

# INDIA WEST

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JOURNAL

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## Kamala Harris Picks Minnesota Governor Tim Walz As Running Mate

WASHINGTON, DC (REUTERS) – Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate on August 6, choosing a progressive policy champion and a plain speaker from America’s heartland to help win over rural, white voters.

Harris announced the selection in a text message to supporters.

“I’m pleased to share that I’ve made my decision: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will join our campaign as my running mate,” she said. “Tim is a battle-tested leader who has an incredible track record of getting things done for Minnesota families. I know that he will bring that same principled leadership to our campaign, and to the office of the vice president.”

Walz, a 60-year-old U.S. Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, said he was honored to join Harris on the ticket.



Dems go giddy as Kamala Harris introduces Tim Walz to the nation.

Photo: Reuters/Kevin Lamarque

Contd. on P34

“I’m all in,” Walz said on X, formerly Twitter. “Vice President Harris is showing us the politics of what’s possible. It reminds me a bit of the first day of school.”

Walz was elected to a Republican-leaning district in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006 and served 12 years before being elected governor of Minnesota in 2018.

As governor, Walz has pushed a progressive agenda that includes free school meals, goals for tackling climate change, tax cuts for the middle class and expanded paid leave for Minnesota workers.

He has long advocated for women’s reproductive rights but also displayed a conservative bent while representing a rural district in the U.S. House, defending agricultural interests and backing gun rights.

Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, is adding a popular

### Trump Tells Christians They Won’t Have To Vote After This Election



WASHINGTON, DC (REUTERS) – Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told Christians on July 26 that if they vote for him this November, “in four years, you don’t have to vote again. We’ll

have it fixed so good; you’re not going to have to vote.”

It was not clear what the former president meant by his remarks, in an election

Contd. on P25

### Vinay Mohan Kwatra Named Ambassador To Washington



dor of India to the United States, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Kwatra, who served as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India from May 2022 until July 14, 2024, is highly regarded for his extensive expertise in managing India’s relations with its neighboring countries, including

China, as well as with the US and Europe.

A seasoned diplomat with over 32 years of experience, Kwatra has held several

Contd. on P36

#### India-West News Desk

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## OPINION

# India Links Among Candidates May Spell Little Fizz For Indo-US Ties



Usha Vance

The Indian links of some US presidential election contenders probably mean little additional benefit for ties, experts said, against the backdrop of bipartisan support for closer relations with the South Asian nation to counter an assertive China.

Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Usha Chilukuri Vance, the wife of Republican Donald Trump's running-mate, have rarely visited the birthplace of one or both of their parents. However,

Indians take pride in their success.

"Either way, from India's perspective, whether it is Republican or Democrat, that relationship enjoys bipartisan support and should not be affected," said Harsh Vardhan Shringla, a former Indian ambassador to the US.

"It can only benefit," he said of the India links, adding, "(It) cannot be affected adversely."

Since ties with New Delhi are viewed favorably by both parties in Washington, there will be little impact on

relations, regardless of which party wins, or the candidate's Indian roots, an Indian government official said on condition of anonymity.

Both President Joe Biden and Trump, his predecessor in office, sought to woo India, not just to challenge China in the region, but also to wean New Delhi from a traditional dependence on Russian weapons.

Both Harris and Usha Vance, the wife of Republican vice-presidential candidate, J.D. Vance have links to Southern India. (REUTERS)

## China's Arms Exports Decline Due To Poor Quality

China's arms exports have significantly declined over the past decade due to issues related to poor quality, compatibility problems, and substandard operational performance.

Although many countries have been compelled to purchase military imports from China because of lower costs and coercive economic influence, numerous reports highlight recurrent defects, inadequate technical support, and lack of spare parts, underscoring a serious quality issue within China's military-industrial complex.

Major importers frequently cite hidden costs and technological incompatibility as additional factors adversely affecting China's arms exports.

### Pak Navy

The agreement for four multi-role Tughril class (Type 054A/P) frigates for the Pakistan Navy was finalized between Pakistan and China in June 2017-18 with considerable fanfare, grandiose rhetoric, and lofty promises of resolving the Pakistan Navy's persistent, decade-long issues with 'Made in China' ships. However, these vessels have experienced several significant machinery defects. The combat systems, including missiles and torpedoes, have yet to demonstrate their intended operational capability.

### Thailand

Interestingly, in 2013, China offered three Type 054A ships to the Royal Thai Navy for \$1 billion.

However, the Royal Thai Navy opted for a variant of the South Korean 'Gwanggaeto the Great'

Class Destroyer from Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering instead. The reasons behind this decision are becoming evident amid the growing crisis faced by developing nations that heavily depend on cheaper defense imports from Chinese manufacturers.

These pieces of equipment, introduced with much fanfare, quickly end up operating well below their intended capacity and desired performance due to an increasing rate of failures, lack of spare parts, and dwindling support from the Chinese original equipment manufacturers. Additionally, the consistent unavailability of system experts has exacerbated the existing problems.

"Their most significant considerations in arms procurement are price and politics, with corruption playing a prominent role. China can offer weapons at a low cost, with hefty discounts or bribes for officials in charge of the procurement and go-between individuals," writes Tanmay Kadam in a Eurasian Times article.

In the post-COVID world order, marked by the severe economic and financial crises in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, China's reputation among other nations has been called into question. This issue extends beyond Pakistan, as the Harbin Z9 helicopters exported to



Cambodia and Cameroon have also experienced a notable failure rate.

Bangladesh, a significant purchaser of Chinese defense equipment has encountered substantial problems with the performance and operational availability of its Chinese ships, F-7 fighter aircraft, MBT

2000 tanks, K-8W jet trainer aircraft, and Ming-class submarines.

### UAE

Earlier this year, the United Arab Emirates also returned Chinese Wing Loong II drones due to subpar performance and recurring defects.

Consequently, the UAE is expected to acquire Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones, thereby diminishing its defense import relations with China. Nigeria, similarly, has relied heavily on Chinese military equipment, including VT-4 tanks and fire support vehicles. However, the proposed establishment of an

aircraft spare production facility in Nigeria has yet to materialize.

### Myanmar

Several Chinese-made F7 and JF17 aircraft imported by Myanmar have also been lost in crashes due to the failure of critical equipment. Furthermore, the additional

charges imposed by Chinese manufacturers and significant delays compelled Myanmar to seek expertise on the JF17 from Pakistan. Issues have also been reported with the Beyond Visual Range missiles and the aircraft's radars.

Chinese military export equipment has undeniably been lagging the world's major weapon manufacturers in terms of electronic reliability, engine failures during extended operations, and the quality of composite materials used.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China's exports decreased by 7.8 per cent between 2016 and 2020 compared to the preceding five-year period.

### Russia Reverse Engineering

Primarily reverse-engineered from Western or Russian military technology, the lack of available spare parts affects the operational readiness of key platforms during the emergent crisis. This creates a challenging situation for importing countries to manage unforeseen crises amid the current tense geopolitical environment.

There is increasing dissatisfaction among developing countries, as they perceive Chinese manufacturers as unreliable investors in the expansion of the weapons trade. Existing customers, who have already invested significant funds, find themselves with no viable options to withdraw from these arrangements. (IANS)

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COMMUNITY

# Pujyashree Deepakbhai Desai Satsangs In SoCal Draw Huge Interest

By BHARTTI KUMAR

BUENA PARK, CA – Spiritual leader Pujyashree Deepakbhai Desai on July 27, conducted a profound and interactive satsang session, elucidating the teachings of Dada Bhagwan and the Gnan-Vidhi ceremony. “Pujyashree,” as he is known to devotees, heads the Dada Bhagwan Foundation, and shared insights on the Akram Vignan philosophy, emphasizing the Science of Self Realization.

During his address, the prominent spiritual leader from Gujarat, highlighted the essence of self-knowledge, or Atma-Gnan, as the ultimate goal for all seekers. He elaborated, “Without the true knowledge of the self, there is no liberation. The individual identity, which we are glued to, is given to us by the outside world. Our designation and tags are relative. This path awakens the knowledge of the self, which is akin to a torch that lights up a dark room. Our joys and sorrows, which are superficial, will diminish once we connect with our true self.”

The two-and-a-half-hour session, attended by around 800 participants, including 80 Western

Mahatmas (practicing devotees), was conducted in a question-and-answer format. Devotees eagerly posed queries about their daily life circumstances, seeking guidance on managing temperaments, ego, relationships, and the death of loved ones. Pujyashree responded empathetically, often adding humor to lighten the atmosphere.

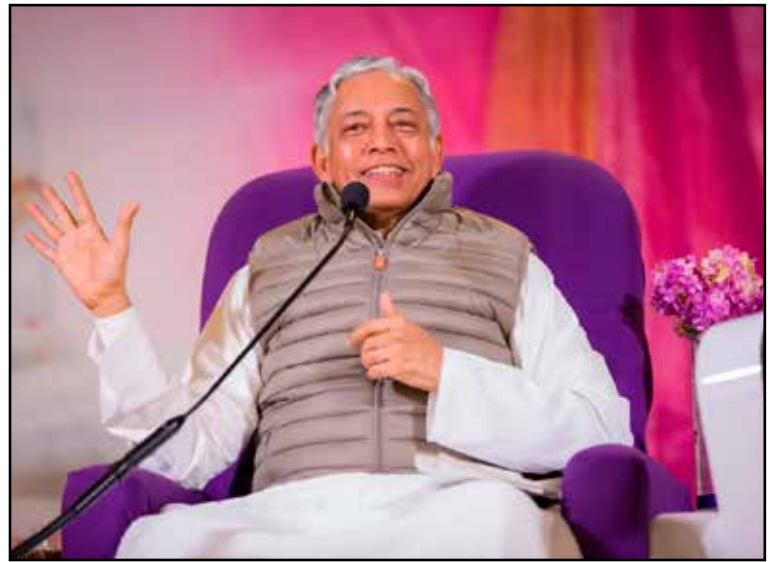
Addressing a question on life’s purpose, Pujyashree Deepakbhai told India-West, “Everyone seeks moksha or liberation. That is the purpose of life. One can carry on daily activities catering to individual relative roles. It is through the Self Realization Ceremony that one can find fulfillment and clarity in life.”

A significant part of the event was the Gnan Vidhi ceremony, where the conviction that ‘I am a pure soul’ is established within participants. The spiritual leader explained that this awareness would deepen as one follows the simple guidelines provided, ultimately dissolving bad karma. Spiritual seekers had the opportunity to walk toward Self-Realization through a two-hour process, which had nearly 600 registrants. Live translation was available in English

and Hindi, complementing the primarily Gujarati conversations.

Roshni Shah, a team member, described the Dada Bhagwan Foundation Adalaj as a spiritual non-profit organization dedicated to spreading peace, harmony, and everlasting bliss through Akram Vignan. The foundation offers practical solutions for harmony and happiness in life, with Self-Realization attainable effortlessly by the grace of the spiritual master.

The event also featured a five-minute video showcasing the foundation’s activities. Pujyashree, who visits the US annually, was previously in Los Angeles in 2019 and in Chicago earlier this year for Guru Purnima, which saw an attendance of 3,500.



For more information about the Dada Bhagwan Foundation Adalaj and Param Pujya Dada Bhagwan: [www.dadabhagwan.org](http://www.dadabhagwan.org).



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COMMUNITY

# Three Activists Lauded, Awarded For Service To Community

**India-West Staff Reporter**

LOS ANGELES, CA – Community leaders Kewal Kanda, Sudip Gorakshakar, and Nila Parikh were honored with the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian community for their efforts in significantly raising awareness about the importance of volunteer work, for their contributions to community events and their focus on conflict resolution efforts.

Kanda and Gorakshakar were felicitated at the Sanatan Dharma Temple in Norwalk on July 19 at a large turnout of community members.

Kanda, who holds an MBA

degree, has been involved in community service for four decades. His work includes assisting the community with passport renewals, visa applications, OCI cards, consular camps, and Red Cross blood drives. He currently serves as chairman for UIASC, vice president/treasurer for GOPIO International, founder/president of GOPIO-LA chapter, founding member/president of the Rajput Association of America, and has held leadership positions in FIA-SC and NFIA.

Gorakshakar, an aerospace engineer, has also been active in the community for many years. He has served as president of



Kewal Kanda.

FIA-SC and NFIA and organized a successful women's conference in Cerritos, CA. He is currently involved with UIASC.

Nila Parikh received her award at the Anaheim Community Center



Sudip Gorakshakar.

on June 7. She too has been serving her community for the past 30 years volunteering with various religious, cultural, and social organizations and hospitals. She was chosen for the award for her



Nila Parikh getting award from Dr. K. Reddy.

dedication and mentorship.

The awards were arranged by Charu Shivakumar, Rani Kuusto, Aparna Hande, and Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee, and organized by the Excel Foundations USA.

# IALA To Celebrate 25 Years Of India Day Mela On August 24

**India-West Staff Reporter**

ENCINO, CA - The India Association of Los Angeles (IALA) has announced that its 25th annual India Day Mela, will be held on Saturday, August 24, at the Hjelte Sports Center, here. This year's celebration marks a significant milestone for IALA and promises to be a spectacular event, honoring India's Independence Day with a vibrant display of cultural heritage.

The India Day Mela has grown into the largest family-oriented event in the San Fernando Valley area, drawing attendees from all walks of life and celebrating one of the world's most ancient cultures. Organizers said this year's festivities will include an exciting array of attractions showcasing the richness of Indian culture including a variety of the nation's cuisine, clothing and jewelry.

The event is designed to promote local talent, strengthen commu-



nity bonds, and provide valuable

opportunities for business networking and engagement with elected officials.

Since its inception in 2000, IALA has

tural exchange and community unity. The association was founded by the late Inder Singh and Kumar Jawa and continues to thrive under the leadership of current President Sunil Agrawal and Chairman Kanaksinh Zala.

Agrawal said, "We look forward to welcoming attendees for a day of cultural celebration, delicious food, and meaningful connections."

For more information: [ialasfv@gmail.com](mailto:ialasfv@gmail.com).

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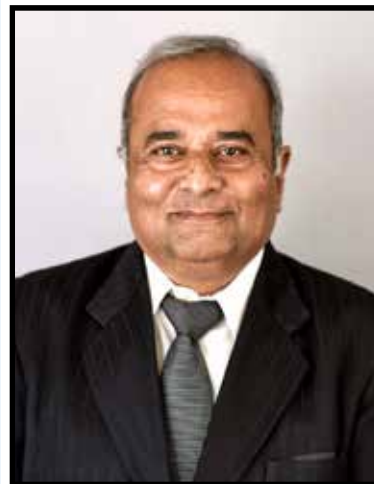
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COMMUNITY

# Joginder Singh, 82, Wins 5K Race; Harbhajan Singh, 70, Finishes Third In SF Half Marathon

India-West Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The 47th San Francisco Marathon saw a remarkable turnout this year, with around 31,000 athletes from across the globe participating in the two-day event held on July 26 and 27.

Among the notable achievements were 82-year-old Joginder Singh of Manteca, who finished first in the 5K race, and 70-year-old Harbhajan Singh of Fresno, who secured third place in the half marathon (13.1 miles).

The marathon showcased a significant presence of Sikh athletes from various California regions, including Manteca, Lathrop, the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Fresno. Participants

included Rajinder Sekhon, Darshan Singh, Kulwant Gill, Kevin Ghuman, Joginder Singh, Rajinder Tanda, Kamaljit Singh, Narinder Kaur, Jyoti Kaur Brar, Charan Bhandal, Harbhajan Singh, and others.

The increasing participation of older Sikhs in sports and athletic events highlights a growing trend toward maintaining a healthy lifestyle through outdoor activities, the athletes told the media.

The SF Marathon contributes to the community by donating to various local and national non-profits, including the Alzheimer's Association, America Scores Bay Area, San Francisco Safehouse, Silver Charity Partners, Active Minds Inc., Friends of

the Urban Forest, and Josie's Place.

The marathon weekend featured a full marathon, half-marathon, ultra marathon, 5K, 10K, and other related events, attracting attention not only from Californians but from

participants and spectators worldwide. This year's races were held under over-



Joginder Singh Sahi (Left), Harbhajan Singh (Right)

cast and slightly cool weather conditions, providing an ideal setting for the athletes.

# Indian American Kanak Jha Made History At Paris Olympics

LOS ANGELES, CA – Kanak Jha, the 24-year-old Indian American table tennis player, may not have got a medal, but he history at the Paris Olympics. Jha, who is a native of Milpitas, CA, previously represented the US in table tennis at both the Rio and Tokyo Games, became the first male athlete from the US to reach the round of 16 in Olympic table tennis since Jimmy Butler in 1992.

He was also the only player for the US.

Jha's journey at the Paris Olympics began with a significant upset, defeating Korea's Cho Daeseong, who is ranked No. 20 in the world, with a score of 4-2. This victory was particularly noteworthy as Jha is ranked 125th globally.



Jha's path to Paris was fraught with challenges. He faced a year-long ban by the US Anti-Doping Agency. Additionally, Jha turned

to a GoFundMe campaign to financially support his journey to the Paris Games, raising over \$12,000 out of his \$100,000 goal. "I was out of the sport for 16 months, which was tough in a few ways. I'm a professional table tennis player, so financially being one of them," Jha said in a press conference.

Jhamoved to Sweden at 15 and then to Germany at 17, all to pursue a professional career in the sport that he loves trains primarily in Germany where professional table tennis leagues are more established.

He hopes his performance in Paris will raise awareness of the sport in the US "The sport isn't that mainstream in the States," he said. "I hope in the Olympic Games, and also other events, I can continue to influence some kids. Hopefully, some kids who watch the games here are inspired by it to pick up a racket."

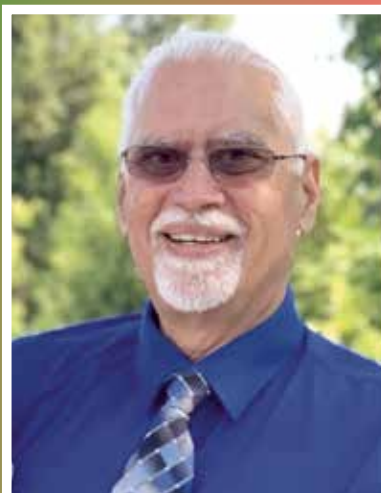
Jha's rise to prominence began when he became the youngest member of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team at the age of 16, making him the first-ever American Olympian born in the 21st century. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and his suspension, Jha's determination and resilience have kept him climbing the world rankings.



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## What Makes the VF8 the First Choice for Family Electric Vehicles?

*The VF 8 is poised to be the goodentry point into electric vehicles for US consumers. Packed with innovative technology, it offers a seamless transition from gasoline-powered cars, delivering an exciting yet familiar driving experience. VinFast's competitive car leasing program further enhances the appeal, providing families with an affordable and accessible way to embrace electric mobility.*

John Riedy, a photographer, first encountered VinFast, the Vietnamese electric vehicle maker, in Ho Chi Minh City. The company's vehicles, used by the taxi company GSM, were ubiquitous, and their sleek design caught his eye. Back home, drawn by the automaker's leasing incentives, he decided to give one a try.

"The ride quality is exceptional. I recently rode in an electric car of a famous brand and found the VinFast far superior," Mr. Riedy said. He praised the VF8's acceleration as "fantastic."

The car's ADAS received high praise from Mr. Riedy. "I love the ADAS, especially on freeways," he said. He believes the VF8 would be an excellent choice for young families or empty nesters like himself. "I particularly enjoy using the ADAS in heavy traffic," he added.

Mr. Riedy was impressed by the car's value for the lease price. "Compared to competitors, this car really stands out," he said. "Even with the higher lease rate, it's still competitive." Having recommended the VF8 to friends, he noted, "It's a real eye-catcher. People always ask me about it."

### What Makes the VF8 Stand Out?

Taylor Hamblett, an architect, found the electric vehicle surprisingly agile and responsive. While personal comfort is subjective, Hamblett appreciated the spacious interior and firm seats. "As a larger individual, I fit comfortably," Hamblett said.

Hamblett was impressed by the car's overall performance and believes it would appeal to young professionals seeking a balance of style, speed, and practicality. "The spacious interior and advanced driver assistance features make it a strong contender for commuters," Hamblett said.

Vietnam's pioneering electric vehicle manufacturer is making a global mark by combining domestic ingenuity with international expertise. The VF 8, a collaborative product with renowned Italian design house Pininfarina, is at the heart of this strategy.

VinFast and Pininfarina sought a harmonious blend of contemporary elegance and timeless appeal. Their design philosophy, 'Dynamic Balance,' extends beyond

aesthetics, influencing the vehicle's performance and efficiency.

The VF 8's exterior is a striking interplay of fluid curves and sharp lines, creating a visually captivating and balanced silhouette. This design approach not only enhances the SUV's appearance but also optimizes its performance. By lowering the center of gravity and improving aerodynamics, 'Dynamic Balance' contributes to superior handling, reduced noise, vibration, and harshness, and increased battery life.

Inside, the VF 8 exudes sophistication and comfort. Premium materials, meticulous craftsmanship, and advanced technology combine to create a serene driving environment.

### The Seamless Electric Journey

The VF 8 offers a seamless transition for drivers switching from gasoline to electric vehicles while delivering superior technology and performance. Its advanced features, such as the responsive touchscreen and adaptive cruise control, have impressed customers like Steven Garza, a porter.

Ninh Pham, an engineer, views the VF 8 as a significant step towards a greener future. He praises the initial models' striking design and highlights the car's impressive technology, particularly the advanced driver assistance systems.

"Transferring from an ICE car to a smart car like the VF8, I was quite impressed by the car's tech features. ADAS is my favorite."

He believes the VF 8 caters to both families and young professionals with its spacious interior and appealing aesthetics. Its competitive pricing further enhances its appeal as a compelling package.

VinFast aims to protect customers on every journey and throughout their entire ownership. The VF 8 is equipped with an ADAS featuring functionalities such as highway driving assistance, automatic lane changing, and smart parking assistance. This system will receive continuous over-the-air updates and enhancements to provide customers with the safest and most highly optimized driving experience.

Miguel Colón, an entrepreneurship professor, praised



the VF 8's wireless CarPlay and centralized control system. When asked about the most impressive aspect of the car, he raved about the car's luxurious interior, particularly the striking contrast of the cream color scheme. Colón likened the cabin to a much more expensive vehicle and expressed enthusiasm for the head-up display, questioning why it's not a standard feature.

He believes young families would be ideal candidates for the VF 8, emphasizing the importance of an affordable lease program. With fluctuating gas prices, Colón highlighted the financial benefits of owning an electric vehicle, citing the current high cost of fuel as a prime motivator for making the switch.

"Today gas prices are approaching \$6.000 a gallon. I am pleased to own an EV."

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COMMUNITY

# First Indian Visa Application Centers Inaugurated In Seattle, Bellevue

India-West Staff Reporter

SEATTLE, WA – City Mayor Bruce Harrell and Prakash Gupta, Consul General of India, inaugurated the first Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) in Seattle and Bellevue on July 12.

The IVAC services follow the opening of the first Indian Consulate in Seattle in November 2023. These centers will offer consular services such as visas, passports, Overseas Citizen of India cards, and other related requirements to residents of Greater Seattle.

“For ease of transportation and convenience for residents living on the east side in Bellevue, an additional IVAC drop-off facility for receiving consular applications has been made functional at 1400 112th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98004 (Suite 200),” the official statement read.

Mayor Harrell expressed his admiration for the Indian community in the Greater Seattle area, highlighting their significant contributions to strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and the US.

Consul Gupta emphasized the importance of the new visa application centers, stating, “The opening of the Indian Consulate

in Seattle reflects the Government of India’s strong commitment to deepen our relations with the Pacific Northwestern states of the US. Through the opening of these new visa application centers in Seattle and Bellevue, we hope to ensure a more convenient experience for all consular applicants preparing



their travel to India.” He added, “Providing smooth and efficient consular services is one of our top priorities, and we welcome any feedback and suggestions for further improvement from all applicants as we commence our consular operations in the Greater Seattle Area.”

Both the IVAC centers will be managed by Amit Kumar Sharma, Head – Americas, VFS Global who stated, “The new centers in Seattle and Bellevue will play a crucial role in catering to the growing demand for visa and consular services to India. We are confident that these visa application centers will enhance the customer experience by making the visa application process smoother, thereby helping us serve travelers and the Indian diaspora better.”

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## Body Of Californian Who Drowned In Glacier National Park Recovered



WASHINGTON, DC (ANI) – Rangers at the Glacier National Park in Montana have recovered the body of Siddhant Vitthal Patil, a 26-year-old Indian who lived in California, after he fell into Avalanche Creek on July 6 and drowned.

The fatal incident occurred when Patil was hiking with friends above a gorge on the Avalanche Lake Trail on July 6. He had diverted from the trail and, while standing on a large rock, fell into Avalanche Creek. It is unclear whether he slipped on a wet portion of the rock or lost his balance. Friends and witnesses saw him fall into the creek, go underwater, resurface briefly, and then be swept away by the current into the gorge.

Rangers said, “During the past four weeks, ground search efforts have continued from the gorge to the bridge on the Trail of the Cedars. Clothing and gear similar to what, according to friends, Patil was wearing at the time of the incident were also recovered.

Rangers suspected that the body was being held underwater by submerged obstacles such as fallen trees or rocks, which limited their ability to search the gorge for weeks due to water depth and whitewater conditions during spring and summer runoff. Rangers could only investigate the large portions of the gorge with long poles after the water level dropped but were not able to reach the deepest and most dangerous areas.



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COMMUNITY

# Vijay Amritraj, Leander Paes, Inducted Into Tennis Hall Of Fame

NEWPORT, RI (IANS) – Tennis veterans Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes flexed their dance moves after being introduced into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

It was a historic moment for the country and the continent as they became the first Asian men to receive the accolade.

The gala ceremony took place here and the duo were seen dancing and enjoying the beats of ‘Hall of Fame’ by The Script. British tennis journalist and author Richard Evans was also honored.

Amritraj had a distinguished career from 1970 to 1993, winning 15 ATP singles titles and achieving 399 match victories. He reached a career-high world ranking of 18th. Amritraj played a crucial role in leading India to the Davis Cup finals in 1974 and 1987, demonstrating his exceptional skills and leadership.

After retiring, Amritraj has devoted himself to humanitarian efforts and supported ATP and WTA events in India, promoting the sport in his home country. He also ventured into acting, appearing in James Bond and Star Trek movie franchises.

In his address, Paes reminisced



about his early years, when he played hockey and football before deciding to focus on tennis. He went on to win an Olympic medal,

continuing the legacy of his father.

“It’s my greatest honor to be on this stage with not only these legends of the game, people who have inspired me every single day of my life — not because you’ve only won Grand Slams, not because you’ve shaped our sport but every single one of these people have shaped the world we live in,” Paes said.

“I would like to thank you so much for giving this Indian boy hope.”

Paes, a former student of Amritraj’s youth academy, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in the player category, recognizing his outstanding achievements. The 51-year-old won 18 Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles during his illustrious career. His induction, alongside Amritraj’s, made India the 28th nation represented in the Hall of Fame.

Paes achieved career Grand Slams in both men’s and mixed doubles, completing the men’s doubles Grand Slam with a win at the 2012 Australian Open and the mixed doubles Grand Slam with a victory at the 2016 French Open. He also won a bronze medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Paes’s only ATP singles title came in 1998 on the grass courts of Newport.

## US Advocacy Groups Condemn Violence Against Bangla Hindus

India-Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, DC – The religious advocacy group HinduPACT has strongly condemned the violence against the Hindu community in Bangladesh, which has resulted in the tragic deaths of two councilors and the desecration of the Kali temple and ISKCON temple during anti-government protests in the country. The organization called these acts not only an attack on individuals but a broader assault on the Hindu community’s pluralistic beliefs. “We stand in solidarity with the Hindu community in Bangladesh and demand immediate action from the Bangladeshi government to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety and security of all its citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs,” their statement read.

The Hindu America Foundation too said the situation in Bangladesh was deeply concerning. Its Director of Policy Research Anita Joshi said, “These attacks are heartbreaking, but unsurprising. It is well documented that prior to the toppling of Sheikh Hasina’s government, Bangladesh’s Hindu population has been targeted.”

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## NASA Helping To Land Sunita Williams

Sunita Williams, one of NASA's most experienced astronauts, finds herself at the center of NASA's current challenges with the International Space Station (ISS). She is currently aboard the ISS with fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore due to technical problems with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Their mission, originally scheduled to be shorter, was extended because of issues with Starliner's propulsion system, which malfunctioned during its docking approach in June.

NASA is now grappling with impending congestion at the ISS caused by delays and technical issues involving SpaceX and Boeing. In August, NASA officials noted that traffic at the ISS would increase, following a period of operational challenges that had temporarily stalled astronaut transport.



Ken Bowersox, associate administrator for NASA's space operations, remarked, "We have never had so many vehicles and so many options. It complicates our lives, but in a really good way." Despite recent set-

backs, NASA remains optimistic about managing ISS operations effectively.

The ISS has seen unusual activity recently, including propulsion issues with Boeing's new spacecraft and an emergency sheltering of astronauts due to debris from a defunct Russian satellite. Additionally, technical problems with spacesuits led to canceled spacewalks, and SpaceX faced a rocket failure that delayed astronaut transport. To address the congestion, NASA plans to prioritize the return of Starliner to free up a docking port.

## Shubhanshu Shukla Picked For Indo-US Space Mission



Indian Air Force Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected as the prime astronaut for the upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), as announced by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). This mission marks a significant collaboration between ISRO and NASA, facilitated through a Space Flight Agreement with Axiom Space for the Axiom-4 mission to the ISS. The National Mission Assignment Board has recommended two Gaganyatris for this mission: Shukla as the prime mission pilot and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as the backup.

During the mission, Shukla will conduct selected scientific research and technology demonstration experiments onboard the ISS. Additionally, he will engage in space outreach activities. The experiences and data gathered from this mission are expected to significantly benefit India's Human Space Program and further strengthen the cooperation between ISRO and NASA.

In February this year, four Indian Air Force pilots, including Shukla, were chosen to be part of India's first human space flight program, Gaganyaan. Alongside Group Captain Prasanth Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Group Captain Angad Pratap, Shukla underwent extensive training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in Russia.

The Gaganyaan mission, which aims to send humans to space using ISRO's well-proven LVM3 rocket, is India's first human space flight program. Ensuring human safety is a top priority, with new engineering and human-centric technologies being developed.

In 2023, ISRO achieved major milestones with the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole and the launch of Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission. These achievements have bolstered India's position in the global space economy and energized its private space sector. Looking ahead, India aims to establish the 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2035 and send an Indian to the Moon by 2040.

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# Judge Amit Mehta Rules Google Is A Monopolist

WASHINGTON, DC (REUTERS) – A landmark ruling on August 5 that Alphabet’s Google illegally monopolizes Web search also came with a rebuke for the tech giant for obscuring potential evidence in the case, and a warning to other companies about safeguarding data.

US District Judge Amit Mehta lambasted Google for allegedly failing to preserve internal chats and abusing protections for

legal communications, but he declined to formally sanction the company.

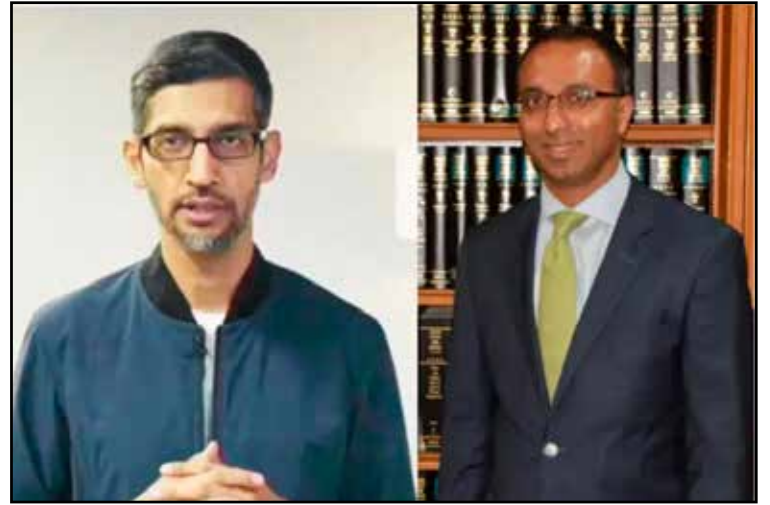
The Justice Department had asked Mehta to punish Google for what the government called its “systematic destruction” of employee messages and “flagrant misuse” of the attorney-client privilege that shields communications with lawyers.

Mehta said it was not necessary to rule on Google’s evidence

handling to decide whether the company violated antitrust law.

“Still, the court is taken aback by the lengths to which Google goes to avoid creating a paper trail for regulators and litigants,” Mehta wrote. Google “trained its employees, rather effectively, not to create ‘bad’ evidence,” he said.

Google and the Justice Department declined to comment on Mehta’s decision not to sanction Google over its evidence safe-



CEO Sundar Pichai.

Judge Amit Mehta.

guards. Google has denied violating antitrust law and said on it will appeal the court’s ruling. It has also denied mishandling evidence.

Google had a longstanding practice of automatically deleting employees’ chat messages after 24 hours unless the person clicked a “history on” button to preserve them. It changed the policy last year to better safeguard chats.

Mehta also criticized the company about its “communicate with care” initiative, which involved Google employees adding lawyers to messages and marking them “attorney/client privileged.”

Mehta said his decision to not sanction Google was not an exoneration.

“Any company that puts the onus on its employees to identify and preserve relevant evidence does so at its own peril,” Mehta wrote. “Google avoided sanctions in this case. It may not be so lucky in the next one.”

Mehta has been praised for his carefully documented response in the case. As a judge, he has made significant rulings, including cases related to the January 6 Capitol riots. He denied former President Donald Trump’s attempt to dismiss civil lawsuits holding him accountable for inciting the riot.

Mehta has a BA degree in Political Science and Economics from Georgetown University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Sunday, August 18</p> <p>9:00 AM: Sri Chakra Puja and Ganapati Homa</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Monday, August 19</p> <p>9:00 AM: Rakhi Purnima Celebration</p> <p>6:30 PM: Discourse and Bhajans</p>

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**BUSINESS**

## FedEx CEO Meets Adani In India



NEW DELHI, (IANS) – Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on July 29 had an “insightful meeting” with FedEx CEO Rajesh Subramaniam, adding that he is “excited” about future collaborations with the global logistics company.

Subramaniam said recently that India is a key market for the company as its GDP continues to grow amid robust talent and digital transformation.

FedEx has launched its advanced capability community in India that will serve as a hub for the company’s technological and digital innovation.

Adani appreciated Subramaniam for visiting Mundra to see the Group’s world-class Port and Special Economic Zone.

## Ambani’s Reliance Gets US Nod To Import Oil From Venezuela



Photo: REUTERS/Shailesh Andrade

NEW DELHI, (Reuters) – India’s Reliance Industries has received approval from the United States to resume importing oil from Venezuela despite Washington’s sanctions, a source familiar with the matter said on July 24.

The United States in April re-imposed sanctions on Venezuela’s oil sector in response to President Nicolas Maduro’s failure to meet his election commitments but said some firms would be authorized to trade and operate in Venezuela.

The news was first reported by Bloomberg.

Before U.S. oil sanctions were first imposed on Venezuela in 2019, Reliance was the second-largest individual buyer of Venezuelan crude after China.

Reliance had re-submitted a request to the U.S. in May for authorization to import crude oil from Venezuela after the U.S. Treasury Department refused to grant licenses to Indian refiners including Reliance following the easing of sanctions in October.

Indian refiners, however, resumed Venezuelan oil purchases through intermediaries, until the sanctions kicked in again in June. India’s Oil and Natural Gas Corp has also sought a waiver from the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control to lift crude oil from Venezuela, an industry source said.

## Air India To Fly A350s On JFK, Newark Routes



### India-West Staff Reporter

NEW YORK, NY – Air India on July 22 said its A350-900 aircraft will operate on the Delhi-New York JFK route from November 1 and will begin Delhi-Newark flights from January 2, 2025.

The A350 will introduce the airline’s Premium Economy class for the first time on the two routes. It will offer 24 wide seats arranged in a 2-4-2 configuration in a dedicated cabin that comes with extra legroom, a press release said.

The aircraft will also feature 28 private suites in Business class with full-flat beds in a 1-2-1 configuration, spacious Each suite in Business provides direct aisle access, sliding privacy doors, and a personal wardrobe. It will also have 264 Economy seats arranged in a 3-4-3 configuration.

The A350 flights will also feature new chinaware, new tableware and glassware, new bedding, and updated amenity kits for Business and Premium Economy cabins, exclusively designed by Ferragamo and TUMI, respectively, the release said.

The airline operates its three-class-configured Boeing 777-200LR on all non-stop flights between India (Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru) and San Francisco with upgraded cabin interiors, except a thrice-a-week Delhi-San Francisco service. It also operates similar aircraft on Mumbai-New York JFK and Mumbai-Newark routes.



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# Cop Who Laughed At Jaahnavi's Death Fired

## India-West News Desk

SEATTLE, WA – A Seattle Police Department officer has been terminated following outrage over his insensitive remarks and laughter after the tragic death of Jaahnavi Kandula, a 23-year-

old Indian student. Kandula was struck and killed by a speeding police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave while crossing a street on January 23 last year.

Bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department captured Officer Daniel Auderer

laughing and making callous comments after the incident. Auderer was heard saying, "Uh, I think she went up on the hood, hit the windshield, and then when he hit the brakes, flew off the car... But she is dead." He then "laughed hard for four seconds," according to



Policeman Kevin Dave.

the department's Disciplinary Action Report.

Auderer's body-worn camera also recorded him saying, "Yeah, just write a check. Just, yeah (laughter). \$11,000. She was 26, anyway. She had limited value." In an interview with the Office of Police Accountability, Auderer claimed he was mocking city attorneys who might handle a wrongful death lawsuit.

Interim Chief Sue Rahr announced Auderer's termination in an internal email, stating that his actions had inflicted deep pain on Kandula's family and brought shame to the department. "For me to allow the officer to remain on our force would only bring further dishonor to the entire department," she said.



Rahr emphasized the difficult balance between intent and impact in this case, noting the severe damage to public trust caused by Auderer's comments. She highlighted the

widespread outrage, even among typically pro-police individuals, over the dehumanizing nature of Auderer's laughter and remarks. "This authority rests on the public's trust that officers will demonstrate respect for the sanctity of human life. The officer's laughter and callous comments about the 'limited value' of Ms. Kandula's life displayed a cruel mockery of the sanctity of her life. That is a betrayal of that sacred trust," Rahr stated in her email.

## Indian Student Jailed for 12 Years For Sexual Misconduct

### India-West Staff Reporter

ERIE, PA – An Indian national residing here on a student visa has been sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for attempting to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity, US Attorney Eric G. Olshan said.

Upendra Aduro, 32, was sentenced by District Judge Susan Paradise Baxter. In addition to his prison term, Aduro will be subject to 10 years of supervised release following his incarceration.

The conviction stems from an investigation that revealed Aduro's communication with an undercover detective posing as a thirteen-year-old girl between September 20 and October 6, 2022.

Using social media, Aduro repeatedly expressed his intent to engage in sexual activities with the purported minor and sent several images of adult pornography to the

detective. His intentions escalated to arranging a meeting with the supposed teenager at a park in Millcreek Township, where he was subsequently arrested. A search of Aduro's phone confirmed the incriminating social media communications.

This case falls under the Project Safe Childhood initiative, a nationwide program launched by the Department of Justice to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse. The initiative coordinates federal, state, and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children sexually and to identify and rescue victims.

Olshan emphasized the significance of such efforts in protecting vulnerable minors from predators. "This sentence reflects the seriousness of the crime and our unwavering commitment to safeguarding children from exploitation," Olshan stated.



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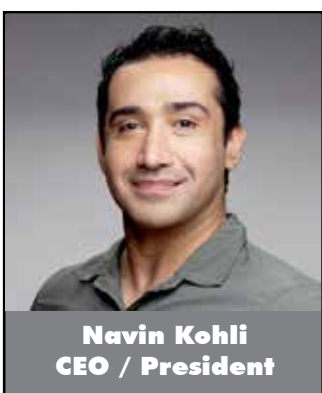
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**COMMUNITY**

**Store Clerk Meer Patel Arrested For Stealing \$1Million Lottery Ticket**



MURFREESBORO, TN – Meer Patel, a store clerk here, has been accused of stealing a \$1 million winning lottery ticket from its rightful owner and attempting to cash in on the prize. The Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office announced that Patel, 23, has been arrested and charged with theft over \$250,000, Fox News reported.

Investigators revealed that the rightful owner, a father from Antioch who wishes to remain anonymous, purchased two winning lottery tickets on July 13 at a Shell gas station. The father handed both tickets to Patel, who was working as the clerk. Patel provided cash for the lesser-valued ticket but allegedly discarded the \$1 million winning ticket into the trash.

Patel then attempted to claim the \$1 million prize at the Tennessee Lottery headquarters, arousing the suspicion of employees. Surveillance footage from the store showed Patel disposing of the trash, retrieving the lottery ticket, and placing it in his pocket.

“Mr. Patel is then seen later in the video celebrating in the store after scratching off the front of the ticket and learning it was a \$1 million winner,” authorities said in a news release. Using the surveillance footage, investigators identified the father who owned the tickets. Initially skeptical, the father was eventually informed about the alleged crime.

Patel remains in custody as the investigation continues.

**Bihar Man Arrested In TX For Selling Counterfeit Cancer Drugs In US**



**India-West Staff Reporter**

HOUSTON, TX – An Indian national has been charged with selling and shipping counterfeit oncology pharmaceuticals worth tens of thousands of dollars into the US, following an indictment by a federal grand jury in Houston on July 25.

The indictment names Sanjay Kumar, 43, from Bihar, as the primary suspect. According to court documents, Kumar and his co-conspirators allegedly organized the sale and distribution of fake cancer drugs, including counterfeit versions of Keytruda, to US residents.

Keytruda, a cancer immunotherapy, is approved in the US for 19 different types of

cancer, including melanoma, lung cancer, head and neck cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, gastric cancer, cervical cancer, and breast cancer. Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC holds the exclusive rights to manufacture Keytruda for interstate commerce, a statement from the Department of Justice said.

Kumar was apprehended on June 26 in Houston after he traveled to the US to negotiate further expansion of his counterfeit drug business.

The charges against Kumar include one count of conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit drugs and four counts of trafficking in counterfeit drugs. If found guilty, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for each count.

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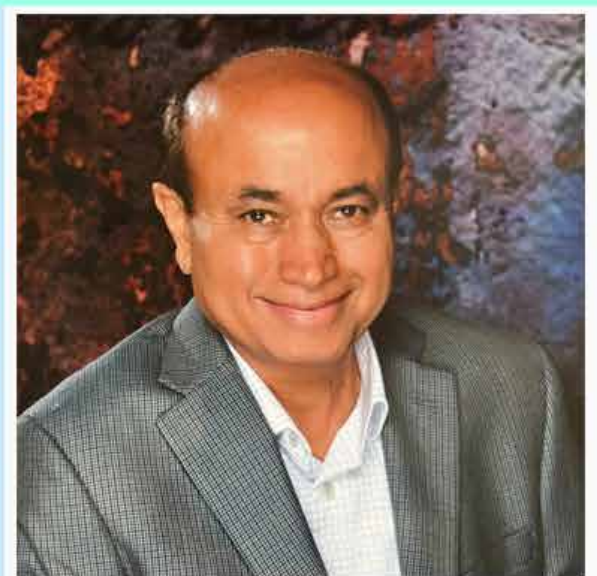
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05:00 PM – 08:30 PM	<b>Samooohika Gita Parayanam</b> followed by Mangala Harathi, Mantra Pushpam, Chaturveda Swasthi, followed by dinner prasad	07:00 AM - 08:00 AM	<b>Mahanyasa Parayanam</b>
<b>Day 2 – Thursday Aug 22nd, 2024</b>		08:00 AM - 09:00 AM	Breakfast
08:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Suprabhatam, Archana, Mandaparchana, <b>Samooohika Gita Parayanam</b> followed by lunch prasad	09:00 AM - 01:00 PM	<b>Maharudra Parayanam and Abhishekam</b> followed by lunch prasad
05:00 PM – 09:00 PM	<b>Samooohika Gita Parayanam</b> followed by Mangala Harathi, Mantra Pushpam, Chaturveda Swasthi, followed by dinner prasad	03:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Cultural Programs
<b>Day 3 – Friday Aug 23rd, 2024</b>		04:00 PM - 07:00 PM	<b>Sri Chakra Navavarana Puja, Ashtakshari Sahita Dwadasakshari Mantra, Samooohika Bhagavad Gita Homam by 12 couples Yajamana Sponsors</b>
08:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Suprabhatam, Sri Siva Kameswari Abhishekam, Lalita Sahasranama Parayana, Archana, Mandaparchana, <b>Ritwik Varuna</b> followed by lunch prasad.	07:00 PM - 08:30 PM	<b>Rudra Kramarchana</b> Mangala Harathi, Mantra Pushpam, Chaturveda Swasthi, followed by dinner prasad
04:00 PM – 06:30 PM	<b>Ganapati Sahasra Modaka Homam, Chandi Homam</b>	<b>Day 5 – Sunday Aug 25th, 2024</b>	
06:30 PM – 08:30 PM	<b>Vaibhava Lakshmi Kubera Deepa Puja, Lakshmi Sahasra Nama Parayana</b> followed by Mangala Harathi, Mantra Pushpam, Chaturveda Swasthi, followed by dinner prasad	06:00 AM – 06:30 AM	Suprabhatam, Mandaparchana, Archana.
		06:30 AM – 07:30 AM	<b>Surya Namaskaram</b>
		07:30 AM – 08:30 AM	Breakfast
		08:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Sudarshana Nara Simha Homam, Maharudra Homam</b> followed by purnahuti
		11:30 AM – 01:30 PM	<b>Procession with 108 Kalasham &amp; Kalasabhishekam, Siva Parvati and Rukmini Kalyanam</b> followed by Lunch Prasad
		03:30 PM – 05:30 PM	<b>Veda Ashirvachanam, Ritwik &amp; Pandita Satkaram</b>
		05:30 PM – 06:30 PM	Cultural Programs
		06:30 PM – 07:30 PM	<b>Sri Krishna Puja, Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations Starts, Dahi Handi by Kids</b>
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With heavy hearts, we share that our dear Siva Ramakrishnan Mama has departed us. His boundless service to our community is unforgettable, and he will live forever in our hearts.

Agoram Sivaramakrishnan, our Panditji, had his Adhyanam from two eminent organizations: H.H. Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Shri Mahaswami Vidya Peeta Trust at Sivasthanam in Thenambakkam, Kanchipuram and Thiruvaidaimarthur Prayoga Pathasala attached to the Kanchi Sankara Mutt.

He had been the Chief Priest at the Sanatan Dharma Temple for the last 25 years. The board of directors of Matiya Patidar Samaj of Southern California will miss Panditji and offer his family their wholehearted condolences.

He guided countless devotees on the spiritual path through his teachings of Vedic principles, chanting and singing. Men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds, including his peers, benefited from his tireless teachings and rituals.

He spearheaded numerous auspicious events and rituals in many temples all over the world. His beautiful singing still echoes in our ears.

Mama touched many people with his compassion and humor. He will be remembered, not only as a learned Pandit, but also for his love, respect and affection for people he came across - whether a devotee of the faith or a passerby in need of food and shelter.

He is irreplaceable in our community. We miss him dearly and our heartfelt condolences go out to his family. His loss is monumental to the entire community.

Sri Siva Kameswari Temple, VEDA Circle, and the entire Indian community celebrate the life of Veda Pandit Sri Siva Ramakrishnan Mama.

# Salman Rushdie's Attacker Faces Federal Terrorism Charges

NEW YORK, NY (REUTERS) – The man accused of attempting to kill author Salman Rushdie in New York two years ago now faces federal terrorism charges for his alleged support for Hezbollah, according to an indictment unsealed on July 24.



The grand-jury indictment charges Hadi Matar, the New Jersey man already facing state charges of attempted murder and assault for a 2022 knife attack on Rushdie, with three terror charges, including carrying out an act of terrorism and providing material support to Hezbollah, a U.S.-designated terrorist group that was founded by Iran in Lebanon during the early 1980s.

Matar faces life in prison if found guilty on the federal terror charges.

“We allege that in attempting to murder Salman Rushdie in New York in 2022, Hadi Matar committed an act of terrorism in the name of Hizballah ...” Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said in a written statement.

Iran’s supreme leader at the time, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, pronounced a fatwa, or religious edict, calling upon Muslims to kill Rushdie upon publication of Rushdie’s 1988 book, “The Satanic Verses,” considered blasphemous by some Muslims. Rushdie, the acclaimed India-born novelist, then spent a decade in hiding.

Prosecutors allege that Matar was motivated in part by a 2006 speech given by Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in which he endorsed the fatwa calling for Rushdie’s death. Hezbollah’s media office in Lebanon did not reply to a request for comment on the charges tying Matar to the group. Matar, who has Lebanese roots, has pleaded not guilty on the state charges of second-degree attempted murder and assault. He is detained in the Chautauqua County Jail in Mayville, New York, awaiting trial.

Matar is a Shi’ite Muslim. Hezbollah is a Shi’ite Islamist group and shares the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran. While Iran’s pro-reform government of President Mohammad Khatami distanced itself from the fatwa in the late 1990s, it was never lifted.

Rushdie was blinded in his right eye and his left hand was badly injured by the stabbing attack in August 2022 on a stage just as Rushdie was to deliver a lecture at an educational retreat near Lake Erie. This year the writer released a memoir recounting the assault, “Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder.”

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# Trump's MAGA Republicans Unleash Racist Attacks Against Usha Vance

## India-West News Desk

MILWAUKEE, WI – In a disturbing turn of events, Usha Chilukuri, the Indian American wife of JD Vance, has become the latest target of racist attacks fueled by the far-right and MAGA extremists. These attacks come in the wake of Vance's selection as the vice-presidential pick by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Chilukuri, who has Indian roots and is the daughter of immigrants from Vishakhapatnam, India, has been the subject of intense scrutiny and vitriol. Far-right figures and MAGA supporters have expressed their disdain for her heritage, claiming that her presence would lead to a softer stance on immigration issues.

Stew Peters, a far-right internet personality, in a racist tweet posted a photo of the couple, with this: "There is an obvious Indian coup taking place in the U.S. right before our eyes."

Nick Fuentes, who has the ear of Trump and visited him at the White House when the former was in office is an American far-right political commentator. He questioned Vance's loyalty to "white identity" due to his marriage to Chilukuri and their decision to name their child Vivek. Fuentes sneered, "Do we really expect that the guy who has an Indian wife and named their kid Vivek is going to support white identity?"

Fuentes further criticized Vance, calling



his marriage "non-traditional" and casting doubt on his rapid political rise. He posted, "Another power-hungry sociopath with the

put-on folksy Rustbelt act, obligatory non-combat tour in the Middle East, non-traditional marriage, and conspicuously rapid political ascendancy."

Jaden McNeil, another far-right commentator and activist, also took to Elon Musk's X to mock Vance's immigration stance, sarcastically stating, "I'm sure this guy is going to be great on immigration," while posting a picture of Vance, Chilukuri, and their newborn baby.

Speculation and misinformation continued to spread as some individuals falsely attributed a Hindu prayer at the Republican National Convention (RNC) to Vance's influence. In reality, the prayer in question was a Sikh prayer which also drew attacks from the right wing extremists who back Trump.

The attacks on Usha Chilukuri underscore a broader issue of racism and xenophobia within certain segments of the far-right, highlighting their intolerance and prejudice against individuals of immigrant backgrounds.

# Trump Tells Christians They Won't Have To Vote After This Election

Contd from P1 campaign where his Democratic opponents accused him of being a threat to democracy, and after his attempt to overturn his 2020 defeat to President Joe Biden, an effort that led to the deadly insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Trump was speaking at an event organized by the conservative group Turning Point Action in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump said: "Christians, get out and vote, just this time. "You won't have to do it anymore. Four more years, you know what, it will be fixed, it will be fine, you won't have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians."

He added, "I love you, Christians. I'm a Christian. I love you, get out, you got to get out and vote. In four years, you don't have to vote again, we'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote."

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung did not directly address Trump's remarks when asked to clarify them.

Jason Singer, a Harris campaign spokesperson, in a statement did not directly address Trump's remarks about Christians not having to vote again.

Singer described Trump's overall speech as "bizarre" and "backward looking".

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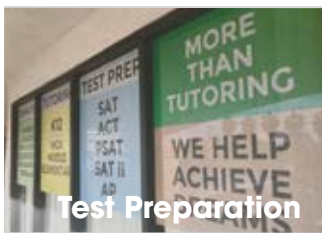


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# Dr. Amish Shah Wins AZ Primary, Dems Eye Flipping Seat

**India-West News Desk**

PHOENIX, AZ – Former state legislator Amish Shah has emerged victorious in a crowded primary to represent Arizona’s First Congressional District. Shah, a 47-year-old Indian American physician secured the Democratic primary, setting the stage for a November showdown with seven-term incumbent Re-

publican David Schweikert.

The congressional seat is seen as being possible to be flipped by Democrats: Schweikert, who easily defeated his primary opponents Kim George and Robert Backie, had only narrowly won re-election in 2022 by 3,200 votes.

The Indian American Impact Fund congratulating Shah, pointed out, “Amish’s district, AZ-01, will

be one of the highest-profile races in the country and a must-flip for Democrats to take back the House. Republicans have already started launching attacks his way, and we need to counter them with a strong response.”

The National Republican Congressional Committee labeled Shah as “an extreme liberal” and criticized his stances on taxes,



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healthcare, and border security, predicting that Arizonans would reject his policies.

The Associated Press called the race for Shah on August 1 evening after he garnered almost 24% of the votes, edging out his closest competitor, Andrei Cherny, by about three percentage points. Cherny, a former assistant Arizona attorney general and past chairman of the Arizona Democratic Party, who had notable endorsements from former President Bill Clinton and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego.

Marlene Galán-Woods, a former broadcast journalist and widow of former Attorney General Grant Woods, closely followed Cherny in the race. She too had the support of prominent Democrats, including Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes and former Governor Janet Napolitano.

Born and raised in Chicago, Shah has spent 20 years as an emergency department physician. His parents immigrated from India in the 1960s, with his father being a Jain and his mother a Hindu. Shah has spoken about his challenging

childhood and experiences with bullying, which shaped his commitment to public service.

“Growing up in Chicago, I had a pretty rough childhood. I was bullied, and there were times I would go to my room and pray that God would just take my life, because there seemed to be no safe place for me,” he has said.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a medical degree from Northwestern University, completed a Master’s in Public Health from UC Berkeley, and underwent residency training in Emergency Medicine at New York City’s busiest Level I trauma center. Shah has also served as a faculty member at Mount Sinai Medical Center and completed a Sports Medicine fellowship at the University of Arizona. He is board certified in both Emergency Medicine and Sports Medicine and continues to practice throughout Arizona.

In addition to his medical career, Shah founded the Arizona Vegetarian Food Festival to promote healthy eating.

## Virginia Man Charged With Threatening Vice President Harris

WASHINGTON, DC (REUTERS) – A Virginia man was charged with making violent online threats against vice president Kamala Harris days after she began her presidential campaign.

Frank Carillo was charged on August 2 in federal court in Virginia with threatening the vice president after posting a series of messages targeting Harris on the social media site GETTR, according to court records.

“Kamala Harris needs to be put on fire alive I will do it personally if no one else does,” read one post cited in court documents. Another said Harris is “going to regret ever trying to become president.”

The messages were posted on

July 27, six days after President Joe Biden announced he would not run for reelection and endorsed Harris to take his place as the Democratic candidate.

The account also posted messages targeting Biden and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

FBI agents seized a rifle and a handgun during a search of Carillo’s home, according to court documents.

Carillo was expected to make his first court appearance on August 5. Attorney information for Carillo was not immediately available.

Justice Department officials have been concerned by what they have called a spike in threats to public officials.



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**POLITICS**

# Shri Thanedar Introduces Bill For Veteran Mental Health Protection



Shri Thanedar.

duced H.R. 9091, the “Mental Health Care Provider Retention Act of 2024,” a bill aimed at ensuring American service-members can continue receiving uninterrupted treatment with their current mental health providers after leaving active-duty service.

“Our service members and veterans suffer from mental health issues at a disproportionate rate compared to the general population,” said Rep. Thanedar. “We need immediate legislative ac-

tion to help solve the mental health crisis affecting the members of our armed forces, past and present. By ensuring that our service members have continuity of their mental health care, my legislation will support our troops as they make the difficult transition from active-duty service members to private citizens. We need legislation that fights for our service members in the same way that they have fought for us, and my legislation does just that.”

The proposed bill addresses the urgent need for consistent mental health care for servicemembers, particularly during their transition to civilian life, aiming to mitigate the mental health challenges faced by veterans.

**India-West Staff Reporter**

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Shri Thanedar has intro-

# Rep. Jayapal Introduces Health Over Wealth Act



Pramila Jaypal.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA) have introduced the Health Over Wealth Act. This legislation mandates greater transparency for private equity firms and for-profit companies owning healthcare entities, such as hospitals, nursing homes, and mental health facilities. The bill aims to safeguard workers, patients, and healthcare quality by implementing stronger accountability measures to curb corporate greed and closing tax loopholes benefiting real estate investment trusts profiting from healthcare properties.

The act requires private equity-owned healthcare facilities to disclose debt, executive pay, lobbying and political spending, healthcare costs for patients and insurance plans, and any service, wage, or benefit reductions. Additionally, these firms must set up escrow accounts to cover five years of expenses, ensuring care continuity in case of hospital closure or service reduction.

Jayapal stated, “Private equity firms buying up healthcare systems are simply bad news for patients, leading to worse health outcomes and higher bills. We have a duty to protect patients from greedy corporations that prioritize their bottom line over patient care.” She emphasized her commitment to leading the Health Over Wealth Act with Senator Markey, focusing on cracking down on private equity ownership in healthcare, increasing transparency, closing loopholes, and prioritizing patients over profits.

# Ro Khanna Backs Biden On Term Limits For SC Justices



Ro Khanna.

**India-West Staff Reporter**

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Ro Khanna, co-author of the Supreme Court Term Limits and Regular Appointments Act, has expressed strong support for President Joe Biden’s Supreme Court reform plan. He praised Biden’s proposals, which include term limits for justices and a binding code of conduct, as necessary measures to address the perceived imbalance in the Court’s influence and to restore public confidence in the judiciary.

In response to Biden’s announcement in a Washington Post op-ed, Khanna stated, “Term limits and a binding code of ethics will rebalance the Court and rebuild confidence in our institutions.” He emphasized the importance of these reforms in ensuring accountability and transparency among

Supreme Court justices.

Biden’s reform plan, supported by Khanna, includes binding and enforceable rules requiring justices to disclose gifts, abstain from public political activities, and recuse themselves from cases where they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest.

Additionally, Biden advocates for an 18-year term limit for justices, who currently serve life terms.

A 2020 poll by Fix the Court and PSB revealed that 77 percent of Americans favor term limits for Supreme Court justices.

The idea of term limits has garnered support from various conservative and liberal legal scholars and elected officials. Notably, Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Stephen Breyer, and Justice Elena Kagan have all shown interest in the concept of term limits.

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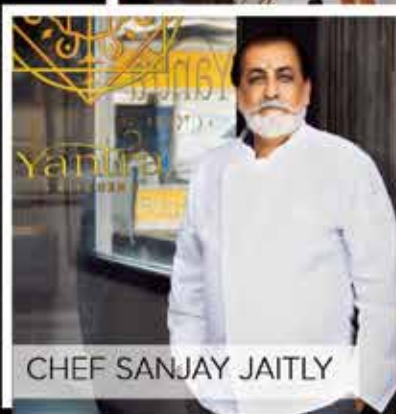
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## Haley Supporting PAC Ignores Her Warning, Shifts To Backing Kamala



**India-West Staff Reporter**

WASHINGTON, DC – Nikki Haley who ran a bitter Republican primary campaign against Donald Trump but has since shifted back to endorsing him, has issued a cease and desist letter to a political action committee (PAC) previously aligned with her campaign.

The group, PIVOTPAC, recently rebranded from ‘Haley Voters for Biden’ to ‘Haley Voters for Harris’ after President Joe Biden exited the presidential race, throwing its support behind Democrat Kamala Harris. Haley’s letter demands that PIVOTPAC stop using her name to

endorse Harris. “Kamala Harris and I are total opposites on every issue. Any attempt to use my name to support her or her agenda is deceptive and wrong,” Haley stated.

The PAC, which has about 7,000 followers and raised almost \$400,000 from anti-Trump groups, has been encouraging Haley supporters to back Harris in the upcoming election. However, Haley’s lawyers argue that the group’s use of her name falsely implies her endorsement of Harris, which is not the case.

In response to the legal threat, the ‘Haley Voters for Harris’ group has declared they will not be sup-

ported. They maintain that they do not speak on behalf of Haley but will continue to advocate for Harris, describing her as the “clear better choice” for the country’s future.

Craig Snyder, the director of ‘Haley Voters for Harris,’ defended the group’s stance in an NPR interview, calling it a “factual statement” of the sentiment among many former Haley supporters who now favor Harris.

The Harris campaign has expressed appreciation for the group’s support. A campaign spokesperson remarked, “We’re glad to have the support of voters who share our vision for a better America.”

## Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Takes On Vivek Ramaswamy



**India-West News Desk**

NEW YORK, NY – In a recent exchange, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) criticized former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for mocking the Democratic strategy of labeling the GOP presidential ticket as “weird.”

Ramaswamy had dismissed this tactic as “dumb & juvenile,” calling for a focus on policy instead. “This whole ‘they’re weird’ argument from the Democrats is dumb & juvenile. This is a presidential election, not a high school prom queen contest. It’s also a tad ironic coming from the party that preaches ‘diversity & inclusion.’ Win on

policy if you can but cut the crap, please,” he wrote.

Ocasio-Cortez responded to Ramaswamy’s July 28 post with a sharp retort. “Being obsessed with repressing women is goofy,” she wrote. “Trying to watch what LGBTQ+ people do all the time is abnormal. Punishing people who don’t have biological offspring is creepy,” she continued. “It’s an incel platform, dude. It’s SUPER weird. And people need to know.”

This exchange comes as Ramaswamy’s close associate, Sen. J.D. Vance, faces scrutiny over past remarks, including calling childless women “cat ladies” and advocating for higher taxes on Americans without children.

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**POLITICS**

# Kamala Harris Picks Tim Walz As Running Mate

Contd. from P1

Midwestern politician whose home state votes reliably for Democrats in presidential elections but is close to Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial battlegrounds.

Such states are seen as critical in deciding the Nov. 5 election, and Walz is widely seen as skilled at connecting with white, rural voters who in recent years have voted broadly for Republican Donald Trump, Harris' rival for the White House.

Harris chose Walz over Josh Shapiro, the popular governor of Pennsylvania, who had been seen as helpful in delivering his crucial battleground state.

Harris, 59, has raised hundreds of millions of dollars and recast the race against Trump with a boost of

energy from her party's base.

Trump campaign officials and surrogates quickly went to work trying to define Walz as a hardcore leftist whose values are out of touch with most Americans.

They criticized his handling of violent riots in Minneapolis following George Floyd's death.

Walz has attacked Trump and Vance as "weird," a catchy insult that has been picked up by the Harris campaign, social media and Democratic activists.

Walz gave the nascent Harris campaign the new attack line in a late July interview: "These are weird people on the other side: They want to take books away. They want to be in your exam room," referring to book bans and women's reproductive consulta-

tions with doctors.

Walz has also assailed claims by Trump and Vance of having middle class credentials.

"They keep talking about the middle class. A robber baron real estate guy and a venture capitalist trying to tell us they understand who we are? They don't know who we are," Walz said in an MSNBC interview.

That approach has struck a chord with the young voters Harris



The Minnesota Governor with his family.

needs to reengage. David Hogg, the co-founder of the gun safety group March for Our Lives, described him as a "great communicator."

The Harris campaign hopes Walz's extensive National Guard career, coupled with a successful run as a high school football coach, and his dad joke videos, opens new tab will attract rural voters who are not yet dedicated to a second Trump term in the White House.

Walz was a relative unknown nationally until the Harris "veepstakes" heated up, but his profile has since surged. A popular member of Congress, he reportedly had the backing of powerful former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was instrumental in persuading Biden to leave the race.

In the 2016 election, Trump won 59% of rural voters; in 2020 that number rose to 65% even though Trump lost the election, according to Pew Research.

In the 2022 governor's race, Walz won with 52.27% to his Republican opponent's 44.61%, although swaths of rural

Minnesota voted for the opponent. While Walz has supported Democratic Party orthodoxy on issues ranging from legalized abortion and same-sex marriage to the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, he also racked up a centrist voting record during his congressional career.

He was a staunch defender of government support for farmers and military veterans, as well as gun-owner rights that won praise from the National Rifle Association, according to The Almanac of American Politics. He subsequently registered a failing grade with the NRA after supporting gun-control measures during his first campaign for governor.

Walz's shift from a centrist representing a single rural district in Congress to a more progressive politician as governor may have been in response to the demands of voters in major cities like Minneapolis-St. Paul.

"He runs the risk of reinforcing some of the worst fears people have of Kamala Harris being a San Francisco liberal," said Ryan Dawkins, a political science professor at Minnesota's Carleton College.

Walz has a ready counterattack. "What a monster. Kids are eating and having full bellies, so they can go learn and women are making their own healthcare decisions," Walz said in a July CNN interview. "So, if that's where they want to label me, I'm more than happy to take the label."

As the state's top executive, Walz mandated the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic and signed a law-making marital rape illegal. He presided over several years of budget surpluses in Minnesota on the road to his 2022 reelection.

During that campaign, Walz touted the backing of several influential labor unions, including the state AFL-CIO, firefighters, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), teachers and others.



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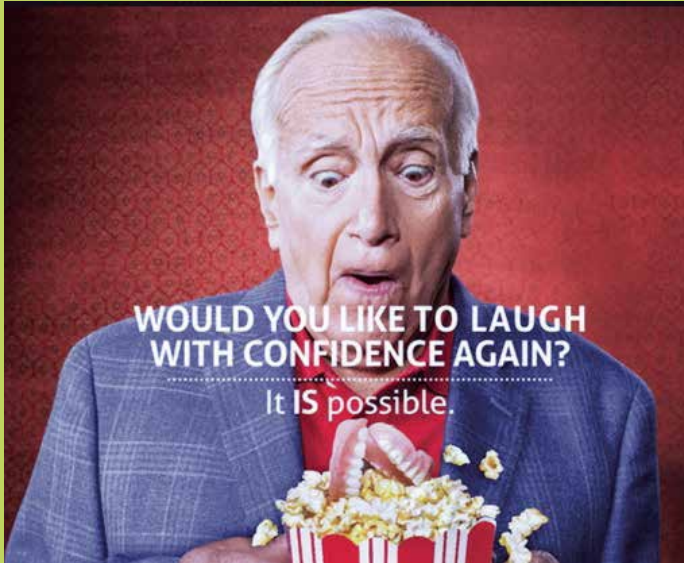


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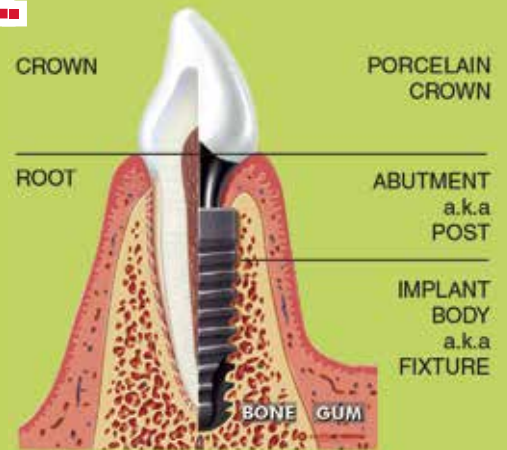
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# India To Sign \$3 Billion Defense Deal With US Firm

NEW DELHI (ANI) – As part of the \$3.1 billion 31 MQ-9B Predator drone deal between India and the US, the American side is proposing to provide consultancy to Indian entities for developing an indigenous advanced unmanned aerial vehicle.

India and the US have been holding discussions for the drone deal for the last few years, under which the three services will get 31 drones, with the Navy getting 15 birds and the Air Force and Army and Air Force getting eight each.

Sources said that the consultancy is expected to cut down the time taken for the



development of a highly advanced drone by a significant margin. The MQ-9B drones are planned to be deployed at four places, including INS Rajaji near Chennai and Porbandar in Gujarat, by the Indian Navy, while the other two services will keep them jointly at two bases in Sarsawa and Gora-khpur in Uttar Pradesh at Air Force bases due to long runway requirements.

The American firm involved in the government-to-government deal is General Atomics, whose officials held discussions with the Indian side in the last few weeks in this regard, sources said.

## Vinay Mohan

Contd. from P1

significant positions. Notably, he served as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office from October 2015 to August 2017.

Born on December 15, 1962, Kwatra holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry from GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology and a Master of Science degree. He also earned a diploma in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Kwatra's diplomatic career includes a tenure as Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Washington DC from 2010 to 2013. He also led the Policy Planning & Research Division of the Ministry of External Affairs from July 2013 to October 2015, and subsequently headed the Americas Division, where he managed India's relations with the United States and Canada. Kwatra is married to Pooja Kwatra, and the couple has two sons.

## YouTube Shorts Has Trillions Of Views In India: CEO Neal Mohan

SAN BRUNO, CA (IANS) – Google-owned YouTube's CEO Neal Mohan on August 7 said that Shorts, which was first launched in India, now has trillions of views in the country and domestic creators are making videos inspired by local trends that go on to define global culture.

Mohan informed that Indian creators are doing more than just sharing stories; they're exporting Indian culture to the world. "More than 11,000 Indian channels have over a million subscribers. That's a 50 per cent increase year over year," he shared the figures as YouTube hosted its flagship event 'Brandcast 2024' in the national capital.

"Times have changed. Now, the creators are the new A-listers. Like Prajakta Koli, whose comedy journey on YouTube led to a starring role in a Netflix series and her Bollywood debut. And Diljit Dosanjh, the first Punjabi artist to perform at Coachella,"

said Mohan who joined YouTube nine years ago.

The creators and artists have business strategies, writers' rooms and production teams and create programs that people love to watch. "And they're driving growth on YouTube.

We're number one in reach and watch-time in India," the YouTube CEO said.

Millions of fans come to YouTube to watch their favorite comedians in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, and more. Fans aren't just tuning in; they're showing up and buying tickets to watch comedians perform on stages around the world.

"These channels started in India, and now they're global... finding audiences everywhere from Australia to the US," Mohan



informed. Cricket videos have had more than 50 billion views over the last year. "This includes all the moments that build community around cricket, like livestream 'watch-alongs' of the T20 World Cup win, creators reenacting big IPL matches,

and videos that show players' lives off the field, like a wedding proposal," Mohan added. He said that YouTube is the most watched streaming service on connected TVs and "our views on connected TVs in India have quadrupled in the last 3 years".

"We've launched AI tools that empower human creativity. Just last month, we started to roll out Dream Screen here. It lets you create AI-generated backgrounds for Shorts just by typing an idea. It's awesome," Mohan said.

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# Maya Rudolph Set To Return To 'SNL' As Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON, DC (ANI) – Maya Rudolph is making a highly anticipated return to 'Saturday Night Live' (SNL), where she will once again take on the role of Vice President Kamala Harris.

This comeback comes as the NBC late-night comedy show gears up to cover the final stretch of the 2024 presidential campaign, according to Deadline.

Rudolph's portrayal of Harris has been widely acclaimed, earning her an Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series in 2020.

The character, affectionately known as 'Mamala,' has become



a fan favorite, especially following Kamala Harris's emergence as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee after President Joe Biden's withdrawal on July 21.

Fans were quick to advocate for Rudolph's return to the SNL stage, and their calls were answered.

According to reports by Deadline, pre-production for Season 3 of Rudolph's Apple TV+ comedy series 'Loot', which was initially scheduled to begin on August 26, has been delayed. The series, produced by NBC sibling Universal Television, will see its production schedule adjusted to

accommodate Rudolph's SNL commitments.

Rudolph's Harris first debuted in a memorable cold open on December 21, 2019, during an episode hosted by Eddie Murphy.

Her performance quickly gained traction, turning into a popular meme and solidifying her place in political satire.

She reprised the role several times following the 2020 election, including during her hosting stint on SNL in March 2021, which earned her a second Emmy for Guest Actress in a Comedy Series.

# Photographer Rohan Shrestha Shoots 'Nice, Funny' Ryan Reynolds

LOS ANGELES, CA (IANS) – Renowned celebrity photographer Rohan Shrestha recently completed an exclusive photoshoot with Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds. This is not the first time Shrestha has photographed global icons, including Lionel Messi, Kevin Hart, and Oprah Winfrey.

Shrestha, who has also worked with Bollywood stars such as Shah Rukh Khan, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, and Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli, is known for his iconic 'White T Series.' This series, featuring celebrities in simple white T-shirts, captures the essence

of stars like Oprah Winfrey with striking simplicity. It began in 2012 with actor Abhay Deol.

For the Reynolds shoot, Shrestha used his signature style to create a series of black-and-white portraits. The photographer shared an anecdote about bonding with Reynolds over his early role in "Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place."

"The first thing I spoke to him about was a show that he was a part of when he was much younger," Shrestha said. "I told him about his character Berg and how I used to watch that growing

up in India. He laughed and said, 'Oh, that's awesome, man, that's still one of my most favorite roles that I've played.'"

Shrestha added that Reynolds is "genuinely nice and funny." He continued, "He made everybody on the crew laugh. For me personally, I was kind of nervous just because it's always nerve-wracking to shoot someone you're in awe of."





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# Rajamouli Netflix Documentary: Full Of Drama

MUMBAI, (IANS) – Watching 'Modern Masters: SS Rajamouli', a Netflix documentary, is like watching the filmmaker's own drama!

Like the Indian-turned-global director treats his hero, the docu-film treats him the same way. Like his emotionally charged films, the documentary, too, tries to tap into the same beats. The last montage sequence of him winning an Oscar and the Golden Globe Award makes the audience cheer for him, just like they do for a hero's triumph.

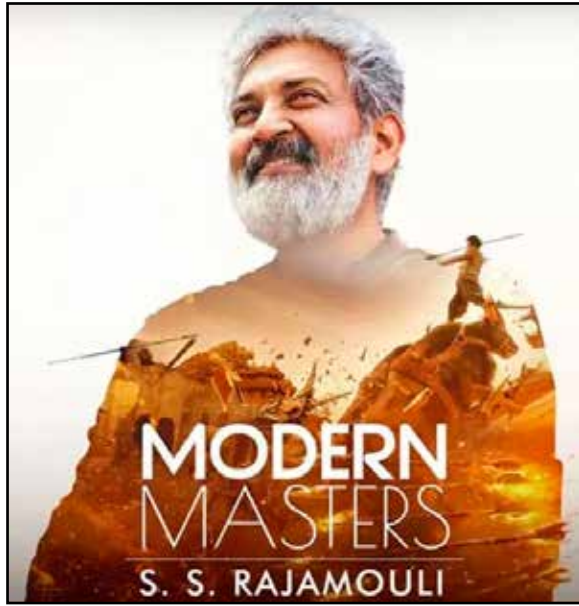
'Modern Masters: SS Rajamouli' celebrates the filmmaker's illustrious journey from a humble background to becoming an international name. Director Raghav Khanna beautifully weaves interview clips into an engaging narrative structure. The film features his elaborate and much-talented family members, actors Prabhas, Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Rana Daggubati, director-producer Karan Johar, and the world-known James Caron.

As Rajamouli talks about witnessing his father's struggle as a filmmaker and its impact on his filmography, it instantly reminds one of Sanjay Leela Bhansali. He, too, talks about how his deprivation of space in childhood led him to become a grandeur filmmaker. It would be exciting to watch someone dive

deep into the analysis of how these voids have gifted the nation the most majestic storytellers. The documentary positions Rajamouli as a 'Karma Yogi'. While discussing his practice of atheism, the filmmaker insightfully talks about Sanatan Dharma and its stance on treating work as God.

V. Vijayendra Prasad, his father, says in the docu-drama that he respects his son's religious choice. It reminds one of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speech where he said, "Unki Nastikta Me Bhi Jo Astikta Hai Main Uska Aadar Karta Hu" (I respect his theism in atheism.)

What brings home is the climatic sequence, highlighting Rajamouli's international accolades, which fills viewers with pride as he brings Indian cinema to the global stage. The documentary concludes on the note that the filmmaker wants to keep the Indian stories



alive through his work.

Anupama Chopra, a celebrated film critic, holds the narration together. But while she is known for her impeccable and insightful questions, the documentary fails to deliver the audience a peek into Rajamouli's process. It doesn't tell us much about his process, imagination, what the worldwide acclaim has done to him, or what he has in store next for cinema lovers.

While the documentary captures Rajamouli's achievements, it does not entirely fulfil the promise of its title, 'Modern Masters'. Instead, it maintains a laudatory tone, focusing more on his accolades than his filmmaking expertise.



## Google Maps Lists NJ Home With Bachchan Statue As Tourist Site

### India-West News Desk

EDISON, NJ – A life-size statue of Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan, installed by Indian American businessman Gopi Seth, here, at his home, has been a popular tourist attraction and has now been recognized by Google Maps as a tourist site.

Seth placed the statue outside his residence in August 2022, and it has drawn an increasing number of visitors.

Over the past two years, fans of Bachchan have flocked to the site, capturing photos and selfies and sharing their experiences on social media. Owner Seth told the media that 20 to 25 cars with tourists arrive at the front of his home each day. *Photo: @GopiSheth*

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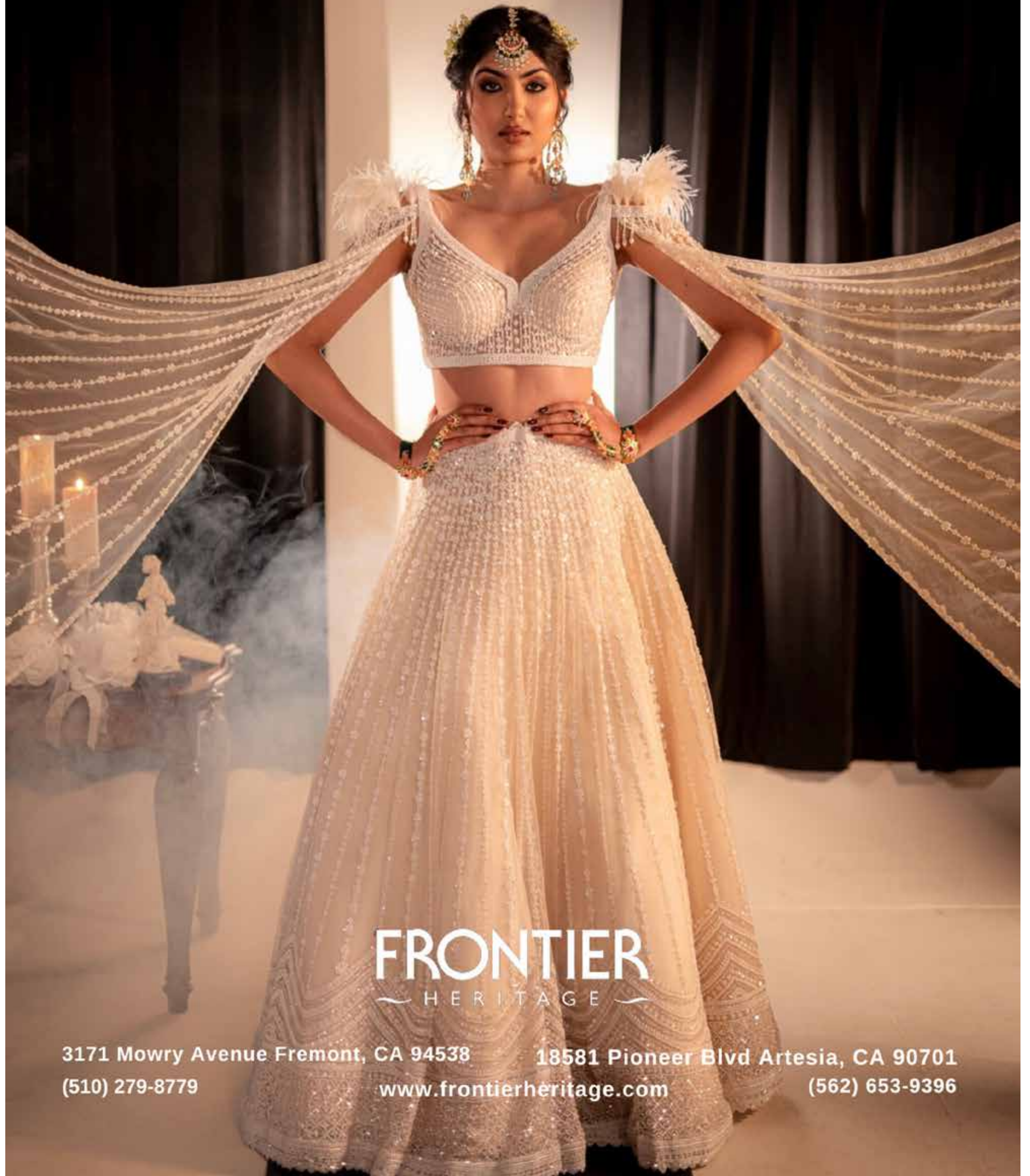
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