

PRIME NEWS

FIFA World Cup 2026:

The Legacy and Performance of the Host Nations



By Pradip Trivedi

The FIFA World Cup 2026, the 23rd edition in FIFA World Cup history, is being jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. For the first time, the tournament features 48 teams, with a record 104 matches scheduled from 11 June to 19 July 2026.

United States

The United States is hosting the FIFA World Cup for the second time, having previously hosted the tournament in 1994. In that edition, the USA reached the Round of 16 before being eliminated.

In FIFA World Cup history, the USA has participated in 11 tournaments, playing 37 matches, with 9 wins, 8 draws, and 20 losses. The country's best World Cup performance came in 1930, when it finished third in the inaugural tournament held in Uruguay.

For FIFA World Cup 2026, the USA will host 78 matches across 11 cities: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area and Seattle. Atlanta and Dallas will host the most matches, with nine each.

The semifinals will be played in Dallas and Atlanta, while the final will take place at MetLife Stadium in New York / New Jersey on 19 July 2026.

Mexico

Mexico becomes the first nation in FIFA World Cup history to host or co-host the tournament three times. The opening match of FIFA World Cup 2026 will be played on 11

June in Mexico City between host Mexico and South Africa.

Mexico previously hosted the World Cup in 1970 and 1986. On both occasions, the host nation reached the quarterfinal and finished sixth overall, marking its best performances in the competition.

Overall, Mexico has appeared in 17 FIFA World Cups, playing 60 matches, recording 17 wins, 15 draws, and 28 defeats.

Mexico will host 13 matches across three cities: Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara. The legendary Estadio Azteca, which hosted the World Cup Finals in 1970 and 1986, will become the first stadium in history to stage matches in three different FIFA World Cups.

Canada

Canada is hosting the men's FIFA World Cup for the first time. The nation made its World Cup debut in 1986 and returned to the tournament in 2022.

Canada's first-ever FIFA World Cup goal was scored by Alphonso Davies against Croatia in Qatar 2022. Although Canada lost all three group-stage matches, the tournament marked an important milestone in the country's football history.

In FIFA World Cup 2026, Canada will host 13 matches across Toronto and Vancouver. Toronto's BMO Field will host six matches, while Vancouver's BC Place will host seven. BC Place is renowned for its retractable roof and environmentally sustainable design.

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FEATURED INSIGHTS

The Missing Piece in Many Retirement and Estate Plans

How Life Insurance Can Help Protect Wealth, Transfer Assets Efficiently and Support Future Generations

When most people think about life insurance, they think about protecting their family's income during their working years. While that remains an important purpose, life insurance can also play a valuable role in retirement planning, estate planning and creating a lasting legacy.

As individuals approach retirement, their financial priorities often shift from accumulating wealth to protecting and preserving it. Questions such as "Will my spouse be financially secure?" "How can I transfer assets to my children efficiently?" and "What legacy will I leave behind?" become increasingly important.

This is where life insurance can become a strategic part of a comprehensive financial plan.

Protecting Wealth During Retirement

Retirement planning is about more than building investment accounts and generating income. It's also about protecting the assets you've worked hard to accumulate.

Consider a retired couple who have spent decades saving for retirement. If one spouse passes away unexpectedly, the surviving spouse may face financial challenges, including reduced household income and unexpected expenses. Without proper planning, retirement assets may need to be accessed sooner than anticipated.

Life insurance can provide financial support during these transitions, helping preserve retirement savings and providing greater financial stability for loved ones.

Supporting Estate Planning Goals

Many families accumulate wealth through real estate, retirement accounts, investment portfolios, or family businesses. While these assets may have significant value, they are not always easily converted into cash when needed.

For example, a family business may represent a large portion of an individual's estate. Upon their passing, heirs may face expenses and important financial decisions. Life insurance can help provide immediate liquidity, allowing family members to address financial obligations without being forced to sell valuable assets.

In addition, life insurance can help create fairness among heirs. If one child inherits a family business, life insurance proceeds may help provide equivalent value to other beneficiaries, helping preserve family harmony and long-term financial goals.

Creating a Legacy for Future Generations

For many families, financial planning extends beyond retirement. Parents and grandparents often want to leave behind more than assets they want to create opportunities.

Disclosure: This article is for educational purposes only and should not be considered tax, legal, investment or insurance advice.



Whether the goal is helping fund a grandchild's education, supporting future homeownership, contributing to charitable causes, or simply providing financial security, life insurance can be an effective legacy-planning tool.

Because life insurance proceeds are generally paid income-tax-free to beneficiaries, they can provide resources that help future generations pursue opportunities and achieve long-term goals.

Bringing It All Together

Retirement planning, estate planning, and legacy planning are closely connected. The most effective financial strategies focus not only on building wealth but also on protecting it and transferring it efficiently.

Life insurance is often the missing piece that helps tie these objectives together. When properly integrated into a financial plan, it can provide protection for loved ones, support estate-planning goals, create liquidity when needed, and help ensure that the wealth you've worked hard to build benefits future generations.

Final Thoughts

Building wealth is important. Protecting that wealth and creating a meaningful legacy can be equally important.

While every family's situation is unique, life insurance remains one of the most versatile tools available for helping individuals protect their financial future, support their loved ones, and leave a lasting impact for generations to come.

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SPORTS FACTS & RECORDS

FIFA World Cup Records

Team Records

- Most World Cup Titles: 5 – Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)
- Consecutive Titles: Italy (1934, 1938) and Brazil (1958, 1962)
- Most Finals Played: Germany – 8
- Most Runner-up Finishes: Germany – 4 (1966, 1982, 1986, 2002)
- Most Total Goals by a Team: 237 – Brazil (1930–2022)
- Most Goals in a Single Tournament: 172 (2022)
- Fewest Goals in a Single Tournament: 70 (1930 and 1934)
- Most Goals in a Single Match: 12 – Austria 7, Switzerland 5 (26 June 1954)
- Most Goals by a Team in a Single Tournament: 27 – Hungary (1954)
- Biggest Victory Margin in a Match: Hungary 10–1 El Salvador (15 June 1982)
- Biggest Victory Margin in a Final: Brazil 5–2 Sweden (29 June 1958)

Player Records

- Most World Cup Titles by a Player: Pelé (Brazil) – 3 titles (1958, 1962, 1970)
- Most Consecutive World Cup Finals Played: Cafu (Brazil) – 3 finals (1994, 1998, 2002)
- Most Matches Played: Lionel Messi (Argentina) – 26 matches
- All-Time Leading Goal Scorer: Miroslav Klose (Germany) – 16 goals (2002–2014)
- Most Goals in a Single Tournament: Just Fontaine (France) – 13 goals (1958)
- Most Goals in a Single Match: Oleg Salenko (Russia) – 5 goals vs Cameroon (28 June 1994)
- Most Goals in a Final Match: Geoff Hurst (England) – 3 goals vs West Germany (1966) and Kylian Mbappé (France) – 3 goals vs Argentina (2022)
- Most Goals in Multiple Finals: Kylian Mbappé (France) – 4 goals (1 in 2018 and 3 in 2022)
- Youngest World Cup Winner: Pelé (Brazil) – 17 years, 249 days (1958)
- Oldest World Cup Winner: Dino Zoff (Italy) – 40 years, 133 days (1982)

- Fastest Goal: Hakan Şükür (Turkey) – 11 seconds vs South Korea (29 June 2002)
- Fastest Goal in a Final: Johan Neeskens (Netherlands) – 90 seconds vs West Germany (7 July 1974)
- Most Consecutive Matches Scored In: Just Fontaine (France, 1958) and Jairzinho (Brazil, 1970) – 6 matches
- Goals in Most Different Tournaments: Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) – 5 World Cups (2006–2022)

Goalkeeping Records

- Most Clean Sheets: Peter Shilton (England) and Fabien Barthez (France) – 10 each
- Longest Consecutive Minutes Without Conceding: Walter Zenga (Italy) – 517 minutes (1990)
- Most Goals Conceded: Antonio

Carbajal (Mexico) and Mohamed Al-Deayea (Saudi Arabia) – 25 goals each

Discipline Records

- Most Yellow Cards: Javier Mascherano (Argentina) – 7
- Most Red Cards: Rigobert Song (Cameroon) and Zinedine Zidane (France) – 2 each

The FIFA World Cup has produced countless remarkable records through players, goalkeepers, managers, referees and fans. With every edition, new milestones are achieved and old records are challenged, making each World Cup unique and unforgettable. Future tournaments will undoubtedly continue to create new history and memorable moments for football lovers around the world.



VISIONARY LEADERS

An inclusive leadership approach that provides equal opportunities to people with disabilities

In today's world, where success is often measured through tangible outcomes, true leadership is reflected in purpose, inclusion, and long-term impact. Some individuals move beyond conventional definitions of achievement and dedicate themselves to creating meaningful change in the lives of others. Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta of Bhavnagar is one such inspiring personality.

As the founder of Microsign Products, Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta has built not only a successful industrial enterprise but also a remarkable model of inclusive employment. Since 1988, individuals with disabilities have been a powerful medium of his workforce, and today they constitute more than 60% of the organization. His belief of having simple yet powerful workforce has influenced many individuals. They are exceptionally hardworking, honest, disciplined and deeply committed to their responsibilities when given the right environment and opportunity.

Guided by the principle that "work is worship," he has created a workplace that goes far beyond productivity. His philosophy of "Human Engineering" reflects a rare integration of efficiency with humanity, where dignity, capability, and contribution are valued equally. His factory, in many ways, represents a place where the seeds of humanity are thoughtfully nurtured through meaningful work, opportunity and human dignity without focusing on the disabilities.

Those who have visited Microsign often describe it as far more than a conventional industrial unit. Despite witnessing some of the most advanced manufacturing environments globally, many visitors have felt that the spirit, positivity and sense of purpose visible at Microsign stand apart. It is a place where challenges do not define individuals but focuses on their attitude, dedication and contribution do.

His work has also received academic recognition and has been studied at institutions such as the Indian Institute of Management for its unique human-centered approach to business and leadership. This perspective is deeply influenced by the philosophy of Karmyog from the Bhagavad Gita, emphasizing purposeful action,

dedication and responsibility.

Deeply rooted in his values, Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta continues to regard Bhavnagar as his motherland and believes that whatever he contributes for it is never enough. This enduring sense of belonging inspires him to dedicate his life in service of society and humanity.

Bhavnagar, known for its rich cultural and educational legacy and it has been the birthplace of distinguished personalities such as Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, Shri Gijubhai Badheka and Shri Harsukhbhai Trivedi. In their own way, Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta and his next generation are carrying forward this legacy through a contemporary and inclusive perspective that is both inspiring and heartening.

The influence of this approach has extended beyond his own organization. After visiting Microsign in Bhavnagar, a senior officer from Ford Motors was inspired to initiate the recruitment of individuals with special needs within his own organization. Similarly, a team from Honda Motors visited Microsign to observe and understand how individuals with disabilities are meaningfully and productively engaged in the workplace.

This legacy of purposeful leadership continues through his next generation. Pathik, as part of this journey, has made his mark as a table tennis player and he was among the early sportspersons to represent India at the international level. During his sporting journey across India for regional and national-level competitions, his mother consistently accompanied and supported him reflecting the same spirit of dedication and commitment within the family.

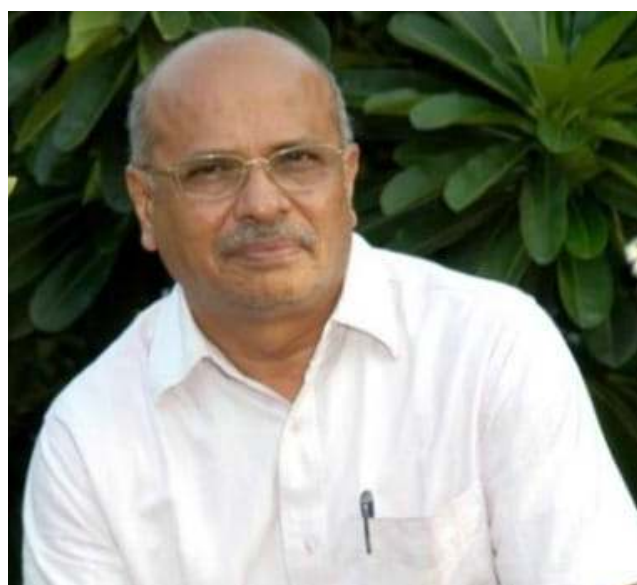
I had been hearing about Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta's work for many years. However, after watching his interview conducted by Manishaben Sharma, I felt encouraged to connect with him personally. Interestingly, my first opportunity came through a conversation with his son and later I had the privilege of interacting with Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta himself. In many ways, it felt like a meaningful coincidence that gradually turned into an enriching experience.

Whenever we had the opportunity to interact with Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta or his family, it was always a

deeply inspiring experience marked by humility, clarity of thought and genuine commitment to values.

As a father of a young adult with special needs, and with ancestral roots in Bhavnagar, I personally connect with this approach. Our own journey has been shaped by strong family support. My grandparents devoted their valuable time to our son's development, while my wife, as a mother, dedicated herself wholeheartedly to nurturing and bringing him up. She later dedicated her research work in the U.K. to better understanding and supporting children with special needs. Such experiences deepen our appreciation for models of inclusion built on dignity, patience, commitment and belief in human potential.

The journey of Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta reminds us that inclusion is not merely a concept to be discussed rather it is a practice to be implemented with sincerity and vision. When pursued with commitment and humanity, it has the power to transform not only individual lives, but society as a whole.



Shri Nisheeth Bhai Mehta



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INDIAN DIASPORA

Consulate General of India, Houston Hosts Special OCI Information Session

The Consulate General of India in Houston continues its ongoing efforts to engage with the Indian diaspora and provide timely, accurate, and accessible consular information. As part of these initiatives, the Consulate hosted a Special Consular Information Session on Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) applications on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the Consulate premises.

The session provided detailed guidance on OCI application procedures, documentation requirements and frequently asked questions. It also offered participants an opportunity to seek clarifications directly from consular officials. The Consulate sincerely appreciates the community leaders who attended the

session and contributed to strengthening this important outreach effort.

For those who were unable to attend, the updated OCI instructions are available in the attached flyer. The flyer contains important information, including the requirement for OCI card reissuance upon attaining the age of 20, provisions for online updates for other age groups, and timelines for linking an OCI card with a new passport.

Should you require any further clarification, please scan the QR code provided in the flyer and submit your query. We look forward to serving the community better and continuing our efforts to provide effective consular support.



14-Year-Old Shrey Parikh Wins 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Takes Home \$52,500



Washington, D.C. — Fourteen-year-old Shrey Parikh, an 8th-grade student from Rancho Cucamonga, California, has been crowned the champion of the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee, America's most prestigious spelling competition.

The finals were held at the historic DAR Constitution Hall, where Shrey outspelled top contestants from across the country to claim the coveted Scripps Cup and a prize package worth over \$52,500.

Along with the championship trophy, Shrey received a commemorative medal, a collection of reference books from Encyclopaedia Britannica and Merriam-Webster, plus additional sponsor and travel rewards.

The runner-up title went to Ishaan Gupta, a talented speller from Jersey City, New Jersey, after a highly competitive final round.

Shrey's remarkable victory highlights months of dedication, discipline and academic excellence, making him one of the nation's brightest young achievers in 2026.

Tragic Drowning Claims Lives of Young Gujarati Couple at California's Roaring River Falls



A young Gujarati couple, Parth Patel (30) and Dharti Patel (29), lost their lives in a heartbreaking accident at Roaring River Falls in Kings Canyon National Park, California.

According to reports, the couple was visiting the popular waterfall area when Dharti reportedly slipped near the fast-moving water. Parth tried to save her, but both were swept away by the strong current.

Authorities later recovered their bodies and confirmed the tragic drowning incident.

This heartbreaking news has deeply saddened the Gujarati community across the USA and India.

Officials are urging visitors to stay away from dangerous edges and fast-flowing water near waterfalls and rivers, especially during peak snowmelt season.

Friends and family remember Parth and Dharti as a loving, kind-hearted couple whose sudden loss has left an irreplaceable void in the lives of everyone who knew them.

GLOBAL GUJARATIS

FOGAUSA's United Gujarati Convention 2026 Brings Together Thousands Across America



The Federation of Gujarati Associations of USA (FOGAUSA) successfully hosted the 2nd United Gujarati Convention 2026 over Memorial Day Weekend at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld, welcoming more than 4,000 attendees representing over 100 Gujarati organizations from 81 cities across the United States.

Organized in collaboration with Gujarati associations throughout Florida and led by the Gujarati Society of Central Florida, the four-day convention served as a vibrant celebration of Gujarati culture, heritage, entrepreneurship, youth empowerment and community unity. The event provided a unique platform for strengthening relationships among Gujarati Americans while fostering collaboration among community leaders, professionals, business owners, students and families nationwide.

The convention featured an extensive lineup of programs, including business networking sessions, the highly popular Gujju Capital Tank, trade exhibitions, cultural performances, Garba celebrations, youth competitions, women's forums, senior programs, spiritual sessions, matrimonial networking, educational seminars, scholarship initiatives, golf tournaments and authentic Gujarati cuisine. Attendees also benefited from leadership discussions, health and wellness sessions, career development workshops and interactive activities designed for all age groups.

FOGAUSA leaders, including Dr. Vasudev Patel, founding members, trustees, and the Florida organizing team led by Convention Chair Jayesh Patel, expressed

heartfelt gratitude to attendees, volunteers, sponsors, donors, performers, vendors, media partners, and community organizations whose support contributed to the convention's remarkable success. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers invested countless hours in planning and executing the event, ensuring a memorable experience for all participants.

One of the convention's most inspiring highlights was the keynote address by Gnanvatsal Swami, along with presentations by distinguished entrepreneurs, community leaders and motivational speakers. The event also featured a striking 12-foot statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, helping educate younger generations about his historic role in the unification of India. Cultural showcases by talented artists from both the United States and India celebrated the richness and diversity of Gujarati traditions through music, dance and storytelling.

FOGAUSA also recognized and honored numerous sponsors, donors, volunteers, media partners, and community leaders for their exceptional service, leadership and contributions to the Gujarati community.

Established in 2021, FOGAUSA continues to serve as "One United Voice of Gujaratis" in America, promoting cultural preservation, community engagement, advocacy, networking, and collaboration across the nation. Through its growing network of member organizations, FOGAUSA remains committed to creating opportunities for future generations while strengthening the bonds that unite Gujaratis throughout the United States.

For more information about FOGAUSA and upcoming events, visit the official FOGAUSA website.



Dr. Vasudev Patel Founder addressing and President of FOGAUSA along with Harshadbhai Pakaji Patel and Prakashbhai PV Patel founder Vice President seen in the picture

COMMUNITY **IMPACT**

Reet Uppal Foundation's 'Project Pink Warriors' Blends Culture, Courage and Cancer Awareness at Vaisakhi Celebration



The Reet Uppal Foundation successfully hosted its impactful “Project Pink Warriors” Breast Cancer Awareness Event on May 30, 2026, in Lake Barrington, Illinois, bringing together community members, breast cancer survivors, healthcare professionals and advocates for an inspiring day of awareness, education and celebration.

Combining the vibrant spirit of Vaisakhi with a powerful mission to promote women’s health, the event created a welcoming platform for open discussions about breast cancer, mental health, heart disease and overall wellness within South Asian communities.

Addressing the gathering, Reet Uppal, Founder of the Reet Uppal Foundation, emphasized the importance of breaking the silence surrounding health issues often affected by cultural stigma.

"There is nothing wrong with sharing. The more we keep things inside, the more challenges they create. Open conversations can save lives," she said.

The program featured informative presentations by leading healthcare professionals, including Dr. Srilata Gundala, who highlighted the critical role of early detection, routine screening and preventive care in improving breast cancer outcomes.

One of the most moving segments of the event was the sharing of personal stories by breast cancer survivors. Their journeys of resilience, determination and hope inspired attendees and reinforced the message that cancer can be confronted with courage, community support and timely medical care.

The celebration also included colorful cultural performances, Gidha, dance presentations, games, food, raffles, and vendor showcases, creating a meaningful blend of awareness and community engagement.

A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of breast cancer survivors with beautifully crafted Phulkari dupattas, symbolizing love, strength, resilience and the unwavering support of the community.

Guided by its message, “We Are Stronger Together,” Project Pink Warriors continues to empower South Asian women to prioritize their health, embrace early detection and support one another without fear or stigma.

The Reet Uppal Foundation remains committed to raising awareness, supporting survivors and creating safe spaces for healing, education and empowerment throughout the community.

Photographs and Press Release by Asian Media USA

Riverside County Honors Engineer Vital Patel for Award-Winning Transportation Innovation

California: Riverside County has been recognized with the 2026 Sustainability Award for regional excellence, honoring its groundbreaking transportation initiative developed in collaboration with the (SCAG).

A key contributor to this achievement is, a Civil Engineer with the Riverside County Department of Transportation, who developed an innovative Threshold Traffic Modernization Guide and a rapid decision-making tool aimed at improving infrastructure planning, reducing emissions and streamlining transportation development.

The award recognizes Riverside County’s pioneering work in the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Bank Pilot, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region.

Originally from Mahisa village, Gujarat, India and a graduate of, Vital Patel was specially honored by the department for her outstanding contribution and for bringing pride to Riverside County.



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EMPOWERING YOUTH

USA Global Cricket Academy Boosts ACF Coaches for Education and Youth Development



The USA Global Cricket Academy, headquartered in New Jersey, is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to youth cricket development and the cultivation of elite cricket talent across the United States. Established as the nation's first registered 501(c)(3) cricket organization and the longest-running youth cricket development program, the academy has earned widespread recognition for its contributions to the sport, including the prestigious ICC Global Award for Best Junior Development Initiative (2003).

The academy's structured development pathway focuses on age-group cricket programs at the U-15, U-19 and U-23 levels, while regularly organizing international tours that provide young athletes with valuable exposure to competitive cricket environments in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies. These experiences have helped numerous players advance to higher levels of the game, with many representing the United States, including participation in the inaugural ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup in 2006.

Building on more than two decades of talent identification and elite player development, the academy is now expanding its focus to include scalable coach education programs designed to meet the growing demands of cricket in the United States. As participation continues to increase and educational institutions show greater interest in the sport, the need for qualified and committed local coaches has become increasingly important.

To address this need, the academy has launched targeted initiatives to support coach development by providing financial assistance and educational

resources for coaches pursuing advanced Level 3 and Level 4 certifications through ACF Coaches. By investing in coach education, the academy aims to develop a network of highly trained local coaches capable of implementing effective cricket curricula within schools and colleges, strengthening grassroots pathways and expanding opportunities for young players nationwide.

"The academy has nurtured and supported many young cricketers over the years. Several alumni have gone on to build professional careers, while others are now stepping forward to support the academy and help the next generation succeed," said Ashok P. Patel, Founder-President of the USA Global Cricket Academy and Cricket Hall of Famer.

Through its integrated approach combining player development, international exposure and enhanced coach education the USA Global Cricket Academy seeks to sustain and expand competitive cricket across the United States while ensuring quality instruction and long-term continuity within school and collegiate programs.

ACF Coaching Program Reaches New Milestone

The ACF Cricket Coaching Program, led by Jatin Patel, recently celebrated 12 years of excellence in cricket coaching and education. Patel, a respected multi-sport coach, Cricket Hall of Famer, and recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, has played a significant role in advancing grassroots cricket development throughout the United States.

The newly introduced Level 3 and Level 4 GOLD Certification Programs represent ACF's highest-performance coaching qualifications in the United

States. The advanced curriculum incorporates sports analytics, video analysis, mindset and mindfulness training and AI-driven coaching methodologies, preparing coaches to meet the evolving demands of modern cricket development.

The program has been approved by the American Cricket Education Council (ACEC) and is endorsed by the Cricket Hall of Fame. It also enjoys nationwide recognition from United Cricket Coaches and Physical Education Teachers, further strengthening its credibility and significance within American cricket coaching education.

More than 60 cricket academies and youth development programs across the United States have benefited from ACF's coaching education initiatives and grassroots development support. Operating under the philosophy of "For the Coaches, By the Coaches," ACF emphasizes peer-led learning, innovation and continuous professional development.

With cricket set to return at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, and with additional plans to provide scholarship opportunities for youth athletes through colleges and universities, momentum for the sport in the United States continues to grow rapidly.

"Increased funding support will provide a major boost to local coaches throughout the country. The support of the Cricket Hall of Fame, along with collaboration from Cricket Hall of Famers, represents a significant step forward in strengthening grassroots cricket through educational programs an essential foundation for sustaining cricket growth across the Americas. What makes this initiative unique is that it extends beyond traditional coaching education and certification models by creating performance-based earning opportunities for coaches participating in the Level 3 and Level 4 programs," said Jatin Patel, multi-sport coach, Cricket Hall of Famer and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

About Ashok P. Patel

Ashok P. Patel is the Founder-President of the USA Global Cricket Academy and a distinguished member of the Cricket Hall of Fame. For more than two decades, he has been instrumental in promoting youth cricket development, international exposure opportunities and long-term growth of the sport throughout the United States.

USA VOICES

Gujarati Woman Remains in Texas Jail in Multi-Million Dollar Fraud Investigation

Gujarati woman, identified as Tithi Patel, has reportedly remained in custody in Texas for several months following a major federal investigation linked to an alleged gold scam and an organized fraud network targeting senior citizens across the United States.

The case came to light after federal and local law enforcement agencies conducted raids on jewelry businesses in Irving and Frisco, Texas, in January 2026. Investigators alleged that these businesses were connected to a nationwide “gold bar scam,” in which elderly victims were deceived into converting their savings into gold and handing it over to fraud operatives.

According to investigators, the operation allegedly involved millions of dollars in fraud and money laundering activities. Authorities reportedly seized large amounts of cash, gold and financial records during the raids and detained multiple individuals.

Tithi Patel was reportedly working at Tilak Jewelers in Irving at

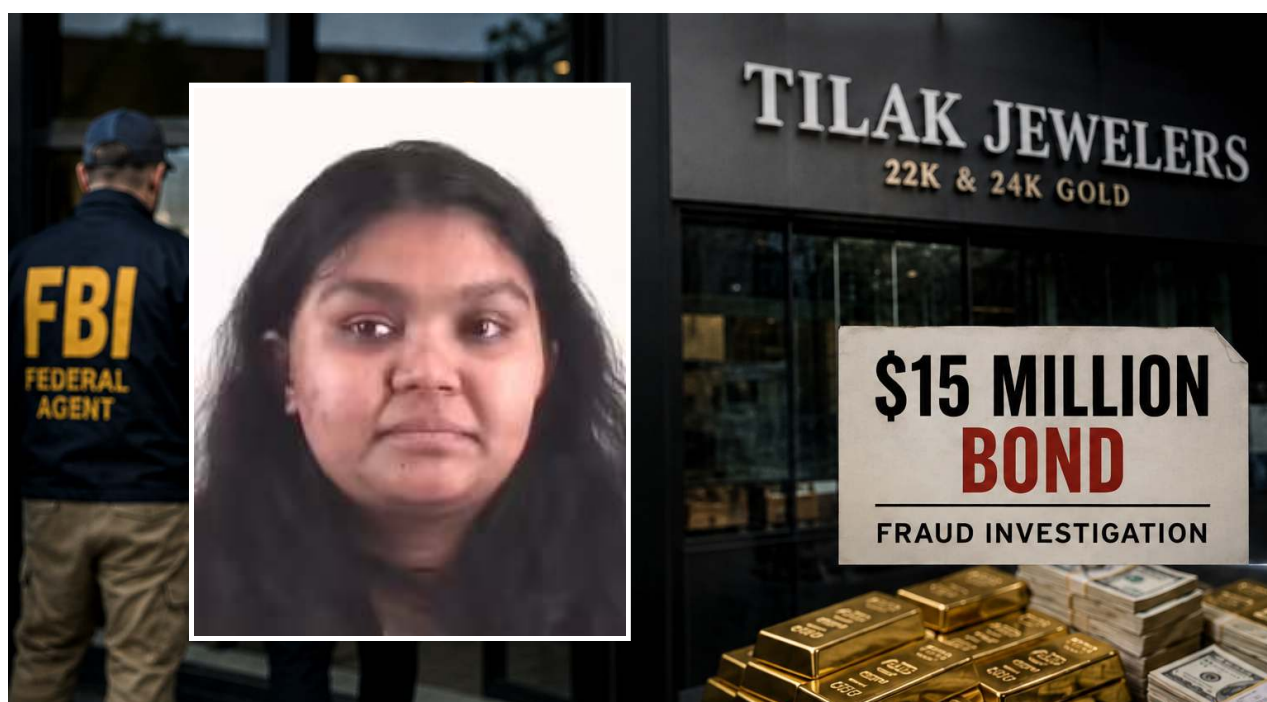
the time of the investigation. Community reports claim that she had overstayed her student visa, which may have further complicated her legal situation and affected her eligibility for bond.

Social media reports have claimed that a U.S. court set her bond at \$15 million across multiple charges, making it one of the largest bond amounts reportedly linked to a Gujarati-origin defendant in such a case. However, the exact bond details

have not been independently confirmed by all mainstream U.S. media outlets.

Another accused individual connected to the case was reportedly released after securing bond, while Patel continues to remain in custody pending further legal proceedings.

If convicted on serious federal fraud and money laundering charges, defendants in such cases can face significant prison sentences under U.S. law.



India Heritage Center Planned in Washington DC to Showcase 11,000 Years of Indian Civilization

A first-of-its-kind India Heritage Center and Museum is being planned in Washington, DC, with the aim of presenting India’s rich civilizational journey, cultural heritage, scientific achievements and global contributions to an international audience.

This ambitious project is being spearheaded by Atlanta-based Indian-American educationist and community leader Dr. Amitabh Sharma. According to the organizers, the museum will become the first dedicated monument in the United States focused entirely on India’s 11,000-year-old civilization and its influence on the world.

As per the project details, the proposed museum is expected to feature:

- 10 immersive galleries
- Interactive exhibits utilizing Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies
- A 350-seat auditorium
- Library and research facilities
- Educational programming spaces
- Cultural exhibition areas

- Digital archives and storytelling installations

The center aims to showcase India’s significant contributions in:

- Mathematics and science
- Ayurveda and medicine
- Philosophy and spirituality
- Art, culture and literature
- Democracy and the independence movement
- Modern technological and economic growth

Organizers emphasize that the museum is being designed not only for the Indian diaspora but also for Americans and global visitors seeking a deeper understanding of India’s history, diversity and cultural influence.

Washington, DC has been selected as the preferred location due to its international visibility, strong tourism appeal and cultural significance. Discussions are reportedly underway to identify a suitable site in the nation’s capital.

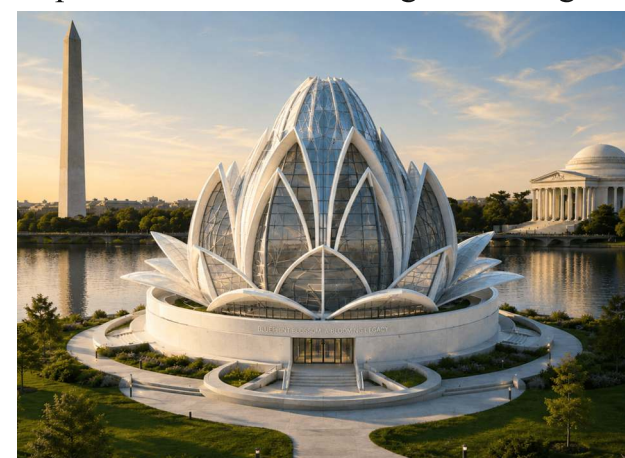
The India Heritage Center is

registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States. The estimated project cost is expected to range between \$12 million and \$14 million, with funding planned through community donations, corporate sponsorships, grants and crowdfunding initiatives.

Supporters of the initiative believe that the museum will help younger generations of Indian-Americans remain connected to their cultural roots while also promoting greater cultural understanding and strengthening India’s growing global soft power.

Official Website:

<https://www.theindiaheritagecenter.org>



NRI FINANCE

India Offers Up to 7% Interest Rates for NRIs, Attracting Strong Investor Interest

India is increasingly emerging as a preferred investment destination for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), with several leading banks currently offering interest rates of up to 7% on NRI fixed deposits. These rates are significantly higher than the returns available on many savings accounts and fixed-income instruments in the United States and other developed economies.

The attractive yields on Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) and Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits have generated growing interest among overseas Indians seeking secure, tax-efficient and stable investment opportunities.

Why NRI Deposits Are Becoming Popular

Indian banks have revised deposit rates in response to evolving market conditions and funding requirements, making NRI deposits one of the most attractive low-risk investment options available today.

For many NRIs, these deposits offer:

- Higher returns compared to U.S. savings accounts and Certificates of Deposit (CDs)
- Tax advantages on select deposit categories
- Flexible investment tenures
- Repatriation benefits for both principal and interest

Understanding the Available Deposit Options

FCNR Deposits

Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposits allow NRIs to invest funds in foreign currencies such as U.S. Dollars, British Pounds, Euros and other designated currencies without converting them into Indian Rupees.

Key advantages include:

- Protection against exchange rate fluctuations
- Interest earnings in the same foreign currency
- Full repatriation of principal and interest
- Tax-free interest income in India

Current FCNR deposit rates

offered by several banks range between 6% and 7%, depending on the currency and tenure selected.

NRE Fixed Deposits

Non-Resident External (NRE) fixed deposits require funds to be converted into Indian Rupees and currently offer returns ranging from 6.5% to 7% at many Indian banks.

Major benefits include:

- Tax-free interest income in India
- Full repatriation of principal and interest
- Ideal for individuals planning future expenses or investments in India

However, financial experts note that NRE deposits carry currency risk, as fluctuations in the value of the Indian Rupee may affect the effective returns when funds are converted back into foreign currency.

NRO Fixed Deposits

Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) deposits are primarily intended for managing income earned within India, including rental income, dividends, pensions and other domestic earnings.

While NRO deposits also offer competitive interest rates, investors

should note that:

- Interest income is taxable in India
- Repatriation is subject to applicable regulatory limits

Experts Advise Goal-Based Investment Decisions

Financial advisors recommend that NRIs carefully evaluate their financial objectives before selecting a deposit type.

Investors seeking stability and protection from currency fluctuations may prefer FCNR deposits, while those with future financial commitments in India may find NRE deposits more suitable.

With interest rates currently near multi-year highs, many experts believe this could be an opportune time for NRIs to lock in attractive returns before interest rate cycles change.

As global financial markets continue to experience uncertainty and volatility, India's competitive deposit rates are providing overseas investors with a compelling combination of safety, attractive returns, tax efficiency and financial flexibility.

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FOR NRIs

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NRI FIXED DEPOSITS

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