Congresswoman Meng, D-NY, reintroduces legislation calling For Federal Holiday For Diwali PAGE 12



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Far-Right Disrupters @Seattle Diwali



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FIA Chicago's Diwali, New Leadership



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Big B Wins Lawsuit To Preserve Identity

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IN CHICAGO



PAGES 4, 6, 8,

The November 3 midterm elections passed the baton from the older to the younger generation of Indian Americans







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President Trump celebrates Diwali at the White House

PHOTOS: MISCELLANEOUS



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Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh
Founder, Chairman & Publisher

Ilayas Quraishi
Chief Operating Officer

Ela Dutt
Editor

T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman
Advisor

Arun Shah
Ahmedabad Bureau Chief

Bhailal M. Patel
Executive Vice President

Chandrakant Koticha
Rajkot, India. Executive Director
Business Development

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Shahnaz Sheikh
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Shailu Desai
Advertising-New York

Muslima Shethwala
Advertising Manager - Chicago
Syed Sheeraz Mahmood Advertising-Chicago

Digant Sompura
Consultant for Business Development, India

Hervender Singh
Circulation Manager

Main Office
Editorial & Corporate Headquarters
1655 Oak Tree Road, Suite 155
Edison, NJ 08820-2843
Tel. (212) 675-7515, (718) 784-8555
Fax. (212) 675-7624

E-mails
advertising@newsindia-times.com
editor@newsindia-times.com
editor@newsindiatimes.com

Website
www.desitalk.com, epaper.desitalk.com

Chicago Office
8846 Lavergne Ave, Skokie IL 60077
Tel. (773) 856-0545
editorial@desitalkchicago.com
advt@desitalkchicago.com

California Office
650 West Vermont Ave., Unit #46
Anaheim, CA 92805

Mumbai Office
Nikita Ajay Pai-Mumbai

Ahmedabad Office
303 Kashiparekh Complex
C.G. Road, 29 Adarsh Society
Ahmedabad 380009

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Two Indian Americans In And Two Out: Samosa Caucus Intact And Undiminished On Capitol Hill



PHOTO: @PIAFORCONGRESS

Pia Dandiya candidate in Florida.



PHOTO: X@DRAMISHSHAH

Amish Shah



PHOTO X.COM @PIAFORCONGRESS

Florida Congresswoman-Elect Pia Dandiya runs up to stage after victory November 3.

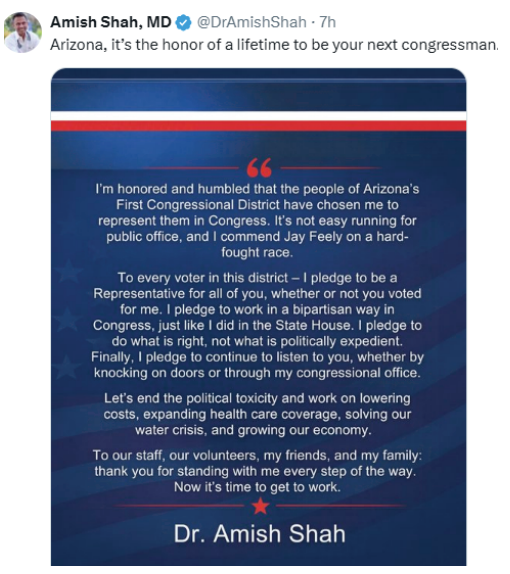

PHOTO-X.COM

Congressman-elect Dr. Amish Shah's post on X.com after winning his District 1 seat in Arizona.

By Ela Dutt

The November 3, 2026 midterm elections registered a massive win for Indian American Democrats amid the sweeping victories for their party in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

More than other victories, Indian Americans managed to maintain their numbers – six members on Capitol Hill

The victory of Pia Dandiya in Florida's District 22, and Dr. Amish Shah in Arizona's District 1- replace the large holes presented by the absence of Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, and Shri Thanedar, D-Michigan.

Come January, Indian Americans will have their representatives in D.C. – Congressmen Ro Khanna and Ami Bera from California, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal of Washington, Rep. Suhas Subramanyam of Virginia, and the new crop of Dandiya and Shah.

Dandiya beat Republican opponent Casey Askar winning nearly 52 percent (51.9) of the vote to Askar's 48.1, for the open seat. The former New York Jets doctor, emergency physician, beat Republican rival Ex-NFL kicker Jay Feely with more than 52 percent of the vote to Feely's 45 percent approximately (Washington Post).

The rise in anti-Indian and anti-South Asian hate could not hold back the spirited campaigns run by Indian Americans up and down the ballot.

One headline on Newsx.com aptly captured the zest with which Indian Americans campaigned – "How She Snatched A Key Seat From Donald Trump And Stunned Even Democrats"

"Thank you #FL22!! I am humbled and honored to represent my home state," gushed Dandiya posted alongside a video that shows here rushing up to the stage to hug her husband. "Thank you to everyone who knocked doors, phone banked, donated, and believed in me. … Now, the real work begins!"

"This Is A Tsunami": Ro Khanna Predicts About Midterm Results

Following a stunning electoral setback for Republicans in the US midterm elections, prominent Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna has predicted a sweeping Democratic resurgence, drawing parallels with the historic 2008 electoral wave.

In a conversation with prominent Indian-American community leader and former Joe Biden administration adviser Ajay Jain Bhoturia regarding the nationwide electoral outcome, Congressman Khanna asserted, "It's going to be over 250 seats. We may get as big a majority as we had under Obama in 2008. This is a tsunami. It is a repudiation of Trump."

Highlighting the core economic anxieties that dictated voter sentiment at the ballot box, Khanna emphasized that the electorate's mandate centers primarily on cost-of-living relief and international diplomacy.

"People want lower costs. They want this war ended. Why? Because if you end the war, you're going to immediately lower the cost of food, lower the cost of gas, lower the cost of diesel. That's causing home heating to go up," Khanna noted.

Reiterating the legislative focus of his party moving forward, the lawmaker added, "They want us to focus on lowering costs for their families with childcare and healthcare, and that's what the Democrats are going to do…"



PHOTO: ANI

Ro Khanna speaking to Ajay Jain Bhoturia.

Building on this seismic shift, the newly altered balance of power in Washington has handed Democrats substantial majorities across both congressional chambers, setting the stage for direct political confrontation with President Donald Trump.

Although Democrats are poised to advance an expansive legislative roadmap, roll back select executive policies and initiate rigorous parliamentary inquiries into the administration, their newfound numbers do not guarantee unhindered lawmaking authority.

President Trump retains one of the most formidable constitutional checks available to the executive branch: the presidential veto.

Indicating his willingness to deploy this authority as the extent of the Democratic triumph emerged, the president shared an image on Truth Social featuring a red baseball cap emblazoned with the word "VETO".

"It's the power of veto. It's one of the stronger powers that a president has," Trump remarked following the electoral rout.

Despite signalling readiness to push back, Trump also articulated a desire to avoid a perpetual stalemate.

"I don't want to be just sitting there for two years vetoing everything," he told Politico. Nonetheless, with the opposition preparing aggressive policy challenges, the executive veto is poised to emerge as a central mechanism in the unfolding power struggle between the White House and Capitol Hill.

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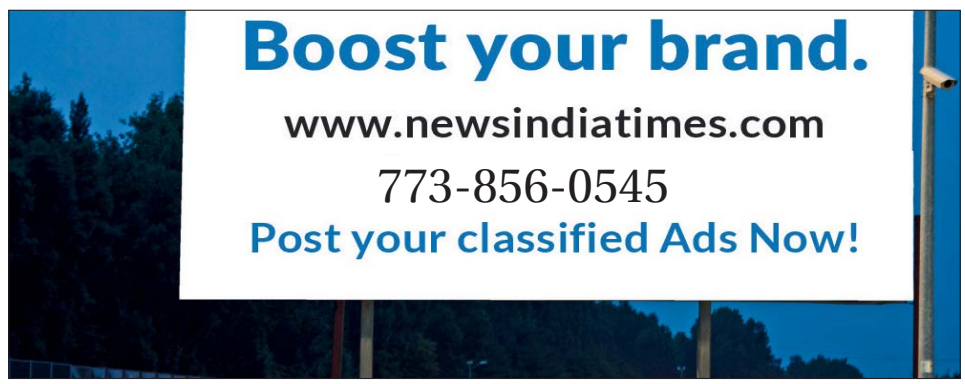

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Indian American Mayor-Elect Of Los Angeles- Nithya Raman!

By Ela Dutt

In a closely fought election, an Indian American has defeated longtime incumbent to become Mayor of the second largest city in the United States.

In what could be classified as one of the toughest seats to win, that too against a fellow Democrat – 45 year-old Indian American Nithya Raman swung the power balance within the party – to secure her win as Mayor of Los Angeles.

Raman becomes the first Indian American to lead the city in the history of the nation.

She is not the first Democratic Socialist or progressive Democrat to become mayor, having been preceded approximately a year ago by Indian American Zohran Mamdani who is currently running New York City.

Saying she was "deeply honored" to be the city's next mayor, the 45 year-old Raman posted, " I love this city. I believe in its people. The work ahead will be hard, and change will take time. And together, we are going to build a future as extraordinary as the city we call home."

The come-from-behind candidate garnered 52.1 percent of the vote to longtime incumbent Karen Bass' 47.9 percent, according to results posted on Ballotpedia.

Her bio on the campaign website talks of her first race to win a City Councilwoman seat in 2020, when she ran on the power of 2,000 volunteers knocking on 80,000 doors, Raman has been a "political earthquake" as LA Times characterized her.

An uban planner by training, Raman received her bachelor's degree from Harvard and graduate degree from MIT, and lives with her husband Vali Chandrasekaran, and two children in Silver Lake. Her husband is a veteran television writer and producer, which brings Raman close to the heart of the city that houses Hollywood!

The Guardian of UK reported that Raman served as the entertainment director for the Time's Up organization founded by the big names of Hollywood at the height of the #MeToo movement. For her campaign, she was endorsed by the older and younger set of tinsel town – Jane Fonda, Samuel L. Jackson, a well as the former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as Indian American author, actress, filmmaker Mindy Kaling among others.



PHOTO: SCREENSHOT @NITHYAFORTHECITY

Nithya Raman speaking at a campaign rally.



PHOTO: SCREENGRAB FROM X.COM @NITHYAVRAMAN

Mayor Elect Nithya Raman speaking soon after her election was confirmed November 5, 2026.



PHOTO: REUTERS/EVELYN HOCKSTEIN

Nithya Raman, Los Angeles mayoral candidate, wears a "I voted" sticker after casting her ballot at Silverlake Community Church in Los Angeles, California, US, November 3, 2026.

While in the City Council, Raman is credited with working to lower housing costs and build more housing. Her legislation has focused on trying to accelerate housing production through zoning and planning reforms and overhauling permitting processes to eliminate unnecessary delays. She has also been behind strengthening tenants' rights and reducing rental increases.

Her approach to homelessness has included pushing for greater oversight of City spending, strengthening data collection, and improving coordination between City departments and service providers.

Born in Kerala, Raman's ancestral family was following the results closely in their family home in Pazhayanaddakkavu in Thrissur, Mathrubhumi newspaper reported.

Raman came to the US when she was 6 years old, with her parents, and became a citizen when she was 22.



PHOTO: @NITHYAFORTHECITY

Nithya Raman with husband Vali Chandrasekaran and the children.



PHOTO: REUTERS/EVELYN HOCKSTEIN

Nithya Raman, Los Angeles mayoral candidate, speaks to the media after casting her ballot at Silverlake Community Church in Los Angeles, California, US, November 3, 2026.

Indian American Engineer Niranjan Shah Honored On Sardar Patel's 151st Birth Anniversary

By Bhailal M. Patel

Chicago-based engineering entrepreneur recognized for five decades of infrastructure development, civic leadership and public service.

VALLABH VIDYANAGAR, India — Indian American engineer, entrepreneur and civic leader Niranjan S. Shah has been recognized as a distinguished alumnus of Sardar Patel University in Gujarat as India commemorated the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Oct. 31.

The recognition celebrates Shah's journey from a small village in Gujarat to becoming a prominent engineering entrepreneur and community leader in the United States, where his career has spanned more than five decades.

According to a news release announcing the recognition, former President Joe Biden also issued a letter honoring Shah and commemorating Sardar Patel's legacy, highlighting the connection between education, professional achievement and public service.

Shah, who grew up in Pratapnagar in Gujarat's Narmada district, overcame modest economic circumstances to pursue higher education. He graduated from Birla Vishvakarma Mahavidyalaya in 1967, benefiting from the support and sacrifices of his family and community.

His early years in Vallabh Vidyanagar were influenced by the educational and nation-building ideals associated with Sardar Patel. Shah has also credited leaders such as H.M. Patel with inspiring his commitment to public service and community development.

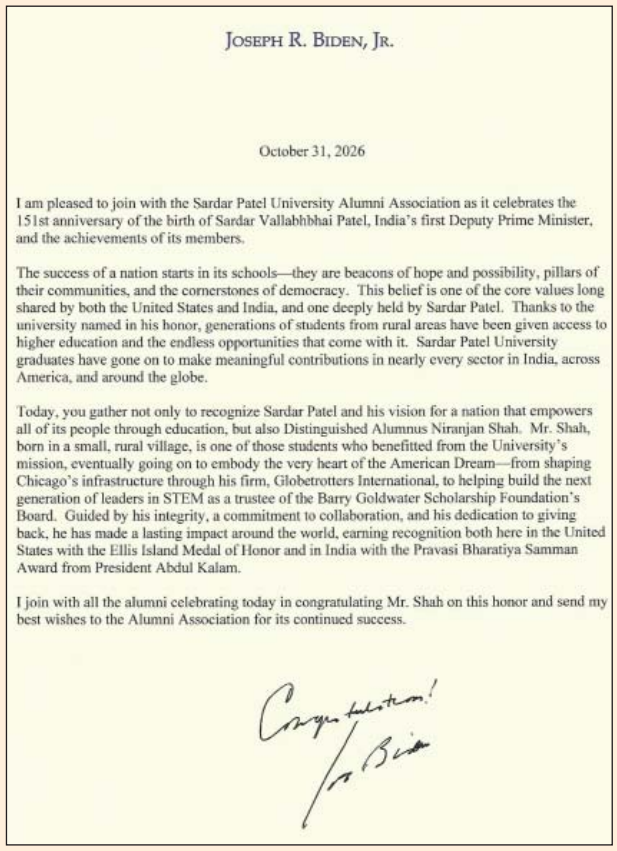
After immigrating to the United States, Shah settled in Chicago, where he co-founded Globetrotters Engineering Corp. in 1974. The company went on to participate in several major infrastructure projects, establishing itself as a significant contributor to the city's development.

Among the firm's notable projects are Chicago's Deep Tunnel Project, Navy Pier, McCormick Place, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital and O'Hare International Airport.

The company's work on the Deep Tunnel Project received national recognition through the American Society of Civil Engineers' Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

Beyond engineering and business, Shah has played an active role in civic affairs and public service, building relationships with government officials and contributing to initiatives aimed at strengthening communities and institutions.

During the Clinton administration, Shah received a presidential appointment, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

October 31, 2026

I am pleased to join with the Sardar Patel University Alumni Association as it celebrates the 151st anniversary of the birth of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Deputy Prime Minister, and the achievements of its members.

The success of a nation starts in its schools—they are beacons of hope and possibility, pillars of their communities, and the cornerstones of democracy. This belief is one of the core values long shared by both the United States and India, and one deeply held by Sardar Patel. Thanks to the university named in his honor, generations of students from rural areas have been given access to higher education and the endless opportunities that come with it. Sardar Patel University graduates have gone on to make meaningful contributions in nearly every sector in India, across America, and around the globe.

Today, you gather not only to recognize Sardar Patel and his vision for a nation that empowers all of its people through education, but also Distinguished Alumnus Niranjan Shah. Mr. Shah, born in a small, rural village, is one of those students who benefitted from the University's mission, eventually going on to embody the very heart of the American Dream—from shaping Chicago's infrastructure through his firm, Globetrotters International, to helping build the next generation of leaders in STEM as a trustee of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation's Board. Guided by his integrity, a commitment to collaboration, and his dedication to giving back, he has made a lasting impact around the world, earning recognition both here in the United States with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and in India with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from President Abdul Kalam.

I join with all the alumni celebrating today in congratulating Mr. Shah on this honor and send my best wishes to the Alumni Association for its continued success.

Congratulations!
Joe Biden

In a letter dated Oct. 31, 2026, former President Joe Biden congratulated Indian American engineer and civic leader Niranjan S. Shah on being recognized as a distinguished alumnus of Sardar Patel University. Biden praised Shah's contributions to Chicago's infrastructure, STEM education and public service while commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

He was also appointed to the National Institute of Building Sciences.

His contributions have earned him several prestigious honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and India's Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for Community Leadership, presented by then-President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Shah's family has continued its involvement in strengthening relations between India and the United States. His daughter, Smita Shah, serves as chair of the Delhi Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, promoting cultural exchange and closer ties between Chicago and India.

For Shah, the recognition on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary holds special significance because it reconnects him with the community and educational institutions that shaped his early life.



Former President Bill Clinton, center, shares a warm moment with Indian American engineer and civic leader Niranjan S. Shah, right, and his wife, Pratima Shah, during a gathering in the United States.

"I grew up in a village that was poor in economic terms, but extraordinarily rich in caring, kindness and community," Shah said.

Recalling his departure from Pratapnagar to pursue his ambitions, Shah described how more than 200 villagers gathered at a dusty bus stand to bid him farewell.

"Some gave me one, two or five rupees, whatever they could afford, and placed a tilak on my forehead to protect a village boy setting out into the wider world," he said.

Shah said he has never forgotten the generosity and encouragement of the people who supported him during his formative years.

"My story is not simply about success. It is about education, helping one another, giving back and creating opportunity for the next generation," he said. "If my journey inspires even ten young students to believe in what is possible, that would be a meaningful tribute to Sardar Patel."Shah has frequently emphasized that individual success is built upon the efforts of families, teachers, institutions and communities that provide opportunities for future generations.

His recognition comes as India celebrates the legacy of Sardar Patel, the country's first deputy prime minister, whose contributions to national unity, education and institution-building continue to influence generations.

For Shah, the honor represents more than a celebration of professional accomplishments. It underscores the importance of remembering one's roots and using personal success to expand opportunities for others.

His five-decade journey from rural Gujarat to the forefront of Chicago's engineering and civic community reflects the lasting impact of education, determination and public service.



Members of the Sardar Patel University alumni community gather for a recognition ceremony in the United States. Smita N. Shah (center) joins university and alumni representatives for the presentation of a commemorative certificate honoring the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



From left, Pratima Shah, former President Joe Biden, Indian American engineer and civic leader Niranjan S. Shah, and his daughter, Smita N. Shah, pose for a photograph with U.S. flags in the background.

Midterm Elections Herald More Youthful, Progressive Era Of Political Engagement For Indian Americans

By Ilayas Quraishi & Ela Dutt

Indian Americans made history November 3, 2026, in an already historic midterm election that sent Democrats with decisive majorities to Capitol Hill, giving them control of both the House and the Senate, and dealing a major political setback to President Donald Trump and Republicans.



PHOTO: DREAMSTIME

Scores of Indian Americans and some other South Asian Americans ran and many won their races up and down the ballot on November 3, 2026, from candidates for the US Congress to School Board members. Virtually all of them ran as Democrats. Many more ran and lost in the primaries during 2026, but their challenges have become experiences that could lead to more savvy races and higher participation in the future.

Apart from being Democrats, the list of winners (and a few for whom results are still awaited), are dominantly young candidates, showing a significant shift in the desire for public office within the community.

The Democratic wave extended beyond Washington, with the party flipping Republican-held congressional districts, winning key governorships and making gains in state legislatures. Voter concerns about rising living costs, the economy and the administration's policies helped shape the election outcome.

Indian American Democrats won the Mayor-ship of the second-largest city in the country, and sent two new members to Congress, and several to State Houses.

One of the most significant victories came in Florida, where Pia Dandiya defeated Republican Casey Askar in the 22nd Congressional District, becoming the state's first Indian American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Four incumbent Indian American members of Congress also secured re-election: Ami Bera and Ro Khanna of California, Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Suhas Subramanyam of Virginia. In Maryland, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller won another term alongside Gov. Wes Moore.

Among the state-level victories, Nabeela Syed defeated a Republican incumbent in Illinois, while Jyot Singh made history as the first Indian American of Sikh origin, elected to Georgia's General Assembly.

NATIONWIDE INDIAN AMERICAN ELECTION WINNERS – NOVEMBER 3, 2026

By January 6, 2026, virtually all results, at least for Indian Americans had been called.

U.S. CONGRESS AND STATEWIDE OFFICES

U.S. House of Representatives

California: Ami Bera (D) - U.S. House, District 3
California: Ro Khanna (D) - U.S. House, District 17
Florida: Pia Dandiya (D) - U.S. House, District 22
Virginia: Suhas Subramanyam (D) - U.S. House, District 10
Washington: Pramila Jayapal (D) - U.S. House, District 7
Arizona: Amish Shah - U.S. House, District 1

Statewide Offices

Maryland: Aruna Miller (D) - Lieutenant Governor
Wisconsin: Josh Kaul (D) - Attorney General

STATE SENATE WINNERS

Arizona: Priya Sundareshan (D) - District 18, Tucson
Connecticut: Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox (D) - District 22, Fairfield County
Illinois: Nabeela Syed (D) - District 26, Chicago suburbs
Illinois: Ram Villivalam (D) - District 8, Chicago
Maryland: Amar Mukunda (D) - District 39, Montgomery County
Minnesota: Krish Subrahmanian (D) - District 49, Twin Cities suburbs
New York: Lisa Kaul (D) - District 39, Hudson Valley
New York: Jeremy Cooney (D) - District 56, Rochester
North Carolina: Jay Chaudhuri (D) - District 15, Wake County
North Carolina: Haseeb Fatmi - District 18
Vermont: Nikhil Goyal (D) - Chittenden-Central
Vermont: Kesha Ram Hinsdale - Chittenden-Southeast
Georgia: Saira Draper - District 4
Iowa: Nikhil Wagle - District 47

STATE HOUSE / ASSEMBLY WINNERS

California: Ash Kalra (D) - Assembly District 25, San Jose
Georgia: Jyot Singh (D) - House District 97, Gwinnett County
Michigan: Ranjeev Puri (D) - House District 24, Canton area
Pennsylvania: Arvind Venkat (D) - House District 30, Pittsburgh suburbs
Texas: Pooja Sethi (D) - House District 47, Austin area
Illinois: Saba Haider - House District 84
Georgia: Farooq Mughal - House District 105
California: Darshana Patel - House District 76
Georgia: Akbar Ali - House District 106

Notable:

Ash Kalra won a sixth term.
Jyot Singh was reported as a newly elected state representative.
Pooja Sethi was reported as a newly elected state representative.

CITY AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS / JUDGESHIPS

City Councils

California - Oakland: Janani Ramachandran - City Council, District 4
California - Union City: Vipan S. Bajwa - City Council, District 4
California - Dublin: Kashef Qaadri - City Council, District 4
Washington, D.C.: Aparna Raj (D) - D.C. Council, Ward 1

Attorneys, Judges & Courts

California: Marissa Roy - Los Angeles City Attorney
Texas: Manpreet Monica Singh - Harris County Civil Court No. 4
Ohio: Manisha Kotian - Hamilton County Court
Texas: Juli Mathew - Fort Bend County Court No. 3
New York: Anant Nambiar - Westchester County District 7

Alameda County returns show Qaadri and Bajwa ahead in their respective one-seat contests, while Ramachandran ran unopposed. A documented candidate questionnaire identifies Qaadri as an American of Indian descent. Raj's Ward 1 victory has been projected.

COUNTY COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS

Florida: Neil Manimala - Hillsborough County Commission, District 5
Georgia: Rohit Malhotra - Fulton County Commission, District 4
Indiana: Ranjan Rohatgi - St. Joseph County Council, District B
North Carolina: Mona Singh - Wake County Commission, At-Large

All four victories were reported in the Nov. 4 state-and-local election roundup.

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL WINNERS

New Jersey warrants its own section because several council elections took place alongside the federal midterms

Municipal Councils and Committees

Essex (Livingston): Ketan Bhuptani (D) - Township Council
Morris (Long Hill): Mansi Patel (D) - Township Committee
Bergen (Tenafly): Aakash Shah (D) - Borough Council
Middlesex (South River): Anita Chadha (D) - Borough Council

Education

Edison: Anjana Patel - Board of Education

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President Trump Celebrates Diwali @White House





PHOTOS:WHITEHOUSE.GOV

Above and below, Diwali celebration at the White House Oval Office November 6, 2026.

WHITE HOUSE, NEWS DISPATCHES, SOCIAL MEDIA

On November 8, 2026, President Donald Trump wished the Indian American community on the occasion of Diwali sending the following message:

"Today, I send my warmest greetings to Americans across our great Nation celebrating Diwali—the Festival of Lights.

During this special time, families gather around flickering diyas, homes shine with the warmth of ancient traditions, and countless communities glow with the beauty of a celebration thousands of years in the making. This Diwali, we observe light's enduring triumph over the forces of darkness and honor the goodness that lives within each and every one of us—timeless values that have long enriched the great story of America.

To each American celebrating Diwali, may this joyful occasion fill your home with hope and light and your heart with the warmth of those you hold dear."

The White House Diwali celebration which took place on Friday, November 6, saw a number of high profile guests including Indian tech entrepreneur Vishal Gondal, Chef Vikas Khanna and others at the Oval Office, an ANI report said. IBM chief executive Arvind Krishna, Micron chief executive Sanjay Mehrotra, FBI Director Kash Patel and Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra, were some of the other guests.

During the festivities President Trump participated in a ceremonial diya-lighting and was gifted a copy of the Hanuman Chalisa by Gondal. India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Mohan Kwatra was also present and shared a gift with the President.

Ambassador Kwatra wrote on X, "Honoured to celebrate Diwali with Hon'ble President Donald Trump at the White House".

"Grateful for his gesture in marking a festival of deep spiritual significance to India and the Indian diaspora. Wished him health, happiness and prosperity on behalf of the people of India", Kwatra added.

Gondal, in a post on X.com said, " Never imagined celebrating Diwali in the Oval Office with President @realDonaldTrump. Thank you for welcoming us. Grateful to be there with the Hanuman Chalisa. A memory I'll always treasure. Happy Diwali!"

Visuals shared from the event featured the cream-coloured sacred text (Hanuman Chalisa) resting against red fabric, its cover depicting a kneeling Lord Hanuman holding scripture beneath red lettering and lotus motifs, secured with metallic corner protectors.

Group photographs captured attendees dressed in traditional Indian attire and formal suits gathered around the Resolute Desk against a backdrop of gold curtains, flags, telephones and a model aircraft.

The event was not open to the media, but a schedule for the event listed high-profile attendees including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel and National Institutes of Health Director Jay Bhattacharya.

White House Diwali observances trace back to 2003 under the administration of George W. Bush, with Barack Obama becoming the first sitting US president to personally light a ceremonial diya in the East Room in 2009, according to archival records.



PHOTO: X @VISHALGONDAL

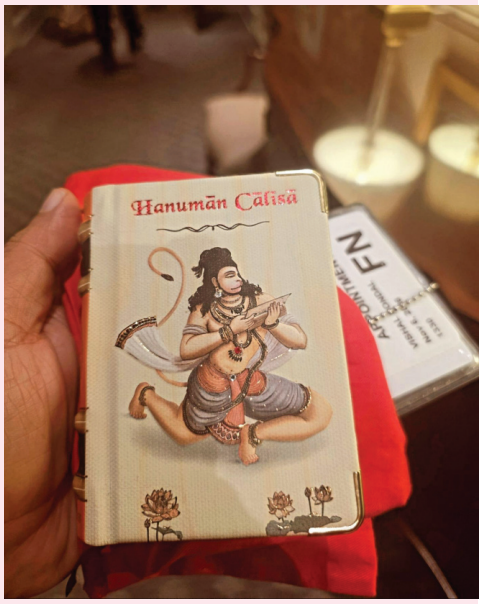

PHOTO: X @VISHALGONDAL

A copy of the Hanuman Chalisa presented by Vishal Gondal to President Trump during the November 6, 2026, Diwali at the White House.



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Far-Right Disrupts Diwali Celebration In Seattle

From News Dispatches

Far-Right protesters disrupted a community celebration of Diwali in Seattle, November 8, 2026, that grabbed headlines and was condemned by Indian American leaders.

US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and other prominent Indian Americans condemned the actions of American far-right activist Jake Lang who barged into the gathering where children were performing Indian classical dance, carrying placards reading 'Deport all Dotheads'.

Jaypal in a post on X said, "I am beyond disgusted by this vile and racist display.

Diwali is an important holiday and our community should feel safe to celebrate it. This hateful display has no place in our city or this country."

Reacting to the incident, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, said the festival of Diwali, which symbolises the victory of light over darkness, should also serve as a reminder of the need to stand against hatred and discrimination targeting Hindu Americans. ANI reported a post on X, in which Krishnamoorti said, "Today is Diwali… Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating today. Today is supposed to celebrate the victory of light over darkness. But that victory is not automatic."

Referring to the slogans raised during the disruption, he added, "When people are chanting stop "Stop Hindu Replacement of Christians" and other hateful anti-Indian and anti-Hindu slogans, you know we have a lot of work to do."



PHOTOS: X.COM @JAKE LANG

Far-right activists disrupting a Diwali event in Seattle.

Calling for collective action against religious and racial hatred, Krishnamoorthi further said, "Let's proudly light a lamp today for Diwali, but resolve that we have to stamp out this hate directed toward Hindus and anyone. Thank you Rep. Pramila Jayapal for highlighting as well."

Prominent Indian American businessman Ajay Jain Bhutoria called the action 'pure bigotry' and said that racial slurs against Hindus had no place in America.

"Absolutely disgusting. Jake Lang and Thomas Allen storming a peaceful Diwali celebration in Seattle with signs reading "Deport All Dot Heads" and "Stop Hindu

Replacement of Christians" is pure hate and bigotry. Diwali is a festival of light, family, and joy — not a threat. Targeting Hindu Americans and Indian immigrants with racial slurs and conspiracy rhetoric has no place in this country. We stand against this racism and for the right of every American to celebrate their heritage freely. #StopAsianHate."

Another Indian American organization, the Coalition of Hindus of North America advised all community members to continue being vigilant against such attacks.

"Community Alert for Seattle and surrounding areas! Hinduphobic bigotry on open display as activists Jake Lang and Thomas Allen burst in to disrupt a Hindu Diwali celebration where children are performing, holding signs such as "Deport all Dotheads" and "Stop Hindu Replacement of Christians". Thankfully, there were others who didn't tolerate this and removed them from the premises. We condemn such actions and advise community members to stay vigilant while celebrating Diwali, as these activists have announced plans to disrupt other celebrations," CoHNA said in a post on X.

In his post on X, Lang said, "We were just ASSAULTED by dozens of ANTIFA & HINDUS @ the Seattle Diwali Festival!!!! I guess they didn't like our "Deport All Dot Heads" sign!!! Hindus flipped Texas blue. '#$%' them."

Speaking outside the celebration venue Lang said, "We were demonstrating our First Amendment against the replacement of Christians by Hindus in the state of Texas, the state of Washington and a bunch of Indians and white liberals just swarmed us and attacked us…They hit me. They broke my flag… This is what's happening in America," ANI reported.

Lang who runs his organization called White Replacement was a participant in the January 6, 2021 US Capitol attack for which he has served four years in jail. He was pardoned by US President Donald Trump on the first day of his second presidency in 2025.

Rep. Grace Meng who represents Queens on Capitol Hill, Reintroduces Bill to Make Diwali a Federal Holiday

By a Staff Writer

Legislation Comes Amid Rising Anti-Hindu and Anti-South Asian Hate

In a closely fought election, an Indian American has defeated longtime incumbent to become Mayor of the second largest city in the United States.

In what could be classified as one of the toughest seats to win, that too against a fellow Democrat – 45 year-old Indian American Nithya Raman swung the power balance within the party – to secure her win as Mayor of Los Angeles.

Raman becomes the first Indian American to lead the city in the history of the nation.

She is not the first Democratic Socialist or progressive Democrat to become mayor, having been preceded approximately a year ago by Indian American Zohran Mamdani who is currently running New York City.

Saying she was "deeply honored" to be the city's next mayor, the 45 year-old Raman posted, " I love this city. I believe in its people. The work ahead will be hard, and change will take time. And together, we are going to build a future as extraordinary as the city we call home."

The come-from-behind candidate garnered 52.1 percent of the vote to longtime incumbent Karen Bass' 47.9 percent, according to results posted on Ballotpedia.

Her bio on the campaign website talks of her first race to win a City Councilwoman seat in 2020, when she ran on the power of 2,000 volunteers knocking on 80,000 doors, Raman has been a "political earthquake" as LA Times characterized her.

An uban planner by training, Raman received her bachelor's degree from Harvard and graduate degree from MIT, and lives with her husband Vali Chandrasekaran, and two children in Silver Lake. Her husband is a veteran television writer and producer, which brings Raman close to the heart of the city that houses Hollywood!

The Guardian of UK reported that Raman served as the entertainment director for the Time's Up organization founded by the big names of Hollywood at the height of the #MeToo movement. For her campaign, she was endorsed by the older and younger set of tinsel town – Jane Fonda, Samuel L. Jackson, a well as the former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as Indian American author, actress, filmmaker Mindy Kaling among others.

While in the City Council, Raman is credited with working to lower housing costs and build more housing. Her legislation has focused on trying to accelerate housing production through zoning and planning reforms and overhauling permitting processes to eliminate unnecessary delays. She has also been behind strengthening tenants' rights and reducing rental increases.

Her approach to homelessness has included pushing for greater oversight of City spending, strengthening data collection, and improving coordination between City departments and service providers.

Born in Kerala, Raman's ancestral family was following the results closely in their family home in Pazhayanaddakkavu in Thrissur, Mathrubhumi newspaper reported.

Raman came to the US when she was 6 years old, with her parents, and became a citizen when she was 22.

Extending H-1B Status Past Six Years While Your Green Card Case Is Delayed

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM


Michael Phulwani


David Nachman


Ludka Zimovcak


Snehal Batra

H-1B status is generally limited to six years. Many workers reach that point while a green card case is still moving through the Department of Labor or USCIS, and a delay at the PERM stage, such as the October 2026 suspension of eight large employers from the program, makes the question more urgent. The rules that allow an H-1B worker to stay beyond six years are specific, and they depend on dates and on where the green card case stands. This post explains the two main routes and what to review with your attorney.

The One-Year Route: A Filing That Is at Least 365 Days Old

Under the Department of Homeland Security's H-1B regulations at 8 CFR 214.2(h)(13), a worker may be eligible for extensions in one-year increments if a PERM labor certification application or an immigrant petition was filed for the worker at least 365 days before the extension is needed. These one-year extensions may be renewed each year while the green card case remains undecided. The key date is the filing date of the PERM application or the I-140 petition, so the date on your receipt or filing record matters. A PERM case that is still in recruitment, and has not yet been filed, does not start the 365 days.

The Three-Year Route: An Approved I-140 and No Visa Number Available

A second route applies to workers who are the beneficiary of an approved I-140 petition and cannot yet complete the green card process because immigrant visa numbers are not available in their category and country. In that situation, extensions can be granted in three-year increments. The visa must be unavailable when the H-1B extension is filed. A worker whose priority date has become current is treated differently, and a worker in that position is generally expected to file for adjustment of status or an immigrant visa within one year. A late filing may be excused in limited circumstances beyond the worker's control, such as a job change that required a new employer to begin the process again. Requesting three years when only one is available can lead to a request for evidence.

Time Spent Outside the United States

If you spent time outside the country while in H-1B status, those days may be added back to your six years, provided you can prove them. A worker who is close to the limit may have time to recapture, and the records that support it, such as passport stamps, I-94 history, and travel records, are worth gathering before an extension is filed.

- **Does the Employer Have to Be the Same One?**

Not necessarily. The employer that files the H-1B extension does not have to be the employer that filed the PERM application or the I-140. A worker who changes jobs, however, may need a new PERM case, which can affect timing and, in some situations, the priority date.

Whether a move helps or hurts depends on the stage of the current case, and it should be reviewed with an attorney before a job offer is accepted.

- **What to Gather Before You Talk to Your Attorney**

Your PERM filing date and approval notice, if any, your I-140 receipt and approval notices, your priority date, your current I-94 and H-1B approval notices, and records of time abroad.

With these, an attorney can tell you which route applies, when the extension should be filed, and how long a request can reasonably be.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I stay in H-1B status past six years if my PERM case has not been filed yet?

Not under the one-year route, because that route depends on a PERM or I-140 filing that is at least 365 days old. Other paths may exist, but they turn on your particular facts, so have an attorney look at your dates.

Does a PERM suspension at my employer cancel my H-1B status?

No. Your H-1B approval and your permission to stay are governed by their own rules, apart from the green card case. A delay can, however, affect your ability to meet the 365-day filing requirement or to move forward with an I-140.

How do one-year and three-year extensions differ?

A one-year extension is tied to a PERM or I-140 filing that is at least 365 days old.

A three-year extension requires an approved I-140 and the lack of an available immigrant visa number.

Does time I spent abroad count toward the six years?

Documented time outside the United States during the H-1B period generally does not count, so it may allow additional time.

Can another employer sponsor my green card if my current employer cannot?

It may be possible, but the new employer must have a genuine permanent job and complete its own PERM process.

Review the timing and your remaining H-1B time with an attorney first.

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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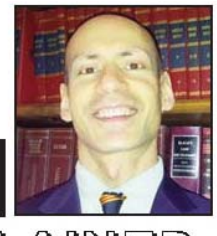
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FIA Chicago Celebrates Diwali, Announces Incoming Women Presidents For 2027



PHOTOS: ASIAN MEDIA USA

The entire FIA team poses for a photo. The team included,past leaders, board and advisory members, lifetime members, and community guests.

By Bhailal m Patel

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), a leading Indian American nonprofit organization in Chicagoland, celebrated Diwali and held its annual board meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Burr Ridge.

The evening brought together current and past leaders, board and advisory members, lifetime members, and community guests for a review of FIA's accomplishments and an important leadership announcement for 2027, according to a press release from Asian Media USA.

General Secretary Kamlesh Kapoor outlined the agenda. FIA Founder Chairman Sunil Shah addressed the gathering. Current Presidents Altaf Bukhari and Richa Chand, past presidents Anu Malhotra, Hitesh Gandhi, Vinita Gulabani and Pratibha Jairath, and FIA First Lady Rita Shah joined the leadership on stage.

Shah kickstarted the Diwali celebration with festive greetings and described 2026 as one of FIA's most impactful years. He thanked Bukhari and Chand for their leadership and contributions throughout the year. Kapoor presented a summary of FIA's major accomplishments, events and special guests.

New members who joined FIA in October 2026 were introduced to the audience, with Shah sharing brief details about their backgrounds and interests. Joint Treasurer Payal Shah presented the organization's financial figures for the year and encouraged members to consider lifetime membership.

Bukhari and Chand shared remarks with the FIA team, followed by messages from past presidents Malhotra, Gulabani, Jairath and Gandhi, as well as Rita Shah. Their comments recognized the organization's work and encouraged continued service and collaboration.

Among the highlights of the evening was the announcement of FIA's incoming presidents for 2027.



From left, Altaf Bukhari (President), Anu Malhotra (Past President), Richa Chand (President), Sonia Luther (FIA Incoming President), Ajanta Talukdar (FIA Incoming President), Rita Shah, Sunil Shah (Founder Chairman).

Sonia Luther and Ajanta Talukdar for the roles will serve as co-Presidents. Their selection marks a milestone with the women leading the organization.

Luther and Talukdar addressed the gathering after the announcement and were formally felicitated.

Advisory Board members Brij Sharma, Keerthi Ravoori, Pinky Thakkar, Dinesh Thakkar, Shrujal Patel, Dr. Arun Narang, Pradeep Shukla and Vipan Wadhera also made remarks from the stage, combining personal memories, humor and reflections on FIA's contributions and the relationships it has built in the community over the years.

The program also featured a robot dance performance, recognition of lifetime members, trophies for supporters, birthday cake-cutting for October and November celebrants, group photographs, and musical performances by FIA singers and leaders.

As FIA concludes a landmark year, the organization says it will continue its work in community service, cultural preservation and relationship-building.

Historic Diwali Celebrations Across The U.S. Pacific Northwest!



PHOTOS: INDIAN CONSULATE IN SEATTLE

First-ever Diwali celebration at the Washington State Capitol Rotunda, Nov. 4, 2026, Olympia, Washington.



Gov. Kelly Armstrong – North Dakota
29 October 2026

Gov. Brad Little – Idaho
16 October 2026

Gov. Greg Gianforte – Montana
26 October 2026



Gov. Jim Pillen – Nebraska
20 October 2026



Gov. Bob Ferguson – Washington
4 November 2026

Glimpses of Diwali celebrations across the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

BY A STAFF WRITER

Six State Governors and 21 Cities Mayors Host First-ever Diwali Ceremonies at State Capitols, Governors' Mansions and City Halls

This year witnessed one of the largest-ever number of high-profile Diwali celebrations hosted across the U.S. Pacific Northwest, the Governors of Idaho, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota and Washington hosted first-ever Diwali celebrations at their respective Governors' Mansions and State Capitol Rotundas, in the presence of US Senators, Members of US Congress, local Mayors and a large number of the Indian American community leadership. The Diwali celebrations began in mid-October and continue until November 10 2026, with the Governor of Oregon scheduled to host the final ceremony on 10 November at the State Capitol in Salem.

During these first ever Governor-Hosted State-level Diwali celebrations, the role of the Indian American community in contributing to their respective states' economies and cultural diversity received particular appreciation from the highest levels of State leadership.

Governor Brad Little at Idaho State Capitol (16 October 2026): "Here in Idaho, we're proud to have a vibrant Indian community that contributes very much to our state through their businesses, professions, service and civic involvement. Indian Americans help strengthen Idaho's economy and help our communities be better places to live, work and raise a family."

Governor Jim Pillen at Nebraska Governor's Mansion in Lincoln (20 October): "The Indian community is an incredibly vital piece of who we are as the people of Nebraska… It's really important that you keep these traditions alive in your families. Never, ever, ever let the light go out!"

Governor Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota at Governor's Residence in Bismarck (29 October): "We should celebrate these relationships. We should celebrate these friendships. Diversity is our strength…We're going to continue this relationship because it's a fantastic one, at an international level, at a trade level, at a state-to-state level, at a diplomatic level, but most importantly, a human level."

Governor Bob Ferguson, Washington at the Rotunda of State Capitol in Olympia (4 November 2026): "We are proud to be home to one of the largest shares of Indian Americans in the country. And during the previous decade, we had the fastest growing Indian American population in the entire country. And we have seen this community contribute so much to our state."

Within Washington State, 22 cities in the Greater Seattle area, where nearly 200,000 Indian Americans reside also, observed individual Diwali ceremonies, inside their City Council Chambers with Mayors presiding over the lamp lighting, in presence of all Council Members. These included Auburn; Everett, Marysville, Kirkland, Bellevue, Tukwila, Medina, Bothell, SeaTac, DuPont; Spokane, Issaquah, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Duvall, Tacoma, Mukilteo and Kent. Additional Diwali ceremonies are scheduled in coming days in the city of Snoqualmie, King County (covers 39 cities of Greater Seattle) and the City of Seattle on 10 November.

In addition, Official Proclamations recognizing the importance of Diwali and the Indian American community, and underscoring ongoing partnership with the Consulate General of India in Seattle, were issued by several States and City Governments.

Earlier this year, in February, the Washington State Senate passed Senate Bill 6044, recognizing Diwali (and Bandi Chhor Divas) as state observances (non-legal holidays).

"It may be noted that in each of these SIX States and 22 cities of the Greater Seattle Area, the Consulate worked in close partnership with Indian American community leadership to organize and co-host these large-scale Diwali ceremonies," the press release from the Seattle Indian Consulate said.



Cultural performance at the Seattle, Washington Diwali celebration Nov. 4, 2026.

ASTROLOGY



This week for you

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

ARIES: Family members may hesitate to support you making progress difficult. Workplace transfers bring unexpected complications. Avoid dwelling on pessimistic thoughts. A supportive friend will prove helpful in your studies. Keep your ambitions realistic to prevent unnecessary disappointment. Changes in official policies may also alter the expected outcome of an important matter.

TAURUS: Domestic concerns could disturb your peace of mind. Money lent may take longer than expected to return. Arranging resources for a pending task might require effort. Be mindful of your words. Attempts to turn someone against a person you dislike may not succeed. You discover that certain people you trusted are moving towards the opposing side.

GEMINI: Progress in your studies is likely to meet your expectations. Financial gains may grow gradually. Those seeking a rewarding proessional assignment could receive a opportunity. Single individuals may find themselves drawn towards someone special. However, avoid interfering in other people's private matters, as unnecessary curiosity could create avoidable complications.

CANCER: A demanding assignment could keep you occupied. Students should remain alert and avoid careless errors to improve their examination results. Spotting a financial mistake early will help. Couples who have experienced communication gaps may begin to reconnect and resolve lingering differences. Your health is likely to remain stable. However, relying too heavily on others to meet your expenses could affect how people perceive you.

LEO: Your proactive attitude earn appreciation from senior colleagues. Property transactions could prove rewarding. Those working extended hours should maintain regular meals. Consistent effort will be essential for academic success. Completing an important responsibility efficiently will bring considerable satisfaction. An invitation to a distinguished event could add excitement to your week.

VIRGO: Encouragement may strengthen your academic performance and boost confidence. Property consultants could experience favourable business activity. Those aiming to improve their fitness are likely to adopt healthier habits. Couples may enjoy a romantic reunion. A spiritual visit or journey could bring inner peace and clarity. At work, stick to the original plan instead of introducing changes at the last moment.

LIBRA: Administrative delays may finally ease. A thoughtful outing with your spouse, could make your relationship more enjoyable. Following a consistent daily schedule may improve your fitness. Some of you may consider enrolling in a course to expand your knowledge. Students should rely on thorough preparation. A change of surroundings could introduce you to refreshing experiences.

SCORPIO: A family excursion may bring everyone closer. Those hoping to find a compatible partner could receive encouraging developments. Writers, may face an increased workload. An older family member's health could improve Your ability to persuade others to assist you may prove effective. Financial resources are likely to remain comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS: A job opportunity may offer improved earnings along with better benefits. People engaged in research could explore fresh ideas. A family gathering may provide the perfect setting. Making healthier lifestyle choices can help. Trainees and students at professional institutes may perform exceptionally well. Although academic motivation may fluctuate, stay on track with current preparation.

CAPRICORN: Your dedication at work may leave a favourable impressio. Encouragement could make academic challenges easier to handle. Newly married couples may consider setting up an independent home. Revisiting cherished memories could provide emotional comfort. An improvement in income is indicated, adding to your financial confidence. Professional activities may keep you occupied, with several matters demanding your attention.

AQUARIUS: An expensive item on your wish list could become affordable. Pay closer attention to your eating habits . A sporting event or physical activity may introduce you to someone who shares your interests and outlook. Engineering professionals could experience encouraging developments in their careers. If a suitable opportunity comes your way, assess its potential carefully and act promptly.

PISCES: Those handling demanding professional responsibilities may achieve a significant breakthrough. You could take charge of organising a celebration earning appreciation for your planning. Employees may receive an additional financial benefit. Make your well-being a priority. Conflicting demands may arise. If you struggle to understand things quickly, you may benefit from patience and guidance.

Manifestation of Sacred Symbols in New Jersey: The Spiritual Journey of Abhishek Mishra

By Ajay Ghosh

Over the past several years, Abhishek Mishra, a corporate professional residing in Edison, New Jersey, has reported a series of unusual and spiritually charged phenomena that have drawn sustained attention from media outlets, faith communities, and scholars of religion. At the center of these experiences are naturally formed (swayambhu) images of Lord Shiva that have appeared both inside and outside his home—manifestations that invite reflection on faith, symbolism, and the limits of scientific explanation.

The phenomena described at the Mishra residence are striking in both scale and detail. Outdoors, a Shivling has emerged from winter ice, and a 50-foot image of Lord Shiva holding a trident has appeared across the snow-covered backyard. Indoors, intricate depictions of Shiva and Nandi have surfaced on bathroom tiles, while another meditative form of Shiva has materialized from ice. These formations, occurring without human intervention, have become a subject of curiosity and contemplation for many who have witnessed them.

Mishra describes these events as spiritually transformative, noting that the spontaneous appearance of symbols and the timing of certain coincidences have deepened his understanding of the unseen dimensions of belief. His experiences have also generated significant media interest. He has been featured in leading Indian-American publications—including New India Abroad, The South Asian Times, DesiTalk, and India Currents—and interviewed extensively by broadcast platforms such as TV9, TV Asia, ITV Gold, eMalayalee, Preetnama TV, Global Reporter, The Dr. Renee Mehra Show, Heramba Studio, and Minisha Productions.

Beyond media engagement, Mishra has taken an active role in community outreach. He has hosted an Editors' Meet on Long Island and organized cultural programs in New Jersey, including a Shivratri celebration and a Reading of Three Short Hindi Plays, all designed to promote interfaith dialogue and communal harmony. His contributions to public discourse have led to his induction onto the Board of the Indo-American Press Club (IAPC).

What follows are the central elements of Mishra's experiences and belief system, articulated in his own words.

When did these signs first appear?

I first began observing Shiva formations in 2016. Since then, they have appeared every year, self-generating from snow and ice outdoors. While the icy formations occur only in winter, the patterns on bathroom tiles remain visible throughout the year.

How do you interpret these signs?

To me, these recurring patterns are physical evidence that God is real. The divine blessings showered on my home have deepened my family's faith and devotion. These forms are beyond human imagination and serve as reminders to connect with a higher power—whether



Photos courtesy of Abhishek Mishra

one follows Buddha, Jesus, or Shiva.

Why do you share these experiences publicly?

I share them not for personal gain, but because I feel like a messenger. A powerful moment came when my young son, who had no prior exposure to Hindu iconography, instinctively shaped a Shivalinga out of snow. I understand skepticism, but witnessing consistent physical evidence over several years has strengthened my faith and that of those who have seen it.

Do you come from a family rooted in faith?

Spiritual devotion is a family tradition. My grandfather built the Shesh Bhagwan (Kherepati) Temple in Kanpur, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. My brother continues to care for the temple today.

How does belief in divine power help people?

I want to inspire faith in a Divine Power—known by different names across religions and worshipped in various forms. Many more people in the world believe in God than those who do not. Some believe in saakar (God with form), others in nirakaar (formless), but God is one. This unity has been proclaimed by spiritual traditions throughout history. Aligning with God or Divine Power brings happiness, peace, and prosperity into our worldly lives.

What is your mission?

My message to the world is one of unity and righteousness. Religion and Dharma are not the same. Religion consists of rituals and modes of worship, while Dharma is cosmic law, righteous conduct, and the path to truth. Dharma and a pure heart bring us together. To me, Lord Shiva represents "everything and nothingness"—a completeness available to everyone, regardless of karma or belief.

Is there a final takeaway?

There are many things in life and the universe that remain beyond the reach of science, no matter how advanced it becomes.

The Mishra family warmly welcomes visitors who wish to learn, reflect, and personally experience these spiritual manifestations in their home at:
25 Lavender Drive, Edison, New Jersey
Phone: 732-690-0404

- ADVERTORIAL COURTESY OF ABHISHEK MISHRA

Amitabh Bachchan Wins Personality Rights Case, Delhi HC Passes Final Decree

The Delhi High Court has passed a final order in favor of actor Amitabh Bachchan, protecting his personality rights and restraining several entities and unidentified persons from using his name, image, voice or likeness for commercial purposes without his permission.

Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav decreed Bachchan's suit concerning the alleged unauthorized commercial misuse of his personality rights, bringing to an end proceedings that had continued since the Court first granted an ex-parte ad-interim injunction in November 2022.

The Court held that the right to control the commercial use of a human identity constitutes the "right to publicity" and found that Bachchan's name and photographs had been used for commercial gain without his consent in a manner that falsely suggested his endorsement.

The suit was filed over alleged misuse of Bachchan's persona through a range of platforms and products, including a mobile application titled "Amitabh Bachchan Video Call", messages promoting a purported "Kaun Banega Crorepati" lottery, a general knowledge quiz book carrying his photograph, T-shirts, posters and domain names incorporating his identity.

The Court noted that the unauthorised uses involved Bachchan's "very name and photographs" and that the essential requirements for protection of publicity rights an enforceable right in the identity and identifiability of the celebrity stood satisfied in the case.

Significantly, the High Court also allowed the decree to operate against unidentified defendants, or John Does, taking note of what it described as a continuing pattern of anonymous misuse of Bachchan's persona through websites, applications, posters and messaging platforms.



PHOTO: ANI

Megastar of Bollywood Amitabh Bachchan.

The Court said that such anonymous infringers could not always be tracked to identified persons and, therefore, the protection granted in the decree would also extend against them. Bachchan was further granted liberty to institute fresh proceedings if a fresh cause of action arose from any future unauthorised misuse.

Four of the defendants Rajat Nagi, Manoj Publications, Tamatina and Mahesh Patel settled the matter with Bachchan and acknowledged his publicity and privacy rights.

Under the settlement, one defendant agreed to delete the "Amitabh Bachchan Video Call" application, while another discontinued publication of a general knowledge quiz book carrying the actor's image. Another defendant stopped selling posters featuring his name, image and likeness, while the registrant of the domain name amitabhbachchan.in stated that the domain had been deleted.

The settling defendants undertook not to use Bachchan's name, image, voice, likeness or any other aspect of his persona in the future without his express permission.

The Court found the settlement to be lawful and voluntary and decreed the suit against those defendants in terms of the compromise.

As regards the remaining defendants, the Court noted that despite service, they neither appeared nor filed written statements. Their right to file written statements had already been closed.

While observing that a judgment under Order VIII Rule 10 of the Civil Procedure Code should not be passed mechanically merely because a defendant has failed to file a defence, the Court held that no disputed question of fact requiring a trial arose in the present case.

It said that requiring Bachchan to lead ex-parte evidence would merely result in repetition of the allegations already made in the plaint and that the case was fit for a summary judgment.

The Court accordingly decreed the suit against the remaining defendants and held that the ex-parte ad-interim injunction granted in November 2022 stood merged with the final decree.

-ANI

"Hyper-Local Is The New Global": Santosh Davakhar, Ishita Deshmukh, Yogesh Sohoni, Nishad Bhoir On 'Gondhal's' Oscar Selection

With Marathi psychological thriller 'Gondhal' selected as India's official entry in the International Feature Film category for the 2027 Academy Awards, director Santosh Davakhar and actors Ishita Deshmukh, Yogesh Sohoni and Nishad Bhoir have expressed immense pride over the recognition, recalling the film's journey, their experiences on set and their hopes of bringing the coveted Oscar home.



PHOTO: ANI



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/GONDHALFILM VIA ANI

Marathi film 'Gondhal' is directed by Santosh Davakhar and stars Kishor Kadam, Ishita Deshmukh, Yogesh Sohoni, Nishad Bhoir and Anuj Prabhu in the lead roles.Legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja wrote the music and background score. The film is produced by Diksha Davakhar under the banner of Davakhar Films.

In a conversation with ANI, the filmmaker and actors shared their reactions to the announcement, the challenges of bringing their respective characters to life and the efforts being made to take the film to an international audience.

Recalling the moment the team received the news, director Santosh Davakhar said the announcement was met with celebrations during a group call, adding that they had anticipated the possibility because of the way they had approached the film.

"We had a group call. Everyone was celebrating on the call. We had an inkling that something was brewing, that this could happen, because of how we had approached the film. The moment the official announcement came, we were really happy and we were celebrating… it felt like we were heading to the Olympics; that was the feeling. So we were celebrating that feeling, yeah," he said.

For Ishita Deshmukh, the announcement was particularly emotional as it coincided with the Ganpati festival. The actress said she was at home with her parents and grandmother when she received the news.

"We got on a group call, and it was during the Ganpati festival, so I was at home. As soon as the news broke, I was so glad I was with my parents; I ran to them and shared the news. My grandmother was there too—she didn't know what the Oscars were, so I explained it to her. For a while, it didn't really sink in for me, but as we kept seeing it on the news, having conversations with Sir, and talking with my co-actors, it finally hit me: 'Okay, our movie—my first film—is actually India's official entry for the Oscars,'" she recalled.

Actor Yogesh Sohoni described the announcement as an unbelievable, dream-come-true moment, recalling how he immediately called his mother after hearing the news.

"It was unbelievable… like a dream come true. After ending the conversation and hanging up the call, I first called my mother and said, 'This is the news.' There was a ten-second silence, and then she broke the silence and told me, 'I'm proud of you, and God bless you.' That was the entire memory when I heard the news," he said.

Nishad Bhoir, meanwhile, was shopping for the Ganpati festival when he learnt about the film's selection. Recalling the moment, he said the news took time to sink in for him and his family.

"I was shopping for the Ganpati festival, and suddenly I came running out of a saree shop. Mobile reception was dropping there, but I could tell from everyone's expressions what had happened, and that's how I found out the news."

-ANI

The Washington Post

Is a $4 rental car too good to be true? I found out.

By Andrea Sachs

If you get what you pay for, then what do you get when you pay $4 for a rental car in Fort Lauderdale, Florida?

According to Priceline, where I uncovered the unbelievably cheap rate through an off-brand company: a car. If you ask many travelers who booked a rental through Green Motion: a scam.

"This is the worst car rental company I've ever dealt with," "NEVER AGAIN. BAIT AND SWITCH" and "I would give no stars if I could!" read a sampling of the 165 one-star Yelp reviews for Green Motion's Fort Lauderdale franchise.

I continued to dig. The Better Business Bureau assigned the company an F. Trustpilot posted a mixed bag of reviews, including some glowing ones. Consumer advocates were skeptical.

"They're trying to get you into a high-pressure environment when you're at the counter and there's a line of people behind you," said John Breyault, vice president of public policy, telecom and fraud at the National Consumers League. "They're counting on you to knuckle under to these additional fees."

Breyault warned that a raft of surprise costs - insurance you don't need, fees you didn't know about in advance, an upgrade you didn't want but must purchase because your model isn't available - could catapult the ultra-budget rate into a higher price stratosphere. The rental car company could also sneak in extra charges on the back end, accusing you of damaging the vehicle.

"We all want a good deal," said Amy Nofziger, senior director of fraud victim support for the AARP Fraud Watch Network, "but a good deal often can be a red flag."

Despite the alarm bells, I was still intrigued by a rental that cost less than a latte. So I flew to Florida to chase down the truth in a "Jeep Compass or similar."

Really $4?

When I first stumbled on the $4 daily rate, I assumed the price was a fluke. So I tested it, and it passed.

The $4 rental showed up on unremarkable weekdays and on holidays, in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Denver, on Hotwire, Priceline and Kayak. Companies with such generic off-label names as U-Save, Economy and Advantage offered the rate on all manner of vehicles, from economy to midsize SUVs. Mileage was unlimited; quick pickup was promised.

I chose Green Motion for the name, which evoked Kermit on a joyride. To my surprise, when I clicked on the listing, the $4 rate, which included taxes and fees, didn't vanish or increase 15-fold to the prices advertised by the major brands.

However, in the final booking step, the price for the "compact crossover" was higher than initially stated.

I had to pay an additional 28 cents in taxes.

Two shuttles and a long wait

To reach Green Motion's office a few miles from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, I had to take two shuttles, a sign that I was dealing with an outlier.

I boarded the first shuttle to the rental car center in Terminal 1, where the major brands congregated under one roof. A few feet past the drop-off, I huddled with other travelers on an unshaded strip of sidewalk, with only a trash can and a sign listing the names and phone numbers of nearly a dozen off-airport rental companies. The Green Motion number was out of service.

I watched vans come and go, some driving off with no passengers, others packed with people. After 30 minutes, a white courtesy vehicle for Green Motion and U-Save pulled up. We had a full car, so I sat in the front passenger seat, my knees knocking against a cup holder containing cash tips riffling in the air-conditioning.

After a short drive, we disembarked at a squat building wedged in by cars. I tipped the driver 117 percent of my rental car rate.

Picking up the car

Outside the office, a man with a flowy gray beard was fuming. He was shouting at the sky about how he had to pay an additional $480 because Green Motion would not accept his insurance.

His wife held the door for me. I asked if they had had an awful experience. "Oh, just you wait," she replied ominously. "You will, too."

I approached the Green Motion half of the counter, which it shared with U-Save. The agent greeted me warmly and handed me a printout of the insurance rules. The company accepts policies from nine insurance companies with a minimum coverage of $300,000. Otherwise, I would have to pay $70 a day.

My insurance company was on the list, but I didn't have the required proof: the declaration page. I took a seat by a stale-looking vending machine and dialed State Farm's 800 number, which the agent had recited to me. I sat on hold for several minutes before hanging up and calling my local State Farm office.

The representative emailed me the document, which I forwarded to Green Motion. Because I was using my own insurance, I would be responsible for my own roadside assistance plus a $2,000 deposit.

To my right, a Chicago visitor howled, "Oh hell no, I'm not going to pay that!"

In solidarity, I told the employee behind the counter that $2,000 was high. He cast his eyes down at my receipt and shot me a conspiratorial look. The deposit amount read $750.

The next hurdle to clear was the toll package for $19 a day. If I drove on a road without paying, the company would charge me $29 per toll, plus the toll fee.

"They got another trick," the Chicago traveler exclaimed.

We both set our GPS apps to "no tolls" and declined.

After roughly an hour, I was ready to claim my car. But not so fast. The cleaners were washing it, despite a torrential downpour that licked every speck of dirt off the vehicle.

While I waited, I chatted with the Chicago traveler outside. Though his insurance company had been on the approved list, he didn't want the $2,000 hold on his card, so he gave in, paying $280 for the coverage and a $150 deposit for the car rental that had been "included" in his Southwest vacations package.

"I just wanted a margarita by the beach," he said, "and this was the price to pay."

As for my total bill: I ended up paying $6.42, which included a $2.14 surcharge and tax charged at the time of pickup. The cost in time and stress, however, was a lot more.

Scratches and sand

In preparing for my trip, I had read customers' horror stories about the condition of their rental cars. Many said they looked as if they had risen from a scrap yard, covered in dings, dents and scratches.

My 2025 Nissan Rogue was in comparatively good shape. I noted a few minor scrapes on the exterior and stains on the back seat, plus sand. The gas tank was half-full. The agent assured me that the company recorded every inch of the vehicle, so I would not be liable, and I just needed to return the car with the same amount of gas.

I finally was free to explore Fort Lauderdale, but the call of the open road was more of a timid whisper than a whoop of adventure. I was worried about getting nicked or blowing a tire and scrambling for emergency roadside assistance. I took the car to the beach and then parked it at my hotel and walked for the remainder of the day.

That night, I stayed up late reading more negative reviews. In a few instances, the car did not start in the morning or a mechanical issue arose. I set my alarm early, to accommodate for any car repairs.

En route to return the car, I stopped by the gas station. Though I had used only a drop of gas, I filled the tank to the top, a gift to the next driver who might not be as lucky with their $4 rental.

At the drop-off, I asked the agent if seeing so many people frustrated by their rental car experience was upsetting. He frowned, shrugged his shoulders and said, "They just don't like the rules." He then solicited me for a good review on Priceline.

As I exited, I heard him greet the next customers in line with the opener, "Would you like to use your insurance or buy ours?"



Photo by: Alie Skowronski — For The Washington Post

Green Motion explains its operation

Confident that I had escaped unscathed, I reached out to the company, which is based in Britain. Brenda Azúa, the company's chief Americas officer, replied with a detailed and thoughtful email that addressed all of my concerns, from the incorrect phone number on the sign to the negative reviews.

For starters, she said off-airport franchises such as Green Motion operate under "different cost structures" than airport vendors, allowing them to compete "more aggressively" on price. However, she added, a low advertised rate should be legitimate, not bait.

When asked about the company's upselling tactics, she said optional items should be a free choice. "Franchisees are expected to explain available products accurately, communicate their costs transparently and allow customers to make informed decisions without undue pressure," she noted. The company, she said, is working with the booking platforms and franchisees "to improve the clarity and accessibility of this information."

For the incorrect phone number, she said the company submitted a request for the airport to fix or remove the sign in September 2025. In regards to the sandy back seat, she requested a review of the Florida branch's cleaning procedures.

"Our expectation is that every vehicle is presented to the customer in a clean and satisfactory condition, regardless of the surrounding environment," she said.

She also touched on the harsh reviews, explaining that the nature of renting a car can be fodder for criticism. One of the company's key initiatives, the Green Motion Excellence Program, is aimed at locating subpar locations and raising their standards.

"Our objective is not simply to respond to complaints after they occur, but to identify recurring issues, address their underlying causes and continuously improve the customer experience," she said.

Was the $4 rental worth it?

I succeeded in my quest, renting a car for just a few bucks over the advertised price. Almost two weeks after I returned home, Green Motion released my deposit. I also checked my statement for suspicious charges. There were none.

Compared with the experiences of other travelers I had met in real life or read about online, I had a relatively smooth ride. However, I can't unsee the distress on their faces or unhear their emotional eruptions after paying hundreds more than they had anticipated.

Until Green Motion and its ilk can guarantee clear communication, honest prices and fair treatment, then I will spend my $4 elsewhere - maybe on a latte.

"Yeh Film Kisi Bhi Hollywood Film Se Kam Nahi Hai": Sunny Deol Proud Of 'Ramayana: Part 1'

Bollywood star Sunny Deol is extremely proud of his film 'Ramayana: Part 1', which is directed by Nitesh Tiwari.

On Saturday, November 7, Sunny Deol took to Instagram and shared a video urging audiences to watch the film, saying it has been made exceptionally well and is no less than any Hollywood film.

"Main abhi-abhi apni Ramayana dekh kar aa raha hoon. Mujhe bahut-bahut achhi lagi. Aur main chahta hoon ki har Hindustani jaakar Ramayana dekhe. Kyunki yeh film kisi bhi Hollywood film se kam nahi hai, balki main kahoonga unse bhi better hai. Iske special effects toh iss tarah ke hain ki aapko pata hi nahi chalega ke aap us duniya mein nahi hain… Aapko us period mein le jaati hai (I have just watched my Ramayana, and I absolutely loved it. I want every Indian to go and watch Ramayana because this film is no less than any Hollywood film; in fact, I would say it is even better. The special effects are so remarkable that you won't even realise you are not actually part of that world. The film transports you straight into that era), " he said.

He concluded the video with the chant, "Jai Shri Ram".

Notably, Sunny Deol makes his debut as Lord Hanuman in Ramayana: Part 1, appearing in a high-impact post-credit scene that also features the same chant. Although his face is not revealed in the scene, his voice can be heard chanting "Jai Shri Ram".

"Aur har actor ne bahut achha kaam kiya hai. Isliye main aapse binti karta hoon… Binti nahi kar raha hoon, apna haq jama raha hoon, kyunki waqayi film bahut achhi hai. Jaake dekhiyega. Jai Shree Ram," Sunny added.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, 'Ramayana: Part 1' is the first instalment of a two-part cinematic adaptation of the ancient Indian epic.

The film features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Ravie Dubey as Lakshman and Sunny Deol as Hanuman. Anupam Kher voices Jatayu, the divine bird who plays a pivotal role in the narrative by attempting to rescue Sita from Ravana's abduction.

The film also features Arun Govil, Lara Dutta and Rakul Preet Singh in key roles. Produced by Namit Malhotra, the epic was released worldwide in theatres on November 5, 2026.

-ANI



PHOTO: ANI

Sunny Deol

'Hanuman Ansh' OTT Release Date Out

After a successful theatrical run, 'Hanuman Ansh' is now gearing up for its OTT release.

The film, which is based on the life and teachings of Neem Karoli Baba, popularly known as Maharaj ji, will be out on Sony LIV on November 27.

Inspired by the life and spiritual journey of Neem Karoli Baba, Hanuman Ansh "follows the transformation of Lakshminarayan, a young boy who sets out on a quest to find God. Rooted in faith and timeless human values, the film offers audiences a deeply moving story that has found an emotional connection with viewers."

Speaking about the film's OTT release, Ajay Bhalwankar, Chief Content Officer, Sony Pictures Networks India, said, "At Sony Pictures Networks India, we believe in bringing powerful stories that resonate with audiences into millions of homes. 'Hanuman Ansh' is a remarkable example of how compelling storytelling can transcend expectations and win hearts. What makes its journey particularly special is the way it has connected with audiences, becoming a cherished film for families across the world. We are delighted to bring this much-loved film to audiences across our digital and linear platforms giving them an opportunity to experience its inspiring story."

Vishal Chaturvedi directed 'Hanuman Ansh', which emerged as a major box-office success, reportedly crossing the Rs 300 crore mark at the domestic box office. The film features Shobhinaw Satyaa in the lead role alongside Vihaan Shedge, Chandan K Anand, Purnima Tiwari, Anil Rastogi, Gulshan Pandey and Bhagvandas Patel.

-ANI



PHOTO: MAKERS VIA ANI

Poster for movie Hanuman Ansh.

X Says Police Order Demanding Removal Of Indian Free-Speech Groups' Accounts Was Fake

Police orders asking X to block online accounts of two of India's most prominent free speech groups were fake, the social media company told an Indian court on Friday, November 6, 2026, days after the purported content removal requests sparked a public outcry.

The orders, submitted through X's online reporting form in the name of a senior Delhi police officer, sought the removal of the accounts of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) and the Software Freedom Law Centre, India (SFLC.in), claiming they had defamed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Hindu nationalist group from which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party emerged.

"It turns out this was somebody playing an impostor, somebody impersonating Delhi police who has sent this," a lawyer for X told the Delhi High Court, saying the company had conducted an internal investigation.

Delhi police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Free-speech activists have repeatedly said that India's strict content removal regulations are a way to curb dissent in the world's most populous nation.

India, which has more than 1.1 billion internet subscribers, says the directives target unlawful or misleading content and respect lawful expression.

The purported takedown orders invoked Indian rules that require platforms to act on the notices within three hours. X forwarded them to the affected users before establishing that they were fake.

IFF had asked the court to quash the orders, which sparked an uproar on social media this week, with Amnesty and India's main opposition party contesting their legality.

The groups also received legal notices last week, purportedly on behalf of the RSS, that demanded they stop criticizing and documenting government blocking orders, according to the petition.

-ANI

Kamal Haasan Unveils First Look Of Upcoming Film 'Sandiyar'

Veteran actor Kamal Haasan has announced his upcoming film 'Sandiyar' on the occasion of his birthday, unveiling the film's title and first-look poster.

The announcement has generated excitement among fans, with the poster offering a glimpse into the gritty tone of the upcoming project.

Directed by SU Arun Kumar, Sandiyar will feature music composed by Anirudh Ravichander.

The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran under the banners of Raaj Kamal Films International and Turmeric Media.

The first-look poster establishes a gritty visual tone for the film, making the birthday announcement a notable reveal for fans.

Fans chimed in the comments section and celebrated the news of the actor's comeback to the silver screen in a rugged avatar.

"God is back," a fan wrote. Another wrote, "After 22 yearsssssssssss"

The unveiling has also drawn attention across social media, where fans have been celebrating the actor's milestone birthday.

Further details about the film, including its cast, release date and storyline, have not been provided in the announcement.

-ANI

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Wanted Housekeeper for Franchise Motel in St. Louis, MO. Good Salary and Accommodation Provided.
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Franchise Hotels hiring
Front Desk Clerk & Housekeeping Couple. Accommodation provided.
Legal status must.
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CHICAGO, IL
15 Room independent motel in Chicago area
Need single / Couple for All work communication skill needed
Free accommodation provided.
Family welcome.
Call: 814-657-6357
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ILLINOIS AND IOWA
Need Single/Couple for Housekeeping and Front Desk help for Franchise hotels in Illinois and Iowa.
Accommodation Provided.
For More Details
Call (973) 722-6238
10/23-11/20-JG

STURGEON BAY, WISCONSIN
Franchise Motel in Sturgeon Bay, WI need Hotel Operation Manager (previous Hotel management experience preferred) and Night auditor. 3.5 hours from Chicago.
Good pay and accommodation provided. Legal status must. Please call at 920-256-1705 / 732-762-7866 or text for more information.
10/30-11/27-SD

WILLIAMSBURG, VA
Baymont Days by Wyndham
We need to hire Housekeepers for our property 3032 Richmond Rd, Williamsburg, VA.
Accommodation is provided in the property for a couple or individual.
Email : R2groupllc99@gmail.com
10/30-12/11-SH

FLORIDA
Urgent Help Needed
Franchise Multiple Motels in Florida needs experienced live-in manager-Housekeepers couple, Night auditor, Accountant and front desk person and Wyndham,Choice and Hilton experienced GMS. Must be franchised experience. LOOKING FOR FULL TIME DRIVER HELP.
Call or Text: B.P 386-566-8761or
email:bps1018@gmail.com
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OHIO
Need Single / Couple Front Desk, Night Auditor, Housekeeping for Motel near Columbus OH - 43025.
Accommodation can be arranged.
Call Sunny (740) 404 7478
10/30-11/27-SL

BENSENVILLE IL
Looking for single or couple housekeeping, Full-Time / Part-Time, $8.00 per room cleaned, for Country Inn and Suites.
Accommodation and training will be provided.
Call: 847-830-8633
11/06-11/27-MS

MARYLAND
We need 2 persons to manage small local independent Motel in Baltimore. Duties include managing the housekeeping, office and preventive maintenance. Must have legal status and must be able to speak good English. Accommodation is attached to the office.
Call 410-627-0374.
11/13-12/11-SH

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NEW JERSEY
Franchise Hotel in NJ is looking for Single/Couple for: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Maintenance. Good salary and accommodation will be provided. Also looking for Hotel Sales Associate. (Experience and good communication skills required)
Call: Nick 201-637-5062 (Contact between 9 AM to 7 PM.)
• Vivian (757) 620-9207 •
Hina (201) 936-8762
08/02-TFN-SD

VIRGINIA- MARYLAND & NORTH CAROLINA
Hotels are looking for skilled Asst. Manager, Front Desk, Housekeeping & Laundry attendants. If you are experienced & ready to contribute, PIs call: 540-324-8786
07/10/2026-01/07/2027-SH

GREENSBORO, NC
46 Rooms Independent Motel in Greensboro, NC need Managing Couple (Front desk+ Laundry) andHousekeeping couple.
Legal status must.
Accommodation provided.
Excellent salary.
Contact: 919-344-8656, 336-587-5358
10/16-12/04-SD

NEW JERSEY
Franchise Motel near Atlantic City need Single Front desk help, 7 days a week.
Experience preferred, ready to train.
Free Accommodation provided.
Call (609) 892-8631
11/13-SL

NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY
FRANCHISE HOTEL needs a Couple for House Keeping and Single experienced person for Front Desk Help. Good pay with free accommodation. Legal must.
Call Nishith: 5163739274 / Nick (201) 637 5062
10/30/2026 - 10/22//2027-SL

PHILADELPHIA & NEW JERSEY :
Need Single / Couple Front Desk & Housekeeping help for Franchise Motels in the Philadelphia area, Pittsburgh - PA and Cherry Hill - NJ. Free accommodation provided. Call Ghanshyam Patel (610) 279 0150.
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Two singles / couples needed, one per property. Front desk, good pay, free housing. Must be legal.
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11/06-12/04-SL

NEWYORK
Need Single / Couple experienced Front Desk and Housekeeping help for franchise / independent motel in New York. Legal must.
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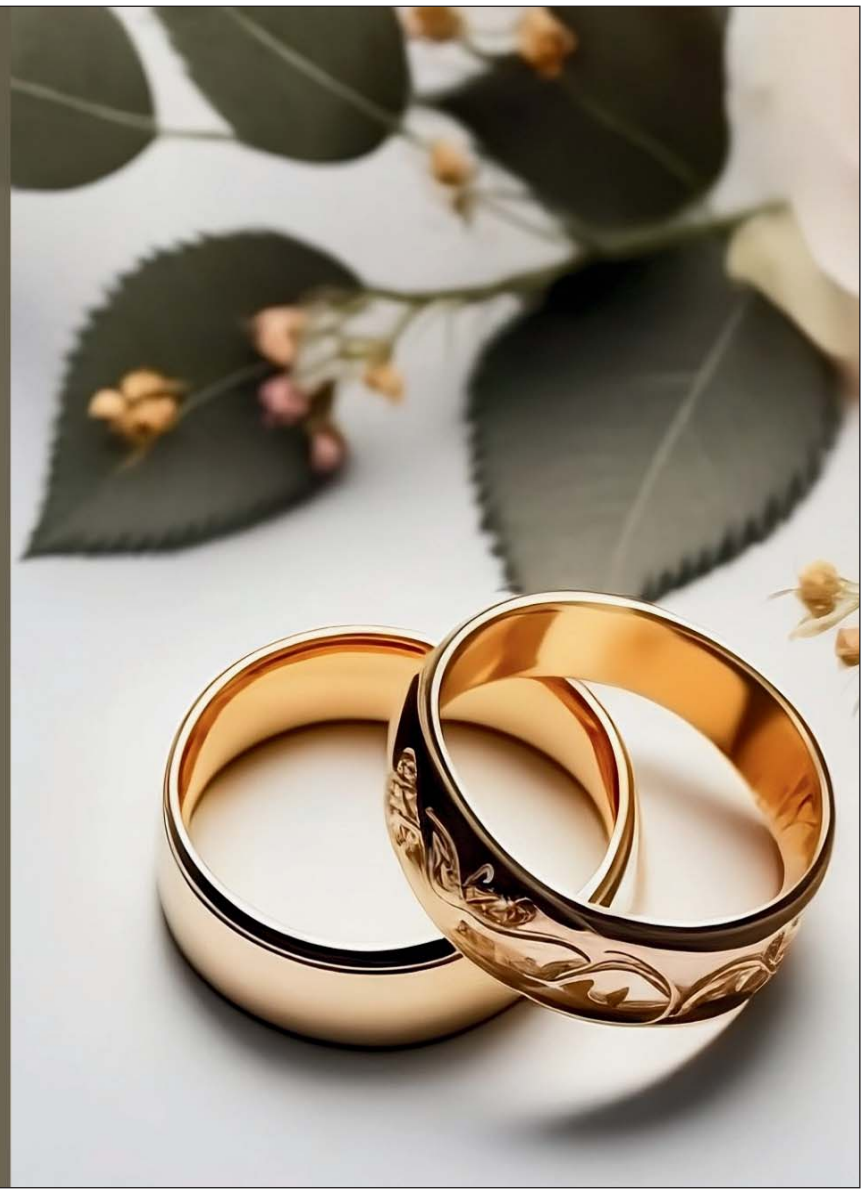

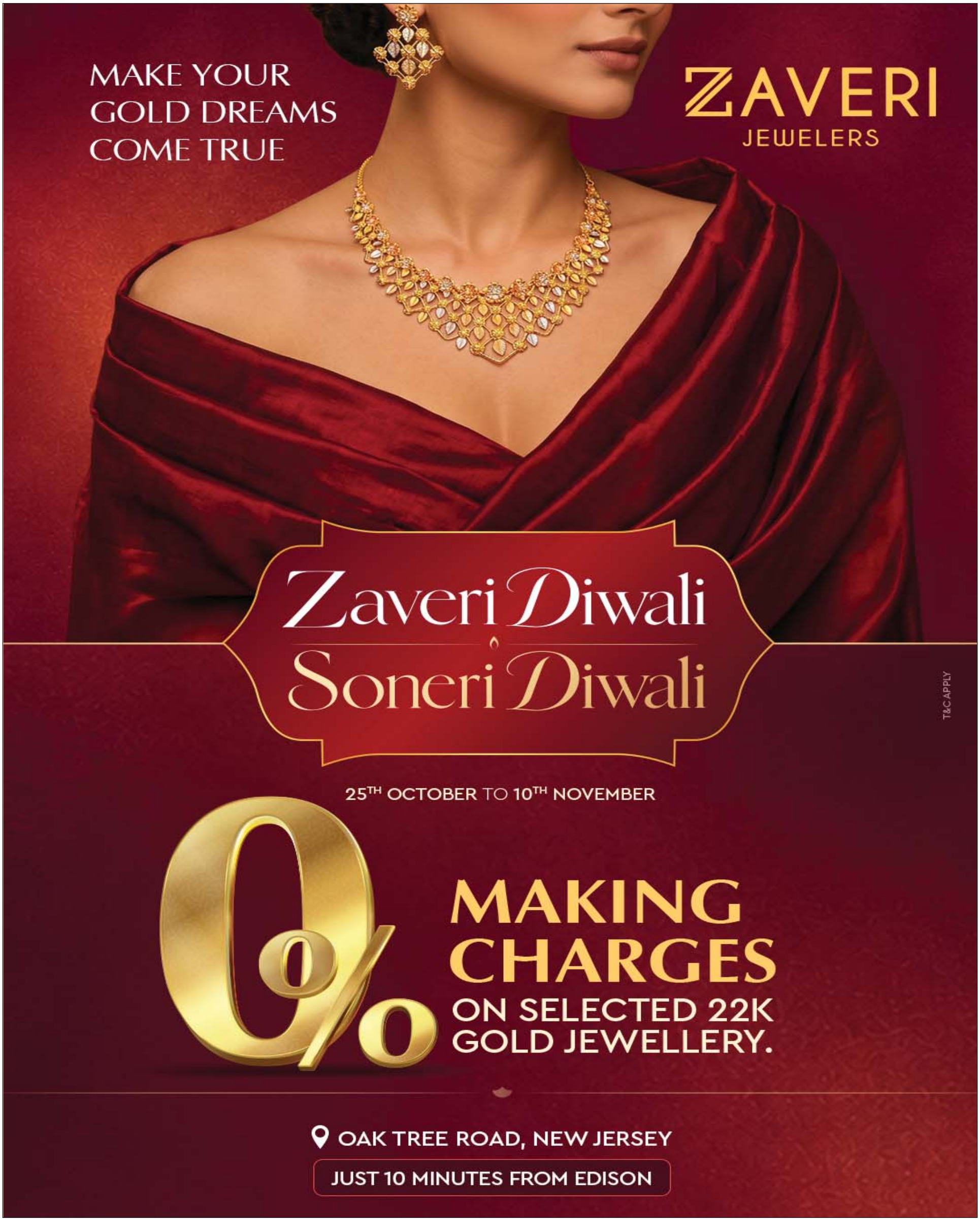
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