



South Asian Herald

Voice of the Diaspora

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From every corner, voices converge into a hopeful living tapestry: Virginia State Senator Kannan Srinivasan honoring South Asian Herald and its Editor-in-Chief, T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman on March 9, 2026, at the State Capitol in Richmond. (Photo: South Asian Herald)

Connecting Roots, Shaping Conversations

April 14 is a date of shared cultural renewal across South Asia. Observed as the New Year in multiple regions – Vaisakhi, Pohela Boishakh, Vishu, Puthandu, Bohag Bihu, Aluth Avurudda, Bikram Samvat – it signifies transition, continuity and collective aspiration. It is an appropriate moment, therefore, to introduce a new phase in our editorial journey.

With the launch of its weekly e-paper on this auspicious day, South Asian Herald is expanding its role as a credible, community-focused platform for the South Asian diaspora in the United States. This is a considered evolution. As reader habits shift toward more curated and time-efficient formats, the need for a structured, periodic publication has become increasingly evident. The weekly e-paper seeks to address that gap – offering a compact, coherent and visually engaging digest of the most relevant developments,

while retaining editorial depth and accuracy.

Since its inception, South Asian Herald has operated with a clear mandate: to deliver reliable journalism rooted in the lived realities of the diaspora, while maintaining a meaningful connection to South Asia. It has consistently engaged with issues at the intersection of identity, policy, business, and culture – areas that often receive fragmented attention in mainstream discourse. That editorial foundation remains unchanged.

South Asian Herald has been recognized with numerous honors for its coverage of the South Asian Diaspora since its inception in 2024. Most recently, the publication has been recognized in the Maryland General Assembly and the Virginia State Senate for serving as an “authentic voice,” of the diaspora in the United States.

The weekly format strengthens this commitment. It enables sharper curation, more

deliberate storytelling, and a balanced presentation of news and analysis. Rather than reacting to the daily churn, the e-paper is designed to step back, synthesize, and present what matters most – helping readers make sense of developments that shape the South Asian experience in the U.S.

At the same time, the publication recognizes the diversity and dynamism of the diaspora it serves. The South Asian community in the United States is neither uniform nor static; it is layered, evolving, and increasingly influential. Addressing its concerns requires not only reporting, but engagement – raising questions, examining policy implications, and providing a platform for informed perspectives.

In that sense, the weekly e-paper is not simply an extension of an existing platform, but a collaborative space. Its relevance will be defined by its ability to reflect communi-

ty voices, respond to emerging concerns, and foster meaningful dialogue.

Launched on a day that symbolizes new beginnings across cultures, this initiative represents a measured step forward – anchored in credibility, shaped by readership, and committed to serving as an authentic, independent voice for the South Asian diaspora.

South Asian Herald does not charge readers for its content. We aim to provide quality and credible content for the public benefit. Our revenue model depends on only advertisements and sponsorships. So, I humbly request everyone to subscribe, read, and support us so that we can have adequate resources to keep you consistently informed.

T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman
Editor-in-Chief

NJ's Burlington Township Proclaims "Hanuman Utsav Week," Honoring SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir Consecration

T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman

The Mayor and Council of the Township of Burlington have proclaimed the week of the sacred Kumbhabhishekam celebration of the SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir as "Hanuman Utsav Week" in Burlington Township, New Jersey.

The proclamation marks the consecration of the mandir and recognizes the spiritual leadership and global humanitarian contributions of His Holiness Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, founder of the Avadhoota Datta Peetham in Mysore, India.

The proclamation, signed by Burlington Mayor Pete Green and Council President George Kozub, was presented to Sri Swamiji at the mandir on March 31 during a welcome ceremony attended by devotees and community members. Participants expressed gratitude for Sri Swamiji's guidance and blessings in establishing the temple.

Sri Swamiji, who arrived at the SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir in Burlington on March 30, presided over a week-long Pratishta and Kumbhabhishekam ceremony through April 5. The rituals included the consecration of deities such as Karya Siddhi Hanuman, Ganesha, Amba, Subrahmanya, Dattatreya, and Shiva.

"Under the divine guidance of His Holiness Sri Swamiji, the SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir is ready to become a vibrant Yoga, spiritual and cultural landmark that enriches the lives of residents throughout New Jersey and beyond," the Mayor's proclamation



(Photo: Avadhoota Datta Peetham)

noted. "Inspired by Sri Swamiji's teachings and vision, thousands of students, youth, and families have been guided in the life-transforming wisdom of sacred texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, nurturing values of service, integrity, compassion, leadership, and devotion among the next generation."

The proclamation described the Kumbhabhishekam ceremony as a "profound spiritual milestone" symbolizing divine "consecration, renewal, and blessings" for generations of devotees seeking "inspiration, devotion, service, strength, and guidance" through the exam-

ple of Lord Hanuman and the teachings of Sri Swamiji.

It further emphasized that Sri Swamiji's presence and spiritual leadership bring "honor and inspiration" to communities worldwide, noting that Burlington Township recognizes his contributions to humanity and spiritual culture. The proclamation also highlighted that, through teachings rooted in the Vedas, Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Swamiji has guided individuals toward lives of "discipline, devotion, moral responsibility, and harmony with society and nature."

The document commended Sri Swamiji for dedicating his life to the upliftment of humanity through "compassion, wisdom, and selfless service, inspiring millions across the world to pursue peace, righteousness, and spiritual awakening."

In a parallel recognition, Indian American Assemblyman Balvir Singh of Burlington, New Jersey, presented a resolution from the New Jersey General Assembly to Sri Swamiji. The resolution was signed by Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Clerk of the General Assembly Dana Burley.

The resolution welcomed Sri Swamiji to the grand opening celebrations of the SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir, noting that the "felicitous occasion" reflects the culmination of extensive planning and construction made possible through the dedication of numerous individuals.

Overseen by Sri Swamiji, the celebrations included Kumbhabhishekam rituals as well as cultural programs featuring performances by renowned artists, including a violin duo, a Carnatic vocal recital, and a sitar concert.

"The strength and prosperity of the State of New Jersey and the vitality of our American society depend, in great measure, upon dignified places of worship, exemplified by SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir, that foster community and serve to uphold the most cherished ideals of the human spirit," the resolution stated.

It added that it is "fitting and proper" for the Assembly to recognize the mandir upon its grand consecration and to affirm the "positive impact the new temple will undoubtedly have on the people" of Burlington Township, Burlington County, and the state.

The New Jersey General Assembly expressed its appreciation to the SGS Karya Siddhi Hanuman Mandir, welcomed the completion of the project, and extended best wishes for "success and vigor" in the years ahead.

On the morning of March 31, Sri Swamiji blessed the ongoing Kumbhabhishekam rituals, toured the newly constructed temple, and performed Sri Chakra Puja.

South Asian Teens Storm US STEM Stage with Standout Wins

R. Suryamurthy

From low-cost medical devices to cutting-edge AI models, South Asian diaspora students—led by Indian Americans—are making a striking sweep across top U.S. STEM competitions, dominating winner lists and pushing the boundaries of school-level innovation.

At the 2026 National STEM Champions program run by EXPLR, at least 24 Indian American students featured among 55 national winners, an outsized showing that underscores the community's growing footprint in science and technology. Their projects were anything but routine.

In California, Haritaa Ramesh's "VeinViewer" aims to make medical procedures safer with a low-cost device that helps visualize veins.

Shripriya Kalbhavi, also from the state, took on the genetic puzzle of ALS, while Nebraska-based Haneesha Rachumalla turned to an unlikely source—kombucha—to design a capsule that can purify drinking water. In Nevada, Krish Sharma built a smartphone app capable of screening for pneumonia and linking patients to care.

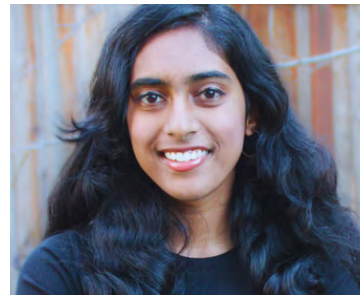
The momentum carried into



Haritaa Ramesh

the elite Regeneron Science Talent Search 2026, where 81 students of Indian origin made it to the top 300 scholars—a remarkable share in one of America's most competitive science contests. Their work spanned everything from biomaterial-based energy systems to advanced neural modelling.

Among them, New Jersey's Meghana Addanki developed a



Shripriya Kalbhavi



Haneesha Rachumalla

hybrid generator using modified biomaterials, while Aryana Adur in New York explored neural circuits tied to food allergies. Virginia's Anusha Agarwal pushed the frontier in real-time brain modelling using AI-driven approaches, and Oregon's Arjun Agarwal delved into abstract mathematical theory.

The diaspora's presence isn't limited to school-level competitions. At the professional tier, three Indian American researchers were named to the 2026 "New Voices" cohort of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a program designed to groom



Krish Sharma

emerging leaders in science and policy.

Earlier, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair 2025 saw a similar surge, with Indian American and India-based participants clinching top honors across disciplines from biochemistry to engineering.

Taken together, the results point to more than just academic excellence. With strong showings across competitions that often serve as launchpads into elite research and innovation networks, South Asian diaspora students are not just participating—they are setting the pace.

American Dream Gets Pricier

SAH Special Correspondent

A proposed rule by the U.S. Department of Labor is poised to significantly raise the cost of hiring foreign workers, signaling a structural shift in how global talent—especially from South Asia—enters the US labor market.

Published on March 27, the proposal would sharply lift “prevailing wage” thresholds across programs such as the H-1B visa, H-1B1 visa, E-3 visa and the PERM labor certification. Entry-level wages would move from the 17th to the 34th percentile (~33% jump), while Levels II-IV would rise by 21-24%. The department estimates an average increase of about \$14,000 per worker annually.

The data suggests a disproportionate impact. Indian nationals accounted for roughly 71% of all approved H-1B petitions in FY2024—around 280,000 approvals—while a majority of PERM filings in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories also originate from India. A significant share of these workers is in computer-related occupations, where the wage adjustments are expected to be most pronounced.

For employers, particularly IT services and consulting firms that rely on large volumes of entry- and mid-level hires, the cost escalation could be decisive. A 20-33% increase

in wage floors may compress margins, prompting firms to reduce fresh H-1B filings, prioritize senior hires, or shift more roles offshore. Early indicators from past wage hikes show even modest increases tend to correlate with declines in entry-level sponsorships.

For workers, the outlook is bifurcated. Existing visa holders may see higher wages on extensions or transfers, improving pay parity. However, new applicants could face a tighter funnel. India’s employment-based green card back-

Indian nationals accounted for roughly 71% of all approved H-1B petitions in FY2024—around 280,000 approvals—while a majority of PERM filings in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories also originate from India.

Call for Applications!

2027-28 Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

These fellowships are designed for early-career faculty and researchers in India, offering an opportunity to enhance their research capabilities.

Duration: 8 - 24 months

Application Deadline: July 15, 2026

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Call for Applications!

2027-28 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships

These fellowships are designed for Indian scholars who are registered for a Ph.D. at an Indian institution to conduct research essential to their dissertations/thesis at an U.S. University.

Duration: 6 - 9 months

Application Deadline: July 1, 2026

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log—already stretching into decades with hundreds of thousands in queue—may lengthen further if PERM filings slow.

Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer has argued the current system allows wages below market levels, depressing earnings for US workers. Critics, including economist Mark Regets, counter that comparisons are skewed by experience levels, while immigration lawyer Kevin Miner warns of “sticker shock” that could leave roles unfilled.

With comments open until May 26, the numbers point to a clear trajectory: fewer but higher-paid visas, a steeper entry barrier for younger South Asian professionals, and a gradual rebalancing of the US talent pipeline toward costlier, more experienced hires.

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BALAGAN ARUMUGASWAMY, CPA

From Bangalore to the Edge of Space

This couple gave up everything to build a watch brand from India.



Nirupesh Joshi and Mercy Amalraj. (Photo courtesy: Bangalore Watch Company)

In 2016, Nirupesh Joshi walked away from a senior director's title, and an enviable compensation package in Hong Kong. His wife Mercy Amalraj gave up her career in mobile gaming. What they built instead is now capable of orbiting the edges of our atmosphere.

There are particular moments Joshi returns to when people ask why. Not the years of planning, or the spreadsheets, or the long conversations about what Indian luxury could mean. The moment is smaller. He was sitting in a fighter plane cockpit at a luxury watch boutique in Hong Kong, surrounded by the instrument-panel of a British aviation watchmaker built on story and precision. The thought came simply: why can't this be done from India?

That question would eventually cost them their careers in technology. At the time, they were living in Hong Kong, immersed in one of the world's most serious watch cultures—surrounded by collectors, retailers, and a way of looking at watches not as accessories, but as objects of craft. They had arrived as tech professionals. They left with a different ambition.

Bangalore Watch Company™ launched in 2018. The founding team was two people. There was no inherited workshop, no lineage in horology to draw from. What there was: a story they believed in, a point of view, and the persistence to see it through.

The early reality was unglamorous. In the first year, five hundred watches needed to reach customers. There was no operations team to rely on. Each watch was checked, packed, labelled, and shipped by the founders themselves—five hundred times. It

is the kind of detail that rarely enters the brand narrative but explains something essential about how the company was built.

With the brand, the India they refer to is not the one often packaged for export. It is not elephants or palaces or nostalgia. It is an India defined by engineering, aviation, and space exploration—by people building complex systems, often without spectacle.

"We wanted to build something that reflected the India we see around us — and make sure every part of it felt true to that," says Mercy Amalraj, Co-Founder of the brand.

Their Apogee® Karman Line watch is the most direct expression of that belief. Named for the boundary where Earth's atmosphere gives way to space, it was designed and built in Bangalore, then subjected to a stratospheric flight to test its performance at extreme altitude. It held!

India's first space-qualified watch—not developed in Geneva or Tokyo but in a workshop in South Bangalore by a motley crew working to global standards.

The materials follow the same logic. Meteorite dials from material older than the solar system. Steel recovered from INS Vikrant, the Indian Navy's historic aircraft carrier. Aluminum from decommissioned Indian Air Force aircraft. Each element is chosen with intent, tied to a specific story before it becomes part of a watch.

"I love the idea it feels very personal, the fact that I could connect with the watch was very important to me," says Bambarkar, a structural and industrial designer based in Richmond, Virginia who purchased a MACH 1 Aviator's watch.

The Cover Drive® collection approaches this differently; the only watch in the world with an overs-turning bezel—tracking the passage of play in a way that feels both functional and culturally precise.

For many in the South Asian diaspora, particularly those who left India to build careers in the United States, the brand occupies an unusual space. It is not simply a product, but a signal. That something associated with India can stand, without qualification, in a category long defined by European history and accumulated craft.

"They're trying to create an international brand out of India, the product is of unbelievable quality, and the customer service is stellar" says Krish, who is a senior tech leader based in New York and owns several watches from the brand.

Their recent Peninsula collection was nominated at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève - the first, for any Indian watch brand. Their work has been covered by Hodinkee. In 2025, the brand presented at Dubai Watch Week. Recognition arrived gradually, then all at once.

That, in the end, is the story. Not the nominations, not the press coverage, not the new flagship boutique in Lavelle Road. The story is a question asked in a luxury watch showroom in Hong Kong, and the extraordinary stubbornness of two people who decided it deserved an answer.

Learn more about Bangalore Watch Company™ at www.bangalorewatchco.in.

(The customer names have been redacted for privacy)

Round Up

Truce



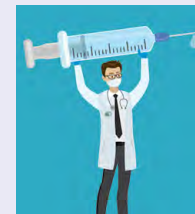
President Donald Trump said he has agreed to suspend the "bombing and attack" of Iran following discussions with Shehbaz Sharif and Asim Munir of Pakistan. In a post on April 7, Trump stated, "Based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, of Pakistan, and wherein they requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran, and subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the complete, immediate, and safe opening of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks."

Indo-US Talks



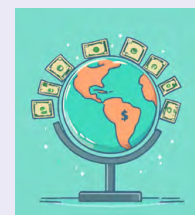
Vikram Misri, India's Foreign Secretary, held talks with senior U.S. officials during a three-day visit to Washington, focusing on strengthening bilateral defense and trade ties. Discussions centered on enhancing defense industrial cooperation, technology collaboration, and resilient supply chain linkages, in line with the framework of the India-U.S. Major Defense Partnership signed last year, the Indian Embassy said. The two sides also exchanged views on regional developments in the Indo-Pacific and West Asia.

Vaccine Lapse



Bangladesh is grappling with a worsening measles outbreak that has claimed at least 21 children so far this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), while a broader 128 deaths have been linked to symptoms associated with the disease. Official data shows that between March 15 and April 7, as many as 1,398 cases were laboratory-confirmed, even as the total number of suspected infections nationwide surged to 9,883. Of these, 6,883 patients have been treated and discharged, offering some relief amid the growing crisis. Health authorities have attributed the outbreak to a sharp decline in vaccination coverage and institutional lapses over the past one and a half years under the former interim government, when attention drifted from the healthcare sector during a prolonged phase of political instability.

Pak IMF Conditions



Pakistan has formally assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of a wide-ranging anti-corruption overhaul as part of its ongoing financial program, committing to greater transparency and institutional reform. Central to these measures is the public disclosure of asset declarations of senior federal civil servants by December 2026 through a centralized digital system featuring risk-based verification and safeguards for sensitive data, with the Federal Board of Revenue set to launch the platform by June 2026. The government has also pledged to restructure the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), granting it enhanced operational autonomy by January 2027 and introducing a transparent, merit-based process for appointing senior leadership under the supervision of a multi-stakeholder commission comprising representatives from across government, opposition, judiciary, civil service, academia and civil society. In addition, the NAB's functioning will be opened to public scrutiny through the publication of its procedures and annual performance data, with legal amendments expected to formalize these changes. The reform push extends to the financial sector as well, with expanded access to asset declarations aimed at strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing efforts, allowing banks to review disclosures of public officials at both federal and provincial levels.

Editorial



A Good Beginning in the Middle East

There is bound to be huge relief not just in the Middle East but the world over that Iran and the United States will be observing a two-week ceasefire as a first step to find ways to end the madness that has been going on for six weeks. For a person who had vowed to bomb Iran back to the stone ages and in a boast, he was all set to wipe out an entire civilization, President Donald Trump has said that the deal to cease hostilities was contingent on keeping open the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has agreed but has made clear that it will be under the supervision of its armed forces. Details of the ceasefire plans are under wraps and understandably so for fear of creating a ruckus in the media. Even now chances are that bits and pieces of a so-called plan will find its way into the social media, only at times to be dismissed as fake news if interested parties do not find it convenient.

Only the naïve would have believed that a conflict that began on February 28 would and could be confined to Iran and by extension Israel without drawing the entire Gulf. Even top policy makers in Washington or Israel could not explain why a bombing started against Iran. The basic question to President Trump was quite simple: if last June there was the boast that Iranian nuclear sites had been obliterated, where was the need for a second bombing run? The rationale quickly shifted to regime change when Israel finished off the top of the political and military hierarchy in Tehran. With this came the gleeful statement that since most of the past leaders were no longer around, this amounted to regime change!



PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS TAKEN A POLITICAL BEATING WITHOUT A DOUBT; THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW MUCH HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RECOVER BY THE TIME THE CONGRESSIONAL MID TERMS ARE HELD THIS NOVEMBER.

President Trump has taken a political beating without a doubt; the question now is how much he would be able to recover by the time the Congressional Mid Terms are held this November. What is worrying Republicans is that even in some of the die-hard red states like North Carolina and Ohio President Trump's ratings have taken a huge hit. The hope now is that the November polls will not turn out to be a trainwreck with Democrats taking control of Congress, the House of Representatives and Senate. That would mean wishing away much of the White House legislative agenda for the remaining two years, not to forget the calls for impeachment of the President and senior Cabinet officials. As it is, some Democrats are calling to start the impeachment process immediately.

The unnecessary detour into Iran has undoubtedly cost Washington considerable political capital in Europe where leaders have refused to buy the argument that NATO should be dragged into securing the Strait of Hormuz: the Hormuz is not a part of Europe-Atlantic; Washington has been told firmly. And Ukraine is another story: aside from giving President Vladimir Putin a free run, arms meant especially missile interceptors for Kyiv had to be obviously diverted to other needy parties.

South Asia Notes



Elizabeth Roche

Associate Professor,
O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana

Pakistan's West Asia Peace Deal

At last, a seeming breakthrough in the US-Israel and Iran war, after more than six weeks of attacks and counter-strikes.

Seeming because (overnight) Tuesday (April 7) brought news of a two-week ceasefire, just barely an hour before US President Donald Trump's deadline to obliterate Iran, spiking unease and nervousness across South Asia. Such a strike on Iran would have meant cutting out at least a million barrels of oil, putting pressure on an already volatile fuel market.

According to the agreement announced by US approved mediator Pakistan, Tehran has agreed to temporarily reopen the Strait of Hormuz. A Guardian news report said Iran will only accept the war's conclusion once details are finalized in line with a 10-point peace plan submitted to the White House by Pakistan.

The peace plan includes conditions the US has rejected in the past. It demands the lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions on Iran, continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz, US military withdrawal from the Middle East, an end to attacks on Iran and its allies, the release of frozen Iranian assets and a UN Security Council resolution making any deal binding.

So far, the US seems to have agreed to consider these conditions, which gives peace a possible chance.

All this considerably burnishes Pakistan's credentials. Once shunned, Islamabad is back in the limelight, fueling disquiet in India. Critics have faulted India's foreign policy practitioners, questioning why India didn't seek a peacemaker role. After all, India has managed to get fuel-bearing ships through the Straits of Hormuz despite close ties with the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Israel.

Pakistan has some advantages. For one, it shares a 1,000-kilometre (621-mile) border with Iran; it is a fellow Muslim country with a sizable Shia population who form the bulk of Iran's population. Pakistan also has a history of acting as a mediator between the US and China in the 1970s and more recently between the US and the Taliban.

India has traditionally shunned mediation in its Kashmir dispute with Pakistan. So, should it look for



ONCE SHUNNED, ISLAMABAD IS BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT, FUELING DISQUIET IN INDIA. CRITICS HAVE FAULTED INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY PRACTITIONERS, QUESTIONING WHY INDIA DIDN'T SEEK A PEACEMAKER ROLE.

a mediatory role in others' disputes? Back to Pakistan and the peace plan. The next hours and days are crucial. Until Israel is signed on, the plans will remain plans. Its strikes on southern Lebanon can unravel the barely off-the-ground process.

Guess delivering peace isn't as easy as one thought.

South Asian Herald

Voice of the Diaspora

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Born Here, Belong Where? Families Await Verdict



(Photo: rawpixel.com/freepik)

R. Suryamurthy

In hospital rooms across the United States this year, a quiet question hangs in the air: will a child born here automatically be American?

By late June or early July, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to answer that question in *Trump v. Barbara*, a case that could redefine the scope of birthright citizenship and reshape the future of immigrant families — particularly from South Asia.

At issue is a January 2025 executive order signed by Donald Trump, which directs federal agencies not to recognize citizenship at birth for children whose parents are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful permanent residents. The order challenges a legal principle rooted in the 14th Amendment and affirmed in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* — that birth on U.S. soil confers citizenship, with narrow exceptions.

Lower courts have blocked the order as unconstitutional. But if the Supreme Court allows even part of it to stand, the impact could be immediate and far-reaching.

A Numbers Story — and a Human One

Roughly 255,000 children are born each year in the U.S. to parents on temporary visas or without permanent residency. Today, they become citizens at birth. Under the executive order, many would not.

For South Asian families, the risk is disproportionately high. Indian Americans number about 4.8 million, with roughly 1.6 million U.S.-born citizens — a demographic built largely on birthright citizenship. Yet a large share of Indian-origin families remains stuck in the employment-based immigration pipeline.

Indians account for nearly 63% of the green card backlog, with more than 1.2 million applicants waiting. With annual caps and a 7% per-country limit, the queue has become a bottleneck of historic proportions. Many applicants face waits of 12 to 15 years; some projections stretch into decades.

During that time, families live on temporary visas like the H-1B — working, paying taxes, and raising children, but without permanent status.

Birthright citizenship has long been their one certainty. That certainty is now under review.

The Risk of a “Citizenship Gap”

If the Court upholds the order, children born to these families could inherit their parents’ temporary status instead of U.S. citizenship.

That would mean growing up on dependent visas, facing restrictions on work and mobility, and confronting the risk of “aging out” at 21 — losing legal status unless they secure visas of their own.

In some cases, the consequences could be even more severe. Not all countries automatically grant citizenship to children born abroad. For some South Asian families, this raises the possibility — however limited — of statelessness. Advocacy groups warn of a “citizenship gap” — a generation of U.S.-born children who belong legally neither here nor fully elsewhere.

Legal Skepticism, Lingering Uncertainty

Inside the courtroom, justices appeared cautious about departing from long-standing precedent. John Roberts questioned the historical basis for the administration’s argument, while Justice Sonia Sotomayor invoked the 1923 case of *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, when South Asians were stripped of citizenship under shifting legal interpretations.

The administration has argued that children of non-permanent residents are not fully “subject to the jurisdiction” of the United

States, and therefore not entitled to citizenship under the 14th Amendment. Challengers counter that this reading contradicts both constitutional text and over a century of legal practice.

While many analysts expect the Court to uphold the core of *Wong Kim Ark*, even a narrow ruling could leave room for future restrictions.

Beyond Law: Economic and Social Fallout

The stakes extend beyond constitutional theory.

South Asians, particularly Indians, are central to the U.S. high-skilled workforce, dominating sectors like technology and healthcare. They account for roughly 70–75% of H-1B visa holders. Any policy that increases uncertainty for this group could affect talent flows, corporate hiring, and innovation.

Companies already navigating visa constraints may shift hiring abroad. India, in turn, could benefit from returning talent, even as diaspora ties weaken.

For families, the impact is more immediate. Decisions about careers, home ownership, and even whether to have children are being shaped by the uncertainty.

Waiting for a Defining Answer

For now, the executive order remains blocked, and birthright citizenship continues as before. But the pause offers little comfort to families caught in a system already defined by long waits and fragile status.

When the U.S. Supreme Court delivers its ruling this summer, it will not just settle a legal dispute. It will determine whether the promise that has defined American citizenship for over a century still holds.

For thousands of children yet to be born — and for the families waiting anxiously — the outcome will shape not just legal status, but identity itself.

Will being born in America still be enough?

Or will citizenship, for the first time in generations, become something uncertain from the very first day of life?

Rep. Pramila Jayapal



“The president does not get to decide who is a citizen on a whim — the Constitution does. It’s

simple: if you’re born in the United States, you’re a citizen.”

Rep. Ro Khanna



“I was born in Philadelphia in 1976 & my parents were immigrants holding green cards. While they

wouldn’t have been affected by Trump’s executive order limiting birthright citizenship, this is deeply personal. My parents have long said I won the lottery by being born in America.”

Rep. Shri Thanedar



“As an immigrant who came to this country with nothing but a suitcase and \$20 in my

pocket, this Supreme Court case on birthright citizenship is deeply personal to me. The 14th Amendment is clear: the children of immigrants are guaranteed US citizenship. The Supreme Court must reject the President’s racist attacks and stand with the immigrants who have always made our country great.”

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi



“President Trump’s attempt to end birthright citizenship is not only unconstitutional — it strikes at the

values that have guided us since the Civil War. For more than 150 years, our Constitution has spoken plainly: everyone born on American soil has an equal claim to the rights of citizenship from their first breath. Trump’s attempt to end birthright citizenship strikes at that promise. The Supreme Court must reaffirm it. No president can override that constitutional promise.”

WHEN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DELIVERS ITS RULING THIS SUMMER, IT WILL NOT JUST SETTLE A LEGAL DISPUTE. IT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE PROMISE THAT HAS DEFINED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP FOR OVER A CENTURY STILL HOLDS.



Global Tax Ledger



Rajat Mohan
Managing Partner | AMRG Global
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Capital Gains Reset India's Clarity, Global Complexity for US Investors

New Income-tax Act, 2025 will come into force from April 2026. The Government of India has recently notified detailed procedural rules to facilitate its implementation. The new legislation introduces significant changes in the taxation of capital gains, with particular implications for non-resident Indians (NRIs). On paper, the changes bring greater consistency—particularly in areas such as share buybacks and procedural compliance. In practice, however, they do little to ease the cross-border challenges faced by global taxpayers.

One of the most notable changes is in the taxation of share buybacks. At present, any amount received by shareholders on buyback is treated as dividend income and taxed accordingly, with the cost of acquisition allowed separately as a capital loss. However, this position is set to change from April 1, 2026. The proposed framework seeks to reclassify such receipts as capital gains, aligning buyback taxation more closely with other share transactions. The change brings consistency—but it also shifts the compliance burden onto individual NRIs, especially when they are not actively tracking India tax developments.

The second one in the list is a bigger concern, that remains unchanged.

When a non-resident sells property in India, tax is required to be withheld at the time of sale. In theory, this tax applies to the capital

gain. In reality, however, the buyer usually does not know the seller's exact cost, indexation, or deductions. As a result, tax is deducted on a conservative basis—sometimes even on the full sale value—to avoid non-compliance. The impact is immediate: a significant portion of the sale proceeds is locked away upfront, even though the final tax liability may be much lower. For many NRIs, this creates a real massive cash flow issue. In some cases, taking back refund from India tax authorities takes years together and the transaction cost of the same is high, pinching the India diaspora.

The challenge is made worse by timing differences. U.S. tax returns are due in April, while Indian returns are filed later in the year. This means taxpayers often have to file their U.S. return before knowing their final tax liability in India. As a result, they may need to estimate the credit or revise their filings later.

Compliance also remains a two-country exercise. NRIs must report gains in both India and the United States, convert currencies, track exchange rates, and maintain detailed records. The new framework may reduce disputes in India, but it does not reduce this dual burden. There is, however, one welcome change.

Under existing rules, anyone deducting tax is required to obtain a Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN). This cre-

ated an odd situation: if a resident bought property from another resident, no TAN was required. But if the seller was a non-resident, the buyer had to obtain a TAN—even for a one-time transaction.

From October 1, 2026, this requirement will be relaxed. Resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families will no longer need to obtain a TAN when buying property from non-residents in such cases. This is a small but meaningful step toward reducing unnecessary compliance.

India may have simplified its tax law. But for NRIs operating across two tax systems, the challenge has merely shifted—from understanding the rules to surviving their consequences.

Crisis in West Asia Puts Startup Money on Edge

SAH Special Correspondent

Rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia are injecting fresh uncertainty into global markets, prompting investors to adopt a more cautious approach to startup funding while reassessing sectoral priorities.

The ongoing conflict has slowed decision-making cycles, with investors taking longer to deploy capital and placing greater emphasis on risk management and long-term value creation. At the same time, investment focus is gradually shifting toward sectors aligned with evolving geopolitical and security needs.

Aditya Vuchi, General Partner at VCMint, said areas such as drones, robotics, defense technology, energy, and logistics are attracting increased attention amid the current environment.

He also highlighted the growing importance of cybersecurity, as modern conflicts increasingly extend into digital domains, exposing businesses and critical infrastructure to rising cyber threats. This, he noted, is driving demand for solutions that enhance resili-



(Photo created with AI)

ience across economies and organizations.

Despite heightened caution, investor appetite remains intact, though more selective. Capital deployment is becoming more measured, with a sharper focus on startups that demonstrate durability and strategic relevance.

The shift signals a broader realignment in venture capital, with security, infrastructure, and resilience-led innovation expected to dominate funding trends in the near term.

AI, Crypto, Cash: US-India in Focus

SAH Staff Reporter

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum will host the 'US-India Economic Forum' on April 15, 2026, in Washington, D.C., bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and financial experts from both countries.

Held on the sidelines of the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings, the forum marks its second edition and is positioned as an annual platform to advance bilateral economic engagement.

Over 100 participants, including senior executives and financial innovators, are expected to attend. Discussions will focus on investment trends, regulatory developments and emerging technologies



(Photo created with AI)

shaping US-India ties. The program includes a keynote and three panels covering economic outlook, digital asset regulation and artificial intelligence in finance.

Corporate partners include Visa, Coinbase, Mastercard and Infosys, reflecting strong industry participation.

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Super Duperr (Marathi) is a Crazy Idea Told With a Message



A scene from Super Duperr. (Photo: Video Trailer Grab)

Rajiv Vijayakar

A slimy property broker sells a single property to two people at the same time. What happens when the parties, one a hep 'today' urban couple who are living in, and the other an extended family of rural folks (complete with pet goats!) finally land in the same apartment within a cooperative Mumbai housing society?

With the agent naturally absconding, the parties must seek the legal route (which may take months or years!) and, until then, adjust within the same apartment and even share the kitchen and the bathroom.

The fun and drama begin as cultures clash: the couple is prone to have late nights, consume non-vegetarian food, wear abbreviated clothing and more. The family sings full-throated devotional songs every early morning, refus-

es to move with the times and even maintains the animals (for a while, as we see!). Their values, mores and approach to life are contrasting to the extreme. The matriarch of the family even recommends to the couple that true joy lies only in marriage and not in live-ins.

There are some concessions in-between but the battle of wits continues. And soon a marriage is planned for the young daughter in the family. Gradually the two parties do start to adjust and then comes the legal solution as the broker is traced and arrested. In the final court case, the couple wins, but are requested by the family to let them stay on until the wedding is solemnized. What happens next?

This is a feel-good family entertainer with messages on life, relationships, perspectives and harmony. Absurd though its core premise is, we leave the hall with a smile, not regretting the visit to the mov-

THIS IS A FEEL-GOOD FAMILY ENTERTAINER WITH MESSAGES ON LIFE, RELATIONSHIPS, PERSPECTIVES AND HARMONY. ABSURD THOUGH ITS CORE PREMISE IS, WE LEAVE THE HALL WITH A SMILE, NOT REGRETTING THE VISIT TO THE MOVIE HALL

ie hall. We get a clear inkling of how both progressiveness and regressive mores can be overdone and how compassion and mature understanding can bring a harmonious blend of comradeship among impossible opposites whose lifestyles and principles differ totally.

The performances of veterans Nirmeeeti Sawant and Shashank Shende as the old couple add heft to the largely superficial script. As the young couple, Lalit Prabhakar is good, while Vidula provides the glamour and acts decently. Hrishikesh Joshi and Kushal Badrike are effective as the brothers, while Namrata Awate Sambherao stands out with her performance, especially with her wide-eye quicksilver expressions. Pratiksha Kote also makes a mark as the younger sister-in-law. In a brief cameo, Kanchan Pagare as the cunning broker does an excellent job. Umesh Jagtap is hilarious as the hassled inspector

while Jagruti Datir is sincere as the sister. The actor playing 'Mama' is also impressive.

Overall, the technical side is okay, the direction is decent given the constraints of the script (written by him as well!) and the music forgettable. This is a movie with humble ambitions and needed sharper writing to bring conviction for its skewed storyline. However, it does entertain as a dramedy with a message.

Rating: ***

Zee Studios' Ninety-Nine Productions' & Siddhivinayak Productions' Super Duperr Produced by: Naresh Borde & Vijay Shinde Directed & Written by: Sameer Asha Patil Music: Abhinav Jagtap & Kunal-Karan Starring: Lalit Prabhakar, Vidula Chougule, Namrata Awate Sambherao, Shashank Shende, Nirmeeeti Sawant, Kushal Badrike, Jagruti Datir, Umesh Jagtap, Hrishikesh Joshi, Vanita Kharat, Pratiksha Kote, Kanchan Pagare & others.

'Sholay' Blazes Back in 4K, Sets NYIFF 2026 on Fire

A restored 4K presentation of the classic "Sholay" will launch the pre-view night of the New York Indian Film Festival 2026, taking place from May 28 to 31 in New York City and BAFTA-winning Manipuri-language drama "Boong", scheduled to screen on May 29, has been set as the opening night selection.

The restored "Sholay" print will be screened with its original ending. Director Lakshmi Priya Devi will attend the May

29 opening night screening of "Boong" and take part in a post-screening discussion. Set in Manipur, the film follows a young boy seeking to bring his absent father home, threading themes of longing, identity and fractured family life through the landscape of a border town, according to VARIETY.

"With 'Boong,' we are opening the festival with a lovely film that blends humor and struggle in a rarely visited part of India," said Aseem Chhabra, festival director of

NYIFF. "It is authentic, rooted, and internationally recognized – exactly the kind of cinema NYIFF champions. The film won a BAFTA award, beating two major contenders produced by Disney."

Further, the festival is set to have the world premiere of the Punjabi film "Flowers of Acacia" on May 30. Director Anmol Sidhu's sophomore feature film, which has Sholay as its presenter and explores patriarchy in India.

Also part of the festival's roster is director Farhan Akhtar's film "Dil Chahta Hai", starring Aamir Khan, Saif Ali Khan, and Akshaye Khanna, and director Jeejivisha Kale's critically acclaimed Marathi film "Tighee". It has been 25 years since the release of Farhan's directorial debut. "Tighee" stars Sonalee Kulkarni and Nehha Pendse are expected to be part of the screening, which will close NYIFF. (UNI)



Human Palate Psychology

M. Rajendran

Mushroom Magic from Kerala's Ancient Kitchens

Timeless Poriyal Charm!

KOON THORAN (STIR-FRIED WILD MUSHROOMS)

Wayanad, the picturesque district of Kerala, in India, has many sobriquets; my favorite is 'spice garden'. Spice stimulates our senses and our mood.

When mustard, white lentils, cloves, cinnamon, pepper, turmeric, and red chilli are fused with garlic, onion, coconut, curry leaves, and cilantro, the resulting aroma release triggers a high level of dopamine.

This is just the base. Now, the wild mushrooms take over. From here, the recipe comes together into something bold, simple, and genuinely delicious — a dish that has quietly disappeared from Kerala's kitchens and restaurants alike, as forgotten as the melodies of another era.

The beauty of this forgotten dish is that it is a healthy meal for those with a time crunch. A nutritious night meal and a great side dish with your favorite drink!

Unsatiating human mind

Back home in Delhi, while trying out the rec-



(Photo created with AI)

ipe, my friend reminded me of the importance of innovation and experimentation with food. He calls it food VAI (Value-Inspired alternative ingredients). Result: Koon Thoran to Koon Mutta Thoran (egg Thoran).

Cooking Time: About 20-30 minutes | **Serves:** 4

Koon Thoran Ingredients

- 8 oz white button mushrooms (approx. 8-10 pieces), finely chopped
- 100 grams of shallots or ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp coconut cooking oil
- ½ tsp mustard seeds

- ½ cumin seeds
- ½ tsp white lentil seeds
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- ½ tsp red chili powder
- ½ tsp coriander seeds
- 2-3 cloves
- 1 cinnamon (nail-sized)
- 2-3 cloves of fresh garlic, minced
- A few curry leaves
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 3-4 tbsp coconut, shredded/grated
- A few stalks of cilantro, finely chopped, for garnishing

FOR KOON MUTTA THORAN

2-3 Duck eggs
(more or less based on preference)

Method

1. Heat 1 Tbsp oil, add ½ tsp mustard seeds + ½ Tbsp white lentil seeds + ½ Tbsp cumin seeds; let them crackle (20-30 sec).
2. Toss in curry leaves, 1 tsp minced garlic, ½ medium chopped onion/shallots; sauté low-medium 3-4 min till golden (salt speeds it, so add according to taste).
3. Add 8 oz chopped mushrooms, ½ tsp each chilli powder, ½ tsp turmeric powder, and ½ Tbsp coriander powder; cook for 5-7 min, till the water evaporates.
4. Adjust salt/pepper.
5. Stir in 3-4 Tbsp shredded/grated coconut for 1-2 min, until fragrant; off heat.
6. Garnish with finely chopped cilantro.
7. Serve with hot rice or Indian bread, or roll it up in a burrito or tortilla.

EGGETARIAN

8. Mix in 3-4 beaten duck eggs after step 4 (scramble till no longer wet, 3-4 minutes before coconut)

The Ancient Mirror: Compassion and Dharma in a Fractured World

Talari Anand Mahesh



(Photo courtesy of the author)

In a world splintering under the weight of unrelenting conflict, deepening divisions, and cycles of hostility that seem impossible to break, perhaps the most urgent value we can return to is compassion. Not compassion as sentiment, but as a lived, active, sometimes costly choice.

Our itihaas, our own history and sacred narratives, understood this with remarkable clarity. The Ramayana, in particular, offers a vision of compassion and dharma that is neither naive nor ceremonial. It is grounded, human, and quietly radical.

Lord Rama's compassion extends even to those who have wronged him. But the Ramayana's genius lies in showing that this quality was never the exclusive province of the divine. Nishad Guha, a forest chieftain, chose restraint and clarity over confrontation when Prince Bharata arrived in the forest, seeking first to understand before reacting. Vibhishana walked away from family and home rather than remain complicit in adharma. These were not grand gestures. They were deeply personal choices, made at personal cost. And that is precisely what gives them their enduring power.

When we look at the world's leaders and the choices they make, the Ramayana's quiet insistence is clear: justice without compassion is merely force, and strength without dharma is just dominance.

We have always known better. Our itihaas reminds us how.

(The author is a Communications Entrepreneur and author of *Unlocking The Wisdom of the Ramayana*. His second book, titled *'The Infinite Hanuman'*, is releasing in 2026.)

SHREYA GHOSHAL'S \$3.2M DEAL LIGHTS UP MUMBAI MARKET

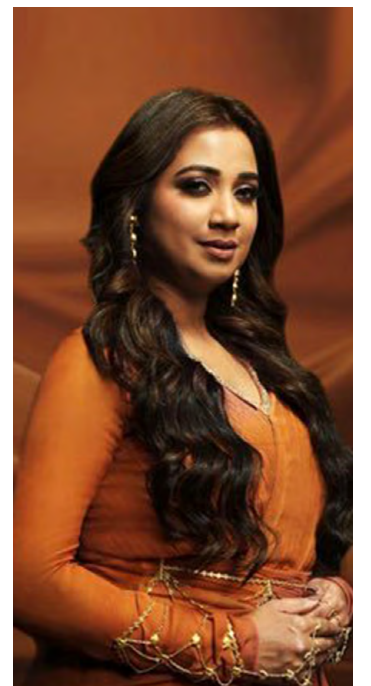
SAH Special Correspondent

Indian playback singer Shreya Ghoshal, along with her parents Shamishtha Ghoshal and Biswajit Ghoshal, has purchased a luxury residential apartment in Mumbai's Worli locality for ₹29.70 crore (approximately \$3.19 million), according to property registration documents reviewed by Square Yards.

The transaction, registered in April 2026, was recorded on the website of the Inspector General of Registration (IGR), Maharashtra. The apartment is located in Godrej Trilogy, a premium residential development in one of the city's most sought-after micro-markets.

As per the documents, the apartment has a carpet area of 2,430 sq. ft. and a total built-up area of 2,750 sq. ft., along with three car parking spaces. The deal involved a stamp duty payment of ₹1.78 crore (around \$191,000) and registration charges of ₹30,000.

Improved infrastructure, including the Bandra-Worli Sea Link and arterial road networks, has reinforced its appeal as a premium residential destination.



(Photo courtesy: X/shreyaghoshal)



Photo: torngstocker1987 / Freepik

Monthly Horoscope April 2026

BY ASTROLOGER MANISHA KOUSHIK

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Aries (Mar 21–Apr 20)



A sense of forward motion defines your month, as situations begin aligning once you trust your instincts more confidently. Early decisions may quietly shape favorable outcomes, especially in areas requiring initiative. Interactions feel lively, bringing freshness to both social and romantic spaces. Professional efforts gather pace with steady momentum, drawing attention without force. Financial matters remain manageable when impulses are kept in check. Family life stays pleasant through open dialogue. Travel offers a refreshing shift in perspective. What stands out this month is your ability to act without hesitation when clarity appears.

• Lucky Number: 17 • Lucky Color: Red

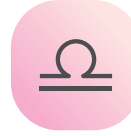
Cancer (Jun 22–Jul 22)



Shared efforts and collaboration take on greater importance this month, particularly in professional or business matters. Working alongside the right people may bring results that feel both stable and rewarding. Financial awareness helps maintain control, even if growth appears measured. Health benefits from consistency rather than change. At times, you may feel pulled between personal desires and practical commitments. Family interactions remain steady when handled with patience. Romance feels comforting in its simplicity. Travel plans may require adjustments, yet the experience remains worthwhile. Trusting support rather than resisting it could ease your journey this month.

• Lucky Number: 9 • Lucky Color: Grey

Libra (Sep 24–Oct 23)



Moments of pause and reflection may guide your decisions this month, especially when external opinions begin to influence your thinking. Stepping back allows you to regain emotional balance and perspective. Work responsibilities remain manageable when handled with focus. Financial awareness becomes important in shaping future comfort. Family support provides reassurance and motivation. A chance encounter may bring a gentle spark in your romantic space. Academic or intellectual efforts require sharper attention. Social connections remain steady. Observing before acting may prove to be your greatest strength during this phase.

• Lucky Number: 4 • Lucky Color: Purple

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 21)



A situation requiring decisive action may arise early in the month, placing you in a position where leadership becomes essential. Your ability to assess and respond thoughtfully influences outcomes for yourself and others. Financial discipline helps maintain control and security. Professionally, your guidance brings order to uncertain situations. Academic or personal growth areas show encouraging signs. Relationships feel supportive when time is invested meaningfully. Travel plans bring enjoyment when approached with preparation. Health improves with consistent habits. Responsibility taken now may quietly translate into long-term stability.

• Lucky Number: 8 • Lucky Color: Brown

Taurus (Apr 21–May 20)



Your attention may turn inward this month, drawing you closer to responsibilities that require emotional steadiness. A family situation could call for patience, and your response may influence the direction of relationships ahead. Financially, a promising opportunity may surface, though its true value depends on timing and judgement. Professional appreciation arrives in subtle ways, restoring a sense of quiet satisfaction. Health improves when discipline is maintained. Social interactions feel warm and supportive. In matters of the heart, reassurance holds more meaning than display. Progress here is likely to unfold through calm, thoughtful decisions rather than urgency.

• Lucky Number: 6 • Lucky Color: Green

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 23)



Structure and discipline begin to shape your experiences this month, especially where time and responsibility are concerned. Situations that demand punctuality may influence how you are perceived. Financial support or relief may appear when least expected, allowing you to move forward with an important plan. Professional discussions require thoughtful expression, as tone may carry more weight than intent. Academic focus calls for attention. Family spaces offer comfort and grounding. Travel introduces a refreshing mental shift. In relationships, sensitivity strengthens understanding. There is value in slowing down just enough to respond rather than react.

• Lucky Number: 22 • Lucky Color: Peach

Scorpio (Oct 24–Nov 22)



Financial matters move into focus this month, bringing opportunities that require timely awareness and measured action. Business or trade-related efforts show encouraging movement. Professionally, a demanding task may test patience but ultimately strengthens your credibility. Health routines improve when supported by shared motivation. Academic focus may fluctuate, calling for better structure. Family life remains warm, though occasional differences need careful handling. Romance feels quieter, encouraging gentle communication. Home-related plans keep you engaged. The more grounded your approach, the more effectively you are able to channel emerging opportunities.

• Lucky Number: 7 • Lucky Color: Blue

Aquarius (Jan 22–Feb 19)



A need to pause and reassess may arise this month, particularly when decisions feel rushed or unclear. Stepping back allows better judgement to emerge. Family matters take priority, and your involvement brings comfort and stability. Social connections offer timely and meaningful support. Professionally, progress may seem slower, yet the quality of your work remains intact. Financial generosity towards someone close strengthens bonds. Health benefits from consistency. Romance improves when initiative replaces hesitation. Travel provides a refreshing mental break. Moving thoughtfully rather than quickly may define your progress this month.

• Lucky Number: 2 • Lucky Color: Magenta

Gemini (May 21–Jun 21)



A shift in emotional support may influence your mindset this month, helping you feel more secure and understood. Conversations carry unusual depth, strengthening both personal bonds and professional interactions. Work moves forward through cooperation, allowing pending tasks to reach completion. Financial improvement appears gradual yet reassuring. Academic or skill-based pursuits benefit from sharper focus. Family moments bring ease and lightness. Travel introduces a sense of curiosity and newness. Romantic energy flows naturally when honesty guides expression. You may notice that the right words, spoken at the right time, create lasting impact now.

• Lucky Number: 11 • Lucky Color: Yellow

Virgo (Aug 24–Sep 23)



Clarity around purpose begins to strengthen this month, particularly in areas that once felt uncertain. Professional progress improves through shared effort, highlighting the value of collaboration. Financial matters call for closer evaluation before commitment. Academic or personal pursuits benefit from your disciplined approach. A new emotional connection or interaction may bring a sense of quiet excitement. Family bonds deepen through meaningful conversations. Health remains balanced when routines are followed mindfully. What becomes evident now is how small, precise steps can gradually create a stronger and more defined direction.

• Lucky Number: 3 • Lucky Color: Cream

Sagittarius (Nov 23–Dec 21)



Emotional clarity becomes important this month, especially in relationships where understanding your expectations matters. Professional collaborations bring positive results, though balancing personal dynamics may require attention. Financial planning helps prevent unnecessary strain. Health improves through steady and sustained effort. Family interactions bring warmth and familiarity. Social life remains active and engaging. Romance deepens when communication stays open and genuine. You may find that decisions made with awareness now help avoid confusion later, allowing a clearer path to unfold.

• Lucky Number: 18 • Lucky Color: Maroon

Pisces (Feb 20–Mar 20)



Opportunities to seek support or guidance may arise this month, and your sincerity makes others more receptive. Professionally, this phase encourages reassessment of direction and refinement of long-term goals. Financial matters show encouraging signs, particularly when linked to well-considered ideas. Emotional connections deepen, bringing warmth and a sense of belonging. Family life remains nurturing and supportive. Health improves when stress is managed consciously. Academic pursuits may require renewed focus. Travel experiences help clear mental clutter. A stronger alignment between intuition and action may quietly guide your decisions forward.

• Lucky Number: 5 • Lucky Color: Orange

DC Hosts High-Stakes Money Summit

SAH Staff Reporter

A high-level international gathering aimed at reshaping remittance flows between the United States and South Asia will take place later this month, as policymakers, financial institutions and diaspora leaders converge for the 1st International Investment & Digital Finance Fair 2026 in Washington, D.C.

Scheduled for April 17-18 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center, the two-day event will focus on improving

the efficiency, cost and transparency of remittance systems that underpin South Asia's economic stability.

Remittance flows to South Asia crossed \$186 billion in 2023, underscoring their role as a critical source of household income, foreign exchange and macroeconomic resilience. For the United States—home to a large and economically influential South Asian diaspora—these flows also represent a vital economic and cultural bridge. However, persistent challenges including high transaction costs, reliance on informal transfer channels and

limited financial literacy continue to constrain the full potential of cross-border payments.

Organizers said the fair will bring together banks, remittance service providers, fintech firms, regulators and development partners under the theme "Promoting Sustainable Remittances for South Asian Growth." The program is designed to combine policy dialogue with technical demonstrations and business matchmaking, with a focus on expanding access to faster, safer and lower-cost transfer mechanisms.

The event will feature sessions

led by multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and keynote remarks from the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, alongside participation from U.S. Treasury officials. Discussions are expected to center on regulatory alignment, digital payment infrastructure and improving efficiency across remittance corridors.

Plenary sessions will examine the broader economic impact of remittances, including their role in supporting household consumption, stabilizing national accounts and advancing sustainable develop-

ment goals. Parallel technical workshops will focus on emerging tools such as API integration, real-time settlement systems and consumer protection frameworks.

Beyond policy and technology, the fair will also include community-focused engagements aimed at promoting financial literacy and encouraging the use of formal channels, as stakeholders seek to bridge longstanding gaps in accessibility and trust.

With global migration flows rising and digital finance rapidly evolving, the event is expected to set the tone for future cooperation between the United States and South Asia in building a more inclusive and resilient remittance ecosystem.



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“Is this VIP or Something?”

Reaction to the 2026 FIFA World Cup Ticket Prices



FIFA-The BMO Field in Toronto. Set to host to six matches at the 2026 FIFA World Cup. (Photo courtesy: Cricbuzz via X)

Anirudh Nair

\$2260. No, that's not the rent for the next two months, it's the cost of a standard ticket to watch Canada play Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The hype for the FIFA World Cup in USA, Canada and Mexico is steadily building, but so is the affordability to watch any of the action.

It's no secret that the ticket pricing for the upcoming World Cup has been drastically restructured since the previous edition. Introduction of dynamic pricing, FIFA creating their own resale/exchange platform and private resellers such as Stubhub being given legal authorization to sell with no regulations applied.

The official general sale tickets for all 104 fixtures have been sold out. This leaves fans no choice but to go to the resellers. As of April 8th, the cheapest available resale ticket is of a group stage game between Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde in Houston at \$160. For fans of Saudi Arabia, it might still be an affordable purchase. However, for the 172nd placed in nominal GDP Cape

Verde, this will need to be a calculated decision.

Neutral fans in the three countries, particularly those from the South Asian community will be understandably hesitant to purchase any



FIFA-Sign outside the Space Needle commemorating Seattle as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. (Photo courtesy: Cricbuzz via X)

tickets. With no horse in the race, and the highly marked prices, passion alone cannot justify any purchase.

“Is this VIP or something?” said Abhinav Dixit, a fan from Toronto after initially seeing the ticket prices, speaking to South Asian Herald.

“When I saw the World Cup was happening in Canada, I thought this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. When I saw the prices, it was just way out of my budget and it made me really sad and upset since I was really looking forward to it this summer.”

“I'd be willing to pay close to 400 dollars,” added Dixit on how much he would spend on a ticket.

“There's nothing in that range, even for games no one wants to watch. 400 is even a stretch, but because it's a World Cup, I'd be willing.”

It is likely more batches will be released by FIFA as the tournament draws closer, but it's safe to say any of those releases will be a rat race. Fans will have to hope they can secure something affordable, otherwise there's no option but purchase from resellers, and no game is worth forking out more than average rent in 48 U.S. States.

Payal's Golden Revenge on Cruel Taunts



Payal Nag (Photo shared by Anand Mahindra on X)

SAH Special Correspondent

Once told she would “neither eat nor walk,” 18-year-old Payal Nag scripted a stun-

ning comeback, winning double gold at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok and emerging as one of India's most inspiring sporting figures.

NAG'S VICTORY MARKS NOT JUST A SPORTING MILESTONE BUT A POWERFUL STATEMENT—TURNING YEARS OF ADVERSITY INTO A MOMENT OF GLOBAL TRIUMPH.

Nag, who lost all four limbs in a childhood electrocution accident in 2015, defeated world No. 1 Sheetal Devi 139-136 in a tense compound women's final. The pair later combined to win team gold, powering India to the top of the medal standings with 16 medals, including seven gold.

Born in Odisha to a daily-wage mason, Nag's life changed irrevocably at age eight after coming into

contact with a live wire. The accident led to multiple amputations and pushed her family into deep distress, eventually placing her in an orphanage near Balangir.

Her turning point came in 2023 when coach Kuldeep Vedwan discovered her online and brought her to his academy in Katra. Using customized equipment tailored to her needs, Nag trained intensively, often for hours each day.

Her triumph has drawn widespread praise. Industrialist Anand Mahindra called her journey a lesson in “courage, resilience and positive thinking,” saying her story would remain a daily source of inspiration.

Nag's victory marks not just a sporting milestone but a powerful statement—turning years of adversity into a moment of global triumph.

Sports Wrap



Karate Breakthrough

A karateka from Arunachal Pradesh scripted history at the USA Open 2026, clinching both gold and silver medals during the April 1-5 competition in Texas. She became the first athlete from the state—and the wider Northeast region—to secure a podium finish at the prestigious global event, drawing attention from the Indian diaspora.

Chess Prodigy

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan topped England's female rankings with a 2366 rating in the April 2026 FIDE list, also entering the world's top 100 in her category—marking a major milestone for South Asian representation in British chess.

NFL Prospect

Indian-American defensive lineman Aditya Singh is gaining traction ahead of the 2026 NFL Draft, with scouts highlighting his consistency and potential to emerge as a trailblazer in the league.

Ashwin Move

Veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has signed with the San Francisco Unicorns for the 2026 season of Major League Cricket, becoming the first former India international to join the league and boosting its global appeal.

Golden Aim

India's Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli clinched gold with a junior world record in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in Granada, aggregating 487.7 in the final to surpass the previous 481.3 mark set by Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov at the Asian Shooting Championships earlier this year. Palak shot 243.0 while debutant Mukesh impressed with 244.7, sealing his maiden ISSF World Cup podium. The Indian pair had earlier qualified second with 581-17x, before outclassing the field in the final, where China settled for silver and Hungary took bronze.