Voice of the Indian American Community

INDIA WEST

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‘Samosa Caucus’ Gets Two New Members

Pia Dandiya - Florida

India-West News Desk



MIAMI, FL – Pia Dandiya, the daughter of immigrants from Jaipur, has won Florida’s 22nd Congressional District, becoming the second Indian American woman elected to the US House of Representatives after Pramila Jayapal.

Jayapal, who also handily won reelection, congratulated Dandiya on her victory, saying she was excited to welcome another South Asian American

Contd. on P23

Amish Shah - Arizona

India-West News Desk



PHOENIX, AZ - Despite facing opposition from national Democratic Party groups during the primary and millions of dollars in outside spending in one of the country’s most expensive congressional contests, former Arizona state rep. Amish Shah has stormed to victory in the state’s 1st Congressional District, defeating Republican former NFL kicker Jay Feely and flipping a closely contested seat

Contd. on P24

Pramila, Ro, Suhas, Bera All Win Reelection Easily



India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – All four Indian American Democrats serving in the U.S. House of Representatives won re-election in the November 3 midterm elections, retaining their seats in California, Washington state and Virginia.

Contd. on P23

Nithya Raman Poised To Become Mayor Of Los Angeles



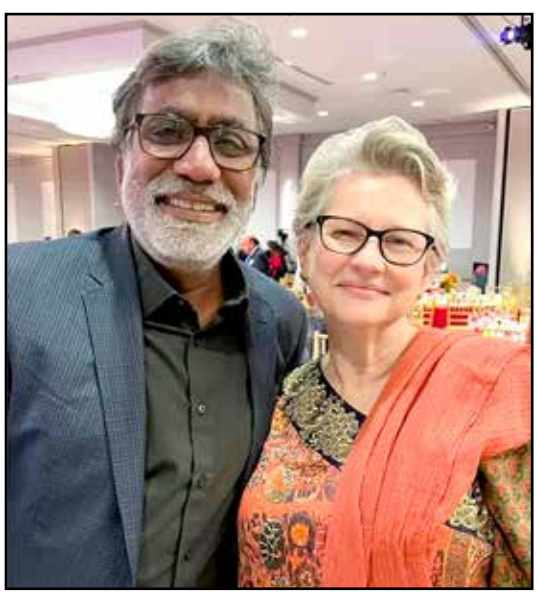
India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Nithya Raman is poised to make history as the first woman of Indian origin and the first South Asian woman to become mayor of Los Angeles, America’s second-largest city.

The race at the time of going to print, was uncalled as ballot counting continued, but according to the latest numbers from the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder City Councilwoman Nithya Raman has an expanding lead over incumbent Mayor Karen Bass, with 51.67% (405,193 votes) to Bass’s 48.33% (379,069 votes). An estimated 842,000 ballots are still left to be counted.

Born in Kerala, Raman’s journey from

Contd. on P24



Sanjay And Charlene Srivastava Donate $1 Million To UC San Diego

SAN DIEGO, CA-Technology leader Sanjay Srivastava and his wife, Charlene, have donated $1 million to the University of California San Diego to support research into how artificial intelligence can improve teaching and learning.

Announced October 29, the gift will fund research at the university’s Halıcıoğlu School of Data Science and Computing, focusing on agentic AI, the technology that can carry out complex tasks independently and adapt as new information becomes available.

The research will examine how this technology could be used to make learning more effective, accessible, and personalized. The work will look at applications for UC San Diego students as well as approaches that could eventually benefit students and working professionals beyond the campus.

In recognition of the contribution, UC San Diego has named a multi-purpose room at the Halıcıoğlu School the Sanjay and Charlene Srivastava Multi-Purpose Room.

Srivastava said the gift reflects the importance of bringing universities, industry, and policymakers together to turn advances in technology into practical solutions. He noted the couple hopes the research will lead to new learning approaches for students, educators, and professionals, with the potential to reach a much broader audience.

Rajesh Gupta, dean of the Halıcıoğlu School, said the contribution supports the school’s efforts to serve as an innovation hub in AI while helping expand access to its academic programs.

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OPINION

The American Dream: Indian Americans Must Ask What Their Success Is About

By SACHIN H. JAIN, MD, MBA

In our house growing up, dinner was frequently interrupted by the telephone.

My father was a physician who treated patients with advanced cancer. He gave them our home number, and they called at all hours. Sometimes he disappeared into another room while my mother held his plate and the rice grew cold.

I hated those calls.

I wanted my father at the table. I couldn't understand why strangers seemed to have a greater claim on his time than his own children.

When I asked why another doctor couldn't take the calls, he responded with a question.

"If I don't, who will?"

I found his answer deeply unsatisfying as a child. Decades later, as a healthcare executive, I would come to understand how demanding it was.

My father came to America from Rajasthan, India, in the 1970s. He trained as a physician in Jaipur and initially intended to return home. Instead, he built a distinguished career in pain management at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

But India never really left our household.

Growing up in New Jersey, I remember waiting with my mother for blue aerogrammes carrying news from relatives back home. My parents shouted into the telephone over expensive, crackling international connections.

While my American friends went to summer camp, I went to Jain camp. My mother insisted I take harmonium lessons. My lunchbox contained parathas instead of sandwiches.

I was sometimes embarrassed by our differences. My parents interrogated restaurant servers to ensure we weren't accidentally eating meat. When I asked to go on a double date in seventh grade, I was told that we didn't do that.

We were an Indian family making a life in America, holding tightly to traditions whose relevance I didn't always understand.

And we thrived.

My father built a distinguished career. My brothers became successful professionals. I attended Harvard and eventually became a physician and healthcare executive.

Ours was a familiar immigrant success story.

Across America, Indian families like ours emphasized education, hard work, and professional achievement. A generation later, Indian Americans lead major corporations, hospitals, universities, and technology companies.

We should be proud. But have we spent enough time considering what that success is for?

There is a danger in becoming successful within institutions. We can confuse our advancement with evidence that those institutions are working as they should. We become protective of our positions and reluctant to challenge their failures.

Success itself can become a moral alibi.

My parents believed that achievement created obligations to others. My father called this our silent education: values demonstrated through everyday choices rather than lectures.

As I built my career, I discovered how difficult those lessons could be to apply.

I became a physician, helped implement healthcare reform in the Obama administration, and eventually became the CEO of SCAN Health Plan, a multibillion-dollar healthcare organization.

Earlier this year, I received a disturbing call about one of our members.

She had broken her wrist but couldn't get an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon. She contacted our organization seeking help. Two weeks passed before she finally saw a surgeon. By then, her wrist had healed incorrectly and had to be surgically broken again.

Our organization had met the regulatory requirements for network adequacy. On paper, we were compliant.

But a woman had suffered unnecessarily because our systems failed her.

We had built a network designed to manage costs. We hadn't built adequate safeguards for patients who couldn't get timely care.

I could have pointed to the complexity of provider networks, physician shortages, or the limitations of regulation. All would have been relevant.

None would have changed what happened to her.

The system hadn't simply failed her. We had. And as CEO, I had.

The incident prompted a major focus across SCAN on improving patient access, including redesigning how we identify and respond when members cannot obtain timely care. But what troubled me most was that it had taken such a serious failure to force us to confront a problem we should have recognized much earlier.

This is the central argument of my forthcoming book, The Moral Alibi.

American healthcare doesn't suffer from a shortage of people who care. It suffers from a culture in which good people gradually accept circumstances they once would have found unacceptable.

We develop explanations for failures until those explanations become substitutes for fixing them.

We can't afford it. The regulations won't allow it. We need more data. We should launch a pilot.

Sometimes these are legitimate considerations. Sometimes they are moral alibis—explanations that make our failure to act feel reasonable, even responsible.

I have used them myself.

As a healthcare executive, I've learned to speak fluently about financial sustainability, regulatory constraints, and organizational complexity. Those considerations matter. But they can also become a sophisticated vocabulary for avoiding uncomfortable moral choices.

This is an important challenge for Indian Americans.

For decades, we focused on gaining entry into institutions that once seemed closed to us. We pursued degrees, financial security, and leadership positions.

But gaining influence and using it courageously are different achievements.

Are we willing to challenge institutions when they fall short of their values, even when doing so threatens our standing? Or have we become so invested in our success that we mistake protecting our positions for fulfilling our responsibilities?

My father died in November 2023.

I still remember resenting those interrupted dinners. His devotion to patients came at a cost to our family, and I wish we'd had more time together.

But I understand something now that I didn't appreciate as a child.

My father didn't view professional success as an end in itself. He saw it as an opportunity to assume greater responsibility for others.

The moral alibi begins with a search for reasons why responsibility belongs to someone else.

My father's question began with the opposite assumption: that responsibility might belong to him.

"If I don't, who will?"

It is a question I wish I had understood earlier. And one I believe our community, now that we have achieved so much, needs to ask more often.

(Jain is CEO of SCAN Group and SCAN Health Plan, an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, and a practicing physician. His forthcoming book, 'The Moral Alibi: How American Healthcare Trains Good People to Look Away and How We Learn to See Again,' examines how well-intentioned leaders normalize institutional failures and what it takes to rediscover moral courage. For more: www.themoralalibi.com)

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More Than 10,000 Attend Diwali Celebration In Downtown San Jose





India-West News Desk

SAN JOSE, CA – More than 10,000 people from across the Bay Area gathered in downtown San Jose on October 24 for a day-long Diwali celebration organized by the Association of Indo Americans (AIA) and Bolly 92.3 FM.

The carnival brought together families, community members, business owners and cultural performers for a celebration featuring Indian music, dance, food, shopping and family activities.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Indian Consul General in San Francisco Satish Sivan, Santa Clara County Supervisor Betty Duong, Fremont Mayor Raj Salwan and Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein were among the dignitaries attending the event. Representatives from the offices of Congressmen Ro Khanna and Sam Liccardo, along with San Jose city councilmembers and other local officials, also participated.

Paul Joseph, chief of police for the city of San Jose, and city councilmembers Murali Srinivasan of Sunnyvale and Raj Chahal of Santa Clara were also among those present.

The dignitaries took part in traditional lamp-lighting ceremonies and shared Diwali greetings, highlighting cultural diversity, inclusion and community harmony.

Singer Abby V was a major attraction, drawing an enthusiastic response with his live performance. He performed several popular songs, including his own track featured in the film 'Kantara,' which brought him wider recognition. His performance kept the crowd engaged late into the evening.

The carnival featured traditional and contemporary Indian dance performances celebrating the country's diverse cultural heritage. Bollywood sing-alongs and Tambola games were among the popular activities.

Food stalls offered Indian cuisine and other favorites, while vendors and local businesses showcased their products and services at a shopping festival and marketplace. A dedicated children's zone provided activities and entertainment for younger attendees.

The celebration highlighted Diwali's growing reach beyond the Indian American community, bringing together people from different backgrounds to mark the Festival of Lights and its message of hope, peace and prosperity, the organizers said.

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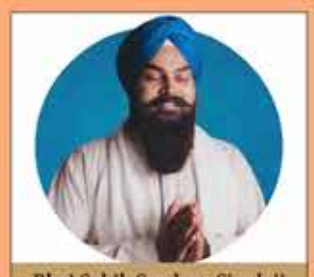
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USPS Prints 20 Million Rangoli Stamps For Diwali

WASHINGTON, DC-The US Postal Service (USPS) has printed 20 million of its new Diwali Forever stamps, citing strong advocacy by the Indian community and the popularity of the first stamp issued to mark the festival. The stamp, featuring a colorful rangoli design, was unveiled at the Indian Embassy in Washington on Oct. 21.

"There was so much advocacy on behalf of the Indian community to create a second stamp. And we just knew that this one was gonna be super popular like the first one, and hence we printed a little bit higher quantities for folks to enjoy," said Sahibani Gambhir, a USPS vice president.

The new stamp is only the second issued by USPS to mark Diwali. The first was released in 2016 and proved popular with the Indian community, with millions sold, Gambhir said. Stamp collectors are also expected to buy the new issue.



Gambhir served as the dedicating official at the ceremonial first-day-of-issue unveiling and reception at the Embassy of India in downtown Washington.

India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the festival was "first and foremost" about "the millions of Indian Americans who call this country their home, students, professionals, the artists, families".

Indian Americans "are the ones who connect to society and hence become what we call as the living bridge of our relationship" between the two countries, Kwatra said, describing the stamp as an opportunity to celebrate India's cultural heritage with the Indian American diaspora and the wider US public.

"This stamp is one of the important threads in our celebration as we go forward into the Diwali festive season," he said.

The stamp features a vibrant rangoli created by Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada against a purple background. Bhutada, who has been making rangolis for nearly 30 years, used starch-based colored powder and colored sand to create the artwork, according to USPS.

Bhutada said she chose vibrant colors such as red and orange because of their significance to Diwali.

Jennifer Arnold designed the stamp, while William J. Gicker served as art director, according to USPS. The stamps are sold in panes of 20 at post offices and online.

As Forever stamps, they will always cover the current First-Class Mail postage rate for a one-ounce letter. (IANS)



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Vijay Patil Elected Chairman Of Peace Center Los Angeles



India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA – Vijay Patil has been elected chairman of the board of Peace Center Los Angeles, a nonprofit organization focused on promoting peace and understanding among communities.

The new board includes Dr. Sukrit as vice chairman, Charu Shivkumar as secretary and Arvind Patel as treasurer. The organization was founded by Ila Mehta and Dr. Gunvant Mehta.

Its programs include the International Day of Non-Violence, an interfaith seminar series and the Walk for Values, which promotes compassion, integrity, respect, responsibility and service.

The organization also plans to strengthen partnerships with community groups, offer education in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, develop youth leadership programs and create opportunities for dialogue across cultural and religious communities.

Patil said the organization would continue to promote nonviolence, mutual respect and understanding while creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to engage with one another.

SCGCS Holds Two Garba Celebrations In Buena Park



India-West News Desk

BUENA PARK, CA — The Southern California Gujarati Cultural Society (SCGCS), which has served the Gujarati community for more than 45 years, held two Raas Garba celebrations October 17 and 24 at the Jain Center in Buena Park, drawing hundreds of attendees each evening.

Families dressed in traditional Gujarati attire gathered to dance to live Garba music, with children, parents and grandparents participating in the celebrations. The events brought together multiple generations to share Gujarati cultural traditions.

SCGCS has organized Garba celebrations for several decades, typically holding one event each year. This year, the society added a second celebration on October 24, organized jointly with the Lohana Heritage Organization. The event marked SCGCS's first collaboration with another organization for a Garba celebration.

During his remarks, SCGCS President Falgun Patel thanked Vice President Ashvin Patel, the Board of Trustees and the volunteers whose time and efforts helped organize both events. Patel said the gatherings were meaningful beyond the music and dancing, offering an opportunity for different generations to come together and celebrate traditions that connect them to their roots.

He added that such events reflected the society's continued commitment to cultural activities and preserving Gujarati traditions in Southern California.

More Than 2,500 Attend Suvidha International Diwali Celebration



India-West News Desk

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA – More than 2,500 people gathered at Stone Creek Park here, on October 25 for Suvidha International's Diwali 2026 celebration, organized in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova.

The free, family-friendly event featured Indian cultural performances, live music, traditional competitions, nearly 40 business and nonprofit booths, children's activities and an aerial fireworks display.

More than 20 elected officials, civic representatives, educational leaders and business executives participated in the celebration.

Congressman Kevin Kiley and California Assemblymember Josh Hoover congratulated Suvidha International and the City of Rancho Cordova on organizing the multicultural event.

Rancho Cordova City Council Member Siri Pulipati highlighted the festival's role in bringing together elected representatives, educational institutions, businesses and community organizations.

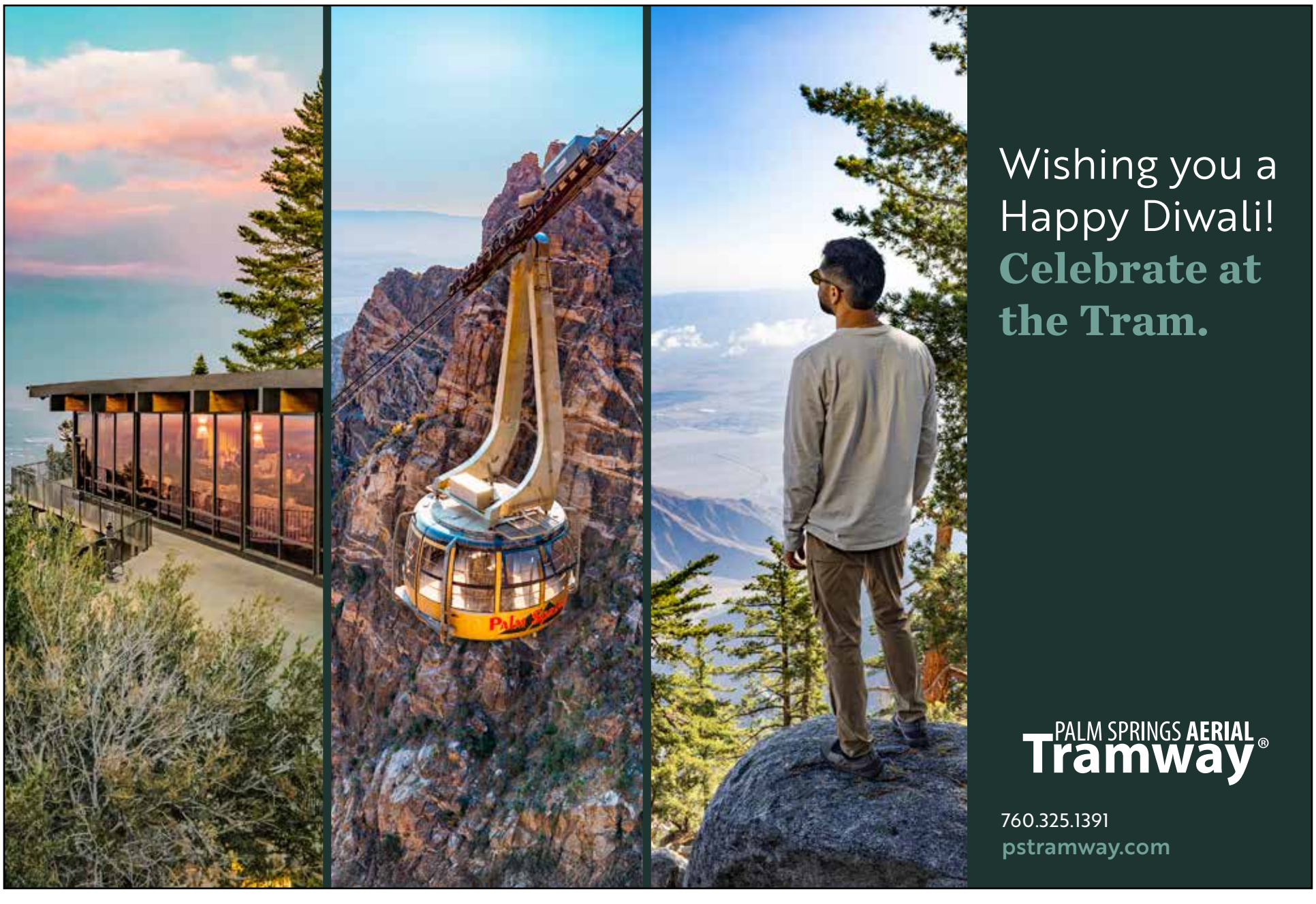
The cultural program featured dance performances and live singing. Traditional rangoli, costume and Indian attire competitions gave participants an opportunity to showcase their creativity and cultural heritage.

The evening concluded with an aerial fireworks display that illuminated the sky over Rancho Cordova.

Bhaskar Vempati, founder and president of Suvidha International Foundation, thanked California Gov. Gavin Newsom and his administration for officially recognizing Diwali as a state holiday.

"This historic recognition sends a powerful message that our cultural heritage is valued and celebrated. It reflects California's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and community unity," Vempati said.

Based in the Sacramento area, Suvidha International Foundation also conducts educational and youth development programs, including after-school initiatives in artificial intelligence, robotics, speech and debate, and career exploration.



World Peace Day And UN Day Celebrated In SoCal





India-West News Desk

ORANGE, CA – The 2026 World Peace Day and United Nations Day celebration was held October 4 in Orange, featuring an award ceremony, speeches and a multicultural cultural program.

The event was organized by Global Peace Foundation Inc., UNA-USA Long Beach Chapter and GOPIO South Bay. It began with a prayer recited by Acharya Choodamani Pathak, priest of the Pashupatinath Nepalese Temple in Norwalk. Tributes were paid to those who lost their lives in the flooding that struck Nepal in the preceding weeks.

This year's Peace Award was presented to Barbara G. Muller, a longtime peace advocate, former president of UN-USA Southern California and host of a peace podcast.

Other awards recognized science students from Cabrillo High School for their project, Flying Soccer, which has received international recognition.

The awards were presented by U.S. Congresswoman Young Kim, who represents California's 40th Congressional District; event grand sponsors Avadhesh and Uma Agarwal; and Hollywood film producer Steven Ross.

The program also featured Rima Nashashibi, founder and president of Global Hope 365, known for her work to prevent child marriage and human trafficking, and Sister Diane Tillman, president of Brahma Kumaris of Seal Beach, an author and former president of the UNA-USA Long Beach Chapter.

Dr. Manorama S. Gupta, president of all three organizing groups, directed the event and outlined their goals and missions. "Peace begins when we recognize the dignity of every individual and work together to create opportunities for everyone to live with hope and purpose," Gupta said. "Through this celebration, we want to inspire our community to embrace peace, strengthen understanding among people of different backgrounds, and support AbilityFirst in its important work of empowering individuals with disabilities."

Kim presented Gupta with a Congressional Certificate of Recognition, praising her efforts to bring communities together, help children with disabilities and encourage the younger generation.

The event also included a fundraising drive and donations for AbilityFirst, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and adults with disabilities develop their skills, confidence and independence and build a sense of belonging. AbilityFirst students shared personal accounts of how the organization's support had changed their lives and helped them work toward self-sufficiency.

Kenneth Fisher, a Cabrillo High School teacher who guided the students behind the award-winning Flying Soccer science project, presented an overview of their work and its recognition.

The program also included multicultural music and dance performances.



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Microsoft Labels 60,000 Job Cuts In US, India A 'Voluntary Exit Program'



SEATTLE, WA – Microsoft has launched a voluntary exit program for employees in India, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom as the technology giant seeks to balance rising artificial intelligence spending with workforce costs. The program could cover around 60,000 employees, according to media reports, although the company has not confirmed the figure.

Microsoft announced the Voluntary Exit Offer (VEO) on October 26 in a message to employees from Amy Coleman, the company's executive vice president and chief people officer, which was published on its official blog.

"This offer will be available to eligible employees in participating teams in Canada, India, the United Kingdom and the United States at level 70 and below," Coleman wrote.

"This is a time-limited, voluntary program that gives those who are eligible the opportunity to leave Microsoft with financial support and career planning resources," she said.

CNBC, citing a person familiar with the matter, reported that around 60,000 employees could qualify, representing about 27 per cent of Microsoft's workforce of approximately 223,000. The company has not disclosed how many eligible employees are based in India, where it has large engineering and support operations.

The offer is not available to every team. Coleman said participation would depend on business priorities, customer commitments and workforce requirements.

The Verge, citing people familiar with the situation, reported that participating teams include Copilot, CoreAI, Windows and Devices, Xbox, finance and human resources. Marketing, commercial business, quantum and security teams are not included.

According to CNBC, employees must decide whether to accept the offer in December, with those who opt in scheduled to leave the company on December 31.

The program follows Microsoft's Voluntary Retirement Program earlier this year, which was limited to a smaller group of long-serving employees in the United States.

The offer comes months after Microsoft announced plans in July to lay off about 4,800 employees, mainly in its Xbox and commercial sales teams, according to media reports.

Microsoft has been increasing spending on data centers to meet demand for AI computing, including cloud capacity supplied to OpenAI, Anthropic and other companies. Major US technology firms are expanding their AI infrastructure while seeking to control operating costs. Although Microsoft has not explicitly linked the voluntary exit offer to its AI spending, the program comes amid this broader push to manage costs.

India's inclusion makes the program significant for the company's workforce in the country, which hosts one of Microsoft's largest employee bases outside the United States.

The move also comes amid uncertainty for Indian technology professionals working in the US. Microsoft's PERM labor certification filings were among those suspended by the US Department of Labor on October 8, and the company has publicly defended its use of the H-1B visa program. Coleman's announcement did not mention visa holders, and it remains unclear how the voluntary exit offer would apply to employees in the US on work visas. (IANS)

Nielsen Says India, With Bengaluru As Hub, Now Drives Its Global Innovation



BENGALURU-US-based media analytics firm Nielsen is positioning India as its primary global innovation engine, with more than 5,000 employees in the country – roughly half its worldwide workforce – and Bengaluru serving as its largest hub, according to a report.

A report by Daily Sun, citing Moneycontrol, said around 75 per cent of Nielsen's global innovation now comes from India, where the company has deployed artificial intelligence (AI) to automate advertising intelligence.

Nielsen Chief Technology Officer Anil Goel said AI helps automate the tracking of brand visibility in sports and measure audiences across an increasingly fragmented media landscape. The company aims to make India its "global innovation center" rather than operate it as a conventional global capability center (GCC).

"Unlike traditional GCCs where India-based teams work under overseas counterparts, Nielsen's local teams lead products, make decisions and work directly with global clients," the report said, citing Goel.

Although some other markets generate more revenue, Goel said India's rapid growth makes it one of Nielsen's top 10 markets in terms of growth potential.

Nielsen expects to expand its presence in India further following the addition of DoubleVerify, which specializes in advertising verification and brand safety. Goel also highlighted the country's technology-heavy workforce as a factor creating more opportunities for the company to base innovation in India.

AI has made a significant impact on Nielsen's advertising intelligence business, which tracks advertising expenditure across television, radio, newspapers, magazines and outdoor media in 30-40 major markets, including India and the US, the report said.

The company previously relied on a combination of automation and manual work to process information, with more than 1,000 employees handling gaps that technology could not resolve, according to the report. AI and large language models have increased the share of work handled by machines in these areas from 80-90 per cent to 97-98 per cent, Goel said.

The growing use of ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude, along with AI agents that help consumers make decisions, is creating new challenges for traditional methods of measuring media consumption, the report said. (IANS)



BUSINESS

Sharad Kumar Tak's Firm Gets Approval To Build $8.2 Billion Texas Port

India-West News Desk





WASHINGTON, DC – ST LNG, a company founded by entrepreneur Sharad Kumar Tak, has received U.S. approval to build an $8.2 billion deepwater liquefied natural gas (LNG) export port off the Texas coast, marking a major development in the energy infrastructure business he has built in the United States.

Construction of the proposed facility is expected to begin in 2027, with operations targeted for 2029, according to media reports.

The port will be located about 10.4 miles offshore from Matagorda, Texas. At full capacity, the facility is designed to export 8.4 million tons of LNG annually. Its infrastructure will include 20 platforms, four floating LNG storage units, four mooring systems and 7.7 miles of pipeline.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said the project could increase the country's LNG export capacity by 79 percent. It is expected to generate about 2,000 construction jobs and up to 855 permanent positions.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 410 days, compared with an earlier licensing process that typically took about five years.

The offshore location is also expected to move vessel traffic away from more congested onshore areas, potentially reducing vessel collisions and other safety risks.

The project adds to the business portfolio of Tak, a first-generation entrepreneur and technologist whose career has spanned information technology, manufacturing, energy, communications, broadcasting, real estate and hospitality.

Tak earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in 1966 before pursuing a master's degree in computer science at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Over the course of his career, he founded and led several companies, building businesses in multiple industries and expanding his interests into infrastructure development, including power plants, refineries and petroleum exploration.

He established ST Group to bring together his diverse business interests in the United States and internationally. The group's activities have included information technology, communications, business services, real estate and energy infrastructure, as well as two luxury hotel-resort properties in Bermuda.

Tak became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1976. He lives in Maryland with his wife, Mahinder, a retired colonel from the US Army Medical Corp. She is a known supporter of Democratic causes and is also one of the largest private collectors of Indian art in the U.S.

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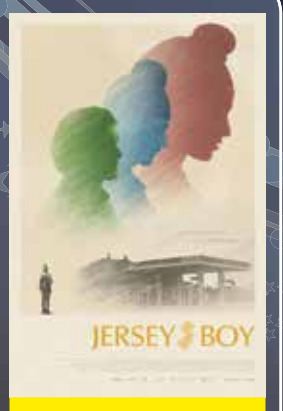
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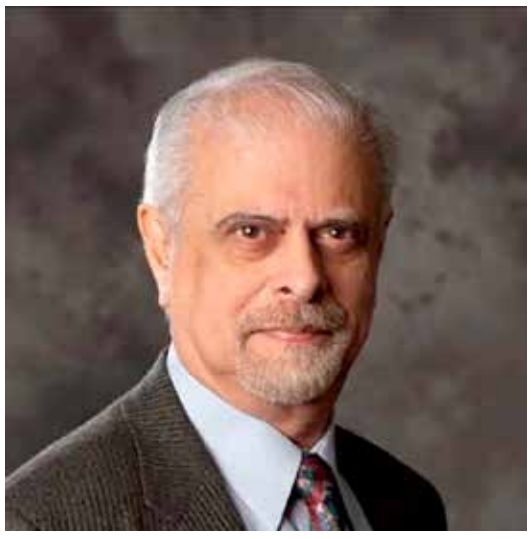
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PEOPLE

USC Professor Azad Madni Wins Prestigious John Fritz Medal



LOS ANGELES, CA – Azad M. Madni, a Professor at the University of Southern California (USC), has been awarded the 2026 John Fritz Medal, often called the 'Nobel Prize of Engineering', for his pioneering contributions to transdisciplinary systems engineering.

Established in 1902, the medal honors leaders whose work has advanced human progress. Past recipients include Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Claude Shannon, Gordon Moore, Andrew Viterbi and Elon Musk, according to USC's Viterbi School of Engineering.

Madni, executive director of USC's Systems Architecting and Engineering Program, was recognized for advances in transdisciplinary systems engineering through the integration of different disciplines, augmented intelligence, green learning and interactive storytelling in virtual worlds.

"Professor Madni's pioneering work has helped transform how we design complex systems, and this extraordinary honor is a fitting recognition of the innovation, imagination, and impact that have defined his illustrious career," said USC President Beong-Soo Kim.

Gaurav Sukhatme, interim dean of USC's Viterbi School of Engineering, noted that the school's namesake, Andrew Viterbi, received the medal in 2011, describing Madni's recognition as a continuation of USC's legacy of engineering innovation.

Madni grew up in Mumbai, where he attended St. Mary's High School and studied science at St. Xavier's College.

He has said that President John F. Kennedy's 1962 speech on sending Americans to the Moon inspired him to pursue aerospace engineering. Madni moved to the United States in 1965 to study engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles, earning his bachelor's degree in 1968, master's degree in 1971 and doctorate in 1978.

Madni has recalled that pursuing a doctorate was necessary for him to obtain a green card at the time. "At that time, the only option available to get a green card was to pursue a doctorate, with proof of two-year self-support," he said in an IEEE oral history.

At Rockwell International, Madni worked on NASA's Space Shuttle programme, developing a model-based approach to testing the shuttle's navigation system.

He later led research at Perceptronics and founded Intelligent Systems Technology, Inc., in 1994. He joined USC in 2009.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Madni has also received the NAE Gordon Prize, the IEEE Simon Ramo Medal and the ASME Spirit of St. Louis Medal. At USC, he holds joint and courtesy appointments in engineering, medicine and education and serves as the Northrop Grumman Foundation Fred O'Green Chair in Engineering. (IANS)

Mellon Foundation Awards $750,000 To UCSB For South Asian American Studies Center



India-West News Desk

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the University of California, Santa Barbara, $750,000 to establish a nationally focused, interdisciplinary center dedicated to South Asian American studies, providing new institutional support for a field that has historically lacked a centralized academic infrastructure.

The four-year initiative will be led by Jigna Desai and Sameer Pandya, professors in UCSB's Department of Asian American Studies. Pandya, who chairs the department, is also a bestselling novelist. Desai serves as the inaugural director of the university's Center for Feminist Futures.

The grant will support the development of a systematic framework for research, teaching and scholarly collaboration, bringing together academics and students working across disciplines to advance the study of South Asian American experiences.

A central priority is expanding research into subjects that have received comparatively limited attention within broader Asian American studies frameworks, including caste. Although caste analysis has an established place in scholarship on the South Asian subcontinent, its operation within the global South Asian diaspora remains an area for further investigation. The initiative will also examine how caste relations and experiences vary across generations and processes of acculturation in American and European societies.

Over the next four years, Desai and Pandya plan to direct funding toward four areas: undergraduate curriculum development and learning opportunities, graduate training and research support, mentorship for junior faculty, and partnerships with public-facing projects.

Planned activities include developing open-access online curricula, creating summer internship opportunities for undergraduates, providing dissertation fellowships and organizing manuscript workshops. Together, these efforts are intended to strengthen the pipeline of scholars entering the field while making research and educational resources more widely accessible.

Beyond individual programs, the initiative seeks to transform a dispersed network of scholars into a sustainable academic community with lasting institutional support. By connecting established researchers, early-career faculty and students, the center aims to create opportunities for collaboration and develop a shared intellectual foundation for South Asian American studies.

Pandya has emphasized the importance of bringing scholars at different career stages together to foster a robust intellectual community. The Mellon Foundation's investment will provide the resources to build that community through sustained programming, research support and interdisciplinary engagement. The initiative represents a significant step toward establishing South Asian American studies as a more cohesive and enduring area of academic inquiry, expanding the field's capacity to investigate questions of identity, migration, caste and generational change across the global diaspora.





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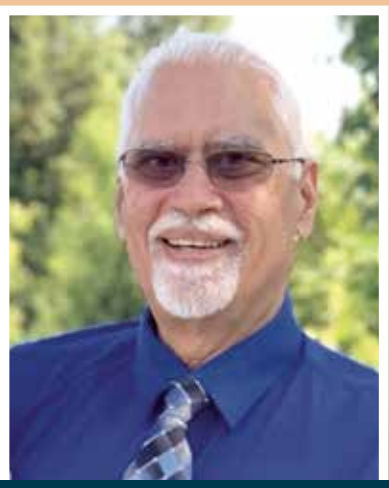
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POLITICS

California High-Speed Rail Chief Ian Choudri Resigns As Project Draws Scrutiny

India-West News Desk



SACRAMENTO, CA – Ian Choudri, chief executive of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, has resigned after two years leading the troubled project, citing personal and family priorities. His departure comes amid mounting questions over the project's escalating costs, lost federal funding, delays and revelations about questionable travel expenses charged to taxpayers.

Choudri announced his resignation in an email sent late October 28 to agency employees and oversight officials. He described his tenure as one of the most meaningful and rewarding chapters of his professional life, expressing pride in what he characterized as a turnaround of a project that had faced serious questions about its viability.

His departure follows a turbulent period for the authority, which has faced criticism over its management, spending and ability to deliver the long-delayed rail system.

A CalMatters investigation into the authority's travel expenses found that private consultants working on the project charged nearly $600,000 for travel that included visits to a nightclub, cigar lounge, tiki bar, restaurants and an escape room. The expenses prompted scrutiny over the use of taxpayer funds and the agency's oversight of its contractors.

State investigators also found that consultants had flown first class and used premium ride services at public expense. Some trips reportedly took consultants to Folsom, the Sacramento-area suburb where Choudri has a home, including travel outside regular working hours. According to the investigative findings cited by CalMatters, some of the travel occurred at Choudri's request.

The controversy added to pressure on the agency as it struggled to advance the rail project and account for billions of dollars in public spending.

The authority also lost approximately $4 billion in federal funding in July 2025 after the Trump administration terminated grants for the project.

In announcing his departure, Choudri maintained that the project had made significant progress under his leadership. "I took on a project facing significant challenges and serious questions about its prospects for success, and led its turnaround into a successful program," he wrote.

The authority's board appointed California Department of Finance Director Joe Stephenshaw as interim CEO on October 29.



Law Banning Horse Carriages Named After Indian Teen



NEW YORK, NY-New York City Council has passed a law banning horse-drawn carriages, naming it Romanch's Law in honour of Indian teenager Romanch Mahajan, who was killed in a Central Park accident involving a horse-drawn carriage in June. The law was adopted on October 22. Romanch was trying to save his mother, Priya, when she was thrown from the carriage after the horse bolted. He struck his head on the ground as he dived after her and later died in hospital.

Romanch's uncle, Gaurav Mahajan, attended a rally outside City Hall organised by supporters of the ban before the bill was passed. "True justice means recognising that these gentle, majestic horses do not belong on the congested asphalt or trapped in dangerous traffic," he said.

"On behalf of his parents and his brother, I leave New Yorkers with one final sacred request: please do not forget Romanch," he added. Animal rights activists had campaigned for years to ban horse-drawn carriages but faced opposition from carriage owners and the union representing drivers. Romanch's death gave fresh impetus to the effort.

Romanch had recently completed his higher secondary education at Angel's Public School in Mamun, Pathankot, and was visiting New York with his parents and brother.

The family had been enjoying the sights of Central Park when the carriage driver stopped to take their photograph. The horse suddenly bolted, overturning the carriage. Romanch was fatally injured as he tried to save his mother. (IANS)

Krishnamoorthi Accuses Big Tech Of Profiting From Anti-Indian Hate

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has accused major technology companies of profiting from a surge in anti-Indian hate on social media and called on Congress to hold them accountable, amid a congressional push for a federal investigation into an alleged plot targeting a Hindu temple in Illinois.

"Anti-Indian hate is exploding on social media, and Big Tech is profiting from it," Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat from Illinois, wrote on X late Oct. 21.

"These companies have no incentive to stop the hatred they help spread. Congress must hold them accountable," he said.

His post included a 47-second video but did not name any specific company or outline proposed legislative steps.

The remarks come as Krishnamoorthi pushes for a federal response to the alleged plot targeting the Balaji temple in Aurora, Illinois.On October 20, he led 105 lawmakers, including every Indian American member of Congress and Senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Andy Kim and Chris Van Hollen, in urging FBI Director Kash Patel to investigate the alleged plot as a federal hate crime. The lawmakers sought written answers by October 29. "The alleged combination of targeted racial hatred, a religious setting, and preparations for mass violence demands a comprehensive federal response," the letter said.

The letter also sought information on the role of online platforms and possible accomplices, and how the FBI distinguishes online threats from speech protected by the First Amendment. The accused, Alexandros Paporakis, 19, of Palatine, Illinois, faces state charges of making a terrorist threat and unlawfully possessing a short-barreled rifle. A judge ordered him detained. Police said he left behind a white-supremacist manifesto targeting Indians and South Asians. His next court appearance is scheduled for October 30, according to local media reports. Krishnamoorthi was at the temple at the time of the attack attempt. (IANS)

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ELECTIONS

Abdul El-Sayed Makes History With MI Senate Victory, Brings Indian Connection

India-West News Desk

DETROIT, MI – Abdul El-Sayed began his election-night speech by recalling the Arabic expressions he had used throughout his campaign to express hope that he would prevail. After defeating Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan's Senate race November 3, he said the moment had finally arrived to replace "inshallah," or God willing, with "alhamdulillah," meaning praise be to God.

His victory made him the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate, marking a historic breakthrough for Muslim Americans. It also brought an Indian American connection to the milestone through his wife, Sarah Jukaku, whose family traces its roots to Bhatkal in Karnataka.

Much of El-Sayed's victory speech addressed the attacks on his name and Muslim faith during the campaign. He accused his opponents of running an exceptionally ugly campaign, saying they had tried to make his religious and ethnic identity an issue rather than address the economic concerns of voters.

He argued that his name and faith had nothing to do with Americans' struggles to pay for gasoline and groceries. He also criticized President Donald Trump for repeatedly mocking his name, saying the president's remarks had become increasingly crude.

Addressing parents who might have struggled to explain such attacks to their children, El-Sayed urged them to tell their children that those responsible had lost.

His broader message was that the country should not be defined by efforts to exclude people on the basis of their background or religion. America, he said, was large enough to accommodate everyone, rejecting the vision of a country that was too small for some of its people.

El-Sayed also turned his attention to Vice President JD Vance, whom he addressed as "habibi," an Arabic term of endearment. He pointed out the irony that Vance would be constitutionally required to administer his Senate oath in January. El-Sayed, a University of Michigan graduate, capped the remark with a reference to the football rivalry between Michigan and Ohio State: "Wolverine one, Buckeye zero."



He also joked about Trump's difficulty pronouncing his name, suggesting that once he was sworn in, the president could simply address him as senator.

El-Sayed, an Egyptian American Democrat and former public health official, will become the first Muslim member of the Senate. He will also be the first Democratic doctor in the chamber since 1969. He has never previously held elected office.

His election follows an earlier unsuccessful bid for political office. In 2018, he ran for Michigan governor but lost the Democratic primary by a double-digit margin. His Senate campaign centered on universal healthcare, curbing the influence of outside money in elections, criticism of Israel and addressing the economic pressures facing ordinary Americans.

The Indian connection to his victory comes through Jukaku, who was born and raised in Michigan to Indian immigrant parents. Her father, Tayeb Jukaku, is a nephrologist from Bhatkal, Karnataka, and a board member of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Michigan. He has also served on the founders' committee of the Islamic Society of North America. Her grandfather, J.H. Shamsuddin Jukaku, was a prominent lawyer.

Jukaku attended the University of Michigan, where she earned dual degrees in sociology and Near East studies. She later completed a master's degree at Oxford University and studied medicine at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

El-Sayed was born and raised in southeast Michigan, where he attended public schools. His father, Mohamed, immigrated from Egypt, and he was raised by his father and stepmother, Jackie, whose family has lived in Gratiot County, Michigan, since the 1800s.

He graduated from the University of Michigan, where he played on the men's lacrosse team, before earning a medical degree from Columbia University through an NIH-funded fellowship. He later received a second doctorate from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

The couple met at the University of Michigan and were associated with its Muslim Students' Association. El-Sayed proposed to Jukaku during her first year at the university, and they married in May 2006. They have two daughters, Emmalee and Serene, and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

सेरिटोस शहर [**CITY OF CERRITOS**] चुनाव की सूचना

इसके द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि सेरिटोस शहर में मंगलवार, 2 मार्च, 2027 को निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारियों और विधेयक के लिए आम नगरपालिका चुनाव आयोजित किए जाएंगे: नगर परिषद के दो (2) सदस्यों के लिए – चार (4) वर्ष का पूर्ण कार्यकाल

प्रस्ताव **L:** आम नगरपालिका चुनाव की तिथि में परिवर्तन और उससे संबंधित अनुरूप संशोधन	
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इन पदों के लिए नामांकन की अवधि सोमवार, 9 नवंबर, 2026 को सुबह 8:00 बजे से शुरू होती है और शुक्रवार, 4 दिसंबर, 2026 को शाम 5 बजे तक सेरिटोस सिटी क्लर्क/चुनाव अधिकारी के कार्यालय में समाप्त होती है। शुक्रवार को अपॉइंटमेंट लेना आवश्यक है। यदि सेरिटोस शहर के किसी पात्र वर्तमान पदाधिकारी के नामांकन पत्र शुक्रवार, 4 दिसंबर, 2026 को शाम 5 बजे (चुनाव से 88 दिन पहले) तक दाखिल नहीं किए जाते हैं, तो मतदाताओं के पास चुनाव से 83 दिन पहले, यानी बुधवार, 9 दिसंबर, 2026 को शाम 5 बजे तक, उस पदाधिकारी के निर्वाचित पद के लिए, चुनाव से 88 दिन पहले पात्र पदाधिकारी के अलावा अन्य उम्मीदवारों को नामांकित करने का समय होगा। यह विस्तार वहाँ लागू नहीं होता जहां कोई मौजूदा पदाधिकारी चुनाव लड़ने के योग्य न हो। यदि किसी निर्वाचित पद के लिए कोई भी व्यक्ति या केवल एक (1) व्यक्ति को नामांकित नहीं किया जाता है, तो निर्वाचित पद पर नियुक्ति कैलिफोर्निया राज्य के चुनाव संहिता की धारा § 10229 के अनुसार की जा सकती है। मतदान सुबह 7:00 बजे से रात 8:00 बजे तक खुला रहेगा। /S/सिंथिया नावा, नगर पालिका क्लर्क/चुनाव अधिकारी

Dems Control Congress, Raising Hopes Of Scrutiny Of H-1B Restrictions

WASHINGTON, DC- The Democrats capture of both chambers of the US Congress gives them control of key committees overseeing immigration, visas and tariffs, raising the prospect of greater scrutiny of policies affecting Indian professionals.

However, the $100,000 fee on new H-1B petitions was imposed through President Donald Trump's executive actions. A Democratic-controlled Congress cannot simply reverse them without overcoming a presidential veto.

By the evening of November 4, Democrats had won at least 242 House seats against 151 for Republicans, with 42 races yet to be called, marking a net gain of 34 seats. NBC's model projected Democrats would finish with about 259 seats. In the Senate, Democrats were projected to secure 54 seats against 44 for Republicans, a net gain of seven, with Mississippi and Alaska still uncalled.

The elections also unseated two prominent Republicans associated with efforts to restrict H-1B visas.

Ohio Senator Jon Husted, who lost to Democrat Sherrod Brown, had sponsored a bill, S.5638, seeking to raise the wage threshold for H-1B exemptions to about $140,000.

In Texas, Republican Ken Paxton, who as state attorney general had opened investigations into H-1B use at "nearly 30 North Texas businesses", lost the Senate race to Democrat James Talarico.

The outcome is significant for Indian professionals, who account for the overwhelming majority of H-1B beneficiaries. People born in India accounted for about 70 per cent of approved H-1B petitions in fiscal 2025, with China a distant second at about 12 per cent, according to a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) report to Congress.

Democrats have already proposed rolling back two Trump policies affecting Indian interests.

Control of the House gives the party chairmanships of key committees. The House Judiciary Committee oversees immigration policy, while the House Homeland Security Committee supervises agencies including US Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and USCIS.

These positions give Democrats the power to hold hearings, issue subpoenas and influence funding for the Department of Homeland Security. However, reversing Trump's executive actions would require legislation or resolutions that he would have to sign. Alternatively, Democrats would need two-thirds majorities in both chambers to override a presidential veto. (IANS)


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How a Democratic Win Impacts India

NEW DELHI – The Democratic Party's sweeping victories in the US midterm elections, in which it captured control of both chambers of Congress, are expected to reshape the economic and geopolitical outlook, with potential implications for oil prices, trade policy, financial markets and India's economy.

The results, which dealt a major setback to President Donald Trump and his Republican Party, have heightened expectations of greater congressional scrutiny of the administration's policies, including tariffs, energy and technology regulation.

Financial markets had already begun responding to the prospect of a Democratic sweep ahead of the election, with the US dollar index and Treasury yields falling sharply as investors factored in the possibility of a shift in congressional control.

Analysts said the election outcome could have implications for India, although the effects are likely to be more geopolitical than directly market-related. A potential decline in crude oil prices, a weaker US dollar and softer Treasury yields could benefit the Indian economy by easing pressure on the rupee, improving foreign investor sentiment and lowering borrowing costs.

One area to watch is the conflict with Iran. Analysts said increased political pressure on Trump following the Republican losses could force him to reconsider his approach to the conflict, potentially reducing concerns over oil supplies and prices. However, the implications for India-US trade relations remain uncertain. The proposed bilateral trade agreement is still unresolved, and analysts do not expect the election results to significantly improve the prospects of an early breakthrough.

While Democrats now control Congress, Trump's executive authority over international affairs remains substantial, limiting the extent to which the change in congressional power could influence US foreign policy.

Domestically, financial services, energy companies and sections of the technology industry could face pressure amid expectations of tighter regulatory oversight and the possibility of higher taxes in the future. The energy sector could encounter additional headwinds if crude oil prices retreat from elevated levels.

A Democratic-controlled Congress is also expected to intensify scrutiny of Trump's tariff policies and could seek to challenge their implementation through legislation. However, analysts do not anticipate an immediate rollback of tariffs, given the considerable authority the President retains over trade measures.

Artificial intelligence is likely to remain a major investment theme despite the change in congressional control. Analysts at global investment bank Morgan Stanley expect spending on AI and data center expansion to continue, although government involvement in shaping infrastructure development and regulatory decisions could increase.

Beyond the immediate economic implications, the scale of the Democratic victory is also significant for the political outlook ahead of the 2028 presidential election.

The results offer an early indication of changing voter sentiment and give Democrats control of Congress for the next two years, positioning them to block Trump's legislative agenda and subject his administration to greater oversight.

For global markets, the extent to which the new congressional majority translates into changes in trade, energy and regulatory policy will be closely watched. (IANS)



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ELECTIONS

Ramaswamy's Vile Ad, MAGA Politics And Heavy Spending Fail To Impress Voters

India-West News Desk



CINCINNATI, OH – Republican Vivek Ramaswamy lost the race for governor of Ohio to Democrat Amy Acton on November 3, as voters rejected his bid amid mounting criticism of an attack advertisement that invoked his opponent's traumatic childhood experiences and drew condemnation even from some members of his own party.

"Ohio has chosen unity and decency over division and hate. The healing begins today," Acton told supporters in her victory speech, striking a sharply different tone from the combative campaign Ramaswamy had waged.

Ramaswamy, a billionaire entrepreneur who had closely aligned himself with President Donald Trump and the MAGA movement, acknowledged the defeat in his concession speech, describing it as a "difficult night for his campaign."

He said his call to Acton to concede the race went to voicemail. "We left her a message," he told supporters. Social media mocked him saying the governor-elect wanted nothing to do with him.

With his wife, Apoorva, by his side, Ramaswamy thanked her and her parents during his remarks. He also expressed "serious concerns about the future of our country."

The defeat followed a campaign increasingly dominated by controversy over an advertisement featuring Acton's estranged mother, who accused her daughter of lying about her childhood experiences of sexual abuse by her stepfather.

Ramaswamy's campaign spent approximately $4 million on the advertisement, which aired in October and drew widespread criticism. The ad featured Acton's mother defending her husband and challenging Acton's account of the abuse.

Acton's stepfather had been charged with sexually abusing her when she was a child. A court had removed her from her mother's care and placed her with her father. Her stepfather fled the state after facing the charges and remained a fugitive until his death. Acton has not seen her mother in decades, following the family's departure after a bond hearing.

The advertisement intensified tensions between the candidates and prompted criticism from some Republicans. Stunningly, Trump and Vice President JD Vance backed the attack, even as questions grew about the political consequences of using Acton's family history and childhood trauma as campaign ammunition.

Early indications suggested the advertisement had alienated not only women but also male voters, contributing to a broader backlash against the Republican candidate's campaign tactics.

Ramaswamy had initially gained momentum in the race, leveraging his national profile and support from prominent Republicans who had rallied behind his candidacy. Trump praised his intelligence, and Ramaswamy made his association with the president a central part of his campaign.

But his standing began to weaken as Trump's popularity declined and the campaign increasingly focused on negative advertising and personal attacks against Acton, a physician and former Ohio state health director. The spending disparity was another feature of the contest. Ramaswamy significantly outspent Acton, with his campaign spending approximately $79 million, much of it financed with his personal fortune. Forbes estimates his wealth at about $2.2 billion.

He traveled extensively across Ohio in a private jet, running a campaign modeled on Trump's combative political style and the MAGA movement. With the economy hurting voters, that did not go down well.

Ramaswamy had sought to translate his national political prominence, personal wealth and close relationship with Trump into an electoral victory in Ohio. Instead, Acton prevailed on a message of unity, decency and moving beyond the divisions that had defined the campaign.

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All four Indian American DemocratsWin Reelection Easily

Contd. from P1

The victories included Suhas Subramanyam in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, Pramila Jayapal in Washington's 7th District, Ro Khanna in California's 17th District and Ami Bera in the newly redrawn 3rd Congressional District in California. Subramanyam defeated Republican Dave Beckwith with approximately 61.5 percent of the vote, securing a second term in Congress.

"The campaign is over, but the work is just beginning. I look forward to working with our community to deliver change in Washington," Subramanyam said in his victory statement. He said voters had placed their trust in him at a time when the country was at a crossroads, citing rising costs, federal workforce firings and cuts to healthcare and food assistance. Subramanyam said he would work to protect federal workers and contractors, reverse cuts to healthcare and food assistance, and push for an end to what he described as "forever wars."He also pledged to pursue safeguards for artificial intelligence and data centers, address the impact of tariffs on costs, and hold the Trump administration accountable for fraud and corruption.

Jayapal won a sixth term in Washington's 7th Congressional District. In her victory statement, she thanked voters for their support and pledged to continue advocating for working people and minority communities.

"I am incredibly grateful for your support and your trust, and I promise to continue fighting every single day for dignity and respect for working people, immigrants, LGBTQ+ communities, and communities of color," she said.

Jayapal described the results as a rejection of the Trump administration and Republican policies, pointing to what she characterized as cuts to healthcare, attacks on immigrants and vulnerable communities, and tax benefits for billionaires. "Tonight is a win for democracy," she said, adding that Democrats would begin organizing the next day to deliver on their promises to voters.

In California, Khanna defeated Republican Ritesh Tandon to retain his seat in the 17th Congressional District, which covers much of Silicon Valley.Reacting to the results and the broader Democratic gains, Khanna said Democrats could potentially win 258 seats in the House, a larger number than the party secured in the 2008 or 1992 elections.

"I have not felt this inspired or energized since Obama spoke at Grant Park!" he wrote on X, referring to former President Barack Obama's election-night address in Chicago in 2008.Bera, meanwhile, won re-election in California's newly redrawn 3rd Congressional District, defeating Republican Robb Tucker. Bera, who previously represented the 6th Congressional District, will now represent a district spanning much of Placer, El Dorado and Nevada counties and extending into Sacramento.

The race followed California's statewide redistricting effort, which reshaped congressional boundaries ahead of the midterms. Bera received 57.1 percent of the vote against Tucker's 42.9 percent, according to reported results.Bera had described his bid for the newly drawn district as an effort to build a broad coalition across party lines.

Dandiya Becomes Second Indian American Woman To Go To Congress

Contd. from P1

woman to the House. Dandiya defeated Republican businessman Casey Askar on the evening of November 3, securing 51.9 per cent of the vote. This was her first run for elected office. The district leaned Republican in voter registration, with about 185,000 Republicans, 146,000 Democrats and 150,000 voters registered with other affiliations, according to Florida Politics.

Dandiya campaigned on the cost of living, corruption, healthcare, education and gun safety. "South Floridians are fed up with the rising costs and performative politics coming out of Washington," she said.

The contest drew substantial campaign spending. By October 14, Dandiya had raised about $4.6 million, compared with Askar's $7.4 million, most of which came from loans to his own campaign. Federal Election Commission records showed that Askar had contributed about $6.8 million to his campaign. Dandiya received endorsements from the Indian American Impact Fund and Serve America PAC, and had a slew of marquee Democratic names campaign for her, including former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

At 28, she became the founding principal of Democracy Prep Endurance High School in Harlem, New York, where about 86 per cent of students came from low-income households. According to her campaign, every graduate was admitted to college.

In 2020, she received a White House Fellowship, serving on President Joe Biden's White House Domestic Policy Council and at the US Department of Education. She later led public-sector initiatives at Apple, working with state governments on education, healthcare and government systems. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker also appointed her to the state's P-20 Council.

She studied government at Harvard and earned a master's degree in education from Boston University. She later taught through Teach For America. Her victory speech Tuesday night reflected this background as she shared a message for children in Florida.

"I want to fight for a future that is worthy of you, where you can go to school and learn and feel safe, where you can live in a warm home with room to dream and play, where you can see a doctor when you're sick that your parents can afford, and where you feel the freedom to become whoever you dream of being, regardless of your zip code."

Born and raised in Palm Beach County, Dandiya grew up in Jupiter, where her parents settled after emigrating from India in the 1980s. Her father, Dr. Rohit Dandiya, continued his medical practice in the US, while her mother founded a Montessori school when Dandiya was a child. Her son, Sahib, now attends the same school.

Dandiya lives in Palm Beach Gardens with her husband, Navneet Alag, who has been her cheerleader on social media. A graduate of the Kellogg School of Management, he is a vice-president at Roivant. The newly elected representative's net worth, according to Florida Politics is approximately $12.7 million.



ELECTIONS

Amish Shah Flips Seat

Contd. from P1

for Democrats.

He is now part of the 'blue tsunami' that has swept the state.

Shah led Feely 52.5 percent to 45.5 percent, with more than 95 percent of the votes counted when Decision Desk HQ projected the race for the Democrat. The victory marks a significant turnaround for Shah, who lost the same seat to Republican Rep. David Schweikert by just 3.8 percentage points in 2024.

Arizona's results remain unofficial pending completion of the ballot count and certification by election officials.

Shah will succeed Schweikert, who gave up the seat to run unsuccessfully for governor, leaving an open contest in a district that had become a major battleground for both parties.

An emergency room physician and former state legislator, Shah secured the Democratic nomination despite the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee backing his primary opponent. National Democratic groups spent millions trying to prevent his nomination, a move Shah used to reinforce his argument that he would be an independent voice in Congress rather than a politician beholden to party leadership.

He also highlighted his bipartisan record in the Arizona Legislature and support from former Republican state House Speaker Rusty Bowers.



The general election brought another enormous influx of outside money. According to Tucson.com, spending in the race had exceeded $25 million by mid-October and that included approximately $6 million from the Trump-linked Safety & Affordability PAC and a political group connected to tech billionaire Elon Musk which contributed another $600,000, with millions more coming from other liberal and conservative organizations.

Shah nevertheless entered the final stretch with a clear advantage in the race. The Cook Political Report moved the contest from toss-up to lean Democrat in September, while Decision Desk HQ classified the district as likely Democratic and gave Shah a 76 percent chance of winning.

Shah's opponent, Feely, sought to capitalize on his relationship with Trump. A political newcomer after a 14-season NFL career that included four seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, Feely initially launched his campaign in the more Republican-friendly 5th Congressional District. He switched to the 1st District after Trump urged him to make the move and endorsed his candidacy.

Feely portrayed his connection to the president as an advantage for Arizona and attempted to cast Shah as too liberal for the district. The blistering repudiation of Trump in the mid term did not help here.

In a statement to supporters, Shah said he had spoken with Feely and congratulated him on what he called a hard-fought campaign.

He pledged to represent the entire district, including voters who had supported his opponent.

"I'm honored and humbled that the people of Arizona's First Congressional District have chosen me to represent them in Congress," Shah said. "To every voter in this district — I pledge to be a Representative for all of you, whether or not you voted for me." Feely had acknowledged on election night that the outcome might not favor him, telling supporters that he and his wife were at peace with the result.

Nithya Raman

Contd. from P1

an immigrant who arrived in the United States as a six-year-old to the city's highest elected office is a remarkable chapter in the growing story of Indian American political representation. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2013, she has gone from making the city her home to preparing to lead it.

An urban planner by training, Raman built her political reputation around neighborhood-level issues before taking on an incumbent backed by much of the city's political establishment. In just nine months, she transformed the political landscape, mobilizing younger voters and a diverse coalition of Angelenos demanding a change in leadership.

The contest was not merely an election between two Democrats. It became a referendum on the direction of Los Angeles, its handling of homelessness, its response to devastating wildfires, its financial accountability and its readiness to host the 2028 Olympic Games.

At her election-night gathering, as ballots continued to be counted, Raman captured the mood of her supporters.

"Today, across America, voters demanded change. They are angry at a broken status quo and the politicians who failed them over and over again. But change feels good, doesn't it?" she told the crowd.

She described a city that had become accustomed to saying no rather than finding solutions.

"Our City Hall became a place where we became so used to saying 'no,' we forgot how to say 'yes,'" she said.

Her message resonated with Angelenos who felt the city's problems had become permanent fixtures of everyday life.

A challenge that changed the race

For Indian Americans and the wider South Asian diaspora, Raman's achievement carries significance beyond Los Angeles. Her election represents another milestone in the growing political visibility of a community that has steadily moved from professional and entrepreneurial success into public service and elected leadership.

Raman had already broken barriers in 2020 when she became the first South Asian and the first Asian American woman elected to the Los Angeles City Council. Her elevation to the mayoralty would take that representation to an entirely new level. She joins a growing group of Indian-origin Americans making their mark in public life, demonstrating that immigrants and their children are increasingly shaping the political

Contd. on P25



Nithya Raman Poised To Become Mayor Of Los Angeles

Contd. from P24





direction of the cities and institutions they call home.

Raman's decision to challenge Bass was itself a political gamble. She had previously supported the mayor and was once considered an ally. But as dissatisfaction with the administration grew, Raman concluded that another term for Bass without a serious challenge would deprive voters of a meaningful choice.

Taking on a former ally and political superior meant entering a contest against a seasoned politician with powerful institutional backing, established relationships and access to significant campaign resources.

Bass had the support of prominent Democratic leaders and organized labor. Raman, meanwhile, built a coalition among younger voters, progressive organizations, neighborhood advocates and Angelenos seeking a more accountable City Hall.

The contrast in their political styles became increasingly apparent. Raman approached problems as an urban planner, emphasizing practical solutions, measurable outcomes and the everyday functioning of the city. From homelessness and streetlights to infrastructure and greener neighborhoods, her proposals frequently focused on issues residents encountered daily.

Bass's administration, by contrast, increasingly faced questions about political compromises, spending priorities and whether its policies were delivering meaningful results.

Endorsement

City Controller Kenneth Mejia's endorsement was another important development in Raman's campaign. Mejia had become a prominent voice demanding transparency over the billions of dollars spent addressing homelessness. Raman's commitment to opening the city's books and enabling meaningful oversight by the Controller's Office aligned with his insistence that public money must be properly accounted for.

Los Angeles residents have watched homelessness spending increase without seeing a corresponding resolution to the crisis. Raman's promise to make the city's finances more transparent offered an alternative to business as usual.

Her campaign's message was straightforward: taxpayers deserve to know where their money goes and whether public programs are actually working.

Olympics

Raman's position on the 2028 Olympics demonstrated her willingness to reconsider an issue pragmatically. Initially skeptical of bringing the Games to Los Angeles, she questioned the financial arrangements and the extent to which residents had been consulted.

But she recognized that the Olympics presented an extraordinary opportunity to showcase Los Angeles to the world.

The challenge, she argued, was to ensure that the investment left behind lasting benefits. Better transportation, improved infrastructure, greener public spaces and a more functional city should be part of the Olympic legacy.

Hollywood

Raman also attracted support from voices within Los Angeles' entertainment industry. Comedian Adam Conover publicly explained why he was backing her, citing her willingness to stand up for Hollywood workers during the Paramount-Warner Bros. merger controversy. The endorsement reflected wider concerns about protecting an industry central to the city's economy and identity.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath also backed Raman, adding to the coalition of political and civic voices supporting her candidacy.

A new generation claims its voice

Raman's achievement sends a powerful message to young South Asians that public leadership is within their reach. An immigrant's daughter, educated at Harvard and MIT, she entered public life through neighborhood organizing and a commitment to addressing homelessness. Her rise illustrates how community engagement can become a pathway to political leadership.

Her campaign also reflected a generational shift in Los Angeles politics, with younger Angelenos increasingly unwilling to accept that the city's problems are too entrenched to solve.

"Hopelessness can be fatal to a city, but this campaign refused to accept that," Raman told supporters. "You saw hopelessness and you chose hope."

That may ultimately be the most important message of her campaign.

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From My First Half Marathon To All 50 States: My Journey With My Mom

By DHANUSH JAYAPRAKASH





On April 20, 2024, I finished my first half marathon in Temple, Texas, and said, "I'm never doing this again."

918 days later, on October 25, 2026, I finished the RDC Half Marathon in Durham, North Carolina. I had run 53 half marathons in all 50 states, almost 700 miles. At 17, I became the youngest finisher of the 50 States Half Marathon Club's Endurance Challenge, which requires a running event of at least 20 kilometers in every state.

The numbers don't show what those 918 days were like.

My mom had run the Austin Half Marathon, which made me want to try one. After my first race, I found another in New York. I didn't even want to run again. I wanted to see New York, and apparently running 13.1 miles was the best excuse I could come up with.

We planned 10 states; 10 became 20; then we thought about covering the entire country. I remember thinking about the places we'd visit and what we would do there, not how we'd pay to get there.

In the past year alone, my mom and I drove nearly 50,000 miles in our own car, excluding rentals and flights. I drove 16 hours straight and arrived at 2 AM just to realize I had a run in the next 5 hours.

The trip through Denver showed me how quickly everything could fall apart. We needed to get to four states in just over a week, including Nebraska, Montana, and North Dakota. There weren't many Superchargers along the route, and one of our tires was giving us major issues. We ended up keeping our car in Denver and renting a car for the whole week, spending hundreds of dollars more than we originally had planned. It's safe to say that over 90% of all trips went way over budget.

This week was different, however. I was sick, worn out after each race, and carrying schoolwork I could barely get done because the Wi-Fi was terrible everywhere. When we finally got back to our own car in Denver, the tire was at 0 PSI. It was Saturday, and we had to be home Sunday night for school the next day. We didn't even know if we could put air in it and leave, or if we'd need a tow. We made it home that Sunday. But I still think about what would've happened if we hadn't.

In Michigan, my eighth state, a snowstorm started during the race. It was already under 15 degrees. The feels-like temperature was -3 degrees. My mom begged me to come back. She said it was okay not to finish. I kept going and finished anyway.

On October 10, 2026, Tennessee brought five and a half hours of rain and wind as the remnants of Hurricane Isaias moved north. The trail was covered in water. The course turned out to be 13.4 miles. Running those extra 0.3 miles was easier said than done. My mom wanted us to head back. I wanted to finish anyway.

I got little to no training between races. In 2026 alone, I ran more than 30 half marathons, including six in just eight days. I reached Half Fanatics' highest level, Sun Tier, but I didn't always feel proud or excited. Sometimes I wanted to stay home. People told me to quit, and their words got to me. Once, I told my mom I was done running and that this had all been a waste of time.

I was so busy noticing how tired I was that I didn't always notice how tired my mom was. She dealt with the bills, the repairs, and the hotels. I was counting states. She was trying to figure out how we'd get to the next one. I'm not a professional athlete. I'm just your average high schooler. These 918 days taught me that ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things, but it comes with a lot of sacrifices. I learned that things rarely go as planned, and sometimes you have to keep finding another way forward. It takes a lot of effort, patience, and support from others.

Looking back, I realize how much we both went through to make this possible. At 15, I thought about medals and getting to see new places. At 17, I think about that Saturday in Denver, staring at a tire with 0 PSI, wondering how we were going to make it home by Sunday night. In Texas, I promised myself I'd never do it again. In North Carolina, I wished I could do it all over again.

The record has my name on it. But the invisible route behind it to get to where I am today will always fascinate me, and it will always belong to my mom and me.

(Jayaprakash is a 17-Year-Old HS Senior from Austin, Texas)

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Shreya Ghoshal Joins Grammy Academy As Voting Member



LOS ANGELES, CA – Shreya Ghoshal has joined the Recording Academy as an official voting member for the Grammy Awards, giving her a role in the process of recognizing music from across genres and countries.

Ghoshal recently took part in a South Asian panel organized by the Recording Academy, alongside Lara Raj of global girl group KAT-SEYE, singer Sameer Gadhia and musician and composer Raashi Kulkarni.

Reflecting on her musical journey, Ghoshal said becoming part of the Academy's voting community was a meaningful milestone.

"Music has taken me to places I could have only dreamed of when I first started singing, and I feel incredibly grateful for the journey it has been. To now be part of the Recording Academy's voting community is a special moment for me. The Grammys celebrate music from across the world, and being part of a community that recognizes the creativity and hard work behind it is truly meaningful," she said.

Ghoshal also spoke about India's rich musical heritage and expressed hope that more Indian artists would gain international recognition.

"Coming from India, where music is so deeply woven into our lives and culture, I feel proud to bring that perspective to this platform. We have such a rich musical heritage and so many extraordinary artists telling stories through their music, and I hope to see more of these voices find recognition on the global stage," she said. (IANS)



'Dhurandhar' Tracks Submitted Across Grammy Categories

India-West News Desk

MUMBAI-Arijit Singh's 'Phir Se' and several other tracks from 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' have been submitted for consideration in multiple categories at the 69th Annual Grammy Awards.

Singh shared the news on Instagram, thanking listeners for their support. The song is being considered in the Best Song Written for Visual Media category.

Composed by Shashwat Sachdev, the film's soundtrack has entries in several other categories, with T-Series and B62 Studios behind the campaign.

'Aari Aari', featuring Bombay Rockers, Khan Saab, Jasmine Sandlas, Reble, Token and Sudhir Yaduvanshi, is in the Best Asian Pop Music Performance category. 'Jaiye Sajana', featuring Jasmine Sandlas and Satinder Sartaaj, is being considered for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance.

Two other tracks, 'Jaan Se Guzarte Hai' and 'Kanhaiyya', are in contention for Best Global Music Performance. The other entries are 'Destiny – Mann Atkeya' for Best Rap Performance, 'Vaari Jaavan' for Best Dance/Electronic Recording and 'Hum Pyaar Karne Wale' for Best Remixed Recording.

(with media reports)

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Ananya Panday Wears Chanel For Academy Museum Gala In LA

India-West News Desk



LOS ANGELES, CA- Ananya Panday made her first appearance at the Academy Museum Gala here on October 17, joining a guest list that included Priyanka Chopra, Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, Kendall Jenner and Blackpink's Rosé.

For the occasion, Panday wore a black Chanel dress from the label's Fall/Winter 2026 Ready-to-Wear collection. The dress had a halter neckline, side pockets and a flowing train.

She accessorized with a statement necklace in gold tones, featuring large rounded stones, and diamond earrings. Black heels completed the outfit. Panday wore her hair lose in waves, with a middle part. Her makeup included neutral eyeshadow, winged eyeliner and nude lipstick. The sixth annual gala was held at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and brought together figures from film, music and fashion. Sabrina Carpenter, Colman Domingo and Elle Fanning were also among the attendees.

5,840 Hours, 16.5 Kg: Joyalukkas Crafts Record-Setting Gold Jhumkas

India-West News Desk



DUBAI: A pair of 22-karat gold jhumkas weighing 16.514 kg has set two Guinness World Records, earning titles for the heaviest pair of gold earrings and the largest pair of earrings.

Created by retailer Joyalukkas, the earrings, named Mayura Sahasra, were unveiled on October 24 at the Jewel of Joy showroom in Dubai. They measure 1.215 meters in length and 0.682 meters in diameter.

The design retains the traditional bell-shaped form of Indian jhumkas, with patterns inspired by peacock feathers. The name Mayura Sahasra means "A Thousand Peacocks" and draws on a legend about a divine peacock shedding a thousand feathers, each carrying a prayer, wish or dream.

A team of 55 artisans spent a total of 5,840 hours crafting the earrings over several months. The Guinness World Records title for the heaviest pair of gold earrings was achieved on October 12.

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri unveiled the earrings in the presence of Guinness World Records representatives, who presented the two certificates.

Joyalukkas CEO John Paul Alukkas said that the company wanted to mark its 40 years in the United Arab Emirates with a creation dedicated to Dubai. Joyalukkas chairman Joy Alukkas described the earrings as a tribute to Dubai and the artisans who made them.

The earrings are not for sale and will remain on permanent display at the Jewel of Joy showroom in Dubai Gold District.

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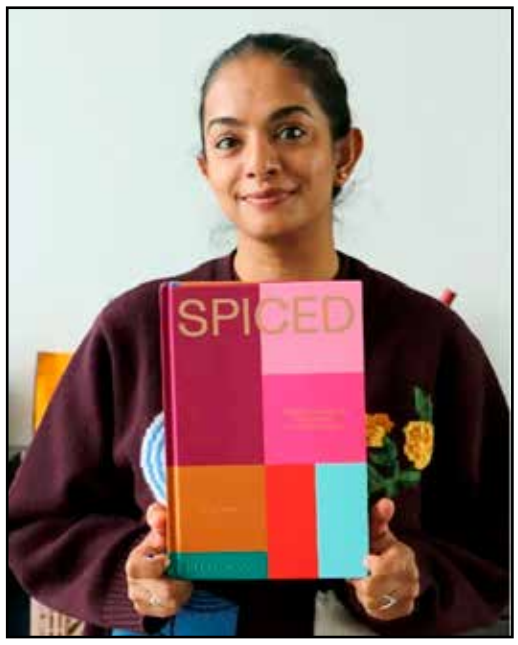
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Priya Mani Releases New Cookbook Celebrating Global Spices

India-West News Desk



Food historian and writer Priya Mani has a new hardcover cookbook, 'Spiced: Recipes Celebrating Spices from Around the World.' Published by Phaidon, the 500-page book features 340 recipes from 100 countries.

The book focuses on 50 spices, covering their botanical origins, flavors, preparation, and uses in different dishes. It also includes cooking tips and techniques, with recipes for salads, condiments, stews, soups, baked dishes, and drinks.

The recipes include Risotto alla Milanese with saffron, Jollof Rice with calabash nutmeg, Massaman Curry with white cardamom, Chicken Paprikash with chile, sumac-roasted chicken and caramelized onions, turmeric doughnuts, and Touba Coffee.

The book also features 20 spice blends, including garam masala, Chinese five-spice, baharat, and ras el hanout, with instructions and background on the blends.

Mani founded Appetite Studio in Copenhagen, where she works on food culture, ingredients, and flavor development. She has written and contributed to several food books and articles, including the 'Bloomsbury Handbook of Indian Cuisine' (2023). In 2022, she received the Guild of Food Writers Award and an International Association for Culinary Professionals award.

The book features a foreword by American author Harold McGee, who writes about the science of food and cooking. It also includes historical essays and contributions from chefs and food writers from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Peru, Lebanon, Iceland, and Nigeria.

Photo: Pavan Venkatraman

RECIPE



Indian Rice Pudding With Shaved Chocolate And Berries

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Royal Basmati rice
- 4 cups organic whole milk or dairy-free milk, such as almond, soy, rice or coconut milk
- 2 cups water • A pinch of salt • 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cardamom or 4–6 green cardamom pods
- A few saffron strands, plus extra for garnish
- 1/4 cup golden raisins (optional) • 8–10 roasted cashews (optional)

Preparation

1. Place the Royal® Basmati Rice in a medium-sized mixing bowl. Cover with water and rinse until the water turns milky.

2. Drain the rice well in a colander. Repeat the rinsing process two more times, until the water runs clear. This helps remove grit and excess starch from the rice.

3. Pour the milk into a deep pot and heat over low to medium heat, stirring frequently to prevent it from scorching. Allow the milk to simmer for about 15 minutes to thicken slightly.

4. Meanwhile, place the rinsed rice in a separate pot. Add 2 cups of fresh water and a pinch of salt.

5. Bring the water to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat, cover and cook for 10–12 minutes, or until the rice is tender.

6. If using whole green cardamom pods, remove the seeds and grind them into a fine powder using a mortar and pestle. If using ground cardamom, measure the required amount directly.

7. Stir the sugar, cardamom and a few saffron strands into the hot milk.

8. Add the cooked rice to the milk and mix well.

9. Cook over low heat for about 20 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent the mixture from sticking to the bottom of the pot.

10. If using raisins, add them during the last five minutes of cooking.

11. Transfer the kheer to a glass bowl and let it cool, covered.

12. To serve, spoon the kheer into dessert bowlsand op with shaved dark chocolate, blueberries or raspberries and slivered almonds.

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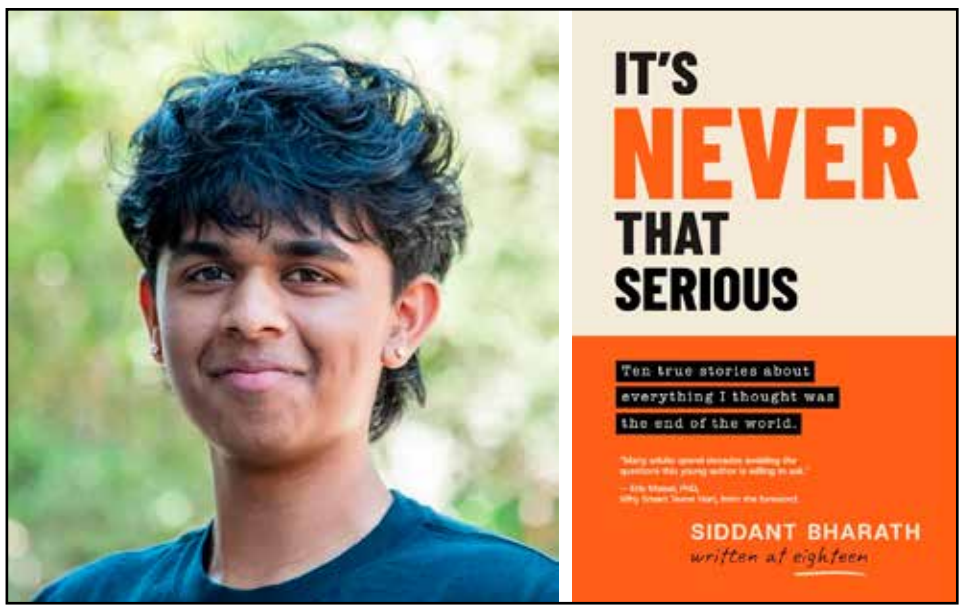
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BOOKS

Danville Teen Turns Personal Setbacks Into Stories Of Self-Discovery

You Are Not The Box

By SIDDANT BHARATH



18-year-old Danville, CA, author Siddant "Sid" Bharath reflects on the day a third concussion ended the basketball future he had built his life around – and what he learned about identity, achievement, and belonging when that future disappeared.

I didn't start playing basketball because I loved it.

I started playing because I wanted people to like me.

That's embarrassing to say out loud. But it's the truth. I was in middle school, and basketball was the currency. It gave people status. The kids who played were the ones who mattered, they were cool, they were respected, they got talked about. I wanted that. So I worked tirelessly to get better.

What I didn't expect was that I'd actually fall in love with the game.

I can't tell you the exact moment it changed. But somewhere along the way, basketball stopped being about fitting in and became the thing I thought about before I fell asleep. I loved everything about it, the way my hands felt on the ball, the way a perfect shot would just drop through the net. With time, I got better. I worked for it. I started feeling what it's like to be genuinely good at something, to have a skill that's yours because you built it. For the first time in my life, I knew who I was. I was a basketball player.

[A broken ankle cost Sid his sophomore season. Two concussions a week apart ended his junior season before it started, and he repeated the year. He came back to tryouts the following fall.]

So I walked into tryouts with expectations higher than ever. Not just from other people, from myself. This was going to be the start of it all.

The first day started. The gym had that energy again, the sound of shoes squeaking, balls echoing, coaches watching. I felt excellent. Loose. Confident. Like I belonged. A rebound went up and I reacted without thinking. I took off, elevating over another kid, jumping higher than I ever had in practice. I was flying. Then, midair, everything shifted. My feet got caught on his shoulder and all of a sudden I wasn't in control anymore. My momentum kept carrying me, but my balance was gone. I felt myself tilt, then flip, my body rotating in a way I couldn't stop.

Then I came down hard, flat on my back. Before I could even brace, my head snapped back and slammed into the ground.

The impact was instant. A jolt through my entire body. The gym noise faded into something distant, muffled. I just lay there, staring up, not moving.

In that moment, before anyone reached me or asked if I was okay, I experienced a quiet clarity.

I had felt this before.

I knew exactly what it meant.

I was done.

* * *

Because here's what I didn't realize until much later: basketball hadn't given me an identity. It had given me a box. At the time, I thought the issue was just a sports thing. It's not. It's the same thing that happens when your grades decide how you feel about yourself, or your friend group, or the way people see you. It just looks different depending on what your thing is. I had climbed into that box so completely and willingly that I had no idea what was underneath when it was taken away. Loving something and hiding inside it look almost identical from the outside. I was in the gym every day. I was working. I cared. But there was a difference I couldn't see at the time: if I had a bad day on the court, I didn't just feel like I played badly. I felt like I was bad.

That's the difference. When you love something, it's something you do. When you're inside a box, it becomes the thing that tells you whether you're okay.

* * *

The world is very good at handing you boxes. Athlete. The smart one. The funny one. The responsible one. Sometimes the person handing you the box loves you. That doesn't make it less of a box.

I still love basketball.

That's the part I didn't see coming. I thought losing it the way I did would leave me bitter, or wanting nothing to do with it. But it didn't. What the distance gave me was clarity I couldn't have gotten any other way. I could finally see what I actually loved about the game, the focus it demanded, the way it could make everything else disappear, the feeling of working toward something with your whole body and mind at the same time.

What collapsed wasn't that love. It was all the stuff I had piled on top of it: the identity, the social currency, the need for people to see me a certain way, the idea that my worth lived in whether I was starting or benched, recruited or ignored. That stuff deserved to collapse. It was never really mine to begin with.

You are not the box.

You never were.

It just takes losing it to finally see that.

(Sid's new book is a collection of ten personal stories about identity, achievement, belonging, and learning to be present while growing up. It includes a foreword by psychologist and author Eric Maisel, PhD. This passage is excerpted from Story 01, 'When Your Identity Collapses,' in 'It's Never That Serious' Nest Line Press, 2026.)

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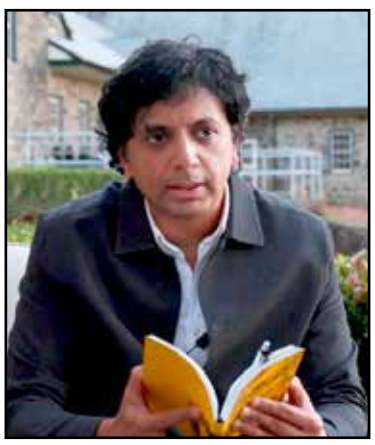
M. Night Shyamalan Admits Struggling To Develop His Next Film

LOS ANGELES, CA-Filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan has spoken about struggling to develop the outline of his upcoming film, saying research calls, video meetings and a recent visit to Los Angeles have distracted him from the creative process. In a video update shared on Instagram, the filmmaker said he had been filling his notebook with "disparate ideas" but was finding it difficult to bring them together into a cohesive outline.

"It's November 3rd, 2026. It's been about two weeks, I think, since the last time we talked. I've been outlining and writing in the journal. This has been, I was gonna say, a little bit of a hot mess, to be honest, but I'm trying to understand why I'm struggling so much," he said.

Shyamalan said he had conducted several research calls with people familiar with the locations and subjects of his upcoming film. While the conversations and Zoom meetings were helpful, he felt they were pulling him away from expressing his own creative ideas.

He also spoke about visiting Los Angeles to show 'Remain' to his new bosses, describing the experience as wonderful. However, he acknowledged that he had made little progress on his writing during the visit.



"Everything was lovely, but I wasn't writing and we can lie to ourselves a lot about why we're not writing, but you're not writing and that's all that matters," he said. Reflecting on his lack of progress, Shyamalan said writing had been the foundation of his career and success.

"At the end of the day, all of this, this house, everything, every piece of clothing I own came from me writing and I just need to get back to that. Rather than a grade, I would give myself, you know, did not attend school. That's probably what I would give it," he said.

In the caption accompanying his Instagram video, Shyamalan said he had considered abandoning the outline but had now decided to continue working on it until the end of the year and begin writing the screenplay after Christmas.

"I almost gave up on the outline altogether but this morning I committed to outlining through the end of the year, then starting the screenplay after Christmas," he wrote.

Shyamalan is known for supernatural thrillers and films featuring unexpected twists. He has received several accolades, including nominations for two Academy Awards, two BAFTA Awards and a Golden Globe. (IANS)

Preity Zinta Shares Family Halloween Moments From Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, CA-Actress Preity Zinta celebrated Halloween with her family here, dressing up as Belle from Disney's popular film 'Beauty and the Beast' and sharing glimpses of the festivities on social media.



The actress shared a series of pictures featuring her husband, Gene Goodenough, and their children, along with a heartfelt note about how her daughter's love for princesses has made Halloween a special occasion for her.

"Never thought I would look forward to trick or treating in the neighborhood and love everything about Halloween & of course dressing up as Belle. It's so special & a bit dramatic to have a little princess that loves princesses!" she wrote.

Describing this year's celebrations as a "Goodenough Halloween", Preity said the family stepped out in costumes and went trick-or-treating in their neighborhood.

"We had a 'Goodenough Halloween' this year with Big Belle & baby Belle & The King & his Knight... as we walked our neighborhood and trick or treated with super excited little ones running around in all sorts of costumes Ting!" she added. Preity's daughter appeared as Baby Belle. Her husband, Gene Goodenough, took on the role of The King, and their son completed the family-themed look as a knight. (IANS)

Mindy Kaling Joins Cast Of Netflix Comedy 'Running Point'

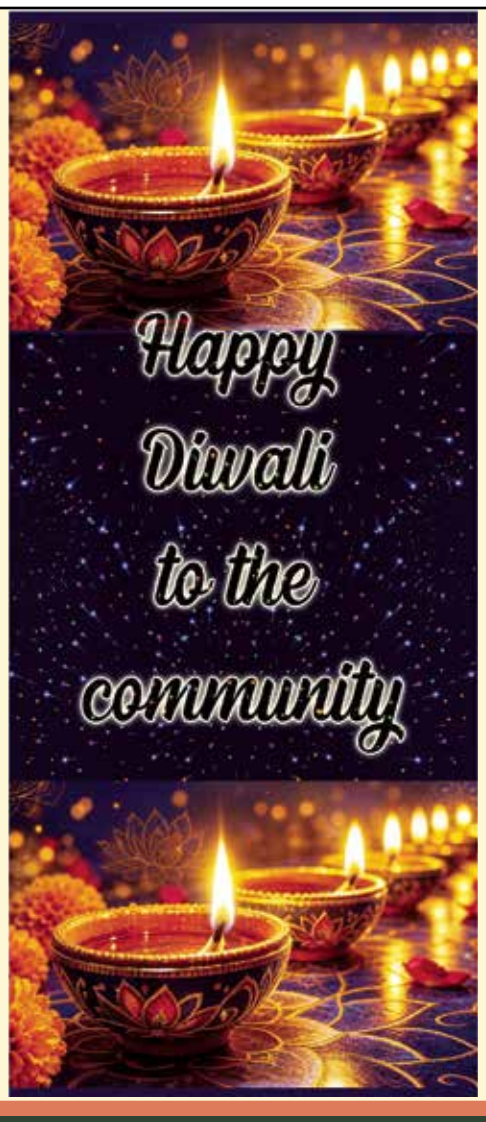
LOS ANGELES, CA – Mindy Kaling, co-creator and executive producer of Netflix's sports comedy 'Running Point', will join the cast in a recurring role in its third season.

Kaling will play Divya, an outspoken and confident CEO of a popular gambling app. Like Isla Gordon (Kate Hudson), the show's central character, Divya is the first woman to lead a company in her male-dominated field. However, Divya becomes an obstacle to Isla's plans throughout the season.

Kaling had also expressed interest in appearing on the show during a panel in April, telling Deadline that she would love to be part of the cast and describing it as the happiest set she had worked on.

Production on Season 3 is underway in Los Angeles. Hudson will direct the season premiere, marking her television directorial debut. She previously wrote and directed the 2007 short film 'Cutlass'.

'Running Point' follows Isla, who unexpectedly takes over as president of the Los Angeles Waves, a professional basketball franchise owned by her family. Kaling, David Stassen and Barinholtz co-created the series and serve as writers and executive producers.







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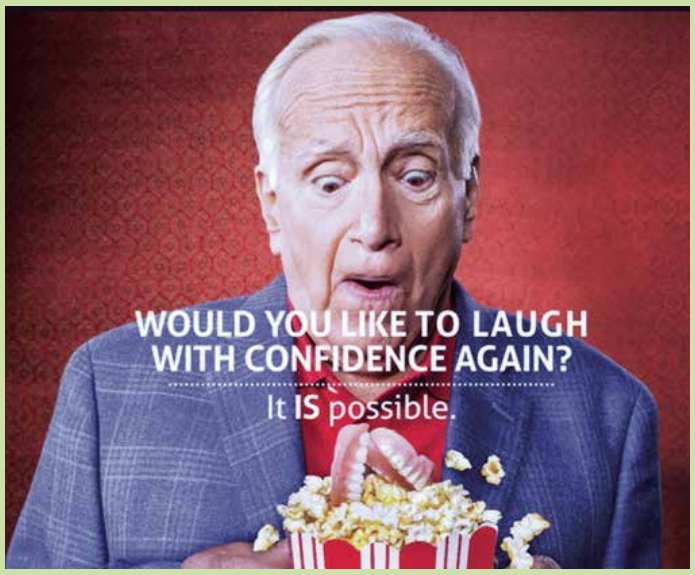
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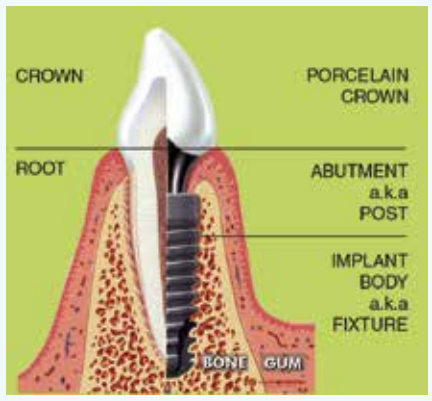
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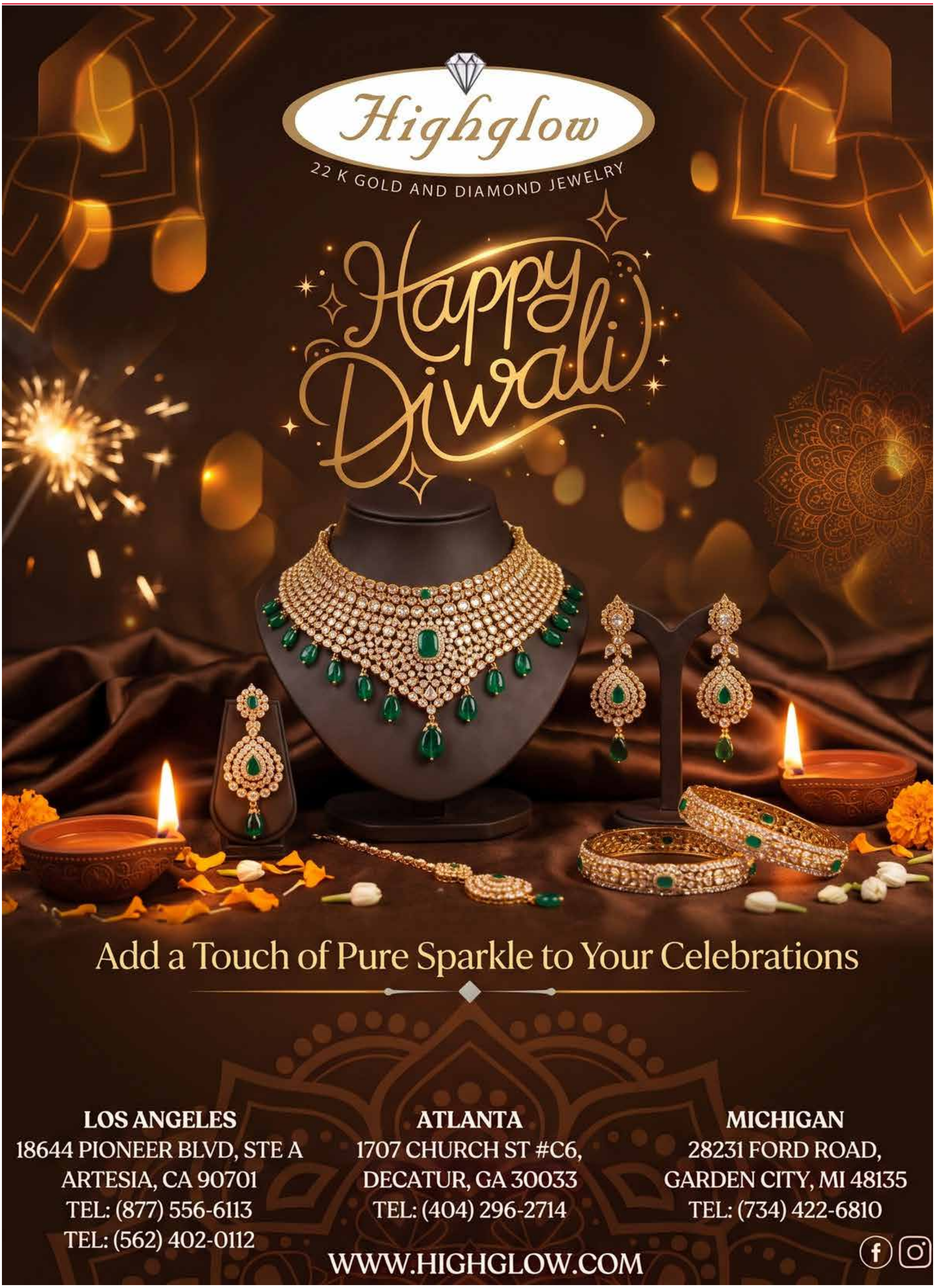
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