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JOURNAL

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Rahul Gandhi Meets Congressional Representatives On Capitol Hill



Rahul Gandhi at the meeting hosted by CA Congressman Brad Sherman.

WASHINGTON DC (ANI) – Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has interacted with Indian diaspora besides students and faculty at universities during his visit to the United States, also met US lawmakers.

The meeting, which took place at Rayburn House Office Building, here, was hosted by California Congressman Bradley Sherman and those present included Reps. Jonathan Jackson, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Barbara Lee, Shri Thanedar, Jesus G. “Chuy” Garcia, Hank Johnson and Jan Schakowsky.

The presence of Rep. Ilhan Omar who has often criticized India on its treatment of Muslims and made pro-Pakistan statements has angered officials in Delhi and also provided fodder to political opponents who have seized on the moment.

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Monumental Hanuman Statue Unveiled In Texas



See Story on P20

Indian Americans Clamoring To Attend Modi's NY Event

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Over 24,000 Indian Americans have registered to attend the mega event titled 'Modi & US: Progress Together,' scheduled for September 22 at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which has a capacity of 15,000. Organized by the Indo-American Community of USA (IACU), the event will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Indian leader is scheduled to address the high-level UN General Assembly session here on September 26, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN.

According to the IACU, registrations for the Long Island event have



This gathering comes 10 years after Modi's massive community address at Madison Square Garden in 2014.

been facilitated through 590 community organizations across the country, all of who are participating as 'Welcome Partners.' Indian Americans from at least 42 states are expected to attend, with particularly strong participation from the tri-state area.

The event will also feature cultural performances and appearances by prominent Indian Americans in business, science, entertainment, and the arts. Attendees will include representatives from all religious communities, organizers said.

Akshaya Patra Raises \$600K At Annual Event



Rika Shah was honored for her philanthropic work.

India-West Staff Reporter

IRVINE, CA – The Akshaya Patra charity gala, held at the Hilton Irvine on August 24, raised over

\$600,000 to address classroom hunger and malnutrition in India. The event, attended by nearly 320 people, featured significant

Contd. on P18

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COMMUNITY

IALA Marks 25 Years, Celebrates India In San Fernando Valley

India-West Staff Reporter

ENCINO, CA – On August 24, the Hjelte Sports Center here transformed into a vibrant celebration of Indian culture, as thousands gathered to commemorate India's Independence Day.

The event, organized by the India Association of Los Angeles (IALA), marked the organization's 25th anniversary—a silver jubilee of uniting the community through heritage and cultural festivities.

The celebration, a spectacular showcase of a “mini-India,” featured local talent representing the diverse cultures of India. Attendees were treated to an array of performances, reflecting India's rich heritage through music, dance, and art.

The event was attended by the deputy consul general of India in San Francisco Rakesh Adlakha, LA city councilman John Lee and LAUSD Board Member Scott Schmerelson, among others. Community leaders also came out in force to show their support.

IALA Chairman Kankansinh Zala praised India's remarkable progress and global influence. IALA President Sunil Agrawal expressed pride in the achievements of Indian Americans, noting their impactful contributions across various sectors. In a special moment, a representa-

tive of Congressman Brad Sherman presented the US flag to Agrawal and Zala, along with a certificate certifying that the flag was flown over Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Lee praised IALA for creating a space where people can experience the multifaceted richness of Indian culture, from arts and entertainment to Indian cuisine.

Adlakha spoke to the strength of the Indian American community and their significant role in strengthening the bonds between India and the US with his presence underscoring the importance of cultural events in fostering international relationships.

The event featured a dazzling cultural show curated by Vice President of Culture, Hezal Shah, Falguni Zala, and her team. Attendees were treated a variety of performances, including classical Kathak, energetic Bhangra, fusion dances, and Bollywood numbers. Performances by groups such as Kathak Kala Academy, Ghungru, Rhythm, and Dhol Tasha were a highlight, showcasing the talents of children, adults, and professionals alike.

The audience was also treated to a special performance by renowned singer Yash Wadali. His captivating voice and powerful performances mesmerized the crowd, adding a star-studded highlight to an already memorable event.

With over 60 booths, the fair

offered something for everyone. From fashion and food to nonprofit organizations, the booths, managed by Parmesh Shah and Manmohan Chopra, drew large crowds who shopped, ate, and soaked in the festive atmosphere.

The India Pavilion, managed by Nisha Rawal, Nalini, and Rekha Khandelwal, was a popular attraction for children, providing a hands-on experience with Indian arts and crafts, helping them connect with their cultural roots.

A key highlight of the day was the free health fair, organized by Dr. Bama Sridhar. Thousands of visitors took advantage of free health check-ups and received guidance on diet and nutrition.

An appreciation ceremony, emceed by Raman Chadha and Dhara Patel, saw the Deputy Consul General Adlakha presenting plaques to the event's major sponsors.

The day also saw the release of IALA's annual magazine, which featured a cover story dedicated to the success of Indian Americans, highlighting their significant contributions to America's progress.

As IALA continues its tradition of organizing this annual fair, it remains a pillar of cultural unity and pride for Indian Americans in the San Fernando Valley, organizers said.



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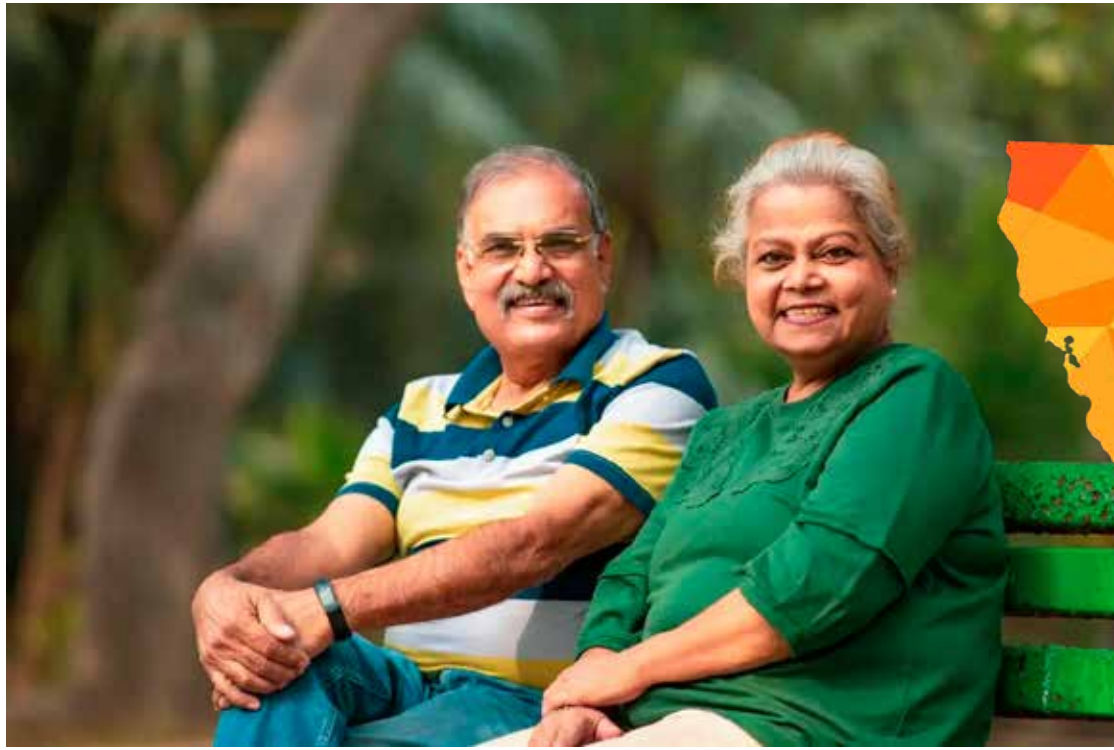
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COMMENTARY

California's Aging Services Offer Valuable Resources For Older Adults

SACRAMENTO, CA – As we grow older, our needs and priorities change. In California, a wide



California Department of AGING

Employment Opportunities

Looking for a job? Free training and job placement services are available for older Californians.

Emergency Preparedness

Planning for emergencies is especially important as we age. California offers resources to help you prepare for natural disasters, power outages, and other emergencies. Creating a personal emergency plan, keeping an emergency kit ready, and staying informed about local resources can make all the difference.

Support for Caregivers

If you are caring for an older adult, there are programs like Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) and the Family Caregiver Support Program offering respite, counseling, and assistance with paperwork. CRCs also provide action plans for families dealing with dementia.

Legal Assistance

Facing issues like consumer fraud, elder abuse, or age discrimination? Legal Services are available to help with Social Security, health insurance, pensions, and more.

All these services and more are coordinated through local Area Agencies on Aging. Find yours by calling the California Aging and Adult Information Line at 800-510-2020 or visiting aging.ca.gov.

range of services is available to help you maintain your independence, stay connected, and lead a fulfilling life. Whether you're looking for support with daily tasks, health care guidance, or planning for the future, California's aging services are here to help.

Aging in Place

Many of you may prefer to stay in your own home as you get

older. California offers programs that can assist with home repairs, transportation, and in-home care. Additionally, health and social care programs, including day centers with activities like arts and exercise, help you stay independent.

Nutrition Services

You can enjoy home-delivered meals or gather for group meals at local centers. For those with

limited income, there are options to get fresh produce and other food benefits through the CalFresh Expansion program.

Health Insurance Guidance

Confused about health insurance options? The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) provides guidance on Medicare and long-term care insurance.

Get Ready. Register To Vote – Against Hate

By SHAKEEL SYED, Board Member, AAPI Equity Alliance

I remember 9/11, and the years to come, vividly. My wife, Saira, and I sat frozen as we watched the attack unfold on national television. As a South Asian and Muslim family, neither of us were prepared for the senseless loss of lives and how this tragedy would impact us and our community.

In the days after, three South Asian Americans were killed in acts of hate: Balbir Singh Sodhi, a 49-year-old Sikh; Waqar Hasan, a 46-year-old Muslim; and Vasudev Patel, a 49-year-old Hindu. These swift hate killings produced im-

mense fear, paranoia and distrust that pervaded our communities.

To show our patriotism, many of us bought American flags – red, white, and blue on our lawns, cars, and clothes. But all it takes is having brown skin and a foreign name to make Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian communities permanent suspects and foreigners.

From the Patriot Act that allowed law enforcement and government agencies to spy on ordinary American citizens to the Special Registration program that interrogated 80,000 immigrant Muslim men and deported 13,000 – only for none to be connected to any terrorist activity.

In 2001, I made a choice to fight even harder for those unfairly targeted by the slew of policies that allowed mass surveillance, detention and deportation. Unfortunately, not much has changed 20+ years later. With the atrocious war in Gaza, we once again see the same wave of Islamophobia here at home. However, this time, we're prepared to fight back.

This November, we all have a critical choice to make. As the fastest-growing group of voters in the country, the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) community can choose to

use their power to vote for progress.

Get ready. I urge you to check your voter registration and, if you haven't already, register to vote.

We all deserve to belong and to

live our lives freely without fear.

Now is the time to come together and rise above divisiveness in this beautiful nation we all call home.

Go here: <https://vote.gov/register>.



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India Association Of Sacramento Celebrates I-Day



Nazma Akhtar, Congressman Dr. Ami Bera, Roseville Mayor Bruce Houdesheldt, Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen, and Folsom Councilmember YK Chalamcharla.

IAS also hosted three discussions: "College Seminar," "Curbing Anti-Bias & Cultivating Safety of the Local Indian Diaspora," and "Impact of Social Media on Emotional and Physical Health."

The IAS sports committee conducted various indoor and

outdoor sports events, including cricket, chess, badminton, table tennis, carroms, painting, volleyball, and throwball.

For 2024, IAS said that it had allocated funds to two organizations. Weave and to Pardada Pardadi Education Society (PPES). Weave, a Sacramento-based charity, supports survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking. PPES focuses on rural development in India through education, employment, and the empowerment of girls and women.



India-West Staff Reporter

SACRAMENTO, CA – Over 3,000 Indian Americans from the Greater Sacramento area gathered to celebrate Indian Independence Day, organized by the Indian Association of Sacramento (IAS) on August 24. The event took place at the Hiram Johnson High School Theater, which was adorned with Indian and US flags.

Attendees, many dressed in traditional Indian attire, participated enthusiastically by waving both Indian and Ameri-

can flags and chanting slogans such as "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Vande Mataram," and "Jai Hind." The celebrations began with the singing of the Indian and American national anthems.

The event featured over seven hours of continuous, vibrant Indian cultural performances that captivated the audience, organizers said, garnering praise from attendees.

Consul Chittireddy Sripal Reddy from the San Francisco Indian Consulate was in attendance, along with several elected officials including Padmashri awardee



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COMMUNITY

Torrance Temple Draws Community; Culture Showcased



India-West Staff Reporter

TORRANCE, CA – The Sri Panchamukha Hanuman Temple and Religious Academy hosted a vibrant celebration of India’s 78th Independence Day with the event titled “Jai Ho.” The celebration blended patriotism, Bollywood flair, and environmental awareness, drawing in over 300 participants who showcased their talents through cultural performances, including traditional dances, songs, yoga demonstrations, and speeches.

A standout feature of the event was the “Parade of States,” which visually celebrated the diversity of India’s regions, highlighting the rich cultural traditions across the country. The celebration also included captivating flag dances set to the iconic songs “Jai Ho” and “Vande Mataram,” evoking a deep sense of national pride and unity.

In addition to the patriotic-themed performances, the event featured a thought-provoking act titled “Saving Mother Earth,” which resonated with attendees and dignitaries alike, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation.

One of the most touching moments of the day was the exchange of American and Indian flags, followed by the singing of both national anthems, symbolizing unity and shared values between the two nations.

The event also honored two exceptional individuals—

a veteran from the Indian Air Force and a young community volunteer—continuing the tradition of recognizing those who have made significant contributions to society.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, a vibrant marketplace offered unique finds, from jewelry and ethnic clothing to mouthwatering culinary delights. Children enjoyed carnival-style activities, including sweet treats and a thrilling 65-foot obstacle course.

Building on the success of last year’s event, which drew over 1,500 attendees, this year’s celebration continued to be a highly anticipated gathering. Dignitaries such as Torrance City Mayor George Chen, Council Members Asam Sheikh, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce President Donna Duperron, and Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor John Cruikshank

were in attendance, showing their support for the community.

In their speeches, the dignitaries praised the Sri Panchamukha Hanuman Temple Board and Executive Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing such a remarkable event. The meticulous planning and dedication of the team were evident throughout the day.

Narasimha Acharya, the founder of the Sri Panchamukha Hanuman Temple, proudly announced the temple’s acquisition of Dhivya Dham, its new home. He emphasized the temple’s contributions to the community since its founding in 2014 and urged continued support as they embark on this exciting new chapter.

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Imagine a world where every brilliant idea has the chance to flourish, where entrepreneurs and investors connect seamlessly, and where the power of business is harnessed to create a brighter future for all. That's the vision of the Powerful Group, a groundbreaking initiative born from the unlikely but powerful partnership between Step2StepUp, a US-based non-profit, and Pakute Marketing Pvt. Ltd., a leading digital marketing powerhouse from India.

This unique collaboration is more than just a business alliance; it's a movement dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs and fostering a global ecosystem of innovation and growth. It's about breaking down barriers, connecting minds, and unlocking the potential of businesses to transform lives and communities.

The Power of Collaboration: A Story of Shared Vision

The Powerful Group is a testament to the magic that happens when different organizations come together with a shared vision. Step2StepUp, committed to sustainable development and community upliftment, found a perfect partner in Pakute Marketing. Pakute's digital marketing expertise and deep understanding of the Indian market perfectly complements Step2StepUp's global reach and commitment to positive social impact.

Together, they created something truly unique: a platform that not only connects entrepreneurs with investors but also fosters a community where ideas are nurtured, connections are forged, and everyone is empowered to thrive.

Breaking Barriers: Risk-Free Investing for a Brighter Future

The traditional investment landscape can be intimidating, especially for aspiring entrepreneurs and new investors. The fear of losing money often overshadows the potential for groundbreaking innovation. The Powerful Group flips the script by offering a risk-free investment model that levels the playing field and opens doors for everyone.

Think of it as a safety net for dreams. By rigorously vetting every entrepreneur and meticulously assessing their business models and market potential, the Powerful Group ensures that investments are not only secure but also poised for substantial returns. This unique approach has already attracted a diverse range of investors, from seasoned professionals to those new to the world of investment, who are eager to support the next generation of innovators.

Scientific Matching: Finding the Perfect Fit for Success

At the heart of the Powerful Group's success is its patented scientific methodology for connecting entrepreneurs with investors. This isn't just



about matchmaking; it's about building strategic partnerships that are destined for success. Using data-driven insights and advanced algorithms, the platform analyses every aspect of an entrepreneur's business model, market potential, and strategic alignment with investors' goals.

This meticulous process ensures that every connection is a perfect fit, maximizing the chances of successful collaborations and fostering a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurship. It takes the guesswork out of investing, allowing entrepreneurs to focus on their passions and investors to confidently support innovative ideas that have the potential to change the world.

A Vision Beyond Profit: Empowering Communities through Project Humanity

The Powerful Group is driven by a vision that goes beyond financial success. It's about creating a more equitable and prosperous world for everyone. Their goal is to create 50,000 job opportunities by connecting investors with 2,500 businesses in the next three years.

But that's just the beginning. The Powerful Group believes in the power of giving back, and they have launched Project Humanity, a suite of initiatives that are transforming lives and communities around the world.

Project Humanity focuses on three key areas:

Education: Providing scholarships to underprivileged students, empowering them with access to quality education and opening doors to a brighter future.

Health: Supporting healthcare programs that bring essential services to communities in need, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Sustainability: Investing in projects that promote environmental conservation and sustainable

development, creating a healthier and more resilient future for everyone.

Through Project Humanity, the Powerful Group is not just building businesses, they are building a better world.

Join the Movement: A World of Opportunity Awaits

The Powerful Group isn't just a platform; it's a movement. A movement that brings together passionate individuals, innovative minds, and strategic investors, all driven by a shared commitment to creating a better future. Whether you are an entrepreneur with a dream or an investor looking to make a difference, the Powerful Group offers a unique opportunity to be part of something truly transformative.

Join us today and be part of a world where:

Ideas are nurtured: Every entrepreneur has the chance to see their vision become reality.

Investment is accessible: Financial barriers are broken down, opening doors for all.

Communities thrive: The power of business is harnessed to create a more equitable and prosperous world.

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COMMUNITY

Thousands Celebrate I-Day With Vibrant San Jose Parade



India-West Staff Reporter

SAN JOSE, CA – The Association of Indo-Americans and Bolly 92.3 hosted “Swades” a spectacular event commemorating India’s 78th Independence Day.

For the first time, AIA organized the India Parade in Downtown San Jose, the heart of Silicon Valley, with organizers estimating that it drew over 10,000 viewers. The parade, supported by more than 45 Indian organizations in the Bay Area, featured participants walking with a 100+ ft Indian flag, creating a vibrant and patriotic display.

The flag-hoisting ceremony was a key moment, attended by dignitaries including Consul General of India, Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, who led the parade and hoisted the Indian tricolor flag. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan also took part, hoisting the US flag. Over 50 elected officials from Congressman, Senators, Mayors to City Council members across Silicon Valley



conveyed their wishes, organizers said. Floats showcasing the diverse culture and heritage of various Indian states added to the parade’s appeal. Enthusiastic participants played music and danced, filling the streets with patriotic energy. Cultural programs were a highlight, with over 300 children participating in classical

and film dances. The AIA Rockstar singing contest was a standout success. Additional events included carrom, chess, and essay competitions, with winners awarded scholarships for college. AIA recognized outstanding contributions with the “Exemplary Women Leader” award to Mrs. Jhansi Reddy and the “Lifetime

Achievement Award” to renowned musician and national award winner, Sri Mahesh Kale. The celebrations continued until 11:00 PM, featuring Vijaya Bharat – a grand musical entertainment event with state and classical dances, a fire show, live singing, and DJ music, capping off a night of outstanding festivities.



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COMMUNITY

Radhi Spear Named President Of Toastmasters International

India-West Staff Reporter

ANAHEIM, CA – Radhi Spear a resident of Piscataway, New Jersey, has been named the new International President of Toastmasters International, the world's leading organization focused on communication and leadership development. Spear began her one-year term during the 2024 International Convention, which took place here in August.

A seasoned software engineer with over 30 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, Spear

works for AT&T in Middletown, New Jersey. Her extensive expertise includes software development, systems administration, and acceptance testing, with her work impacting millions of users.

She holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and is actively involved in AT&T employee resource groups such as Women of AT&T and InspirASIAN,



the AT&T Middletown Toastmasters club and has held several leadership roles within the organization. She

which support professional growth and leadership development, a press release said.

A Toastmasters member since 2000, Spear is a charter member of

holds the Distinguished Toastmaster designation, the highest recognition in Toastmasters. Reflecting on the organization, Spear said, "Toastmasters is an investment in yourself. The skills you learn can be

applied to all areas of life." In her new role as International President, Spear leads the Toastmasters Board of Directors, working alongside the 2024–2025 Executive Committee to guide the organization's mission.

Sonora Jha's Novel Nominated For Washington State Award

India-West Staff Reporter

SEATTLE, WA – Seattle University professor and author Sonora Jha's latest novel, *The Laughter*, has been nominated as a finalist in the fiction category for the 2024

Washington State Book Awards. This best-selling work has been praised as "an explosive, tense and illuminating work of fiction and a fascinating portrait of privilege, radicalization, class, and modern academia that forces us to confront the assumptions we make as readers and citizens."

Jha, who also serves as the Associate Dean of Faculty Scholarship & Academic Community at the College of Arts and Sciences, expressed her gratitude for the recognition. "I'm truly honored to have my book listed

as a finalist among some phenomenal books by writers I so deeply admire," Jha said. "My heartfelt thanks to the jury of librarians, library workers, independent booksellers, and authors, who clearly had a tough task. Congratulations to all the writers!"

The Washington Center for the Book – an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book administered by the Washington State Library – selected 39 finalists across seven categories for this year's awards. The program, now in its 58th year, was formerly known as the Governor's Writers Awards and honors outstanding books published by Washington authors in 2023, a press release said.

Winners of the Washington State Book Awards will be announced on September 24.



TIME's AI Influencers List Features Several Indian Americans

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – TIME Magazine has released its "TIME100 Most Influential People in AI 2024" list, highlighting key figures shaping the future of artificial intelligence. This year's list features several prominent Indian American innovators and leaders. Among them are Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet; Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft; and Rohit Prasad, SVP and head scientist of Artificial General Intelligence at Amazon.

Other Indian Americans honored on the list include:

- Aravind Srinivas, CEO of the AI "answer engine" Perplexity
- Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- Divya Siddharth, co-founder of the nonprofit Collective Intelligence Project
- Anant Vijay Singh, product lead at Proton
- Vinod Khosla, founder of Khosla Ventures
- Dwarkesh Patel, host of the Dwarkesh Podcast

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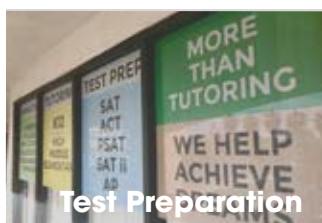


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COMMUNITY

A Call to Action for the Indian Diaspora: It's Time to Give Back to India

By **MANU SHAH**, Founder of MSI International

India, the world's most populous country, stands at a crucial juncture. With a population of 1.4 billion, it boasts an impressive legacy of culture, diversity, and potential. However, it also faces monumental challenges that require urgent attention. The nation grapples with poverty, limited healthcare, inadequate education, poor infrastructure, and alarming rates of unemployment. Millions live in slums, and the stark income disparity only widens the gap between those who have and those who do not.

For many of us living abroad—particularly the 5 million Indians in the U.S. and the 25 million scattered around the globe—our journeys started in India. We received our education in Indian schools, often subsidized or free, and then pursued opportunities abroad that helped us achieve success and financial stability. Many in the Indian diaspora enjoy a per capita income that rivals or exceeds global standards, while back home, India's per capita income remains at just \$3,000 annually. In the U.S., that number is a staggering \$75,000.

As members of the Indian diaspora, we are in a unique position of privilege. We have been fortunate to experience the best of both worlds—India's cultural wealth and the economic prosperity of our adopted countries. But now, more than ever, it is time to give back to the country that gave us so much.

India's Challenges Are Vast—But We Can Help

India's education system, particularly in rural areas, struggles to provide quality schooling to millions of children. Vocational training is equally underfunded, leaving large segments of the population unemployable. The healthcare system, overburdened and under-resourced, cannot meet the needs of millions who still lack access to basic medical care. Climate change, corruption, and political instability only compound these issues.

We, the Indian diaspora, can play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. The 25 million of us living outside India enjoy a collective wealth that mirrors the GDP of entire nations. By supporting charitable initiatives, we can make an indelible impact on education, healthcare, and social welfare in India.

A Call to Give—And Give Generously

Now is the time to step up. The Indian diaspora must harness its resources, not just for individual success, but for the greater good of our motherland. Whether it is funding educational scholarships, vocational training programs, or healthcare facilities, every contribution can bring about real, tangible change.

Here are some ways we can give back:

Donate to Indian NGOs: Many organizations on the ground are working tirelessly to improve education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure in India. Supporting them financially allows them to expand their reach and impact.

Support U.S.-Based Charities Focused on India: Numerous charitable organizations in the U.S. focus on India's development. Contributing to these organizations ensures that your donations go directly to causes that improve lives in India.

Set Up Scholarships and Vocational Programs: By sponsoring scholarships or vocational training programs, we can empower young Indians with the education and skills they need to thrive.

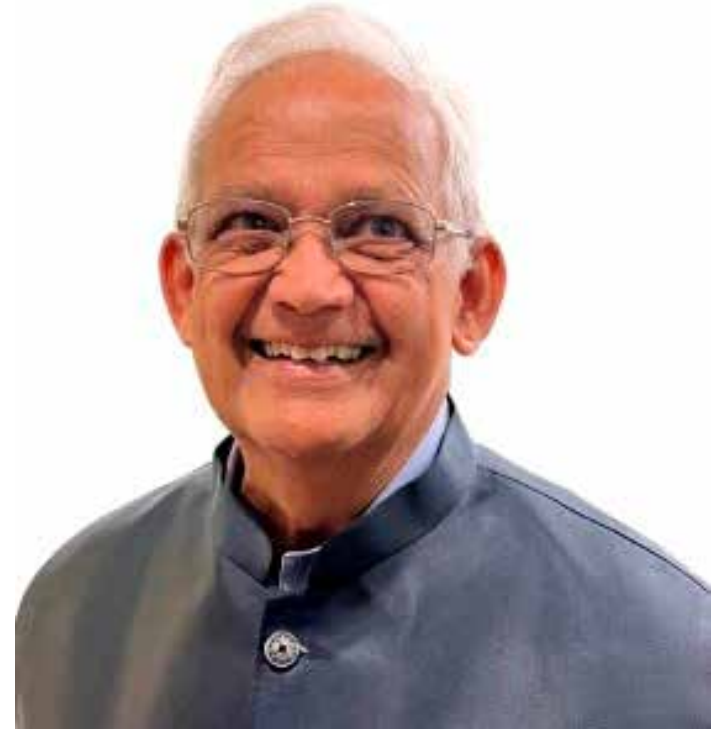
Give to Healthcare Initiatives: Supporting healthcare infrastructure is critical in a country where millions still lack access to basic medical care. Your donations can help build hospitals, train medical staff, and provide essential healthcare services.

Invest in Sustainable Infrastructure: India's future depends on its ability to build sustainable infrastructure—from clean water and sanitation facilities to renewable energy sources. Our financial support can help fund these long-term, life-changing projects.

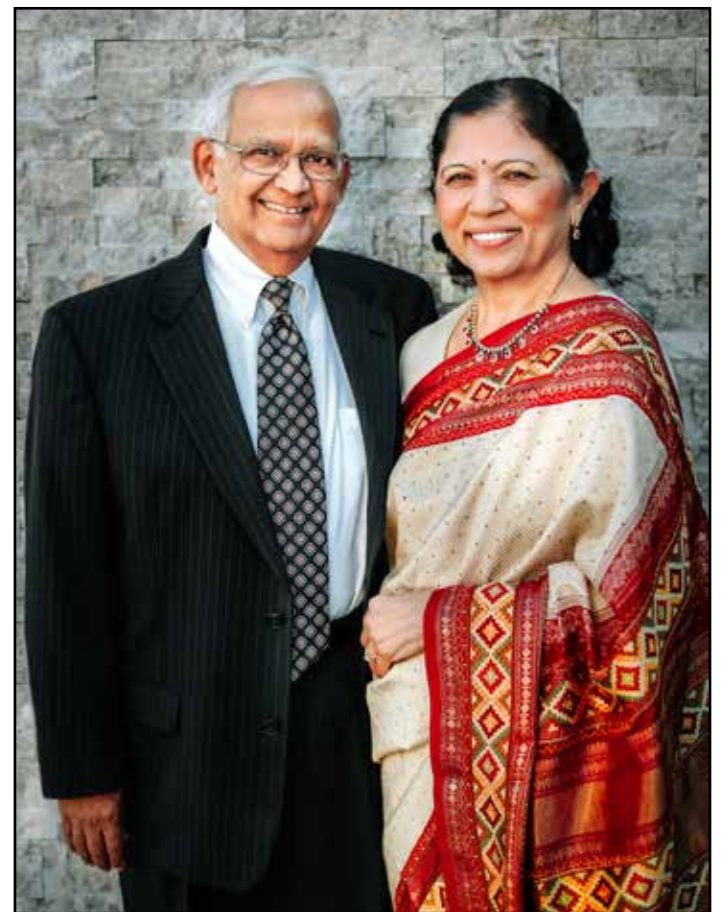
A Moral Obligation

We must recognize that we are where we are today because of the opportunities we were given in India. Now, it is time to give back. Let us not turn a blind eye to the struggles of those we left behind. Let us, instead, be agents of change, helping to lift millions out of poverty, providing them with the education and healthcare they so desperately need, and building a brighter, more equitable future for India.

The time to act is now. Let's give, and give generously. Because when we give back to India, we give back to ourselves.



Manu Shah.



Manu Shah and Rika Shah .



Manu Shah and Rika Shah receiving Champions Award.



Manu Shah and Rika Shah with family.



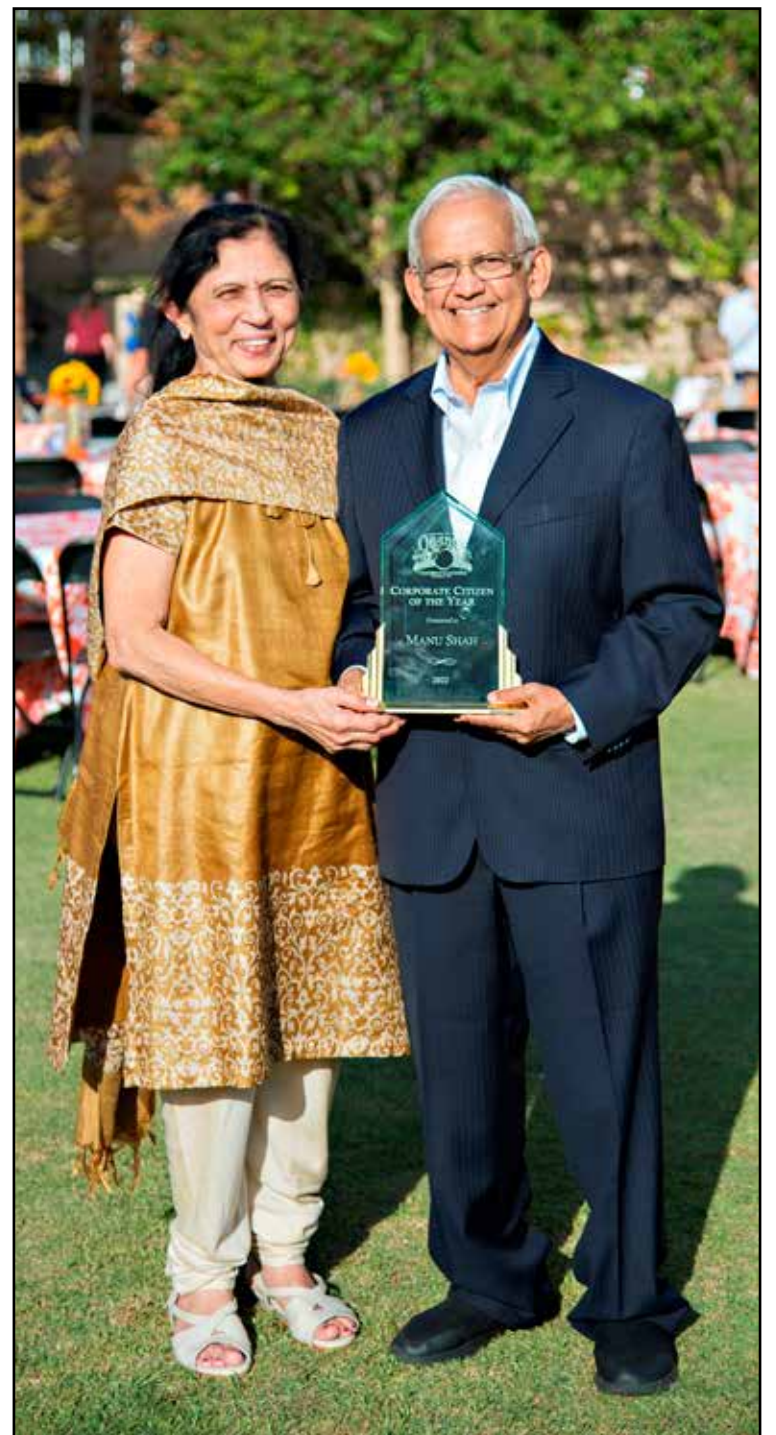
Manu Shah bagged “2022 Corporate Citizen of the Year Award” from the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.



Manu Shah and Rika Shah receiving Award from Shri Rakeshji Jhaveri of Dharampur.



Manu Shah and Rika Shah receiving Champions Award.



Manu Shah with his wife Rika Shah at the “2022 Corporate Citizen of the Year Award” from the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.



A Trillion Atoms, One Percent of Your Dollars, And Please Be Selfish

BY NAVNEET S. CHUGH

The future looks bright for the three million non-resident Indians in the U.S. If you have doubts, then look at the odds. Would you bet against a group that consists of 600,000 engineers; 50,000 doctors; 20,000 dentists; 6,000 lawyers; 5,000 pharmacists; 2,000 veterinarians; 2,000 professors; and 60,000 self employed business owners and entrepreneurs? And, remember that this group is living in a country that is the undisputed engine of the world economy and has captured 30% of the world GDP with only 5% of the world's population.

Yes, America is great, and an average American enjoys eight times more prosperity than an average person living outside of America. The financial story of this lucky Indian group is somewhat unique in comparison. The income of the 3 million Indians in the U.S. is more than the income of 300 million people in India who are breathing at the bottom of the pyramid.

Congratulations, we have arrived. And since researchers tell us that happiness is measured by two scales – actual wealth, and how much richer we are than others, we should be very happy. So what then is the purpose of life, from here on end?

The first 99% of purpose

The first purpose of life is simple and clear. Let's be selfish and enjoy the heck out of life. Nothing is wrong with this simple thinking. We are educated. We are smart. We are lucky. We worked, and worked very hard. We have earned it. We deserve it.

Life is a box of chocolates, says Forrest Gump. Let's leave no chocolate unturned. A vacation house, a 12-cylinder car, a vineyard. Let's have it all. You only live once, some people say.

Let's not feel an ounce of

guilt. Let's relish 99% of our income or wealth.

The last one percent

If there is commonality in all religions, then it is akin to the trio my Sikh faith believes in: Do good deeds, Remember God, and Share Your Wealth.

Most religions advocate giving of 10% or so of your income. Maybe the 10% works for non-Indians; but for sure, it does not work for Indians.

Why not? Well, if your country has been ruled by foreigners for 2,300 years, then expect your DNA to have a gene code that does not trust organizations and institutions. That is what makes us Indian.

My favorite aunt always says, "If the story is over a year old, I don't want to hear it." Since the 2,300 years foreign rule is now a story that turned 60 years old on August 15, 2007, can we move on?

Forget the non-Indian American rule of 10%, can we start the rehabilitation into human faith with at least one percent?

As my 12-year old son, Veeraj, says, "you came from India, you lived there, and now that you can help, you should do it."

If your gene code still screams at 1%, then ask the fella, what is the percentage of the 1% in which you have lack of trust and faith? Hope the answer is not more than 40%, because George Bush is offering you a tax break of 40% on your giving.

I can't, my kids need it

Of course they need it, just like you did! Remember your "I came with \$200 in my pocket" story.

The proudest thing in almost every affluent NRI's life is that we are all "self made". Yes, we beat all odds. Yet we are bent upon robbing that precious joy from the lives of our children. Why, we may ask?

Actually, why don't we go ahead and tell our kids the truth. "Dear Beta /Beti: Mom and Dad are leaving you all of our net assets and the million dollar life

insurance policy so that you will always have food on your table. We came with nothing, but we are smart, we made it. We love you, and we want you to make it, but really don't know if you will be able to make it on your own, so we are leaving you enough so that you will never have to worry about money in your life."

Imagine we are gone, and our kids have our wealth. What might they do with it, what are the options? Only five: spend it, lose it, live off it, give it to charity, or invest it.

The last option is enticing. They will have money to invest, and will become really wealthy! Somehow the world's richest - Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, and Lakshmi Mittal - didn't need their parents's money.

There are two other issues in leaving kids our wealth. By the time we die, our kids are going to be over 50!

The shocking part is that we feel that our kids will need the last one percent. Almost a full majority of our kids disagree with us. Ask them.

You will need it

Forget your kids. Be really truly selfish. You will need it.

We are all coming back in some form for sure. Yes, 100% for sure. An average human being stays alive for 650,000 hours. Then, one not so fine day, the trillion atoms that is you, will pull the plug on you and you will be cremated or buried. You will be dead, but your atoms will move on.

Hindus cremate their dead because they believe that the body is made up of five elements which are earth, water, air, fire, and ether and that cremation transports these five elements to their respective sources at death.

Every single atom will find a place in this universe. In a leaf, in a Lamborghini, in lead, in a laddoo, in a lion, or in a HIV positive orphaned six year old girl named Lavanya who has a limited life left in the dreadful

slums of Lucknow.

There are so many atoms in each one of us, that the odds are almost 100% that some of your lifeless atoms will end up again in a human body. 135 million babies were born in the world in 2006, out of which 26 million were born in India. There is 20% chance that the next human body, in which some of your atoms end up, will be in India.

Then, odds are 70% that you will be poor or very poor, and you will have to live on less money all your life, than what is spent on an average dog's life in America.

Forget charity with the last one percent, because that is doing something for someone else. Let's make an investment with that last one percent so that our own atoms can have a better future.

Where is this one percent?

There are many worthwhile charities in the U.S.A. that are focused on assisting India, like AIF and Pratham. We could outsource our charity needs to them.

The total amount given to all India-centric charities in the U.S. last year was U.S. \$35 million. The net income of the three million Indians in 2006 was U.S. \$120 billion, one percent of which is U.S. \$1.2 billion.

Shortfall: One billion, one hundred and sixty five million dollars. Even at one percent, we have a very long way to go.

Why do we hoard? Why don't we give? Why don't we share? Why don't we care about the millions in India who live not only in poverty, but absolute poverty? Why don't we give back to the Motherland that gave us so much even when she didn't have enough?

As I write this, my 9-year old daughter comes and sits with me and starts reading from the screen. I casually ask her, "Sabrina, should we give money to a charity to help Indians in India?" She replies, "Yes we should," I ask her another question, "Why?" She quips without hesitation, "Because, it is the right thing to do."



“ No one has ever become poor by giving.”

– Anne Frank

“ Every good act is charity. A man’s true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows.”

– Moliere

“ Charity begins at home, but should not end there.”

– Scottish Proverb

“ No It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

– Mother Teresa

“ Help others without any reason and give without the expectation of receiving anything in return.”

– Roy T. Bennett

“ When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”

– Maya Angelou.

“ We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

– Winston Churchill

“ Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

– Muhammad Ali

“ We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”

– Dr. Loretta Scott

“ Charity brings to life again those who are spiritually dead.”

– St. Thomas Aquinas

“ The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

“ Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”

– Sally Koch

“ The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

“ You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

– John Bunyan

“ The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.”

– Norman Vincent Peale

COMMUNITY

Charulatha Jayaraman Enthralls SoCal With Tales From The Panchatantra



India-West Staff Reporter

IRVINE, CA – ‘Panchatantra: Dances of the Lore,’ a dance drama presented by Charulatha Jayaraman and her students at Shrishti, captivated audiences during the Labor Day weekend at the Portola High School Theatre, here.

The production, choreographed with masterful ingenuity, brought to life the timeless Panchatantra tales, showcasing the collective and individual talents of the performers.

Jayaraman, the artistic director, brought the many characters of the Panchatantra to life on stage along with her students. The dance drama was paced judiciously, balancing the narrative flow of the stories with their underlying

ing moral lessons.

This balance between showing and telling enabled the audience to engage deeply with the performance, contributing their own “anubhava” as “sahridaya rasikas” (empathetic spectators), thereby enriching the overall aesthetic experience.

The tales were brought to life through colorful backdrops that caught the scenes where it was set, perfectly. The music complemented the dancers and heightened the emotional and visual impact of each scene.

The choreography blurred the lines between humans and animals, creating a seamless visual continuum of the “humanimal,” allowing the audience to connect with the stories on a deeper level.



Photos: sphotos4you and Vinod Krishnan

Five stories were presented in five different languages, making the production accessible and enjoyable to audiences of

all ages. Memorable characters, such as the clever crows, the fierce lion, the cute rabbit, the loyal mongoose, and the silly monkey, left a lasting impact, making “Panchatantra: Dances of the Lore” truly enjoyable.

Udit And Aditya Narayan To Perform On Sept.29

India-West Staff Reporter

CERRITOS, - CA The Narkar Health Foundation in association with Tisha Entertainment, on September 29 is presenting a unique musical show ‘Bade Miyan, Chhote Miyan,’ featuring the well known Bollywood hit maker Udit Narayan and his son, Aditya, also recognized for his talent.

The duo will perform at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, located here. For more information: Sunil Narkar – 562.818.6060 or Bharat Patel of the Association of Los Angeles Physicians of Indian Origin – 562.860.1135.

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COMMUNITY



Doctor, 84, Not Wearing Hearing Aids, Fails To Hear Patient's Cries Of Pain

India-West News Desk

TAMPA, FL – Dr. Ishwari Prasad, an 84-year-old gastroenterologist here, has been placed on probation by the Florida Board of Medicine following two botched colonoscopy procedures at the Tampa Ambulatory Surgery Center last year, according to a report by USA Today.

In one of the incidents, Prasad,

who was not wearing his hearing aids, failed to hear a patient's screams of pain during a colonoscopy. The patient had not been fully sedated, and Prasad reportedly continued the procedure despite the patient's cries.

The complaint also revealed that Prasad had "improperly delegated" medical tasks to a surgical technician who was not licensed to practice medicine.

This unlicensed individual stated that she frequently assisted Prasad

with tasks beyond her training because the doctor was unable to perform them himself.

As a result of the incidents, Prasad has been fined \$7,500 and ordered to pay an additional \$6,301 in case costs. He is also required to complete a five-hour continuing medical education class by August 7 of next year. During his probation, Prasad is prohibited from performing any medical procedures.

Dr. Prasad has held his Florida medical license since 1990.

Indian American Lawyer Fired For Affair With CEO



Photo: Norfolk Southern

India-West News Desk

ATLANTA, GA – Nabanita Chatterjee Nag, an Indian American lawyer and Chief Legal Officer at Norfolk Southern Corporation, has been fired following an investigation into an inappropriate workplace relationship with CEO Alan Shaw.

Shaw was also terminated after it was found that their consensual relationship violated the company's policies and code of ethics.

In a statement, Norfolk Southern Corporation clarified that while the relationship was consensual, it breached corporate guidelines. "The move comes in connection with preliminary findings from an ongoing investigation that determined Shaw violated company policies by engaging in a consensual relationship with the company's chief legal officer. Shaw's departure is unrelated to the company's performance, financial reporting, or operations," the company said.

Nag, who joined Norfolk Southern in 2020 as General Counsel, was promoted to Chief Legal Officer in 2022 and later appointed Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs in 2023. Prior to joining the railroad company, she had worked at Goldman Sachs.

She has been recognized as an Atlanta Business Chronicle 2024 Corporate Counsel Award Honoree. She was selected for her exceptional leadership as General Counsel, guiding Norfolk Southern's legal team through a significant corporate crisis and helping the company emerge stronger. These prestigious awards celebrate Georgia's top attorneys working in corporate legal departments, associations, and private sector organizations.

A graduate of Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in government and English, Nag went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the New York University School of Law.

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COMMUNITY

Akshaya Patra SoCal Raises \$600K

Contd. from P1

contributions from donors Rika and Manu Shah, who pledged to match donations up to \$250,000. Their commitment was met with enthusiastic applause, and supporter Navneet Chugh's push for additional pledges further galvanized attendees. The gala also included a raffle draw with prizes such as a Kobe Bryant jersey.

Akshaya Patra's CEO, Navin Goel, spoke about the organization's impact, emphasizing that hunger continues to impede education and, consequently, a better life for millions of children in India. Many families, unable to afford two meals a day, send their children to work instead of school. For those who do attend school, classroom hunger makes it difficult to focus. Akshaya Patra's mid-day meal program provides a hot meal that can significantly improve these children's ability to learn and thrive.

Currently, Akshaya Patra is the world's largest NGO school meal program, serving over 2.2 million children in more than 24,000 schools across India every day. It costs just \$20 to feed a child for an entire school year, though attendees were willing to contribute much more.

The gala featured keynote speaker Mary Sue Millikan, a renowned chef who inspired the audience with her talk on the importance of feeding the hungry. Dr. Puja Shah, author of "For My Sister," a novel about the deep bond between sisters, was also a special guest.

The gala's success was attributed to the efforts of Southern California chapter chairpersons Sonnal Ladvaava and Parul Mehta, along with dedicated volunteers.



Akshaya Patra's CEO, Navin Goel.



Novelist Dr. Puja Shah.

Entertainment was provided by singers Rajeshwari Kulkarni, Sandeep Kulkarni, and Priya Mani, while Sunny Moza hosted the evening with his versatile talents.

The vegetarian snacks and dinner were sponsored by notable Southern California restaurants, including Badmash in Los Angeles.

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SAN, SAHARA Hold Protest Over Violence Against Women

ARTESIA, CA – The South Asian Network (SAN) on August 21 and the South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency (SAHARA) held a candlelight vigil and protest in solidarity with the women of India currently advocating for their right to safety and justice.

This comes after the tragic case regarding Moumita Debnath, a second-year postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata. She was found

murdered in a seminar hall on the college campus. An autopsy revealed that she had been the victim of gang rape and subsequently killed. This tragic event has ignited widespread outrage and led to nationwide protests, calling for a comprehensive investigation and raising serious concerns about the safety of women and medical professionals in India.

The march began on Pioneer Boulevard here and was led by roaring chants, with supporters waving posters and getting acknowledgment



from passing cars blowing their horns.

Representatives from SAN and SAHARA spoke about the malaise of rape culture & safety of women, throughout South Asia and in other parts of the world. The march concluded at the SAN office with a healing circle hosted by Mahtab Javed Siddiqui, SAN's Mental Health Program Manager.

"Protesting in Los Angeles shows our commitment to global solidarity and standing up against injustice, no matter where it happens. It reflects our belief in transformative justice, where we focus on addressing harm by challenging systems of oppression. By supporting Moumita, we are part of a larger movement to reimagine justice and create a world where dignity and equity prevail for women everywhere," said Sachini Rajapaksa, SAN's Program Coordinator, Gender-Based Violence.

Organizers said gender-based violence is a global crisis within South Asian culture and the stigma of being a victim can exacerbate this suffering. Societal stigma is compounded by systemic failures, from under-reported cases to inadequate police response, and inefficient legal processes which often leave victims feeling powerless. The belief that sexual violence is a private matter rather than a public issue is what contributes to the lack of accountability and fuels the fear of shame, they pointed out.

Hanuman Statue in Texas

India-West News Desk

SUGAR LAND, TX – In a grand ceremony at the Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple here, a towering 90-foot bronze statue of Lord Hanuman was unveiled, marking a significant milestone in the cultural and spiritual landscape of the state.

Named the "Statue of Union," this massive sculpture is now the tallest Hanuman murti outside of India, the tallest statue in Texas, and the third tallest in the US, behind only the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Pegasus and Dragon in Florida, organizers said.

The "Prana Prathishta Mahotsavam" ceremony for the statue, held from August 15 to 18. The event, which coincided with India's Independence Day, saw thousands of devotees gather to witness the installation of the statue, symbolizing "selflessness, devotion, and unity."

Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami, a Padma Bhushan awardee and Vedic scholar, spearheaded the project. He envisioned the statue as a spiritual epicenter for North America, emphasizing the importance of spreading devotion and unity across the continent. The ceremonies were led by him, alongside several Vedic priests and scholars, who performed elaborate rituals including the sprinkling of sacred water and the placement of a 72-foot garland around Hanuman's neck. A helicopter also showered flowers upon the statue, adding to the spiritual grandeur of the event.

Despite the temple's efforts to present the statue as a symbol of unity, it has ignited controversy among some conservative and Christian groups. Social media accounts and right-wing websites have labeled the statue "demonic," with some claiming it could provoke divine retribution.



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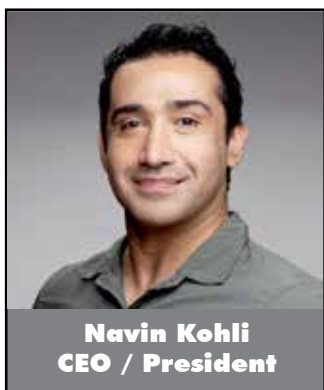
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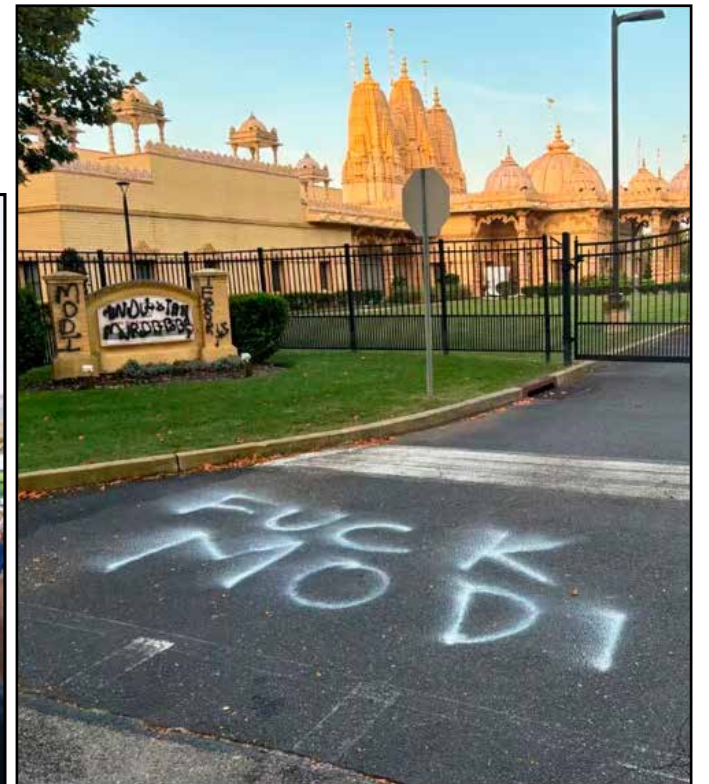
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NY BAPS Temple Vandalized With Anti-Modi Graffiti

India-West Staff Reporter

MELVILLE, NY - The BAPS Swaminarayan Temple officials on September 16, said they were saddened that we must once again appeal for peace in the face of hate and intolerance.”

The previous night, the temple was hit by hate-filled graffiti that was painted on the driveway and on the temple sign. The perpetrator vandalized



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the property with derogatory anti-Modi and anti-India messages.

The incident has prompted a hate crime investigation by the Suffolk County Police Hate Crimes Unit.

The crime has drawn greater urgency as it comes days ahead of the September 22 gathering that PM Narendra Modi is slated to address at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which is nearby.

“Peace, respect, and harmony for all regardless of background or faith are the bedrock of religious freedom in the United States,” the temple said, adding for all its followers, “We also offer our deepest prayers for those who perpetrated this crime to be released of their hatred and to see our common humanity.”

The temple stands as a beacon of peace, harmony, equality, selfless service, and universal Hindu values, and it said, “Upon learning of the hateful vandalism, the local authorities were called, and BAPS is working fully with the authorities to support their investigation into this hate crime.”

On September 16 its call for prayers for peace and unity was supported by a slew local, state and federal leaders representing Long Island: including U.S. Rep. Nick LaLota, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine, Deputy New York State Assembly Speaker Phil Ramos, New York State Senator Mario Mattera, New York State Assemblyman Keith Brown, New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern, Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy, Suffolk County Legislator Jason Richberg, Suffolk County Legislator Rebecca Sanin, Suffolk County Deputy Under Sheriff Keith Taylor, Suffolk County Police Precinct Supervisor William Scrima, Huntington Township Police Inspector Kevin Williams, Huntington Township Superintendent Andre Sorrentino, Huntington Township Supervisor Ed Smyth, Huntington Township Clerk Andrew Raia, Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Allen Bode, North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Shrivastava, Babylon Township Councilman Dwayne Gregory and Rod Calarco, Representative of the Governor of New York.

Also at the gathering were people from civil society including NAACP President Tracey Edwards, and interfaith leaders: Rabbi Susie Moskowitz from Temple Beth Torah, Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller from Temple Chaverim, Pastor Tom Johnson from St. Lutheran Church and Hassan Ahmed of Masjid Darul Quran as well as a representatives from American Jewish Committee. Various Hindu temples in the area also were present to show their support.

The Consulate General of India in New York condemning the incident said, “The vandalism of the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Melville, New York, is unacceptable.” The Consulate added that they are in contact with the community and have raised the matter with law enforcement.

Glimpses of Akshaya Patra SoCal Annual Fundraiser

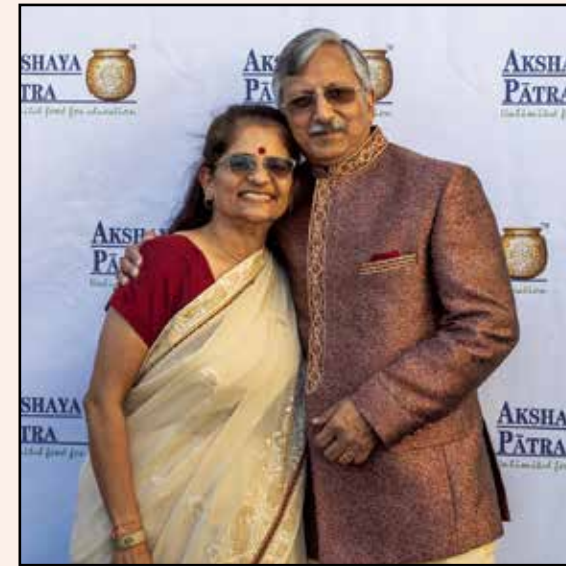
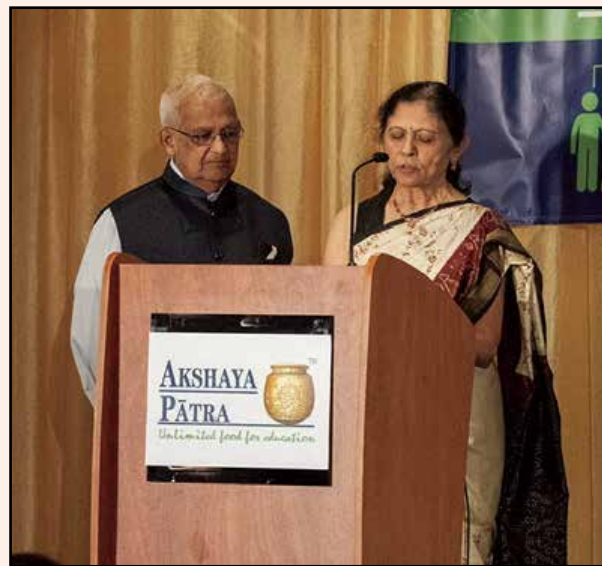


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Matthew Perry Death – ‘Ketamine Queen,’ Jasveen Sangha Trial Set For March

LOS ANGELES, CA (REUTERS) – The woman charged with illegally supplying the drug ketamine to “Friends” star Matthew Perry before his overdose death will face trial in March, according to court documents released on September 3.

Dr. Salvador Plasencia, and Jasveen Sangha, whom authorities said was a drug dealer known to customers as the “ketamine queen,” have pleaded not guilty to charges related to the October 2023 death of Perry.

An autopsy determined that the 54-year-old died from “acute effects” of ketamine and other factors that caused him to lose consciousness and



down in his hot tub.

Ketamine is a short-acting anesthetic with hallucinogenic properties, sometimes prescribed to treat depression and anxiety but also abused by recreational users.

Perry had publicly acknowledged decades of substance abuse, including during the years he starred as Chandler Bing on the hit 1990s television sitcom “Friends.”

Plasencia and Sangha are scheduled to be tried together in federal court in Los Angeles starting on March 4.

Three other defendants have agreed to plead guilty in connection with Perry’s death.

Two Charged With Murder Of Store Owner Roop Gupta



India-West Staff Reporter

CINCINNATI, OH – A federal grand jury has charged two men in connection with a series of armed robberies and the murder of Roop C. Gupta, the owner of Madeira Beverage here.

Gupta was killed during a robbery at his store in February 2021. Willie James Attaway, 30, and Lamond Johnson, 35, both from Cincinnati, face a 14-count federal indictment, which includes charges for the murder of Gupta on February 9, 2021.

The indictment alleges that the two men conspired to commit five armed robberies over two days, culminating in the fatal shooting of Gupta. If convicted, they could face the death penalty for using a firearm to commit murder during a violent crime.

The charges were announced by Vipal J. Patel, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Roland Herndon, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).



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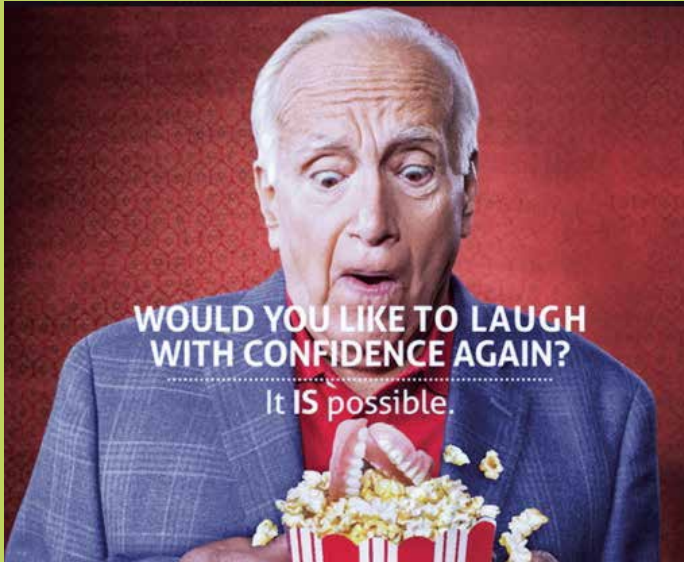
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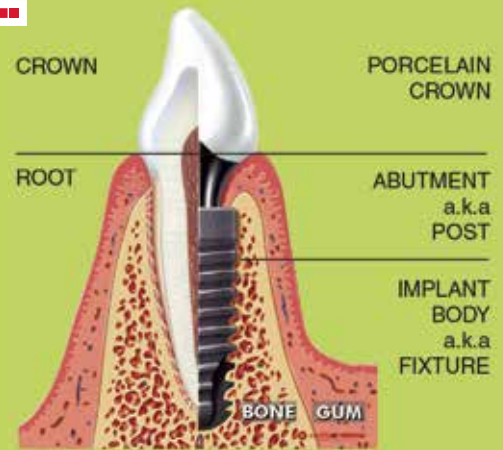
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Trump's Racist Pal Says White House Will Smell Like Curry If Harris Wins



ly given Loomer's visibility within Trump's inner circle. She traveled on Trump's private plane to the recent presidential debate in Philadelphia where Harris bested him handily, and joined him the next day at events commemorating the September 11 attacks in Manhattan. Throughout the day, Loomer,

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Laura Loomer, a right-wing supporter of Donald Trump, is at the center of a controversy after making a racially charged post about Vice President Kamala Harris's Indian heritage.

She mocked the vice president by suggesting that if Harris wins in November, "the White House will smell like curry," adding that citizens would only be able to give feedback "through a customer satisfaction survey that nobody will understand." Loomer's post came after Harris shared personal reflections about visiting her grandparents in India as a child, which she posted on social media.

The remarks triggered outrage, especial-

ly given Loomer's visibility within Trump's inner circle. She traveled on Trump's private plane to the recent presidential debate in Philadelphia where Harris bested him handily, and joined him the next day at events commemorating the September 11 attacks in Manhattan. Throughout the day, Loomer,

who has previously referred to 9/11 as an "inside job," posted photos and videos of Trump with victims' families and first responders. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) known for her own history of inflammatory remarks, was quick to condemn Loomer's post, calling it "appalling and extremely racist." She took to social media, stating, "This does not represent who we are as Republicans or MAGA. This does not represent President Trump. This type of behavior should not be tolerated ever." In the past, Greene publicly called Loomer "mentally unstable" and a "documented liar." Politico said the public feud between Loomer and Greene highlights the increasing discord among Trump's loyalists as he seeks to regain his political momentum.

Trump Gunman Supported Tulsi

India-West News Desk with Reuters

PALM BEACH, FL – As Republican presidential contender Donald Trump golfed here on September 15, a gunman attempted to assassinate him.



forcement officials found handles on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn for a Ryan Routh. Public access to the Facebook and X profiles was removed hours after the shooting but screenshots of his postings were already circulating.

On X in 2020, Routh expressed support for Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and mocked Biden as "sleepy Joe." Then earlier this year, Routh tagged Biden in a post on X: "@POTUS Your campaign should be called something like KADAF. Keep America democratic and free. Trumps should be MASA ...make Americans slaves again master. DEMOCRACY is on the ballot, and we cannot lose."

Routh's politics seems to have moved from Trump in 2016 to fellow Hawaiian Tulsi Gabbard in 2020, then Vivek Ramaswamy and Nikki Haley in 2024. He seems to have been fully behind Gabbard and her bid for 2020 presidential nomination that was eventually won by Biden. He soured on Gabbard for her alignment with Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, writing on X in 2022, "why don't you go and Join Putin and trump and be their third wheel."

The suspect has been identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii. The Secret Service said its agents were accompanying Trump on the golf course, when one who was securing holes ahead of Trump spotted a gun barrel in some bushes near the property line.

Multiple agents engaged the gunman and fired at least four rounds at him. The gunman then dropped his AK-47 style rifle, two backpacks, a GoPro camera and other items and fled in a black Nissan car. Palm Beach County sheriff Ric Bradshaw said a witness managed to take a photo of the suspected gunman's car and license plate and gave it to authorities.

Shortly after, sheriff's deputies in neighboring Martin County stopped the suspect on Interstate 95 and took him into custody. Social media users, reporters and law en-

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CM Revanth Reddy Pitches Telangana As A 'Future State' In US Tour

By REENA RATHORE

FREMONT, CA — From experiencing the driverless Waymo car in San Francisco, to creating a new motto for Telangana to securing a series of investment deals and partnerships aimed at propelling Telangana's economic growth and innovation, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy positioned the state as a leading destination for global investments across various sectors during his whirlwind UA tour.

He articulated a compelling vision for Telangana, branding it as "The Future State" and promoting "Hyderabad 4.0" to American

businesses. During his visit, Reddy and his delegation participated in three roundtable conferences, and conducted several field visits across key cities, including New York, Washington, D.C., Texas, and California. The visit culminated in the signing of 19 investment deals and MOUs.

He met with members of the Indian diaspora in various cities, emphasizing the importance of their role in contributing to the state's development. Over 800 Indian Americans from across California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, among others, participated in a community reception held Au-

gust 9 at the Heartfulness Center here, which was hosted by the Consulate General of India, San Francisco.

"I was here last year...I had promised you that I will come back here again only after a Congress government comes to power...I have kept my promise..." Reddy said to a rousing crowd and invited them to invest in Telangana.

Elected representatives, includ-



ing Fremont Mayor Lily Mei; Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor; Milpitas City Commissioner and community leader, Raghu Reddy; Rancho Cordova Vice Mayor Siri Pulipati; Ajay Bhutoria, Deputy National Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Sunnyvale Vice Mayor Murali Srinivasan; and Jaya Badiga, Sacramento County Superior Court judge were among those who welcomed Reddy.

Speaking at an AI business roundtable hosted by the Consulate General in San Francisco, CM Reddy highlighted how the future city and the River Musi rejuvenation project were all part of a larger strategy to reimagine Hyderabad.

"In America, every state has a motto...", he remarked. "In India, we don't have mottos for our states, but I'd like to give Telangana one: The Future State."

The delegation also engaged with Adobe Systems CEO Shantanu Narayen and tech giants like Apple and Google, as well as academic institutions such as Stanford University, laying the groundwork for future partnerships.

A meeting with World Bank president Ajay Banga resulted in discussions on a roadmap for partnerships in skill development, urban rejuvenation, healthcare, and Net Zero developments.

At the IT Serve Alliance meet in Dallas, the chief minister pitched Hyderabad as a prime destination for diaspora investments, and at an official roundtable hosted by the Consulate General of India, New York, he emphasized on the business-readiness of Telangana to fit in as the missing jigsaw puzzle piece in the America, Inc. search for a "China plus One" strategy.

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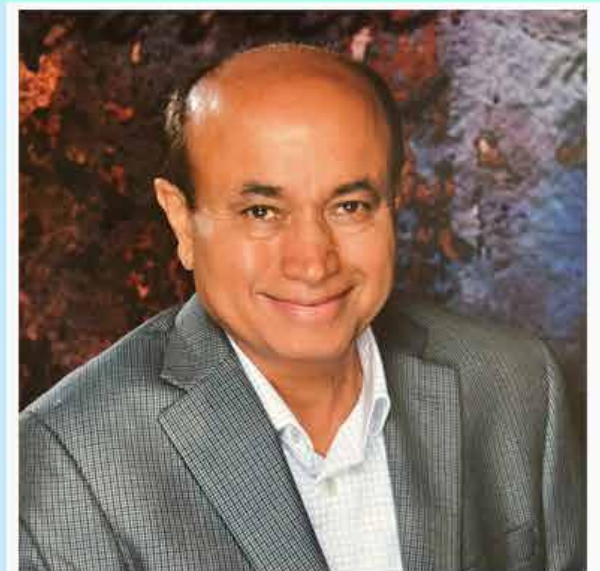
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Stalin Goes Cycling In Chicago, Rahul Wants A Repeat In Chennai

India-West News Desk

CHICAGO, IL – Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, are both on short visits to the U.S.

Gandhi has been making news after the showing of the India Alliance in the last elections, making him the opposition leader. Stalin is in the US to drum up investments for his state, Tamil Nadu.

The Indian media has often reported about the friendship the two leaders share.


This was once again demonstrated in a light-hearted exchange when Stalin posted a video of



himself cycling along the shoreline in Chicago. Rahul Gandhi tweeted in response, "Brother, when are we cycling together in Chennai?"

A clearly delighted Stalin replied, "Dear brother @RahulGandhi, whenever you're free, let's ride and explore the heart of Chennai together! A box of sweets is still pending from my side. After our cycling, let's enjoy a delicious South Indian lunch with sweets at my home."

The friendly banter between the two generated widespread reactions online.



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Rahul Gandhi at Capitol Hill



Contd. from P1

Sources familiar with the meetings said that Rahul Gandhi also met US diplomat Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau

of South and Central Asia. He is also said to have met lawmaker Pramila Jayapal and interacted with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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Thursday 3rd, Oct 2024

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09:00 AM – 10:00 AM : Nitya puja, Lalita Archana

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM : Chandi Parayana (Durgapath) and followed by aarati

03:00 PM – 07:00 PM : Navavarana Puja

05:00 PM – 06:00 PM : Kameswari Deeksha Dharana 108 Suvasini/Sumangali Puja & Cultural Programmes

07:30 PM – 08:30 PM : Alankara Devatarchana Sahita Lalita Kumkumarchana, Group Chanting, Suvasini Bala Puja & Aarati followed by dinner prasad

Friday 4th, Oct - Friday 11th, Oct 2024

09:30 AM – 12:00 PM : Nitya puja, Lalita Archana & Chandi Parayana (Durgapatha)

05:00 PM – 08:30 PM : Navavarana Puja, Cultural Programmes, Alankara Devatarchana Sahita Kumkumarchana, Lalitha Group Chanting and Suvasini Bala Puja Aarati and followed by dinner prasad

Special Programs

5th Oct, 2024 - 08:30 PM – 10:00 PM
Mataki Chowki
by Pundit Sidharth Pathak & Team

6th & 7th Oct, 2024 - 08:30 PM – 09:30 PM
Rasgarba by Pundit Sidharth Pathak
and Team (FREE Event)

12th Oct, 2024 10:30 AM – 01:00 PM
Shami Puja, Saraswati Puja for
students, Samoohika aksharabhyasam

13th Oct, 2024
09:00 AM – 12:00 PM Chandi Homam, Poornahuti
06:30 PM – 08:00 PM Sahasra Deepalankaara Seva

Day 1 Thursday - Padyami
3RD OCT **Bala Tripura Sundari Devi** Naivedyam : Gudannam- Sweet Pongal



Day 2 Friday - Vidiya
4TH OCT **Sri Gayatri Devi** Naivedyam : Kadambam - Sambar rice



Day 3 Saturday - Tadiya
5TH OCT **Annapoorna Devi** Naivedyam : Gudannam- Sweet Pongal



Day 4 Sunday - Chaviti
6TH OCT **Sri Lalitha Tripurasundari Devi** Naivedyam : Sarkarannam/Chakrapongal



Day 5 Monday - Panchami
7TH OCT **Sri Mahachandi Devi** Naivedyam : Chekkarapongali - Sweet Pongal



Day 6 Tuesday - Shasti
8TH OCT **Sri Mahalakshmi Devi** Naivedyam : Gudannam- Sweet Pongal



Day 7 Wednesday - Saptami
9TH OCT **Sri Saraswathi Devi** Naivedyam : Dadhyannam - Yogurt rice



Day 8 Thursday - Astami
10TH OCT **Sri Durga Devi** Naivedyam : Gudannam- Sweet Pongal



Day 9 Friday - Navami
11TH OCT **Sri Mahishasuramardini Devi** Naivedyam : Sarkarannam/Chakrapongal



Day 10 Saturday - Dasami
12TH OCT **Sri Sivakameswari Devi** Naivedyam : Burelu- poornaalu Chitrannam- Tamarind rice



Note: The Temple will be open all day for all nine days from 7:30 AM to 10:00 PM

Day 11 Sunday - Ekadasi
13TH OCT **Chandi Homam, poornahuti.**



Note: Dinner Prasad will be served daily following Aarti

INTERVIEW

Suhas Subramanyam: My Daughters Are Multi-Cultural Like Kamala Harris

By REENA RATHORE

Suhas Subramanyam became the first Indian American, South Asian, and Hindu to be elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 and the state senate in 2023. In June, he beat back 11 other candidates to win the Democratic nomination for Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

The 37-year-old, will face Republican Mike Clancy in the November election. In 2020, President Joe Biden won the district by 18 points, which is to say that Subramanyam stands a great chance of becoming a part of the "Samosa Caucus" in Congress.

In a chat with India-West, Subramanyam attributed his success to his ability to connect with voters, and delivering results: lowering costs for everyday necessities like groceries, prescription drugs, and utility bills.

*He spoke to **India-West** on key issues:*

Historic Candidacy

As the potential first Indian American and Hindu American elected to Congress from Virginia, he spoke passionately about the symbolic weight of his candidacy, also recognizing the significance it holds for Indian Americans.



"I'm proud to be someone with Indian roots as well as proud to be Hindu as well. I think it's become evident to me that there's a lot of Indian Americans and Hindu Americans around the country who believe in our campaign and want to see more representation in Congress," he observed. "It's special for me to be a part of that. I do hope to be a voice for all communities. But it's certainly very special to make history and be someone who can increase the represen-

tation of Indian Americans and Hindu Americans in Congress."

Indian American Engagement

"I think just seeing an Indian American running for president in Kamala Harris as well as two Indian Americans being major serious candidates in the Republican primary was pretty evident to me that representation is definitely increasing in our community," he told India-West. "We are adding to the ranks in Congress as well. I think even aside from all the

people who are winning races and running for office, I'm starting to see more Indian Americans generally be engaged and donating their time and money and efforts to electing candidates that they like on both sides of the aisle. I hope that Indian Americans continue to stay engaged in the political spectrum. I hope that we can continue to have a voice in policymaking."

Multicultural Identity

Weighing in on Vice President Kamala Harris's rise, Subramanyam said he sees her as a symbol of the evolving narrative of multicultural identity in American politics. Drawing parallels to his own family, he expressed hope that this trend of diverse representation will continue, inspiring future generations to embrace their multifaceted identities.

"My daughters are going to be multicultural, part Hispanic and part Indian. I want to make sure that they feel like they can fit in with both of their identities. We give them Mexican heritage as well as expose them to Indian American heritage," Subramanyam told India-West. "It's very special for me to be able to point to Kamala Harris and say that she's someone like you who comes from South India but also has another

part of her identity as well. You can become president, too, one day, just like Kamala Harris."

High Costs

"It seems like the price of everything is so high right now, and I want to make sure we address from a policy perspective what we can control," Subramanyam, explained, noting that some factors, like the war in Ukraine are beyond control, while others stem from policy failures such as the monopolistic practices of prescription drug companies.

Gun Violence

Subramanyam, has served as a volunteer medic, EMT, and firefighter, stressed the need for stronger national policies to protect communities. "People want to feel safe. They want their kids to feel safe in school. And I think that we can do more as a country to address safety and gun violence," he remarked.

Reproductive Rights

Subramanyam called for federal legislation to protect access to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive healthcare services, saying it was "real shame that the Supreme Court decided to legislate this from the bench," rolling back decades of legal precedent.

For full interview:

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INTERVIEW

My Upbringing Shaped My Public Service Ideals: Ashwin

BY REENA RATHORE

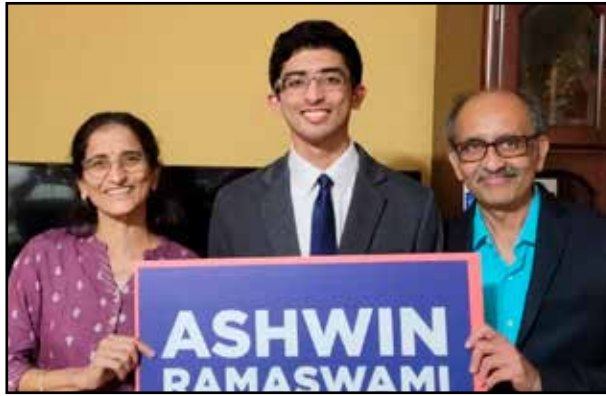
Ashwin Ramaswami, the Gen Z Democratic candidate running for a Georgia state Senate seat, is poised to bring a fresh perspective to the state's political landscape.

Born and raised in Johns Creek, Georgia, the 25-year-old's connection to his community runs deep and is on the brink of making history as the first Indian American and the youngest representative ever elected in Georgia with a background that spans technology and law.

Ramaswami, whose GOP oppo-

nent Shawn Still was indicted alongside former President Donald Trump for the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol, is campaigning on a platform centered around education, healthcare, and technology.

After earning a computer science degree from Stanford and a law degree from Georgetown and working on building tech startups and running a consultancy company, Ramaswami worked on election security in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure



Security Agency, where he saw firsthand the critical need for principled leadership. "I realized that

if you really want to make an impact, the best way is to come back home and stand up for what's right

and what's best for our community," he told **India-West**, underscoring his decision to run for office after Still's indictment. Ramaswami is particularly focused on bridging the cultural and demographic divides within his district by engaging younger voters. "The reality is, regardless of where someone is on the political spectrum, they realize that young people's representation is not here," he said. His campaign is making a concerted effort to reach out to the young, offering them a voice in the political process.

Ramaswami is passionate about the need to protect voting rights and ensure election security. "It shouldn't be a Democrat or Republican issue. It's an issue that cuts across," Ramaswami asserted.

Ramaswami's parents, both IT professionals, immigrated from Tamil Nadu in 1990. His journey into politics is also deeply rooted in his upbringing. "I grew up going to Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar, a community center where I learned about my Hindu religious traditions and values," he shared.

This early exposure to the values of integrity, honesty, and Seva, or community service, shaped his public service ethos, he further noted, saying, "I've always had the mindset of being very grateful for growing up here and wanting to give back."

Ramaswami's priorities include "common sense" gun laws, fully funding the education system, reducing class sizes, and increasing mental health resources for students.

On the healthcare front, Ramaswami is adamant about the need for Medicaid expansion in Georgia, one of the few states yet to do so and is critical of Georgia's restrictive abortion laws, describing them as "far too extreme."

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Vir Das To Host International Emmy Awards In New York

NEW YORK, NY (ANI) – Indian stand-up comedian and actor Vir Das is set to host the 2024 International Emmys, the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced on September 11.

Das was earlier nominated for an Emmy in 2021 for his special 'Vir Das: For India' and won in 2023 for his Netflix special 'Landing.' The comedian is currently on his international 'Mind Fool' tour.

He is the first Indian who will host this prestigious event.

Apart from his stand-up work, Vir Das has also created, produced, and starred in several series, including ABC's Whiskey Cavalier, Netflix's Hasmukh, and Amazon's Jestination Unknown.

Das appeared in Judd Apatow's The Bubble and is developing a single-camera comedy with CBS Studios and Andy Samberg. He is also the lead singer of India's comedy-rock band Alien Chutney.

Vir Das expressed his happiness at the opportunity of hosting the International Emmys

"I am so happy to be hosting the International Emmys. It's a massive prestigious night to uphold makers from across the world that I believe is making its best content.



I know first-hand how it can be life-changing," he said in a statement. Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, said "We're delighted to welcome back Vir Das to our stage and to add International Emmy Host to his impressive list of talents. With his unique humor and perspective on the world, he now joins a distinguished group of Gala hosts over the years who fit in perfectly with our global audience."

The International Emmy Awards will be held on November 25, here.

Vir began his career in stand-up comedy, performing at various venues in India and abroad. His rise to fame came through a mix of stand-up specials, live performances, and appearances in Bollywood films like Delhi Belly, Go Goa Gone, and Badmaash Company.

For his political views which he often brings into his work he has been vilified by the BJP and Modi government. He has had to go to court and faced threats to his life.

His work has earned him critical acclaim and multiple International Emmy nominations.



Aditi, Siddharth Attend Apple Mega Event, Spotted With Tim Cook

CUPERTINO, CA (ANI) – Actor Aditi Rao Hydari, who attended Apple's 'It's Glow Time' event with her fiancé, actor Siddharth, shared glimpses of the "unforgettable and magical" experience, including a special moment with Apple CEO Tim Cook.

On September 9, Apple unveiled the highly anticipated iPhone 16 series, Apple Watch Series 10, and the latest AirPods at the 'It's Glow Time' event, held at the new Observatory within Apple Park.

Posting pictures from the event, Aditi wrote, "What an unforgettable, magical experience... thank you sweetest, kindest, most venerable #TimCook. The last two days have been very special for both of us, surrounded by mind-bending brilliance, epic creativity, peak technology, and aesthetics max."

The event, staged at the Observatory within Apple Park, was a spectacle of innovation. Tim Cook, standing beside the iconic Rainbow sculpture, introduced Apple's newest advancements, with a focus on the iPhone 16 series, Apple Watch updates, and a range of cutting-edge services.

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Ishaan Khatter Making A Mark In Hollywood



India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Actor Ishaan Khatter has made a successful US debut in ‘The Perfect Couple’, where he stars alongside Nicole Kidman. Khatter plays Shooter Dival, the best man and childhood friend of the groom, a role originally written for a white character in Elin Hilderbrand’s novel.

Director Susanne Bier cast Khatter based on his talent, not ethnicity, a decision that has paid off as the show quickly shot to No. 1 on Netflix after its September 5 premiere.

Khatter expressed his excitement to People magazine about working with such a seasoned cast, saying, “One of the things I thoroughly enjoyed was working with wonderful people who were generous and kind.” Reflecting on his experience with Kidman, he shared, “She was as normal as any other actor on set... It’s going to be one of the pleasures of my young career.”

With ‘The Perfect Couple’ marking a major milestone, Khatter has already secured another Netflix project, ‘The Royals’, in which he will play Prince Charming.

His foray into Hollywood has been a remarkable success, setting the stage for a promising international career.



Emmys: Mindy Kaling Dazzles In Gaurav Gupta Gown

LOS ANGELES, CA (ANI) – Gaurav Gupta’s structured gown was worn by actress Mindy Kaling, who is best known for ‘The Office’, ‘The Mindy Project’, and ‘Champions.’ On September 15, she showed up for the red carpet at the 76th edition of the Emmy Awards in a gorgeous, black-colored sculpted gown designed by Gaurav Gupta.

She completed the look with straight hair and minimal jewelry so that the focus remained on her structural dress.

Gaurav Gupta shared stunning pictures. “@mindykaling in the black glacier embroidery sculpted gown at the Emmys 2024.AAROHANAM...” read the caption.

The stunning actor donned an outfit designed by Gaurav Gupta at the Met Gala as well. She wore a gorgeous champagne-colored architectural gown.

Laura Dern Glitters In Sabyasachi Statement Jewelry



LOS ANGELES, CA (ANI) – Laura Dern, actor and executive producer of the Emmy-nominated Palm Royale for Outstanding Comedy Series, graced the red carpet in a black off-shoulder gown.

What caught the attention of everyone was the stunning jewelry designed by Sabyasachi Mukherjee.

She completed her ensemble by wearing earrings, a bangle, and the statement Palm Avenue necklace from Sabyasachi.

Sabyasachi shared pictures on the official Instagram handle, “Laura Dern wears earrings, bangle, and the statement Palm Avenue necklace from Sabyasachi Jewelry for the 76th Emmy Awards.”

The awards, held at the Peacock Theatre and broadcast live exclusively on Lionsgate Play in India, celebrated the year’s finest in television with an array of surprising victories and historic wins.



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NAME CHANGE

I, Maheshkumar D. Patel, Son of Dwarkadas Shankerdas Patel Residing at 976 S Oakhaven Dr. Anaheim, CA 92804 has changed name from Maheshkumar Dwarkadas Patel to Maheshkumar D. Patel for all future purposes. Contact: Priaynshu@msn.com.

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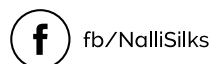
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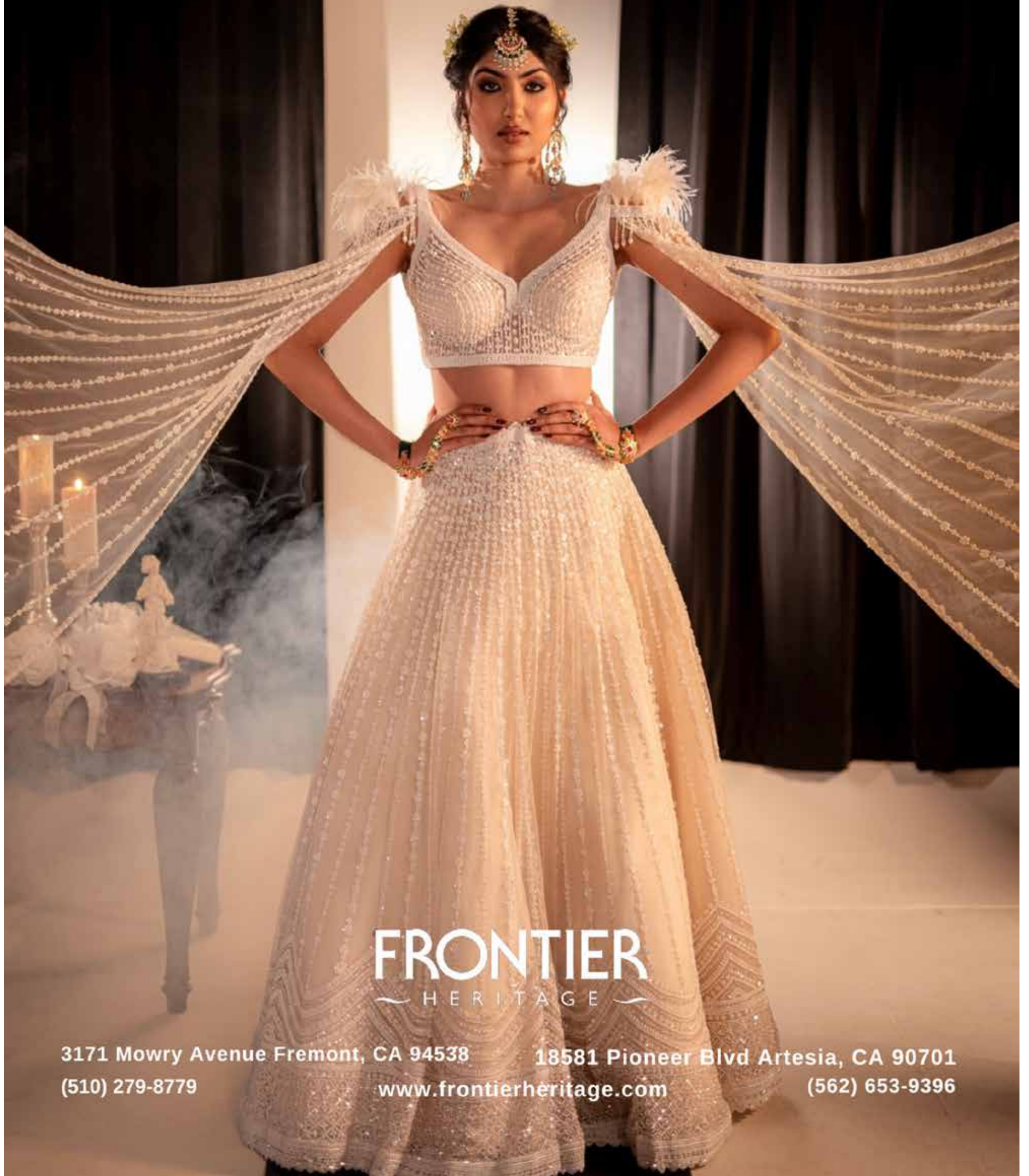
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