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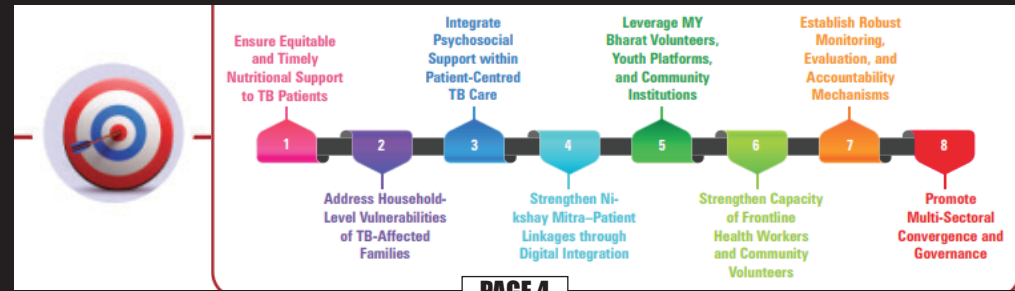
Sgt. Angel Rampersad Sacrifices All

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DESI TALK

IN CHICAGO



Dr. Sudhir Parikh, President, Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, pledges to help Maharashtra eliminate tuberculosis



Fond farewell for India's Consul General Somnath Ghosh

PAGE 14

PHOTOS: ITV GOLD, TBCINDIA.MOHFW.GOV

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IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE



Sudhir N. Dalal, Ph.D. (Nov. 4, 1939 – July 18, 2026)

Sudhir N. Dalal, Ph.D. passed away surrounded by the love and reverence of his family. Born in Godhra, Gujarat, India, to the late Dr. Natvarlal and Chandanben Dalal, he carried throughout his life a deep commitment to education, family, and perseverance. In 1961, at age 21, he made a remarkable 18-day journey to the United States by ship, train, car, and plane to pursue higher education and the American Dream.

Through hard work and determination, Dr. Dalal earned three master's degrees—Statistics from University of Baroda (Gujarat), Mathematics from Northwestern State University, LA, and Applied Statistics from Villanova University, PA—before earning his doctorate in Applied Statistics from the Polytechnic Institute of New York. After working as a biostatistician for several pharmaceutical companies, he founded his own consulting company and provided expert statistical services for more than four decades. He also generously mentored graduate students and volunteered in the community food kitchen.

Remembered as the first pioneer of the Dalal family, Dr. Dalal forged a path to the United States and inspired younger generations to follow their dreams. He was admired for his generosity, integrity, kindness, humility, and grace, and was known to friends and family as a true gentleman who listened carefully and offered thoughtful advice.

Above all, his greatest joy was his family. He shared 60 beautiful years of marriage with his loving wife, Shakuntla S. Dalal; was the beloved father of Seema and her husband, Jimmy, and Meeta and her husband, Ananth; and was the cherished grandfather of Jiten, Jaymin, Shaylen, and Amara.

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Dr. Sudhir Parikh, President Of Global Association Of Physicians Of Indian Origin Pledges To Help Maharashtra's Mission To Eliminate Tuberculosis

By A Staff Writer

One of India's most significant public health missions—the fight against tuberculosis, with particular reference to the state of Maharashtra was the subject of discussion on ITV Gold, the 24-hour television channel which is part of Parikh Worldwide Media.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of PWM, and President of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, GAPIO, and Sanjay Shripatrao Katkar, IAS, Commissioner of Health Services and Mission Director, National Health Mission, Maharashtra, spearheading the tuberculosis public health initiative – sealed their commitment to cooperate to end the dreaded disease.

India has made significant progress through the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), with strengthened screening, free diagnosis and treatment, digital patient tracking through the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, and an ambitious goal of eliminating TB hopefully by 2030.

According to India's Ministry of Health, "India's ambitious journey toward TB Mukta Bharat reflects not only our remarkable progress in public health but also our extraordinary capacity to galvanize a whole-of-society response. The Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, launched in September 2022 under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, embodies this transformative vision for uniting citizens, institutions, civil society, and frontline workers in a compassionate alliance to deliver person-centered, holistic care to those affected by tuberculosis. This transformative approach mobilizing society at large to provide dignified, person-centered and holistic support to individuals affected by tuberculosis."

Padma Shri recipient Dr. Parikh, a physician, philanthropist, and prominent Indian American who has worked to strengthen health initiatives in both India and the United States, and US-India relations, offered help through GAPIO which represents some 1.4 million Indian doctors in more than 60 countries. "Tell us what we can do for India (and Maharashtra) as far as prevention of tuberculosis is concerned," Dr. Parikh questioned.

Katkar thanked Dr. Parikh for offering GAPIO's help, and noted that "This social disease is fundamentally caused by various reasons – poverty, nutrition, crowded populations."

"We have a four-pronged approach – detect, treat, prevent, and build. The moment we detect the patients we are going to treat them," Katkar, said, and GAPIO would be helpful in all those aspects.

"We are ready to build partnership"

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB / ITV GOLD INTERVIEW



Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, president of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, in conversation with Sanjay Katkar Commissioner of Health Services and Mission Director, National Health Mission, Maharashtra at ITV Gold studios.

PHOTO: TB INDIA MOHFW.GOV



Volunteers for the TB campaign pose for a picture.



Katkar asserted. He noted the progress India has made over the last 9 years, bringing down the incidence rate from 210 per lakh of the population to 163.

The "TB Mukta Bharat" mission is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and carried out in Maharashtra by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Katkar noted.

From GAPIO, he said, "We are expecting some good intervention, technology, efficiency, medications and treatment. We are definitely going to take this support."

Considerable progress to eliminate TB by 2030, had been accomplished and the success ratio has risen from 83 percent to 91 percent, Katkar maintained. Till date, 12,000 gram panchayats had been declared as TB Mukta out of some 28,000.

"We are committed to achieve the 100 percent goal."

Asked by program host Piya Jyoti Kachroo how the TB program was making sure the treatment reaches all the diverse places in Maharashtra, Katkar said, from his personal experience, he was

catching the infection. It is very easy to catch if living area is crowded, and from the lack of education," Dr. Parikh said, but this disease is curable once you start treatment, he emphasized.

"So I would offer our services to Govt. of Maharashtra and for Commissioner to let us know what we can do. From time to time some of those 1.4 million doctors abroad are visiting India and can help on some basis. So please let us know how you would like to utilize our doctors. We also want to think about telemedicine for the rural areas where the workers are visiting the families, and we can through telemedicine prescribe the medicines."

For patients to stay in touch with those giving the care is hard, Katkar noted. "The difficulty in this disease is there is heavy medication, and most times the patient gets tired of taking the medicine and it takes too long, and he has to go through this process alone." That is where the Ni-kshay portal helps by being able to track the patient to help the person treat themselves correctly.

Katkar also noted that GAPIO has a record of doing "commendable work in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan."

"I came to know his (Dr. Parikh's) strong commitment to help, and we will take his help and of members of this association. And last but not least to

enhance and uplift this campaign. I am seriously thinking of developing a portal for nutritional foods, so that donors can see the patient and the supplier.

So technological development is also required. Detecting, treating and tracking is essential and GAPIO will definitely support our efforts.

Dr. Parikh said, "I would like to offer our services to our motherland, and not only virtually, but whenever our members visit India, they would also go to Maharashtra and also to the villages, and help. Plus, since we are in a different country, we can also update our contemporaries back home, on the development and research on tuberculosis treatment. And also to use our media. This gives us an opportunity. Let's work together, and let us be part of serving mother India."

Dr. Parikh emphasized, that "All these Indian physicians are anxious to help and we are ready to do it. India should be free of tuberculosis in the near future."

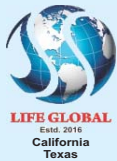
In conclusion, Katkar said he "very warmly welcome the offer and the commitment Dr. Sudhir Parikh has given to citizens of India, and citizens of Maharashtra in particular, and I know this org has done good work in some states. We look forward to this progressive and



aware of how hard it is for patients whose own families banish them from home for fear of spreading the infection. "It opened my eyes to how dangerously communities treat TB patients. So in tribal areas and differently located villages, we send our workers and our X ray machines to detect. We have an ambitious plan to screen all villages, and all suspicious patients. We already have digital technology in place to follow the patient."

Dr. Parikh recalled how even as far back as the early 1960s tuberculosis was a priority as it was rampant. "And we still have 163 per Lakh cases in the population, which shows lot of work needs to be done." GAPIO members, he said are "very willing" to help Maharashtra in every way to reach the goal of 42 per lakh which was the normal rate.

"I would like to offer a CME on zoom meetings for GAPIO physicians to address the issue. And for distribution of educational materials, and how to prevent crowded conditions, and how to manage the patients. And how to prevent



Joy of Sharing

Project 'Life' India Delegation Embarks on USA & Canada Mission to Strengthen Global Humanitarian Partnerships

-Amar Shah, Founder - Life Global



Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh
Chairman, Life Global

An Address from the Board of Life Global

As Life Global marks a decade of inspiring global philanthropy, its 10th Anniversary celebrations in New Jersey and California, USA, have reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of overseas Indians. The milestone celebrations brought together distinguished philanthropists, community leaders and supporters united by a shared vision of serving humanity beyond borders.



Dr. Arun Palkhiwala
President, Life Global



Amar Shah
Founder, Life Global

There are journeys that begin with an idea, and there are those driven by purpose. **Life Global** belongs to the latter. Life Global was never created to be just another charitable organisation. It was envisioned as a bridge connecting the Indian diaspora with meaningful opportunities to support education, healthcare, women empowerment and community development. Over the past decade, that vision has flourished through the unwavering generosity of our donors, volunteers, patrons and partners.

As we celebrate the **10th Anniversary of Life Global USA**, we do so with deep gratitude and humility. What began as the vision of a few like-minded friends has grown into a vibrant global humanitarian movement, uniting compassionate individuals across continents with one shared mission - to

serve humanity beyond borders.

Our 10th Anniversary Gala in New Jersey is more than a celebration of time - it is a tribute to every individual who believed in our mission, stood beside us, and helped transform countless lives.

This milestone is made even more meaningful as it marks the commencement of the **Golden Jubilee Year of Project 'Life', India** - our trusted humanitarian partner that has served society with dedication for nearly five decades. Today, Project 'Life' is recognised among India's leading charitable institutions.

Through pioneering initiatives in Blood Banking, Thalassaemia Prevention, Education, Women Empowerment, Health &

Wellness, Environmental Protection and NRG Integration, it has positively impacted nearly **9.8 million lives**. These achievements have been strengthened by the steadfast support of Life Global Partner Charities and our worldwide family of philanthropists.

Beyond supporting Project 'Life', Life Global has also partnered with 12 humanitarian organisations, contributing to hospital expansion, preservation of the traditional Patola weaving art, farmer empowerment, technological advancement in agriculture, renewable energy initiatives and Gandhian-inspired educational programmes.



Meetal Koticha Shah
Joint Executive Trustee & CEO, Project 'Life'



Rushikesh Pandya
Chief Development & Operating Officer, Project 'Life'

A special highlight of this anniversary has been the presence of **Ms. Meetal Koticha Shah** and **Mr. Rushikesh Pandya**. Through their presentations and interactions, they have showcased Project 'Life's remarkable journey, expanding humanitarian initiatives and inspiring vision for the future.

Their North American mission continues beyond New Jersey with the **10th Anniversary of Life Global California**, generously sponsored by **Rika & Manu Shah**, where they will engage with supporters and philanthropists to strengthen partnerships and advance collaborative humanitarian initiatives.

Their outreach also extends to Canada, fostering meaningful engagement with the Indian diaspora and community leaders in Toronto and Calgary.

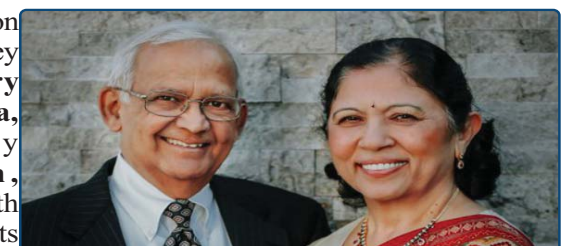
As Founder of Life Global, I have always believed that success is not measured by the number of events we host or funds we raise, but by the lives we transform, the hope we restore and the opportunities we create.

Reflecting on this remarkable decade, I take pride not only in what we have achieved, but in what we have achieved together. Every milestone belongs equally to our

Chairman Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, President Dr. Arun Palkhiwala, Patron Sharad Shah, our dedicated leadership, generous donors, volunteers and every member of the Life Global family whose unwavering faith has shaped this journey.

As we enter our next decade, our resolve is stronger than ever - to unite compassionate hearts, strengthen global partnerships and create enduring social impact. Together, we will proudly support the Golden Jubilee journey of Project 'Life' while expanding the global footprint of Life Global.

To every member of the Life Global family, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.



Rika & Manu Shah
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Indian Students Cool On 'American Dream' As EU Opens Its Doors

BY PRAVEEN PARAMASIVAM, SAI ISHWARBHARATH B AND
CHARLOTTE VAN CAMPENHOUT

A. Shrinikheathan is breaking from his family's tradition of studying in the United States, opting instead for a master's degree in Germany. The 22-year-old Chennai engineering graduate is learning German and taking a language proficiency test as he applies for courses, drawn by the low cost of studying in Germany and its traditionally strong industry links.

His decision reflects young Indians' growing interest in European universities as the India-EU trade deal's mobility provisions and tighter U.S. immigration rules prompt many to rethink the American Dream, a dozen students and education consultants said.

"The world is becoming more multi-polar. Earlier, the U.S. was all that everyone was talking about," Shrinikheathan said, adding he was happy to have study choices beyond the "wildly more expensive" United States and Canada.

If sustained, the shift could reshape global student flows, with Europe emerging as a viable alternative to North America for Indian students as the EU seeks young talent to offset labor shortages from an ageing population.

European tuition fees are typically 50% to 80% less than the U.S., according to education consultant KC Overseas, with lower living costs also reducing the bill.

"The European Union has become a leading destination for Indian students," an EU official said in a statement to Reuters. "Indian students bring entrepreneurial spirit, cultural richness, and research excellence."

He added: "(Indian students enrich) European campuses while deepening EU-India ties in innovation, trade, and diplomacy ... this trend will continue to grow, benefiting Europe's talent pool and India's globally competitive workforce."

India's overseas student outflow fell to about 626,000 in 2025 from more than 908,000 in 2023, government data showed, with students wary of tougher visa rules and rising costs in the U.S. and other popular study destinations such as Australia and the UK. Last week, Washington moved to tighten the duration of visas for foreign students as part of a wide-ranging immigration crackdown that began after Donald Trump took office in January 2025.

WANTED: INDIAN TALENT AT SCALE

PHOTO: REUTERS/PRIVANSHU SINGH



A study abroad sign at the office of KC Overseas Education, an education consultancy, in Bengaluru, India, February 18, 2026.

PHOTO: REUTERS/PRIVANSHU SINGH



A counsellor speaks with students during a consultation session at the office of KC Overseas Education, an education consultancy, in Bengaluru, India, February 18, 2026.

Indians' interest in Europe has risen since the January trade deal, which aims to make it easier for students and skilled workers to move to Europe through easier visa pathways, clearer post-study work routes and improved recognition of Indian qualifications.

"The EU-India mobility framework is part of a broader set of initiatives aiming to make the EU a global magnet for attracting and retaining talent, including for Indian students and talent," the EU official said.

"For the first time, a major economic bloc is saying, 'We want Indian talent at scale,'" said Arnab Kumar, co-founder of study-abroad platform Leap.

India and the EU will work over five years on social security pacts with member states, initially setting up a tech-focused office to guide Indian students and professionals.

"Indian students have been growing in Europe without any overarching framework. Now, we have structured pathways from education to employment," Kumar said, forecasting a 60% to 70% jump in student and worker flows over three to five years.

Consultants say students are increasingly matching destinations to career goals and lifestyle, choosing Germany for engineering, the Netherlands for work-life balance, Portugal for affordable postgraduate research and France for management.

The prospect of greater mobility across the EU and a growing number of English-language postgraduate programs are also attracting Indian students and professionals to Europe.

Education consultancy Europe Study Centre has seen enquiries jump 25% to 30% since the trade deal, with director Sivaraman Pandian calling Europe the

"red-hot destination" for families put off by rising costs and tougher visa rules elsewhere.

More than 121,000 Indians study in the EU, about half the U.S. total, but the bloc has steadily grown in popularity, emerging as a leading destination alongside the U.S., Canada and Australia, government data showed.

CHALLENGES APLENTY TOO

Challenges remain, however.

"If somebody says you will get a job in this country, don't blindly believe it. Just because you studied in that country, it does not entitle you to get a job," said Pandian.

"You study, and you develop a skill-set; your doors are open."

Several students pointed to language barriers, housing shortages in major cities such as Amsterdam, intense competition for jobs, and the need for specialized skills.

Some others also acknowledged concerns about the rise in far-right political parties and hardening attitudes towards foreigners in parts of Europe, according to Reuters interviews and social media posts.

EARLY DATA SIGNALS EUROPE SHIFT

Still, Indian enrolment in the Netherlands climbed to about 3,700 in 2025/26 from 2,630 in 2018/19, making Indians the third-largest non-EU student group, Statistics Netherlands said.

Eindhoven University of Technology reported about 2,140 pre-enrolments from India for the coming academic year, up from roughly 1,390 a year earlier.

Leiden University's Indian intake in regular master's programs, which are less demanding than its master's by research courses, jumped to 120 this year from 70 in 2021.

Italy's Padua University said partner agencies in India were reporting rising interest in Europe, including from regions that traditionally sent students to the United States.

However, whether the surge in interest translates into sustained enrolments will depend on how smoothly the agreement is implemented.

Chennai-based engineer T Suthir, who is exploring colleges in the Czech Republic and Italy, said perceptions were already shifting.

"Earlier, before the deal was finalized, my family was saying Europe is not good," he said. "Now, they are saying it's good."

-REUTERS

PHOTO: REUTERS/PRIVANSHU SINGH



A student reads a brochure next to a study abroad sign at the office of KC Overseas Education, an education consultancy, in Bengaluru, India, February 18, 2026.

PHOTO: REUTERS/PRIVANSHU SINGH



A student fills a pre-assessment form before counselling at the office of KC Overseas Education, an education consultancy, in Bengaluru, India, February 18, 2026.

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JD And Usha Vance Announce Birth Of Fourth Child

BY CAT ZAKRZEWSKI (C) 2026

Vice President JD Vance and second lady Usha Vance on Sunday announced the birth of their fourth child, Alec Neel. The baby boy was born on Sunday morning, the couple announced on social media. His birth marks the first time in more than 150 years that a sitting vice president has had a baby while in office, after Schuyler Colfax in 1870.

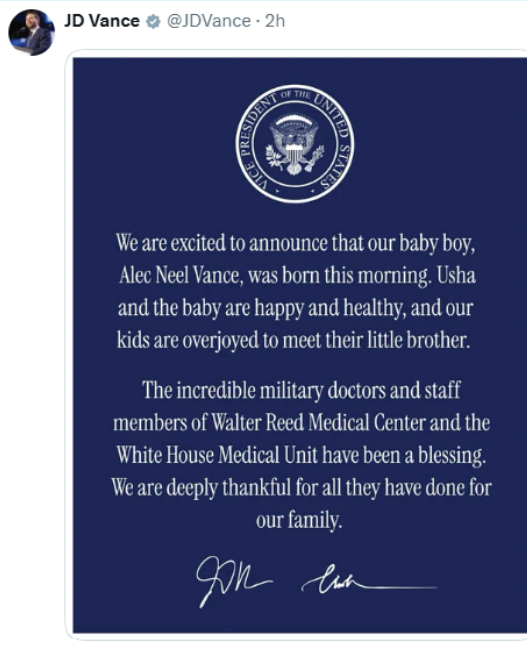
"Usha and the baby are happy and healthy, and our kids are overjoyed to meet their little brother," the Vances said in the announcement.

JD Vance, now 41, was the third-youngest person to be sworn in as vice president. He and Usha Vance, 40, had two sons and a daughter before entering office: Ewan Blaine (9), Vivek (6) and Mirabel Rose (4).

The couple thanked their doctors and staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the White House Medical Unit.

The Vance family's plans to make a second home in Middleburg, Virginia, has caused a stir in the old-money town outside of Washington. Residents are concerned about the helicopters, Secret Service and motorcades that the couple will bring to the area known for horses and antiques.

JD Vance said that the killing of



Vice President JD Vance posted the message about the birth of his and wife Usha Vance's fourth child Alec Neel Vance, July 19, 2026.

conservative influencer Charlie Kirk convinced him and Usha to try for another child. They made the decision after Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, told them she regretted only having two children with her late husband while they were helping her escort her husband's body back to Arizona.

Vance recalled the conversation in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal adapted from his new book.

Vance is widely expected to run for president in 2028, but he has told reporters that he will not make a decision until after the 2026 midterm elections. Secre-

tary of State Marco Rubio's prominence within the the Trump administration has prompted some Republicans to discuss the possibility that Rubio may also seek the party's nomination.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



Vice President JD Vance being sworn in Jan. 20, 2025, as his wife Usha looks on, with their 3 children.

"Congratulations ! ": Trump Welcomes Vance's "Perfect Baby Boy"

US President Donald Trump congratulated his colleague, Vice President JD Vance and his family on the birth of his fourth child on Monday (local time).

Calling his son "a perfect baby boy," in a post on Truth Social, Trump said, "Congratulations! A perfect baby boy for the wonderful Vance family."

US Vice-President JD Vance and his wife, second lady Usha, welcomed their fourth child on Sunday. The Vice-President announced in a post on X.

He said, "We are excited to announce that our baby boy, Alec Neel Vance, was born this morning. Usha and the baby are happy and healthy, and our kids are overjoyed to meet their little brother."

Vance thanked the military doctors and staff members of Walter Reed Medical Centre and the White House Medical Unit in his post on X.

The couple, who have been married since 2014, also have two older sons — Ewan, age 9, and Vivek, 6 — and daughter Mirabel, age 4.

According to news reports, this marks the first

time in modern history that the nation's second family had a child while in office.

According to the CBS news outlet, the last known instance was 156 years ago when Schuyler Colfax Jr — serving as vice president to Ulysses S. Grant — and his wife Ellen had their son, Schuyler Colfax III, in 1870.

Meanwhile, The Washington Post reported a new home in northern Virginia that the couple could be moving into. And CNN reported, citing people familiar with the matter, that the family of six will be spending more time in rural northern Virginia, leasing part of a sprawling, multi-million-dollar property in the wealthy enclave of Middleburg.

CNN said that the rental is an effort to provide the second lady and Vance's children with a greater sense of normalcy, as per the people familiar with the matter. It said that the vice president is expected to stay there on occasion, though he and his family are maintaining their official residence at the Naval Observatory.

-ANI



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Congratulations! A perfect baby boy for the wonderful Vance family.



President Trump welcomes VP JD Vance and Usha Vance's 4th child.

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Residents Of Ozone Park, NYC, And The US Army Mourn Death Of Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, Others

BY A STAFF WRITER

The residents of Ozone Park are mourning the death of Indo-Caribbean American Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, who died in the war theater in the Middle East recently. This is possibly the first casualty within the Indian-origin community in the US during this current, ongoing and expanding conflict in that region.

In a vigil outside Rampersad's parents' home in Ozone Park, July 23, 2026, her mother paid tribute to her daughter, New York Daily News reported. "She died for this country, and I am a mother who's highly proud of her. ... and I know she was really, really focused on what she was doing, and she loved it," said Carol Acevedo in the NYDN report. Family members reminisced about Sgt. Rampersad determined and calm demeanor, her courage and strength.

President Trump met privately with the family of Sgt. Rampersad and the other three soldiers killed in the Iran war, Politico reported.

During her 7 years in the US Army, Rampersad had received several awards for her high performance. Sgt. Rampersad enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 2019.

Her awards include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon, according to a press release from the Department of War (DOW).

In a July 21, 2026, the Department of War announced what it "believed to be" the death of formerly missing soldier Angel S. Rampersad who belonged to the U.S. Army 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command "who was supporting overseas operations in Jordan."

"Sgt. Angel Rampersad, 28, of Ozone Park, New York, is believed to have been killed in action on July 17, 2026, during an enemy attack at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, Jordan. The incident is under investigation," the DOW said.

The Ozone Park Residents Block Association announced July 22, it is scheduling a press conference "regarding the tragic death of Sgt. Angel Sarah Rampersad," on July 23.

Sgt. Rampersad was assigned to 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 52d Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Ansbach, Germany, where she served as a 25U Signal Operations Support Specialist.

"Today, we mourn the loss of Sgt. Angel Rampersad," said Brig. Gen. Glenn Henke, commanding general of the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. "We extend our deepest, most heartfelt condolences to her family and all those who are navigating this unimaginable loss. The 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command is grieving, and we will continue to support one another as we process this tragedy."

New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, who represents the constituency of Ozone Park, issued a statement honoring the fallen soldier.

"On July 17th, one of our own—a beloved daughter of Ozone Park—was killed in an Iranian missile strike while bravely serving our nation in the Middle East.

"She answered America's call with courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to defending our nation and the freedoms we hold dear," Rajkumar added, saying Sgt. Rampersad "embodied



Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad.



U.S. President Trump and U.S. officials pay their respects as they attend the dignified transfer of U.S. Army service members killed in Jordan and Iraq amid the Iran war, in Dover, Delaware, U.S., July 22, 2026.

the very best of the United States Army and of our country. She served far from home, stood in harm's way, and carried out her duty with honor. Her service and sacrifice will never be forgotten by Ozone Park, Queens, New York City, or a grateful nation."

Rajkumar went on to say, "We have a sacred obligation to honor those who wear our nation's uniform and the families who serve and sacrifice alongside them."

The Assemblywoman is a member of the New York State Assembly Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "...my commitment is to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who serve and stand with the families who bear that sacrifice alongside them. ... I stand shoulder to shoulder with her family, especially her parents, Basdeo and Carol, and with all who love her during this unimaginable loss."

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani issued a statement July 22, recognizing Sgt. Rampersad's sacrifice.

"We mourn the loss of Sgt. Angel Rampersad, an Ozone Park native who was killed at a military base in Jordan while serving our country," Mamdani said. "Sgt. Rampersad's courage and sacrifice will be remembered

not just in Queens, but across all five boroughs. My deepest condolences are with her family, loved ones, and all those grieving this profound loss."

Mamdani went on to say, "For so many New Yorkers, wars overseas are never distant—they are felt here at home. The sacrifices made by service members and their families are a constant reminder of this. We are forever grateful for their service and will work every day to honor it."

The local community in Ozone Park are holding the press conference in front of 133-01 96th Street, to "provide an opportunity to honor Sgt. Rampersad's life, military service, and connection to the Ozone Park community." The community also plans to hold a vigil in the near future.

A Reuters report on the ceremonial receipt of the bodies of four soldiers, including that of Sgt. Rampersad, showed President Donald Trump and top administration officials at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The ceremony is known as a "dignified transfer" of the bodies. The three U.S. service members killed when an Iranian missile hit their sleeping barracks at Muwaffaq

Salti Air Base in Jordan on Friday, July 17, were First Lieutenant Tyler James Feehan, 25, Sergeant Angel S. Rampersad, 28, and Private Isabella Gonzales, 19, Reuters reported, and the fourth death was that of Sergeant Michael Emmanuel Swinton, 30, which occurred on Sunday, 19th in a separate incident in Erbil, Iraq, when a controlled detonation of an attack drone was being undertaken.

"Family members, who arrived in a convoy of vans, watched from a short distance as the flag-draped transfer cases were carried off the aircraft one by one and placed in one of two vans," Reuters reported.

"We're going to honor them. For me it's one of the hardest things to do as a president. But it has to be done," Trump is quoted saying in the Reuters report, and when asked what he would tell the families of the fallen, Trump said: "All I'm going to say is, we love you. We love your child, and that's what they are to them. They're their children. There's no games, no nothing."



Transfer cases rest in transport vans during a dignified transfer of the remains of U.S. Army service members Army 1st Lt Tyler James Feehan, Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, killed during an attack on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, and Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton, killed in action during a controlled detonation of a downed one-way unmanned aerial system at Erbil Air Base in Iraq, at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware, U.S., July 22, 2026.



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NYC Mayor Unveils 30% Discount On Key Grocery Items At New Municipal Grocery Stores

By A Staff Writer

New York City Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani announced July 27, 2026, a price reduction of 30 percent on key grocery items sold at the new Municipal Grocery Stores.

He was joined Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su and New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) to announce the new measure.

A core basket of everyday groceries will be 30 percent cheaper at the five new municipal grocery stores. The basket will include all fresh produce, meat and seafood, along with roughly 20 additional categories of pantry staples, dairy and refrigerated goods.

The discount will apply to all regardless of income, with prices locked in and predictable rather than fluctuating week to week as is the case at private grocers, the press release said.



Mayor Zohran Mamdani announcing the plan to reduce prices of core grocery items.

tuating week to week as is the case at private grocers, the press release said.

"Combined, the savings are projected to cut New Yorkers' average grocery bill by 15 percent, about \$90 a month, or roughly \$1,000 a year," according to the announcement.

"In the wealthiest city in the richest country in the world, no one should have to wonder how they'll afford the food they need to feed themselves or their families," Mamdani said and posted on X.com.

The Mayor also issued a request for proposals (RFP) from qualified grocers or firms to serve as operators of one or more N.Y.C. Groceries stores.

The first grocery store is expected to open by the end of 2027 at Hunts Point in the Bronx, and all five stores — one per borough — will be open by the end of the Mayor's first term, according to the plan. This goal was on Mamdani's campaign agenda.

Indian American Committee, Organizations From Across US, Celebrate America's 250th In D.C.

By A Staff Writer

The Indian-American Committee (IAC), in partnership with more than 40 Indian-American organizations from across the United States, hosted a celebration commemorating America's 250th Anniversary July 25, 2026, at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

The event brought together Members of Congress, diplomats, senior government officials, business leaders, physicians, veterans, academicians, and community leaders to celebrate values of freedom, democracy, opportunity, and the contributions of the Indian-American community.

The participation of more than 40 Indian-American organizations under a single platform reflected the growing unity, influence, and civic engagement of the community, organizers said in a press release. In a statement, IAC said, "America has given our community extraordinary opportunities to grow, contribute, and succeed. As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, we also celebrate the responsibility of Indian Americans to give back, serve, and stand together. This celebration is not the culmination of our efforts—it is the beginning of a national movement to unite Indian-American organizations under one umbrella, creating one stronger voice for our community and for the nation we proudly call home."

The United States National Anthem was sung by Medha Shanbhag to jumpstart the event. Among the high-profile guests who addressed the gathering were Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (Congressional Co-Chair of the celebration), and Michigan Congressman Shri Thanedar.

Senior Government officials present included Former Acting Administrator of the



Indian American Committee members and supporting organizations' representatives pose for photo at America's 250th celebration held July 25, 2026 in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and former Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump Uttam Dhillon; Deputy Commissioner, Social Security Administration Arjun Mody; Senior technology executive who has served in leadership positions supporting the White House and the U.S. Congress Ashok Pinto; Former NASA Administrator Dr. Michael D. Griffin; Aerospace leader Dr. Vivek Lall; Padma Bhushan recipient and renowned oncologist Dr. Dattatreya Nori, recipient of the American Cancer Society's prestigious Tribute to Life Award; President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Dr. Meher Medavaram,

Representatives from business and academia included Rahul Patel, chairman, Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA); and Prof. Rajendra Srivastava, recognized academic and business leader. Veterans who attended included Chris Aryan, founder and president, Indian American Veterans Association; and Arun Ayyagari, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Pilot.

A special highlight of the evening was the participation of more than fifteen

serving and former Ambassadors and senior diplomats, coordinated by Ambassador Pradeep Kapur.

Co-Founder and Co-Chair of IAC, Ramesh Viswanath Kapur, addressed the challenges facing the Indian-American community and emphasized the need to build a stronger and more positive public image. He announced plans to engage a professional public relations firm to promote the contributions of Indian Americans through mainstream and digital media, helping create a more accurate and positive narrative for the community.

Dr. Suvas Desai, Co-Founder of the Indian-American Committee, highlighted the need for bringing Indian-American organizations together under one umbrella to advocate for the interests of the community and strengthening its engagement with policymakers on Capitol Hill.

Narsimha Koppula and Deepak Raj, Co-Chairs of the event, reaffirmed the IAC's commitment to fostering greater collaboration among Indian-American organizations nationwide.

Rajender Dichpally, Secretary of IAC, said the celebration was a tribute not just



Representatives of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin at the IAC event in Washington, D.C. President of AAPI Dr. Meher Medavaram, 2nd from right, and Dr. Krishan Kiumar, 2nd from left.

to America's 250-year journey but also an opportunity to recognize the vital role Indian Americans continue to play in shaping the nation's future.

The celebration featured cultural performances by Grammy Award-winning Falu Shah and her ensemble, the internationally acclaimed acapella group Penn Masala, and a Bhangra dance troupe. Emcees Priya Samant and Anju Preet Poddar conducted the program. Alok Srivastava coordinated the participation of local organizations in Greater Washington. Manish Sood of Intense Entertainment served as the Event Manager.

Special messages were received from Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of the Art of Living Foundation, and Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. A special congratulatory message from U.S. Senator Steve Daines recognized the outstanding contributions of Indian-Americans and commended organizers for bringing together organizations from across the country.

Some 500 people attended the event, a press release from IAC said.

The O Visa Family in 2026: A Practical Look at O-1A, O-1B, O-2, and O-3

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

The O visa category exists for one purpose: bringing people who are genuinely at the top of their field into the United States to keep doing that work, without forcing them through a lottery or a rigid degree requirement. Four letters get used together so often that people mix them up, so it's worth walking through what each one actually covers and what's changed recently for anyone weighing this path in 2026.

O-1A: Science, Business, Education, and Athletics

This category is built for people who have genuinely risen to the top of their field, whether that's a researcher, an executive, an educator, or an athlete. USCIS looks for sustained national or international recognition rather than a single accomplishment, and it accepts a fairly wide range of proof: major awards, published articles about the person's work, judging the work of others in the field, or holding a critical role at a respected organization. One detail worth knowing if you're advising a startup founder: USCIS has confirmed that a company the beneficiary owns can file the petition on their behalf, as long as the business has a genuine structure, like a board with real oversight authority, rather than existing purely on paper.

O-1B: Arts, Motion Picture, and Television

The O-1B track exists for performers, directors, musicians, and others working in the arts or the motion picture and television industry. The standard here is phrased a bit differently than O-1A: instead of proving you're at the very top of your field, an O-1B applicant needs to show distinction, meaning a level of skill and recognition clearly above the ordinary. Lead roles in well-reviewed productions, major industry awards, or a strong track record of critical acclaim all help build that case. Because the entertainment industry often involves unions, O-1B petitions typically require input from the relevant labor organization before filing.

O-2: The Support Team

An O-2 isn't a standalone category. It exists only to bring in someone whose skills are genuinely necessary to support an O-1 artist or athlete's specific event or production, and that person has to already have a working history with the O-1 beneficiary that can't easily be replaced by hiring someone locally. A longtime coach, a specialized technical director, or a key band member are the kinds of roles that typically qualify. This isn't available for O-1A cases in the sciences, business, or education; it's limited to the arts, athletics, and motion picture and television production.

O-3: Bringing the Family Along

Spouses and unmarried children under 21 of O-1 and O-2 holders can come along on O-3 status. They can attend school in the U.S., but O-3 status doesn't come with work authorization, which is a detail that surprises some families who assume all dependent visas work the same way.

What Makes This Category Attractive Right Now

There's no annual cap and no lottery, which makes the O-1 a natural fallback for people who didn't get picked in the H-1B lottery but still meet a high bar of achievement. Extensions can now run up to three years at a time when a beneficiary is taking on new activities or projects, even while staying with the same employer, rather than being limited to the shorter increments many practitioners were used to filing in the past. Premium processing remains available for a 15 business day decision, though that fee has increased to \$2,965 as of March 2026, on top of the standard \$1,055 base filing fee. And because O-1 status carries dual intent, a beneficiary can pursue a green card, often through the EB-1A extraordinary ability category or an EB-2 National Interest Waiver, without putting their nonimmigrant status at risk in the process.

Why RFEs Happen and How to Avoid One

Officers have been sending more Requests for Evidence on O-1A cases in recent years, and most of them trace back to a handful of recurring gaps.

By David H. Nachman, Esq

The most common one is submitting a checklist of accomplishments without connecting the dots: meeting three or more of the regulatory criteria on paper doesn't automatically prove sustained national or international acclaim, and officers now routinely ask petitioners to explain, in plain terms, why the evidence submitted actually shows the beneficiary is among the small percentage who have risen to the top of the field.

Another frequent trigger involves career changes. When someone is moving from academia into a private company, from research into a startup, or from competing to coaching, officers want to see a clear link between the person's prior extraordinary work and the specific role they're coming to the U.S. to perform, since a mismatch here is one of the most common reasons a case gets flagged.

Continued on Page 16

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More Than 50 Indian-American Organizations Honor Consul General Somnath Ghosh With Community Farewell

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The Indian American community came together to celebrate India's Consul General in Chicago Somnath Ghosh, who will be leaving Chicago and moving to Malaysia on his next diplomatic assignment as High Commissioner.

The farewell reception honoring Consul General Ghosh was held July 19th, and was much more than a ceremonial send-off, but rather a heartfelt celebration of nearly four years of diplomatic leadership that brought the Consulate General of India in Chicago and the Indian-American community closer than ever before.

More than fifty community organizations representing cultural, religious, educational, professional, civic, business, youth, and charitable institutions joined together to express their appreciation for what they saw as Ghosh's outstanding service. Community leaders praised Ghosh's approachable personality, accessibility, humility, and commitment to strengthening the partnership between the Government of India and the Indian diaspora across the Midwest.

Since arriving in Chicago in October 2022, Ghosh has served as the principal representative of India for seven Midwestern states to promote India's diplomatic, economic, educational, technological, and cultural interests. During this period, he participated in hundreds of community programs, official ceremonies, business forums, university engagements, interfaith gatherings, and cultural celebrations, earning admiration from organizations representing every segment of the Indian-American community.

As a distinguished officer of the 1997 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Ghosh brought extensive diplomatic experience to Chicago. Under his leadership, the Consulate strengthened its engagement with Indian students, entrepreneurs, physicians, engineers, researchers, educators, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and elected officials while expanding opportunities for bilateral cooperation between India and the American Midwest.

Throughout his tenure, Ghosh consistently emphasized that the Indian diaspora serves as one of India's greatest global ambassadors. His participation in community events reflected his belief that every Indian-American organization contributes to strengthening India's international image and fostering goodwill between the world's two largest democracies.

The event brought together an impressive gathering of community leaders, including Harish Kolasani, Chhabra Singh, Indermohan Kumar Tadi, Jayanti Oza, Haribhai Patel, Pragya Madhure, Smita Shah, Usha Bhaskar, Nimish Jani, Hemant Patel, Arvind Ankleswaria, Krishna Bansal, Meghna Bansal, Sunil Shah, Dipti Shah-Desai, Richa Chand, Keerthi Kumar, Prasad Athanikar, Sohan P. Joshi, Hasmukh Patel, Bhailal M Patel and many other distinguished representatives of Indian-American organizations from across the Midwest.

Throughout the evening, speaker after speaker reflected on Ghosh's leadership and his willingness to engage with organizations of every size. Whether attending a major Independence Day celebration, a Republic Day reception, a temple anniversary, a youth leadership program, a business conference, or a charitable fundraiser, he consistently demonstrated his commitment to serving both India and its overseas community.

Several community leaders observed that his tenure coincided with an important period in India-U.S. relations. Expanding economic cooperation, increased educational exchanges, technological innovation, healthcare partnerships, and growing people-to-people connections created new opportunities for collaboration. The Consulate General played a vital role in facilitating



Community organizations jointly hosted a farewell for outgoing Indian Consul General in Chicago Somnath Ghosh at India Hub.

these relationships while continuing to provide efficient consular services to thousands of Indian nationals and members of the Indian-American community.

Community members felt one of Ghosh's greatest strengths was his ability to bring diverse organizations together. His encouragement of collaboration helped foster stronger relationships among cultural associations, professional organizations, youth groups, faith-based institutions, business chambers, and social service organizations. Community leaders noted that this spirit of cooperation will remain one of the defining legacies of his tenure.

In his farewell address, Ghosh expressed sincere gratitude to the Indian-American community for its unwavering friendship, trust, and support. He spoke warmly about the hospitality shown to him and his family and described Chicago and the Midwest as a place that would always occupy a special place in his heart.

Reflecting on his years in Chicago, Ghosh praised the accomplishments of Indian-Americans in fields ranging from medicine and engineering to entrepreneurship, public service, academia, science, technology, finance, and philanthropy. He emphasized that the success of the

Indian diaspora continues to strengthen India's global reputation while contributing significantly to the economic, cultural, and civic life of the United States.

He also encouraged community members to continue working together to deepen India-U.S. friendship, preserve India's rich cultural heritage, and inspire younger generations to remain connected to their roots while making meaningful contributions to American society.

The Government of India's recently appointed Ghosh as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. Community leaders expressed confidence that he will continue to serve India with the same professionalism, integrity, and vision that earned him widespread respect throughout the American Midwest.

Representatives of participating organizations presented commemorative mementos, exchanged warm embraces, and gathered for group photographs celebrating a memorable chapter in the history of the Indian-American community.

The participation of more than fifty organizations in the event demonstrated that, despite representing diverse regions, languages, faiths, and professions, the community came together.



Representatives of more than 50 organizations hosted a farewell for India's Consul General in Chicago Somnath Ghosh.

Akshaya Patra USA Michigan Chapter Hosts 2nd Annual Golf Classic To Support Akshaya Patra's Mid-Day Meal Program In India

By Prachi Jaitly, Special to DESI TALK

The APUSA Michigan Chapter hosted its Second Annual Michigan Chapter Golf Classic, bringing together community leaders, supporters, golfers, and philanthropists for a day of fellowship and purpose. Building on the momentum of the chapter's highly successful musical fundraiser earlier this year, the Golf Classic marked another milestone in the chapter's growing commitment to fighting child hunger. Held at Farmington Hills Golf Course, the event united participants around a shared mission: ensuring that children receive nutritious school meals through Akshaya Patra's Mid-Day Meal Program in India.

The tournament welcomed golfers of all skill levels, while supporters who attended the luncheon, awards ceremony, and raffle also contributed to the cause. Every registration and sponsorship helped advance the organization's mission of feeding children and supporting education by reducing classroom hunger.

Addressing attendees during the luncheon, Michigan Chapter Chair Sampat Prahlad expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the event possible.

"This event is a testament to what a caring community can accomplish when we come together for a meaningful cause. I sincerely thank our sponsors, volunteers, golfers, donors, and every supporter who joined us today.

Prahlad also acknowledged the dedication of the



PHOTOS: ORGANIZERS

Organizers and participants in the Gold event held to support Akshaya Patra's Mid-Day Meal program to feed children in India.

organizing committee, volunteers, and sponsors whose collective efforts made the Golf Classic another outstanding success.

As the chapter's second consecutive annual Golf Classic, the event demonstrated the Michigan Chapter's continued growth and commitment to community engagement. Coming on the heels of the chapter's successful musical fundraiser, the Golf Classic further reinforced the chapter's dedication to creating impactful opportunities

for supporters to contribute to Akshaya Patra's mission.

The Michigan Chapter extended its appreciation to all participants, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners for making this year's Golf Classic a tremendous success. Their generosity and enthusiasm will help provide hope, nourishment, and brighter futures for millions of children through the gift of daily school meals, organizers said.

Indian American Physicians Set To Launch Campaign For 2027 AAPICON Convention With Chicago Kick-Off

By A Staff Writer

The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIC), one of the largest organizations representing physicians of Indian heritage in the United States, was scheduled to officially launch the road to AAPICON 2027 Chicago with a special Convention Kick-Off Celebration on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at the Oak Brook Bath & Tennis Club in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Physician leaders, community advocates, healthcare innovators, sponsors, and other distinguished guests would join the campaign for the June 2027 Chicago AAPICON.

Special guests include Mayor Larry Herman of Oak Brook. AAPIC President Dr. Meher Medavaram will lead the ceremonial launch.

Mayor Larry Herman expressed enthusiasm for hosting the launch event.

"We are thrilled to officially begin the journey toward AAPICON 2027 in one of America's most dynamic and globally recognized cities," said Dr. Medavaram, said in a press release on the launch.

"Chicago represents innovation, diversity, academic excellence, and opportunity. Our vision for AAPICON 2027 is to create a transformative experience that advances medical education, leadership development, advocacy, physician wellness, and global collaboration while celebrating the remarkable contributions of physicians of Indian origin."

The kick-off event team is led by Dr. Umang Patel, Convention Chair, and Dr. Utpal Parekh, Convention Co-Chair, with strategic guidance from Dr. Bharat Barai, Senior Advisor, and financial oversight from Dr. Sujeeth Punnam, Treasurer.

"AAPICON 2027 will serve as a powerful platform where physicians, scientists, trainees, industry leaders, and policymakers can come together to exchange ideas, foster innovation, and shape the future of healthcare," said Dr. Patel. "The kick-off celebration is the first step toward building a convention that showcases excellence in medicine while strengthening the bonds within our physician community."

Other speakers echoed the sentiments of Dr. Umang Patel.

Dr. Dwarakanatha Reddy, Overseas Coordinator for the Global Healthcare

Summit (GHS) 2027 in Hyderabad, who is expected to attend, said, "AAPIC's influence extends well beyond the United States," said Dr. Dwarakanatha Reddy. "By fostering global collaboration and professional exchange, we can create new opportunities for advancing healthcare, research, and innovation across borders. AAPICON 2027 will be an important milestone in that mission."

Senior Advisor Dr. Bharat Barai called Chicago a fitting destination for the 2027 convention.

Physician leaders from across the Midwest and beyond will learn about sponsorship opportunities, volunteer leadership roles, scientific programming initiatives, and community engagement efforts planned for AAPICON 2027.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, AAPICON 2027 Coordinator and former AAPIC President, said the event would aim to showcase the innovation, unity, and global leadership of Indian American physicians.

The guiding theme for the convention will be one of collaboration, innovation, and service, said Treasurer Dr. Sujeeth Punnam.



PHOTO: AAPIC

Poster for launch of AAPICON 2027.

ASTROLOGY

This week for you

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

ARIES: Strengthen family ties. Financially, investments may bring gains. Matters of the heart could demand extra patience. Self-care will help restore your vitality.

A visit to a relative's home may prove enjoyable. Property-related improvements could face resistance. Stay committed to your objectives and leave unhealthy habits behind. Students should maintain concentration and avoid unnecessary diversions.

TAURUS: Guidance from elders will prove valuable. Attractive investment opportunities may emerge. Avoid making emotional promises in relationship. An active routine will help. A trip creates delightful memories. Property-related aspirations seem closer to fulfillment. Practical thinking will serve you better than emotional reactions.

GEMINI: Professional growth may come through fresh associations. Romance could bring excitement. Improved mental clarity is likely to enhance sleep quality and inner contentment. Holiday plans may require flexibility. Possession of a previously reserved property may finally become possible. Welcome favorable opportunities with confidence. Educational tours can prove rewarding for students.

CANCER: The support of family will give strength. Financial prospects look bright. A romantic outing adds warmth. Better health conditions may reduce medicines. Traveling could become a memorable experience. Property transactions may fetch desirable returns. Reuniting with a friend may revive memories. Unexpected travel could bring joy. A gathering may introduce you to someone from your past. Students may benefit from international exposure.

LEO: Balancing personal and family responsibilities will be important. Opportunities could generate profits. Romantic matters may take a back seat. Managing emotional fluctuations will be essential. Traveling with children may require extra organization. Hesitation in financial planning could delay a purchase. Preparation may help several ambitions materialize. Students are likely to gain appreciation.

VIRGO: Financial pressures may arise, but your resourcefulness can help prevent major difficulties. Appreciate the role of companionship in your life. Health should remain steady. A refreshing getaway may provide the break you need. Overseas investments deserve careful consideration. A scenic drive could bring relaxation and enjoyment. Students may receive encouraging developments regarding scholarships or educational assistance.

LIBRA: Positive developments at home are likely to boost your mood. Consult an expert before making financial commitments. Romantic relationships have the potential to flourish. Breaking free from an unhealthy habit may improve wellness. Leisure travel can prove enjoyable. Property owners may secure reliable tenants. Stay alert. Students may perform exceptionally well in competitive examinations.

SCORPIO: Spending quality time with family will strengthen relationships. Wise decisions made can improve future returns. Romantic expectations may not be fully met. Avoid acting impulsively. Travel plans can be exciting. Construction may move toward completion after delays. Improved appearance will positively influence your personality.

SAGITTARIUS: A charming outing with your partner may bring happiness. Paying attention to digestive health can prove beneficial. Workplace challenges should be handled with patience. Solo travel is best avoided. Property acquisition appears promising for some natives. Students are likely to achieve excellent academic outcomes. Be cautious of individuals attempting to damage your reputation socially.

CAPRICORN: Your behavior may seem unusual, creating tension at home. Financial decisions should be based on careful analysis. Romantic relationships can flourish when you dedicate time to your partner. Natural methods of maintaining fitness are likely to produce positive results. A vacation may soon become a reality. Property-related concerns could create financial stress. Academic progress will depend on discipline and consistent effort.

AQUARIUS: Changes in your attitude may affect domestic harmony. Long-term investments require cautious evaluation. A budding romance can develop into a stable relationship. Fasting may benefit your physical condition. While traveling, remain alert. Purchasing a property through borrowed funds may not be the most favorable option at present. Social gatherings are likely to bring joy and fulfillment.

PISCES: Expenses may rise. A fresh romantic connection can inspire dreams and deepen emotional excitement. Taking preventive steps against allergies will help maintain wellness. Planning an enjoyable outing can help you relax. Property dealings may move forward through advance payments. Extending support to those in need will prove emotionally rewarding. Students should organize their studies to improve examination performance.

IMMIGRATION

The O Visa Family in 2026:
A Practical Look at O-1A, O-1B, O-2, and O-3

By DAVID H. NACHMAN, ESQ

Continued From Page 13

Vague job duties or a thin business plan for a beneficiary-owned entity are also common issues, especially for founders petitioning through their own company.

The strongest petitions treat the evidence like a narrative rather than a stack of documents: each exhibit should tie back to a specific regulatory criterion, and a well-written petition letter should walk the officer through that connection rather than leaving them to piece it together. Where compensation is part of the case, comparable wage data with a clear explanation of why the beneficiary's pay is high relative to the field goes a long way, and for founders, a business plan showing real organizational structure and oversight tends to hold up far better than one built mainly to satisfy the filing requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I file my own O-1 petition without an employer? Not directly as an individual, but a legal entity you own, such as a corporation or LLC, can file on your behalf as long as it has a genuine management structure in place.

How long can someone stay on O-1 status overall? There's no fixed maximum. As long as the person continues

qualifying extensions with new activities or projects, the status can be renewed indefinitely.

Can an O-3 dependent work in the United States? No. O-3 status allows study but does not come with employment authorization.

Does pursuing a green card affect O-1 status? No. O-1 carries dual intent, so filing for permanent residency doesn't jeopardize the ability to maintain or extend O-1 status.

What's the most common reason O-1A cases get an RFE? Submitting evidence that technically checks the regulatory boxes without tying it together into a clear case for sustained national or international acclaim. A strong petition letter connects each piece of evidence to why it matters.

If you're considering the O-1 pathway for yourself or someone you're sponsoring, our attorneys are available to help evaluate your case.

If you or your family members have any questions about how Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or other immigration matters 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 visiting our website at www.visaserve.com for more information.

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Dr. Amish Shah Wins Democratic Party Nomination For House Seat From Arizona's District 1

BY A STAFF WRITER

Former Democratic Party member of the Arizona House of Representatives for five years running, Dr. Amish Shah, an emergency-room physician, won the nomination in the Democratic primaries July 21, 2026, bucking the establishment, in what Ballotpedia described as a battleground election.

After being declared the winner of the Democratic primary in Arizona's First Congressional District, Shah issued a statement calling it a grassroots victory and that he would work to get the voices of his supporters heard on Capitol Hill.

"I have always prided myself on being a hardworking, grassroots candidate. Our victory in this primary was a grassroots victory where Arizona voters made their voices heard. Now, it's my job to earn the support of every voter in this district—including Democrats who voted for another candidate, Independents frustrated with our political system, and Republicans disappointed with the state of the country," Shah said.

It was a crowded field of candidates and Shah managed to defeat establish-



Dr. Amish Shah

ment candidates to move forward in a battleground state, Politico noted.

"Having voted for former President Joe Biden (D) in 2020 and President Donald Trump (R) in 2024, the district was one of the most competitive in the country and a top Democratic target in 2026," Ballotpedia noted. Reputed rating agencies like The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales, and Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball

have rated the 1st District a toss-up, as of July, Ballotpedia reported, adding that this is one of 58 open races for the House of Representatives, in which an incumbent is not running from either party.

"The status quo in Washington, DC is not working for Arizonans. From rising costs to a reckless war in Iran to the largest cuts to our nation's healthcare system in American history, corrupt and self-interested politicians in Congress are making life harder for people, not easier," Shah contended.

"We need leaders in Congress who are focused on the needs of the people they represent instead of picking partisan fights and lining their own pockets. I've spent my career serving the people of this district in both the ER and the State House, and I look forward to winning in November and serving them in Congress," he asserted.

Shah's own party's Democratic National Campaign Committee supported another candidate in what it considers a seat it could turn in its favor.

"... the tight primary evolved into a test of party leaders, after the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee backed former broadcast journalist Marlene Galán-Woods," Politico noted, calling

Shah's win, "the latest example of an establishment-backed candidate losing as Democrats continue to show frustration with leaders in Washington."

If the past is any proof of Dr. Shah's abilities, the Indian American resoundingly won three straight elections for the Arizona State House of Representatives in 2018, 2020, and 2022.

In the State Legislature, he focused on increasing teacher pay, supporting small businesses, and improving public health and safety. During his tenure in the state House of Representatives, Shah is credited with a bipartisan approach, and for passing more bills into law than any Arizona Democrat in the last decade.

Born in Chicago, Ill., Dr. Shah has a B.A. in economics from Northwestern University in 1997, and an MD from Northwestern University in 2001. He also earned a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley in 2003. He has been an attending physician with Mayo Clinic, Dignity Health, and IASIS Healthcare. He was also chief medical officer of Urgent Consult, a worked with the New York Jets as an airway management physician.

Manav Seva Mandir Celebrates 33rd Paatotsav With Week-Long Ashtavakra Gita Discourses and Grand Spiritual Festivities

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

Shree Giriraj Shastri Ji's Inspiring Pravachans and Two-Day Celebration Draw Hundreds of Devotees in a Tribute to Faith, Service, and Sanatan Dharma

Devotion, spirituality, and community unity came together in a magnificent celebration as Manav Seva Mandir commemorated its 33rd Paatotsav on Saturday and Sunday, July 25–26, 2026. The two-day celebration, held from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day, marked another important milestone in the Mandir's remarkable journey of preserving Sanatan Dharma, promoting Indian culture, and serving the Hindu community throughout the greater Chicago area.

The grand Paatotsav was preceded by a spiritually uplifting seven-day discourse on the sacred Ashtavakra Gita, presented by the distinguished scholar and renowned spiritual speaker Pujya Shree Giriraj Shastri Ji from July 18 through July 24, 2026. Hundreds of devotees attended the daily pravachans, where Shastri Ji eloquently explained the timeless wisdom of one of Hinduism's most profound philosophical scriptures.

The Ashtavakra Gita, a sacred dialogue between the enlightened Sage Ashtavakra and King Janaka, is revered for its teachings on self-realization, inner peace,



Manav Seva Mandir Celebrates 33rd Paatotsav on Sat-sun July 25 and 26 from 7AM to 8 PM

detachment, and liberation. Through clear explanations and practical examples, Shree Giriraj Shastri Ji demonstrated how these ancient teachings continue to guide individuals in leading balanced, meaningful, and spiritually fulfilling lives amid the challenges of the modern world.

The temple premises were beautifully decorated for the 33rd Paatotsav, creating a serene and festive atmosphere that welcomed devotees from across Illinois and neighboring states. Throughout the celebration, the Mandir resonated with the sounds of Vedic chanting, devotional bhajans, kirtans, and sacred prayers, inspiring a deep sense of devotion and spiritual reflection among all who attended.

The two-day Paatotsav featured a full schedule of traditional Hindu religious ceremonies, including special pujas, abhishek, yajnas, scriptural recitations, Maha Aarti, and devotional singing. Devotees enthusiastically participated in these sacred observances, offering prayers for peace, prosperity, good health, and harmony for their families and for the well-being of society.

One of the defining features of the celebration was the remarkable participation of families, youth, and senior citizens, reflecting the Mandir's success in bringing together multiple generations through faith and shared cultural traditions.



Devotees are seen at the 33rd Paatotsav concluded with the final Maha Aarti and the distribution of Mahaprasad.

Children and young volunteers played an active role in assisting with various activities, demonstrating the temple's continuing commitment to nurturing future generations of community leaders rooted in Hindu values and heritage.

The celebration also highlighted the spirit of "Manav Seva is Madhav Seva"—service to humanity is service to God. Scores of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of every aspect of the event, from organizing religious ceremonies and decorating the temple to welcoming guests and

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

The Washington Post

The 7 weirdest TSA finds of the summer

By Natalie B. Compton

It's been a busy summer at airports across the country. Even with the World Cup rush behind us, the Transportation Security Administration has been screening more than 2 million passengers daily as Americans and visitors alike embark on a season of travel. That's a lot of luggage for security screeners to clear. While officers have spent the bulk of their time fishing out full water bottles and family-size sunscreens from our carry-ons, they've also stopped some more bizarre items from getting on airplanes. Here are TSA's most noteworthy catches of the summer so far.



A replica bomb and mine

It was a busy start to June for TSA officers in Ohio. In the span of a week, they discovered a training aid anti-tank mine in a carry-on at the Dayton International Airport, followed by a realistic replica pipe bomb - also in a carry-on - at Rickenbacker International. Even though neither were technically weapons, they're still terrifying, and not allowed in either checked or carry-on luggage.



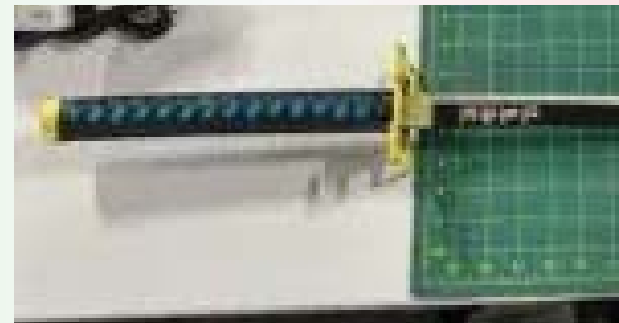
Five stolen cannonballs

Last week at Alabama's Gulf Shores International Airport, a TSA officer named Justin Dupree found not one, not two, but five small cannonballs wrapped in paper towels inside a traveler's checked bag. While cannonballs do not contain explosives, these were still considered contraband. The projectiles were stolen from Fort Morgan, a historic site about 25 miles from the airport that was attacked by the British in the War of 1812. In a press statement, Dupree said he'd never seen anything "quite this unique," describing the find as "an Indiana Jones-esque stolen artifact-type situation."



Live smoke grenades

Do you like your peanut butter crunchy, smooth or ... smokey? At the end of June, officers at Indianapolis International Airport caught two live smoke grenades in a traveler's checked bag - one of which was submerged inside a jar of peanut butter. In case you're wondering - no, you are not allowed to travel with grenades of any kind.



A samurai sword

In case no one has told you: No matter how nicely you pack up your sword, you are not allowed to bring it with you on a flight as a carry-on. You can, however, transport one in your checked bags. A traveler learned this lesson in June, when officers at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas intercepted a more than three-foot-long samurai sword they'd packed in a guitar case. Luckily for the warrior-in-training, they were allowed to return to their airline's ticketing counter and check the weapon, instead.



Fireworks

Given our nation's gusto for decorative explosives every July, it should come as no surprise that there's an uptick in TSA fireworks finds every summer (the agency says they see another spike around New Year's Eve). But not only are fireworks not legal in all states, they are also at risk of detonating during a flight and not allowed on board in checked or carry-on luggage.



An inert grenade

No peanut butter this time; instead, a traveler on June 15 simply stashed an inert grenade right in their carry-on bag and headed for a flight at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. TSA officers had to evacuate and close the security checkpoint and call an explosive specialist and airport law enforcement, who determined the device was not at risk of exploding.



A samurai sword

In case no one has told you: No matter how nicely you pack up your sword, you are not allowed to bring it with you on a flight as a carry-on. You can, however, transport one in your checked bags. A traveler learned this lesson in June, when officers at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas intercepted a more than three-foot-long samurai sword they'd packed in a guitar case. Luckily for the warrior-in-training, they were allowed to return to their airline's ticketing counter and check the weapon, instead.



Ranch dressing. Lots of it.

Weapons and explosives aside, the recurring find that defined the summer was ranch dressing, which captured the hearts of international World Cup travelers. Countless bottles of buttermilk goodness were confiscated thanks to TSA's liquids rule. If you'd like to take some ranch on your upcoming travels, remember to decant it into containers of 3.4 ounces or less (you could pack as many minis that will fit into a quart-size plastic bag) or bring a full-size bottle in your checked bag.

PM Modi Announces Panel To Overhaul Exam System After Protests

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Sunday the creation of a task force headed by tech entrepreneur Nandan Nilekani to overhaul India's examination system, following days of youth protests about exam paper leaks.

"Our examination system should be trustworthy, should be transparent and the system should make maximum use of technology," Modi said on Instagram, adding that new legislation to deal with paper leaks would be introduced in parliament on Monday.

The measures would tighten the law and toughen the penalties for culprits, Modi added.

It was Modi's first public comment since Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned on Saturday following the protests by youth activists, who demonstrated for weeks demanding he quit over exam paper leaks in



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he addresses the press upon his arrival to attend the first day of the monsoon session of parliament in New Delhi, India, July 20, 2026.

May.

Modi did not mention Pradhan in his 30-second video statement.

The youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement, which spearheaded the demonstrations, called off its protests on Saturday after its demands were met.

The government also accepted the protesters' demands for reforms in the exam system, dropping police cases filed against protesters and compensating families of students who died by suicide after the exam paper leaks.

Nilekani is an entrepreneur best known for leading the creation of India's digital identity system Aadhaar and co-founding software major Infosys.

-REUTERS

"Technology Intervention Is Extremely Important For Conducting Exams": IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti On NTA Reform Task Force

IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, who has been appointed to the high-powered task force for National Testing Agency (NTA) examination reforms, shared his views on the committee's approach for strengthening the NTA.

Speaking to ANI over the phone, Kamakoti stated that the task force will focus on making the NTA's examination process more transparent, accountable, and technologically secure.

"When I wrote the JEE exam in 1985, I wrote on paper and pen, where nearly 4,000 students appeared. Today, one and a half million people write it. We have changed it to OMR and now it's computer-based," he said.

"My name has been announced among the multidisciplinary group of domain experts that will help revamp NTA examination especially from a technology perspective and for structural reforms in the system. The exam system is evolving... Technology intervention is extremely important for conducting exams... The system should be transparent... If a student secures 90 marks, then NTA must say how this was calculated. This is where technology is needed. There should be a structure where everyone is accountable," he further said.



IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti.

Kamakoti suggested that every individual in the exam hierarchy must be held responsible.

"To conduct an exam, a big structure is needed. Who is doing which part is to be reviewed. We call it structural organization. There should be a structure where everyone is accountable so that the system is as foolproof as possible. That is what we will recommend," he said.

The Director stated that the task force would seek to create a methodology that safeguards this "trust" through accountability.

"This world is running based on trust. In this high-powered task force constituted for the NTA examination reforms committee, I was included as they trusted me; if I breach their trust, then it's gone. We will think about a methodology on how to make it trustworthy and accountable," he said.

This comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced the constitution of a high-powered task force on examination reforms under the leadership of technology expert Nandan Nilekani.

-REUTERS

CITY VIEWS

Manav Seva Mandir Celebrates 33rd Paatotsav With Week-Long Ashtavakra Gita Discourses and Grand Spiritual Festivities

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

serving Mahaprasad. Their selfless service reflected the very ideals upon which Manav Seva Mandir was established more than three decades ago.

For 33 years, Manav Seva Mandir has served as one of the Midwest's respected centers for spiritual growth, religious education, cultural preservation, and community service. Beyond its regular worship services, the Mandir offers spiritual discourses, celebration of major Hindu

festivals, youth and family programs, devotional music, educational activities, and charitable initiatives that strengthen the cultural fabric of the Indian-American community.

Temple leaders expressed heartfelt gratitude to Shree Giriraj Shastri Ji for his inspiring week-long Ashtavakra Gita Pravachans, which enriched the spiritual lives of countless devotees. They also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the temple's founders, trustees, priests, volunteers, donors, and supporters whose dedication and vision have

enabled Manav Seva Mandir to flourish as a vibrant spiritual home for thousands of families.

As the 33rd Paatotsav concluded with the final Maha Aarti and the distribution of Mahaprasad, devotees departed with renewed faith, inner peace, and a deeper appreciation for the timeless teachings of Sanatan Dharma. The celebrations served not only as a commemoration of the Mandir's anniversary but also as a reaffirmation of its enduring mission to promote spiritual awareness, preserve India's rich religious and cultural heritage, and inspire

compassionate service to humanity.

The successful observance of the 33rd Paatotsav, together with the enlightening Ashtavakra Gita Pravachans by Shree Giriraj Shastri Ji, once again demonstrated why Manav Seva Mandir continues to be a beacon of faith, devotion, and community service in the Midwest. As the Mandir begins its 34th year of service, it remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering spiritual growth, strengthening family values, and building a vibrant, united community grounded in the eternal principles of Sanatan Dharma.

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