effective, patient-centered care and improved health outcomes across communities.

# H-1B Lottery Not Selected? Work Visa Options Beyond the H-1B Cap

IN MEMORIAM

By David H. Nachman, Esq



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

Each year, USCIS receives far more H-1B registrations than the limited number of cap-subject visas available, making the lottery highly competitive for employers and foreign national professionals alike. As a result, many qualified candidates are not selected. For that reason, it is important for both employers and H-1B candidates to think strategically and review other visa options early. A person who is not selected in the H-1B lottery may still have several viable ways to remain in or come to the United States for temporary employment.

### Recent Changes to the H-1B Process

The H-1B process continues to evolve. Recent policy changes, including modernization measures and the implementation of a weighted selection methodology, have added further complexity to the H-1B cap process. Because of these changes, foreign nationals and their employers should not rely on the H-1B lottery as their only strategy. Backup planning is now more important than ever.

### Cap-Exempt H-1B Opportunities

Not all H-1B petitions are subject to the annual numerical cap. Some foreign nationals may qualify for cap-exempt H-1B employment if they work for, or in qualifying circumstances with:

- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit entities related to or affiliated with institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit research organizations
- Governmental research organizations

In some situations, a person employed by a private company may still qualify for cap-exempt treatment if the majority of the work will be performed at a qualifying institution and the work will directly support that institution's primary mission.

This can be an especially useful option for candidates working in research, higher education, healthcare, or technology roles connected to universities and academic medical systems.

### Alternative Professional Visas: H-1B1, TN, and E-3

There are several professional visa classifications that resemble the H-1B but are available only to nationals of certain countries.

#### H-1B1 Visa

The H-1B1 category is available to nationals of Chile and Singapore. It is designed for temporary professional workers in specialty occupations and can often be processed through a U.S. consulate abroad.

#### TN Visa

Canadian and Mexican citizens may qualify for TN classification under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. TN eligibility depends on whether the offered position falls within one of the treaty-listed professional occupations and whether the candidate meets the required educational or licensing qualifications.

#### E-3 Visa

Australian nationals may qualify for the E-3 visa, another specialty occupation category that is often compared to the H-1B. It requires a Labor Condition Application, but it has long remained an attractive option for qualified Australian professionals because demand has typically remained below the annual cap.

These categories can be extremely useful alternatives when the H-1B is not available.

### Treaty-Based Options: E-1 and E-2 Visas

Foreign nationals from countries that maintain qualifying treaties with the United States may also have options through the E visa categories.

#### E-1 Treaty Trader

The E-1 visa may be available to individuals coming to the United States to engage in substantial trade that is principally between the United States and the treaty country.

#### E-2 Treaty Investor

The E-2 visa may be available to a foreign national who invests, or is actively in the process of investing, a substantial amount of capital in a bona fide U.S. enterprise and who will come to the United States to develop and direct that business.

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These visa categories are often overlooked, but for entrepreneurs, investors, and certain key employees of treaty enterprises, they can be strong alternatives to the H-1B.

### STEM OPT and Other F-1 Student Strategies

For F-1 students, not being selected in the H-1B lottery does not always mean the end of work authorization.

Students with qualifying STEM degrees may be eligible for the 24-month STEM OPT extension if they are working for an E-Verify employer in a qualifying position related to their degree. This may provide additional time to remain employed in the United States and try again in a future H-1B cap season.

Some students may also consider returning to school. That step should be taken carefully and strategically, especially if the long-term goal is to remain eligible for future immigration options.

### L-1 Visa for Multinational Companies

The L-1 visa can be an excellent option for employees of multinational organizations.

#### L-1A

The L-1A category is for managers and executives.

#### L-1B

The L-1B category is for employees with specialized knowledge relating to the company's products, services, processes, or procedures.

To qualify, the employee generally must have worked abroad for a related company for at least one continuous year within the prior three years. For multinational businesses with operations both abroad and in the United States, the L-1 can provide a powerful alternative to the H-1B cap.

### O-1 Visa for Individuals with Extraordinary Ability

The O-1 visa is another important alternative that should not be overlooked.

#### O-1A

The O-1A is for individuals with extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business, or athletics.

#### O-1B

The O-1B is for individuals with extraordinary ability or achievement in the arts, motion picture, or television industry.

Because the O-1 is not subject to an annual cap, it can be a strong option for highly accomplished professionals whose credentials, awards, publications, media recognition, original contributions, or other achievements support this classification.

### Final Thoughts

Not being selected in the H-1B lottery can be frustrating, but it does not necessarily mean that a foreign national has run out of options.

# South Indian Antique Bronzes Returning To India From Smithsonian Museum

BY A STAFF WRITER

**T**hree invaluable antiquities - a 9th-century Shiva Nataraja bronze, a 12th-century sculpture of Shiva and Uma, and a 16th-century depiction of Saint Sundarar with Paravai- are returning home to India from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, USA.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Deputy Chief of Mission Amb. Namgya Khampa and NMAA Director Dr. Chase Robinson, a post on Instagram from India" Ministry of Culture said March 28, 2026.

The artefacts, "were found to have been illegally removed from temples in Tamil Nadu decades ago" the GOI post said.

In January this year, Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art announced its plans to return the three sculptures "following rigorous provenance research that documented that the sculptures had been removed illegally from temple settings."

In that agreement, the Government of India agreed to place one of the sculptures on long-term loan. The "Shiva Nata-



Official from the Indian Embassy and representatives from The Smithsonian pose next to onof the 3 antiquities being returned to India.

raja," which is to be placed on long-term loan, will be on view as part of the exhibition "The Art of Knowing in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Himalayas."

These sculptures were originally sacred objects traditionally carried in temple processions.

As part of a systematic review of its

South Asian collections, the National Museum of Asian Art undertook a detailed investigation into the provenance of the three sculptures, scrutinizing each work's transaction history. In 2023, in collaboration with the Photo Archives of the French Institute of Pondicherry, museum researchers confirmed that the bronzes

had been photographed in temples in Tamil Nadu, India, between 1956 and 1959. The Archaeological Survey of India subsequently reviewed these findings and affirmed that the sculptures had been removed in violation of Indian laws.

-ANI



Agreement signed in Washington, D.C. between DCM Namgya Khampa and NMAA Director Chase Robinson .

## LIFESTYLE

# Ajita's Headspace: The Ink Of A Life Well Lived

BY AJITA KAPOOR

**T**here is something quietly extraordinary about an old tattoo. Not the sharp, deliberate art of a modern studio, but one that has settled into skin over decades, softened, deepened, earned.

She was a small woman. The kind of small that somehow takes up an entire room. Silver silk hair, a spark in her eyes that had clearly been burning since long before any of us arrived, and on the inside of her forearm, two letters. What was once sharp and dark had mellowed into a deep forest green, the way old ink does, the way old things do, becoming more themselves with time.

She was born and raised in the mountains with cold air and quiet mornings. Every day, she and her friends would walk the same path down to school, past a *godna* sitting outside her home, a traditional tattoo artist working with needle and soot, carrying a craft older than the mountains themselves. Community ink. Identity pressed into skin one careful dot at a time.

One afternoon, this little girl skipped her lunch. Saved four paise. And made her decision.

She came home with her hand wrapped in cloth and hunger in her belly, which was precisely what gave her away. Her mother, sharp-eyed as mothers always are, unwrapped the cloth, looked at the fresh initials, and then fed her daughter and took care

of the wound. No lecture outlasted the meal. There was scolding, yes. But there was also love, which is really the same thing at that age.

She admitted to feeling like a bit of a brat about it.

As it happened, marriage didn't change her initials. The universe, apparently, approved.

When I told her that a tattoo that size would cost way more, her jaw dropped clean off the table. She found that funnier than anything, the idea that something she'd gotten for four saved paise now carried the price of a small occasion.

She laughed the way people laugh when they've earned the right to find everything a little absurd.

She spoke about snow the way people speak about first loves, with her whole face. She told us, almost conspiratorially, about the time she ate eighteen green chilies in front of her newly married husband, just to watch his expression. She won that round. She never forgot it.

And that same spirit never left her. She would light up at the mention of a bowl of *thupka*, get herself ready, and hop onto the back of her grandson's motorcycle without a second thought, heading out into the evening like someone who had absolutely no intention of slowing down.

The laughter she brought into a room was the soft, full kind. The kind you want more of.



The kind that makes you ask for another story, another memory, another glimpse into a life so richly, simply lived, before she

gently remind you that her ninety-something body deserves its rest.

There is a particular freedom that descends on people past a certain age. They stop pretending. They've had the mountains, the fresh air, the chilies, the four-paise rebellion. They've seen enough to know what matters and what was only ever noise.

What matters, it turns out, is time. A hand held. A story listened to. A joke shared across the table. Sometimes they'll tell you the same story twice. You'll remind them. They'll smile and say, "I forget things now. I'm 94." And you'll feel the strange, tender loop of it, the *déjà vu* that is really just love, circling back.

And I was lucky. I heard a few of her many stories. There were so many more I wish I had.

So here is what I want to leave you with: go find your eldest. Sit with them. Ask about something small, a childhood walk, a food they loved, a moment of mischief they've never quite stopped being proud of. Make them laugh. Laugh with them. Let them repeat themselves.

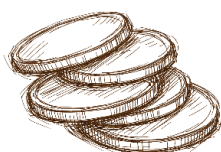
Those stories are ink too. And like all good ink, they only deepen with time.

**Ajita's Headspace was born from ruminations and memories finding their way out through storytelling.**

**The author is an artist and designer based in the tri-state area.**



PHOTO: PROVIDED



ILLUSTRATIONS: AJITA KAPOOR

## Ashwin Becomes First India International To Join US Major League

Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is set to become the first India international to appear in U.S.-based Major League Cricket (MLC), after San Francisco Unicorns announced his signing on Saturday for the Twenty20 competition's 2026 season.

Ashwin, who represented India in 287 matches across all formats and took 765 wickets, retired from international cricket in 2024 and ended his Indian Premier League (IPL) career last year.

The 39-year-old, India's second-highest wicket-taker in test cricket behind Anil Kumble, was set to play for Syd-

ney Thunder in Australia's Big Bash League, but missed out due to a knee injury.

"Taking on the mantle as the first Indian-capped player to compete in Major League Cricket is a major responsibility that I fully embrace," Ashwin said in a statement.

"My absolute focus is to help this franchise win games and push for its first championship, while also putting on a spectacular brand of cricket for the Bay Area fans."

The MLC begins its fourth season on June 18.

-REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS/AMIT DAVE/FILE PHOTO

Cricket - Third Test - India v England - Niranjan Shah Stadium, Rajkot, India - February 16, 2024 India's Ravichandran Ashwin

## Kohli And Duffy Star As Defending Champions RCB Overpower Hyderabad

By SURAMYA KAUSHIK

India great Virat Kohli and New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy led from the front as defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru opened their 2026 IPL campaign with a commanding six-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday.

Kohli stamped his authority early in the 202-run chase alongside local favourite Devdutt Padikkal as the duo kept the scoring rate firmly under control, with Bengaluru posting 76-1 in the powerplay and wrapping up the chase in 15.4 overs.

Put in to bat, Hyderabad slipped to 29-3 inside the powerplay as IPL debutant Duffy took three early wickets, before a resilient partnership between stand-in captain Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen, backed by lower-order cameos, lifted the visitors to 201-9.

Bengaluru made light work of the target as Kohli and Padikkal punished Hyderabad's bowlers and exposed the void left by the absence of injured ace pacer Pat Cummins.

Kohli, who now features only in one-day internationals, was given a reprieve on 28 before making Hyderabad pay, scoring an unbeaten 69 off 38 balls, including five fours and five sixes as the home crowd roared on the team and chanted his name.

"Whenever I come back to play, it's 120%. I'm not com-



PHOTO: REUTERS/PRYANSHU SINGH

Cricket - Indian Premier League - IPL - Royal Challengers Bengaluru v Sunrisers Hyderabad - M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, India - March 28, 2026 Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli in action.

ing back underprepared," Kohli said.

"As long as you're physically fit and you're excited mentally, all those things come together nicely and then you're able to contribute for the team's cause and that's what you want to do as a player. You don't want to hold on to a spot."

Padikkal was equally fluent, smashing seven fours and four sixes in his 61 off 26 balls, while captain Rajat Patidar added 31 to keep the runs flowing.

Earlier, pacer Duffy dismantled Hyderabad's top order, removing attacking openers Abhishek Sharma (7) and Travis Head (11) in quick succession.

Sharma, who endured a lean patch in the T20 World Cup, failed to find form again, while fellow opener Head perished attempting an aggressive stroke, picking out Phil Salt at deep square leg.

Salt impressed in the field, taking three sharp catches near the boundary rope as Hyderabad's batters struggled to pierce the field.

The 31-year-old Duffy, who was picked in the absence of Australia quick Josh Hazlewood, also dismissed Nitish Kumar Reddy for one before finishing his four-over spell with impressive figures of 3-22.

"I am just keeping the big fellow's (Hazlewood) seat warm," said Duffy, who was named player of the match.

"I just wanted to bowl the hard lengths, just keep the ball there... We talked about the lengths and stuff, what works here. Just build on what Josh did."

Kishan top-scored for Hyderabad with 80 off 38 balls, including eight fours and five sixes, while Klaasen added 31 and Aniket Verma blasted a rapid 43 off 18 to give the innings late momentum.

Bengaluru will look to build on their winning start when they host Chennai Super Kings at their home ground on April 5, while Hyderabad will play Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday.

-REUTERS

## Kaif And Chawla Back Sooryavanshi For Fast-Track To India T20 Squad

By AMLAN CHAKRABORTY

Former India players Mohammad Kaif and Piyush Chawla would love to see Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who turned 15 on Friday, fast-tracked into India's Twenty20 squad following the teen's latest heroics in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Sooryavanshi had a sensational debut season in the IPL last year, hitting the first ball he faced for six and later smashing a 35-ball hundred in another match.

He was the player of the tournament in India's Under-19 World Cup victory earlier this year and struck a 15-ball half-century to power Rajasthan Royals to an eight-wicket victory against Chennai Super Kings on Monday.

"Last season I thought Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was get-

ting hyped way too early," former India batter Kaif wrote on X.

"An old-school cricketer, I believe there should be no haste in fast-tracking young players. But a year later, I think he is ready to graduate to the next level. The 15-year boy can entertain and play match-winning knocks."

Former India player Chawla echoed that view.

"If he plays like that, would love to see him fast-tracked," the former leg-spinner told ESPNcricinfo website.

"Over the last year, in Under-19, domestic... whatever he has played, he went there and he scored hundreds. And it's not only hundreds, he scored big hundreds."

Former India player Ambati Rayudu was also convinced of Sooryavanshi's talent.

"He looks a cut above a lot of youngsters in the coun-

try, and he's a talent that will definitely do wonders for Indian cricket. I don't know when, but definitely in the future," Rayudu told ESPNcricinfo.

Rayudu, however, felt breaking into a T20 squad, which successfully defended their World Cup title earlier this month, would not be an easy task for the teenage opener.

"Don't forget, our Indian team is a world champion team. It's won the T20 World Cup. So to replace somebody in that side is not easy," Rayudu said.

"To me, there are a few players ahead of him at the moment, because you tend to pick and build your teams ahead of the next ICC competition."

-REUTERS

## ASTROLOGY



## This week for you

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

**ARIES:** Your efficient handling of a task will draw attention from influential people. Academic efforts continue to yield encouraging results. Someone may secretly admire you, and overlooking their feelings could cause disappointment. Financial matters stay balanced, with fresh earning possibilities emerging. A renewed commitment to fitness benefits overall wellbeing. Romantic moments feel deeply fulfilling. The week also favours planning an enjoyable getaway with loved ones.

**TAURUS:** Career progress looks promising as you invest sincere effort into professional growth. Academic stress that has lingered may finally ease. Responsibilities at home will be handled smoothly and competently. Taking initiative socially enhances your connections. Marriage may not happen immediately for eligible individuals, but patience will prove worthwhile.

**GEMINI:** Pending assignments that require extended attention can now be completed comfortably. Steady performance helps you carve a distinct professional identity. Family members will appreciate and implement your suggestions. Carefully review financial agreements to avoid misunderstandings. A joyful shopping outing with loved ones is likely. Health improves as your energy levels rise significantly.

**CANCER:** Family responsibilities may require dedicated time and thoughtful discussion. Academic preparation strengthens when you seek extra clarity. Travel plans, especially for leisure, promise excitement. Despite a demanding schedule, you will manage family commitments effectively. Romance intensifies as passion and emotional warmth grow stronger.

**LEO:** Refocusing on studies brings positive outcomes. Workplace distractions need to be controlled to maintain productivity. Financially, you may find yourself in a comfortable position. A minor health issue responds well to simple remedies. Guidance from an elder resolves a sensitive family matter. An unexpected meeting may spark romantic interest. Homemakers feel satisfied while beautifying their living space.

**VIRGO:** Regaining professional momentum may demand extra effort. Academic competition could feel intense, yet preparation remains unaffected. Your considerate nature earns social appreciation. Financial improvement is likely, especially through repayment of pending dues. Some may unexpectedly fall in love. Fitness awareness

keeps health stable. Limiting travel ensures you do not miss important social moments.

**LIBRA:** Romantic signals from someone you admire encourage emotional growth. A business journey may open doors to profitable prospects. Professionals may benefit from finalising a rewarding deal. Health initiatives refresh your body and mind. Property matters or asset decisions may move forward. Supporting a close friend helps them perform better. Observe carefully before making assumptions.

**SCORPIO:** Those recovering from long-term ailments show noticeable improvement. Confidence empowers you to handle complex tasks successfully. Workplace rivals fail to disrupt your plans. Working close to someone you secretly admire brings satisfaction. Family concerns may arise but will prove unnecessary. Renovation or improvement of the home is possible.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Professional responsibilities increase, yet you manage them skillfully. Academic progress benefits from steady pacing. Avoid individuals who create unnecessary irritation. Relationship frustrations ease as communication improves. Travel plans may need postponement due to other obligations.

**CAPRICORN:** Expressing heartfelt emotions strengthens a romantic connection. Marriage prospects look promising for eligible individuals. Staying visible to key decision-makers enhances career advancement. A family member may require extra attention and support. Financial ventures demand involvement and focus. You realise that consistent effort is essential for maintaining good health.

**AQUARIUS:** Be cautious socially, as someone may attempt to affect your image. Aligning with authority figures proves beneficial professionally. A person you admire may respond positively to your feelings. Leisure travel with friends might face minor obstacles but will eventually succeed. Renting property could take effort before yielding results.

**PISCES:** This week encourages relaxation and creating a peaceful home atmosphere. Career matters progress satisfactorily. Students and competitors manage time effectively. A partner may share heartfelt emotions. Property seekers might discover an attractive offer. It is advisable not to alter planned travel arrangements unnecessarily.

# H-1B Lottery Not Selected? Work Visa Options Beyond the H-1B Cap

By DAVID H. NACHMAN, ESQ

Continued From Page 13

Depending on the person's qualifications, nationality, work history, employer structure, and long-term goals, there may be other strong pathways available. Cap-exempt H-1B employment, treaty-based visas, student options, multinational transfer visas, and extraordinary ability classifications all deserve close review.

The key is to start early, evaluate alternatives carefully, and build a strategy that fits the individual case.

## Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I am not selected in the H-1B lottery?

You may still have several options, including cap-exempt H-1B employment, STEM OPT, TN, E-3, H-1B1, L-1, O-1, E-1, or E-2 classification, depending on your background and circumstances.

Can I enter the H-1B lottery again next year?

Yes. Many candidates re-enter the H-1B registration process in a future fiscal year if they remain eligible and have a sponsoring employer.

Is a cap-exempt H-1B better than a regular H-1B?

For many people, yes. A cap-exempt H-1B can avoid the annual lottery entirely, but it depends on whether the offered

position and employer relationship meet the legal requirements.

What is the best alternative to the H-1B visa?

There is no single answer. The best alternative depends on nationality, job role, employer type, achievements, immigration history, and long-term goals.

Can F-1 students stay in the United States if they are not selected?

Some can. STEM graduates may qualify for the 24-month STEM OPT extension, and others may consider different visa strategies or further study, depending on their circumstances.

Are there options for entrepreneurs if the H-1B does not work out?

Yes. In the right case, E-1 or E-2 treaty-based options may be available for entrepreneurs, traders, investors, and certain key employees.

## Contact Information

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# Shekhar Kapur Announces 'Masoom' Sequel, Discusses AI And Indian Cinema's Global Future At IFFD 2026

**V**eteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has officially announced the sequel to his acclaimed 1983 classic 'Masoom'.

Tentatively titled 'Masoom: The Next Generation', the upcoming film will reunite original cast members Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi, alongside Manoj Bajpayee and a fresh ensemble of actors.

Kapur revealed the project during an interactive media session at the International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026, where he also shared extensive insights into the evolving landscape of global cinema and the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence.

Addressing the intersection of technology and art, Kapur highlighted AI's role in democratizing the filmmaking process.

He noted that AI tools are breaking traditional barriers of budget and scale, allowing a young filmmaker with minimal resources to create visuals comparable to a high-budget cinematic production.

"Today, a child in 30,000 will make a film worth 300 crores," he said.

Kapur reflected on the analog era, recalling how it once took three hours to light a celluloid shot and how actors preferred specific cameras.

He observed that cinema has always created its own



PHOTO: ANI

reality, but today, AI tools can instantly generate that reality from a simple written paragraph.

Despite this technological leap, Kapur emphasized the inherent limitations of AI, defining it as an algorithmic

scraping tool devoid of true human instinct.

"AI is not instinctive... it is not intuitive," he remarked. He argued that while AI can replicate previously expressed feelings, it cannot generate original emotion, experience the fear of death, or fall in love.

Highlighting human unpredictability, he added, "I am mad sometimes. AI can't be mad. Not as mad as I can be. So, I must use that madness."

For Kapur, the primary challenge for modern directors is to cultivate their human intuition to outpace artificial intelligence.

Shifting focus to the global box office potential of Indian cinema, Kapur expressed immense confidence in the country's storytelling heritage.

He cited the epic Mahabharat as an unparalleled narrative, stating, "No one has ever told a story like Mahabharat. We are storytellers to the world... We need to find out how to tell stories so that the rest of the world understands them... Our filmmakers are just as good.."

To achieve global resonance, he urged filmmakers to bridge cultural gaps by adapting their storytelling language so international audiences can easily understand Indian folktales.

-ANI

## Prasanth Varma Drops 'Mahakali' BTS Featuring Akshaye Khanna's Sage Avatar

**A**ctor Akshaye Khanna's foray into Telugu cinema has generated fresh buzz after filmmaker Prasanth Varma marked the star's birthday with a behind-the-scenes glimpse from their upcoming mythological film 'Mahakali.'

The filmmaker shared a BTS image that teases Khanna's transformation into the antagonist Shukracharya.

The image features Khanna in a long-haired, bearded sage look, dressed in ascetic robes, gesturing mid-performance on a blue-screen set. Fire pits were also one of the visible elements in the picture.

Varma's post, while celebrating Khanna's birthday, also hinted at an upcoming update related to 'Mahakali', building anticipation among fans.

Social media reactions quickly followed, with many users, expressing excitement over the project's potential scale.

Hashtags like #Adhira and #JaiHanuman trended in replies, with fans speculating about connections to other projects and possible cross over.

"Happy Birthday #AkshayeKhanna sir, a true actor who proves that real talent doesn't need noise. Effortless screen presence, powerful performances, and unmatched class always

stand out Its an absolute honour working with you. Can't wait to show the world what we've created together! Updates coming soon! #Mahakali #Adhira #JaiHanuman," Prasanth Varma wrote in the caption.



PHOTO: ANI

The project has been steadily building interest since September last year, when RKD Studios unveiled the first-look poster of Khanna as Asura guru Shukracharya.

Directed by Puja Aparna Kolluru and created by Varma, the film presents Khanna in a striking avatar, flowing silver beard, intense eyes, and a composed yet enigmatic

presence, symbolising a character rooted in both wisdom and rebellion. The makers had described Shukracharya as an "eternal Asura guru."

Khanna was last seen in the blockbuster film 'Dhurandhar' as Rehman Dakait. Directed by Aditya Dhar and headlined by Ranveer Singh, the film features an ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, and Arjun Rampal.

Its sequel 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' was released on March 19, and, the film has already crossed over Rs 600 crore within its extended first week.

-ANI

## Makers Announce Release Date Of Vijay Varma's 'Matka King' On Actor's Birthday



PHOTO: ANI

**I**t's actor Vijay Varma's birthday, and on the occasion of his special day, the makers of his upcoming series 'Matka King' have announced the release date along with a teaser for the show.

The series, which also stars Kritika Kamra, is set to premiere on Prime Video on April 17.

Set in 1960s Bombay, 'Matka King' revolves around a cotton trader who creates a new gambling system called Matka. What starts as a small idea gradually grows bigger, reaching people from different sections of society.

Apart from Vijay and Kritika, the show also features Sai Tamhankar, Siddharth Jadhav, Bhupendra Jadawat, and Gulshan Grover, along with several other actors in key roles.

The story follows Brij Bhatti, played by Vijay Varma, as he tries to

make a name for himself in a fast-changing city. As his idea expands, he faces rising risks, power struggles, and ever-growing ambitions.

Producer Siddharth Roy Kapur shared his thoughts on the project, stating that the story stood out because of its setting and the journey of the main character.

As per a release, Kapur said, "What drew us to Matka King was the scale and uniqueness of the world it is set in, and the story of an individual navigating ambition, identity, and the pursuit of respect in a rapidly evolving society."

Created and written by Abhay Koranne and directed by Nagraj Popatrao Manjule, the series will be available in India and over 240 countries from April 17.

-ANI

The Washington Post

By Hannah Sampson

# Some Airports Beg: Please Don't Show Up Four Hours Early

After viral images of security lines stretching for four or more hours, some airports are sending a message to travelers: This is not it.

In a polite public service announcement, John Glenn Columbus International Airport in Ohio told travelers that arriving 90 minutes ahead of departure was the "sweet spot."

"Showing up too early creates those first-wave lines," the airport wrote on social media. Adding a thumbs-up emoji, the message asked passengers to "help us keep things moving."

A partial government shutdown left Transportation Security Administration workers unpaid during the heavy spring break travel season over the past several weeks, leading to staffing shortages and lines that stretched across multiple sections of airports.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas has consistently asked passengers to arrive early - about 2½ hours for domestic flights and three hours for international travel.

On Monday, the airport added more information: "There is no need to line up more than 4 hours before your flight, as this causes congestion in the lines for those flying out sooner."

This hasn't been the case at other airports - at least until recently.

Some hard-hit locations, like Bush Intercontinental in Houston, had previously warned of waits that lasted more than four hours during peak congestion. Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport asked travelers to arrive four hours before their scheduled departure over the weekend. Entrepreneurs have offered their services babysitting the lines. An untold number of passengers have missed flights.

Scott Keyes, founder of the cheap flight alert service Going, said travelers may see those horror stories and vow to show up as early as it takes to make their flight. But if someone with a later-morning flight arrives four hours early as a precaution, they're adding to the lines all the early-morning travelers need to wait in as well.

"It's almost like rush-hour traffic," he said. "You're going to get there in time. You're also adding to rush-hour traffic."

Some airline counters might not even allow travelers to check bags until a certain point before their flight, and TSA lines might not be open in the wee hours, said Zach Griff, travel expert and author of the newsletter From the Tray Table. That can lead to people waiting before lines even start moving.

Not every airport has been overwhelmed - and many

were reporting security lines that resembled normal on Tuesday, after TSA workers started receiving paychecks due to an executive order from President Donald Trump. Trump also deployed ICE agents to airports to assist with long lines; it's not clear how long they'll stay as the shutdown continues.

In a statement, Lauren Bis, acting assistant secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, said airport chaos was starting to ease.

"Since President Trump's issued an order to pay TSA officers on March 28, TSA officer call outs have dropped by roughly 30%," the statement said.

Just over 2,500 TSA officers called out on Monday, or 8.6 percent, with the highest rates in Atlanta, Houston, New Orleans, Baltimore and New York City.

And yet operations in Baltimore were "routine" on Tuesday, with short TSA lines that were "moving quickly and efficiently," BWI spokesman Jonathan Dean said in an email. Atlanta's airport reported wait times under five minutes on Tuesday, while Bush Airport's longest line was reportedly 15 minutes in the afternoon.

Newark Liberty International Airport had somewhat longer waits, with one checkpoint reaching nearly 45 minutes and some at John F. Kennedy International in New York exceeding 30 minutes.

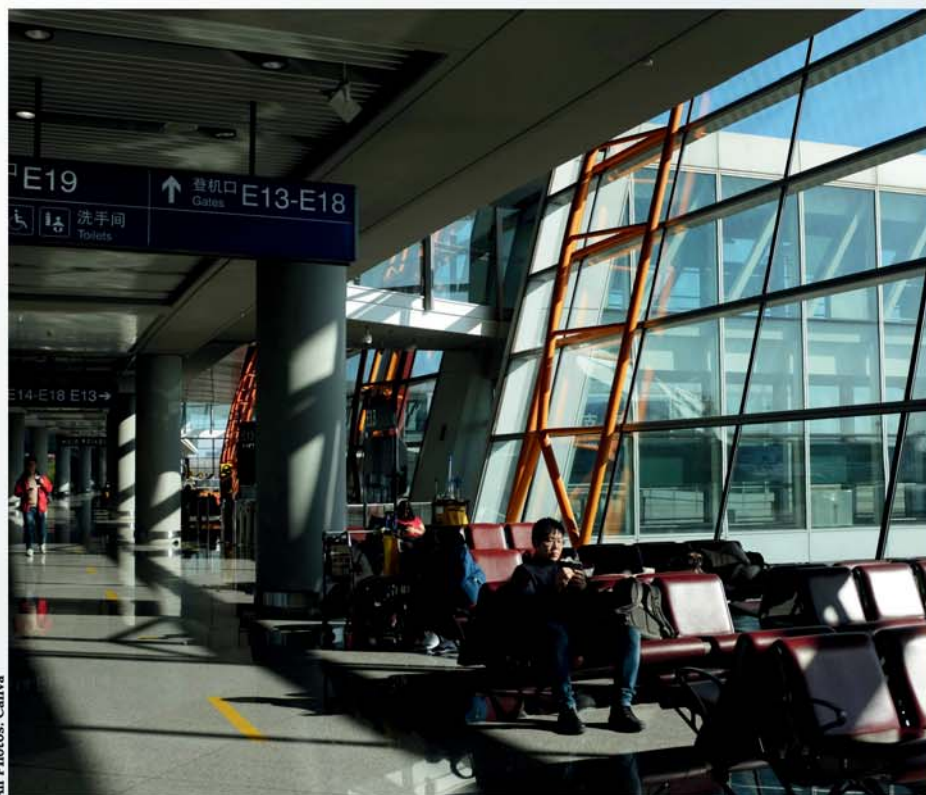


Griff, who created a TSA wait times dashboard, said he's seeing the longest lines early in the morning at the busiest airports. He said Tuesday he was not seeing four-hour lines - but warned travelers to stay informed about their particular airport because long waits could form unexpectedly.

"You really have to stay on your game," he said.

He said he has heard from travelers who said they have watched wait times and opted for a cautious approach amid the uncertainty.

"It is causing a lot of folks who end up deciding, 'I don't really care; I'll just get there three hours early,'" he said. Griff said there can be a good outcome for airports when travelers arrive early and make it through security.



"These are people now who are becoming captive audience to all their concessions," he said.

Beau Zimmer, spokesman for Tampa International Airport, said if people want to show up a little earlier than the two hours recommended for domestic flights, the airport doesn't mind. He warned that they should make sure they aren't too early to check bags or go through security.

Tampa has not seen extremely long waits during spring break travel or had issues with extra-early arrivals, he said.

"Passengers are happiest when they're not stressed, when they're not worried about the lines, when they just have plenty of time," he said.

## Priyanka Chopra Offers Prayers, 'Seva' At Golden Temple

**B**ollywood star Priyanka Chopra offered prayers at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday. She also participated in Seva along with other devotees.

Priyanka, who spends most of her time in the foreign soil, arrived at Golden Temple to bow her head in reverence at Sachkhand Sri Darbar Sahib. After paying her respects at the Guru's abode, Chopra listened to the Gurbani Kirtan with deep devotion.

While her arrival sparked a palpable excitement among the congregation, she performed her Darshan with utmost simplicity and humility. After paying her respects at Darbar Sahib, Priyanka Chopra also participated in Seva by washing soiled utensils in the Parikrama (circumambulatory path).

Earlier, actor Priyanka Chopra shared a visually indulgent post featuring a traditional North Indian thali. The image captured a quintessential Punjabi meal, offering a glimpse into the region's celebrated food culture. At the centre of the platter are two golden-brown Amritsari kulchas, likely stuffed with spiced potatoes or paneer and baked in a tandoor.

Accompanying them are small bowls of dal makhani and chole, staples of Punjabi cuisine, along with sides of yogurt, butter, pickled onions with green chilies. Adding to the cultural mood, the story is set to the song 'Sohni Lagdi' by Diljit Dosanjh.

The food post comes amid 'The Bluff' actor ongoing visit to India, which has already sparked curiosity among fans. On March 26, she documented her journey from New Delhi to Amritsar via a digital flight map shared on Instagram Stories.



PHOTO:ANI

She also posted short clips of Punjab's lush green farmlands, filmed from her window seat. Before heading to Amritsar, the actor was spotted at the Delhi airport interacting with fans and posing for photograph.

This India visit follows her recent work on the film

'The Bluff' and comes ahead of her much-anticipated collaboration with filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli for the upcoming project 'Varanasi', which is expected to release in 2027.

-ANI

## Akhil Akkineni Starrer 'Lenin' Postponed To Avoid Clash With Ram Charan's 'Peddi'

**T**he makers of Akhil Akkineni starrer Lenin have postponed the release date of their movie to avoid the clash with Ram Charan starrer Peddi. The movie was originally scheduled to release in theatres on May 1.

Murali Kishor Abburu's directorial Lenin is now slated to hit the big screens on June 26. Apart from Akkineni, the movie also stars Sreeleela in the lead role. According to Annapoorna Studios, the official production studio of the film, calls this decision a mark of respect for the bond between Ram Charan and Akhil.

Taking to their Instagram, Annapoorna penned a long note titled "Update on Lenin Release Date."

They wrote, "The release of Lenin, which was originally scheduled for May 1 will now be postponed. With our dearest Mega Power Star Ram Charan's Peddi arriving on April 30th, we believe it is the right time to celebrate cinema together in a positive and healthy environment. We all know the bond Ram Charan garu shares with Akhil garu and how he has always been a constant well-wisher. This decision comes with utmost respect and regard."

It continued, "LENIN WILL ARRIVE ON 26 JUNE 2026 WORLDWIDE. We assure you that Lenin will be a complete celebration of cinema, packed with every emotion and presented in the team's finest form. We are committed to bringing you the best possible experience on the big screen."

The music of the film is composed by Thaman S. The film is produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi.

Meanwhile, Peddi is directed by Buchi Babu Sena and stars Ram Charan in the titular role, alongside Shiva Raj-



PHOTO:ANI

kumar, Janhvi Kapoor, Divyendu Sharma, and Jagapathi Babu.

Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under his banner Vriddhi Cinemas, in collaboration with the leading

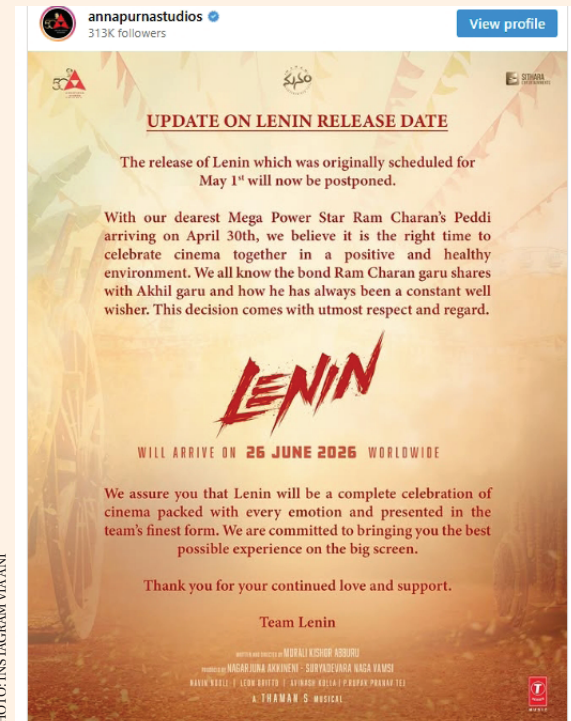


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Need Single / Couple Front Desk help for Choice Hotel in Dover, DE 19901. Experienced, fluent English, Computer literate and Legal must. Free accommodation provided. Call Patel: (302) 359 4298.

03/27-04/17-SL

**LONG ISLAND, NY**  
14 rooms motel in Long Island, New York needs Couple to run the motel. Duties include Front Desk and Housekeeping. English required for Front Desk. will train if needed. Good pay with Accommodation provided. Legal status must. Contact: 347-678-7222

03/27-04/24-SD

**OK/TX/NY**  
Franchise Motels in (1) Chickasha, OK (2) San Antonio- TX need Front desk help (3)Utica- Upstate New York need Housekeeping and front desk help. Couple or single (for all locations). Accommodation provided. Contact: Mike: 661-373-1528 (Text only)

03/27-04/17-SD

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Need a General Manager position for a Franchise Hotel in the Pittsburgh Area. Minimum 2-3 years experience with One year of Hotel Supervisory experience preferred. Legal status must. Accommodation available. Email Resume: vsmanagement303@gmail.com

03/06-04/03-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

**NEW YORK / TEXAS**  
Need Single / Couple experienced Front Desk and Housekeeping help for Franchise Motel in New York and Texas. Must be legal. Accommodation Available. Call: 716-931-0211 / 936-676-7223

04/03-04/24-SL

General Managers with 3-4 years' experience at Motel 6 (Economy) in Boulder, Nevada and Denver & Marriott in New Mexico. Decent salary, accommodation available and Legal must. Apply: hrsrexecin@galaxyhotelsgroup.com

04/03-04/24-SL

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Red Roof Inn in Danville, PA needs a Single / Couple experienced Manager for Day Shift and Housekeeping Couple. Good Pay, free accommodation. Call Ken (434) 422 2626

04/03-04/24-SL

**JOHNSON CITY, TN**  
HIRING ! 110 Rooms Franchise Hotel in Johnson City, TN, looking for Front Desk Clerk & Night auditor. Free accommodation provided. Call Ramani 864-430-7160

04/03-04/10-SH

**LONG ISLAND, NY**  
Independent motels in Long Island, NY need couple for housekeeping help. Experience and legal status must. Accommodation will be provided. Contact: Ishwar Ahir: (607)-262-0157

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**MALE**

Punjabi Male, 27 years, 5'8", NYC-based Software Engineer, MBA at NYU. Seeks a US-raised bride in the NYC/NY area. Caste no bar. Text YK : 678-304-8184.  
03/13-04/03-SL

Gujarati Lohana Vegetarian Male, US Citizen, Chicago based, never married, IT, 5'10", 80 kgs, originally from E Africa and US since 2007 seeking well cultured, educated, Hindu family oriented girl. Send photo / Bio-data : vlalseta@gmail.com / 630 674 5331.  
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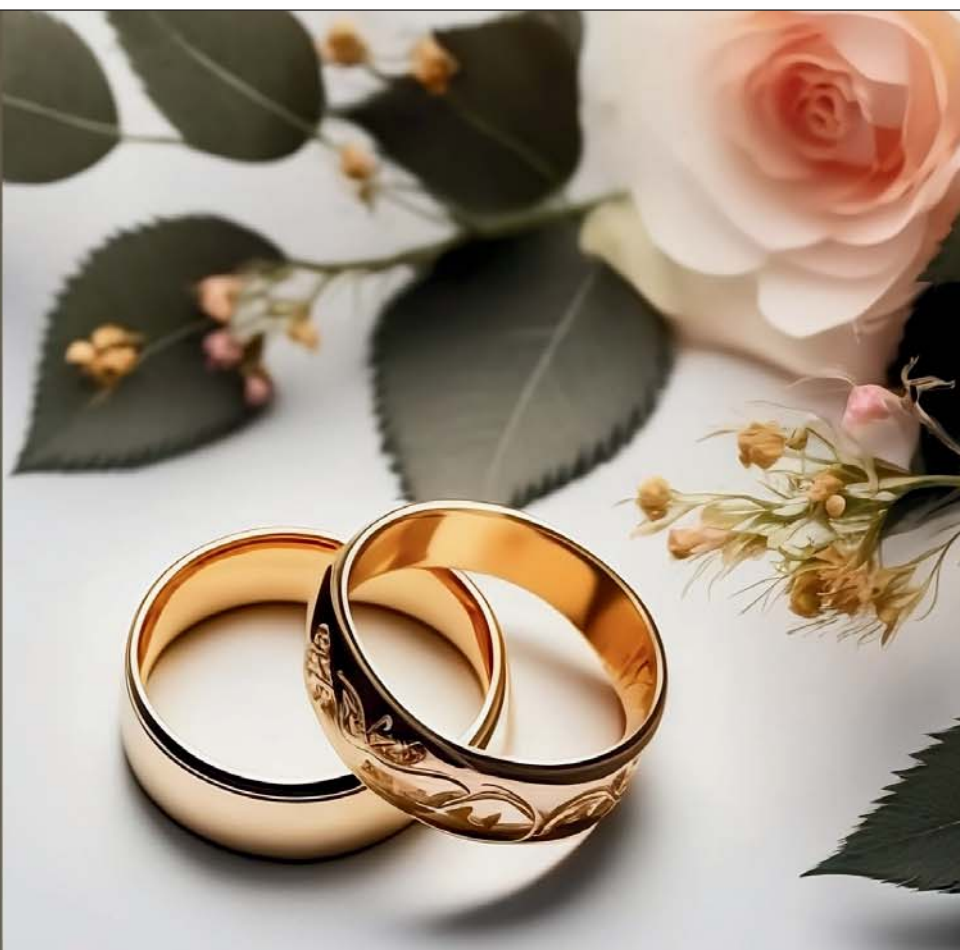
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