WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

info@fianynjct.org www.fianynjct.org

THE DIASPORA

An FIA Initiative | 100% VOLUNTEER RUN ORGANIZATION EST. 1970 BI-WEEKLY Issue: 169

Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE. 501(C)3. The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Eight-states of NY-NJ-CT-NE

PAGE 08

Delaware Governor Signs Resolution Recognizing Holi



PAGE 13

Consulate General & Bharatiya Stree Shakti Mark International Women's Day



PAGE 25



FIA Celebrates Landmark CricMax Connect and Knight Riders Sports USA Partnership to Expand Cricket Development in the U.S.

Continued on next page



Historic agreement marks first exclusive franchise-level cricket development partnership in the United States



New York, NY — March 17, 2026 — FIA is proud to announce a landmark agreement between CricMax Connect and Knight Riders Sports USA (KRS USA) and the LA Knight Riders (LAKR), designating CricMax Connect as the Official Cricket Development Partner for the United States for Major League Cricket Seasons 2026 through 2031.

This agreement represents a category-defining milestone in American cricket infrastructure. For the first time, a global franchise powerhouse, the Knight Riders Group, owners of celebrated teams across the Indian Premier League (KKR), Caribbean Premier League (TKR), ILT20 in the UAE (Abu Dhabi Knight Riders), and Major League Cricket (LA Knight Riders), has exclusively partnered with a single entity to develop, brand, and scale their academy network and talent nurturing efforts across the United States.

The five-year commitment underscores the growing momentum of professional cricket in America and signals a significant investment in the long-term development of home-grown talent at every level of the game.

FIA is honored to serve as a community partner of CricMax Connect, who previously served as the presenting partner and sponsor of the 44th Annual India Day Festivities in New York — the largest Indian Independence Day celebration in the world, further affirming CricMax Connect's deep ties to the South Asian American community and its commitment to cultural and athletic excellence.

About FIA: FIA is a community-focused organization dedicated to fostering cultural, civic, and sporting partnerships that strengthen communities across the United States.

About CricMax Connect: CricMax Connect is a leading cricket development organization committed to expanding the reach of the sport through strategic partnerships, youth academies, and community engagement across the United States.



About Knight Riders Sport USA / LA Knight Riders: Knight Riders Sports USA is the American arm of the globally recognized Knight Riders Group, with franchise ownership spanning four premier cricket leagues across three continents.



Source: FIA-NY-NJ-CT-NE



INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY RECEPTION

in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Washington, D.C.



HON. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Union Minister of Finance and
Minister of Corporate Affairs, Government of India

Saturday April 11th 2026

10:00 AM

PALLADIUM TIMES SQUARE
1515 Broadway New York, NY 10036

SUPPORTED BY

SCAN OR CLICK FOR RSVP

RSVP by March 31st, 2026

- Complimentary transportation and refreshments will be provided.
- Bus service is available for registered attendees from North, Central, and South Jersey.

SAVE THE DATE

SUPPORTED BY

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA NEW YORK

GUJARATI ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA
&
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, NEW YORK

cordially invite the diaspora community to join us for

GUJARAT MAHARASHTRA DAY



गुजरात महाराष्ट्र दिन

FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 2026

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST.

Consulate General of India - New York
3 East 64th Street, New York, NY 10065

RSVP* by APRIL 20th, 2026
info@fianynjct.org | www.fianynjct.org

facebook LIVE https://www.facebook.com/indiainnewyork/

SAVE THE DATE

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS-FIA
NY-NJ-CT-NE

44TH

HARMONY IN HERITAGE

THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE

SUNDAY AUGUST 16th | 2026

MADISON AVE. NEW YORK

info@fianynjct.org | www.fianynjct.org

India Pavilion Brews Strong Impressions at Coffee Fest 2026

From Filtered Coffee to Darjeeling Tea, India's Iconic and Flavorful Brews Won Hearts Across New York City.

New York's coffee lovers were in for a special treat this week as the Consulate General of India brought India's rich coffee and tea culture to Coffee Fest NYC 2026 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

During the fest, the India Pavilion quickly turned into one of the busiest corners of the event. Crowds gathered to sample everything from classic South Indian filtered coffee to fragrant Darjeeling and Assam teas, plus emerging single-origin specialty beans. The Consulate shared a video on X (formerly Twitter) showing smiling visitors sipping, chatting with exhibitors, and learning about the brews. Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan inaugurated the space, which featured several popular Indian brands like Anjali's Cup, Kolkata Chai Co., SKIA Coffee, Kaveri Coffee Works, Pitara, and Inippu. There were quick educational sessions on India's coffee history, climate-resilient varieties, and modern processing techniques.



Source: Facebook (@ India in New York)

India's rich coffee culture shines at New York.

What stood out was how it blended tradition with modern appeal. Attendees walked away not just with new favorite drinks but with a fresh respect for Indian coffee's growing place in the global market. For many in the local Indian community, it felt like a proud showcase of homegrown talent on a big New York stage.

Smriti Irani Joins Indian American Leaders for Cultural Exchange in NYC

Former Union Minister hails diaspora's role in diplomacy and roots at NYC's Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan cultural gathering with music and unity.

Prominent Indian American community leaders gathered at New York's Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan this week for a high-profile meet-and-greet with former Union Minister of India Smriti Irani. The event, held at the Romanti Auditorium, celebrated diaspora contributions and strengthened India–U.S. cultural ties through dialogue and music. The event was organized by Dr. Navin Mehta (Chairman of Bhavan USA – Institute of Indian Culture) and Dr. H. R. Shah (Padma Shri recipient, Chairman & CEO of TV Asia, and Chairman Emeritus of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA), the evening featured a rare Hansaveena performance by Ramanan Venkatraman, accompanied on tabla by Aditya Phatak, curated by the Sneh Arts Foundation to showcase India's rich artistic heritage. The gathering united heads of major organizations and cultural advocates to promote community unity. In her address, Irani praised Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA and media outlets like TV Asia for anchoring the diaspora to their roots and fostering cultural preservation. She highlighted the increasing influence of Indian Americans in diplomacy, global service, and India–U.S. relations, while noting her long-standing personal ties with Dr. H. R. Shah and TV Asia. Representatives from groups like GOPIO (Global Organization of People of Indian Origin) attended and engaged in discussions on topics including U.S.-India investments, innovation corridors, and support for entrepreneurs in tier-2/3/4 cities. The event served as a powerful showcase of the community's leadership and its enduring connection to India's cultural evolution, amid Irani's broader New York engagements around International Women's Day.



FIA Board of Trustee Dr.H.R. Shah honoring Ms.Smriti Irani



Source: FIA-NY-NJ-CT-NE

IMM. Past President Mr.Saurin Parikh of FIA alongside Ms.Smriti Irani

BJANA Hosts Grand Holi Celebration, Welcomes New Leadership Term with Strong Community Turnout

The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA), a beloved non-profit cultural organization founded in 1975, hosted a massively successful Holi event at the Royal Albert Palace. The festive gathering drew families from Bihar and Jharkhand, with around 550 to 600 attendees, residing in several states of the USA, including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, blending vibrant traditions, community spirit, and the inauguration of the 2026-27 term.

The event launched with the announcement of Priti Kashyap as BJANA's new President, alongside the newly elected leadership team: Sushant Krishen as Vice President, Priya Ranjan as Secretary, Bishwanath Sharma as Joint Secretary, Rakesh Kumar as Treasurer, Dipen Banerjee as Joint Treasurer, and Executive Members Sarika Dubey, Anish Anand, Dhananjay Singh, Komal Sharan, Ravindra Kumar, Lata Shree Shanker, Pankaj Pravawi, Mridula Kairab, Dhiraj Singh, Priti Singh and Dr. Avishek Kumar. An inspiring Holi speech by the prominent guests followed. Felicitations were offered to key contributors, including Nandini Singh, Rajeev Singh, Harsha Sinha, Rajiv Akhaury, and Arvind Prakash (event host).

The main program highlights included instrumental performances, singing, several kids' group dances, classical vs. Bollywood dance, adult group dance, ladies' group dance, skits, Fagua geet, and a glamorous ramp walk. It also included a mesmerizing skit that explained why Holi is celebrated, the "story of Prahlad," which captivated the audience.

In this event, BJANA launched the BJANA Next Gen Youth program - connecting, empowering, and uplifting our youth like never before!

Priti Kashyap closed with a heartfelt speech, leading into SAT fellow awards, a thrilling lucky draw, final bouquet presentations, and a thank-you to sponsors.

BJANA's new president, Priti Kashyap, was born in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and raised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Priti Kashyap brings Mithila's cultural warmth to her leadership role. Since moving to the U.S., she has found family in BJANA, now guiding its festivals, youth initiatives, networking, and philanthropy.



FIA President Sreekanth Akkapalli attends Holi celebrations hosted by (BJANA)



BJANA's newly elected leadership team & members at Royal Albert Palace in Edison



Performers enact a stage play depicting the story of Narsimha and Prahlad



Musicians perform live during celebrations hosted by BJANA, entertaining attendees with a vibrant musical program.

Delaware Governor Signs Landmark State Resolution Recognizing Holi Festival

The state proclamation honors the festival of colors & acknowledges the growing Indian American community.

In a move to honor the state's burgeoning Indian American community, 76th Governor of Delaware Matt Meyer formally signed a resolution this week recognizing the Hindu festival of Holi. The proclamation, signed during a ceremony in Wilmington, marks a significant milestone for Delaware's diaspora, officially validating the festival of colors as a key cultural event that promotes unity and social renewal across the state.

The resolution defines Holi not just as a religious observance but as a universal symbol of the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. By formalizing this recognition, state and county officials aimed to highlight the massive cultural and economic contributions of Indian Americans, who have become one of the fastest-growing demographics in the First State. "This is about visibility and inclusivity," a spokesperson for the Executive's office stated.



Ms. Charuni Patibanda-Sanchez handed over Governor's proclamation

"Recognizing Holi reflects our commitment to a Delaware where every resident's heritage is woven into the official fabric of our community." Local community leaders, who joined Meyer for the signing, welcomed the gesture as a vital step toward cultural representation.

As Holi celebrations in suburbs like Hockessin and Newark grow in scale each year, the resolution provides a formal platform for families to share their traditions with the broader public. The move follows a growing national trend of state-level recognitions for major South Asian festivals, reinforcing Delaware's reputation for celebrating its diverse social landscape.

March 2026 Bulletin Nudges EB-2 India Closer to Approval

EB-2 India jumps 11 months on filing dates; thousands can now apply while backlogs persist for many waiting in line.

The U.S. Department of State released its March 2026 Visa Bulletin in late February 2026. The bulletin reflects forward movement in several employment-based (EB) categories, particularly for Indian applicants waiting in long backlogs.

USCIS quickly confirmed it would use the more favorable "Dates for Filing" chart for adjustment of status applications throughout March, allowing more people to file Form I-485 sooner and gain work and travel benefits while their cases are processed. The most significant movement came in EB-2 India on the Dates for Filing chart. On that chart, priority dates moved ahead by roughly 11 months, landing at November 1, 2014, up from the previous cut-off of December 1, 2013.

This marks one of the strongest single-month advances in recent years for the category. This opens the door for thousands of skilled Indian professionals and their families who previously could not submit green card applications. EB-1 for India and China also advanced four months to December 1, 2023, allowing more applicants in those categories to move forward.



March 2026 Visa Bulletin updates show EB-2 progress.

On the Final Action Dates chart, when visas become available, EB-2 India advances two months to September 15, 2013. That is the first meaningful step forward since last fall. For EB-2 in most other countries (except China), dates advanced to October 15, 2024, on the Final Action Dates chart. Many other categories either became current or advanced meaningfully.

Immigration lawyers and Indian community groups view this as encouraging news, as more visa numbers are becoming available, likely due to the reallocation of unused numbers from other countries. However, the wait remains long for many Indians in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories.

India Philanthropy Alliance Hosted 4th Annual India Giving Day

Initiative unites 51 nonprofit organizations supporting social impact projects across India

The India Philanthropy Alliance hosted its fourth annual India Giving Day on March 13, uniting over 50 vetted nonprofits in a high-stakes bid to surpass last year's $8.8 million fundraising milestone. Backed by $135,000 in matching grants and prizes, the nationwide campaign called on Indian American families pledged at least $100 to support critical development projects across India, ranging from pediatric cardiac surgeries to climate resilience initiatives.

This year's event marked a significant evolution for the movement with the debut of "India Giving Day Live!" A three-hour interactive broadcast featured global icons like tennis legend Vijay Amritraj and entrepreneur M.R. Rangaswami. The livestream aimed to bridge the gap between donors in the U.S. and grassroots impact on the ground, offering real-time insights into how collective giving is reshaping India's social landscape.

"We are moving from a scarcity mindset to a movement of collective power," said Sejal Desai, Chair of the India Giving Day Steering Committee. "With 51 organizations now on a single, trusted platform, we are making it easier than ever for the diaspora to give with confidence and see the measurable impact of their generosity" said by Alex Counts.



Source: indiagivingday

From student-led basketball tournaments in New Jersey to formal galas in Dallas, over 60 community events are being held across the East Coast and beyond to anchor the day's festivities. Organizers had emphasized that while the financial goals are ambitious, the true success of the day lies in fostering a permanent culture of strategic philanthropy within the three-million-strong Indian American community.

Dr. Aseem Shukla Led Pediatric Urology as Chief at Cohen Children's

Dr. Shukla expands Northwell's pediatric urology with vision.

Dr. Aseem Shukla, the renowned pediatric urologist, has assumed three key leadership roles at Northwell Health, effective from February 2026. He has begun serving as Chief of Pediatric Urology at Cohen Children's Hospital, System Vice President of the Pediatric Urology Service Line, and Director of Pediatric Global Services.

The move brings one of the nation's top experts in tough pediatric urologic surgeries to New York's biggest healthcare network. A pioneer in robot-assisted laparoscopic procedures for children, Dr. Shukla was among the first pediatric urologists trained in the technology back in 2004. Since then, he has performed close to 1,000 robotic surgeries on patients ranging from tiny infants to older children, introducing several innovative techniques along the way.

He is also widely regarded as one of the nation's top experts in bladder exstrophy reconstruction, having completed more than 250 of these challenging cases across multidisciplinary teams in the United States and India. Before joining Northwell, Dr. Shukla spent 17 years at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he held the Endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery, directed that program, and co-led the Bladder Exstrophy Program while serving as Professor of Surgery in Urology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.


Source: thehastingscenter

Dr. Aseem Shukla

Earlier in his career, he was Chief of Pediatric Urology at the University of Minnesota and directed its urology residency. In his new global role, Dr. Shukla will focus on building international partnerships to expand access to Northwell's pediatric expertise worldwide.

For years, he has pushed for this kind of work. His yearly surgery workshop at Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad, India, turned into a great example of teamwork between India and the US in 2009. The initiative unites top American and Indian surgeons, support groups, and researchers to fix tough urologic problems in kids.

Health Camp of NJ Announces Community Health Center in Somerset

New permanent facility, made possible by a $1 million pledge, will deliver affordable primary healthcare to underserved communities

Health Camp of New Jersey (HCNJ), a nonprofit organization dedicated to free medical camps and preventive care, announced on March 16, 2026, the establishment of the Lata Atul Shah Community Health Center in Somerset, New Jersey, to provide ongoing affordable primary healthcare to underserved communities in the region.

The new permanent facility, named in honor of longtime HCNJ supporters Lata and Atul Shah of ANS Consultants, Inc., was made possible primarily through an extraordinarily generous pledge of $1,000,000 by the Shahs. The center will offer primary care consultations, health screenings, chronic disease management and health education programs building on the organization's nearly three decades of volunteer-led outreach events since 1998. The announcement aims to address gaps in consistent access to care for uninsured and underinsured residents.



Source: The Indian Eye

Health Camp of New Jersey volunteers provide care and support to an elderly community member.

Further, the HCNJ leaders highlighted that the center will expand beyond temporary camps to deliver regular, accessible services while focusing on early detection of chronic conditions and reducing healthcare disparities.

Penn Museum to Host Holi Festival in Philadelphia on March 21

CultureFest! celebration to showcase Indian traditions through music, dance and color-filled festivities

The Penn Museum will host CultureFest! Holi, a family-friendly celebration of the Hindu Festival of Colors, on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3260 South Street in Philadelphia. Organized in partnership with cultural group Three Aksha and the South Asia Center at the University of Pennsylvania, the event is included with regular museum admission and aims to highlight Indian heritage through performances, activities and a traditional outdoor color throw.

The day-long program features interactive storytelling, colorful art-making, live music, a marketplace and classical Bharatanatyam dance performances. The Three Aksha Ensemble will perform Bharatanatyam depicting the stories of Radha and Krishna from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. in Harrison Auditorium. The festivities culminate in Harrison Garden with a color powder throwing ceremony at 4 p.m. Note that no re-entry to the museum will be permitted once the colors have been thrown.


Source: almanac.upenn.edu

Glimpse from the last year Penn Museum Holi celebration

As part of the museum's ongoing CultureFest! series, which promotes global cultural understanding, the event provides both entertainment and education on Holi's significance marking the end of winter. Attendees can book their tickets in advance via the Penn Museum website.

How Indians Are Leading America's AI Revolution

Indian leaders to drive America's trillion-dollar AI revolution from CEOs to startups.

As artificial intelligence (AI) is expanding rapidly across the world, in 2026, leaders of Indian origin are not just part of America's AI revolution, but they are helping to lead it. From the top offices of Microsoft and Google to the advanced research labs of OpenAI and Anthropic, Indian-origin innovators are turning bold ideas into technologies that are used by millions of people on a daily basis.

Their work now powers the tools that can help to write emails, summarize information, and guide major business decisions worth billions of dollars. Satya Nadella didn't just make Microsoft relevant, but he also turned the firm into a major leader in AI. Under his leadership, Microsoft partnered with the US tech giant OpenAI and introduced AI tools like Copilot in products such as Office and Azure. This initiative changed the work of many companies.

At Alphabet, CEO Sundar Pichai has invested heavily in AI projects like Gemini and in Google's AI infrastructure to keep Google ahead in a world where online searches are becoming more conversational and intelligent. Meanwhile, the CEO of IBM, Arvind Krishna, continues to improve Watson, turning it into useful AI tools that large companies frequently utilize.

From OpenAI to Anthropic: Indian Talent Leads: At Perplexity AI, the firm's CEO, Aravind Srinivas, has built one of the most exciting new AI search platforms competing with Google. Statistics show the impact clearly. Here, the story is not only about famous CEOs. A new generation of Indian-origin leaders is also rising quickly.

OpenAI recently appointed Arvind KC as Chief People Officer. This initiative has highlighted how strongly Indian professionals influence the most advanced AI labs in the US. At Anthropic, key figures such as Rahul Patil, the company's Chief Technology Officer (CTO), are instrumental in building secure, reliable, and large-scale AI technologies. According to a study by Prosus and Boston Consulting Group, professionals of Indian origin make up about 16% of the world's AI talent.

Experts from the Institute for Progress also found that India leads in the number of immigrant founders of top AI startups in the United States. Around 60% of the fastest-growing AI companies listed by Forbes have at least one immigrant founder, and Indians are the largest group among them

From H-1B to AI Leadership: For Indian professionals working on the U.S. East Coast, such as in financial technology companies in New York City, research centers in Boston, or consulting firms in Philadelphia, this success feels personal. Many of them came to the U.S. on H-1B visas after studying at top institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology or leading American universities. Now they see people with similar backgrounds leading the companies shaping the future of technology.

During the recent India AI Impact Summit 2026, Surya Ganguli from Stanford University said that many of the best computer scientists in the United States are of Indian origin. This reflects the strong presence of Indian researchers working in areas like machine learning, responsible AI, and advanced intelligent systems.

Indian Diaspora to Shape Tomorrow's Tech: Furthermore, India produces highly skilled engineers through its demanding education system, while the U.S. offers a strong environment for innovation, funding, and entrepreneurship. Together, these factors have helped the Indian diaspora play a major role in building new technologies.

For professionals working in tech parks in New Jersey or financial firms in Manhattan, the opportunities are growing. Many are working on AI projects, experimenting with new technologies, or even launching startups. Some are also advising companies in India or creating businesses that connect both countries.

However, challenges still exist, such as immigration rules, competition from other countries, and ethical questions about how AI should be used. But the progress of Indian professionals in AI looks strong and continues to grow. Still, the AI revolution is already underway, and people from the Indian community are playing a leading role in shaping it.



Source: Freepik

SHARE ONE STORY. MOVE THOUSANDS OF HEARTS.

Got a powerful memory, life lesson, or reflection?
Turn it into a **300 - 400 word piece** and get featured in **The Diaspora Bi-Weekly.**

Click Here: diaspora@fianynjct.org
Format: Word document, 300–400 words
Themes: Breakthrough moments, cultural pride, faith journeys, community wins, or messages of unity.



Don't just post it on WhatsApp - publish it, inspire others, and let your voice travel across borders.

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Consulate General & Bharatiya Stree Shakti Mark International Women's Day

Panel discussion highlights India's progress toward gender equality and women-led development.

The Consulate General of India in New York, in collaboration with Bharatiya Stree Shakti, hosted International Women's Day with a special program focused on the theme "Indian Pathway to Equality and Partnership."

The event featured India's Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur. She joined several successful Indian American leaders to explain India's new focus that is moving from "development for women" to "women-led development."

Thakur highlighted the transformative impact of India's grassroots initiatives, noting that approximately 1.4 million women now hold elected positions in India's local governance. A panel discussion formed the centerpiece of the event, featuring prominent voices from the Indian American community and policy circles.

During the discussion, panelists emphasized the importance of expanding opportunities for women across education, entrepreneurship, governance, and social leadership.

The speakers were Nayana Sahasrabuddhe, Falu Shah, and Sugandha Ganesh. The speakers also reflected on the role of community initiatives and cross-cultural collaboration in strengthening women's participation across sectors.



Source: Twitter (@IndiainNewYork)

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors Rings Nasdaq Closing Bell in New York

Milestone event highlights 37 years of advocacy for survivors of gender-based violence in South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, a New York-based nonprofit providing culturally specific support to survivors of gender-based violence in South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, rang the Nasdaq Closing Bell on March 10, 2026, at the Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square, New York. The event, held in partnership with First Bank (Nasdaq: FRBA) and shortly after International Women's Day, highlighted the organization's 37-year mission of advocacy, helplines, legal aid and community outreach.

Andrew Hibshman, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of First Bank, and Neha Desai Shah, Board Member of First Bank and Advisory Board Member of Sakhi, joined Sakhi Executive Director Kavita Mehra and Board Chair Beesham Seecharan in the bell-ringing ceremony. Nasdaq Vice President of Listings David Wicks also spoke at the ceremony, praising the vital role community-based organizations like Sakhi play in advancing equity, awareness and lasting social change.



Source: facebook

Members and supporters of Sakhi ringing the Closing Bell.

Sakhi noted the milestone brought national visibility to its survivor-led work, which has impactedmany lives through direct services to address gaps in responsive care. Leaders described the recognition as a celebration of resilience and a call for continued collaboration on gender justice and equity. The organization also invited the community to its upcoming annual gala, "In Our Power," on May 1, 2026.

Pramila Jayapal Endorses Raj Goyle for New York State Comptroller

If elected, Goyle would become the first South Asian American to hold statewide office in New York.

The US Representative and leading Indian American Congresswoman, Pramila Jayapal, who is a Democrat from Washington state, has thrown her support behind former Kansas State Representative Raj Goyle in his bid to become New York's next state comptroller on March 9, 2026.Jayapal, who serves as Chair Emerita of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and is a co-chair of its political action committee, announced the endorsement just days after Goyle had already gained backing from California's Representative Ro Khanna. This endorsement highlights the growing national interest in the New York race. Goyle, one of the earliest Indian Americans to be elected to public office, is now challenging Thomas DiNapoli, the longtime incumbent New York State Comptroller, in the Democratic primary.

If successful, Goyle would make history as the first South Asian American to win statewide office in New York. In her statement, released through Goyle's campaign, Jayapal praised the candidate's track record. "At a time when too many politicians cave to pressure and abandon our shared morality, we need candidates who lead with courage and compassion," she said.

She described Goyle as a "lifelong progressive" committed to immigrant rights, freedom, and corporate accountability. Additionally, Goyle expressed deep appreciation for the endorsement, calling Jayapal a true champion who understands that public finances should reflect core values like human rights and worker protections.


Source: cityandstateny

Source: wikipedia

LtoR : Thomas Goyle & Pramila Jayapal

Outside of politics, he is the founder of Phone Free New York to fight excessive screen time and serves as co-chair of the 5BORO Institute, a New York City-based public policy think tank.

Brahma Kumaris Piscataway

Upcoming Events March 2026

An Immersive Meditation Experience

Step away from the noise and reconnect with inner stillness at the Meditation Center.

Every Sunday from 6:30 – 7:30pm ET

Introduction To RajaYoga Meditation

The Introductory Session is the first step of the Raja Yoga Foundation Course and is designed to introduce the fundamentals of the foundation course in a short and concise one-hour session.

Saturday Mar 7, 2026

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM ET

RSVP : https://tinyurl.com/RYIntroEng

In-person or on Zoom.
Zoom details will be provided after registration

Learn RajaYoga Meditation

At the Brahma Kumaris, meditation is a journey inward - an experience of reconnecting with the self as a spiritual being. In this meditation course, you will learn how to cultivate a true relationship with your inner virtues and powers.

Mar 16,18, 23, 25

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM ET (English)

RSVP : http://tinyurl.com/RyBasicEng

Mar 21, 22, 28, 29

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM ET (Hindi)

RSVP : https://tinyurl.com/RYHindi

In-person or on Zoom.
Zoom details will be provided after registration

Workshop - Empowering the Self

The power we seek already lies within the soul. When recognized and nurtured, it becomes a quiet force for positive change.

Mar 21, 2026 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM ET

Midday Meditation: Time to Heal and Recharge

Create space for calm in the middle of your day with a short, guided meditation.

Monday to Friday from 12:00 – 12:15pm ET

On Zoom ONLY Zoom ID: 870 0604 9106, Passcode: peace

Weekly Experiential Meditation

Join us for a few words of inspiration followed by a guided meditation.

Mar 3 – Awaken Your Inner Powers

Mar 10 – Detox Your Mind

Mar 17 – Building Self-esteem

Mar 24 – Self Care

Mar 31 – The Science Behind Affirmations

Every Tuesday, 7:30 PM to 8:15 PM ET

In-person or on Zoom
Zoom ID: 998 1552 2589 Passcode: peace

Meditation For World Peace

Embrace the world by spreading thoughts of peace through the power of our mind. Join us at this powerful gathering to fill the universe with the energy of lightness and peace.

Mar 15, 2026 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM ET

In-person or on zoom. Zoom ID: 811 7612 1465 Passcode: peace

THE BRAHMA KUMARIS
Know your self. Renew your spirit.

Explore upcoming events near you https://brahmakumaris.us/events/

Open to All
Free Entry

The Brahma Kumaris
AIMS Education Building
4500 New Brunswick Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

www.bknj.org | 732 381 1533

COMMUNITY NEWS

19th Gangaur Festival Celebrated at Bharatiya Temple in Pennsylvania

Annual event brings together traditions, devotion, and cultural vibrancy in a festive community gathering

The 19th annual Gangaur Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Bharatiya Temple in Pennsylvania, drawing devotees and families for a day filled with tradition and cultural expression. The festival, dedicated to Goddess Gauri, symbolizes marital harmony, prosperity, and devotion, and holds deep significance in Rajasthani culture.

The celebrations featured traditional rituals, devotional prayers, and colorful processions, with participants dressed in vibrant attire reflecting the spirit of the occasion. Women played a central role in the festivities, observing customary practices and prayers associated with the festival.

Cultural performances, including folk music and dance, added to the lively atmosphere, creating an immersive experience for attendees of all ages. Organizers and volunteers ensured a well-coordinated event that blended religious observance with community celebration.

Now in its 19th year, the festival continues to grow in scale and participation, serving as a meaningful platform to preserve and promote Indian traditions abroad. The event once again highlighted the enduring cultural roots and collective spirit that bring communities together in celebration.



Source: newsindiatimes



Source: newsindiatimes



Source: Twitter (@PremBhandariNYC)

Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan with Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Mr.Prem Bhandari and the members of Bharatiya Temple during the celebration of Gangaur.



Click Here for Ticket link

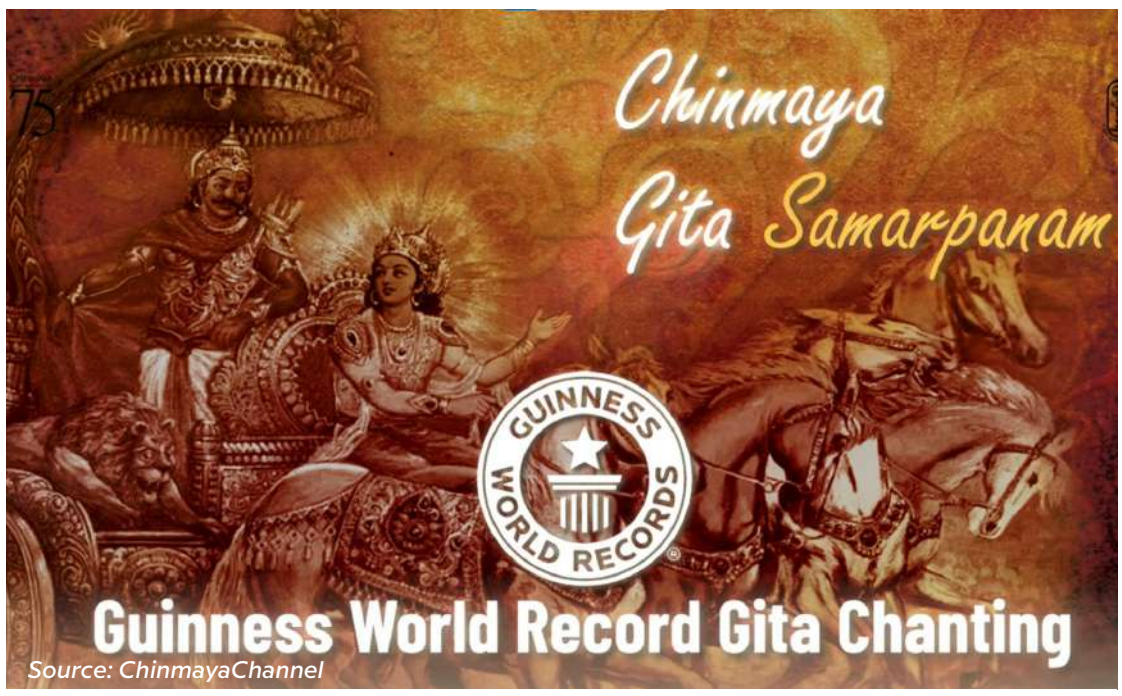
Chinmaya Mission Announces Global Attempt at Largest Online Gita Chanting

Participants worldwide on May 9 as part of the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav celebrating 75 years of the Chinmaya Movement

Chinmaya Mission has unveiled its plans for an unprecedented global initiative a Guinness World Record attempt for the most people chanting online simultaneously targeting 108,000 participants from across the world on May 9, 2026, via Cisco Webex. The effort, is a part of the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of the Chinmaya Movement. It also aims to reflect the organization's continues commitment for promoting spiritual learning through modern platforms.

The coordinated chanting will focus on Chapter 15 Purushottama Yoga of the Bhagavad Gita, with participants joining virtually from multiple countries. Significant engagement is expected from the Indian American community, particularly along the U.S. East Coast, where cultural continuity remains a priority. The event is scheduled for 7 a.m. PT / 9 a.m. CT / 10 a.m. EST / 7:30 p.m. IST.

Organizers have structured the event to ensure accessibility, encouraging families, students and spiritual seekers to take part regardless of prior experience. Each participant must register in advance to be counted in the official Guinness World Record tally, making registration a required step rather than optional. Beyond the record attempt, the event underscores a broader mission to deepen awareness and understanding of the Gita's timeless teachings in a connected, digital age. Further, the global leaders aims to bridge tradition & tech to unite diaspora youth.



An attempt for Guinness World Record Gita Chanting.

Consulate General of India in New York Marks International Women's Day

Diplomatic leaders and community figures honored for advancing women's leadership and global cooperation.

Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, the Consul General of India in New York, in collaboration with the Society of Foreign Consuls, hosted a high-profile diplomatic reception this week to celebrate International Women's Day and honor women pioneers in public service. The event, held at the Indian Consulate, brought together a diverse group of global dignitaries and community leaders to recognize the expanding role of women in international governance and community development.

A major highlight of the evening was the formal recognition of Charuni Patibanda-Sanchez, the Secretary of State of Delaware and a prominent Indian American official. Patibanda-Sanchez was honored for her trailblazing contributions to public service and her commitment to advancing civic engagement within the South Asian diaspora.

As the first person of color to serve as Delaware's Secretary of State, her presence underscored the growing political influence of the community on the East Coast. The celebration was a collaborative effort involving several diplomatic missions, including the consulates of Georgia and Kazakhstan.

Currently serving as president of the Society of Foreign Consuls, Maia Bartaia was joined by New York City officials Aissata Camara and Ana María Archila in a show of multicultural unity. "This gathering is about more than just celebration; it is a platform for building stronger international partnerships through the lens of women's leadership," the organizers noted.

The evening concluded with a vibrant series of cultural performances and a keynote address on women's empowerment by India's Consul General. The event also highlighted the importance of continued collaboration among diplomatic communities.









Source: Twitter (@IndiainNewYork)

VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD AMERICA

SHREE RAM LALLA RATH

RAFFLE CONTEST

TICKET: $100 EACH ONLY 2000 TICKETS!

DRAW DATE:

MARCH 27, 2026
1 PM EASTERN

BUY TICKETS

https://raffle.vhpamerica.org



FIRST 250 TICKETS SPECIAL GIFT

PLATINUM PRIZE

2 Business Class Round Trip Air Travel, Accommodation and Darshan at Kashi Mathura & Ayodhya

GRAND PRIZE

Historic Shree Ram Lalla Rath (2024 Honda Odyssey Touring) World Record Holder 872 Mandirs Visited In 65 Days



GOLD PRIZE

2 Economy Class Round Trip Air Travel, Accommodation and Darshan at Kashi Mathura & Ayodhya

USA

DELHI

MATHURA

KASHI

AYODHYA

Seniors at New Jersey Nursing Home Celebrated Holi with Community Spirit

Cultural program brings Bollywood melodies and festive cheer to residents at AristaCare at Cedar Oaks in South Plainfield, NJ.

Residents at AristaCare at Cedar Oaks recently marked the vibrant festival of Holi with an afternoon of music, celebration, and community engagement, as nearly 100 seniors gathered for a special cultural program.

The event featured a live musical performance by the community outreach group Care Chords, which presented a curated selection of Bollywood classics spanning several decades. Residents sang along, clapped to the rhythms, and enjoyed familiar melodies that evoked memories from earlier generations.

Performers included Aditi Tandon, Prathyusha Nacha, Ashwath Gurumurthy, and Saanvi Nacha, founder of Care Chords, who curated a program featuring timeless songs associated with legendary composers and singers from Indian cinema. The selections ranged from vintage melodies of the mid-20th century to more contemporary favorites, creating a musical bridge across generations. Care Chords, a Basking Ridge-based initiative, focuses on bringing live Indian and Western music to senior and assisted-living communities across New Jersey. The initiative aimed to foster emotional connections through music while encouraging cultural engagement among residents.

The Holi celebration was organized as part of the facility's culturally focused Indian Nursing Program, which seeks to create a familiar and joyful environment for residents. Founder Dr. Mukund Thakar stated that these gatherings foster a sense of belonging among seniors and keep them socially connected through cultural experiences

Staff members noted that the festival, widely known as the celebration of colors and renewal, offered residents not only entertainment but also an opportunity to relive traditions and celebrate their shared community.



New Jersey seniors celebrate Holi with musical performances.











Source: Instagram (@myindiannursinghome)








HSC
HINDU STUDENTS COUNCIL
Save the Date
National Youth Camp
INVITING HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS
JULY 3 – 6
Mark your calendar
INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK
(GEORGIA)
For more information, please contact:
info@hindustudentscouncil.org
www.hindustudentscouncil.org

NEWSMAKERS

Virginia Senate Honors Indian American Journalist T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman

Recognition highlights efforts to amplify South Asian voices and strengthen community-focused journalism

The Virginia State Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 156 on March 13, 2026, commending Indian American journalist T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman, Ph.D., for his contributions to ethical journalism and amplifying South Asian voices in the U.S. The resolution was introduced by State Senator Kannan Srinivasan on March 12 and was unanimously adopted by voice vote while Jayaraman was present in the Senate gallery.

Jayaraman is the founder and editor-in-chief of South Asian Herald, launched in October 2024 as an "authentic voice" for the Indian American and broader South Asian diaspora. The outlet focuses on fact-based, community-driven reporting on local, national and international issues. He has covered major institutions including the White House, U.S. Congress, United Nations, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and holds memberships in the White House and United Nations Correspondents Association, the National Press Club and the South Asian Journalists Association.



T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman

Virginia Lt. Governor Ghazala Hashmi, the state's first South Asian American and first Muslim woman to hold statewide office, also spoke at the event, describing South Asian Herald as "an important voice" for the community. Jayaraman was honored again by Virginia Senate for his media and civic work.

Diya Vij Appointed Commissioner of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs

Curator and arts leader to guide cultural policy & support artists across the five boroughs

Diya Vij has been appointed as commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, placing the Brooklyn-based curator at the helm of the nation's largest municipal arts funding agency. The appointment was announced by Zohran Mamdani, mayor of New York City.

The department plays a key role in supporting the city's cultural ecosystem, providing funding and resources to more than 1,000 nonprofit cultural organizations across the five boroughs.

Vij brings extensive experience in the arts and nonprofit sectors. Most recently she served as vice president of curatorial and arts programs at Powerhouse Arts in Brooklyn. Earlier, she worked as a curator with Creative Time, where she organized large-scale public art initiatives in collaboration with city agencies such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



Diya Vij appointed New York Cultural Affairs Commissioner.

Earlier in her career, Vij worked within the Department of Cultural Affairs during the administration of former mayor Bill de Blasio, helping launch the Public Artists in Residence program, which integrates artists into government agencies to bring creative perspectives to civic projects.

Her appointment also marks a milestone, as Vij becomes the first person of South Asian descent to lead the department. As commissioner, she is expected to focus on strengthening support for artists and expanding access to cultural resources while ensuring the city remains a global hub for arts and culture.

Religious Events

Ved Mandir



1 Ved Mandir Dr, Milltown, NJ 08850 Ph: (732) 821-0404
Open Every day - 7:00 AM to 7:30 PM
AARTI TIMES
Morning Aarti - 7:00 AM, Evening Aarti - 7:00 PM
Everyday Online Session by Mandir Priests
5:00 PM To 7:00 PM

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir)



1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ-08807, Ph: (908) 725-4477
Mon - Fri: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturday, Sunday & National Holidays: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Every Sunday : Vishnu Sahasranama : 8:30 AM - 9:15 PM
www.venkateswaratemple.org

The Hindu Temple Society of North America Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355, Ph: (718) 460-8484
Weekdays: 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM; Weekends: 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM







O Romeo

(2026 / ACTION / ROMANTIC THRILLER / GRITTY CRIME DRAMA)

Director: Vishal Bhardwaj

Writer: Rohan Narula & Vishal Bhardwaj

Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Triptii Dimri, Avinash Tiwary, Nana Patekar



Photo: Pinkvilla

The famous idiom, "That's the kind of love you go to war for," forms the central crux of ace filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj's O Romeo, starring Shahid Kapoor (Ustara), Triptii Dimri (Afshan Qureshi) and Avinash Tiwary (Jalal) in pivotal roles.

Childhood sweethearts Afshan and Mehboob's love story blossoms into marriage, only for tragedy to strike when Mehboob passes away because of gangster Jalal, aided by a corrupt police officer, a lawyer and a local politician. Thereafter, Afshan's sole motive becomes avenging her husband's death. She seeks help from the infamous Ustara.

However, what begins as a tale of revenge soon becomes a story of hearts entangled in unexpected ways. Will Afshan get her revenge? Does Ustara truly help her? And what unfolds between Afshan and Ustara forms the emotional and dramatic core of O Romeo.

What Works: The film follows a familiar formula, hero, heroine and villain, but with the right intent, casting, screenplay and direction, it manages to win hearts. If you are a lover of the Vishal Bhardwaj cinematic universe, you will feel right at home.

The dialogues are sharp and memorable. The recreation of old South Bombay evokes nostalgia. The action choreography is gripping, and the climactic face-off between Ustara and Jalal is particularly noteworthy.

What Doesn't: A few scenes feel unrealistic, and certain situations are questionable, aspects that cannot simply be brushed aside as cinematic liberty. Given that this is a Vishal Bhardwaj film, where usually the entire jukebox lingers in your mind, only the title track Hum Toh Tere Hi Liye The and the title track truly stay with you. The film could also have been crisper in its editing.

Performances: Triptii Dimri feels redeemed under Vishal Bhardwaj's direction. After films like Animal and Bad Newz, audiences finally get to see the Triptii who captivated everyone in Qala, Bulbbul and Laila Majnu through a nuanced and fine performance.

Shahid Kapoor excels as Ustara and completely immerses himself in the character, owning every frame he steps into. There are moments where you may feel you've seen him in similar territory before, but perhaps that's the price of delivering performances so powerful that you become your own benchmark.

Nana Patekar as Inspector Ismail Khan plays an extremely layered character, and his camaraderie with Shahid's Ustara is heartening to watch.

Avinash Tiwary, as the antagonist, will make you hate him, and that's a compliment. His body language, minute nuances and voice modulation make Jalal truly menacing. He is that good.

Vikrant Massey and Tamannaah Bhatia make the most of their limited screen time.

Aruna Irani is a delight to watch and remains unforgettable despite minimal screen presence.

Final Verdict: If you are a sucker for complex love stories layered with passion, betrayal and violence, this Vishal Bhardwaj rendition is for you. This Valentine's, it's all red, not hearts, but blood and gore.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not represent the official position of Pinkvilla.

FESTIVAL

From Ugadi to Navreh: India's Regional New Year's 2026

Regional New Year's to Unite India to Celebrate Hope and Joy.

In March 2026, spring's first colors start brightening up India's fields and hills. Hence, many regional New Year festivals come together on the same days. This shows the beautiful variety all across our country.

From the Deccan hills to Kashmir's valleys and Manipur's mountains, different communities welcome the new year on March 19 and 20, each with their own warm traditions. These festivals follow the moon calendar and teach us that starting fresh is not only about a date, but it's a real feeling that people share emotions and joy across the border.

Ugadi



Source: moneycontrol

Gudi Padwa



Source: indianexpress

Navreh



Source: amarujala

Cheti Chand



Source: chalihasahib

Sajibu Nongma Panba



Source: news18

South India's New Year: Ugadi

On March 19, Ugadi brings joy to homes in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka. On that day, South Indian families wake up early, sweep and tidy their house, make pretty rangoli patterns outside the door, and mix the special Ugadi Pachadi.

Pachadi is a paste with neem flowers, raw mango pieces, jaggery, and tamarind that tastes sour, sweet, and bitter all at once. Each bite gently reminds us that life has all kinds of tastes, good and tough.

Further, the neighbors visit to say happy new year, and kids sit quietly while grandparents read from the Panchangam to see what the coming year might bring. The air fills with the aroma of fresh mango pickle and jaggery sweets.



Source: www.oneindia.com



Source: www.ekirana.nl

Continued on Next page

Maharashtra & Goa Celebrate Gudi Padwa Triumph: On that same day, both Maharashtra and Goa also unfurl the colorful banners for the Gudi Padwa festival. In this festival, bamboo poles are draped in bright saris and crowned with mango leaves and a copper pot; they will flutter from balconies, symbolizing victory and prosperity.

Women decorate courtyards with vibrant rangoli, prepare shrikhand-puri feasts, and narrate tales of the legendary King Shalivahana. The festival brings special joy to farmers, who see it as the true start of the harvest season.


Source: utsav.gov.in


Source: news18marathi.com

Navreh in the North to Blossoms Blessings: On March 19, Kashmiri Pandit families in Jammu and elsewhere celebrates Navreh with quiet reverence. The day begins with a thali arranged with rice, milk, curd, lotus seeds, and a pen signifying wisdom and abundance.

They visit the temple, pray for peace, and the first spring blossoms in the garden mark the occasion. Many will recall how this festival kept cultural threads alive even during years of displacement.


Source: amarujala


Source: Twitter (@IamArhanBagati)

Sajibu Nongma Panba: Manipur's Fresh Spring Welcome: A day later, on March 20, in Manipur, the Meitei people joyfully welcome Sajibu Nongma Panba. Kids and adults come together on open grounds to play old games, place fruits and flowers at holy spots, and dance traditional steps. The day is also a time to plant new saplings, literally and figuratively sowing seeds for the months ahead.

Even though the rituals are different, pachadi in southern homes, gudi poles in the west, holy thalis in the north, river prayers for Sindhis, and planting saplings in the east, the core feeling stays the same: that the hope is always alive. In 2026, these festivals come together like colorful threads turned into one lovely garland.

It indicates that India's real power is in enjoying unity while still respecting every group in their own style. Families share sweets and warm wishes everywhere. Further, the whole country stay united yet beautifully different.

Cheti Chand, the Sindhi New Year on the River: On Same Day, the Sindhi community celebrates Cheti Chand with vibrant processions and devotional bhajans dedicated to their patron saint Jhulelal.

Boats carrying his idol sail gracefully through cities. The families offer coconuts to the rivers and share sweet rice dishes. The festival mixes deep faith with gratitude and thanks to the Indus River that once fed their old homeland.


Source: boldsky.com


Source: memoriesandsuch

SUBSCRIBERS' SECTION

Anjalli Bhagia Sidhu Chose To Heal The Community

Long before OMNISTARR Solution LLC became a trusted name in healthcare staffing, she carried a simple belief no patient should feel alone. With over two decades of experience in healthcare solutions, she recognized the gaps in healthcare systems across the United States and India and decided to become part of the solution.

From her vision emerged OMNISTARR, a women-owned, women-led organization built on trust, ethics, and compassion. With 99% women at its core, she has transformed opportunity into empowerment, nurturing women to break barriers and lead with confidence.

Driven by a larger mission, Anjalli is now focused on revolutionizing the Indian healthcare market by introducing more technology-enabled healthcare tracking solutions, aiming to improve accessibility, efficiency, and quality of care in a system that still faces significant challenges.

Her mission expanded with the launch of Omni Home Health Care Services, bringing quality medical care directly to patients' homes and offering families comfort during difficult times.

Recognized by organizations like Marquis Who's Who of America, featured in The Wall Street Journal,Featured on the cover page of the Millennium Magazine,Women Who Win and honored with the Healthcare AI Rising Star Award 2025 at Business World Award, her journey reflects integrity, resilience, and vision.

"Omni Home Health Care Services is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality healthcare to patients in the comfort and safety of their homes across "



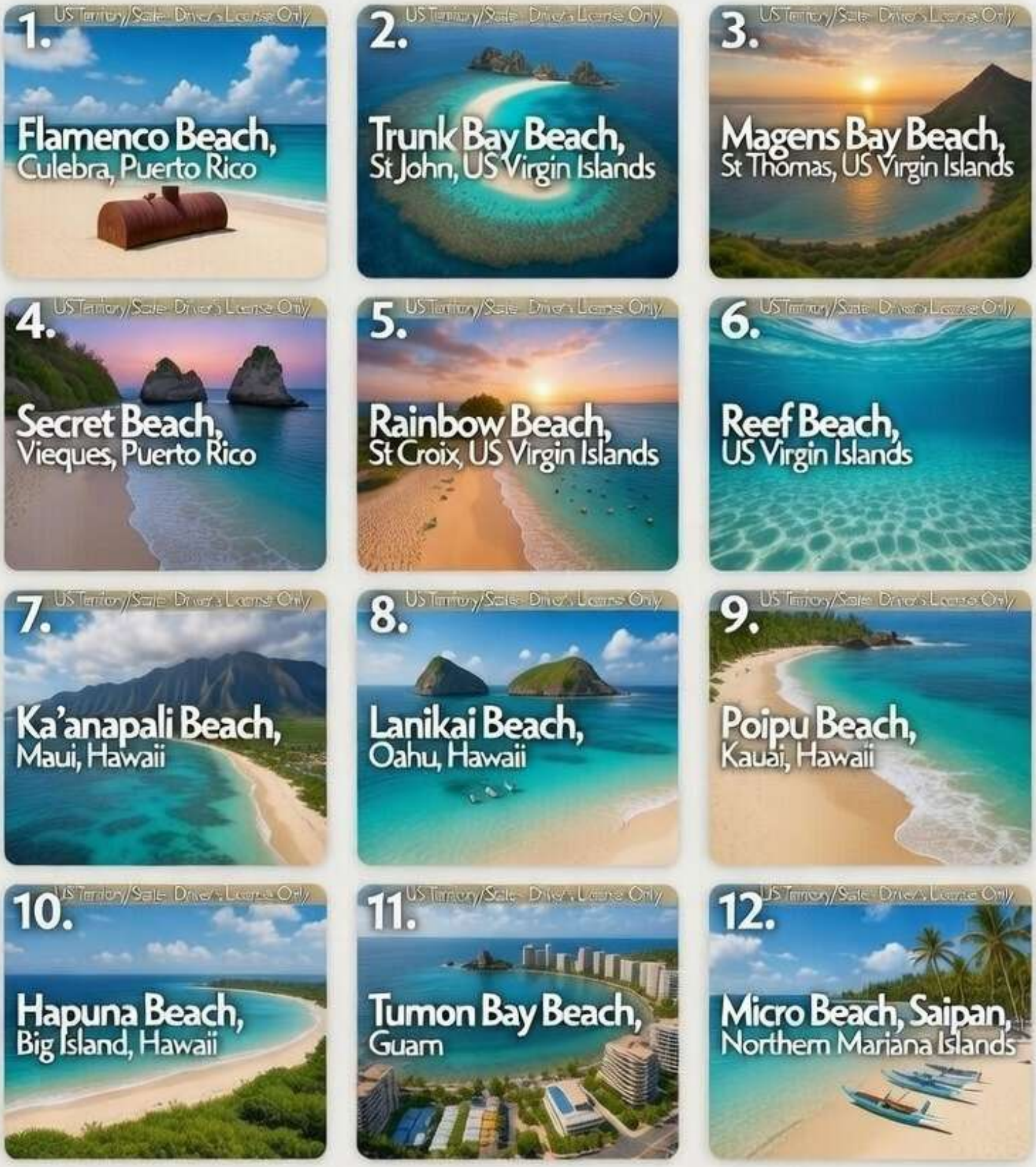


Credit: Anjalli Bhagia Sidhu

~ NO PASSPORT NEEDED! ~

10 Epic Beaches & Islands You Can Reach with JUST Your Driver's License ~ Leave Your US Passport at Home!

Real ID Driver's Licenses is ALL you need for these US territories & Hawaii - pure paradise without the hassle!



TRAVEL

Chitkul: India's Hidden Heaven on the Himalayan Edge

The Final Stop in India, Where the Roads End and the Pure Peace Begins.

Deep in Himachal's remote Kinnaur hills, Chitkul sits right at the edge of everything. This small village rests beside the lively Baspa River and is India's final inhabited outpost before the Indo-Tibet border starts. The place has no loud sounds to break the calm and no crowded shops lined along the paths. It's the true end of the road, and somehow it just feels like the perfect spot in the whole world.

During late summer, the whole valley lights up with apple orchards. Trees bend low under heavy clusters of golden-red fruit that locals claim taste better than anywhere else in the state. Mornings here feel wonderfully crisp as you stroll between neat rows of apple trees heavy with fresh, juicy fruit. All around, the snow-capped peaks stand silent and watchful, like quiet guardians of the valley.

Where Silence Speaks and Stars Shine : There's something quietly magical about harvesting your own snack surrounded by nothing but mountain air and birdsong. But the wait is until night falls. The moment the sun slips behind the ridges, a thick, velvety silence wraps around. No streetlights, no distant traffic, just the soft rush of the river and the occasional rustle of leaves.

Lie back on one of the big boulders by the water, and the sky explodes overhead. The Milky Way stretches so bright and close that it feels personal. After years of hazy city nights back home, this kind of clarity hits different; it resets something deep inside. Chitkul never tries to impress or shout at visitors.

It has clean mountain air with perfectly ripe apples that are ready to pick and night skies that are so clear and full of stars. With its idyllic charm, this little village quietly hands the kind of deep, honest break that the soul has been craving.

Baspa River Banks



Source: thelandofwanderlust

Mathi Devi Temple



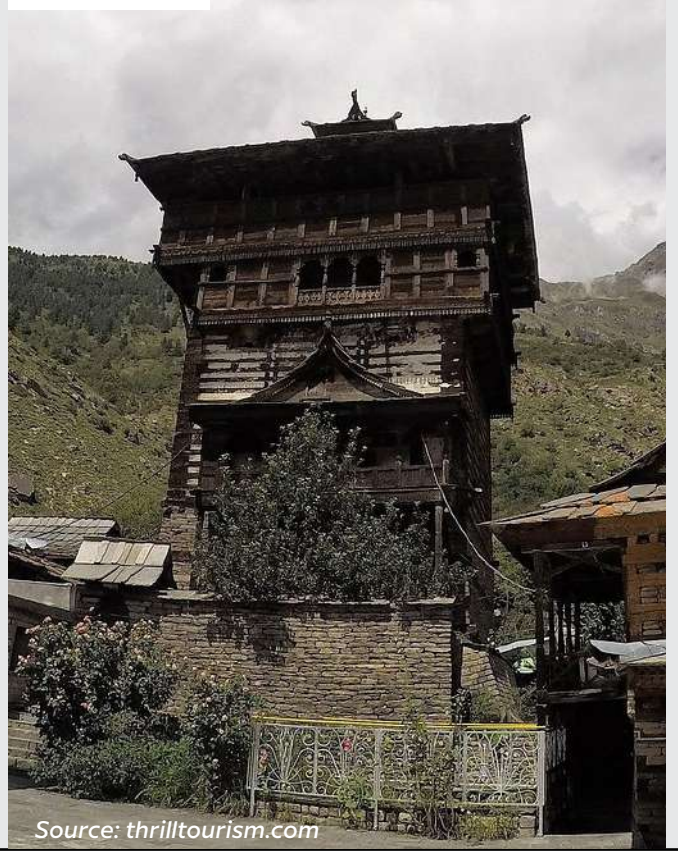
Source: tripadvisor

Hindustan Ka Aakhri Dhaba



Source: mindtrip.ai

Kamru fort



Source: thrilltourism.com

Rakchham Wildlife Sanctuary



Source: thrilltourism.com

EXPLORE

THE WORLD'S TALLEST STATUE OF UNITY

WITH EXCLUSIVE VIP SERVICES

WHY CHOOSE OUR SERVICE:



- Well-maintained cars
- Professional drivers
- 24×7 availability
- VIP entry for quick access

Contact us +91 81401 23248





FORTUNER



INNOVA HYCROSS



ERTIGA



SWIFT DZIRE

Your Hassle-Free Statue of Unity Journey, Join with us!

MEGA-CITIES CAB SERVICE

Connecting Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Delhi-Jaipur-Amritsar-Bengaluru-Chennai-Kolkata-Hyderabad-Kochi-Goa

WHAT SERVICE WE HAVE TO OFFER:

- Pick-up and drop airport services
- High-speed train booking support
- Premier hotel accommodation



FORTUNER



INNOVA HYCROSS



ERTIGA



SWIFT DZIRE

✓ Well-maintained car ✓ Professional drivers ✓ 24×7 availability

Where comfort meets convenience

START YOUR JOURNEY NOW!

Contact us +91 81401 23248

ACE Travels
Experience. Expertise. USA

GROUP DEPARTURE TO GREECE

GLIMPSES OF GREECE

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

DEPARTURE DATE: 28TH MAY



ACCOMMODATION INCLUSIONS

- **2 Nights Athens:** Novus City / Novotel Athenes or similar
- **1 Night Mykonos:** Hermes / Mykonos Bay or similar
- **2 Nights Santorini:** Santorini Palace / Omiros / Iliada Odysseas or similar
- **1 Night Athens:** Novus City or similar

PRICING INFORMATION

5 STAR HOTELS (Twin Sharing): **$3200**

child below 12 years (no bed): **$2160**

Child below 12 years (with bed): **$2450**

Note: excludes Air tickets & Airport Transfers.+

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Daily Buffet Breakfasts.
- 02 Jain / Vegetarian / Non-Vegetarian Lunches.
- 06 Jain / Vegetarian / Non-Vegetarian Dinners.
- Local Cultural Shows and Performances.
- Inter-island Cruises and Ferries.
- An Experienced Tour Manager throughout the journey.

URGENT: LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE! BOOK NOW!

BOOKING ENQUIRIES:

EMAIL: info@acetravelsusa.com PH: 201 687 4255

NextGen Sports Desk

East Coast NFL Teams Strike in Free Agency Frenzy

Northeast Fans Buzzing as Pats, Giants, Jets, and Eagles All Swing Big in Free Agency Week One.

The NFL free agency window burst open this week with aggressive early moves, and teams along the East Coast wasted no time reshaping their rosters for the upcoming season. As of Wednesday morning, the New England Patriots, New York Giants, New York Jets, and Philadelphia Eagles had already inked several key deals, focusing on quarterback protection, offensive weapons, and defensive reinforcements.

The Patriots, determined to protect and support second-year quarterback Drake Maye after a bruising 2025 campaign, led the charge with three notable signings. They agreed to terms with former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Romeo Doubs on a four-year contract that could reach $80 million. New England also bolstered their offensive line by landing versatile guard Alijah Vera-Tucker on a three-year, $42 million deal, while adding edge rusher Dre'Mont Jones on a three-year, $39.5 million contract.

Over in New York, the Giants, under new head coach John Harbaugh, brought in familiar faces from Baltimore. Tight end Isaiah Likely signed a three-year, $40 million contract. They also signed punter Jordan Stout on a historic three-year, $12.3 million deal. The Jets made a sentimental move as well, acquiring veteran quarterback Geno Smith from the Raiders in a late-round pick swap.


Source: giants

Northeast NFL Teams Swing Big in Free Agency

Attention is also turning to Philadelphia. Brandon Graham, the longtime Eagles franchise legend who returned from retirement midway through the 2025 season, has strongly hinted at playing a 17th season with the team. It is still early in free agency, but with these signings and rumors flying around, fans across the Northeast are buzzing with excitement.

Indian Diaspora in NY Erupted in Joy as India Wins T20 Glory

Far from India, Closer Than Ever: Blue Jerseys in New York City.

New York's Indian community got a front-row seat to history on Sunday evening, right inside the stately halls of the Consulate General of India. Instead of crowding around tiny phone screens in their living rooms, dozens of fans packed the venue for a proper live screening of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final 2026.

The atmosphere crackled the moment the big screen flickered to life, showing India facing off against New Zealand in what turned out to be a nail-biter. As India won, the scoreboard flashed "Champions," and the place erupted.

People wearing blue Indian jerseys started jumping up and down, hugging strangers nearby. At the same time, the Indian and American flags stood proudly on either side. That simple setup quietly reminded everyone that the joy of victory knows no borders.

Photos from the night captured the pure emotion. The Consulate later shared the moment online, posting heartfelt congratulations to the Indian team and calling it "a proud moment for every Indian." For many, the evening wasn't just about cricket. As the fireworks exploded on screen, real cheers filled the hall, and it was the moment that felt less like watching a match and more like being part of something bigger.


Source: Twitter (@IndiaInNewYork)

New York Diaspora Celebrates India's World Cup Victory

PLAY BOLD

NBA to IPL, US Icons Chase RCB as Cricket Valuations Skyrocket

US billionaires target RCB at $1.8 Billion, signaling cricket's explosive rise as a global sports investment.

Nowadays, cricket has exploded to such fame worldwide that the top US billionaires now want to jump into India's Indian Premier League (IPL) by bidding big to buy one of its most iconic franchises, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).

These developments show that cricket is quickly becoming a major global business, with team values rising to levels similar to those seen in the NBA and the NFL. Reports from late February 2026 indicate that David Blitzer, the co-founder of Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment with Josh Harris and co-owner of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's New Jersey Devils, is conducting serious due diligence on RCB.

Reuters also reported that people involved in the discussions estimate the value of the RCB at around $1.8 billion, especially after the team squeaked its first IPL title in 2025. Further, David Blitzer, a senior executive at Blackstone, is also weighing a majority stake, potentially expanding his portfolio across continents.

However, he is not alone in the pursuit. Avram Glazer, executive co-chairman of Manchester United and owner of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, has already submitted bids through his Lancer Capital LLC firm, with figures also circling the $1.8 billion mark. The competition has intensified a global auction sparked by parent company Diageo's exploration of a stake sale or full divestment.

American tycoons to fuel RCB bidding: At least eight investors remain in contention for RCB, including Indian heavyweights like Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India, and Ranjan Pal, the chairman of Manipal Group. However, the entry of these American heavyweights has elevated the stakes dramatically. For NRIs on the East Coast, whether in New York trading floors, New Jersey suburbs, Philadelphia offices, or Boston tech hubs, this news carries special resonance.

Many grew up idolizing RCB stars like Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers while navigating careers in finance, consulting, or startups far from home. Now, the same investors who shape NBA rosters and NHL lineups are betting big on the team that embodies Indian cricket passion.

The growth shows a bigger trend. The Indian Premier League has changed from a local cricket event into a high-value global entertainment property. The fast T20 format attracts fans with exciting matches and star players, similar to leagues like the NBA and the NFL.

The strong performance of Royal Challengers Bengaluru in both men's and women's tournaments, including the Women's Premier League (WPL), has increased its brand value. Because of this, its valuation is now much higher than earlier IPL team sales such as Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans in 2021.

RCB sale highlights cricket's shift to big global business: Global investors see untapped potential plus massive digital audiences, lucrative media rights, and crossover opportunities with leagues like Major League Cricket in the US. East Coast NRIs stand to gain indirectly. The involvement of these US billionaires could accelerate cricket's footprint stateside, with more MLC matches and fan events. It will also blend NBA energy with IPL flair, or even tech collaborations in fan engagement and analytics.

However, regulatory hurdles persist, including BCCI approval rules (no single owner can hold multiple IPL teams) and a tight March 2026 bidding timeline. Yet the momentum is clear. As the owners of big American sports leagues like the NBA and the NFL have started competing to buy an Indian cricket franchise, such as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, it has indicated that cricket is no longer just a regional sport.

It has become part of the global sports business. For people in the Indian diaspora, this news is more than just sports news. This initiative has highlighted that cricket has a huge international appeal and strong financial potential. It has also proved that cricket is becoming connected with the American sports industry.



Source: Instagram (@devpadikkal19)

Oscar-Winning Filmmaker Alexandre Singh Reflects on Indian Roots

Franco-Indian artist's surreal short film wins Best Live Action Short at 98th Oscars in rare tie, 7th in history

French-Indian filmmaker Alexandre Singh claimed the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, as his French-language drama Two People Exchanging Saliva, co-directed with Natalie Musteata, shared the award with The Singers, directed by Sam A. Davis marking only the seventh tie in Academy Awards history. Singh, a visual artist and filmmaker of Indian origin born in Bordeaux, France, in 1980, has built a reputation for blending experimental storytelling with social commentary across both visual arts and cinema. Now based in Brooklyn, he has long acknowledged his multicultural background as a key influence on his creative work. Two People Exchanging Saliva presents a surreal and darkly comic world where kissing is punishable by death and people pay for goods by receiving slaps to the face. Against this backdrop, an unhappy woman named Angine develops a fascination with a playful salesgirl. The 36-minute film features Iranian actor Zar Amir Ebrahimi and narrator Vicky Krieps, with Julianne Moore and Isabelle Huppert also involved in the project. The film gained significant momentum after pop star Charli XCX posted a favorable Letterboxd review in December, leading to a surge in viewership that helped propel it toward its Oscar nomination. In his acceptance speech, Singh said, that Art and theater can transform society. The recognition marks a significant moment not only in Singh's career but also for artists of Indian origin making an impact on the global stage, highlighting the growing presence of diverse voices in international cinema.



Source: indiatoday

Alexandra Singh, Indian-origin filmmaker who won at Oscars 2026

Priyanka Chopra Presents at the 98th Oscars, Dazzles in Elegant Dior Gown

Indian global star returns to the Oscars stage after 10 years alongside Javier Bardem to present Best International Feature Film

Indian actress and global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas took the stage at the 98th Academy Awards on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, presenting the Oscar for Best International Feature Film alongside Spanish actor Javier Bardem an award that went to Norway's Sentimental Value, directed by Joachim Trier.

Before announcing the winner, Bardem paused to declare "No to war and Free Palestine," drawing loud cheers and applause from the audience. Chopra, standing beside him, nodded as he spoke. The moment immediately became one of the most widely discussed of the evening. Chopra then introduced the nominees, saying: "Visceral and engrossing, they remind us that international is never truly far away." Chopra stunned in a custom Dior Spring 2026 couture gown. The strapless white design, featuring a bold thigh-high slit and feather-trimmed hem, was paired with Bvlgari jewelry for a masterclass in modern Hollywood glamour.

Chopra walked the red carpet with her husband, singer-actor Nick Jonas, and the couple drew attention from photographers and fans alike ahead of the awards presentation. Chopra's presence as a presenter highlighted her continued influence in both Hollywood and international entertainment circles, reinforcing her position as one of the most recognizable Indian talents on the global stage.


Source: Instagram (missmalinibollywood)

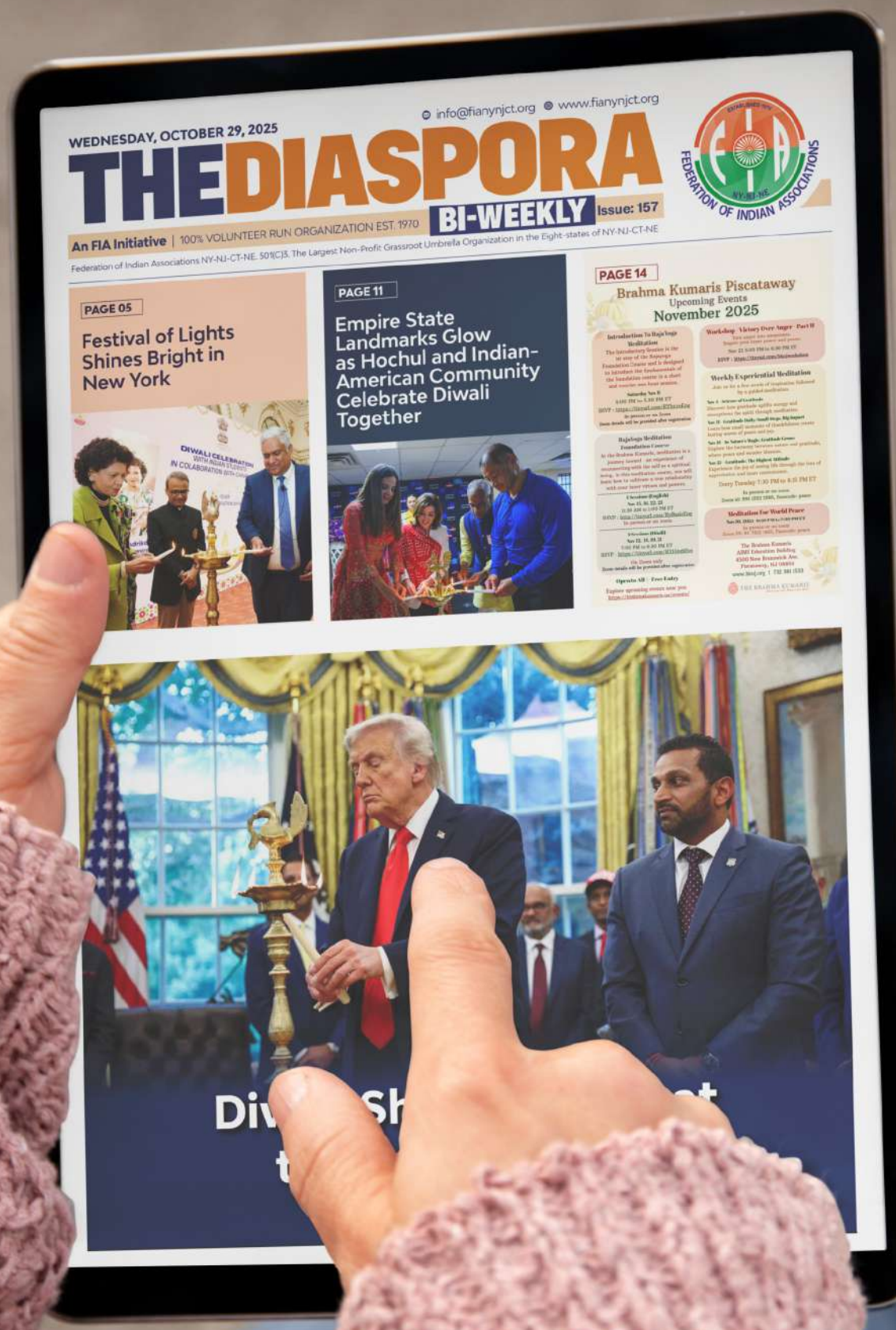
Priyanka chopra alongside Javier Baedem

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Help us improve our newsletter.

Take this quick 2-minute survey and tell us how we can make our content more useful, relevant, and impactful.

TAKE THE 2-MINUTE SURVEY →

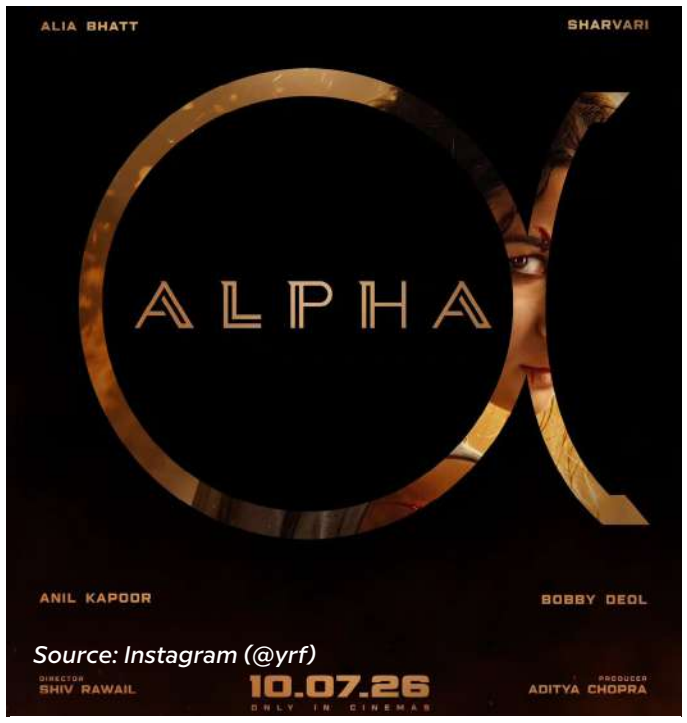


Alia Bhatt, Sharvari Wagh's Alpha Set for July 10, 2026 Theatrical Release

Yash Raj Films' female-led spy thriller joins the blockbuster YRF Spy Universe with director Shiv Rawail at the helm

Yash Raj Films' highly anticipated spy thriller Alpha, directed by Shiv Rawail and starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh, is officially slated for a theatrical release on July 10, 2026, the production house announced. The film, produced by Aditya Chopra under the Yash Raj Films banner, is part of the blockbuster YRF Spy Universe franchise the same cinematic universe that includes Tiger, War and Pathaan and has been positioned as one of the most anticipated Bollywood releases of the year.

Alpha centers on female spies operating within the YRF Spy Universe, with Bhatt and Wagh leading the narrative alongside Anil Kapoor in a key supporting role. The pairing blends established star power with emerging talent, offering a fresh and engaging dynamic that trade analysts believe could resonate with a wide audience base.



A teaser poster of 'Alpha'

The film is expected to feature high production values with a strong focus on storytelling, music and large-scale visuals key elements that have driven box office success across the YRF Spy Universe franchise. With anticipation steadily building, audiences can expect promotional campaigns, teaser drops and music releases in the coming weeks. The film's marketing rollout is expected to further amplify excitement ahead of its big-screen debut.

Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar: The Revenge Eyes Global Box Office Records

Dhurandhar: The Revenge Surpasses $3.65M in North America Pre-Sales, Eyes Historic Opening Records.

Indian actor Ranveer Singh and director Aditya Dhar are poised to shatter international box office records, as their upcoming spy thriller Dhurandhar: The Revenge has surpassed $3.65 million in advance ticket sales across the United States and Canada. The film is set to premiere globally on March 19, 2026.

The advance booking performance in North America is largely attributed to the massive success of the 2025 original. With its momentum building, the film is on track to challenge the record-breaking debut figures of cinematic giants such as RRR, Baahubali: The Conclusion, and Animal.



A promotional poster for the movie "Dhurandhar 2."

The direct sequel to last year's action hit, Dhurandhar, picks up right where the espionage saga left off. The first film performed exceptionally well worldwide, establishing the franchise as one of the highest-grossing Hindi action films in recent years.

Dhurandhar: The Revenge is already recording impressive advance bookings in India, with hundreds of thousands of tickets sold across thousands of shows. Worldwide bookings have reportedly crossed $6 million ahead of its opening weekend.

WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

We can help you take your brand farther.

Get in touch with us at **diaspora@fianynjct.org**

PUBLISHED BY

Federation of Indian Associations (NY-NJ-CT-NE)

Voluntary Content
Sushiel Kaul

Voluntary Design & Graphics
Gracia Marcom

WRITE TO US!

Got feedback for us? Email us at: **editor@fianynjct.org**

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON
@fianynjct.org
federationofindianassocations
@FIANYNJCTorg

dailyhunt Download **THE DAILYHUNT APP** to Stay Updated with FIA