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# INDIA WEST

August 12, 2022

JOURNAL

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## Roopali Desai Becomes Judge on 9th Circuit Court



India-West News Desk

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Arizona lawyer Roopali H. Desai will be the first Indian American woman to serve as a judge on the 9th circuit court. The Senate voted 67-29 on August 4 to confirm her to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Desai will replace  
*Contd. on p14*

## Asian Americans Want Gun Control, Will Vote For Dems

India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON DC - Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), AAPI Data, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC released their bi-annual report measuring Asian American sentiment and attitudes on the issues top of mind in the lead-up to the 2022 midterm elections on July 25.

The survey included 1,610 registered Asian American voters. Among the key findings:

\*More than two-thirds of registered Asian Americans surveyed say they plan to vote, but only about half have been contacted by either of the major parties. 52% of Asian Americans said they had not been contacted at all by the Democratic Party in the past year, and 60% of Asian Americans said they had not been contacted at all by the Republican Party in the past year.

\*About 51 of Asian American registered voters surveyed say they prefer to cast their ballots by mail or drop-off box, rather

than in-person at a polling place.

\*Asian American registered voters were more likely to say they would vote for Democratic candidates compared to Republican candidates in House and Senate elections. Among national origin groups, Indian Americans were the most likely to say they would vote for Democratic candidates. Vietnamese Americans were split (Senate) or leaned toward the Republican candidates (House).

\*44% of Asian American registered voters surveyed think of themselves as Democrat, 19% think of themselves as Republican, and 29% consider themselves Independent.

\*Asian American respondents ranked health care (88%), jobs and the economy (86%), crime (85%), education (82%), gun control (73%) and the environment (75%) as "extremely important" or "very important" issues for deciding their votes in November. Voting rights and addressing racism were also important issues.

\*On issues of health care, gun control,  
*Contd. on p12*

## Rep. Raja Travels to Taiwan With Pelosi



WASHINGTON, DC (IANS) - Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi visited Taiwan as a member of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's delegation that drew Beijing's ire.  
*Contd. on p14*

## America Recognizes Growing Influence of Indian Community: Consul General Nagendra Prasad

By NIMMI RAGHUNATHAN

LOS ANGELES, CA - It's a busy job being the Indian Consul General, and more so in a region with a thriving and demanding community - Indian Americans in CA and the other states along the West Coast want their visas yesterday and business proposals sanctioned today. Through it all, there is the serene demeanor of Dr.T.V.Nagendra Prasad, India's rep in San Francisco, observed at various events from afar, wearing a slight smile and patiently answering questions.

This year has proven even busier with India's 75th anniversary: if the Consulate is



Consul General Dr. T V Nagendra Prasad and his family with San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

not organizing or supporting a celebratory event, then the weekend has others who want Prasad's presence in it.

The foreign service officer comes equipped for the job having served since 1993 in a variety of roles and places like Ashgabat and Berne, Thimpu and London. Even while navigating the varied cultures, Prasad is keenly aware of his own roots which are in Telangana where he studied and got his doctorate in agriculture. The community is just as likely to see him hobnobbing for India with VCs as in a temple.

The CG comes across as self-effacing, rarely using 'I' and seemingly always con-  
*Contd. on p18*

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# TiE SoCal Celebrates 25th Anniversary, Launches \$25 Million Endowment Fund



Longtime TiE officials and supporters.

By ASHISH SABOO

CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA - TiE Global Angels Investor summit and celebrations was a roaring success over three days from July 28th through 30th. First TiE Global leadership team including BJ Arun, Dharti Arvind Desai, Shankar Ram, Sundi Natarajan, Vijay Menon and various other leaders met to brainstorm about various programs and lay out plans for the initiatives and agenda for the coming years.

TiE SoCal hosted its first Golf tournament on Friday afternoon with over a hundred founders and investors pairing up for a fun outing at Pacific Palms Resort. Our Charter Member Mahesh Mike Patel (the tournament director) ensured that the golfers had a great time.

TiE SoCal celebrated its 25th anniversary in style on 29th July.

India Consul General Dr TV Nagendra Prasad and TiE co-founder Kanwal Rekhi addressed the investors, founders and business leaders with their thought-provoking speeches and energized the audience. Navneet Chugh, who co-founded TiE SoCal chapter in 1997 tickled the crowd with his funny but poignant remarks. TiE leadership took the opportunity to showcase the journey of the chapter and the contributions all the leaders have made to take this chapter to this level today. The 25th anniversary became even more historic when TiE BOT Chair BJ Arun launched the TiE Founders Circle, a \$25 million endowment fund of hundred donors with \$250K+ contributions each, with Navneet Chugh and Kanwal Rekhi being the first two contributors.

TiE Global Angel investor Summit kicked off in a big way on

Saturday. Address by CGI Dr. Prasad, BJ Arun and then keynote from Sumant Mandal from March Capital, and startup journey of PubNub by Todd Greene, followed up by morning panel with Investors like Tatiana Mulry, Catherine Rhee, Anand Jagannathan, Sundi Natarajan, and Venkat Tadanki kept the audience glued to their seats. Live startup pitches from fourteen pre-screened companies throughout the day were keenly attended and investors used the Startup Steroid app to provide live ratings and feedback to the pitching founders. Gregory Shepard of BOSS Capital Partners keynote about lessons learned from startup failures was an eye opener for startups and investors alike. The afternoon panel consisted of Pankaj Jain, Kumar Sripadam, Sylvia Kim, Digvijay (Sunny) Singh, Ph.D. and Julia Klein who talked about various topics including how to raise funds during current market conditions. During the event, John Keisler of Sunstone Management announced a \$25K grant to support the partnership with TiE SoCal.

TiE SoCal is pleased to contribute to the SoCal startup ecosystem by bringing together various investor groups together under one roof.

## \$100,000 Awarded to Students at 39th Annual Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture in San Diego



### India-West Staff Reporter

SAN DIEGO, CA - Dr. Suneta "Sunny" Cooke, President of MiraCosta College delivering the 39th Annual Mahatma Gandhi memorial lecture exhorted the awardees to follow Gandhiji's advice, "the

a major contributor to workforce development. She has served as the President of MiraCosta Community College District since 2015 and has been an educator since receiving her Ph.D. in Biology from Georgetown University. Dr. Cooke has worked at local and state levels in economic and workforce development in Texas and California.

Professor Madhu Madhavan, Founder and Executive Director of the San Diego Indian American Society (SDIAS) briefly reviewed the organization's history and said it has so far awarded over \$1.3 million in Mahatma



Madhavan honored Dr. Suneta "Sunny" Cooke, in the Indian tradition, with a shawl.



Dr. Suneta Cooke delivering the lecture.

best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Speaking on July 23, here, she said it had been her personal guiding principle. "I believe public service is the most admirable goal. I have found there is no greater reward than to make a difference in someone's life, to open an opportunity where there was no hope, to make the world a better place, or to make something work better for someone. Allyship - to stand with and for someone and to lend your voice, your credibility, your power, to their cause/to their need," she said.

Cooke is not only a distinguished educator and higher education administrator but also

school graduates from 14 different high schools and four community colleges were given cash awards amounting to \$100,000 and US congressional certificates from Congressman Mike Levin.

High School recipients will attend Harvard, Emory, Williams College, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, UC Davis, and San Diego State universities, and Community College students will be enrolled in Grossmont, City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges.

The SDIAS team of Professor Ramesh Rao, Hema Lall, Dr. Latha Sundar, and Manish Parikh, were all on hand to distribute the awards and thank supporters and volunteers.

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## OPINION

BY D.C. PATHAK

The contemporary national security scenario of India is conditioned by the reality of friendly relations built by this country across geopolitical boundaries on one hand and the acceleration of cross-border covert offensive of the two hostile neighbors - Pakistan and China - acting in concert for long, on the other. India's comprehensive strategy of combining military, diplomatic and security initiatives is working well, however, it calls for stronger measures on the domestic front to counter the mischief of the adversaries.

The threat of 'radicalization' has multiplied at present and the 'lone wolf' phenomenon may be on the rise requiring a deeper study. Sino-Pak axis is showing its military dimension as Chinese drones are used by Pakistan to surreptitiously drop arms, ammunition, and narcotics in bulk from across the border in Kashmir and Punjab, in aid of terrorists. There is an increased threat to economic targets and establishments of strategic importance - this is part of the continuing 'proxy war' against India.

Anti-India lobbies are working overtime to build narratives against the Modi regime in alignment with many elements of political opposition here to create internal conflicts and divides in the country on the issues of human rights, the status of minorities and alleged 'authoritarianism'. There is a campaign about 'unconstitutional' methods being adopted by the BJP government at the Centre and in the states even though no policy measure of the Modi government has so far failed judicial scrutiny. Some individual cases of action by the Police authorities being struck down by higher judiciary stand on a different footing - they will no doubt yield learning for the concerned administration.

In any case the country needs at this juncture a firm and prompt legal prosecution of those who indulged in speeches that hurt the religious sentiments of a community or damaged national unity under the excuse of freedom of speech. There was too much fun-making of Hindu Gods going on from before. In a multi-religious setting, this must completely stop.

What is of deepening concern on the internal security front is that there is a rapid rise of militancy borne out of communal conflicts and a determined push of this militancy towards faith-based terrorism, maneuvered by ISI. Short-lived tensions between the two communities at local levels were known to be a familiar feature of

Indian scene after Independence; they were a manageable law and order problem. Three developments, all linked to Pakistan, have, however, created a new level of threat to the internal security of India.

First, at the beginning of this year, Imran Khan, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, announced the National Security Policy (NSP) of his country - which was projected as a first-time event of this kind. While talking of the need for building economic security for Pakistan, NSP identified India with its 'Hindutva politics' as the principal adversary of Pakistan, contended that the Muslim minority of India was not secure and reiterated that Kashmir was the 'core

of the Taliban Emirate at Kabul, secured the opportunity of inducting Islamic radicals represented by Taliban, Al Qaeda, and ISIS, into the 'proxy war' against India without feeling inhibited by the earlier US stance of making a distinction between 'good terrorists' and 'bad terrorists', and planned to extend 'radicalization' beyond Kashmir to the rest of India.

The role of Pakistan in getting Taliban to rule Afghanistan again, enabled the former to retain the support of China on Afghanistan on the strength of a give and take between the two countries on the question of the treatment of Muslim minority in China. It may be recalled that it is the pro-Pak Jamaat-e-Islami which had taken the lead in fostering

The recent cases of terror in the name of Islam occurring in Amravati and Udaipur, reveal links with ISI-backed radical organizations functioning under cover like the PFI in India - with stray links with SIMI - as well as the Karachi based Dawat-e-Islami that had an outreach to Sufi shrines on one hand and the Jamiatul Ulema Pakistan on the other.

Many of the Ulema and the elite guiding the minority community politically, continue to breed communal 'separatism' among Muslims who, left to themselves, will draw confidence from the secular principle of 'one man one vote' on which Indian democracy rests and like to remain engaged in the pursuit of livelihood availing the opportunities that were there for all communities to look for.

The influence now being exerted on the minority community here by Pakistan is designed to instil in it the thought that Muslims are first and foremost an integral part of Ummah, beyond the national identity.

Our Security and Intelligence set up are closely watching the doings of the two prime adversaries of India on the borders. The threat of radicalization spreading slowly in various parts of the country because of the covert plans of ISI calls for closest coordination among the external, internal, technical, Police and Military Intelligence agencies. Constant scanning of social media and cyber communications, activation of District Intelligence units to read suspicious activities at the ground level, prompt legal action against speeches ridiculing Gods of any religion, watch over subversive activities of foreign-funded civil society forums and modernization of Madrasa education with the support of community's leadership and municipal assistance - all these together will effectively counter the Pak mischief of fishing in India's troubled waters.

Representative Muslim organizations should be persuaded to take a public stand that there was no place for advocacy of Jihad in today's world, and democratic means of grievance redressal should be adopted instead. Local administration in minority pockets should enhance its connectivity with public through Collector's town hall meetings to be held periodically. Muslims are used as a political fodder by their community leaders, a closer interaction with local authorities will reduce their dependence on communal leaders and so will be the case if initiatives are taken by non-Muslims to provide leadership to the minority community on citizen's issues.

*The writer is a former director of the Intelligence Bureau.*

## Anti-India Bodies Working Overtime Building Narratives Against Modi



issue' between India and Pakistan. Imran Khan put India-Pakistan relationship in a Hindu-Muslim framework and even his successor Shehbaz Sharif is playing this card. Sharif is raising allegations of human rights violations by India in Kashmir, to gain the attention of Biden administration and draw closer to the US once again in the backdrop of the damage earlier done to Pak-US relationship by the Imran Khan regime.

The second development that has greatly strengthened the capability of Pak ISI to create internal instability in India is the success that Pakistan achieved in mediating peace between Taliban and the US in a situation where President Biden was desperately wanting to fulfill the commitment of pulling out American soldiers from the messy battleground of Afghanistan. In a somewhat tentative agreement in Doha, US seemed to rely on Pakistan's good offices in believing that Taliban would not let Afghan territory be used for another 9/11 type of terror attack on US. In return, Pakistan got all that it wanted to have - it fully supported the reinstallation

militancy in Kashmir valley in the name of Islam through its front Hizbul Mujahideen, to further the plan of ISI to replicate the success of Afghan Jihad in Kashmir. In the rest of India also, Jamaat's front - Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) - was spreading militancy and by the time it faced a ban it had already created an offspring called Indian Mujahideen (IM) to undertake acts of terror. This phenomenon of the transition of a communal militant platform into an instrument of faith-based terror under external guidance has made its covert appearance again and on a wider scale, coinciding with the Pak-sponsored narrative that there is rise of 'Hindutva' in the Modi regime at the cost of security of Muslim minority of India.

This in fact is the third Pak-linked development that is threatening India's internal security the most: Pakistan is exploiting both Deobandi and Bareilvi extremists for stepping up radicalization in India. Bareilvis accept Sufi 'Silsilahs' but are more assertive than other sects when it comes to upholding 'Unity of God' in Islam and not tolerating blasphemy.

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# SoCal Indian Americans Thrill in Participating in 'Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav'

India-West Staff Reporter

CERRITOS, CA - The Indian American community of Southern California under the banner of INDIA@75 celebrated the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence on August 6, at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Theater.

After India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi called for the celebration for 75 weeks to mark the historic anniversary, the Indian Mission in San Francisco sent out a directive to the community to act on the call and organize celebrations at various locations.

At a meeting of various Southland associations the committee was formed with Kewal Kanda as Chairman, Charu Shivkumar as Treasurer, Harkishan Vasa as Secretary and Yatri Shukla as Joint Secretary. 45 people came together and worked for 15 months. The celebration on August 6 was the culminating event of several events that were run by the India@75 Committee.

The first event was successfully held on August 14, 2021 at the Joy of Sharing Community Center in Norwalk while the second event was a celebration of India's Republic Day on January 22, 2022 in Cerritos graced by the presence of Consul General of India in San Francisco, T.V. Nagendra Prasad. The series of events held by the committee was also a celebration of India in May this year in the Inland Empire under the leadership of Venkat Peddi, president of GOPIO-IE.

The final event with a houseful audience of over 900 people was the one held on August 6. Kanda thanked the audience and major sponsors, Uma & Avadhesh Agarwal, Ashok & Manju Madan, Harkishan & Kusum Vasa, Kewal & Asha Kanda, and State Bank of India (CA) Manager Samak Choudhury.

The Deputy Consul General of India, Rajesh Naik, who Kanda described as a friend of the community, pointed to the growth of India, saying the nation come a long way to the point where it is now easily recognized on the world map. It wasn't the case a couple of decades earlier. Naik released a coffee table hardcover souvenir of 190 pages containing profiles of many committee members, community entre-



Clockwise - Emcees Charu Shivakumar & Rachna Srivastava, The inaugural lamp being lit, Indian DCG Rajesh Naik releasing the souvenir, Some of the cultural segment participants, Rahul Kapoor Jain.



preneurs, and Indian history. The book was spearheaded by Hasmukh Modi, Kanda, Ramesh Thalli, and Harkishan Vasa.

Hasmukh Modi, Vasa, Gunjan Bagla, and

a group of young students led by Jasmin Sivakumaran presented a Vibrant India segment charting India's progress since independence the possibility of becoming a superpower by the year 2050, as well as how 5 million strong NRIs in the USA are helping millions of people in India with their social programs and charitable efforts.

The cultural segment led by Yatri Shukla and Suma Hareesh showcased the diversity of India. Many state cultures were presented through their unique dances with backdrops displaying the landscape of that state. Dances such as Divdi, Kathak, Bhangra, Karna-

taka Vaibhav, and dramas like 'Azadi Aasan Nahi Thi,' were applauded tremendously by the audience. A sparkling fashion show by Priya Kumar and Nandini Ratti was another highlight of the night.

Rahul Kapoor Jain, a motivational speaker talked about Un-Stoppable India and pumped enthusiasm in the audience. With his powerful speech, he energized everyone and received a long thunderous applause.

The grand finale had all the performers on stage dancing together while holding Indian and US flags. The program ended with slogans of Bharat Mata ki Jai and Vande Mataram. A sumptuous food including Jain food was served to all by RT Kitchen of Norwalk, California.

The emcees of the event were Charu Shivakumar, Rachna Srivastava. Event Co-ordinator Ashok Patnaik also did some of the introductions.

(All photos: Dr. Avinash Srivastava).



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## Harvard Professor Reveals How Facebook Friendships Has Economic Outcomes

NEW DELHI, (IANS) - A large-scale study of data involving 21 billion friendships on Facebook, led by Harvard University economist Raj Chetty, has revealed how these social connections help shape economic outcomes in the country.

Chetty is the William A. Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University and the director of Opportunity Insights, which uses big data to study the science of economic opportunity. The researchers

examined data on Facebook collected from 72.2 million US-based Facebook users between age 25 and 44 who listed their zip code. The research, published in two papers in the journal Nature, found that social connections play an important role in helping people achieve economic mobility, and neighborhoods that foster more connections between low-income and high-income people tend to have higher levels of mobility.

The team found that people with lower incomes were more likely to improve their financial situations over time if they were connected to people with higher incomes.

"The research also highlights why it is crucial that policymakers take social factors and interventions into account when designing

adulthood would increase by 20 percent on average. In the second paper, Chetty found that connections between high- and low-income people were often forged through structured social organizations like schools and religious groups.

In 2018, a team of researchers, led by economist Chetty, approached Meta with a question: Can a person's social network help lift them out of poverty?

In 2003 at 24, Chetty became an assistant professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, becoming a tenured associate professor there at 28. In 2020, Chetty was awarded the Infosys Prize in Economics, the highest monetary award recognizing achievements in science and research, in India. "Chetty and his team at Harvard's Opportunity Insights are known for their groundbreaking research on economic opportunity in the US and how public policy can improve a person's economic mobility," Clegg said in a statement on August 1.

Together, Opportunity Insights and Meta embarked on a years-long research project that has culminated in the two papers. It also led to the creation of the Social Capital Atlas, new datasets and research insights that uses data from Facebook friendships to provide measures of social capital across ZIP codes, high schools, and colleges in the US. "We hope to contribute to similar research projects around the world," said Meta.



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## Instacart's Founder Apoorva Mehta Steps Down

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (IANS) - Instacart Founder and Executive Chairman Apoorva Mehta has said he will step down from the online grocery delivery service he founded nearly a decade ago.

Instacart announced that CEO Fidi Simo has been appointed as Chair of the Board of Directors, effective as Mehta moves out from the board once Instacart becomes a public company.

"Since I transitioned from CEO to Executive Chairman a year ago, I realized that I want to pursue a new mission and I want to do it with the same singular focus that I had while building Instacart. Stepping off the board will allow me to do just that," Mehta said in a tweet late on July 22. Simo, a former Facebook executive, took over as CEO of Instacart when Mehta departed that role, and will be the future executive chairman of the board. "Mehta realized more than a decade ago that grocery delivery was a core consumer need. He worked tirelessly with the team to create and build a successful model that allows consumers to access same-day delivery from their favorite grocers," said Simo. Simo thanked him "for all he has done for Instacart over the last decade". Instacart, partners with more than 800 national, regional, and local retail brands to facilitate online shopping, delivery, and pickup services from more than 70,000 stores across more than 5,500 cities in North America on its Marketplace. "Mehta created a company that is transforming the grocery industry. His hard work and dedication brought Instacart into the homes of millions of customers," said Instacart Board Member Jeff Jordan.



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# Shri Thanedar Wins Primary in MI in Safe Dem Seat

## India-West News Desk

DETROIT, MI - "I am dedicated to racial, social and economic equity and justice for all. That means ensuring all Michiganders have access to early-childhood education, equitably funded K-12 schools and affordable healthcare." With that stated platform, MI State Rep. Shri Thanedar triumphed in the Democratic primary for the 13th Congressional District on August 3.

The Associated Press called the race that is centered around Detroit. Twitter and polls were quick to point out that for the first time since 1955, the city is likely to not have an African American representative. The

seat is widely considered to be a safe Democratic one.

Thanedar, 67, a self-made millionaire has been a state legislator for two years. He poured into the campaign to defeat State Rep. Adam Hollier and attorney Portia Roberson. In November, he will face Republican Martell Bivings, who ran unopposed in the GOP primary.

"This race was not about me. Michigan's



13th Congressional District is one of the poorest in the country and I will fight for

economic and racial justice in Congress," Thanedar told the media. "We must continue the fight against the special interests that seek to divide us and prevent us from achieving the basic rights that we all deserve. We have a lot of work in front of us, and you can count on me to continue fighting for our communities."

Thanedar grew up in a lower-income family in Belgaum, Karnataka. When his father retired, the 14-year-old Thanedar to overcome poverty worked odd jobs to support his family of eight. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at 18 and then attended a masters program at University of Bombay. He came to the US in 1979 and got his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Akron. He is a serial entrepreneur and has many small businesses, making his fortune in the pharmaceutical industry.

He is married to Shashi, who he told the Detroit Free Press, "is a hero to me; she came to a very foreign country to a family that was broken and hurting. She came in and made it a home." His first wife, with who he has two sons, died of drug overdose.

## Mid-Term

*Contd. from p1*

the environment, voting rights, and racism, Asian American respondents said Democrats were doing a better job than Republicans.

\*On economic issues, crime, and foreign policy, respondents were more split in their assessment of the two parties' handling of the issues.

\*77% of those surveyed agree the United States should have stricter gun laws, with 61% agreeing "strongly." A strong majority (59%) also said they "agree somewhat" or "agree strongly" that undocumented immigrants should have an opportunity to eventually become citizens in the United States.

\*By a 2-to-1 margin, Asian American registered voters oppose bans on books and bans on lessons about racism in American history by state/local governments or school boards

\*56% of Asian American respondents held a "very favorable" or "somewhat favorable" impression of Joe Biden compared to 29% who expressed either a "very favorable" or "somewhat favorable" impression of Donald Trump.

\*Television was the most common news source for Asian American respondents (65%) and Facebook (32%) was nearly as common a news source as traditional print newspaper (36%). For some groups, especially Vietnamese Americans (51%), YouTube was regularly consulted as a news source.

\*73% of Asian Americans worry about experiencing hate crimes, harassment, and discrimination at least "sometimes" and 24% said they worry about it "very often."

Among those who say they worry "very often" about hate crimes, support for Democratic House candidates is higher than support for Republican House candidates by a 3 to 1 margin.



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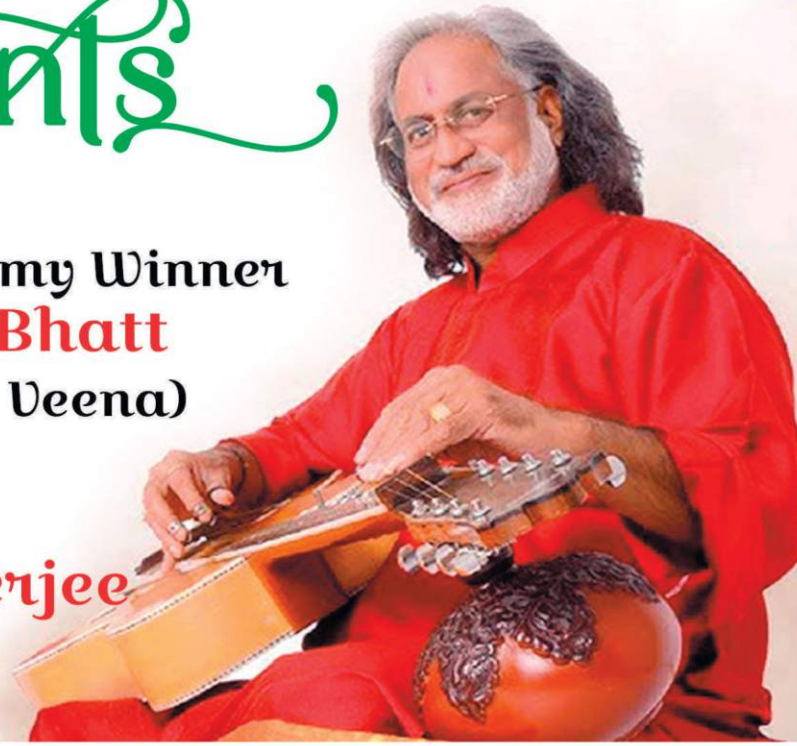
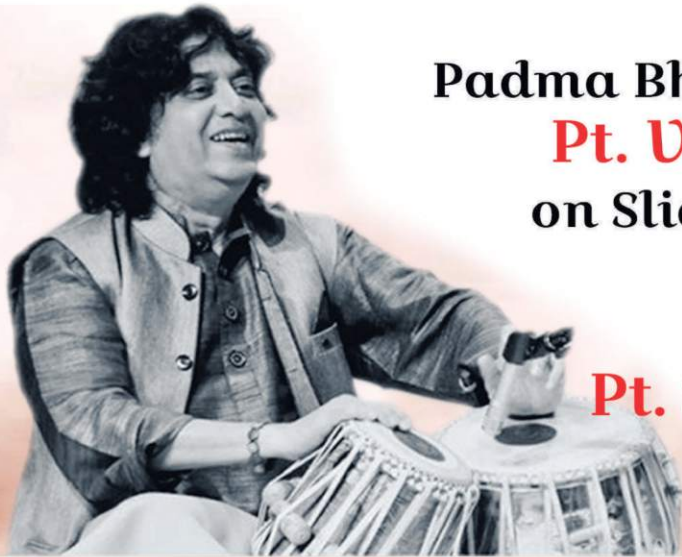
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# Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Visits Taiwan With Speaker Pelosi

Contd. from p1

Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat who is a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, met Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-Wen along with Pelosi and other members of the Congressional delegation on August 3 in Taipei.

Sending a pointed message to Beijing, Krishnamoorthi and the members of the delegation also met with Tiananmen Square protest leader Wu'er Kaixi, exiled Hong Kong dissident Lam Wing-kei and Kelsang Gyaltsen Bawa, chairman of the Taipei-based foundation of the Dalai Lama during a visit to the National Human Rights Museum, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported.

Krishnamoorthi now faces threats from China of action against him personally.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi had warned that "those who offend China will be punished".

Responding to reporters' questions about it, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Aug 3: "What I can say is that what needs to be done will be done and these measures will be resolute, strong and effective."

Beijing officials have de-



nounced the delegation's visit as a provocation and an infringement of China's territorial integrity because it considers Taiwan an integral part of the nation.

Although President Joe Biden's administration has come around to backing the Congressional delegation's right to visit Taiwan, it did not endorse the idea of the trip when it was floated because of fears of China's retaliation and introducing more complications to relations with it.

Biden had said that the Pentagon did not think such a visit was advisable now. In a rare show of solidarity with Pelosi, many Republicans who are usually opposed to her came out in support of her. Mitch McConnell, the Republican Party leader in the Senate, and 25 other Senators including Senate Foreign

Relations Committee's top Republican Jim Risch issued a statement supporting the Pelosi trip. Krishnamoorthi, who represents a constituency comprising Chicago suburbs, is a hawk on China.

A bill authored by him to assess "grey zone activities" of China and others against the US through actions like disinformation campaigns and ter-

rorism financing and another to monitor risks to US technology from China-United Arab Emirates cooperation were adopted by the House earlier this year. The defense budget adopted by Congress in 2020 incorporated wording pushed by him urging China to end aggression against India against the Line of Actual Control in the Himalayas.

## Roopali Desai - Judge on 9th Circuit Court

Contd. from p1

Judge Andrew David Hurwitz, who retired in late January. Desai was nominated in June this year and benefitted from the flurry of sudden bi-partisanship that is now marking Washington. Her confirmation in just 50 days is reported to be the fastest for a circuit court since the Clinton presidency.

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee said, "It comes as no surprise that Ms. Desai's nomination has received high praise across the political and ideological spectrum, as well as from state judges, law enforcement officials, and three different fire fighters' organizations. With 16 years of experience as a litigator, she is

an outstanding addition to the Ninth Circuit." Desai also had the active support of Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema.

Neil Makhija, Indian American Impact Executive Director pointed out that Desai was, "a fierce defender of democracy, she valiantly represented the Arizona state secretary of state, Katie Hobbs, against a lawsuit by President Donald Trump's campaign that sought to overturn Biden's victory in Arizona."

He added, "It's no secret that communities of color have been severely underrepresented within our judicial system, but a new wave of tenacious and driven leaders is making remarkable progress in our pursuit of proper

representation. While we may not know what the future holds, we can be certain that it will be bright - and it will look like all of us."

Headquartered in San Francisco, CA, the Ninth Circuit is by far the largest of the thirteen courts of appeals, covering a total of nine states, two territories and with 29 active judgeships. Desai will however work out of her home state of AZ.

The daughter of immigrants from India, Desai was born in Canada before coming to Phoenix as a child. She was a partner at Copper-Smith Brockelman where she has practiced since 2007. She received her J.D. in 2005, her M.P.H in 2001, and her B.A. in 2000, all from the University of Arizona.



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This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-KS-AX-0010 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## दक्षिण एशियाई समुदाय के भीतर यौन हिंसा की हकीकत:

- यौन हमले के बारे में संवाद को अक्सर टाला जाता है, अनदेखा किया जाता है और वर्जित माना जाता है।
- इस घटना से गुजरे हुए लोगों को अक्सर दोषी ठहराया जाता है या शर्मिंदा किया जाता है यदि वे बोलना चुनते हैं।
- कई तरीकों से, इस हमले को उस बिंदु तक सामान्य कर दिया गया है जहां यह प्रकट होने पर गलीचे के नीचे बह जाता है।

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SOURCE: API GBV

## याद रखें, यौन हमला:

- सम्मिलित है, लेकिन किसी भी प्रकार के गैर-सहमति या जबरदस्ती शारीरिक संपर्क (यानी जबरन संभोग, वस्तु प्रवेश, मुख मैथुन) तक सीमित नहीं है।
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- यह विभिन्न गतिकी के भीतर मौजूद हो सकता है जैसे कि समान-लिंग, पेशेवर, परिवार, स्कूल, आदि।
- यह कभी भी आपकी गलती नहीं है



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## VA First State to Declare Oct. as Hindu Heritage Month

India-West Staff Reporter

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia State Legislature and Senate have both, unanimously passed a resolution declaring, in perpetuity, October as Hindu Heritage Month.

The passing of resolution VA HJ141 which had been introduced by State Delegate Suhas Subramanyam was greeted with great excitement by the Indian American community.

The Hindu American Foundation which took the lead, on July 12 tweeted, "We thank the Virginia Hindu community and partners for helping make this happen," while its Associate Director of Policy Research, Anita Joshi, credited Subramanyam and advocate Rajesh Gooty for the development. Launched in 2021, Hindu Heritage Month is the global coming together of Hindus in October each year, to celebrate their rich heritage. October was chosen as it typically hosts an array of festivals like Navaratri, Dusshera, and Deepavali that are celebrated by the diverse communities per their Hindu calendars.

The President of the Vedic Friends Association, Balabhadra Bhattacharya Dasa, speaking on the importance of the initiative said, it would go toward dispelling misinformation and "provide a resource to educate, inform, and inspire not only non-Hindus but encourage Hindus, especially the younger Hindu generation."

Thara Narasimhan, President, Hindus of Greater Houston also emphasized the importance of the event, pointing out that the synthesis of various languages and traditions that has happened through the ages has given shape to what is recognized as Indian culture today and HMM provides an avenue to showcase this unique openness and abundance of 'unity in diversity.'

Dr. Jai Bansal, Vice President of Education at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, coordinator for the Hindu Heritage Month movement, noted that the dream to make it a truly global event was slowly getting realized with organizations from Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, South Africa, Germany, Norway and many other countries signing up as partners.



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# America Recognizes Growing Influence of Indian Community

Contd. on p1

scious of his official role. Ever the diplomat, he simply skirts questions from **India-West** that he doesn't like (see Delhi and visa response below) and is off to the races where there is an opportunity to extol India (mostly edited out here for space):

**Q: What has been the response to India's 75th anniversary from mainstream America?**

**A:** When the Prime Minister announced "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" in March 2021, there was enthusiastic response. We had Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis join us in celebrating our National Day Reception in 2021 and the iconic City Hall in San Francisco was lit in the tricolor. The Consulate began celebrations with an event on India's 'Technological Evolution' with high-powered speakers; we also met and recalled the sacrifices made by Ghadarites at the historic Ghadar Memorial Hall in San Francisco. Most Indian associations have celebrated their annual events using the India@75 logo looped in with the Consulate. Hearteningly, the celebrations have included youth raised in the US and local communities who got to know of the historic event. Closer to August 15, we are holding a Ti-

ranga Yatra across the Golden Gate Bridge besides 'Har Ghar Tiranga.' Several significant programs are in the pipeline up to August 2023 in various cities on the West Coast.

**Q: In your encounters with CA politicians what has been the one overarching impression they have of Indian Americans?**

**A:** In my interactions with various elected officials from the governor to local community leaders, it is clear the community commands a lot of respect and is known for its entrepreneurship, law-abiding nature, and hard work. Not only is the community appreciated, but its influence is also recognized. This is not just the tech community of the Bay area where so many corporates are headed by Indian Americans, but even the rich farming community in the Central Valley has proven to have a significant voice. The presence of elected leaders at events organized by the community is just one indication of the popularity of Indian Americans in the region.

**Q: What are the three main things you hope to accomplish in your tenure in SF?**

**A:** As Consul General, the major task is to provide efficient consular services to the 1.5 million-strong Indian American community on

in 11 states and Guam. We have done this with outreach activities, simplification of procedures, holding of consular camps, etc. I always look towards wider outreach to the community; most people I come across mention they would like to give back to their motherland. So they can engage with India in a sustentative way, I do a Live Radio program every quarter, to keep them abreast of developments in India. Our role is of a facilitator: we strive hard to promote Indian products and the particular interests of individual Indian states. We also engage with local politicians and officials to clarify certain issues and developments from time to time.

**Q: US Universities are making a bigger and bigger push into India. What role if any does the consulate have in education ties?**

**A:** Education is a very important and crucial sector for bilateral co-operation. With the announcement of the National Education Policy in 2020, many opportunities opened for foreign universities in India including setting up of centers. This interaction has been very intense in the last year with our Ambassador in Washington meeting several university officials across the US.

Related is the fact that at any point in time, we have over 200,000 Indian students in the US.

**Q: The inevitable query on visas. How hampered are consulates by Delhi's diktats?**

**A:** As you are aware, most of the companies in the Bay Area have offices in India which provide various services to the main company in the US. In order not to hamper their work during Covid, we continued to issue employment and business visas. Only tourist visas were not issued during the severe Covid period, just as every other country did. As regards visas to the community, we kept our office open even on weekends during this sensitive period to serve those who had to make emergency visits to India.

**Q: You have served in countries that range from democracies, autocracies, and monarchies. How does it**



**affect the role of an Indian diplomat in building ties?**

**A:** Diplomats are supposed to work in any kind of political system. We always look for areas of collaboration. I am sure you are asking this question after looking at my postings but let me say that the political system played a very small role when it came to cementing relations.

**Q: You were in Tehran. Is there an acknowledgment of the ancient links between India and Iran or is India viewed as Hindu and different?**

**A:** India and Iran shared historical relations and as you are aware, Persian was the court language in the Moghul Era. We share culture and language and at one time even a border. Please note that India is home to about 160 million Muslims, the second largest only to Indonesia. India and Iran also complement each other's economies.

**Q: You have a background in agriculture, does that come in use in your travels in California? What have you seen here that you would like India to have, and do you think the US agricultural sector could do with from India?**

**A:** My agricultural background makes me appreciate California's

rich and diverse agricultural economy more. Whether oranges or nuts, the produce of California makes me think about wider opportunities for collaboration. Several Indian delegations have come to observe the cultivation practices, varieties of crops, and processing of fruits and vegetables. Some states of India have been expressing interest in avocado cultivation. This is such an important sector that in my view has great potential for the future when it comes to ensuring global food security.

**Q: A message for the community...**

**A:** Always preserve and pass on the rich and diverse culture of India to the next generation. I am happy that several community organizations have established language schools, also the hundreds of music and dance schools that keep our classical and folk traditions alive in this part of the world. As is being noted, the future of the world belongs to the continent of Asia in general and India in particular; the youth will benefit from this. They will have ample opportunities due to India's growth story and its vibrant democracy.

## Short Takes:

- A place, thing, memory in the US that has left an impact: Central Valley where hardworking Indian American farmers have so admirably, made it big.

- Country you have not visited and would like to: I have to yet explore India fully before going off to other countries.

- Recommend a book or film that would explain the Stan countries to us: No single book or film can make you grasp the Stans. One has to visit these interesting places to understand them.

- Free time: Golf and movies.

- How wife and son cope with the constant moves of a diplomatic career: It is really tough. Hats off to my wife Padma who made life easy in these diverse places with her quick adaptation. My son, despite various systems of education from London-Bhutan-Delhi-Switzerland, made it to MIT and Stanford. I think exposure prepares them for challenges.

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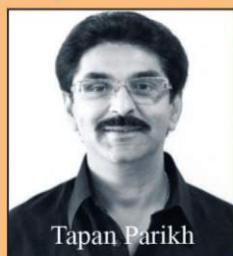
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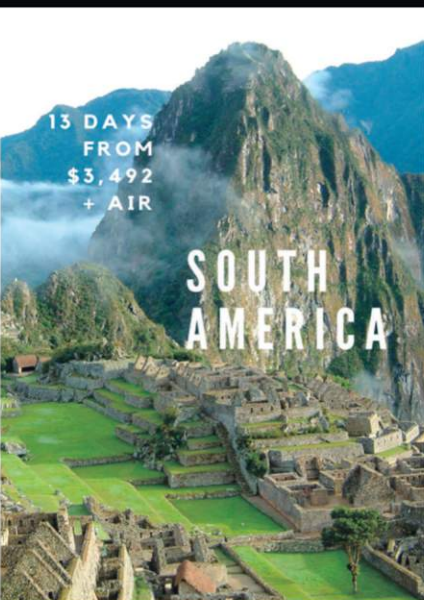
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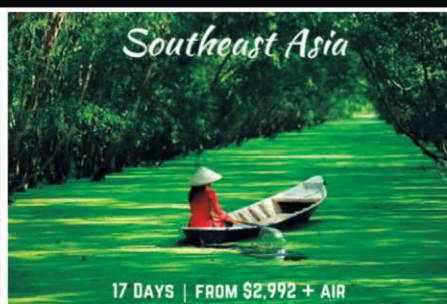
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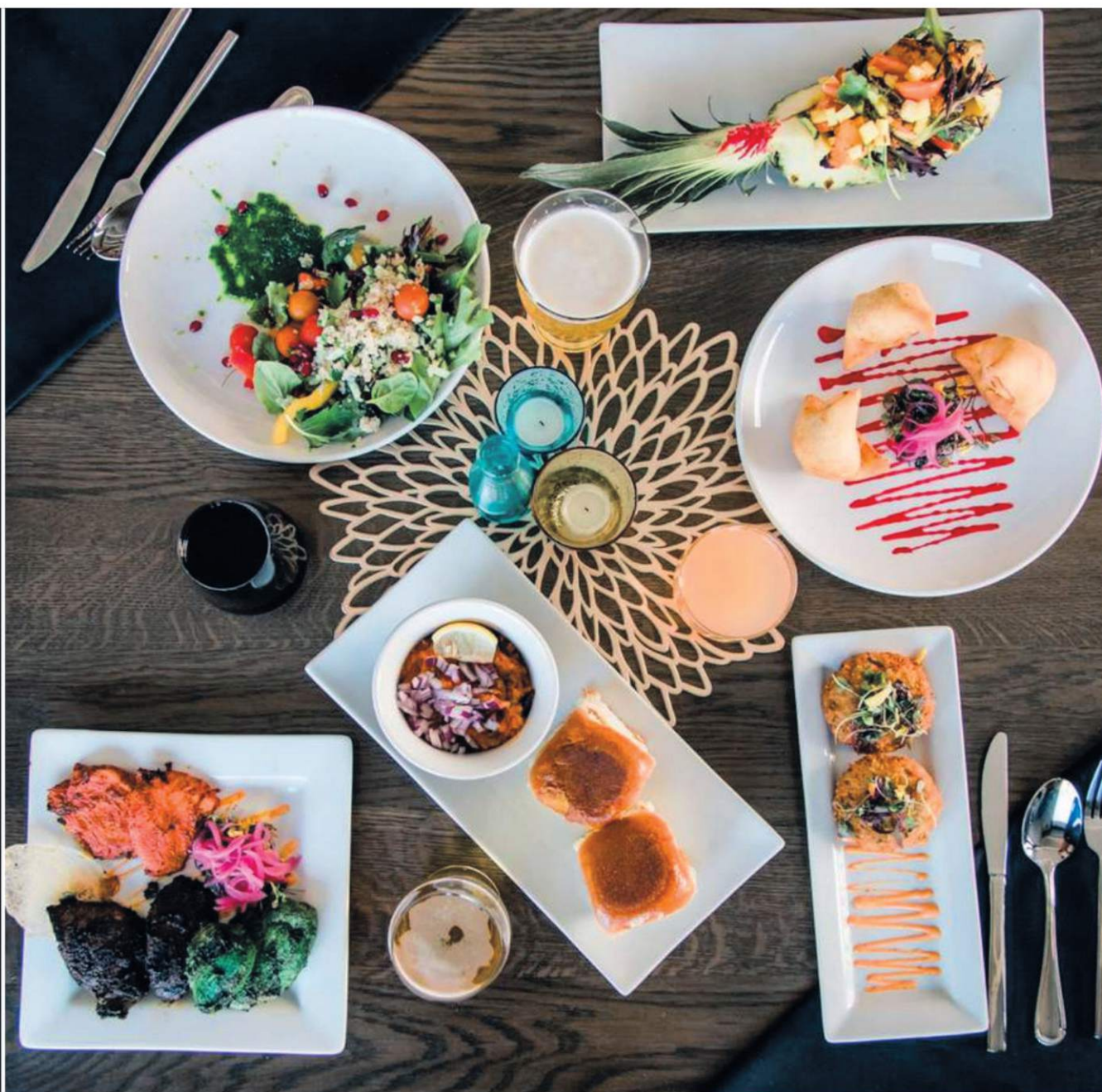
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## Ganesh Navaratri Pooja Celebrations

### Ganapathi Navaratri Schedule

#### Aug 30th, Tuesday

10AM-12PM: Kalasha Sthapana, Pooja & Ganapathy Tarpanam, and Aarti.  
7:00 PM-8:30 PM: Samoohika Varasiddhi Vinayaka Puja (Participatory Puja), Ganapati 'Ga'Kara  
Sahasranamarchana followed by Neerajanam, Mantrapushpam & dinner Prasad.

#### From Aug 31st, Wednesday – Sept 2nd, Friday

10 AM-12 PM: Daily Ganesh Pooja & Ganapathy Tarpanam, and Mangal Aarti  
7:00PM-8:30PM: Ganapathy, Shodasha Upachara Pooja, Ganapathy & 'Ga'Kara  
Sahastranamarchana followed by Neerajanam, Mantrapushpam & dinner Prasad

#### Sept. 3rd, Saturday, 2022

9AM-10:30AM: Daily Ganesh Pooja & Ganapathy Tarpanam, and Mangal Aarti  
6:00PM-8:00PM: Ganapathy, Shodasha Upachara Pooja, Ganapathy & 'Ga'Kara  
Sahastranamarchana followed by Neerajanam, Mantrapushpam & dinner Prasad

#### Sunday, Sept. 4th, 2022

10:30AM-12PM: SPECIAL Puja for Students (Vidyarthi Puja)  
5:00PM-8:00PM: Ganesha Sahasra Modaka Homam (1,008 Modakas) & Ganapathy,  
Shodasha Upachara Pooja, Ganapathy & 'Ga'Kara Sahastranamarchana followed by  
Neerajanam (Aarti), Mantrapushpam & dinner Prasad

#### Sept. 5th, Monday – Sept. 7th, Wednesday

10AM-12PM: Daily Ganesh Pooja & Ganapathy Tarpanam, and Mangal Aarti  
7:00PM-8:30PM: Ganapathy, Shodasha Upachara Pooja, Ganapathy & 'Ga'Kara  
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### Ganapati Alankarams During Ganesha Navratris

Day	Date	Alankaram
1	Tuesday, August 30	Nijaroopa Alankaram
2	Wednesday, August 31	Haridra Alankaram
3	Thursday, September 1	Sindhoora Alankaram
4	Friday, September 2	Kumkuma Alankaram
5	Saturday, September 3	Vibhoodhi Alankaram
6	Sunday, September 4	Pushpa Alankaram
7	Monday, September 5	Chandana Alankaram
8	Tuesday, September 6	Phala Alankaram (dry fruits)
9	Wednesday, Sept. 7	Nijaroopa Alankaram

## AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

DATE	POOJA/EVENT & DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	TIME	AMOUNT
August 18th - Thursday	Sri Krishna Janmashtami - Lord Krishna's B'day Celebrations	Abhishekam	9:00 PM - 1:00 AM (Aug 19th)	\$54
August 21st - Sunday	Keertan and Bhajan by Swami Mangalananda	Satsang	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Free
August 23rd - Tuesday	Punarvasu - Rama Parivara Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
August 24th - Wednesday	Pradosha Siva Puja	Puja	7:00 PM	\$54
August 30th - Tuesday	Ganesha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	10:00 AM	\$54
August 30th - Tuesday	Samoohika Varasiddhi Vinayaka Puja	Pooja	7:00 PM	\$54
September 1st - Thursday	"Skanda Shashti - Lord Murugan Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
September 4th - Sunday	Samoohika Vidyarthi Puja to Lord Ganesh followed by Lunch	Puja	10:30 AM	Free
September 8th - Thursday	Pradosha Siva Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
September 9th - Friday	Bhadrapada Pournima - Sri Chakra Navavarana Puja	Puja	10:00 AM	\$116
September 10th, Saturday, 2022 - September 25th, Sunday, 2022 --- SHRAARDHA BEGINS (Pitruapaksha, Mahalaya Begins)				
September 10th - Saturday	Lord Ayyappa Padi Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
September 13th - Tuesday	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Lord Ganesha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
September 19th - Monday	Punarvasu Nakshatram - Rama Parivara Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
September 22nd - Thursday	Pradosha Siva Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
September 25th - Sunday	Mahalaya Amavasya			
September 26th, Monday, 2022 - October 4th, Tuesday, 2022 --- DASSHEHRA NAVRATRI begins				
September 30th - Friday	"Skanda Shashti - Lord Murugan Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54



# Aarya Walvekar Crowned Miss India USA 2022

## India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC - Indian American teenager Aarya Walve-

kar of Virginia has been crowned Miss India USA 2022. Saumya Sharma, a second-year premedical student at the University of

Virginia, was declared first runner-up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was the second runner-up. As many as 74 contestants rep-

resenting 30 states participated in three different pageants- Miss India USA, Mrs. India USA, and Miss Teen India USA. Akshi Jain of Washington State was crowned Mrs. India USA and Tanvi Grover of New York was crowned as Miss Teen India USA. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest running Indian pageant outside of India. It was started by New York-based



Indian Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under the banner of Worldwide Pageants.

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## Nikki Haley's Daughter Engaged



CHARLESTON, SC - The daughter of former UN Ambassador under Donald Trump Nikki Haley, is engaged. Rena and her fiancé, Joshua Jackson are Clemson University alums. Jackson played on the football team while Rena is a pediatric nurse. They graduated in 2021.

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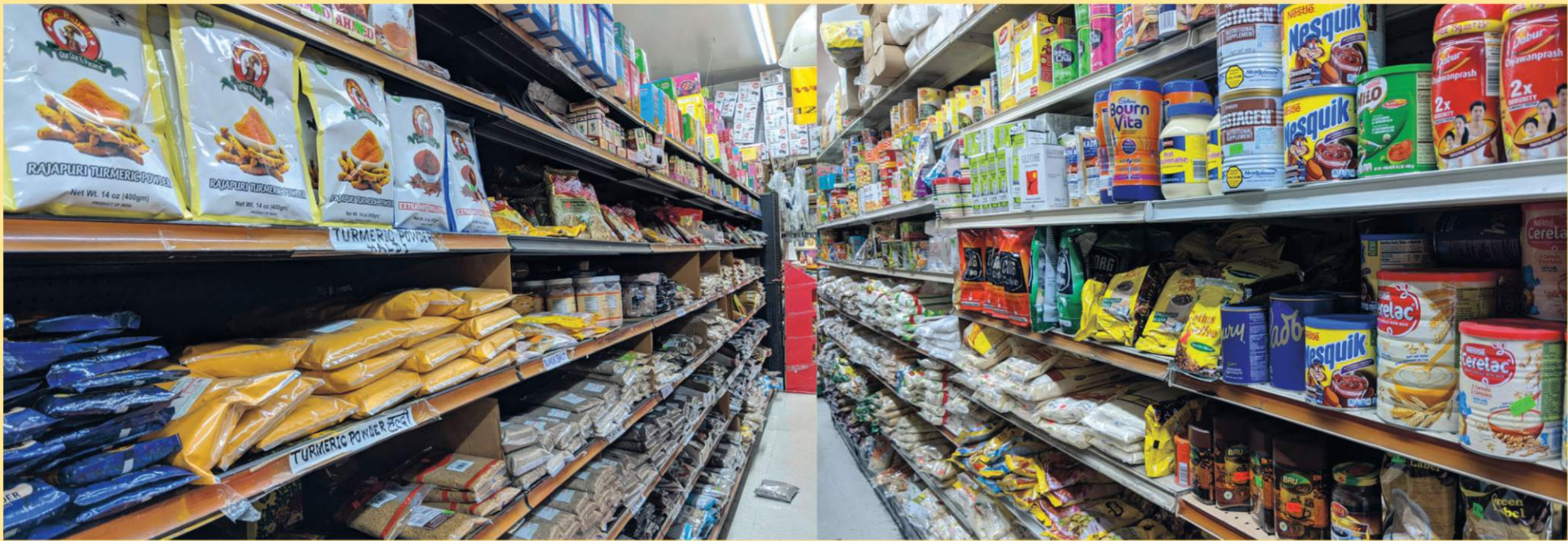


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## Amaan Sandhu Commits to Basketball's NCAA Division 1

TRENTON, NJ (IANS) - Teen-aged Indian basketball player Amaan Sandhu made history by becoming the first male Indian basketball player to commit to a NCAA Division 1 college.

Sandhu, an alumnus of NBA Academy India, has committed to Monmouth University in West Long Beach, New Jersey ahead of the 2022-23 season. Sandhu, a native of Mohali, Punjab, is the third player overall from NBA Academy India to earn a Division I basketball scholarship, joining Sanjana Ramesh at Northern Arizona and Harsimran Kaur at San Diego on the women's side.

"We're so excited to add Amaan to our program. His journey to get to where he is now is incredible and we're glad he chose to come with us. To be one of the first players born in India to ever earn a Division I men's basketball scholarship is major for Amaan and his family and we can't wait to get to work with him," said King Rice, head coach of Monmouth University Men's Basketball team.

Sandhu was scouted through the ACG-NBA Jump program as part of the inaugural prospects for the NBA Academy India in May 2017. He



was enrolled at the Academy until he joined First Love Christian Academy in the fall of 2020.

During Sandhu's tenure with the Academy, he participated in three Basketball Without Borders camps, including 2020 one in Chicago during NBA All-Star Weekend.

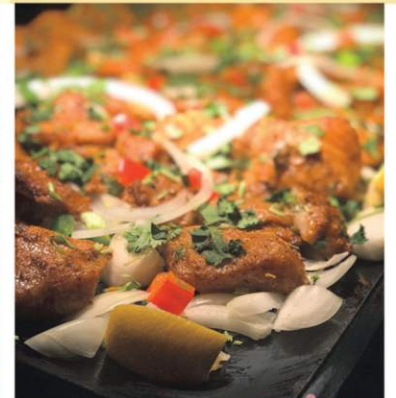
Sandhu joins the Monmouth Hawks at the center position, standing at 7'0". He will play D-1 NCAA basketball in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

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# Remembering Lala Har Dayal And the War Cry From America

By **SUKANT DEEPAK**

A Sanskrit graduate from Delhi's St Stephen's College, two scholarships from Oxford, a Professor of Indian philosophy and Sanskrit at Stanford University and the force behind the 'Ghadar' newspaper which articulated India's nationalist aspirations in the US ... Lala Har Dayal dreamt of independent India with his eyes open.

Known to be a brilliant orator, when an immigrant to the US suggested to his group that Har Dayal

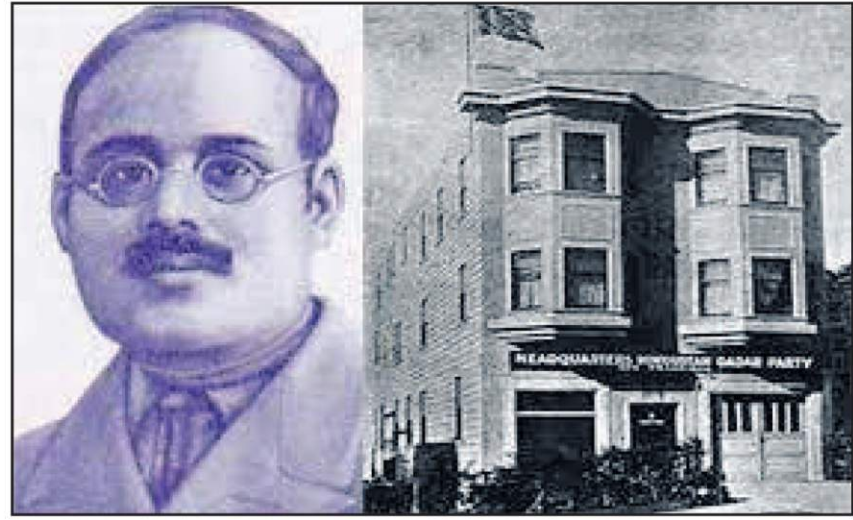
be invited to speak to them, the meeting changed everything for the diaspora looking to overthrow the Raj in India.

Prof. Harish Puri, historian, and expert on the Ghadar movement, said those who attended realized that people were willing to donate funds, educate others, and do something for India.

Born on October 14, 1884, Har Dayal suggested that it was important to educate the Indian people living in the US, politically. To achieve this end, he became

the editor of a weekly paper in Urdu and Gurmukhi. It was named 'Ghadar', meaning 'mutiny'.

The group behind the effort lived together, wrote articles, and published the newspaper. The idea was to prepare for an armed revolt. These people had connections in the British Indian Army -- they had either served, deserted, or left it. Also, many of them had cousins and relatives in the army, so they began to



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collect the names of everyone with connections in the armed forces back home.

"The idea was to organize an uprising in 1917/1920 after preparing for seven to ten years. The British intelligence, however, knew exactly what was happening as these people were talking openly. At one point, it seemed that the British government knew more about them than they themselves," Puri says.

By March 1914, the U.S. government, under the influence of the British ambassador in Washington, D.C., arrested Har Dayal. It was feared that he would be tried for anarchism, the political philosophy he espoused, or that the British government would send him back to India to be hanged.

Also, when a bomb was hurled at Lord Hardinge by Basanta Kumar Biswas on December 23, 1912, in Delhi, one of the accused, Bhai Balmukund turned out to be a cousin of Bhai Parmanand, one of the founders of the Ghadar Party. Har Dayal, therefore, was very much on the British radar.

He jumped bail and was secretly sent to Geneva. Thereafter, he did not really have any connection with the Ghadar movement. Later, his own ideas underwent a total transformation. He wrote an article arguing that Asia needed the protection of the British Empire for a long time to come as he had seen the situation in Germany and Turkey and felt that the British were far more civilized. This was in 1919.

So, there was a complete transformation in Har Dayal, and thereafter we don't see much of him. Of course, he was lecturing on a variety of topics. He was an honest, hard-working man who lived a very simple life and was committed to whatever he did.

Today the Indian American community remembers him and the movement with events and celebrations in honor of the sacrifices made. The Ghadar Memorial Hall is often a site of these events.



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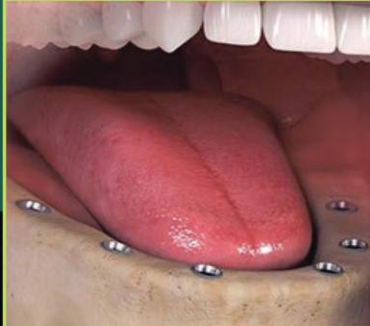
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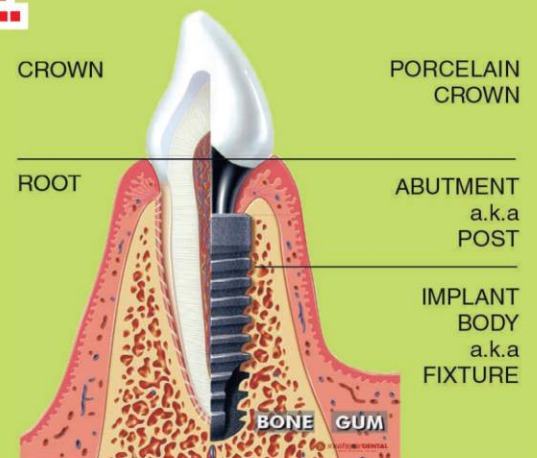
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## FOOD

# Zabb Thai Cuisine—Where Meat Abounds But Vegans Can Delight

By NIMMI RAGHUNATHAN

NEWPORT BEACH, CA – For those of us more used to city names being included in the name of the restaurant – Delhi, Mumbai, Madras – Zabb Thai Cuisine raises questions. Owner Benito Leon explains with somewhere between a sigh and a smile, that it means flavor. And the restaurant strives to do this: sometimes with subtlety and at other times more robustly. So, there are crisp veggies in wet sauces, fried

dishes offset by salads, and slivers of herbs that rest happily on the palate.

A few things stand out at Zabb.

The first is the absolute fearlessness in taking on complicated tasks in the kitchen. So, you have the Katoang Thong, or what the restaurant calls, “little pots of gold.” These are delicious tiny fried shells made of a combination of flours including corn, rice, and tapioca and filled with onion, potato, and vegan chicken mixed in curry spices. For the Indian taste bud, it is vaguely familiar and deliciously consumable finger food.

Then there are the more complicated Angel Wings which are stuffed chicken wings. Rarely seen in Thai restaurants in the Southland, the process of bringing this dish to the table

is a laborious one. It begins with skill and patience: deboning chicken wings. Then chicken meat, glass noodles, green and red onion, herbs, and spices are ground and stuffed. In between, there is pre-cooking, baking, and frying. It's a unique experience and every mouthful is satisfying.

The dishes mentioned so far may include the process of frying but the health-conscious have to be told this: not a drop of grease on the plate.

Another striking thing about Zabb is its extensive vegan menu. Leon thinks the cuisine easily lends itself to this if the easier, cheaper, and Americanized versions were not resorted to. He is dismissive of anchovy, fish, and shrimp sauces making their way into Thai curries and salads for quick flavoring. Sensitive to vegetarian customer requirements, the kitchen also uses separate fryers with only vegetable oil that is filtered each day. Also, the restaurant is willing to substitute any dish with vegan meat or straight-up veggies. Even the ubiquitous Thai iced tea can be sipped, splashed with coconut milk.

The coconut curries are a standout at Zabb – eight of them to be precise. Of course, there are all the familiar colors, yellow, green, and red, but there are also the jungle and pineapple ones.

The menu is expansive and for the Thai food lover chock full with familiar stir fry dishes, soups, salads, and starters. Zabb's kitchen is happy to adjust the spice and other flavors for an individualized experience. A lover of Thai food himself, Leon whose heritage is Mexican, says the aim is to satisfy.

Indian Americans seem to be heeding with private parties being held in the large indoor space that looks out through wide windows onto potted plants. Just a short drive from the Orange County hub of Irvine and 30 minutes from Artesia, the community seems to have discovered this eatery.

It has a full bar, hosts happy hour on weekdays from 3-6 pm, and on weekends offers a set weekend lunch with champagne. Check it out.

Zabb Thai Cuisine. 4001 W.Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA 92663  
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# Shoba Narayan 'Thrilled' to Lead 'DDLJ' Musical

SAN DIEGO, CA (IANS) - The Broadway musical adaptation of the iconic film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', titled 'Come Fall in Love,' aims for cultural unification in a growingly divisive and toxic world as it celebrates inclusivity and diversity in the show's lead actress Shoba Narayan's opinion.

Shoba, who played the role of teenage Alex Parrish (a role essayed by Priyanka Chopra as an adult) in the American thriller-drama series 'Quantico,' will be seen essaying the role of Simran (played by Kajol

in the film) in the musical.

Detailing the idea behind the Broadway musical, the actress said it is a, "heartfelt and relevant show that explores the importance of inclusivity and learning about a world beyond our own."

Absolutely "thrilled" about bringing the classic love story to Broadway and to be playing the lead role, she said, "As I look around our rehearsal room, I see members of every department, from East to West, pouring their full selves into this piece, and



striving to authentically represent the world we are portraying."

Aditya Chopra, who directed the 1995 Shah Rukh Khan-Kajol star-rer classic, has taken over the reins for the stage adaptation as well.

"The fact that we have an Indian musical headed to Broadway feels incredibly personal and monumental to me as an Indian

American actor who grew up loving Bollywood films and musical theatre. It was only a matter of time before Broadway and Bollywood found each other and I am over the moon to be leading this exceptional production", Shobha added. For The Old Globe run, the musical begins performances September 1 through October 16, with the official opening on September 14.

## Sima Aunty is Back!

MUMBAI, (ANI) - Actor Sima Taparia is back again as Mumbai matchmaker in Netflix original 'Indian Matchmaking', with a second season.

Sima Taparia gained fame and popularity right after the show dropped in 2020 and two years later, she is back again!

'Indian Matchmaking' sparked many controversies after its debut. Meanwhile, Sima Taparia secured a nomination at the 73rd Emmy Awards under the 'Outstanding Unstructured Reality Program' category.

The Netflix show's first season offered an inside look at the custom of matchmaking in Indian cultures through a contemporary lens.

The 8-episode series based on arrange marriages had a huge

ensemble of interesting personalities, starting with Sima. The famous line from the show, "Hello, I am Sima Taparia from Mumbai," had gone viral on social media ever since the show had released.

While some people found the show a little regressive, it shed light on the bitter reality which is quite prevalent across India. It is hard to believe that the reality series was not designed as a comedy, with the awkward pauses, choice of music, and some of the dialogues that might leave you in splits.

The idea of matching 'kundlis,' finding a girl who has 'fair skin' and a 'good height' or is 'flexible' in nature, and the matchmaker's famous advice - 'you will have to compromise, makes up for most of the show.

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# Unable to Bear Abuse by Husband, Mandeep Kaur Takes Her Life

NEW YORK, NY (ANI) - The death of Mandeep Kaur, the Indian

American who committed suicide, has sent shockwaves through the

community. Kaur, who was tortured at the hands of her husband,

took her life on August 3 after she posted an online video where she spoke about years of domestic abuse by her husband Ranjotveer Singh Sandhu sparking outrage. Kaur's heart-rending video narrates the excruciatingly painful details of the torture she faced at the hands of her husband.

In a tweet, the Indian Consulate here wrote, "We are deeply saddened by the death of Mandeep Kaur in Queens, New York under most tragic circumstances. We are in touch with the US authorities at the Federal and local levels as well as the community. We stand ready to render all assistance."

She is survived by her two daughters, aged four and six, whose custody currently is with Sandhu. On social media many questioned why he was still allowed to keep the couple's minor daughters.

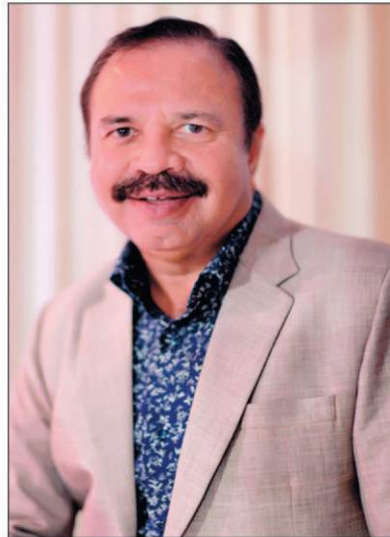
While the deceased's husband and daughters are currently in Richmond Hill, his family is reportedly from Uttar Pradesh's Bijpur.

According to @TheKaurMovement, the New York Police Department is investigating the case as a homicide rather than a case of suicide. In India meanwhile, The victim's sister Kuldeep Kaur divulged the horrific details of what

Mandeep went through daily for nearly eight years, since the day she was married. "My sister was married in February 2015. Soon, they went to New York City, and he started torturing her. He wanted a son and wanted Rs 50 lakh in dowry," said Kuldeep Kaur. Uttar Pradesh Police registered a case of abetment to suicide and domestic violence against Mandeep's husband and in-laws.

The FIR has been filed by Jaspal Singh, father of Mandeep wherein he accused Mukhtar Singh, father of Ranjotveer Singh Sandhu, Kuldeep Raj Kaur, mother of Ranjotveer Singh Sandhu and Jasveer Singh, brother of Ranjotveer Singh Sandhu for the suicide. Another video also went viral on the net which purportedly shows the 30-year-old victim being beaten up. In one of the videos posted by the user, Mandeep is heard narrating her daily ordeal. She said that she tried her best for 8 years and that one day everything would be fine. She charged her husband with extra-marital affairs and daily beatings in an inebriated state. All through the video, she is seen sobbing and saying how she couldn't take being abused anymore right before she committed suicide.

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