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Republican Voices Concern Over GOP Ouster



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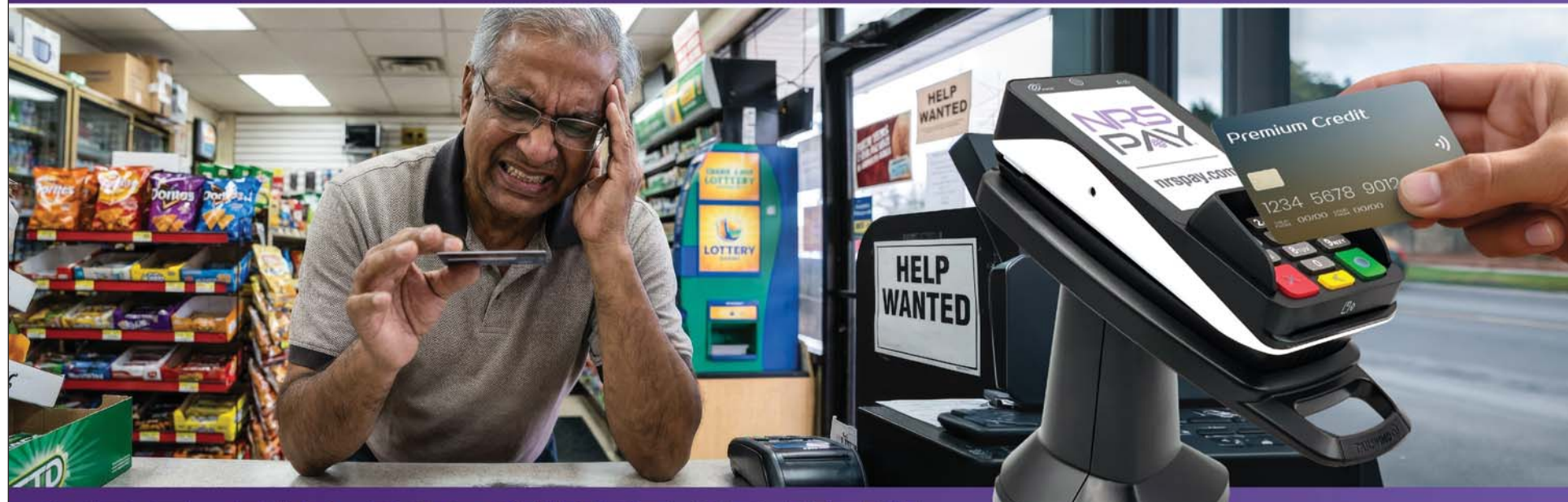
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With Global Stability At Risk, India Must Initiate Efforts To De-escalate US–Israel–Iran Conflict

By Lt. Col. Manoj K. Channan (Retd.)

The current tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran have escalated beyond a regional dispute. What we are witnessing is a dangerous buildup that could draw multiple global powers into a broader conflict. At its core, this is no longer just about strategy or influence; it is about preventing further loss of human life and restoring a sense of balance in an increasingly polarised world.

A CONFLICT AT THE EDGE

The situation has reached a point where further escalation offers little strategic benefit but causes large human and economic damage. Long-lasting hostilities have stretched military resources, disrupted global energy markets, and increased insecurity throughout the Middle East/West Asia. The involvement, directly or indirectly, of other major players like Russia and China adds another layer of complexity.

If left unchecked, the alignment of the United States and Israel as a dominant military bloc risks being seen as an axis of power. This perception alone could lead to counter-alignments, drawing more nations into a conflict that no one can fully control.

THE HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE

Beyond geopolitics, the most urgent concern is humanitarian. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict. Families are displaced, infrastructure is damaged, and a generation grows up under the shadow of violence. Reports of the militarization of youth and prolonged psychological stress highlight the long-term damage already in progress.

This cycle of retaliation must stop. Persisting on this path only widens divisions and makes peace more difficult to attain each day.

INDIA'S HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Since independence, India has consistently positioned itself as a voice for those affected by expansionism, coercion, and isolationist policies that lead to widespread suffering. It has championed sovereignty, non-alignment, and the protection of civilian lives, especially in regions where conflicts have disproportionately impacted



A police officer stands outside 'Bharat Mandapam', the main venue of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, India, September 7, 2023.



BRICS Logo.

women and children.

This legacy is not symbolic. It provides the moral foundation for India to speak clearly at a time when narratives are increasingly influenced by power rather than principle. The current crisis requires that such a voice be heard again.

QUESTIONING DOMINANT NARRATIVES

A crucial aspect often overlooked is how conflicts are

framed. The justification of military action through the loss of service personnel, while real and tragic, cannot become a blanket rationale for sustained violence that extends far beyond battlefields.

History shows that such narratives can sometimes obscure deeper strategic motives. In the current context, it is difficult to overlook the role of energy security, especially control over petroleum resources, as a crucial factor. The Middle East remains vital to global energy needs, and competition for these resources continues to shape geopolitical decisions.

Focusing solely on security issues risks hiding these underlying interests and making real resolution more difficult.

INDIA'S INDEPENDENT VOICE

India's initiative in seeking de-escalation must be understood on its own terms. It is not, and should not be perceived as, a response to the role of any intermediary, including Pakistan, acting as a facilitator between conflicting parties. Nor is it driven by any fear of being left out of diplomatic processes.

India's position derives from its identity as a democratic nation with global responsibilities. It has both the capacity and obligation to act independently, guided by its principles and long-term interests. By taking the lead, India is not just asserting its presence but also fulfilling its role as a voice for stability, for its own people, and for those across regions who depend on it to voice concerns that might otherwise go unheard.

WHY INDIA MUST STEP FORWARD

India is uniquely positioned to serve as a credible and balanced mediator. As the world's largest democracy, it holds both moral authority and diplomatic influence. Its long-standing relationships with the United States, Iran, Israel, and the Gulf nations provide it with access that few other countries have.

India's leadership in global forums such as BRICS and the G20 further enhances its ability to bring together diverse stakeholders. Simultaneously, its role as a prominent voice of the Global South enables it to advocate for peace without appearing aligned with any specific bloc.

-SOUTH ASIA MONITOR

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Jyot Singh, Candidate For Georgia House Of Representatives Wracks Up Endorsements

By A Staff Writer

Indian American candidate for the Georgia House of Representatives from District 97, is getting some significant endorsements for his campaign for the Democratic primary scheduled almost two months from now on May 19, 2026. He is pitted against fellow Democrat Jacques Laurent.

"My team and I have been all over our district meeting voters, connecting with local groups, and sharing our vision for the future of Gwinnett County, Singh said in his weekly newsletter.

"I'm proud to announce our recent slate of endorsements! It's an honor to

have the support of members of Congress Hank Johnson and Jonathan Jackson, as well as State Representatives Long Tran and Eric Bell – all dedicated leaders who understand the challenges working families are facing in Georgia. We're building a coalition that'll fight for affordable healthcare, quality education, and real opportunities to get ahead," Singh said.

He also received the endorsement of the Georgia Working Families Party.

"The WFP has spent years doing the hard and often thankless work of organizing working families across Georgia, and the fact that they believe in our grassroots campaign means everything," Singh declared.

On his campaign website singhforga, the candidate's rallying cry is "The Time Is

Now" and under that banner, Singh gives his rationale for running and his vision:

"I'm running for State House because the people of District 97 are ready to shine.

We are a district of high-tech innovation in Peachtree Corners, small-business immigrant hustle in Duluth, and deep working-class roots in Norcross.

We don't need leadership that just "holds the line" in government.

We need leadership that understands GCo—the unique spirit of resilience and community that defines Gwinnett.

I am running to be a bridge between the grassroots and government, ensuring that as Gwinnett grows, it grows for all of us."

Singh is a graduate of Yale University.



PHOTO: PROVIDED IN CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

Endorsements for Jyot Singh poster.

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The Supreme Court Should Affirm Birthright Citizenship

By THOMAS A. BERRY, DAN GREENBERG, AND
KIMBERLY COLEMAN, CATO INSTITUTE

On his first day in office last year, President Trump signed Executive Order 14,160. That Order attempted to end birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to parents without permanent immigration status. Today, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case challenging the constitutionality of that order. And Cato has filed an amicus brief in support of the Order's challengers, explaining how and why the Order contravenes the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court should affirm the lower court's holding that the Order is unconstitutional.

The Fourteenth Amendment commands, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." The key debate in this case hinges on the meaning of the middle portion of that sentence: "subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

The government argues that the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" in the Fourteenth Amendment requires that newborn children be subject to America's political jurisdiction, not just regulatory jurisdiction. Political jurisdiction, in the government's view, demands allegiance to the United States—and

The Constitutional Amendment, as Finally Adopted and Submitted to the Legislatures of the States.

IN SENATE.

1866, June 8—The Amendment in these words, as finally amended, was brought to a vote: Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring.) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE 14.

It passed—yeas 33, nays 11, as follow:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Chandler, Clark, Conness, Craig, Creswell, Edmunds, Fessenden, Foster, Grimes, Harris, Henderson, Howard, Howe, Kirkwood, Lane of Kansas, Lane of Indiana, Morgan, Morrill, Nye, Poland, Pomeroy, Ramsey, Sherman, Sprague, Stewart, Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, Wiley, Williams, Wilson, Yates—33.

NAYS—Messrs. Cowan, Davis, Doolittle, Guthrie, Hendricks, Johnson, McDougall, Norton, Riddle, Saulsbury, Van Winkle—11.

ABSENT—Messrs. Brown, Buckalew, Dixon, Nesmith, Wright—5.

IN HOUSE.

June 13—The Amendment passed—yeas 138, nays 36, as follow:

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, Anderson, Delos B. Ashley, James M. Ashley, Baker, Baldwin, Banks, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Benjamin, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Blow, Boutwell, Brandegee, Bromwell, Broomall, Buckland, Bundy, Reader W. Clarke, Sidney Clarke, Cobb, Conkling, Cook, Cullom, Darling, Davis, Dawes, Defrees, Delano, Deming, Dixon, Dodge, Donnelly, Driggs, Dumont, Eckley, Eggleston, Eliot, Farnsworth, Farquhar, Ferry, Garfield, Grinnell, Griswold, Hale, Abner C. Harding, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Higby, Holmes, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Asahel W. Hubbard, Chester D. Hubbard, Demas Hubbard, Jr., John H. Hubbard, James R. Hubbell, Hulburd, Ingersoll, Jencks, Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Kelso, Ketcham, Kuykendall, Ladin, Latham, George V. Lawrence, William Lawrence, Loan, Longyear, Lynch, Marston, Marvin, McClurg, McKee, McBuer, Mercur, Miller, Moorhead, Morrill, Morris, Moulton, Myers, Newell, O'Neill, Orth, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Phelps, Pike, Plante, Pomeroy, Price, William H. Randall, Raymond, Alexander H. Rice, John H. Rice, Rollins, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shellabarger, Sloan, Smith, Spalding, Stevens, Stillwell, Thayer, Francis Thomas, John L. Thomas, Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Burt Van Horn, Robert T. Van Horn, Ward, Warner, Elihu B. Washburne, Henry D. Washburn, William B. Washburn, Wolker, Wentworth, Whaley, Williams, James F. Wilson, Stephen F. Wilson, Windom, Woodbridge, the Speaker—138.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Bergen, Boyer, Chanler, Coffroth, Dawson, Denison, Eldridge, Finck, Glossbrenner, Grider, Aaron Harding, Hogan, Edwin N. Hubbell, James M. Humphrey, Johnson, Kerr, Le Blond, Marshall, McCullough, Niblack, Nicholson, Radford, Samuel J. Randall, Ritter, Rogers, Ross, Shandlin, Sitgreaves, Strouse, Taber, Taylor, Thornton, Trimble, Winfield, Wright—36.

NOT VOTING—Messrs. Culver, Goodyear, Harris, Hill, James Humphrey, Jones, McIndoe, Noel, Rousseau, Starr—10.

Copy of 14th Amendment signed in 1866.

PHOTO: COURTESY CATO.ORG

therefore domicile—for citizenship.

The government argues that children of parents without permanent immigration status cannot be domiciled in the United States, so they are not born citizens.

But as our brief explains, this argument does not comport with the original public meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Contemporaneous definitions, writings of the time, and court precedent show that "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" only required that children be born under the United States' authority (that is, be bound to follow US law). Because children of parents without permanent immigration status are under the authority of the United

States and born in the United States, the Fourteenth Amendment grants them citizenship.

The ordinary public meaning of the text is corroborated by the Fourteenth Amendment's purpose. In the past, the Court improperly limited this purpose in the Slaughter-House Cases (1873) and excluded those the Fourteenth Amendment meant to protect. We argue that this Court should avoid making that mistake again and affirm the broad purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment: to protect "all persons." And the set of "all persons" includes the children of parents without permanent immigration status.

Our brief concludes with a rebuttal of another amicus brief in this case. Professor Ilan Wurman's amicus brief provides an account of the common law of birthright citizenship and a purported application of originalism that pays insufficient attention to the Constitution's original public meaning. We argue that a more faithful deployment of originalism cannot support Professor Wurman's conclusions.

In the end, the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees citizenship to nearly all persons born in the United States, with exceptions far narrower than the Executive Order's scope. The president cannot ignore, rewrite, or abandon that promise by executive order. The Supreme Court should affirm the judgment below and issue a judgment that respects the right of birthright citizenship that the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed.

The Supreme Court's Middle Way On Birthright Citizenship

The Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday on President Donald Trump's 2025 executive order restricting birthright citizenship, and a majority of the justices sounded skeptical. But the court has two paths to block Trump's order, and it matters which one it takes.

The first path is a sweeping constitutional ruling that the 14th Amendment of 1868 requires automatic citizenship for anyone born to immigrants in the country illegally, for now and all time. The second is a narrower ruling that blocks Trump's unilateral effort to rewrite U.S. citizenship rules but leaves the door cracked for Congress to legislate on the subject in the future.

Two justices sounded potentially open to the more modest resolution. The 14th Amendment promises citizenship to anyone "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States and born on its soil. Trump and briefs supporting him make the case that this is a term of art. Those who advocated the provision after the Civil War, they argue, meant to exclude people subject to a foreign sovereign.

But even if that were true - the evidence is apparently mixed - Congress has passed immigration law in the meantime that the Supreme Court can rely on. In particular, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 uses the same phrase about "jurisdiction," and legislators who passed that law seemed to take birthright citizenship for granted.

As Justice Neil M. Gorsuch put it, "there was a lot of water over the dam" between the 1868 amendment and the 1952 law. The Trump administration claims the modern "misreading" of the 14th Amendment took root during the Franklin D. Roosevelt years. But if the modern

PHOTO: MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST



People gather outside the Supreme Court on May 15 as the justices hear arguments about lower courts' ability to block President Donald Trump's policy to end birthright citizenship.

understanding was also the understanding when Congress legislated on citizenship in the mid-20th century using the same terms, then that is enough to invalidate Trump's order.

As Gorsuch asked Solicitor General D. John Sauer: "Would there be an argument for reading that statute under its original plain meaning at the time - 1940, 1952 - to perhaps have a different meaning than the Constitution?" In other words: Even if the 14th Amendment doesn't mandate unrestricted birthright citizenship, Congress might have done so.

Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh also pressed that point.

The 14th Amendment explicitly authorizes Congress to enforce its provisions. "Does that give Congress room," Kavanaugh asked Sauer, to adjust the scope of birthright citizenship?

He put the same question to Cecilia Wang, the lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. He proposed a hypothetical where Congress voted "435 to zero in the House and a hundred to zero in the Senate" to change birthright citizenship rules: "Your point is no, they're closed, they're frozen forever?"

Kavanaugh pointed out that the Supreme Court usually tries to avoid constitutional decisions if it can resolve a case based on a law Congress has passed. "Why would we address the constitutional issue," he asked Wang, when "our usual practice - as you're well aware, of course - is to resolve things on statutory grounds?"

Gorsuch and Kavanaugh are pointing to a potential middle ground for the Supreme Court. The justices need not define the scope of the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause right now. They can allow the people's elected representatives in Congress to actually debate the policy and consider whether any changes are needed.

If a decision to restrict birthright citizenship were ever arrived at through the normal democratic process, the Supreme Court could then decide if the revisions pass constitutional muster. This isn't just a technicality. Americans' rights are best protected when policy is made, at least in the first instance, by the legislature - not the executive and the courts.

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Indian American Amit Kshatriya Among Key NASA Personnel Behind Latest Moon Push

BY A STAFF WRITER

As the four astronauts, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen, geared up for the launch of Artemis II moon mission, Amit Kshatriya was a familiar figure updating the media, and the nation on the state of readiness.

At the April 1 prelaunch press briefing, he is quoted saying, "Everything continues to look good, and there are no issues preventing us from pressing ahead," the Scientific American reported. "Twenty-five years of flying space station has given us reliability and understanding of the elements of the machines that we're flying around the moon, to a large extent, which is why we're comfortable taking the risks," he added.

Kshatriya, NASA's associate administrator, serving as the highest-ranking civil servant at the agency and as a senior advisor to the administrator, is one of the key personnel at the space agency behind the 2nd major attempt to discover more about the moon.

NASA describes him as "the proud son of first-generation Indian immigrants to the United States," in his biography. Born in Brookfield, Wisconsin, Kshatriya considers Katy, Texas, his hometown.

A highly decorated official, Kshatriya joined the space agency in 2003, and through his years there, he worked as a software engineer, robotics engineer, and spacecraft operator primarily focused on the robotic assembly of the International Space Station.

Today, he leads the agency's 10 center directors, as well as the mission directorate associate administrators at NASA Headquarters in Washington. He also acts as the agency's chief operating officer, according to his bio on the NASA website.

Kshatriya previously served as the deputy associate administrator for the



PHOTOS: NASA

Earth's crescent is seen from a solar array camera on the Orion spacecraft on the first flight day of the Artemis II mission.



The 4 astronauts who are already on their way to the moon on Artemis II.



PHOTO: (NASA/BILL INGALLS)

NASA Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya poses for his portrait, Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters Building in Washington.

Moon to Mars Program in the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) at NASA Headquarters in Washington. In that role, he was responsible for program planning and implementation for human missions to the Moon and Mars. He directed and led the programs to ensure Artemis and Mars planning, development, and operations were consistent with ESDMD requirements, and served as the single point of focus for risk management, the NASA bio says.

Prior to his ESDMD role, Kshatriya served as the acting deputy associate administrator for the Common Exploration Systems Development Division where he directed and provided leadership and integration for the Space Launch System, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems Programs, as well as associated Artemis Campaign Development Division initiatives linking the agency's Moon to Mars objectives.

Kshatriya has risen through the ranks. From 2014 to 2017, he served as a space station flight director, where he led global teams in the operations and execution of the space station during all

phases of flight.

From 2017 to 2021, he became deputy, and then acting manager, of the ISS Vehicle Office, where he was responsible for sustaining engineering, logistics, and hardware program management. In 2021, he was assigned to NASA Headquarters as an assistant deputy associate administrator for ESDMD, where he was an "integral part" of the team that returned a spacecraft designed to carry humans to the Moon during the Artemis I mission, NASA notes.

He has a bachelor of science in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, and a master of arts in mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin.

Decorated with the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for actions as the lead flight director for the 50th expedition to the space station, Kshatriya also is the recipient of a Silver Snoopy, an award astronauts bestow for outstanding performance contributing to flight safety, for his actions as lead robotics officer for the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services Dragon demonstration mission to the orbiting laboratory.



PHOTOS: FACEBOOK/ NASA

A Firefly Aerospace visit with NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya who was given a behind the scene look at Blue Ghost Mission 2 and the Eclipse rocket, March 19, 2026.





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36 Years of Greening Humanity: The Remarkable Journey of Life Greenfield Centre

From Humble Beginnings to a Global Green Revolution. Transforming Vision into a Sustainable Reality for Generations



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

“True progress is not measured by how much we build for ourselves, but by how much we nurture for generations to come. The Life Greenfield Centre stands as a living testament that when compassion meets commitment, even a single sapling can transform the future of humanity.”



In an era where climate change dominates global discourse and environmental degradation threatens the very fabric of human existence, a silent yet powerful revolution has been unfolding in Rajkot City of Western India. For the past 36 years, the Life Greenfield Centre, an initiative of Project 'Life', has been steadfastly committed to one profound mission: restoring the balance between humanity and nature.

Established in 1990, the Life Greenfield Centre emerged from a visionary belief that environmental preservation is not merely an option, but a responsibility. Over the decades, what began as a modest effort has blossomed into a large-scale environmental movement - impacting communities, institutions, and ecosystems alike.

A Living Commitment to the Planet

Spread across vast green campus, the Centre nurtures over **70 varieties** of eco-friendly trees, carefully grown for 4 - 5 years until they reach a height of **6 to 15 feet** before being distributed for replantation. This unique model ensures an extraordinary **survival rate** - nearly **99.9%** a benchmark rarely achieved in afforestation initiatives worldwide.

To date, more than **283,000 trees** have been distributed to environmentally conscious individuals, organizations, and institutions, transforming barren landscapes into thriving green ecosystems. Life Greenfield Centre's impact extends far beyond tree distribution. It is a centre of awareness, education, and inspiration - encouraging communities to embrace sustainability as a way of life.

A Pillar of a Larger Humanitarian Vision

The journey of Life Greenfield Centre is deeply interwoven with the broader mission of Project 'Life', founded in 1978. With initiatives spanning Healthcare, Education, Women Empowerment and Thalassaemia Prevention, the organization has touched millions of lives across decades.

Within this larger ecosystem, Life Greenfield Centre plays a vital role - reminding the world that human well-being and environmental health are inseparable.

Global Relevance, Local Action

What makes this journey especially compelling for a global audience is its scalable and replicable model. By combining scientific nurturing of plants with community-driven distribution, the Centre offers a practical solution to one of the world's most pressing challenges - sustainable afforestation.

Its efforts align seamlessly with global environmental priorities, including climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. The Centre's continued expansion reflects an unwavering commitment to building a greener, healthier planet.

A Call to the World

As the world searches for meaningful solutions to environmental crises, the journey of Life Greenfield Centre stands as a powerful reminder that real change begins with consistent, collective action.

From a single sapling to a global inspiration, these 36 years symbolize not just growth - but hope, resilience, and responsibility.

A Pilot Project



Shah Happiness Foundation Life Vertical Gardening Initiative is the pilot project which is a modern and sustainable agricultural technique where crops are cultivated in vertically stacked layers within controlled environments. It requires minimal land, significantly conserves water, and enables year-round production independent of seasonal changes, while ensuring fresh and pesticide-free vegetables, especially in urban and semi-urban areas.

Tree Plantation by Dignitaries



Amitabh Bachchan along with Shashikant Koticha at Life Greenfield Centre



Padmashri Dr. Sudhir Parikh Planting a Tree



Jaya Bachchan Planting a tree at Life Greenfield Centre

Plant Trees, Save the Earth, Serve Mankind

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Federation Of Gujarati Associations USA Meets PM Modi

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

Historic engagement underscores growing global influence of Gujarati diaspora; United Gujarati Convention 2026 announced as flagship international gathering

As Gujaratis worldwide continue to shape industries and communities, initiatives like these reinforce their role as a powerful bridge between India and the world.

In a significant milestone highlighting the expanding global footprint of the Gujarati diaspora, a high-level delegation from the Federation of Gujarati Associations of USA (FOGAUSA) held a formal meeting with Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

The meeting marked a moment of strategic dialogue between India's leadership and one of its most influential overseas communities. Discussions centered on both long-standing challenges faced by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and forward-looking initiatives aimed at strengthening India-U.S. diaspora engagement.

KEY ISSUES RAISED BY FOGAUSA: The delegation presented a comprehensive overview of systemic challenges impacting overseas Indians, particularly Gujaratis residing in North America:

- **Aadhaar Card Accessibility:** Limitations preventing NRIs from obtaining or maintaining Aadhaar credentials, affecting access to services.
- **Banking & Financial Barriers:** Complex compliance requirements and transaction restrictions impacting seamless financial operations.
- **Property Ownership & Inheritance Issues:** Legal and procedural hurdles in managing real estate and succession matters in India.
- **Digital Access Constraints:** Limited availability of India-based digital platforms for NRIs, including authentication challenges.

FOGAUSA leaders emphasized that addressing these issues would significantly enhance ease of living and strengthen economic participation among overseas Indians.

VISIONARY PROPOSAL: Vibrant Gujarat Summit – USA Edition

In a forward-thinking move, the delegation proposed organizing a U.S.-based edition of the globally acclaimed Vibrant Gujarat Summit, aimed at: Strengthening bilateral trade and investment, Promoting Gujarat as a global business hub, Creating direct engagement platforms between U.S. investors and Indian industries.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed the proposal and acknowledged the vital role of the diaspora in advancing India's global partnerships.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: Prime Minister Modi reassured the delegation that the Government of India is actively working toward resolving NRI-related challenges through policy reforms and digital innovation initiatives. He reaffirmed India's commitment to maintaining strong, inclusive ties with its global diaspora.

DIASPORA POWER SNAPSHOT: Gujarati Presence in North America: United States: 1.2 – 1.4 million, Canada: 250,000 – 300,000, Total North America: ~1.7 million.

This vibrant and influential community plays a critical role across sectors including business, healthcare, technology, education, and public service, contributing significantly to both their adopted countries and India.

FEATURE STORY: United Gujarati Convention 2026: A Global Celebration of Culture, Commerce, and Community

Orlando, Florida | May 22–25, 2026: FOGAUSA proudly announces the United Gujarati Convention 2026, a premier international gathering set to take place at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld.

This landmark four-day event will bring together thousands of Gujaratis from across North America and around the world, offering a dynamic platform to



Above and below: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with FOGA-USA delegation.



celebrate cultural heritage while fostering future opportunities in business, leadership, and community engagement.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Cultural

Extravaganza: Spectacular Garba & Raas Nights. Live performances by internationally acclaimed artists. Showcases of traditional Gujarati fashion, music, and arts.

Business & Networking: Large-scale trade exhibitions. Investor and entrepreneur networking sessions. Dedicated startup innovation platform.

Community & Youth Forums: Leadership development sessions for youth, Expert panels on business, technology, and global trends. Inspirational keynote addresses from prominent leaders.

Family & Lifestyle Experiences: Engaging kids' competitions and activities. Authentic Gujarati culinary experi-

ences. Social mixers and community networking events.

PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT: REGISTER NOW – LIMITED EARLY BIRD OFFER: \$200 per person (First 2,000 attendees only). Trade show booths available for businesses. Souvenir advertisement opportunities open May 22–25, 2026

Orlando, Florida

Federation of Gujarati Associations of USA (FOGA-USA) is a cultural non-profit organization with tax-exempt status as per the Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations of the United States of America (click here for the exemption certificate from IRS). EIN: 86-2736605 | IRS Section 501(c)(3) certified non-profit incorporated in Lawrenceville, Georgia, United States. Integrated health care delivery system, sponsors this initiative.



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Fact Sheet: Impact Of H-1B Filing Fee On The Health Care Workforce

BY AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

THE ISSUE

Hospitals and health systems across the United States are experiencing significant shortages of health care professionals. There are simply not enough physicians, nurses, physical therapists and other providers available to treat the increasingly complex health needs of patients, especially in rural areas, and the problem is only expected to worsen in the next 10 years. The H-1B visa is an important tool allowing hospitals and health systems to fill critical staffing needs across a variety of health care positions, including direct care and supporting roles. However, the recent imposition of a \$100,000 fee for each new H-1B petition will likely impact whether many health care facilities will be able to hire foreign trained professionals.¹ And although petitioners may apply for an exception to the fee, the administration guidance iterates that exceptions would be “extraordinarily rare.”

To better understand the impact of this policy change, in November 2025 the AHA conducted a survey of its members. Of the more than 1,000 health systems and hospitals responding, over 70% expect the increased H-1B fee will directly impact patient care. Given these responses, the new H-1B filing fee policy may limit the ability of hospitals and health systems to utilize the program to supplement their domestic workforce and address growing shortages.

AHA TAKE

The AHA urges the Department of Homeland Security to make health care professionals exempt from the \$100,000 H-1B visa fee to ensure continued access to timely, high-quality care for all communities.²

The challenges facing our health care system are tremendous — and urgent. More than 92 million people live in regions designated by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas, and 137 million live in areas without enough mental health providers.³ Hospitals and health systems are actively working to increase domestic recruitment and retention, but these efforts take time.

The \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visa petitions will hamper recruitment efforts, strain hospital staffing and reduce patient access to essential health care services. According to the AHA's recent survey, nearly 65% of survey respondents who utilize the H-1B program report pausing, delaying or limiting recruitment as a result of the new H-1B visa fee. Fifty-seven percent of those roles were for direct-care providers.



PHOTO: NCIAP.ORG

North Carolina Indo American Physicians (nciap.org) – which offers affordable care.

Many hospitals also emphasized in the survey that in rural communities, where staffing pipelines are thin, even one H-1B visa can be the difference between keeping a clinical position filled and service lines, like oncology or obstetrical services, open. With shortages of health care providers already numbering in the hundreds of thousands, especially in rural and underserved areas, it is critical that access to qualified professionals is expanded, not restricted.

BACKGROUND

The H-1B visa allows employers to temporarily hire nonimmigrant workers in “specialty occupations” — those that require highly specialized knowledge and at least a bachelor's degree — in fields such as technology, finance, higher education and health care. The program is intended to support employers in filling roles when there are not enough qualified professionals in the domestic workforce. In September 2025, a presidential proclamation established a \$100,000 fee for all new H-1B visa petitions, with limited exceptions as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

While they make up less than 5% of the H-1B visa holders currently in the U.S., health professionals fill gaps in the communities that need them most. Fourteen percent of all Americans live in rural areas, but only 10% of U.S. physicians practice in rural communities.⁴ To maintain access to care, hospitals rely on the H-1B visa program to recruit health professionals. A 2025 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that rural counties,

counties with the highest poverty levels and counties most affected by workforce shortages also had the highest number of H-1B-sponsored professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse anesthetists and other health care workers.⁵ Al-

- More than 70% of hospitals anticipate the H-1B visa fee will impact patient care.
- 64% of hospitals that utilized, or planned to utilize, the H-1B visa program will pause, defer or limit recruitment due to the \$100,000 H-1B visa petition fee.
- 57% of positions that would have been filled by H-1B visa holders were clinical roles.

though H-1B-sponsored health professionals are essential in filling gaps in areas where care is desperately needed, they do not replace U.S. workers. In fiscal year 2024, H-1B-sponsored physicians made up just 1% of all practicing physicians — but even with these 11,080 professionals, the U.S. still experienced a shortage of 64,000 physicians by the end of the year.⁶

AHA survey respondents report H-1B-sponsored health professionals are critically important for hospitals and health systems recruiting for “persistently hard-to-fill” roles, including lab professionals, nurses and physicians. This is especially true for subspecialties such as cardiology, oncology, gastroenterol-

ogy, neurology, pulmonary and critical care, psychology, rural primary care and hospital medicine. H-1B professionals are also essential in filling non-direct care roles, like researchers, laboratory scientists, and information technology, data and analytics specialists.

Reducing the supply of health care providers holding H-1B visas will have a negative impact on the rest of the health care workforce. Nearly 45% of health care workers cite staffing shortages as one of the top obstacles to performing at work, while facilities experiencing staffing shortages are 68% more likely to struggle with nursing turnover.^{7,8} Despite the demand for health care workers, these shortages are expected to worsen. The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis expects that by 2038, there will be a shortage of more than 141,000 physicians, 108,000 nurses and 30,000 pharmacists, while anticipated shortages of social workers, physical and occupational therapists, and other health professionals will also total in the tens of thousands.⁹

Having an adequate supply of health professionals is also critical to maintaining access to care. A reduced health care workforce will mean longer wait times for patients, delayed diagnoses and increased emergency visits, ultimately raising costs for everyone and straining health systems. Following the implementation of the \$100,000 H-1B visa fee, more than 70% of AHA survey respondents expect patient care will be impacted, with nearly 40% anticipating significant impacts to care. In rural and underserved communities, the effects could be devastating, with services requiring specialty providers, like hospital-based obstetrical care, at risk of disappearing. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, by 2030 there will only be enough OB/GYNs to meet 50% of the need for hospital-based obstetric services in rural areas.¹⁰ Some hospitals may be compelled to reduce services or limit care options, further impacting patient access in already vulnerable communities.¹¹

The imposition of a \$100,000 fee for each H-1B visa will limit access to qualified international professionals and exacerbate existing workforce shortages, to the detriment of all patients and health professionals. With millions of Americans living in areas with severe provider shortages, it is imperative that federal policies support — not hinder — the recruitment of essential health care workers.

(USED WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION)

Hired an Employee but Missed the H-1B Cap? What to Do If OPT Is Expiring Soon

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

Hiring international talent can be a valuable investment for U.S. employers. However, a common challenge arises when an employer hires a new employee working on Optional Practical Training (OPT), only to realize that the H-1B cap season has already passed or the employee was not selected in the lottery.

When the employee has only a few months of OPT remaining, the situation becomes urgent. Employers must quickly evaluate available options to avoid losing the employee and to remain compliant with U.S. immigration laws.

This article outlines practical steps employers can take when a newly hired employee's OPT is nearing expiration and the H-1B cap is no longer an immediate option.

Understanding the Urgency

When an employee's OPT is close to expiring, there is limited time to act.

If no alternative work authorization is secured:

- The employee must stop working immediately
- The employer may face compliance risks
- Workforce continuity may be disrupted

This makes early planning essential.

Newly Hired Employee: Why Timing Becomes Critical

In many cases, employers hire candidates mid-year or after the H-1B lottery has already taken place. By the time onboarding is complete, there may be limited time left on the employee's OPT.

This creates a compressed timeline where employers must:

- Assess immigration options quickly
- Avoid gaps in work authorization
- Plan for both short-term and long-term solutions

Early evaluation is critical to avoid last-minute complications

Immediate Action Plan for Employers

Employers should take proactive steps as soon as it becomes clear that the employee was not selected in the H-1B lottery:

- Review the employee's OPT expiration date
- Confirm whether the employee is eligible for STEM OPT extension
- Evaluate alternative visa options
- Consult immigration counsel promptly
- Prepare for possible employment gaps

A structured approach can help minimize risk.

STEM OPT Extension: The First Option to Evaluate

For employees with qualifying STEM degrees, the 24-month STEM OPT extension is often the most practical immediate solution.

Key requirements include:

- Employer participation in E-Verify
- A qualifying STEM degree
- A structured training plan

This option allows continued employment and provides additional time for future H-1B lottery attempts.

Short-Term vs. Long-Term Strategy

Employers should separate planning into two phases:

Short-Term Strategy

- STEM OPT extension (if eligible)
- Change of status to maintain lawful presence
- Temporary solutions to avoid status gaps

Long-Term Strategy

- Preparing for the next H-1B lottery cycle
- Evaluating alternative visa pathways (O-1, L-1, TN, E-3, H-1B1)
- Workforce planning for future hires

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All Photos: Canva

Alternative Visa Options

If STEM OPT is not available, employers may consider other visa categories depending on the employee's background:

- O-1 visa for individuals with strong credentials
- L-1 visa for multinational companies
- TN, E-3, or H-1B1 visas based on nationality

Each option must be evaluated based on eligibility and timing.

What Happens If No Action Is Taken?

Failing to act before OPT expiration can lead to serious consequences:

- The employee must stop working immediately
- Unauthorized employment risks arise
- The employer may face compliance issues

Advance planning is critical to avoid disruption.

Employer Compliance Considerations

Employers should remain mindful of immigration compliance:

- Monitor work authorization expiration dates
- Avoid unauthorized employment
- Maintain proper I-9 documentation
- Ensure timely filings and status changes

Even unintentional violations can create long-term risks.

To be continued on Page 16

It Is New Year Upon New Year In April 2026!

By ARCHANA ADALJA

Four Indian regional New Years based on the Lunar calendar have just passed in March, right after Holi. Others are coming up on the 14th and 15th of April, based on the Solar calendar and marking the start of the harvest season and the Sun's transition into Aries or Mesha Rashi.

New Years celebrated on April 14, 2026, are (1) Puthandu, the Tamil New Year, (2) Vishu, the New Year in Kerala, (3) Baisakhi, the New Year in Punjab, (4) Bohag Bihu, the New Year in Assam which will last till April 20, (5) Maha Vishuva Sankranti, the Odia New Year, and (6) Jur Sital, the Maithili New Year celebrated in parts of Bihar and Nepal. The new year celebrated on April 15, 2026 is (7) Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu, the Assamese New Year.

Most new years are celebrated by some ritualistic puja at home, visit to the temples to seek blessings and thank gods, wearing new clothes, eating traditional dishes, ending in cultural performances.

(1) Puthandu, the Tamil New Year is a festival symbolizing renewal, and is celebrated with devotion. The day begins with the Kanni ritual, where people first see upon waking up a tray arranged the previous night with fruits, flowers, gold, rice, and other items. Homes are cleaned and decorated with Kolam or rice-flour rangolis and garlands of neem and mango leaves.

People wear new traditional clothes. Special meals are prepared, including Mango Pachadi, a drink made of raw mango, jaggery, neem flowers and tamarind, said to represent life's mix of sweet, bitter, and sour experiences. Other dishes include sakkarai pongal, vadai, and payasam.

People visit temples, participate in special pujas, and attend reading of the Panchangam or almanac with predictions for the new year.

(2) Vishu, the Kerala New Year, celebrated mainly by the Malayali community, marks spring harvest, the spring and the sun's entry into Medam month. It is closely linked to the worship of God Krishna or Vishnu, who is believed to have defeated the demon Narakasura on this day.

On the previous night, families prepare an auspicious display in front of a Krishna image with Kani Konna flowers, raw rice, golden cucumber, coconut, gold ornaments, coins, and a mirror. It is believed that seeing this first thing at dawn is believed to bring prosperity.

People wear new clothes and Sadhya, the Feast, consists of a traditional Kerala balanced meal of salty, sweet, sour and bitter tastes, often served on banana leaves, including dishes like Vishu Kanji and Thoran.

People go to temples, visit friends, and in a special ritual Vishukkaineetam, elders give money or gifts to younger family members as a blessing for the new year.

(3) Baisakhi is a major harvest festival and Punjabi New Year, holding religious and cultural significance, especially for Sikhs.

Baisakhi is a harvest festival celebrating good Rabi crops, and thanking god. Nagar



Danda Nacha is performed as part of the Maha Vishuva Sankranti New Year celebrations in Odisha.



Vishu Kani, the New Years display in front of a Krishna image with Kani Konna flowers, raw rice, golden cucumber, coconut, gold ornaments, coins, and a mirror is believed to bring good fortune. Photo: Nnr2025@Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 4.0 International license.



Baisakhi celebrations in Kent, England, with Bhangra players in traditional garments playing Dhol. Photo: L2F1@Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.



Bohag Bihu, the 7-day long Assamese New Year celebrations features people in mekhela chador and dhoti-gamosa performing the Bihu dance playing dhol.

Kirtans or colorful street processions with hymn singing, scripture recitation, and displays of Gatka, Sikh martial arts, are a part of the celebrations. People wear traditional garments of orange and yellow colors. Melas or fairs are held with rides, games, and cultural performances, including Bhangra and Gidda to the beat of the dhol.

Festive foods include Meethe Chawal, Khada Prasad, and Sarson da Saag with Makki di Roti.

Sikhs visit Gurdwaras for Kirtans and Seva that day, which marks the formation of Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh.

(4) Maha Vishuva Sankranti, the Odia New Year, celebrates the transition from spring to summer, and marks the new academic and agricultural year. Also known as Pana Sankranti, it involves preparing Bela Pana, a wood apple drink offered to deities and then shared as prasad.

People celebrate by visiting Hanuman, Shiva and Shakti temples to seek blessings, and donate to the needy. Cultural performances include Danda Nach, the traditional fire dance.

(5) Jur Sital, the Maithili New Year, is celebrated in Bihar and surrounding region, marking the first day of the Maithili calendar.

Traditional rituals to celebrate include elders blessing younger family members by pouring water on their heads. Water is also sprinkled on plants and trees to keep them cool. People apply mud and silt on each other. Lakes and wells are cleaned, and sometimes rice seeds are sown.

Cooking is avoided that day. Families eat food prepared the previous day, especially badi-bhaat, lentil dumplings and rice and sattu. People also visit the homes of deceased relatives singing traditional folk songs to pay respect to their memories.

(6) Pohela Boishakh, the Bengali New Year, is mainly celebrated in West Bengal and Tripura, and symbolizes a fresh start and community togetherness. Celebrations include Prabhat Pheri or early morning processions, visit to the temples, decorating homes with Alpona and closing old and opening new financial ledgers.

People wear red-and-white sarees and kurtas. Cultural programs include Rabindra Sangeet, folk music and dance.

Traditional dishes for the day are Panta Bhaat, Hilsa fish curry, Rosogolla and Sandesh. Boishakhi Melas display handicrafts, pottery, and traditional foods.

(7) Bohag Bihu, also called Rongali Bihu, is the Assamese New Year and spring festival, marking the start of the agricultural season.

For the seven day long festival, Gosai Bihu or prayers are conducted daily. Visits to get blessings from elders are a special feature of the day. Traditional food includes pitha and laddoo made from rice flour, coconut, and jaggery.

People wear mekhela chador and dhoti-gamosa, and perform the lively Bihu dance in fields and community spaces accompanied by dhol and pepa or horn pipe.

Celebrations also include bathing the cattle and decorating them with garlands and feeding vegetables to them to show gratitude for their help in farming.

Indian American Republican Voices Concerns After Membership Revoked In Milwaukee County GOP

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Purnima Nath calls for accountability, condemns racism, and defends independent political thought

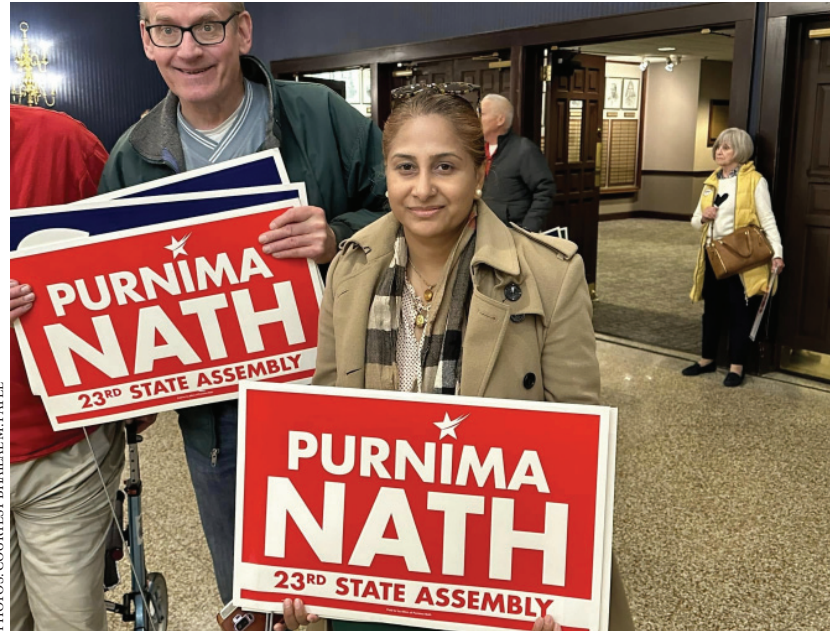
In a development that has sparked discussion around political inclusivity and freedom of expression within party structures, Indian-American community member Purnima Nath has publicly stated that her membership with the Republican Party of Milwaukee County has been cancelled, allegedly on the grounds that her “values do not align” with the organization.

According to Nath, the decision stems from her refusal to adhere to what she describes as “blind allegiance” and her continued commitment to questioning policies, advocating accountability, and prioritizing public service over political narratives.

“Disagreement is not disloyalty. Independent thinking is not extremism,” Nath emphasized in her statement.

Appeal Filed, No Response Yet: Nath has reportedly reached out to the Republican Party of Wisconsin seeking clarification and formally appealing the decision. As of now, she notes that no response has been received, raising concerns about transparency and internal democratic processes.

Concerns Over Rising Divisiveness: Highlighting her identity as a brown, Hindu, Indian-American, Nath expressed deep concern over what she described as increasing instances of racially and religiously charged rhetoric within segments of political discourse.



Purnima Nath

PHOTOS: COURTESY BHAILAL M. PATEL

She referenced experiences where individuals from minority backgrounds are subjected to remarks such as “go back to India” or threats of deportation—language she strongly condemned as unacceptable in a democratic and civil society.

“America belongs to people of all colors, religions, and backgrounds. Any attempt to create a homogeneous, exclusionary society betrays the very spirit of the Constitution,” Nath stated.

Historical Context and Constitutional Ideals: In her remarks, Nath pointed to historical injustices embedded within American systems—including discrimi-

natory immigration laws, segregation policies, and racial inequalities—as reminders of the need for vigilance in protecting civil liberties.

She emphasized that while the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and equal protection under law, these ideals must be actively upheld rather than selectively interpreted.

A Stand for Principles Over Politics: Positioning her stance as one rooted in principle, Nath affirmed that she will continue to speak out against what she perceives as injustice, regardless of political consequences.



Purnima Nath flyer

“I will not be silenced. I will not reduce myself to a pawn in anyone’s power game. Principle over power. People over politics.”

Broader Implications: The situation has drawn attention to broader questions regarding ideological diversity within political parties and the role of independent voices in shaping public discourse. Observers note that such developments may resonate strongly within immigrant and minority communities navigating political participation in the United States.

Jayapal Demands End To ‘Illegal U.S. Blockade’ Of Fuel To Cuba On Return From Visit

By A STAFF WRITER

U.S. Representatives Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), and Jonathan Jackson (IL-01) released a statement upon the conclusion of their five-day Congressional delegation to Cuba, calling for an end to the fuel blockade which they said was bringing untold suffering to the citizens. They also pointed to the opening up of the Cuban economy, and urged Washington to enter into “real” negotiations with the small communist-ruled island nation.

“The illegal U.S. blockade of fuel to Cuba—90 miles south of the United States—adds to the longest embargo in world history and is causing untold suffering to the Cuban people,” the US lawmakers said. “The United States prevented a single drop of oil from entering

Cuba for over three months,” which has resulted in an “economic bombing” of the infrastructure of the country, and caused a crisis in healthcare as well as for schoolgoing children.

“We witnessed firsthand premature babies in incubators, weighing just two pounds, who are at tremendous risk because their ventilators and incubators cannot function without electricity,” Jayapal and Jackson said. Children cannot attend school, cancer patients cannot receive lifesaving treatments, water shortage is being experienced, businesses have closed, families cannot keep food refrigerated, and food production on the island has dropped to just 10 percent of the people’s needs, they said.

Jayapal and Jackson spoke to many representatives of various sectors and religious leaders, and Cubans across the political spectrum, and, “Across all

sectors, there is agreement: this illegal blockade must end immediately. We do not believe that the majority of Americans would want this kind of cruelty and inhumanity to continue in our name.”

They cite examples of liberalization and release of prisoners to strengthen the case for ending the “Cold War-era policy of coercive economic measures and military pressures against Cuba.”

“True reform will only come from charting a new course. The United States and Cuba must immediately enter into real negotiations that provide for the dignity and freedom of the Cuban people and the tremendous benefits to the American people that will accrue from a real collaboration between our two countries,” Jayapal and Jackson maintained.



PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB FROM INSTAGRAM @REPJAYAPAL

Rep. Pramila Jayapal doing a media interview about her visit to Cuba.