

INDIA WEST

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Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi Visit SoCal Economic Patriotism Needed Senate Should Reflect America

India-West Staff Reporter

FULLERTON, CA – While dropping nuggets like his wife Ritu and Usha Vance text each other, and that he is no longer on speaking terms with Elon Musk, US Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) used a Southern California appearance on December 6 to deliver a sweeping argument that America must rebuild its economic foundations so it can also repair its social fabric.

Speaking to a select but diverse group of Indian Americans here, with allegiance to both sides of the aisle, from different religious backgrounds and generations,

Contd. on P15



Senate Should Reflect America

India-West Staff Reporter

BUENA PARK, CA – Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), who, according to the latest Change Research poll conducted in the first week of December, holds a commanding 28 point lead in the Illinois Democratic primary for US Senate, made a brief but pointed stop in Southern California on December 6 to meet with a small gathering of Indian Americans.

Though no one present was an Illinois voter, attendees said they were deeply invested in the possibility of seeing the first Indian American elected to the U.S. Senate.

Contd. on P14



CEO Of The Year: The Chill YouTube Chief



Jessica Chou for TIME

India-West News Desk

SAN BRUNO, CA – Time magazine has crowned YouTube boss Neal Mohan as its '2025 CEO of the Year,' calling him the 'calm captain' of the world's biggest distraction engine. The profile paints a picture of a soft-spoken executive who shapes what billions watch without ever raising his voice.

The magazine describes him as a culture maker. In its words: YouTube is creating the cultural diet the world now lives on. And

Contd. on P10

Satya Nadella Of Microsoft Bets Big On India

NEW DELHI -Global tech giant Microsoft announced on December 9 that it is investing \$17.5 billion in India over the next four years to drive AI diffusion in the country.

"Today we are announcing our largest investment in Asia – \$17.5 billion over four years (CY 2026 to 2029) – to advance India's cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations. This investment builds on the \$3 billion investment

Contd. on P12



Weakening America?

Trump Has Diverted Over \$2 Billion In Military Funds To Immigration

WASHINGTON, DC- The Trump administration diverted more than \$2 billion from US military funds in 2025 to support immigration enforcement operations, weakening military readiness and straining servicemembers, according to a report released by Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The report, titled 'Draining Defense: Trump's Immigration Stunts Cost Billions at the Expense of Military Readiness, Morale, and National Security', states that the Department of Defense (DoD) obligated billions of dollars for immigration-related missions. It is spending that lawmakers



say falls outside the military's core national security role.

It added that the Pentagon plans to spend 'billions more' in the next fiscal year.

According to the lawmakers, most of the money has not been reimbursed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), forcing the Pentagon to divert funds from military priorities such as training, housing repairs, and infrastructure upgrades. The report says the diversions have affected everything from barracks maintenance to 'repairs for elementary schools attended by the

Contd. on P19

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IMMIGRATION

Long Beach Natraj Restaurant's Bubbly Kaur Detained By ICE During Biometrics Visit

India-West News Desk

LONG BEACH, CA – Natraj Cuisine of India has been a presence in the vibrant Belmont Shore neighborhood in this city of Southern Californians for decades. A familiar storefront on 2nd Street where generations of Long Beach residents gathered over meals and conversation. Now the family behind the restaurant is at the center of an immigration detention case that has shaken the community.

Bubblejit "Bubbly" Kaur, 60, who ran Natraj with her husband for more than 20 years, was detained by federal agents on December 1 during a scheduled biometrics appointment connected to her green card application. She is currently being held at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center near Victorville.

A GoFundMe campaign launched by a close family friend describes Kaur as "a cherished part of the Long Beach community for over 30 years," noting that she and her husband "served countless neighbors and built lasting relationships."

Local support has grown rapidly. Congressman Robert Garcia, who represents Long Beach, has been in contact with federal authorities and has submitted a request seeking Kaur's release. His office has said it is monitoring the case, while the family prepares additional legal filings that could allow Kaur to be released on



bond as her case proceeds.

Kaur immigrated to the United States with her family in the mid 1990s, first settling in Laguna Beach before moving to Long Beach when work brought them to the Belmont Shore area. Along with running Natraj, she worked for about 25 years at the Belmont Shore Rite Aid until the pharmacy chain closed its remaining locations earlier this year. More recently,

she had been preparing to return to restaurant work at Royal Indian Curry House.

On December 1, Kaur attended what was expected to be a routine biometrics appointment, typically a brief visit involving fingerprinting and a photograph. Instead, federal agents arrived at the office and took her into custody, despite her having no criminal background, according to her family.

For several hours, the family did not know where Kaur had been taken. They later learned she had been shackled and moved through Los Angeles before being transferred overnight to Adelanto, a former federal prison now used as an ICE detention center.

At Adelanto, Kaur has been held in a large dorm-style room with dozens of other detainees, her family said. Lights remain on overnight and noise is constant, making sleep difficult.

Kaur has been able to receive visits during restricted visiting hours, though family members say the process often requires waiting an entire day for a brief visit. Physical contact is limited, adding to the emotional strain on the family, who say Kaur and her husband, married for more than four decades, have rarely been apart.

Kaur's current immigration application is tied to close relatives who are U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as to her husband's health issues. Her family believed the December appointment was the final step toward securing permanent residency.

The GoFundMe campaign has raised more than \$22,000 in less than a week, with donations intended to cover legal fees, commissary costs, and communication expenses. Organizers have said any remaining funds will be donated to other families facing similar situations.

आप कड़ी मेहनत करते हैं। इसलिए, हम आपके लिए स्वास्थ्य योजना ढूँढ़ना आसान बनाते हैं।

सही स्वास्थ्य योजना पाना इतना जटिल नहीं होना चाहिए। कवर्ड कैलिफ़ोर्निया आपको विकल्पों की तुलना करने, लाभों को समझने और कवरेज पाने में मदद करता है। कोई जटिल भाषा नहीं। कोई तनाव नहीं।

हमारे विशेषज्ञ हिंदी में आपकी सहायता करने के लिए तैयार हैं। आप स्वास्थ्य योजनाओं की चिंता में कम समय और अपनी जिंदगी जीने में अधिक समय बिताएँ। साथ ही, 5 में से 4 नामांकित लोगों को स्वास्थ्य बीमा के भुगतान के लिए आर्थिक मदद मिलती है।

31 दिसंबर तक नामांकन करें ताकि कवरेज 1 जनवरी से शुरू हो सके।



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OPINION

Silence Will Not Save Us From Anti-Indian Racism

By Manjusha Kulkarni, Stop AAPI Hate & Chintan Patel, Indian American Impact

An Indian American woman in Texas was at work when a customer started throwing things at her and yelled anti-Indian slurs, saying, “I am glad that Trump is deporting you.”

This story, submitted this year to Stop AAPI Hate’s reporting center, is horrifying, but not unique. Throughout the U.S., Indian communities face an explosion of racist rhetoric and attacks. This summer, we saw some of the highest levels of anti-Indian threats and slurs in online extremist spaces since tracking began in 2023. At the same time, ICE raids have targeted Indian American and other immigrant communities, arresting citizens and non-citizens alike. The result is a culture of fear.

In close community conversations, Indian Americans are increasingly sharing their experiences – and now the rest of the country is starting to notice. Many are afraid to leave their homes, and those who do often carry passports at all times, just in case. Even during the Diwali holiday, one of the most important for Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, many community members chose to celebrate in low-key ways, expressing concern about their safety. As a result, communities with large Indian American populations are seeing less activity, harming local businesses.

Indian Americans are a significant part of American society. We live in every state. We work at every level in every industry. We are immigrants and native-born Americans, school children and retirees, taxicab drivers and tech CEOs, neighbors and friends. We contribute more than \$750 billion every year in consumer spending and federal taxes, and we are responsible for the creation of over 11 million jobs. Despite all this, we are under attack.

Yet, in online extremist spaces, anti-South Asian threats of violence rose 88% and anti-South Asian slurs rose 75% in the months



immediately after Trump’s reelection. And since May 2025, we have seen another surge. In August 2025 alone, nearly 57,200 slurs targeting South Asians were mentioned in violent extremist online spaces, and the numbers continue to remain high. This hatred isn’t limited to the internet, either. Research has shown that a rise in racial slurs online can coincide with a rise in on-the-ground violence. We’ve received reports from Indian people throughout the U.S. who have been the target of racist attacks while walking down the street, eating at a restaurant, driving their cars or even playing at the park with their children.

At the same time, Indian Americans are breaking representation records. Zohran Mamdani is now mayor of the largest city in the U.S., and Virginia Rep. Ghazala Hashmi is the first Muslim woman in the nation elected to statewide office. Leaders like Rep. Pramila Jayapal, FBI director Kash Patel, and business icons like Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella are familiar faces on the news and in the halls of power. But rather than being celebrated, they face relentless attacks

that use their race as a weapon. Most astonishing is the lack of response on both sides of the aisle. Their silence serves to normalize this conduct, which fuels greater hate.

These attacks don’t happen in a vacuum. There is a vicious cycle of racist rhetoric, exclusionary policies and acts of hate. Racist rhetoric that dehumanizes Indian Americans leads to racist policies that single us out and use us as scapegoats. Those policies, in turn, give permission to the people who want to attack us.

That cycle is playing out in real time. Chandler Langevin, a city councilmember in Palm Bay, Florida, claimed on X that not a single Indian cares about the United States, calling on President Trump to “Deport every Indian immediately.” Elon Musk rehired Marko Elez after the DOGE team member made a series of racist posts calling for people to “Normalize Indian Hate” and demanding a “eugenics-based immigration policy.” These aren’t anonymous YouTube comments. These are people who make decisions that impact the lives of millions.

This rhetoric builds popular support for policies intended to exclude Indian Ameri-

cans, from gutting visa programs and raising H-1B visa fees to \$100,000 to ICE raids and crackdowns on international students. The administration is also defunding and dismantling anti-hate programs that play a vital role in keeping Indian Americans and other communities of color safe.

These policies, in turn, give permission for acts of hate against Indian Americans. And those who perpetrate those don’t stop to check our immigration status. They act because of someone’s skin color, name, religion or culture.

To protect our families and fight back against this surge of racism, we have to act. When we see anti-Indian policies, we must speak out and contact our legislators and explain how those policies impact us all. When politicians or government leaders incorporate anti-Indian talking points or play to harmful stereotypes, we need to hold them accountable. And we must do more than vote in every election. Indian Americans must become more civically engaged year-round. Organizations like Indian American Impact and Stop AAPI Hate run canvasses, phone-banks and other outreach efforts to mobilize our community in support of candidates who truly represent our interests, as so many Indian Americans and other South Asians did for Zohran Mamdani in NYC.

We deserve to feel safe when we go to school and work, walk down the street or go to a restaurant. Indian Americans are a growing and increasingly vital part of the United States. By recognizing our power as a community, we can protect our future.

Report hate:

<https://stopaapihate.org/report-hate/>
(Kulkarni is Stop AAPI Hate Co-founder and Executive Director of AAPI Equity Alliance:

<https://stopaapihate.org/>
Patel is Executive Director of Indian American Impact: <https://iaimpact.org/>)

Trump’s Foreign Policy: Confrontation And Conciliation With New Delhi

President Donald Trump’s main concern with Indian rice is based on the belief that India is “dumping” rice into its market, which undercuts American farmers and drives down domestic prices. He has threatened new tariffs on Indian rice exports to protect US agriculture. The term “dumping” was used to describe Indian exports that distort competition, with US rice farmers complaining that imports from India, Thailand, and Vietnam are “depressing prices.”

New Delhi is already facing some of the highest US tariffs on its exports. White House is signaling that additional du-

ties specifically targeting Indian rice may complicate the ongoing bilateral trade negotiations. Some analysts suggest that the threats may be driven more by domestic politics than trade logic. The US is only a small market for Indian rice (about 2.74 lakh tons out of 60.65 lakh tons exported in 2024–25); therefore, higher tariffs would likely hurt American consumers more than Indian exporters, especially for premium basmati rice.

Meanwhile, a White House document, the ‘National Security Strategy of the United States of America, November 2025,’ has un-

derscored the need for a trade and strategic partnership with New Delhi. The document also reflected an interest in working “to align the actions of our allies and partners with our joint interest in preventing domination by any single competitor nation.”

Washington’s foreign policy is oscillating between confrontation and conciliation, producing a cocktail of tariffs, strategic deals, and selective outreach that is reshaping its ties with both India and China. The result is closer tactical cooperation with India in some areas, but also friction; and with China, a mix of competition and

transactional engagement.

The triangular dynamic between the US, India, and China is one of the most consequential features of contemporary geopolitics. Washington’s approach to New Delhi and Beijing reveals both the opportunities and the constraints of American strategy in Asia. While India is framed as a partner and a critical player in the Indo-Pacific, China is cast as the principal strategic competitor. This divergence in framing sets the tone for how President Trump manages relations with the two countries. (IANS)

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COMMUNITY

Hundreds Receive Warmth And Hope At Long Beach Clothing And Blanket Drive

India-West Staff Reporter

LONG BEACH, CA — What began as a simple call of help turned into a remarkable display of community unity and compassion. Best clothing retailers

When Dr. Manorama Gupta, President of the Global Peace Foundation organized a drive to collect gently used clothes and blankets for those in need in Long Beach, the community responded

generously, donating clothing for men, women, and children, along with several dozen blankets, filling more than 25 oversized garden bags.

The collected items were distributed at Martin Luther King Park on November 23. Volunteers set up four large tables laden with clothing, replenished multiple times throughout the



day, ensuring that everyone who came could find what they needed. About 200 individuals and families attended, many carrying bags, while children helped sort items. Volunteers worked side by side with attendees, creating an atmosphere of warmth and giving that embodied the spirit of the season.

"These donations are more than just clothes,"

said Dr. Gupta. "They are reminders that no one in our community is alone. Every jacket, every sweater, every blanket carries hope and dignity for someone who needs it."

Organizers expressed deep gratitude to everyone who contributed, noting that acts of kindness like this strengthen the bonds of community. They hope the impact of the event inspires continued generosity through the holidays and into the New Year.

India Association Of Los Angeles Elects New Leadership Team

India-West Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES, CA – The India Association of Los Angeles has elected a new leadership team for 2025 to 2026, choosing longtime volunteer Falguniba Zala as its next president. The unanimous vote on November 12 also confirmed a 20 member executive committee that will guide the organization through its landmark cultural events in the coming year.

IALA was founded in 1999 to preserve and promote Indian heritage, culture, and traditions across Southern California. Zala, a businesswoman who has served in multiple roles within the group

over the years, will now lead the association as it continues to expand its cultural footprint. Members described her as a steady presence who has combined professional experience with deep community engagement.

The newly elected team includes Executive Vice President Dharaben Patel, Secretary Ram Bali, Joint Secretary Himesh Mehta, Treasurer Rajesh Khandelwal, Vice President of Finance Robin Paik, Vice President of Publicity Navdeep

Singh, Vice President of Cultural Affairs Manisha Makwana, Vice President of Public Relations Kiran Kamboj, Vice President of Youth Affairs Nisha Rawal, and Vice President of Health Bama Sridhar.

Executive members are Vikash



Jhunjhunwala, Rekha Khandelwal, Ruhi Chadha, Jugal Kishore, Darshansinh Zala, Sunil Prabhakar, Shekhar Chikhalikar, Ramesh Bramharouthu, and Mohinder Kaur.

IALA holds elections annually, and this year's slate was

confirmed without contest. The organization is widely known for hosting the region's India Independence Day Mela and the Republic Day celebrations. The Independence Day event alone draws more than ten thousand

attendees each year and provides a platform for emerging artists, community performers, and local youth. Past celebrations have featured appearances by members of Congress, Indian diplomats, and other public officials.

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Inland Empire Joyfully Celebrates Diwali

India-West Staff Reporter

REDLANDS, CA — On the afternoon of November 15, members of the Indian American community here, gathered at the Whitmer Auditorium at Colton High School to celebrate the festival of Diwali in a lively cultural show that blended music, dance and community spirit.

The event drew more than 500 participants and guests of honor included Mario Salcedo, Mayor of Redlands, and Eddie Tajeda, City Councilmember.

Dressed in shimmering saris, lehengas and kurta-pajamas, the



dancers and musicians opened the program with a lively fusion of Bollywood and classical Indian movement. The music ranged from devotional chant to foot-stomping



Bollywood mashups: first a serene invocation to the Goddess Lakshmi, candles flickering on stage, then a modern step-up number set to a recreated film-song beat.

Later, a medley of regional folk styles brought the crowd to its feet. Dr Akshat Jain thanked the enthusiastic attendees who braved the winter rains to be there.

Mayor Salcedo praised the community's commitment saying, "This celebration shows how our city thrives when we embrace our many cultures." Councilmember Tajeda echoed the

sentiment, adding that he looked forward to the event becoming a fixture in Redlands' cultural calendar.

Organizers noted that the show's goal was as much about cultural education as it was celebration. Indeed, many newcomers were spotted navigating the program booklet, sampling delicious snacks and raising a toast to new friendships.

The show closed with dynamic performance on stage by adult participants from the community performing a series of well-rehearsed Hollywood dance numbers in a hall that radiated the final tableau of the Festival of Lights.

GOPIO-OC Chapter Relaunched

India-West Staff Reporter

TUSTIN, CA – GOPIO International officially relaunched its Orange County chapter in Southern California at a well-attended event that drew over 50 guests on November 16 at India Gate Restaurant, here.

The gathering was hosted by incoming chapter chairman Amrit Bhandari, president Hark Vasa, and the GOPIO Orange County Executive Committee. Organizers said the relaunch reflects renewed enthusiasm to strengthen the

group's presence and community work in the region.

The program focused on three goals: explaining GOPIO's mission, introducing the new executive team, and encouraging attendees to become members to support the chapter's projects.

Three senior leaders of GOPIO International addressed the audience. They included Prakash Shah, President, Kewal Kanda, Vice President, and J Nami Kaur, Global Ambassador and Chair of the GOPIO Foundation.

Bhandari opened the evening

with welcoming remarks, followed by Vasa's introduction of the new committee and its long record of community service in Southern California.

Kaur, who began volunteering for GOPIO when it was founded in 1989, outlined the group's origins, milestones, and global mission. She described its early efforts to highlight discrimination faced by people of Indian origin in the US.

Keynote speaker Prakash Shah recounted GOPIO's founding at the First Global Convention in New York by its original team, including Dr



Thomas Abraham, now chairman of GOPIO International. He noted that the organization is recognized as an NGO by the United Nations and today has more than active 55

chapters in over 40 countries.

The event concluded with Bhandari naming Kaur as Honorary Chair of GOPIO OC for her leadership in reinvigorating the chapter.

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PEOPLE

Theivanai Palaniappan Tapped As Chief Data Officer For Covered California

India-West Staff Reporter

SACRAMENTO, CA -Covered California, the state’s key health insurance marketplace, announced the appointment of Theivanai Palaniappan as its new Chief Data and Insights Officer. Palaniappan brings an impressive background spanning over two decades in data analytics leadership within complex industries, including financial services and health insurance.

As the head of the organization’s data strategy, governance, and analytics functions, Palaniappan will be pivotal in fostering data-



driven decision-making. Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman emphasized the significance of the hire: “Theivanai’s years of valuable experience

and proven success leading large-scale data teams and projects are exactly what we need. We are excited to leverage her talents and skills to further our core mission of ensuring every Californian has access to high-quality health insurance.”

She most recently held the position of Vice President and Head of Data at Oscar Health. Before entering the health tech sector, Palaniappan was a leader at Wells Fargo for more than 20 years. Beginning her professional journey in software engineering in India, Palaniappan later earned a Ph.D. in Finance from Columbia Business School.

UC San Diego Names Dr. Rohit Loomba To Endowed Chair In Liver Disease

India-West Staff Reporter

LA JOLLA, CA—The University of California, San Diego has named Dr. Rohit Loomba as the first holder of the John C. Martin Endowed Chair in Liver Disease. The chair was established by a gift from the John C. Martin Foundation and will advance innovative research and treatment focused on understanding and addressing population-based risk factors for liver disease.



Loomba is a Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and a hepatologist at UC San Diego Health. He also serves as the founding director of the university’s metabolic-dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease Research Center.

Loomba pioneered the development of MRI-PDFF, a noninvasive biomarker that measures liver fat without requiring a biopsy. This technique has been adopted in over 100 clinical trials worldwide, significantly transforming clinical

practice by providing a more precise way to track patient response to new therapies for conditions like metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and guiding FDA-approval studies.

UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla noted the fitting nature of the appointment. “The appointment of Dr. Rohit Loomba to this chair named in honor of John Martin is fitting, as they shared the same goal of improving the quality of life for patients worldwide.”

Loomba is a graduate of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune University. He completed an internal medicine residency at St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and an advanced Hepatology clinical and research fellowship at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health. He also completed a master’s degree in clinical research from the combined NIH-Duke University Program before joining UC San Diego.

The Chill YouTube Chief

Contd. from P1

another line: Mohan is the farmer. What he cultivates becomes what we eat. Mohan, now 52, grew up partly in Lucknow, where he learned Sanskrit and Hindi. He likes to joke that he had to cram nine years of both languages into a few short months. He once told USA Today that some of his closest lifelong friends came from that time.

TIME has fun with the contrast between his influence and his personality. It says the pilot of the world’s most powerful distraction machine is surprisingly mellow. He likes watching sports, going to his daughters dance recitals, and open white shirts, just normal stuff.

Even his favorite candy gets a cameo. It is Butterfinger, which the magazine calls not very exciting. According to the profile, if you ask Mohan to appear in your YouTube video, he probably will. He will not shine, but he will not flop either.

Mohan took over YouTube in 2023 after his mentor Susan Wojcicki stepped aside. In the two years since, the company has tightened its hold on global attention despite fierce rivals.

Under Mohan’s watch, YouTube has fully moved into the living room with YouTube TV becoming the preferred cable replacement. Half of all YouTube viewing now happens on a television. The plat-

form also owns the quick hit end of the market. YouTube Shorts reports two billion logged in monthly users, roughly matching the numbers Meta reports for Reels.

Mohan was born in Lafayette in Indiana. His father was a civil engineer who returned to the US for his doctoral studies. The family moved to Lucknow when Neal was twelve. After finishing school there, Mohan went on to Stanford University for both his undergraduate degree and his MBA.

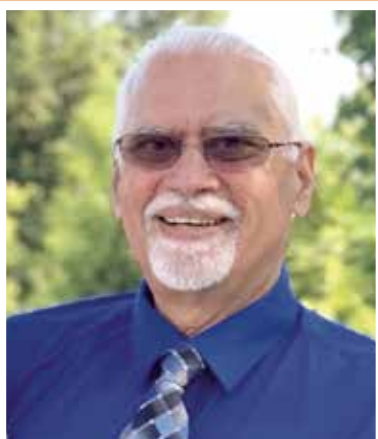
Before becoming YouTube’s chief, he led Google’s display and video ads business. Colleagues say he likes describing YouTube as the best stage in the world.



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Time Magazine Spotlights Sriram Krishnan, Karandeep Anand As Defining Voices In AI

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Time magazine has selected the “Architects of AI” as its 2025 Person of the Year, spotlighting the figures whose work is reshaping technology, business, society and daily life. The special issue includes two covers: one portraying AI as a vast construction project, and another recreating the 1932 “Lunch Atop a Skyscraper” image with leading voices from the global AI landscape, from Nvidia’s Jensen Huang to OpenAI’s Sam Altman.

Among those featured, two stand out for driving some of the most consequential debates around

the future of artificial intelligence.

Karandeep Anand, the CEO of Character.AI, has guided the company to the center of a cultural shift in how people interact with technology. A former Meta and Microsoft executive, Anand is known for building products at global scale. At Character.

AI, he has championed conversational agents that serve not only

functional tasks but emotional and imaginative needs. The platform’s explosive popularity, particularly among young users, has pushed questions about digital companionship, mental health and human-AI boundaries into the mainstream.

Sriram Krishnan, a senior adviser on artificial intelligence at the White House

and a longtime Silicon Valley operator, represents AI’s growing geopolitical and national security significance. Before joining the administration, Krishnan worked in leadership roles at Twitter, Meta and Snap and later became a general partner at Andreessen Horowitz, where he focused on frontier technology investments. In Washington, he has emphasized that chips, data centers and large-scale AI models should be treated as strategic assets. His work centers on accelerating deployment, cutting bureaucratic delays and positioning the United States to maintain long-term global leadership in AI.



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Delaware Court Reverses \$1 Billion Judgment Against Byju Raveendran

WILMINGTON- The Delaware Bankruptcy Court on December 10 reversed its earlier \$1 billion judgment against Byju Raveendran after reviewing fresh submissions filed through a motion to correct the November 20 ruling.

The Court noted that damages had not been properly determined earlier and has ordered a new phase of proceedings to commence in early January 2026 to decide whether any damages are actually owed.

According to Raveendran’s legal team, GLAS Trust and the lenders withheld or misrepresented critical information during the case. They argue that this misinformation misled courts and the public, contributing to the collapse of the edtech business, the loss of around 85,000 jobs, the impact on nearly 250 million students, and the destruction of tens of billions of dollars in enterprise value.

Raveendran is also considering further legal action against GLAS Trust and other parties.

Michael McNutt, litigation advisor for Raveendran, said the amended ruling is highly significant because the Court has not found Raveendran liable to pay any damages at this stage.

“Byju Raveendran today has not been found liable to pay a single dollar in damages to the Plaintiffs,” McNutt stated.

He added that during the upcoming damages trial, they



plan to show that the plaintiffs suffered no losses due to Raveendran’s actions. Instead, he claims the plaintiffs intentionally misled multiple courts in the US, India, and elsewhere to gain advantage, while harming Raveendran, Divya Gokulnath, and Riju Ravindran.

He also stated that they may seek sanctions against the plaintiffs’ counsel and will proceed with a planned \$2.5 billion lawsuit before the end of the year.

“We will seek the necessary remedy in the Delaware Courts and through the \$2.5 billion lawsuit that we intend to file prior to the end of the year,” he added.

In a sweeping escalation of the cross-border legal fight, Byju Raveendran is preparing to submit new evidence to US courts. This evidence allegedly shows that GLAS Trust and the Resolution Professional repeatedly misled the Delaware Court, Indian courts, and the public by falsely claiming that \$533 million was diverted for the founders’ personal use. (IANS)

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Loosen AI Stack Export Rules: IBM's Krishna At White House Roundtable

WASHINGTON, DC – Arvind Krishna, IBM Chairman and CEO, has called on the Trump Administration to loosen restrictions on exporting advanced American artificial intelligence systems to friendly countries. He warned that if controls remain too stringent, rivals could gain access to capabilities that trusted partners cannot.

The remarks, delivered at a White House technology roundtable with President Donald Trump on December 10, carry particular significance for India's fast-growing AI ecosystem, which relies heavily on US hardware, software, and cloud infrastructure.

Krishna, who was seated next to the president in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, said the US must urgently enable allied nations to adopt the full suite of American-built AI tools.

"It's incredibly important that



under the action plans that you have laid out... we really help promote the AI stack, which is not semiconductors only. Those are incredibly important. But semiconductors, its software, it's the systems which many of us here build, and it is the software applications on top," he told Trump.

He noted that current export controls are blocking US firms

from deploying AI platforms in key partner markets. "The ability to take certain systems which have semiconductors inside them into these countries... right now, because we have controls on where all the semiconductors can go, then the entire system is restricted," he said.

Krishna warned that the resulting gap was already being exploited by competitors. "Otherwise, we are afraid that competing countries are going to be able to get that stack," he said. He urged Washington to maintain guardrails but reduce unnecessary hurdles, stating,

"Lower barriers would be very, very helpful."

Trump responded that his administration would intervene quickly if needed. "I know every country very well, and we have ways of combating that quickly. So, you'll let me know," he told the IBM chief.

Krishna also welcomed the ad-

ministration's moves to streamline federal regulations, arguing that reduced red tape benefits both US industry and its global partners, including India-based development teams. "We really would like to thank you for everything you're doing for economic growth... and for all the work you're doing on deregulation and making things easier for business to participate in that growth," he said.

He highlighted IBM's collaboration with US government agencies on digital modernization, work that has historically influenced

best practices adopted by corporate and public-sector clients in India. "We worked with Commissioner Frank Bisignano to help make Social Security better... and we'll work with him on making IRS," Krishna noted.

Krishna, one of the most influential Indian American leaders in global technology, has steered IBM toward hybrid cloud and enterprise AI platforms central to India's digital push—from financial services and telecom to logistics, healthcare, and government services. (IANS)

Satya Nadella

Contd. from P1

announced earlier this year, which we are on track to spend by the end of CY2026," Microsoft said in a statement. The announcement came after Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella's meeting here with Prime Minister Modi.

The new investment will be used to continue to scale up Microsoft's cloud and AI infrastructure, skilling initiatives, and ongoing operations across India. This includes the company's workforce of more than 22,000 employees across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Gurugram, Noida, and other cities.

One of the key priorities of the

Microsoft investment is building secure, sovereign-ready hyperscale infrastructure to enable AI adoption in India. At the heart of this effort is the significant progress being made at the India South Central cloud region, based in Hyderabad, that is set to go live in mid-2026.

The company said it will also continue to expand the three existing operational data center regions in Chennai, Hyderabad, and Pune. This expansion provides organizations across India with greater choice and resilience, enabling low-latency, mission-critical performance for enterprises, startups, and public sector institutions. (IANS)

Apple Clocks Record \$2 Billion Worth Of iPhone Exports From India

CHENNAI- Apple Inc clocked the highest value of exports from India in November, shipping iPhones worth \$2 billion, as per industry data.

Considering the latest numbers, the US-based tech giant has exported iPhones worth \$14 billion in the first eight months of the current financial year (FY26).

Last month, a company filing showed that Apple India posted record-high domestic sales of \$9 billion in FY25, and one in every five iPhones made globally in FY25 was manufactured/assembled in India. The company's manufacturing in India contributed 12 per cent of Apple's global production value.

Apple's sales in India accounted for just over 2 per cent of Apple's \$416.1 billion global revenue, but India's role in iPhone production expanded sharply, analysts said. The iPhone maker also began local assembly of high-end Pro and Pro Max models of iPhones in India for the first time.

The company filings showed that the Americas brought in \$178.4 billion in FY25, nearly 43 per cent of Apple's global revenue, and a

growing share of those iPhones were shipped from India. Europe followed with a 26.7 per cent share, and Greater China accounted for 15.4 per cent share.

The company's India revenue has climbed nearly eightfold over the past decade, driven mainly by iPhones, MacBooks, iPads, AirPods and accessories, with services remaining a small single-digit share of total sales.

Meanwhile, Apple CEO Tim Cook said that the US-based tech giant set a September quarter revenue record in emerging markets and an all-time revenue record in India, led by robust iPhone sales.

In an earnings call with analysts after posting strong quarterly results on December 11, Cook said that when it comes to retail, "we're heading into our busiest time of year with our best-ever lineup. In the last few months, we've opened new stores in emerging markets like India and the UAE and new locations in the US and China". The global iPhone revenue was \$49 billion, up 6 per cent year-over-year, driven by the iPhone 16 family. (IANS)

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ELECTIONS

Senate Should Reflect America

Contd. from P1

Krishnamoorthi opened the evening with the story he often cites as the foundation of his public life. Born in New Delhi and brought to the United States as a baby, he described how his family relied on public housing and food stamps after his father lost his job during the recession of the 1970s before rebuilding their lives in Peoria. His father's nightly reminder, he said, became his guiding star.

"Think of the greatness of what this country represents," he recalled his father telling him and his brother, "and whatever you do, make sure this country is there for the next families." That ethos, he said, remains at the heart of his campaign to succeed Senator Dick Durbin.

He noted that the absence of Indian Americans in the U.S. Senate is "not just a symbolic gap but a missed opportunity for broader representation." With the nation approaching its 250th anniversary, he said, a more inclusive Senate would be "a milestone worthy of the moment."

Throughout the conversation, Krishnamoorthi drew on his reputation for warmth and unusually sharp name recall. Audience questions focused largely on issues central to the Indian American



community: civic participation and rising anti-Hindu sentiment.

Reflecting on the growing footprint of Indian Americans in public life, he described the moment as "a remarkable historical shift" for a community whose ancestors fought colonial rule and now help shape policy in the world's oldest modern democracy.

Questions about attacks and hostility toward Hindus and South Asians prompted a firm response. Krishnamoorthi said he has worked

closely with the Justice Department following vandalism and harassment cases and welcomed the department's new outreach unit focused on Hindu communities. He condemned rising Hinduphobia, noting, "It is a real thing," adding that he too has been targeted. He described these attacks as part of a broader rise in extremism.

Addressing concerns about California's religious legislation, he said he had engaged directly with Governor Gavin Newsom, whom

he credited with ultimately "doing the right thing."

The discussion broadened to the economy, which Krishnamoorthi described as failing most Americans even as a small segment gains from technological change and globalization. "For the majority of Americans, the economy is not working for you," he said, listing everyday pressures from groceries to childcare to retirement.

He emphasized bipartisan efforts to strengthen vocational and technical education, noting that "62 percent of Americans do not have a four-year college degree" and arguing that practical training is essential to creating opportunity. His work on the House China Competition Committee, he said, is driven by the same bipartisan purpose.

When asked about how long he intended to staying in the Senate, Krishnamoorthi with a laugh responded, "Okay, so I didn't even

get there yet man!" before saying he "does not believe in overstaying in office" and welcomed discussion of term limits and other structural reforms.

A recurring theme shaped his remarks: economic insecurity can tear at the social fabric, and leaders must reinforce unity rather than division. "When people are desperate," he said, "some politicians tell them the reason you are suffering is because of that brown guy over there. We have to feed the good wolf in the person not the bad."

The evening was organized by the United States India Relationship Council, a federally registered bipartisan political action committee. Co-founder Dr. Jashvant Patel told attendees that political engagement is essential to safeguarding the community's traditions and security, a point echoed by co-founder Dr. Amit Desai who warned that harmful narratives targeting the community are growing despite its contributions to American society.

The event concluded with a shared message from the organizers and the congressman: as the community's numbers and influence expand, so must its commitment to participation, solidarity and the health of the democracy it now helps shape.



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POLITICS

Economic Patriotism, Dem Reset

Contd. from P1

Khanna said the US is increasingly split between regions overflowing with innovation and wealth and vast stretches of the country where people feel permanently shut out. That gap, he argued, has left the nation both economically imbalanced and socially brittle.

“I represent a district of \$18 trillion,” Khanna, who is in his fifth term in office, said, pointing to firms like Apple, Google, Nvidia, and Broadcom. “And yet 70% of the country doesn’t believe in the American Dream.”

Khanna’s phrase for the solution he offers is “economic patriotism,” and is a call to ensure that “every family and every community can have success in a modern economy.” California, Khanna said, offers both a model and a warning, and new technologies like AI must translate into broader gains for all. “The economy right now is working for a small group of people who get to call the shots,” he said.

For Khanna, this is not just a matter of material well-being but of democratic health. When people feel the future is open to their children, “they are more likely to buy into a multiracial America.” When they do not, grievance fills the vacuum, a dynamic he said Donald Trump has exploited by telling voters that newcomers and coastal

elites have stolen their prosperity.

He pointed to Trump’s message in industrial regions: a story that America “used to be better” when it was less diverse. “Trump goes into Pennsylvania and Ohio and says, ‘You built the steel, you built the coal. And now they’re prospering in California and New York,’” Khanna said. “He tells them they’re the forgotten Americans.”

The Congressman argued that Democrats cannot counter that narrative unless people in ruby red, small town America, “see that immigration and diversity are actually good for their kids,” and a path to real wealth creation.

Khanna fielded questions on politics. Highlighting his bipartisan work on the Epstein Transparency Act with Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), he made the case that all was not hopeless in Washington, even in this polarized era. Not averse to calling out his own party, he said Democrats cannot rebuild trust simply by attacking Trump: “We tried screaming that he is a fascist twice and we lost.” Instead, he suggested that the party stop treating internal disagreement as moral failure.

He felt Trump’s confrontational stance toward global allies is resonating across immigrant communities, including Indian Americans, with many returning to the Democratic fold because of Trump’s tariffs



and insults. “He is basically insulting every country around the world. They all have diasporas,” he noted.

His comments on California were blunt and probably a show of where the political faults lie in the state’s Democratic Party. “There is a reason I am not running for governor,” Khanna declared without being asked, saying it had been badly governed with a homelessness crisis, housing shortages, and what he described as lax enforcement of basic public safety.

Every media report of course, has been talking about his ambition for even higher office – the White House. Asked about a potential matchup against J.D. Vance in 2028, Khanna responded: “We’re going to need someone who can speak to the working class. There should be a clash of ideas.” Once seen as someone following the lead of Senator

day earlier Vance had “tried to lump” him with Sanders and Zohran Mamdani as the politicians on the Democratic side he appreciates.

The event was upbeat about the growing political presence of Indian Americans, with host Navneet S. Chugh noting, “So 20 years ago we were about 1% of the country, and we started making noise, wanting 1% of Congress, and people laughed at us, saying we would never become congressmen, senators, or governors. But we kept making noise, and when we became four million Indian Americans, we did it with four members in Congress. Now we are about 1.4% of the country, more than five million people, and we have six Indians in Congress.” And so, he joked to the crowd, “Please, keep having your babies.”

Bernie Sanders in a liberal constituency, Khanna, now with national ambitions, seems to want to have some light between them. Dubbing himself a “progressive capitalist,” he seemed to rue the fact that a

About his fellow Indian American representatives, Khanna declared, “We’re very coordinated,” he said. “There is no real rivalry. We converge when it matters.”

Khanna was also optimistic about the future of the nation, saying the country had historically shown a remarkable capacity for self-correction: After the Civil War, Reconstruction. After Hoover, the New Deal. After Jim Crow, JFK, and LBJ. After George W. Bush, Barack Obama. So, he said, “after Trump, if he continues in this direction, where he’s at 35% in the polls, we’re going to have an opportunity to have a major realignment, and to rebuild a government that works for the people.”

On other domestic issues, Khanna condemned attacks on Hindu temples and other religious targets, saying such violence must be addressed with universal protections against bigotry.

On immigration and high-skilled labor, he said he supports getting rid of the country caps and that the problem was that too many people who are on H1B visas are not getting their green cards for decades.

The event, co-hosted by Sonny Kothari, Dr. Anil Shah, Ravi Tilak, and Georgia Dixit, concluded with people taking pictures and asking more questions of the Congressman over an Indian lunch hosted by Ritu and Navneet Chugh.

350 Pounds of Hope: PNG Jewelers and Patel Brothers Unite for Thanksgiving Food Drive

In Sunnyvale this Thanksgiving season, generosity revealed itself in the simplest of forms: grocery bags filled with rice, lentils, flour, and spices — everyday essentials that, for many local families, mean the difference between uncertainty and a warm meal.

Over the past several weeks, PNG Jewelers and Patel Brothers joined hands to launch a community food drive. What began as a modest call for donations quickly grew into something larger — a quiet, collective act of care from Bay Area residents, many of them part of the Indian diaspora that has long called this region home.

Shoppers paused on their way out. Cashiers offered gentle reminders. Families added one more item than they needed. And piece by piece, bag by bag, a remarkable total emerged: 350 pounds of food — collected entirely through small individual gestures.

Last week, Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS), the nonprofit serving some of the most vulnerable households in the region, arrived to pick up the donations. The sight of overflowing bins spoke to



something deeper than numbers — it spoke to a community choosing compassion at a time when food insecurity remains a pressing local reality.

The partnership was notable not only for its outcome, but for what it represented. At PNG and Patel Brothers — two staples of the Bay Area South Asian community — customers and staff stepped into a role larger than commerce. They became neighbors looking out for neighbors.

In a season defined by gratitude, this initiative served as a reminder that care does not require grand gestures. Sometimes, it looks like a packet of lentils added to a shopping basket. Sometimes, it is a stranger deciding that someone else’s table matters too.

Organizers also credited Ekspierte NKB, the media agency behind the campaign, alongside Radio Zindagi for amplifying the message and encouraging broad

participation, heartfelt support, and meaningful involvement across the community. As the holiday season continues, the hope is that this spirit endures — that the connections forged through a food drive ripple outward into a broader culture of giving and belonging.

Because in the end, what the community accomplished was more than a successful collection effort. It was a reaffirmation of something essential: when people come together with intention, no one has to face hunger alone.

As the year draws to a close, this effort stands as a quiet testament to what is possible when businesses, nonprofits, and everyday residents come together with shared purpose. In a region known for its innovation, it was compassion — simple, human, and unpretentious — that made the most meaningful impact.

POLITICS

Redistricting Changes The Game In CA-48: Anuj Dixit Drops Out



India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA -Voting-rights attorney Anuj Dixit has ended his campaign for California's 48th Congressional District, saying that the redistricting changes triggered by Proposition 50 have fundamentally reshaped the race.

In a statement released on November 19, Dixit said the ballot measure "has geographically reshaped the dynamics of this race," adding, "Accordingly, I am ending my campaign for the new CA-48. I'm grateful to everyone who supported my campaign."

Dixit, who grew up in Riverside County and a six-year U.S. Air Force veteran, said his commitment to

voting rights remains firm. He emphasized that "the choices our leaders make today will define not only the strength of our democratic institutions but also the economic opportunity available to our community for generations to come," adding that protecting every individual's voice in the democratic process continues to guide his work.

He said he will support efforts to flip the district in next year's general election and pledged to do "everything he can" to help Democrats win the seat in November.

Dixit's endorsements had included Rep. Marilyn Strickland, ASPIRE PAC, Indian American Impact, AAPI Victory Fund, and the Asian American Action Fund.

India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC – When billionaires are in the spotlight for their oversized influence in Washington, especially in the Trump administration, comes this news: Vivek Ramaswamy's wealth has soared even as he campaigns for governor of Ohio.

According to Forbes, the entrepreneur and Republican politician has seen his net worth climb to \$1.8 billion dollars, an eighty percent jump in only nine months. The surge comes not from his political ambitions but from the long arc of his biotech ventures, a detail Forbes underscores in its breakdown of Ramaswamy's finances.

Ramaswamy announced his gubernatorial bid in February after stepping away from Trump's Department of Government Efficiency in January. He previously ran for president in 2024, dropped out, and endorsed Trump.

Ramaswamy's financial rise is rooted in Roivant Sciences, the pharmaceutical company he founded in 2014 after leaving hedge fund QVT. A year later, Roivant's spinoff Axovant debuted with a \$3 billion valuation, though its stock later sank after failed drug trials. Even so, Ramaswamy sold



part of his Roivant stake and reported \$37 million in capital gains on his 2015 tax returns.

In 2019, Roivant sold five subsidiaries and ten percent of the company to Japan's Sumitomo for three billion dollars at a \$9 billion valuation, a deal Forbes highlights as a major source of his later gains. By 2021, he stepped down as CEO to become chairman, and Roivant went public soon after.

His wealth rose again in 2023 when Roivant offloaded another spinoff, Telavant, to Roche for \$7.1 billion. Roivant's stock jumped

thirty-four percent by year's end, instantly making Ramaswamy - who held tens of millions of shares - a billionaire. Beyond Roivant, Ramaswamy also owns a stake in Chapter, a company he co-founded in 2020 that helps seniors navigate Medicare. Bloomberg reported the startup raised \$75 million at a \$1.5 billion valuation, valuing his stake at roughly \$100 million.

Ramaswamy, 39, was born in Cincinnati to Indian immigrant parents. He is married to Apoorva, a throat surgeon, and they have two children.

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60 देशों के लोग एक स्टेट में – यह फूलों का गुलदस्ता, जहाँ हर एक फूल अपने रंग और खुशबू से इस जगह को महका देता है - वहाँ उनकी हिफ़ाज़त भी ज़रूरी है।

आपको चाहिये थोड़ा सा प्यार, थोड़ा देखभाल --एक चैंपियन की, क्योंकि हर कैलिफ़ोर्निया-वासी को कारगर स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिलनी चाहिये।

आपको अपने या अपने बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य में चुनना न पड़े, या फिर अपनी ज़रूरी आवश्यकताओं को दबाना न पड़े, इसी लिए हम आपकी वकालत करते हैं। हम सौदा करते हैं ताकि आपको बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिल सके।

हम स्वास्थ्य बीमा कंपनी नहीं हैं। हम इसमें आपके लिए हैं।



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Dhanurmasam Celebrations

Monday, 15 December 2025 to Tuesday, 13 January 2026

Every Day Programs
6:30am - 7am
Daily Suprabhata Seva
7 am - 8:30am
Thiruvardhana, Archana,
Tirupallaichi, Thiruppavai,
Sattumurai/Gosthi Seva Kaalam,
Nivedhana, Mangala harathi,
Theertha Prasadam

Every Friday
(19th, 26th, December 2025
& 2nd, and 9th January 2026)
6 PM – 6:30PM
Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayana Group
Chanting.

Godha Kumkumarchana, Mangala
Harathi and followed by Dinner prasad.

December 30, 2025, 6:30AM – 9:30PM
Vaikuntha Ekadashi Celebrations
6:30 am – 7 am Sreevari Suprabhatam
7 am – 7:30 am Procession along with Lord Venkateswara, Uttara
Dwara Puja and Pravesam
7:30 am – 8:30 am Sri Devi-Bhoo Devi Sameta Sri Prasanna Venkateswara
Snapana Tirumanjanam, Turuppavayi, Archana,
& Mangala Sashanam
6 pm – 6:30 pm Hanuman Abhishekam
7 pm – 8:30 pm Samoohika Satyanarayana Vratam
8:30 pm – 9:30 pm Maha Mangala Aarati, Teertha Prasada Vitarana,
followed by Dinner Prasad. **Sponsor \$175**

Janauary 13th 2026
7:00PM – 9:30PM
Sri Godha
Ranganadha
Kalyanam

Followed by Archana,
Aarti, Lunch Prasad.

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Mahanyasa Purvaka Ekadasha Laghu Rudrabhishekam

Sunday, 21st December, 2025 - A Monthly Sacred Offering to Lord Shiva

Aruna Parayana & Surya Namaskarams & Mahanyasa Purvaka Ekadasa Laghu Rudrabhishekam

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Vaikuntha Ekadashi Celebrations

Tuesday December 30th 2025 | 6:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Samoothika Satyanarayan Puja: 7PM - 8:30PM

The Vaikuntha Ekadashi celebrations at Sivakameswari Temple are a blend of spirituality, community bonding, and cultural heritage. With each passing year, the festival not only reaffirms the deep-rooted beliefs of the devotees but also serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, service, and the pursuit of spiritual fulfillment. As the temple opens its doors to welcome all those seeking blessings, the essence of Vaikuntha Ekadashi continues to thrive, illuminating hearts with hope and devotion.

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New Year's Eve, New Years Day Celebrations

From 31st Dec, 2025 9 PM to 1 AM & 1st Jan, 2026 from 6:30 AM to 10 PM

Sri Sivakameswari Temple, inviting you and your family members to join us and celebrate New Year, New Year's Eve and New Year Celebrations in the temple. Start the new year 2026 with great and vibrant blessings of Goddess Sri Sivakameswari in the Temple.

Abhishekam to all presiding deities: Sponsor Now – \$151



Sri Goda Ranganatha Kalyanotsavam – Holy Matrimony

Tuesday 13th Jan, 2026 from 07:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Sri Siva Kameswari temple cordially invites you all to attend Sri Andaal or Goda Ranganatha Swamy Kalyanotsavam on the Last Day of Dhanur masa or also known as Bhogi: Last day of Dhanuramasam Special events traditionally conclude with Sri Andaal & Lord Ranganatha Kalyanam (Holy Matrimony) which will be beneficial to the whole universe along with the participants of this event by blessing them with many auspicious and happy events for their future. This Kalyanam will be held at Sri Sivakameswari temple. This is really unique and most loved by the devotees of Lord Sri MahaVishnu (another name of Lord Ranganatha) & Goddess Andaal (also known as Goda Devi) from the sacred place of Srivilliputtur and all Vaishnava Temples globally. All participants will attain Sri Maha Vishnu's Blessings along with Family Harmony, Happiness, Peace & Prosperity in their lives.

9:30 AM: Sri Goda Ranganatha Swamy Kalyanotsavam
1:00 PM: Lunch prasad


Vajamana Sponsor \$516
Kalyanam Sponsorship – \$11

Monthly Seniors Day

Last Sunday of the Month
10:30 AM To 12:30 PM

We are delighted to announce Senior day at siva kameswari Temple. This senior day event will be a meaningful and rewarding experience. It's a fantastic opportunity to honor and celebrate the senior members of our community. Here is the agenda:

Ganesha Abhishekam, Archana & Harathi | Fun Games and Prizes
Followed by delicious lunch



Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Abhishekam

Last Saturday of the Month – 5:30 PM (Timings may change)

Vasavi Mata is a highly venerated Hindu goddess. Legend has it that she sacrificed herself to save her people from a dire curse, embodying immense bravery and selflessness. Her principal festival, Vasavi Jayanti, is celebrated with great enthusiasm, where devotees engage in prayers and rituals to invoke her blessings for prosperity and protection. The tale of Vasavi Mata serves as a source of inspiration, fostering devotion, courage, and unity. Her enduring legacy symbolizes the ideals of sacrifice and loyalty.

Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Abhishekam Sponsorship - \$54

CRIME

Mental Health Startup Founder Arrested In Saratoga For “Wild Scene”

India-West News Desk

SARATOGA, CA — The founder of an online mental health company was arrested after a “wild scene in Saratoga” that unfolded at a Bay Area winery on December 6, according to the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office.

Deputies said the incident began when staff at the Garrod Farms Estate Winery and Stables saw 42-year-old Beri Vikram allegedly trying to start a fire on the property. When workers confronted him, he is said to have grabbed a wine bottle and hurled it, the sheriff’s office said.



Vikram then got into his Tesla and supposedly “intentionally rammed it into two parked cars,” an impact that sent one vehicle over an embankment. His own car followed over the edge, where deputies found him.

According to the sheriff’s office, Vikram refused to get out of the Tesla. After “several de-escalation attempts,” deputies used pepperball rounds and spray “to force him out of the car.” Vikram eventually crawled out and was taken to a hospital for evaluation before being booked into the Santa

Clara County Main Jail.

He faces charges of assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest.

Vikram, an entrepreneur from Menlo Park, founded BetterLYF Wellness, an online mental health counseling platform, in 2016.

He also serves as Executive Director of Business Development at global farm equipment manufacturer Fieldking and previously worked as a consultant at Deloitte. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois and later earned an MBA in marketing and strategy from the Indian School of Business.

Harshkumar Patel Wants To Represent Himself In Human Smuggling Case

India-West News Desk

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Harshkumar Patel, convicted in the 2024 human-smuggling case tied to the deaths of an Indian family that froze at the Manitoba–U.S. border, is asking a federal appeals court to let him move forward without a lawyer. In a motion filed from a Pennsylvania prison, he says he wants to represent himself because of what he calls incompetent conduct by his current counsel.

Patel argues that his first court-appointed lawyer dismissed the appeal as meritless, prompting his

family and friends to hire attorney Seth Kretzer. Patel now says that after repeatedly asking to review drafts, Kretzer sent versions that appeared to mirror arguments used in other cases, including the federal public defender’s brief for co-accused Steve Shand.

The Patel family from India died of exposure on January 19, 2022, during a blizzard as they attempted to enter Minnesota on foot. The bodies of Jagdish and Vaishali Patel and their two young children were found just some feet from the border.

In his motion, Harshkumar Patel

has asked the court to accept his own appeal brief, disregard any future filings by counsel, reprimand Kretzer, and order a refund of the fees his relatives paid. Kretzer responded in an email that Patel’s brief is not yet due and that early drafts often differ significantly from final filings. He said he has never plagiarized, citing his experience arguing two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Kretzer added he will file by the deadline unless the court rules otherwise, though he noted that formal reprimands are not handled through an appeals court.



Patel and Shand were convicted by a jury in November 2024 of bringing unauthorized migrants into the country and related of-

fenses. Patel, an Indian national arrested in Chicago, received a sentence of more than ten years for organizing the operation.

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Man Charged With Murder After Drunken 150 MPH Collision

India-West News Desk

MARTINEZ, CA– A Pleasanton man has been charged with murder and four felony DUI counts in connection with a high-speed crash that killed a Castro Valley woman in San Ramon, the Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office announced.

Badal Devendra Dholaria, 27, was allegedly driving his Tesla at more than 150 miles per hour while intoxicated when it slammed into the rear passenger side of a Ford Bronco on November 29, fatally injuring 41-year-old Alix Mari Sparks. A 40-year-old Castro Valley man in the vehicle also suffered serious injuries. Dholaria was arrested at the scene and booked into the Martinez Detention Facility. He has pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors filed a five-count felony complaint that includes one

count of murder, two counts of driving under the influence causing injury, and two counts of driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher causing injury. Each DUI charge carries an enhancement for causing great bodily injury to both victims.

Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton, in a statement released by her office, underscored the deadly consequences of impaired driving. “Every DUI-related incident represents a choice — a choice that can kill. If you’re impaired, don’t drive,” Becton said. “Whether it’s alcohol, marijuana, prescription medications, or illegal drugs, any substance that affects your ability to drive safely makes you a danger on our roads.”

The case remains under investigation by the San Ramon Police Department and the Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office.

Trump Has Diverted Over \$2 Billion In Military Funds To Immigration

Contd. from P1

children of our servicemembers'. The report documents extensive use of active-duty troops and National Guard units for immigration enforcement, including deployments to the US-Mexico border and to cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, and Memphis. Lawmakers estimate that border deployments alone cost about \$1.3 billion, while deployments within the US added another \$258 million. In Los Angeles, a military deployment to support Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cost an

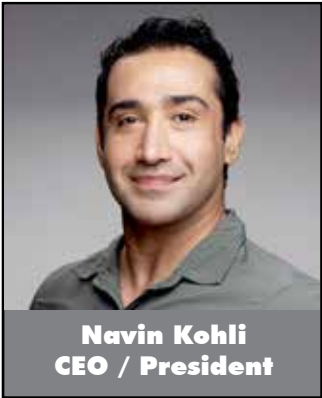
estimated \$172 million. The report breaks down those expenses to include food, shelter, payroll, logistics, travel, and demobilization costs for thousands of Marines and National Guard troops. Detention operations on military installations accounted for hundreds of millions more. The report says the DoD obligated over \$420 million for detention activities, including more than \$363 million spent at Fort Bliss in Texas. The Fort Bliss facility, the report notes, 'has already violated at least 60 federal standards for immigrant detention'. The Trump administration also

expanded the use of Guantánamo Bay for immigration detention, marking a departure from past practice. According to the report, the DoD spent about \$40 million detaining noncitizens there in just the first month. Detention at Guantánamo costs significantly more than detention within the US, the report says, citing higher transportation, staffing, and infrastructure expenses. Military aircraft were also used for deportations, sharply increasing costs. The report notes that 'it costs \$28,500 an hour to fly a C-17, compared with \$8,500 an hour for

a standard US Immigration and Customs Enforcement flight'. As of September 2025, at least \$33.1 million had been spent on deportation flights using military aircraft, including flights to India that cost 'about \$3 million each'. The report further highlights the reassignment of military lawyers. Up to 600 Judge Advocate General (JAG) officers were authorized to serve as temporary immigration judges, a move estimated to cost \$55 million in pay and benefits while diverting legal officers away from military justice duties. Beyond financial costs, lawmakers warned of growing risks to military readiness. Combat-certified units were reassigned to immigration missions, leaving them unavailable for contingency operations. National Guard deployments,

the report says, also reduced states' ability to respond to natural disasters such as wildfires and floods. 'The Trump administration must stop degrading the military's fundamental mission by diverting the military's budget and critical resources to DHS's immigration functions,' the report says, calling for full reimbursement and an end to the diversions. Immigration enforcement has remained a defining issue for the administration, often framed as a national security priority. For US allies and partners, including India, the report's authors caution that deploying military resources for domestic law enforcement risks weakening America's ability to respond to global security challenges, particularly in strategically sensitive regions. (IANS)

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US Has Altered Terms Of Engagement: Jaishankar

India-West News Desk

KOLKATA – External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has underscored how the United States has sharply altered the way it deals with the world, saying Washington has set "radically new terms of engagement" by choosing to negotiate with nations one-on-one rather than through broader systems it once underwrote.

Speaking after receiving an Honorary Doctorate from IIM-Calcutta, he said this shift is reshaping global interactions and forcing countries to rethink how they secure their interests.

In this changing landscape, he said politics now routinely overrides economics, reflecting a world where uncertainty has become the norm. As a result, India must keep diversifying its supply sources to safeguard national requirements.

He noted that India and the United States are currently engaged in two parallel negotiations, one on a framework trade deal addressing tariffs and another on a more comprehensive agreement.

Jaishankar also pointed out that China has long operated according to its own rules and continues to do so, leaving many nations unsure whether to focus on overt competition or the quiet tradeoffs that accompany it. Faced with these competing forces of globalization, fragmentation and supply insecurity, countries are increasingly hedging to protect themselves.

Against this backdrop, India is pushing ahead and the world is noticing its progress. As the government moves toward its vision of a developed India by 2047, the role of foreign policy is to broaden the country's international footprint.



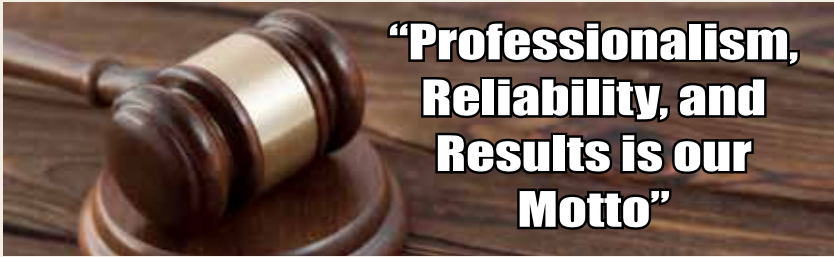
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Lawmakers Warn Trump He Is Losing India, Hurting American Consumers

WASHINGTON, DC- US lawmakers and senior foreign policy experts have described the United States' partnership with India as "a defining relationship of the 21st century," warning that Chinese aggression requires deeper military, economic, and technological coordination between Washington and New Delhi. However, sharp political criticism dominated a major Congressional

hearing, with Democrats warning that President Donald Trump's tariff regime and confrontational approach could inflict long-term damage on this vital alliance.

Opening a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on South and Central Asia hearing on the US-India strategic partnership on December 10, Chairman Congressman Bill Huizenga said the relationship "is no longer just

important. It is a defining relationship of the 21st century." He stressed that "if America wants a free Indo-Pacific... our partnership with India is critical," warning that an "increasingly aggressive China threatens regional stability."

Witnesses told lawmakers that India has shown the "stiffest resistance" to Chinese pressure. Jeff Smith of the Heritage Foundation

noted that India "has engaged in... stopping Chinese coercion at their border," and unlike the US, "it was able to ban TikTok essentially overnight." He added that India "has put up fierce restrictions on Chinese investments" and has become one of Washington's most consequential strategic partners.

India's role, experts testified, extends across domains, from maritime deterrence to intelligence-sharing and emerging technologies. Smith detailed that the two countries are "tracking Chinese submarines together in the Indian Ocean," conducting joint patrols in the South China Sea, and holding mountain warfare exercises in the Himalayas.

Dhruva Jaishankar of ORF America said the partnership has grown because of "economic opportunities for both countries" and a shared concern about China's rise, citing Beijing's military mobilization in 2020 which "resulted in clashes in which 20 Indian military personnel lost their lives." Jaishankar added that China's network of ports and naval assets across the Indo-Pacific "might be used to secure critical choke points."

Despite this progress, lawmakers voiced concern that recent

US trade actions, including steep tariffs, were destabilizing ties. Democratic Ranking Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove sharply criticized the administration's approach, saying Trump "will be the American President that lost India," and warning that coercive trade measures "are doing real and lasting damage" to strategic trust.

Kamlager-Dove accused Trump of unravelling decades of bipartisan progress, noting the previous administration had handed him "a bilateral relationship at the height of its strength," only for it to be "flush, flush, flush down the toilet." She warned that history may judge Trump harshly, stating, "You do not get a Nobel Peace Prize by driving strategic partners into the arms of our adversaries."

Witnesses and lawmakers agreed the partnership remains vital. Sameer Lalwani of the German Marshall Fund said India can "shoulder more day-to-day security responsibilities in the Indian Ocean," complicate Chinese military planning, and provide industrial capacity in crises, but cautioned that a "say-do gap" in implementing major initiatives, including defense co-production, risks slowing momentum. (IANS)

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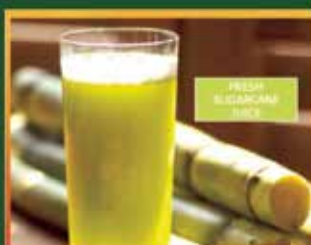
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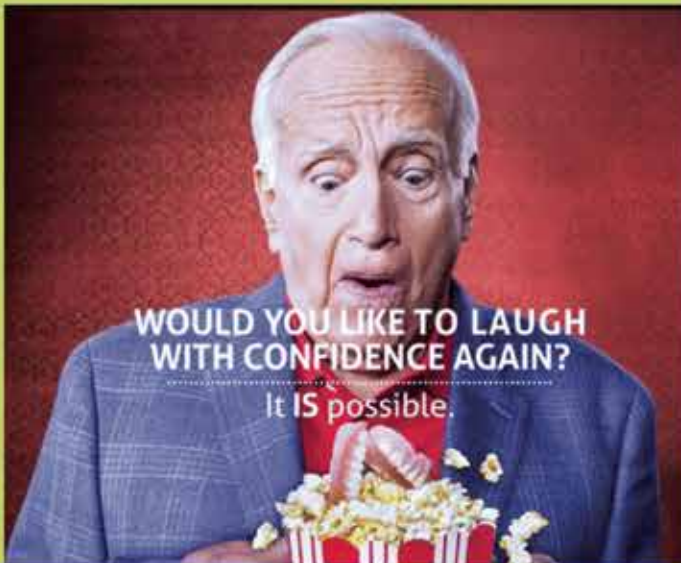
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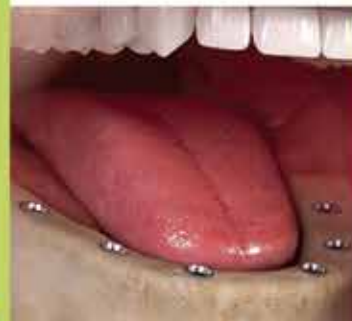
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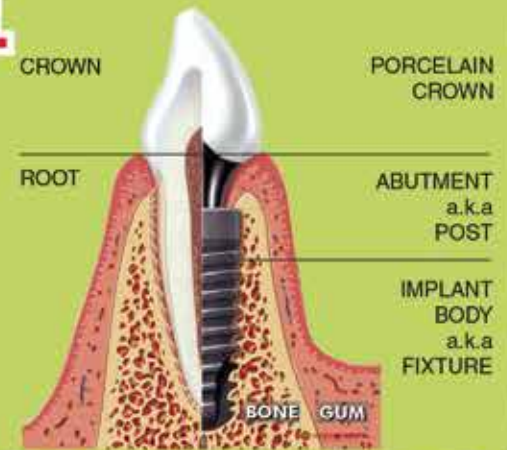
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Ustad Amjad Ali Preserves Dalai Lama’s Wisdom For The Global Stage

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA –LOS ANGELES, CA – The Dalai Lama’s voice, long associated with messages of compassion and unity, is now resonating on one of the world’s biggest cultural stages. His spoken-word album ‘Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’ has earned a Grammy nomination in the Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording category.

The project is the result of a years-long creative relationship between the spiritual leader and an acclaimed

ensemble of Indian musicians.

Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, who led the collaboration, worked alongside his sons, sarod virtuosos Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, as well as multi-Grammy and Emmy Award-winning producer, author, and composer Kabir Sehgal. Their partnership has stretched across key moments in the Dalai Lama’s



public life, including musical tributes during his 80th birthday celebrations in New Delhi.

The album’s compositions draw

from themes that have defined his teachings for decades: compassion, peace, environmental responsibility, and the oneness of humanity. The spoken passages were shaped from various talks delivered over time, woven into a meditative soundscape crafted by the musicians.

For Amjad Ali Khan, the nom-

ination carries deep personal significance. In a social media post, he described the honor as a moment of pride for the family and reflected on how the project remains close to their hearts.

The album enters a competitive field that spans memoir, storytelling, and personal history. Other nominees include Kathy Garver’s Elvis, Rocky & Me: The Carol Connors Story; Trevor Noah’s Into The Uncut Grass; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s memoir Lovely One; and Fab Morvan’s You Know It’s True: The Real Story of Milli Vanilli.

Anoushka Shankar Gets Apology And Promises From Air India For Breaking Sitar

India-West News Desk

NEW DELHI – Anoushka Shankar’s sitar troubles this week set off a mix of shock, sympathy, and concern among musicians after the artist revealed that her instrument was badly damaged on a recent Air India flight.

Shankar shared the first post with clear frustration. “Devastated and truly disturbed by Air India’s treatment of my sitar,” she wrote, asking how such deep damage could hap-

pen “without willful disregard.” She said it felt especially sad because she had chosen to fly the airline again after many years. “It seems an Indian instrument cannot be safe with them,” she wrote, pointing out that she had taken thousands of flights on other airlines without even a peg going out of tune.”

In her video, she explained how she discovered the crack. At first, she only noticed her sitar was far out of tune. “After I tuned it and picked it up to play, that is when I

realised,” she said. She called it the first incident of this kind in fifteen or seventeen years of flying with her sitar. Addressing the airline, she added, “You are the country this music belongs to. How have you done this?”

Her disappointment was also emotional. “How on earth does damage like this happen,” she asked, adding that she uses special cases and pays handling fees to prevent exactly this outcome.

A day later, her tone softened


when she posted an update. “First of all, thank you everyone for your commiserations and support,” she wrote. She said her sitar “may be saved” and praised craftsman Ajay Rikhiram, who is attempting to revive the instrument in time for her India Chapters tour.

She also confirmed that the airline had contacted her. “Air India has reached out with apologies, an offer to compensate for the repairs, and promises of a policy change,” she wrote. But she cautioned that

real change would matter only if it helped every passenger, not just her.

Air India issued its own statement on Thursday, saying it had launched an investigation and was reviewing airport CCTV footage. “We are concerned to learn of a valued guest’s experience,” the airline said. It added that the cause of the damage was still unclear because multiple handlers were involved. The airline said it regretted the distress caused and was in direct contact with Shankar.

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Kamala, Whose Grace Shaped A Century of Dance, Dies At 91 In CA



who could dance, act, and sing with startling natural ease. Before she turned ten, she had appeared in Hindi films such as 'Shaadi,' 'Kanchan,' and the landmark hit 'Kismet' in 1943. That same year, she danced in 'Ram Rajya,' the only film Mahatma Gandhi is known to have watched, performing a Kathak sequence with the poise of an accomplished artist.

A pivotal turn came when her mother moved from Mumbai to the south to place her under

such as 'Parasakthi,' 'Chori Chori,' 'Paavai Vilakku,' and later 'Konjum Salangai.' Hers was a presence that drew audiences into the emotional world of classical dance even if they had never encountered it before.

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, Kamala had become a bridge between tradition and modern India. At a time when Bharatanatyam was still reclaiming its place in public life, her screen appearances turned the art form into a national point of pride. She brought not only precision but also an unmistakable warmth to her performances, making classical dance relatable and aspirational for millions.

Her fame soon transcended Indian borders. In 1953, she was invited to perform during the coronation festivities of Queen Elizabeth II, an extraordinary recognition for a young Indian dancer. Tours of China and Japan followed in the late 1950s, where she introduced audiences to an art form they had never seen before. These international engagements established her as one of the earliest cultural ambassadors of Bharatanatyam.

Even as cinema moved on to new styles and stars, Kamala remained devoted to teaching. Her appointment as Branta Professor at Colgate University in 1975 marked the beginning of her long engagement with American academia. She moved to New York in 1980 and later founded Shri Bharatha Kamalalaya in Long Island, where she nurtured a new generation of dancers with the same discipline she had inherited from her guru.

Her contributions were widely recognized over the years, with honors including the Kalaimamani, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Padma Bhushan, the National Heritage Fellowship, and the Soorya Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kamala's personal life saw its own turns. She married the celebrated cartoonist R. K. Laxman in the 1950s, and after their divorce in 1960, she adopted the name "Kumari Kamala" to avoid confusion with his second wife, who was also named Kamala. Later she married T. V. Lakshminarayanan and their only son, who is known to play the percussion, would go on to serve in the United States Army.

India-West News Desk

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The brilliant classical dancer, choreographer and actress Kumari Kamala passed away on November 24 in California at her son Jainand Narayan's home. She was 91.

Her death closes the chapter on one of Indian cinema's most luminous child prodigies and a pioneering figure who carried classical dance from temple courtyards

to movie screens, global stages, and eventually American classrooms. Her life, nearly a century in span, was defined by artistic devotion, quiet determination, and an unbroken commitment to preserving and sharing Bharatanatyam.

Born in 1934, Kamala revealed extraordinary talent almost as soon as she could walk. By age three, she captivated audiences at cultural gatherings. Film producers quickly took note of this precocious child

Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai, the legendary guru whose training shaped her mastery of the fluid, expressive style. Under his guidance, Kamala blossomed into one of the most magnetic classical dancers on screen.

Her performances in the 1940s became defining images of Indian cinema: the snake dance in 'Jagathalaprathapan' in 1944, the drum dance in 'Naam Iruvar' in 1947, and the memorable sequences in films



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Padma Lakshmi's New Cookbook Captures America's Immigrant Soul

India-West News Desk

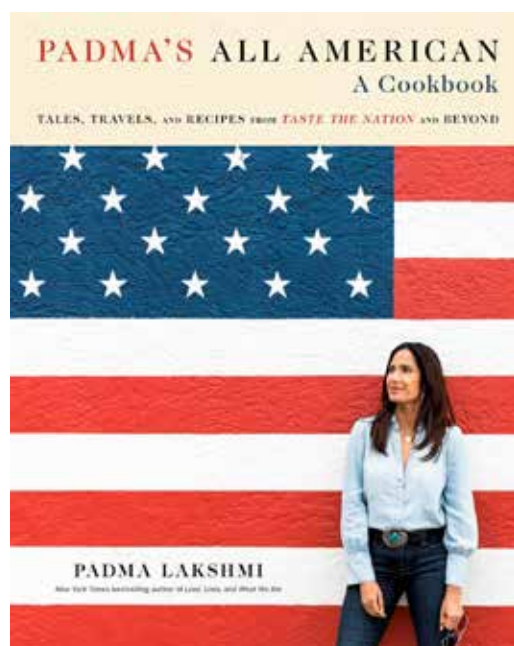
NEW YORK, NY -Padma Lakshmi's latest cookbook, 'Padma's All American: Tales, Travels, and Recipes from Taste the Nation and Beyond', was released on November 4, by Knopf. Priced at \$40.00, the 352-page hardcover is being hailed as a comprehensive look at the immigrant and indigenous roots of American cuisine.

Lakshmi describes the deeply personal book as a 'love letter' to the people who create and evolve American food every day and to the dishes that give the country its vibrant palate. The collection is the result of seven years of travel, tasting, listening, and observing for her award-winning Hulu show, 'Taste the Nation'.

"I never had to leave the country to taste the world's flavors. Wherever you live, come along with me," Lakshmi stated about the book, which chronicles her time on the road for both 'Taste the Nation' and 'Top Chef'.

Lakshmi argues that food acts as a crucial lens, allowing readers to explore the influence of an eclectic array of cultures and see, clearly, how the nation truly eats. She uses her own experience, having arrived in New York City in the 1970s and witnessing the development of immigrant cuisines that were uniquely their own yet quintessentially American.

The cookbook compiles over 100 recipes from the numerous immigrant and indigenous communities she visited across the country, alongside several cherished recipes from her own family, which she adapted for the home cook. The dishes span more than 20 different cuisines, from Afghani to American Indian.



Examples include simple weeknight recipes like 'Coconut Rice' and 'Tostones', as well as more involved ones such as 'Amazonian Tamales' and 'Qabuli Pulao'. The book also features recipes like 'Mysore Pak', perfected through calls to her aunties, and 'Biracial Latkes'. Other mouth-watering selections include 'Plum Chaat', 'Jollof Rice', 'Yogurt Tahdig', and 'Strawberry-Cardamom and Cream Cake'.

The book has received widespread praise for its cultural depth and practical recipes. 'The Wall Street Journal' called Lakshmi "the perfect person to help us understand how immigrants are changing the way Americans eat."

'Library Journal' gave the book a starred review, describing it as a "love letter to the

diversity of the United States, written through food," and noting that Lakshmi gives voice to those whose daily lives are full of spices and specialties. 'Booklist', also in a starred review, praised the "unforgettable immigrant stories" that broaden and enrich readers' culinary repertoire.

Other renowned chefs and writers also lauded the book. Anne Lamott stated, "No cookbook has ever made me cry. Un-

til now," while Yotam Ottolenghi commented that the book "celebrates what makes the food in this country so special—the people who've come from all across the globe and brought their culture with them."

'Padma's All American' is filled with profiles and stories from the people who inspired the dishes, reflecting Lakshmi's vision of what it means to be—and eat like—an American. The book is available from various retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Target.

Recipe

Chidambaram Chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 whole boneless, skinless chicken thighs (you can also use breasts) halved and cut into 1-inch pieces
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 2-3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, diced
- 2 red bell peppers, diced
- 2 large cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp ginger, peeled and minced
- 1 tbsp Garam Masala
- 1/8 to 1/4 tsp dried red chile pepper flakes, or to taste (optional)
- 1 cup water, or as needed
- 1 cup plain yogurt (I like this yogurt from DAH!)
- 1/2 cup fresh mint minced, or to taste
- Basmati rice, to serve

Directions:

• In a big bowl, add chicken, seasoning with 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, and a pinch of Garam Masala. Set aside.

• Add oil to a big skillet or non-stick pan set over medium heat. Sweat the onions for 5-6 minutes. Add garlic, ginger, and bell pepper to the pan, and cook, stirring occasionally for 2-3 minutes more. Turn the heat down to low if the vegetables are catching.

• Add the Garam Masala, stirring for another minute or two. Stir in chile flakes (if using) and

then add the chicken. Toss to coat chicken evenly, then add 1 cup of water, cover the pan and let simmer.

• Stir in the yogurt and taste for salt, adding more if necessary. Turn down the heat, simmering until the chicken is just cooked through.

• Sprinkle the mint otop and turn off the heat. Stir everything together and serve with warm Basmati rice.

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Nora Fatehi Performs On Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show



Nora and Shenseea performed their latest track "What Do I Know (Just A Girl)." The energetic track was released under 5 Junction Records/Warner Records.

Upon the release of the track, Nora had said that she is excited to finally share 'What Do I Know (Just A Girl)' with the world and that the song marks the start of her "pop girl era".

"And diving into this new sound has been such an inspiring journey. Shenseea and I poured our hearts into every part of it — from recording the vocals to nailing the choreography for the music video.

I couldn't be prouder of what we created together!" she had stated.

"What Do I Know (Just a Girl)" is written by Grammy-nominated hitmaker Justin Tranter and the song highlights Nora's strengths as a performer.

Nora made her acting debut with the Hindi film 'Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans' in 2014. She gained popularity in Telugu films for her special appearance in films like 'Temper', 'Baahubali: The Beginning' and 'Kick 2'. (IANS)

LOS ANGELES, CA -Bollywood actress-dancer Nora Fatehi made her debut on "The Tonight Show" with a performance alongside Jamaican singer Shenseea and then happily posed for a picture with the host Jimmy Fallon.

Nora, in a collaborative post with the Fallon Tonight BTS Instagram handle, shared a string of images from her performance, including a picture where she is seen smiling at the camera lens as she struck a pose with Jimmy Fallon and Shenseea.

Why Indians View Trump Differently: Corruption Is 'Normal' At Home, Says Zarna Garg

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Comedian Zarna Garg, in her usual effervescent way, has offered a take on the Indian American community's perception of President Donald Trump that some die-hard fans of Indian politicians might find provoking.

She suggested that many do not view Trump being a convicted felon or his personal conduct as disqualifying. Speaking with Joanna Coles on The Daily Beast podcast, Garg claimed this attitude stems from a cultural normalization of political corruption.

Garg explained that for many Indian-Americans, a politician facing criminal charges "just seems to be a job requirement," stating, "First of all, our politicians are crooked back home, so that just seems to be a job requirement. So, I mean, they're like, of course, he's a criminal, they all are."

She added that issues frequently raised by Americans, such as Trump's personal scandals, do not carry the same weight. "Of course, he (Trump) has cheated on his wife; they all do. We don't even consider any of

those issues," Garg said.

Moving to the issue of immigration, Garg, an author and legal immigrant herself, highlighted that

Indian people "by and large, are legal immigrants in America." Because of the years of waiting and processing involved, she claimed, "Indian people are not on board with the illegal immigration issue," adding that many were confused by the Biden administration's handling of the border.

"We have relatives who have been waiting 15 years in line because that's the right thing to do, and then it felt like anybody who was breaking the law was getting rewarded," Garg told the podcast. While Garg expressed disagreement with the methods of removal, she conceded that "a lot of the problems that Trump started highlighting are the real problems."

After her comments circulated online, social media users questioned whether Garg reflected the broader community, noting Indian-Americans traditionally lean Democratic.



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