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India in New York

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In Trump Tariff Threat, Wake-Up Call For India

BY VIVEK WADHWHA

India once had a love affair with Donald Trump

Long before the rest of the world figured him out, Indians were cheering his every move. He was, at one point, more popular in India than in much of the US. His bluster, bravado, and disregard for political correctness struck a deep chord. In a country weighed down by colonial bureaucracy, obsolete laws, and a culture of red tape, Trump's instinct to bulldoze through institutions appeared not just refreshing but necessary.

He wasn't seen as just another politician — he was embraced as a wrecking ball aimed at a system that had long ceased to serve its purpose. India, hungry for its own disruptors, welcomed him as a kindred spirit. The stadium rallies, choreographed slogans, and orchestrated pageantry may have looked theatrical, but they reflected something real: A belief that boldness could substitute for reform, and disruption could shortcut progress.

Then came the backlash. Tariffs, visa caps, immigration crackdowns, and punitive trade threats landed one after another. India, which had positioned itself as a respectful partner playing by the rules, suddenly found itself on the receiving end. The betrayal was jarring, but in hindsight, it may have been the best thing that could have happened, because it forced a re-examination of assumptions that had gone unchallenged for too long.

Trump was never moved by principle or diplomacy. He responded to flattery, theatre, and spectacle. The Pakistanis understood this dynamic early and played him with skill — offering symbolic wins like a Nobel Peace Prize nomination and effusive praise for his social media outbursts. None of it cost them anything, but it got them attention. India, by contrast, clung to formality, protocol, and outdated instincts, believing that rational behaviour would win out.

What might have worked better was a Bollywood-style spectacle. A Pulitzer for his tweets, a Nobel for bringing peace to South Asia (or at least for trying in all caps), an Oscar for best improvisation in a geopolitical drama, and maybe even an IIFA for lifetime achievement in melodrama — handed to him by Amitabh Bachchan with a dramatic pause and thunderous applause — would have done magic. It would have been absurd, yes — but with Trump, the absurd often outperformed the rational.

The re-examination of assumptions is required across domains. As is the need to change existing systems and policies. In business, for instance, entrepreneurs still wade through overlapping regulations and outdated procedures. Scientists



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves next to U.S. President Donald Trump as they attend the "Namaste Trump" event at Sardar Patel Gujarat Stadium, in Ahmedabad, India, February 24, 2020.

are slowed not by the complexity of their research, but by the paperwork it takes to get it funded, approved, or applied. Starting a business often requires not just innovation, but navigation — of licences, inspections, and gatekeepers. Scaling one demands even more: Deep networks, institutional patience, and a working knowledge of which rules to quietly ignore. The outside world sees the scale and talent India offers. But too many of its own citizens remain trapped in systems designed to manage scarcity, not unlock abundance.

It's not a shortage of talent — it's a surplus of red tape.

This moment is an opportunity to clear the air — by eliminating redundant licences, enforcing real-time single-window clearances, and implementing presumptive approvals so that silence from a regulator becomes a green light, not a dead end. Tariffs that raise the cost of advanced manufacturing and research tools should be eliminated, and clarity must be brought to export-import procedures still wrapped in a control-era mindset.

State governments should be empowered to compete not only on slogans but on actual performance — startup outcomes, business registration timelines, R&D output, and regulatory speed. Private universities and research institutions need to be liberated from micromanagement so they can scale without asking for permission. Industry-academia partnerships should be fast-tracked. Patents, tech transfer, and

procurement should be modernised and made transparent.

India doesn't need to look outward for validation. It has the data, the scale, the engineering depth, and the hunger to lead from within. Health, agriculture, climate, manufacturing, mobility — the datasets alone are a strategic resource waiting to be unlocked. Add to that an unmatched pool of ambitious entrepreneurs, builders, and scientists, and the country becomes not just a participant in the global innovation race, but a driver of it. That's exactly what companies like mine, Vionix Biosciences, saw in India — not just scale, but scientific and operational depth that can deliver breakthroughs the West struggles with because it no longer has the talent.

Trump may have actually done India a favour. He exposed the fragility of its diplomatic assumptions and reminded it that performance must be matched by persuasion — and execution by storytelling. India has been handed lemons — by Trump, by its own bureaucracy, and by the inconsistencies of the global market. The time has come not to complain, delay, or tread cautiously, but to make

something from it: To turn those lemons into lemonade, to scale the process, bottle it with confidence, and serve it to the world as proof of what is possible when ambition meets execution.

Vivek Wadhwa is CEO, Vionix Biosciences. The views expressed are personal.



PHOTO: COURTESY VIVEK WADHWHA

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The Boom In American-Born Employees Isn't Real

By JUSTIN FOX

Something remarkable has been going on lately with the population estimates maintained by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. They show a decline of 1.9 million in the foreign-born working-age population in the US (defined here as ages 16 through 64) since March and an increase of 3.3 million in the native-born working-age population since December.

The foreign-born working-age population may well be shrinking. The flow of illegal immigration across the Mexican border slowed sharply last year and has ground almost to a halt this year, and since January the Trump administration has been narrowing legal immigration channels, canceling temporary legal immigration programs and increasing the pace of deportations for those here illegally. It's extremely unlikely that 1.9 million people ages 16 through 64 have left the country since March, but the direction at least could be correct.

Such an increase in the native-born working-age population, on the other hand, is impossible. Changes in that population are quite easy to predict, given that we know how many people were born in the US 16 to 64 years ago and how many have died since – and, while there admittedly aren't great recent statistics on this, the number of native-born Americans who leave the country permanently is most likely small. Just going by births, the 16-to-64 US population is due for six consecutive years of declines from this year through 2030.

All this is context for understanding the 2.5 million job increase in native-born employment since December that the BLS is also reporting. Given that it came after a year of foreign-born workers seemingly driving all US employment gains, it is understandably being greeted by Trump administration officials (and would-be Trump BLS chief E.J. Antoni) as evidence of a remarkable turnaround wrought by Trump's economic policies. As you can probably already tell from the population data I've cited, it's not that. But what is it, exactly?

The big changes in population and employment are artifacts of how the BLS estimates population for the purposes of calculating the labor-force statistics it derives from the Census Bureau's monthly Current Population Survey, the so-called household survey. The priority is generating accurate percentage indicators such as the unemployment rate, labor-force participation rate and employment-population ratio, not reliable time series of the levels of employment or population.

The establishment survey – aka Current Employment Statistics – that is the other contributor to the monthly BLS employment report is aimed at generating accurate estimates of the level of nonfarm payroll employment



San Francisco residents photograph a group of protesters during a demonstration as part of a nationwide series of protests against the mass firings of employees in a campaign by President Donald Trump and his adviser Elon Musk to radically cut back the U.S. bureaucracy, at Fort Mason Park in San Francisco, California, U.S. March 1, 2025.

and is revised repeatedly as late responses come in and then a backup set of statistics based on state unemployment insurance records is released. A big downward revision in past months' payroll jobs totals in the employment report released early this month led Trump to fire the director of the BLS and nominate Antoni, a Heritage Foundation economist with a reputation for sloppy, partisan work, as the agency's new chief.

The employment indicators from the household survey aren't subsequently revised, but every January the BLS does adjust its population numbers to align them with the latest population estimates from the Census Bureau. This December, the Census Bureau revised its national population estimates upward to better reflect the big wave in immigration from mid-2021 to mid-2024, estimating net immigration of 2.8 million people from mid-2023 to mid-2024, and increasing its estimate of 2021-2023 net immigration from 2.1 million to 4 million. This and other changes in the 2024 population estimates led the BLS to report a 3 million increase from December to January in the 16-and-older civilian, noninstitutional US population, with the gains split roughly evenly between native-born and foreign-born. Again, this wasn't because anybody at BLS thought the US 16-and-older population actually grew that much from December to January, just that the new population estimates were higher than the previous ones, and it doesn't revise earlier estimates. (For a more detailed explanation, I recommend this piece by Jed Kolko, who as undersecretary of commerce for economic affairs in the Biden administration oversaw the

Census Bureau.)

The Census Bureau also makes forward-looking monthly population estimates once a year based on anticipated deaths, 16th birthdays and immigration trends, which the BLS uses to produce its monthly population totals until the next annual update. The monthly BLS estimates of changes in the native-born and foreign-born population and workforce, though, are based on what people say in the monthly household surveys. Since Donald Trump became president, foreign-born residents of the US appear to have become much less likely to respond to the surveys or tell survey takers they weren't born in the US. Because the overall monthly population numbers are on autopilot, this has resulted in declining foreign-born population and employment numbers and increasing native-born numbers.

If native-born workers were in fact making big employment gains now, these would show up in their ratio of employment to population, which is best measured for so-called prime-age workers 25 to 54 so as not to be skewed by the aging of the population. Prime-age employment-to-population numbers for native- and foreign-born workers are not available in seasonally adjusted form and thus jump around a lot from month to month, so I've taken annual averages, which indicate that both native-born and foreign-born employment rates are flat and possibly beginning to trend downward.

President Trump's immigration crackdown is to some extent based on the theory that it will improve job prospects for native-born workers by removing foreign-born competitors. Because immigration is the only possible source of growth in the US working-age population for the rest of this decade, though, stopping or reversing its flow will also make it hard to achieve much of any economic growth. So far, in any case, the net result for native-born workers appears to be no improvement at all.

This column reflects the personal views of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.



Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business, economics and other topics involving charts. A former editorial director of the Harvard Business Review, he is author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."

-BLOOMBERG

It's Happening: People Are Starting To Talk Like ChatGPT

By ADAM ALEKSIC

If you use ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini or another artificial-intelligence-powered chatbot, you're probably operating under the assumption that you're both speaking the same language. You input English, it outputs English. Simple, right? Except that's a misconception: You've actually been speaking different languages.

Rather than processing text like a human, the chatbot turns your prompt into an embedding – a group of numbers represented in a "vector space," kind of like coordinates on a map. But just as a map is a flattened representation of its territory, this embedding is a flattened

representation of language; some amount of human variation and context is necessarily lost.

Next, the chatbot formulates a reply, making a word-by-word prediction based on how it was trained to answer past inputs. This prediction draws on biased training data (the specific texts it learns from) and biased reinforcement learning (the feedback it receives). Ultimately, what looks like English to you is really a simulacrum of actual human speech.

The unnerving thing is that now, with hundreds of millions of people regularly engaging with chatbots, English-speaking humans are starting to talk like the inhuman communicator on the other side.

For example, ChatGPT uses the word "delve" at higher

rates than people generally use when writing or speaking English. As Florida State University researchers Tom S. Juzek and Zina B. Ward have found, this likely results from small biases and errors in the human feedback process compounding over time. Employees of AI companies checking over large language model (LLM) outputs are often low-wage workers from countries such as Nigeria and Kenya, where "delve" is used at higher rates than in American or British English.

Slight lexical overrepresentations may thus have been reinforced into the model – sometimes even more frequently than in the workers' own usage. Because of the

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Indian American Lawyer Hetal Doshi Running For Colorado Attorney General

By ELA DUTT

Hetal Doshi, a practicing lawyer for close to 20 years, announced recently she is running for the top spot of Attorney General of Colorado, a state she has already served as an Assistant AG and later Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division.

The election for Attorney General is scheduled to take place November 3, 2026. Numerous candidates are vying for the post, five of them, including Doshi are Democrats, and one is a Republican, according to the current list available on Ballotpedia. The incumbent AG is Phil Weiser who leaves the term-limited office in 2026, and aims to run for Governor, according to news reports.

Doshi faces an uphill battle against her Democratic competitors in the primary, the date for which is yet to be announced, but is expected to take place in 2026.

Among Doshi's competitors is Boulder, Colorado District Attorney Michael Dougherty; former state House Speaker Crisanta Duran; and Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold who has a strong list of endorsements already.

In an August 11, 2025, post on Face-



Hetal Doshi, candidate for Colorado Attorney General.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK @HETAL.J.DOSHI

book, Doshi explains her reasons for running. "For over a decade at the U.S. Department of Justice, I took on bullies, cheats, and crooks to protect working families....Now, the threats to our democratic values and economic opportunities are striking closer to home than ever

before. States are on the front lines of this fight and I'm running for Attorney General to keep fighting and winning here in Colorado. ...Grateful for the chance to share how my DOJ service inspired me to meet this moment."

Doshi has handled significant cases, "prosecuted monopolies, cartels, fraudsters, scammers, and public officials – and won," says here bio on the campaign website hetaldoshiforag.com. Her caseload over her career has included leading more than 800 public servants in landmark cases against as Deputy Assistant Attorney General; taking on Google, Apple, and Ticketmaster in "historic" cases; stopping mergers that would have made groceries and air travel more expensive; combatted hate crimes and the rise of extremism in Colorado, handling complex white-collar crimes, and holding global investment banks accountable, her website says.

A first-generation immigrant born to Indian parents, Doshi says she is running to is running "to make sure that streets are safe, the economy is fair, and that every Coloradan's rights and dignity are respected."

Doshi's Facebook posts show she has vocally opposed policies that she says politicize the Justice Department. In one post on August 18, 2025, in response to a

news headline which read, "Trump Says He Wants to Get Rid of Mail-In Ballots" – Doshi posted the following – "Taking advice from Putin on free and fair elections? Come on. Reality check: if Trump's coming for our elections here in Colorado, he will lose. The Constitution gives states the power to conduct our elections and we'll fight to protect that authority — in court and at the ballot box. Colorado's democracy isn't negotiable."

She has also posted moving tributes to her Indian and immigrant origins, as this post of August 17, 2025, shows – "Growing up, weekend dinners with the few South Asian families that lived nearby were where I first saw the American Dream in action. Now, walking into a similar gathering, I feel that same spirit – where tradition meets purpose. I'm proud to stand with a Colorado community rooted in hope and possibility."

On August 21, the PAC Indian American Impact Fund, announced it is endorsing Doshi for AG of Colorado. Chintan Patel, executive director of Impact Fund said Doshi is a "proven fighter Coloradans need."

Doshi, in her statement said she was "deeply honored" by the endorsement.

Opinion

It's Happening: People Are Starting To Talk Like ChatGPT

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

job's time pressures and stressful conditions, the checkers might have missed the "delve" frequency while clicking through sample texts, leading to further amplification. (Some other examples are "intricate," "commendable" and "meticulous.")

Now this overuse is bleeding into global culture. In the two years since ChatGPT launched in late 2022, the appearance of "delve" in academic publishing saw a tenfold increase as researchers began turning to AI for help with their papers. As scientists and writers have grown more aware of this phenomenon, they've taken steps to "sound less like AI." I actually used to enjoy using the word "delve"; now I try to avoid it.

But most people likely don't know about the chatbot biases toward certain words. Users assume that ChatGPT is talking in "normal" English, because that's the implication of the tool's user interface. They also assume that regular, everyday texts they encounter are normal English, even when they might have been AI-generated as well. Over time, it gets easier and easier to confuse the representation with reality.

Indeed, a study reported in Scientific American last month found that people have started saying "delve" more in spontaneous, spoken conversations. This isn't AI's doing anymore; we've started internalizing its biases and repeating them by ourselves. I say "we" because even those in the anti-"delve" faction aren't exempt. We might



PHOTO: REUTERS

Chat GPT logo.

avoid using the most well-known ChatGPT giveaways, but so many words are appearing with unnatural frequency that we can't possibly avoid them all. Are we also supposed to stop using the chatbot-overused "inquiry"? Or "surpass"? There's too much to keep track of.

Our susceptibility to unwittingly adopting LLM vocabulary will likely only increase as the circle of AI text, human text we don't know is AI, and actual human speech spins faster and faster. In psycholinguistics, it's generally

understood that the frequency of a word's representation affects its availability in people's mental lexicon - the "dictionary" of possible options to draw from in spoken conversation. Essentially, the more we see a word represented, the more intuitive it feels to use it ourselves.

It's normal for our mental language mappings to evolve, but now we're in a feedback loop where our "maps" are converging with the chatbots' "maps." Both differ from the actual landscape - the unfathomable variation in how humans speak - but the confusion is making it harder to evaluate what's real human language and what's artificially generated. As this distinction becomes harder to discern, we'll keep blurring the lines of reality, cyclically using that blur to construct our new realities. And as AI models continue to be trained on both their own output and the AI-influenced human writing they ingest, the pervasiveness of LLM-speak will only intensify.

Linguistically, there's nothing wrong with this. The word "delve" isn't any worse for your brain than its synonyms. But language is a harbinger of greater social shifts. There are many other, far more insidious misrepresentations that are also coded into LLMs. Racial biases, gender biases and political biases - all of these are likely trained into the models much like linguistic biases, but these are harder to definitively measure. We need to remember that these aren't neutral tools: They hold the power to subtly reshape our thinking.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Trump Administration To Vet Immigrants For 'Anti-American' Views

By Andrew Jeong

Immigrants seeking lawful work in the United States and a legal pathway to citizenship will now be subject to screening for "anti-American" behavior, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said Tuesday.

In a policy alert summarizing the updated guidance, USCIS said officers will have discretion to determine whether applicants for benefits, such as a green card, harbor anti-American views or have "endorsed, promoted, supported, or otherwise espoused the views of an anti-American or terrorist organization or group," including those that "support or promote antisemitic terrorism."

The agency also said, separately, that it would expand the types of benefits requests subject to social media vetting.

Experts say the new policy risks slowing down benefits processing for applicants and would deter immigrants from speaking out on political or social issues. More broadly, the guidance is reflective of the Trump administration's efforts to restrict both legal and illegal immigration.

In a news release, USCIS spokesman Matthew Tragesser said: "America's benefits should not be given to those who despise the country and promote anti-American ideologies. ... Immigration benefits – including to live and work in the United States – remain a privilege, not a right." USCIS did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Tuesday.

In its policy alert, USCIS did not provide specifics about how the new guidance would be applied, but it



The seal of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seen after a news conference in Del Rio, Texas, U.S., September 19, 2021.

PHOTO: REUTERS/MARCO BELLO/FILE PHOTO

said espousing such views would be considered "an overwhelmingly negative factor" in an applicant's request.

The guidance is effective immediately and applies to pending and new application requests, USCIS said.

"This is a new powerful weapon in President Trump's arsenal against politically disfavored groups," said David J. Bier, the director of immigration policy at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Washington.

The new policy says anti-American ideologies and activities are defined as those listed under the Immigration and Nationality Act, which prohibits those affiliated or associated with a broad range of topics including antisemitism, terrorism and "world communism" from receiving citizenship.

Bier predicted the changes would bog down adjudications, with immigration officials requiring more time and

documentation as they vet social media "and then make assessments against these vague criteria."

It will also deter millions of people from expressing criticism of or opposition to President Donald Trump and his administration, he said.

"When mere 'affiliation' or 'association' with poorly defined, unpopular political speech is enough to trigger the loss of jobs, family, or any chance to remain in the United States or become a U.S. citizen, the pressure to avoid controversial views will be immense for anyone interacting with the immigration system," he said.

The USCIS policy update comes amid a host of other changes applied since Trump took office again, including a more subjective standard for how citizenship applicants are assessed on "good moral character."

Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a lawyer and senior fellow at the American Immigration Council, described the move as "McCarthyism." The term "anti-American ideologies or activities" mentioned in the alert has no precedent in immigration law, he said in a post on X, "and its definition is entirely up to the Trump admin."

Trump has launched a massive domestic deportation operation aimed at deporting up to 1 million immigrants within the first year of his second term, The Washington Post reported. He has also threatened to strip U.S. citizenship from some of those who have been naturalized. And in April, USCIS announced it would screen immigrants' social media for purported antisemitic activity and use any posts it finds as potential grounds for denying visa and green-card applications.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

U.S. Citizenship Reviews Will Sharpen Focus On 'Moral Character,' Memo Says

By Grace Moon

The Trump administration has signaled it will further scrutinize immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship by ordering authorities to double down on efforts to determine whether applicants have "good moral character," according to a recent policy memo issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

On Friday, USCIS called for a more "rigorous, holistic and comprehensive" approach to evaluating those applying for naturalization, stating that "good moral character" is defined by an individual's "behavior, adherence to societal norms, and positive contributions." USCIS officers have been instructed to judge "on a case-by-case basis," the memo stated.

Experts say the directive and its vague language are reflective of the Trump administration's broader moves to limit legal immigration, leaving wiggle room for USCIS officers to make subjective choices about who gets to become a U.S. citizen.

While the order "is not necessarily a break from past practice," it emphasizes USCIS officers' ability to "impose their subjective interpretations of this fuzzy concept in their evaluations of naturaliza-



Software developer Sundari Narayanan, poses with President Trump holding her Citizenship certificate at the White House following a Naturalization ceremony Aug. 26, 2020.

PHOTO: VIDEOGRAM FROM WHITE HOUSE VIDEO OF CEREMONY

tion applicants," said Jane Lopez, an associate professor of sociology at Brigham Young University who specializes in immigration and citizenship policy.

According to Lopez, all applications for U.S. citizenship, permanent residency, tourism visas and student visas are by default subject to evaluation by one or more USCIS officers. These officers already have the "authority to deny that application for a multitude of reasons," she added.

The latest move could "make it harder

for noncitizens to obtain legal belonging in the United States," she said, since USCIS officers "must evaluate something they cannot consistently describe or define."

President Donald Trump has cracked down on immigration in his second term, launching what may be the largest domestic deportation operation in U.S. history and threatening to strip U.S. citizenship from some of those who have been naturalized. In April, USCIS also announced it would screen immigrants' social media for purported antisemitic activity and use any posts it finds as potential grounds for denying visa and green-card applications.

During his first term, Trump issued a sweeping executive order that significantly revamped the federal government's approach to illegal immigration by allowing the removal of those who "in the judgment of an immigration officer ... pose a risk to public safety or national security."

"Good moral character" has been a requirement for obtaining U.S. citizenship since the Naturalization Act of 1790. But Lopez said citizenship applicants are now faced with the additional burden of proving they have "positive attributes," rather than simply demonstrating they have not been convicted of crimes or taken part in other kinds of misconduct.

The USCIS memo cites "family caregiving, responsibility, and ties in the United States" as examples of positive attributes, as well as educational achievement and long-term community involvement.

In response to a question from The Washington Post about how "good moral character" will be defined, USCIS spokesman Matthew J. Tragesser said in a statement said that the memo ensures officers are accounting for applicants' contributions to U.S. society, "including community involvement, achievements, and financial responsibility rather than the absence of their misconduct." He said that U.S. citizenship should be offered only to "the world's best of the best."

Gabriel J. Chin, a professor and scholar of immigration law at the University of California at Davis, said the latest guidance is "so loose and discretionary that it is obviously susceptible to arbitrary enforcement."

"Many birthright U.S. citizens do not have sufficient educational or economic achievements that would entitle them to a visa to immigrate to the United States," Chin said in an email. "If they had not been born here, they would not make the cut."

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Indian American Congressmen Introduce Legislation Putting Conditions On Sale Of AI Chips To China

BY A STAFF WRITER

Ranking Members Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL, and Dr. Ami Bera, D-CA, introduced the No Advanced Chips for the CCP Act of 2025, legislation on August 22, 2025, to prevent advanced artificial intelligence semiconductors from reaching the People's Republic of China (PRC) unless both the Executive Branch and Congress explicitly approve the transaction.

The bill creates a national-security-driven review and places the approval of Congress as a condition for any exports under consideration to the PRC. U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda, D-HI, has also joined the bill as an original cosponsor.

"This legislation comes in direct response to President Trump's recent announcement that he is open to permitting exports of downgraded versions of NVIDIA's advanced Blackwell series chips to China," a press release from the Congressmen said. Krishnamoorthi and Bera contend that even "downgraded" chips could accelerate Beijing's ability to build AI supercomputers, threatening U.S. technological leadership and national security.

By requiring congressional approval, the No Advanced Chips for the CCP Act "ensures that these critical decisions will not be made unilaterally or traded away in backroom deals, but will instead undergo transparent and rigorous scrutiny con-



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL.

sistent with America's security interests," they said.

"For years, the Chinese Communist Party has treated America's cutting-edge chips like an all-you-can-eat buffet, fueling surveillance, military modernization, and influence campaigns," Krishnamoorthi is quoted saying in the press release. "This bill puts an end to that practice. If an advanced AI chip is headed to the PRC, the U.S. government must prove that its export to China serves our national security. Either Congress says 'yes,' or it doesn't go at all."

"Decisions about exporting our most advanced AI chips shouldn't be made unilaterally behind closed doors," said



Congressman Dr. Ami Bera, D-California.

Congressman Bera. "This bill reasserts Congress' authority and ensures that any such transfer to the People's Republic of China is subject to full scrutiny. Our national security demands a deliberate and lawful process, not ad hoc deals that risk handing over our technological edge to the PRC."

WHAT THE BILL DOES

- Requires dual approval for any export, reexport, or transfer of an advanced AI semiconductor to the PRC: (1) approval by the Secretary of Commerce after an interagency review with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretaries of Defense, Energy, and State; and (2) enactment of a joint

resolution of Congress approving the specific transaction.

- Mandates national-security review factors, including impacts on U.S. national security and technological leadership; risks of enabling PRC military applications or human rights abuses; availability of comparable technology from other sources; and economic impacts on U.S. companies and workers.
- Requires transparency to Congress via a detailed report on the chip, the intended Chinese recipient and use, the analysis conducted, and the basis for any approval.
- Provides narrow exceptions for humanitarian purposes, U.S. diplomatic/consular operations in the PRC, and returns for repair or replacement of previously lawful exports.
- Includes a three-year sunset to allow Congress to revisit and refine the regime as technology and threats evolve.

HOW THE BILL DEFINES "ADVANCED AI SEMICONDUCTOR"

A chip is covered if it exceeds any of the following thresholds: total processing performance above 2,400 or performance density of 1.6 or higher; DRAM bandwidth above 4,100 GB/s; interconnect bandwidth above 1,100 GB/s; or combined DRAM + interconnect bandwidth above 5,100 GB/s.

Community

Optima Global Solutions Gets Listed In Inc.5000 For The Third Time

BY A STAFF WRITER

New Jersey based technology solutions firm, Optima Global Solutions Inc., is listed for the third time in the Inc.5000 list of fastest-growing private companies in America. The company is ranked 104th in New Jersey and 315th in the IT Services.

First included in the list in 2011, Optima is ranked as the 8th fastest growing company in the Trenton-Princeton area, with over 85% growth recorded over the past three years, said a press release,

Optima (<https://www.optimags.com/>) shares this honor with companies like Microsoft, Dell and Zappos who have also been on the list in the past (<https://www.inc.com/inc5000/>).

Founder President and CEO Mahesh Yadav established Optima in 2001. It has almost twenty five years of experience in facilitates transformations. Optima has been providing strategic staffing, automation and AI-based solutions long before AI became popular.

"Our continued success and this Inc. 5000 ranking re-affirm our commitment to delivering strategic value through a boutique approach that prioritizes quality, innovation, and new technologies," said Yadav upon receiving the honor, according to the press release.

A leader in the IT services industry, Yadav is well



Founding President and CEO Mahesh Yadav of Optima Global Solutions at his office in Hamilton, NJ.

known in the New York tristate area for his business and community alliances.

Yadav is also Co-Founder & Executive Chairman of TranscendAP, Inc. (www.TranscendAP.com), a SaaS platform for Accounts Payable Automation solutions. He is also an Advisory Board Member with the Dept of Infor-

mation Analytics at the School of Business at Montclair State University, NJ.

He is an active Angel Investor in various early-stage and growth-oriented technology companies in the US and India. He is also a Board Member of The First Tee Greater Trenton, a youth development organization.

Yadav loves to play golf and is the founder of the South Asian Golf Association (SAGA) which he established in 2004 to promote golf in the South Asian community.

As a major Indian American company, Optima offers expert, scalable and diverse business solutions and deep-domain based resourcing capabilities. Optima has been working in partnership with industry's other solutions providers, including Tungsten Automation and Oracle.

Optima's client base is diverse, with clients from higher education, government, manufacturing and financial services.

Optima provides solutions, services and IT consulting resources to organizations to help them automate their internal businesses. Optima offers streamlined operations using robotics process automation, intelligent data capture, and best practices of business process management.

Optima Consulting Services practice provides mid to large sized organizations with highly personalized, comprehensive, US based recruiting services, delivering top IT professionals.

How One Scientist, Jagadish Shukla, Used 'A Billion Butterflies' To Predict The Weather

BY ANUSHA MATHUR

Standing in his home office in Bethesda, Maryland, meteorologist Jagadish Shukla gestured at the high-resolution satellite map of India hung on the wall. It shows every groove of his home country's geological landscape in vivid detail.

He swept his hand over the deep blue of the Arabian Sea and the bits of bright-white snow atop the Himalayas, launching into an impassioned mini-lecture on ocean temperature.

"The trick is how to find predictable components in a chaotic system," Shukla told me.

Shukla, who is 81, spends his days finding patterns, building models and defining boundaries to make sense of Earth's climate. He's come a long way from his childhood village in northern India, where he spent his summers playing outside and praying for rain.

The most anticipated season of each year was the annual monsoon, he writes in his memoir "A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory." Monsoons follow India's hottest period and last for months, providing both relief from the sun and fertility for the land.

But the monsoon also can be a source of suffering. Some years the rain brings intense flooding, while in others there's too little for a good harvest – or worst of all, drought and famine.

This unpredictability planted an idea in Shukla's mind: What if we could know? If the village had a monsoon forecast, farmers could plan for wetter years or brace themselves for drought.

In 1970, a nervous but optimistic 26-year-old Shukla arrived in Boston to pursue his doctorate at MIT. His goal: find a way to predict the Indian monsoon's seasonal impact.

At the time, weather forecasters relied heavily on "initial conditions" – how volatile factors such as temperature, pressure, wind or jet stream today might affect the weather tomorrow. As a result, meteorologists generally believed that predicting the weather beyond 10 days was a hopeless pursuit.

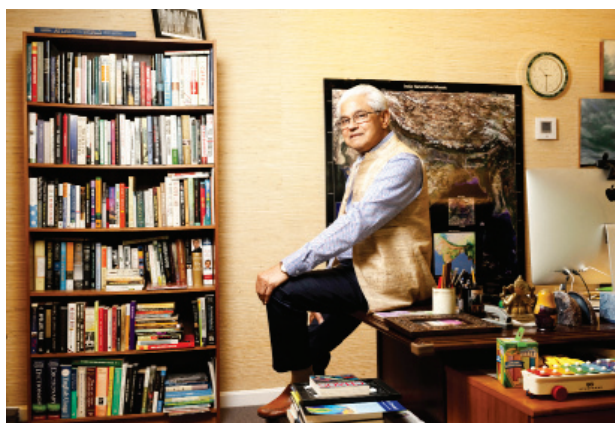
Soon after arriving at MIT, Shukla learned about the "butterfly effect," coined by renowned meteorologist Edward Lorenz. Lorenz observed that even the tiniest changes in initial weather conditions – something as small as a butterfly flapping its wings – could make an entire system chaotic over time.

"The idea is that if you change just one decimal point in your initial condition, you will get a different forecast after 10 days," Shukla said.

Lorenz's work made many scientists skeptical about whether seasonal predictability was worth focusing time or research on. But Shukla felt sure that – at least for the monsoon – there was knowledge to be gleaned from the chaos.

"He was constantly seeing the glass half-full and that we should keep looking, whereas the scientific community was saying that you're lucky to get anything out of that glass," said Timothy DelSole, an atmospheric and climate science professor at George Mason University who worked closely with Shukla.

Then came the breakthrough. While daily weather is driven by volatile initial conditions, seasonal averages are shaped by something else, "boundary conditions" such as ocean temperature, soil moisture, snow cover and vegetation. And these boundary conditions are a source of predictability.



Jagadish Shukla at his home in Rockville, Maryland, in June.



A copy of Shukla's book sits on a desk in his home.

"He was the one who really cared, who took those ideas and developed them and convinced other people," said David Straus, a climate dynamics professor at George Mason University who worked with Shukla. "Shukla had a really outside role in saying, 'Look, all these little pieces of evidence in the past are there, we can use them together.'"

In paper after paper, Shukla explored the interactions between Earth's surface and atmosphere – not just for the monsoon but in weather across the world. He founded the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere (COLA) at the University of Maryland, one of the first research groups dedicated to studying these interactions. COLA is now affiliated with George Mason University.

The ultimate proof of predictability came from Shukla's "billion butterfly" experiment.

"This question kept gnawing at me," he said. "People had already started believing seasonal predictability, but I had not written a paper exactly using the language of Lorenz."

Shukla's team ran simulations in which they dramatically changed the initial conditions – the metaphorical flutter of billions of Lorenz's butterflies – while keeping the boundary conditions fixed. Despite the day-to-day instability, the seasonal outcomes remained consistent. It was the origin of the phrase "predictability in the midst of chaos," which became the title of Shukla's bellwether paper, published in the journal *Science* in 1998.

"The result was stark," said James Kinter, current director of COLA. "The other papers that had come before that were all just little bricks in the wall, they're all just pieces. But the '98 paper was able to synthesize all that."

As Shukla deepened his work on dynamic seasonal prediction, a new scientific field was emerging: climate change. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Shukla's colleagues repeatedly asked if he would turn his attention to global warming. Shukla always declined.

He's quick to reject the label of skeptic but admits he "wasn't convinced yet" about global warming. He worried the claim of human-induced climate change was too bold, too early.

"I thought that was very dangerous for our field because suppose it gets delayed 10 years, then scientists will be blamed," Shukla said. "I was worried that we don't have enough data to prove it really convincingly."

Finally, in 2004, he accepted an invitation to serve on the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC) to work on its fourth comprehensive assessment of the climate. Coordinating lead author of the report David Randall said that Shukla was chosen for more than just his scientific background.

"Shukla, I think, is effective in both oral and written communication," Randall said. "He's a very persuasive guy in a kind of unaggressive way."

As Shukla listened to hundreds of experts, read comprehensive papers on climate change and saw the results from sophisticated models worldwide, he moved from ambivalence to alarm. He became convinced that global warming was real, rapid and human-induced.

In the bombshell IPCC report, published in 2007, Shukla and his fellow scientists declared that the "warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and identified "discernible human influences." That year, the panel received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work, along with former vice president Al Gore, with Shukla sharing in the honor.

"I cannot accept something simply on faith and belief," Shukla said. "The reason 2007 got the Peace Prize was because it was the first time our model said, 'Oh, it's now beyond the uncertainty.'"

Shukla believed the IPCC report would be a moment of reckoning. Instead, the report provoked forceful backlash from the fossil fuel industry. Companies began establishing coalitions and campaigns to sow the seeds of doubt about global warming and lobbied politicians to stall climate regulation.

In 2015, frustrated by the power of these fossil fuel corporations, Shukla wrote a letter to President Barack Obama, co-signed by dozens of his colleagues, urging the president to investigate energy companies for misinforming the public about climate change.

"Many people say: 'Oh, you're a scientist. You shouldn't say anything about it.' I don't agree. We're scientists, but we're also citizens of this society," Shukla said.

"I counseled against it at the beginning," Kinter said. "I didn't think it was a good idea because it would draw this huge spotlight of attention from bad actors. But he felt very strongly that it needed to be done."

In response, House Republicans accused Shukla's nonprofit of partisan political activity and demanded an investigation. The National Science Foundation's inspector general launched a formal probe.

"We knew that it was David and Goliath. We knew that this was a going up against a very powerful and well-funded machine," Kinter said. "But it was above and beyond what any of us expected."

It was one of the most "cruel and chaotic" times of Shukla's life. He shielded his colleagues from the details of the investigation at work, but back home was constant stress. Shukla was interrogated about the ins and outs of expense reports, handed over hundreds of documents and says he needed pills to sleep through the night.

"I already had heard about things like this, but when I experienced it firsthand, I knew how vicious it could be," Shukla said. "Before that, we used to just laugh and ignore all of it. Now, how can you laugh?"

After turning over thousands of records and receipts, the investigation came up empty.

Shukla squeezed a small plush ball on his desk, a blue sphere with green, continent-shaped blobs. Even scientists who dedicate their lives to predictability, he told me, must accept that outside of the lab, chaos reigns. Still, Shukla somehow always seems to be hurtling himself into the center of a storm. He set down the ball and looked straight at me.

"It's a small price to pay to defend the integrity of climate science," he said. "If we don't defend it, who will?"

-THE WASHINGTON POST

Indian Community Of Long Island Celebrates India's Independence Day And Krishna Janmashtami

BY A STAFF WRITER

Atended by over a thousand people, India's Independence Day was celebrated by the Indian community in Long Island on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the Long Island Marriott. Krishna Janmashtami was also celebrated at the same event, according to a press release from the organizers.

Organized jointly by Navika Capital Group and Blue Sky Hospitality Solutions, the event was also attended by invited guests, dignitaries, community leaders and political leaders, including Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and India's Member of Parliament Satnam Singh Sandhu.

The celebration, co-hosted by Dr. Raj Bhayani and Madhu Pareek, opened with Sanskrit invocation by Neha Bhansali, and a singing of both the American and Indian national anthems. This was followed by singing of patriotic songs by Budh Prakash. The Independence Day proclamation was read by Varinder Bhalla, followed by speeches from the special guests.

Addressing the gathering, Blakeman



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NAVIKA CAPITAL GROUP.

Naveen Shah, CEO of Navika Capital Group and Bruce Blakeman, County Executive, along with other community members in front of the India's Tricolor at the India Day celebration August 16, 2025 at Long Island Marriott.

spoke about the contributions of Indians in areas of business, technology and civic life. Recalling Prime Minister Modi's visit to Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum,

he wished the audience a happy Independence Day and declared August 15 as India's Independence Day in Nassau County. Sandhu commended Indian

Americans for preserving their traditions and respecting their roots.

Community leader Harry Singh Bola was quoted by the press release as saying, "Our efforts will be meaningful only when we put our differences aside, represent India as one country, one people, one person equals the whole community."

Speaking at the event, CEO of the Navika Capital Group Naveen Shah said, "...this celebration shows the strength of our community, our culture, and our unity". Chairman of the Group Haridas Kotahwala also spoke about pride in India's Independence Day. "Including Janmashtami made the occasion even more special, reminding us of our national heritage and spiritual traditions," he said, according to the press release.

The evening's program featured more patriotic music, dance, a skit on India's independence struggle and performance by the Nassau County Band. Singing of Bhajans was part of the evening's Janmashtami celebration, along with cake cutting.

A variety of dishes featured at the dinner. At the end of the evening, a box of sweets sponsored by Dr. Deepak Nandi was distributed to all as prasadam.



Community leaders and organizers attend the singing of the national anthems at India's Independence Day celebration August 16, 2025. Seen in the photo, along with others, are Indian MP Satnam Singh Sandhu (fourth from right) and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakewell (fifth from the right).



A skit to pay tribute to India's Independence struggle was part of the Independence Day celebration August 16, 2025 at Long Island Marriott.

Indian National Sentenced For Visa Fraud Conspiracy

BY A STAFF WRITER

Defendant staged armed robberies so that "victims" could apply for immigration benefits in exchange for thousands of dollars

An Indian national, unlawfully residing in New York, was sentenced August 20, 2025, in federal court in Boston for staging armed robberies in furtherance of a visa fraud conspiracy.

Rambhai Patel, 38, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Myong J. Joun to 20 months and eight days in prison, to be followed by two years of supervised release, and forfeiture of \$850,000.

Patel is subject to deportation after completing the imposed sentence. In May 2025, Patel pleaded guilty to

one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud. In December 2023, Patel was charged along with co-conspirator Balwinder Singh.

Beginning in March 2023, the FBI says, Patel and Singh set up and carried out staged armed robberies of at least 18 convenience/liquor stores and fast-food restaurants across the United States – including at least five in Massachusetts. The purpose of the staged robberies was to allow the store clerks to claim that they were victims of a violent crime on an application for U nonimmigrant status (U Visa). A U Visa is available to victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and who have been helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

During the staged robberies, the "robber" would threaten store clerks and/or owners with an apparent

firearm before taking cash from the register and fleeing, while the interaction was captured on store surveillance video. The clerks and/or owners would then wait five or more minutes until the "robber" had escaped before calling police to report the "crime." The "victims" paid Patel to participate in the scheme. One purported victim paid \$20,000 to participate as a victim in one of the staged armed robberies. In turn, Patel paid the store owners for the use of their stores for the staged robbery. Patel earned approximately \$850,000 in the scheme, all of which he is required to forfeit as part of his sentence.

At least two purported victim co-conspirators submitted U Visa applications based on being victims of the staged armed robberies.

Singh pleaded guilty in May 2025, and is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 24, 2025.

First India Day Parade In Seattle Highlights 'Unity In Diversity' Of 28 States



Consul General of India in Seattle and Mayor of Seattle along with others, flagging off the First India Day Parade in Seattle (16 August, 2025, Seattle).



Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harrell addressing the participants and visitors of the First India Day Parade in Seattle (16 August, 2025, Seattle)

BY A STAFF WRITER

More than 2,000 people came to enjoy the India Day Parade held for the first time in Seattle August 16, 2025. The 79th Independence Day celebrations, were organized by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, in partnership with the City, turning downtown Seattle. It showcased the rich cultures of all 28 states in India. An India Pavilion that put-on display ODOP (One District One Product) of each state and union territory of India.

Several dignitaries joined India's Consul General Prakash Gupta, at the event as Guests of Honour, including Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harrell, US Congressman Adam Smith, Seattle Port Commissioner Sam Cho, Seattle Parks & Recreation Superintendent/Director A P Diaz, King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, US Coast Guard's Northwest District Commander Rear Admiral Alex Avanni, Washington Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzalez, along with Mayors of Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Sammamish and North Bend.

The inaugural ceremony began with a prayer invocation from the Vedas, followed by flag hoisting of India and national anthems of India and the United States.

A cultural performance, Natyam: A Dance Mosaic of Bharat, showcased the diverse dance traditions from across India.

Consul General Gupta, along with the Mayor, and



Washington Telangana Association float led the many states depicted in the India Day Parade in Seattle August 16, 2025.

other participating dignitaries ceremonially flagged off the India Day Parade, with tricolor balloons rising in the sky and marking the start of the procession.

Mayor Harell welcomed the opening of the new Indian Consulate in Seattle as a landmark development and attributed the technological reputation of the city to the contributions of Indian Americans. It was an honor to host the Parade, he said, adding that US needs to learn India's message of love, compassion and non-violence.

Congressman Smith, in his address, emphasized that peace and security across the globe are of paramount

importance, noting that the United States has no better partner in working towards those goals than India.

The Indian Consulate estimated that "thousands" of Indian-Americans from across all States of India took part in the parade through floats and performances. Each float highlighted the unique culture, languages, and art forms of that region.

Each float and performance was coordinated by community groups led by prominent Indian-American community leaders. The Washington Telangana Association was the community lead, with other highlights including Gujarat's Garba, Maharashtra's spirited Lavani folk dance, Andhra Pradesh's graceful Kuchipudi, Odisha's Boita Bandana with Vande Utkala Janani, and West Bengal's float depicting the values of Swami Vivekananda.

Alongside the States and regional representations, thematic performances included Indian heritage arts, which displayed traditional paintings created by young Indian-Americans, and Gurukul, which celebrated India's linguistic diversity, and an energetic performance by Beats of Washington depicting the valour and legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji among many others.

A major attraction was the "India Pavilion," where more than 30 booths were set up to represent the 28 States of India along with several thematic exhibits. Each booth had distinctive One District One Product (ODOP) items, accompanied by descriptions highlighting their cultural and historical significance. Attendees also got to sample regional culinary specialties and checking out cultural artifacts.



US Congressman Adam Smith addressing the participants and visitors of the First India Day Parade in Seattle (16 August, 2025, Seattle).



Booths representing all 28 states of India displayed at the India Pavilion during the first India Day Parade in Seattle August 16, 2025.



TRAVEL

Japan News, The Washington Post



JAPAN SEES A SPIKE IN HIKING AND CLIMBING ACCIDENTS IN REGION AROUND MT. FUJI

Photo credit: canva

KOFU - Home to some of the most popular climbing mountains in Japan, including the iconic Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi Prefecture is a magnet for hikers. However, hiking and climbing accidents have spiked this year in

the prefecture's peaks, among them the Southern Alps, Daibosatsu and Doshi mountain ranges. As of the end of July, 120 people had gotten lost or had accidents on Yamanashi's mountains, an increase of about 60% from the same period in 2024. Eleven people died in these incidents. More than 80% of the people who got into trouble came from outside Yamanashi, so local police and other authorities have been going the extra mile to raise awareness about the importance of being fully prepared before hitting the trails. On the morning of Aug. 7, a bus arrived at the starting point for the climb up Mt. Kitadake, which at 3,193 meters is Japan's second highest peak.

This approach was tried for the first time on Aug. 6, when officers from the prefectural police's the mountain safety measures unit boarded the JR Chuo Line, which carries many hiking enthusiasts from Tokyo. The officers gave nutritional supplements and other items to hikers, checked their equipment and physical condition and explained in detail dangerous spots on the mountains the hikers planned to climb. Onboard announcements also reminded hikers to exercise caution on the trails.

In July, 15 accidents were reported on Mt. Kitadake, more than double the figure recorded in the same month last year. This surge prompted Minami-Alps Police Station, which is responsible for hiker safety on the mountain, to compile handmade maps with stickers marking areas where hikers got into difficulty on the trail. Intended to alert hikers to tricky spots at a glance, these maps are being displayed at mountain lodges and huts, and the police are calling on hikers to make use of them.

The prefectural police also are urging mountain climbers to draw up hiking plans based on a mountain trail grading scale displayed on the prefectural government's website and elsewhere. The scale indicates the difficulty of trails and other information.

Despite the rainy weather, the bus was almost full, with at least 50 hikers on board. Soon after arriving, the passengers slung large backpacks over their shoulders and made their way toward the mountain path. "I almost fell once as I came down a mountain," a 57-year-old company employee from Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, said as she steeled herself for the upcoming climb. "I'll use trekking poles and make sure I walk carefully." According to sources, including a website for mountain lodge reservations on Mt. Kitadake and its surrounding area, the number of people who stayed at these facilities in July increased by about 600 from the same month in 2024. The lodges were said to be mostly full on weekends.

Problems frequent on descents

The wide variety of mountains in Yamanashi is one reason the prefecture attracts so many hikers. The entire prefecture is dotted with well-known peaks such as Mt. Kitadake and Mt. Yatsugatake in the west, and Mt. Daibosatsu in the east

There are trails that cater to every level of hiker, from first-timers to advanced mountain climbers.

Outdoor activities gained attention during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the population of mountain climbers has been trending upward in recent years amid the boom in trekking on "low mountains."

However, hiking and mountain-climbing accidents have been occurring almost in proportion to the increase in people hitting the trails. According to the prefectural police, the number of people who got into trouble in the mountains between January and July had hovered at about 60 to 70 each year from 2021. But this year, that figure jumped to 120. Eleven people died and 36 people were seriously injured during that period. The age bracket that had the most accidents, with 27, was people in their 50s. This was followed by 25 people in their 60s, and 17 each in their 70s and their 20s.

These figures indicate that middle-aged and elderly hikers were involved in the bulk of the accidents.

"We want people to carefully consider their own physical strength and experience, and then select mountains suited to their level," said Shigeru Ono, deputy chief of the mountain safety measures unit.

Rescue services ink deal

In a bid to swiftly locate and rescue people who get into trouble while hiking in the mountains, the Otsuki Fire Department in Otsuki, Yamanashi Prefecture, in May inked a cooperation agreement with Authentic Japan Co., a private company that operates the Cocoheli helicopter rescue service.

Cocoheli is a membership-based service under which members receive a small transmitter that enables searchers to pinpoint their location even in mountainous areas where mobile phones do not get reception. About 170,000 people across Japan are members.

Under the agreement, Fukuoka-based Authentic Japan will promptly provide the fire department with the location data of any member who needs assistance. The department and Authentic Japan will reportedly also conduct joint rescue exercises.

By Hinako Suzuki / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

FIA Chicago Commemorate Bharat's 79th Independence Day At Daley Plaza

BY BHAILAL M. PATEL

The Tiranga soared high above Daley Plaza as the Indian American community came together to celebrate not only Bharat's 79th Independence Day but also the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—a timeless reminder of unity and resilience.

Chicago's Daley Plaza turned into a symbol of unity and patriotism as the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA estd.1980) Chicago, in collaboration with the National India Hub, hosted a historic celebration of Bharat's 79th Independence Day. The event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of over 120 participants, including dignitaries, elected officials, community leaders, and families who came together to honor India's freedom and cultural legacy.

The celebration was attended by among others, the Consul General Somnath Ghosh, FIA Trustee-Director Dr. Bharat Barai, Alderwoman Debra Silverstein, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, former MLA Sahab Singh, and several community stalwarts including Ajeet Singh, Nirav Patel, Ramesh Choksi, Raja Babu, Nitin Surti, Devesh Pandit, and Maharashtra Mandal Chicago President Nameeta Vedak, along with board members Chetan Rege, Archana Shripal, Ashwini Kunte, and trustee Madhav Gogwale.

In his keynote remarks, FIA President Hemant Patel paid tribute to the countless freedom fighters whose sacrifices made independence possible. He reflected on the resilience of Bharat's ancient civilization, urging the community to celebrate the occasion with joy, gratitude, and renewed responsibility. He also extended heartfelt thanks to FIA's sponsors, media partners, community organizations, over 60 member associations, youth participants, performers, and volunteers. Special acknowledgment was given to Consul General Ghosh and Dr. Barai for their steadfast encouragement and support.

This year's event carried a special theme, "150th Birth Anniversary of



PHOTOS: JK (Jatin Tharvedi)

The Tiranga soared high above Daley Plaza as the Indian American community came together to celebrate Bharat's 79th Independence Day by Treasurer Maria Pappas, community leaders and members of the diaspora gathered at Daley Plaza to commemorate the day.



In center: Treasurer Maria Pappas, community leaders and members of the diaspora gathered at Daley Plaza to commemorate the day.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — The Iron Man of Bharat." Leaders highlighted Sardar Patel's legacy of unity, courage, and determination, reminding the gathering of his unmatched role in shaping modern India.

INSPIRING SPEECHES AND PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

Addressing the gathering, Consul General Somnath Ghosh, Alderwoman Debra Silverstein, and Treasurer Maria Pappas delivered uplifting messages of unity and shared democratic values. FIA Trustee Rakesh Malhotra and former MLA Sahab

Singh echoed the importance of remembering Bharat's freedom fighters, emphasizing their role in securing a prosperous future for generations to come.

The event began with the soulful renditions of the American and Indian national anthems, followed by the proud hoisting of the Tiranga flag at the heart of Chicago's downtown—a moment of immense pride for the diaspora.

The cultural program brought the spirit of patriotism to life. Rasika Bandekar, an esteemed Bharatanatyam teacher, led

her students in energetic classical dance performances that captivated the audience. Youth participants and performers showcased Bharat's rich cultural heritage, symbolizing the blend of tradition and modernity within the Indian American community.

FIA executives, including Amar Upadhyay, Shailesh Rajput, Rohit Joshi, Anil Singh, Arvind Ankleshwaria, and trustees; Bhailal Patel, and Rakesh Malhotra—presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers, performers, and cultural contributors. Special gratitude was extended to Yash Desai for his dedicated efforts in curating the cultural lineup.

Despite strict time constraints imposed by the city and minor program delays, the celebration concluded with seamless coordination. The event stood as a shining example of community unity, cultural pride, and patriotism—proclaiming Bharat's Independence in the heart of Chicago with dignity and grandeur.

The celebration was marked by powerful reflections and messages that will continue to resonate within the community. "Sardar Patel's courage and vision continue to inspire Bharat and the world," noted Consul General Somnath Ghosh. FIA President Hemant Patel urged everyone to "celebrate with both joy and gratitude," while the sight of the Tiranga soaring proudly above Daley Plaza stood as a reminder that it "unites hearts across generations."

The 79th Independence Day was celebrated with flag hoisting, cultural performances, and community spirit. Posts extended warm gratitude to dignitaries, performers, and volunteers whose efforts honored freedom, culture, and shared values in the heart of Chicago. The visuals of the Tiranga rising high also commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, reminding all that his legacy of unity continues to guide the Indian American diaspora.

FIA President Hemant Patel extended his gratitude to the dignitaries, volunteers, and performers whose dedication made the celebration a resounding success—honoring freedom, culture, and community pride in the heart of Chicago.



Left to RT: Hemant Patel, addressing the gathering, Consul General Somnath Ghosh, and Amar Upadhyay.



In center: Alderwoman of City Chicago Debra Silverstein, community leaders and members of the diaspora gathered at Daley Plaza to commemorate the day.



Presenting awards for cultural performances at FIA Chicago 1980 celebration of India's Independence Day, Aug. 15, 2025



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Born in Nadiad, India, to Nanubhai and Pramila Majmudar, he excelled in scholarship and oratory and at 17 met the love of his life, Uma Mehta. Together they shared 70 years of partnership and 63 years of marriage, raising daughters Nija and Sangini.

After immigrating to the U.S. in 1967, he joined Emory University, where for four decades he taught as Professor of Pathology and Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Revered as a gifted teacher, he earned Emory's highest honor, the Evangeline Papegeorge Distinguished Teaching Award, and authored over 70 papers, while serving globally through the World Health Organization.

Beyond medicine, he was a Hindu priest, officiating more than 450 weddings, a Sanskrit scholar, poet, playwright, and a pioneer of Atlanta's Indian community.

Above all, he cherished family, especially his grandchildren
Hans, Arya, Indra, and Bodhi, who knew him as "Da."

Dr. Maj passed on August 15, 2025 — India's Independence Day. Honoring his wishes, he donated his body to medical education. A Celebration of Life will be held later this year.



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HOME OF NRSPAY

ITV Gold-Parikh Worldwide Media Welcome BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chug

BY A STAFF WRITER

Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary Tarun Chug visited ITV Gold studios in Edison, NJ, August 19, where he delivered a rousing speech about a rising India and the changes Prime Minister Narendra Modi had brought about toward the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, 'Developed Bharat 2047' – on the 100th year of its independence.

Chug, who is one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most trusted leaders, and the author of the book, Modi's Governance Triumph, dwelt on the major changes he said were brought about in the daily living conditions of the poor with healthcare insurance, toilets, tap water, gas for cooking, village roads, access to loans for the smallest roadside businesses.

He dwelt at length on the massive infrastructure expansion he said had



Bharatiya Janata Party's National General Secretary Tarun Chug at a Meet & Greet held in ITV Gold studio, Edison, NJ, August 19, 2025.



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chug, center, being welcomed by Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, 2nd from right, at the Meet & Greet August 19, at the ITV Gold studios in Edison, NJ.

PHOTOS: ITV Gold



From left, Rohit Vyas, veteran journalist, Jagdish Sewhani, community leader, Mrs. Tarun Chug, BJP leader Tarun Chug, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and Amit Taneja, at the Aug. 19, 2025, Meet & Greet in ITV Gold studios, Edison, NJ.



Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, speaking at the meet and greet with Tarun Chug, national general secretary of the BJP, at the ITV Gold Studio in Edison, NJ.



Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, speaking at the meet and greet with Tarun Chug, national general secretary of the BJP, at the ITV Gold Studio in Edison, NJ.

taken place since Modi came to power in 2014. Hundreds of thousands of miles of new roads, railway lines, airports, medical and healthcare facilities, startups (half of them started by women), all of which had raised millions of people above the poverty line.

Chug began by praising the Indian American community for its accomplishments and global renown. Speaking mostly in Hindi, Chug said, "I salute your journey and struggle."

Pointing to the video that was played about Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold, he concurred saying he appreciated the sentiment – Hum Bharat se door hain, per Bharat humse door nahin – We may be far from India, but India is not far from us.

"India lives in your breath," he said, adding "Even though I have met Sudhir just once, it seems like I have a very old rela-

tionship with him."

Dr. Parikh welcomed Chug describing him as "a very senior" member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, RSS, and "3rd generation Swayamsevak" as well as most trusted lieutenant of PM Modi, who had been entrusted with the responsibility of putting together the electoral plan which had brought his leader to power 3 times, starting in 2014.

Speaking about the years of the Covid pandemic, he noted India had surpassed expectations in the speed with which it was able to not only provide the care, but also develop two vaccines to counter the dreaded disease. The 'lockdown' he said prepared the nation to fight Covid, get beds ready, hospitals ready, get masks and build capacity and great speed.

As for the defense of the country, he said Prime Minister Modi and the nation as a whole, were determined never to let any attack go unanswered with equal ac-

tion and force.

"Today, we stop the water, stop the trade, and give the armed forces a free hand to build the strategy," to counter any attacks, he said mentioning Operation Sindoor as an example. But while countering any attack, he said, India did not attack civilians.

He said the nation has moved forward from the colonial mindset under Modi's leadership. He criticized the Congress Party for its policies, and previous administrations for acting against people "who say Jai Shri Ram."

"The Bharat in your heart is moving forward fast, and it is in secure hands," Chug said, guided by a person dedicated to grow the country. He touched on the revocation of Article 370 which gave Jammu & Kashmir autonomy, and harked back to the expulsion of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits from their homeland.

Chug spoke of the rise of women in

various spheres from the armed forces and space research to village panchayats. As for the youth, he said, their opportunities were being expanded with tech hubs and startup opportunities.

"In every sphere, India is moving forward," he said, including in energy production, agriculture, and farmers' rights. He also pointed to the hundreds of Indians, including children, who had been brought out of war zones from around the world, to the safety of India. "Our administration hears the voice of our citizens, whether in the Middle East or in Nepal."

The whole world is looking at India and to India for its message of peace and brotherhood, he said, clarifying – "But peacer through strength."

He urged everyone to join India in reaching the goal of Viksit Bharat.

A brief question and answer session followed.

Hundreds Of Thousands Enjoy FIA's Massive 43rd India Day Parade In The Big Apple



Grand Marshals of FIA's 43rd Annual India Day Parade Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda, left and center, with Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media.



Leaders of FIA including Ankur Vaidya, Saurin Parikh, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, as well as on right Dr. Amit Chakravarti, president of AAPI, pose for photo at India Day Parade in Manhattan August 17, 2025.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Saurin Parikh, and Grand Marshal Vijay Deverakonda on a float at FIA's 43rd Annual India Day Parade in Manhattan.



Grand Marshal Rashmika Mandanna on the FIA float at the 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan.



Dr. Sudhir Parikh, US Congressman Shri Thanedar, D-Michigan, and Dr. Sudha Parikh at the FIA 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan.



Mayor of New York City Eric Adams, center, with Dr. Priyanka Parikh, left, and Dr. Ravi Parikh, right, at the India Day Parade

By A STAFF WRITER

Large crowds were gathering, Indian patriotic songs like Vande Mataram, and slogans like “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” were ringing out in the background, and NYPD personnel on motor bikes with Indian flags tucked in their front pockets, were on the ready for the kickoff of one of the largest parades in New York City Sunday August 17, 2025.

It was the Federation of Indian Associations’ (FIA-NY-NJ-CT-NE) 43rd Annual India Day Parade. Organizers estimated hundreds of thousands of participants and spectators were on the Madison Avenue route to witness a spectacular celebration of Indian culture and heritage.

This year’s parade theme was “Sarve Sukhina Bhavantu” (May All Be Happy and Prosperous), a spirit of universal well-being and unity that defines the Indian-American community, organizers said.

While participants were trying to grab a front viewing position on the sidewalks, media including ITV Gold/ Parikh Worldwide Media, and numerous other media outlets, were going around taking in opinions and messages from those gathered.

At the helm of the Parade were charismatic Grand Marshals from India’s film industry, Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda, for whom crowds cheered and surged to the barricades.



FIA executive committee members at the 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan.

Speaking to ITV Gold, Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, said it was important to remember the heroes of India’s independence while celebrating. “This is a

great opportunity to connect the Diaspora and improve US – India relations,” he said.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Hundreds Of Thousands Enjoy FIA's Massive 43rd India Day Parade In The Big Apple

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Among the dignitaries and high-profile guests were NYC Mayor Eric Adams who praised the Indian American community's significant contributions to the Big Apple. "Such a beautiful turnout, beautiful weather. We want to say keep doing the great things you're doing in the city," he said.

United States Congressman Shri Thanedar, D-Michigan, told ITV Gold he was excited to attend the parade and felt the palpable enthusiasm. It was time for the younger generation to be more involved in politics and consider it as a career option, he said.

India's Consul General in New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, in his remarks, praised the diaspora. "It's a truly momentous day to see India being celebrated on Madison Avenue with hundreds of thousands of people. This only signifies the prominence of the Indian American community and what you have achieved in this country," Pradhan said. It was a matter of pride to see India spread all around New York and America, he told Desi Talk. "My message to the younger generation Retaining Indian culture and holding the American values would be a great combination for the second and third generations," CG Pradhan said.

Indian Member of Parliament, Satnam Singh Sandhu, who is on the Standing Committee on External Affairs and Consultative Committee on Education, came all the way to attend the two-day celebration for the second time.

Others present were local and state leaders including Montgomery Township Mayor Neena Singh, and Sibun Nair, director of Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs, New York State Executive Chamber. Also present was Amit Chakrabarty, president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI).

FIA President Saurin Parikh expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming community support and participation. "This parade represents the strength and unity of our community. Seeing families from across the tri-state area come together to celebrate our rich heritage fills me with immense pride. The success of this event reflects our collective commitment to preserving and sharing Indian culture with future generations."

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya emphasized the parade's significance in strengthening cultural bonds. "The 43rd India Day Parade has once again demonstrated the vibrant spirit of the Indian-American community. This celebration honors our traditions while showcasing how beautifully our culture integrates with American values. We are proud to organize this platform that brings together diverse communities in celebration of our shared heritage."

The parade featured 34 spectacular floats, 21 marching groups, and 20 cultural performances representing India from east to west and north to south. Among the highlights was ISKCON's Divine Jagannath Rath Yatra Chariot, which appeared the tallest of all. The parade route stretched through Manhattan, displaying India's diversity with the array of culturally, religiously, and artistically significant floats.

Participants wore colorful traditional attire and moved to the energetic rhythms of Indian music.

Title sponsor Cricmax Connect's float reflected the American youth cricket revolution, bearing the potential of becoming a familiar site in American playgrounds, FIA said in the press release. A large number of children played box cricket at Madison and Park Avenue, portraying the growing popularity of the sport.



Parikh Worldwide Media/ITV Gold float, left, and staff of the media outlet on the float at the August 17, 2025, 43rd India Day Parade organized by FIA.



Scenes from FIA's 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan August 17, 2025.



From left, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, president of AAPI, Dr. Sunita Kanumury, and Dr. Sanjay Agarwal pose for a photo at FIA's 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan Aug. 17, 2025.



Scenes from FIA's 43rd India Day Parade in Manhattan August 17, 2025.

The celebration extended beyond the parade with 38 cultural booths featuring community exhibitions and interactive programs showcasing reflecting India's heritage.

dhivinayak Temple-USA, BJANA, GANA, AAPI, MOCAA-PI, and Empire State Building.

Following the parade, the festivities continued at the Cultural Stage with a variety of performances spanning both timeless traditional forms and exciting contemporary expressions of Indian music and dance. Adding to the fun was one of the main attractions: the lively Paani Puri Contest, which saw enthusiastic participation from the community.

FIA said this year's Parade "stands as the largest celebration of Indian culture in New York City." It also recognized the support received from numerous partners including The Consulate General of India-NY, Dunkin, Mount Sinai, Axria, SBI, RWJ Barnabas, Times Network, JetBlue, ICICI Bank, Option Group, AIF, Bansal Foundation, Mehta Foundation, Tak Group, Insta Service, Faith Home Healthcare, Bombino, Andaaz, Sid-

Understanding Administrative Processing (INA §221(g)) in 2025: What Visa Applicants Need to Know

By David H. Nachman, Esq

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Phulwani



David Nachman



Ludka Zimovcak



Snehal Batra

For many visa applicants, the consular interview feels like the last step in the process. However, some are told at the end of the interview that their case cannot yet be approved and will undergo “administrative processing” under Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This status can be frustrating and uncertain, but understanding why it happens – and how to respond – can help you prepare and avoid unnecessary delays.

What Is Administrative Processing?

Administrative processing occurs when a U.S. consular officer determines that a visa application needs additional review before a final decision can be made.

Under INA §221(g), a case may be temporarily refused until:

- Additional documents are submitted, or
- Required background, security, or interagency checks are completed.

The Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) directs officers not to disclose the specific reason for the review, but applicants are typically told if further documents are needed.

How It Appears in the System

When a case is in administrative processing, the Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) often lists the status as “Refused” under §221(g). This does not mean the application has been denied permanently – it is a temporary hold until the requested action is completed.

Common Reasons for Administrative Processing

1. Missing or Incomplete Documentation

- Required records – such as certified court or police documents, employment verification, or academic credentials – are missing or insufficient.
- The case will remain pending until the applicant provides the requested information.

2. Security Clearances

- Cases may require interagency review if there are concerns related to national security, prior travel history, or sensitive fields of study or work (e.g., those on the Technology Alert List).
- Name similarities to individuals on U.S. government watchlists can trigger additional checks.

3. Database “Hits”

- Biographic or biometric information matches government records that require verification before proceeding.
- Past immigration violations, visa refusals, or certain criminal histories may prompt a deeper review.

Special Categories of Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs)

In some situations, consular officers request a formal Security Advisory Opinion from the U.S. Department of State before issuing a visa. Examples include:

- Visa Donkey – name or identity matches that need to be cleared
- Visa Mantis – sensitive or dual-use technology concerns
- Visa Condor – nationals of countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism

Typical Timelines

- The U.S. Department of State notes that most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days of the interview. However, timelines vary depending on the complexity of the case and the type of review required.

Applicants should:

- Apply for their visas well in advance of anticipated travel
- Be prepared for possible delays beyond the standard processing time.

Practical Tips for Applicants

- Prepare in Advance – Bring all required and supporting documents to your interview to reduce the risk of delays.
- Respond Quickly – If you receive a §221(g) notice requesting additional documents, provide them promptly.
- Monitor CEAC Status – Regularly check the online portal for updates.
- Allow Extra Time – Do not make non-refundable travel plans until your visa is issued.
- Seek Guidance – If your background, work, or travel history might trigger additional checks, consult an immigration attorney before applying.



All Photos: Canva

Final Thoughts

While administrative processing under INA §221(g) can be an unwelcome surprise, it is a routine part of U.S. visa adjudication for certain cases. By preparing thoroughly, responding quickly to requests, and allowing extra time before planned travel, applicants can improve the chances of a smooth resolution.

At NPZ Law Group, we guide clients through the visa application process, including cases placed in administrative processing, to help minimize delays and protect travel plans.

FAQs

Q: Does “Refused” on CEAC mean my visa is denied?

A: Not necessarily. Under §221(g), “Refused” often means your case is on hold pending additional action.

Q: How long will my case be in administrative processing?

A: Many cases are resolved within 60 days, but some require more time depending on the circumstances.

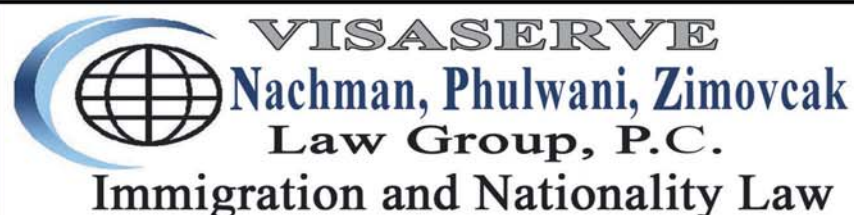
Q: Can I speed up administrative processing?

A: While you cannot bypass required checks, you can avoid delays by submitting all requested documents promptly and ensuring your application is complete from the start.

Contact Information

If you or your family members have any questions about how immigration and nationality laws in the United States may affect you, or if you want to access additional information about immigration and nationality laws in the United States or Canada, please do not hesitate to contact the immigration and nationality lawyers at NPZ Law Group.

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India, Russia Agree To Boost Trade Ties After Foreign Ministers Meet In Moscow

India and Russia agreed to boost trade ties on Thursday, August 21, 2025, as their foreign ministers met in Moscow, giving little indication that U.S. President Donald Trump's hefty tariffs on India for buying Russian oil would disrupt their relations.

Indian goods face additional U.S. tariffs of up to 50%, among the highest imposed by Washington, due to New Delhi's increased purchases of Russian oil.

Western countries boycotting Russian crude say India's purchases are helping to fund Moscow's war in Ukraine. But New Delhi says its purchases are purely commercial transactions, and accuses the U.S. and European Union of double standards, noting that they continue significant trade with Moscow themselves.

"We have good results in cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, in the supply of Russian oil to the Indian market. And we have a mutual interest in implementing joint projects for the extraction of energy resources, including in the Russian Federation – in the Far East and on the Arctic shelf," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a joint news conference with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Jaishankar said that relations between the two countries had been among the steadiest of major nations in



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov shakes hands with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar during a joint press conference following their talks at Zinaida Morozova's Mansion in Moscow, Russia August 21, 2025.

the world since World War Two, referring to a close friendship going back to the days of the Soviet Union.

The two countries reaffirmed their ambition to expand bilateral trade, including by increasing India's exports to Russia, Jaishankar said, according to a statement from India's foreign ministry.

"This (trade expansion) requires swiftly addressing non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments," Jaishankar said. "Enhancing Indian exports to Russia in sectors like pharmaceuticals, agriculture and textiles will certainly help to correct the current imbalance."

Russia was able to divert its exports of oil, a significant source of state revenue, away from Europe and mainly to China and India after the West imposed sanctions on Moscow over its conflict in Ukraine.

India and China are the biggest buyers of Russia's oil.

Russian embassy officials in New Delhi said on Wednesday that Russia expected to continue supplying oil to India despite pressure from the United States, adding that Moscow hoped trilateral talks with India and China would soon take place.

-REUTERS

India Slams Pakistan With Hypocrisy On Gender Based Crimes

By ARCHANA ADALJA

-UNITED NATIONS

India criticized Pakistan for duplicity and hypocrisy in regard to gender based violence at the United Nations Open Debate held August 19, 2025 on "Innovative Strategies to Ensure Access to Life-Saving Services and Protection for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones".

Mentioning the historical 1971 heinous sexual crimes recorded against women in the then East Pakistan, India pointed out that such crimes continue even today in Pakistan.

"Rampant abduction, trafficking, child early and forced marriages and domestic servitude, sexual violence and forced religious conversions of thousands of vulnerable women and girls as weapons of persecution towards religious and ethnic minority communities are reported and chronicled including in the recent OHCHR reports," pointed out Charge d' Affaires, Eldos Punnoose, delivering India's statement.

Convened by Panama who has the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of August, the debate sought to identify innovative strategies to make life-saving services and protection available to survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones.

A discussion on the Secretary General's report on conflict related sexual violence was part of the debate. Also discussed was



Mauritian barrister Pramila Patten, the Secretary General's Special Representative dealing with issues of sexual violence in conflict (left) and Eldose Punnoose, the charge d'affaires of India's Permanent Mission to the UN (right) addressing the Security Council on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

the role of the UN in addressing this issue, particularly that of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict which was created by the Security Council in 2009 through Resolution 1888.

The debate was attended by representatives of organizations and UN Member States including the European Union, Ireland, Australia, Estonia and India who all delivered statements. Participants also included Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, and Sudanese

women's rights leader, Ikhlass Ahmed.

Speaking of measures India is taking to deal with sexual violence, Punnoose mentioned India's Prime Minister Modi's membership to the Circle of Leadership on prevention of such crimes and a voluntary agreement India has entered into.

"Our dedication to the cause can be seen from the fact that in Nov 2017, a voluntary compact was reached between UN Secretary-General and the Government of India on commitment to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping,

humanitarian and development work," Punnoose said.

Punnoose then listed steps taken by India for women's safety, making special mention of establishing of the \$1.2 billion Nirbhaya Fund for women's safety and implementation of related legislation.

Other concrete steps include establishing new response systems including a pan India Emergency Response Support System by calling 112; Sakhi One Stop Centers for police assistance, medical care, shelter and legal aid; and Fast Track Special Courts dedicated to women's safety, Punnoose said.

Speaking about India's willingness to share its expertise and experience with other Member States, Punnoose referred to the introduction of specialized courses addressing sexual and gender based violence in armed conflict at the Center for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in Delhi.

Punnoose also drew attention to India's being first to deploy in 2007 all women Formed Police Unit to the UN Mission in Liberia, and its recent deployment of Women's teams to MONUSCO in Congo, to UNISFA in Abyei and to UNMISS in South Sudan.

Stressing the need to adopt a survivor-centric approach which would include prosecuting and deterring such crimes in conflict situations and ensuring no impunity for perpetrators, India reaffirmed its commitment to root out sexual violence in armed conflict and support and assist survivors of such heinous crimes.

ASTROLOGY

This week for you



E-mail: psharma@premaastrologer.com Contact No - 01147033152/40532026

ARIES: You may not be easily swayed by someone's efforts to impress you this week. A sudden financial gain could surprise some of you. It's time to shake off laziness and commit to your fitness goals. Family matters might eat into your work hours. A drifting focus in studies can lead to setbacks, so stay sharp. Workplace politics could drain your energy. Your romantic life could use some emotional spark.

TAURUS: Don't act impulsively—evaluate advice before you follow it. Professional demands may pull you in multiple directions, but you'll manage with grace. An investment might not yield as expected just yet, but patience is key. Academically, progress may feel slow, but it's no reason to lose hope. Keep going.

GEMINI: Workplace circumstances seem to tip in your favour. You're likely to make a strong impact in your academic pursuits. A job well done earns you recognition. A joyful family gathering may be on the horizon. Be attentive to your partner's emotional cues—they're trying to say something important. A spontaneous travel opportunity should not be missed.

CANCER: Taking a break from the routine may recharge your spirit. Your efforts on the social front will earn you appreciation. Someone may extend unexpected support when you most need it. Flirtatious vibes may rise as you seize an exciting romantic opportunity. Home renovations may finally get the go-ahead.

LEO: You'll find strong support just when you need it most. Reuniting with close friends or relatives will lift your spirits. Your social calendar might get busier and more exciting. Work becomes less intense, offering a breather. Be cautious of someone buttering you up for their benefit. You may find yourself admiring even your competitor's success.

VIRGO: Keep certain things private to avoid being taken advantage of. A festive event will uplift your mood. You won't hesitate to spend generously on loved ones. Work may throw a few challenges your way—handle them with poise. Take extra care of a recurring health issue, especially due to seasonal changes.

LIBRA: Trying to manipulate outcomes may backfire—adopt a sincere approach instead. Your professional inputs will enhance your credibility. Academically, you may complete something important with finesse. Vacation plans are likely to bring excitement. Rekindle old connections—you'll enjoy the reunions. Your romantic equation improves with emotional honesty.

SCORPIO: You might be tempted to switch jobs, but don't rush—things aren't always greener elsewhere. Your thorough preparation gives you confidence in studies. Clarify new responsibilities at work with superiors. Surprise your partner with a heartfelt romantic gesture. A lingering ailment is likely to ease this week.

SAGITTARIUS: Hosting someone from out of town may earn you admiration. Work responsibilities could feel overwhelming. Academically, it's time to get serious to avoid falling behind. Love life looks fun and full of light moments. A family member may indulge in unnecessary expenses. Handle business matters with care. Take precautions health-wise in this weather.

CAPRICORN: Delays in taking initiative may lead to missed chances—act proactively. Entrepreneurs can expect positive momentum. Profits from earlier investments may exceed expectations. Health improves with changes in daily habits. Fitness goals become more attainable. Adjusting to a new work environment might be necessary. Domestic matters may demand serious attention.

AQUARIUS: You may sense a major change approaching, along with a touch of anxiety. Think twice before taking bold steps at work. Avoid launching new ventures for now—wait for the right moment. Academic performance needs improvement to stay on track. Be cautious with stock market dealings this week.

PISCES: Avoid making jokes at someone's expense—it could backfire. Feeling unmotivated is temporary, so ride it out. You may soon acquire new property or land. A smart solution you offer at work will earn you praise. Lingering tensions will begin to dissolve. Health initiatives start showing results.

THIS WEEK WITH Dr. SUDHIR PARIKH



INDIA ADVOCATE, PUBLISHER, PHILANTHROPIST, PHYSICIAN.

A WEEKLY SHOW



6:30 PM

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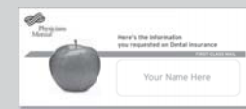
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I, Lovepreet, son of Satnam Singh, residing at Bhattmajra, Saraswati Khera (34), Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Haryana – 136128, India / 11631 Lincoln Street, South Ozone Park, NY 11420, United States, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Singh Lovepreet. All concerned may please take note.

08/29 SH

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08/29-JG

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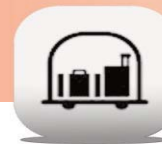


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08/15-09/12-SH

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08/15-09/05 SD

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08/15- 10/10 SH

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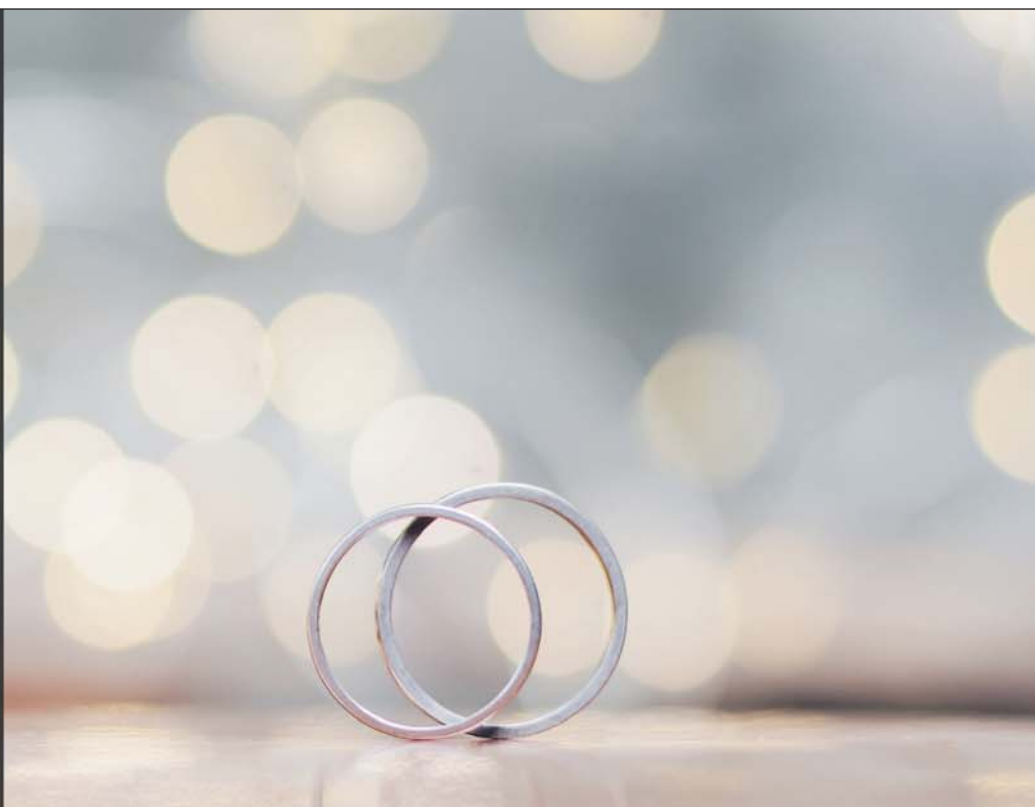
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A New Book By Giri Nathan Celebrates The Rivalry Of Carlos Alcaraz And Jannik Sinner

By JOSH LEVIN

"Changeover: A Young Rivalry and a New Era of Men's Tennis"

By Giri Nathan
Gallery. 258 pp. \$28.99

There was a time not that long ago when sports legends granted writers unfettered access to their lives and thoughts. That's how we learned who Muhammad Ali, Bobby Knight and Jimmy Connors really were: Journalists got into the rooms that fans couldn't, and wrote down what they saw and heard – with little editorial interference.

Now, the balance of power between sportswriters and their subjects has flipped, and warts-and-all books and magazine features have given way to authorized documentaries. Netflix's "Carlos Alcaraz: My Way," which premiered in the spring, opens in the Spanish tennis star's bedroom, where he shows off his sneaker collection and haul of grand slam trophies. But in the end, that three-part series offers only the illusion of intimacy. There's loads of access but not much insight: We see what Alcaraz and his management team want us to see, and we hear what they want us to hear. My way, indeed.

In his new book, "Changeover: A Young Rivalry and a New Era of Men's Tennis," about the rise of the spellbinding Alcaraz and his merciless Italian rival, Jannik Sinner, Giri Nathan acknowledges that he didn't pierce anyone's inner sanctum. Nathan's main interactions with his subjects come at stage-managed news conferences, where he has the privilege of occasionally asking a single question. "Changeover" is the inverse of a glossy documentary, and it is ultimately more rewarding than one, at least for fans of the sport that the 22-year-old Alcaraz and 24-year-old Sinner are reinventing. With his critic's eye and powers of description,

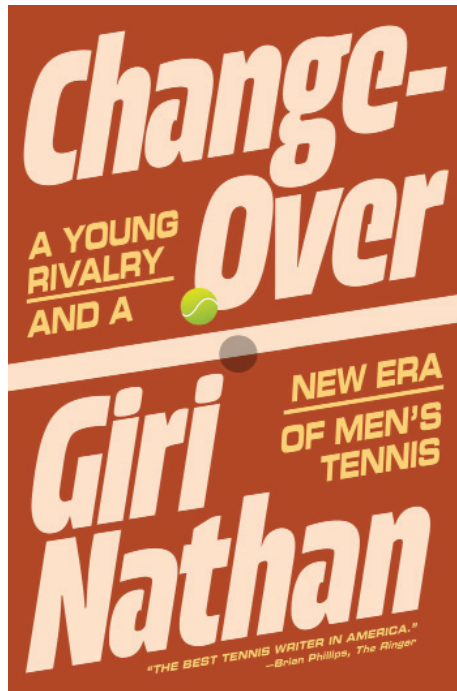


PHOTO: GALLERY

Nathan delivers loads of insight without the benefit of access. His book shows how two young men came to dominate tennis and our imaginations even if it can't reveal who they really are.

The best evidence that Nathan, a staff writer at Defector, is an astute tennis observer is that he started working on "Changeover" in 2023, when Alcaraz had just two grand slam titles and Sinner owned zero. They've since combined to win seven grand slams in a row and played each other in the last two major finals, at the French Open (in one of the greatest tennis matches ever, won by Alcaraz) and Wimbledon (where Sinner got his revenge).

The Spaniard and the Italian first got Nathan's attention in 2022, when they faced off in a five-hour-plus quarterfinal at the U.S. Open. Nathan calls that match, a five-set victory for the then-teenage

Alcaraz, "a smothering counterexample to anyone fussing about what tennis could even be after the old gods faded away. New gods take their place."

These two new gods – successors to the Big Three of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic – have emerged with shocking speed and force. When a scout first heard Sinner play, he thought he was listening to the clamor of a construction site, not the sound of a 14-year-old hitting tennis balls. Alcaraz, with his feathery drop shots and lashing forehands, arrived on the pro circuit with a preternatural ability to befuddle or overpower, depending on his whim. Alcaraz comes off as a mercurial entertainer, Sinner a metro-nomic introvert. And when they share the court, Nathan writes, they force each other to reengineer a game that has been played for centuries, "inventing a new grammar all their own."

In diagramming their play, Nathan conjures his own vivid imagery. Describing their eighth career meeting, last year at Indian Wells, he writes that Alcaraz and Sinner "flew around ... like air hockey pucks, occupying some frictionless and freer version of the world that we in the crowd could not access despite sitting just a few feet above them." Of another, he notes that "the trick of playing Alcaraz is to strip him of opportunities to remember how original he is." And it was Sinner, at his best, who "managed to pin Alcaraz to the back of the court, as a butterfly to a corkboard."

Even prose this clarifying can't quite convey the feeling of watching Alcaraz and Sinner glide and pummel their way around the court. (Credit where it's due: For all the flaws of that Netflix documentary, it does include ample footage of Alcaraz playing tennis.) "Changeover" is best experienced with your phone by your side, and YouTube cued up to whatever "Sincaraz" exchange that Nathan says is worth watching. "The absolute best tennis induces laughter in audiences," he writes about their 2024 match in Beijing. When

I launched the extended highlights, I laughed, a lot.

That year, 2024, wasn't a laugh riot for Sinner, even though he won two grand slams and finished the season ranked No. 1 in the world. In August, followers of the sport learned that he'd tested positive for a trace amount of a banned anabolic steroid. The story Sinner told of how that drug, clostebol, got into his system – via his masseuse's bandaged finger – was, as Nathan argues, at once absurd and plausible. And the resolution of that positive test, a three-month ban in which Sinner missed no major tournaments, both harmed his reputation and allowed him to continue accumulating trophies.

Sinner's suspension and the ballyhoo around it invited a whole range of questions, including from Nathan. The Italian has answered almost none of them in any depth, leaving us to speculate about what he did and how he felt. "What we lose, in this new media ecosystem," Nathan writes, "are the thornier narratives that the players themselves don't want to share." What we're left with is the only thing that's unambiguous about Sinner: his talent. For Nathan, his play evokes "the popular cinematic depiction of aliens: slender, possessed of a strength irreconcilable with our understanding of human anatomy, demure in affect, capable of lethality without visible exertion. I found it hypnotic."

At this stage of Sinner's life and career, that kind of appreciation of what he does and how he transfixes us comes off as more authentic than any attempt to explain who he is. Like all great rivalries, Alcaraz vs. Sinner will endure because of how their matches make us feel. The story that Giri Nathan tells in "Changeover" is about the transcendence we've already seen and the possibilities we can't see coming. Tennis's new gods may feel distant, but every sports fan is grateful they're here.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Entertainment

Neil Nitin Mukesh, Divya Khosla Starrer Comedy Thriller 'Ek Chatur Naar' Teaser Out

The teaser for Neil Nitin Mukesh starrer comedy thriller 'Ek Chatur Naar' is out, giving viewers a first glimpse of the film that promises humour, suspense, and mind games.

The film also stars Divya Khosla in a lead role.

The teaser, released on Thursday, offers a mix of comedy and chaos with Ravi Kishan's voiceover giving an idea of what is described as a story full of clever tricks and unexpected turns. Directed by Umesh Shukla, the film appears to revolve around a game of wits where nothing is as simple as it looks.

Earlier this month, the makers had unveiled the motion poster of the film, introducing Neil and Divya's characters. In the poster, Divya was seen cutting vegetables with a mysterious look on her face, while Neil, appeared sharply dressed in a suit, holding a gun with a sly smile.

Sharing the poster on Instagram, Neil Nitin Mukesh had written: "Samajhne mein waqt lagega... par jab samajh jaoge toh der ho chuki hogi."

Ek Chatur Naar is produced by Umesh Shukla, Ashish Wagh, and Zeeshan Ahmad. The film will hit theatres on 12 September 2025.

Neil was last seen in the musical drama 'Hai Junoon-Dream, Dare, Dominate'. Directed by Abhishek Sharma, the movie also starred Jacqueline Fernandez, Sumedh Mudgalkar, Siddharth Nigam, Yukti Thareja, Aryan Katoch, Priyank Sharma, Kunwar Amar, Mohan Pandey, Elisha Mayor, Sanchit Kundra, Sanatana Roach, Devangshi Sen, Anusha Mani, Bhavin Bhanushali, Arnav Magoo, and Yukti Thareja in pivotal roles.

-ANI

Players To Miss Out From Asia Cup 2025 Squad



PHOTO: SOURCE: IPL



PHOTO: SOURCE: X/YASHASVI JAISWAL



SOURCE: IPL



SOURCE: X/@BCCI

Team India for the Asia Cup 2025 was unveiled on Tuesday, with skipper Suryakumar Yadav leading the squad and Shubman Gill as his deputy, with several major names missing out. Let's take a look at the players who will miss out from the Asia Cup 2025 squad.

SHREYAS IYER

Shreyas Iyer, who had an incredible IPL season this year for the Punjab Kings (PBKS), scoring 604 runs in 17 matches, was left out of the squad.

YASHAVI JAISWAL

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had incredible IPL seasons this year for the Rajasthan Royals (RR), has been left out. Jaiswal is not in the main squad, but rather in the reserves group alongside other players.

PRASIDH KRISHNA

Prasidh Krishna was left out of the squad despite being the Purple Cap holder for most wickets in IPL 2025, with



PHOTO: SOURCE: KL RAHUL INSTAGRAM

25 wickets in 15 matches at an average of 19.52.

KL RAHUL

In the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, KL Rahul emerged as the third-highest run-getter, with 532 runs in 10 innings at an average of 53.20, with two centuries and two fifties and a best score of 137. He was India's second-highest run-getter in the series, behind skipper Shubman Gill (754 runs).



RAVI BISHNOI

Ravi Bishnoi made his T20I debut for India in February 2022. In the same year, he made his ODI debut as well. In 42 T20 for India, Bishnoi has grabbed 61 wickets at an average of 19.37 and an economy of 7.35.

-ANI

“He Deeply Cared About Team”: Former India Head Coach Dravid About Relationship With Rohit

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid spoke about working with former T20I and Test Captain Rohit Sharma during their stint together that ran for nearly three years.

It was Dravid and Rohit's duo that brought an end to India's 17-year thirst for the ICC T20 World Cup trophy in 2024. In a historic final in Barbados, India remained unbeaten to lift the coveted T20 World Cup trophy by trouncing South Africa in a nailbiting contest in the final.

Emotions overwhelmed the Indian camp, including Dravid, who is known for his calm and unfazed demeanor since his playing days. Rohit hid his face on the ground, hiding his tears, while Dravid lifted the title in the air with a jubilant roar. The tormenting pain of the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia faded away as the entire nation experienced euphoria.

Dravid took a trip down memory lane and reminisced about the days when he used to work in tandem with Rohit. The former India head coach felt Rohit, who deeply cared about the team, was clear about the way he wanted to operate the team from the very first day.

“I think it was really good. Firstly, he deeply cared about the team. Know, right from the first day, I think he



Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/@ROHITSHARMA45

was very clear about how he wanted to run the team and what was important to him. And that's really important in any relationship with a captain and a coach, and especially the way I coach,” Dravid said while speaking to former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Kutti Stories.

Dravid, who earned the sobriquet of “The Wall”, felt Rohit's past captaincy exploits played a part in his objective of shaping the team and the environment the way he wanted it to be.

“I always like to believe that it should be the captain's team. I've been a player and I've been a captain as well. But a captain has to lead it in terms of the direction he wants to go in, and you have to support him and help him in that. Of course, you need to sometimes help a captain in terms of getting that clarity and understanding what is required,” Dravid said.

“But with Rohit, I thought he was very clear about what he wanted from the team, how he wanted the environment to be, how he wanted the atmosphere to be, how he wanted things to run. I think he has had so much experience over the years, it really helped. He was very clear on those things,” he concluded.

-ANI

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