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India's Independence Celebrated From Times Sq. To Seattle



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AHS Family Health Center's Health Week



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India's Shetty Stuns World To Become World Champion!

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IN CHICAGO



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Two Chicago FIAs Hold India Day Celebrations



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PHOTOS: Miscellaneous

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"I Want To Shake The Nation. I Want To Awaken The Strength Of The Nation," PM Modi On India's Independence Day

EXTRACTS FROM PM MODI'S SPEECH

(Following are extracts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech from Red Fort on August 15, 2026)



PHOTOS: X.COM @NARENDRAMODI

Panoramic view of 80th Independence Day of India at Red Fort August 15, 2026.

My dear fellow citizens,

Today, we are celebrating the 80th Independence Day. …. My best wishes to all of you on Independence Day. Today, the nation remembers with reverence those great sons and daughters who made the ultimate sacrifices for the freedom of our country.

….For everyone present at this ceremony today, this is also a historic moment. For the first time since independence, Vande Mataram is echoing from the Red Fort on August 15. And as we celebrate 150 years of Vande Mataram today, what could be a more wonderful occasion than this?

…. Bharat has also set a very big dream today—… And that dream is this: when we complete 100 years of independence in 2047, we will have built a 'Viksit Bharat'.

……..We need a sense of self-respect. And, at the same time, it is extremely important to become 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). …. We must become self-reliant. …. we must strengthen our own capacities and protect our own interests ourselves. That is why we are moving forward with a firm resolve for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

…. Let me give you the example of semiconductors. ….The world has reached a point where the entire system could come to a standstill without chips. That is why, Bharat has begun establishing its own semiconductor manufacturing capacity in the direction of becoming self-reliant. Three major semiconductor plants have already been started. ….over the coming seven to eight years, another five, seven, or even eight semiconductor plants are expected to begin operations very soon. ….

….A similar discussion is taking place around critical minerals. The entire technology sector is dependent on critical minerals. Bharat is working to secure itself in this area as well. …. Agreements are being signed with several countries, and many countries around the world are now beginning to place their trust in Bharat in the field of critical minerals.

….It is now difficult to run the new world without energy, and therefore, whether it is chips, AI or data centres, we will need electricity in very large quantities. Energy security is the need of the hour, and therefore, we have already taken a series of strong steps in this direction.

….I said that, as far as energy security is concerned, it is equally important for us to put our full strength behind alternative sources. …. ….Before 2014, piped gas reached barely 20–22 lakh households. Today, work is underway to provide piped gas to nearly 1.75 crore households.

…. Over the past 10–12 years, we have faced numerous crises. A pandemic like COVID-19 had plunged the entire world into uncertainty, and all systems had been thrown into turmoil. We emerged from COVID, only to witness the horrors of war, with conflicts in Ukraine on one hand and West Asia on the other.

….But the country has now seen that the well-considered plans of the past 10–12 years are bearing fruit. Despite such a massive crisis, Bharat, guided by the principle of Nagrik Devo Bhava had made preparations and taken one step after another. We had not imagined that such a crisis would arise, but when it did, all these preparations proved useful. Today, the country has gas, petrol and urea. We are standing on the strength of our own capabilities, and moving forward with confidence.

….These global crises have affected everyone, and we too are not immune. …

…. India possesses a stable political mandate and a stable government, a vibrant democracy, a robust judicial system, and the Constitution of India that guides us all and now the world has started recognizing our strength. And so, after 2014, we have been entering into Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with nearly 40 countries.

….We must move forward with a clear sense of direction. … Today, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, I invoke these seven streams (Sapta Dhara) of power before the country. In the coming 5-7 years, what could not be done in the last 5-7 decades, with the strength and power of Sapta Dhara, we will give the country new heights, new momentum and the ability to achieve new goals. Alongside this, the potential of the nation's youth power will be fully harnessed for nation-building; their strength will be integrated into the effort.

In the coming days, when I talk about Sapta Dhara, the first power of Sapta Dhara is – manufacturing power.

…. We must significantly advance the manufacturing sector; alongside boosting production, we need to manufacture everything from small components to large-scale products. …. From design to manufacturing, India must emerge as a trusted hub in the global supply chain.

…..We have to move from the farm to the export market. Whether it is our traditional cuisine, our millets, our spices, our fruits or our flowers, we have so much to offer. These should become global brands. ….

….The third strength of my Sapt Dhara is technology and innovation. … Today is the age of AI, quantum technology, space, robotics and data centres. An entirely new domain has opened up. …. we must become a hub of innovation. …. Now Bharat must take its digital public technologies to every corner of the world. Bharat must lead in next-generation communication technologies. Our goal should be to ensure that Made-in-India 6G reaches every corner of the world.

….The fourth strength of Sapt Dhara is Gati Shakti. Under Gati Shakti, we must focus on seamless and fast connectivity across the country. We must connect our cities through high-speed rail. We need modern highways, inland waterways, airports and multimodal logistics systems.

…. The fifth strength of Sapt Dhara is 'Raksha Shakti' (defence power). And the importance of this 'Raksha Shakti' is immense in every respect.

… Bharat has now experienced this, and the world has experienced it as well: there is no alternative to being self-reliant in defence.

…. Cybersecurity is also becoming a concern for every household today. That, too, is an area of defence where we can harness the capabilities of our youth for the benefit of the country and the world.

…. The sixth strength of our Sapt Dhara is the green economy, blue economy, which also create green jobs. We must achieve green hydrogen, renewable energy, energy storage, green mobility and green manufacturing at a global scale.

….As Bharat moves forward with the vision of Sapt Dhara, the seventh stream is one that holds its own significance for the world and that is Bharat's soft power. The strength of Bharat's soft power is immense. Today, yoga has connected the entire world with Bharat. …. Bharat has centres of faith, Ayurveda and a holistic healthcare system. Along with these and the Heal in India movement, we can take our capabilities to the world. Whether it is handicrafts, culture, our films, our creative world, VFX, animation, gaming or digital content, Bharat can demonstrate its stature in the global creative economy. We must develop this into a global strength.

…. Today, sports are also becoming a major source of attraction towards Bharat. Why shouldn't major global sporting events be held in Bharat?

…. The concert economy is growing rapidly and has tremendous appeal for the country's youth. Artists from across the world want to perform a concert on Indian soil at some point.

…. I have spoken about some of these things, but I think even beyond them. ❙



PHOTOS: X.COM @NARENDRAMODI

Greeting the admiring crowds, including the many young people who were front and center at the Independence Day ceremony.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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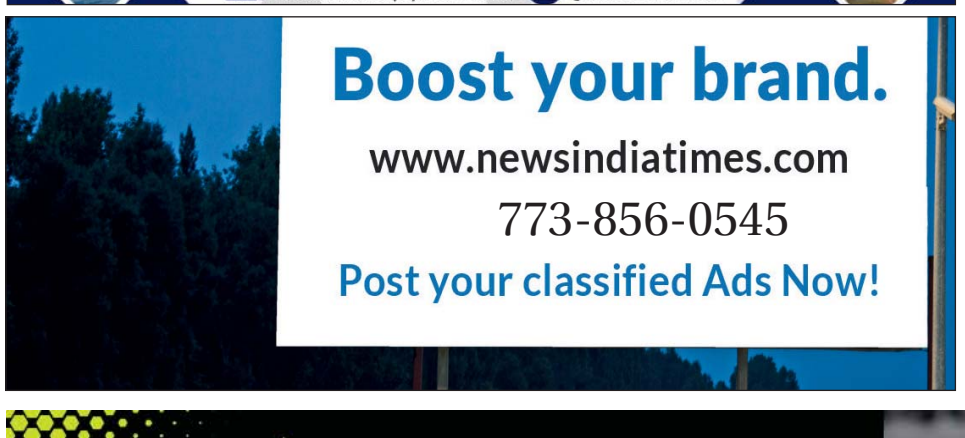
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"I Want To Shake The Nation. I Want To Awaken The Strength Of The Nation," PM Modi On India's Independence Day

-Continued From Page 4

want to shake the nation. I want to awaken the strength of the nation. A nation does not consist of the government alone; a nation is made up of every citizen. Can we not aspire to something bigger?

…. Our brands should become an identity of our country and make Bharat a destination for the world. We must work in that direction.

….We have to formulate policies and regulations according to the dreams and aspirations of the future.

….Under the Startup India initiative, there are now more than 2.5 lakh registered startups across the country. The young people of the country are not only working for themselves but are also providing employment to many others.

…. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, I want to make an announcement for the young people of the country. We have decided that, in the next one year, we will train one crore young people in AI skills, so that the youth of our country have the capability to lead in the world of AI as well.

My friends,

The bioeconomy is a new sector. There was a time, before 2014, when the bioeconomy was worth only 60,000 crore. Young people of my country, look at what you have accomplished.

….The youth power of the country has demonstrated its potential in the bioeconomy. Before 2014, the sector had a turnover of 60,000 crore; today, the bioeconomy has reached 20 lakh crore, my friends. In 2009–10, only 1.5 lakh electric vehicles were sold. In 2025–26, 25 lakh electric vehicles have been sold.

My dear countrymen,

The aviation sector is also advancing very rapidly, creating tremendous opportunities for our young people. New airports, new routes and new employment opportunities are being created.

…. My fellow citizens, drones have also played a very significant role. The SVAMITVA Scheme is being successfully implemented in villages through drones. Around 3.25 crore families have benefited from the SVAMITVA Scheme, and as a result, assets worth around 140 lakh crore have been unlocked. This enables people to obtain loans from banks and start their own businesses.

My dear countrymen,

The pressure of coaching classes has become a major burden for our middle-class families. Keeping the concerns of these poor and middle-class families in mind, …. we have decided to provide free online coaching for young people preparing for various examinations. We have the digital public infrastructure, we have excellent talent and we have teachers

….Drug abuse is becoming a major crisis for the country and its young people. A 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' or Drugs-Free India must be a collective responsibility for all of us….



PHOTOS: X.COM/@NARENDRAMODI

Walking past troops.

….We have succeeded in eliminating armed Naxals from the forests and liberating the country from that menace. However, while the armed Naxals are gone, the mental Naxals remain, and these mental Naxals are on the lookout for an opportunity. They are looking for ways of violence and anarchy. They are resorting to various tactics to drag society onto the wrong path. We must identify these mental Naxals, isolate them, and steer the nation's youth toward the mainstream effort of transforming India into a developed nation.

….The contribution of our sisters and daughters to nation-building has become a source of great inspiration for us all. Whether in fighter jets or civil aviation, our daughters are at the forefront.

….Now, we are moving forward with the aim of creating 6 crore Lakhpati Didis. The creation of 3 crore new Lakhpati Didis signifies a massive transformation in the rural economy driven by the power of women.

…. I appeal to and urge all the political parties of the country. Come, let us become worshippers of the power of those women. Let us step forward to uphold their dignity and ensure that our mothers and sisters secure 33% representation in the Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha as soon as possible, so they may contribute to shaping India's policies.

….We have to keep eradicating the mentality of slavery every moment. Drawing inspiration from the visions of the India dreamt of by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, and Jyotiba Phule, let us march ahead. Let us reiterate this resolve: the nation's interest must come before our own, and duty must define our identity.

US-India Relationship Grows Stronger Every Day: Secretary Rubio On India's Independence Day



PHOTO:JULIA DEMARE NIKHINSON/POOL VIA REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks at a dedication ceremony for an annex building at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, India, Saturday, May 23, 2026.

State Department Press Statement

Marco Rubio, Secretary of State
India Independence Day
August 14, 2026

On behalf of the United States of America, I extend warm congratulations to the people of India on their Independence Day.

Thanks to the personal relationship between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi, the U.S.-India relationship continues to grow and is stronger than ever. From defense and energy security to critical minerals, artificial intelligence, space cooperation, and commerce, our collaboration is making both of our nations, and the broader Indian Ocean region, safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

The deep ties of friendship and family between our two peoples form the foundation of a partnership that is innovative, resilient, and forward-looking. The United States looks forward to the future our two countries will build together.

"Look Forward To Continuing To Strengthen" US-India Partnership: US Senator Charles Schumer:

Statement of Senator Charles Schumer

"Happy 80th Independence Day, India! I am proud to represent New York's vibrant Indian American community, whose contributions have strengthened every facet of our state and country. Indian Americans embody what makes New York so extraordinary: talented, hardworking people from around the world who come together to build a society that is stronger because of its diversity. As we commemorate this milestone, I look forward to continuing to strengthen the partnership between the United States and India and advance our shared democratic values for generations to come."—U.S. Senator Charles Schumer

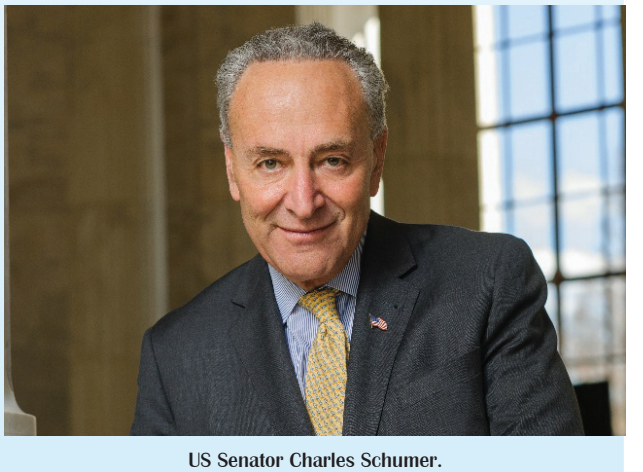


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US Senator Charles Schumer.

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Life Global California Marks a Decade of Compassion, Unveils a Renewed Vision for Humanitarian Partnership with Project 'Life' India

Life since 1978



Bhupendra Patel
Chief Minister, Gujarat State

Dt. 04-08-2026

Snehi Shree Meetalben,

Saprem Namaskar.

I am much pleased to receive your invitation on behalf of Life Global USA informing me about two landmark milestone in the journey of Project 'Life' by the way of celebrating **10th Anniversary of Life Global USA** and the commencement of the ***Golden Jubilee Year of Project Life, India***. Congratulations.

Helping others selflessly, without any expectation of reward or recognition, is the true essence of social service. It is heartening to witness your unwavering commitment towards the welfare of society and the betterment of humanity. I congratulate you on your noble endeavour to expand the reach and impact of your social and humanitarian activities, thereby touching and enriching countless lives. May your dedicated efforts continue to inspire others and contribute meaningfully to the creation of a more compassionate and inclusive society.

I hereby extend my best wishes for the success of event.

(Bhupendra Patel)

Shree Meetalben Koticha Shah,
Joint Executive Trustee & CEO,
Project 'Life', Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust,

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel recognising Life Global's impactful humanitarian journey.

A landmark 10th Anniversary Gala celebrates a decade of India–California philanthropy while ushering in Project 'Life' India's Golden Jubilee journey



A decade of compassion, collaboration and cross-border philanthropy took centre stage on August 13, 2026, as Life Global California celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a landmark Gala in Orange, California. The memorable evening, enriched by an engaging musical celebration, brought together philanthropists, community leaders, supporters and well-wishers united by a shared belief that meaningful philanthropy can transform lives and strengthen communities.

The milestone carried an even deeper significance as it coincided with the commencement of the Golden Jubilee journey of Project 'Life', India, the Rajkot-based humanitarian organisation founded on the principles of service, compassion and social responsibility. As Project 'Life' moves towards completing five decades of service in 2027–28, the celebration became a powerful reflection of a journey that has grown from a modest beginning into a far-reaching movement touching millions of lives.

Among the distinguished participants were Chief Benefactors Rika and Manu Shah, Pushpa and BU Patel, Dr. Jasvant Modi, Nalini and Harish Solanki, along with Meetal Koticha Shah, Joint Executive Trustee & CEO, Project 'Life', India, Rushikesh Pandya, Chief Development & Operating Officer, Project 'Life', and several prominent members and supporters of Life Global California. The Gala was not merely an anniversary celebration; it was a renewed expression of the community's commitment to creating sustainable and measurable social impact. Supporters opened their hearts and their generosity to advance key initiatives of Project 'Life', particularly in Education, Digital Transformation, Women's Empowerment and Thalassaemia Prevention, reaffirming the strength of the India–US philanthropic partnership.

Honouring a Legacy That Continues to Inspire

The evening commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chairman, Chief Benefactors, Patron and distinguished guests, symbolising the illumination of knowledge, hope and service.

In his welcome address, **BU Patel** paid a heartfelt tribute to **Shri Chandrakant Koticha,** Founder of Project 'Life', Rajkot, whose extraordinary humanitarian vision has inspired nearly five decades of service. From a humble beginning rooted in a contribution of just **INR 101**, the organisation has evolved into a comprehensive social-impact movement, with its initiatives benefiting approximately **9.8 million people** over the years.



Lighting the lamp of hope and service - honouring the legacy of Shri Chandrakant Koticha and Project 'Life's' remarkable journey of transforming lives by Shri BU Patel

Bridging the Digital Divide

A major highlight of the evening was the renewed commitment towards **SMART and digital education. Manu Shah, Chief Patron,** spoke about the initiative being undertaken in association with **Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT), Shah Happiness Foundation and Life Global,** aimed at bringing digital learning opportunities to children studying in underserved rural communities.



Manu Shah, Chief Patron, unveiling a bold vision for SMART Education - bringing digital learning and equal opportunities to rural children.

The initiative seeks to create a more equitable educational environment and provide rural students with the skills and exposure necessary to compete in an increasingly digital world. The broader vision is to create a level playing field for children while also contributing to enhanced employment opportunities and economic development in rural communities.

Manubhai's vision towards 2030 was very much clear to educate more children, to transform more rural primary schools to SMART Schools and to empower more & more women.

In a significant expression of commitment, Manu Shah also pledged **matching support equivalent to the funds generated through the Gala,** providing further momentum to the digital transformation initiative.

From Times Square To Seattle: Indian-American Community Marks India's 80th Independence Day

ANI (WITH ADDONS FROM DESI TALK

The Indian Tricolour flew across iconic landmarks on both coasts of the United States as the Indian-American diaspora and friends of India gathered to celebrate India's 80th Independence Day.

In the heart of New York, Times Square transformed into a sea of saffron, white, and green. Consul General of India in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, hoisted the National Flag at a grand event organized by the Federation of Indian Associations.

The gathering brought together members of the Indian-American community and US dignitaries. High-energy cultural performances showcased India's heritage, and the enduring strength of the India-US strategic partnership.

In a post on X.com, the Indian Consulate called it "a spirited display of pride and unity."

Additionally, CG Pradhan also led the official commemorations by unfurling the National Flag at the Consulate General of India (@IndiainNewYork). The ceremony was attended by New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney, prominent members of the Indian-American community, and friends of India.

Notably, history was made as the Indian-American community achieved a Guinness World Record for the "Largest Flagpole Number," commemorating both "India@80" and "America@250". Organized by the Consulate General of India in partnership with FIA and supported by global technology company Zoho, the record-breaking feat brought together key leaders.

"Hon'ble Lt. Governor of New Jersey Dr. Dale G. Caldwell @DaleCaldwell, U.S. Congresswoman Analilia Mejia @Analilia_Meji, Consul General @binaysrikant76, Parsippany Mayor Pulkit Desai and other elected leaders and members of the community joined the celebration of India-U.S. friendship. Special thanks to Mr. Ankur Vaidya @ankurbvaidya, Chairman, FIA, and Mr. Sreekanth Akkapalli, President, FIA, for leading this remarkable community effort, and to Zoho for its support in making this Guinness World Record achievement possible," the Consulate General wrote on X.

The iconic @EmpireStateBldg illuminated the New York City skyline in the colours of the Indian Tricolour to mark the 80th Independence Day of India. DCG Vishal Harsh joined the special lighting ceremony organized by @FIANYNJCTNE in collaboration with @EmpireStateBldg . "A fitting celebration of India's Independence Day in the heart of New York City," the Indian Consulate posted on X.com. Edison Township Mayor Sam Joshi was a special guest at the occasion to take part in setting the tricolor lighting on for the Empire State Building.

The 80th Independence Day of India was celebrated in Washington, D.C. with a flag-hoisting ceremony held at India House on 15 August 2026. The Ambassador of India to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India.

The ceremony commenced with the rendition of the National Song and the National Anthem. The Ambassador thereafter read out the address to the nation delivered by the President of India Droupadi Murmu, on the eve of Independence Day, as is the tradition every year.

A cultural program featuring children of the Indian diaspora marked the occasion. Dancers from Dhoom Studio presented a spirited performance set to a medley of patriotic songs, and students of the Notes n' Beats Music School performed an orchestral rendition of the National Song, commemorating 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'. The winners of the Viksit Bharat Painting Competition and the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, both organized by the Embassy, were felicitated during the celebrations.

The celebrations were held in observance of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and 'Surya Path Tiranga' campaigns of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the press release from the Embassy said.

On the West Coast, Seattle witnessed landmark celebrations with a gathering that featured an extraordinary delegation of guests, including cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar, Washington State Senator Tina Orwall, Redmond Mayor Angela Birney, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, T-Mobile President & CEO Srini Gopalan, Veeam Software CEO Anand Eswaran, spiritual thinker CB Satpathy, and Parmarth Niketan Ashram Head Swami Chidanand Saraswati.

The Consulate General of India in Seattle said in a post on X that the program featured a soul-stirring live rendition of Vande Mataram by Grammy Award-winning violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan alongside his students, followed by traditional Assam Bihu dance and patriotic musical showcases. On the sidelines, attendees explored curated cultural exhibits highlighting Madhubani art, Warli paintings, and visual displays of "Incredible India."

The Indian Tricolour was also unfurled atop the iconic Federal Reserve Building in downtown Seattle. Organized in coordination with the Indian Consulate in Seattle, the flag-hoisting ceremony featured participation from local civic leaders, traditional performances, and a strong turnout from the Pacific Northwest diaspora.

In a post on X, the Consulate General of India in Seattle wrote, "Tiranga soaring over downtown Seattle! Jai Hind!"

The celebrations come as India marks 79 years of independence, with leaders and governments from across the world joining the celebrations and reaffirming their commitment to stronger partnerships with New Delhi.



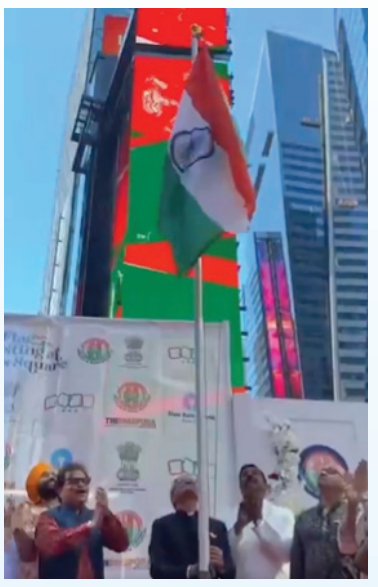
PHOTO: X@INDIAINNEWYORK

India's Consul General in New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan hoisting the national flag at the Consulate.



PHOTO: X@INDIAINNEWYORK

Row of flags to celebrate India's 80th Independence Day and US' 250th birthday, to garner Guinness Record.



PHOTOS: X@INDIAINNEWYORK

Flag hoisting at Times Square.



Mayor of Edison Township, NJ, left, with Indian Deputy Consul General Vishal Harsh at the lighting of Empire State Building.



PHOTO: X @INDIAINUSA

Flag hoisting ceremony at the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Aug. 15, 2026.



PHOTO: X.COM SEATTLE CONSULATE VIA ANI

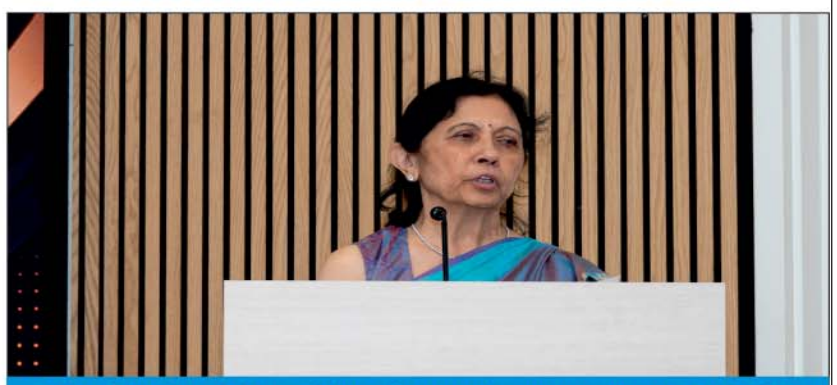
Highlight from the Seattle celebration of India's 80th Independence Day.

Life Global California Marks a Decade of Compassion, Unveils a Renewed Vision for Humanitarian Partnership with Project 'Life' India

Empowering Women, Strengthening Communities

The evening also placed a strong emphasis on **Women's Empowerment,** one of the enduring pillars of Project 'Life's humanitarian mission.

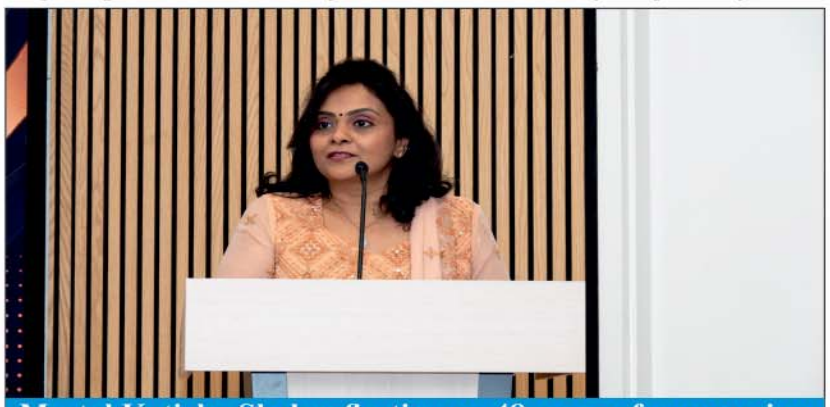
Rika Shah shared an inspiring message highlighting the importance of empowering women with skills, opportunities and economic independence. The initiative recognises that when women are empowered, families become stronger, communities become more resilient and the impact of philanthropy multiplies across generations. Project 'Life's women's empowerment initiatives have focused on equipping women from underserved communities with vocational skills and creating pathways towards greater social and economic independence.



Rika Shah inspiring a vision of women's empowerment - building skills, independence and stronger communities through opportunity.

5 Decades of Project 'Life' - A Journey of Purpose

Meetal Koticha Shah, Joint Executive Trustee & CEO, Project 'Life' presented an inspiring overview of Project 'Life' India's 48-year journey, tracing its evolution and the values that have shaped its humanitarian philosophy. Recounting the story that inspired the Koticha brothers to establish the charitable organisation, she reflected on how a small beginning, guided by compassion and determination, ultimately evolved into a multidimensional institution like Project 'Life'.



Meetal Koticha Shah reflecting on 48 years of compassion, commitment and transformative humanitarian service.

She also expressed deep appreciation to Life Global California and its supporters for standing alongside Project 'Life' for the past decade, helping translate philanthropic intent into meaningful and sustainable action on the ground.

Education as the Foundation for Transformation

In his keynote address, **Rushikesh Pandya, Chief Development & Operating Officer, Project 'Life',** described the evening as far more than an anniversary celebration - it was a celebration of a shared humanitarian journey that transcends borders.

He highlighted the **Primary School Infrastructure Development Program,** through which **125 schools have already been dedicated to Government of Gujarat,** creating better learning environments for children in underserved communities across Gujarat.



Mr. Rushikesh Pandya highlighting Project 'Life's' humanitarian journey

A Celebration of Culture, Community and Giving

Following the formal proceedings, the evening transitioned into a vibrant celebration of music, dance and community spirit. **Ms. Priyanka Dujari,** a well-known singer, captivated the audience with her melodious performances, while an energetic **Singing presentation for seniors and youth** added colour and vibrancy to the celebration.

The event was anchored with warmth and energy by **Mr. Haresh Solanki and Ms. Purvi Tank,** who kept the audience engaged throughout the evening.

The extraordinary generosity, steadfast commitment, and tireless efforts of Mrs. Pushpa & Mr. B. U. Patel, Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah, Dr. Jashwant Modi, Mr. Vraj Lathia, Drs. Nila & Himat Tank, Mrs. Nalini & Mr. Haresh Solanki, Mr. Ramesh Shah, Mrs. Bharti & Mr. Sanjiv Shah, Mr. Manish Patel, along with numerous other like-minded supporters, were instrumental in making this milestone celebration truly exceptional. Their collective dedication, together with the unwavering support of the entire Life Global California Board and team, transformed the occasion into a memorable evening of purpose, gratitude, and shared commitment—an evening that will be cherished for years to come.

10 Years Completed. A Greater Journey Begins.

The 10th Anniversary Gala of Life Global California ultimately stood for something much larger than a decade-long milestone. It represented the enduring power of partnership - where philanthropy across continents meets grassroots action, where generosity becomes opportunity, and where a shared vision becomes a lasting legacy.

The message from the evening was clear: **The first ten years were about building a bridge between compassion and action; the years ahead are about making that bridge reach even further.**

With renewed commitments towards education, digital transformation, women's empowerment, healthcare and Thalassaemia prevention, the partnership looks ahead with an ambitious yet deeply human purpose—to touch more lives, empower more communities and create a legacy of service that continues far beyond generations.



A decade celebrated. Five decades honoured. And a new chapter of humanitarian service begins.

Global Head Quarters

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Indian Medical Scientific Research Foundation
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Mr. Rusikesh Pandya +91 982 428 5868
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Partner Charities

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Tens Of Thousands Gather At FIA's Joyful 44th India Day Parade Led By New York Governor Kathy Hochul

Organizers estimate a crowd of 200,000 spectators came to the Parade.



PHOTOS: ITV GOLD

Chief Guest Pooja Hegde at the FIA-NYNJCTNE India Day Parade. Also seen in photo President of FIA Sreekanth Akkapalli, NY Governor kathy Hochul, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, and Dr. Sudha Parikh.



Members of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin pose for a photo during the FIA India Day Parade August 16, 2026, in Manhattan. They include President-Elect of AAPI Dr. Krishan Kumar, and Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Dr. Sudha Parikh.

BY A STAFF WRITER

New York Governor Kathy Hochul, Indian American State Assemblyman Jeremy Cooney, Chief Guest and Marshal Adivi Sesh, led the massive 44th India Day Parade as it wound its way down Manhattan Avenue between East 38th Street and East 27th Street in Manhattan August 16, 2024. The theme of this year's Parade was "Harmony in Heritage" and Bollywood actress Pooja Hegde was the Chief Guest.

They were joined by leaders of the Federation of Indian Associations -FIA- NYNJCTNE, President Sreekanth Akkapalli, Chairman Ankur Vaidya, and Senior Advisor Dr. Sudhir Parikh, at the highly anticipated annual celebration of India's 80th Independence Day, considered by some as the largest such parade outside India.

Also attending the Parade were Congressman Shri Thanedar, Assemblyman David Weprin, and Sarita Komatireddy, candidate for Attorney General of New York.

Missing from the Madison Ave. parade was Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who joined a smaller celebration in Floral Park, Queens, a departure from the past.

Cultural performances on a stage, food courts, and service booths clamored for the attention of the thousands who came to enjoy a taste of India. Some 55 colorful floats representing cultural organizations, businesses including Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, ISKCON, Indian American Muslims of North America, the Indian Consulate, and regional associations, as well as marching bands, music and dance groups were part of the Parade.

Chief Guest Hegde, actor-director Sesh, and the cast of Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah drew fans' attention as their float went by, featuring producer Asit Kumarr Modi alongside cast members Dilip Joshi, Mandar Chandwadkar, Munmun Dutta, Sonalika Joshi, Balvinder Singh Suri, and Nitish Bhaluni.

FIA organized an adjacent food festival, community booths on East 26th Street, and a live cultural stage program between East 26th and 25th Streets.

FIA Chairman Vaidya and FIA President Akkapalli welcomed dignitaries and coordinated the festivities.

In the evening after the Parade, it was a full house at the gala held in Cipriani on Wall Street, for special guests.



Parikh Worldwide Media float displaying the publications of the media outlet.



Parikh Worldwide Media float

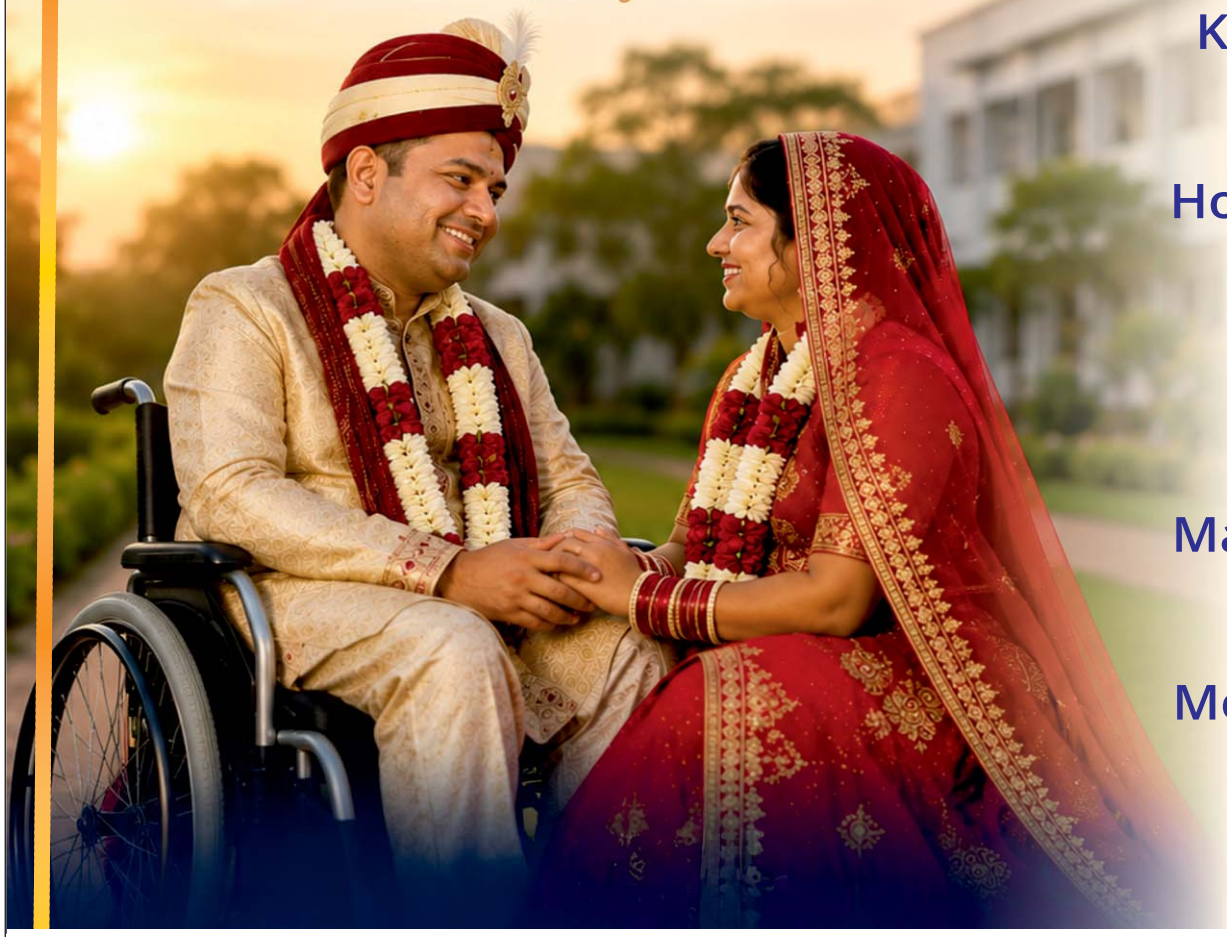
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Tens Of Thousands Gather At FIA's Joyful 44th India Day Parade Led By New York Governor Kathy Hochul



PHOTOS: ITV GOLD

Cast and crew of the Tarak Mehta Ka Ulta Chashma play at the Parade.



FIA estimated some 200,000 spectators and participants attended the Parade.



FIA Board of Trustees member Srujal Parikh.



Haresh Shah and Dilip Joshi at the India Day Parade.



Gol Gappa (Pani Puri) eating contest winners at the India Day celebrations in Manhattan.



ISKCON float at the India Day Parade



Indian American Muslims of North America float at the India Day Parade in Manhattan

9-11 Biometric Fee Now Applies to Same-Employer H-1B and L-1 Extensions, Effective September 9

IN MEMORIAM

By David H. Nachman, Esq


Michael Phulwani


David Nachman


Ludka Zimovcak


Snehal Batra

A fee that used to apply only to new H-1B and L-1 petitions is about to reach a much larger group of filings. Homeland Security has finalized changes to the 9-11 Response and Biometric Entry-Exit Fee, closing an exemption that let companies avoid the charge simply by keeping an employee on staff and filing a routine extension instead of a new petition. Going forward, employers covered by this fee will owe it on virtually every H-1B and L-1 extension filing, starting with petitions submitted on September 9, 2026.

Historically, this charge only came up in two scenarios: when a foreign worker was first entering H-1B or L-1 status, or when they were switching to a new sponsoring employer within that status. Simply extending someone's stay with the same company sidestepped the fee entirely, since nothing about the underlying employment was changing. That loophole is now closed. A same-employer extension will trigger the charge just the same as a brand-new filing would.

The dollar figures haven't moved. Employers still owe $4,000 per H-1B filing and $4,500 per L-1 filing, and the obligation kicks in only for businesses with a sizable H-1B or L-1 presence: 50 or more workers on the U.S. payroll, with more than half of them holding one of those two visa types when counted together. A small company, or a large one without that kind of concentration in H-1B and L-1 staff, has nothing new to worry about here. Filings that amend a petition without asking for more time in status stay outside the fee's reach as well. One more wrinkle worth flagging: even if a petition already carries the separate fraud prevention and detection fee, that doesn't substitute for this one. Employers who owe both can expect to pay both.

Timing works in one direction only. Anything submitted before September 9 stays under the old rules, keeping same-employer extensions fee-free, regardless of how long USCIS later takes to actually adjudicate it. That leaves a short runway for companies to get pending or upcoming extension paperwork in the door ahead of the deadline. Once that date passes, the expectation is that USCIS will simply bounce back any qualifying petition that arrives without the fee attached, so this isn't a case where a late payment or amendment can fix things after the fact.This is a good moment for covered employers to get a clear picture of their H-1B and L-1 headcount. Pull together the list of employees with extensions coming due, figure out which of those filings could realistically be pushed forward and submitted before the deadline, and adjust immigration cost forecasts to reflect the new charge for anything filed afterward. Companies that haven't run the numbers on whether they meet the 50-employee, majority-H-1B/L-1 test should do so now rather than discovering the answer mid-filing.

FAQs

Does this rule raise the fee amount?

It doesn't. The dollar amounts are set by statute and haven't budged. What's different is which filings trigger the charge in the first place.

Which employers are affected?

The change only reaches larger sponsors: businesses with 50 or more U.S. employees where H-1B and L-1 workers together make up more than half the workforce.

Will an extension I file next week be affected?

No, as long as it's submitted ahead of September 9. Anything filed before that date follows the prior rules, no matter how long the case sits with USCIS afterward.

What happens if a petition is filed after September 9 without the fee?

USCIS is expected to send it back rather than process it, which can delay a worker's status, so covered employers should build the fee into filings ahead of time rather than risk a rejection.

Does this apply to a change-of-employer H-1B or L-1 petition?

Those filings were already subject to the fee before this update. The real shift is that extensions with no change in employer, previously a way around the charge, now trigger it too.

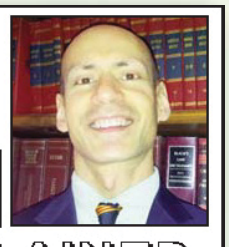
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FIA Chicago Celebrates U.S., India Independence Milestones With Schaumburg Event





PHOTOS: ASIAN MEDIA USA

By a Staff Writer

The Federation of Indian Associations-Chicago brought together more than 800 community members, elected officials, business leaders and performers Aug. 9 for a daylong celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the United States and India's 80th Independence Day.

Held at the Renaissance Convention Center in Schaumburg, the event combined patriotic ceremonies, cultural performances, a business expo, an artificial intelligence conference, community recognitions and Bollywood entertainment. The celebration was led by FIA Founder and Chairman Sunil Shah and Presidents Altaf Bukhari and Richa Chand.

The program began with a Business Expo and a patriotic parade in which FIA members carried Indian and American flags from the entrance to the main stage. Shah, Bukhari, Chand and other FIA leaders then participated in a ceremonial flag-hoisting, followed by the national anthems of the United States and India.

An artificial intelligence conference, facilitated by FIA Director and Naperville business owner Rajesh Narayan, focused on the growing role of AI in business, innovation and society. Panelists included NASA intern Neelay Ranjan; Rajesh Rasalkar, co-founder of PhoenixAI.tech; FIA General Secretary Kamlesh Kapoor; and FIA Director Vijay Gupta.

The afternoon also featured "FIA's Got Talent," showcasing performances by FIA members, followed by a fashion show led by FIA Vice President Ajanta Talukdar. Participants represented the clothing and cultural traditions of various Indian states.

Patriotic songs performed by Avni Singh, Jitendra Bulsara and Shivam Vishwanathan, accompanied by the FIA team, paid tribute to India's freedom fighters. Shirlzar Dance Academy also presented cultural performances during the celebration.

Among those attending were Consul General Somnath Ghosh, U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, chief guest Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, guest of honor Dr. Parag Doshi, state Sen. Laura Murphy, Melissa Bean, Schaumburg Mayor Tom Dailly, William McLeod, state Rep. Michelle Mussman and Aurora Alderwoman Shweta Baid.

FIA Advisory Board member Keerthi Ravoori and FIA Chairman Ajeet Singh, Event Chairman Murugesh Kasilingam and Event Co-Chairman Vinoz Chanamolu were credited with helping lead the planning and execution of the program.





Organizers said the event followed approximately five months of preparation. Despite heavy rain and unfavorable weather, the celebration proceeded as planned.

Kapoor coordinated invitations, registration, seating, event materials and flyers, while Vice President of Sponsorship Dr. Radhika Chimata worked on sponsorships, vendor coordination and overall planning. Vishwanathan provided technology and digital support and helped design and prepare the FIA souvenir book.

Joint Secretary Dinesh Kapoor, FIA Director Dharmender Gill and other members of the FIA leadership and volunteer teams also contributed. Desi Junction assisted with program execution and emceeing, while Shree Caterers provided food for attendees.

The evening entertainment featured Bollywood artists Shibani Kashyap, Kashish Rajput and Razin, along with a Garba performance by Tirath and a performance by FIA singer Supriya Nair. Cultural performers, FIA talent participants and fashion-show participants rounded out the entertainment program.

Jassi Parmar of Desi Junction and Bhairavi emceed the evening program. Shah welcomed the gathering, followed by remarks from Chand and Bukhari.

"When music and patriotism meet, magic happens," Shah said. "Tonight, entire Chicagoland will witness that magic."

First Lady Rita Shah also attended. Organizers said the participation of civic and public officials highlighted the Indian American community's growing role in the civic and cultural life of the Chicago area.

Past FIA presidents Anu Malhotra, Pratibha Jairath, Vinita Gulabani, Hitesh Gandhi and Dr. Kamal Patel reflected on the organization's development and community work over the years.

"Our Independence Day is not just about remembering the past; it's about celebrating the bonds we build today for a stronger tomorrow," Bukhari and Chand said.

The organization also recognized sponsors, supporters, volunteers and community members. Banquet

FIA said the celebration was intended not only to commemorate the two anniversaries but also to highlight democratic values, cultural heritage, community service and the ties connecting Indian Americans with both India and the United States.

Shah described the gathering as "a statement of who we are, what we cherish, and how beautifully we blend our heritage with the community we call home."

The Federation of Indian Associations-Chicago said it plans to continue organizing cultural, civic and community-service programs aimed at celebrating Indian heritage while strengthening ties with the broader American community.

FIA Chicago (1980) Marks India's 80th Independence Day And America's 250th Anniversary With Two Days Of Celebrations

By Bhailal M. Patel



PHOTO: COURTESY BHAILAL M. PATEL

FIA Chicago (1980) held two days of celebrations to observe India's Independence Day and America's 250th birthday, August 15 and 16, 2026.

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA–Chicago), established in 1980 and one of the Midwest's longstanding Indian-American community organizations, marked a historic weekend of celebrations August 15 and 16, 2026, to mark India's 80th Independence Day and the 250th anniversary of American independence.

A Tiranga Car Rally on August 15 was followed by a patriotic celebration on August 16.

Organizers saw it as a "powerful tribute to two nations that occupy a special place in the hearts of Indian Americans: India, their Janmabhoomi — the land of their birth, civilization and cultural heritage — and the United States, their Karmabhoomi — the land of opportunity, achievement and their adopted home."

The colorful Tiranga Car Rally filled the streets with the Indian tricolors of orange white and green, and the American Stars and Stripes adorning the vehicles. The air resonated with enthusiastic chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Vande Mataram," "God Bless America," and "Long Live America."

Cultural, religious, service and community organizations participated, reflecting the diversity of Chicagoland's Indian-American population. It also showed and FIA Chicago's important role in the community, over the last more than 45 years of observing India's Independence Day and Republic Day events, as well as charitable activities and civic initiatives.

On Sunday, August 16, some 200 community members, dignitaries, veterans, FIA leaders, families, youth and supporters gathered for the special program.

The venue displayed the Indian and American flags and portraits honoring national heroes, and the speech by FIA Chicago (1980) President Hemant Patel dwelt on how freedom was a concept to be remembered, preserved and passed on the next generation; that the celebrations should go beyond entertainment and provide opportunities to educate younger generations about patriotism, sacrifice, national service and responsible citizenship.

"Wishing you all a very Happy India Independence Day, and at the same time, we wish everyone in America a very happy 250th anniversary of American independence," Patel told the community.

"Freedom Is Not Free" was the overarching message of the day – that behind the independence enjoyed by citizens today are generations of courageous men and women who made extraordinary sacrifices in defense of their nations and democratic ideals; that independence carries an obligation to protect liberty, democracy and human dignity for future generations.

The presence of veterans and distinguished guests gave this message added significance. Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon's presence and the launch of his book, "Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan," added to the moment.

Chief Guest, outgoing Consul General of India Somnath Ghosh addressed the gathering dwelling on the significance of the day and the shared democratic values that strengthen the growing partnership between India and the United States. He also praised the Indian-American community for serving as a vital bridge between the two great nations and for its remarkable contributions to American society.

Speakers highlighted India's progress in education, technology, infrastructure, defense, innovation and economic growth, and its place on the global stage.

The audience honored India's national song,"Vande Mataram," and adults and children presented other patriotic songs and cultural performances.

The celebration simultaneously paid tribute to the United States during the historic 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

FIA trustees and executives, veterans, community leaders, elected and public officials, cultural representatives and prominent members of Chicago's diverse communities participated in the celebration.

Among those recognized was former Congresswoman of Illinois Melissa Bean, who is running for elections. She greeted the Indian-American community and praised the spirit of jointly commemorating the independence milestones of India and the United States.

Those present recognized how the FIA Chicago (1980)'s celebration captured the historic connection between the two seminal events

CITY VIEWS

AHS Family Health Center Celebrates National Health Center Week, Strengthening Access to Quality Care

By Bhailal M. Patel

AHS Family Health Center celebrated National Health Center Week 2026, joining community health centers across the nation in highlighting their vital role in providing accessible, high-quality and patient-centered healthcare to individuals and families.

Observed nationally from August 2–8, 2026, this year's celebration carries the theme "Building Innovative Care Where It Matters Most." Throughout the week, AHS Family Health Center organized activities focused on pediatric medical and dental wellness visits, Medicaid enrollment assistance, diabetes health education, preventive care and community outreach.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield promoting well child visits

A highlight of the week came August 5, when Illinois State Representative Kevin Olickal visited AHS Family Health Center's location at 6301 N. Western Ave. in Chicago. His visit brought together healthcare professionals, patients, families and community partners while drawing attention to the essential services community health centers provide.

During the visit, Olickal observed firsthand how patients access healthcare services and spoke with staff members to better understand the needs and challenges facing the community from both patient and provider perspectives.

Olickal praised AHS Family Health Center's efforts to bring together patients, families, healthcare professionals, community organizations and elected officials, while recognizing the important role community health centers play in expanding access to quality healthcare.

Expanding Access to Essential Care:The celebration comes at an important time as healthcare providers work to ensure that families understand their coverage options

-Continued On Page 17

The Washington Post

What it's like to spend a weekend with more than 2,000 sets of twins

By Andrea Sachs

TWINSBURG, Ohio - Last weekend, Twinsburg was twinning.

Every August, for more than half a century, siblings who first met in utero take over Twinsburg for the Twins Days Festival, the world's largest annual gathering of twins and multiples.

The celebrants arrive in twos, threes and fours, mirror images of each other or as dissimilar as Mutt and Jeff. Many are first-timers, but even more are repeat attendees stretching back years.

"This is our 43rd year," said Fred Mitchell, 75, who drove up from Hollywood, South Carolina, with his next-door neighbor, who also happens to be his identical twin.

"We're trying to get to 50 years and then maybe we will slow down," added Ned, who was dressed in the same ensemble as his brother: neon green shirt, yellow sneakers, khakis, dark shades, bright smile.

The festival is held the first full weekend in August and always in Twinsburg, about 25 miles southeast of Cleveland. In 1819, identical twins Moses and Aaron Wilcox changed the name of the settlement from Millsville, which honored a popular mechanism from that era, to Twinsburg, which celebrated a biological phenomenon now affecting about 3 percent of the U.S. population.

The community first hosted an abbreviated version of the event in 1976 as part of a larger U.S. bicentennial celebration. Three dozen sets of twins showed up. Over the years, the festival has ballooned. It now stretches over three packed days, and the number of twins and multiples regularly exceeds 2,000 registered sets. (By Sunday afternoon, this year's tally was 2,085; festival organizers will release a final count next month.) The identical and fraternal pairings arrive by car, plane, foot and baby stroller. A handful cross rivers, oceans and the international dateline.

"There's nothing else that celebrates twins in this way in this volume," said Twins Days executive director Andrew Miller, whose late father served as president and executive director for 30 years. "For most of the twins, it's just a big family reunion."

Miller, who has attended nearly every festival since he was 10, is a member of the clan, too. He has a fraternal twin sister and his wife is an identical twin.



Parade like it's the 1980s

Township Square, a manicured park in the center of Twinsburg, was thrumming with activity early Saturday morning. The high school's marching band was warming up with "Hang on Sloopy." Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man, sitting on a low wall, swayed to the beat. Michael Jackson and Michael Jackson strolled by.

The Double Take Parade is one of the festival's marquee events, a 1.3-mile-long processional that, depending on the theme, can feel like a march of pop culture clones.

For this year's "Totally Two-bular," participants threw open the 1980s vault, releasing into the streets a quorum of Madonnas, a pair of purple Princes, Barbies still in their boxes and the 1985 Chicago Bears led by a mustachioed Mike Ditka, still grumpy despite his Super Bowl trophy.

Some twins dipped into the history books. Rhode Island twins Kristen Coutoulakis and Elissa Coutoulakis Lombardo tore down the Berlin Wall; the Ruzbarsky sisters floated up from their 114-year-old ocean grave for the occasion.

"They found the Titanic in 1985," said Linda (Ruzbarsky) Harold, 58, a seaweed-entangled crab clinging to her soiled life vest, "so we dressed up like survivors."

Harold and her sister, Lorie Loyacona, first attended Twins Days at age 44, as a tribute to their father who had always wanted to bring his daughters here but died before he had the chance. Adding to the emotion of the weekend, they had also planned a twin reveal.

When they were born, te doctor told their parents they were fraternal twins, but the sisters sensed otherwise. They felt each other's pain (including childbirth labor), had a root canal on the same tooth and finished each other's sentences. Even their father couldn't tell them apart, calling them "Twin." So, they ordered a DNA test that they would open at the festival. But they couldn't wait.

"It was a 100 percent match," Harold said.

They attended their first Twins Days as identical twins.

Twins stick together

The parade ended where the activities began, at Glen Chamberlin Park, a rambling green space that can easily fit a few thousand twins. Many events occurred simultaneously, so having a spare could help you cover more ground. However, as Arizona sisters Tracy Renbarger and Terri Jelinek told me at an unsanctioned after-hours party at the Bertram Inn, twins stick together like double-sided tape. "You're not going to see mix-and-matched or a sea of different people," said Jelinek, 42. "You're going to see twins standing next to each other with another set of twins or a group of twins talking. You never lose track of each other."

The festival holds the same contests for oldest and youngest twins, as well as siblings who look the most and least alike, on Saturday and Sunday. However, with fewer participants on the second day, and therefore less competition, many people won just for showing up.



Photos by: Sarah Rice —TWP

On Saturday, Janniece Curry and Anniece Johnson of Cincinnati clinched the oldest-twins category at 90½ years old, their second straight win in two years. The following day, the champions were Florida twins in their 50s. The victors in the youngest category were slightly closer in age: three weeks and four weeks, respectively.

The Beuderts did not compete this year, but their chances of winning are twice as high as many of the other contestants. Eileen and her husband are the parents of two sets of adopted twins with the same biological mother: Marie and Judy, 3, and Dolly and Betty, six months old.

"For them to be amongst other twins, I think that makes them feel at home and realize there are other people like them," Eileen said, before reminding the eldest twins to not roughhouse around the octogenarian twin sitting nearby.

To be continued on Page 18

AHS Family Health Center Celebrates National Health Center Week, Strengthening Access to Quality Care

-Continued From Page 15

and remain connected to essential medical services.

"Our mission has always been to ensure that every individual and family has access to the care and resources they need to live healthier lives," said Dr. Paracha, Chief Executive Officer of AHS Family Health Center. "At a time when many community members are at risk of losing insurance coverage, it is more important than ever to educate residents about changes in the healthcare landscape and help them maintain access to critical services," he added.

Dr. Paracha emphasized that National Health Center Week provides an opportunity not only to celebrate the accomplishments of community health centers but also to strengthen partnerships that can improve health outcomes.

"National Health Center Week provides a meaningful opportunity to strengthen partnerships that improve health outcomes for our patients. We are honored to welcome Illinois State Representative Kevin Olickal and thank him for supporting the work of community health centers," Dr. Paracha said.

Throughout the day, AHS Family Health Center staff and community partners provided residents with information and assistance designed to help them navigate healthcare services and connect with resources supporting long-term health and wellness.

Activities included Medicaid enrollment assistance,



PHOTO: AHS FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

State Representative Kevin Olickal visiting AHS Family Health Center outreach and enrollment booth on August 5, 2026 during the National Health Center Week.

health education, pediatric wellness services and community outreach. The programs reflected AHS Family Health Center's continuing emphasis on preventive healthcare and helping patients obtain the information and services they need before health concerns become more serious.

Community Partnerships Advance the Mission:AHS Family Health Center's National Health Center Week activities were supported by important community and healthcare partners, including the Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois Primary Health Care Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Together, the organizations helped support patient engagement and educational activities throughout the week, demonstrating the importance of collaboration among healthcare providers, government agencies and community organizations.

National Health Center Week is an annual nationwide observance recognizing America's community health centers and the millions of patients they serve. It also honors the healthcare professionals, staff members, volunteers and community partners whose work helps reduce barriers to healthcare.

AHS Family Health Center remains committed to providing high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay.

Through patient-centered care, preventive services, health education and strong community partnerships, AHS Family Health Center continues its mission of improving health outcomes and building healthier communities throughout Chicago.

The 2026 National Health Center Week celebration reinforced that mission while demonstrating the power of bringing healthcare providers, elected officials, community organizations and families together around a shared goal: ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible where it matters most.

SPORTS

Badminton-India's Shetty Stuns World Number One Shi At World Championships

India's Ayush Shetty produced a major upset at the badminton World Championships by knocking out defending champion and world number one Shi Yuqi of China 21-14 13-21 21-19 in the men's singles first round on Monday (August 17, 2026) in New Delhi.

The 21-year-old, making his World Championships debut, took the opening game with an aggressive display at the net before Shi levelled the contest.

Shetty then built an 11-5 lead in the decider and held off a late fightback from the Chinese top seed to seal a landmark victory and advance to the second round.

The result marked a dramatic reversal from their previous meeting in the Badminton Asia Championships final in April, when Shi swept aside Shetty in 40 minutes.

The victory was Shetty's first over Shi after three successive defeats, with the Indian crediting



PHOTO: REUTERS/BHAWIKA CHHABRA

BWF World Championships – India's Ayush Shetty in action during his first round match against China's Yu Qi Shi.

the home crowd for helping him over the line.

"Crowd was really behind and gave me the energy. They kept cheering for me. It gave me a lot of energy," Shetty said.

-Reuters

Cricket-Brilliant Bangladesh Claim First Test Win In Australia As Green Ton In Vain

By Ian Ransom

Bangladesh chased down 57 runs to complete a landmark nine-wicket victory over Australia in the series opener in Darwin on Sunday, August 16, in one of test cricket's greatest upsets.

Mominul Haque cut Beau Webster to the fence to seal Bangladesh's first test win in Australia within four days in stifling heat at Marrara Oval, foiling a valiant century from home all-rounder Cameron Green.

The winning boundary triggered jubilation among Bangladesh's players, who jumped and shouted on the sidelines.

"This is the biggest win so far for Bangladesh in any format," said Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto.

"Going forward, we want to do something special in the future."

Flooring a full-strength Australia, the world's top-ranked test nation in their own backyard, will be regarded by many as the South Asian nation's finest victory in 26 years of playing the game's longest format.

It took 23 years for Australia to host Bangladesh in a second test series since sweeping them 2-0 in 2003, so Shanto's side were determined to prove their worth.

They did far more than that, as they dominated



PHOTO X.COM @BCBTIGERS

Bangladesh player Miraz takes flight! A celebration that says it all.

the World Test Championship leaders with bat, ball and in the field in virtually every session.

Bangladesh had heroes throughout the match, but on day four it was spin-bowling all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz striking the decisive blows as Australia were bowled out for 284.

Having scored 65 with the bat in Bangladesh's first innings and caught-and-bowled Australia's usual savior Steve Smith for 44 on day three, Miraz took another four wickets on the final day after the hosts resumed on 161 for four, still 67 runs in arrears.

-Reuters

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: This week brings encouraging financial opportunities Career growth is likely. Family life remains supportive. Romance may take a back seat for now. If adventure is calling, a short getaway could refresh your mind. Those planning to buy a home may find this a favourable time. Social interactions may help you move closer to your goals, while consistent effort in academics produce satisfying results.

TAURUS: Focus on fitness. Financial gains are likely. Your professional skills can improve. Family bonds become stronger. Love life looks passionate. Nearby destinations appear rewarding. Existing investments may appreciate, and your social circle could offer opportunities for growth. Students are likely to benefit from discipline and consistent study.

GEMINI: Staying active keeps energy high. Financial stability is likely to improve. Career prospects allow you to showcase your creativity. Family can provide a strong emotional foundation. Meaningful moments with loved ones will bring happiness. Friends may inspire an trip filled with adventure. Property-related goals may require patience,. Eager Students are likely to perform well academically.

CANCER: Positive health developments can leave you feeling energetic Financially, this week offers opportunities to increase earnings. Professional progress may be gradual. Family matters may require extra understanding. Your love life, however, looks warm. Travel plans, even if modest, can provide memorable experiences. Property investments may deliver encouraging returns. Socially, you'll enjoy while students may discover new interests .

LEO: This week could be productive. Financial matters appear stable. Career progress may be steady, with promising opportunities beginning to emerge. Family members are likely to offer encouragement . Romance also looks favourable. Exploring new interests can help. Property investments may attract your attention,. Your creative abilities are likely to shine, supporting success in studies and learning.

VIRGO: Travel opportunities may add excitement. Good health will help. Financial matters may require careful planning. Career progress could feel slow. Family relationships remain supportive, offering comfort. Romance may seem quieter than usual, giving you the chance to deepen your connection with your partner. Property planning deserves attention, while students who stay committed to learning can achieve encouraging academic results.

LIBRA: This week brings favourable developments. Good health will help you stay productive. Financial planning and can strengthen security. Career matters are likely to gain momentum, Family harmony can be maintained Love life looks emotionally satisfying. A road trip may create experiences. Those searching for a home will have options. Students can move steadily toward their goals with consistent effort.

SCORPIO: Strong health will help you stay focused. Financial resources can be managed wisely. Young professionals receive opportunities. Family matters may need patience. Planning a getaway with your partner can strengthen your bond. Property matters remain steady and social service bring satisfaction. Disciplined students are likely to perform well.

SAGITTARIUS: An eventful week lies ahead. Professionals may notice progress. Financial prospects look bright. Maintaining a healthy routine will help Family life remains peaceful. Your partner may be occupied with responsibilities, but understanding helps. Travel plans are well supported. Property-related matters may require patience, while students can overcome exam pressure through focus.

CAPRICORN: You may begin the week feeling determined. Financial prospects continue to improve,. Career matters may demand patience. Family life, however, brings warmth. Singles may experience the excitement of a new relationship. Travel plans are likely to proceed smoothly. Property matters show positive signs, and students may benefit from scholarships or financial assistance. Staying focused will help you make the most of the week.

AQUARIUS: This week has the potential to be rewarding. Good health will keep you active. Managing expenses wisely. Career growth looks promising. Family relationships may require extra effort. Romance is likely to bring pleasant surprises A short getaway can provide a refreshing break. Some may receive positive news related to inheritancs. Community service or can bring a sense of fulfilment.

PISCES: Financially, this week looks encouraging. Professional responsibilities could become demanding. Family members are likely to provide love and support, Romance may require patience and open communication. A fun trip may brighten your mood. Property investments could present rewarding opportunities. Social work may enhance personal growth, while students should make the most of every learning opportunity.

TRAVEL

What it's like to spend a weekend with more than 2,000 sets of twins

By A Staff Writer

Continued from Page 16

Ask a twin

The twins and multiples who attend Twins Days every year say the festival is a place where they can feel normal and understood. Where they don't have to explain the difference between identical and fraternal or A and B (first and second born). Where they can wear whatever they want, which for many means dressing exactly the same.

"We find that more people are like us here," said Kendall and Kennedy Bryant, the 16-year-old grand marshals from Twinsburg who spoke in unison. "Even at our school, the other twins don't dress the same and they eat at totally different tables."

Non-twins such as parents, spouses and the rare solo attendee like me typically play the role of personal photographer. We end up snapping photos for twins who are reconnecting after a year apart or have formed a friendship in the time it takes to find a singleton and hand over their devices.

"In a normal social situation, you feel like you have to ask them about their job and their life. But twins have this understanding. You give each other hugs, ask 'How are you, twins?' and then walk away," Renbarger said.

The Twins Days twins love to talk about their unique bond, and they gamely fielded questions from a first-time attendee, their impishness on full display.

I asked the Mitchell brothers, who for the entire festival held court from matching camp chairs, if they ever secretly switched places in class or on dates. They pleaded the fifth on the romance question.



Anniece Johnson, left, and Janniece Curry earned honors as the oldest twins on hand on Aug. 8, at age 90 1/2

In the beer tent, Jim Colachis, a nightclub impresario who flew in from Los Angeles and has an identical twin, explained mirror twins to me: siblings who, when opposite each other, appear as reflections, as if they were peering into a looking glass. Searching the faces in the crowd, he scrutinized a pair of dark-haired sisters deep in conversation with siblings who could double as the Property Brothers. They were close, Colachis said.

Later that evening, at the Bertram Inn, he showed me a fun party trick - if I had a twin.

"Go up to someone and ask them if they have seen anyone who looks like you," he said.



ALL PHOTOS : SARAH RICE — FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Kevin, left, and Andy VerHoef show off their cornhole medals.

He tried the line on a female twin, who politely chuckled but walked away without asking him to pose for a photo together.

Twin skin research

The line at the Olay booth was twice as long as the queue for funnel cakes, empirical proof that twins care more about free skin care than fried dough.

The festival dedicates a corner to research. This year, three universities, one plastic surgeon and Olay set up studies, taking advantage of the large sample size of twins - a windfall for researchers. Olay is studying how skin ages when genetics are not a factor.

For 20 years, the Procter and Gamble brand has conducted facial imaging on about 100 sets of volunteers, in exchange for a swag bag of lotions, serums and sunscreen.

"We have twins that we've seen every year, so they started at 18 and now they're almost 40. Imagine what that looks like," said Shannon Weitz, director of research and development at Olay.

One study, she admitted, turned fraught. The company had supplied one twin with products but not both, leading to complaints that the sibling using the skin care treatment looked better. To restore harmony, Olay gave the second twin a supply, too.

At 2:40 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the festival paused all activities and the twins and multiples drifted toward the open field behind the research tents for the group photo. At 3:30, photographers perched in cherry pickers snapped the Twins Days family portrait.

After the photo shoot, the twins dispersed. Eddy and Marty Lee, 70, pushed their carts filled with stuffed foxes up the grassy hill. The toys were covered in commemorative Twins Day pins, the brothers' young 1996 faces inches from their more grizzled 2026 mugs.

The twins were lightheartedly bickering. Marty grew exasperated at his brother. "You're an ijit," he said. Then he looked at me and said, "I'd be lost without him."

USCIS to Publish New Editions of Form I-539 and Form I-765; Older Editions Will Be Rejected Starting Sept. 15

USCIS Press Release

Release Date
08/14/2026

On Sept. 15, 2026, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish revised editions of Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, and Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization (edition date for both: 09/15/26). The forms have been revised to align with the recently published Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media final rule.

The 09/15/26 editions of Form I-539 and Form I-765 replace the 08/28/24 edition of Form I-539 and the 08/21/25 edition of Form I-765. There is no grace period for the revised editions of Form I-539 and Form I-765 because the revised editions are necessary for USCIS to apply the final rule.

Because there will be no grace period, USCIS is providing preview versions of the 09/15/26 editions of Form I-539 and Form I-765 with their instructions. Do not file the 09/15/26 editions of these forms before Sept. 15, 2026. USCIS will only accept the 09/15/26 editions of these forms if they are postmarked or electronically submitted on or after Sept. 15, 2026.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/USCIS

If filing Form I-539, please note that USCIS will:

- Accept the 08/28/24 edition of Form I-539 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted before Sept. 15, 2026;
- Reject the 08/28/24 edition of Form I-539 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted on or after Sept. 15, 2026; and
- Only accept the 09/15/26 edition of Form I-539 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted on or after Sept. 15, 2026.

If filing Form I-765, please note that USCIS will:

- Accept the 08/21/25 edition of Form I-765 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted before Sept. 15, 2026;
- Reject the 08/21/25 edition of Form I-765 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted on or after Sept. 15, 2026; and
- Only accept the 09/15/26 edition of Form I-765 if it is postmarked or electronically submitted on or after Sept. 15, 2026.

Visit the Form I-539 and Form I-765 webpages to view preview versions of the 09/15/26 editions of Form I-539 and Form I-765 with their instructions.

US Targets India, 40+ Nations In Tariff-Dodging "Transshipment" Crackdown

A new report by the White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy on Thursday, August 13, accused more than 40 countries of helping Chinese exporters evade US tariffs by routing goods through third-party territories, relabeling them, or falsely claiming a non-Chinese country of origin, a practice it called the "Great Transshipment Scam."

The report categorizes the 40-plus nations into three tiers. India is placed in Tier 1 ("Diversified Scale Leaders") alongside major economies like Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and Taiwan, described as large industrial bases where transhipment risks are embedded within legitimate trade.

Tier 2 ("Significant Economic Integration with China") includes Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam, while Tier 3 ("Small, Opportunistic Targets") includes Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE.

Senior trade adviser Peter Navarro explicitly named India during a briefing, warning that as the US imposes higher tariffs, to deter countries like India and Vietnam attempting transshipment.

"This is about the 40-plus countries that are enabling the transshipping, and as we impose higher tariffs on other countries, India, Vietnam, down the line, they're going to try this transshipment too. Our message is simply that the way to pay less is not to cheat; it is to stop dumping, respect intellectual property, drop your barriers to American goods and move towards reciprocity. Our warning to the lower tariff countries facilitating and enabling the transshipping is this: preferential access to the American market is not a license to launder somebody else's exports, said Navarro.



PHOTO: REUTERS/ELIZABETH FRANTZ/FILE PHOTO

The flags of the United States and India are displayed on the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House in Washington, U.S., June 21, 2023.

The report cited examples such as Chinese electric motors fitted into recliners in Vietnam or "screwdriver factories" performing minimal assembly to disguise a product's origin without achieving "substantial transformation."

The crackdown coincides with complex trade talks between Washington and New Delhi regarding a reciprocal tariff deal, further complicated by US pressures concerning India's purchases of Russian oil.

The US Trade Representative's office has confirmed that anti-transshipment clauses are now being written into every new deal, with penalties for countries that allow disguised Chinese goods through their ports. Officials said these clauses would be enforced according to their "spirit", meaning countries could face penalties even without a clear-cut violation.

Officials outlined three measures: an executive order strengthening enforcement powers at US Customs and Border Protection (CBP); a new AI-driven monitoring system dubbed a "detective border" that screens shipments for transshipment risk before they reach US ports; and anti-transshipment clauses written into future trade agreements, including any deal with India.

Under the plan, if a shipment is found to have been transshipped, CBP will be able to retroactively claim tariffs on a company's shipments over the previous year, not just the consignment in question.

Although briefing officials repeatedly stressed that the report "is not about China" specifically, they named Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines as key transshipment hubs and said other high-tariff countries would likely follow suit.

The report comes as India continues separate talks with Washington over a reciprocal tariff deal, complicated further by US pressure over India's purchases of Russian oil.

Officials declined to say how the findings might factor into US President Donald Trump's expected meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, saying only that the report would inform the US Trade Representative's approach at the negotiating table.

-ANI

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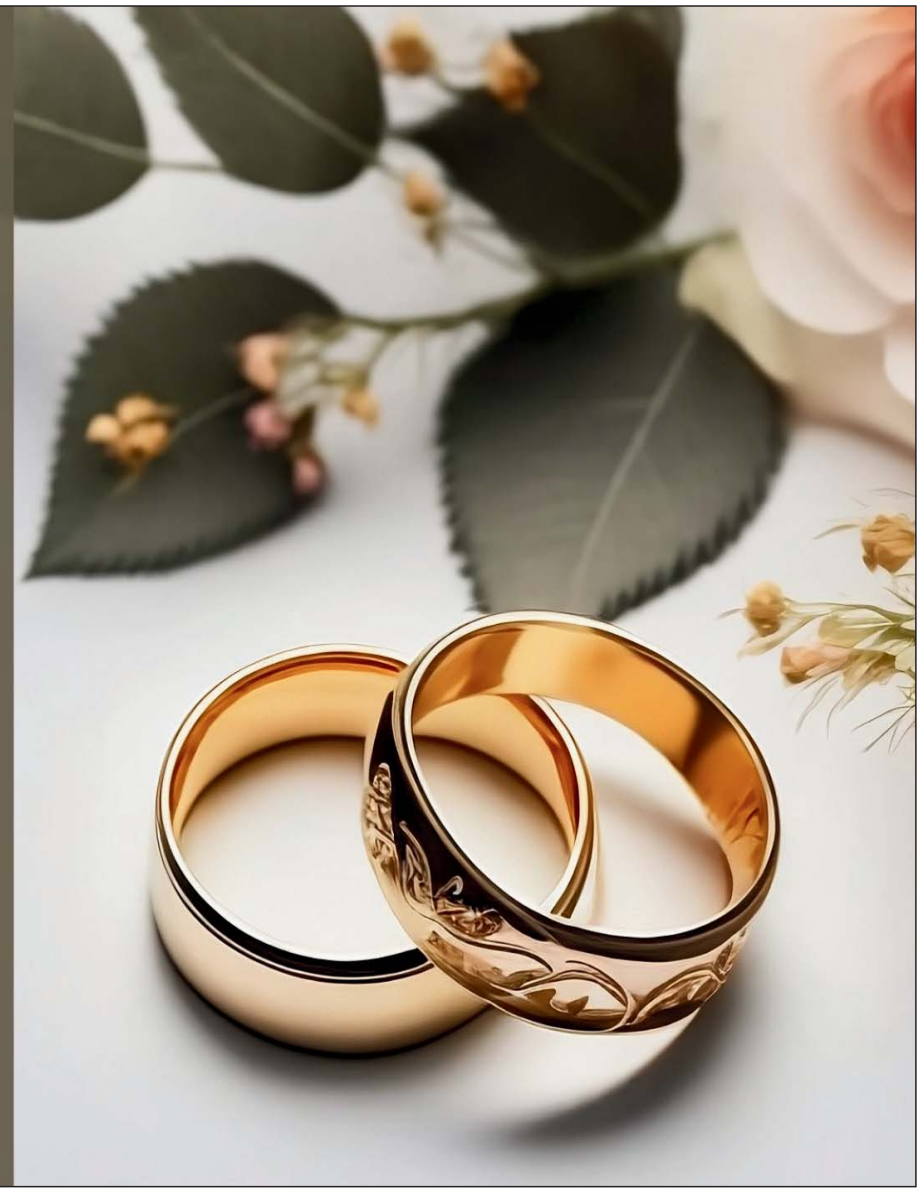


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