

INDIA WEST

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SiliconAndhra Sets Three Guinness World Records In California



India-West News Desk

OAKLAND, CA – SiliconAndhra marked its 25th anniversary by setting three Guinness World Records during its silver jubilee celebrations at Oakland Arena on August 1, where organizers said, more than 12,000 people gathered to celebrate Telugu language, literature and the performing arts.

The event featured record-setting performances in Carnatic music, percussion, and Telugu poetry, representing what organizers described as the three pillars of Indian classical arts: melody, rhythm and literature.

Guinness World Records adjudicator Michael Empric confirmed two of the records on stage during the program, while organizers later announced a third. *Contd. on P10*

2,273 Indian Nationals Deported From US This Year

NEW DELHI-The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said 2,273 Indian nationals have been deported from the United States to India so far in 2026. In 2025, a total of 3,567 Indian nationals were deported from the United States.

“We continue to work with several foreign governments on deportation issues. As and when such issues are referred to us, we do conduct due diligence on our side to confirm the nationality of the person concerned who is being referred for deportation. Once we are fully satisfied that the person concerned is of Indian nationality, only then do we facilitate their travel or return to India. The government remains committed to promoting legal pathways for migration,” he said. (IANS)

ICC Bans US Cricketer Akhilesh Reddy For Match-Fixing

WASHINGTON, DC -United States cricketer Bodugum Akhilesh Reddy has been banned from all forms of cricket for eight years after an International Cricket Council (ICC) Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of three breaches of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

The sanctions against the 26-year-old stem from corrupt activities linked to the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

According to the ICC, Reddy's eight-year suspension has been backdated to November 21, 2025, when he was provisionally suspended. *Contd. on P28*



Golden State Valkyries Celebrate South Asian Heritage

India-West News Desk

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Golden State Valkyries celebrated South Asian Heritage Night on August 4 at the Chase Center here, highlighting South Asian music, dance and cuisine as the team hosted the Toronto

Tempo in a WNBA matchup.

The evening featured a series of cultural performances before and during the game, bringing South Asian traditions to basketball fans in San Francisco.

Ahead of tipoff, Bay Raagis, a San *Contd. on P28*

Body Of UCSB Student Found In Sierra Nevada



Story on P10



People Throng ISKCON 's Golden Jubilee Ratha-yatra In Los Angeles

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA -Thousands of devotees and visitors lined the streets of Santa Monica and Venice on August 2 as ISKCON New Dwaraka celebrated the 50th anniversary of its annual Ratha-yatra, marking the Golden Jubilee of one of Southern California's longest-running Indian cultural festivals.

The anniversary celebration drew devotees from

around the world for the procession honoring Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Subhadra. The one-mile parade culminated at the Venice Boardwalk, where thousands sang, danced, pulled the towering chariots and took part in the day-long festival.

The Golden Jubilee was recognized by both the State of California and the City of Santa Monica. The California Legislature presented ISKCON

Contd. on P10

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India's Space Sector: A Launchpad for Global Partnerships

By AMBASSADOR
GURJIT SINGH

Growing competition in outer space provides India with a unique opportunity to shape a narrative in which collaboration, rather than confrontation, drives space exploration. Recognised as a trustworthy and cost-effective spacefaring nation, India is now well placed to transform its technological advances into enduring international partnerships that contribute to scientific progress, economic growth, and sustainable development.

India's journey into space has been distinctive. Unlike many space programmes that emerged from Cold War rivalries, India's programme was conceived as an instrument of national development. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai anchored India's space vision in practical applications that would improve the lives of ordinary people. Under his leadership, satellites were developed to strengthen communications, weather forecasting, disaster management, health-care, agriculture and education. This development-oriented philosophy remains central to India's space programme and resonates strongly with the needs of countries in the Global South, which seek practical applications of space technology rather than prestige alone.

Today, India's achievements extend beyond developmental applications. The Chandrayaan missions, the Mars Orbiter Mission, the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, and the forthcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme have established India as a nation capable of executing sophisticated and reliable space missions. Chandrayaan-3's successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole placed India among an exclusive group of space powers while demonstrating that world-class innovation can be achieved at comparatively modest cost.

India's growing credibility comes at a time when the global space economy is expanding rapidly. Valued at over US\$600 billion today and projected to approach US\$1.8 trillion by 2035, the sector is increasingly driven by commercial activity

in satellite communications, Earth observation, navigation, climate services, broadband connectivity, and emerging fields such as in-orbit servicing and lunar exploration. Many countries aspire to participate but lack indigenous capabilities. They seek dependable long-term partners rather than merely launch providers.

India possesses the capabilities to meet these requirements. The liberalisation of the space sector in 2020 transformed the ecosystem by opening it to private participation. The establishment of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), the expanding commercial role of NewSpace India Limited, and the growth of private enterprises have created one of the world's most dynamic emerging space ecosystems. Indian startups are developing launch vehicles, satellite platforms, geospatial applications and propulsion technologies that are attracting global investment and customers. Companies such as Skyroot Aerospace, Pixxel and Agnikul Cosmos have demonstrated that Indian private enterprise can compete internationally in advanced space technologies.

The next step is to internationalise this ecosystem.

Rather than positioning itself only as a low-cost launch destination, India will offer comprehensive partnerships encompassing satellite design, launch services, mission operations, ground stations, astronaut training, capacity building and downstream applications in agriculture, disaster management and maritime security. Such integrated partnerships would be valuable for countries across the Global South and the Indo-Pacific seeking affordable, customised and reliable technologies to meet their development priorities.

India has demonstrated the diplomatic value of such cooperation. Through the South Asia Satellite, it provided communication and developmental benefits to neighbouring countries. Indian launch vehicles have successfully placed hundreds of foreign satellites into orbit for governments, universities and commercial operators around the world. India's decision to join the Artemis Accords reflects its

willingness to participate in the peaceful exploration of the Moon through international collaboration. Cooperation with NASA, the European Space Agency and JAXA has strengthened India's scientific and technological capabilities.

These partnerships reinforce India's standing as a leading voice of the Global South. India offers development partnerships based on affordability, reliability and mutual respect rather than creating technological dependence. Space cooperation has therefore become an increasingly important instrument of Indian diplomacy, strengthening bilateral relationships while delivering tangible developmental benefits.

To realise its full potential, India will aim to sustain the momentum of reform. Faster regulatory approvals, greater access to venture capital, stronger intellectual property protec-

tion, and closer collaboration among research institutions, industry and academia will be essential. Public procurement policies would continue supporting Indian startups, enabling them to scale up, innovate and integrate into global supply chains.

India is positioned to play a larger role in shaping the governance of outer space. Orbital congestion, space debris, responsible resource utilisation and equitable access to emerging space opportunities are becoming pressing international concerns. As space activities expand, there will be an increasing need for countries capable of building consensus on responsible norms and practices. India's long-standing commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space, combined with its growing technological capabilities, equips it to contribute meaningfully to the development of rules that promote

transparency, sustainability and equitable access. The coming decade will determine not only which countries lead in space but also how space is governed. With its scientific capabilities, entrepreneurial ecosystem and international credibility, India is uniquely placed to bridge the gap between established and emerging space nations. By building collaborative partnerships founded on inclusivity, mutual benefit and innovation, India can transform its space programme into a major pillar of its global engagement.

In an increasingly divided world, India's space sector offers a powerful reminder that the greatest achievements in space are those that bring nations together. That may well become India's most enduring contribution to humanity's next frontier.

(Singh is a former ambassador of India to Germany.)

University Of Chicago Study Highlights Disparities In Climate Survival

NEW DELHI – Climate-driven temperature increases are projected to cause about 430,000 additional deaths annually by 2050, with low-income countries expected to suffer 10 times more heat-related deaths than wealthier nations because they lack access to the electricity needed for cooling, according to a new report released on July 27 by the Climate Impact Lab.

"Air conditioning is a life saver, and climate change will no doubt lead to more AC adoption in today's wealthy countries. Our research finds, however, that in too many countries around the world people will not be able to respond in the same way. The result is one of climate's great cruelties — lots of death in the very countries that have contributed the least to climate change," said Michael Greenstone, co-founder of the Climate Impact Lab and the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics at the University of Chicago. "These findings are a clarion bell that many countries do not have much time to improve the functioning of their electricity markets so they deliver inexpensive and reliable energy and

identify other successful adaptations that can save lives," he added.

According to the report, only the world's richest countries currently have the resources needed to power cooling. While electricity used for cooling is projected to grow seven times more in middle-income countries than in low-income countries because of climate change, the projected increase in electricity use per person in low-income countries would be enough to power a single LED bulb for only four months.

The report identifies areas across 18 countries, home to about 676 million people, that face the deadly combination of extreme heat and limited access to cooling. Due to hotter temperatures and little projected increase in energy consumption, these regions are projected to see about 377,000 heat-related deaths annually by 2050. Most of those affected live in northern sub-Saharan Africa, including Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Chad. The report also identifies vulnerable regions in South Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.

By contrast, wealthier Gulf countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, the

UAE and Saudi Arabia face similarly high temperatures but consume far more electricity for cooling and are projected to significantly increase that capacity, resulting in fewer heat-related deaths.

Comparing Niger and Saudi Arabia, the report projects that per-person electricity use in Niger will increase by only one-ninth as much as in Saudi Arabia. As a result, communities in Niger are expected to suffer 27,000 more heat-related deaths annually by 2050 than their wealthier counterpart.

"We've identified the places most at risk of seeing more people die from the heat and least able to power up ACs to save them, so people and governments can zero in on saving the greatest number of lives," said Ashwin Rode, a fellow at the Climate Impact Lab and director of scientific research at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. "Communities will need to find ways to protect people from heat like improved energy access, employing heat early warning systems and action plans, expanded healthcare access, and targeted social programs." (IANS)

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COMMUNITY

Vidya Bharati Foundation's Sold-Out LA Gala Raises \$1.3 Million For Education

India-West News Desk

CERRITOS, CA – The Vidya Bharati Foundation of America (VBFA) hosted its 2026 Los Angeles Gala at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel here on July 26, welcoming more than 300 guests from across Southern California. The sold-out event was dedicated to supporting value-based education for underprivileged children in India.

The gala brought together community leaders, philanthropists, educators, business professionals, and supporters who share a common vision of empowering future generations through education. The evening featured inspiring speeches, cultural presentations, musical performances, and a fundraising campaign that raised \$1.3 million to benefit Vidya Bharati's extensive network of schools across India.

The program was emceed by comedian and television personality Rajiv Satyal. Distinguished guests included Rajendra Prasad Khaitan, National Vice President of Vidya Bharati, India; Swami Ishwarananda, head of Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles; and Prachi Tehlan, actress known for the Hindi television series 'Diya Aur Baati Hum.' Vidya Bharati Foundation of America board members Ashok Danda, and Dr. Yashpal Arya, were also present.

Anil Parekh, National Secretary of the Vidya Bharati Foundation of America and gala chair, delivered the welcome address.



"Education is the greatest investment we can make in the future of society. We are deeply grateful to every sponsor, donor, volunteer, and guest whose generosity will help educate thousands of children and strengthen communities across India," he said.

The foundation's President, Dr. Surendra Garg emphasized the importance of preserving cultural values while providing children with a high-quality education.

Guests also viewed presentations highlighting Vidya Bharati's mission and the

transformative impact of its schools. Jagruti and Raju Patel, Vasant Rathi, Ravi Tilak, and Rani Kumra were recognized for their support of the organization. Earlier, the program began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a rendition of Ganesh Vandana by seven-year-old Riju Jain and



the singing of the U.S. and Indian national anthems by Krishna Parekh. The evening concluded with musical performances by Preetysha and Sameer.

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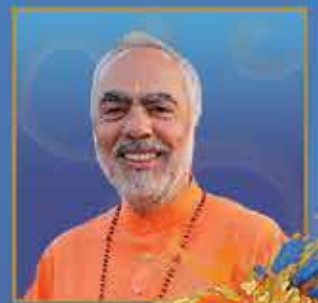
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

IALA To Host I-Day Celebration In Woodland Hills

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA -The India Association of Los Angeles (IALA) will host its 27th Annual India Independence Day Celebration on August 22, marking India's 79th Independence Day.

The free community event is expected to draw more than 6,000 attendees for an evening of patriotic celebrations, cultural performances, entertainment and family activities, organizers said.

Acclaimed actress Sanya Malhotra will serve as Grand Marshal, with actor Abhimanyu Dassani as Co-Grand Marshal. Distinguished guests will include Congressman Brad Sherman and Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, Consul General of India in Los Angeles.

The celebration will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. at Pierce College, 9000 Olympic Dr., Woodland Hills.

Designated parking is free.

UIASC To Host I-Day Event In La Palma

India-West News Desk

LA PALMA, CA - The United Indian Associations of Southern California (UIASC) will host its India Independence Day 2026 Mela Celebration on August 23, marking the 79th anniversary of India's Independence.

The cultural festival is slated to celebrate India's heritage, unity and freedom, as well as Indo-US friendship. The event will feature an India Day parade, cultural performances, live music, shopping, food, community exhibits and a kids zone. The highlight will be a live santoor concert by Padmashri Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya, the celebrated Indian santoor maestro.

Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, Consul General of India in Los Angeles, will be the chief guest, while Dr. Kali P. Chaudhari, chairman of KPC Group of Companies, will be the guest of honor. The event will run from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, 8331 Walker Street, La Palma.

General admission is \$10 and includes dinner and entertainment.

Sonu Nigam Brings 'Revolution' To Dolby Theatre In Benefit Concert For Sankara Eye Foundation



India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Sonu Nigam will bring his celebrated voice to one of Hollywood's most iconic stages on August 30, when Sankara Eye Foundation, USA presents 'Sonu Nigam Revolution' at the Dolby Theatre.

The evening promises an expansive musical journey through the career of one of India's most recognizable playback singers, while raising funds to help eliminate curable blindness in India.

Known for his soulful voice and versatility, Nigam has performed thousands of songs across multiple Indian languages and musical genres during a career that has made him a familiar voice to generations of listeners.

For Sankara Eye Foundation, USA, the concert is about more than an evening of music. The organization, which has been supporting free eye care in India for 28 years, says every ticket purchased will contribute to its efforts to restore sight to people living with preventable blindness.

Sankara works through a network of eye hospitals and community outreach programs, reaching patients in rural and underserved areas through screening camps. Those identified as needing further treatment can receive transportation to hospitals, sight-restoring surgery, post-operative care and follow-up services at no cost.

The foundation says restoring vision can have consequences that extend well beyond eyesight, allowing patients to return to school, work and daily life with greater independence.

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA currently describes its program as the world's largest free eye care program. Through its Vision 2030: March to a Million initiative, the organization aims to provide one million free eye surgeries each year by 2030.

To reach that goal, the foundation is expanding its network of eye hospitals while investing in medical technology, ophthalmologist training and outreach programs designed to bring care to remote communities.

The August 30 concert brings those efforts together with an evening built around music. The foundation is encouraging audiences to attend not only for the music but also for the impact their participation can have.

For tickets: Get tickets for Sonu Nigam Revolution, call 1-866-SANKARA or email info@giftofvision.org.



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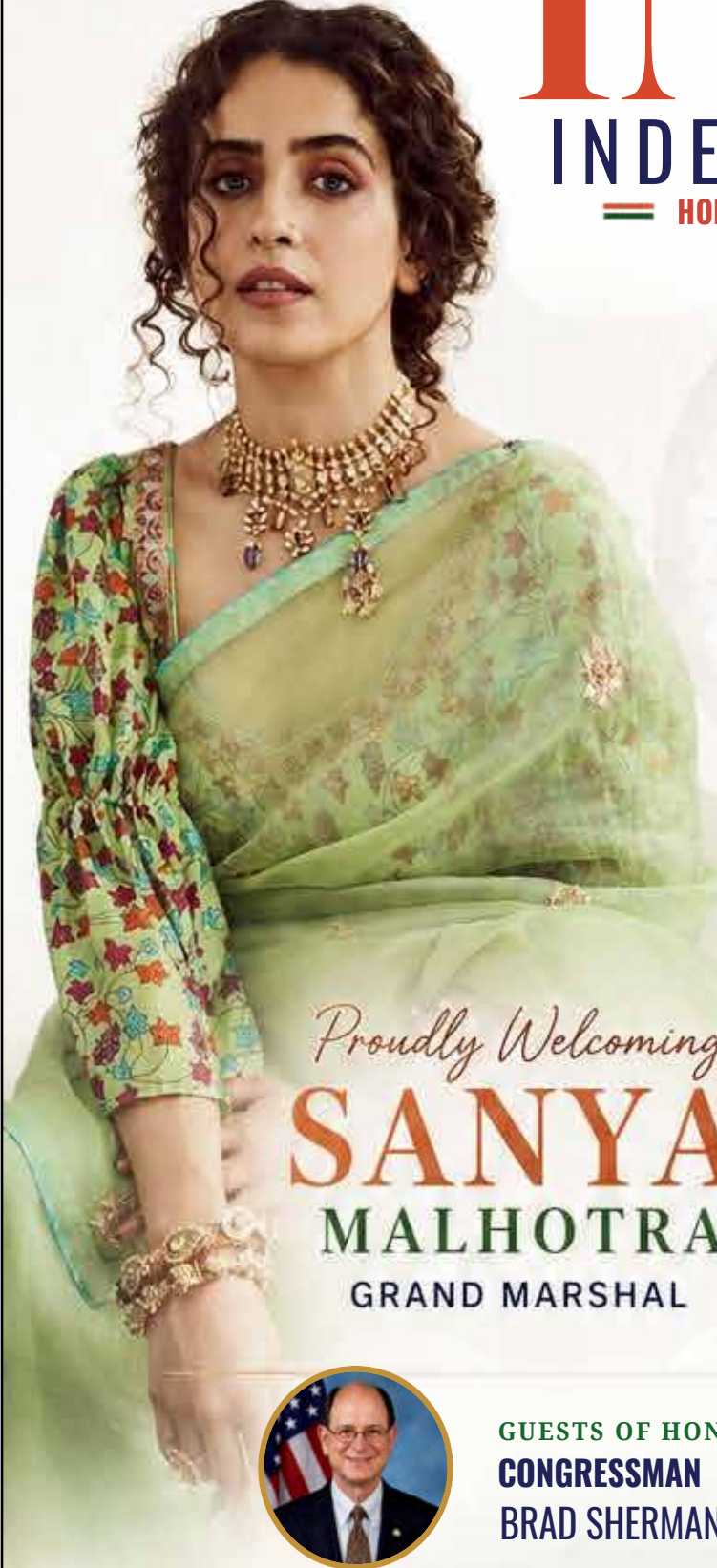
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COMMUNITY

ISKCON 's Golden Jubilee Ratha-Yatra

Contd. from P1

New Dwaraka with a Certificate of Recognition, while Santa Monica designated the 2026 Ratha-yatra a "Signature Event" and waived all pending permit fees for the anniversary festival.

The legislative certificate honored the organization "upon its 50th Annual Festival of the Chariots (Ratha-yatra), celebrating five decades of service and cultural contribution to the Los Angeles community." It noted that since 1977 the festival "has brought together thousands of residents and visitors from diverse backgrounds through music, dance, cultural traditions and sharing free vegetarian meals," and recognized it as "one of the longest-running Indian cultural festivals in Southern California," promoting community engagement, cultural appreciation and interfaith goodwill.

India's Consul General in Los Angeles, Dr. K.J. Srinivasa, congratulated ISKCON during remarks from the main stage, while four television news channels covered the parade and festival.

The procession was led by a large assembly of priests under the direction of Vaisesika dasa, chanting Vedic hymns from the Brahma-Samhita and other prayers. A 12-member marching band performing Hare Krishna melodies, groups of traditional dancers, and kirtan singers preceded the three elaborately decorated chariots carrying Lord Jagannatha, Lord



Baladeva and Subhadra.

Despite the summer heat, participants continued chanting and singing throughout the route. As the chariots made their way along Main Street, Rose Avenue and onto the Ocean Front Walk, the crowds grew into the thousands, with devotees and spectators joining in the procession, pulling the chariots, dancing, singing and photographing the event. At the festival site,

devotional music, Bharatanatyam performances, educational exhibits, yoga demonstrations and children's activities continued throughout the day. A historical slideshow traced the origins of the Los Angeles Ratha-yatra through photographs from its inaugural 1977 celebration. Organizers also distributed a five-course prasadam meal to approximately 7,000 people during the festival.

SiliconAndhra Sets Guinness World Records

Contd. from P1

The largest Carnatic music ensemble record was set when 1,014 musicians from SiliconAndhra, Aria University and SAMPADA performed together under the direction of Carnatic vocalist Sudha Ragunathan, surpassing the previous record of 995 participants.

A second record was set for the largest drum ensemble, with 286 performers exceeding the previous mark of 250.

The third record recognized the largest simultaneous poetry recital. About 1,800 children and adults associated with SiliconAndhra ManaBadi recited verses from the Telugu classics 'Sumati Satakam' and 'Vemana Satakam' simultaneously. According to SiliconAndhra, it is the first Guinness World Record centered on Telugu padyalu, or classical poetry.

The celebration was attended by U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Consul General of India in San Francisco Srikar Reddy, elected officials and community leaders.

The program also included awards recognizing contributions to Carnatic music. Honorees included vocalist Sudha Ragunathan, vocalist K.N. Shashikiran, mridangam artists Patri Satish Kumar and Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan, percussionist Trichy Sankaran, and Bay Area musician and teacher Ramesh Srinivasan, among others.

During the event, Ajay Bhutoria



received SiliconAndhra's Outstanding Community Service Award. He also presented an official commendation from California Gov. Gavin Newsom recognizing the organization's 25 years of work in preserving and promoting Telugu language, literature and cultural traditions in the state.

Founded in 2001 by Anand Kuchibhotla, SiliconAndhra organizes educational and cultural programs in the United States focused on Telugu language, literature and the performing arts. The silver jubilee celebration brought together artists, students, volunteers and community members from across North America to mark the organization's 25-year milestone.

Body Of UC Santa Barbara Student Found In Sierra Nevada

Contd. from P1

India-West News Desk

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The body of Vikram Mubayi, a doctoral student at the University of California Santa Barbara, was recovered on August 3 in the Sierra Nevada mountains after he went missing during a hiking trip.

Mubayi had been in the Big Pine Lakes area of Inyo National Forest and last spoke with his family on the evening of August 1. A search operation was launched soon after, with local rescue teams taking part. His body was later located and recovered by the California Highway Patrol.

A chemical engineering PhD candidate since 2022, Mubayi was in-

involved in research focused on using biological methods to break down plant waste and plastics, aimed at developing more sustainable alter-



natives. He also served as a teaching assistant for multiple courses.

He earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2022.

Raised in Hong Kong, Mubayi was described by family members as an experienced hiker with a strong interest in outdoor activities.

Authorities have not released further details on the circumstances surrounding his death.

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India’s Role As ‘Pharmacy of the World’ Faces Headwinds With Trump Tariff Uncertainty

India-West News Desk

NEW DELHI – India, often called the ‘pharmacy of the world’ for its dominant role in supplying affordable generic medicines globally, is expected to fall well short of its pharmaceutical industry growth target by the end of the decade as uncertainty over U.S. tariffs and global shipping disruptions weigh on exports, according to a Reuters report.

The industry is now projected to reach \$80 billion to \$90 billion by 2030, significantly below the \$130 billion target announced last year. The Indian pharmaceutical market was valued at about \$60 billion in the financial year ended March 2026, including approximately \$31 billion in exports and \$29 billion in domestic sales. Reuters cited Namit Joshi, chairman of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India, in reporting the revised outlook.

The developments have particular significance for India-U.S. trade ties. India is one of the largest suppliers of generic medicines to the United States, accounting for nearly half of all generic prescriptions filled in the U.S. in 2022. However, exports to the U.S. declined to about \$9.7 billion in the year ended March 2026 from roughly \$10.5 bil-

lion the previous year.

The industry is grappling with uncertainty surrounding proposed U.S. tariffs on imported generic drugs as well as higher freight costs and longer transit times caused by shipping disruptions linked to the conflict in the Middle East, which has forced vessels to avoid the Red Sea.

Last month, President Donald Trump said imported generic medicines would continue to face a 0% tariff for two years beginning August 1, after which tariffs would rise to 100% for one year and then 200%.

While there was decline in U.S.-bound shipments, India’s overall pharmaceutical exports increased 2.13% during the fiscal year, supported by stronger demand from Brazil and Europe.

Industry growth is expected to remain between 6% and 10% annually over the next

three years before accelerating as higher-value products such as biosimilars and peptides gain a larger share of the market, according to the report.



Hotmail Pioneer Sabeer Bhatia’s Two-Decade Wait For A Home Booked In 2012



India-West News Desk

NEW DELHI-For many Indians living overseas, buying a home back home is more than an investment. It is often a place to stay during visits, a future retirement home, or a way to stay connected to their roots. A post by entrepreneur and Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia has now brought renewed attention to the uncertainty many buyers face when housing projects are delayed for years.

Bhatia posted that an ultra-luxury apartment he booked in India in 2012 is now expected to be handed over only in 2032, stretching the wait for possession to two decades.

“I booked an ultra-luxury apartment in India in 2012. The project has gone through much drama. I’m told I’ll now get possession in 2032. Is the 20 years wait worth it?” he wrote.

In another post, Bhatia reflected on how much time had passed since he made the purchase. He said he had booked the apartment as a young man, hoping it would become a showcase home whenever he was in India. By the time possession is finally offered, he said, he would be left wondering whether waiting 20 years for the property was worth it.

His remarks quickly gained traction online, with many users saying his experience reflected a problem they knew all too well. While several noted that Bhatia at least had an expected possession date, others said they were still waiting for projects with no certainty over when, or even if, they would receive their homes.

Bhatia responded, “That is not good news. Unfortunately, India has become a zero trust transactional country.”

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ELECTIONS

Sarah Jukaku The Indian American Wife Of Senate Candidate Abdul El-Sayed



properties outside the United States, one in Bengaluru and another in Dubai, Indian media reports said. The Bengaluru property is valued between \$100,001 and \$250,000 and generates an estimated \$5,001 to \$15,000 in annual rental income. The other property is in Dubai.

India-West News Desk

DETROIT, MI – Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, the public health expert and progressive Democrat, who made national headlines when he won Michigan's Democratic Senate primary, has an India connection. He is married to Dr. Sarah Jukaku, a psychiatrist whose parents immigrated to the United States from India.

Jukaku, who is a psychiatrist, met El-Sayed while the two were students at the University of Michigan. Both of them went on to get their medical degrees from Columbia University. Candidate El-Sayed is also a Rhodes scholar. They have two daughters, Emmalee and Serene.

Jukaku's parents came to the United States from a village in India and she retains ties to India.

In financial disclosures filed in July 2026, Jukaku reported owning two rental

El-Sayed in his book 'Healing Politics: A Doctor's Journey into the Heart of Our Political Epidemic,' has written about Jukaku and her role in his life and family. He describes Jukaku's "quiet confidence" and writes about how she helped him better understand his emotional world. He has referred to her as his "rock" and credited her with being a central presence in their family.

El-Sayed's own family background includes immigration as well. His father, Mohamed, came to the United States from Egypt, while his mother, Dr. Fatten Elkomy, works as a nurse practitioner in Missouri. He was also raised by his stepmother, Jackie, whose family has longstanding ties to Michigan.

El-Sayed defeated Representative Haley Stevens in the Democratic primary and will face Republican Mike Rogers in November. If elected, El-Sayed would become the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate.

Ro Khanna Says Primary Results Reflect Economic Frustration, Calls For Party Reform



India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) said the recent wave of progressive victories in Democratic House primaries reflects growing voter frustration with the economy and signals the need for his party to reconnect with working-class Americans.

His comments came after several progressive and democratic socialist candidates defeated incumbent Democrats in recent House primaries. Speaking on Fox News on August 2, Khanna said voters are primarily focused on rising living costs and economic insecurity. 'People are upset at an unfair political and economic system. They can't afford gas,

they can't afford food, young people can't afford to buy a home or get a job,' Khanna said.

While identifying himself as a progressive, Khanna argued that the primary results should be viewed as a call for reform rather than evidence that the Democratic Party is moving toward extremism.

'The Democratic Party needs reform. This is a party that hasn't delivered enough for working-class Americans,' he said. He said Democrats should return to the economic priorities championed by former President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He added that reform would be beneficial if it focused on helping "ordinary Americans who have been shafted in the current economy."

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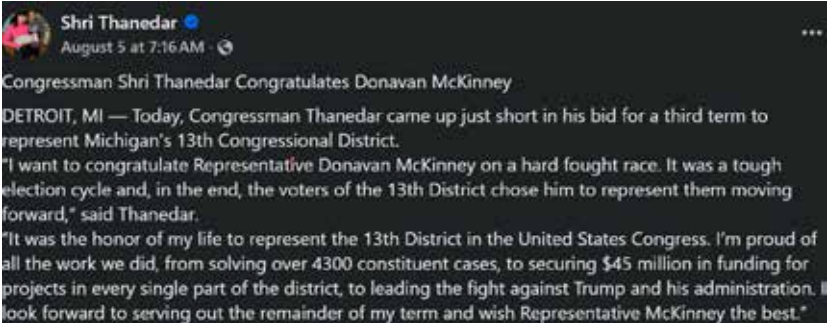
Progressive Challenger Ends Shri Thanedar’s House Tenure

India-West News Desk

DETROIT, MI – Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI) conceded defeat in Michigan’s 13th Congressional District Democratic primary, ending his bid for a third term after losing to state Rep. Donovan McKinney in one of the most closely watched Democratic contests of the 2026 election cycle.

wing in this year’s primaries. Shri Thanedar’s Journey to Congress

Thanedar entered the race with the advantages of incumbency, self-funding capacity and endorsements from top House Democratic leaders, including Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. But McKinney consolidated progressive support in a one-on-one contest, earning backing from Senator Ber-



“This morning, I called Rep. Donovan McKinney and congratulated him on his win,” Thanedar wrote on X on August. 5. “I offered him full cooperation and a smooth transition.”

McKinney’s victory marks another successful challenge by a progressive candidate against an incumbent Democrat, underscor-

ing the growing influence of the party’s left

nie Sanders, Justice Democrats, the Working Families Party and other organizations. The Detroit-area district is heavily Democratic, making McKinney the overwhelming favorite to win the general election in November.

Thanedar’s defeat comes amid a broader pattern of progressive gains in Democratic primaries. In Michigan, former public

health official Abdul El-Sayed also defeated Rep. Haley Stevens for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, while other progressive candidates scored victories in House and state legislative races.

The results have highlighted an increasingly competitive struggle between the Democratic establishment and its progressive wing.

In Thanedar’s case it was also a coming together of the African American vote which this time centered around McKinney instead of being splintered across various candidates. Earlier, the multimillionaire had posted pictures of himself with his grandchildren viewing elections results from his Detroit apartment.

SAAHAS FOR CAUSE HOSTS FIRST-EVER COMMUNITY HEALTH CAMP, SERVING OVER 200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS



ARTESIA, Calif. – Saahas for Cause successfully hosted its **first-ever Community Health Camp** on June 20, 2026, at the Albert O. Little Community Center in Artesia, marking one of the organization’s most impactful community initiatives to date. More than **200** community members attended the free event, receiving access to **essential healthcare services** that many might otherwise find difficult to obtain.

Participants benefited from a **comprehensive range of free health services**, including general health check-ups, behavioral health screenings, vision screenings with **free glasses (while supplies lasted)**, **bone density assessments**, **dental and skin screenings**, **hemoglobin, cholesterol, diabetes and HbA1c testing**, **mammograms**, and **one-on-one consultations** with experienced medical professionals.

The **tremendous** community response reinforced Saahas’ commitment to bringing **free, quality healthcare directly to immigrants and underserved communities**. By reducing **barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, and language**, Saahas provides **vital health screenings, preventive services, and trusted healthcare resources** that many families might not otherwise access. Through initiatives like the Community Health Camp, the organization empowers individuals and families to take charge of their health while building healthier, stronger, and more resilient communities.

Saahas for Cause extends its heartfelt gratitude to **Dr. Nitin Shah and Dr. Bharat Patel** for their **outstanding leadership, unwavering support, and dedication** in making this landmark event a tremendous success. The organization also **sincerely thanks the City of Artesia**, the dedicated physicians, healthcare professionals, volunteers, mentors, community partners, vendors, and its generous food sponsor, whose collaboration made the event possible.

A special appreciation goes to the Saahas team, whose months of planning, seamless coordination, and tireless efforts ensured the event ran smoothly from start to finish. Their commitment to serving the community helped make this inaugural Health Camp a remarkable success and a significant step toward improving community health and wellness.

Rep. Suhas Subramanyam Advances Unopposed In Virginia



India-West News Desk

RICHMOND, VA – Incumbent Rep. Suhas Subramanyam has secured the Democratic nomination for Virginia’s 10th Congressional District after running unopposed in the August 4 primary and will face Republican nominee Dave Beckwith in the November general election.

Following the primary, Subramanyam was direct. He called for Democrats to reclaim control of the House. “Congratulations to everyone who won tonight. It’s time for a new majority in Congress,” he wrote on X.

In a separate statement, Subramanyam argued that Republicans have failed to hold President Donald Trump accountable and accused the House majority of backing policies that have increased costs for families, wasted taxpayer money, expanded data center development and harmed the federal workforce.

“We need a different majority in Congress, not one led by Republicans like my opponent who put loyalty to President Trump over protecting our community,” Subramanyam said. He added that he looked forward to building “a coalition of Virginians” to keep Virginia’s 10th District in Democratic hands and help flip additional congressional seats in the state.

Beckwith won the Republican nomination after polls closed on August 4. A retired U.S. Air Force officer, he served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense from January 2025 until earlier this year. His campaign platform includes lowering taxes, reducing business regulations and reducing health care costs.

Subramanyam, previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia State Senate, where he sponsored legislation aimed at lowering tolls, utility bills and prescription drug costs for Virginians.

ELECTIONS

Nithya Raman Removed From Homelessness Committee

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Los Angeles City Council member Nithya Raman is losing her position as chair of the City Council’s Housing and Homelessness Committee, a move she says is politically motivated as she challenges Mayor Karen Bass in the November election. Breaking news alert

Raman announced her removal in a campaign video posted Aug. 10, saying the decision came after she called for an audit of Los Angeles’ homelessness programs. “I called for an audit of our homelessness programs in Los Angeles, and now I’ve been removed as Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee,” Raman said in the video. “I might be getting punished for running against Mayor Bass, but Angelenos are the ones paying the price for these political games.”

Raman has chaired the committee since 2023, giving her a prominent role in shaping the city’s response to its housing and homelessness crisis.

Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson rejected Raman’s characterization of the decision as retaliation. Harris-Dawson, a longtime political ally of Bass, said the council is planning to split the existing committee into two separate panels, one focused on housing and the other on homelessness. Neither



would be chaired by Raman. “It’s hardly a punishment,” Harris-Dawson told NBC Los Angeles. “It’s something to make the council functional and to put the council in the position to answer some very key questions between now and election regarding homelessness.” Harris-Dawson said the decision followed months of discussions with Raman about her leadership of the committee and was made in the interests of the council and city residents. “It was very, very disappointing to see her reach to the

bottom of the barrel politically and to use something that she knew would happen,” Harris-Dawson said. The dispute adds another point of tension to an increasingly sharp political contest between Raman and Bass, who are competing for mayor. Raman has made homelessness a central issue in her campaign, pointing to results in her Council District 4 as evidence that her approach could be applied across Los Angeles. Newly released homelessness data showed that street homelessness in Ra-

man’s district, defined as people living outdoors or in vehicles, fell 49 percent from the previous year. Citywide, street homelessness increased by nearly 8 percent. Overall homelessness in Los Angeles, including people living in shelters and interim housing, increased 3.4 percent, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s January point-in-time count released July 24. Raman said the figures show that the city’s homelessness crisis can be addressed. “The approach I’ve brought to my district works and it will work citywide if I am elected mayor,” Raman said. “In District 4, the number of people living unsheltered fell by 49 percent. Since 2022, the number of tents is down 73 percent.” The homelessness issue has become part of the larger political divide between the two candidates. Raman was once viewed as a close ally of Bass and her announcement to challenge Bass for the mayoral office just before filing date reverberated across city hall.

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ELECTIONS



Dr. Amish Shah Wins Primary, Defying Party Establishment In Swing District

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which rarely intervenes in Democratic primaries.

Late in the race, outside groups and the DCCC funded advertisements criticizing

After his win, Shah characterized the outcome as a triumph for grassroots organizing.

“I have always prided myself on being a hardworking, grassroots candidate. Our victory in this primary was a grassroots victory where Arizona voters made their voices heard,” he said. Looking ahead to the general election, Shah pledged to broaden his appeal beyond Democratic voters.

him firsthand insight into the struggles facing working families. He said that experience, combined with his years in the Arizona Legislature, has prepared him to serve in Congress.

“I’ve spent my career serving the people of this district in both the ER and the State House, and I look forward to winning in November and serving them in Congress,” he said.

The son of Indian immigrants, Shah has represented parts of the congressional district in the Arizona House after winning elections in 2018, 2020 and 2022. During five years in the Legislature, he earned a reputation for working across party lines, with his campaign noting that he had more bills signed into law than any Arizona Democrat over the past decade.

His legislative priorities included increasing teacher pay, supporting small businesses, strengthening public health, and improving public safety.

In Congress, Shah says he would focus on lowering costs for families, expanding access to affordable healthcare, reducing prescription drug prices, protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, banning members of Congress from trading stocks, and defending abortion rights.

His campaign has also highlighted his multicultural background. Shah speaks conversational Spanish and is fluent in Gujarati, reflecting both his Indian heritage and Arizona’s diverse electorate. Outside politics, he enjoys basketball, flying small aircraft and adventure travel.

India-West News Desk

PHOENIX, AZ – Emergency physician and former Arizona state Rep. Dr. Amish Shah has won the Democratic nomination for Arizona’s First Congressional District, overcoming heavy spending and opposition from his own party’s establishment to secure a place in one of the nation’s most closely watched US House races.

Shah’s victory sets up a high stakes November contest against Republican nominee Jay Feely, the former National Football League kicker backed by President Donald Trump, in a Maricopa County district expected to play a major role in determining control of the House of Representatives.

The result was notable not only because of the district’s competitiveness but also because Shah defeated former television journalist Marlene Galán-Woods despite millions of dollars in outside spending aimed at boosting her candidacy. Galán-Woods was also backed by Arizona Democratic leaders, including Senator Mark Kelly, and by the



Shah’s legislative record and portraying him as too conservative on some social issues. Shah forcefully rejected those attacks, accusing “dark money groups” of spreading misinformation and criticizing.

His victory marks the third time this election cycle that a DCCC-backed candidate has lost a competitive Democratic primary, underscoring growing resistance among some Democratic voters to intervention by the party’s Washington leadership.

“Now, it’s my job to earn the support of every voter in this district – including Democrats who voted for another candidate, Independents frustrated with our political system, and Republicans disappointed with the state of the country,” he said.

Shah also delivered a sharp critique of Congress, arguing that Washington has failed ordinary Americans. “The status quo in Washington, DC is not working for Arizonans,” he said, citing rising costs, the war in Iran, and cuts to healthcare programs. “We need leaders in Congress who are focused on the needs of the people they represent instead of picking partisan fights and lining their own pockets.”

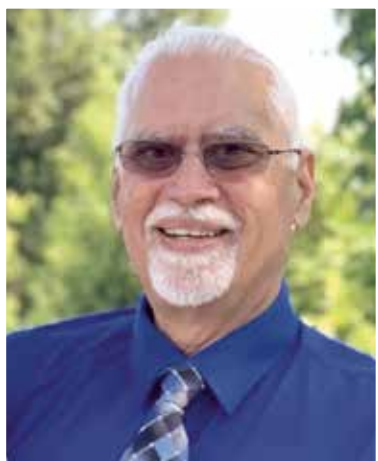
An emergency room physician, Shah has built his political identity around his medical career, arguing that treating patients has given



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POLITICS

Kash Patel Loses Defamation Suit Against Blogger

India-West News Desk

LAS VEGAS, NV – A federal judge has ended FBI Director Kash Patel's defamation lawsuit against a blogger, handing Patel a setback in one of several legal actions he has brought against journalists and online critics in recent years.

Nevada Chief District Judge Andrew Gordon ruled July 28 that the court did not have personal jurisdiction over blogger Jim Stewartson, dismissing Patel's \$10 million lawsuit without addressing the underlying defamation claims.

Patel sued Stewartson in 2023 over a series of social media posts that accused him of being a "Kremlin asset," labeled him a "blatantly incompetent chud," and alleged he had participated in efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Stewartson also referred to Patel as a "googly-eyed Kremlin bitch," a phrase that appeared in a footnote of the court's dismissal order.

The case had briefly favored Patel after Stewartson failed to respond to the complaint, resulting in a default judgment awarding Patel \$250,000 in August 2025. Stewartson later asked the court



to set aside that judgment, arguing that he had no meaningful connection to Nevada and therefore should not have been sued there. Judge Gordon agreed that Nevada lacked jurisdiction over Stewartson, bringing the case to a close.

Following the ruling, Stewartson reacted on X, saying he appreciated that the judge had included the phrase "googly-eyed Kremlin bitch" in the written decision. In another post, he claimed the dismissal meant people could use terms such as "chud," "googly-eyed Kremlin bitch," and "traitor" to describe Patel without fear of being sued.

The lawsuit was filed before Patel became FBI director. According to 'The New Republic,' it is one of six defamation cases Patel has brought



against journalists and commentators over the past seven years.

His latest lawsuit seeks \$250 million from 'The Atlantic' over an article that alleged he consumed excessive amounts of alcohol while at work. The article drew national and international headlines.

Diwali Holiday In CA Struck Down By Court

India-West News Desk

SACRAMENTO, CA – Less than a year after California became the third U.S. state to officially recognize Diwali, a court has struck down parts of the law, prompting concern among Hindu American organizations that had welcomed the move as a milestone for the community.

The legislation, introduced by Assemblymember Ash Kalra and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October 2025, designated Diwali as a California state holiday. It did not create a mandatory paid holiday. Instead, eligible state employees could use paid leave to observe the festival, while public schools and community colleges were given the option of closing for Diwali.

The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) said the court's ruling focused on language in the law describing Diwali's religious significance rather than on its provisions allowing employees and schools to observe the festival. According to HAF, the legislation was intended to ensure students and state employees would not have to choose between observing an important religious holiday and meeting their school or work responsibilities.

Calling the decision a setback, HAF said it is monitoring the lawsuit and "will continue supporting Hindu Americans in California as we work to protect the ability of our community to celebrate the holidays that matter."

HinduPACT also criticized the ruling, saying the legislation marked an important step toward recognizing the religious and cultural traditions of Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist communities in California. The organization noted that the law simply allowed eligible state employees to use paid leave for Diwali and gave public schools and community colleges the option of closing in observance of the festival.

"For Hindu families, the ruling is more than a legal setback. It threatens a hard-won measure of equal recognition and sends a painful message to a community that has long sought the same dignity and accommodation afforded to other faith traditions," HinduPACT said in a statement.

Ajay Shah, founder and chair of HinduPACT, said he would work with community leaders, legal experts, lawmakers and allied organizations "to help restore these protections and ensure that Hindu voices are heard."

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PEOPLE

Nephrologist Ravi Thadhani Named Cedars-Sinai's First Chief Physician Executive

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Cedars-Sinai has appointed Dr. Ravi Thadhani as its first executive vice president, chief physician executive and dean of the Medical Faculty, elevating an Indian American physician-scientist with decades of experience in academic medicine, clinical leadership and medical research to one of the institution's top leadership roles.

Thadhani will assume the newly created position on September 1, overseeing Cedars-Sinai's clinical operations, academic programs and research initiatives. He currently serves as executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and chief medical officer for Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai Health System.

In his expanded role, Thadhani will continue to lead efforts related to clinical quality, patient safety, medical affairs and standards of care while also overseeing Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University, the Burns and Allen Research Institute and other academic programs.

Cedars-Sinai President and CEO Dr. Peter L. Slavin said Thadhani brings, "a rare combination of academic excellence, clinical leadership and scientific innovation."



Thadhani's career has spanned some of the nation's leading medical institutions. Before returning to Cedars-Sinai, he served as executive vice president for health affairs at Emory University, vice chair of the Emory Healthcare Board of Directors and executive director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Earlier, he held leadership positions at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He first joined Cedars-Sinai in 2017 as vice dean for Research and Education, serving until 2019, before returning to Harvard, where he was professor of medicine and later served as chief academic officer and dean for Faculty Affairs at Mass General Brigham and Harvard Medical School.

Anekant Community Center Celebrates 21 Years Of Service And Community Impact

India-West News Desk

YORBA LINDA, CA - The Anekant Community Center hosted what it billed as an 'Evening of gratitude, appreciation and honor' on August 1 at the Yorba Linda Community Center, here.

The event brought together more than 275 guests, including community leaders, philanthropists and volunteer teams, to celebrate the local and global impact of ACC's 21 years of service. Among the attendees were Priyanka Tyagi, Vice Consul of the Consulate General of India in Los Angeles, and Rameshor Bhandari, Commissioner for the City of Artesia.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Global Humanitarian Award to Dr. Nitin Shah, a humanitarian leader and cofounder and founding president of the Anekant Community Center, established in 2005, and the Aparigrah Foundation, established in 2021.

Shah has led more than 1,200 humanitarian missions across 34 countries. The missions, ranging from single day clinics to two week deployments, have impacted human lives by providing medical interventions, surgical care and health education to underserved communities around the world.

The Anekant Community Center Board of Directors also presented special honors to major donors, partner organizations and volunteer groups for their support of free community health fairs, health seminars,



natural disaster relief efforts, hot meals programs for homeless centers and education initiatives. Among those recognized were:

Major Donors: Sarva Mangal Family Trust and Shah Happiness Foundation, Tarsadia Foundation, Ashok and Madhu Patel, Ajay and Bina Sheth of Mumbai, and GBS Linens.

Partner Organizations and Volunteer Teams: Jain Center of Southern California, City of Anaheim, Lestonnac Free Clinic and Shah Happiness Medical Center, ABC Adult School, United Service to Africa, Diwaliben Trust of Bardoli, and Society of American Nepalese Nurses.

The evening concluded with a renewed commitment from the board and attendees to continue expanding the center's humanitarian work across Southern California and around the world.

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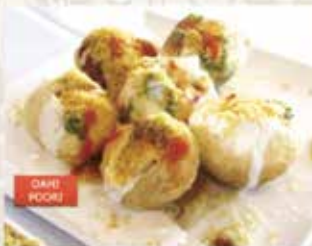




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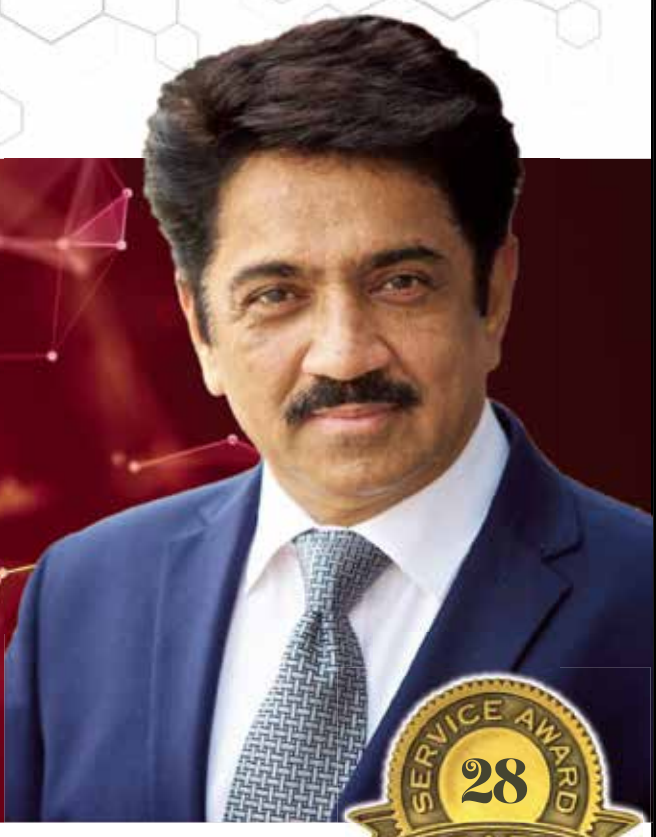
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Water And Blood Cannot Flow Together: Envoy Kwatra On Indus Water

WASHINGTON, DC—India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, has said the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960 in a spirit of goodwill and friendship, was undermined by Pakistan's conduct over decades, and that India's decision to place the treaty in abeyance reflects that reality.

Writing in an opinion piece in Newsweek, Kwatra said India placed the treaty in abeyance after last year's Pahalgam terror attack, exercising its rights as a sovereign nation under international law until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" ends its support for cross-border terrorism.

Kwatra said Pakistan's approach toward India has been marked by wars, hostility and cross-border terrorist attacks, including the attacks on the Indian Parliament, Mumbai, Uri, Pathankot and Pahalgam. He also accused Pakistan of obstructing India-initiated projects and opposing India's efforts to renegotiate the treaty to reflect technological changes, saying this eroded



India's faith in the agreement.

"It is worth remembering that the treaty's preamble declares it was concluded 'in a spirit of goodwill and friendship.' Pakistan spent half a century dismantling that goodwill and friendship. The abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed," Kwatra wrote.

Responding to calls for India and Pakistan to resume talks, Kwatra cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's position, saying, "Terror and talks cannot go together..."

Terror and trade cannot go together.... Water and blood cannot flow together."

He rejected Pakistan's allegations that India is a "water aggressor," saying the country's water shortages stem from its own government's mismanagement. Kwatra urged Pakistan to improve its water productivity instead of blaming India, adding that if Islamabad genuinely seeks India's cooperation on bilateral issues, it must first dismantle the terror infrastructure it has built. (IANS)

US Now Supplies Two-Thirds Of India's LPG Imports

NEW DELHI—The United States has become India's largest supplier of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), with its share in India's imports rising to around 67 per cent, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on August 7.

Speaking on India's energy sourcing strategy, Hardeep Singh Puri said the government had earlier taken a decision to import about 10 per cent of its LPG requirements from the US, a move made independently and not driven by concerns over disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy shipping route.

He noted that the decision initially drew questions as India sourced LPG from geographically closer suppliers, but the import pattern has since shifted significantly.

"Today I'm happy to inform you



that the United States accounts for something like 67 per cent of our LPG imports," said Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The minister said the development reflects India's broader strategy of diversifying energy sources and strengthening supply security through global partnerships. He added that India is also focusing on long-term energy security through initiatives such as expanding domestic exploration and building resilient energy infrastructure. (IANS)

US Judge Dismisses Fraud Charges Against Gautam Adani

WASHINGTON, DC—A US judge has dismissed criminal fraud charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani and two other executives after the US Justice Department abandoned its prosecution.

US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis on August 10 dismissed with prejudice securities fraud, wire fraud conspiracy and securities fraud conspiracy charges against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain. The charges cannot be filed again.

The three executives were accused of misleading US and international investors about an alleged scheme to pay Indian officials approximately \$265 million in bribes for solar energy contracts. They have denied wrong doing.

Garaufis accepted the Justice Department's narrow argument that the corporate statements cited in the indictment could be considered vague assurances or "inactionable puffery" rather than material misrepresentations.

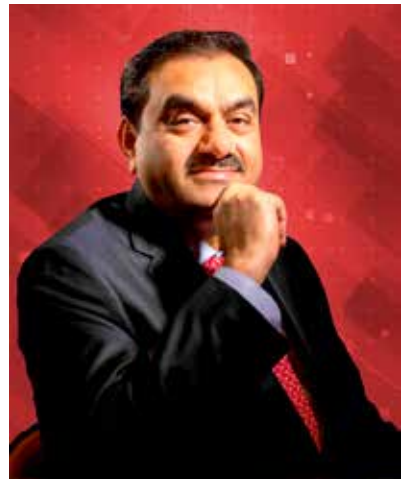
The judge, however, rejected the department's broader criticism of the prosecution. The SEC had accused the Adanis in 2024 of misleading US investors about anti bribery practices linked to renewable energy projects in India while raising funds through bond offerings.

Earlier, news reports have said the Adani Group had agreed to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to settle a US sanctions investigation and had come as the group retained new lawyers linked to President Donald Trump.

The new ruling did not dismiss the entire five-count indictment against all eight defendants. Garaufis reserved judgment on foreign bribery and obstruction charges against Ranjit Gupta, Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal, Deepak Malhotra and Rupesh Agarwal.

The judge ordered the Justice Department to provide sufficient factual support for dismissing those charges by August 31.

Garaufis also stressed that dismissing the fraud charges should not be taken as agreement with the department's decision or as an opinion on the merits of the allegations. Separate civil enforcement proceedings brought by the US Securities and Exchange Commission remain distinct from the criminal case and are not automatically ended by the ruling. (IANS)



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India Becomes World's Second-Largest Supplier Of Seafarers



NEW DELHI-India has emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals to the global shipping industry, according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.

The report said India now accounts for 12.16 per cent of the global seafaring workforce, ranking behind only the Philippines and ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia. In 2015, India accounted for 5.2 per cent of the world's seafarers and ranked fifth globally, behind China, the Philippines, Indonesia and the Russian Federation. The country's share has more than doubled over the past decade.

The country now supplies 140,718 officers, accounting for 13.41 per cent of the global officer workforce, while 171,218 ratings represent 11.29 per cent of the global ratings serving aboard merchant vessels.

The report estimates the global supply of seafarers at 2.57 million against a demand of 2.55 million, highlighting a tightening labor market. It also points to a continuing shortage of qualified officers worldwide, positioning India as a key contributor to meeting the shipping industry's future manpower needs. The Indian government said it is now pursuing "Mission 20 per cent" to increase India's share of the global seafaring workforce from 12.16 per cent to 20 per cent. (IANS)



Indian Billionaire Club Has Grown, Government Data Shows

NEW DELHI – As many as 576 taxpayers reported annual incomes of Rs 100 crore or more in Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26, according to data shared by the Union Finance Ministry in Parliament, marking a more than fourfold increase from five years ago.

The number stood at 142 in AY 2021-22 before rising to 301 the following year. It slipped to 284 in AY 2023-24, climbed to 415 in AY 2024-25 and reached 576 in the latest assessment year.

The figures were included in a written reply tabled in Parliament by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

The ministry, however, said the data should not be interpreted as an official count of billionaires. It noted that neither the Income-tax Act, 2025 nor the earlier Income-tax Act, 1961 provides a statutory definition of the term "billionaire."

Instead, the ministry referred to filings of individuals reporting annual incomes of Rs 100 crore or more to represent the country's highest-income taxpayers while responding to a parliamentary query on whether the number of billionaires in India had increased.

On measures to address income and wealth disparities, the ministry said the country's progressive income-tax system imposes an additional surcharge on individuals with very high incomes.

139 Men Freed From Russian Army, Efforts On For Others: India



NEW DELHI-The Ministry of External Affairs has said 139 Indian nationals have been released from the Russian Army so far and that efforts are continuing to secure the release of the remaining two dozen Indians reportedly still serving in the Russian military.

"We have been following up with the Russian side for the release of the remaining Indian nationals in the Russian army. So far, our efforts have led to the release of 139 Indian nationals; we continue to pursue the release of the remaining two dozen Indian nationals who are reportedly in the Russian army," a spokesperson said. He cautioned Indian citizens against accepting risky overseas job offers made by unscrupulous individuals or agencies.

"Once again, we would like to caution our people against job offers that are fraught with risk and made by unscrupulous individuals and agencies," he said.

The MEA had said in December that 202 Indian nationals were believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces. Government efforts have since led to the early discharge of many, while more than two dozen Indians have reportedly lost their lives and some others have been reported missing by the Russian side. (IANS)

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Haresh Shah is not connected with the Federal Medicare program.

Cricketer Akhilesh Reddy



Contd. from P1

The ICC said the tribunal found Reddy guilty of attempting to improperly influence aspects of matches during the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 tournament, attempting to persuade another participant to engage in corrupt conduct, and obstructing the investigation by deleting data and messages from his mobile phone that could have been relevant to the inquiry. The charges stem from an incident on the morning of November 19, 2025, when Reddy approached a teammate, identified by the tribunal as ‘Player A’, in a hotel room shortly before the Aspin Stallions’ opening match and asked him to “give runs” by conceding extra runs while bowling at the behest of team management.

The tribunal said ‘Player A’ rejected the corrupt approach and reported the matter to the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit. He was subsequently dropped from the playing XI shortly before the match. The tribunal also found that Reddy deliberately deleted WhatsApp messages and call logs exchanged with ‘Player A’ before the ACU investigation. While Reddy claimed it was part of routine “data hygiene” on his phone, the tribunal rejected the explanation, ruling that he intentionally destroyed potentially incriminating material. Reddy made his international debut for the United States against the Cayman Islands in the North America T20 Cup. He has played four T20 Internationals for the USA and has taken one wicket. (IANS)

Golden State Valkyries Celebrate South Asian Heritage at the Chase Center



Contd. from P1

Francisco Bay Area-based music collective, performed three live sets in Thrive City. Founded in 2024, the group is known for blending Indian classical music with genres including jazz, folk, semi-classical, Indian pop and Western pop, with a rotating lineup of vocalists and instrumentalists.



The pregame ceremony included violin performances of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems by Ishmeet Singh and Sukhamrit Singh. The duo performed an instrumental rendition of “O Canada” in recognition of the visiting Toronto Tempo, alongside the U.S. national anthem. Fans were also treated to performances by Bollywood Dance Central, which presented a high-energy routine during the game, including a primetime in-game performance and the halftime show. As part of the celebration,

designated South Asian Heritage Night ticket package holders were offered halal food in the West Conference Room through Halalfest. The pre-order menu featured offerings from Chai Ho Jai Cart, including halal chicken tikka paratha rolls, paneer tikka rolls, aloo samosas, mango lassi and desi cold coffee, along with Indian cuisine from Charminar Restaurant. The event showcased South Asian culture through music, dance and food, reflecting the Valkyries’ effort to engage diverse communities while introducing new audiences to South Asian artistic traditions during the franchise’s first South Asian Heritage Night.

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WELLNESS

10 Stress-Causing Habits To Ditch For Better Well-Being

By LAUREN EDWARDS

August is National Wellness Month, a time dedicated to prioritizing healthy habits and finding ways to improve overall well-being. While many people associate stress with major life events, such as work pressures, financial challenges, or personal struggles, everyday habits can also quietly contribute to feelings of tension, exhaustion, and burnout.

The good news is that small changes can make a meaningful difference. By recognizing common behaviors that may be increasing stress levels, it becomes easier to replace them with healthier routines that support mental, emotional, and physical wellness.

Here are 10 everyday habits that may be adding unnecessary stress to your life—and what you can do instead.

1. Using Alcohol to Relax

Many people enjoy a drink to unwind, but relying on alcohol as a primary way to cope with stress can sometimes create additional challenges. While alcohol may provide temporary relaxation, it can interfere with quality sleep, affect mood regulation, and contribute to feelings of anxiety or fatigue the following day.

Instead, consider creating a relaxing evening routine that helps your body and mind transition out of “stress mode.” Reading, stretching, taking a warm bath, practicing mindfulness, or enjoying a favorite non-alcoholic beverage can provide a healthier way to decompress.

2. Constantly Checking Your Phone

Smartphones make it easier to stay connected, but nonstop notifications, social media updates, and news alerts can keep the brain in a constant state of stimulation. Frequently checking your device can make it harder to focus, relax, and be present in the moment.

Try setting boundaries with technology by turning off unnecessary notifications, creating screen-free times during the day, or keeping your phone away from your bedside at night. Even short breaks from screens can help reduce mental overload.

3. Saying Yes to Too Many Things

Taking on too many commitments can leave little time for rest, hobbies, or meaningful connections. Whether it is agreeing to extra responsibilities at work, overloading your calendar, or constantly trying to help others, overcommitting can quickly lead to burnout.

Before agreeing to something new, consider whether it aligns with your priorities and whether you realistically have the time and energy to take it on. Learning to set boundaries is an important part of wellness.

4. Sacrificing Sleep

Sleep is one of the most important foundations of good health, yet it is often one of the first things people sacrifice when life becomes busy. Poor sleep can make it more difficult to manage emotions, concentrate, and handle everyday stress.

Create a consistent bedtime routine by going to sleep and waking up around the same time each day, limiting screen use before bed, and creating a comfortable environment that encourages relaxation.



5. Living With Too Much Clutter

A cluttered home or workspace can contribute to feelings of stress and distraction. Constantly searching for misplaced items or feeling overwhelmed by unfinished organizing projects can add unnecessary mental strain.

Rather than trying to tackle everything at once, start small. Cleaning out one drawer, organizing one area, or creating simple systems for everyday items can help create a calmer environment.

6. Multitasking Constantly

Many people view multitasking as a way to accomplish more, but frequently switching between tasks can increase mental fatigue and make it harder to complete important responsibilities. Trying to focus on too many things at once can leave you feeling busy without feeling productive.

Instead, practice focusing on one task at a time. Prioritizing your most important responsibilities and breaking larger projects into smaller steps can help reduce overwhelm.

7. Mostly Staying Indoors

Modern lifestyles often involve long hours inside, whether working at a desk, managing household responsibilities, or spending time on digital devices. A lack of fresh air, sunlight, and movement can negatively affect mood and energy levels.

Make time to step outdoors each day, at least for a short walk in the neighborhood. Spending time in nature, getting natural light, and moving your body can support both physical and mental wellness.

8. Comparing Yourself to Others

Social media can make it easy to compare your life, appearance, achievements, or lifestyle to others. However, online content often represents only carefully selected moments, not the full reality of someone’s experiences.

Instead of focusing on comparisons, redirect your attention toward your own goals and progress. Limiting time on accounts that negatively affect your mood and practicing gratitude can help build a healthier mindset.

9. Avoiding Financial Stress

Money concerns are a common source of stress, but avoiding financial tasks can make anxiety grow over time. Ignoring bills, delaying budgeting, or avoiding conversations about money can create additional worry.

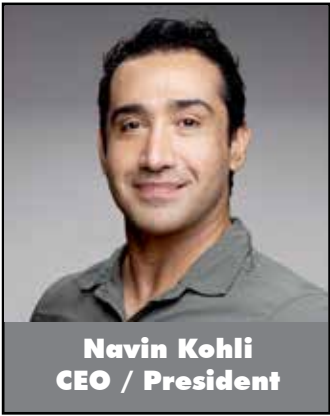
Taking small steps, such as reviewing expenses, creating a budget, or setting financial goals, can help create a greater sense of control and reduce stress.

10. Waiting Until Burnout to Practice Self-Care

Many people view self-care as something to do only after responsibilities are complete. However, waiting until you feel completely exhausted can make it harder to recover from stress.

Wellness works best when self-care becomes part of a regular routine. Whether it is exercising, spending time with loved ones, pursuing hobbies, or simply taking quiet time to recharge, consistent self-care can help build resilience.

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BOOKS

How A Mother's Recipe Book In Agra Created A Family Legacy Of Writers In California

By PRACHI SHARMA

SAN RAMON – The last book my mother wrote sits on a shelf between two picture books by my six-year-old son. She never met him as an author. She died four years before his first book came out.

My mother, Manju Sharma, grew up in Agra. She never trained as a chef or a writer. She was a homemaker who cooked, and who understood, somewhere quietly, that the recipes handed down through her mother and grandmother were vanishing. Nobody was writing them down. The women who cooked them were leaving, one by one, and taking with them dishes that had crossed generations and would not survive one more without help.

So, she began writing them down. Not for a publisher, not for a market, but for us. For her four children. She called the book 'The Lost Recipes', and she finished it after years on dialysis and a kidney transplant in 2016 that gave her six more years. She died in 2022, in Doiwala, a small town outside Dehradun, before she could see what her small act of preservation would do to the rest of us.

Because here is what has hap-

pened since.

My sister Richa wrote a novel, 'Finding Home Again'. And I wrote two books. The first, 'Manju: A Life of Grit, Grace and Greatness', is a children's short-story collection about my mother and is not a novel, but a book my son can read when he is older and know who she was. My brother Mohit, one of the leading graphic design professionals in India, oversaw the illustrations. The second, 'Paws Around the World', is a children's book about our rescue dog Oreo.

And then something I could not have predicted happened.

My son Ayansh, at five, wrote a book. It is called 'Tag, You're It!' and it is about a game of tag and friendship. At six, he wrote his second book, 'Hungry Pig's Adventures'. His cousin Reyansh wrote a book too, 'The Super Secrets', about four superheroes and how they save the world. Three books, by two boys, in the space of a year.

I did not push them. I could not have. What I could do was make it easy. We started a small imprint, 'The Sapling Press,' to publish their books properly. A softcover print copy for the child who wrote it, more on request for family, and PDF editions that any



parent can buy and read with their own child. Not to sell thousands, but to give my son and nephew what my mother gave herself: the dignity of a finished book, and the chance to inspire other children to write one too.

The story I told KQED Perspectives this month is really the story of three generations that wrote things down when the world told them they didn't have to. My father, Satya Prakash, was a schoolteacher in a small town in Arunachal Pradesh, the same schools where my mother

also taught. He is writing his own memoir now, in his seventies. A family that, when I was growing up, owned exactly one bookshelf.

Something else happens in a diaspora family that I didn't understand until my own children were born. The grandparents in India become people in photographs. The stories thin out. The recipes are approximations of approximations. My mother's book gave my son something most children of Indian immigrants lose: a direct, undiluted line back to the woman who fed her family in Agra. He

cannot cook from it yet. But he knows it exists. He knows she wrote it for him.

None of this was planned. None of it was a strategy. It began with my mother deciding that a recipe for a dish nobody in Agra remembered anymore was worth the effort of writing down. She wrote it because she loved us. Everything else, my sister's novel, my books, my son's picture books, my nephew's superhero

story, my father's memoir-in-progress, is the shape her love took after she was gone.

My son will be reading from his books at a public library in the East Bay soon. He is six. He will not remember his grandmother the way I do. But he will remember, I think, that she is the reason he is sitting in that chair.

Small-town Agra to California. A homemaker's cookbook to a six-year-old's picture books. Two continents, three generations, one act of writing something down.

That is the story. She started it.

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Sheil Shukla Reimagines Curry In New Plant-Based Cookbook

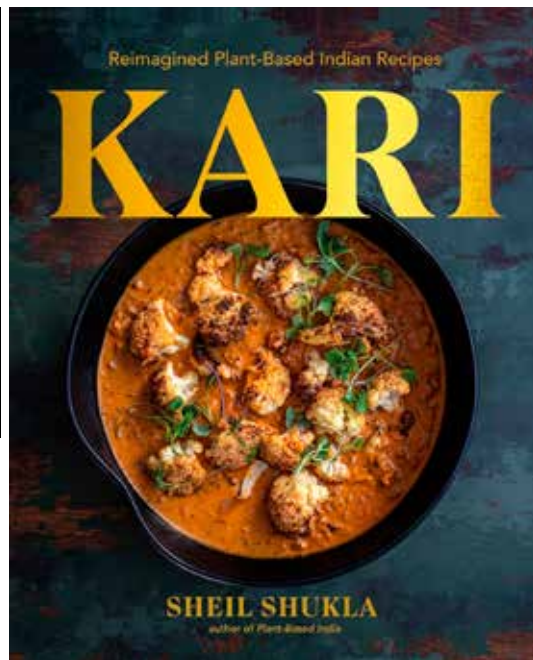
India-West
News Desk

CHICAGO, IL – Physician and cookbook author Sheil Shukla is set to release his latest cookbook, 'Kari: Reimagined Plant-Based Indian Recipes,' on August 18. The book, currently available for pre-order, features 75 plant-based recipes that reinterpret curry through Indian and other Asian culinary traditions.

Shukla, whose debut cookbook 'Plant-Based India' was nominated for a James Beard Award and named one of The New York Times Best Cookbooks of 2022, draws on his Gujarati heritage and his experience as a first-generation Indian American to create recipes that blend familiar Indian flavors with global influences.

The collection includes dishes such as Makhani Nachos, Tikka Masala Bread Pizza, Beet Korma Pasta, and a mango chutney infused with Japanese miso.

The title takes its name from the Tamil word 'kari', meaning



a flavorful sauce. Through the collection, Shukla explores how the term "curry" has evolved to describe a wide range of dishes across Asian cuisines, from Indian to Thai and Japanese. Alongside curries, the book also features accompaniments and sauces designed to encourage home cooks to experiment with flavors and techniques.

A board-certified internal medicine physician with Northwestern Medicine, Shukla is also a recipe developer, food photographer, and creator of the social media platform @plantbasedartist,

where he shares plant-based recipes with more than 90,000 followers. His culinary work reflects his interest in the role of plant-based nutrition in everyday cooking and clinical medicine.

In addition to developing the recipes, Shukla photographed, styled, and sourced the props for the cookbook, featuring handmade pieces by artists from the Chicagoland area. He lives in the Chicago suburbs with his wife, Rachel, and their three children.

RECIPES

Mango Banana Bread



Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour • 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder • 1/2 tsp salt • 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter, softened • 1 cup sugar • 2 large eggs
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas (approx. 3 medium)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract • 1 cup fresh mango, diced into small cubes

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C) and grease a 9×5-inch loaf pan.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon.
3. In a large bowl, cream softened butter and sugar until fluffy; beat in eggs one at a time.
4. Stir in mashed bananas and vanilla extract until well combined.
5. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, stirring until just moistened.
6. Gently fold in the diced mango cubes.
7. Pour batter into the pan and bake for 50–60 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

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Sreejith Nair's 'Rajasaur' Brings India's Dinosaur Story To California Museum

India-West News Desk

CLAREMONT, CA – The award-winning short film 'Rajasaur', billed as the first narrative film to feature dinosaurs from India, received an enthusiastic response during a July 15 screening at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, where paleontologists, museum officials, board members and visitors gathered to watch the film.

The screening, held as part of the museum's public programming, was introduced by Gabriel Phillip-Santos, Director of Visitor Engagement and Education at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology. Museum director Andrew Farke was among those in attendance.

Audience members praised the film for bringing an Indian dinosaur to the screen, noting that dinosaurs discovered in India have rarely been featured in film or television. Many also appreciated its blend of paleontology and Indian mythology, describing it as a fresh take on dinosaur storytelling.

During a post-screening question-and-answer session, filmmaker Sreejith Nair called 'Rajasaur' "just the beginning" of what he hopes will become more dinosaur stories inspired by India and other underrepresented regions. He said he hopes the project will encourage filmmakers to explore prehistoric narratives beyond the settings most often seen in the genre.

Nair told the audience that his fascination with films such as 'Jurassic Park,' 'Dinosaur' and 'King Kong' sparked his ambition to make a dinosaur film rooted in India. The project took shape after he read Vaishali Shroff's children's book 'The Adventures of Padma and a Blue Dinosaur' and invited the author to co-write the screenplay. The film was eventually made during the COVID-19 pandemic with a small crew.

He also shared the effort that went into recreating the Rajasaur



rus, saying he spent nearly a year working with visual effects artists while consulting Shroff and paleontologists, including Rajasaurus researchers Suresh Srivastava and Paul Sereno, to ensure the dinosaur's on-screen appearance was scientifically accurate.

Directed, produced and co-written by Nair, with Shroff as co-writer, 'Rajasaur' blends science, history and cinematic storytelling while highlighting India's often-overlooked paleontological heritage. Following its award-winning festival run, Nair said he plans to continue screening the film at museums and fossil laboratories as he works toward developing a feature-length film centered on Indian dinosaurs.

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan Back On Netflix With Hasan Minhaj



India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA- Maitreyi Ramakrishnan is returning to Netflix with 'Best of the Best,' a new film co-written and produced by Hasan Minhaj and directed by Lena Khan.

Netflix has unveiled the first look at the film and announced that it will premiere on September 18. Directed by Khan, whose previous credits include 'The Tiger Hunter' and Disney+'s 'Flora & Ulysses,' the movie is set in the competitive world of collegiate Bollywood-fusion dance.

Ramakrishnan and Priyanka Kedia play childhood friends Maya and Anjali, who join UCLA's Bollywood-fusion

dance team in pursuit of the U.S. Championship. As they set their sights on the title, they discover the competition is far more demanding than they had imagined.

In addition to co-writing and producing the film, Minhaj also appears in the cast, which includes Ankur Rathee, Janina Gavankar, Chaneil Kular, Becky Alex, Shreya Navile, Lilly Singh, Nihar Duvvuri, Nico Greetham, Amryn Khurana, Tanishq Joshi, Saara Chaudry and Sasha Bhasin.

'Best of the Best' marks Ramakrishnan's first live-action Netflix project since 'Never Have I Ever' concluded in 2023. She most recently lent her voice to Netflix's animated film 'The Twits' before returning to a live-action role with the upcoming feature.

Kim Kardashian's Skims Brand Heads To India

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Kim Kardashian's shape-wear label Skims is headed to India through a partnership with Reliance Brands, which will introduce the globally recognized brand to Indian consumers as international fashion and beauty labels continue to expand their presence in the country.

The launch will begin in Delhi and Mumbai, with the brand becoming available through both retail stores and online platforms, the companies announced August 5.

For Kardashian, the India launch marks another step in Skims' international expansion. The co-founder and chief creative officer said the response from the brand's community in India has been encouraging even before its official arrival. She added that Skims was founded on the idea of helping people feel comfortable and confident in what they wear and said the company looks forward to welcoming Indian customers into its stores for the first time.

Isha Ambani, director of Reliance Retail Ventures the brand connects with a new generation of Indian shoppers looking for fashion that is both aspirational and designed with them in.

Earlier this year, Nykaa partnered with Selena Gomez's Rare Beauty and also introduced Nars Cosmetics, owned by Japan's Shiseido Group, to the Indian market.

Founded in 2019, Skims was valued at \$5 billion after raising \$225 million in funding.



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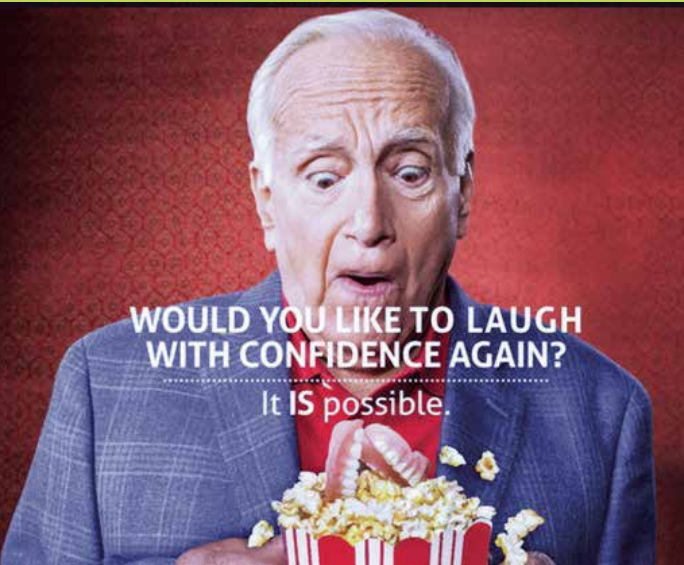
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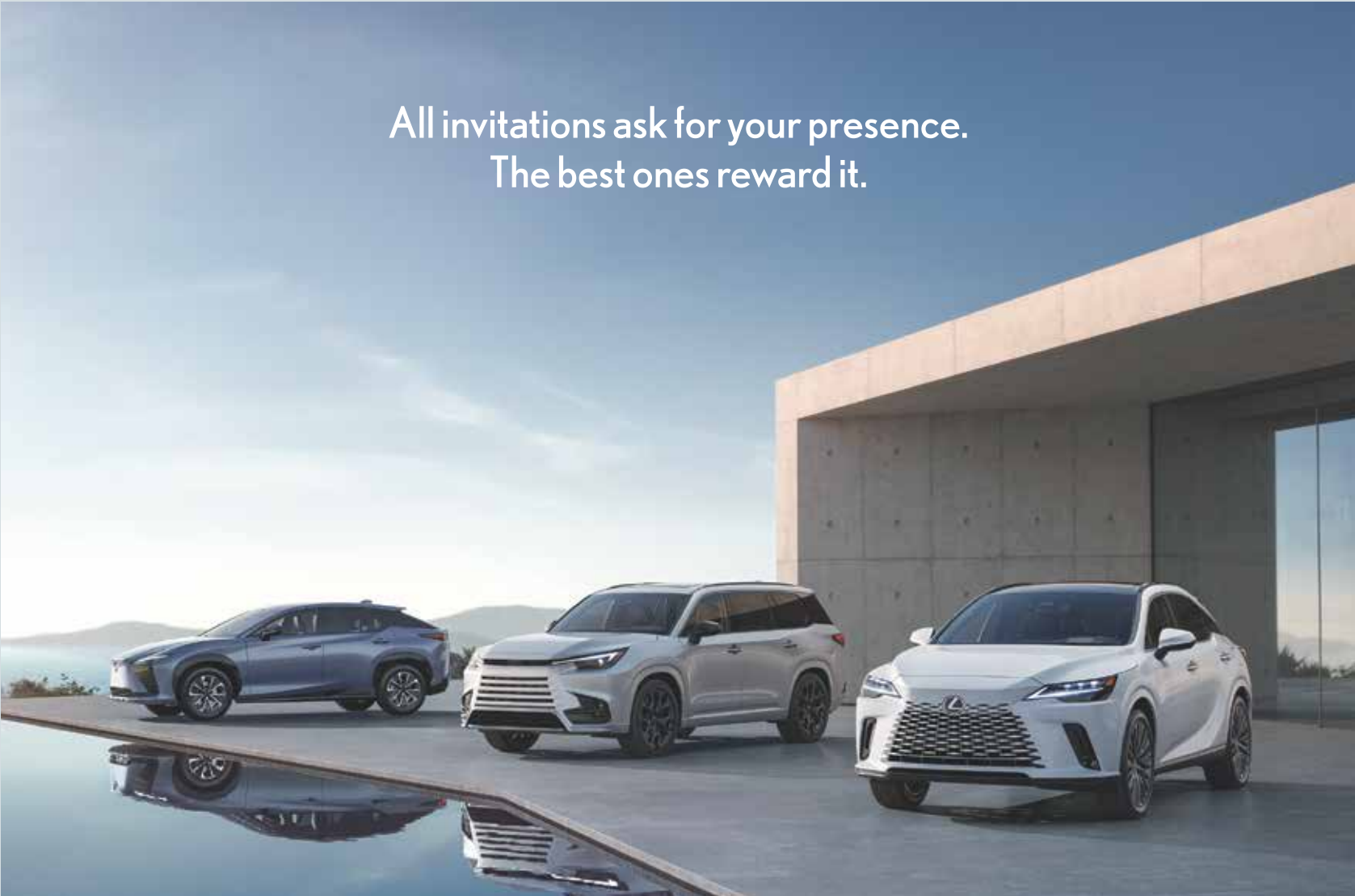
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