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**PAGES 8,10, 12, 14, 15**

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Year	Population
1980	206,000
1990	450,000
2000	1,023,000
2010	1,780,000
2024	3,163,000

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**US Supreme Court rules in favor of Birthright Citizenship**

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**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@newsindiaindian.com

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

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

**California Office**  
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### SCAN ME



# Supreme Court Upholds Birthright Citizenship Principle That Almost All Born On U.S. Soil Are American

By JUSTIN JOUVENAL

**T**he Supreme Court on Tuesday affirmed the principle that almost everyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, a major decision that rejects a push by President Donald Trump to fundamentally redefine who is American in ways not seen for more than 150 years.

The justices struck down an executive order by the president that said citizenship would not be granted to children born to parents who are in the country illegally or those on temporary visas for work, travel, school or humanitarian reasons.

Trump's order would have had sweeping political, economic and social ramifications, changing the definition of citizenship in the most significant way since the 14th Amendment guaranteeing citizenship to formerly enslaved people was ratified shortly after the Civil War.

The ruling reaffirms the long-settled understanding that the 14th Amendment automatically confers citizenship on any child born in the United States, with limited exceptions for children of diplomats and other rare cases. The principle was established in a landmark 1898 high court decision that found that Wong Kim Ark, a man born to Chinese immigrants in San Francisco, was a citizen.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote the majority opinion for the ideologically mixed group of justices that included the court's three liberals, as well as conservative Amy Coney Barrett.

Conservative Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh dissented from the 5-4 majority in ruling the executive order violated the 14th Amendment, but he joined the 6-3 majority in finding the order violated federal law.

"Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights - to freely participate in our political community. The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to 'every free-born person in this land,'" Roberts wrote for the majority. "We keep that promise today."

The opinion came over the objections of conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil M. Gorsuch and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

Alito wrote a dissent, while Thomas wrote an opinion that Gorsuch joined.

Alito said birthright citizenship acts as a magnet drawing migrants to the United States to give birth so their children could be citizens, echoing an argument the Trump administration has made.

"This is one of the most important decisions in the history of the Court, and in my judgment, the Court has made a serious mistake," Alito wrote. He added later that the ruling "will seriously affect the country's future."

Thomas said the court "adds to the sad history of the Fourteenth Amendment, which was designed and understood to secure equal rights for the freed blacks but has instead been repurposed for political projects that the Reconstruction Congress did not support."

Cecillia Wang, the American Civil Liberty Union's national legal director, applauded the ruling.

"The court's decision reaffirms a fundamental American promise - if you are born here, you are a citizen," Wang said in a statement. "A president cannot change the Constitution by executive fiat."

The ruling represents another significant repudiation for Trump on a signature policy before the high court, after the justices this term blocked his tariffs and deployment of National Guard troops to Chicago.

The importance of the case was underscored by Trump's presence at arguments in April, marking the first time in history a sitting president has attended such a hearing.



Olga Urbina holds her son, Ares, as people gathered outside the Supreme Court in May 2025. The court heard arguments about lower courts' ability to block President Donald Trump's policy to end birthright citizenship.

Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court after the justices blocked his tariffs in February and kept up his attacks in the months that followed. In an online post on May 10, he criticized two of his nominees by name - Gorsuch and Barrett - for ruling against him in the high-profile case.

"Well, maybe Neil, and Amy, just had a really bad day, but our Country can only handle so many decisions of that magnitude before it breaks down, and cracks!!!" Trump wrote then on Truth Social. "A negative ruling on Birthright Citizenship, on top of the recent Supreme Court Tariff catastrophe, is not Economically sustainable for the United States of America!"

On Tuesday, Trump said in a Truth Social post that it was "too bad for our country" that the high court upheld birthright citizenship and urged Congress to pass legislation outlawing it.

Many legal scholars have said such a change would require a constitutional amendment, but Trump maintained in his post it would not. "Congress should start TODAY to work on ending expensive and unfair to our Country, Birthright Citizenship," Trump wrote. "They will have my Complete and Total Support!"

Solicitor General D. John Sauer told the justices during arguments in April that granting birthright citizenship to nearly everyone encourages illegal immigration and "birth tourism" - traveling to the U.S. to have a baby so the child can be a U.S. citizen.

He also said migrants who take advantage of the United States' citizenship policy undermine the rule of law.

"We're in a new world now ... where 8 billion people are one plane ride away from having a child who's a U.S. citizen," Sauer said.

Sauer's legal argument turned on a clause in the 14th Amendment, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof" are citizens.

Sauer said "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" invokes a necessary political allegiance to the United States to be a citizen. He said children whose parents lack permanent residency status cannot demonstrate that fealty because they haven't committed to staying in the country for the long term.

Wang, who argued the case for the ACLU, rejected the government's contentions, saying the phrase has long been understood to refer to the children of diplomats and others.

She told the justices in April that the administration's reading of the 14th Amendment belied its plain meaning, the court's holding in United States v. Wong Kim Ark and decades of practice by the government.

"The framers of the 14th Amendment meant to have universal law of citizenship subject to narrow excep-

tions," Wang said.

As one of the first acts of his second term, Trump issued an executive order in January instructing government agencies to stop issuing citizenship documentation to children born to families without permanent immigration status on or after Feb. 19, 2025.

The administration quickly faced multiple lawsuits over the controversial order.

One of the cases made it to the Supreme Court last year. That case did not deal with the merits of Trump's birthright citizenship order, but instead examined whether lower federal courts could issue nationwide injunctions. The justices ruled for the Trump administration, limiting the orders that have tied up some of his agenda.

After that decision, the ACLU and other immigrants' rights groups filed a class-action lawsuit in New Hampshire on behalf of families affected by the order. A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in the

case, but before an appeals court ruled, administration officials petitioned the Supreme Court to take it up.

About 250,000 children would have been born without citizenship in the U.S. each year under Trump's order, or roughly 5 million by 2045, according to a friend-of-the-court brief filed by dozens of professors. Some would probably have been left stateless because their parents would be unwilling or unable to obtain citizenship for their children in their homelands.

The professors argued that Trump's order would create a permanent underclass.

"The creation of this caste would disrupt 150 years of intergenerational upward mobility for immigrants and would reverberate broadly through the U.S. economy and society while failing to address actual causes of migration," they wrote.

The U.S. is one of about 35 countries that have birthright citizenship. Most nations abide by lineage-based rules that mandate parents be citizens or permanent residents for their children to obtain citizenship.

The case was one of a handful of significant rulings dealing with immigration this term as the Trump administration has ramped up deportations and more broadly sought to limit migrants from entering the country.

The Supreme Court upheld the administration's cancellation of temporary humanitarian protections preventing the deportation of Haitians and Syrians on Monday and allowed immigration agents to turn aside asylum seekers at the border.

About 1.3 million people from 17 countries are in the U.S. on temporary protected status. The decision clears the way for the Trump administration to end their deportation protections.

The Supreme Court has already allowed the Trump administration to cancel for the time being temporary protected status for about 350,000 Venezuelans while the case plays out in the courts and end a program that allowed about 530,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to remain in the country while their immigration cases were ongoing.

Norman Wong, the great-grandson of Wong Kim Ark, said in a statement that the ruling reaffirmed what his great-grandfather had fought for more than a century ago.

"Today's ruling shows that his victory remains as important now as it was in 1898," Wong said.

- The Supreme Court's major cases during the 2025-26 term
- Supreme Court could strip citizenship of Florida baby, born to a 'dreamer'
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-THE WASHINGTON POST



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# Asia Policy Brief: Trump, Modi, And “Final Touches” On The U.S.-India Trade Deal

BY AKSHAY MATHUR, SENIOR DIRECTOR,  
ASIA SOCIETY POLICY INSTITUTE, DELHI

**Editorial note: Just a week after U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer travelled to India to meet Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, as part of the push to finish negotiations on the U.S.-India trade deal. ASPI Delhi Senior Director Akshay Mathur explains where the U.S.-India relationship stands after the Trump-Modi bilateral, outcomes from Greer's trip to India, and what lies ahead for the relationship.**

## S TATE OF AFFAIRS: TRUMP AND MODI AT G7, GREER AND GOYAL IN NEW DELHI

When President Trump was elected to a second term, there was hope in both New Delhi and Washington that the previous rapport built between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi would present the opportunity to deepen strategic alignment between the two countries. Early signals seemed to suggest the bilateral relationship was on the right path: Trump invited Foreign Minister Jaishankar to his inauguration and then Modi to the White House in February of 2025.

But the early optimism was soon punctured by a series of disruptive tariffs against India: the 26% ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs in April 2025, sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminium in May, and an additional penalty for purchasing Russian oil in July. Rates reached as high as 50% before falling to today's 10% duty, which is expected to be replaced in late July with rates resulting from Trump administration's Section 301 investigations into excess capacity and goods made with forced labor.

Bilateral relations were further complicated by Washington's warm engagement with Pakistan following the four-day India-Pakistan military conflict in May 2025. Then, just a week before Trump and Modi were set to meet on the sidelines of the recent G7 Summit, three Indian sailors were killed in the Gulf of Oman by a U.S. missile strike. Against this background, some expected a frosty encounter in France. Instead, Trump praised Modi effusively, stating upfront that “he has been a friend for a long time now,” and adding that, when it came to trade negotiations, he's “actually a killer.”

Following the G7 bilateral, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer travelled to India to meet his counterpart, Piyush Goyal, in an effort to put a ‘final touch’ on the trade negotiations that started in February of 2025. However, contrary to expectations, Greer's visit closed without a deal announced, though India's readout assured that there has been “substantial progress” and that both sides have “confidence” in ongoing negotiations.

## WHY IT MATTERS: A DEEP ECONOMIC EMBRACE, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TOUGH

Though the White House levied sweeping tariffs on allies and competitors alike, Trump's measures against India came as a surprise given the signal it sent about Washington's apparent indifference toward India's ambitions as a rising democratic, manufacturing, and trading power in Asia. Certain sectors were spared, including pharmaceuticals, electronics, and services exports that underpin the U.S. economy, but the high tariffs rattled what had grown over recent years into a deepening economic embrace. The U.S. is India's largest trading partner in goods (\$132 billion), the only country in the top five trading partners with whom India has a surplus in goods. It is the primary destination for Indian exports (20% of total exports), the third largest investor in Indian capital markets (over 40% of total assets held by foreigners), and the largest source of remittances (over 25% share of the total).

The economic relationship likewise benefits the U.S.: Top U.S. goods exports in FY2026 include energy products crude oil, natural gas, coal, airplanes and digital circuits. Equally importantly, U.S.-based companies in India hold nearly \$250 billion of assets and generate over \$10 billion in profits annually. Recently, Indian industry



PHOTO: REUTERS/EVELYN HOCKSTEIN

U.S. President Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G7 Summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, June 17, 2026.

leaders committed \$20.5 billion in investments spanning pharmaceuticals, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure, and emerging technologies. There is also growing bilateral cooperation in securing supply chains of critical minerals, semiconductor fabrication, advanced AI systems and deployment infrastructure — in February 2026, India joined Pax Silica and, three months later, the U.S. and India announced a bilateral critical minerals agreement. A new trade agreement could bolster these trends and deepen an already substantial economic relationship.

In February 2026, after a year of talks, the U.S. and the Indian government reached a framework for an interim trade agreement that involved an immediate reduction of the tariffs to 18%. The move was a reprieve and reassurance that both governments were committed to arriving at a deal, indicating that an understanding had been reached on specific industrial, food, agriculture, energy, aviation, auto and technology products. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Trump's Liberation Day tariffs (imposed under International Emergency Economic Powers Act), the tariff on India was further reduced to a flat rate of 10% (using the authority under Section 122 of the Trade Act).

Agriculture has been one of the sticking points in negotiations, as India—where nearly half the population depends on farming—has defended its agricultural market, particularly from government-subsidised or genetically modified, foreign crops. Modi would like to negotiate a balanced and fair agreement that defends the Indian market from U.S. agricultural imports like corn and soybeans. Establishing new rules of origin, removing barriers to digital trade and addressing non-tariff barriers in licensing and standards, have also been high on the agenda.

President Trump's quip during the G7 bilateral that Prime Minister Modi is a “tough negotiator” may have been a genuine indicator of India's hard position on topics like agriculture. Prime Minister Modi's mission of diversifying exports by fast-tracking FTAs with other countries may have also given his team further leverage in negotiations with the U.S. While trade with the U.S. floundered, since 2025, India has concluded negotiations with the UK, EFTA, Oman, New Zealand and the European Union and launched fresh negotiations with GCC, Israel, EAEU, Chile and Canada.

At the G7 bilateral, prompted by reporters, President Trump reiterated that India has a “great friend in the White House.” Mirroring this positivity, India's readout confirmed that both leaders noted with “particular satisfaction the significant progress made in negotiations towards an interim bilateral trade agreement.” Still, as Greer and Goyal met in New Delhi this week, Goyal presumably sought assurances that the interim agreement reached will not be upended later by findings from the

ongoing Section 301 investigations initiated by the U.S. or outstanding Section 232 investigations. Ultimately, India wants a final tariff rate that enables it to outcompete manufacturing rivals in Asia like Vietnam, which secured a tariff rate of 20% in its own deal with the US.

Speculation about a possible announcement of the interim trade deal by the end of Greer's visit to India was fueled by remarks yesterday from a senior U.S. official that a deal was “very, very close”. Still, as of writing, no deal has been announced. While we wait on the U.S.' readout from the meeting, India's indicated that “pathways to conclude an interim agreement” were on the table. In a video posted by the U.S. Embassy, Greer stated that there are exciting opportunities for the U.S. and India to collaborate on AI and that the bilateral relationship is “only going to a higher and higher level with every passing week.” The possibility of a formal announcement in the coming days remains, especially if the deal is waiting for a review by both leaders who would like to retain the privilege of declaring the interim deal.

## WHAT TO WATCH

- **Section 301 Investigations:** USTR has proposed an additional 12.5% tariff duty on India following its Section 301 investigation into enforcement of forced labor rules (which involved 54 other countries). A separate Section 301 probe into industrial excess capacity — covering 21 broad manufacturing sectors, including automobiles, chemicals, electronics, energy goods, solar modules, and steel — may also have implications for India when findings are announced (alongside 15 other economies). Watch how the resulting tariff rates from both investigations, which are likely to be implemented in late July, reshape India's final tariff burden and trajectory of the bilateral trade agreement negotiations if a deal is not announced before then.
- **Expanding trade channels beyond the deal:** Alongside the sectors covered by the trade deal, broader geo-economic opportunities are opening between New Delhi and Washington, particularly around securing sensitive supply chains. Disruptions to India's energy and commodities imports from West Asia have highlighted the United States as a potentially reliable alternative source for crude oil, LPG, petrochemicals, and ethylene glycol, pointing to areas of cooperation beyond the current trade negotiators track.
- **Leveraging the Quad:** The Quad itself is mobilising nearly \$20 billion to support for critical minerals supply chains, collaborating on Next-Gen Communication Standards, and now working to stabilise energy markets in the Indo-Pacific, for both upstream and downstream energy products. Watch if the Quad can sustain this momentum and open up new areas of U.S.-India cooperation beyond the bilateral relationship.
- **G20 Summit in Miami:** The next meeting between Modi and Trump will be the G20 Summit in December hosted by President Trump in Miami. For the ‘Finance Track’ agenda, the U.S. has prioritised financial regulation, global imbalances, debt transparency, digital assets, cross-border payments, payments fraud, and financial literacy—all subjects the G20 has covered before and India has supported. For the Sherpa Track, the U.S. has prioritized regulatory barriers, energy supply chains, and AI. Prime Minister Modi has always advocated for the G20 to be guided by ‘people-centric’ economic development and human-centric, global, non-exclusive technology—a mantra which he is likely to take to Miami with the goal of shaping US approach to global economic governance.

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# Celebrating The American 250th Barbecue With Some Indian Spices

BY PROF. RAMESH RAO

It is that time in the history of this nation that we will all (or most of us anyway) be waving the “red, white, and blue” along with our fellow citizens, at venues as different in size, color, and shape as the shoppers at any local Walmart. Some of us will be flying the Indian tricolor along with the Stars and Stripes. But wait! Why are we here in the first place? We did not come here to escape tyranny and oppression. We did not come here because of war or want. So, when did we come here, for what reasons, and what do we consider this land that we now call home? For if we are not sure about the answers to these questions, the stories we can share with our “American” neighbors and friends will be incomplete, confusing, and pointless.

“America is the land of immigrants,” we are all told, but how does “our” migration story fit into the grand American narratives of the Colonial Era (1600s-1700s), the First Wave (1820-1880), the Second Wave (1880-1920), the Restriction Era (1920-1965), and the Global Era (1965-present)? The first Indians who landed on the shores of the United States might have been brought here as slaves, historians tell us, as they trace them back to within a generation of the English setting up camp in Jamestown, and note that there were English- and French-speaking Indian slaves, who had been “Christianized,” and who considered themselves a different class of slaves.

But why did they do so? Simply because this red, white, and blue land is on a “black” background, so to speak, and color has cast its shadow over much of this land for much of its two hundred and fifty years of independence. We are neither black nor white, we believe, but are we any different shade of brown than our Mexican, Arab, Thai, or Filipino fellow Americans? We stand out for different reasons, but we come in different colors and speak different languages, and eat different foods, cooked differently. We are “diversely Indian”!

The Chinese comedian Joe Wong makes fun of the slapdash way in which we identify skin colors, but be that as it may, it is on colored wings that the American eagle flies, and it may be brought low because of “color wars” that many of the “left” Indian Americans are leading.

By the way, how many of those original Indian slaves survive? Did they marry, have children, and did their children make a life for themselves? We don't know, and Ancestry.com might not be able to track them down for the curious historian. Only a very few of the Indian American historians, sociologists, or ethnographers now doing research seem to care about those stories. It is that same set of blinkers that we now wear while a flood of Indians have made their way here, legally or illegally, over the past two decades, especially after Y2K.

The “Second Wave” brought about 6,000 Sikhs, landing on the West Coast, who were mostly male, illiterate, and unskilled laborers and agricultural workers, arriving between 1907 and 1909, before the authorities called a halt, and local “crackers” harassed and tried to run them off. Many of the Punjabis were persistent, however, and their descendants are now some of the biggest landowners in California.

We began to arrive here in larger numbers after 1965, and we are now considered some of the newest of immigrants, with the vast majority of us having been born outside of the United States, mostly in India but also having arrived from England, Africa, and the Caribbean. According to a Pew report, in 2022, there were about 4.8 million Indian Americans. Wikipedia claims that we are now some 5.4 million. When this writer arrived in 1985, there were only about 526,000 of us. Within twenty



PHOTOS: COURTESY PROF. RAMESH RAO

Representational photo from ChatGPT.



years, we have added five more million. How come the surge? We now comprise over 80 percent of all H-1B visa holders. Our household income is the highest among all other households – almost twice the American average of \$65,000. There are some 80,000 doctors of Indian origin, and while we make up only 1.5 percent of the total population, we account for roughly 5 to 8.5 percent of all doctors practicing in the country.

As per the Pew report, two-thirds of Indian Americans (66%) are immigrants, while 34% are US-born. Half of us live in just four states: California (20%), Texas (12%), New Jersey (9%), and New York (7%), but if one were to visit Frisco, TX, or Alpharetta, GA, one might think that only Telugus live in the two areas. Of the 180 students admitted to a local medical university that this writer's son attends, 15 percent had the last name “Patel”. How come the Patels who own motels, are making their children pursue medicine? How come the surge of Telugus in Frisco, TX, and why, for the sake of Sri Rama, the 90-foot statue of Sri Hanuman in Houston, and that “Visa Venkateshwara” temple in Hyderabad?

In a recent (2025) study about the number of illegal

Indian immigrants, Budiman and Kapur say that the number ranges from 220,000 to 720,000 depending on who is doing the counting – the Department of Homeland Security, the Pew Research Center, the Center for Migration Studies, or the Migration Policy Institute. These Indians made up anywhere from 2.0 to 3.9 percent of all unauthorized/illegal immigrants in the country.

These many Indians have those many stories to tell, but as it has happened in history all along, only a few stories get told. We can offer some numbers to offer some context on who we are and why we came here. Gujaratis make up about 14 percent of us, Maharashtrians about 12 percent, Telugus about 10 percent, Tamilians about 9 percent, Punjabis about 8 percent, and Malayalis about 7 percent. There are 21 Indian-origin CEOs of billion-dollar companies, and they now make up over ten percent of Fortune 500 companies. But we are also gas station owners, run restaurants, drive Uber taxis, and teach across this vast country in top-ranked universities as well as in far-flung, rarely known small and regional colleges.

However, the question remains: why are we here? What is the American dream to us? In the land of the free and the brave, did we arrive to seek freedom, or to merely make some money, boast about it back home, where we then buy apartments and gold? We are from the largest democracy in the world and from the only surviving great civilization, but our ability to shape the American dream has been rather puny and half-hearted. Our great books and philosophies, our practices and beliefs, have mesmerized some of the greatest of American poets and philosophers, scientists and doctors, but our imprint on the public and cultural life of America has been small, despite all of the Lululemon-wearing women in yoga studios.

Finally, what kind of relationship does our new home have with our old home? We can characterize the Indo-US relationship as troubled and as a relationship that has belied its potential. Whatever might be the reasons -- Cold War era estrangement, the American penchant to equate India with the terrorist-state Pakistan, the blowing hot-blowing cold personal relationships between India's prime ministers and American presidents, and the many jaundiced commentaries by India-baiting academics and journalists, and ideologically slanted bodies like the USCIRF -- the two largest democracies in the world have not yet firmly tied the diplomatic and trade knots over the past eight decades that might have reshaped the world for better. It is doubtful that it will happen during the mercurial and unpredictable present tenure of President Trump, as Indian leaders and citizens fret about the unnecessary needling and provocations by the administration. Given the deep divisions in present-day American politics and the gamesmanship of many establishment power-wielders, Indian contributions to the “idea of America” might not even get a footnote in the celebrations planned for July 4th.

Americans are pragmatic, and we Indian Americans are accommodating, willing to bide our time and consult our many fortune tellers, locally and back home, for when the time is ripe for building a trusting and long-lasting relationship. However, we can hope that starting this July 4th, we can usher in a new era that will be inspired and led by the two largest and greatest democracies in the world, and that soon we will begin to tell our stories of want, desire, and travel more carefully and more colorfully.

**Ramesh Rao retired recently from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA, where he was a professor of communication studies.**

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## Our Community's History

### EDITOR'S NOTE

**O**n the occasion of the 250th anniversary (1776-2026) Parikh Worldwide Media thought it befitting to trace the history of Indians who landed on the shores from the time of British rule. From a sprinkling

of names that researchers have found on ships' manifests, or the few who came as part of the entourage of British officers, through to the agricultural workers, and the birth of the Ghadar movement, US and Indian history have close ties. Even if it was wrought with conflict and racism, it shows the resilience and strength of this small community that has risen to

occupy the halls of the very Congress that vilified it, and the benches of courts that denied them citizenship. While the story is complex, we have chosen two articles to begin with, that cover much of this history in brief – 1. An unusual teaching module by Professor Hardeep Dhillon of the University of Pennsylvania, that would be handy for parents of school

going children, and of Indian Americans interested in their beginnings; 2. A piece that ran on migrationpolicy.org which traces the more recent history of this community. Both have been run with express permission of the sources. We hope to find equally interesting pieces through the rest of this momentous year.

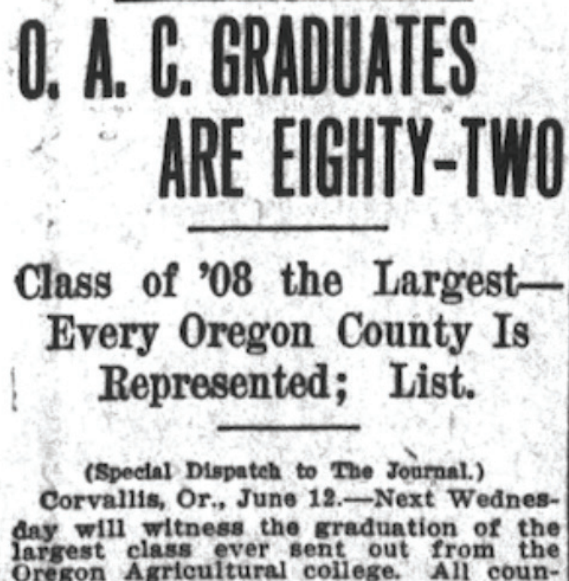
Ela Dutt, Editor

## Short Teaching Module: Indian Immigrants And U.S. Citizenship In An Imperial Context

### OVERVIEW

Scholars often study citizenship and denaturalization in national frameworks. The history of legal status and its attendant politics and bureaucratic processes in the United States has long been tied to imperial constellations however. This teaching module begins with a single newspaper article about Muhammad Abdul Rashid, a colonial subject from India, and employs a microhistorical approach to excavate the role anticolonial resistance and American and British imperialisms played in shaping the contours of US citizenship in the early twentieth century. It foregrounds how Indian immigrants navigated the racial

prerequisites required for them to naturalize as US citizens as they increasingly engaged with anticolonial resistance. It then explores US and British imperial anxieties that arose over the naturalization of Indian immigrants. In situating the history of US naturalization and denaturalization in relation to empire and the agency of everyday people, this essay invites its readers to ask how the stories of oppressed and marginalized persons, particularly colonial subjects who became immigrants, offer a lens to reconstitute who or what can serve as a vehicle to narrate world history.



Rashid graduates from Oregon Agricultural college, 1908

By HARDEEP DHILLON

**I**n 1905, twenty-three-year-old Muhammad Abdul Rashid deboarded the Empress of Japan at the port of Vancouver before making his way to Portland, Oregon. Rashid had enrolled at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) and was part of a growing cohort of students from colonial India at leading agricultural colleges in the United States. Thanks to newspapers, we know about the experiences of these students, or how US and other officials responded to their presence in the US. These young adults hoped to gain knowledge in the US before returning to colonial India to develop its economy. They believed the future of India lay in the hands of foreign-educated students whose expertise could help build India's economy and educational institutions in the wake of British colonialism.

Rashid, born the same year that the United States barred most Chinese immigrants (1882), entered the country at a historical juncture when white nativists insisted Asian laborers presented an immigration and health crisis for the nation. Federal and state authorities and local white residents policed Asian laborers but granted greater agency to more elite immigrants like Rashid. Asian students, diplomats, businessmen, and religious figures benefited from federal immigration law, which targeted Asian laborers but carved out exemptions for more well-to-do Asian immigrants. When the deportation of Indian immigrants peaked in 1908, Rashid marked a milestone of his own. He submitted

a seventeen-page thesis entitled "Composition and Food Value of Some Cattle Foods" to the Department of Chemistry and graduated alongside the largest class to date at Oregon Agricultural College with a bachelor's in science in June 1908. The local press heralded Indian graduates, noting their "excellent progress."

The same month that Rashid graduated, he applied to the Benton County Circuit Court in Oregon to naturalize as a US citizen. At the time, federal immigration law required all immigrants to be a "free white person . . . of good character" to successfully naturalize. Congress had enacted this racial prerequisite in the nation's first federal naturalization law in 1790, underscoring the founding legislators' efforts to make whiteness a matter of law and maintain white supremacy through the law. How Rashid proved he was white is unknown, but the Benton County Circuit Court naturalized him as a U.S. citizen, despite insistence from the head of the Bureau of Naturalization, Richard K. Campbell, and the Attorney General of the US, Charles J. Bonaparte, that Indian immigrants were not white. At the time, federal judges held discretion over the naturalization cases of applicants such as Rashid. They relied on the academic writing of prominent anthropologists, philologists, and ethnologists to adjudicate race and held varying interpretations of whether Asian immigrants like Rashid constituted white persons or not.

Rashid was among the first Indian immigrants naturalized in the United States. By 1908, Bellal Houssein and Abdul Hamid, Bengali peddlers with strong connections to New Orleans' Creole community, naturalized on the other side of the country in the District Court

for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Federal judges across courts in San Francisco, New Orleans, Galveston, Detroit, Portland, Boxelder County (UT), Pittsburgh, and Los Angeles naturalized approximately seventy well-to-do Sikh, Hindu, Parsee, and Hindu immigrants from colonial India under existing racial and residency requirements in the early twentieth century. Most Indian laborers were denied naturalization.

And yet Rashid's case reflected major concerns about the naturalization of Indian immigrants in the United States. Shortly after Rashid naturalized as a US citizen, he returned to India where he advocated for the overthrow of the British government. In December 1908, The Corvallis Gazette reported that British authorities had convinced the Bureau of Naturalization and the United States District Attorney at Seattle to annul Rashid's status as a U.S. citizen because he was actively encouraging Indian sepoys to revolt against the British colonial government. British officials were frustrated that they could not punish Rashid as harshly as other Indians or restrict his ability to migrate more freely due to his status as a U.S. citizen.

Efforts by the Government of India and the Colonial Office to foil a range of anti-imperialist movements led by immigrant activists emboldened the security apparatuses of both the British and American states, and American processes of naturalization and denaturalization. In the late nineteenth century, British concerns over Irish American freedom fighters called Fenians sparked an international conflict over the rights of Irish immigrants

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# Short Teaching Module: Indian Immigrants And U.S. Citizenship In An Imperial Context

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

to renounce British subjecthood and naturalize as US citizens. In the early twentieth century, British subjects arriving in the United States, including those from colonial India, continued to raise concerns over naturalization in the United States. Agents of the Government of India, India Office, and colonial India's provincial governments feared that immigrants, including students like Rashid, would smuggle arms from abroad into India to lead a rebellion, plot the assassination of prominent British officials, and bomb strategic imperial sites.

Imperial officials considered it a high priority to thwart the political movements of Indian immigrants in the United States. Most Indian immigrants in the United States originated from colonial Punjab, which served as the primary recruiting base for the British Indian Army. Michael Francis O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, feared Punjabi immigrants abroad could encourage seditious activities within Punjab and infiltrate the ranks of Punjabi service officers who helped sustain British imperialism across Asia and Africa. American complicity with foreign governments was not uncommon. State and federal government officials had long been complicit in prohibiting newly colonized populations from acquiring U.S. citizenship across the Caribbean and Pacific, and in stifling anticolonial movements led by Irish, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other immigrants within their national borders.

In the early twentieth century, as historians Moon-Ho Jung and Seema Sohi have shown, British and American authorities developed an expanding security state apparatus as a result of anti-imperial politics led by Indian immigrants and pan-Asian political solidarities. Imperial officers leveraged discourses of national security and patriotism during World War I to draw renewed attention to the naturalization of politically active immigrants who challenged the imperial world order. After Rashid's case, British officials advocated for the denaturalization of Indian immigrants who secured U.S. citizenship if they participated in anticolonial movements from abroad. In 1917, U.S. and British officials collaborated but failed to denaturalize Taranknath Das, a Bengal-born activist and one of the founders of the Hindustani Association, over his involvement with German enemies of war and communists. During World War I, Das was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act during the Hindu-German Conspiracy Trial and sentenced to twenty-two months in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. The Hindu-German Conspiracy Trial also drew renewed attention to British and American authorities who grew increasingly concerned about the risk the naturalization of colonial subjects posed to empire. The trial revealed that Indian immigrants had developed vast networks across imperial borders and spanning nearly every continent to overthrow the colonial government.

British officials also colluded with American officials to restrict Indian immigrants from naturalizing as U.S. citizens during the war. In 1917, V.W. Tomlinson, the regional naturalization examiner in Oregon employed by the Bureau of Naturalization, opposed Bhagat Singh Thind's third attempt to naturalize as a U.S. citizen in Oregon. The Bureau submitted evidence retrieved from the Director of Military Intelligence linking Thind to political activities, activists, and wartime labor strikes, and questioned Thind's loyalty to the United States. Thind, an Indian laborer and part-time student at the University of California-Berkeley, and his lawyer contested the Bureau of Naturalization. The two men submitted a letter from the U.S. Army proving Thind's service during the war and his interest in becoming a Signal Reserve Corps officer, a position that required

## ANNOTATION

Indian and other Asian immigrants attended land grant universities across the United States in the early twentieth century. These universities offered degrees in agriculture that were important to imperial subjects like Muhammad Abdul Rashid because of agriculture's importance in the global economy. In colonial Punjab, the local press often reported that British officials, employing extractive methods, failed to invest in the development of local regions. Many Indians even supported the idea that local men immigrate to Europe, the United States, and Japan to acquire knowledge about agriculture, engineering, and other fields and then return to India to help build and sustain local economies in India. Indian students who arrived in the United States joined the growing ranks of international students in engineering, medicine, and agriculture. Even at the height of U.S. immigration restriction target-

ing Asian immigrants, many Asian students such as Rashid were able to enter the United States. These immigrants had enough wealth to complete their education without working, whereas others worked and attended college. The arrival of these students expanded and transformed the nature of American educational institutions at a moment when higher education remained out of reach for most Americans. In addition to listing Rashid as graduating the article notes, "There are also several Hindu students at O. A. C. who are making excellent progress." Listed with Rashid are a Pala Singh Harbana who earned a degree in mining engineering and an S.L. Ravi who graduated in Mechanical Engineering.

-This source is part of the Indian Immigrants and U.S. Citizenship in an Imperial Context teaching module.

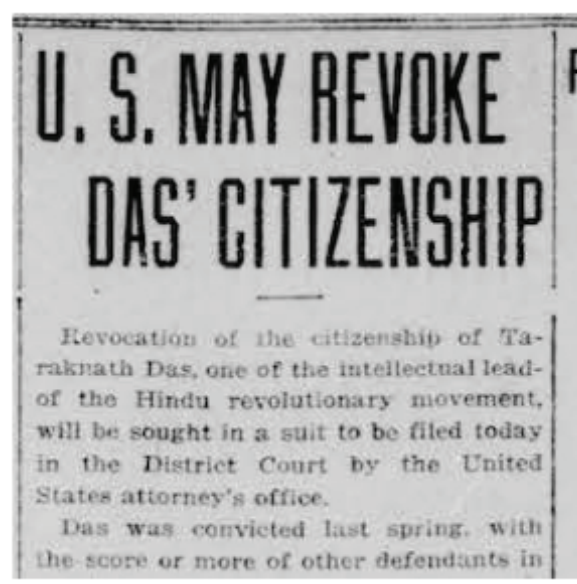


PHOTO:WORLDHISTORYCOMMONS.ORG

U.S. targets Indian Activist, Taranknath Das.

naturalization. They also submitted Thind's Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen (Four L) membership card to the court. The organization, founded by the U.S. War Department in the Pacific Northwest, countered labor organizations such as the International Workers of the World. Every member swore loyalty to the United States and committed to the production of logs and lumber to build airplanes and ships for the U.S. armed forces. The District Court for the District of Oregon naturalized Thind as a US citizen, but the Bureau of Naturalization and Department of Justice appealed Thind's case to the US Supreme Court, insisting that Indian immigrants were not white. The US Supreme Court declared Indian immigrants were of "Asiatic stock"—not white—and unanimously denied Thind citizenship in 1923. The Department of Justice then pursued the first denaturalization of an entire immigrant community when it targeted Indian immigrants in 1924. British authorities refused to

intervene in the denaturalization proceedings, which impacted Indian men and their families, and largely ignored the petitions of Indian subjects suffering from the loss of rights granted to them as U.S. citizens. This included the right to land ownership and entry into the United States.

In 1946, U.S. legislators voted to grant a limited number of Indian and other immigrants from East, South, and Southeast Asia the right to naturalize as U.S. citizens in light of new transimperial concerns during World War II and political organizing by Asian communities. At the time, British officials hoped to secure Indian support for the war effort and did not challenge Indian immigrants' right to naturalize as U.S. citizens as they had in the early twentieth century. British officials were preoccupied with the growing nationalist movement within or near the borders of colonial India and were busy preparing plans on how and when to transition power to India's nationalist leaders in the wake of independence. U.S. officials also privileged the geopolitical importance of India and Indian soldiers to their victory in the war, and potential access to India's markets following independence. The motivations of both empires revealed how imperial interests continued to shape legal reforms to American naturalization processes through the twentieth century.

**Hardeep Dhillon is a sociolegal historian specializing in the development of immigration and border controls. Dr. Dhillon is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the American Bar Foundation where she is completing a book manuscript that places Asian American history at the center of the legal development of twentieth century US immigration and border enforcement. She received her doctorate in History from Harvard with a secondary focus on Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Dr. Dhillon will join the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania in Fall 2023.**

-SOURCE: SHORT TEACHING MODULE: INDIAN IMMIGRANTS AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP IN AN IMPERIAL CONTEXT, " IN WORLD HISTORY COMMONS, [HTTPS://WORLDHISTORYCOMMONS.ORG/SHORT-TEACHING-MODULE-INDIAN-IMMIGRANTS-AND-US-CITIZENSHIP-IMPERIAL-CONTEXT](https://worldhistorycommons.org/short-teaching-module-indian-immigrants-and-us-citizenship-imperial-context)

# DHS Proposes Major N-400 Fee Increase — What Green Card Holders Need to Know Before Filing

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

The path to U.S. citizenship is about to get significantly more expensive if a new Department of Homeland Security proposal moves forward. On June 23, 2026, DHS published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register that would sharply increase the cost of applying for naturalization — and strip away financial assistance options that many applicants have relied on for years.

### What the Proposed Rule Would Change

Under the proposal, the filing fee for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, would jump from \$760 to \$1,330 for paper submissions — a 75% increase. Online filers would see a similar hike, from \$710 to \$1,280. That is an increase of roughly \$570 to \$580 depending on how you file.

The proposed fee for Form N-336, which is filed by applicants who want to appeal a denial of their naturalization application, would also rise — from \$830 to \$1,475 for paper filings, and from \$780 to \$1,425 online. That is an increase of close to \$645.

Beyond the dollar amounts, the proposal would eliminate two affordability options that currently exist for lower-income applicants. First, the reduced filing fee of \$380 — available to applicants whose household income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty guidelines — would be removed entirely. Second, fee waivers for both Form N-400 and Form N-336 would no longer be available. For some applicants who currently qualify for the full fee waiver, this could mean paying more than three times what they would pay today.


The only group that would remain exempt from paying naturalization fees under the proposal is active and former U.S. military service members, who are protected by statute.

### Why DHS Is Proposing This Change

DHS has stated that the current N-400 and N-336 fees do not cover the full cost of adjudicating those applications, particularly given enhanced screening and vetting requirements tied to recent executive orders. The agency is moving to a "full-cost, beneficiary-pays" model, arguing that naturalization processing costs should not be subsidized by fees collected from applicants filing for other immigration benefits.

This represents a clear break from the approach of previous administrations, which historically kept naturalization fees below full cost to encourage eligible green card holders to pursue citizenship.

Continued on Page 16



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# Indian Immigrants In The United States

By KYUNG JU LEE AND JEANNE BATALOVA  
MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Indian immigrants began arriving in the United States in notable numbers in the early 19th century, when workers from the Punjab region settled primarily in California to work in agriculture, lumber, and railroad construction. Although their numbers remained relatively modest compared to European arrivals, Indian and other non-European immigrants faced growing political opposition through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, culminating in restrictions such as the Immigration Act of 1917, which effectively banned immigration from most of the Asia-Pacific region. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 reversed course, abolishing national-origin quotas and opening pathways through family reunification and employment-based visas for skilled professionals. In the wake of passage of this law, the Indian immigrant population grew rapidly, roughly doubling each decade between 1960 and 1990.

Today, approximately 3.2 million Indian immigrants reside in the United States, comprising 6 percent of the total foreign-born population of 50.2 million people. Immigrants from India rank as the second largest immigrant group in the country, after Mexicans.

Indian immigrants tend to have considerably higher levels of education than both the overall immigrant population and the U.S. born, particularly at the advanced degree level. Their prominence in high-skilled sectors is reflected in visa data: In fiscal year (FY) 2024, Indian nationals received 71 percent of all H-1B visas for highly skilled workers. And in the 2024-25 academic year, India was the leading source of international students in the United States, most of whom were enrolled in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) program. Partly because of their prominence in STEM programs, Indian nationals have been particularly affected by the Trump administration's tightened immigration policies, including imposition of a \$100,000 fee for new H-1B petitions, enhanced vetting for H-1B and H-4 dependent visa applicants and for international students, and significantly longer wait times for in-person visa interviews.

This Spotlight provides an overview of various demographic characteristics of Indian immigrants in the United States, including their U.S. destinations, top job sectors, educational attainment, age, and English language proficiency.

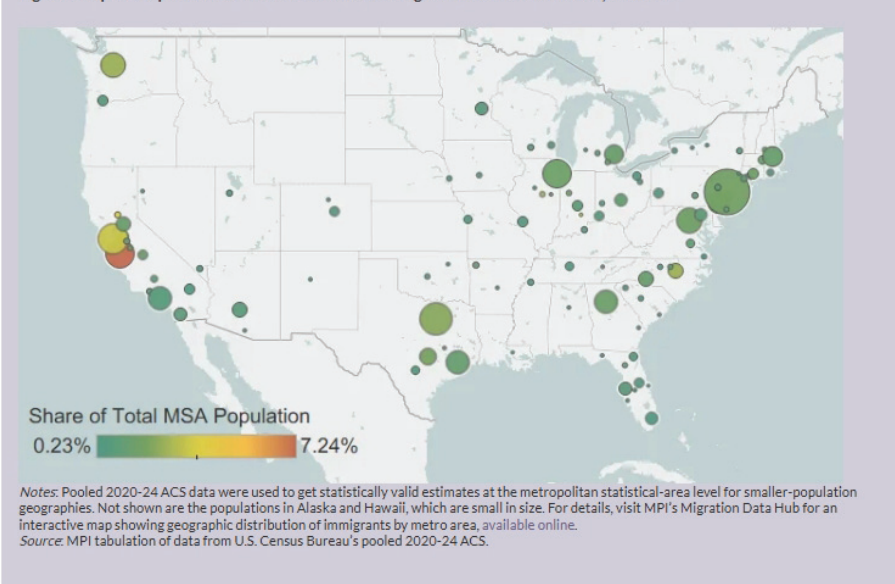
## SIZE OF IMMIGRANT POPULATION OVER TIME

Most immigration of Indians to the United States has occurred over the past 25 years. The Indian immigrant population increased fivefold from 1980 to 2000 and then tripled from 2000 to 2024 (see Figure 1). The rate of growth for this population has been significantly higher

Figure 1. Indian Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980-2024



Figure 2. Top Metropolitan Destinations for Indian Immigrants in the United States, 2020-24



## DEFINITIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau defines the "foreign born" as individuals without U.S. citizenship at birth. The foreign-born population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, legal nonimmigrants (including those on student, work, or other temporary visas), and persons residing in the country without authorization.

The terms "foreign born" and "immigrant" are used interchangeably and refer to those who were born in another country and later migrated to the United States.

than that of the overall foreign-born population in the United States, increasing 78 percent from 2010 to 2024, triple the 26 percent for all immigrants.

## DESTINATION BY STATE AND KEY CITIES

One in five Indian immigrants resided in California as of the 2020-24 period, followed by Texas (12 percent), New Jersey (10 percent), Illinois (6 percent), and New York (5 percent). Together, these states were home to 53 percent of all Indian immigrants. Santa Clara County, California; Alameda County, California; Middlesex County, New Jersey; and King County, Washington were the top four counties of residence, together accounting for 15 percent of all Indian immigrants in the United States.

The top cities for Indian immigrants were the greater New York, Dallas, San

Francisco, Chicago, and San Jose metropolitan areas. About 35 percent of all Indian immigrants lived in one of these five cities as of 2020-24 (see Figure 2). Indian immigrants made up more than 7 percent of San Jose metro area residents and more than 3 percent of the San Francisco area population.

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Indian immigrants are much more likely to be proficient in English than the overall foreign-born population. In 2024, 21 percent of Indian immigrants ages 5 and over reported speaking English less than "very well," compared to 47 percent of all immigrants.

At the same time, just 12 percent of Indian immigrants spoke only English at home, versus 16 percent of all immigrants. Reflecting the linguistic diversity of India, these immigrants spoke a variety of languages at home, including Hindi (26 percent), Telugu (15 percent), Gujarati (10 percent), Tamil (9 percent), and Punjabi (8 percent).

## AGE, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT

Indian immigrants tend to be younger than the overall foreign-born population but older than the U.S. born. Their median age was 42 in 2024, compared to 47 for all immigrants and 37 for the native-born population. This is due to the high number of working-age adults: 81 percent of Indian immigrants were ages 18 to 64, as compared to 76 percent of the overall foreign-born population and 58 percent of the U.S. born (see Figure 3).

Indian immigrant adults have much higher rates of educational attainment than both the native- and overall foreign-born populations. In 2024, 82 percent of Indian immigrants ages 25 and older reported having at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 36 percent of all foreign-born and 37 percent of U.S.-born adults. Indians are also much more likely to hold graduate or professional degrees: 50 percent of Indian immigrants held an advanced degree, versus 16 percent of the total foreign-born and 14 percent of the U.S.-born populations.

More than 363,000 international students from India were enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions during the 2024-25 school year, according to the Institute of International Education, more than any other country. Indians represented 31 percent of the nearly 1.2 million international students enrolled that school year. The next largest countries of origin were China, at 265,900 students, and South Korea, at 42,300. Additionally, Indian nationals were by far the main recipients of approved H-1B petitions in FY 2024, with 71 percent (283,400) of all 399,400 approvals that year. The next largest groups were nationals of China (46,700, or 12 percent) and the Philip-

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

# Indian Immigrants In The United States

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

piners (5,200, or 1 percent).

Indian immigrants participate in the labor force at higher rates than both the native and overall foreign-born populations. In 2024, 74 percent of Indian immigrants ages 16 and older were in the civilian labor force, compared to 63 percent of the U.S. born and 68 percent of all immigrants. Compared to these two groups, Indian immigrants were much more likely to work in the management, business, science, and arts occupations (see Figure 5).

### INCOME AND POVERTY

On average, Indians have much higher incomes. In 2024, households headed by an Indian immigrant had a median annual income of \$176,200, compared to \$82,400 for all immigrant-led households and \$81,400 for those led by the U.S. born.

Indian immigrants are also less likely to experience poverty. In 2024, Indian immigrants were roughly half as likely to be in poverty (6 percent) as immigrants overall (14 percent) or the U.S. born (12 percent). (The U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty as having an income below \$32,130 for a family of four in 2024.)

### IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS AND NATURALIZATION

Indians are slightly less likely to be naturalized citizens than other immigrant groups, which may reflect the large numbers arriving on temporary visas and their relative recency of arrival. About 47 percent of Indian immigrants were U.S. citizens in 2024, compared to 51 percent of all immigrants.

However, Indians are naturalizing at a relatively fast rate. Indians tended to spend six years as lawful permanent residents (LPRs, also known as green-card holders) before naturalizing as citizens, a shorter period than the 7.5-year median for immigrants overall as of FY 2024. That year, 6 percent of all immigrants who received U.S. citizenship were Indian, the second largest group after Mexicans (13 percent).

More than half of Indian immigrants residing in the United States in 2024 arrived after 2010, compared to 38 percent of the overall foreign-born population.

India was the third largest country of origin for immigrants who obtained a green card in FY 2023, the most recent year for which data are available, after Mexico and Cuba. Of the nearly 1.2 million people receiving a green card that year, about 78,100 (7 percent) were from India. That year, 60 percent of Indians who received a green card did so either as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen or green-card holder or as another family member of a citizen. At the same time, 37 percent of Indians obtained a green card through employment-based preferences, a share more than double that of all new LPRs.

Figure 3. Age Distribution of the U.S. Population, by Origin, 2024

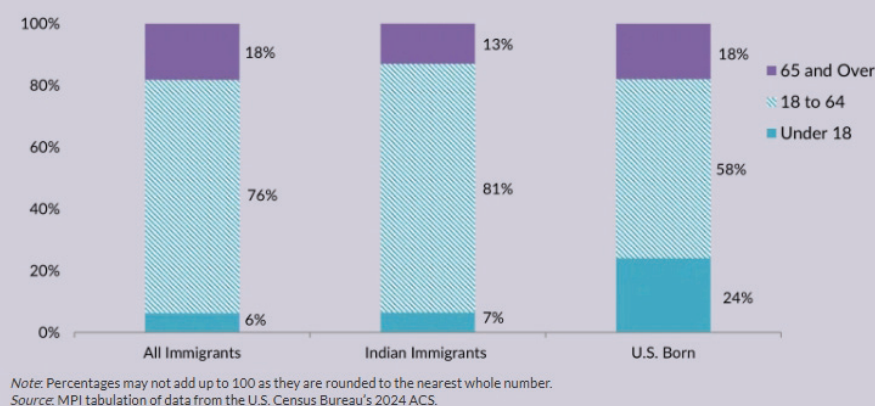


Figure 6. Indian and All Immigrants in the United States, by Period of Arrival, 2024

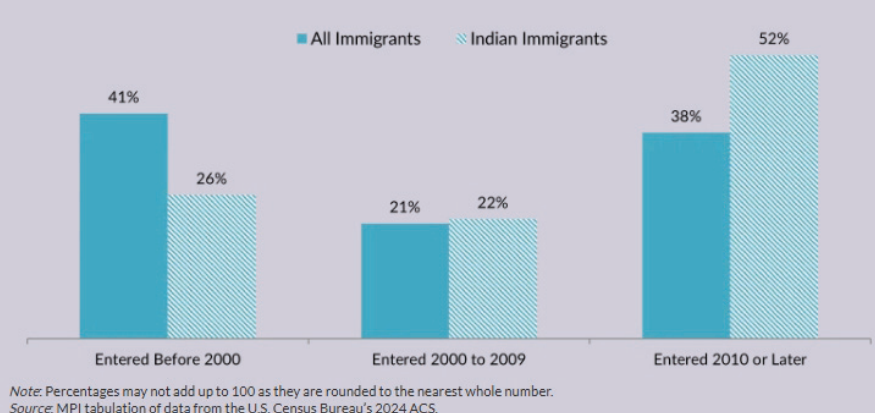
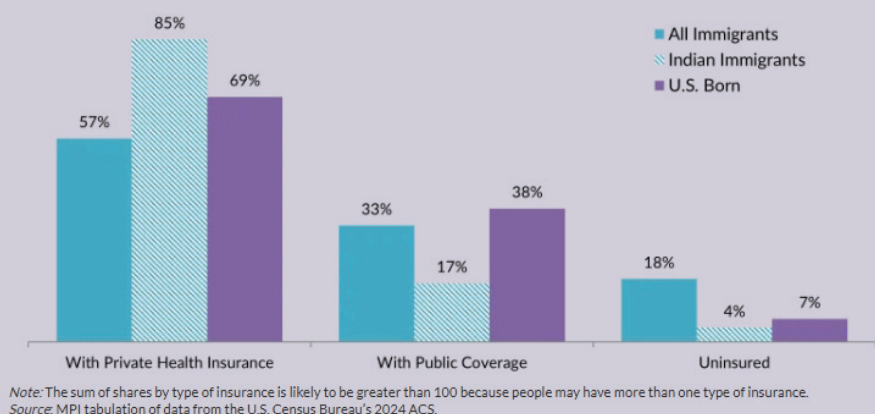


Figure 7. Health Coverage for Indian Immigrants, All Immigrants, and the U.S. Born, 2024



### UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimates that approximately 199,000 (or 1.5 percent) of the 13.7 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States as of

mid-2023 were from India. The country was the 11th largest origin for unauthorized immigrants.

About 1,470 Indian immigrants as of September 2025 were beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arriv-

als (DACA) program, which provides temporary deportation relief and work authorization to unauthorized immigrants who arrived as children and met the program's education and other eligibility criteria. This population represented a tiny share of all 505,900 active DACA recipients.

### HEALTH COVERAGE

Indians have higher health insurance coverage rates than both the overall immigrant and U.S.-born populations. In 2024, just 4 percent of immigrants from India were uninsured, compared to 7 percent of the U.S. born and 18 percent of the overall foreign-born population. Indian immigrants were more likely to be covered by private health insurance than the overall foreign-born and U.S.-born populations, reflecting their strong labor force participation and employment in high-skilled jobs that often come with employer-provided health insurance (see Figure 7).

### DIASPORA

The Indian diaspora was comprised of approximately 5.8 million U.S. residents who were either born in India or reported Indian ancestry or origin, according to MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey. Of these individuals, around 55 percent were born in India, and the remainder were born in the United States or elsewhere. The Indian diaspora was the tenth largest in the country.

### TOP GLOBAL DESTINATIONS

India is the world's largest country of emigration, with approximately 18.5 million Indians residing outside their country of birth, according to mid-2024 estimates by the United Nations Population Division. The top destination countries were the United Arab Emirates and the United States (3.2 million apiece), Saudi Arabia (2 million), Pakistan (1.6 million), and Kuwait (1.2 million).

### REMITTANCES

Migrants and other individuals worldwide sent approximately \$129.1 billion in remittances via formal channels to India in 2024, a 55 percent increase from the nearly \$83.1 billion received in 2020. The amount of money individuals remitted to India was nearly double the transfers to the second highest country, Mexico (\$68.2 billion). Remittances represented about 3 percent of India's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024.

-THIS ARTICLE APPEARED ON THE MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE APRIL 15, 2026 <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/indian-immigrants-united-states> (USED WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE)

ASTROLOGY



# This week for you

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

**ARIES:** This month may bring financial growth. Career-related efforts are likely to produce rewards. Family discussions regarding property should be handled carefully. Staying emotionally connected can help reduce stress. Those planning overseas education may need to organise their expenses wisely before moving ahead. In matters of the heart, give yourself enough time to heal.

**TAURUS:** You may feel motivated to improve your lifestyle. Financially, this period appears promising. Your communication skills can leave a lasting impression. A relaxing getaway may help deepen emotional bonding. Family celebrations could fill the atmosphere with warmth. Creative ideas may also receive appreciation from important people around you.

**GEMINI:** Relationships may become stronger through conversations and experiences. Your partner could offer practical guidance. Spiritual journeys or sudden travel plans with loved ones may bring peace of mind. Spending time on hobbies is likely to refresh your energy levels. Property-related paperwork should be reviewed carefully. Patience can help you maintain balance in emotional matters.

**CANCER:** This month may encourage you to invest your resources into something productive. Professional progress could improve especially for those connected with business. Domestic matters are likely to become calmer. Romantic moments may grow sweeter as your partner shows extra affection. Real estate agreements or rental discussions may work in your favour. Long-distance travel plans might require better preparation.

**LEO:** You may need smart planning to stay ahead in competitive situations. Your abilities can help you accomplish tasks that once seemed difficult. Travel experiences may introduce you to people and opportunities. Exploring activities that truly excite you could lead to personal growth and satisfaction. Maintaining healthy routines may improve your overall well-being. Spiritual may also attract your interest

**VIRGO:** Well-planned investments may start delivering returns this month. Love and can become more fulfilling as your efforts receive a positive response. Physical activity are likely to boost both confidence. Career opportunities may arise for those ready to showcase their talents boldly. Fresh graduates could come across openings suited to their abilities. Social interactions may increase, helping you strengthen friendships and gain appreciation.

**LIBRA:** Financial gains may increase gradually. Maintaining respect and patience with older family members will help preserve peace at home. Social gatherings could introduce you to someone special. Acting impulsively in important matters may create avoidable complications. Health should remain a priority, especially during work-related travel. Property investments may require prior research.

**SCORPIO:** A disciplined approach toward self-care can bring visible improvements. Financial conditions may become stronger. Vacation planning could create memories and closeness. Property and monetary matters appear favourable. Challenges may arise briefly, but persistence brings positive outcomes. An influential person may enter your life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Relationships built on trust grow stronger. Your positive attitude could help resolve misunderstandings. Career growth may depend on consistency and dedication. Financial stability is likely to improve. Honest discussions with your partner regarding money matters can strengthen mutual understanding. Health may become an important focus, encouraging healthier choices and routines.

**CAPRICORN:** Your income may rise steadily. Innovative thinking at work can help you attract recognition from seniors. Some couples may begin discussing long-term commitments or marriage plans. Investments related to vehicles or property could become possible after careful planning. Avoid wasting energy on distractions and stay focused on productive opportunities. Smart decisions made now may create lasting benefits in the future.

**AQUARIUS:** Financial discipline will be important. Limiting unnecessary expenses may help you maintain control. Couples may receive news that brings happiness. Solo travel could turn out to be rewarding experiences. Romantic possibilities may arise during social interactions. Paying attention to minor health concerns. A more understanding attitude can improve peace within the household.

**PISCES:** Differences of opinion may require diplomacy and patience to handle. Important assignments could demand extra dedication. Your instincts are likely to guide you correctly in crucial situations. Long-term relationships may move toward marriage. Frequent travel connected to work can help you build valuable professional connections. Before making a major life decision, seeking advice from an experienced person may prove beneficial.

## DHS Proposes Major N-400 Fee Increase — What Green Card Holders Need to Know Before Filing

By DAVID H. NACHMAN, Esq

Continued From Page 13

**This Rule Is Not Yet in Effect**  
The proposal is not final. A 60-day public comment period opened on June 22, 2026, and comments can be submitted through August 24, 2026 via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at regulations.gov (DHS Docket No. USCIS-2026-0265). After reviewing public feedback, DHS may revise or finalize the rule. Current fees remain in place throughout this process, and there is no confirmed effective date for any increase.

**What This Means for You**  
If you are a lawful permanent resident who is eligible to apply for naturalization, the timing of your filing could have real financial consequences. Filing at the current fee while the rule is still proposed locks in the lower cost — as long as USCIS receives your application before any final rule takes effect. That said, filing before you are fully prepared can create complications, so it is worth speaking with an immigration attorney to confirm your eligibility and review your case before submitting anything.

Eligibility generally requires five years of permanent residence (or three years if you obtained your green card through marriage to a U.S. citizen), continuous physical presence in the United States, and demonstration of good moral character, among other requirements.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** How much would it cost to apply for citizenship under the proposed rule?

**A:** The proposed fee for Form N-400 would be \$1,330 for paper filings and \$1,280 for online submissions. These are significant increases from the current

fees of \$760 (paper) and \$710 (online).

**Q:** Would fee waivers still be available if the rule is finalized?

**A:** No. Under the proposal, fee waivers for both Form N-400 and Form N-336 would be eliminated entirely. The reduced fee option currently available to lower-income applicants would also be removed.

**Q:** Is the fee increase already in effect?

**A:** No. The proposal is currently in a 60-day public comment period that runs through August 24, 2026. Current fees remain in place until a final rule is published and takes effect.

**Q:** Can I still submit comments on the proposed rule?

**A:** Yes. Public comments can be submitted through August 24, 2026 at regulations.gov using docket number USCIS-2026-0265.

**Q:** Should I file my N-400 now before the fee increases?

**A:** If you are already eligible, filing now at the current fee may make financial sense. However, you should consult with an immigration attorney first to make sure your application is complete and that you meet all eligibility requirements before submitting.

If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group. You can reach us by emailing info@visaserve.com or by calling us at 201-670-0006 extension 104. We also invite you to visit our website at www.visaserve.com for more information. Nachman, Phulwani, Zimovcak (NPZ) Law Group, P.C. — VISASERVE.

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# Punjab Times Celebrates 27th Anniversary In Chicago

BY A STAFF WRITER

In the vibrant mosaic of Chicago's multicultural community, where people from every corner of the world have built new lives while preserving their heritage, one media organization has earned a special place in the hearts of thousands of Punjabi families. For more than a decade, Punjab Times has grown from a local television initiative into one of the Midwest's most respected Punjabi-language media platforms, becoming far more than a source of news and entertainment. Today, it serves as a trusted cultural bridge, connecting the traditions, values, and spirit of Punjab with the aspirations and everyday experiences of Punjabi Americans living throughout Chicagoland and neighboring states.

Since its inception, Punjab Times' programming offers comprehensive coverage of breaking news from Punjab, India, and the United States while highlighting stories that directly impact local residents. Beyond current affairs, the channel enriches viewers with health awareness programs, educational discussions, business features, women's empowerment,

youth-oriented content, and vibrant cultural programming celebrating Punjabi music, bhangra, folk traditions, religious festivals, and community gatherings.

For first-generation immigrants navigating life in a new country, Punjab Times has become a reassuring presence that helps overcome language barriers, preserves cultural identity, and strengthens family values while encouraging successful integration into American society.

Going beyond daily headlines, the channel shines a spotlight on the remarkable journeys of Punjabi professionals, physicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, educators, artists, community leaders, and young achievers who have made

significant contributions throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Punjab Times has also demonstrated leadership during periods of crisis and uncertainty. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenging times, the channel became a dependable source of trusted information by providing public health guidance, organizing virtual town hall discussions with medical experts, sharing community resources, and offering emotional support through thoughtful programming.

Recognizing the rapidly changing media landscape, Punjab Times has successfully expanded its reach beyond traditional television by embracing digital

innovation. Through live streaming, social media platforms, mobile-friendly content, and on-demand programming, the channel has effectively connected with younger generations while continuing to serve its long-time viewers.

Its civic engagement includes support for blood donation drives, educational scholarship initiatives, diabetes prevention campaigns, health awareness programs, charitable fundraising efforts, and numerous nonprofit activities that benefit the South Asian community.

Innovation continues to be one of Punjab Times' greatest strengths. Interactive talk shows, live call-in programs, audience polls, collaborations with emerging Punjabi artists and influencers, career guidance for young professionals, and popular culinary segments featuring authentic Punjabi recipes adapted for American households have transformed the viewing experience into an engaging community conversation.

The story of Punjab Times is, in many respects, the story of Chicago's Punjabi community itself—a story of resilience, determination, cultural pride, and remarkable achievement.



Punjab Times supporters and staff posing for photos on the occasion of its 27th anniversary.

# International Society For Krishna Consciousness, ISKCON, Holds Chicago's 52nd Annual Rath Yatra

BY A STAFF WRITER

Chicago's North Side became a magnificent display of devotion, culture, and spiritual celebration as thousands of devotees, families, and visitors gathered for ISKCON Chicago's 52nd Annual Rath Yatra (Festival of Chariots).

The beloved Hindu festival transformed the streets from Rogers Park to Loyola Beach Park into a vibrant procession of sacred music, colorful traditional attire, and heartfelt devotion. The majestic chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra (Balaram), and Lady Subhadra rolled through the city as thousands enthusiastically pulled the ropes, symbolizing their desire to bring the Lord closer to every heart. The rhythmic sounds of mridangam drums and karatals, combined with the continuous chanting of the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra, attracted not only devotees but also countless residents and visitors who paused to witness one of Chicago's most colorful multicultural celebrations.

The celebration began early Saturday morning at ISKCON Chicago's historic temple at 1304 West Birchwood Avenue, where at exactly 11:00 a.m., the beautifully decorated wooden chariots slowly emerged from the temple grounds amid loud cries of "Jaya Jagannath!" Thousands of devotees eagerly grasped the ceremonial ropes and pulled the chariots. According to ancient Vedic tradition, pulling Lord Jagannath's chariot is considered a rare spiritual blessing that symbolizes inviting the Supreme Lord into one's life and heart, devotees believe.

Families traveled from around Illinois and neighboring states, including Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Indianapolis,



A section of the participants in ISKCON's 52nd Rath Yatra in Chicago.

Champaign-Urbana, Naperville, and numerous Chicago suburbs, with many making several hours' journey for this annual celebration. Every generation was represented—from infants riding comfortably in decorated strollers to senior citizens walking with prayer beads in hand. One particularly heartwarming sight was a devotee accompanied by her well-behaved dog. Indian culture was displayed in the elegant saris in brilliant shades of red, royal blue, emerald green, saffron, pink, and shimmering gold, and men in kurtas and traditional dhotis.

The procession was guided by His Holiness Candramauli Swami and His Holiness Bhakti Marg Swami, as the procession moved along Sheridan Road toward Loyola

Beach Park, with the continuous chanting of the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra echoing through the neighborhood, drawing curious residents onto sidewalks and balconies to witness the extraordinary display of devotion. Many first-time observers joined the singing, clapped along with the music, accepted blessings from the devotees, and experienced firsthand the universal message of peace, compassion, and love that the festival represents.

On reaching Loyola Beach Park, the lakeside festival grounds came alive with an afternoon filled with devotional music, cultural performances, educational exhibits, family entertainment, and vegetarian cuisine. The main stage featured kirtans, Odissi classical dance performed by the Aikyam Ensemble, and dramatic presentations that brought Vedic teachings to life. Among the day's highlights was Kunjabihari Kalanidhi's Ramayana Dance Drama, which captivated audiences through its artistic portrayal of Lord Rama's eternal message of righteousness, sacrifice, and devotion. The ISKCON Youth Bus Tour also received enthusiastic applause for its thought-provoking production, "Big Fish, Little Fish," written by Bhakti Marg Swami, which explored Vedic wisdom through engaging storytelling. The colorful Dasavatara Dance, celebrating Lord Vishnu's ten divine incarnations, energized the audience and beautifully showcased India's rich spiritual heritage.

Children delighted in face painting, henna art, magic shows, interactive games, and educational exhibits in the Family Fun Zone, while adults browsed cultural displays and devotional book exhibits. Thousands gathered to receive complimentary prasadam, sanctified vegetarian meals, which volunteers distributed throughout the afternoon.

The Washington Post

## Cruise passengers are getting extreme with cabin door decor

By Hannah Sampson

Devon Weaver prepared for her last Disney cruise in 2018 like a final exam she could not flunk.

There was an extra suitcase for the trinkets she would exchange with fellow passengers as part of a decades-old tradition. There were gifts, including personalized tote bags and candy with custom wrappers for other cruisers. Beach pails. Costumes. Homemade magnets to adorn the doors.

"It was ridiculous, needless to say," said Weaver, founder of the blog Mama Cheaps, who wrote about her cruise on the site. "I'm still burned out from eight years ago." As she was preparing for her family's sailing on Disney Cruise Line this fall, she came across videos of "elaborate, very impressive, very showstopping ... hallway productions" set up by passengers outside their rooms. Last trip, Weaver brought magnets to decorate her door. This time around, the over-the-top displays caught her by surprise: inflatables. String lights. Massive murals. Weaver said she'll dress up her door but probably with just a cute banner.

I kept sending them to my daughter. I'd be like, 'Oh my God, look at this,'" she said.

"We're not doing this.' Then just like: 'Holy moly.'"

From Star Wars homages to cartoon-inspired scenes to personal cruise histories and interactive Scrabble games, cruise ship door decorating has been elevated to a competitive sport. Many travelers hang a simple magnet or two, but some mount corridor makeovers that stretch beyond the doorframe - a practice recently banned by Disney Cruise Line for safety reasons. Cruisers regularly share videos of expansive hallway scenes, even if those decorators represent a fraction of passengers.

Chris Gray Faust, executive editor of the site Cruise Critic, said that some cruise passengers on big-ship, mass-market lines decorate for strategic reasons: to easily find their room among a long line of identical doors. But most are doing it for celebratory purposes.

"Cruises are their happy place, and it's a way to lean into the fun onboard," she said in an email. "Of course with all trends, the more people that participate, the more the stakes rise and the decor becomes more and more over-the-top."

### Decades old, recently trendy

The exact origin of cruise ship door decor is not clear, but Stewart Chiron, CEO of the site CruiseGuy, recalls early examples of decorations to observe a birthday or anniversary. He said celebrations at sea took off in the late 1990s. It continued to grow in the 2000s and gained even more steam in recent years, as passengers shared videos on social media that racked up hundreds of thousands of views. Sometimes a symbol carries a message: Upside-down pineapples are widely seen as a sign that the room's inhabitants are open to adult activities with other passengers.

However it started, the door-decorating trend shows how much fans love cruising.

"You don't see this at hotels," Chiron said.

Multiple cruise operators have outlined their rules around door decor, with reminders to stick to safe, PG and non-damaging items. Because most doors are made of steel, magnets are a go-to piece of decor. Norwegian Cruise Line, for its part, forbids paper decorations.

Carnival Cruise Line prohibits string lights, tape and glue, and allows only decorations made of fire-retardant materials. Those can go only on doors themselves, not the frames, walls or any railings. Virgin Voyages, which is for adults only, gives the whole practice a thumbs-down on its website.

"We think our lady ships look fabulous as they are, and door decorations inevitably lead to unsightly damage," Virgin said.

Disney Cruise Line asks passengers to avoid adhesive, sound and video elements, and does not allow organizers that hang over the doors. Anyone who damages a door by breaking those rules will be charged a \$100 fee. The cruise line also warns that valuable items should not be used to decorate; they could be taken. This month, a new policy went into effect limiting decor to the doors themselves.

"One of our favorite Disney Cruise Line traditions is seeing the creativity our guests share through their stateroom door decorations," the company said in a statement. "With everyone's safety in mind, we've clarified our policy to help ensure decorations remain on stateroom doors and not on the hallway ceilings or walls,"

Rochelle LeMaster, a librarian and Disney blogger who runs the site Disney Cruise Planning with her sister Melanie LeMaster, said the update is an indication of how intense people have gotten.

"You should not be spreading your Halloween webs and your Lowe's giant Jack Skellington into the hallway," she said.

Travel adviser and nurse Katie McBride, of Orlando, said she has never had one of the "crazy, crazy rooms" but has previously decorated with garland beyond the confines of her door. She said she will respect the new policy.

"I was kind of just waiting for it to happen, to be honest," she said. "I've seen some excessive stuff. I get it."

Stephanie Shuster, publisher of DCL Magazine, said most people were keeping their decorations in check, but a few had gotten out of hand. She's seen cruisers say that it would be easier for them to navigate the ships' corridors without intrusive hallway decor but said, "I honestly haven't seen a single person have a meltdown over this."

### Too much?

While the tricked-out doors have plenty of fans, some cruisers find the trend mystifying and messy.

"This is going to be an unpopular opinion, but this and this and this and this and especially this are just all tacky, and it should be stopped," one man, who said he was on a Carnival cruise, complained on TikTok. He pointed out multiple doors bearing flowery bows, flamingos, birthday messages and other vacation images. Chiron said the overall number of cruise passengers who decorate doors is low and limited to certain cruise lines, but some passengers can get too extra. "You need to be respectful not to interfere with the experience of others and the safety of others," he said.

In social media debates, most cruisers say they are in favor of the decorations or, at worst, indifferent. But critics have said they sought out pricier cruise lines for a more refined experience. In a discussion on Cruise Critic, one person said the decor often "looks cheap and like being in a student residence." Detractors add complaints about fellow passengers hiding rubber ducks, another cruise pastime.

"For the most part, people take door decorating in stride, whether or not they're door decorators themselves," Gray Faust said. "While some may think it's too much, it's more that it's too much for them to participate in, personally, and less something that irritates them like other cruiser faux pas like dress codes and chair hogging."



Photo by: Adobe

### 'Let's make some magic'

On Disney Cruise Line, door decorating can go the extra mile.

A door inspired by the ride It's a Small World includes a version of the well-known moving, smiling clock face. Nets, chains, skull images and pretend lanterns adorn the walls and door around a room nodding at Pirates of the Caribbean, a ride and movie franchise. A Haunted Mansion-themed room boasts lacy curtains, spooky fake candles and ghosts galore.

Some travelers join passenger-organized gift exchanges ahead of a cruise and arrive with goodies to give fellow travelers out of pockets that hang from decorative hooks. (Because many of those hooks are shaped like fish, the hanging pockets are called "fish extenders.")

Others randomly leave gifts in those pouches or on doors, a practice known as "pixie dusting" that's common in Disney parks and resorts. Some cruisers give away gifts or treats on their own doors for passersby. And some leave praise, such as an "I love your door" magnet.

Shuster said the door trend is a way to connect with fellow travelers who share your interests.

"I think it's just like an expression of kindness and generosity," she said. "We're all big Disney fans, we're all in this together, let's make some magic for other people."

When McBride prepares clients for cruises, she includes guides for door decorating depending on the line, and extra information about gifting on Disney ships.

"For me, it's a super fun thing to look forward to, and we look forward to the announcement that our staterooms are ready," she said. She packs her magnets in a carry-on so she doesn't have to wait for luggage to be delivered to her room. "As soon as they announce our rooms are ready, we start decorating the doors."

# Uttar Pradesh: Eight Accused In Ram Mandir Embezzlement Case To Appear Before Ayodhya Court

All eight accused in the alleged Ram Mandir donation embezzlement case are scheduled to be produced before the Special Court for Corruption Act cases in Ayodhya June 29, for judicial custody proceedings, as the local bar association meets to decide whether its lawyers will represent them.

Tight security has been put in place at the Ayodhya court, with a large police force deployed both inside the court premises and outside the complex. The accused were sent to jail till Monday by the remand magistrate on Friday, June 26. They are expected to be sent back to judicial custody after their appearance. The Ayodhya Bar Association will decide on providing representation to the accused.

Speaking to ANI on the matter, Kalika Prasad Mishra, President of the Ayodhya Bar Association, said a meeting of the Faizabad Advocates' Association had been called for 10:30 am to deliberate on whether lawyers would defend the accused.

"A meeting of the Faizabad Advocates' Association has been called; it will begin at 10:30 AM. Lawyers will deliberate on the ongoing situation whether or not to represent the accused in their defence. I cannot state my own decision right now, nor do I know it yet; the Association's decision will be paramount," Mishra said.

He added that the outcome was likely to favour the temple. "After gathering opinions, a decision will be reached regarding whether the lawyers from the Ayodhya district will oppose the accused, defend them, or simply condemn their actions... As for the decision, it is highly



Hindu devotees gather near the Lord Ram temple after its inauguration, in Ayodhya, India, January 22, 2024.



Police personnel outside the Special Court for Corruption Act.

likely that the Advocates' Association will decide in favour of the temple and its interests," he said.

Mishra also said the hearing may be held virtually from jail. "It is highly probable that the hearing will be conducted virtually from the jail, which would be appropriate; both the administration and the Advocates' Association would likely prefer this arrangement," he said.

Earlier, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered on June 25 in connection with the alleged embezzlement of donations received at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

According to officials, the case has been filed under multiple provisions of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 306, 316(5), 317(4), 317(5), 61 and 3(5), on the directions of the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Those who have been named in the FIR are: Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Avinash Shukla, Tinnu Yadav, Manish Yadav and others. This comes after allegations were made by former SP MLA from Ayodhya, Pawan Pandey, who claimed that between Rs 7 crore and Rs 7.5 crore in donations were misappropriated from the Ram Mandir.

Following the allegations, on June 14, the state government constituted a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged scam involving offer-

ings made at the Ram Mandir, following a request from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir Trust.

Reacting to the case, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak told ANI, "The police administration should conduct an impartial investigation and take strict action; the government will ensure this."

The case has triggered a political slugfest in Uttar Pradesh, with the ruling BJP and Opposition parties trading allegations over the handling of the temple's finances, even as the SIT investigation continues.

-ANI

# New Delhi Offers Residents \$1,000 To Scrap Old Cars For EVs To Curb Air Pollution

By ADITI SHAH

India's capital New Delhi will offer a cash incentive of over \$1,000 to car owners willing to scrap their old vehicle for an EV, according to a new policy finalised by the government on Monday in a move aimed at reducing high levels of air pollution.

New Delhi is one of the world's most polluted cities with air quality worsening in the winters when dense, stagnant air traps emissions from crops burning in neighbouring states, vehicle exhaust and construction dust.

Here are some details:

- The local government in New Delhi finalises new electric vehicle policy with an outlay of 150 billion rupees (\$1.59 billion) over four years to incentivise buyers of electric two-wheelers, cars and small trucks, as well as setting up EV chargers.
- To offer \$1,060 as scrapping incentive to those who trade in cars bought before April 1, 2020 for



Traffic moves along a highway amidst air pollution in New Delhi, India, December 18, 2025.

an EV.

• Those buying a battery EV priced at up to 3 million rupees will be exempt from paying road tax and registration fees, which typically amount to 4%-10% of the car's price.

• Buyers of electric scooters and motorbikes will get a cash incentive of 30,000 rupees in the policy's first year, reducing to 10,000 rupees by year three.

• Delhi government will only register electric two-wheelers from April 1, 2028, forcing buyers to move away from gasoline and other powertrains.

• Will also incentivise setting up 32,000 EV charging points across Delhi.

• Hybrid vehicles have not been included in the policy which is expected to come into effect from July 1.

• Policy will provide a big boost to EV players like Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra as well as electric two-wheeler makers TVS Motor, Bajaj Auto and Ather Energy.

-REUTERS



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