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IN CHICAGO



Voters punish Trump with historic swing to Democrats; Ramaswamy defeated in Ohio

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High schoolers of Indian origin excel on 2026 Presidential Scholars list

PHOTOS: MISCELLANEOUS



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Around 40 Indian/South Asian-Origin High School Seniors Make It To The Prestigious 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars List

By a Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Education on October 27, announced the selection of 161 exceptional high school seniors as the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars, for their achievements in academics, the arts, and career and technical education. Among them are some 40 seniors of Indian origin, and other South Asian ancestry, according to the list made by News India Times from the names appearing for each state.

This year, out of 3.9 million graduating high school seniors, more than 6,700 candidates qualified for consideration based on outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or nominations by chief state school officers.

"These students represent the exceptional caliber of character and intellect that our nation's future demands," U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon is quoted saying in the list. "On behalf of President Trump, I congratulate each Scholar who never gave up, the families who believed in them, and the communities who guided them. As you forge your next paths, continue to aim higher, leverage your extraordinary talents, and boldly assume your responsibilities as leaders."

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars identifies honorees through a rigorous selection process, the press release said, evaluating academic excellence, artistic and technical talent, essays, school recommendations, and evidence of leadership and community service, a press release from the Education Department said.



PHOTO: LINKEDIN @ROSHNI-NAGARKANTI

Roshni Nagarkanti



PHOTO: LINKEDIN @AKSHAJ-BAIS

Akshaj Bais



PHOTO: LINKEDIN @AARUSH-TUTIKI

Aarush Tutiki



PHOTO: LINKEDIN @KHUSHI-PATEL08

Khushi Patel

The 2026 class includes one young man and one young woman from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 at-large Scholars, 20 Scholars in the arts, and 20 Scholars in career and technical education, as directed by Presidential Executive Order.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was inaugurated in 1964, and to date has honored approximately 8,800 of America's top-performing students. The program expanded in 1979 to recognize artistic excellence and, in 2015, to celebrate achievements in career and technical education.

Each member of the 2026 class will receive an engraved U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion, symbolizing their extraordinary accomplishments and bright futures, the press release said.

Following are the high schoolers by state, identified as being of Indian origin (Or other South Asian) going by their names:

[*] Scholar for U.S. Presidential Scholar in Arts.

[**] Scholar for U.S Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education.

ALABAMA
Arnav Maskey, Madison, Bob Jones High School

ARIZONA
Akshay Karthik, Chandler – Hamilton High School AZ –
Roshni Nagarakanti, Scottsdale – Desert Mountain High School

ARKANSAS
Manvitha Narasimhan, Bentonville – Bentonville High School

CALIFORNIA
Suraj Samir Shah, Tustin – Arnold O. Beckman High School

CONNECTICUT
Vedant Rakesh Kansara, Unionville – Farmington High School
Suchita Srinivasan, Cheshire – Cheshire High School

DELAWARE
Akshaj Bais, Newark – Newark Charter School (**)
Sudipa Chowdhury, Newark – Newark Charter School
Jai Mihir Thacker, Wilmington – The Charter School of Wilmington

FLORIDA
Kurukulasuriya Nishini Amaya Fernando, Fort Myers – Dunbar High School (**)

GEORGIA
Samanyu Krishna Ganesh, Atlanta – The Westminster Schools
Ananya Tara Rajagopalan, Marietta – Wheeler High School

IDAHO
Kavya Bansal, Eagle – Renaissance High School

ILLINOIS
Rachel Varghese, Long Grove – Adlai E. Stevenson High School

INDIANA
Riya Ayisha Koya, Carmel – Carmel High School

KANSAS
Sanjana Akkulugari, Leawood – The Barstow School

KENTUCKY
Deepika Koripelli, Louisville – duPont Manual Magnet High School
Avneesh Mahesh Kudrimoti, Lexington – Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

LOUISIANA
Aditiya Safaya, Covington – Mandeville High School

MICHIGAN
Ajay Singh Raj Purohit, Ann Arbor – Greenhills School

MINNESOTA
Aaratrika Mondal, Maple Grove – Wayzata High School

MISSOURI
Shiv Bansal, Springfield – Kickapoo High School (**)
Vihaan J Choudhary, Saint Louis – Lindbergh High School

NEBRASKA
Rikhil Chowdary Jasti, Lincoln – Lincoln East High School (**)

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jhanvi D Desai, Nashua – Nashua Senior High School South

NEW JERSEY
Sahaj Bhandari, Parsippany – Morris Hills High School
Jismi Mathew, East Hanover – Morris County School of Technology (**)
Sapna K Patel, Northfield – Mainland Regional High School

NEW MEXICO
Aarush Tutiki, Albuquerque – Albuquerque Academy

NORTH CAROLINA
Aarush Jugdar, Concord – The North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics
Maya Kodali, Charlotte – Providence Day School
Swayam Shah, Apex – William G. Enloe Gifted & Talented Magnet High School

OREGON
Shriya Pai, Portland – Jesuit High School

TEXAS
Veda S. Ganesan, Flower Mound – Edward S Marcus High School
Mahith Gottipati, Sugar Land – Dulles High School

UTAH
Khushi Patel, Saint George – Dixie High School

VIRGINIA
Yalini Kathamuthu, Herndon – BASIS Independent McLean
Nived Nandakumar, Chantilly – Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

WYOMING
Roy Vaid, Rawlins – Phillips Exeter Academy

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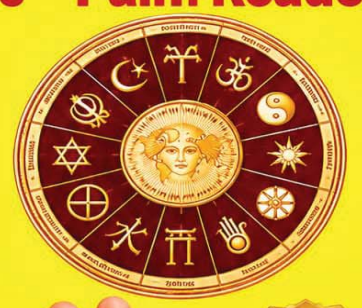

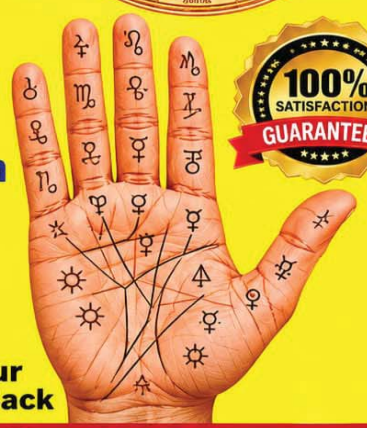

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Voters Punish Trump With Historic Swing To Democrats; Ramaswamy Defeated In Ohio

By Isaac Arnsdorf, The Washington Post

The American voter dealt President Donald Trump a historic rebuke on a scale not seen since 1974, propelling Democrats into control of both houses of Congress with commanding wins in places they hadn't carried in decades.

Democrats won both the Senate and governor's races in Texas – their first statewide victories there since 1994. They took a U.S. Senate seat in South Carolina and the Georgia governorship for the first time since 1998. Kansas sent a Democrat to the Senate for the first time since 1932.

Among their early House victories were a Kentucky district that voted for Trump by 15 points and two Florida seats that Republicans redrew to shift right. The head of the House GOP's campaign arm trailed in his own race with 99 percent of the vote counted. As of 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Democrats led in every competitive House contest.

The leftward swing extended across demographics and geographies. Compared with 2024, the exit poll conducted for the Associated Press and the major television networks showed double-digit swings toward the Democrats among Latinos, Catholic voters and voters younger than 30.

Republicans also suffered from a collapse in turnout, as fewer of their supporters showed up on Election Day than four years ago, according to preliminary turnout data. Sixty percent of voters said they disapproved of Trump, and 81 percent of them voted for Democrats, according to preliminary results from the NORC Civic Health & Elections Project survey, which was sponsored by The Washington Post and other organizations.

Voters named the economy, health care and the war with Iran as their top issues, the survey showed. Just 12 percent said their family was getting ahead, while 29 percent said they were falling behind. Democrats had a 12-point advantage with voters who named the economy and jobs as their top concern, who made up a majority of the electorate. Two years ago, such voters favored Trump by 20 points.

Voters without college degrees, who favored Trump by more than a dozen points in 2024, went for Democrats this year by about 49 percent to 47 percent. Democrats also narrowly won with men, who voted for Trump by 55 percent to 43 percent in 2024.

Democrats will take power on Capitol Hill eager to thwart Trump's agenda and investigate scandals throughout his administration. Rep. Robert Garcia (California), the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, previewed investigations into the Trump family, immigration enforcement and the Jeffrey Epstein files.

"The American people have spoken all across the land," said House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York). "This is a change election, and we understand as House Democrats that we need to deliver dramatic change. Things are broken."

In interviews as the results came in, Trump vowed to wield his veto pen to force Democrats to compromise. He distanced himself from the results and cast blame on other Republicans. He also declined to name his preferred successor and left open the possibility of a competitive primary in 2028.

"I don't like to consider it a defeat for me, I wasn't on the ballot," he said on Fox News, after campaigning for two months telling his supporters at least 41 times to "pretend I'm on the ballot."

"No matter how good the president is, you lose."

Addressing the Iran war, Trump said, "Historically I think I'll be judged for doing the right thing. But that gave us an evening that was not that pleasant."

Throughout the fall campaign, Trump and Democrats agreed on wanting to make the election about him. Republicans in tough races increasingly broke with him on tariffs and the Iran war as voters felt the pinch of higher prices.

In 1974, Americans punished Republicans for the Watergate scandal that led to President Richard M. Nixon's resignation. That year, Democrats picked up four Senate seats, 45 House seats and four governorships with a 17-point edge in the popular vote. (Republicans gained 54 seats in 1994 from a popular-vote advantage of only about 7 percent. Over the decades, gerrymandering has narrowed the field of competitive House races.)

The president's party typically loses congressional seats in midterm elections. Unlike many past elections in which presidents have suffered from events over which they had little control – a recession, for example – Trump's steady drop in polls over the past year and a half followed directly from his own policy decisions, including his tariffs, the decision to launch a war against Iran and his opposition to the release of the Justice Department's files on Epstein, the late financier and convicted sex offender.

The early results were consistent with pre-election polls showing Democrats favored to win both chambers of Congress. Trump's approval sank to a record low of 33 percent in October, according to a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll. For the first time in more than a decade, more voters trusted Democrats to deal with the economy, as about three-quarters of Americans disapproved of Trump's handling of inflation and the cost of living in the United States. Seventy-two percent said the country was heading in the wrong direction.

That public dissatisfaction overpowered the GOP's advantage in campaign spending. Trump's super PACs pumped at least $380 million into midterm races, with another more than $400 million from Elon Musk, the world's richest man, according to federal disclosures.

The midterms were the most expensive election ever, topping past cycles that included presidential campaigns, according to media tracker AdImpact. Republicans spent $5.45 billion on advertising across TV, radio and digital, and Democrats spent $5.02 billion.

Texas's Senate race between Republican Ken Paxton and Democrat James Talarico became the most expensive non-presidential race ever, costing more than $500 million, according to AdImpact. Talarico led by about 11 points with 88 percent counted, winning nearly two-thirds of independent voters. In Kansas, nearly 7 in 10 independents supported Democrat Adam Hamilton, who beat incumbent Republican Roger Marshall by about five points.

Democrats also made inroads with Trump voters and people who did not cast ballots in 2024, according to the NORC poll. In four states where Democrats flipped Senate seats – Iowa, Kansas, North Carolina and Texas – about 1 in 10 Trump voters supported the Democrat. Fifteen percent of this year's voters didn't participate two years ago, and they supported Democrats by about 20 points.

Democrats picked up a Senate seat in North Carolina, where former governor Roy Cooper beat former Republican National Committee chairman Michael Whatley. The Republican incumbent, Thom Tillis, did not seek reelection after crossing Trump last year.

Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-Georgia) cruised to reelection, and former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms became the nation's first Black woman to be elected governor. Rep. Chris Pappas (D) easily won a Senate seat in New Hampshire.

"When I first talked about taking back the Senate in 2025, people rolled their eyes. They said it couldn't be done," Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said. "There is now a generational remake of the Senate map."

In Ohio's gubernatorial contest, Republican Vivek Ramaswamy lost to Democrat Amy Acton after bipartisan backlash to an attack ad featuring her estranged mother. Democrats also flipped the executive mansion in Iowa and led early returns for governor in Nevada and Alaska.

The election mostly ran smoothly despite concerns from Democrats and some election officials that Trump officials might try to use federal power to favor Republicans.



PHOTO: @VIVEKGRAMASWAMY

Ohio's Indian American candidate for Governor Vivek Ramaswamy defeated.

Top election officials in Michigan and New Mexico complained to the Justice Department on Tuesday about what they described as unusual behavior by federal election monitors deployed to polling sites in their states. The Department of Homeland Security did not deploy immigration officers to voting locations.

In Alaska, Trump has demanded the disqualification of the Democratic Senate nominee, Mary Peltola, after the New York Times reported that operatives aligned with her helped recruit an independent candidate with the same name as the incumbent Republican senator, Dan Sullivan.

"I've heard from people who think they've voted for the wrong guy and have apologized to me," Sullivan told a Fox News reporter on Tuesday. "The scheme is working."

In the final weeks of the campaign, Trump's closing message insisted that the economy was booming – contrary to most Americans' experience. As in his past campaigns, he attacked Democrats, calling them "communists," "freaks" and "jihadists."

"These are the couple of points where I just leave because they're so good," he said, citing positive economic statistics when he spoke in Lubbock, Texas, a week before the election. "The rest is just – we're wasting frickin' time," he said – a recurring bit that he reprised at numerous rallies.

He called Democratic Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed of Michigan, who is Muslim, a "jihadist" and said Black and Jewish Americans would be "crazy" to vote for him; demanded the ouster of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota) and the prosecution of Peltola; used an offensive nickname for Democratic Senate nominee Annie Andrews of South Carolina; mimed an imaginary incident of Talarico vomiting after eating meat; and joked that a $5,000 stimulus he promised citizens if Republicans won would barely cover a hamburger and "maybe a small dessert" at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida.

Interruptions from protesters frequently punctuated his rallies. Often, they cited the investigation into Epstein, who had been a friend of Trump's years ago.

Trump spent election night watching the results with Cabinet officials and advisers in the East Room of the White House.

He repeatedly posted critiques of Fox News' coverage and said on social media that he would "become a Political Pundit" and openly discuss why Republican candidates lost.

As the Democratic wins piled up, the president posted a statement on his Truth Social site: "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!"



The Meaning and Message of Divine Experiences in New Jersey

~ Abhishek Mishra answers the questions he is most asked



Abhishek Mishra

Abhishek Mishra, a seasoned corporate professional, has been sharing his mysterious, maybe mystical, experiences for the past couple of years with the media.

Naturally formed (Swayambhu) images of Lord-Shiva have appeared both inside and outside his family home in Edison, NJ.

Among the "astonishing phenomena" at the Mishra residence have been a Shivling forming naturally from winter ice and a 50-foot depiction of Lord Shiva holding a trident in the backyard snow. Inside the home, an image of Shiva with Nandi appeared on the bathroom tiles, and another meditative form of Shiva emerged from the ice.

From symbols appearing unexpectedly to coincidences he describes as spiritually transformative, his experiences have led many to reflect on faith and the unseen.

Mr Mishra has since been featured in all the main Indian newspapers in America including New India Abroad, The South Asian Times, DesiTalk and India Currents. He has also been interviewed exhaustively by major broadcast channels including TV9, TV Asia, ITV Gold, e-Malayalee, Preetnama TV, Global Reporter, Dr Renee Mehra Show, Heramba Studio, and Minisha Productions. He also hosted Editors' Meet on Long Island, and in New Jersey a Shivratri celebration and Reading of 3 Short Hindi Plays - all events promoting interfaith understanding and communal harmony. He has since been inducted into the Board of Indo-American Press Club (IAPC).

Here are the more salient points of Abhishek Mishra's story and belief system in his own words.

When did these signs first start emerging?

I first began noticing Shiva formations in 2016. Since then, they have appeared every year, self-generating from snow and ice outside. While the icy formations only occur during the winter, the patterns on the bathroom tiles are visible year-round.

What is your reading in those signs?

For me, these recurring patterns are physical evidence that God is real. Divine blessings showered on my home have deepened my family's faith and devotion. These forms are beyond human imagination and serve as a reminder to connect with a higher power, whether you follow Buddha, Jesus, or Shiva.

Why are you sharing your experiences?

I share these experiences in public not for persona ownership or benefit, but because I feel like a messenger. A powerful moment came when my young son, who had no prior knowledge of Hindiconography, naturally began shaping a Shivalinga out of snow. I understand people's skepticism, but noting consistent physical evidence over several years strengthens my faith and of those who witnessed it.



A collage of formations of Lord Shiva in Mishra family home

Do you have a family background of strong faith?

Spiritual devotion is a family tradition. My grandfather built a Shesh Bhagwan (Kherepati) temple in Kanpur, which has celebrated its 100th anniversary. My brother there looks after the temple.

How does belief in divine power help?

I sincerely want to inspire faith in others of a Divine Power, referred to by different names across religions and worshipped in various forms. Many many more people in the world even today believe in God than the number of atheists. Some people believe in saakar (God with form), and some in nirakaar (formless), but God is one. This unity of God has been proclaimed by all the religious and spiritual traditions of the world in different epochs. What I want to tell people is that aligning with God or that Divine Power will make our worldly life happy, peaceful, and prosperous.

What is your mission?

My final message to the world is one of unity and righteousness. Religion is not the same as Dharma. Religions differ and often cause division. Religion is a set of rituals and modes of worship, while Dharma is the cosmic law, righteous conduct, and a path to truth. Dharma and a pure heart bring all of us together. To me, Lord Shiva represents "everything and nothingness"–a completeness that is available to everyone regardless of their karma or beliefs.

Finally, all one can say is that there are many things even today in life and the universe which are beyond the understanding of science, no matter how developed it is.

The Mishra family warmly welcomes visitors who wish to learn, reflect, and personally experience this spiritual miracle at their home - 25 Lavender Drive, Edison, NJ. Abhishek Mishra can be contacted at Ph: 732.690.0404 for more information.

Wishing you health, happiness and prosperity: Abhishek, Namita, Avi and Anika Mishra

Ramaswamy's Opponent, Ohio Gubernatorial Hopeful Amy Acton's Survivor Story: 'I Was Lucky'

By Karen Tumulty

When the 1983 homecoming queen made her way back to Liberty High School here on Tuesday night, the gym was packed to capacity. Members of the Golden Leopard Marching Band welcomed her with a warbly version of Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the people who didn't look the other way when they saw my brother and I struggling," Amy Acton told the crowd. "People here who helped lift me, and I see you."

By now, most Ohioans – as well as much of the rest of the country – know what the former state health director and Democratic candidate for governor was talking about.

In what has been the most shocking political ad of this election season, the campaign of her GOP opponent, Vivek Ramaswamy, aired a video in which Acton's estranged mother calls her a liar and urges people not to vote for her.

With it, voters have learned the grim backstory: how Acton's mother, Donna Arthur, lost custody of her son and daughter in 1978, after Arthur's husband was indicted on a charge of raping Amy, then 12.

Cledith Arthur pleaded not guilty and became a fugitive before he could be tried; his wife skipped town with him, and the couple remained married until his death in 2004.

On Thursday, Ramaswamy's campaign said it was taking the ad off the air. It spent about $1 million on two versions of the spot, just a quarter of the amount it had initially said it would, according to data compiled by AdImpact.

What was dredged up in the ad, Acton said in an interview with The Washington Post, is a dark chapter of her life that she has yet to fully process.

"I'm still learning. I'm 60 years old. I'm learning, and I'm sure at some point I'll be learning from everything I'm experiencing now," Acton said.

But Acton also expressed a conviction that her childhood horror shaped who she has become since then. It gave her the drive to build a life and career, first to become a physician and now potentially Ohio's first woman governor and first Democrat to win the office in two decades. With less than a week before the election, most polls indicate the race is statistically tied.

"My childhood makes me see things people don't see, and I notice details. I pick up on stuff, and I have an internal compass and radar that were very helpful and have always been helpful in a crisis," she said. "I'm very good at solving problems and anticipating things, and I think that's a strength that came out of a hard thing."

Acton credited those instincts for the way she helped guide Ohio through the coronavirus pandemic. She became a folk hero as she stood alongside Republican Gov. Mike DeWine and put in place some of the earliest and strictest measures to rein in the virus.

Her calm manner inspired Acton bobblehead dolls; little girls donned white lab coats to dress up like her and conduct their own make-believe briefings; a 2020 New York Times opinion piece's headline declared her "The Leader We Wish We All Had."

Then came the backlash over shutdowns of schools, businesses and community events that critics said lasted too long. Armed protesters in military outfits showed up at her house, and she was called a "medical dictator." Acton resigned from the job after 16 months, in large part because she believed she would be forced to sign reopening orders that she considered unsafe, she said.

But that, too, she contended, has been preparation for what was to come. Ramaswamy and his supporters have spread AI-generated videos portraying Acton as a mentally unbalanced drunk and have questioned whether she has a valid medical license, which she does.

She has refused to debate him, which Ramaswamy has cited as his justification for running the ad.

Acton, meanwhile, has blasted Ramaswamy for his wealth and his use of a private jet to travel the state. She has accused him of making his fortune by peddling a drug for Alzheimer's that he knew did not work, a claim PolitiFact rated "mostly false."

But nothing that has happened thus far in the race has been as personal – or ignited the same firestorm as – Ramaswamy's ad featuring Acton's mother.

President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and others in their circle have defended the ad. "Who wouldn't use such an Ad? I would, it's called, 'hitting pay dirt,'" the president wrote in a social media post.

When Acton announced her bid for governor nearly two years ago, she understood what she was getting into:



PHOTO: MATTHEW CHASNEY/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Amy Acton, the Democratic nominee for Ohio governor, in her campaign bus after a stop Tuesday.

"I did have some sense – inklings – hoping, obviously, for the best."

She also knew of the potential for the kind of ad that Ramaswamy put on the air. Her mother had made similar comments during the coronavirus pandemic in a 2020 interview with the antiabortion organization Operation Rescue.

Word of what Acton had dreaded came late on the evening of Oct. 19. She and her team had been waiting for a new round of polling results when David Pepper, her running mate and the nominee for lieutenant governor, texted her that he had seen the video circulating on social media.

Since the ad began airing, Acton said, many have come up to her to express sympathy and also to share their own stories of abuse. In the aftermath, she is discovering new things about the mother she hasn't seen in nearly half a century. Various reports have indicated Donna Arthur has been living in her car with multiple cats.

"Someday my brother and I will unpack some of the things that we're yet learning. It's very clear that our mother – who I have not seen since I was 12; my brother was 9 – is not well, and I do hope she gets the things she needs," Acton told reporters at a campaign stop here. "I think this was exploitive to do that to someone in her condition."

Over and over, Acton cites her roots in this hard-scrabble Mahoning Valley city, which has struggled with economic and population decline since the collapse of its steel industry in the late 1970s. She labels herself a "scrappy kid from Youngstown" and told the crowd at Liberty High, "Youngstown has been my story this entire campaign."

In her stump speeches and ads, Acton recalls her family being reduced to living in a tent for a while when she was young, but also the kindness of a "couple on the north side of Youngstown who used to pull my brother and I up on their front porch, walking by on the way to Harding Elementary, and feed us breakfast because they knew we were hungry."

After Acton was taken from her mother and went to live with her father and his second wife, few of her classmates would have guessed her past circumstances. She was homecoming queen, a cheerleader, student body president and baritone player in the band. She won a Community Chest scholarship and worked multiple jobs while attending Youngstown State University and a fast-track program at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Jennifer Sostaric became Acton's lifelong best friend when they shared a locker in seventh grade. But "I had no idea what she had been through – none," said Sostaric, who is now senior associate general counsel at the Art Institute of Chicago. "She wasn't this kid where you got this sense she was living with this dark cloud over her head."

In the interview, Acton explained her hyper-achieving compartmentalization this way: "There were kids that were just as nice and just as smart, and I know they didn't make it out of where I came from. And that is what has been my motivation my whole life, because I felt in some ways I was lucky."

Not for years would Acton begin to contend with the lingering emotional scar tissue. "I didn't have therapy when I was young. My dad wasn't a big believer in therapy. But as I got older, once I got in med school, I started to just grow as a human," she said. Acton got help for herself, she said, and also studied pediatrics, adult psychiatry and pediatric psychiatry during her residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

During that residency, she witnessed the crack epidemic in the Bronx and switched her focus to public health and preventive medicine. Acton moved back to her home state, taught public health at Ohio State University and was working as a grants maker for a foundation when she came to the attention of DeWine. She joined his Cabinet in 2019 as health director to deal with, among other things, the opioid epidemic.

Acton and DeWine remain close. Though he had endorsed Ramaswamy, he has been among Republicans calling for him to take down what DeWine called a "deeply, deeply troubling" ad.

"In regard to telling the truth: My experience with her, working closely with her every single day, was that she certainly told the truth," DeWine told reporters. "That's my experience."

What Ramaswamy's ad had revealed, she suggested to the crowd at Liberty High, is that the 2026 election is about more than affordability or the Iran war, or any of the other issues that polls say are driving it.

"Kindness is a fierce commitment to justice and seeing the humanity and the God in one another," Acton said as she concluded her speech to the crowd at Liberty High. "That and human decency are absolutely on the ballot."

-The Washington Post

HAPPY Diwali





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A Decade Of Purpose, A Future Of Possibility: ASARP Celebrates Anniversary Gala

By Bhailal m Patel

The Association of South Asian Real Estate Professionals (ASARP) marked its tenth anniversary with an evening celebrating professional collaboration, community service and the opportunities created when people work together. Held at the Waterford Banquet & Conference Center in Elmhurst, the Anniversary Diwali Gala and Leadership Installation welcomed civic and diplomatic representatives, real estate leaders, sponsors, exhibitors, members and their families.

From the ceremonial lighting of lamps to the installation of new leadership, the event honored the relationships that have sustained ASARP while looking ahead to the possibilities of its next decade. The celebration brought together the warmth of a cultural gathering and the energy of a growing professional community.

Tradition, remembrance and purposeful leadership:After a social hour devoted to networking and fellowship, outgoing President Sunita Kakarlapudi welcomed the guests. Emcees Niti Shah and Mansi Taparia guided the program, which opened with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony accompanied by a devotional bhajan. The national anthems of the United States and India reflected the gathering's connections to both countries.

ASARP Chairman Pradeep B. Shukla then paid tribute to Lynn Madison, a respected real estate educator and longtime supporter of the association. Guests observed two minutes of silence in remembrance of her friendship, generosity and contributions to the profession.

In his anniversary address, Shukla reflected on ASARP's growth from a modest initiative into a platform for professional learning, leadership and international connection. He encouraged members to measure achievement by the opportunities they create and the people they help advance.

"Leadership is not about how high we rise ourselves, but how many others we help rise with us," he said.

Drawing on the Bhagavad Gita's teachings on purposeful action, Shukla emphasized service, mentorship and meaningful contribution. Vice Chair Shirin Marvi and outgoing President Sunita Kakarlapudi also reflected on the association's programs, partnerships and progress, reaffirming its commitment to continued growth.

Recognizing the people behind the celebration:Special appreciation was extended to Harsha Shukla, wife of Chairman Pradeep B. Shukla, for her sustained work behind the scenes. Shukla recognized her dedication, patience and dependable support, saying her contributions were instrumental in bringing the celebration together.

The recognition also honored the families, volunteers and organizing team whose collective efforts turned months of preparation into a welcoming and memorable evening.

Distinguished guests and national recognition;The gathering welcomed Lima Mathew, Consul and Head of Chancery and Community Affairs at the Consulate General of India in Chicago, who addressed the audience.

Distinguished guests included Mario Treto Jr., Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR); Laurie Murphy, IDFPR Director of Real Estate; Illinois State Senator Laura Murphy; Elmhurst Mayor Scott Levin; Aurora Alderwoman Shweta Baid; DuPage County Board Member Saba Haider; Naperville City Councilman Ashfaq Hussain Syed; and former U.S. Representative Melissa Bean.

Industry leaders in attendance included Debbie Prodehl, 2027 President of Illinois REALTORS®; Gregory Phillips, President of Mainstreet REALTORS®; Carrie Little, President-elect of Mainstreet REALTORS®; Sarah Ware; and Matt Silver, a past President of Illinois REALTORS®.

PHOTOS: ASIAN MEDIA USA



BOD Installation=- Left to Right
Top: Emcee Mansi Taparia, Oath Administrator Keerthi Kumar Roovari, Executive Team members- Pradeep B Shukla., Sunita Kakarlapudi, Bimal Pandhi, Shirin Marvi, Nick Verma, Anjali Mohanty, Nimesh Jani Botton: Advisory Board: Niti Shah, Farrah Ali, Vasanti Bhatt, Vikas Bhadodia,Ray Ali, Brandon Glassor, Nirav Patel, Jyothi Pallapothu, Shantanu Kamra



Dignitaries: (Left to Right) Top: Shirin Marvi, Vicky Silvano, Carrie Little,Sarah Ware, Debby Prohdel, Greg Philips, Ashfaq Khan, Nimesh Jani, Saba Hyder, Scott Kevin, Matt Silver, Mario Treto Jr, Pradeep B Shukla, Nick Verma, Sunita Kakarlapudi Bottom: Anjali Mohanty, Sweta Baid, Lima Matthews, Laurie Murphy, Laura Murphy, Mellisa Bean



Lamp Lighting:Pradeep B Shukla, Vicky Silvano, Matt Silver, Carry Little, Nimesh Jani, Sara Ware, Lima Matthew, Asfaq Khan, Sweta Baid------Saba Hyder, Scott Kevin, Mario Treto Jr, Laurie Murphy, Laura Murphy, Melissa Bean, Nick Verma, Sunita Kakarlapudi

Adding national recognition to the milestone, Kevin Brown, 2026 President of the National Association of REALTORS®, sent a recorded message congratulating ASARP on its tenth anniversary.

A new leadership chapter:The installation of ASARP's incoming leadership was a centerpiece of the evening. Keerthi Kumar Ravoori administered the oath of office, charging the board with advancing the association's mission and serving its members with integrity.

Incoming President Nick Verma acknowledged the foundation built by ASARP's experienced leaders and outlined priorities for the association's next chapter. These include strengthening national recognition, growing membership beyond 500, expanding global relationships, supporting younger professionals and equipping members with practical knowledge of technology and artificial intelligence.

Anjali Mohanty received special recognition upon her induction as Executive Secretary and Joint Treasurer, honoring her dedication and contributions. Outgoing President Sunita Kakarlapudi presented Verma with a ceremonial shawl, marking the leadership transition with warmth and encouragement.

Executive board members Bimal Pandhi and Nimesh Jani also welcomed Verma as the new president. Other executive board members Bhailal M. Patel, Rajesh Patel and Kantibhai Patel were unable to attend.

Culture, fellowship and the decade ahead:Performances of Kathak, Bhangra and Bollywood dance by Aarush Entertainment Group brought artistic expression and energy to the celebration. Dinner, sponsor recognition, continued networking and spirited Dandiya rounded out the evening.

Sponsors and exhibitors bring the hallways to life:A highlight of this year's gala was the strong participation of sponsors and exhibitors. Vendor booths filled the hallways, creating a lively space where guests could explore services, meet business owners and connect with professionals serving the real estate industry and the wider community.

The exhibition extended the gala experience beyond the main hall. Conversations at the booths gave attendees a chance to exchange ideas, discover resources and build relationships with potential clients, colleagues and business partners. The enthusiastic vendor turnout underscored ASARP's role as a meeting place for professional expertise and entrepreneurial opportunity.

ASARP expressed special appreciation to The National Association of REALTORS®, MRED, Illinois REALTORS®, Mainstreet REALTORS®, Attorney Nirav Patel, Statewide Lending, Inc. and Millennium Bank, as well as its supporting sponsors, exhibitors and service providers. Their financial support and participation helped make the celebration possible and enriched the experience for attendees.

The association recognized sponsorship as an investment in its continuing work in professional education, ethical practice, leadership development and community outreach. The successful vendor exhibition also demonstrated the shared value that can grow when businesses and professional associations work together.

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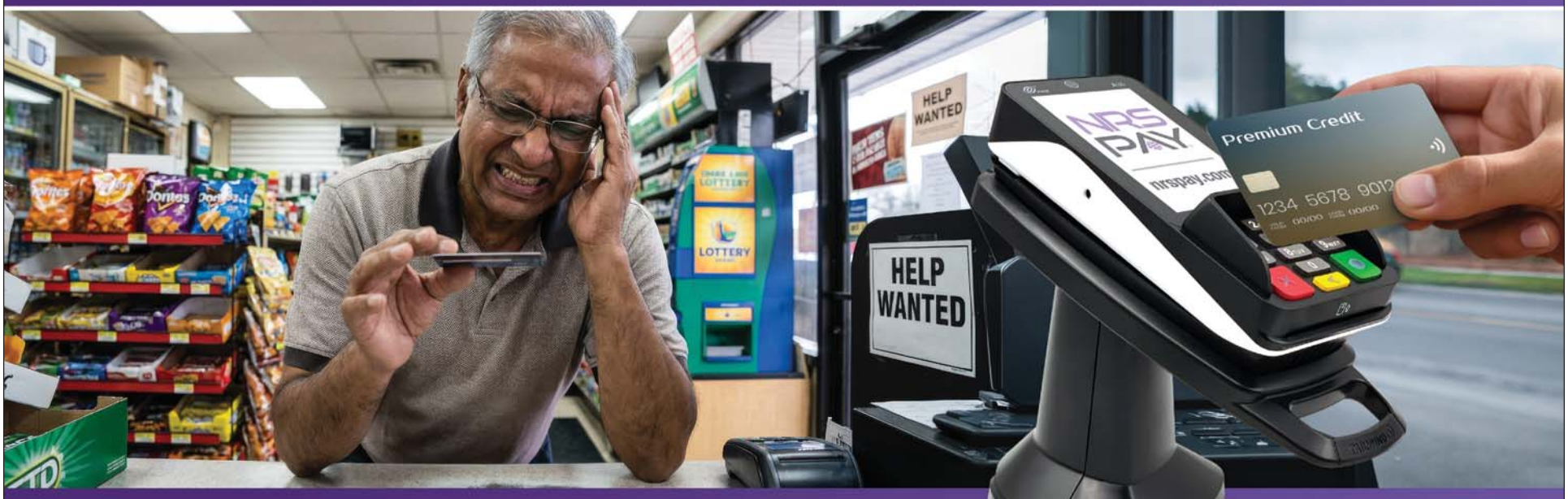

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Indian Inventions, Hospitality, To Thousands Of Years Of Culture: Washington State Mayors Share Their Experiences From Indian Visit

Various mayors from the US state of Washington recently expressed their appreciation about the opportunity, history, and culture that India has to offer, highlighting how one of the core Indian values is helping the people of the world.

Tina Orwall, Washington State Senator who was part of the Mayors' delegation, mentioned the strong partnership India has with various countries.

"It was a trip of a lifetime for me. You know, I think about the partnerships of our country, but going there and hearing about your history, the thousands of years that you've invented things, technologies, and it always really coming to the core of helping the people of India and the world, and it comes from a place of compassion," Orwall mentioned, as shared by the Indian consulate in Seattle on X.

For Dana Ralph, the mayor of Kent, it was the contrast seen in diversities of multiple cultures existing for thousands of years together.

"I learned so much about the thousands of years of history and the things that were invented in India that I had no idea and then going to Mumbai and the cultural center, absolutely incredible. So the contrast between there being villages where there's children that don't have a written language that for preserving their spoken language and their heritage and their culture all the way to the amazing technology and advancement and beautiful spaces that are being created today," she said.



PHOTO: ANI

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

Undervaluing the Indian community before, the Mayor of Tukwila, Thomas McLeod mentioned that he was able to finally see the world "through Indian glasses", which had him appreciate the various contributions of Indian society, including his visit to the Akshardham Temple.

I got to see your recognition of humanity, your value of humanity, your contributions to humanity. Then we went to the Akshardham Temple. I got to see all the contributions uh that have come from the Indian community uh and the way you just offered them to the world to make it a better place and to bring healing and to bring understanding," he said.

Issaquoah Mayor Mark Mullet mentioned that his own city has a large Indian-born population, making Indians the largest foreign-born population in the city.

"They were the most welcoming people I've ever experienced in my entire life and you could see the smile on their face to actually have that bond with the mayor had been to their hometown and this is the largest foreign-born population in the city of Issaquah is from India," Mayor Mullet said.

Mukilteo Mayor Joseph Marine and Ronald J Fredrick, DuPont mayor also highlighted how India has a thousand-year-old history, much older than many of the towns in US have. With such rich culture being offered in India, there comes ample opportunities for both the countries to build bridges for people-to-people connectivity, businesses and to bring ties closer to each other.

The Washington State Mayors' delegation started their visit to India on October 11, and covered New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai till October 18. With the aim to foster stronger ties, meaningful exchanges and lasting partnerships between India and Washington State.

-ANI

Thousands Join Indian Opposition Protest Demanding Poll Chief's Resignation

By Saurabh Sharma and Sakshi Dayal

Thousands protested in Delhi on Sunday (November 1, 2026) to demand the resignation of India's election chief over a revision of voter lists, the latest in more than a month of opposition demonstrations.

Led by Rahul Gandhi, a leader of the opposition Congress Party, Sunday's protesters say the revision benefits Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Authorities tightened security and warned of traffic diversions before protesters began a march from central Delhi to the designated rally site, where thousands had already assembled.

Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, however, called the protest a "carefully orchestrated drama".

"What is unfolding today at Ramlila Maidan is not an act of respect for democracy. It is a calculated conspiracy to plunge the nation into anarchy, all in the name of democracy," he told news agency ANI.

Hundreds of security personnel, some of them carrying batons and shields and accompanied by riot-control vehicles, surrounded the historic Ramlila Maidan ground as hundreds of people, many waving national and party flags, began moving towards it. Opposition party leaders led the march in an open-top jeep.

Speaking at the rally, Gandhi said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would have to vacate his post, and his removal would be the first step towards bringing the country "back on the right track".



PHOTO: REUTERS/ANUSHREE FADNAVIS

Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi arrives to take part in a "Save Democracy" march towards Ramlila Maidan, led by him and Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc leaders, amid calls for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to resign, in New Delhi, India, November 1, 2026.

The voter roll purge "is the theft of the voice of every single citizen of India. It is the theft of every citizen's right to expression," Gandhi said from the stage. "This is an act of betrayal against the nation. This is treason."

Among the protesters listening to him was Reena Mahto, a member of the Congress' student wing, who said four people from her family had been deleted from the voter list due to a false record that they had moved elsewhere.

The change to voter rolls removed over 130 million names — more than the population of Japan. Opposition parties allege the deletions disproportionately affected Muslim voters and members of other minorities who are unlikely to support the BJP.

The Election Commission says the aim of the voter revision is to update voter lists to remove duplicate and ineligible voters. It has denied favoring any party and said wrongly deleted voters can re-enroll. The BJP has accused rivals of trying to undermine democracy by questioning legitimate electoral processes.

The demonstration is the latest in a series of near-daily protests that opposition parties, student organizations and the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party have held since late September demanding the resignation of the election chief.

The protests erupted after the Indian Express newspaper reported that Kumar's two deputies had raised several concerns internally about voter list revisions, registration procedures and digital systems.

-Reuters

November 2026 Visa Bulletin: EB-1, EB-2, and Family Categories See Major Advances

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM


Michael Phulwani


David Nachman


Ludka Zimovcak


Snehal Batra

The U.S. Department of State has released the November 2026 Visa Bulletin, and it brings significant forward movement across several employment-based categories. After October's mixed picture — which included a retrogression in EB-2 All Chargeability Areas — November offers welcome relief for many applicants, particularly those in EB-1, EB-2, and EB-3. Below is a breakdown of the key changes.

Employment-Based Preference Categories

EB-1: Priority Workers

November brings notable movement for EB-1 applicants from China and India.

- All Other Countries: Remains Current
- China: Advances to August 1, 2023
- India: Advances to February 1, 2023

These are significant jumps for both countries — China moves forward by a full year and India by more than three years compared to October.

EB-2: Professionals Holding Advanced Degrees or Exceptional Ability

After retrogresssing in October, EB-2 All Chargeability Areas recovers some ground in November.

- All Other Countries: Advances to April 1, 2025 (was January 1, 2025 in October)
- China: Advances to October 1, 2021 (was November 1, 2019)
- India: Advances to November 1, 2013 (was October 1, 2012)

The advances for China and India in EB-2 are particularly meaningful — China moves nearly two years forward and India moves more than a year ahead.

EB-3: Skilled Workers and Professionals

Strong movement across EB-3 this month.

- All Other Countries: Advances to June 15, 2024
- China: Advances to January 22, 2022
- India: Advances to January 22, 2014
- Philippines: Advances to August 15, 2023

EB-3: Other Workers

This subcategory tells a different story. While EB-3 Skilled Workers and Professionals advance, Other Workers sees a retrogression for All Chargeability Areas.

- All Other Countries: Retrogressses to June 1, 2022 (was October 1, 2023 in October)
- China: Remains at October 1, 2019
- India: Advances to January 22, 2014

Applicants in the Other Workers subcategory outside of India should review the new cutoff date carefully before filing.

EB-4: Certain Special Immigrants

All countries remain at December 15, 2022. No change from October.

EB-5: Immigrant Investors

EB-5 unreserved categories see the following movement:

- All Other Countries: Remains Current
- China: Advances to December 1, 2016
- India: Advances to December 1, 2023

All set-aside categories — Rural, High Unemployment, and Infrastructure — remain Current for all countries.

To be continued on Page 16

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How To Conduct A Puja At Home For Diwali: Step-By-Step Guidance For An Express, Short, Or Full Diwali Puja At Home

Hindu American Foundation

Puja is a common practice in Hindu spirituality. It is a reciprocal act of respect, gratitude, and devotion to the Supreme Being, illumined beings (devas), significant spiritual figures, even ancestors. Whether daily or occasional, it sanctifies the home, purifies the mind, and strengthens spiritual connection. It's also a way to reconnect with our ancestral roots, and strengthen the cultural bonds that have held and can hold our families and communities together for generations.

In the United States, living spaces, schedules, and access to traditional items may differ from places where puja is more commonplace — but the heart of puja remains unchanged: sincerity, mindful awareness, and devotion.

This guide presents three authentic formats:

EXPRESS PUJA — for those busy days or when traveling

SHORT PUJA — for regular daily spiritual practice

THOROUGH PUJA — for regular spiritual practice if you have time, or for special occasions and festivals

All follow recommendations from Vedic, Puric, and gamic sources, and are consistent with the Bhgavata Pura guidance for the current age (Kaliyuga).

GLOSSARY

1. Puja — Reciprocal dedication of items that symbolize a person's devotion and/or gratitude to the focus of their pj.
2. Veda — Ancient Hindu sources of knowledge in Vedic traditions.
3. Purana — Ancient Hindu sources of knowledge referred to across various traditions.
4. Agama — Ancient sources of knowledge from the gamic traditions.
5. Bhgavata Purana — One of the eighteen Mah Puras.
6. Kaliyuga — Present age in Hindu time cycles.
7. Rangoli — Decorative floor patterns.
8. Thali — Metal/clay/leaf/wooden plate/tray.
9. Nirmlya — Items from a completed pj.
10. Prasadam — Food/items after a completed pj, literally, the grace or kindness of the recipient of pj.
11. Murti — Sacred icon or embodiment.
12. Asana — Seat or mat for pj.
13. Gandha — Fragrance (sandalwood paste or essential oils).
14. Puspa — Flower.
15. Patra — Leaf, especially leaves from sacred plants like Tulas, Bilva, etc.
16. Dhupa — Incense.
17. Dipa — Ghee or oil lamp.
18. Naivedya — Food items.
19. Upacara — Item or act of dedication.
20. Dhyana — Meditation.

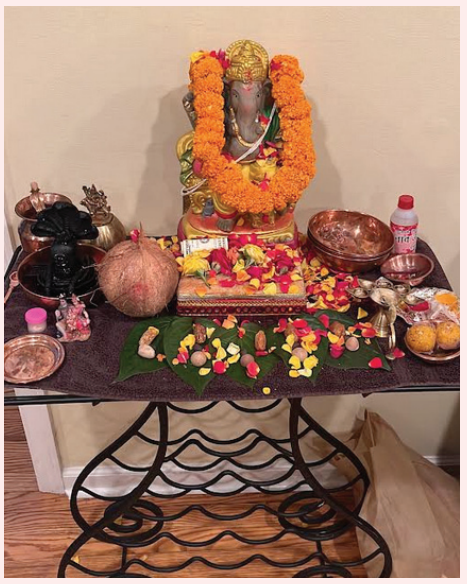

PHOTO: JAIDEN M. PATEL

Ganesh puja decorations in an Indian home.

21. Ksamapanam — Asking for the fulfilment of any intentionally or unintentionally omitted steps or any mistakes.

GENERAL PREPARATION

Before starting any puja:

- Gather natural, ethically-sourced materials — Look for organic, seasonal, non-GMO, non-artificial, and non-harmful items to dedicate in pj.
- Clean the space — Wipe surfaces, sweep floors, and decorate the area with flowers or a small ragol if desired.
- Clean yourself — Shower, and before starting wash hands, feet, and face; wear clean clothing, reserved for pj preferably.
- Arrange items neatly — Use a tray (thl) for items to be dedicated.

After puja, all offered items (nirmlya or prasdam[1]) should be:

- Shared and consumed if edible
- Stored if usable in another way (e.g. rice used in pj can used to make kheer or pyasam later on)
- Returned to nature respectfully — buried, composted, or placed in running water, pursuant to local ordinances.

CRAFTING YOUR PUJA MANTRA

A puja mantra has two key parts:

- Salutation — showing reverence to the devat, guru, or other being worthy of veneration.
- Dedication — naming the offering and act

Formula

aum sri [name in correct form] *namah*

[offering] [action]

aum sri gauryai namah

pupaih pujyami

"I bow to Gaur and venerate Her with flowers."

Name changes in mantras:

- Masculine name ending in -a -ya (Rma Rmya)
- Masculine name ending in -u -ave (Viu Viave)
- Feminine name ending in - -yai (Durg Durgyai)
- Feminine name ending in - -yai (Lakm Lakmyai)

If you're unsure how to change the name:

Masculine — [Name] devya (e.g. srya-devya)

Feminine — [Name] devyai (e.g. rjarjevar-devyai)

Preparing Your Shrine

Place a mrti, picture, or symbol of the Supreme Being, illumined being (devas), or spiritual figure on a raised surface. This is your shrine. Place a seat (sana) for yourself in front of the shrine.

Arrange items you wish to dedicate in front of the shrine, and the implements you'll need nearby. Keep a towel to wipe your hands, and a separate towel for the shrine.

THREE PUJA METHODS

1. Express Puja

Time: 5–7 minutes

Method:

Dhyana[21] — Sit facing the shrine, meditate on the deity.

- Closing your eyes, take three deep breaths (or do pryma).
- Envision the image, name, symbol, or attributes of the recipient of your pj.
- Lastly, slowly chant au three times to start the puja.

Upacara — Sequentially dedicate each item with mantras. Choose any 3 offerings:

- gandha (fragrance) – [insert puja mantra] gandha samarpaymi
- puspa (flowers) – [insert puja mantra] pupai pjaymi
- dhupa (incense) – [insert puja mantra] dhpam ghrpaymi
- dipa (lamp) – [insert puja mantra] dpa daraymi
- naivedya (food) – [insert puja mantra] naivedya nivedayami

Conclude with clasped-hand mantra and bow.



PHOTO: COURTESY POONAM SHAH

Poonam Shah's daughter performs the Diwali puja at her home.

- ksampanam — "Forgive me for any errors in this ceremony."
- trtha-prasda-grahaa — Partake of and share the prasadam.
- Store or respectfully return dedicated items to nature.

2. Short Puja— Five Upacaras

Time: 10–12 minutes

Method:

Dhyana[21] — Sit facing the shrine, meditate on the deity.

- Closing your eyes, take three deep breaths (or do pryma).
- Envision the image, name, symbol, or attributes of the recipient of your pj.
- Lastly, slowly chant au three times to start the pj.

Upacara — Sequentially dedicate each item with mantras.

- gandha (fragrance) – [insert puja mantra] gandha samarpaymi
- puspa (flowers) – [insert puja mantra] pupai pjaymi
- dhupa (incense) – [insert puja mantra] dhpam ghrpaymi
- dipa (lamp) – [insert puja mantra] dpa daraymi
- naivedya (food) – [insert puja mantra] naivedya nivedaymi

Conclude with clasped-hand mantra and bow.

- ksamapanam — "Forgive me for any errors in this ceremony."
- tirtha-prasada-grahana — Partake of and share the prasadam.
- Store or respectfully return dedicated items to nature.

3. Thorough Puja — Sixteen Upacaras [Sodasopacara/Shodashopachara]

Time: 20–30 minutes

Method:

Dhayna[21] — Sit facing the shrine, meditate on the deity.

- Closing your eyes, take three deep breaths (or do pryma).
- Envision the image, name, symbol, or attributes of the recipient of your puja.
- Lastly, slowly chant au three times to start the puja.

Upacara — Sequentially dedicate each item with mantras.

- asana (Offering a seat) – [insert puja mantra] asana samarpayami
- padya (Washing the feet) – [insert puja mantra] padya samarpayami
- arghya (Offering water to hands) – [insert puja mantra] arghyam samarpayami
- acamaniya (Offering water for sipping) – [insert puja mantra] camanya samarpaymi
- snana (Bathing the deity (physically or symbolically)) – [insert puja mantra] snnya samarpaymi
- vastra (Offering cloth) – [insert pj mantra] vastra samarpaymi
- gandha (Fragrance/sandalwood

-Continued On Page 15

Sweeten Your Diwali With A California Walnut Twist

Diwali is a time for togetherness, cherished traditions and, of course, the irresistible sweets that make every celebration a little more special.

While classic mithai will always have a place on the festive table, adding a creative twist to familiar favorites can make the occasion even more delightful.

With their rich, nutty flavor and satisfying crunch, California walnuts bring a delicious new dimension to traditional Indian sweets. From the indulgent California Walnut Shahi Tukda and melt-in-the-mouth California Walnut Kalakand to the festive favourite California Walnut Til Barfi, these three recipes offer a wonderful way to celebrate Diwali with a little something different.



PHOTO: ANI

California walnut twist.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT STUFFED SHAHI TUKDA – CHEF NEHA DEEPAK SHAH

Ingredients:

- 3-4 bread slices, corners removed
- For The Filling
- 1 cup roasted California walnuts
- 2 tablespoons Ghee
- 1/2 cup khoya
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder
- 2 teaspoons rose water
- Dried rose petals
- 1/4 – 1/2 cup sugar (adjust according to taste)
- For The Instant Rabri
- 1/2 tin mithai mate
- 1 cup milk
-
- Sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder
- A few saffron strands dissolved in water
- 2 teaspoons milk powder
- For The Garnish
- Dried rose petals
- California walnuts
- Silver leaf

Preparation:

1. To start with, grind the roasted California walnuts coarsely. You can crush them too.

2. Heat ghee in a pan and add the ground walnuts. Roast them lightly on medium flame with constant stirring.

3. Crumble the mava and mix well with walnuts. Cook until the mixture turns crumbly.

4. Add the cardamom powder and rose water and cook for another few minutes.

5. Mix in the dried rose petals, remove from flame and keep it aside to cool.

6. For the instant rabri, heat the mithai mate in a heavy bottomed pan. Add the milk and keep cooking and stirring on medium flame.

7. Add the saffron water, cardamom powder and milk powder. Cook for a few minutes and then remove from flame and keep it aside.

8. To make the rolls, flatten and roll out the bread slices using a rolling pin.

9. Now, mix the sugar into the prepared filling and place the crumbly mixture onto the centre of a slice.

10. Apply some water onto the edges of the bread, roll tightly and seal them. Repeat with other slices.

11. Mix the prepared rabri and place it on medium flame to warm it up.

12. Meanwhile, heat ghee in a pan and slightly toast the rolls from all sides.

13. Divide each toasted roll into 2.

14. Now, pour some rabri onto a flat dish and place the rolls. Pour some more rabri over them.

15. Garnish with California walnuts, silver leaf and dried rose petals.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT KALAKAND – SHUMAILA CHAUHAN

Ingredients:

- 1.5 cups walnuts
- 1L milk
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 4-5 cardamoms, powdered
- 1/2 can condensed milk
- 1/4 teaspoon rose water
- Chopped walnuts and dried rose petals, to garnish

Preparation:

1. Roast walnuts in a pan on medium low heat for 3-4 minutes. Let cool, and then coarsely chop. Keep aside.

2. Line a strainer with muslin cloth over a wide bowl and keep aside.

3. In a heavy bottom pan, add whole milk and heat on medium high, stirring often. Let milk come to a boil, then turn heat off. Add 1 tablespoons juice, stir. If required, add another teaspoon till milk curdles completely and the whey separates.

4. Pour curdled milk over the muslin lined strainer. Wash the chena (curdled milk) to rid of the lemon flavor.

5. Squeeze out a little of the excess water- be careful not to over squeeze else the kalakand will be too dry. Tie the edges of the muslin cloth and let it hang over the sink faucet for 10-15 minutes.

6. In a pan, add the condensed milk, and chena (curdled milk). Mix and cook on low, stirring often. Cook for 10-12 minutes, till mixture thickens a bit and starts leaving the sides. Do not dry out completely.

7. Add cardamom powder and chopped walnuts, reserving a few to sprinkle on the top.

8. Grease an 8-inch pan, and line with parchment paper. Spread the mixture in half of the pan (the kalakand needs to be thick). Sprinkle the nuts and dried rose petals on top. Let set for a few hours, before cutting and serving.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT AND TIL BARFI – SHUMAILA CHAUHAN

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon ghee
- 500ml full fat milk
- 1/2 cup milk powder
- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 3/4 cup sesame seeds
- 1/3 cup jaggery powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder

Preparation:

1. In a pan over medium low heat, add the sesame seeds and heat 3-4 minutes. They will turn slightly golden and pop. Do not burn. Let cool and coarsely grind them.

2. Pulse walnuts to make walnut meal. Be careful to not over grind, else you will make walnut butter.

3. In a heavy bottom pan, heat ghee. Add milk and stir. Let the milk come to a soft boil over medium heat. Add the milk powder. Cook over medium heat, stirring often. Make sure to scrape the sides of pan. Cook for 10-15 minutes, till milk is reduced to half.

4. Add walnut and jaggery powder, and mix well. Cook for another 5-6 minutes.

5. Add in the powdered sesame seeds. Mix well. Stir another 2-3 minutes. Add in the cardamom powder and chopped walnuts (reserving a few for the top). Mix well. Stir till mixture thickens and starts leaving the pan and looks doughy. Turn off heat.

6. Grease a 5” by 7” pan. Line it with parchment paper. Spread the cooked mixture evenly. Top with the reserved chopped walnuts, and sprinkle some sesame seeds. Let set for an hour in the refrigerator. Cut into rectangles and serve.

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DIWALI: AT HOME PUJA

How To Conduct A Puja At Home For Diwali: Step-By-Step Guidance For An Express, Short, Or Full Diwali Puja At Home

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

paste) – [insert puja mantra] gandha samarpaymi
- aksata (Unbroken rice grains) – [insert pj mantra] akatn samarpaymi
- puspa (Flowers) – [insert pj mantra] pupai pjaymi
- dhupa (Incense) – [insert pj mantra] dhpam ghrpaymi
- dipa (Ghee lamp) – [insert puja mantra] dipa darsayami
- naivedya (Food (plus three spoons of water after dedicating the food)) – [insert puja mantra] naivedya nivedayami, ante acamaniyam samarpayami
- rtu-phalani (Seasonal fruits) – [insert puja mantra] truphalani samarpayami
- tambula (Betel leaves/nuts) – [insert puja mantra] tumbula samarpaymi
- daki (Monetary offering) – [insert puja mantra] daksinam samarpayami
- nirajana (Final waving of camphor flame) – [insert puja mantra] karpura-nirajana samarpayami

Conclude with clasped-hand mantra and bow.

- ksampanam — “Forgive me for any errors in this ceremony.”
- tirtha-prasada-grahana — Partake of and share the prasadam.
- Store or respectfully return dedicated items to nature.

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ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: Financial opportunities may emerge through carefully selected shares of well-established companies. Keep your romantic matters private and avoid involving others in a new relationship. Strong self-discipline will help you stay committed to healthy habits. Remain attentive and responsible while driving or travelling by road. Property-related disagreements may require documentation.

TAURUS: Romantic relationships can become warmer as affection grow. Professional matters may move forward. Be sensitive while handling family discussions. This is a suitable time to understand yourself better and work on areas. Real estate dealings may prove rewarding. Keep your holiday plans comfortable rather than overloading your schedule.

GEMINI: Before putting money into growth-focused stocks, consider taking advice. Romantic moments can be enjoyable, provided both partners respect each other's comfort. Give extra attention to your well-being. A refreshing getaway could help you break away from a monotonous routine and regain energy. Exercise due diligence in property transactions and verify every detail before proceeding.

CANCER: Your love life may bring warmth. A balanced lifestyle will help you maintain both physical energy and mental calm. Career matters can show steady improvement, with promising possibilities gradually opening up. Property-related plans may move ahead, particularly when investments and improvements are handled thoughtfully. Use this period to reflect on your priorities and identify ways to grow personally.

LEO: A sensible routine and moderation will support your overall wellness. Professional responsibilities may test your patience. Travel prospects look attractive, offering chances to discover new places and experiences. Think carefully before committing funds to property, and assess every aspect of the deal. Spend some quiet time understanding your priorities and strengthening your personal confidence.

VIRGO: Maintaining balance between support your well-being. Advice elders can provide valuable direction when you are uncertain about an important matter. Emotional understanding and open communication can help you handle sensitive moments. Travel may bring pleasant experiences. Property matters should be handled systematically,. Mindfulness and help you understand yourself more deeply.

LIBRA: Someone you secretly admire may give you an encouraging indication of their feelings. A realistic approach to money will help. Family matters may need additional attention. Travel can be rewarding and. Take a measured approach when dealing with property maintenance, planning, or related decisions. Practising gratitude can help you develop a more positive and balanced outlook.

SCORPIO: Give your family members the emotional support they need. Relationship matters may require patience. Exciting travel possibilities. Personal reflection can help you identify attitudes that deserve a fresh approach. Those waiting for a home loan decision may see movement. A mountain getaway could offer peace amid natural surroundings.

SAGITTARIUS: Keep your financial decisions practical. Romantic prospects look encouraging. Workplace situations may demand flexibility, patience, and a willingness to adapt. Travel plans can bring excitement. Real estate could offer worthwhile opportunities when investments are made after proper evaluation. Personal reflection will help you continue moving towards self-improvement.

CAPRICORN: Spending time with people close to your heart can help you feel emotionally refreshed. Avoid taking unnecessary risks. Romantic situations may need patience and a willingness to adjust. A brief getaway could provide the perfect change of pace. Property-related decisions should be made after carefully weighing all available options. Academic success is within reach when students remain organised and follow a consistent study routine.

AQUARIUS: When domestic matters become complicated, the wisdom of an experienced family member can prove extremely helpful. Creating a warm atmosphere at home will strengthen bonds. Careful itinerary planning helps. Property investments may prove beneficial. Meditation can encourage both spiritual development. Students may discover creative ways of approaching their subjects.

PISCES: Certain financial opportunities may allow you to strengthen your position. Your children's achievements can create a proud atmosphere. Regular movement helps improve stamina. Singles may enjoy an outing with someone they have recently met. Property dealings can bring encouraging prospects. College students could have favourable chances of securing admission to their preferred course.

IMMIGRATION

November 2026 Visa Bulletin: EB-1, EB-2, and Family Categories See Major Advances

By David H. Nachman, Esq

-Continued From Page 13

Family-Based Preference Categories

November is a strong month for family-based categories across the board.

F1: Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens

- All Chargeability Areas: Advances to January 22, 2021
- Mexico: Advances to September 22, 2008
- Philippines: Retrogressses to November 1, 2013 (was October 8, 2015 in October)

F2A: Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents

- All Chargeability Areas (except Mexico): Advances to October 22, 2026
- Mexico: Advances to April 22, 2026

F2A moves nearly two and a half years forward — one of the largest single-month jumps in this bulletin.

F2B: Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 or older) of Permanent Residents

- All Chargeability Areas: Advances to August 22, 2020
- Mexico: Advances to May 15, 2010
- Philippines: Advances to October 1, 2013

F3: Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens

- All Chargeability Areas: Advances to October 22, 2015
- Mexico: Advances to July 15, 2001
- Philippines: Advances to July 22, 2006

F4: Brothers and Sisters of U.S. Citizens

- All Chargeability Areas: Advances to October 22, 2012
- India: Advances to December 15, 2006
- Mexico: Advances to April 22, 2001
- Philippines: Advances to May 15, 2008

What This Means for Applicants

November 2026 is a notably positive bulletin overall. EB-1 and EB-2 see strong forward movement after October's retrogression in the All Chargeability category. Family-based categories advance across nearly every classification and country, with F2A seeing an especially large jump.

The one area to watch is EB-3 Other Workers for All Chargeability Areas, which retrogressses from October 1, 2023 back to June 1, 2022.

If you or your employer fall into this subcategory, confirm your priority date against the new cutoff before taking any steps.

As always, USCIS may permit use of the Dates for Filing chart rather than Final Action Dates for certain categories. Check www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo to confirm which chart applies before filing.

Questions About Your Priority Date?

Understanding how the Visa Bulletin affects your specific case depends on your category, your country of birth, and when your petition was approved.

If you have questions about your priority date or what the November 2026 bulletin means for your timeline, contact Nachman, Phulwani, Zimovcak & Batra (NPZ & B) Law Group, P.C.

Call us at 201-670-0006 x104 or visit visaserve.com to schedule a consultation. Our immigration attorneys are here to help you understand your options and plan your next step.

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With Drones, Djs And A Helipad, Ambani Throws A Party For Jio's Record IPO

By Aditi Shah and Aditya Kalra

Msia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani – known for throwing lavish weddings for his children – is splashing out again by celebrating his Reliance conglomerate's first initial public offering in two decades with a gala featuring drones and performances near a helipad.

After Ambani's $3.2 billion Jio Platforms IPO, India's largest ever, attracted record bids, its shares surged 21% on Wednesday, valuing the telecoms-to-digital company at $131.5 billion.

In Mumbai, the party began before the stock market listing.

Social media posts show large-scale private gatherings held at the Reliance Corporate Park near Mumbai this week, which included dozens of food stalls serving Indian street food, dance performances and jam sessions blending devotional music with contemporary rhythms.

The events are a display of the grandeur that billionaire Ambani likes to bring to events like a public listing, which other companies in India often mark with more modest and private corporate gatherings after the mandatory ringing of a stock exchange bell.



PHOTO: REUTERS/FRANCIS MASCARENHAS

Nita Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani, Isha Ambani, non-executive director at Jio Platforms Ltd, Managing Director of Jio Platforms Limited Akash Ambani, Anant Ambani, non-executive director at Jio Platforms Ltd, Shloka Mehta Ambani and Kokilaben Ambani attend a bell-ringing ceremony on the day of the listing of Jio Platforms Limited during its IPO at the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in Mumbai, India, October 28, 2026.

"Given the Ambani family's unique wedding celebrations, its IPO festivities are also expected to be out of the ordinary," said Ambareesh Baliga, an independent market analyst in Mumbai.

The last Ambani family wedding in 2024 saw lavish ceremonies for his youngest son, which became a talking point at home and abroad for their opulence. Bollywood stars, politicians and Silicon Valley executives including Mark Zuckerberg attended months-long celebrations.

After the market debut on Wednesday, Reliance is holding a "grand event" where there will be DJ performances, a drone show and a jam session where popular Indian singers will perform – all next to a helipad, according to an internal invitation seen by Reuters.

This week, many employees posted on social media clips of hundreds of people dancing to live music. One clip showed women in red outfits dancing on a brightly lit stage and onlookers being showered with flower petals and confetti as they held up their phones to capture the moment.

"Diwali before Diwali … the whole campus is buzzing with festive spirit," one employee, Shweta Mahendra, wrote on X, referring to the upcoming Hindu festival of lights..

-Reuters

Suriya Turns Reluctant Cop In Jithu Madhavan's Crime Comedy 'Scene', Trailer Out

The trailer of Suriya's upcoming crime comedy 'Scene' has given fans a glimpse of a very different cop avatar of the actor.

Directed by Jithu Madhavan, the film features Suriya as a police officer who seems least interested in doing his job and has no plans of returning to the force.

The trailer, which was unveiled by the makers on Saturday, opens with Suriya's character, DSP Inbaraj, relaxing at home after resigning from the police force. Unlike his popular cop avatar in director Hari's 'Singam' franchise, Inbaraj appears laid-back and uninterested in the world around him.

In one of the opening scenes, when Alexa asks him what mood he wants his music to match, he casually replies, "Any mood." He is later seen cooking an omelette and playing with a stress ball while other police officers try to convince him to return to work.

Things take a humorous turn when the officers tell him that they have orders to bring him back to the police station. Inbaraj does not resist and is eventually carried out of his house by fellow officers. Even as they take him down the stairs, he continues smoking without appearing bothered.

When his senior officer questions his decision to resign at the peak of his career, Inbaraj says that he wants to join politics. The scene has also drawn attention as it brings to mind actor Vijay, who stepped away from films to focus on his political career.

Apart from Suriya, the film also stars Nazriya Nazim Fahadh in a lead role. Actors Anandraj, Lal and Raj Priyan are also part of the cast.



'Scene' is produced by Jyotika and Suriya under the banner of Zhagaram Studios. The film is scheduled to release in theatres on November 6, 2026, coinciding with Diwali.

Meanwhile, Suriya was last seen in Venky Atluri's romantic drama 'Vishwanath & Sons', which also stars Mamitha Baiju, Radikaa Sarathkumar, Raveena Tandon, Sunil Reddy, Harika, Nassar and Rajiv Menon. The film follows Sanjay Vishwanath, a successful industrialist who embraces fatherhood through surrogacy and develops a close bond with a medical student named Maddy. The film is currently available to stream on Netflix.

-ANI

'Shootout At Lokhandwala' Director Sanjay Gupta Passes Away At 57

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta, best known for directing films such as 'Kaante' and 'Shootout at Lokhandwala', passed away on Saturday at the age of 57.

Confirming the news of his demise, filmmaker Ashoke Pandit told ANI that Gupta died on Saturday after sustaining a head injury at his residence.

Ashoke Pandit also shared the news of Gupta's demise on his Instagram account.

In a post, Pandit wrote, "It's really shocking and sad. Just got the news that our dear friend an ace director @_sanjaygupta is no more. He passed due to a head injury at home. Another talent gone too soon. He was a wonderful narrator, full of life persona and a passionate filmmaker. A great loss to our industry. Will miss you my friend. Condolences to his family and dear ones. Om Shaanti.".

Sanjay Gupta's close friend Hanif Chunawala also expressed shock over his sudden demise, sharing details of the incident.

"He fell in the kitchen last night and sustained a head injury. Unfortunately, he passed away. We are in shock," Hanif shared.



PHOTO: ANI

Sanjay Gupta was quite active on social media, particularly on X, where he frequently shared his opinions on various issues concerning the film industry.

On the professional front, his last directorial venture was The Miranda Brothers, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Meezaan Jafri, which was released in 2024. As a producer, he also came up with 'Visfot', featuring Fardeen Khan and Riteish Deshmukh.

Before that, he directed Mumbai Saga (2021), starring John Abraham and Emraan Hashmi in lead roles.

-ANI

The Washington Post

What to know about traveling for next year's 'Eclipse of the Century'

By Hannah Sampson

Tony Toghia is on a moon mission - not to visit, but to finally see the celestial body cover the sun.

The computer engineer from Southern California flew to New York in 2024 to watch the "Great North American Eclipse" from Niagara Falls. This August, on a ship off the coast of the Spanish island of Ibiza, he waited to see the total solar eclipse that stretched from the Arctic to the Mediterranean.

Both times, clouds blocked his view of totality, the key period when the moon passes between Earth and the sun.

"The elements keep conspiring against us," he said.

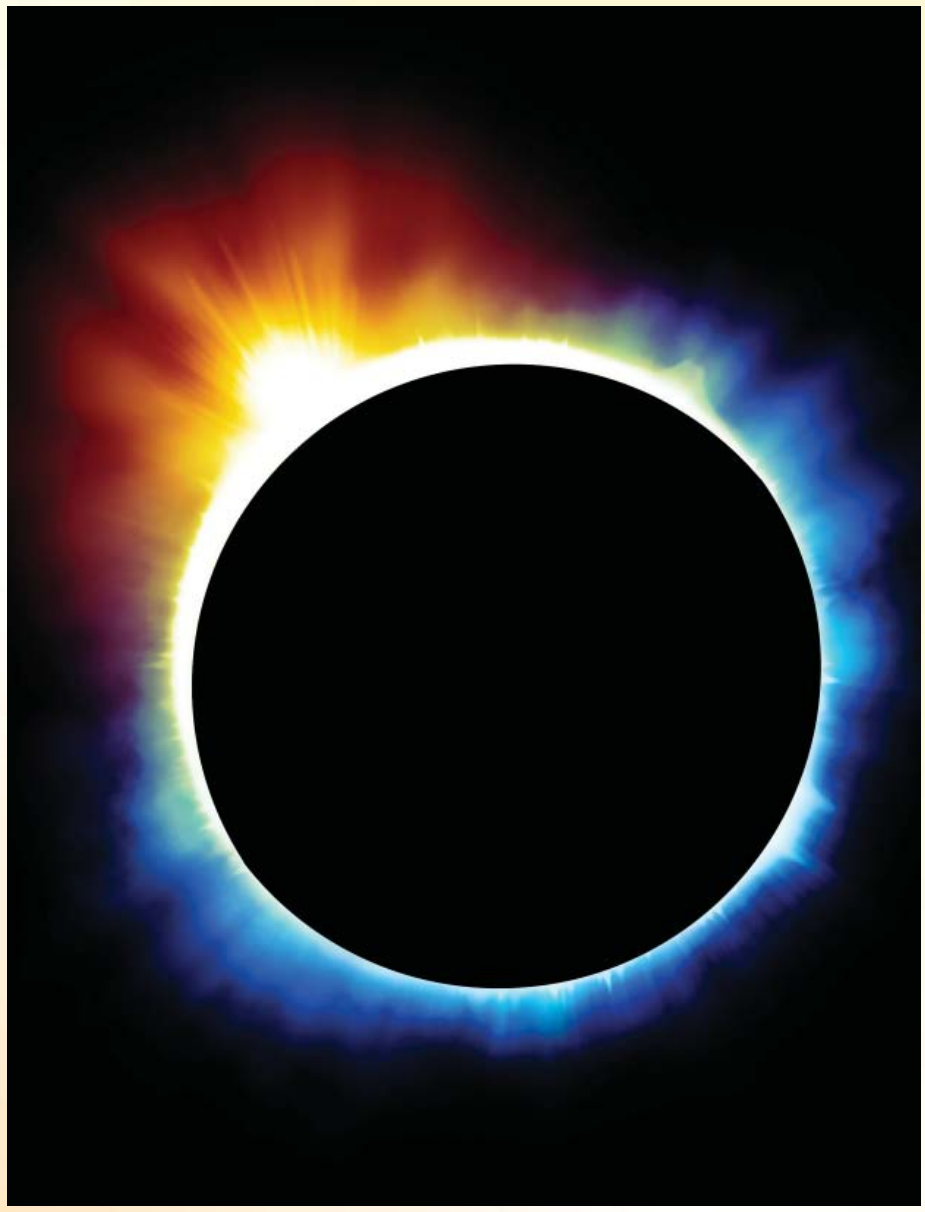
To his wife's dismay, he spent much of the rest of his cruise this summer "kind of obsessed with trying to figure out what's the best strategy for attempt number three."

That would be the upcoming "Eclipse of the Century" on Aug. 2, 2027, so named because of the extraordinary amount of time in totality - more than 6 minutes and 20 seconds at the greatest duration - and the excellent chance of clear skies.

The path includes a bit of southern Spain, northern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Toghia will be on a sold-out Mediterranean cruise positioned for the best chance at experiencing the eclipse.

"I'm hoping third time is the charm," he said.

Here's what travelers should know about catching the next solar eclipse - or the ones after that.



Photos by: Adobe

What is special about 2027?

Viewers should have a very good chance of seeing a long period of totality, depending on where they are. The maximum of more than six minutes and 20 seconds near Luxor, Egypt, is nearly two minutes longer than the longest duration of the 2024 total eclipse, which was four minutes and 28 seconds.

"At its maximum, it's the longest totality basically for the rest of the century," said Jeffrey Bennett, an astronomer, author and creator of the Totality app. He said the "cloud prospects are really good" for next year's event.

Meteorologist Matthew Cappucci wrote in The Washington Post earlier this year that no other solar eclipse visible from land will offer more time in totality until 2114. Atmospheric odds, the angle of the sun and the wide path all amount to a great show.

"In other words, the next eclipse will be spectacular," Cappucci wrote.

Where can I go?

The big-ticket location is Luxor in Egypt, which will experience the longest period of darkness. But the path cuts through a swath of countries, including southern Spain, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Where you should go depends on many factors.

Bennett said travelers should weigh the length of totality, the possibility of clear skies and convenience when they pick their spot. Travelers should examine the U.S. State Department's travel advisories to make sure they're aware of risks and warnings. There's also the weather to consider: Temperatures in Luxor in August can easily top 105 degrees.

Alexandra Gillespie, a luxury and adventure-focused travel adviser who owns New Atlas, said she's seen an uptick in inquiries about traveling to Luxor for next year's eclipse since the one in August. But some clients have decided to avoid Egypt because of the heat.

She encouraged eclipse chasers to look at the entire path of totality, including destinations "where you can still have a high chance of clarity and see a really long totality without necessarily cramming into Luxor." Tangier, Morocco, will have nearly 5 minutes of darkness, while parts of Tunisia will see more than 5 and a half minutes.

"Make sure it's a destination that does interest you holistically," she said, so the trip will be worthwhile even if the eclipse isn't picture perfect.

What kind of trip options are out there?

Eclipse seekers can join multiday cultural tours of Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. They can spend the eclipse on a riverboat on the Nile or a large cruise ship on the Mediterranean.

Gillespie said there are also glamping experiences in the desert and charter yachts in the Red Sea.

"Get creative and be flexible," she said.

Travelers can also try to patch together their own trip, though finding hotel space could be tough even months in advance.

Bennett said travelers can also find a place to stay close enough to the path of the eclipse that they can travel to a good spot on the day of the event.

"Find a place you get cheaper and drive," he said. Gillespie warned that vacationers should make sure the roads wherever they're going can accommodate that kind of trek.

Are there still spots left?

Some tours still have availability, and many operators are adding more trips to meet demand.

Richard Skinner, joint managing director of Responsible Travel, an online travel company that vets tour packages for responsible practices, said the tour operators he works with in eclipse destinations are adding more and more trips when they can.

"They're filling up really quickly," he said.

In an interview Tuesday, he said there were only three spaces left on a Sahara Desert camping trip. Bennett said he will be speaking as part of a trip to Gibraltar that has been sold out for months.

Gillespie said many hotels have long-running wait lists. She's working to secure a hotel room for a client that is still being built as the property expands for the eclipse.

What's coming next?

If you miss the 2027 show, or just want to plan ahead for the next one, a total eclipse will be visible over a stretch of Australia, including Sydney, and New Zealand's South Island in July 2028.

"It's not too early now. The trips for '28 are already out there and they're probably filling up fairly rapidly," Bennett said. He said travelers will have a better opportunity to book their own trip because of all the lodging options in Sydney.

Further out, a total solar eclipse will be visible over southern Africa and Australia in November 2030. For Americans who don't want to travel far, the next coast-to-coast total solar eclipse isn't until 2045, when the path will stretch from California to Florida before continuing to the Caribbean and South America.

"If you want to see totality - and you do, it's amazing ... you're going to have to travel for it one way or the other," Bennett said. He saw his sixth total solar eclipse in Dallas in 2024, but one that really stands out was in 1999 in Europe, when his toddler son took his first steps.

"They're addictive," he said. "Once you see one, you want to see another."

Shah Rukh Khan Turns 61: Revisit Superstar's Inspiring Words Of Wisdom On Kindness, Failure, Life

Beyond the glamour of stardom and the success of the silver screen, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has often left audiences reflecting on life through his words. From embracing confusion and overcoming failure, the actor's words of wisdom offer life lessons that resonate far beyond cinema and touch hearts worldwide.

On the occasion of Shah Rukh's 61st birthday, let's take a look at some of the valuable life lessons preached by the actor.

HOLD ON TO YOURSELF

In his address to students at Yale University in 2012 after being named a Chubb Fellow, Shah Rukh spoke about the importance of holding on to one's identity, particularly during challenging times when the world may fail to understand or acknowledge an individual.

Shah Rukh Khan said, "There's only one thing you can do to survive – hang on to who you are inside. The world will be unkind to you; it will not be able to see you. You must learn at such times to be able to see yourself."

IT'S OK TO BE CONFUSED

In 2015, the University of Edinburgh honoured Shah Rukh Khan with a doctorate, which he accepted with a memorable speech. The actor described confusion as an essential part of gaining clarity.

"It's ok to be confused. Confusion is the route to all the clarity in the world. Don't worry about it too much, and don't ever take yourself seriously enough to be so clear about your own ideas that you stop respecting other people's."

He encouraged the students to not become so rigid about their beliefs that they stop respecting the opinions of others.

"Our values are our values; they don't make us any better than anyone else. At best, they make us different," the actor added.

BE KIND

Addressing students at the University of Edinburgh, Shah Rukh Khan offered a refreshing take on kindness, saying that helping others is not about doing them a favour but about finding fulfilment in the act itself.

"Give of yourself to others. And while you're at it, make sure you realise that you aren't doing anyone any favours by being kind. It's all just to make you feel that sneaky little twinge that comes from being utterly pleased with yourself. After all, the one that gets the most benefit out of any act of kindness or charity that you do will always be you," said Shah Rukh Khan during the speech.

FAILURE TEACHES SUCCESS DON'T

Reflecting on the realities of success and failure, Shah Rukh Khan noted that while success brings joy, it is failure and one's response to it that leads to growth.

"Success is a wonderful thing, but it tends not be the sort of experience that we learn from. We enjoy it, perhaps we even deserve it, but we don't acquire wisdom from it. And maybe that's why it cannot be passed on either. If you aren't scared enough of failing, you're unlikely to succeed. It's not the absence of failure that makes you successful. It is your response to failure that actually helps to buffer the reverses that you experience," Shah Rukh Khan said during his address at Yale University.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE GRACE OF WELL-WISHERS

Despite achieving immense fame and fortune, Shah Rukh Khan believes that no amount of success or wealth can replace the value of human connections, kindness and meaningful relationships.

"Regardless of how rich, successful and famous you become, don't ever underestimate the grace that other people bestow upon you just by being the recipients of your kindnesses. You might be able to buy your friend a Rolls for his/her birthday but its no substitute for a patient hearing of your sulky rants on a bad hair day," said Shah Rukh Khan.



PHOTOS: ANI

Through his words, Shah Rukh Khan has time and again offered a perspective on life which goes beyond the glitz and glamour of stardom. His reflections serve as a reminder that true success is not only measured by how high one climbs, but by how grounded one remains along the journey.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor will next be seen in the action thriller 'King' which is directed by Siddharth Anand. It will release in theatres on December 24, 2026.

FANS FLOCK TO MANNAT; STRIKE SRK POSE

Excitement gripped outside Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's house, Mannat, as fans gathered in large numbers today (November 2) to celebrate King Khan's birthday and catch a glimpse of their favorite star.

Fans, some of whom had travelled from different parts of the country, expressed their excitement while waiting outside the actor's residence. The gathering reflected the immense popularity of the Bollywood superstar, with admirers eagerly hoping to see him on his special day.

Speaking to ANI, one enthusiastic fan said, "Bahut excited hain. Bete ko haath lagane se pehle baap se baat kar le."

Another fan, who had arrived from Kolkata, said he had travelled all the way to Mumbai just to catch a glimpse of Shah Rukh Khan.

"Hum Kolkata se aa rahe hain. Unki ek jhalak dekhne ke liye aaye hain. Unko dekhne ke liye hi yahan aaya hoon," the fan said.

Another admirer also expressed excitement about celebrating the actor's birthday, saying that the occasion was special for all his fans.

The celebrations were not limited to local admirers. One fan from Nanded revealed that he had been away from home for three days to make it to Mumbai for the occasion.

When asked about his favourite Shah Rukh Khan song, one of the fans named 'Jhoome Jo Pathaan' from the actor's 2023 blockbuster film 'Pathaan'.

Every year, Shah Rukh Khan's birthday draws fans to Mannat, where admirers gather to celebrate the superstar and express their affection for him. The occasion has become a special tradition for his massive fan following, with people travelling from different cities to be part of the celebrations.

Security has been tightened outside actor Shah Rukh Khan's residence, 'Mannat ', ahead of his birthday celebrations on Monday. The fans have also gathered outside his residence to sneak a glimpse of the actor on the special day.

The Mumbai Police personnel have been stationed outside the residence of the actor. They were seen checking the cars and keeping the crowd in control as the fans arrived outside Mannat in the early hours of Monday.

Earlier, Shah Rukh Khan surprised fans on his 61st birthday by unveiling the first song from his upcoming film 'King'. Along with the on-screen chemistry of Deepika Padukone and Shah Rukh Khan, the track also offers a glimpse to the audience into the world of 'King'.

On Shah Rukh Khan's 61st birthday, the makers of 'King' shared a love song titled 'Tu Mil Jaaye', which features on-screen romantic chemistry between Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

The song is jointly sung by Arijit Singh and Madhubanti Bagchi, while its English rap has been penned by Ed Sheeran, bringing together Indian and international musical talent. Composed by Sachin-Jigar, the track features lyrics written by Kumaar.Giving audiences an exciting glimpse into the world of KING, the music video opens with Shah Rukh Khan's dialogue, 'Main qaatil nahi, aashiq hoon, aur nishana meri mashooka, aur woh aashiq hi kya jo dil cheer na de', immediately setting the tone for his character.

What follows is a peppy romantic dance track that brings Bollywood's much-loved Arijit Singh together with global pop sensation Ed Sheeran, creating a musical collaboration that bridges two worlds, with singer Madhubanti Bagchi adding her magical touch.

The track offers a glimpse of Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone's romantic relationship, as the two are seen enjoying romantic getaways, visiting cafes and spending quality time together on a beach.

However, the romantic moments take a turn as the narrative shifts to Shah Rukh's involvement in illegal smuggling in the film, hinting at trouble in paradise.

The video closes with another powerful dialogue by SRK, "Iss baar dil mein aag lagi hai, ab duniya jalaye bina manega nahi," bringing the focus back to the aura and intensity that define KING.

One of the highlights of the movie was the action moments and slick transitions.

Directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, KING arrives in cinemas worldwide on 24 December 2026.

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