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H-1B's Death Should Cheer Indians And Americans

By VIVEK WADHWA

India has nothing to gain from defending a program that exploits its citizens, discredits their achievements, and harms its own standing.

The Trump administration has fired another missile at H-1B, a \$103,265 fee that the courts will likely block. The Indian government may also protest, but it should do the opposite: urge the US to kill the program altogether.

That is because this deeply flawed visa is hurting Americans, Indian-Americans, and the perception of India itself.

The US' greatest advantage has always been immigration, and it attracts the world's best minds. Indian engineers and scientists create companies and jobs in the US, make medical and technology breakthroughs, and lead some of the US's largest corporations.

But this isn't because of the H-1B visa; it is despite it.

The H-1B was meant to fill genuine shortages of specialized skills but has become a vehicle for labor arbitrage. Indian outsourcing companies turned these visas into a business model. Shoddy body shops and recruiters continue to manufacture experience and embellish résumés. Many applicants claim skills they do not possess; some simply fake their résumés.

American corporations willingly participate because the arrangement benefits them. A worker whose immigration status depends on an employer is at its mercy. Visa restrictions make it difficult to change jobs, and accepting a promotion can jeopardize a green-card application or send the worker to the back of the line. So, they don't demand raises, reject assignments, or leave a substandard job.

The green-card backlog and per-country limits have turned this into indentured servitude for Indian workers because they have to wait decades for permanent residence. They cling to their jobs praying they don't get laid off. If they are, they have at most 60 days to find another employer or leave the country, abandoning their homes and friends.

Of course, the technology giants lobby only for more

H-1B visas, not for the green cards that can free their employees.

The greatest tragedy is what is happening to American workers who have spent decades building their careers. They have mortgages, children in college, medical bills, and families depending on their salaries. Many are laid off as their employers hire younger foreign workers. Some suffer the final humiliation of being ordered to train their replacements.

A layoff at that stage of life wipes out savings, ends health insurance, and derails their children's education. One of Silicon Valley's darkest secrets is that it discriminates against age for a simple reason: Experienced workers get paid higher salaries.

Displaced Americans are right to be angry: There is real fraud, real labour arbitrage, and real damage to American families. The companies, recruiters and applicants that corrupt the system have earned their wrath.

Not surprisingly, this anger spills over onto innocent Indian-Americans. Doctors, scientists, professors, researchers, entrepreneurs, and exceptional engineers who play by the rules and contribute enormously to the US end up as targets of resentment for abuses committed by others.

The attacks move beyond jobs and immigration; Indians are mocked for their accents, food, and culture. Hinduism is ridiculed and vilified and loyalty to the US is questioned. People who have spent their lives serving the country are told they do not belong. The corruption of H-1B gives racists an excuse to attack an entire community.

Sadly, many Americans now resent Indians, while Indian workers feel trapped, and the employers and intermediaries creating the problem gain the benefits.

Why should India defend this?

H-1B is like a cancer on the US' skilled-immigration system, hurting American workers, exploiting foreign workers, and rewarding dishonest intermediaries. It is destroying public confidence in skilled immigration.

The H-1B program should end, and Indians and Americans alike should celebrate its demise.

India need not worry that this will cripple its IT-services industry because dependence on H-1B has already fallen dramatically. As of March 31, India's six largest

IT-services companies collectively recorded about 11,000 H-1B approvals, down nearly 40% from a year earlier. TCS had roughly 3,000 approvals against a workforce of 585,000. Infosys had just over 3,000 against a workforce of 331,000.

These companies have spent years changing how they operate. They hire more Americans locally, perform more work offshore, and use delivery centers around the world. Ending the H-1B might raise some costs and disrupt a few projects, but this is minor.

The harsh reality, however, is that the jobs will not return to American workers because they are disappearing altogether. Artificial intelligence is automating the work on which the outsourcing model was built: software testing, maintenance, documentation, and programming itself.

The same technology that allows an Indian outsourcing company to complete a project with fewer engineers in Bengaluru allows an American corporation to complete it with fewer engineers in Boston. A project that once required 100 engineers now requires 30.

The other 70 jobs do not move from India to the US, they vanish.

The elimination of these visas will take India out of the line of fire. If technology companies continue eliminating jobs after foreign hiring ends, American politicians will no longer be able to blame Indians. The US will have to confront automation and its own treatment of older, experienced workers.

America surely needs to rethink its immigration system so that when it brings in the people it really needs, they are treated as future Americans, not cheap labour. They must be free to change jobs and start companies.

India has nothing to gain from defending a program that exploits its citizens, discredits their achievements, and harms its own standing..

Vivek Wadhwa is CEO, Vionix Biosciences.



PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM YOUTUBE

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ex-Reserve Bank of India Chief Raghuram Rajan Says US Federal Reserve Should Raise Rates to Curb Inflation

By ANUP ROY

The Federal Reserve should raise interest rates to contain accelerating inflation, said Raghuram Rajan, a former Reserve Bank of India chief who is now serving on a task force set up to examine the US central bank.

"The Fed should be raising rates or should have raised rates already," Rajan told Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin in an interview from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he is attending the annual conference of central bankers and other senior officials. "I would be more hawkish than where the Fed is right now."

Markets expect the Fed will raise rates in December as inflation remains elevated, while a sharp rise in bond yields indicates that investors are also pricing in some

chance of a September move.

Fed Chair Kevin Warsh has kept markets guessing about his policy stance, avoiding any forward guidance. That means his speech on Friday at Jackson Hole will be closely watched for clues on the rate outlook and implications for global markets.

"I do think that financial conditions are not restrictive at this point," Rajan said, adding US growth is coming from "very strong" investment in data centers. The US also has a "very strong fiscal deficit, which doesn't look like it's coming down anytime soon."

American consumers are running down savings and continuing to spend. "When you have all these things together, it would suggest an economy which is not being held back."

Warsh's communications strategy has been a bit shaky since taking the helm. After the July policy meeting, he offered little insight on his views of the economy and

avoided offering forward guidance on rates.

Investors interpreted his comments as showing a lack of resolve to bringing inflation back to target, and long-term bond yields subsequently climbed to a two-decade high.

Rajan sees the Fed chief differently. "Warsh has the right instincts," and has tried to make clear that "he is very much against inflation," and wants to bring it down, he said.

Investors will follow the Fed chief's speech to see "that he has a plan to do it; that he knows what he has to do, and he can communicate that very clearly."

Rajan is leading one of five taskforces established by Warsh to examine the Fed's approach to key aspects of policy making.

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Raghuram Rajan

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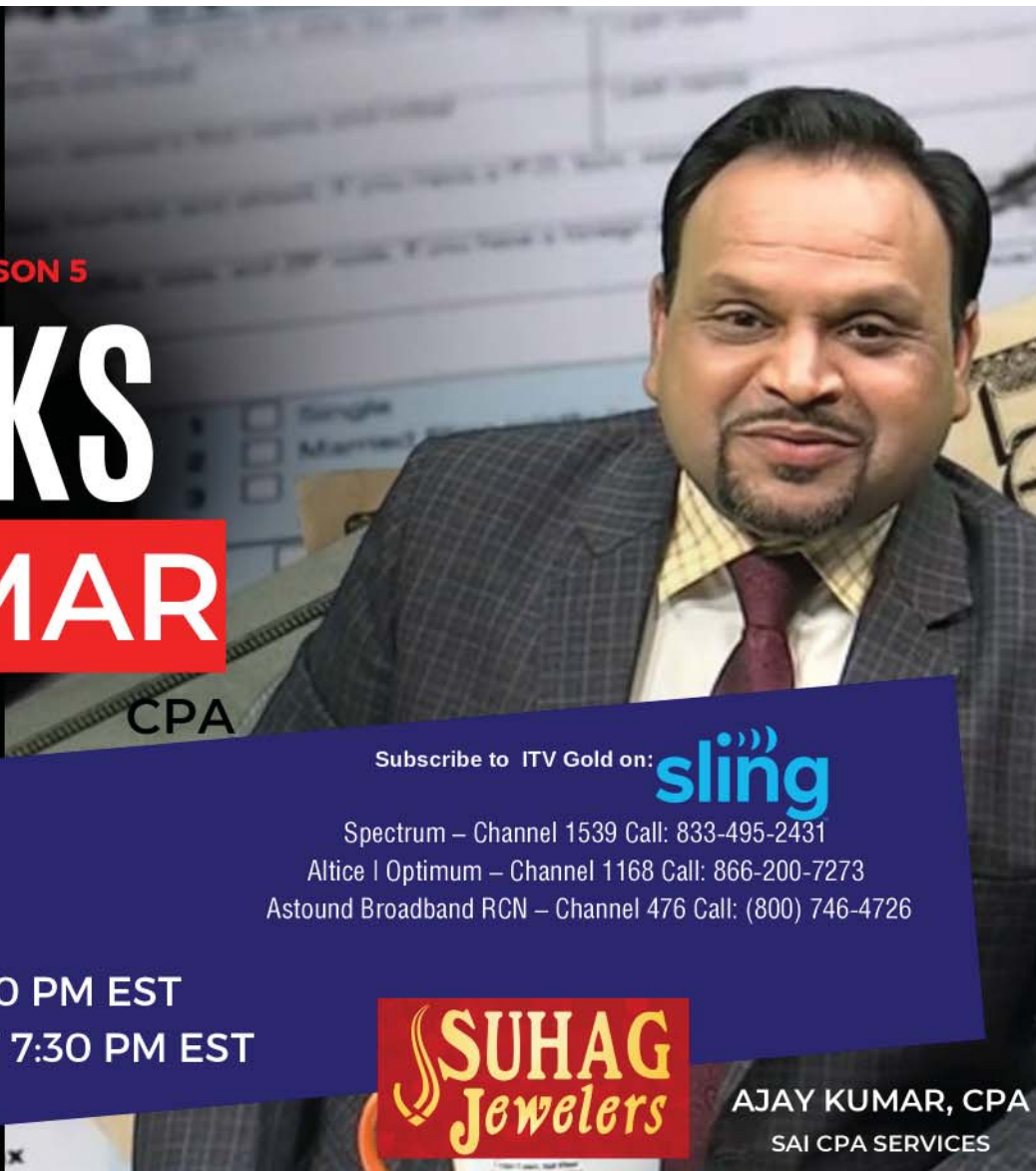




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Democrats Hold Advantage Among Indian American Voters: 2026 Asian American Voter Survey

By A Staff Writer

Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) and AAPI Data released findings from the 2026 AAPI Voter Survey (AAVS), August 26, 2026. Indian Americans appear to be leaning Democratic by a large margin compared to other groups within the Asian American demographic. The survey showed a significant proportion of the Asian American voters have not been reached by either party.

Since 2012, the multilingual survey has tracked the attitudes, priorities and voting behavior of Asian American voters, one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. electorate. Within Asian Americans as a group, there are wide variations on some preferences.

For example, in Senate races, support for Democratic candidates ranges from 42% among Filipino voters to 66% among Asian Indian voters; Filipino voters are the only group in which Republican preference (49%) exceeds Democratic preference (42%).

The Democratic advantage extends across most Asian American ethnic

groups, with the gaps strongest among Japanese Americans and weakest among Filipinos.

Independent voters remain a potentially important constituency: among independents, 54% prefer the Democratic Senate candidate vs. 18% Republican, while 51% prefer the Democratic House candidate vs. 20% Republican.

Democratic candidates currently lead in congressional vote choice, and Democrats hold an advantage on voters' top issue: 63% select the Democratic candidate for U.S. House compared with 24% Republican. On voters' top issue, cost of living and inflation, 44% trust Democrats to do a better job compared with 18% who trust Republicans.

The Survey's overall findings show 90% of AAPI registered voters say they plan to vote in the 2026 midterm elections, up from 84% in 2022 and 86% in 2018. Seventy-one percent say they are absolutely certain they will vote.

Cost of living and inflation are the dominant concerns, with 90% of Asian Americans and 89% of Pacific Islanders saying it is very or extremely important in deciding how they vote.



Cover page of survey.

Many AAPI voters remain unreachable: 42% report no contact from the Democratic Party and 58% no contact from the Republican Party. Community organizations reach approximately as many AAPI adults as the Democratic Party, with 58% reporting some contact from each.

Family and friends (62%) and academic

experts (60%) are the most trusted messengers, followed by community journalists (50%) and AAPI community-serving organizations (47%).

"With Asian Americans being the fastest-growing electorate in the country, it's crucial that we have the latest data on what motivates them to turn out and vote," said Karthick Ramakrishnan, Founder and Executive Director of AAPI Data. "Our data show that many AAPI voters still haven't been contacted by either party, signaling that there is tremendous electoral potential waiting to be activated."

"For the last 14 years, APIAVote and our local partners have organized and mobilized AAPI communities across the country, helping drive continued increases in voter participation election after election. This year we are seeing even more voters planning to cast their ballots for the midterms," noted Christine Chen, Founder and Executive Director of APIAVote.

The 2026 AAPI Voter Survey examines AAPI voters' attitudes, priorities, voting plans and civic engagement heading into the 2026 midterm elections.

Indian American Lawmakers, Other Elected Officials, To Hold Roundtable Addressing Rising Hate Crimes

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Indian American Impact is convening a roundtable September 2, 2026, on Capitol Hill, bringing together Indian American members of Congress alongside state and local South Asian elected officials to address what it sees as a "surge in hate and discrimination targeting South Asian American communities across the country."

The convening will be followed by a press availability where participants along with Impact leadership will announce commitments and next steps.

South Asian Americans are experiencing a dramatic rise in hate, according to Indian American Impact which quoted its source as Stop AAPI Hate.

According to Stop AAPI Hate, 48% of South Asian adults in the U.S. experienced race-based harassment in 2024, a number which Impact contends, has only grown "as anti-immigrant rhetoric has escalated from online spaces into mainstream politics."

"The incidents are impossible to ignore," Impact asserts in its press release, citing examples – 1. On June 3, 2026, a man tore an Indian flag outside Frisco, Texas City Hall while chanting "F*** In-

dia" at a far-right anti-immigration rally.

A Florida city councilmember called for the deportation of "every Indian" and later called Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi a "foreign occupier."

An Arizona state representative called for Rep. Pramila Jayapal to be "tried, convicted, and hanged."

In Dallas, an Indian American man was beheaded and users in extremist online spaces called him an "H-1B scammer."

In Utah, a man was federally indicted this month for stabbing a Muslim mall employee after asking staff whether they were Muslim.

The rise in candidates and elected officials from the community has made them targets, too, as Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and South Asian candidates across the country have endured slander and harassment simply for running for office, Impact said.

South Asian elected leaders from across the country are coming together to shape a collective response and to fight back, organizers said.

WHO:

S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera, Suhas Subramanyam, and Shri Thanedar

South Asian state and local elected officials from across the country:

Jay Chaudhuri, North Carolina State Senator

Vin Gopal, New Jersey State Senator

Kannan Srinivasan, Virginia State Senator

Darshana Patel, California State Assemblymember

JJ Singh, Virginia House of Delegates

Ranjeev Puri, Michigan House of Representatives

Suleman Lalani, Texas House of Representatives

Nina Ahmad, Philadelphia City Councilmember

Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Fairfax County Braddock District Supervisor

Chintan Patel, Executive Director, Indian American Impact

Manju Kulkarni, Co-Founder, Stop AAPI Hate

WHEN: Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026

Roundtable (closed press): 9:00–10:00 AM

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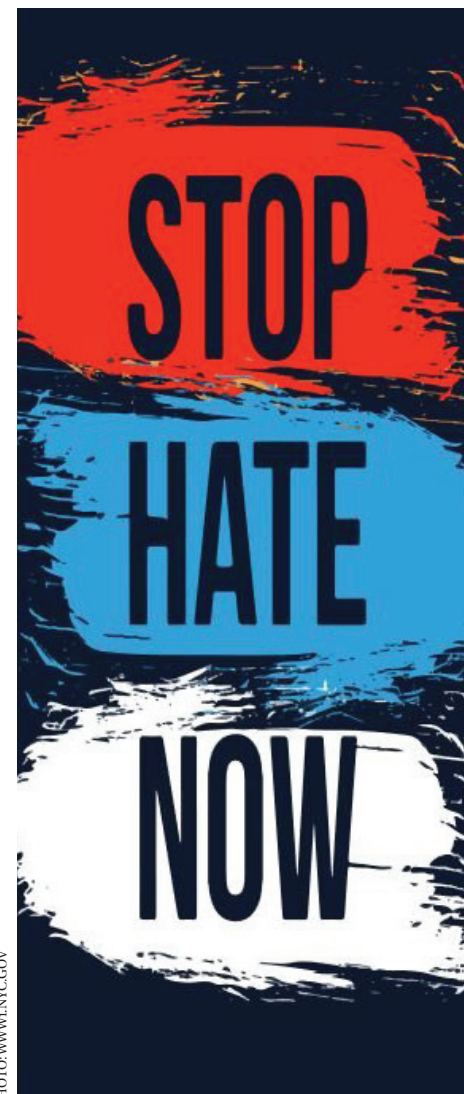
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180 Religious Leaders @UniversalOnenessCelebration In NYC, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Addresses Thousands In US Diaspora

ANI (WITH ADDONS FROM DESI TALK)

Calls on Indian Americans to be loyal to 'karma bhumi' and appeals for 'unity in diversity'

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday, August 29, 2026, speaking at Madison Square Garden, NYC, said while Bharat remains the 'Janma Bhumi' (birthplace) of the "Bharatiya" (Indian) diaspora, their country of residence is their 'Karma Bhumi' and they must first fulfil their duties and remain loyal to the country where they live.

According to an RSS post on X.com, some 180 religious leaders from 30 countries attended and announced a five-point action plan to take responsibility for the future. "Global religious leaders reject use of religion to justify hatred, humiliation, dehumanization, or violence. 'One world One Humanity' 'call for action' resolution commit to stand for dignity of any community threatened with humiliation or violence," the post said.

"What is our duty? We are in America, we live in America, we earn in America. So we are American. And we should behave true to America. The diaspora,



PHOTO: UNIVERSAL ONENESS CELEBRATION

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat addressing the gathering at Madison Square Garden August 29, 2026.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addressing a gathering at Madison Square Garden August 29, 2026.



PHOTO: X.COM @RSSORG

Scores of religious leaders from 30 countries pose on stage at MSG Universal Oneness Celebration, to announce five-point plan to take responsibility for global future.

Bharatiya diaspora, they have a duty to their karma bhumi. They must fulfil that. They should be loyal to their karma bhumi," Bhagwat said in his address.

"Because Bharat is their janma bhumi, if they have an urge to do something and they can do that, after fulfilling their duties to their karma bhumi, it is not prohibited. But it is not obligatory," the RSS chief added.

"Your janma bhumi expects you to live the values it has imparted on you. And this is the value. This is the value, oneness. We are one with human beings. We are one with nature," Bhagwat said.

The Universal Oneness Celebration was a key highlight of Bhagwat's international tour. The RSS leader arrived in New York earlier this week on the first leg of his three-nation global outreach tour to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom at the invitation of overseas local organizations as part of RSS' centenary year celebrations.



PHOTO: X.COM @RSSORG

A section of the crowd listening to RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat August 29, 2026, at Madison Square Garden. Seated in audience is Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and President of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, 4th from left.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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180 Religious Leaders @UniversalOnenessCelebration In NYC, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Addresses Thousands In US Diaspora

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"UNITY IN DIVERSITY IN BHARAT'S DNA"

Bhagwat highlighted "unity in diversity" saying it is embedded in India's "DNA" and that India's destiny is to make the world realize that diversity can coexist with oneness.

While "pluralism" is frequently associated with the United States, "unity in diversity" defines India, he contended.

"I have come here from Nagpur in Bharat to share with you today's joy and today's spirit. When we say United States of America, one word is often discussed frequently. That is pluralism. And when we say Bharat, another phrase is discussed: unity in diversity. For Bharat, this unity and this diversity, both are in their DNA," Bhagwat said.

"Nations are not merely geographical entities. In the design of this universe, nations have to carry out a duty," Bhagwat said quoting Swami Vivekananda as saying, "Every nation has a message to deliver. Every nation has a mission to accomplish. Every nation has a destiny to fulfil."

"What is the destiny given to Bharat? Bharat is there to realize and from time to time make the world realize this unity in diversity. We are one, and due to diversity, that oneness is decorated," he said. "Diversity has to be celebrated, has to be respected, has to be accepted. And at the same time, we must keep in mind this feeling of oneness. It is a very real feeling," he said.

Bhagwat invoked the ancient Indian sages to make his point. "Our ancient rishis had foreseen that and created a whole nation for that. The well-meaning rishis, with a feeling of welfare of the world, undertook the difficult penance. Through that, our nation was created," he said.

Reiterating that nations cannot be reduced to geographical boundaries, the RSS chief described fulfilling India's destiny as a collective responsibility of its people.

"No nation is a geographical piece of land. All nations have a destiny to fulfil. This is the Bharat destiny," Bhagwat said. "Let us awaken as Bharatiyas to that destiny and fulfil our duties in our karma bhumi as well as our janma bhumi. If we do that, that will be a boon for the world struggling with all these problems and stumbling at every step. We have to give sustenance; we have to give some sort of support to this world," he said.

"If any Hindu thinks that there should be no Muslim in Bharat, he will not remain Hindu": Bhagwat

Noting that there is no difference between human beings and that various religious paths lead to the same goal, Bhagwat said, "if any Hindu thinks that there should be no Muslim in Bharat, he will not remain Hindu."

"If you want to call yourself Hindu, you must believe that all paths are leading to the same goal and that every human has dignity. There is no difference between human beings," he said.

The RSS Chief made the remarks while recalling his conversation with a group of Muslims who asked him about Hindutva.

He said, "I do not only tell others not to come to gain something. In Sangha, we only give. We don't want anything. That is why in publicity matters, we are way behind... Politics today, especially in a democracy, depends on the public view. If there is public opinion, then no politician will dare to go against it. Therefore, I think after taking a common resolve today, we have to act in these societies, and we have to act first locally," he said.

"Whatever we decide to do today, we should start in our own country and create pockets of such selfless



Thousands watch a cultural event at Madison Square Garden, a part of the Universal Oneness Celebration event held August 29, 2026.



Protesters from several advocacy organizations outside Madison Square Garden August 29, 2026, during the Universal Oneness Celebration, where RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat was among the speakers.

service, such an atmosphere of unity, and then this dialogue should continue. Through this dialogue, we should connect them, and then we should grow," he added.

Bhagwat recalled work done by RSS volunteers after the 1996 Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision, after which RSS Swayamsevaks treated the injured, arranged the funerals etc. without regard to whether the victims were Muslim or Hindu.

"The prominent working organization was RSS. We could do this because we are not in politics. And we don't go on making these things famous because we don't want anything from this. ... There are many perceptions created by wrong narratives. But when you come and see us from inside, all those will be disbelieving in the day," he added.

The RSS Chief said that work is required to be done for positive changes in society.

"This is the traditional thought of Bharat- unity of

humanity. All our leaders, at any point in time, have emphasized that too. After independence, we got the constitution, which emphasizes this, but that is not happening. Because these things do not happen through politics. I'm sorry to say, but the fact is, politics has now become a game of self-interest. And you have rightly said, where there is me and I, there is no solution. We and ours are the solution. So our experience in Bharat is that we have to start with the society," he said.

"If we do not keep educating the society, then the deflections creep in, and somehow it happened in the course of history," he said.

Bhagwat's visit, which was highly anticipated, and also led to a split within the Indian American community, with supporters and opponents campaigning for their positions days before the August 29 event. On that day, the groups advocated for their positions outside Madison Square Garden.



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Beyond The Mat: How Midwest Desis Can Turn The Daily Grind Into Moments Of Zen

By Swami Jeevan Nishkam

In today's fast-paced world, the word "meditation" usually conjures up a specific image: someone sitting cross-legged on an expensive cushion, eyes closed, desperately trying to empty their mind in a silent room filled with incense.

For most of us juggling long commutes on I-90 or the Tri-State Tollway, high-pressure tech or corporate careers, back-to-back Zoom calls, and active family schedules, finding an uninterrupted 30 minutes to sit in absolute silence feels less like peace and more like another chore on an overwhelming to-do list.

Having served for over three decades as a senior government bureaucrat navigating administrative friction, heavy responsibilities, and endless red tape, I understand the weight of a demanding schedule. What over 50 years of personal experimentation—and my own journey after walking away from the administrative treadmill—has revealed to me is simple: Meditation isn't a separate activity you add to your calendar; it is a quality of awareness you bring to what you are already doing.

Ancient Indian texts voiced an eternal yearning: to be led from anxiety to truth, and from noise to lasting peace. Yet modern seekers face a common obstacle: we over-intellectualize peace. We read volumes of self-help literature, download mindfulness apps, and engage in cerebral debates. But inner silence cannot be achieved through compulsive thinking. It requires direct, practical integration into daily life.

You do not need to retreat to a Himalayan ashram or escape into the quiet of the woods to find your center.

You can turn your daily Midwest routine into a deeply restorative mindfulness practice right where you are.

1. THE MINDFUL CHAI & MEAL RITUAL

How often do you drink your morning chai or coffee while typing an email, only to look down and realize it's gone without having actually tasted it?

The next time you brew your morning cup or sit down to dinner, slow down. Take the first five sips in complete silence. Pay attention to the temperature, the aroma of cardamom and ginger, and the exact flavor profile. When you treat ordinary meals with total attentiveness, you transform routine consumption into a sacred, grounding anchor that interrupts compulsive overthinking.

2. SENSORY GAZING ON THE COMMUTE & BREAK

Our eyes absorb an immense amount of daily stress from glowing screens, locking our brains into a narrow, analytical focus. You can use visual focus to reset your nervous system:

The Peripheral Walk: When you step away from your desk for a break, put your smartphone in your pocket. Consciously widen your visual field. Look at the vast Midwest sky, the changing leaves, or local architecture. Engaging peripheral vision signals your brain to shift out of "fight-or-flight" mode.

Evening Sky Gazing: Step outside in the evening. Gazing at the open horizon widens your visual focus, pulling your mind off the day's mental treadmill.

3. ACTIVE MEDITATIONS FOR RESTLESS ENERGY

For high-stress professionals, sitting completely still can sometimes trigger anxiety rather than calm it. Total physical immersion quiets mental chatter:

The Meditative Walk or Run: Whether jogging along the Lakefront Trail or walking around your neighborhood, focus entirely on physical sensations—the rhythm

of your feet striking the ground, the depth of your breath, and the feel of the cool air.

The 60-Second Vagus Nerve Reset: When a high-stress email lands in your inbox, pause before reacting. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and as you exhale, make a low, gentle humming sound (similar to the traditional Bhramari breath). The vibration stimulates the vagus nerve, acting as a natural brake for your nervous system.

4. THE "BEFORE-SLEEP" BLUEPRINT

If your mind races the second your head hits the pillow, try this sequence to transition into rest:

1. Release the Day: Take three deep breaths and exhale completely through your mouth, consciously letting go of residual thoughts and workplace friction.
2. Cultivate Safety: Allow your body to feel heavy, supported, and insulated from external demands.
3. Expand Awareness: As you drift off, visualize your personal worries dissolving into a vast, peaceful universe.

THE TAKEAWAY

Mindfulness is not a corporate ladder to be climbed or a complex curriculum to be mastered; it is a profound

presence to be celebrated right in the middle of our busy lives. By bringing total alertness to our movements, our meals, and our rest, we step off the productivity treadmill and discover that calm was available to us all along.

Author of "Being Aware: An Alchemy to Enlightenment."



PHOTO: PROVIDED

U.S. House Unanimously Passes Bipartisan Krishnamoorthi Bill To Crack Down On Chinese Communist Party Trade Crimes

By a Staff Writer

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the bipartisan Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes (PAIL) Act, August 31, 2026. The legislation was co-led by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) to crack down on trade crimes that undercut American workers and manufacturers. The bill strengthens the Justice Department's ability to investigate and prosecute tariff evasion, illegal transshipment, forced-labor violations, and other trade crimes, a press release from Krishnamoorthi's office said.

"Today's unanimous House passage of the PAIL Act is an important victory for American workers and manufacturers who have been forced to compete against companies based in the PRC that violate U.S. trade laws," the Congressman is quoted saying in the press release. "Tariff evasion, illegal transshipment, forced-labor violations, and other trade crimes hurt American workers and undermine our industries. Our bipartisan bill gives the Justice Department dedicated resources and expertise to



Congressman Krishnamoorthi speaks on the House floor in support of his bipartisan PAIL Act, which passed unanimously to strengthen enforcement against CCP trade crimes and protect American workers and manufacturers.

investigate and prosecute these crimes and hold repeat offenders accountable. The Senate should pass the PAIL Act without delay and send it to the President's desk," Krishnamoorthi added.

The PAIL Act would:

- Establish a dedicated structure within the Justice Department's Criminal Division to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes;
- Strengthen coordination and training among federal, state, and local law enforcement;
- Support expanded investigations and prosecutions, including parallel criminal and civil enforcement actions; and
- Require the Attorney General to report annually to Congress on the Justice Department's efforts to combat trade crimes.

Krishnamoorthi co-led the bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party Chairman John Moolenaar (R-MI), Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA), and a broad bipartisan coalition of lawmakers.

The PAIL Act is supported by organizations representing American workers and manufacturers, including the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO, American Iron and Steel Institute, Alliance for American Manufacturing, National Council of Textile Organizations, Steel Manufacturers Association, and Campaign for Uyghurs.

DHS Moves to Eliminate the 60-Day Grace Period for Laid-Off Nonimmigrant Workers

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

A proposed rule that would eliminate the 60-day grace period for nonimmigrant workers whose employment ends is now under review at the White House Office of Management and Budget, the last stop before a rule can be published for public comment. The rule, tracked under RIN 1615-AD22, would affect E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, O-1, and TN workers, along with their dependents.

The grace period at issue has been in place since 2017. It allows affected workers to remain in the United States for up to 60 days after their job ends, or until their I-94 expiration date, whichever comes first. During that window, someone can search for a new employer in the same visa category, file to change status, or make arrangements to depart without being treated as having fallen out of status. It applies whether the job loss was voluntary or involuntary, and it can be used once during each petition validity period. DHS has always had the discretion to shorten or eliminate the grace period case by case, but has rarely exercised that authority. This proposal would remove the grace period as a matter of policy rather than leaving it to individual discretion.

Nothing has changed yet. This is a proposed rule still working through federal review, and it has not been published in the Federal Register. Once it clears OMB review, which can take several months or longer, it will be published for a public comment period before any final rule takes effect. Still, the direction is worth taking seriously. Without a grace period, a worker who loses a job would need to have a new employer, a status change, or travel arrangements in place essentially immediately, since there would no longer be a built-in window to sort things out after the fact. That window matters for more than just the worker filing paperwork; it's often what gives a family time to handle a spouse's job, a child's school year, or the logistics of an international move on short notice.

What This Would Mean If Someone Falls Out of Status

The consequences of losing this cushion go beyond just having less time to act. Once someone falls out of status, getting back into status, even within the very same visa category they held before, generally can't be fixed with an in-country filing. It typically requires leaving the United States and applying fresh through a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad. And the longer someone remains without status, the more serious the exposure becomes: more than 180 days of unlawful presence can trigger a three- or ten-year bar on returning to the U.S., and in some cases removal proceedings or detention become a real possibility.

What Employers Should Consider Now

For employers, this raises the stakes around how layoffs and terminations are handled and timed. Where it's practical to do so, giving a sponsored employee advance notice of an upcoming termination, rather than an immediate one, can make a real difference in how much runway that person has to find a new sponsor or sort out their options.

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To be continued on Page 16

Indian Finance Minister Sitharaman Highlights India's Growth Story and Global Investment Opportunities During Landmark Chicago Visit

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

India's Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, made a landmark visit to Chicago as part of her six-day official tour of the United States, presenting India as a trusted, dynamic and long-term strategic destination for global investment, manufacturing, innovation and economic partnership.

During her official visit to Chicago, the Finance Minister held high-level discussions with prominent American business leaders, addressed an influential business roundtable and interacted with members of the vibrant Indian-American community. Her engagements emphasized India's broad-based economic growth, continuing reform momentum, expanding infrastructure and rapidly developing opportunities across advanced and emerging sectors.

Sitharaman's United States visit, scheduled from August 28 through September 2, included Chicago, Asheville and New York. The broader program featured participation in G20 meetings as well as meetings with investors, corporate leaders, policy experts and members of the Indian diaspora.

"Manufacture in India—for India and for the World". A major highlight of the Chicago visit was a high-level business roundtable hosted by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum in partnership with the Consulate General of India in Chicago.

Addressing leading investors and business executives, Sitharaman presented a compelling case for "Why India, Why Now." She urged international companies to view India not only as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing consumer markets, but also as a powerful global platform for manufacturing, technology, innovation and long-term infrastructure development.

The Finance Minister's central message—"Manufacture in India—for India and for the world"—reflected the country's ambition to deepen its integration into global value chains while creating partnerships founded on co-development, co-production, research and innovation.

She invited global companies to build in India for international markets by taking advantage of the country's large pool of engineering and technology talent, competitive manufacturing capabilities, growing domestic demand, expanding physical and digital infrastructure and strong entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The discussions highlighted opportunities in manufacturing, artificial intelligence and digital technologies, financial services, infrastructure, food processing, defence and other advanced technolo-



Business Roundtable: Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India, Addressed a business roundtable, urging global investors to manufacture, innovate, and build in India for worldwide markets. She highlighted India's robust economic reforms, technology ecosystem, and talent pool.

gies. These sectors offer substantial possibilities for companies seeking scale, skilled talent and durable growth.

Her message was clear: India should not be regarded merely as a market to be served, but as a strategic base from which companies can design, develop, manufacture and deliver products and services to the world.

During her Chicago engagements, Sitharaman met individually with senior executives representing major sectors of the American economy.

She met Monish Patolawala, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ADM, for discussions concerning greater collaboration in food processing, nutrition, sustainable supply chains and related areas. These sectors are especially important as India works to improve agricultural value addition, strengthen food security and connect farmers and producers with modern domestic and global supply networks.

The Finance Minister also met Brandon Tseng, co-founder and president of Shield AI, and discussed opportunities related to defense innovation and advanced autonomous systems. India's expanding defense manufacturing sector, engineering expertise and commitment to indigenous production offer growing opportunities for technology partnerships, testing, development and manufacturing.

Her meeting with Sachin Lawande, president and chief executive officer of Visteon Corporation, focused attention on India's strength in automotive technology, electronics, software and advanced mobility. As the global automobile industry undergoes a major transformation, India is emerging as an important location for research, engineering, digital solutions and next-generation vehicle technologies.

Sitharaman also met Luca Zaramella, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Mondelz International.

The engagement reflected the significant potential of India's consumer market, food-processing sector, supply chains and manufacturing ecosystem.

Together, these meetings demonstrated the wide scope of India-United States economic cooperation—from agriculture and food processing to automotive technology, digital innovation and defense.

The Finance Minister highlighted India's sustained reform process and the role of technology in making economic growth more inclusive, transparent and efficient. India's expanding Digital Public Infrastructure has transformed access to financial and government services while supporting entrepreneurship and innovation on an unprecedented scale.

Platforms and initiatives such as Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface, DigiLocker and the Open Network for Digital Commerce have helped create an interconnected digital ecosystem serving citizens, businesses and institutions.

India's experience demonstrates how technology, when developed at population scale, can promote financial inclusion, improve public-service delivery and open new opportunities for small businesses.

The country's progress in digital services, advanced manufacturing and financial innovation—together with institutions such as Gujarat International Finance Tec-City—offers global investors multiple pathways to participate in India's next phase of development.

Warm Interaction with Chicago's Indian Diaspora. Another important feature of the visit was Sitharaman's interaction with members of the Indian diaspora at the Consulate General of India in Chicago.

Addressing the gathering, she recognized the Indian-American community's valuable contributions to the United States and its important role in strengthening the relationship between the world's two largest democracies.



Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Govt of India. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman's address to the Indian diaspora in Chicago, USA

Through their achievements in business, medicine, technology, education, public service and community leadership, Indian Americans have enhanced India's global reputation and helped build enduring people-to-people connections.

The Finance Minister underscored the diaspora's ability to amplify India's soft power, share the country's achievements and create meaningful bridges in trade, investment, knowledge and culture. The interaction offered community members an opportunity to hear directly about India's macroeconomic landscape, development priorities and future outlook.

Sitharaman's full address to the Indian diaspora in Chicago is available online.

Sitharaman's Chicago visit carried significance beyond the individual meetings. It reaffirmed the growing importance of the American Midwest in India-United States economic engagement.

Chicago's position as a center of finance, manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, food production, technology and higher education makes it a natural partner in India's development journey.

The visit also demonstrated the increasingly multidimensional character of the bilateral relationship. Cooperation between India and the United States now extends across investment, resilient supply chains, clean energy, digital technology, defense, food security, advanced manufacturing and innovation.

By combining high-level business outreach with a warm community interaction, the Finance Minister presented a confident vision of an India that is reform-oriented, digitally empowered, globally connected and ready to build enduring partnerships.

Her message from Chicago was both an invitation and a statement of purpose: global partners are welcome to invest, innovate, co-develop and manufacture in India—not only for India's vast domestic market, but for the entire world.

Nepal Flood Death Toll Crosses 1,000, Rescuers Reach Remote Areas

By Gopal Sharma, Sahana Bajracharya,
Liz Lee and Ethan Wang

The death toll from Nepal's devastating floods surpassed 1,000 on Tuesday, September 1, as rescuers deployed heavy machinery, helicopters and excavators to reach thousands still missing nearly a week after the Himalayan disaster tore through towns and valleys.

Specialized rescue teams from China, India and Nepal built temporary bridges to reach remote areas and dug through the ruins of hydropower projects, using excavators to try to rescue nearly 300 workers trapped inside tunnels.

A glacier collapse on August 26 sent a deluge of ice, rock and mud sweeping through the impoverished nation's border region with China.

At least 639 people remain stranded in devastated hydropower stations that have become the focus of rescue efforts, Nepal's disaster management authority said on Tuesday.

The death toll rose to 1,050, while about 4,000 people remain missing, including 583 foreign nationals.

The disaster left at least 2.2 million tons of debris, according to a preliminary estimate by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including parts of buildings, rocks, and sediment.

"The amount of debris shows the scale of the destruction and the challenge communities face as they clear homes, roads and public spaces and begin to rebuild," it said.

More than 11,000 people have been rescued, and power and communication lines were restored in some areas, Prime Minister Balendra Shah said in a social media post on Monday.

"We did not have the time to grab anything before fleeing," said a survivor from the hard-hit Rasuwa district, who had walked to Nuwakot with scores of other survivors. "What we were wearing is the only pair of clothes we have. And even they are wet from rain."



A man looks at the "green miracle house" as it stands amid debris after surviving flash floods and a mudslide in Trishuli, Nuwakot district, Nepal, September 1, 2026.



A Buddhist monk looks at photographs of missing and deceased people pasted on wall outside Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, following flash floods and a mudslide, in Kathmandu, Nepal, September 1, 2026.

as life-detecting machines, large refrigerators and pre-fabricated bridges.

Aid worth over \$42 million flowed into the country after the disaster, Shah said, with contributions expected to increase.

RESCUE EFFORTS FOCUS ON HYDROPOWER STATIONS

Shah said 279 workers were rescued from hydropower projects, with joint teams from Nepal, India and China working on search-and-rescue operations.

Rescuers are contending with collapsed tunnels and floodwaters that have made access difficult at several hydropower sites where the largest numbers of people are believed trapped, an army source said.

"Our first rescue observation at Trishuli Hydro Power plant shows that it is not humanly possible to go into the tunnel," Asish Gurung, a mountain guide helping in the tunnel rescue, told Reuters from Haku village in Rasuwa district.

"We need machines like bulldozers and excavators... There may be about 500 people trapped inside," he said.

There has been a boom in hydropower projects in Nepal since the turn of the century as the mountainous nation sought to take advantage of its Himalayan water resources to address chronic domestic power shortages and expand electricity exports to neighbouring India.

Shah said the disaster signaled the growing risks the Himalayan region faces from a warming planet.

"The time has come for us to strongly raise before the international community the disasters we are experiencing as a consequence of climate change," he said.

Kanni Wignaraja, a U.N. assistant secretary-general, told Reuters that Nepal, which depends on glaciers for both income and water supplies, now faces "some very, very hard choices."

Last week's flood was "caused by glacier instability under the long-term effects of global warming", China's state broadcaster said on Monday, August 31.

-REUTERS

FOREIGN HELP FLOWS IN

In China, rescue teams worked through the night to reopen access to the Nepali border, on a steep mountain gorge flanked by unstable cliffs and fast-flowing river channels.

Beijing will send DNA testing experts to disaster-hit areas and a second batch of relief supplies, including drones and water purification, its foreign ministry said.

South Korea, nine of whose nationals were working at a hydropower project and are missing, said it will send a 44-member emergency relief team to support search-and-rescue operations in Rasuwa.

Nepal last week declined foreign participation in general search and rescue but said it needed specialized services and advanced technological support in areas such



Nepal army soldiers work during a search and rescue operation near Hydropower Project sites, following deadly flash floods and mudslides, in Rasuwa district, Nepal, in this handout obtained by Reuters on September 1, 2026.



Nepal army soldiers work during a search and rescue operation outside a tunnel near the Hydropower Project sites, following deadly flash floods and mudslides, in Rasuwa district, Nepal, in this handout obtained by Reuters on September 1, 2026.

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: A pleasant atmosphere at home may help you enjoy meaningful moments. Pay extra attention to your health. Work responsibilities may challenge your abilities. A short weekend escape could help you relax and recharge. Those waiting for possession of a booked property may receive positive news. Expanding your professional circle can also bring rewarding social opportunities.

TAURUS: Steady efforts may bring you closer to your goals. Your financial position is likely to remain stable. A new family development may require patience. Solo travel could offer peace of mind. Keeping things simple may work. Networking and can open new doors, while students may benefit from collaborative learning. Staying focused can help you achieve results.

GEMINI: Maintaining a healthy routine may require commitment. Your workplace could demand precision. Students, especially seniors, may experience academic progress and fresh learning opportunities. Professional and social growth is possible if you remain open to new experiences. Travel plans may face delays, making it wiser to postpone. Concentrating on personal strengths can bring lasting rewards.

CANCER: Warm conversations can strengthen your romantic relationships. A morning walk may help you stay active. Professionally, developing expertise in a specialised area could improve your career prospects. Property-related matters may show progress. Confidence in making independent decisions and adapting socially will work to your advantage. Travel plans look enjoyable, while students may benefit from sharing knowledge with classmates.

LEO: Managing your finances carefully will help you maintain stability. Spending quality time with family can bring happiness. Property-related expectations may not meet your hopes this week. Your social life could flourish. A refreshing getaway may help you regain energy. Students can improve their performance through teamwork. Staying optimistic will help you handle challenges.

VIRGO: Romance may bring memorable moments and deepen emotional connections. Family matters could require extra understanding. Your career may present unexpected developments, but your abilities will help you navigate them successfully. Investing in property, especially commercial real estate, may prove beneficial. Some travel plans might need rescheduling. Students should focus on completing assignments while avoiding distractions.

LIBRA: Relationships may become warmer this week. Financial progress could remain moderate. Minor misunderstandings with family members may arise, but patience can restore harmony. An unexpected journey may be on the cards for some. Property matters may require caution. Creative ideas can emerge, while maintaining a positive rapport with teachers may support academic success.

SCORPIO: Financial stability is likely. Couples may experience stronger emotional bonding. Property investments begin to show signs. Travel plans are likely to proceed smoothly. Your skills can help you overcome social challenges. Following a disciplined study routine will support steady academic progress. A confident mindset can lead you toward success.

SAGITTARIUS: Your well-being deserves special attention. Healthy eating and regular exercise can restore your energy levels. Family relationships may require extra care to maintain closeness. Romance may progress slowly. Overseas travel could bring exciting experiences. Creativity is likely to shine, while property-related matters show positive movement. Strong study habits will help students stay ahead.

CAPRICORN: Financial improvements may encourage you to make long-term plans. Health needs some attention, small lifestyle changes can make difference. Focus on strengthening existing relationships. Buying, renovating a property may prove rewarding. A family trip could create happy memories. Community service may bring a deep sense of fulfilment. Students can gain valuable experience through internships or training programmes.

AQUARIUS: Family gatherings may offer opportunities to understand each other's viewpoints better. Property-related decisions could encourage future investments. Your social presence is likely to attract appreciation. Financial growth may continue at a gradual but steady pace. Weather conditions could affect travel plans. Reviewing your goals and refining your study strategy can improve your performance.

PISCES: Financial matters may require planning, but opportunities for improvement are likely to emerge. Taking care of your well-being should remain a priority. Romance may bring exciting new beginnings. Property-related concerns can be resolved with consistent effort. A short trip could provide the break you have been looking for. Participating in community activities may help you build relationships and a stronger sense of belonging.

IMMIGRATION

DHS Moves to Eliminate the 60-Day Grace Period for Laid-Off Nonimmigrant Workers

By David H. Nachman, Esq

-Continued From Page 13

It's also worth remembering an obligation that already exists for H-1B workers: when an employer initiates the termination, it's generally required to offer to cover the reasonable cost of the employee's return transportation abroad, a requirement that becomes more consequential if departure ends up being the only realistic option on a compressed timeline. Employers with a meaningful population of sponsored employees should take this as a good moment to review termination policies and practices with immigration counsel, rather than waiting until the rule is finalized to figure out how it changes things.

For workers, this means the margin for error after a job loss, already narrow given recent enforcement trends, could shrink further. Anyone in an affected category who anticipates a job change or employment gap should talk with an immigration attorney now about contingency options, rather than waiting to see whether or when this rule is finalized.

FAQs

Has the grace period already been eliminated?

No. As of now, this is only a proposed rule under federal review. It has not been published for public comment or finalized, and the existing grace period remains in place.

Which visa categories would this affect?

The proposal covers E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, O-1, and TN nonimmigrants, along with their dependents.

How long does the current grace period last?

Up to 60 consecutive days, or until the individual's I-94 expires, whichever comes first. It can be used once per petition validity period.

When could this rule take effect?

There's no set timeline. The rule still needs to clear OMB review, be published for public comment, and go through a final rulemaking process, which can take several months or longer.

What should affected workers do in the meantime?

Anyone anticipating a job change should speak with an immigration attorney about contingency planning now, rather than waiting for the rule to be finalized.

Do employers already have any obligations when terminating an H-1B worker?

Yes. In an employer-initiated termination, the employer is generally required to offer to pay the reasonable cost of the worker's return transportation abroad, a rule that predates this proposal and remains unaffected by it.

If you or your family members have questions about how these immigration matters may affect you, 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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DESI TALK

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Opinion: Raksha Bandhan -The Bond That Distance Cannot Break

By RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI,
SPECIAL TO DESI TALK

For millions of Indian origin people living across the world, festivals are not just dates on a calendar. They are emotional bridges that connect them to their roots, their families, their values, and their memories of home. Even when life takes them thousands of miles away from India, festivals have a unique way of bringing India closer to their hearts. In a unique country like India, during every month and every season, there is some or the other festival through which one can see a glimpse of the country's rich culture.

Raksha Bandhan is one such distinctive festival that falls on the full moon day (Shravan Poornima) of the Shravan month of the Hindu lunisolar calendar and is a symbol of brother's love for his beloved sister. Although this festival of siblings is mainly prevalent among Hindus, due to its uniqueness, people of all religions across the globe celebrate it with much enthusiasm and gusto. For the Indian diaspora, this festival carries an additional layer of emotion. Siblings may live in different cities, states, or even countries, yet the distance does not diminish the bond between them. What was once a celebration around the same dining table may now involve video calls, messages, gifts and Rakhi's sent across continents.

'Raksha Bandhan' is not just a festival, but a symbol of our traditions and culture that keeps us connected with our family sacraments. For Indian-American families, it can also serve as a beautiful way of keeping cultural traditions alive and introducing younger generations to the values and stories associated with their heritage. The original spirit of this festival lies in 2 words i.e. 'Raksha' which means to protect and 'Bandhan' which means binding or bonding. So, in simple words, to bind oneself for protecting someone is 'Raksha Bandhan'. On this day the sister ties a silken thread of Rakhi on her beloved brother's wrist, thereby metaphorically strengthening the bond of love that exists in their relationship and in return, the brothers also make a promise to the sisters to protect them lifelong from all kinds of problems. It's a fact that from the time we are born till the time we die, we are constantly surrounded by some kind of fear or insecurities, and where there is a feeling of fear within, the spirit

of protection automatically becomes paramount. It is this spirit of protection with which a sister ties Rakhi to her brother while praying to the Almighty to keep her brother always safe and secure.

There are many legends associated with this festival out of which few of them like story of Rani Karnavati and Emperor Humayun have been quite popular among historians. When Rani Karnavati, the widowed queen of the king of Chittor realized that she could in no way defend her kingdom from the invasion of the Sultan of Gujarat, she sent a Rakhi to Emperor Humayun and in return, he honored this affectionate thread (Rakhi) and at once sent his troops for her help. Another mythological reference is connected with Lord Krishna and Draupadi.

According to the legend, Krishna loved Draupadi so much that he called her 'Sakhi'. Draupadi too had a lot of faith in Krishna. When Lord Krishna threw a celestial weapon (Sudarshan Chakra) at Shishupal, in order to punish him for numerous sins, his own finger got cut in the process. On seeing the blood drops, Draupadi immediately rushed to protect her Lord and tore off a piece from her sari and wrapped it around his finger, stopping the bleeding.

Krishna was touched by her gesture of devotion and pure love and asked her what she would like in return for this favor. Draupadi, like a true sister, just asked for the Lord's holy presence in her life forever. From that moment onwards, Krishna has been with Draupadi like a shadow, protecting her from every trouble, big or small. When the Kauravas tried to dishonor Draupadi through "Cheer Haran" (removing her sari) at the dice-game assembly, she prayed to Krishna continuously and the Lord took care of her honor; the sinners were punished later, during the battle of Mahabharata.

With the passage of time, this festival has acquired different expressions and connotations. In the present milieu where glamour is ruling people's heart and mind, there has been a major change observed in people's attitude and approach towards this festival, as a result of which mutual feelings of love, affection and most importantly piety have completely disappeared, because of which the current generations are asking questions like - How can one protect somebody just by getting a smooth cotton thread tied on his wrist which is easily breakable? Do such rituals or practices seem practical in

today's world?

Those who are posing these questions must first of all understand that 'Rakhi' is not merely a cotton thread but a sacred obligation to protect modesty and a reminder of the importance of restraint in life. While tying Rakhi on her brother's hand, a sister does not just seek protection for herself alone; she holds a much higher aspiration, which is that of protection for the entire female community. Along with this, she also prays to the Lord in her heart that her beloved brother becomes liberated from vices of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego and attains true peace and happiness in life. Thus, it is important for those so-called modern and practical people to realize that tying Rakhi is just a symbolic gesture, what's important in this ritual is the feelings of good wishes and prayers that come out from a sister's heart and which further acts like a shield of protection for her brother.

However, one wonders that are only females in need of protection? Wouldn't God - our Beloved Supreme Parent, Teacher be a more effective and a loyal Protector? We often forget our true identity of being an infinitesimal point of the divine energy i.e a soul. We get entangled in the web or bondages of 5 vices (lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego) which overpowers us and influence us to perform negative actions, which in turn causes sorrow and misery.

So, when the Almighty applies the "tilak" of soul-consciousness on our forehead, we become elevated and divine and start seeing each other as souls and not as bodies. This unlimited vision of brotherhood breaks all barriers of caste, creed, gender, religion and superstitions, thereby purifying our consciousness and making our actions positive to receive HIS blessings and good wishes and stay under the canopy of his protection for eternity. So, let's bind ourselves in this 'Spiritual Bond' that would liberate us from all bondages and help us to regain our lost sovereignty.

Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji
is a writer and spiritual educator.



PHOTO: PROVIDED

SPORTS

Cricket-Former India Captain Suryakumar Rues T20 Omission After World Cup Success

Former India captain Suryakumar Yadav said he was disappointed at being dropped from the national T20 side months after leading India to a successful defence of their men's T20 World Cup title.

The 35-year-old took charge in 2024, guiding India to 42 wins in 50 completed T20 internationals and helping them become the first team to retain the men's T20 World Cup crown.

The final victory over New Zealand in March was his last T20 appearance for India and he was replaced as captain by Shreyas Iyer.

"The guy they've picked, I have played a lot of cricket with him. I know he's a good player, good human being, good captain also," Suryakumar said on Aakash Chopra's YouTube show.

"So, I didn't resent the decision but was disappointed because we didn't lose a series for two years, won Asia Cup, T20 World Cup - you want the same thing to go



PHOTO: REUTERS/AMIT DAVE

Cricket - ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 - Super 8 - India v South Africa - Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India - February 22, 2026 India's Suryakumar Yadav in action

forward.

"When everything is going well, then why the change?"

India lost their first T20 series to Ireland in June and were thrashed 4-0 by England under Iyer, with a 3-0 victory over Zimbabwe their lone series win since lifting the World Cup.

Suryakumar scored only 242 runs in nine World Cup matches at an average of 30.25 after struggling in the lead-up to the tournament.

He managed only 270 runs for Mumbai Indians in this year's Indian Premier League.

"For one-and-a-half months I kept thinking, how can this happen? How is it possible? We just won the World Cup. Yes, IPL wasn't as good as how I wanted," he said.

India are due to play three one-day internationals and five T20 matches against West Indies from September 27, with the squad yet to be announced.

-REUTERS

How to add DISASTER PREPARATION to your travel plans

By Hannah Sampson, Andrea Sachs, Sofia Andrade

Flash floods, torrential storms, deadly fires and dangerous heat waves have battered busy tourist destinations in recent years, serving as a wake-up call to travelers finding themselves swept up in natural disasters.

Dozens of people were evacuated Sunday from Grand Canyon National Park after a flood hit Saturday afternoon, leaving two people dead. Last year, a fire destroyed a historic North Rim lodge in the canyon and forced evacuations. More than 900 people died in Nepal and Tibet after a glacier collapse caused massive floods last week and thousands are missing, including 85 American citizens. Wildfires hit several heavily touristed towns in Europe during the busy summer travel season in August.

“We’re seeing more weather-related, climate-related events than ever before,” Dale Buckner, CEO of security services firm Global Guardian, told The Washington Post in 2023. “The power of these things and the speed at which they’re moving seems to be ever-increasing.”

High temperatures can scuttle a day’s itinerary. A summer storm can unleash floods. And as the world witnessed amid Maui’s devastating blazes three years ago, an island day can turn into a fiery nightmare.

Experts say travelers should not assume they will be unscathed by natural disasters. Here are ways for people to prepare and respond in worst-case scenarios.

Be prepared for evacuations

Michael Rogers, a security expert at travel security firm International SOS, said in a 2023 email that specific preparation depends on where a traveler is and what threats they face. But in general, he said they should always be aware that the situation can get worse quickly - or that evacuations could be delayed if moving is not safe.

“You need to prepare to be flexible, and ready to move at short notice,” he said.

- It’s crucial to keep your phone charged. Use devices sparingly if power goes out.
- Maintain quick access to passports, visas, licenses and other documents.
- In the case of a wildfire, be prepared for road closures, suspended airport operations or power and cellphone outages. Rogers said travelers need to leave the affected area immediately and follow evacuation orders. If it’s impossible to leave, he said to call 911 or a similar number abroad, wear an N95 mask if available and try to take protective measures in place.
- For flash floods, evacuees need to get to higher ground right away and should not try to walk or drive through flooding, Rogers said.
- Buckner said travelers should only set out on a trip if they can answer key questions, including how they would be treated or evacuated if they get sick or injured and what they would do if they found themselves stranded, hacked or kidnapped. He said people need to read the fine print of their insurance policies to make sure they know when they can expect help or coverage.

Expert Advice

Haven Overman, vice president of Aloha Hawaiian Vacations, advises all her clients to be alert. Visitors who aren’t working with a travel agency especially have to “take matters into their own hands,” she said. “You’re going to have to follow the news for that area, follow what’s going on with the weather.” She also recommended travelers familiarize themselves with the emergency alert systems. A tourist visiting Hawaii, for example, should know alert sirens are used to give tsunami warnings. She said travelers would do well to talk to hotel workers, too. “Ask about evacuation routes. ... Don’t wait until everyone’s panicked,” she said. “If you do need to evacuate, where is the evacuation route? Where are the shelters? ... Try to be proactive rather than reactive.”

Travel adviser Heather Christopher, owner of HC Travel Firm, said visitors need to pay attention when they’re told to leave.

“Get out. Be respectful,” she said. “If you want to be a good traveler, then you need to be respectful of the people who live and work there. That’s their daily life. You get to go home safe and sound. At the end of the day, their lives are ruined.”

Ann Castagna Morin, founder of Massachusetts-based travel agency Your Dream Vacation, recommends all her clients enroll in the U.S. government’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, which allows travelers to register their itinerary and addresses. In case of a disaster, local embassies know to alert and look for you.

“It also can help family members reach you if there is an emergency back home,” she said. “Always leave a copy of your itinerary with a friend or relative.”



Key items to pack

In case of an emergency evacuation scenario, travelers should probably think about what not to pack. Rogers said travelers fleeing from a disaster may not be able to bring all their luggage along.

“Doing so could limit their ability to move quickly, but also simply may not fit on whatever vehicle may be used to move them to safety,” he said in an email.

If that’s the situation, they should tote the essentials:

- Communication devices like phones, tablets, laptops and chargers.
- Medication.
- A change of clothes.
- Important documents.
- Water and food that is light to carry but high in energy.
- Cash is good to have on hand, especially if a storm or fire knocks out power and cellphone service.

Christopher said travelers should always bring extra medication as a general rule of travel - “especially if your life is dependent upon it.”

Brace for cancellations

During a disaster, flight cancellations are to be expected. While a canceled flight can be stressful, there are certain protections in place to make the experience less uncertain for travelers.

Airlines owe travelers a refund for any flight they canceled, per Transportation Department regulations. This applies regardless of why the flight was canceled if the customer chooses not to rebook. Still, sometimes asking to reschedule a flight might be best, because taking a refund could lead to buying a more expensive flight later on.



Photo : Adobe

Check extreme weather forecasts

Rogers said travelers should make sure they are set up to receive key messages from authorities on their phones. That’s where alerts about flash floods and wildfires will typically appear.

You do not need an app or subscription to receive these - you need to merely ensure you have cell service and location access enabled,” he said in an email.

He also recommended that people check the National Weather Service’s Storm Prediction Center, which forecasts severe storms and fire conditions. Local emergency management offices will often send alerts, as will the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Natural disasters don’t follow a strict schedule, but they do have seasons:

Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Wildfire season typically occurs during the hot, dry months of summer, with a few early and late fires surfacing in the spring and fall. However, the U.S. Forest Service said wildfires have become a year-round threat because of drought conditions.

Tornadoes peak during summer, roughly May to July and between 4 and 9 p.m., depending on the region.

But, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns that tornadoes can happen at any time of year.

Consider travel insurance

Denise Ambrusko-Maida, founder of Travel Brilliant, a travel agency in Buffalo, recommends travel insurance to all of her clients. “Travel insurance protects your health, safety and investment,” she said.

When choosing a policy, consider the level of risk at your destination, such as its remoteness, vulnerability to natural disasters and emergency preparedness.

At the very least, Ambrusko-Maida recommends a policy that covers trip cancellations caused by illness and or a death in the family, travel delays and interruption, lost baggage and emergency medical care and evacuation. Insurance only covers unforeseen events, but for the most latitude, purchase the “Cancel for Any Reason” benefit.

Dancing Storytellers Bring Indian Mythology To Life On California Stage

BY A STAFF WRITER

Angelinos and their children have the opportunity to see rich Indian mythology enacted on stage through two Indian-origin dancers Danish Bhandara and Tulsi Shah, accompanied on the Tabla by Ravi Deo, August 29, 2026, at the Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Their performance, "Indian Mythology and Me" weaves together three stories which may be particularly appealing to children — Bheema's meeting with Hanuman, the clever mice who outwit an elephant queen, and the powerful tale of Goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura.

The interactive show unfolds with "The Dancing Storytellers bring Indian myths to life through a vivid blend of classical South Asian dance, folk movement, theater, rhythm, and playful audience engagement."

"Designed especially for K-5 audiences but captivating for all ages, the program offers a vibrant introduction to Indian mythology, dance traditions, and the timeless themes embedded within them," the Playhouse said in its publicity material.

Performers weave their way through the space, inviting children to step into the story with them, try out movement and gestures, and become part of the performance.

Each of the three stories is told through expressive gesture, dynamic choreography, and the artists' signature style of conversational storytelling.

"Rich with humor, heart, and cultural insight, Indian



Sierra Madre Playhouse in California features Indian mythology through dance.



Tulsi Shah.

Danish Bhandara.

Mythology and Me encourages reflection on identity, courage, empathy, and the power of stories to shape who we are," Playhouse said.

Shah is a Los Angeles-based dance and performance artist with training across Western concert and commercial dance, global traditional forms, and aerial arts, according to her bio on the Dancing Storytellers website. She has toured across North America, performs regularly at Disney, and various other venues.

She has a B.A. in Dance and Theatre Arts from Loyola Marymount University. Shah has been performing Indian Mythology and Me at school assemblies since Fall 2025 and "is a fantastic Bhima, an adorable Mouse King, and a formidable Mahishasura!" says Dancing Storytellers.

Bhandara is a professional dancer, actress, choreographer & dance teacher. She has more than 12 yrs of training in Kathak, Bollywood dance, & Raqs Sharqi (Belly dance). In 2017 she graduated from UCLA with a BA in World Arts & Cultures with emphasis in Dance.

Bhandara has performed at Disney CA Adventures & Disney Animal Kingdom with Blue 13 Dance Company for which she has also been dance captain, according to her biography on Dancing Storytellers website.

Some of her other notable work include dancing LIVE on KTLA 5's Morning News, A.R Rahman's Concert at the Hollywood Bowl, with pop stars' Latto & Anne Marie's in music video I Just Called, the launch of Netflix series: We Speak Dance, and choreographing for the play West Bollywood written by Aruna Harjani, directed by Kiff Scholl.

Bhuvan Bam, Rohit Saraf Wages War Against British Raj For Freedom In Nikkhil Advani's Period Drama

The trailer of Nikkhil Advani's 'The Revolutionaries' is finally out, offering a glimpse into high-octane period drama in which four individuals lead the armed resistance against the British Raj for India's independence.

The series stars Bhuvan Bham, Rohit Saraf, Pratibha Ranta and Gurfateh Pirzada in lead roles, with Jason Shah, Paoli Dam, and Tota Roy Chowdhury in key roles. The series is based on Sanjeev Sanyal's book 'Revolutionaries: The Other Story Of How India Won Its Freedom.'

The trailer introduced four revolutionaries, including Rash Behari Bose (Bhuvan Bam), Sachindra Nath Sanyal (Rohit Saraf), Pratibha Lahiri (Pratibha Ranta), and Bagha Jatin (Gurfateh Pirzada) as they wage an armed resistance against British rule, with the formidable General Dyer (Jason Shah) closing in at every turn.

The video was full of high-octane action scenes, capturing the scale of a rebellion forming against the might of an empire. Despite all the action, the series is expected to highlight youth, friendship, conviction and sacrifice, with four young Indians risking everything for a free nation they may never live to see.

Prime Video shared the trailer on their Instagram handle on Wednesday.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DcgI7kokpc7/?> Bhuvan Bam opened up about his character in the



series, saying 'Rash Behari' was a master of disguise who infiltrated British camps.

"What excited me about The Revolutionaries was that it isn't a conventional freedom-fighter drama. It's a story about four young heroes fighting for what they believe in, while navigating conflicts and a brotherhood forged in blood. Rash Behari was a 'behrupiya', a master of

disguise who infiltrated British camps. Because so little archival material exists about him, I had the freedom to build him from instinct, and Nikkhil sir's clarity and conviction gave me the confidence to explore that mystery. We have had the best cast and crew come together to make this show, and I'm grateful to Prime Video for bringing these untold stories to audiences around the world," said Bhuvan Bam, as quoted in the press note.

Rohit Saraf, who plays Sachindra Nath Sanyal, said, "Playing Sachindra Nath gave me the opportunity to step into a world that was completely new, both physically and emotionally. While it is an honour to portray a real-life hero from India's fight for freedom, what stayed with me was his childlike innocence paired with an unshakeable conviction; qualities that make him remarkably relatable even today. It was a role that required intensive training, allowing me to push myself far beyond my comfort zone. Collaborating with Nikkhil Advani and the team behind The Revolutionaries has been nothing short of a dream, and I hope the audience connects with my character and the poignant stories this series brings to light."

The series is produced by Monisha Advani and Madhu Bhojwani under the banner of Emmay Entertainment. It will release on Prime Video worldwide on September 11, 2026

-ANI

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08/07-09/04-SL

MICHIGAN
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08/14-09/11-SL

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Looking for Front Desk employee & Housekeeping employee for a franchise motel in Virginia. Accommodation provided
Call: 276-806-3375
Email: p.patel10@yahoo.com
08/21-09/11-SH

WISCONSIN
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07/10/2026-01/07/2027-SH

PHILADELPHIA & NEW JERSEY
Need Single / Couple Front Desk & Housekeeping help for Franchise Motels in the Philadelphia area, Pittsburgh - PA and Cherry Hill - NJ. Free accommodation provided. Call Ghanshyam Patel (610) 279 0150.
09/26/2026 - 09/18/2026-SL

FLORIDA
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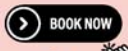
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