

## Trump hails Kalpana Chawla as an "American Hero"



Declaring the month of May as 'Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month', US President Donald Trump hailed the Indian American astronaut Kalpana Chawla by depicting her as an 'American hero' and a woman who is an inspiration to many girls around the globe.

The US Congress has declared the month of May each year as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month' on April 30, and talking about this, Donald Trump said that Indian-descent astronaut Kalpana Chawla is an American hero. Trump said, 'Indian American Kalpana Chawla was the first woman of Indian descent to fly in space, and became an American hero for her devotion to the Space Shuttle program and its various missions transporting cargo and crew to and from the International Space Station.' Trump added that Chawla, with her contribution in space exploration, is an inspiration to girls around the globe.

Kalpana Chawla, then-40-year-old NASA astronaut was the first Indian woman to fly to space and while she was one of the 7 crew members who died in the Columbia Space Shuttle mishap in 2003 when the spaceship kissed Earth's atmosphere for re-entry and was disintegrated due to technical failures. While her death still seems shocking to most people, her life and achievements will always be remembered and her life will always be an inspiration to millions of girls across the globe, who keep of becoming potential astronauts. For her achievements and contribution in space research, the US Congress has posthumously awarded Kalpana Chawla with the Congressional Space Medal of Honour, NASA Space Flight Medal, and NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

However, since Trump is Trump, he couldn't help talking something related to 'America First' and said that having industriousness and love of country, the US has always enjoyed the privileges and enrichment of multiple innovations and societal advancements. On that, one must not forget that the United States of America is a nation build by immigrants. And with an exception those pure Native American descent (compromising even less than 1% of America's population), nobody is 'from the US' ? not even the POTUS himself.