

ALLEGATION OF 'SUPPORTING HAMAS'

Visa revoked by Trump, Indian PhD student at Columbia self-deports

The scholar entered the US on an F-1 student visa

DIVYAA New Delhi, March 15

AN INDIAN PHD student at Columbia University, whose visa was recently revoked by the Donald Trump administration for allegedly "advocating for violence and terrorism" by supporting Hamas, has self-deported and left the country.



Department of Homeland Security said it obtained footage of Ranjani Srinivasan while self-deporting

Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian citizen, entered the US on an F-1 student visa as a doctoral student in Urban Planning at Columbia, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Friday.

Stating that Srinivasan was "involved in activities supporting" Hamas, a terrorist organisation, the Department of State revoked her visa on March 5.

The department said it had obtained footage of Srinivasan using the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Home App to self-deport on March 11. "Today, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced that one of the Columbia students who had her student visa revoked for advocating for violence and

terrorism self-deported using the CBP Home App and ICE arrested a Palestinian student for overstaying her expired F-1 visa," a DHS statement said.

This comes shortly after another Columbia University student, Leqaa Kordia, a Palestinian from the West Bank, was arrested by ICE HSI Newark officers for overstaying her student visa. In April 2024, Kordia was among those arrested for her involvement in pro-Hamas protests at Columbia.

"It is a privilege to be granted a visa to live and study in the US. When you advocate for violence and terrorism that privilege should be revoked,

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS) be placed in on "academic receivership", wherein an outside authority takes control, often as punishment for mismanagement.

The letter specified that the university must come up with a plan to create the academic receivership role no later than March 20. Failure to comply, the letter warned, would negatively affect "Columbia University's continued financial relationship with the US govt".

The university became an epicentre of pro-Palestinian protests as students rallied against the devastation caused by the war. More than 3,000 protesters are estimated to have been arrested in a crackdown across campuses.

Last week, the Trump administration announced the immediate cancellation of approximately \$400 million in federal grants and contracts to Columbia University due to the "school's continued inaction in the face of persistent harassment of Jewish students".

After taking office on January 20, Trump immediately issued an executive order calling for the removal of foreigners who bear "hostile attitudes" to US "citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding principles" or who support "threats to our national security".

As per the University's website, Srinivasan holds a Bachelor's in Design from CEPT University in Ahmedabad and was awarded the Fulbright Nehru and Inlaks Scholarships to pursue her master's degree in Critical Conservation at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard.

Srinivasan's research explored the continuities and transformations of caste rights within extractive economies in post-colonial India and received support from the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute. She has also worked as a project associate at an environmental conservation and planning advocacy nonprofit in Washington DC, and as a field researcher for international development agencies in South Asia.

The Trump administration has repeatedly red-flagged participation in campus protests against Israel's war in Gaza, equating it with support for Hamas

Not retiring, playing for joy of game: Kohli



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bengaluru, March 15

CHAMPION BATTER VIRAT Kohli on Saturday emphatically said he is not mulling retirement at the moment as he has been enjoying the game, and the "competitive streak" inside him is very much intact.

Kohli displayed the old spark while playing an important hand in India's recent Champions Trophy victory in Dubai, after which skipper Rohit Sharma too dismissed the retirement talks surrounding him. "Don't get nervous. I'm not making any announcements. As of now everything is fine. I still love playing the game," Kohli said at the RCB Innovation Lab.

Kohli said he no longer aspires to achieve milestones, but he is playing cricket for the "pure joy" of it.

"It's pretty much come down to just the pure joy, enjoyment, competitive streak, and love for the game. And as long as that is there I will continue to play. As I said today I am not playing for any achievement," he said.

He also welcomed the inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. He said he believed a new generation of Indian athletes would be ready to

Cricket, which enjoys a huge following in India and has a rapidly growing global audience, is returning to the Games after more than a century with a 20-format six-team Twenty20 format for men and women in LA.

The batter, who continues to play T20 for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL, said there was little chance of him coming back to the national team in the format. "I don't know, maybe if we're playing for the gold medal, I might sneak in for one game, get the medal and come back home," Kohli said with a smile. "No, but I think it's a great thing. To be Olympic champions would be an absolutely magnificent feeling. A first of its kind and I'm sure we'll be somewhere close to that," Kohli said that the innate "competitive streak" makes it tougher for a sportsperson to find the right time to move away from the game.

"You know the competitive streak doesn't allow you to find the answer (for the retirement question). At this point of time in my life I feel pretty happy," he said. But Kohli admitted that the advancing age has made the whole process of staying at the top of his game a bit more tough.

India's 2036 Olympics bid a shot at boosting infra: Expert

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REUTERS Bengaluru, March 15

INDIA'S BID to host the 2036 Olympic Games is a massive opportunity to "turbo-charge" investment in its infrastructure but it must ensure the benefits are shared across local communities, a sports governance expert said.

India has never hosted the Olympics, though New Delhi staged the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982, as well as the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

Ahmedabad is expected to be at the centre of India's plans to host the Games but a multi-city bid cannot be ruled out.

Former FIFA council member Moya Dodd, who previously served on the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athlete Entourage Commission, said developing the facilities needed to host the Olympics would have long-term benefits for the country.

"Leaving the voting politics aside, it's a great opportunity to turbo-charge investment into sports infrastructure that'll be able to bear fruit for many years to come," Dodd said during the RCB Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit, adding, "Making sure those investments are the right ones in the right places, serving the right people, and taking a holistic view of that is a big opportunity, not just in hosting rights but also to improve communities that will be hosts."

Indonesia, Turkey and Chile have confirmed their intention to compete for the 2036 hosting rights.

Several other countries including Egypt and South Korea are also expected to join the race.

Former Australian soccer player Dodd said there had to be a legacy from hosting the Games.

If serious about peace, sign ceasefire: Starmer to Putin

ASSOCIATED PRESS London, March 15

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER Keir Starmer said European nations and Western allies were stepping up preparations to support Ukraine in the event a peace deal was struck with Russia, with defence chiefs to firm up "robust plans" next



UK PM Keir Starmer after the 'coalition of the willing' meet

week and urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to sign up to a ceasefire in its war against Ukraine now, if he is "serious about peace".

At the virtual meeting with allies in what he has termed the "coalition of the willing," Starmer said the Kremlin's "dithering and delay" over US President Donald Trump's

ceasefire proposal, and Russia's "continued barbaric attacks" on Ukraine, "run entirely counter" to Putin's stated desire for peace.

"In the event of a ceasefire, we emphasised the need for strong monitoring arrangements, to ensure that any violations of a deal are identified and called out," he said. Around

30 leaders were involved in the call, including French President Emmanuel Macron, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to Ukraine's long-term security, and agreed that Ukraine must be able to defend itself and deter future Russian aggression," Starmer said.

Advertisement for TVS Excellence in Journalism Awards. Features a fountain pen and text: 'CELEBRATING THE FINEST IN INDIAN JOURNALISM', 'Chief Guest Smt. Droupadi Murmu', '19/03 2025 5:00 PM NEW DELHI', and 'Live streaming on: indianexpress.com financialexpress.com jansatta.com loksatta.com'.

NMDC Limited advertisement. Includes text: 'CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT', 'Tender Enquiry No.: HO(Works) / Contracts / Integrated MRSS / DIOM / 2025 / 1068 / 244', and details about the tender for an integrated main receiving and stepdown substation.

Advertisement for G & S Biotech Limited (in liquidation). Includes text: 'SALE NOTICE under IBC, 2016', 'G & S BIOTECH LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)', and details about an e-auction of assets.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd advertisement. Includes text: 'TENDER NOTICE', 'For more details please visit: E-Tendering Portal, https://tenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com', and a table of tender items.

NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX advertisement. Includes text: 'CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS AND PROPOSALS PERTAINING TO INDIA'S MARITIME HERITAGE', 'The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways invites Research Proposals and Research Papers related to India's Maritime Heritage...', and contact information for Ramesh Prasad.

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT advertisement. Includes text: 'FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT', '(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)', and a table of relevant particulars.

