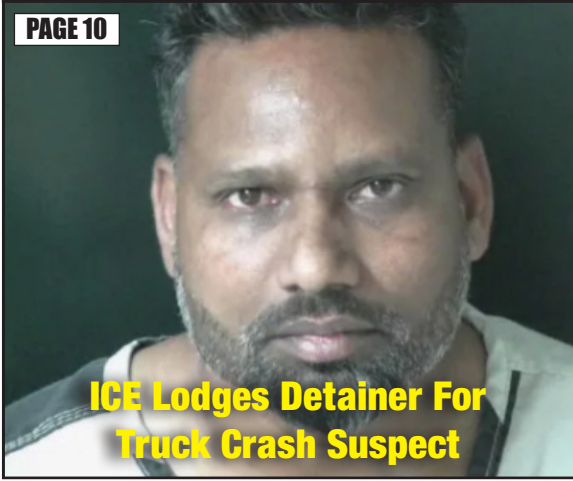




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Vol. XXX, No. 38
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Lives Lost in the World Trade Center Tragedy on 9/11



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Republicans Are Making Muslims A Campaign Issue In The 2026 US Midterms

By RICHARD COWAN AND DAVID HOOD-NUÑO

Republican Vice President JD Vance called Abdul El-Sayed, a Muslim and a Democrat running for the U.S. Senate in Michigan, “very, very evil” at a rally last week, accusing him of defending terrorism because of remarks he made after a March attack on a suburban Detroit synagogue.

In Texas, Republican Governor Greg Abbott, in a close race for another term, attacked a proposed Muslim-led development and called for an investigation into what he described as efforts to create “sharia courts,” a claim disputed by developers and civil rights groups.

In Alabama, where Muslims make up less than half a percent of the population, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville, a Republican running for governor, warned that “the enemy is inside the gates,” referring to what he called radical Islam.

MUSLIMS BECOME A CAMPAIGN ISSUE

The comments reflect an effort to make Muslims and Islam part of the election debate ahead of the November 3 midterms that will determine whether Democrats can wrest control of Congress from President Donald Trump’s Republican Party.

Critics say the rhetoric unfairly targets Muslims, while Republicans say they are raising legitimate concerns about security, extremism and the role of religion in public life.

Abbott campaign spokesman Eduardo Leal said the Texas governor’s actions regarding the development were aimed at alleged illegal conduct, not religious beliefs.

Muslims number about 5.5 million people in the United States, up from 2.4 million in 2007, according to Pew Research Center. They account for about 1.6% of the country’s population.

Over the past year, Muslims have gained more political power than at any point in recent memory. New York City elected its first Muslim mayor, Zohran Mamdani, while El-Sayed could become the first Muslim senator. Last year, Ghazala Hashmi became the first Muslim woman elected to a statewide office when she became Virginia’s lieutenant governor.

The rhetoric has spread to House races as well.

Republican Representatives Keith Self and Chip Roy, both of Texas, have organized a “Sharia Free America Caucus” and Republican Representative Randy Fine of Florida has introduced legislation that he says will “tackle the rise” of sharia law in the United States.

Aides to Fine did not respond to requests for comment.

EL-SAYED AT CENTER OF DEBATE

As the only Muslim running for statewide office in the country, the American-born El-Sayed has been the focus of anti-Islamic rhetoric around the country.

Vance’s criticism centered on comments El-Sayed made after a man drove a vehicle into a suburban Detroit synagogue in March while children were in the building. El-Sayed condemned the attack but also said of the assailant that “hurt people hurt people,” noting that some of the man’s relatives in Lebanon had recently been killed in an Israeli airstrike.

El-Sayed later said the remarks may have been misconstrued and apologized.

In response to Vance’s attack, El-Sayed said last month:

“Evil is ripping healthcare away from working people in exchange for tax breaks for billionaires. Evil is making people pay more for groceries and gas while pushing for trade wars and actual war. Evil is dividing people for your own gain.”



U.S. Vice President JD Vance delivers remarks at a MAGA Inc. event in Sterling Heights, Michigan, US., August 31, 2026.

El-Sayed has faced Republican criticism for associating with Hasan Piker, a left-wing social media influencer who has said the United States deserved the September 11, 2001, attacks.

In a podcast interview El-Sayed discussed the feelings of isolation some Americans experience, which he blamed on cellphones and social media, and contrasted it with the sense of community his relatives in Egypt enjoy.

In response, Tuberville posted on X, “If you hate America so much, go live in Egypt.”

Aides to the Tuberville campaign did not respond to requests for comment.



Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Abdul El-Sayed greets attendees during the Labor Day Parade in Detroit, Michigan U.S. September 7, 2026.

DEBATE OVER POLITICAL MOTIVES

The public has doubts about Trump, whose approval rating is stuck at around 33%. Their top concerns: the

high cost of living, the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and Trump’s tariffs on foreign goods.

Public attitudes toward Israel have shifted, particularly among Democrats, with polls showing growing sympathy for Palestinians and increasing opposition to U.S. military aid.

Aaron Hughes, a University of Rochester religious studies professor and scholar of Islam and Judaism, said the increased focus on Muslims comes as Republicans struggle to gain political traction on issues such as the cost of living, the Iran war and immigration.

“If you can wrap yourself in the flag and you can criticize Muslims and Islam that means you don’t really have to deal with the issues,” he said in a telephone interview, calling it “fear-mongering.”

“You’re taking this gross characterization of a community and making connections with Hamas, with Iran ... I find it most shocking that there’s this conflation,” he said.

The rhetorical attacks occur, Hughes noted, despite many Muslims holding conservative beliefs that dovetail with Republican orthodoxy, such as opposition to some abortion procedures and same-sex marriage.

There is a history in the United States of targeting minorities in political campaigns, but the rhetoric has become sharper, according to experts.

Exactly two years ago, some Republicans running for public office, including Trump, spread the false claim that immigrant Haitians living in the small town of Springfield, Ohio, were eating pets.

“They’re eating the dogs! The people that came in. They’re eating the cats! They’re eating ... the pets of the people that live there,” Trump said in a 2024 presidential debate.

While Trump is not on the ballot, the public’s low support for his performance could be a drag on his fellow Republicans.

Ashik Siddique, co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America, said it would be wrong to hang Islamophobia on just one political party. “Unfortunately sometimes Democrats in leadership have also fed into this” anti-Islamic rhetoric, he said.

He was referring to a radio interview Andrew Cuomo did last October when running as an independent candidate in the New York City mayoral election before being defeated by Mamdani.

“Can you imagine Mamdani in the seat” during the September 11, 2001, attack? Cuomo asked the show’s host.

BEYOND THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The issue has extended beyond the campaign trail.

In August, Abbott urged a federal probe of two Texas airports over Islamic ritual washing facilities, arguing that government-owned airports could not favor one religion over another. Abbott’s campaign rejected accusations that it was targeting Muslims because of their faith.

Houston’s Democratic Mayor John Whitmire said the airports’ ablution room and adjoining prayer room are “open to all travelers, employees and stakeholders” regardless of faith and that “nobody receives preferential access, and nobody is excluded.”

-REUTERS



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Lives Lost At World Trade Center On 9/11

BY A STAFF WRITER

On that fateful day September 11, 2001, three locations were attacked by al Qaeda terrorists – the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and instead of the White House, a ground in Shanksville, Pennsylvania where passengers forced the crash. Some 2,977 people were killed, among them 58 individuals of Indian descent, tracing their ancestry mostly to India but with a sprinkling from the Caribbean, a few were of other South Asian heritage.

A significant number are youth in their twenties and thirties, and two companies Cantor Fitzgerald and Marsh McLennan lost several of their staff. Most of the Indian-origin individuals killed were at the World Trade Center, but a couple of them died at the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 11. (This list was compiled from the list of victims available on Wikipedia.org. We cannot assure that this is a complete list.)

PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN AND OTHER SOUTH ASIAN ORIGIN LOST IN 9/11 TERROR ATTACK

- Alok Agarwal, 36, WTC 1, Jersey City, NJ, United States, Senior Programmer Analyst, Cantor Fitzgerald
- Mukul Kumar Agarwala, 37, WTC 2, Kendall Park, NJ, United States, Research Analyst, Fiduciary Trust International
- Shabbir Ahmed, 47, WTC 1, Marine Park, NY, United States, Waiter, Windows on the World
- Tariq Amanullah, 40, WTC 2, Metuchen, NJ, United States, Vice President, Fiduciary Trust International
- Kris Romeo Bishundat, 23, Pentagon, Waldorf, MD, United States, Information Systems Technician Second Class, U.S. Navy
- Annette Andrea “Priya” Dataram, 25, WTC, South Ozone Park, NY, United States, Accountant, Windows on the World
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- Swarna Chalasani, 33, WTC, Jersey City, NJ, United States, Vice President, Fiduciary Trust International
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- Mohammad Salahuddin Chowdhury, 38, WTC, Woodside, NY, United States, Waiter, Windows on the World
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- Babita Girjamatie Guman, 33, WTC, Bronx, NY, United States, Computer Specialist, Fiduciary Trust International
- Mohammad Salman Hamdani, 23, WTC, Bay-side, NY, United States, Research Technician, HHMI at Rockefeller University
- Ricknauth Jaggernauth, 58, WTC, Brooklyn, NY, United States, Construction Worker, NTX Interiors
- Yudhvir S. “Yudh” Jain, 54, WTC, New City, NY,

- United States, Senior Project Manager, Cantor Fitzgerald
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- Shashi Kiran Lakshmikantha Kadaba, 25, WTC, Hackensack, NJ, United States, Software Designer, Wipro Technologies
- Rajesh Khandelwal, 33, WTC, South Plainfield, NJ, United States, Business Analyst, Marsh McLennan

- United States, Consultant, Marsh McLennan
- Vinod Kumar Parakat, 34, WTC, Sayreville, NJ, United States, Programmer (Central Development), —
- Vijayashanker Paramsothy, 23, WTC, Astoria, NY, United States, —, Aon
- Nitin Ramesh Parandkar, 28, WTC, Woodbridge, NJ, United States, Consultant, Marsh McLennan / Oracle
- Hardai “Casey” Parbhu, 42, WTC, Bronx, NY, United States, —, Aon

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- Dipti Patel, 38, WTC, New Hyde Park, NY, United States, Data Systems Engineer, Cantor Fitzgerald

- Manish Patel, 29, WTC, Edison, NJ, United States, LDC Options Broker, Euro Brokers

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PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM A VIDEO

A daughter remembers her mother Deepa who died on September 11, describing her as a lively, loving and sharing person, speaking at the memorial.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK @US THROWBACK STORIES

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Judge Blocks DHS Rule Limiting Foreign Students To Four-Year Stays

By TODD WALLACK

A federal judge on Monday (September 14, 2026) temporarily blocked the U.S. government from implementing a new rule that would limit stays for foreign students, journalists and exchange visitors, one day before it was slated to take effect.

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV of the U.S. District Court in Boston ruled that the new policy would probably cause “catastrophic” damage to the U.S. economy and higher-education system. Saylor also rejected the government’s claims that the new rule was needed to protect the country.

“The government’s contention that the rule is necessary to safeguard national security borders on the absurd,” Saylor wrote. “It is based almost entirely on a small handful of anecdotes, each of which involved incidents that the new rule would do nothing to prevent or even mitigate.”

The rule, finalized by the Department of Homeland Security in July, was slated to go into effect Tuesday, affecting many foreign students, scholars and journalists. It would have fully applied to visitors entering or reentering the United States starting Tuesday, with transitional rules for those already in the country.

General Counsel James Percival criticized the decision on Monday night.

“Come on a student visa, take one class per semester, and stay here for decades. According to Judge Dennis Saylor, ICE must permit this rampant abuse of our immigration system,” he wrote on X.

Historically, the U.S. has allowed visitors on certain types of visas to remain in the country for the duration of their authorized studies or assignments, but the updated regulations contain stricter time limits. Foreign college

PHOTO: JOSH REYNOLDS/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



A Harvard University graduate in 2025 wears a cap with a message in support of international students.

students, for instance, would generally be limited to no more than four years, unless they successfully obtained permission to stay longer. Journalists from most countries would be limited to a maximum of 240 days.

To try to stop the new rule, a coalition of labor unions and higher-education groups sued DHS and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement last month.

Many higher-education officials pointed out that students routinely need more than four years to finish their studies, especially those in doctoral programs. But DHS said the limits would help it curb fraud and make it easier to stop people from overstaying their visas.

Some colleges had already reported a sharp decline in applications from new international students after

the Trump administration cracked down on immigration and restricted visas from selected countries. A report last month predicted international enrollment would decrease by nearly 10 percent this fall. And some institutions have blamed declines in international enrollment for layoffs and cuts to programs.

Saylor’s ruling applies nationwide, not just to the parties who brought the suit. The judge said it would be too difficult and confusing to apply separate regulatory schemes to different colleges, especially because students may transfer between institutions.

However, Saylor stopped short of permanently invalidating the new rule. The government may also appeal Monday’s ruling.

Several of the groups that brought the lawsuit praised the court ruling in statements Monday.

“At a time when countries around the world are competing for talent, the United States should be strengthening our ability to attract the best and brightest, not creating new barriers to it,” said Fanta Aw, executive director of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, a nonprofit dedicated to international education and exchange. The United Auto Workers, which represents graduate student workers and researchers, called the decision a win.

“You can’t do groundbreaking research or inspire undergrads while living in fear that a policy change could upend your visa status overnight,” the union’s higher-education arm said in a statement. “We’re glad the court recognized that harm and stepped in.”

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Attorney Pooja Sethi Running For Texas House From 47th District

By A STAFF WRITER

Pooja Sethi, an attorney with significant experience in Austin, and a host of endorsements, is running for the Texas State House of Representatives from District 47.

Her website lists at least 30 organizations backing the Democratic agenda she details on poojafortexas.com. Among them are two newspapers, Austin American-Statesman and The Austin Chronicle, as well as national organizations like Annie’s List, and several state-chapters of labor, teachers, etc.

Sethi is Chief of Staff to Texas State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, and has 4 years of experience working directly in the Texas Legislature. She also chairs the Travis County Democratic Party.

Prior to working in the state legislature, Sethi worked as an immigration attorney with Catholic Charities. She has a bachelors degree from George Washington University in D.C., and a J.D. from Syracuse University, NY.

“Pooja brings a rare combination of legal expertise, political leadership, and lived experience to every issue she takes on,” says her bio on the campaign website.

In the Democratic primary held March 3 this year, Sethi handily defeated her opponent Joseph Kopser, securing more than 76 percent of the vote. For the November 3 general election, Sethi is pitted against Republican



Pooja Sethi.

Jennifer Mushtaler.

A recent headline on the news outlet Lone Star Left, read, “Texas needs more Pooja Sethis”.

She places children front and center on her campaign platform. “I’m running for Texas House District 47. Texas children deserve better,” adding, “I’m running to fight for every child, every family and every community that’s been told to wait their turn or lower their voice. I’m a

mom, — and I cannot keep raising my child in a state that turns its back on kids. Every session we’re told we’re here to fight for children. But every session, I’ve watch cruelty win.”

She lists her priorities as – Fully fund public education; Family-first neighborhood safety; Your right to timely healthcare; Tackling the climate crisis; Defend our democracy & local control.



Banner photo on Pooja Sethi’s Facebook page showing the elected leaders backing her, at an event entitled -Thank You Elected Officials



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ICE Lodges Detainer For Illegal Alien Of Indian Origin Charged In Fatal Semi-Truck Crash; DHS Tweets Warning To Generic “Mr. Singh”

By A STAFF WRITER

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a September 9, 2026, press release following a detainer issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for an individual of Indian origin who it identified as an “illegal alien” charged with causing a semi-truck crash that killed a woman in Ohio.

The DHS in the same press release identified other Indian-origin truck drivers and later posted a related X.com post that used the generic “Mr. Singh” name as a warning, a post to which Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi responded with a strongly worded statement.

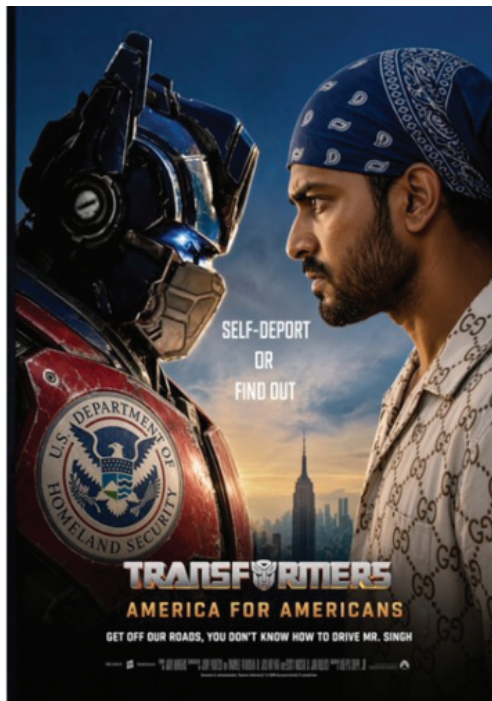
In the Sept. 9, press release, the DHS quoting local reporting (According to local reporting) said the crash took place on September 2 in Brown County, Ohio. A semi-truck attempted to pass another vehicle by moving into the opposite lane, colliding head-on with a car being driven by 50-year-old Brenda Watson who died at the scene. A witness to the crash said that the semi-truck was speeding and had plenty of time and space to merge back into the correct lane, the DHS said.

According to details provided by DHS, Singh had been granted a commercial driver's license (CDL) by the state of California. Singh, the DHS said, illegally entered the United States through Arizona in October 2023 and was encountered by the U.S. Border Patrol.

“He was then RELEASED into the country by the Biden Administration. In July 2024, he applied for work



The suspect Manjit Singh.



A DHS graphic posted on Twitter. PHOTO Provided by the Office of Rep.

authorization, which was granted by the Biden Administration in August 2024,” the press release says, also blaming the “sanctuary” policy of Governor Gavin Newsom of California.

The DHS goes on to identify 5 other cases where truckers, 4 of them of Indian origin, were involved in alleged criminal offenses:

“These include:

- In January, ICE lodged detainers for Gunpreet Singh and Jasveer Singh, criminal illegal aliens from India, after they had been arrested for smuggling more than 300 pounds of cocaine in a semi-truck in Putnam County, Indiana. Governor Newsom's DMV had given both men CDLs.
- In December 2025, ICE arrested Gerson Emir Cuadra Soto, an illegal alien from Honduras and MS-13 member who is wanted in his home country for a quadruple homicide, in Grand Island, Nebraska. He had been given a driver's license by Newsom's DMV.
- In November 2025, Rajinder Kumar, an illegal alien from India who had been given a CDL by Newsom's DMV, jackknifed his semi-truck and trailer on a highway in Deschutes County, Oregon, killing a newlywed couple. ICE arrested Kumar in April 2026.
- In August 2025, ICE lodged a detainer for Harjinder Singh, an illegal alien from India, after he made an illegal U-turn in his semi-truck and killed three people in St. Lucie County, Florida. Singh had obtained his CDL in Newsom's California.”

The DHS in a social media post, which has since been removed, depicted a man labeled “Mr. Singh” who is confronted with a Transformers-style deportation graphic, which tells him in upper case letter, “GET OFF OUR ROADS, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRIVE MR. SINGH” and

warned him to “self-deport or find out.”

Congressman Krishnamoorthi, in a statement issued Sept. 10, said, “Our government should never use its power to demonize people or suggest that their faith, heritage, or identity means they do not belong here. Yet in an official social media post styled as a movie poster, the Trump Department of Homeland Security depicted a man labeled “Mr. Singh” as the villain, told him to “get off our roads,” and warned him to “self-deport or find out.”

Krishnamoorthi went on to say, “More than 160,000 people in the United States share the surname Singh. When the government demonizes a name carried by so many Sikh families, it fuels xenophobia and casts suspicion on an entire community. Sikh and South Asian Americans are as American as anyone. This is our country and our home, and there should be no room for hate here.”

The Congressional Caucus for Asian and Pacific Islanders, CAPAC, also put out a statement strongly condemning the DHS social media post. Congresswoman Grace Meng, D-NY, chair of CAPAC, said in a statement – “We are outraged by the blatantly racist and xenophobic social media posts coming from the Department of Homeland Security that portray the Sikh community, and other immigrants, as enemies of the United States. Sikh Americans are not enemies of this country – they are our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends, and proud Americans who contribute to every part of our nation.”

Meng went on to say, “Millions of Sikhs bear the name ‘Singh,’ including an American patriot and trailblazer, Rep. Dalip Singh Saund, who became the first Asian American ever elected to Congress in 1956. To suggest that someone's name, faith, or immigrant background makes them a threat to America is not only offensive – it is dangerous.”

Sex Offender Rudolph Girdhari Of Connecticut, Sentenced To More Than 10 Years

FROM PRESS RELEASE

David X. Sullivan, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced on August 28, 2026, that RUDOLPH GIRDHARI, 36, of Norwalk, Connecticut, was sentenced (August 27), by U.S. District Judge Alvin W. Thompson in Hartford to 123 months of imprisonment and a lifetime of supervised release for possessing child sex abuse material.

According to court documents and statements made in court, in May 2012, Girdhari was convicted in state court of possession of child pornography in the second degree, and was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment, execution suspended after two years, and 20 years of

probation. In 2022 and 2023, an FBI investigation of individuals trading child sex abuse images and videos on Wickr, an encrypted communication service, determined that an email address connected to Girdhari was being used to access two child pornography trading networks on Wickr.

On May 2, 2024, investigators conducted a court-authorized search of Girdhari's residence and seized numerous electronic devices including phones, tablets, computers, hard drives, and thumb drives. Analysis of the seized devices revealed more than 2,000 images and videos of child sex abuse.

Girdhari has been detained since May 16, 2024, when he was arrested for violating his state probation. On December 3, 2025, he pleaded guilty in federal court to

possession of child pornography.

This matter was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Office of Adult Probation and the Norwalk Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anastasia E. King.

This prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, which is aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

To report cases of child exploitation, please visit www.cybertipline.com



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Divine Hindu Parivar Celebrates Fourth Anniversary With Two-Day Outdoor Raas Garba In Niles

By BHAILAL M. PATEL

The religious community organization, Divine Hindu Parivar, celebrated its fourth anniversary with a colorful and spirited two-day outdoor Raas Garba celebration on Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, 2026, at Golf Mill Park in Niles, Illinois.

Devotees, families, community leaders and friends gathered to celebrate and experience some of India's diverse culture, with a focus on Gujarat, Hindu traditions, music, dance and the Spirit of Navratri.

The outdoor festivities transformed Golf Mill Park into a colorful gathering place with people in traditional Indian attire, energetic music and the rhythmic movements of Garba and Dandiya Raas, two of Gujarat's most cherished folk-dance traditions, in which people of all ages participated.

Divine Hindu Parivar is dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of Hindu Dharma, its scriptures, traditions, worship and cultural heritage. Its official website places particular emphasis on the Vedas—Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda—as foundational scriptures of Hinduism, while also presenting educational information about Hindu religion, scriptures, ethics, rituals, worship, philosophy, deities and culture.

The organization's website highlights devotion to Lord Rama, Lord Krishna and other Hindu deities, as well as the importance of the Vedas and Sanatan Dharma. It also presents Hindu culture as encompassing not only religious worship but a rich heritage of music, dance, literature, art, philosophy and social traditions.

Garba occupies a special place in Gujarati Hindu culture and is particularly associated with Navratri, the sacred festival honoring the Divine Mother and the triumph of divine strength, righteousness and devotion. Dandiya Raas, traditionally performed with decorated sticks, adds another energetic and joyful dimension to Navratri festivities and has become one of the most recognizable cultural traditions celebrated by the diaspora around the world.

The circular movement of Garba has long been associated with continuity



PHOTOS: DIVINE HINDU PARIVAR

Celebration of Garba, Raas by the community.



The Outdoor Raas Garba by Nidhi Sheth with her Team and Band by Hitesh Master Orchestra Saregama of Chicago.

and the eternal presence of the Divine, while people dancing together symbolize community, harmony and collective devotion.

For the Indian-American community across the United States, Navratri and Garba celebrations have become important occasions for preserving cultural

identity while introducing Indian traditions to the wider American community.

In the Chicago metropolitan area, Raas Garba programs attract not only Gujarati families but people representing many regions, languages and traditions of India. Children and young adults born and raised in the United States are able

to experience the music, clothing, dance and devotional traditions of their ancestral heritage firsthand.

The fourth anniversary of Divine Hindu Parivar added special significance to this year's celebration. The organization maintains its community presence from Morton Grove, Illinois, serving families in the greater Chicagoland region.

Cultural and religious organizations such as Divine Hindu Parivar play an increasingly important role in maintaining connections between generations of Indian Americans. Festivals provide a welcoming environment where newcomers can meet established community members, children can learn about their heritage, and families can build lasting friendships.

At the same time, these celebrations introduce the richness and diversity of Indian culture to friends and neighbors from other backgrounds, contributing to the multicultural fabric of the United States.

The Washington Post

The great vacation rental debate: Should costs be split per person or room?

By Andrea Sachs, Hannah Sampson

For friends and family members who vacation together, one topic can be more fraught than sex, politics or religion: how to split the cost of the rental.

In one corner, you have pay-per-person. In the other, pay-per-room. Both plans have defenders and detractors. And many travelers just aren't sure.

Jonathan Levitt, 35, of Colorado, was debating the topic with his girlfriend last year ahead of a group trip to Arizona when he posted the question on social media.

The answers included the standard per person or per room, but also per family or per bathroom - or per person, but discounted for the friend who had to buy a plane ticket. One person wrote: "Get a hotel room!"

"We both kind of couldn't figure out why the other person felt that way," said Levitt, a consultant and host of the podcast "For the Long Run."

Singles, who often feel as if they are subsidizing the couples and families in their travel group, typically prefer a per-person arrangement. In this scenario, each guest contributes to the pot, including children who are not old enough to run a lemonade stand. (Their parents float them the cash till they are financially independent.)

Multiples sharing a bedroom may support the per-room position, claiming they should pay for the space, not the number of bodies inside it. Paying per-person could be construed as a slumber party tariff.

The calculations can become more complicated if you factor in room size or trappings, such as a whirlpool tub or an ocean-view balcony. Or if a guest departs early or makes significantly less than the rest of the group.

To help us settle the Great Vacation Rental Debate, we asked Google's AI tool which payment structure is the most egalitarian. "Paying per room is generally considered the most standard and fair approach for vacation rentals," it stated

But AI has never had to share a bathroom with five people. So, we invited several experts to weigh in.

Team per person

Reid Kennedy, an Airbnb host in St. Paul, Minnesota, didn't mince words. He said group activities often go better when there is equal investment.

"Gotta keep it simple and pay per person," he said in a text message. "That way, everyone has the same financial investment and avoids any resentment."

Diane Gottsman, an etiquette expert and founder of the Protocol School of Texas, aligns with the per-person approach as long as the rooms are identical. If they vary in size, views or bathroom access, the person with the larger or swankier room should pay more.

"If a guest is sleeping on a pull-out bed and everyone else has their own room, it would be considerate to take that into consideration when divvying up the bill and give that person a break," Gottsman said by email.

Additionally, if the group has to upgrade to a pricier property to accommodate a friend's specific needs, such as bunk beds for their children or a yard for their dog, then those folks should pitch in more.

Makarand Mody, an associate professor of hospitality marketing at Boston University, said a half-and-half split between families traveling together is reasonable, but dividing per person makes sense for a mixed group of adults. In an email, he said he can see why the question is the subject of debate.

"The underlying issue is that people are not only evaluating the math; they are evaluating whether the arrangement feels fair relative to what everyone is receiving," said Mody, who studies sharing-economy platforms like Airbnb.

To keep the debate from turning into a rift, vacationing pals should agree on their strategy before they book.

"A clear process upfront can prevent resentment later," Mody said.

Team per person, per night

When dicing up the bill, Jon Bittner, CEO and co-founder of the expense-sharing app Splitwise, takes a more holistic approach, considering the entire home, not just the beds.

"A vacation rental is more than just a place to sleep. Guests are also sharing common spaces like kitchens, bathrooms, living rooms, outdoor areas and the overall experience of the destination," Bittner said by email.

"A per-person, per-night split reflects that, and it also makes the cost lower for everyone else when someone brings a partner, family member or friend."

Team bid on it

Sally French, lead writer at NerdWallet, voiced a similar argument on "this very spicy debate," reminding guests that they are paying for the common spaces, too.

When negotiating amounts, she said, vacationers should be sensitive to any disparities in personal finances. A working couple, for instance, could have twice the income of a single person.

To bridge any differences in rooms, French recommended auctioning off the sleeping quarters.

"If all the rooms are equal, then it's fair to do it that way [per person]. But in a vacation rental where you have the primary bedroom with a big suite and private balcony, and a sad, tiny room that could be an office, then the bidding-style really makes sense."

The verdict

The consensus among most of our experts is to pay per person per night - with an asterisk. Adjust the amount if the rooms are vastly different in size or amenities. Of course, use the format that works best for your group dynamic and that will ensure another vacation.



Photo: Adobe

India's Modi And China's Xi Push Business Links, Border Peace As Ties Revive

BY SAKSHI DAYAL, SHILPA JAMKHANDIKAR AND LIZ LEE



Russia's President Vladimir Putin, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping take part in a tree-planting ceremony during the BRICS summit in New Delhi, India, September 12, 2026.

PHOTO: SPUTNIK/ALEXANDER KAZAKOV/POOL VIA REUTERS

India and China's leaders pledged on Saturday to build up business and transport links, New Delhi said, as both rebuild ties badly damaged by a 2020 military clash on their disputed Himalayan border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of a summit of the BRICS group of emerging nations in New Delhi — Xi's first trip to India in seven years.

Military tensions have eased, but businesses in both countries say they continue to face hurdles, including red tape, visa delays and restrictions on selling industrial equipment.

"The two leaders ... underscored the need to further promote cultural exchanges, business linkages and greater mobility between the two countries," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement.

"On economic and trade relations, they underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues, and facilitation of meaningful and predictable market access," it said.

Bilateral trade reached a record \$155.6 billion in 2025, according to Chinese customs data.

China has become India's largest source of imports, with Indian purchases from China rising to about \$132 billion in the 2025/26 fiscal year. India's exports to China

remain much smaller, leaving New Delhi with a trade deficit of more than \$100 billion.

Xi said China has always viewed and developed China-India relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Institutional exchanges between the two countries are gradually being restored, the list of areas for cooperation is growing and bilateral trade has reached a new high, Xi said according to Xinhua.

China and India fought a brief but brutal border war in 1962, and their relationship soured again after the 2020 border skirmish killed 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers.

Ties began recovering at the end of 2024 after Xi and Modi agreed to end their military stand-off in the western Himalayas.

Irritants remain as both countries continue to maintain substantial military deployments in the Himalayas and border talks make slow progress.

Modi said that peace in the border areas remained an essential basis for the continued development of bilateral relations, according to the Indian statement.

The nuclear-armed neighbours share a roughly 3,800-km (2,400-mile), largely unmarked frontier.

-REUTERS

Xi Pushes 'Greater BRICS' Economic Ties To Give Bloc Larger Global Role

Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled on Sunday initiatives in areas ranging from AI to trade to deepen cooperation among the "Greater BRICS" emerging economies, as Beijing seeks to weld the grouping into a practical platform for Global South development.

Cooperation in areas from politics and security to economics and finance are the main focus areas of the grouping, with 2026 chair India and 2027 chair China seeking wider partnership to boost its global clout.

The success of the "Greater BRICS Initiative" depends on laying a solid foundation for pragmatic cooperation, Xi told the leaders' annual summit in New Delhi, the official Xinhua news agency said.

'Greater BRICS' nations should further co-operate, maintain the stability of industrial and supply chains, and cultivate an integrated market, Xi told the summit's closing session.

China will take the lead in establishing a BRICS AI Open Source Zone to promote cooperation on large language models, AI training and an open AI ecosystem, Xi added.

He also proposed a BRICS Special Economic Zone partnership and said China would host a BRICS Service Trade Forum next year to boost trade and investment ties.

EXPANDED ROLE FOR 'GREATER BRICS' GROUPING

Heads of delegations, including Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Kuchkarov, Malaysian



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a session on day two of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, September 13, 2026.

PHOTO: SPUTNIK/ALEXANDER KAZAKOV/POOL VIA REUTERS

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Vietnam's Prime Minister Le Minh Hung, pose for a family photo on day two of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, September 13, 2026. Sputnik/Alexander Kazakov/Pool via REUTERS

BRICS has expanded to include Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates beyond an original membership of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa two decades ago that aimed to transform a world order dominated by the United States.

In addition, 10 partner countries span emerging economies across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, broadening its reach across the Global South.

China and Russia sometimes refer to this larger bloc as "Greater BRICS".

BRICS HELPS CREATE FAIRER WORLD ORDER, PUTIN SAYS

The benefits of solutions developed within BRICS should not stay limited to BRICS alone, but should be made adaptable and accessible to meet the needs of the Global South, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in remarks earlier.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called BRICS a powerful driving force towards creating a new, fairer and multipolar world order, urging its members to find ways to combine the competitive advantages of their individual economies.

The summit comes amid renewed fighting in the Gulf region, with tit-for-tat attacks by the United States and Iran and Iran-backed Houthis widening the conflict by launching attacks on Saudi Arabia.

But the weekend summit scored an important diplomatic goal on Saturday, when it managed to forge consensus on a joint declaration backed by Iran and the UAE.

In general terms, the declaration expressed deep concern over the continued escalation of tension in the Middle East and urged the exercise of maximum restraint.

Separately, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also met the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi on the sidelines, in the highest-level meeting of the two countries' officials since the start of the conflict.

They discussed issues ranging from de-escalation and stability, and efforts to advance regional peace and development.

-REUTERS

Life Global Idar Chatralay Project: Honoring Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Legacy Through Sustainable Development

LIFE GLOBAL

Acharya Vinoba Bhave, the revered spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi and the visionary leader of the **Bhoodan (Land Gift) Movement**, dedicated his life to the principles of truth, non-violence, simplicity, self-reliance, and service to humanity. His lifelong journey reflected a deep commitment to social upliftment, compassion, equality, and creating a society built on harmony between people and nature.

During his travels across India, Acharya Vinoba Bhave visited Idar, where he spent meaningful time at a humble retreat that is now recognized as **Vinoba Kutir**. This historic place continues to inspire generations by preserving his message of peace, community service, and sustainable living. It remains a reminder of his belief that true human progress must be guided by moral responsibility, compassion, and respect for the environment.

Inspired by these timeless values, **Life Global** is supporting the development of the **Idar Chatralay Project** to honor Acharya Vinoba Bhave's legacy and create a space dedicated to education, reflection, community engagement, and sustainable development. The project is envisioned as a living tribute—not only preserving the memory of a great humanitarian leader but also transforming his principles into meaningful action for future generations.



PHOTO: LIFE GLOBAL

The project is designed with a strong focus on humanity and environmental responsibility. The building will reflect the principles of simplicity, sustainability, and harmony with nature by incorporating local architectural elements, natural materials, energy-efficient designs, and environmentally conscious practices. It will provide a peaceful and inspiring environment where individuals can learn, grow, and connect with the values of service, compassion, and social responsibility.

A significant feature of the project is the installation of a **solar power system**, demonstrating Life Global's commitment to clean energy, environmental protection, and climate-resilient development. By harnessing renewable solar energy, the campus will reduce its environmental

impact, lower carbon emissions, and promote a sustainable model for future communities. The solar initiative will also serve as an educational example, inspiring students and visitors to embrace renewable energy and responsible environmental practices.

The **Life Global Idar Chatralay Project** represents the belief that true development must balance human well-being with the protection of our planet. It brings together education, cultural preservation, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability in one meaningful initiative.

This visionary project is made possible through the generous support and commitment of **Mr. Haren Joshi and Mrs. Pratima Tolat**, whose contribution reflects their dedication to preserving inspiring legacies, empowering communities, and supporting sustainable development for future generations.

Through this initiative, Life Global continues its mission of creating lasting positive change by combining humanitarian values with innovative solutions. The project demonstrates that progress can honor the wisdom of the past while building a cleaner, healthier, and more compassionate future.

The **Idar Chatralay Project** will stand as a symbol of hope—a place where humanitarian service, education, renewable energy, and environmental stewardship come together to inspire generations to live with greater responsibility, simplicity, and harmony with nature.

New Gandhi Ashram Shaikshanik Sankul: A New Vision For Education To Open In 2027

By NIKHIL GALA

Life Global joins hands to create a residential educational ecosystem inspired by Gandhian values and modern innovation.

A transformative educational initiative is set to take shape with the **New Gandhi Ashram Shaikshanik Sankul**, a holistic residential campus expected to welcome its first students in 2027. Developed with the active involvement of Life Global, the project aims to redefine education by combining academic excellence, values-based learning, practical skills, and community living within one integrated campus.

New Gandhi Ashram Shaikshanik Sankul Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of **Nai Talim**, the Sankul is envisioned as more than a school. It will be a vibrant educational community where students live, learn, and grow together in an environment that nurtures intellectual, physical, and moral development. The campus will include academic buildings, hostels, a library, dining halls, playgrounds, workshops, gardens, and open learning spaces, creating an ecosystem in which education extends beyond the classroom.

The institution will blend modern educational practices with Gandhian principles of simplicity, self-

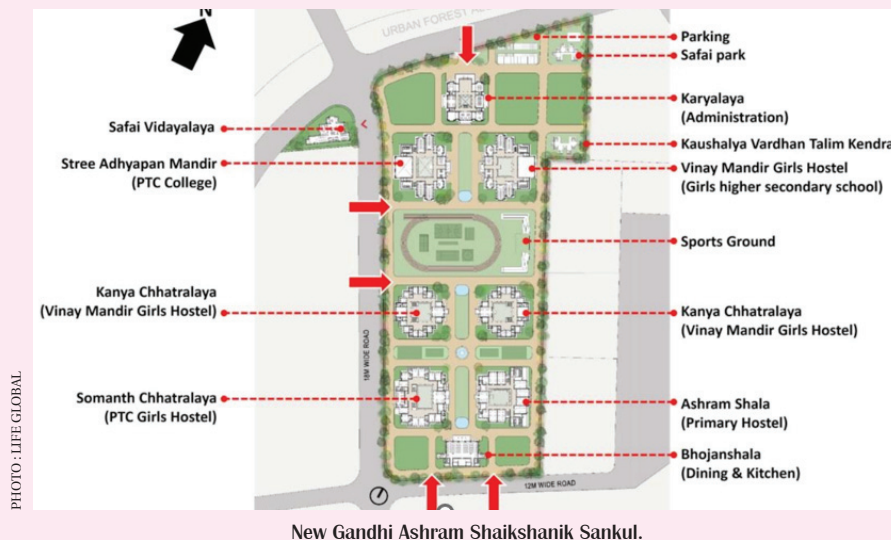


PHOTO: LIFE GLOBAL

reliance, the dignity of labor, and service. Students will follow a balanced daily routine that combines classroom learning with physical activity, vocational training, community service, cultural programs, and recreation. This integrated approach is designed to foster discipline, leadership, compassion, and social responsibility.

A key feature of the Sankul is its emphasis on collective living. Students will share meals and participate in everyday responsibilities, encouraging cooperation,

equality, and mutual respect. Practical learning through gardens, workshops, kitchens, and community spaces will help students connect knowledge with real-life experiences.

The campus is also planned as an environmentally sustainable institution powered by solar energy. Green infrastructure, efficient resource management, and eco-conscious practices will encourage students to develop a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship while learning in a clean and healthy environment.

To support the well-being of students and nearby communities, the campus will include a Primary Health Centre that will provide essential healthcare services, reinforcing the institution's commitment to holistic development.

As preparations continue for its 2027 inauguration, the New Gandhi Ashram Shaikshanik Sankul is emerging as a model for future-ready education that combines innovation with timeless values. Through this initiative, Life Global seeks to demonstrate that education is most meaningful when learning, living, and serving society become inseparable parts of everyday life, preparing students not only for successful careers but also for responsible citizenship and compassionate leadership.

ASTROLOGY

This week for you



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

ARIES: Professional matters may gain momentum. Financial planning can help you build stability. Your overall well-being looks positive. A calm atmosphere may prevail at home. In love, warmth may need an encouragement. A short getaway could be enjoyable. Holding on to ancestral property will be worth it. Kindness can bring contentment. Students may receive encouraging feedback for their progress.



TAURUS: A rewarding week. Strong vitality helps you remain active. Career may improve. Retirement fund could be a wise step. Some tension within the household require patience. Your love life becomes vibrant. A long drive can offer a pleasant change. Property dealings may need consideration. Helping bring content. Students may gain valuable exposure.



GEMINI: Good physical energy may keep you feeling motivate. Investment strategy could bring monetary results. Career growth is slow. Family members may seem less connected. Sharing your thoughts honestly can help. Romantic moments may bring fresh excitement. A nearby destination could be enjoyable. Find fulfillment in contributing to social causes. Students can improve their results.



CANCER: Encouraging progress this week. Your career enters a productive phase. Family can become warmer. Maintaining your routine helps. Financial discipline require funds into investments. Your romantic life may remain gentle. A picnic could help you unwind. Those looking to purchase a home may come across an opportunity. Supporting charitable causes can create a rewarding feeling. Students may benefit a realistic timetable.



LEO: Reviewing finances helps. Your energy remain steady. Work-related challenges could arise for some. A loving family may provide the emotional reassurance. Romantic happiness is likely to grow. A trip can offer relaxation. Keeping track of property trends may help. Voluntary service can awaken a desire to contribute to society. Students may need additional dedication toward their studies.



VIRGO: Financial prospects may brighten. A balanced lifestyle can help. Professional obstacles may test your patience. Family life may feel especially satisfying. A emotional bond can make your romantic relationship more fulfilling. A group holiday may give you a refreshing break. Property-investments could offer possibilities. Community involvement may inspire you. Academic responsibilities could demand additional attention.



LIBRA: Mix of possibilities encourage you. Your professional life progresses. Family may require understanding. Keeping your wellness routine varied helps. Matters of the heart appear warmer. Earlier investments provide support. Inclination to purchase arises. Travel plans can bring fresh experiences. Kindness strengthen your social connections. Better time management can help students.



SCORPIO: A promising week. Mindful routines contributes to vitality. Structured repayment strategy helps. Leadership brings more responsibilities. Family harmony improves. Stay open to new romantic possibilities. A journey introduces you to different perspectives. Real estate may offer potential. Networking is useful. Students may find digital resources helpful.



SAGITTARIUS: Emotional life becomes lively. Financial planning support wealth creation. Workplace pressures may become easier. Family provide a sense of stability. Improvements in habits contribute to wellness. Travel enthusiasts find opportunities. Spending on home proves beneficial. Volunteering brings fulfillment. Students may benefit from combining online resources with classroom learning.



CAPRICORN: A productive period. A savings habit can strengthen your foundation. Your energy may remain high. Love and companionship can become more satisfying. Your relationship with children may remain supportive. Professional setbacks should be viewed as opportunities. Consistent attention to existing property holdings can help. A peaceful week at home to restores energy. Self-awareness can help you understand your priorities.



AQUARIUS: Make well-being a priority. Financial discipline will be important. Quality family time helps. Greater satisfaction from responsibilities. Romantic matters may take a secondary position. Singles can use the time for development. Renovations attract your attention. Your image appears favourable. Offering your time can be rewarding. Collaborative study sessions may help students.



PISCES: This week may bring warmth to your relationships. Support of loved ones give you confidence. Good time to grow your wealth. Romantic matters move toward fulfillment. Giving your health some extra care. Your career may encourage creative thinking. Existing commitments could require changes to your travel schedule. Investing in a new plot may deserve serious consideration. Students may find opportunities related to admissions.



THIS WEEK WITH Dr. SUDHIR PARIKH



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Games-From Barefoot Hockey To Asian Games, India's Lalremsiami Chases Golden Dream

By CHIRANJIT OJHA

When an 11-year-old Lalremsiami Hmarzote told her parents she wanted to leave home to take up a place at one of India's top hockey academies, she first had to explain to them what the sport was.

Less than a decade later, Lalremsiami would become the first female Olympian and the first Asian Games medalist from the northeastern state of Mizoram.

Lalremsiami, who fell in love with the sport playing barefoot on dirt pitches in the Himalayan town of Kolasib, is now India's offensive lynchpin as they bid for a first Asian Games gold since 1982.

She told Reuters she had to overcome her parents' resistance to the idea of her joining the Sports Authority of India's academy in Thenzawl, about 170 km from her hometown.

"My family initially didn't want me to join the academy, but eventually they agreed," the 26-year-old told Reuters.

"I told them I have to play it, I can only play hockey."

Hockey is one of India's national sports but it remains a fringe pursuit in the tiny mountainous state of Mizoram, wedged between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Lalremsiami credited the geography of the mountainous region for helping her develop endurance and athleticism.

"If you're walking somewhere, you're either going up or down the hill," Lalremsiami said with a smile.



PHOTO: REUTERS/BERNARDETT SZABO/FILE PHOTO

Tokyo 2020 Olympics – Hockey – Women – Semifinal – Argentina v India – Oi Hockey Stadium, Tokyo, Japan – August 4, 2021. Lalremsiami of India in action.

siami said with a smile.

"You get used to the exhaustion, the heavy breathing ... it helps you when you are training as an athlete."

Her fitness stood out when she debuted for India's under-18 team and she was called up to the senior camp within a year.

In 2018, she won a Youth Olympics silver medal and scored four goals as the senior India team reached their first Asian

Games final in 20 years.

She has earned 193 caps for her country and was the first Indian woman to score in three consecutive World Cup campaigns as they came fifth last month in the Netherlands and Belgium, their best finish since 1974.

THE GOLDEN DREAM

Lalremsiami said the India team, under

Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne, believe their World Cup performance has set them up for a shot at gold in this month's Aichi-Nagoya Games after three bronzes and the 2018 silver over the last two decades.

"We have the belief, but we are not over-confident ... I know everyone's expectations are high but we must stay calm and focused," she said.

Her ultimate dream, though, is to build training facilities in different parts of her state, so girls can pursue the sport without having to leave their home, like she had to.

"I did not have any equipment when I started. A former player was teaching us after school, she had some hockey sticks," Lalremsiami said.

"Sometimes football teams have issues with the grounds being used for hockey ... there are only three hockey grounds in Mizoram, where will kids play?"

"During the World Cup, my mother told me an unknown person came up to her and said their daughter loved hockey but they did not know how and where to get into it," Lalremsiami added.

"I felt very bad that I could not help. How am I supposed to guide somebody? I can't even say, go play in the academy, because it's so far away."

"It is my dream to build more hockey grounds in Mizoram ... they will produce much better players than me, I can guarantee that."

-REUTERS

Cricket-India Refuse To Accept Women's Asia Cup From Pakistani ACC president

India's women's team refused to accept the Asia Cup trophy from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi after beating Sri Lanka in the final in Dubai on Sunday, repeating the stand made by their compatriots at the men's tournament last year.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Naqvi is also his country's interior minister and the decision by the team to snub the trophy presentation reflects the poor political relations between the neighbouring states.

India and Pakistan engaged in a brief military conflict last year that almost escalated into full-scale war. They do not play each other bilaterally in cricket and only meet in ICC and ACC tournaments on neutral venues.

India coach Amol Muzumdar told reporters that the decision not to collect the trophy from Naqvi was taken by the country's cricket board.

"We stand by it. For us, this tournament is over. We are the champions. That's good enough," he told reporters.

"We are united ... I am proud of every



PHOTO: ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS/PETER CZIBORRA

Cricket – Women's Test Match – England v India – Lord's Cricket Ground, London, Britain – July 12, 2026
England's Heather Knight in action

single person in this unit, including the sports staff and the players."

Reuters has requested comment from the ACC.

India also refused to accept the trophy from Naqvi after beating Pakistan in the men's final in Dubai in September last year.

The presentation ceremony was delayed by more than an hour before being curtailed just before the trophy would have been handed over.

India's women beat 2024 champions Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final of the biennial tournament at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, winning the continental title for an eighth time in 10 editions.

Indian players have also refused to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts before or after matches, a policy continued by the women's team when they beat Pakistan by seven wickets in the Asia Cup group stage earlier this month.

The two countries could meet in the latter stages of both the men's and women's cricket tournaments at the Asian Games in Japan, which begins later this month.

-REUTERS

The Washington Post

The great vacation rental debate: Should costs be split per person or room?

By Andrea Sachs, Hannah Sampson

For friends and family members who vacation together, one topic can be more fraught than sex, politics or religion: how to split the cost of the rental.

In one corner, you have pay-per-person. In the other, pay-per-room. Both plans have defenders and detractors. And many travelers just aren't sure.

Jonathan Levitt, 35, of Colorado, was debating the topic with his girlfriend last year ahead of a group trip to Arizona when he posted the question on social media.

The answers included the standard per person or per room, but also per family or per bathroom - or per person, but discounted for the friend who had to buy a plane ticket. One person wrote: "Get a hotel room!"

"We both kind of couldn't figure out why the other person felt that way," said Levitt, a consultant and host of the podcast "For the Long Run."

Singles, who often feel as if they are subsidizing the couples and families in their travel group, typically prefer a per-person arrangement. In this scenario, each guest contributes to the pot, including children who are not old enough to run a lemonade stand. (Their parents float them the cash till they are financially independent.)

Multiples sharing a bedroom may support the per-room position, claiming they should pay for the space, not the number of bodies inside it. Paying per-person could be construed as a slumber party tariff.

The calculations can become more complicated if you factor in room size or trappings, such as a whirlpool tub or an ocean-view balcony. Or if a guest departs early or makes significantly less than the rest of the group.

To help us settle the Great Vacation Rental Debate, we asked Google's AI tool which payment structure is the most egalitarian. "Paying per room is generally considered the most standard and fair approach for vacation rentals," it stated

But AI has never had to share a bathroom with five people. So, we invited several experts to weigh in.

Team per person

Reid Kennedy, an Airbnb host in St. Paul, Minnesota, didn't mince words. He said group activities often go better when there is equal investment.

"Gotta keep it simple and pay per person," he said in a text message. "That way, everyone has the same financial investment and avoids any resentment."

Diane Gottsman, an etiquette expert and founder of the Protocol School of Texas, aligns with the per-person approach as long as the rooms are identical. If they vary in size, views or bathroom access, the person with the larger or swankier room should pay more.

"If a guest is sleeping on a pull-out bed and everyone else has their own room, it would be considerate to take that into consideration when divvying up the bill and give that person a break," Gottsman said by email.

Additionally, if the group has to upgrade to a pricier property to accommodate a friend's specific needs, such as bunk beds for their children or a yard for their dog, then those folks should pitch in more.

Makarand Mody, an associate professor of hospitality marketing at Boston University, said a half-and-half split between families traveling together is reasonable, but dividing per person makes sense for a mixed group of adults. In an email, he said he can see why the question is the subject of debate.

"The underlying issue is that people are not only evaluating the math; they are evaluating whether the arrangement feels fair relative to what everyone is receiving," said Mody, who studies sharing-economy platforms like Airbnb.

To keep the debate from turning into a rift, vacationing pals should agree on their strategy before they book.

"A clear process upfront can prevent resentment later," Mody said.

Team per person, per night

When dicing up the bill, Jon Bittner, CEO and co-founder of the expense-sharing app Splitwise, takes a more holistic approach, considering the entire home, not just the beds.

"A vacation rental is more than just a place to sleep. Guests are also sharing common spaces like kitchens, bathrooms, living rooms, outdoor areas and the overall experience of the destination," Bittner said by email.

"A per-person, per-night split reflects that, and it also makes the cost lower for everyone else when someone brings a partner, family member or friend."

Team bid on it

Sally French, lead writer at NerdWallet, voiced a similar argument on "this very spicy debate," reminding guests that they are paying for the common spaces, too.

When negotiating amounts, she said, vacationers should be sensitive to any disparities in personal finances. A working couple, for instance, could have twice the income of a single person.

To bridge any differences in rooms, French recommended auctioning off the sleeping quarters.

"If all the rooms are equal, then it's fair to do it that way [per person]. But in a vacation rental where you have the primary bedroom with a big suite and private balcony, and a sad, tiny room that could be an office, then the bidding-style really makes sense."

The verdict

The consensus among most of our experts is to pay per person per night - with an asterisk. Adjust the amount if the rooms are vastly different in size or amenities. Of course, use the format that works best for your group dynamic and that will ensure another vacation.



Photo: Adobe

Diljit Dosanjh Makes History @Wembley Stadium, UK; Confirms Next Leg Of Aura Tour In Ahmedabad

Just hours after making history as the first Punjabi artist to headline London's iconic Wembley Stadium, singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh announced his return to India with a massive concert at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on November 21, 2026.

The announcement came during his sold-out AURA World Tour performance at Wembley on September 12, UK time.

Both Diljit and his team shared snippets from the Wembley show, a milestone in his international career, on Instagram. According to his team, he performed his hit songs in front of approximately 90,000 people.

The show featured his trademark bhangra routines in traditional attire, seamlessly blended with hip-hop.

The official Instagram of Wembley Stadium also shared snippets from the show and wrote, "The first

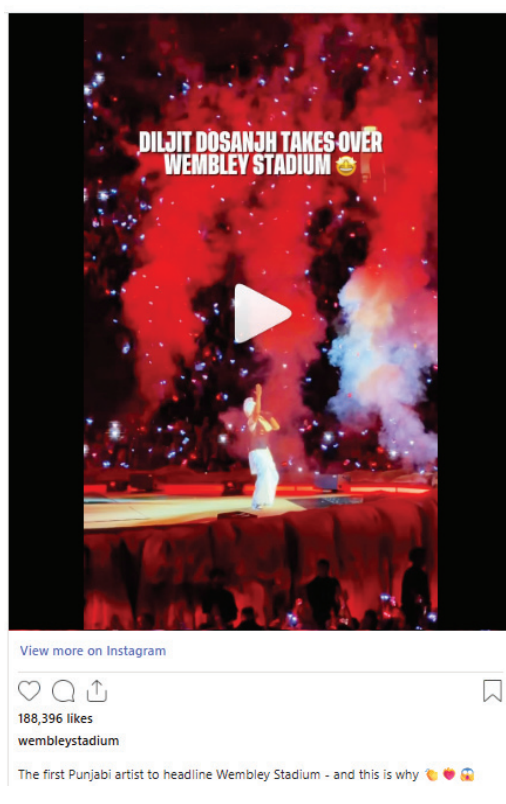


PHOTO: PHOTO: SCREENSHOT OF POST ON WEMBLEY STADIUM INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT.

Diljit Dosanjh on stage.

Punjabi artist to headline Wembley Stadium – and this is why.”

According to viral social media videos shared by several fans at the concert, Diljit also announced the next leg of his AURA World Tour in India, with a performance scheduled at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

Addressing the crowd in Punjabi, Diljit said, "The world's biggest stadium is in India... how can a Punjabi not go there?" He added, "Kem Cho, majaa maa? We're doing Live at Narendra Modi Stadium on 21st November."

The Ahmedabad announcement also signals a major expansion in scale for his India return. During his Dil-Luminati India Tour in late 2024, Diljit performed to packed venues across the country, including Ahmedabad.

For now, the Ahmedabad concert on November 21 is



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @DILJITDOSANJH

Diljit Dosanjh performing at Wembley Stadium September 12, 2026.

the confirmed date and venue for the upcoming India leg. Full tour details, including ticket sale dates and pricing, have not yet been announced.

-ANI

"COOKING Together A LOVE DISH Full Of GANGSTER CURRY": Mohit Suri, Ram Gopal Varma Announce Next Film

Filmmakers Mohit Suri and Ram Gopal Varma are all set to come together for a film; they teased the news on social media.

Ram Gopal Varma, in an X post, shared a picture with the 'Saiyaara' director from their recent meeting. "Me and #Saiyaara's @mohit11481 for his NEXT film, are COOKING together a LOVE DISH full of GANGSTER CURRY.. Details to be SERVED VERY VERY SOON," he wrote.

Suri also reshared the photo on his Instagram handle, expressing his fondness for RGV.

"From watching his films and dreaming of becoming a filmmaker... to be making one together — with the OG gangster himself, Ram Gopal Varma. Some journeys truly come full circle. This one comes straight from the heart... Armed with a loaded gun!" he wrote.

Teasing fans with a little update, the filmmakers shared that further details will be unveiled soon.

The post left the comment section buzzing, with many sharing high anticipation. Actor Shamita Shetty wrote, "Whoaaah!", while Zakir Khan added, "Bhai bhai bhai."

Suri's wife, Uditaa Goswami, also reacted to the post and commented, "Yeahy! Finally!"

On the work front, Mohit Suri is set to reunite with Ahaan and Aneet for an upcoming project.

The trio is back for "an intense romance laced with heart-tugging music". The film will be backed by Yash Raj Films and will be a blend of "heartfelt storytelling with unforgettable melodies", as per a press note.

The film is set to go on floors later this year and will be eyeing a 2027 theatrical release worldwide.

-ANI



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @MOHITSURI

Mohit Suri and Ram Gopal.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY
FY 25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Pursuant to the provisions for federal regulation 24 CFR Part 570 and 24 CFR
Part 91, Franklin Township, New Jersey is providing notice of the availability of its
FY 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The
performance report has been prepared and will be submitted to the U.S. Department
of Housing and Urban Development prior to the submission deadline of November
29, 2026.

The CAPER will be the subject of review and discussion at a public hearing to be
held by the Township in the Municipal Building, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, New
Jersey on November 2 at 11 am. At the hearing comments on the Township's perfor-
mance and the CAPER will be solicited.

The Township's CAPER is available for review at the Office of the Township Clerk,
Franklin Township Municipal Building, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, New Jersey.
Persons wishing to comment on the grantee performance report may do so by
responding to the Township Clerk at the above address during the fifteen-day com-
ment period of October 1, 2026 through October 16, 2026.

Deborah Mitchell
CDBG Administrator
Date Posted: 10/1/2026

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