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Trump stands solidly behind Ohio gubernatorial candidate Ramaswamy on controversial campaign ad



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Baseball World Series Rematch: Indian Edition - Yankees beat Dodgers in Mumbai

PHOTOS: MISCELLANEOUS



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New US Postal Service Diwali Stamp Honors Traditional Autumn Festival

By a Staff Writer



PHOTO: ANI

India's Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and his wife were among the special guests at the Times Square Durga Puja.

The U.S. Postal Service commemorated the joyous Hindu fall festival of Diwali with a new Forever stamp at the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C. October 21, 2026.

India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, quoted in a news report from ANI, said, "This effort by the Embassy to partner with the United States Postal Service to have a stamp released on Diwali has been an effort long in the making. … We attempted it last year; we were slightly delayed in catching up on the process, so we continued from last year. And this year, this beautiful pattern of rangoli made by Sangeetha Bhutada-ji, and released by the USPS on this auspicious occasion of upcoming Diwali next month, is being released today."

Ambassador Kwatra underscored the deep cultural resonance of the release for both the Indian American community and broader American society, ANI reported.

On the Hindu calendar, Diwali falls on the eve of, or on, the new moon that occurs between mid-October and mid-November. In 2026, the main day of the festival will be Nov. 8.

"Since 1893, the Postal Service has issued stamps commemorating the cultures of people who have come from around the world," Shibani Gambhir, USPS revenue operations senior vice president, who served as the dedicating official, is quoted saying in a press release. "Ours is truly a world culture, and our stamps allow us to weave together a tapestry that reflects the rich and multifaceted heritage of America."

The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the joyous holiday of Diwali with an image of a rangoli, a floor pattern traditionally made from materials such as colored rice powder, chalk and flower petals. One of the most important annual Hindu events and usually observed over five days, the autumn festival marks the triumph of good over evil.

A household tradition for Diwali, also known as Deepavali, people create rangolis in and around their homes. The intricate designs, which often feature floral imagery, geometric shapes and religious iconography, are thought to bring good fortune. In addition to traditional materials, artists today use paints and sparkly adornments as well.

The word rangoli comes from the Sanskrit term rangavalli, the USPS press release explained. On the Indian subcontinent, the art form has different names, such as kolam, alpana and chowkpurana.

"In many families, the art of making rangolis is passed down from generation to generation, but most people create them spontaneously," USPS noted, adding, "The beauty of each brightly colored pattern is fleeting, but after one unique rangoli is washed away, the artistic process begins again.

The meaning of Diwali depends on the region it is being celebrated. For many people in the north of India, the holiday honors the return of Rama, an incarnation or avatar of the god Vishnu, after a long period of exile. For some in the south of India, it marks the defeat of the demon Narakasura by Krishna, another incarnation of Vishnu. Others commemorate Vishnu's decision to make King Bali ruler of the underworld.

Going deep into the everyday celebration of the most popular festival in India, the USPS notes how in preparation for the festival, many Hindus go shopping, clean their homes, open their doors and windows, make rangolis, and light oil-wick lamps called diyas with hopes that Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, will visit. In some regions of India, people gamble and play games, just as Hindu lore says that the deity Shiva did. On the festive main day of the holiday, families pray to Lakshmi, dress up in their best clothes, enjoy lavish feasts and sweets, exchange gifts, and light fireworks. Diwali also marks the new year for people in Gujarat and a few other states in India.



PHOTO: USPS.COM

USPS Diwali stamp issued October 21, 2026.

Some other religions also observe Diwali, eg., the Buddhists honor ancient Indian emperor Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism; Jains commemorate the teacher Mahavira's attainment of liberation from the cycle of life and death; Sikhs celebrate the freeing of guru Hargobind from captivity.

This is the second Diwali stamp. The first one was issued in 2016.

STAMP DESIGN

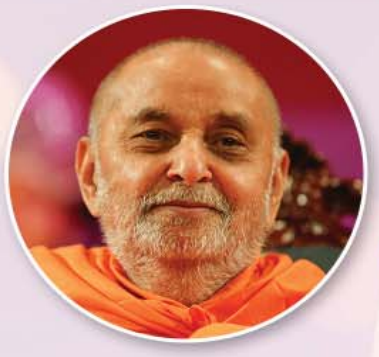
The rangoli for the stamp was created by artist Sangita Bhutada, a native of India and longtime resident of the Houston area who has been a practitioner of this ancient folk art for nearly 30 years. Bhutada started by sketching out a design on paper, then began carefully sprinkling colored sand and starch-based powder on the floor, using her fingers and sometimes a regular kitchen strainer. She chose bright colors — blue, orange, green and red — plus white.

The original work took eight to 10 days, as opposed to the four to six hours Bhutada normally spends on a rangoli, and was 8 feet in diameter so when it was photographed it would come out properly in high resolution, she explained. Photographer Bijay Dixit, also based in the Houston area, did the honors. The resulting image was then set against a brilliant purple background.

News about the stamp is being shared on social media using the hashtag **#DiwaliStamp.**

William J. Gicker served as the project's art director. Jennifer Arnold designed the stamp, which will be sold in panes of 20.

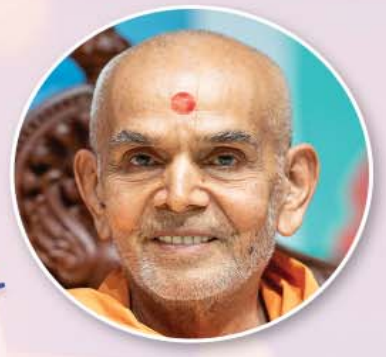
Diwali is a Forever stamp and will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.





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As Ohio Attack Ad Draws Bipartisan Heat, Vivek Ramaswamy Doubles Down

By Karen Tumulty, Dan Merica

The bombshell campaign ad that Ohio Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy intended as an October surprise against Democrat Amy Acton has indeed exploded. Early indications are that it did so in Ramaswamy's own face.

Ramaswamy, who narrowly trails Acton in polls, is undeterred. He said Tuesday he is putting $4 million behind a 60-second advertisement that features video of Acton's estranged mother, Donna Arthur, calling her daughter a liar and urging Ohioans: "Don't let her become your governor."

Acton, 60, has not had contact with her mother since she was 12 years old. She and her brother were removed from Arthur's home after a grand jury indicted Arthur's second husband on a charge of raping Acton.

The stepfather, Cledith Arthur, who pleaded not guilty, moved away and eluded authorities who issued multiple warrants over the years for his arrest. He and Donna Arthur remained married until his death in 2004.

The MAGA faithful, including Donald Trump Jr., have given an approving signal boost to Ramaswamy's ad, which began hitting the airwaves Tuesday, across social media. But it has drawn condemnation from other Republicans. Some have worried the fracas could blow back on other Ohio Republicans on the ballot.

"I would not have run that ad," Sen. Jon Husted (R), who faces former senator Sherrod Brown (D) in a hotly contested race, said in a statement to the Associated Press that was also obtained by The Post.

Former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley tangled with Ramaswamy in the 2024 GOP presidential primary, when he mentioned during a debate that Haley's adult daughter was posting on TikTok – then owned by China – which Haley had chided Ramaswamy for using. At the time, Haley had referred to Ramaswamy as "just scum" for bringing her daughter into the debate.

Posting Tuesday night on the social media platform X, Haley wrote: "Just seeing what we tried to tell everyone back then. He's a bad guy. It's a shame he continues to get away with it."

Republican Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development and former mayor of Findlay, wrote on X: "I don't have to agree with Amy Acton's politics to believe that exploiting someone's childhood trauma is wrong. … There is a difference between fighting for your principles and abandoning them to win."

The Columbus Dispatch, which endorsed Acton on Wednesday, called Ramaswamy's ad "revolting and unsettling."



PHOTO: ARDEN S. BARNES/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Vivek Ramaswamy, Ohio's Republican gubernatorial candidate, on May 1.

"It should go without saying that sexual violence against children should not be politicized or taken as lightly as Ramaswamy appears to take it," the Dispatch's editorial board wrote.

Meanwhile, more details were coming to light regarding the ad's origins, which were mysterious at first.

Liberal Ohio blogger D.J. Byrnes, who writes as "The Rooster," had warned last week that something of this nature was being developed by Ramaswamy's campaign, and started the firestorm Monday night, when he posted the video featuring Acton's mother on X. At the time, it had no disclosure explaining who produced it.

On Wednesday, Byrnes wrote on his Substack that "a trusted, high-ranking Cleveland-area Republican sent me a screen recording of a push poll from messaging firm Dynata." The use of such a "push poll" – that is, a negative campaign tactic in which an attack masquerades as an opinion poll – would suggest that Ramaswamy's operation was gauging responses before disseminating it more widely as an advertisement.

The Ramaswamy campaign decided to put money behind the ads after testing showed they were effective, according to a person briefed on the research.

At the time, Acton's campaign was also on alert.

The campaign had compiled court documents from the late 1970s that corroborated Acton's version of the abuse she suffered, as well as the squalor in which she said the family was living, which her mother denied.

Within hours of the video becoming public, Acton's campaign also blasted out a statement from her brother, in which Philip Stearns said: "It's not surprising that Vivek Ramaswamy has stooped to such a despicable low as to attempt to turn the sexual abuse Amy endured at 12 years old from our birth mother's husband into a political talking point."

Stearns added: "This desperate, disgusting attack reveals exactly who Vivek Ramaswamy is at his core – a pathetic excuse for a man who is willing to hurt anyone as long as it gets him what he wants."

By late Tuesday afternoon, the Acton campaign also released an ad featuring Stearns recalling that his older sister had been his protector in an abusive household. "Shame on Vivek," he said in the ad.

Both sides were aware that Acton's mother carried a grudge against her daughter. Donna Arthur had aired her grievances previously in a 2020 interview with the anti-abortion organization Operation Rescue when Acton was Ohio's health commissioner, leading the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic with Republican Gov. Mike DeWine.

Ramaswamy's campaign has described Acton as "a serial fabulist." MAGA influencers – among them, Vice President JD Vance – have also spread unsubstantiated suggestions that the Democratic nominee is mentally unbalanced and an alcoholic.

The episode involving Acton's mother prompted Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's (D) wife, MK Pritzker, to announce a $500,000 donation to Acton.

"Bad men gain power when we refuse to stand up and fight," she wrote in a statement that was reposted by her husband, a potential 2028 presidential candidate.

Vance, campaigning Wednesday in Sharonville, Ohio, tried to shrug off questions about Ramaswamy's ad.

"The media and the Democrats in the state of Ohio are obsessed because – guess what? – Vivek Ramaswamy had the audacity to run a TV commercial which calls it out like it is and calls Amy Acton a liar," Vance said.

To some, however, the ad appeared to be a desperate move on the part of a candidate who sees he is losing. Former Republican strategist Mike Murphy, who is now a prominent MAGA critic, wrote on X: "This Ramaswamy ad in OH is looking more and more like political suicide."

Vance's defense also roiled former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, who frequently sparred with Ramaswamy when both ran for president in 2024.

"Seriously?" Christie told The Washington Post about Vance's defense. "The question for all Republicans is whether this type of attitude is what we want leading our party going forward. For the last decade, our party has been infected by a corrupted moral center. Vance's acceptance of this campaign ad only breathes life into the disease that we should be seeking to cure."

-The Washington Post

President Trump Stumps For Ramaswamy; Supports Campaign Ad Where Mother Of Opponent Calls Her A "Liar"

By a Staff Writer

President Donald Trump expressed unqualified support for Indian American candidate for Ohio Governor Vivek Ramaswamy after he released a campaign ad where the mother of his Democratic opponent Amy Acton called her a "Liar" and warned Ohio voters not to cast their ballot for her in the Nov. 3 midterms.

The campaign ad has been condemned by several members of the Republican Party. Trump accused the press of biased reporting against a Republican candidate.

"Her mother went on television and said that the daughter, who's running for governor of Ohio, is a liar and a bad person, and that's all I know," the President said.

"You're tryin to take a horrible situation for a Democrat and make it look better," he said, adding that if anybody saw that ad they would say "no way" were they going to vote for Acton. "There's nothing to it. It's very simple."

He went on to say, "The mother said these things. The mother looks like she's totally lucid. She looks very smart, actually, and she felt she had an obligation to Ohio voters, to tell them that her daughter is a liar."



PHOTO: X.COM @ATRUPAR

President Donald Trump responding to media October 23, 2026, regarding a campaign ad run by Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy.

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Billionaire Jeff Yass Pours $110 Million Into Republican Midterm Push; Top Backer Of Ramaswamy

By Emily Birnbaum

Billionaire Jeff Yass gave almost $110 million to boost Republicans in the US midterm elections, making him the third-largest individual donor of this cycle and the top financial backer of embattled Republican Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy.

Ramaswamy, who faced bipartisan backlash this week over an advertisement his campaign produced featuring Democratic opponent Amy Acton's estranged mother, has received $30 million from Yass, making him by far the largest recipient of donations from the founder of proprietary trading firm Susquehanna International Group.

A spokesperson for Yass said his spending in the Ohio governor's race is connected to the candidate's support for universal school choice. Ramaswamy, a biotech entrepreneur who has received backing from Elon Musk and other wealthy donors including hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, has proposed expanding public funding options for private schools and homeschooling.

Ramaswamy's campaign said it would spend $4 million promoting the spot, which features Acton's birth mother calling her daughter a liar. It was condemned by Acton's brother, who said his sister had been sexually abused by their mother's husband before the siblings were removed from her custody.

Overall, Yass gave roughly $10 million more to federal candidates this cycle than he did during the 2024 cycle,



PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO ON X.COM/VIVEKGRAMASWAMY

Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy gestures while speaking at a campaign rally.

the latest figures show. His spending has more than doubled since the 2022 midterms, when he contributed a total of $48 million to federal candidates, according to campaign spending filings.

Yass, 68, one of the GOP's top political donors since 2020, has a net worth of $92.5 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He has said his political giving is motivated primarily by support for school choice, or systems that allow parents to use taxpayer funds to send children to private, religious or charter schools.

In a speech and Wall Street Journal op-ed in May, Yass called on New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani to give parents $21,000 as a voucher to use on their children's education, while placing another $21,000 into an investment account for each student. He has also attracted attention as a major shareholder of TikTok parent company ByteDance Ltd., which faced a US ban before President Donald Trump reached a deal this year allowing the app to continue operating in the country.

Yass's giving this cycle puts him slightly behind billionaire packaging magnates Richard and Elizabeth Uihlein, who gave at least $138 million to support Republicans. Musk is ending the cycle as the country's top political spender, giving $369 million for Republicans since 2025, including a recent $158 million infusion for the Senate Republican super PAC, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

Yass also gave $16.5 million to Club for Growth Action, a Republican super PAC that advocates against high taxes and government regulation. Club for Growth Action spent more than $1.2 million opposing independent candidate Bill Hill in Alaska's at-large House race and more than $1.1 million supporting GOP congressional candidate Alexandra Mealer, who's running to represent a district that was redrawn to favor Republicans.

Though Yass backed Trump alternatives before the 2024 election, he gave $16 million to Trump's MAGA Inc. super PAC in 2025. He also gave $17.5 million this cycle to the School Freedom Fund, which has spent millions on federal and state races in Texas, Tennessee and elsewhere.

-Bloomberg

Rep. Krishnamoorthi Leads 256 Bipartisan Cosponsors For Resolution Designating July As Indian American Heritage Month

By a Staff Writer

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) introduced a bipartisan resolution October 26, with 256 cosponsors supporting the designation of July as Indian American Heritage Month. The Resolution honors generations of Indian American contributions to the United States across science and medicine, technology and business, public service and the military, education and philanthropy, arts and culture, and athletics.

More than 5.2 million Indian Americans call the United States home, the Resolution notes.

"Indian Americans have helped shape this country for generations, from breakthroughs that have saved lives and businesses that have created jobs to lifetimes of service in our military and public office," Congressman Krishnamoorthi said in the press release on the Resolution. "I'm proud to lead 256 of my colleagues in designating July as Indian American Heritage Month to honor that legacy and celebrate the many ways Indian Americans continue to enrich our country."



Screenshot from X.com/CongressmanRaja

The designation of July as Indian American Heritage Month commemorates the signing of the Luce-Celler Act by President Harry S. Truman on July 2, 1946, which made people of Indian descent eligible for naturalization as American citizens. The resolution also honors the Indian American community's religious and cultural diversity and the generations of Indian Americans who have contributed to the nation's cultural, economic, and civic life.

Text of the Resolution:

Honoring the contributions of Indian Americans and supporting the designation of July as "Indian American Heritage Month".

Whereas, according to estimates published by the UnitedStates Census Bureau in 2023, more than 5,200,000 people in the United States identify as Indian American;

Whereas the Indian American community traces its roots to a civilization more than 5,000 years old and has brought to the United States a rich legacy of art, literature, philosophy, science, and democratic traditions;

Whereas, on July 2, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the Luce-Celler Act of 1946 (Public Law 79–483) into law, making persons of Indian descent eligible for naturalization as United States citizens;

Whereas Indian Americans reflect one of the most religiously diverse communities in the United States, representing a wide range of faith traditions that strengthen the Nation's cultural and spiritual fabric;

Whereas Indian Americans have served with distinction at all levels of government and public service, including in every branch of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Indian Americans have made pioneering contributions to science, medicine, biomedical research, space exploration, artificial intelligence, computing, telecommunications, and other fields of innovation that have improvedlives and expanded human knowledge;

Whereas Indian Americans have distinguished themselves in business, entrepreneurship, higher education, economic scholarship, journalism, literature, and philanthropy, contributing to the economic strength, intellectual life, and global leadership of the United States;

Whereas Indian Americans have enriched the cultural fabric of the United States through music, film, television, the performing arts, cuisine, athletics, and the preservation and sharing of India's diverse cultural, religious, linguistic, and regional traditions; and

Whereas July provides an opportunity to recognize the history, achievements, cultural traditions, and diverse religious and regional identities of Indian Americans and to celebrate their many contributions to the United States:

Now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes that Indian Americans enhance

2 the rich diversity and strength of the United States;

3 and 4 (2) supports the designation of "Indian American Heritage Month".

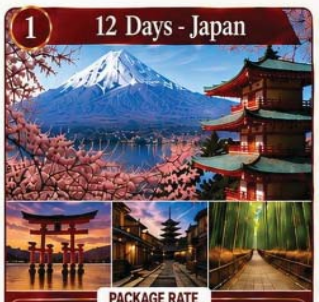
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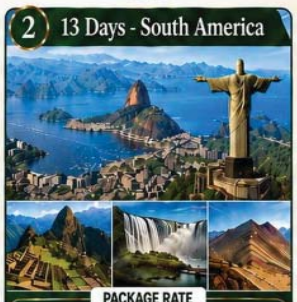


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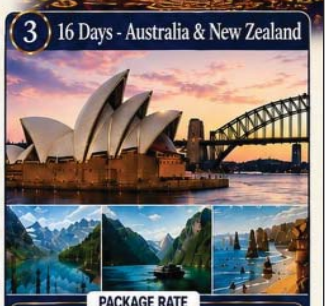
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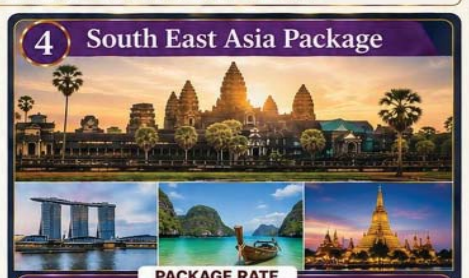
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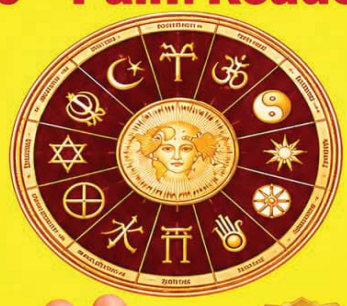
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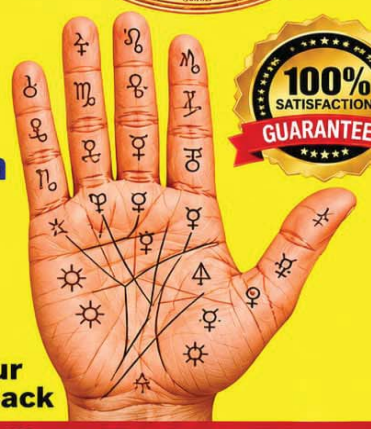
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Indo-American Press Club's International Media Conference 2026 Inaugurated In Cincinnati

By a Staff Writer

The Indo-American Press Club held its 11th Annual International Media Conference (IMC 2026) from October 16 to 18, 2026, in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Cincinnati Sharonville.

The IMC was officially inaugurated with the lighting of the traditional lamp by Neeraj Antani, Former Ohio State Assemblyman; Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Chairman of IAPC BOD; Ginsmon Zachariah, Founding Chairman of IAPC; Ajay Ghosh, Founding President of IAPC; Board Members, Babu Stephen; Parveen Chopra, C G Daniel, Shan Justus. Meera Shankar; and Sajan Varghese.



PHOTOS: ORGANIZERS

Inaugural ceremony.

Attendees compared notes on emerging media trends, diplomats discussed global narratives, authors shared stories of identity, and community leaders reflected on the evolving role of diaspora voices in shaping public discourse, a press release from IMC said.



Dr. Satheesh Kathula addressing the gathering.



Former Ohio State Assemblyman Niraj Antani, addressing the gathering.



Babu Stephen speaking at the conference.

In his address, Dr. Kathula said, "IMC 2026 reflects our commitment to bringing together journalists, thought leaders, and community builders from across continents to foster meaningful dialogue, professional collaboration, and responsible journalism in an era of unprecedented media transformation."

Assemblyman Antani, in his keynote address reflected on the transformative power of Indian American media, recalling how coverage of his 2014 election connected communities across continents. He honored late India Abroad Editor and Publisher Gopal Raju's legacy and emphasized the diaspora's growing national influence. Citing a recent threat to a Hindu temple, he urged journalists to pursue deeper, sustained reporting beyond cultural events. "You have the power to move public opinion — and to move those of us in public office. That is a special responsibility you carry," Antani said.

Highlighting the growing influence of Indian Americans, Babu Stephen, former chairman of IAPC drew the attention of the IMC delegates to vital areas, such as Healthcare, Information Technology, Hospitality, Academia, and Fortune 500 companies. He called upon the Indian American community to stand united and integrate and be part of the larger mainstream US community.

Actress, dancer, and media personality Meera Nair performed Karu Kare Karmukil, a dance that extolled the virtues of Kerala. Trained by Padma Bhushan recipient, Kavalam Narayana Panicker, and her performance was choreographed by Uma Tapasyananda.

"Kerala is a very beautiful land, and we are blessed with a lot of water. We have the ocean, we have 44 rivers, we have the rains. Karagaray Karnugal, which literally means the dark, rain clouds, is a tribute to life, to the life-giving force of water to the rains. It is a celebration of the life-giving force of water. It is a celebration of rains, and you will see peacocks dancing, flowers blooming, and people awakening to life," Nair said.

Attendees included high-profile guests including:

- Greg Landsman, U.S. Congressman
- Aftab Pureval, Mayor of Cincinnati
- Neeraj Antani, Former Ohio Assemblyman
- Mathew Samuel, internationally acclaimed investigative journalist
- Meera Nair, celebrated actress and media personality
- Niharika Raizada, acclaimed Bollywood actress

They join a diverse cohort of journalists, editors, publishers, and media innovators from North America, India, Europe, and the Middle East, the press release said.

Panels explored the future of journalism in an era defined by artificial intelligence, rapid digital transformation, and shifting public trust. Workshops will dive into ethical reporting, diaspora storytelling, and the evolving responsibilities of media professionals navigating polarized societies.

The Awards Gala honored –

- Muthu Mudaliar – The Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Women's Empowerment & Literary Excellence Award was bestowed upon Dr. Sunita Reddy.
- Community Service Award was presented to Pramod Jhaveri.



Performance at the conference.

Ginsmon Zachariah, Founding Chairman of IAPC, framed the conference's mission –

"IMC 2026 reflects our commitment to bringing together journalists, thought leaders, and community builders from across continents to foster meaningful dialogue, professional collaboration, and responsible journalism in an era of unprecedented media transformation."

Ajay Ghosh, Founding President of IAPC, speaking at the event, said, "Our awardees represent the very best of leadership, service, innovation, and community engagement. Their achievements inspire future generations and demonstrate the positive impact that dedicated individuals can make across society."

Ginsmon administered the oath of office to new members of IAPC. The event was emceed by Azad Jain, Uma Shanakr, and Miley Philip. Shan Justus coordinated the state and audio-visuals Yogi Patel delighted the audience with his Flute Recital.

The Media Conclave on AI & Future of Journalism was moderated by Meera Shankar. Panelists included: Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Muthu Mudaliar, Vinod Tharakan, Roy Ratnavel, Parveen Chopra, and, Ajay Ghosh.

History of Modern Malayalam Literature In America, a book written in Malayalam by LatGeiorg Mannickarottu, and translated into English by Ginsmon was officially released. Ginsomon presented the first copy to Bau Stephen and Dr. Kathula.



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Dr. Kumar Vishwas Captivates Chicago With "Apne Apne Ram"

By Prachi Jaitly, Special to Desi Talk

It was an evening when poetry became prayer and devotion touched countless hearts. Internationally renowned poet and orator Dr. Kumar Vishwas mesmerized a sold-out audience with his extraordinary presentation, Apne Apne Ram, at a special event organized and presented by Samarthanam USA in support of its humanitarian mission.

Samarthanam USA is dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities, particularly the visually impaired, and uplifting underserved communities. Its wide-ranging initiatives include inclusive education, scholarships, skill development, vocational training, employment opportunities, women's empowerment, healthcare, nutrition, rehabilitation, and environmental sustainability. The organization also promotes sports for individuals with disabilities, including blind cricket, along with arts and cultural programs. Through these efforts, Samarthanam strives to create equal opportunities, foster independence and dignity, and build a more inclusive and compassionate society.

The evening began on a devotional note with soulful musical performances by the Samarthanam Sisters, followed by an inspiring presentation and videos showcasing the organization's journey, humanitarian initiatives, and impact on countless lives.

Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Founder and Managing Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, shared the organization's inspiring beginnings, challenges, and vision for the future. Shri Adarsh Shastri, Global Advisor and Patron of Samarthanam USA, welcomed the gathering, introduced the board members, and encouraged generous community support. Samarthanam USA Midwest Chair Vinesh Virani expressed heartfelt gratitude to donors and supporters, while National Treasurer Ajeet Singh urged attendees to become ambassadors of the mission by spreading awareness and inspiring others to join the cause.



PHOTO COLLAGE: COURTESY PRACHI JAITLY

Samarthanam Collage showing scenes from the event and the speakers.

The program was gracefully hosted by accomplished masters of ceremonies Prachi Jaitly and Neil Khot, who seamlessly connected the evening's cultural, spiritual, and humanitarian elements.

The much-awaited highlight was Dr. Kumar Vishwas's spellbinding Apne Apne Ram, a deeply moving exploration of the life, values, and timeless teachings of Lord Shri Ram. Through his remarkable storytelling, profound spiritual insights, and powerful poetic expression, he created an atmosphere of divine devotion, transporting the audience into the sacred world of the Ramayana. His words awakened memories, faith, and a deep connection to Indian cultural roots, leaving listeners completely engrossed in an experience that was as emotional as it was spiritual.

As the evening stretched toward midnight, the captivated audience remained reluctant to let the experience end. Dr. Vishwas also made a heartfelt appeal to support Samarthanam's humanitarian mission, beautifully connecting devotion with compassion and service to humanity.

The memorable evening brought together spirituality, cultural heritage, and philanthropy, leaving Chicago's Indian American community with a profound sense of fulfillment and a reminder that true devotion finds expression not only in faith, but also in uplifting others. It was indeed a night when poetry met purpose and devotion met compassion.

India Culture Week Begins In Nebraska!

By a Staff Writer

The 1st India Culture Week in the State of Nebraska was inaugurated at Creighton University, Omaha on 21 October 2026.

Jointly organized by the Consulate General of India, in partnership with Creighton University, it showcased an Indian Film Festival, Indian Food Festival, Unveiling of the India Corner, Incredible India Photo Exhibit and a cultural dance performance showcasing the various flavors of Indian classical and contemporary dance forms, an October 23 press release from the Indian Consulate in Seattle said.

The event kicked off with the unveiling of the India Corner at Creighton's Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, the first India Corner in Nebraska. A gift from the Government of India to the Creighton University, it holds a specially curated collection of books on India's culture, history, cinema, art, ecology, spirituality and cuisine.

An "Incredible India" Moving Photo Exhibit was also on display at the Harper Center Atrium, featuring select photographs clicked by an acclaimed Seattle-based photographer, of India's people, places, heritage and everyday life, from the streets of New Delhi to the temples of Bhubaneswar. The photographs were taken during a CGI Seattle-organized US Pacific Northwest delegation visit to India in March 2026, which also included members from Nebraska, including the University's Vice Provost Dr. Kari Costello.

A cultural performance by the Gurukulam Center for Indian Arts presented a range of Indian dance traditions, including Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniyattam, Punjabi and other contemporary dances.

The India Food Festival was a big draw, introducing fine cuisine as well as distinctive spices, flavors and regional variety.

The inaugural day concluded with the screening of the acclaimed Indian film Dangal (2016), as part of an Indian Film Festival at Creighton University.



PHOTOS: COURTESY CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA IN SEATTLE.

Scenes from the India Culture Week in Nebraska.

The first India Culture Week at US Universities began in Seattle University in November 2024. Since then, India Film Festivals have reached students and communities across the US Pacific Northwest, including at prestigious venues like Museum of Pop Culture (Seattle, Washington), Shoreline College (Shoreline, Washington), University of Montana (Missoula, Montana), North Dakota State University (Fargo, North Dakota) and schools in the Bellevue and Northshore School Districts of Washington State as well as University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Nebraska), the press release noted.

The celebrations aim to bring modern India and its culture, traditions and heritage, closer to young Americans, and seeks to build interest among young Americans toward contemporary Indian studies and also strengthen people-to-people and educational ties, plus increase tourist traffic from the US Pacific Northwest into India, organizers noted in the press release.

Visa Refused at the Consulate? What Consular Non-Reviewability Means for Applicants

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM


Michael Phulwani


David Nachman


Ludka Zimovcak


Snehal Batra

Most visa applicants expect the consular interview to be routine, particularly if they have been approved before. Then the officer asks new questions, the answers do not satisfy, and the visa is refused. The next question is usually whether the decision can be appealed. In most cases it cannot, and the legal reason is a long-standing principle known as consular non-reviewability. Understanding it helps applicants focus on the steps that can still change the outcome.

What the Principle Says

Federal courts have traditionally treated a consular officer's decision to issue or refuse a visa as final and generally outside their review. The Supreme Court reaffirmed this in Department of State v. Muñoz in June 2024, rejecting a U.S. citizen's constitutional challenge to her husband's visa denial. The Court concluded that a citizen's interest in a foreign spouse's admission is not a fundamental liberty interest. The State Department's own page on visa denials is just as direct: "There is no appeal process."

Where Review Is Still Discussed

The principle has limits, and they are narrow. Courts have recognized that a refusal burdening a citizen's constitutional rights may call for a "facially legitimate and bona fide reason." According to this American Immigration Council practice advisory, other arguments still raised after Muñoz include claims that an officer did not follow the agency's own regulations, and challenges to delay in adjudication, which are treated differently from a refusal. Whether any of these fits a particular case depends on the facts and should be assessed by an attorney before anything is filed.

What an Applicant Can Do After a Refusal

Start by identifying the ground. The regulation at 22 CFR 41.121 requires the officer to tell a nonimmigrant applicant the ground of ineligibility and whether a waiver or other mechanism exists. It also requires a supervisor to review nonimmigrant refusals, and that review may be deferred for up to 120 days when the applicant plans to submit additional evidence.

The next steps differ depending on which kind of refusal was issued. A 214(b) refusal ends that particular application. The State Department says to reapply with a new application, a new fee, and a new interview, and to show significant changes in circumstances since the last attempt. A refusal under section 221(g) is different. It usually means the officer needs more documents or administrative processing, and the application can be reconsidered afterward. The State Department explains that processing time varies and that an applicant has one year from a 221(g) refusal to respond to a request for information.

Preparing Before the Interview

Since a refusal is so hard to reverse, preparation counts. Make sure your answers match your application and any petition filed on your behalf, bring organized supporting documents, and be ready to explain the purpose and timing of travel in detail. Apply early, because administrative processing can add time that appointment wait estimates do not include.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I appeal a visa denial?

No formal appeal exists, according to the State Department's visa denial page. In practice, applicants can respond to a request for information, ask the consular section to reconsider where the ground allows it, or file a new application.

Can I take a consular officer to court over a refusal?

Courts have generally declined to review the merits of a refusal. Narrow exceptions are discussed, but they depend on the facts, so speak with an attorney before considering a lawsuit.

How do 214(b) and 221(g) refusals differ?

Under 214(b), the officer concluded the applicant did not qualify for the category or did not show enough ties abroad to rebut the presumption of immigrant intent. Under 221 (g), the officer needs more documents or administrative processing before reaching a decision.

How long does administrative processing take?

The State Department gives no fixed timeline and says it varies with each case. Build extra time into travel plans and file early.

Should I reapply right away after a 214(b) refusal?

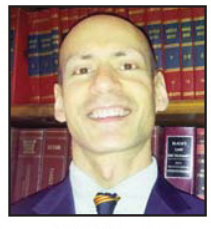
Usually not without something new. The State Department advises reapplying when there is new information or a significant change in circumstances.

If you or your family members have questions about how this or other immigration and nationality matters may affect you, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ&B 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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Baseball-World Series Rematch, Indian Edition: Yankees Beat Dodgers In Mumbai Event

PHOTOS: REUTERS/FRANCIS MASCARENHAS



Indian cricketer Suryakumar Yadav in action during MLBx Mumbai, Major League Baseball's fast-paced 3-on-3 baseball event, in Mumbai, India, October 24, 2026.



Indian cricketer Radha Yadav in action representing the Chicago Cubs during MLBx Mumbai, Major League Baseball's fast-paced 3-on-3 baseball event, in Mumbai, India, October 24, 2026.



Jake Arrieta in action for the Chicago Cubs, during an MLBx Mumbai event, Major League Baseball's fast-paced 3-on-3 baseball event, in Mumbai, India, October 24, 2026.

By Revathi Hariharan

Mumbai's cricket fans packed the stands at the Andheri Sports Complex on Saturday, October 25, 2026, to watch Indian World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav swing a bat – just not the kind that they are used to.

Indian cricketers Suryakumar Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar and Radha Yadav lined up alongside ex-Major League Baseball players Nick Swisher, Adrian Gonzalez, Jake Arrieta and Jonny Gomes in a three-on-three tournament that organisers pitched as a bridge between the two bat-and-ball games.

Each of the four teams mixed a baseball veteran, an Indian cricketer and an American softball player and the scoring rewarded both muscle and precision.

A home run earned two points, hitting the target zone earned four and fielders picked up one point for a catch, while five consecutive out-of-the-park hits doubled a team's total.

The semifinals offered up both a thriller and a stroll, as Gonzalez's Los Angeles Dodgers overturned the Shardul-led Chicago Cubs' 44 runs with just a minute to spare, while Suryakumar's New York Yankees cruised past the Boston Red Sox.



Fans during MLBx Mumbai, Major League Baseball's fast-paced 3-on-3 baseball event, in Mumbai, India, October 24, 2026.

That set up a rematch of the 2024 World Series, this time in India, with the Yankees posting 78 and holding off the Dodgers to be crowned champions.

Softball player Rachel Garcia was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Former New York Yankees player Nick Swisher, Indian cricketer Suryakumar Yadav and American softball player Rachel Garcia celebrate after winning the tournament during MLBx Mumbai, Major League Baseball's fast-paced 3-on-3 baseball event, in Mumbai, India, October 24, 2026. REUTERS/ Francis Mascarenhas

Suryakumar, a former India captain who guided the side to victory at this year's Twenty20 Cricket World Cup on home soil, said he is confident baseball will grow in India and that cricketing skills can translate to success in the American sport.

"I think it's all about good range hitting," added Suryakumar, whose celebrations spilled into the stands as he placed the gold chain he won around his wife's neck after the win.

"You must be strong from head to your lower body, have a good core and strong arms. If you want to hit 450 feet, 500 feet, you got to be strong. Work hard. No substitutes."

-Reuters

Cricket-Mumbai Indians Promote Pollard To Head Coach, Replacing Jayawardene

Oumbai Indians have appointed Kieron Pollard as head coach for the 2027 season in place of Mahela Jayawardene, the Indian Premier League team said on Saturday.

Pollard, who helped the West Indies win the Twenty20 World Cup in 2012 and won five IPL titles with the Mumbai Indians between 2013 and 2020, served as the team's batting coach under Jayawardene before the Sri Lankan's departure last week.

Mumbai Indians are the joint most-successful side in IPL history, with five titles, but have struggled since their last victory, finishing outside the playoffs in four of the past six seasons.

"Having experienced this journey as a player and then as a coach, I understand what Mumbai Indians stands for and the responsibility that comes with representing the Blue and Gold," the 39-year-old said in a statement.

"I look forward to working closely with the players and support staff, building on the team's legacy, helping our talent grow and giving the (fans) many more reasons to celebrate."

-Reuters

PHOTO: REUTERS/ABHIJIT ADDYA/FILE PHOTO



Cricket – Indian Premier League – IPL – Punjab Kings v Mumbai Indians – Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, India – May 26, 2025 Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard during the warm up before the match

‘Mangal Rang’ From Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi’s ‘Ramayana’ Released In Five Languages

The song ‘Mangal Rang’ from Nitesh Tiwari’s upcoming film ‘Ramayana’ has been released in five languages, with Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal lending their voices to the Hindi version.

Composed by AR Rahman, the song features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi as Maa Sita, showing moments from their wedding and their journey together.

The song is available on YouTube and music streaming platforms in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

The Hindi version features vocals by Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal, with lyrics by Dr. Kumar Vishwas. The Tamil version has Abhay Jodhpurkar and Saindhavi, while Raghav Kaushik and Vaishali Samant have sung the Telugu version. Armaan Malik and Bela Shende have lent their voices to the Kannada version, and Naresh Iyer and Amritha Rajan have sung the Malayalam version.

The visuals show Rama and Sita’s wedding, scenes from the palace and moments from their life during Vanvas. The song also features Rama with his bow and arrow and sword, along with scenes set against wide landscapes.

Speaking about composing the song, Rahman said he wanted the music to capture the love and devotion between Rama and Sita.

“Ramayana is a story that has lived in the hearts of people for generations, and approaching it through music was a very special experience for me. There is a certain purity and tenderness in the relationship between Rama and Sita that I wanted the music to hold on to. With Mangal Rang, I hope listeners feel that warmth and devotion, and find something personal in the melody. Some stories don’t need to be explained; they simply need to be felt,” Rahman said in a release.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @TSERIES OFFICIAL VIA ANI

‘Ramayana’

Arijit Singh also spoke about his experience of singing for the film, saying the song helped him connect with the relationship between Rama and Sita.

“Ramayana is not merely a story or an epic; it is a timeless reflection of life, our inner consciousness and the connection we share with everything around us. The melody of Mangal Rang, composed by A. R. Rahman sir, took me somewhere beyond words, into a space where love blossoms in its purest form.”

Shreya Ghoshal said singing the song gave her an opportunity to connect with the bond between Rama and Sita.

“What makes Rama and Sita’s love so beautiful is that it goes beyond the happiness of being together. There is faith, understanding and a quiet strength in their bond that makes it deeply moving. Singing Mangal Rang allowed me to connect with that tenderness, and I approached it with a lot of love in my heart.”

The film also stars Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravi Dubey as Lakshman. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the two-part film is produced by Namit Malhotra’s Prime Focus Studios in collaboration with DNEG and Yash’s Monster Mind Creations.

‘Ramayana: Part 1’ is scheduled to release worldwide on November 5, 2026, while the second part is planned for Diwali 2027.

-ANI

SPORTS

India To Criminalize Doping Supply Chains To Boost Bid To Host Olympics

By Amlan Chakraborty

India plans to amend its anti-doping law to make peddling banned substances a crime, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday (October 26, 2026), in a potential boost to the country’s bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games in Ahmedabad.

India has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency’s list of offenders for three consecutive years, underscoring the scale of the challenge facing the world’s most populous nation.

Speaking at a UNESCO anti-doping conference in New Delhi, Mandaviya stressed the ministry’s zero tolerance towards “the menace of doping”.

“India firmly believes that sporting excellence must always be accompanied by integrity,” he said.

“Every athlete deserves a fair opportunity to compete, with success determined by talent, preparation and hard work, and not by prohibited substances or methods.”



PHOTO: X.COM @MANSUKHMANDAVIYA

Mansukh Mandaviya

“We will also bring another amendment in the next session of our parliament, which aims to introduce criminal provisions to deal with violations even more effectively, including those by coaches and supply chain stakeholders.”

India also ranked among the top two nations for athletics’ anti-doping rule violations between 2022 and 2025. That prompted the Athletics Integrity Unit board to move the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) from Category B to Category A.

Category A federations, deemed the highest risk, face stricter obligations, including minimum testing thresholds for national-team athletes.

Local administrators often attribute the high number of cases to increased testing, but doping remains rampant due to easy availability of banned substances, inadequate safeguards and limited athlete awareness.

India’s National Anti-Doping Agency conducted more than 7,000 tests and held over 350 awareness sessions for 27,000 athletes in the last two years, Mandaviya added.

-Reuters

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: Your actions may attract someone's attention, so be thoughtful. A new environment could offer you hospitality without putting extra pressure on your budget. For a long-distance journey, travelling by train may be a more convenient choice. Someone you feel attracted to could take the initiative. Choosing an alternate route may help you reach your destination faster and avoid heavy traffic.

TAURUS: Making peace with someone can restore your peace of mind. Progress in studies may bring stronger results. Organising your responsibilities systematically will make your work productive. You may feel generous with money, but thoughtful spending will help protect your savings. A positive family member can bring warmth and lift your spirits.

GEMINI: A young family member may make an important choice related to career or marriage, bringing happiness to everyone at home. A promising opportunity could emerge from your current professional involvement, so remain alert to possibilities around you. Those serving in uniform can expect flexibility regarding leave. Contributing to a social cause may give you a deep feeling of fulfilment.

CANCER: The professional area may require greater attention Staying focused will be important for maintaining your academic performance. Earlier investments could strengthen your financial position. Homemakers may need to manage household responsibilities independently for a while. Your confidence can help you handle romantic competition with maturity. Taking better care of yourself will help maintain your energy and wellbeing.

LEO: A property investment made earlier could turn out to be highly rewarding. Fresh ideas may open the door to impressive achievements. A determined attitude will help you overcome professional challenges with confidence. Romantic possibilities may emerge when you discover someone who matches your expectations. Those planning an overseas journey can look forward to a relatively smooth experience..

VIRGO: A valuable professional opportunity may come your way, so make sure you take full advantage of it. Following medical guidance carefully can support a quicker recovery and better wellbeing. Important study material or notes may reach you at the right time and prove extremely useful. Your dedication and consistent performance could earn appreciation from your senior or make you stand out at work.

LIBRA: Rising expenses may make it important to review financial priorities. Be mindful while communicating, as a small issue could affect a relationship. Efforts to win back your partner's favour may require patience. A much-needed change of surroundings may take a little longer than expected. Although routine responsibilities at work may feel monotonous, completing them will remain important.

SCORPIO: Your abilities are likely to receive the appreciation they deserve. A cheerful mindset can keep you motivated. Positive developments will help create a more encouraging environment. Working with others may bring recognition . A pending payment may finally be received in full. A comfortable home atmosphere will give you opportunities to unwind.

SAGITTARIUS: Your curiosity may draw you towards exploring an intellectually stimulating subject. A transportation option could make your commute easier. Investing in property may offer long-term financial potential. An attraction towards a colleague could develop, and encouraging responses may make the connection more interesting. Keeping a close watch on un spending will help maintain balance.

CAPRICORN: The timing of a request may influence the response you receive. Without proper supervision, a task could take longer than expected and disrupt your original schedule. Improving your financial position is possible, but it will require focused action and discipline. Meeting someone from your past may feel less exciting. Previous emotional experiences may make you more cautious about entering a new romantic connection.

AQUARIUS: Your honest nature can earn the trust and respect of senior people. A career-related decision may finally bring a sense of relief and clarity. Those preparing for a competition have encouraging prospects ahead. Earlier investments could contribute to your financial growth. Purchasing something luxurious may now fit your budget. An adventure with friends could make the week memorable.

PISCES: A desired outcome may require your personal initiative. You may spend meaningful time discussing plans or organising something special with your family. Travelling to meet loved ones can bring emotional warmth. Your support at work may leave a impression on someone who values your assistance. Sharing a thoughtful suggestion with a senior could enhance your reputation and professional standing.

'Miracles 2.0: The Reckoning' To Have New Jersey Premiere in Edison



By a Staff Writer

EDISON, N.J. — Following its world premiere in Southern California, "Miracles 2.0: The Reckoning," an international feature film from EchoDreams Production USA, is headed to New Jersey for an East Coast screening Nov. 15 at the ITV Gold Auditorium in Edison.



PHOTOS: ORGANIZERS

A scene from "Miracles 2.0: The Reckoning," an international feature film by Reema Kapani and EchoDreams Production USA. The film will have its New Jersey premiere Nov. 15 at the ITV Gold Auditorium in Edison.

The program, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., will include a screening of the film along with a selection of inspirational music videos produced by EchoDreams Production USA. Organizers said the gathering is expected to bring together filmmakers, performers, aspiring artists, music enthusiasts and community members.

Produced under the leadership of filmmaker Reema Kapani, founder of EchoDreams Production USA, "Miracles 2.0: The Reckoning" is part of the production company's effort to connect artists and storytelling traditions from Hollywood, Bollywood, Nollywood and Lollywood.

The suspense-driven film explores themes of greed, power, injustice, resilience and the choices people make when confronted with difficult circumstances. Its broader themes include compassion, courage and hope.

Kapani has described cinema as a medium capable of bridging cultural and national differences.

"Cinema has the power to cross every border — language, culture and nationality," Kapani said in connection with the film's California premiere. "My dream is to create stories that touch the heart, inspire humanity and bring people closer together."

The film had its first public screening Oct. 3 at the PYLUSD Theater in Placentia, California. The premiere also featured music videos produced by EchoDreams and brought together members of the entertainment industry, artists, community leaders and members of the film's cast and crew.

EchoDreams Production USA has positioned the project as a multicultural collaboration, bringing together creative influences from several major international film industries while emphasizing shared human experiences.

The New Jersey event will be held Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. at the ITV Gold Auditorium, 1655 Oak Tree Road, Suite 155, Edison, New Jersey.

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Mindy Kaling Joins Cast Of "Running Point" In Season 3

By a Staff Writer

In a news release October 19, 2026, Netflix announced that Indian American writer, executive producer and renowned filmmaker Mindy Kaling, is joining the cast of her newest venture "Running Point" in its 3rd season.

Kaling who began as a scriptwriter for the famous series "The Office" in which she also played a part, and went on to make the eponymous series "The Mindy Project" where she played an Indian physician, and later a number popular series like "Never Have I Ever" and "Sex Lives Of College Girls" is now involved with actress Kate Hudson in making "Running Point," another acclaimed series.

"The team just gained a new MVP: Running Point writer and producer Mindy Kaling will take her talents to the screen as Divya in Season 3," the news release from Netflix said.

And while Kaling steps in front of the camera, star Kate Hudson, who plays Isla Gordon, manager of a basketball team, goes behind the camera to make her television directorial debut with Episode 1, of Season 3. The series continues to feature Gordon's life battling challenges on the personal side and with managing the LA Waves.

"Running Point" has begun production in Los Angeles but the release date has not yet been announced, according to media reports.



PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM INSTAGRAM @NETFLIX.COM

Mindy Kaling with a basketball, speaking into a publicity short.

Netflix Replaces Bela Bajaria, Names Ex-Disney TV Chair Rice Chief Content Officer

By Dawn C. Chmielewski and Thomas Buckley

Netflix Inc. has named veteran film and television executive Peter Rice as its new chief content officer, replacing Bela Bajaria, who held the job for nearly a decade.

Rice previously served as chairman of general entertainment at Walt Disney Co., and, before that, as president of 21st Century Fox, supervising a portfolio that included hits like The Simpsons and Modern Family. He assumes the new role on Oct. 26, with a broad mandate, overseeing scripted and unscripted series, film and live events across all regions.

"Peter is one of the most effective at-scale operators in the entertainment industry," Netflix co-Chief Executive Officer Ted Sarandos said in a statement. "He understands what makes stories resonate, and he's spent his career helping talent do the best work of their lives."

The move comes in a week that saw the streaming TV giant lay off some 1,000 workers. Sarandos told Bloomberg News earlier that the company isn't growing as fast as he would like.



PHOTO: LINKEDIN @BELA-BAJARIA

Bela Bajaria.

Netflix has struggled to find new hit shows, and has seen viewership of its most popular series decline in their second seasons. The service saw its Emmy Awards wins fall to a 10-year low this year. The stock has lost about 23% of its value this year.

"Losing Bela Bajaria is a big change, but Peter Rice is very well regarded in the industry," Alicia Reese, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, said by email. "To us, this is a step forward, or at least a shift in direction."

Reese said Netflix has been shifting from a streaming service to a platform with more varied content, and Rice's experience fits this effort well. His experience consolidating Fox's entertainment assets with Disney suggests that Netflix may look at other acquisitions, such as NBCUniversal when it becomes available, after being outbid fro Warner Bros. Discovery Inc.

-Bloomberg

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.

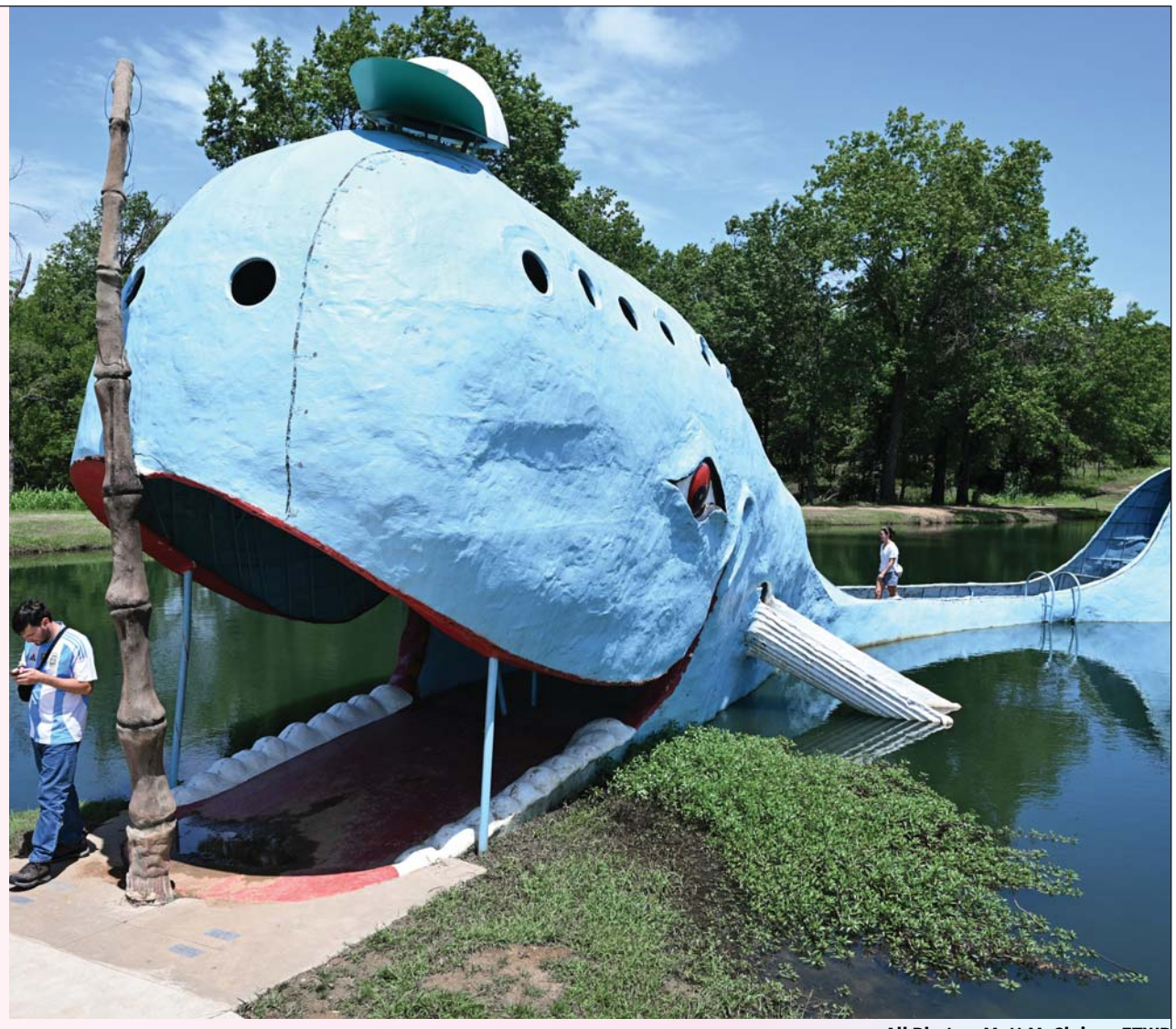
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PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @MOHITSURI

Mohit Suri and Ram Gopal.





All Photos: Matt McClain — FTWP

The Washington Post

Route 66 turns 100.
We road-tripped through all its kitsch.

By Olivier Laurent, Matt McClain

Route 66 does not exist anymore, at least officially. Once the "Mother Road" of American expansion by car and truck, it was decommissioned in 1985, after the Interstate Highway System diverted much of its traffic along many of the route's segments across Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. What remains is a disjointed Historic Route 66, preserved by its local communities and celebrated for its connection to an earlier time.

First designated in 1926 and fully connected and paved over the next decade or so, it carried west the desperate Dust Bowl migrants and World War II military supplies and troops. Vacationing families and adventure seekers got their kicks on Route 66, as a popular song styled it, and they boosted the economies of rural communities along the way.

The route has now become a nostalgic destination for road trippers from far and near. Dotted with neon-clad motels and diners, trading posts and historic markers, vintage cars and dinosaur sculptures, the road offers stunning scenery and Americana for groups of bikers and European tourists alike.

"Route 66 is stuck in time, in a good way," says photographer Matt McClain, who spent several summer weeks traveling all of the road's 2,448 miles and rambling down some offshoots, crossing seven state borders and spanning three time zones. "It held on to some of its atmosphere, ambiance and character. And the people you meet are caretakers of that tradition. They take real pride."

Route 66 is not just a way to experience the dramatic diversity of the American landscape - the green fields of Illinois, Missouri and Kansas giving way to the yellow plains of Oklahoma and Texas and the copper rocky formations of New Mexico and Arizona. It's also a conduit for meeting a diverse mix of communities and ways of life.

"It's a great way to experience American culture, even though some of it can be a bit cheesy or cliché," McClain says.

"It takes people outside of the larger cities to see the rural fabric of America, the thing that really makes America special."

Through his photos, McClain takes us along Route 66, uncovering its many surprises, on the eve of its 100th anniversary on Nov. 11.

Albuquerque → Seligman

There was a pause, a quietness. And then these tour buses would pull up and pour out people who would take over the town for an hour or two.

Then they would leave and it would be quiet again.

Matt McClain

Seligman → Santa Monica

The Santa Monica Pier is such a perfect fit for Route 66. You never know what you're gonna see on the pier, just like you never know what you'll see on Route 66.

There's a classic kitschiness that's clearly endearing.

Matt McClain

Chicago → Tulsa

I didn't expect this old, regional brick route in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by cornfields. It felt so timeless, like a real treasure that still exists, a true link to the past.

Matt McClain

Tulsa → Albuquerque

These Cadillacs are more just paint than cars anymore.

They have deteriorated so much that they are held together by those layers and layers of paint

Attractions like these are a rite of passage.

It's a pilgrimage. It's about feeling that sense of belonging.

Matt McClain

This Movie By Bassam Tariq Is Garnering Acclaim. How The Filmmaker Wrote Its Stunning Last Line

By Elahe Izadi

Filmmaking, says writer-director Bassam Tariq, is a long journey, "and you don't know where or how things will come."

He would know. His latest film, the thriller "Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother," was years in the making. After a successful festival run, it's now in theaters, earning rave reviews and early awards-chatter.

And the movie only exists because Tariq walked away from a Marvel movie.

The film stars two-time Oscar winner Mahershala Ali as Latif, a devout Muslim who also happens to be a hitman trying to solo-parent his three children after the sudden death of his wife. The youngest, a baby, will only take breast milk, and Latif embarks on a journey to feed his child, while dealing with violent ghosts of his past. Set in Houston, audiences meet religious crime bosses, right-wing zealots, porn-peddlers, Mormon missionaries and "reformed" strippers.

Tariq started the script years ago and only picked it back up – with the urging of his longtime collaborator and friend Riz Ahmed – after leaving the stalled Marvel reboot of "Blade" in 2022. (Ali was also supposed to star in that film, but he has said the project is now defunct.)

The filmmaker beamed in from a hotel room in Chicago, where he was staying for a community screening of "Your Mother," to talk about the work of moviemaking, his own creative process and the flash of inspiration that led to the film's memorable last line.

"Your Mother" is stunning in part because of the contrasting threads it seamlessly weaves. It's both violent and beautiful. Quiet and explosive. Funny, yet a portrait of grief. It's also a meditation on faith. The film's title references a Hadith, in which the prophet Muhammad is asked repeatedly who deserves the best treatment. He responds: "Your mother," three times, then, finally, "Your father."

Tariq is Muslim, as is Ali. It's striking that a film like this – with complex characters who happen to be Muslim, navigating the different ways faith plays out for them – is being released in the current political and social climate of resurgent Islamophobia. The weight of representation for prominent Muslim Americans at such a fraught moment could be immense.

But Tariq's film comes after a slate of works by other artists who have helped broaden the portrayals of Muslim characters, including those by Ramy Youssef, Mo Amer and Ahmed. He and Ahmed learned, Tariq says, that "we've got to be arm-in-arm in this stuff, and we have to build along with people from our community."

Rather than seeing the artist as a solo auteur, Tariq says "I believe in a collective spirit. I believe that people come together to make great work."

"Your Mother" is not Islam 101. Audiences are dropped into a mosques, prayers, Ramadan, without exposition. "What's exciting about audiences, they want to be challenged. They want go into spaces and worlds that they haven't stepped in before," Tariq tells me. "I don't know if a film like this would have been made 10 years ago."

Tariq says he finds American audiences "are more open and accepting in a way that we haven't seen before."

The film was partially inspired by a real life quest Tariq undertook after his wife, who was nursing their newborn, was hospitalized and he needed to search New York City for donated breast milk.

But when I asked if he experienced a particular "a-ha" creative moment – a time when inspiration struck, or he unlocked a particular quandary in his process – he wanted shared the story of that last line of dialogue.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK @BASSAM TARIQ

Bassam Tariq speaking about his worldwide release of film "Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother".

Our conversation is part of my own quest: to uncover the mystery of the human creative impulse, to discover the ways magic comes to us.

When I saw Ali's Latif deliver this final line – a reply to a question posed by his teenage daughter – I found myself sobbing. Below is an excerpt of my conversation with Tariq, lightly edited for clarity and space. (And a small spoiler alert – we do discuss the actual line.)

Do you feel like you're part of a tradition of artists making work exploring complex themes through characters who happen to be Muslim? Do you even think of this as a Muslim movie?

Tariq: Honestly, I feel like I'm more in a cinematic tradition of [Martin] Scorsese or [Francis Ford] Coppola when he made "Godfather," and people were really upset in that [Italian American] community, like, "What did you just do?!" But at the same time, people were, like, "Oh my God, this is so beautiful. And yes, this is true and this is true." I want to be a part of that discussion because I think this is what cinema allows. This is also what America is. This film can only exist in the context of the United States. These characters can only exist in the U.S. This is a uniquely American film. And there's so many experiences of what it means to be American. To look at it from this Muslim lens felt really, really exciting to me.

When I go into a theater, I pray that a film will teach me something, because I'm here now for an hour-and-a-half, two hours. I need to learn something. It may not tell me the meaning of life, nor do I want it to – but I want to learn. I want to expand my heart and be more compassionate. And I believe that art is a vehicle for empathy.

When did you experience an "aha" moment in making "Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother?"

Tariq: I was sitting in London in a coffee shop – it was this Christian fellowship coffee shop in East London near Brick Lane. I was doing a commercial at the time, and I had some days off in between. And [as I'm writing], I'm just like, how do I end this moment with the daughter, where she says "Why did you leave me?" What is his response back?

When I wrote the line – "So I could find my way back to you." – I remembered thinking, "That is so corny.' But I was like, 'F— it, I'm gonna be corny. I don't give a s—." Because so much of the journey [in the film] is you go to all these places to understand that this is what you needed to do to be where you are now. I remember some people feeling like, that's some cheesy a– s—, but I was like, I don't care. That's how I want to end it. And I think Mahershala delivers it beautifully.

I remember that moment vividly in London, because it was a real tough day. It was a tough shoot. I'd come off a few projects that didn't go so well. So I didn't feel the best. And at that time, when you're still [working] in a PDF or a Word document, it's like, 'Who's going to believe in this?' I feel the same way right now as I'm writing this new thing, banging my head against the wall trying to figure out a script. I just don't know if it's gonna land, but I just have to keep showing up.

Say more about "showing up."

Tariq: The whole filmmaking process is a journey, and you don't know where or how things will come, but you have to keep showing up. And it is so hard. It's like showing up at the gym, and I hate going to gym. But you just gotta show up and then you do what you gotta do, and then leave. You always feel better as you're leaving than you did before you come in, so I have to always remember that.

But even in that moment of writing that line, you had the impulse to self-edit yourself. You had that immediate reaction of, "This is corny." What kept you from listening to that voice?

Tariq: I'm realizing that a part of art is to be corny, and it's okay. I'm learning that it's okay to have your heart on your sleeve. For so much of my time, my 20s, I tried to play it super cool.

There is a way to do these things where they can be more open and accessible, and you can still have that deep, creative integrity of the work. That's something that I'm learning, and I think it's a balance. I'm learning that I can fill it with a lot of corn balls, and it's okay, because we can then bring it back. But to operate from a place of fear where I fear it being saccharine? That's not healthy. It's better to operate from a place of love – and then edit.

-The Washington Post

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401-426-8884
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Call (615) 594-5454
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Call Sunny (740) 404 7478
10/30-11/27-SL

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Legal status must.
Accommodation provided.
Excellent salary.
Contact: 919-344-8656, 336-587-5358
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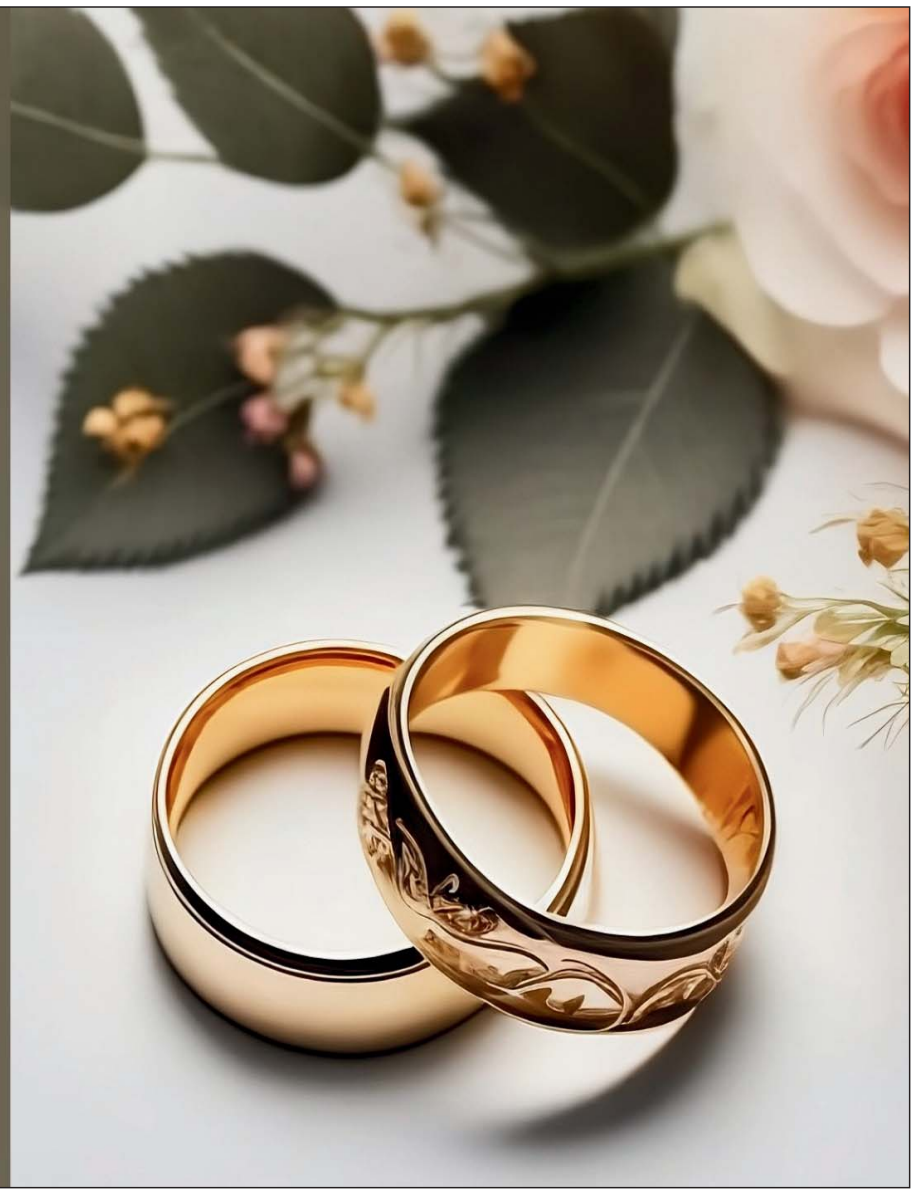
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