

WHO praises PM Modi on the 10th anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government for their efforts on the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, which has significantly advanced sustainable development goals across the country.

Introducing himself as "Tulsi Bhai," Tedros stated, "I'm honored to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, showcasing how political commitment can drive transformative change." He noted that the initiative mobilized communities to prioritize sanitation and hygiene, eliminating open defecation and promoting a cleaner, healthier nation.

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Walz and Vance present a stark contrast to fiery Harris-Trump debate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The vice presidential debate this week between Democrat Tim Walz and Republican J.D. Vance showcased a remarkably congenial atmosphere, contrasting sharply with the contentious face-off between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

What was expected to be a fiery exchange on Tuesday night turned out to be a subdued affair, with both candidates steering clear of personal attacks and even finding common ground on certain issues. The age difference—Walz at 60 and Vance at 40—added to the contrasting tones, particularly when compared to the presidential debate featuring 78-year-old Trump and 59-year-old Harris.

Throughout the debate, Walz, a former teacher and football coach, appeared more animated, gesticulating as he spoke, while Vance, a polished venture capitalist, focused on his challenging upbringing, including his mother's struggles with addiction and his grandmother's financial difficulties.

Vance adopted a measured tone, even expressing goodwill towards Walz: "If Tim Walz is the next vice president, he'll have my prayers and my best wishes." Walz reciprocated the sentiment, stating, "I've enjoyed tonight's debate, and I think there was a lot of commonality here."

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Trudeau embraces Navratri celebrations, highlighting unity in diversity

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On the first day of Navratri, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau extended heartfelt greetings to Hindu Canadians. "Tonight, Hindu communities across Canada and the world will celebrate the festival of Navratri, which symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness," he noted in a statement.

Trudeau highlighted the importance of Hindu Canadians to the fabric of the nation, stating, "Their festivals, including Navratri, are also our festivals."

"The joy and diversity that Hindu Canadians bring make us a stronger country." He wished everyone celebrating Navratri "happiness and prosperity" on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Hinduism ranks as the third-largest religion in Canada, with approximately



2.3 percent of the population identifying as Hindu, according to the 2021 census. The country is home to

one of the largest Indian diasporas globally, comprising over 4 percent of its total population.

Indian EAM Jaishankar engages with US officials to strengthen ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a "productive" meeting with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Wednesday, discussing bilateral cooperation and global politics. He also met with Philip Gordon, the NSA to Vice President Kamala Harris, further reinforcing diplomatic ties.

Jaishankar described his conversation with Sullivan as insightful, while Gordon noted significant progress in U.S.-India relations, particularly in defense and technology cooperation. They addressed regional security issues across the Indo-

Pacific, Middle East, and Europe.

Following his UN General Assembly address, Jaishankar has engaged with several top Biden administration officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Their discussions focused on deepening bilateral ties and addressing regional challenges, including the situation in Ukraine.

India's efforts to maintain communication with both Moscow and Kyiv have garnered attention as the country aims to play a mediating role in the conflict. The discussions also included plans to enhance collaboration on clean energy initiatives to combat climate change.

UN seeks inspiration in Gandhi's vision amid global conflicts



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary this week, the United Nations observed the International Day of Nonviolence, seeking hope in Gandhi's ideals amid ongoing global conflicts. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres lamented the destruction and fear resulting from wars in regions like Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East.

He emphasized that Gandhi believed non-violence was humanity's greatest strength, more potent than any weapon. "Together, let's build institutions to support that noble vision," Guterres urged.

General Assembly President Philomen Yang remarked that Gandhi's message of peace is especially resonant as conflicts rage across the globe. Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha has inspired leaders like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., promoting the belief that truth and justice are achieved through moral courage and peaceful dialogue.

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India criticizes USCIRF for promoting biased narratives

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has once again called on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to cease its "agenda-driven efforts" that misrepresent facts and push a "motivated narrative" about the country. This statement comes in response to media inquiries regarding the USCIRF's latest report, which includes a 'Country Update' on India.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed strong disapproval of the USCIRF, a U.S. federal agency tasked with monitoring religious freedom worldwide and advising government leaders.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "Our views on USCIRF are well known. It is a biased organization with a political agenda that continues to misrepresent facts about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves

to further discredit the USCIRF."

Jaiswal urged the USCIRF to focus its efforts on addressing human rights issues within the United States instead. This isn't the first time New Delhi has criticized the USCIRF for its "biased and inaccurate comments."

Over the years, India has repeatedly stated that the USCIRF misrepresents facts in pursuit of its agenda, particularly concerning issues like COVID-19, the Delhi riots, the Citizenship Amendment Bill, and religious freedom.

"The USCIRF continues to publish propaganda on India under the guise of an annual report.

We do not expect it to understand India's diverse and democratic ethos. Their interference in the world's largest electoral exercise will never succeed," Jaiswal had previously asserted during a media briefing.



WHO praises PM Modi on the 10th anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission

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The WHO Director-General praised the mission's focus on equity and local engagement, which has substantially reduced diseases such as diarrhea and malnutrition.

He also recognized the complementary Ayushman Bharat health protection scheme as a testament to India's commitment to improving health outcomes.

On Gandhi Jayanti, PM Modi participated in cleanliness activities and encouraged public involvement in the Swachh Bharat Mission, celebrating its success as a significant behavioral change movement that has built over 100 million household toilets since its launch in 2014.

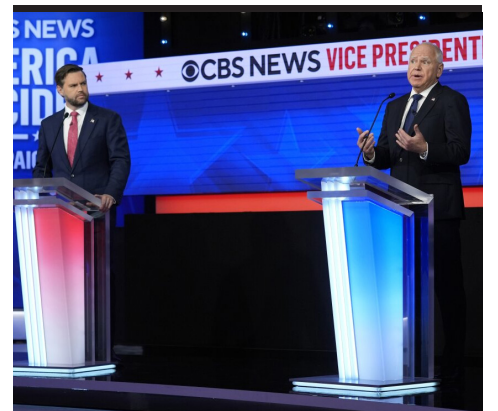


Walz and Vance present a stark contrast to fiery Harris-Trump debate

Contd. from Pg. 01

Despite the amiable exchange, the debate was not without its tense moments. The moderators had to intervene during a discussion on immigration, humorously noting, "The audience can't hear you because your mics are cut."

Contentious issues arose, particularly concerning the January 6 Capitol riots. Vance refused to acknowledge Trump's defeat in the 2020 election, prompting Walz to criticize him for avoiding a direct answer. Both candidates admitted past mistakes during the debate, with Walz acknowledging his inaccurate claims about being in Hong Kong during the Tiananmen Square protests, while Vance expressed regret over his previous harsh critiques of Trump.



The debate featured substantive discussions on pressing topics such as childcare and gun violence, but overall, the candidates sidestepped many hard-hitting questions, opting instead for a more agreeable exchange that disappointed some party extremists hoping for a more combative showdown.

Russia claims control of key town in Donetsk

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Russian Defense Ministry announced that its armed forces have gained control over the town of Ugledar (or Vuhledar) in Ukraine's Donetsk region. "Thanks to the decisive actions of the Vostok troop group, the settlement of Ugledar has been liberated," the ministry stated.

Ugledar holds strategic significance for both Russian and Ukrainian forces due to its elevated position and its location at the crossroads of eastern and southern fronts, which are crucial for supply lines.

Last month, Russian forces also reported taking control of eight settlements within the Donetsk region.



Guterres praises India's commitment to peacekeeping in Lebanon

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed "deep appreciation" for India's contribution of troops to the peacekeeping operation in Lebanon amid escalating tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. At an emergency Security Council meeting, he affirmed that UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers remain steadfast despite challenges.

Guterres praised the military and civilian members of UNIFIL, which includes nearly 900 Indian troops deployed along the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon. They are currently navigating a precarious situation, caught between Israeli military operations and Hezbollah's activities.

According to Guterres' spokesperson,



exchanges of fire and intensified shelling continue to pose risks for peacekeepers. Despite Israel's request for UNIFIL to relocate for safety reasons, a decision was made to maintain their positions while continuously assessing security.

Guterres reiterated that UNIFIL plays a critical role in maintaining peace and providing communication between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Israeli Defense Forces.

Friday, 04 October 2024

India applauds Mauritius for reclaiming sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On Thursday, India expressed its approval of the recent agreement between the United Kingdom and Mauritius regarding the return of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which includes Diego Garcia. This treaty marks a significant step in completing the decolonization of Mauritius.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "India has consistently supported Mauritius's claim for sovereignty over Chagos, reflecting its principled stance on decolonization and its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, as well as its enduring partnership with Mauritius."

The MEA emphasized that this agreement, finalized after two years of negotiations and in line with international law, is a notable achievement.

The Modi administration has reaffirmed its dedication to upholding a rules-based international order and fostering peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past decade, New Delhi has reinforced its Maritime Vision (SAGAR)



and continues to collaborate with Indo-Pacific countries to ensure regional security and growth. "India remains committed to working with Mauritius and other like-minded nations to enhance maritime safety and security, contributing to increased peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region," the MEA concluded.

The United States also welcomed this "historic agreement," which secures the strategically important UK-US military base on Diego Garcia while granting Mauritius sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) of the Chagos Archipelago. For the first time in over 50 years, the status of this strategic base will be legally secure.

Lebanon faces crisis as Israeli air-strikes displace nearly 1.2 million



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

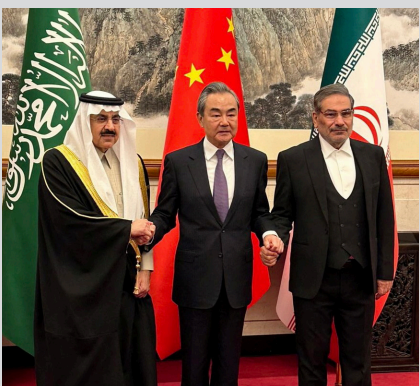
The number of displaced individuals in Lebanon due to Israeli airstrikes has surged to nearly 1.2 million, according to a report from the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Lebanese Council of Ministers. Released on Wednesday, the report highlights that many displaced persons have sought refuge in other homes, with family, or in rented accommodations, while thousands have fled to Syria.

From September 23 to September 29, the report noted that 234,023 Syrians and 76,269 Lebanese crossed into Syrian territory. To accommodate the displaced, 867 centers have been established across Lebanon, though 643 have already reached full capacity.

Israel has intensified its airstrikes targeting Hezbollah officials and facilities, while conducting a "limited" ground operation in Lebanon. This escalation has forced residents from southern and eastern Lebanon, as well as from Beirut's southern suburbs, to leave their homes in search of safety.

Tensions have escalated sharply between Hezbollah and Israel since mid-September, when Israel announced a shift in military focus from Gaza to its northern front.

Iran and Saudi Arabia pledge to strengthen relations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a recent meeting in Doha, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud underscored the importance of overcoming their differences to enhance bilateral relations. The discussions included issues surrounding Israeli actions in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as Iran's recent missile attacks on Israel.

Pezeshkian expressed optimism about the growing momentum in relations and Iran's readiness to collaborate more closely with Saudi Arabia across various sectors. He cautioned against escalating tensions in West Asia and called for unity among Muslim nations to counter Israeli aggression.

Minister Al Saud echoed a commitment to resolving differences and advancing relations, emphasizing the critical situation in the region due to ongoing conflicts. Both leaders reaffirmed their desire for cooperation in restoring peace and stability.

Maldives president to strengthen ties during upcoming India visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu will visit India from October 6 to 10, following an invitation from President Droupadi Murmu. This marks Muizzu's first bilateral visit, during which he will meet with President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other officials.

Muizzu's office stated that he aims to strengthen bilateral ties with nations crucial to the Maldives' development, emphasizing a proactive foreign policy. Discussions will focus on enhancing

cooperation between the two countries. Earlier this year, Muizzu attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony and met him at the COP28 summit. His visit will include business engagements in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the significance of the visit for boosting relations and people-to-people ties. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had visited the Maldives in August, reinforcing India's commitment to the region despite recent strains in relations. India continues to provide substantial development assistance to the Maldives.

North Korea warns of nuclear retaliation if sovereignty is threatened

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has declared that the nation will employ all offensive capabilities, including nuclear weapons, in response to any perceived threats to its sovereignty. This statement was reported by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) following Kim's inspection of a special operations training base earlier this week.

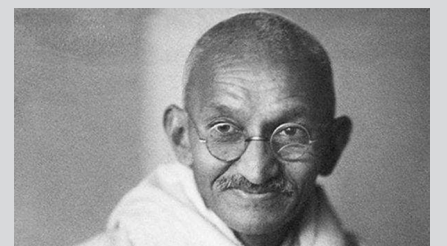
Kim emphasized that hostile rhetoric and actions from adversaries will not deter North Korea's nuclear capabilities. He asserted that the country has "irreversibly secured the absolute strength as a nuclear power," reinforcing its readiness to use these weapons



if necessary. "To hope for survival in a military conflict with a nuclear state is folly," Kim stated, adding that in such a scenario, "the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible."

UN seeks inspiration in Gandhi's vision amid global conflicts

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India's Permanent Representative P. Harish highlighted that Gandhi's teachings remind us that strength comes from righteousness and moral courage, rather than force.

Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative Mohan Pieris drew parallels between Gandhi's principles and the UN Charter, noting how both emphasize the importance of peaceful resolutions.

Representatives from Jamaica and Vietnam also reflected on Gandhi's commitment to human rights and self-determination, affirming their relevance in today's world.

The UN General Assembly designated Gandhi's birth anniversary as the International Day of Non-Violence to promote education and awareness of non-violence.



Published Weekly by:
Ansal Media Group
of USA LLC

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Vice Presidential debate analysis & the Middle East conflict – A missed opportunity?



Dr. (H) Avi Verma
Publisher

The recent Vice Presidential debate brought a breath of fresh air to the political stage, especially after the contentious and chaotic presidential debate that left voters more divided than ever. Both Vice Presidential candidates sought to project a calm, composed, and professional image, offering a stark contrast to the bitter exchanges and personal attacks of their running mates. The politeness on display was refreshing, but the question remains: Did this debate actually change any minds?

A “nice guy” debate:
The debate itself seemed more of a polite exchange of talking points than a battle of ideas. Both candidates, representing their respective parties, were determined to avoid the kind of mudslinging that characterized the presidential debate. The Republicans focused on promoting their agenda of economic growth and strong foreign policy, while the Democrats centered their platform on healthcare, social equity, and climate change.

But while the candidates played nice, it felt like both were holding back. Instead of pushing hard on issues that could sway undecided voters, they stuck closely to rehearsed talking points, seemingly more interested in avoiding gaffes than scoring political points. For many viewers, this civility may have been appreciated, but it may not have been enough to sway those still sitting on the fence. Did either candidate deliver a decisive win? That’s debatable.

Who won the debate?
While the overall tone of the debate may have been more palatable to viewers, it’s difficult to say if anyone truly “won.” Both candidates stuck to their respective scripts without going off track or showing much in terms of new ideas. On issues like the economy, health care, and foreign policy, neither side landed a knockout punch. Instead, the debate was more about reinforcement than persuasion.

For supporters of the Democratic candidate, their representative showcased the party’s familiar approach of focusing on inclusivity, equity, and a more collaborative approach to foreign policy. On the other hand, Republican supporters

likely appreciated the emphasis on national security, the economy, and law and order. But for the undecided voter? It’s unclear if either side did enough to win them over.

This leads to the question of whether this debate will actually move the needle in a race that has remained intensely polarized. Both candidates succeeded in avoiding major mistakes, but neither seized the moment to deliver a game-changing performance.

Escalating Middle East conflict – The critical question
Amid the domestic policy discussions, foreign policy loomed large, especially in the context of the escalating Middle East conflict. With tensions soaring and the risk of broader regional involvement, the question was unavoidable: Did either candidate adequately address the Middle East crisis?

The Middle East conflict is one of the most pressing issues on the global stage, and how each candidate addressed it could very well shape the outcome of the election. For the Democratic side, the candidate echoed traditional party lines, calling for diplomacy, coalition-building, and the importance of maintaining alliances with global partners. This approach appealed to voters who prefer diplomatic solutions and are wary of direct military engagement. However, in the eyes of critics, the response felt cautious and may not have reassured those concerned about the growing instability in the region.

Meanwhile, the Republican candidate emphasized a stronger, more assertive foreign policy. Stressing military strength and a no-nonsense approach to dealing with threats, the candidate sought to position the Republican Party as the tough, reliable choice in times of international crisis. While this approach appeals to voters looking for decisive action, critics pointed out that the rhetoric lacked depth and a clear strategy for long-term peace and stability in the Middle East.

How the Middle East conflict affects both parties
As the situation in the Middle East continues to escalate, it becomes a significant factor in shaping the political narrative. For the Democrats, the conflict underscores their emphasis on diplomacy and international cooperation, which are core tenets of their foreign policy strategy. Their response during the debate, however, may have appeared too restrained, leaving some voters questioning whether they have the necessary resolve to handle the growing crisis.

The Republican Party, on the other hand, has traditionally positioned itself as the party of military strength and national security. The candidate’s firm stance during the debate

highlighted this, but the lack of a comprehensive plan to address the complexity of the Middle East conflict may leave some voters uncertain. While the promise of tough action can be appealing, voters may wonder how that will translate into meaningful results in a region as complex as the Middle East.

In many ways, both parties have a lot at stake as the situation unfolds. For the Democrats, the challenge is to convince voters that diplomacy and careful coalition-building are the right approaches, even in the face of mounting violence and instability. For the Republicans, the task is to show that their tough stance isn’t just rhetoric and that they have a real strategy for securing peace.

Did the candidates adequately address the crisis?
The question that remains is whether either candidate addressed the Middle East crisis in a way that provided voters with a clear vision of how they would handle it if elected. Unfortunately, neither side presented a comprehensive plan that tackled the full scope of the crisis. Instead, the candidates stayed within their respective lanes, with the Democrats focusing on diplomacy and the Republicans emphasizing strength.

For voters concerned about the conflict, this lack of depth may have been disappointing. While both candidates offered solid talking points, neither side seemed willing to dive into the complexities of the situation or propose new ideas for resolving it. As a result, the Middle East conflict remains a critical issue that both parties will need to address more thoroughly as the election draws closer.

Conclusion: Where do we stand?
In the aftermath of the Vice Presidential debate, the political landscape remains largely unchanged. Both candidates managed to avoid major mistakes, but neither delivered a performance that decisively shifted the momentum of the race. The debate may have provided some reassurance to their respective bases, but for undecided voters, it likely left more questions than answers.

The escalation of the Middle East conflict, in particular, is a topic that both parties must confront head-on if they hope to win over voters. As the situation continues to evolve, how each party addresses it will play a critical role in shaping the election outcome.

As we move forward, voters will be looking for more than just politeness and civility—they’ll be looking for concrete solutions. Whether it’s foreign policy, domestic issues, or the economy, the race remains as competitive as ever, and the stakes couldn’t be higher.

Best Regards,
Dr. (H) Avi Verma,
Publisher, IndoUS Tribune

South Africa calls for restraint amid Middle East tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The South African government has expressed deep concern over the escalating military actions by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) urged all parties involved to exercise restraint to avoid further exacerbating tensions in this vulnerable region. DIRCO spokesperson Chrispin Phiri reiterated support for comments made by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who expressed alarm at the potential for a wider conflict. He condemned the recent declaration of the UN chief as persona non grata by Israel, calling for international attention to the escalating violence.

The South African government continues to advocate for peace and dialogue in resolving conflicts, stressing that Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine undermines Palestinian self-determination and hinders peace efforts.

Iran vows to respond if provoked, seeks dialogue amid regional tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stated that Iran does not seek war but will respond decisively if provoked, particularly in light of actions by Israel. His remarks came after a meeting with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during his two-day official visit aimed at bolstering bilateral ties and regional cooperation, as reported by Xinhua.

Pezeshkian outlined two key objectives for his trip: first, to engage in dialogue with the Qatari government regarding cooperation agreements, and second, to address the critical regional situation, including Israel's violations of international law and attacks on innocent civilians. "If the Zionist regime continues its crimes, it will face harsher responses," he warned.

Additionally, Pezeshkian also participated in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit, held in Doha on Thursday.

EAM Jaishankar to represent India at SCO meeting in Pakistan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Governments (CHG) meeting in Islamabad, scheduled for October 15-16, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Friday.

During a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that Jaishankar will attend the summit in Pakistan. However, he noted that there are currently no details regarding any potential bilateral meetings that the minister may have during his visit.

As part of diplomatic protocol, Pakistan extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the meeting. Jaishankar's participation is not unusual, as previous



SCO meetings have seen Indian ministerial delegations in attendance, even though heads of state are not required to be present.

Political analyst Kamran Yousaf remarked that while inviting PM Modi is a standard practice for host countries, he

does not anticipate the Prime Minister's presence in Islamabad. Last year, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in India, highlighting the ongoing diplomatic engagements within the organization.

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China condemns U.S. military aid to Taiwan region

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China has expressed strong opposition to the United States' recent approval of military assistance to Taiwan, amounting to approximately \$567 million. A Chinese spokesperson stated that such actions will not deter China's commitment to opposing "Taiwan independence" and preserving its national sovereignty.

During a press briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian criticized the U.S. for violating the 'One China' principle and the three joint communiqués between China and the U.S., particularly the August 17 Communiqué. He claimed that this military support emboldens Taiwan's leadership and undermines the efforts to maintain stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Lin emphasized that the activities of the "Taiwan independence" forces, supported by external powers, pose the greatest threat to peace in the region. He warned that the U.S. strategy of using military aid to support Taiwanese separatism would ultimately backfire.



He urged the U.S. to adhere to the one-China principle and cease any military assistance to Taiwan. The August 17 Communiqué, established in 1982, reiterated the U.S. intention to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan and not to interfere in China's internal affairs.

India and France deepen strategic ties as NSA Doval meets President Macron in Paris

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of the Horizon 2047 roadmap, which aims to enhance the strategic partnership between India and France in the Indo-Pacific region. This roadmap outlines the future of bilateral relations as both nations prepare to celebrate significant milestones in 2047, including the centenary of India's independence.

Following their meeting, Doval conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings to Macron, who highlighted the importance of their collaborative efforts in addressing global challenges.

Earlier, Doval and Emmanuel Bonne, the French President's Diplomatic Advisor, co-led a Strategic Dialogue in Paris, focusing on areas



such as cybersecurity and space exploration. On Monday, Doval also met with French Armed Forces Minister Sébastien Lecornu to discuss deepening defense cooperation, including collaborations on Rafale Marine jets and Scorpene submarines.

This engagement follows a meeting between Modi and Macron at the G7 Summit in June, where they reviewed bilateral relations and committed to further cooperation across various sectors, including defense and technology.

India, Nepal, and Bangladesh sign historic electricity trade agreement

India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have officially signed a groundbreaking power sales agreement (PSA) to facilitate cross-border electricity trade. Under this agreement, Nepal will export 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh via the Indian grid from June 15 to November 15.

This pact, signed by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), and NTPC Limited of India, marks the official opening of the electricity export route. Nepal has been exporting electricity to India for the past three years.

The agreement, finalized in the presence of key officials from Nepal, Bangladesh, and India, sets the electricity rate at 6.4 cents per unit. This deal is projected to generate approximately \$9.2 million annually for Nepal.

Firefighters union opts out of presidential endorsement



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) announced it will not endorse a presidential candidate for the upcoming election, a setback for Vice President Kamala Harris, who previously enjoyed the union's support in 2020. IAFF President Edward A. Kelly explained the decision was made to preserve unity among the union's 350,000 members.

Both Harris and the Trump campaign had made appeals to the union, but the non-endorsement reflects a trend seen in previous election cycles. The Trump campaign seized on the news, framing it as a significant blow to Harris's campaign efforts.

US charges three Iranian hackers for targeting Trump's campaign



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Justice Department has charged three Iranian hackers—Masoud Jalili, Seyyed Ali Aghamiri, and Yasar Balaghi—for attempting to disrupt former President Donald Trump's campaign during the lead-up to the November 2020 election. This indictment represents the Biden administration's ongoing effort to counter foreign interference in U.S. elections.

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the charges during a press conference, emphasizing the increase in aggressive Iranian cyber activities. The hackers allegedly used fake email accounts to deceive campaign officials into thinking they were communicating with a trusted source, ultimately leading them to click on malicious links. This breach enabled the hackers to

steal sensitive internal documents, including debate preparation materials and profiles of potential vice presidential candidates.

The stolen information was leaked to various media outlets and to President Joe Biden's campaign while he was still a candidate. The charges include wire fraud, identity theft, and computer fraud, with the U.S. Treasury Department also imposing sanctions on the three men and additional members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Although the hackers are currently in Iran and beyond the reach of U.S. law enforcement, Garland stated that the Justice Department will continue to pursue them indefinitely. He also highlighted the broader context of Iran's cyber activities and recent incidents, including a separate terrorism charge against a Pakistani national with alleged ties to Iran.

Eight states vote on banning noncitizen voting amid election scrutiny



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On November 5, voters in eight states will decide on amendments to explicitly ban noncitizen voting, despite it already being illegal. Critics argue this is part of a strategy by Donald Trump and his allies to undermine electoral confidence ahead of the presidential election. Proposed amendments will appear in battleground states like North Carolina and Wisconsin, as well as Republican strongholds such as Idaho and Iowa.

Supporters claim the measures respond to voter concerns amid rising illegal border crossings, while analysts suggest they are unlikely to have any real impact, as noncitizen voting is already prohibited. These proposals echo ongoing efforts to question U.S. election integrity, fueled by Trump's unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud in the 2020 election. Historically, few localities allow noncitizen voting, and studies indicate that instances of illegal voting are extremely rare.

New York Mayor pleads not guilty in arraignment



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mayor Eric Adams of New York City pleaded not guilty during his arraignment in federal court, following the unsealing of an indictment against him. The indictment includes five counts of bribery, wire fraud, and solicitation, primarily linked to his 2021 mayoral campaign.

Adams, a Democrat, surrendered to authorities last Friday and asserted his innocence to the judge. His attorney announced plans to file a motion for dismissal of the charges next week. If convicted, Adams could face decades in prison. Despite calls from fellow Democrats to resign, Adams stated he would not step down. The situation presents a significant political challenge for him, as New York Governor Kathy Hochul retains the authority to remove him from office.

Adams, who has a long career in law enforcement, became the 110th mayor of New York City in January 2022, with his term set to end in January 2026.

US troops to end military mission in Iraq under new agreement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. has reached an agreement with the Iraqi government to conclude the American-led coalition's military mission against the Islamic State (ISIS) by next year. However, the Biden administration has not specified how many of the nearly 2,500 U.S. troops in Iraq will remain after the transition.

Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh confirmed the shift in military presence but did not provide further details. This announcement comes amid escalating conflicts in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran-backed militant groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

Under the agreement, there will be a two-phase transition: the first phase will conclude the coalition's mission against ISIS by September 2025, while U.S. forces will begin

withdrawing from key bases, including Ain al-Asad airbase and Baghdad International Airport, post-election. Some troops may relocate to Hareer base in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region.

The second phase will see continued U.S. operations in Iraq until 2026 to support counter-ISIS efforts in Syria, eventually transitioning to a bilateral security relationship. Iraqi officials noted that the Kurdistan regional government supports the presence of U.S. troops at Hareer base after 2026.

This agreement marks a significant milestone in the U.S. military's long history in Iraq, which began with the invasion in 2003. U.S. forces were re-invited to Iraq in 2014 to combat ISIS after its rapid expansion in the region. The ongoing U.S. presence has also served as a counterbalance to Iranian influence in Iraq and surrounding areas.



FBI to pay \$22 million to settle claims of gender discrimination at training academy



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The FBI has agreed to pay over \$22 million to settle a class-action lawsuit alleging systemic gender discrimination at its training academy in Quantico, Virginia. The lawsuit claims that female recruits faced a hostile environment, including harassment from instructors and were unfairly targeted for dismissal.

The settlement, pending approval from a federal judge, would rank among the largest in the FBI's history. According to the plaintiffs' attorney, the pervasive issues reflect attitudes that were fostered at the academy, and this case aims to instigate meaningful change.

The lawsuit, filed in 2019, argued that female recruits were judged more harshly than their male counterparts and faced excessive scrutiny in tactical situations.

CDC warns of overdose risks from counterfeit medications sold online

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The CDC has issued a critical warning about the dangers of purchasing counterfeit medications from illegal online pharmacies, highlighting a growing public health crisis. This alert follows the U.S. Department of Justice charging 18 individuals involved in running these illicit operations, which are tied to the distribution of unregulated drugs, including dangerous substances like fentanyl and methamphetamine.

The CDC's warning is particularly alarming, as it reports that at least nine victims have died from narcotics poisoning linked to these counterfeit medications. The trend of obtaining prescriptions from illegal pharmacies has surged, with the number of prescriptions rising from 64 million in 2019 to 85 million in 2022.

Nearly 95% of websites offering prescription medications operate unlawfully, and the CDC strongly advises consumers



to obtain prescriptions only from licensed healthcare providers. They urge anyone who has purchased drugs online to verify the legitimacy of the pharmacy and to safely dispose of any suspected counterfeit medications.

The CDC's guidance serves as a vital reminder for consumers to remain vigilant and cautious when it comes to online medication purchases, stressing the importance of relying on licensed pharmacies to ensure safety and efficacy.

Senators demand DOJ action against Boeing executives for safety lapses



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal, are pressing the Justice Department to hold Boeing executives accountable for safety failures. In a recent letter, they criticized the DOJ's plea deal with Boeing, which involved a guilty plea for defrauding the FAA and a \$487 million fine.

The senators argue that this response is insufficient, pointing to ongoing safety concerns since the 737 MAX crashes. They contend that a culture prioritizing production speed over safety persists and urge the DOJ to take stronger action against corporate misconduct. A hearing on objections from victims' families is set for October 11.

California governor vetoes AI safety bill, eliciting mixed reactions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Governor Gavin Newsom has vetoed Senate Bill 1047, aimed at enforcing safety tests for large AI models before public release. He argued that the bill could stifle innovation and amplify fears about AI risks.

While the legislation had strong support from AI safety advocates and some celebrities, it faced significant opposition from major tech companies like Google and OpenAI, who warned it could harm California's competitiveness. Senator Scott Wiener called the veto a setback for corporate oversight, while advocacy groups criticized it as a dangerous gamble for public safety.

In contrast, the California Chamber of Commerce welcomed the decision, arguing it would encourage innovation. Newsom plans to consult with AI experts, including Stanford's Fei-Fei Li, to develop effective safety measures for AI deployment.

Biden says the US had 'no knowledge of or participation in' Beirut attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Joe Biden stated that the U.S. had no prior knowledge or involvement in Israel's airstrikes in Beirut, asserting that the administration is still gathering information about the situation. Biden emphasized that the U.S. was informed of the Israeli operation only after it had begun.

An Israeli official confirmed that notification was given shortly before the strike, asserting that the U.S. played no role in the operation. When pressed about the justification for the strikes, which reportedly targeted Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Biden refrained from commenting, indicating the need for more details.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken echoed Biden's sentiments, stating that the U.S. is



actively seeking more information about the airstrikes. Blinken highlighted the importance of pursuing diplomatic solutions to mitigate regional tensions and avoid a broader conflict. The discussions come as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated resistance to U.S.-proposed ceasefire efforts, while Blinken warned against escalation by other regional actors, including Iran.

North Carolina faces water crisis in wake of Hurricane Helene

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, tens of thousands of North Carolina residents remain without running water, six days after the storm caused catastrophic flooding across the southeastern U.S. The powerful storm has left around 20% of the one million residents in the western part of the state struggling with low water pressure or no water at all.

Asheville, one of the hardest-hit areas, has reported significant damage to its municipal water supply, affecting over 150,000 residents. Many officials warn that repairs could take days or even weeks, urging those with access to water to boil it before consumption.

To assist those in need, Pack Square Park has been converted into a distribution hub for food and water. Local volunteers are working tirelessly to provide drinking water and ready-to-eat meals to affected residents.



Businesses like Buxton Chicken Palace are stepping up, preparing hot meals for the community despite the ongoing water crisis.

Water distribution efforts are ongoing, with both local and state officials coordinating the delivery of private water supplies. The state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also involved, providing additional drinking water to help those in need.

NASA-SpaceX mission to return astronaut Sunita Williams



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The NASA-SpaceX spacecraft carrying Crew-9 members has successfully launched and is en route to the International Space Station (ISS). This mission is significant as it aims to bring Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams back to Earth in February.

The spacecraft, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, marked the first human spaceflight from Space Launch Complex-40. NASA announced that the Crew-9 mission will last five months, during which the new crew will perform various scientific tasks.

Originally scheduled for Thursday, the launch was delayed due to hurricane-related weather conditions.

The Crew-9 team will eventually accommodate Williams and fellow astronaut Barry Wilmore when they return to Earth.

Indian missions honor Gandhi's legacy on 155th Gandhi Jayanti

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian missions across the subcontinent celebrated the 155th Gandhi Jayanti on Wednesday, honoring the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi through various events.

In Kathmandu, the Indian Embassy hosted a morning of hymns and musical performances. The ambassador paid floral tribute to Gandhi, while artist Saraswati Khatri performed compositions dedicated to him. Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava highlighted the importance of Gandhi's principles in today's world.

Lyudmila Sekacheva, President of the BRICS World of Traditions NGO, also spoke at the event, sharing insights on Gandhi's enduring influence and her role in establishing Tolstoy-Gandhi Centres in Russia and India. The celebration saw participation from representatives of the Nepal Charkha Pracharak Gandhi-Tulasi Smarak Mahaguthi and featured cultural performances by artists from JNCC Moscow and students from EOI school. In a gesture of appreciation, Ambassador Srivastava recognized sanitation workers for their contributions to public health.



Similarly, the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh celebrated Gandhi Jayanti, where High Commissioner Pranay Verma reiterated Gandhi's relevance in

today's world, especially in combating terrorism. In Colombo, Sri Lanka Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya joined Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha in honoring Gandhi.

India issues helpline for citizens stranded in Nepal due to floods



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In response to severe floods and landslides caused by record rainfall in Nepal, the Indian Embassy has issued helpline numbers for citizens stranded by the disaster. The embassy is coordinating with Nepali authorities for safe evacuations.

The situation remains dire, with the death toll nearing 200, and 30 people reported missing. Rescue operations have successfully saved over 4,500 individuals, but widespread destruction has complicated recovery efforts, including damage to 1,327 homes and 19 major highways.

The Indian Embassy expressed its concern and commitment to assisting affected citizens, stating, "Our thoughts are with everyone impacted."

Queen's Medal recipient Manjit Atwal retires after nearly three decades in UK police



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Manjit Atwal, one of the highest-ranking Sikh women in UK policing, has retired after nearly 30 years of distinguished service. Atwal, who became the first Sikh woman police officer in Leicestershire, held various roles, including hostage negotiator, and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

Reflecting on her career, Atwal noted, "When I joined in 1996, there weren't many who looked like me, especially women. Now, our police force better reflects the diverse communities we serve." She participated in Operation Soteria, aimed at improving the handling of sexual crimes.

Atwal acknowledged the challenges of balancing her career as a woman of color and a mother. "I worked through those barriers and helped implement changes along the way," she said, expressing hope for future representation among Chief Constables.

Chief Constable Rob Nixon praised Atwal for building community trust and inspiring others in the force. Looking ahead, Atwal plans to spend more time with her family and grandchildren, stating, "I want to reinvent myself in this new chapter of my life."

US expands visa opportunities for Indian travelers with 250,000 new appointments

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The US Embassy in India has announced the opening of an additional 250,000 visa appointments for Indian travelers, including tourists, skilled workers, and students. This move aims to facilitate timely interviews and strengthen the people-to-people ties between the two nations.

The Indian Mission has already processed over one million nonimmigrant visa applications this year alone. "Our focus is on connecting families, supporting businesses, and encouraging tourism," stated the US Mission to India.

With more than 1.2 million Indians traveling to the United States in 2024, a 35% increase from the previous year, the embassy emphasized the growing partnership between the two countries.



US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti highlighted the commitment to expediting the visa process, citing Prime

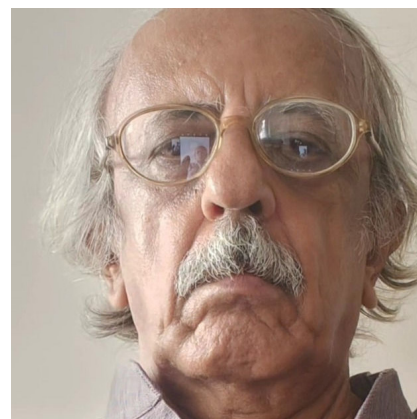
Minister Modi's announcement of new Indian consulates in Boston and Los Angeles.

RTI reveals 24 Indian fishers died in Pakistan jails over past decade

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Right to Information (RTI) request has revealed that 24 Indian fisherfolk have died in Pakistan's prisons over the past ten years. The data, obtained by activist Jatinder Desai, covers the period from January 2014 to December 2023.

Desai noted that one fisherman, Vinod Laxman from Maharashtra, died on March 17, and his remains were repatriated on May 1. Another, Suresh Natu from Gujarat, died in



custody on September 5, and his family is still awaiting his return.

Currently, 210 Indian fishermen remain imprisoned in Pakistan for inadvertently crossing maritime borders. Of these, 180 have completed their sentences, yet their repatriation remains unresolved. Desai emphasized the need for adherence to the Bilateral Agreement on Consular Access, which stipulates prompt repatriation of individuals after sentence completion.

Singapore court sentences Indian-origin ex-minister S. Iswaran to 12 months in prison for graft



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

S. Iswaran, Singapore's former transport minister of Indian origin, has been sentenced to 12 months in prison for accepting gifts worth approximately SGD 403,300 (USD 313,200) over seven years from two businessmen he considered friends. The 62-year-old pleaded guilty to four charges of receiving gifts and one charge of obstructing justice on September 24, the first day of his trial. Justice Vincent Hoong noted that Iswaran's public denial of the charges raised doubts about his remorse.

Despite requests from his defense for a lighter sentence, the judge emphasized the need for accountability among public officials, citing the potential damage to public trust. Iswaran resigned from his position in January and voluntarily returned SGD 380,305.95 to the state prior to his trial. The investigation revealed he received various gifts, including whisky and luxury tickets, while overseeing dealings with the businessmen involved. The case surfaced in May 2023 during a CPIB investigation into separate matters, ultimately leading to charges against Iswaran.

Indian-American professor awarded \$800,000 MacArthur 'genius' grant



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shailaja Paik, an Indian-American professor at the University of Cincinnati, has received an \$800,000 "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation for her research on Dalit women. The fellowship recognizes her work highlighting the enduring caste discrimination and its impact on gender and sexuality.

Paik's recent project focuses on the lives of Dalit women performers in Maharashtra's Tamasha theatre. Her book, *The Vulgarities of Caste: Dalits, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India*, critiques historical narratives, including those of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a prominent caste abolitionist.

Growing up in a slum in Pune, Paik was inspired by her father's commitment to education. The MacArthur Fellowships, awarded since 1981, honor exceptional individuals across various fields without the need for applications.

Canadian MP criticizes Khalistani extremists for spreading conspiracy theories about Kanishka bombings

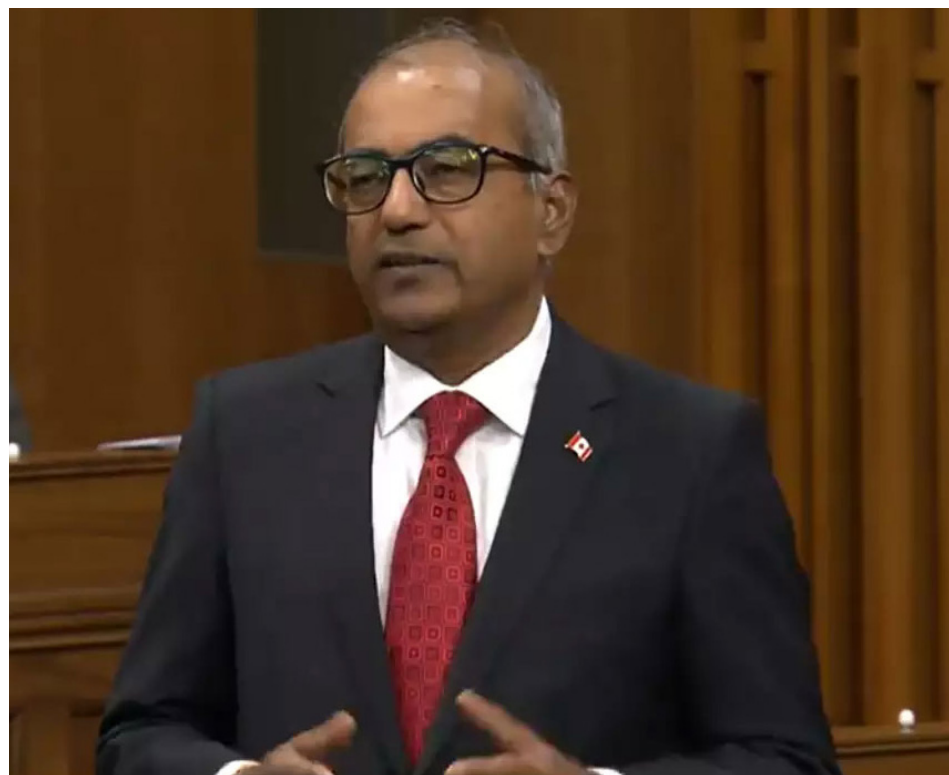
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian MP Chandra Arya has condemned a new petition from Liberal MP Sukh Dhaliwal, which seeks a fresh inquiry into the 1985 Air India Kanishka bombings that killed 329 people, the deadliest aviation terror attack prior to 9/11. Arya, a critic of the Trudeau government's tolerance for pro-Khalistani elements, argues that the petition promotes unfounded conspiracy theories.

The petition, available on the Canadian Parliament's website, claims many Sikhs in Canada believe the bombings were orchestrated by foreign intelligence to undermine their advocacy for human rights in India.

In a statement to Parliament, Arya stated, "Thirty-nine years ago, Air India Flight 182 was bombed by Khalistani extremists, resulting in the largest mass killing in Canadian history. The ideology behind this attack is still present among some in Canada." He highlighted that two Canadian inquiries had already determined Khalistani extremists were responsible for the tragedy.

Arya quoted Bal Gupta, whose wife was a victim of the attack, saying, "It's deeply frustrating. It opens up old wounds. It's an attempt to gain



publicity and support for terrorist activities." He also recalled a recent incident where a Hindu temple in Alberta was vandalized, emphasizing the need to address radicalization.

"We see Khalistani extremists celebrating violence and threatening Hindu-Canadians. I call on Canadian law enforcement to take this issue seriously before it escalates," he urged. Arya recently met with Indian

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, affirming the importance of Canada-India relations.

Jaishankar had previously stated, "Freedom of speech cannot be an excuse for advocating violence or separatism," criticizing the Canadian government for accommodating elements that threaten diplomatic relations.

Two Indian Americans join prestigious class of White House Fellows

On Thursday, the White House announced the appointment of two Indian Americans, Padmini Pillai from Boston and Nalini Tata from New York, to the 2024-2025 class of White House Fellows. This year's cohort consists of 15 exceptional individuals selected from across the United States.

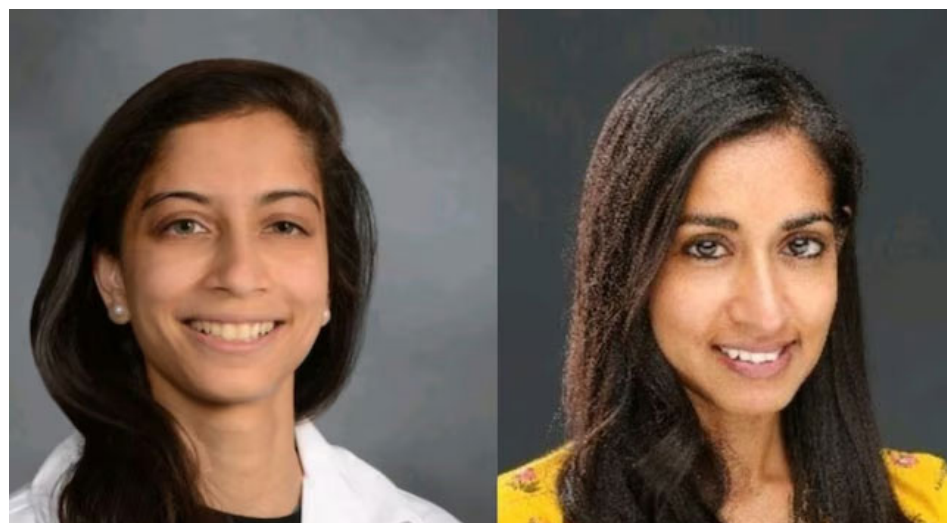
Fellows will spend a year working with senior White House staff and cabinet secretaries, gaining valuable experience to enhance their leadership skills. Nalini Tata will serve at the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, while Padmini Pillai will work at the Social Security Administration.

Padmini Pillai is an immunoengineer at MIT, focusing on tumor-selective nanotherapy for hard-to-treat cancers. She gained media attention during the

COVID-19 pandemic for her insights on vaccination and healthcare disparities. She holds a PhD in immunobiology from Yale and a BA in biochemistry from Regis College.

Nalini Tata is a neurosurgery resident at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, treating a range of neurosurgical conditions. Her work emphasizes equity in healthcare access, and she has an impressive educational background that includes degrees from Brown University, Cambridge, Northwestern, and Harvard.

The White House noted that this year's Fellows are a remarkably talented group with diverse experiences spanning private industry, government, academia, non-profits,



Trapped by fraudulent job offers, 67 Indian nationals rescued in Cambodia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Embassy in Phnom Penh has successfully rescued 67 Indian nationals from Poipet, Cambodia, who were lured by fraudulent job offers from fake agents involved in cybercrime. The embassy is actively facilitating their repatriation in collaboration with Cambodian authorities.

Following leads obtained on September 22, Cambodian police intervened, leading to the rescue. The embassy is overseeing the repatriation process, ensuring smooth departures for the rescued individuals. As of September 30, 15 citizens had returned home, followed by another 24 on October 1, with the remaining individuals expected to return soon.

The embassy has urged Indian nationals to exercise caution when considering job offers in Cambodia and has provided emergency contact information for those facing similar situations. Since January 2022, the embassy has helped repatriate over 1,000 Indian citizens, with nearly 770 rescues in 2024 alone.



CBI secures three-day custody of Trinamool leader Ashish Pandey in corruption case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Kolkata court has placed Trinamool Congress leader Ashish Pandey in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for three days as part of its investigation into financial irregularities at R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital. Pandey, who was arrested by the CBI on Thursday evening, is closely associated with Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the institution.

During the court proceedings, CBI officials argued that Pandey's involvement in the financial misconduct necessitated further questioning to uncover more details about the scam. They also claimed that Pandey had created a "threat culture" among senior and junior doctors, often threatening transfers to remote areas if they objected to his activities.

Pandey is also accused of accepting bribes to secure house staff assignments for junior doctors. His name surfaced in early September, linked to the tragic murder of a junior doctor whose body was found in the hospital complex.

Pandey marks the fifth arrest in connection with the financial irregularities at R.G. Kar, following the arrests of Ghosh and three others earlier in September.

Temples in Himachal Pradesh draw large crowds for Navratri celebrations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Temples across Himachal Pradesh were bustling with devotees on the first day of the nine-day Navratri festival, a significant occasion for Hindus. The Naina Devi temple in Bilaspur district attracted many pilgrims from nearby states, while other popular shrines, including Chintpurni, Jwalaji, and Brajeshwari Devi, also saw heavy visitation.

Officials estimate a daily arrival of 30,000 to 35,000 devotees at the Naina Devi shrine during the festival. Enhanced security measures, including CCTV installations, have been put in place to manage the crowds. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu highlighted the rise of virtual 'pujas' and online darshan services, which have strengthened the connection between devotees and sacred sites while promoting religious tourism in the state.

High-voltage campaigning wraps up ahead of Haryana Assembly polls on October 5

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Haryana is gearing up for its Assembly elections on October 5, with intense campaigning drawing to a close. The polls will determine the fate of the 90-member Assembly, featuring a fierce contest primarily between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress, both vying for control.

The BJP aims to secure a third consecutive term, while Congress seeks to reclaim power. Other contenders include the Jannayak Janata Party, the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) alliance, the Indian National Lok Dal with the Bahujan Samaj Party, and the Aam Aadmi Party.

Key figures in the BJP's campaign included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and party president J.P. Nadda, alongside local leaders. Congress, on the other hand, relied on high-profile support from President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul



Gandhi, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The party received a boost with the return of Dalit leader Ashok Tanwar from the BJP just days before the election.

Campaigns from both sides have been heated, with the BJP promising continued development while criticizing Congress for its past governance. Congress countered by highlighting issues like rising unemployment

and lawlessness, unveiling seven key promises, including cash assistance for women, subsidized gas cylinders, social security pensions, and free electricity.

According to Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal, over 20.3 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots, with voting scheduled from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are 1,031 candidates competing across 90 constituencies and 20,632 polling booths set up for the election.

The voter demographic includes 10.8 million men, 9.5 million women, and 467 individuals identifying as third gender. Notably, there are 524,514 young voters aged 18 to 19 and over 231,000 voters aged 85 and older.

Agarwal also provided details on election regulations, stating that supporters of candidates can set up booths only 200 meters away from polling stations, with strict guidelines on materials and crowd sizes. The counting of votes is set for October 8.

India warns Pakistan of consequences for cross-border terrorism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has issued a stern warning to Pakistan regarding cross-border terrorism, stating that such actions will "inevitably invite consequences." The message was conveyed by Bhavika Mangalanandan, a First Secretary in India's UN mission, during a rebuttal to remarks made by Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the General Assembly.

Mangalanandan emphasized that Pakistan must recognize the repercussions of its continued terrorism against India, describing it as "hypocrisy" for a country with a military-run government known for fostering terrorism to attack the world's largest democracy.

While Sharif claimed that India rejected his proposal for a "mutual Strategic Restraint Regime," Mangalanandan clarified that India cannot engage with terrorism. She cited numerous instances of cross-border attacks



by Pakistan, including high-profile incidents in Mumbai and attacks on Indian Parliament.

Mangalanandan highlighted Pakistan's notorious history, including hosting terrorist leaders like Osama bin Laden, and criticized its accusations against India concerning religious intolerance and human rights abuses.

In response, a Pakistani diplomat reiterated Sharif's statements and denied allegations of genocide during the 1971 War of Independence.

Five languages gain classical status in India: Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has officially conferred classical status on five additional languages: Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali. This recognition aims to preserve and celebrate India's rich cultural heritage.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that these languages will now join the ranks of six previously recognized classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. The designation of "Classical Language" is based on criteria established in 2004, emphasizing the languages' historical significance, original literary traditions, and the preservation of their ancient texts.

The Ministry of Culture formed a Linguistic Experts Committee to review potential candidates for classical status, which was later updated to include stricter requirements. The newly recognized languages embody the essence of India's diverse cultural landscape, reflecting significant historical milestones of their respective communities.

Thousands gather to pay respects to Kerala soldier found 56 years after

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In Elanthur, Pathanamthitta district, thousands turned out on Friday to honor Thomas Cherian, a soldier who died in a plane crash 56 years ago. The crowd included ministers, politicians, and local residents. The Madras Regiment managed the funeral arrangements, having received Cherian's remains from Chandigarh on a special IAF flight. The body was transported in a decorated Army vehicle, drawing crowds along the route to his hometown.

After reaching Elanthur, the body was taken to his brother's house for prayers led by Christian priests before proceeding to St. George Orthodox Church for final rites.



Cherian, who would have been 78 today, had joined the Army in 1968 but went missing in February of that year when an Indian Air Force plane carrying personnel disappeared. The wreckage was only discovered in 2003, with Cherian's remains found last week during a joint recovery mission.

Supreme Court orders independent SIT investigation into Tirupati Prasad controversy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court has mandated an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into allegations of animal fat being used in the famous Tirupati laddus. The SIT will include two CBI officers, two Andhra Pradesh Police officers, and a senior official from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The court emphasized that it does not want the case to become a political issue, noting the sensitivity of the matter to millions. The SIT's formation comes after a request from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta regarding the legitimacy of the Andhra Pradesh Police's investigation.

Previously, the Supreme Court observed that there was no initial evidence to support claims of adulteration and criticized statements made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu that could inflame public sentiment.

Prashant Kishor launches Jan Suraj party, focusing on humanity and education

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Political strategist Prashant Kishor officially launched his new party, Jan Suraj, on Wednesday, emphasizing 'humanity' as its core ideology and quality education as a primary goal.

In a speech to a large gathering, Kishor described the party as a collective movement representing diverse communities and aimed at restoring Bihar's pride. He drew inspiration from notable figures like Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar, asserting that "humanity first" will guide the party's vision.

Kishor criticized the current political climate in Bihar, urging voters to prioritize education and employment when making electoral choices. He proposed significant investment in education and a monthly stipend for seniors as part of his plan for



Bihar's development.

Kishor, who will not hold an official position within the party, aims to shift voter focus beyond caste and religion toward the future of their children. He appointed Manoj Bharti, a former ambassador, as the party's Working President, reflecting an inclusive approach to leadership.

Supreme Court stays Madras HC probe order into Isha Foundation, takes over case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court has temporarily halted a Madras High Court directive for a police investigation into the Isha Foundation, transferring the case to itself.

A bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud ordered that the police take no further action based on the High Court's judgment and required a status report from the Coimbatore police. The matter will be reviewed on October 18.

This decision follows an investigation prompted by a petition alleging that two women were being held captive at the Isha Foundation's ashram. The organization stated that it does not promote monkhood and serves many non-monastic individuals.

Mysuru Dasara festival kicks off with prayers for peace amid global

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The celebrated 10-day Dasara festival commenced at the city palace on Chamundeshwari Hill on Thursday, filled with religious fervor and prayers for peace in the Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine conflicts. Renowned writer Hampa Nagarajaiah inaugurated the festival by offering floral tributes to Goddess Chamundeshwari, accompanied by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other dignitaries. In his opening speech, Nagarajaiah expressed hope for an end to the ongoing conflicts and highlighted the importance of the Dasara festival, stating, "This is not just a palace festival; it is celebrated by the elected government."



The Karnataka government is marking this year's Dasara with grandeur, featuring events like a flower show, film festival, and cultural programs. CM Siddaramaiah also participated in special worship and inaugurated the Cauvery Aarti on the banks of the River Cauvery in Srirangapatna.

Local elections in Jammu and Kashmir expected before year-end



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Officials indicate that Panchayat and urban body elections in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to occur before the end of the year. Preparations are underway following the completion of Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

Security forces, initially deployed for the Amarnath Yatra and subsequent elections, will remain in the region to ensure peaceful local elections. The last municipal elections were overdue after their terms expired in November 2022, prompting urgency from the government.

These elections will complete the democratic processes in J&K post-Article 370 abrogation, with the last Assembly polls held in September 2018. The J&K state election commission, not the Election Commission of India, conducts these local elections.

Kejriwal moves to new home after vacating official residence



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Arvind Kejriwal, National Convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and former Chief Minister of Delhi, has vacated his official residence and moved to a government-allotted home on Ferozeshah Road. Prior to the move, a prayer ceremony was held at the new residence, which is close to the AAP headquarters and will be temporarily occupied until the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. Kejriwal's previous residence, allocated during his tenure as Chief Minister, has been vacated along with his family and belongings. Following his resignation amid allegations related to the Delhi Liquor Policy case, Kejriwal sought a new residence, ultimately accepted an offer from AAP MP Ashok Mittal.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk released, Delhi Police informs High Court



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre informed the Delhi High Court on Thursday that climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, detained on September 30 at the Singhu border for violating prohibitory orders, has been released by the Delhi Police. The court, led by Chief Justice Manmohan, acknowledged the withdrawal of the prohibitory orders that restricted gatherings and demonstrations in New Delhi and surrounding areas.

The Solicitor General confirmed the

withdrawal of the orders, leading the High Court to dispose of pleas seeking Wangchuk's release.

The activist had traveled to the capital with over 100 supporters from Ladakh to advocate for Sixth Schedule Status for their region, aimed at protecting their cultural identity and resources.

Earlier, the Solicitor General also addressed the issue before the Supreme Court, which had received a plea challenging the prohibitory orders in light of Navratri celebrations.

Egypt warns of regional war due to Israel's escalation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly has cautioned that Israel's recent military actions could trigger a broader regional conflict in the Middle East. He urged the international community to intervene for an immediate ceasefire, condemning Israel's escalation in Lebanon and calling for the protection of Lebanese sovereignty. Israel has intensified airstrikes targeting Hezbollah, while Iran launched around 180 missiles at Israel in retaliation for its actions against Palestinian and Lebanese leaders.

The situation has escalated since mid-September, with Hezbollah and Israel engaged in heightened confrontations. Madbouly's call for a ceasefire underscores the urgent need to de-escalate tensions and ensure civilian safety in the region.

South Korea fines airlines for aviation law violations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's transport ministry has fined ten airlines, including Saudia Airlines and Qatar Airways, for aviation regulation violations. Saudia Airlines received a 100 million won (\$75,500) penalty for suspending flights without permission, while Qatar Airways was fined 150 million won for breaching aircraft leasing rules. Local carrier T'way Air also faced penalties for failing to properly inform passengers of flight delays.

The ministry stressed that these fines aim to ensure passenger safety and uphold customer rights. In related news, Qatar Airways announced plans to acquire a 25 percent stake in Virgin Australia, pending government approval.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi receive VIP treatment in jail, says minister

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Azma Bokhari, Information Minister of Punjab, has criticized claims made by Barrister Saif, the Information Advisor for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, regarding the treatment of Bushra Bibi, wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is currently imprisoned at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Saif alleged that Bushra Bibi faces harassment under orders from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, including invasive searches that have caused her mental distress. Bokhari dismissed these accusations, labeling them sensationalist and unfounded.

In a press conference, Bokhari asserted that both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi enjoy "B-Class" facilities in jail, contrary to the claims of mistreatment. She also highlighted that Maryam Nawaz had endured harsher



conditions during Khan's administration.

Bokhari condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for using

"the woman card" to create a misleading narrative and stressed the need to respect the legal framework regarding election laws and prison conditions.

Austria's President urges unity in coalition talks after far-right victory

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen has called for compromise among parties in the newly elected parliament following the far-right Freedom Party's win in the recent general election.

The Freedom Party secured 29.2 percent of the vote but lacks an absolute majority, complicating coalition negotiations as other parties have ruled out partnerships with its controversial leader, Herbert Kickl.

Van der Bellen emphasized the need for dialogue to foster stability, accepting the outgoing government's resignation while it remains in a caretaker role. He aims to facilitate discussions among the five parliamentary parties to form a viable majority, reflecting a commitment to effective governance amid a fragmented political landscape.

Miyazaki Airport reopens after wartime dud shell explosion

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Miyazaki Airport in Japan resumed operations Thursday morning after being closed due to the explosion of a World War II-era dud shell on its taxiway. The blast created a significant hole in the asphalt but

caused no injuries, leading to the cancellation of 87 flights during safety checks. Investigations confirmed that the explosion resulted from a 500-pound shell dropped during the war. The airport's swift reopening reflects the authorities' commitment to ensuring passenger safety while managing historical remnants of past conflicts.



EU resumes budgetary support to Zambia after decade

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union has resumed budgetary support to Zambia for the first time in ten years, releasing an initial 20 million euros (about \$22 million) as part of a broader 60 million euro package. EU Ambassador Karolina Stasiak praised Zambia's renewed commitment to governance reforms since the 2021 elections, amid challenges such as a debt crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EU's support aims to provide financial relief to vulnerable populations, while Zambian Finance Minister



Situmbeko Musokotwane emphasized the government's focus on building a

prosperous future with improved access to essential services.

Julian Assange reflects on choosing freedom over justice in plea deal



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, recently released after years of legal battles, stated he chose "freedom over unrealizable justice" in a plea deal with U.S. authorities. Speaking in Strasbourg, he emphasized that he is not free due to the system working but because he pled guilty to journalism, which he insists is vital for a free society.

Assange's legal issues began in 2010 with WikiLeaks' publication of classified U.S. military documents. He pleaded guilty to a felony under the Espionage Act in June, enabling his return to Australia. His case continues to raise critical questions about press freedom and the treatment of journalists.

Claudia Sheinbaum makes history as Mexico's first female president



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Claudia Sheinbaum has been sworn in as Mexico's first female president, vowing to uphold the constitution and continue reforms initiated by her predecessor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador. In her inaugural address, she highlighted the importance of women's roles in driving change and outlined a 17-point government plan focused on social welfare, education, and financial management.

Her administration aims to uphold "republican austerity" and strengthen rights related to gender diversity, while maintaining crucial trade agreements to promote investment in Mexico. Sheinbaum's leadership marks a significant milestone for gender representation in Mexican politics.

Pakistan welcomes controversial preacher Zakir Naik

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Zakir Naik, the fugitive preacher wanted by India for promoting religious hatred, has arrived in Islamabad this week for a 15-day tour at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government. Naik, along with his son, was warmly received by senior government officials upon landing.

During his stay, Naik plans to hold public gatherings in major cities, including Karachi and Lahore, and will lead Friday prayers. His tour raises

concerns in India, where he is accused of inciting violence and extremism. Despite enjoying support among many in Pakistan, Naik's visit has sparked criticism from various religious groups. Analysts warn that this could further strain India-Pakistan relations, as Naik's presence underscores accusations that Pakistan harbors individuals wanted in India.

The Pakistani government is reportedly providing Naik with state security throughout his visit, which is anticipated to draw large crowds at his public events.



Zelensky counts on U.S. support regardless of election outcome

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During a meeting with former President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed hope for continued U.S. support against Russia, irrespective of the November presidential election results. He emphasized the urgency of solidifying a plan to strengthen Ukraine before the election.

Zelensky's discussions in New York also included meetings with current President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, both of whom reaffirmed U.S. commitment to Ukraine. Trump, while advocating for an end to the



conflict, has faced criticism for his stance on Zelensky's negotiations with Russia. The dynamic political climate in the U.S. adds complexity to Ukraine's ongoing struggle against Russian aggression, with Zelensky highlighting the need for decisive action before the election.

Shigeru Ishiba elected as Japan's new Prime Minister

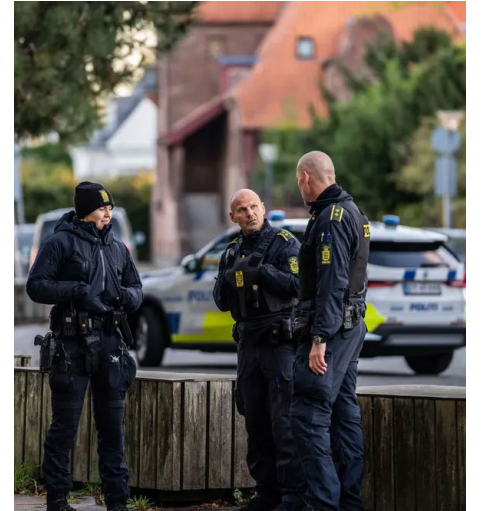
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shigeru Ishiba has been elected Japan's new Prime Minister, succeeding Fumio Kishida. Both houses of parliament supported Ishiba, who recently won the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Facing significant challenges, Ishiba announced plans to dissolve the lower house on October 9, leading to a general election on October 27. His leadership aims to restore public trust in the scandal-ridden LDP, with a focus on national security and transparency within the government.



Danish police investigate explosions near Israeli embassy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Danish police are investigating two explosions near the Israeli embassy in Copenhagen this week to determine any potential links to the embassy. While no injuries were reported, the police have cordoned off the area and are maintaining a strong presence as they examine the cause and motives behind the explosions. The incident has prompted a thorough investigation, highlighting ongoing security concerns surrounding diplomatic missions in urban settings.

Russia condemns Israel for killing Hezbollah leader

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has condemned Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, warning that the act could lead to increased violence in Lebanon and the broader Middle East. The Russian Foreign Ministry called for an immediate ceasefire and stated that Israel bears full responsibility for any escalation.

Hezbollah confirmed Nasrallah's death from Israeli airstrikes that targeted their command center in Beirut. The situation escalated following recent clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, which have intensified since October 8.

Bolivia confirms Evo Morales ineligible for presidential race

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bolivian government has confirmed that former President Evo Morales is constitutionally barred from running in the 2025 presidential elections. This restriction arises from the Bolivian Constitution, which limits presidents to two consecutive terms.

Deputy Communication Minister Gabriela Alcon emphasized the importance of upholding the Constitution, urging Morales' supporters to respect the legal framework amid protests demanding his candidacy. Alcon cited a ruling from Bolivia's Constitutional Court, which stated that indefinite re-election is not a human right.

Swedish union files lawsuit against Tesla over labor dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Swedish trade union IF Metall has filed a lawsuit against Tesla, claiming the company failed to inform employee representatives about workplace changes, violating Swedish labor laws. This is IF Metall's second lawsuit this year against Tesla regarding breaches of the Co-Determination Act, with the first case still pending in court.

The dispute began when Tesla refused to sign a collective bargaining agreement with IF Metall, which would allow the union to negotiate wages and working conditions. The latest lawsuit alleges that Tesla reorganized its Umea branch without notifying the union, including phasing out its entire sales organization.

The conflict escalated in October 2023 when a group of Tesla mechanics went on strike, leading to solidarity actions from other unions.

Tesla recalls 27,000 Cybertrucks over software issue



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla has recalled over 27,000 Cybertrucks due to a software glitch that may delay the rearview camera display, violating federal regulations. This recall affects 27,185 vehicles manufactured between November 2023 and September 2024.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the affected Cybertrucks may not display the rearview image within the required two seconds, potentially increasing crash risks. Tesla reported that the issue was fixed with a free over-the-air software update on September 19.

This year, Tesla has issued approximately 4.4 million recalls in the U.S., most resolved through software updates, and the Cybertruck has faced multiple recalls since its launch last November.

India and US sign critical minerals agreement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced that India and the US have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) focused on critical minerals. This agreement aims to facilitate cooperation between India's Ministry of Mines and its US counterpart to secure supply chains for materials essential for clean energy technologies.

The MoU was signed during the sixth India-US commercial dialogue, which Goyal co-chaired with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. The agreement allows both countries to collaborate on joint projects in third countries and seek international investments.

The minerals covered by the MoU include lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper. India is the only developing nation in the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a group formed to



ensure a stable supply chain for these minerals, especially from China.

Goyal also met with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai during his

visit, discussing various bilateral initiatives and highlighting the increased frequency of collaborative interactions between US and Indian agencies.

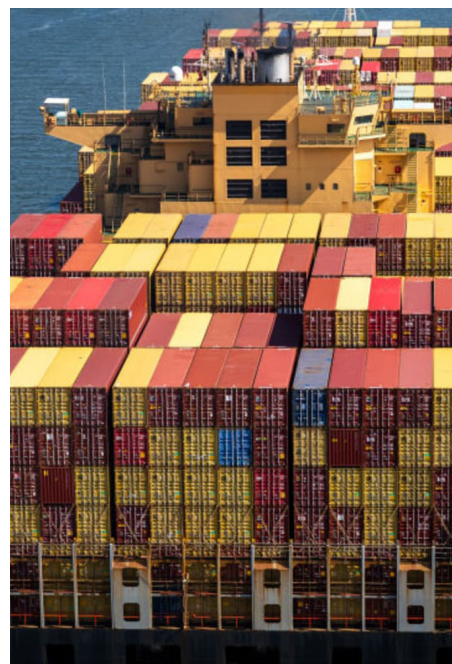
U.S. port strike ends, but cargo backlog will take time to clear

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. East Coast and Gulf Coast ports reopened late Thursday after dockworkers and port operators reached a wage agreement, concluding a major strike. However, it will take time to clear the cargo backlog created during the three-day stoppage, which saw over 54 container ships waiting outside ports.

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) initiated the strike, affecting 36 ports from Maine to Texas. The new wage deal provides a 62% salary increase over six years, raising average wages to about \$63 an hour.

Retailers reliant on these ports, including Walmart and IKEA, felt the impact, with analysts estimating the strike cost the U.S. economy around \$5 billion per day. The National Retail Federation welcomed the end



of the strike, emphasizing the need for finalizing agreements to benefit American families.

Texas attorney general sues TikTok over child safety law violations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a lawsuit against TikTok for allegedly violating the state's new child safety law by improperly sharing minors' personal data. The Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment Act, effective this September, mandates parental consent for sharing such data.

Paxton claims TikTok has not implemented adequate features to ensure minors verify their identities with parents. While TikTok offers a "Family Pairing" feature, the lawsuit argues it fails to adequately protect minors' privacy.

TikTok has responded, asserting it provides strong safeguards for families. This lawsuit adds to TikTok's challenges in the U.S. amid ongoing scrutiny over data privacy issues.

Amazon plans to hire 250,000 seasonal workers for the holidays

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon announced plans to hire 250,000 full-time, part-time, and seasonal workers in the U.S. for the holiday season, continuing its strategy from last year. Seasonal workers will earn a minimum of \$18 per hour, with full-time employees eligible for immediate benefits.

Other retailers are also ramping up holiday hiring, including Target (100,000 positions) and Macy's (31,500). Amazon recently committed \$2.2 billion in additional pay for fulfillment and transportation workers, translating to a \$1.50 per hour increase for full-time employees.

Seasonal roles at Amazon are promoted as stepping stones to long-term careers, with reports indicating returning



employees can see an average pay increase of 15% in their first three years.

Qatar Airways to acquire minority stake in Virgin Australia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Qatar Airways plans to buy a 25% stake in Virgin Australia from Bain Capital, pending government approval. The deal aims to launch new flights from Australian cities to Doha, potentially contributing \$2.07 billion to the Australian economy over five years.

Virgin Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka noted that this partnership strengthens the airline's competitive position against Qantas and Jetstar. The airline emerged from voluntary administration in late 2020 after facing financial challenges during the pandemic.

Uber teams up with Avride for autonomous delivery solutions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uber has announced a partnership with US-based startup Avride to integrate delivery robots and autonomous vehicles into its services. This multi-year collaboration will begin with sidewalk robots for Uber Eats in Austin, Texas, and expand to Dallas and Jersey City later this year.

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, noting the potential of autonomous delivery to benefit consumers and communities.

When users request a delivery through Uber, they may soon have the option to choose an Avride robot or vehicle. Avride's delivery robots are already operational in the US and South Korea, while its autonomous cars are undergoing public road testing. The company's CEO, Dmitry Polishchuk, highlighted plans to expand the fleet of delivery robots within Uber Eats to hundreds by 2025, along with the introduction of a robotaxi service.

Toyota increases investment in Joby Aviation for electric air taxis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Toyota Motor Corporation has announced an additional investment of \$500 million in Joby Aviation, a US-based company focused on developing electric air taxis. This brings Toyota's total investment in Joby to \$894 million.

The new funding will assist Joby in achieving certification and commencing commercial production of its electric air taxi. The investment will be made in two equal phases, with the first expected to close later this year and the second in 2025.

"With this additional investment, we are excited to see Joby certify their aircraft and shift to commercial production," stated Tetsuo Ogawa, Operating Officer at Toyota. Joby is making significant strides towards commercialization, recently completing its third aircraft prototype and expanding its manufacturing facilities.

Russian prosecutor files lawsuit against Shell amid Ukraine conflict fallout

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Russian prosecutor general has filed a lawsuit against eight subsidiaries of energy giant Shell, as indicated by court documents submitted on Friday. While the specific details of the lawsuit have not been disclosed, it is believed to pertain to Shell's withdrawal from its Russian operations following the invasion of Ukraine.

The lawsuit was officially filed with Moscow's arbitration court on Wednesday. The court documents reveal that the proceedings involve several parties, including state-owned gas company Gazprom, the Russian Energy Ministry, regulatory authorities from the Pacific Island of Sakhalin, and the prosecutor general's office.

Before the invasion of Ukraine, Shell had multiple projects in Russia, including a stake in a liquefied natural gas (LNG) production facility on Sakhalin Island, which is operated by Gazprom. The geopolitical turmoil following the invasion has led to a volatile energy market in Europe, prompting many



companies to sever business ties with Russia.

Despite these challenges, Russia remains a significant player in the global energy market, continuing to produce large

quantities of oil and gas. The country is also a member of OPEC+ and has been increasing its trade relationships with Asian nations, particularly India and China, as it seeks to navigate the changing landscape of international energy commerce.

Google unveils major initiatives for the Indian market



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Google has rolled out several significant initiatives aimed at the Indian market, including an open-source 'AI Agent Framework,' enhanced local data storage options, and a new digital public infrastructure model.

These announcements were made during the 10th edition of Google for India.

Roma Datta Chobey, Managing Director of Google India, noted the deepening engagement between Google and India as technology adoption

grows. The company is also expanding its AI-powered tools and enhancing Google Pay's offerings to improve access to credit.

Moreover, Google announced a partnership to integrate Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs into Google Wallet and introduced "DPI in a Box," a model designed to help other nations build their digital public infrastructure.

Additionally, Google plans to establish a new Safety Engineering Center in India by 2025 to bolster Android user protection against fraud, and it will launch new clean energy partnerships that aim to add 186 megawatts of renewable power to the grid.

U.S. regulator investigates over 360,000 Ford SUVs for brake issues



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AU.S. auto safety regulator announced on Friday that it is investigating 368,309 Ford crossover SUVs due to a loss of braking caused by rear brake hose failure.

The preliminary evaluation focuses on Ford Edge models from 2015 to 2017, with complaints indicating that the braking loss occurs unexpectedly, leading to increased stopping distances.

Ford is cooperating with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) during the investigation. In 2020, the automaker had already recalled 488,000 Ford Edge and Lincoln MKX vehicles in the U.S. for similar brake hose failures.

Caitlin Clark named WNBA Rookie of the Year



Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever has been honored as the WNBA Rookie of the Year, receiving 66 out of 67 votes from a panel of sportswriters and broadcasters across the United States. The announcement was made on October 3, 2024. Clark made a significant impact in her debut season, continuing the momentum from her record-breaking collegiate career at Iowa, where she shattered the all-time scoring record. In her first WNBA season, she set a new single-season record with 337 assists and achieved remarkable rookie milestones with 769 points and 122 three-pointers.

Her performance was instrumental in leading the Fever to their first playoff appearance since 2016, although they were eliminated in the first round by the Connecticut Sun in a best-of-three series. Reflecting on her journey, Clark expressed her gratitude on Instagram, thanking everyone who supported her in achieving her childhood dream. This marks the second consecutive year that a Fever player has claimed the Rookie of the Year title, following Aliyah Boston's win in 2023.

Atletico Madrid faces sanctions following derby fan disruptions

Atletico Madrid has been sanctioned by the Spanish Football Federation for fan disruptions during the recent Madrid derby. The club faces a partial closure of the south stand at the Metropolitan Stadium for three matches and a fine of 45,000 euros (48,700 US dollars).

The derby, which ended in a 1-1 draw, was interrupted when members of Atletico's 'Frente Atletico' ultra supporters hurled objects at Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois after he celebrated a goal.

This sanction comes amidst calls for a stronger response to the incident from Spain's Minister for Education, Pilar Alegria. Atletico has 10 days to appeal the decision.

Canadian figure skater Nikolaj Soerensen banned for at least six years



Nikolaj Soerensen, a Canadian figure skater, has been suspended for a minimum of six years following allegations of "sexual maltreatment." The decision was announced by the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) and listed on its Abuse-Free Sport registry, where it can be challenged or appealed.

The suspension stems from an investigation into an allegation that Soerensen sexually assaulted an American figure skating coach in Hartford, Connecticut, in 2012. At the time, Soerensen was 23 years old and has since denied the allegations, which have not been tested in court.

Skate Canada, the governing body for figure skating in the country and a

signatory to Abuse-Free Sport, has stated that it will comply with the suspension. Despite the ongoing investigation, Soerensen and his skating partner, Laurence Fournier Beaudry, participated in competitions last season, including the world figure skating championships in Montreal.

Soerensen, who previously competed for Denmark before switching allegiance to Canada in 2018, has had a notable career, winning a silver medal at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in January 2024. OSIC was established in June 2022 to address complaints of maltreatment in sports organizations following scandals in various sports, including hockey. Since then, eight suspensions have been announced, with Soerensen being the sixth for sexual maltreatment.

Champions League highlights: Aston Villa stuns Bayern, Liverpool and Juventus secure wins



Aston Villa pulled off a stunning upset against Bayern Munich, with substitute Jhon Duran scoring a dramatic 79th-minute goal to secure a 1-0 victory in their first UEFA Champions League home match since 1982. Meanwhile, Real Madrid's 14-match unbeaten run in the Champions League was halted as they failed to equalize against Lille's Lucas Chevalier, who delivered a stellar performance in goal.

In other fixtures, Liverpool continued their winning streak under Arne Slot, defeating Bologna 2-0 thanks to goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Mohamed Salah. The Reds dominated, with Salah sealing the win with a spectacular finish. Juventus faced RB Leipzig in a thrilling encounter, where Francisco Conceicao's late goal clinched a 3-2 victory for the Bianconeri. Dusan Vlahovic starred with two goals, showcasing resilience despite their goalkeeper's red card.

Terence Crawford turns down Conor McGregor fight deal, prefers boxing

Undefeated boxer Terence Crawford has declined an offer to enter a two-fight series with MMA star Conor McGregor, expressing no interest in competing in mixed martial arts. The news broke on October 3, 2024, when both fighters confirmed the proposal from Turki Alalshikh, chairman of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority. While McGregor expressed his willingness to participate, Crawford firmly rejected the idea of stepping into the Octagon. "Man, I'm not getting in no (expletive) Octagon with you so you can be kicking and elbowing me!" Crawford remarked in an interview with Bernie Tha Boxer. The two fighters acknowledged the risks and disadvantages of competing in each other's domains.

Crawford, currently the unified welterweight champion with an impressive record



of 41 wins (31 by knockout), last fought on August 3, securing a unanimous decision against Israil Madrimov. Meanwhile, McGregor, a former two-division UFC champion, has not fought since 2021 and recently withdrew from a planned bout due to injury. Despite the financial allure of the matchup, Crawford remains committed to boxing, stating, "You got to respect that."

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FIFA bans Samuel Eto'o from national team matches for six months

Former footballer Samuel Eto'o has been banned from serving in his role as the president of the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) for six months, following a suspension from all national team matches. This decision stems from violations of FIFA's ethics regulations related to his involvement in an incident in February. Eto'o's suspension restricts him from participating in any national team activities, including training sessions, matches, and other engagements.



USA Hockey to honor Gaudreaus with helmet decals

In a heartfelt tribute, USA Hockey has announced that all national teams will wear a helmet decal in memory of Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau during the upcoming season. The decal, featuring their names alongside their jersey numbers—Johnny (13) and Matthew (21)—and two hockey sticks, aims to keep their spirit alive within the hockey community.

The brothers were tragically killed on August 29 while riding bikes in their New Jersey hometown, struck by a suspected drunk driver.

Johnny Gaudreau had recently played two seasons with the Columbus Blue Jackets after an impressive tenure with the Calgary Flames, while Matthew was his teammate at Boston College.

Pat Kelleher, executive director of USA Hockey, emphasized the importance of honoring the Gaudreau family, stating, "This is a small way to not only honor their memory, but to keep their wonderful spirit in the forefront of our great game and life in general."

The decal will also be worn by teams in USA Hockey's national team development program and both men's and women's sled teams. Johnny Gaudreau



previously captured a gold medal with Team USA at the 2013 IIHF World Junior

Championship and represented the country in four IIHF Men's World Championships.

Messi returns to Argentina squad for World Cup qualifiers



Lionel Messi has been named in Argentina's squad for FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Bolivia. The forward, who missed the September qualifiers due to an ankle injury, is back in action with Inter Miami.

Argentina will face Venezuela away on October 10 and host Bolivia five days later. Currently leading the South American group with 18 points, Argentina aims to secure one of the top six spots to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

The squad includes notable players across various positions, from experienced goalkeepers to dynamic forwards, setting the stage for crucial upcoming matches.

Alcaraz claims China Open title; Zheng advances to quarterfinals



Carlos Alcaraz captured his first China Open title by defeating top seed Jannik Sinner in a gripping three-hour and 21-minute match. Alcaraz, recovering from a set down, clinched victory with a score of 6-7 (6), 6-4, 7-6 (3).

In the women's draw, Chinese player Zheng Qinwen advanced to the quarterfinals after overcoming Amanda Anisimova. Zheng showcased her resilience, bouncing back from a set down to secure a commanding win.

This tournament marks a significant achievement for Alcaraz, making him the second Spaniard, after Rafael Nadal, to win the men's singles title at the China Open.

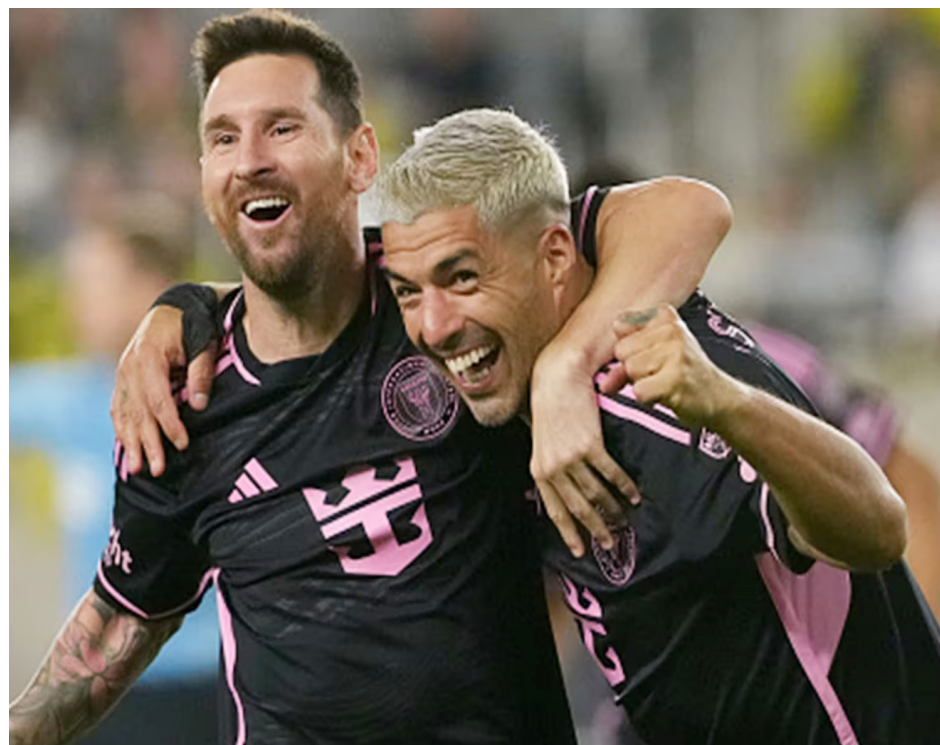
Messi leads Inter Miami to historic MLS Supporters' Shield victory

Inter Miami CF has clinched its first-ever Supporters' Shield with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Columbus Crew, solidifying their position at the top of the regular-season standings for 2024.

Lionel Messi shone brightly, scoring two goals, while Luis Suarez added another, complemented by a crucial penalty save from goalkeeper Drake Callender. With 68 points and two matches remaining, Inter Miami is on track to set a new single-season points record if they win their remaining games.

This victory secures Inter Miami the top seed in the Eastern Conference and home-field advantage throughout the 2024 MLS Cup Playoffs. Messi's trophy cabinet continues to expand, marking the achievement as his 46th title across club and international play.

In his debut MLS season, Messi has already tallied 17 goals and 15 assists in just 17 matches, while Suarez leads the team with



18 goals. The match began with Columbus applying pressure, but Messi opened the scoring just before halftime. He added his

second goal in stoppage time, and despite Columbus narrowing the gap, Callender's impressive saves ensured the win.



Dubai to host 2025 Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Championship

The Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation has announced that the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai will host the 16th Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship from October 23 to 26, 2025. This marks the event's return to Dubai following its first Middle East edition in 2021. The current championship is underway in Japan, featuring 120 players, including four from India.



India to host inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

The Kho Kho Federation of India, in partnership with the International Kho Kho Federation, will host the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025. The tournament will feature 24 countries, with 16 teams each for men and women. To promote the sport, the KKFI plans outreach to 200 elite schools across ten cities and aims to register 50 lakh players through a membership drive.

Ayushmann Khurrana honors paralympic champions with heartfelt poem



Actor Ayushmann Khurrana recently honored paralympic athletes Avani Lekhara and Navdeep Singh during an award ceremony, celebrating their remarkable achievements for India. When Lekhara, a double gold medalist, spotted Khurrana in the audience, she invited him on stage to recite one of his poems.

Khurrana expressed admiration for their resilience, stating, "You both are truly legends." He then recited a heartfelt poem celebrating their journeys and accomplishments. The poem highlighted the struggles they overcame and their inspiring presence on the global stage.

Additionally, Khurrana was recognized as 'Ambassador for India's Youth' at the CSR Journal Excellence Awards, further showcasing his commitment to uplifting others through his work.

Govinda recovering after bullet injury, moved to general ward



Bollywood actor Govinda has been transferred from the ICU to a general ward and is reportedly recovering well after suffering a bullet injury to his leg. His manager, Shashi Sinha, confirmed that the Mumbai Police have already taken statements from Govinda's daughter, with the actor's own statement pending as he continues to recuperate.

The actor accidentally shot himself while cleaning a closet, with an investigation underway regarding the circumstances of the incident. Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, expressed optimism about his health, stating he might be discharged soon.

Visiting the hospital, fellow actress Raveena Tandon refrained from making comments to the media. Sunita assured fans that Govinda is on the mend and will soon be back to his energetic self.

Pink Floyd sells music rights for \$400 million

Iconic English band Pink Floyd has sold its recorded-music and name-and-likeness rights to Sony Music for approximately \$400 million. This deal, one of the largest in recent years, comes after decades of internal conflict among the band members, including chief songwriters Roger Waters and David Gilmour, as well as drummer Nick Mason and the estates of keyboardist Richard Wright and founding member Syd Barrett.

The sale includes recorded-music rights but excludes songwriting rights, which remain with individual members. It also encompasses merchandise and theatrical rights, preserving the legendary band's branding, including their famed album artwork designed by Hipgnosis.

Pink Floyd's catalog, featuring classics like *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *The Wall*, and *Wish You Were Here*, is considered one of the most valuable in contemporary music.

Sony has been aggressively acquiring



music catalogs, spending over a billion dollars on rights from artists like Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan.

The asking price for Pink Floyd's

catalog had been reported at \$500 million, with negotiations complicated by political controversies surrounding Waters, which deterred potential buyers.

Shilpa Shetty decks out home for festive Navratri celebrations

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra is celebrating Navratri in style, having created a beautifully decorated darbar for Goddess Durga at her Mumbai residence. On Thursday, she shared a video on Instagram showcasing the festive setup and revealed that she had prepared prasad as an offering.

In her post, she expressed hopes for strength and blessings during the festival, writing, "Jai Mata Di. May this Navratri bring strength, positivity, and endless blessings to you and your loved ones."

Earlier, Shilpa celebrated 'National Sons Day' with heartwarming photos of her son, Viaan. Married to Raj Kundra since 2009, the couple has two children,



including daughter Samisha. Recently, Shilpa starred in the comedy-drama *Sukhee* and continues to captivate audiences with her work.

Ahan Shetty joins cast of 'Border 2', following in father's footsteps

Ahan Shetty is set to continue his father's legacy by joining the cast of the highly anticipated war film *Border 2*. He will star alongside Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Varun Dhawan in a project directed by Anurag Singh.

While the original *Border* focused on the Battle of Longewala, *Border 2* is expected to center on the Kargil War of 1999, a significant military conflict between India and Pakistan. The film promises a blend of action and patriotism, building upon the success of the iconic 1997 original, which featured Suniel Shetty.

Scheduled for release on January 23, 2026, *Border 2* aims to deliver a thrilling cinematic experience, with a star-studded cast that enhances its appeal.



Doctor pleads guilty in Matthew Perry's tragic overdose case



Dr. Mark Chavez has pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute the anesthetic ketamine in relation to the death of *Friends* actor Matthew Perry. Chavez, 54, operated a ketamine clinic and supplied the drug to Dr. Salvador Plasencia, who then provided it to Perry.

Perry was found dead in his backyard jacuzzi in October 2023, with a post-mortem revealing a high concentration of ketamine in his system. In his plea agreement, Chavez admitted to acquiring ketamine through fraudulent prescriptions. He is one of five individuals charged in this case.

Prosecutors allege that Perry's assistant helped facilitate the delivery of over \$50,000 worth of ketamine to the actor in the weeks leading up to his death. Text exchanges between the doctors suggested they were discussing pricing strategies for the drug. Though Chavez's plea may allow him to face a lesser charge, he could still receive a sentence of up to 10 years in prison. He is currently free on bail until his sentencing on April 2, 2025.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs' accuser's lawyers seek to withdraw



Adria English, who accused Sean "Diddy" Combs of sexual assault and trafficking, may lose her legal representation. Her attorneys, Ariel Mitchell-Kidd and Steven A. Metcalf, filed a motion to withdraw, citing a breakdown in their relationship and fundamental disagreements over the case.

The attorneys claim that English's behavior and lack of respect have led to an irreconcilable conflict. They have requested a private meeting with the judge regarding their withdrawal. Meanwhile, Combs' spokesperson dismissed English's allegations as "fabricated," asserting that she has made baseless claims. Combs remains incarcerated, facing charges related to sex trafficking and has pleaded not guilty.

Anupam Kher's 'The Signature' delves into life's complexities



Veteran actor Anupam Kher is set to release his film *The Signature*, which he describes as a poignant exploration of life's challenges and the triumph of the human spirit. The film, marking Kher's 525th project, features a stellar cast including Mahima Chaudhry, Neena Kulkarni, Annu Kapoor, and Ranvir Shorey. The recently unveiled trailer showcases Kher's character, Arvind, facing his wife's sudden health crisis and its emotional toll on their relationship.

Kher stated, "This project is close to my heart, reminding us that hope exists even in tough times." *The Signature* will stream on ZEE5 starting October 4. Kher is also involved in the film *Vijay 69*, where he plays a 69-year-old triathlete, set to premiere on Netflix later this year.

Ram Charan's grand entry in 'Game Changer' features 1,000 folk dancers

Actor Ram Charan is set to make a stunning entrance in his upcoming film *Game Changer*, highlighted by the song "Raa Macha Macha" (Hindi version titled "Dam Tu Dikha Jaa"). This elaborate sequence features 1,000 folk dancers performing various traditional dance forms from across India, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya.

The song celebrates India's rich cultural diversity, showcasing folk styles such as Gussadi from Adilabad, Chaau from West Bengal, and Ghumra from Odisha, among others. Vocalist Nakash Aziz performs the track in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi, with lyrics penned by Anantha Sriram.

Director S Shankar praised the ambitious project, stating that Ram Charan danced in a single continuous shot, creating a visually



captivating experience. Music composer Thaman S expressed excitement over the scale of the production, aiming to create a song that showcases India's diverse cultural

tapestry. *Game Changer* is produced by Dil Raju and features an estimated budget of Rs 240 crore, with Ram Charan appearing in a triple role.

SRK reveals surprising connection with M.S. Dhoni at IIFA

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker Karan Johar showcased their trademark bromance while hosting the IIFA Awards alongside actor Vicky Kaushal. During a lighthearted exchange about retirement, SRK, clad in a sharp black tuxedo, remarked on the importance of knowing when to step back, referencing legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Roger Federer.

In a playful jab, KJo asked, "Why don't you retire?" To which SRK swiftly responded, "I, and Dhoni, belong to a different league of legends; we keep showing up in the IPL despite saying 'No' several times." Vicky chimed in from the audience, declaring, "Retirement is for legends. Kings are forever," to which a bewildered KJo inquired about the quote's origin.



The trio later brought the IIFA stage to life, dancing to "Jhoomo Jo Pathaan" from SRK's latest film, *Pathaan*. While Vicky showcased his dancing prowess, KJo struggled to keep pace with the duo.

Sukesh Chandrasekhar promises luxury prizes, including Thar Roxx SUVs and iPhone 16 Pros, for Jacqueline's fans

Conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar is once again making headlines, this time by promising to distribute 10 Mahindra Thar Roxx SUVs and 100 iPhone 16 Pro devices to fans of actress Jacqueline Fernandez. This announcement comes after he previously offered iPhone 15 Pro models to 100 "lucky winners."

In a letter to Jacqueline, Sukesh stated his intentions to boost the popularity of her new song *Stormrider*, encouraging fans to help it surpass the success of her viral hit *Yimmy Yimmy*. He detailed how fans can participate, aiming for 100 million views on the new track, with winners announced during Diwali.

Despite his ongoing legal troubles,



including multiple charges and a jail sentence, Sukesh continues to engage in such publicity stunts, which have drawn mixed reactions.

Alec Baldwin's 'Rust' set for premiere after tragic shooting



The film *Rust*, starring Alec Baldwin, will premiere at the Energa Camerimage International Film Festival in Poland next month, three years after cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed on set. Following the screening, a panel discussion will include director Joel Souza and Hutchins' mentor, Stephen Lighthill. Hutchins was shot when a gun held by Baldwin accidentally discharged in October 2021. Baldwin was initially charged with involuntary manslaughter, but the case was dismissed. Filming resumed after a settlement with Hutchins' family, and her husband now serves as an executive producer. *Rust* tells the story of a young boy on the run with his grandfather in 1880s Wyoming.

Guru Randhawa addresses backlash over 'Shahkot'



Singer and actor Guru Randhawa is addressing the controversy surrounding his upcoming film *Shahkot*, which faced protests for allegedly supporting pro-Pakistan sentiments. Demonstrators recently burned the film's posters during a protest organized by Shiv Sena Punjab. Randhawa emphasized that public perceptions are shaped by the trailer and urged viewers to watch the full film before forming opinions. He expressed willingness to provide tickets to those opposing the film. *Shahkot*, which also stars Isha Talwar and Raj Babbar, is set for theatrical release on October 4.

Chicago Board of Elections seeks South Asian election judges as early voting begins

● By: Dr. Avi Verma, MD(h)

As the election season kicks off, the Chicago Board of Elections is urging members of the South Asian community to step up as election judges, particularly those who can speak Indian languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, and Urdu. With a growing South Asian population in Chicago, these judges will play a vital role in ensuring voters receive the support they need at polling stations.

According to Kimico Mehta, who leads South Asian Outreach for the Chicago Board of Elections, bilingual election judges are essential to help bridge communication gaps and assist voters in navigating the election process more easily. "We want to make sure that every voter in Chicago feels supported, and having judges who speak these languages will enhance that experience," Mehta said.

Early Voting and Importance of Civic Duty

During the event, Marisel Hernandez, Chairwoman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, highlighted the critical importance of exercising one's civic duty by voting, particularly in this important election. "Voting is the foundation of our democracy,



and early voting gives everyone the opportunity to participate conveniently and efficiently," Hernandez stated. She also provided crucial information on early voting and mail-in voting options, emphasizing how these tools make it easier for all eligible voters to engage in the electoral process.

Hernandez encouraged voters not to wait until Election Day, stressing the value of early voting to avoid long lines and ensure that every vote is counted. "We are providing more flexibility and accessibility through early voting and mail-in ballots so that everyone has a chance to make their voice heard."

Early Voting Overview

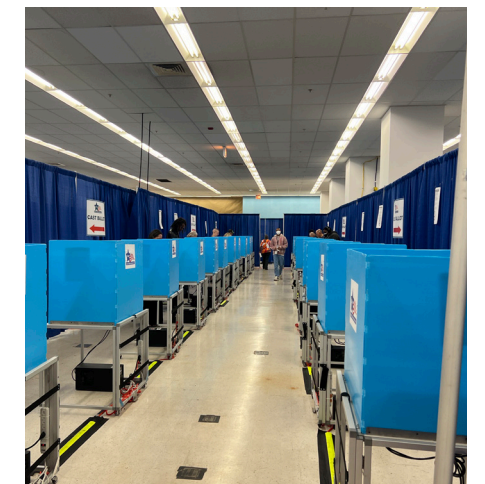
Early voting in Chicago began on Thursday, October 3rd, at 9:00 AM at the Voting Supersite (191 N. Clark St.) and the Board's Offices (69 W. Washington St., 6th Floor). Starting on October 21st, all 50 wards will open their Early Voting locations, allowing any registered voter to cast their ballot at the site most convenient for them, including on Election Day.

Mehta also addressed the South Asian community, providing information about voting options in Hindi and Urdu to ensure accessibility for non-English speakers.

Voters can choose to vote in one of 12 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Gujarati, and Urdu. All Early Voting locations are ADA-compliant, ensuring accessibility for voters with disabilities. The next major event in the early voting process will take place on October 21st, when early voting expands to all wards across Chicago.

Call to Action

The Board of Elections members



collectively stressed the importance of civic engagement, urging all eligible voters to make use of early voting options or mail-in ballots to avoid last-minute hurdles. "This election will shape the future of our city and country, and every vote matters," Hernandez remarked.

Local U.S. media outlets and South Asian media representatives attended the announcement, with IndoUS Tribune represented by its Publisher, Dr. Avi Verma.

For more information on becoming an election judge or participating in early voting, contact the Chicago Board of Elections.

5 नवंबर 2024 को होने वाले राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए मतदान विकल्प

मतदान करने के लिए इनमें से किसी एक विकल्प का उपयोग करें



डाक द्वारा मतदान करें
आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 31 अक्टूबर शाम 5 बजे तक है - अधिक जानकारी के लिए chicagoelections.gov/voting/vote-mail पर जाएं।



प्रारंभिक मतदान
डॉनटाउन शिकागो में अब प्रारंभिक मतदान शुरू हो चुके हैं, जो चुनाव दिवस तक चलेगा। 21 अक्टूबर से, हमारे 50 से अधिक स्थानों में से किसी भी स्थान पर व्यक्तिगत रूप से मतदान करें। chicagoelections.gov/voting/early-voting पर अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त करें।



चुनाव दिवस (5 नवंबर)
को अपने मतदान स्थल या मतदान केंद्र पर सुबह 6 बजे से शाम 7 बजे तक अपना मतदान स्थल जानने के लिए chicagoelections.gov/voting/your-voter-information पर जाएं।



VOTING OPTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

USE ONE OF THESE OPTIONS TO VOTE



VOTE BY MAIL

Deadline to apply is October 31st at 5pm - learn more at chicagoelections.gov/voting/vote-mail



EARLY VOTING

Early Voting is now open in Downtown Chicago through Election Day. Starting Oct. 21, vote in person at any of our 50+ locations. Learn more at chicagoelections.gov/voting/early-voting



ELECTION DAY (NOVEMBER 5) AT YOUR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE OR A VOTE CENTER FROM 6AM - 7PM

Find your polling place at chicagoelections.gov/voting/your-voter-information

By: Jayanti Oza

KADVA Patidar Samaj of Chicago hosts a spectacular Navratri celebration

The KADVA Patidar Samaj of Chicago hosted an incredible Navratri event at the Fountain View Recreation Center in Carol Stream, IL, on September 28, 2024. The celebration attracted over 900 KPS members, friends, and families, creating a vibrant atmosphere of cultural festivities.

The event featured a rich array of activities, including the Shree Ambe Maa & Umiya Mataji ni Aartis, as well as 3 tali and 2 tali Garbas, Raas Garba, and Sanedo, all performed by DJ Ujwal and his talented team. The venue was beautifully decorated, providing a captivating backdrop for attendees to capture cherished moments. Attendees

also enjoyed delicious food from Tasty Bites USA.

The success of the event was made possible by the generous contributions from Mithabhai and Jayantibhai's family (Orland Park) and Jitubhai and Meenaben Patel (Indiana). Special appreciation was extended to all sponsors and the dedicated KPS volunteers, especially the young volunteers whose invaluable assistance played a crucial role in the event's success.



Maha Arti sponsors was Mithabhai & Jayantibhai's family (Orland Park) and Jitubhai and Meenaben Patel (Indiana), Maha Prasad sponsor Vishnubhai and Hemaben Patel (Palatine)



The KPS Team worked tirelessly around the clock. (From L to R): Narendra Patel, Pankaj Patel, Dipak Desai, Vijay Patel, Harshad Patel, Rajesh Desai.



KPS team with the Mayor of Carol Stream. (From L to R) Bhagyesh Patel, Falguni Patel, Sushmita Patel, Frank Saverino, (Mayor of Carol Stream), Chhotalal Patel, Vijay Patel, Jayanti Patel, Mitha Patel, Satish Patel.

By: Dr. Avi Verma, MD(h)

Chicago Hindu community to celebrate Hindu Heritage Month with Shobha Yatra on Vijyadashmi

In a vibrant display of faith and culture, the Chicago Hindu community will kick off Hindu Heritage Month with a Shobha Yatra on Vijyadashmi, October 12, 2024. The procession, which begins at 10:45 a.m., will honor, commemorate, and celebrate Hindu Heritage Month—a time dedicated to recognizing the rich traditions, values, and contributions of the Hindu community across the U.S.

This year, Hindu Heritage Month has been officially declared by several U.S. states, including New Jersey, Texas, California, and Georgia. Additionally, townships in Illinois, such as Schaumburg, Naperville, Aurora, and Hanover Park, have also issued proclamations in support of this celebration. The observance is a significant move to celebrate and honor the cultural impact of Hinduism and the vital contributions of the Hindu community to American society.

Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey led the initiative by acknowledging the state's vibrant Hindu population. "New Jersey is home to a thriving Hindu community, and it is important to recognize their heritage as a means of fostering mutual respect and understanding," Murphy stated. The governor emphasized that the month-long observance will help educate the public about Hindu beliefs, values, and practices.

Texas followed suit with Governor Greg Abbott proclaiming October as Hindu Heritage Month. Abbott's

statement highlighted the celebration as a reflection of shared values such as peace, compassion, and community. "This observance acknowledges the Hindu community's significant cultural contributions and the diverse tapestry that makes Texas unique," Abbott remarked.

In California, Governor Gavin Newsom lauded the historical importance of Hindu culture and its lasting influence on the state's identity. Newsom expressed that the declaration symbolizes California's commitment to embracing all cultures that enrich society. "Hinduism's profound teachings on unity, tolerance, and spirituality have had a lasting impact on our state's heritage," he added.

In Georgia, Governor Brian Kemp echoed similar sentiments, declaring October as a month to honor the Hindu community's contributions. "The Hindu community has enriched our state's cultural landscape, and it is a privilege to recognize their traditions and heritage," Kemp said.

Closer to home, Illinois communities like Schaumburg, Naperville, Aurora, and Hanover Park have also joined the celebration, with local leaders pledging to promote Hindu culture through various events. These municipalities plan to host educational programs, cultural festivals, and

Diwali celebrations to engage residents and foster greater understanding of Hinduism's philosophy and practices.

Hindu organizations across the U.S. have warmly embraced the initiative, with many planning special events throughout the month. From yoga and wellness workshops to Diwali festivities, these celebrations will showcase the

community's deep spiritual traditions, emphasizing the positive contributions of Hindu philosophy to modern life.

As Hindu Heritage Month continues to gain momentum, many hope it will soon become a nationwide observance, further enriching the diverse cultural fabric of America.

SHOBHA YATRA

October is celebrated as Hindu Heritage Month

We welcome you to join us to celebrate

October 12, 2024

Chicago Downtown @ 10:45 am

Starting Point: Swami Vivekanand Marg (Art Institute, Chicago)

Vijayadashmi Celebration

The Chicago Hindu community will be dressed in vibrant & colorful traditional attire and accompanied with ethnic drums

Celebrating Modi: Maneesh Media's tribute to a transformative leader

By: Jayanti Oza

Maneesh Media, a prominent name in the publishing industry, proudly launched its 61st coffee table book, Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai, to commemorate the birthday of India's esteemed Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The event was marked by grand celebrations and attended by notable personalities, including Congressman Shri Thanedar, PBD Awardees Dr. Bharat Barai and Dr. DS Dhailwal, and renowned businessman Naveen Shah, along with other influential members of the Indian community. Renowned for documenting the stories of remarkable individuals and their contributions, Maneesh Media has published over 60 coffee table books, showcasing the experiences of more than 2,000 Indian families from over 40 countries. Through its works, Maneesh Media highlights the diverse achievements and contributions of the Indian diaspora, reinforcing the power and potential of the global Indian community.

The latest edition, Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai, is a comprehensive



Chicago's TV Asia Midwest Bureau Chief Vandna Jhingan, Dr. Bharat Barai, Darshan Sing Dhaliwal, and other community leaders celebrating PM Modi's 74th birthday.

WELCOME MODI JI to USA

Heartily Congratulation on Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 74th Birthday

 Dr. Bharat Haridas Barai Medical Director Cancer Institute, Methodist Hospital 	 Darshan Singh Dhaliwal President Bulk Petroleum Corporation 	 Dr. Dinesh Gupta Environmentalist Bag Man of India 	 Naveen Shah President & CEO Blue Sky Hospitality Solutions
 Mohamad M. Farouqi CEO Print Early LLC 	 Sujit's A. Singh Managing Director & CEO Singhtek Group of Companies 	 Ketan Shah, P.E. President Intercontinental Construction Contracting, Inc. 	 Muthu G. Mudaliar http://www.MuthuMudaliar.com

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CHANDMAL KUMAWAT
 Chairman

650-page tribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, encapsulating his extraordinary journey, leadership, and unwavering commitment to India's growth. The book explores significant milestones of his political career, including his third consecutive term as Prime Minister and the much-anticipated inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. It also emphasizes his efforts to elevate India's status on the global stage, strengthen international relationships, and promote India's interests abroad. The book documents 142 visits made by PM Modi, illustrating his dedication to building strong international ties.

The event attracted an esteemed audience who praised the book for its detailed portrayal of Modi's achievements, leadership qualities, and vision for a "New India." Attendees lauded Maneesh Media for capturing the essence of his journey in a visually captivating and thought-provoking manner, making this book a valuable addition to any collection. Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai is more than a documentation of Prime Minister Modi's accomplishments; it embodies the spirit of "New India" that he envisions. This coffee table book delves into the ideologies, projects, and policies that have defined his leadership, inspiring millions across the nation and beyond. It stands as a testament to how one man's vision can transform a nation and bring about tangible change.

Maneesh Media continues to establish itself as a trailblazer in the publishing world, chronicling the inspiring journeys of Indians who have made significant impacts across various fields. With this 61st edition, the company reaffirms its commitment to celebrating Indian excellence, both within India and around the globe.

Mahatma Gandhi bust unveiled in Seattle, establishing October 2 as Mahatma Gandhi Day

By: Vandana Jhingan



This week, a bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the iconic Seattle Center, located just beneath the Space Needle and adjacent to the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum. This installation marks the first bust of Gandhi in a city celebrated for its vibrant cultural scene.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Congressman Adam Smith, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Lt. Gen. Xavier Brunson, Commander of the US First Corps in the Pacific Northwest, and Mr. Eddie Rye, Chair of the Martin Luther



King-Gandhi Initiative. The Consul General of India, Prakash Gupta, was also present, along with prominent members of the Indian American community who gathered to honor the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

October 2nd, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, is also recognized as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations. All dignitaries who spoke during the ceremony emphasized the enduring values of Ahimsa (Non-Violence),

Satyagraha (truth force), and Sarvodaya (welfare for all) as essential in today's world.

The Consulate General of India and the City of Seattle collaborated to select a fitting location for Gandhi's bust. Given its accessibility and commitment to promoting peace and non-violence, the Seattle Center—drawing over 12 million visitors annually—was deemed an ideal site.

To commemorate the occasion, Washington



State Governor Jay Inslee issued an official proclamation recognizing the bust as a lasting tribute to Gandhi's teachings and a powerful reminder of the impact of non-violence in enacting change. Additionally, King County proclaimed October 2nd as Mahatma Gandhi Day across all 73 cities in the Greater Seattle area.

It is worth noting that the first Indian Consulate in Seattle began operations in November 2023, covering the Pacific Northwest, including the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Alaska. The installation of the Mahatma Gandhi bust in Seattle is part of a broader initiative being implemented across its consular jurisdiction.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, October 2, 2024, marks the 156th anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, universally known as Mahatma Gandhi, and in India, as the "Father of the Nation," whose life and legacy of non-violence and peace have inspired millions around the world; and
WHEREAS, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance, or Satyagraha, played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence and has influenced numerous civil rights movements globally, promoting justice, equality, and human rights; and
WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly, recognizing the enduring relevance of Gandhi's principles, has designated October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence, a day to disseminate the message of non-violence through education and public awareness; and
WHEREAS, in a 1986 resolution, the King County Council declared Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a strong follower of Mahatma Gandhi and his principle of non-violence, as the county's official namesake; Dr. King was once quoted as saying, "To other countries, I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim"; and
WHEREAS, a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, a gift from the Government of India to the City of Seattle, will be unveiled at an October 2, 2024 ceremony at the Seattle Center, to serve as a lasting tribute to Gandhi's teachings and a reminder of the power of nonviolent action in achieving social and political change.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2024 to be

Mahatma Gandhi Day

in King County. I encourage all residents to participate in the unveiling ceremony at the Seattle Center, celebrating the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.



Dow Constantine
Dow Constantine
King County Executive



रामचरित मानस एवं भगवद् गीता में कुछ समानताएँ: करम प्रधान विश्व रचि राखा अर्थात कर्म योग

कर्म जीवन की गति है. उसका जीवन की गाड़ी को चलाने में बहुत बड़ा हाथ है. किसी भी काम करने के पीछे दो उद्देश्य होते हैं. एक या तो वह अपने किसी निजी स्वार्थ के लिये किया जाता है. दूसरा, वह समाज के कल्याण के लिए, दूसरों की सहायता के लिए किया जाता है. इसलिए राम चरित मानस में कहा गया: करम प्रधान विश्व रचि राखा, जो जस करहि सो तस फल चाखा.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

जो जिस भावना से कर्म करेगा, उसे ठीक वैसा ही फल भी भुगतना पड़ेगा. इससे कर्मों में शुद्धि अपने आप आ जाती है. जो बुरे कर्म करने के लिए उद्यत होते हैं, उनके लिए चेतावनी भी निहित है. दूसरी ओर, भगवद् गीता के दूसरे अध्याय में कर्म योग की चर्चा है:

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।
मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥47 ॥

BG 2.47: तुम्हें अपने निश्चित कर्मों का पालन करने का अधिकार है लेकिन तुम अपने कर्मों का फल प्राप्त करने के अधिकारी नहीं हो, तुम स्वयं को अपने कर्मों के फलों का कारण मत मानो और न ही अकर्मा रहने में आसक्ति रखो

इस श्लोक में प्रभु कृष्ण ने कहा, हे अर्जुन कर्म करने पर तुम्हारा पूरा अधिकार है, लेकिन उस कर्म का फल तुम्हें क्या मिलेगा, यह मैं निश्चित करूँगा. तुम्हारे प्रयास के पीछे निहित तुम्हारी नीयत और मेहनत की सच्चाई को, मैं परखूँगा. हम सब जीवन के स्वार्थों को पूरा करने के लिए प्रतिदिन कर्म करते रहते हैं. कभी हमें उसका अच्छा फल मिलता है, तो उसका श्रेय हम अपनी मेहनत को दे, एक अहंकार पाल लेते हैं. और जब कभी उसका उचित फल नहीं मिलता, तो हम दूसरों को दोष देना आरंभ कर देते हैं, यहाँ तक कि भगवान को भी नहीं बख्शते. इसीलिए प्रभु ने अर्जुन को एक और सलाह दी:

योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय ।
सिद्ध्यसिद्धयोः समो भूत्वा समत्वं
योग उच्यते ॥48 ॥

BG 2.48: हे अर्जुन! सफलता और असफलता की आसक्ति को त्याग कर तुम दृढ़ता से अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करो। यही समभाव योग कहलाता है।

हे धन्यजय, तू आसक्ति को त्याग कर, सफलता और असफलता में समान भाव बना कर, अपने कर्तव्यों को कर, यही सबसे बड़ा योग है. यही कर्म योग है. ऐसे काम को निष्काम कर्म भी कहा जाता है. निष्काम का अर्थ है, बिना किसी कामना से प्रेरित हुए, केवल काम के प्रयोजन के लिए, आवश्यक मेहनत को पूरी ईमानदारी से करना. कुछ लोग यह तर्क देते हैं कि, अगर सफलता की कामना नहीं होगी, तो पूरी मेहनत नहीं हो पाएगी. अब इसी परिस्थिति को उल्टा करके



देखिए. अगर आप फल या सफलता की चिंता किए बिना, पूरी एकाग्रता के साथ मेहनत करेंगे, तो सफलता अपने आप, आपके कदम चूमेगी. निर्णय भक्त का है कि, वह कौन सा मार्ग चुनता है.

एक कहानी से बात और भी स्पष्ट हो जायेगी. एक बार गुरु द्रोणाचार्य अपने शिष्यों को लक्ष्य भेदना सिखा रहे थे. एक पेड़ पर एक नकली चिड़िया को रखा गया, और सबको बताया गया कि, इसकी आँख भेदनी है. पहले उन्होंने दुर्योधन को बुलाया, और पूछा, क्या दिखाई दे रहा है ? दुर्योधन बोला, शाखा दिख रही, जिस पर एक चिड़िया बैठी है. तब उन्होंने अपने बेटे अश्वथामा को बुलाया और पूछा, पुत्र तुम्हें क्या दिखाई दे रहा है ? तो वह बोला, मुझे केवल चिड़िया दिखाई दे रही है. अंत में उन्होंने अर्जुन को बुलाया, और पूछा, तुम्हें क्या दिखाई दे रहा है ? अर्जुन लक्ष्य साधते हुए बोला, गुरूवर मुझे तो केवल चिड़िया की आँख दिखाई पड़ रही है. आचार्य बोले, वाह बेटा, चलाओ बाण. और इस प्रकार उसकी एकाग्रता, उसकी कार्य सिद्धि का कारण बन गई. ऐसों को कहते हैं, कर्म योगी.

राम चरित मानस में दो ऐसे कर्म योगी नजर आते हैं, जो अपने स्वामी के काम के लिए अपना सर्वस्व लुटाते नजर आते हैं. यही उनके चरित्र की महानता है, यही उनके स्वामी के प्रति अनन्य प्रेम का सुंदर समर्पण है. इसमें पहला नाम है, लक्ष्मण और दूसरा नाम है हनुमान. लक्ष्मण का त्याग और निष्काम कर्म बहुत ही सराहनीय है. जब रामजी को वनवास जाने की आज्ञा सुनाई गई, तो सबसे अधिक अधीर लक्ष्मण हुए. साथ जाने की जिद करने लगे. रामजी ने समझाने का प्रयास किया कि, तुम्हारी पत्नी है. यहाँ पिता के पास कोई और नहीं है. लेकिन लक्ष्मण जी अपने स्वामी की निस्वार्थ सेवा के अतिरिक्त कुछ और नहीं सोच रहे थे, बोले;

दीन्ह मोहि सिख नीकि गुसाँई,
लागी अगम अपनी कदराई
गुरु पितु मातु न जानऊँ काहु,
कहुँऊ सुभाउ नाथ पतिआहु

आपने मुझे बड़ी अच्छी सीख दी, लेकिन मेरा विश्वास कीजिए, मैं आपके बिना, किसी और गुरु माता पिता को नहीं मानता.

मोरे सबइ एक तुम स्वामी,
दीनबंधु उर अंतरजामी

मेरे सर्वस्व केवल आप ही हैं. बस मुझे छोड़ कर मत जाइए. मैं उर्मिला को भी समझा लूँगा. ऐसा कहा जाता

है कि, लक्ष्मण चौदह वर्ष तक सोए भी नहीं थे. रामजी की उन्होंने पूरी निष्ठा के साथ, निस्वार्थ भाव से, दिन रात सेवा की. यही कारण था कि, राम रावण युद्ध के समय जब लक्ष्मण, मेघनाद के शक्ति बाण से घायल हो मूर्च्छित हो गए, तो राम बिलख उठे:

जैहऊँ अवध कवन मुँह लाई,
नारि हेतु प्रिय भाई गँवाई

अब मैं अयोध्या कौन सा मुँह लेकर जाऊँगा. लोक ताने देंगे. पत्नी के लिए भाई गवाँ कर लौटे हो. हे लक्ष्मण, मेरी स्थिति तुम्हारे बिना ऐसी हो गई है, मानो:

जथा पंख बिनु खग अति दीना,
मणि बिनु फनी करिबर कर हीना
जो जनतेऊँ बन बंधु बिछोह,
पिता बचन मनतेहू नहि ओहू

कोई किसी पंछी के पर काट दिए गए हों. अगर मुझे पता होता कि, मेरा भाई मुझे छोड़ कर चला जाएगा. तो मैं पिता के वचन मानने से इंकार कर देता. ऐसी अधीरता किसी कर्म योगी के लिए ही हो सकती है. रामजी को लगा, उन्होंने अपने जीवन की सबसे बड़ी पूँजी खो दी है. उन्हें सीता के लिए युद्ध करना भी व्यर्थ लगने लगा. ऐसे कर्मयोगी का चरित्र अन्यत्र कहीं और नहीं मिलता. वह हर उस व्यक्ति या विपदा से लड़ने को सज्ज है, जो रामजी के रास्ते में बाधा बनती है.

एक और उदाहरण है, जहाँ लक्ष्मण रामजी की सुरक्षा के लिए मरने मारने को तैयार हो जाते हैं. वनवास के दौरान, जब भरत रामजी को मनाने के लिए परिवार एवं सेना सहित चित्रकूट आ रहे होते हैं, तो इस समाचार से, लक्ष्मण के मन में, सेना सहित आने के कारण, एक संदेह उत्पन्न

हो जाता है कि, कहीं भरत, रामजी को अकेला देख, उनसे युद्ध करने तो नहीं आ रहा ? बस फिर क्या था. लक्ष्मण अपना धनुष बाण सम्भाल सज्ज हो उठते हैं:

आज राम सेवक जसु लेऊँ,
भरतहि समर सिखावन देऊँ
राम निरादर कर फलु पाई,
सोवहुँ समर सेज दोउ भाई

लक्ष्मण का ध्यान केवल कर्म पर है, उसके फल या परिणाम पर नहीं. वह केवल कर्म करने को उद्यत है, निष्काम कर्म. वह अपने बाकी दो भाइयों से लड़ जाने

के, अपने कर्तव्य कर्म से, भी नहीं झिझकते.

दूसरा कर्मयोगी है हमारा प्यारा बजरंग बलि हनुमान, जो केवल निष्काम भाव से, हमेशा राजकाज में लगे रहते हैं.

जब उन्हें सीता खोज के लिए जाना था, तो उन्होंने जाम्बवंत जी से सलाह की, कि मेरा उद्देश्य क्या है ?

जामवन्त मैं पूछऊँ तोहि,
उचित सिखावन दीजहु मोहि
एतना करहु तात तुम जाई,
सीतहि देखि कहहु सुधि आई

बाकी सब रामजी सम्भाल लेंगे. बस फिर क्या था, हनुमान जी उड़ चले लँका की ओर. रास्ते में मैनाक पर्वत प्रगत हुआ, प्रार्थना करने लगा, महाराज तनिक यहाँ विश्राम कर लीजिए, रास्ता बहुत लंबा है. हनुमान जी बोले:

राम काज कीन्हे बिनु मोहि कहाँ विश्राम

इस संदर्भ में केवल हाथ में आये काम के प्रति निष्ठा है, उसके लिए किए जाने वाली मेहनत के प्रति, पूरी ईमानदारी है.

यह है एक सच्चे कर्मयोगी के लक्षण. और जब तक उन्होंने सीता का पूरी तरह से पता नहीं लगा लिया. उन्होंने एक पल भी विश्राम नहीं किया.

जब हनुमान जी सीता की कुशल क्षेम लेकर लौटे, तो रामजी हनुमान के आगे कृतज्ञता से भाव विह्वल हो केवल इतना ही कह पाये:

सुनु सुत तोहि उरिन मैं नाहि,
देखऊँ करि बिचार मन माहि
प्रति उपकार करों का तोरा,
सन्मुख होइ न सकत मन मोरा

हे हनुमान, तुमने जो उपकार मुझ पर किया है, उसका ऋण मैं जीवन भर नहीं उतार पाऊँगा.

निष्कर्षता भगवद् गीता और रामचरित मानस में कर्म योग की परिभाषा एवं उदाहरण कूट कूट कर भरे पड़े हैं. हमें केवल इन मोतियों को चुन कर अपने जीवन में उतारने की आवश्यकता है. लक्ष्मण और हनुमान जी जैसे कर्म योगियों को मेरा सादर प्रणाम!!!

भगवान शिव के 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगों दर्शन यात्रा में अगला पड़ाव:

केदारनाथ



अब तक हमने भगवान शिव के इन 10 ज्योतिर्लिंगों के दर्शन कर लिए हैं:

- ▶ सोमनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग - गुजरात
- ▶ मल्लिकार्जुन ज्योतिर्लिंग - आंध्र प्रदेश
- ▶ महाकालेश्वर ज्योतिर्लिंग - उज्जैन (मध्य प्रदेश)
- ▶ ओंकारेश्वर ज्योतिर्लिंग - मध्य प्रदेश
- ▶ वैद्यनाथ (वैद्यनाथ धाम) ज्योतिर्लिंग - झारखंड
- ▶ भीमनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग - महाराष्ट्र
- ▶ रामनाथस्वामी ज्योतिर्लिंग - तमिलनाडु
- ▶ नागेश्वर ज्योतिर्लिंग - गुजरात
- ▶ काशी विश्वनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग - उत्तर प्रदेश
- ▶ त्र्यंबकेश्वर ज्योतिर्लिंग - महाराष्ट्र

और अब हमारी यात्रा का अगला पड़ाव है केदारनाथ धाम।

उत्तराखंड राज्य में स्थित यह धाम, शिव भक्तों के लिए अत्यंत पवित्र और ऐतिहासिक स्थल है। यहां की प्राकृतिक सुंदरता और पौराणिक महत्व इसे चार धामों में से एक बनाते हैं। आइए, केदारनाथ के इतिहास और पौराणिक कथाओं पर एक नजर डालते हैं।

केदारनाथ का इतिहास और पौराणिक कथा

पांडवों और भगवान शिव की कथा

महाभारत के महानायक पांडवों ने अपने कुल के लोगों का वध करने के पाप से मुक्ति पाने के लिए भगवान शिव की आराधना की थी। लेकिन भगवान शिव उनसे नाराज होकर उनसे छिपना चाहते थे। उन्होंने खुद को एक बैल के रूप में बदल लिया और हिमालय के गर्भ में समा गए। इस स्थान पर भगवान शिव के बैल रूपी शरीर का कूबड़ प्रकट हुआ, और वही स्थल आज केदारनाथ मंदिर के रूप में पूजनीय है। ऐसा माना जाता है कि इस मंदिर का निर्माण पांडवों ने ही किया था, जबकि वर्तमान मंदिर का पुनर्निर्माण 8वीं शताब्दी में आदिगुरु शंकराचार्य ने किया।

केदारनाथ मंदिर की स्थापत्य कला और विशेषता

केदारनाथ मंदिर लगभग 1,200 साल पुराना माना जाता है और यह भारत के 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगों में से एक है। यह मंदिर बड़ी-बड़ी पत्थरों की चट्टानों से बना हुआ है, जो इसे एक अद्वितीय स्थापत्य कृति बनाता है। यहां के शिवलिंग को 'सदाशिव' के रूप में पूजा जाता है। मंदिर का गर्भगृह पूजा के लिए और मंडप भक्तों की

सभा के लिए है। यहां की ठंडी हवाएं और हिमालय की ऊंची चोटियों के बीच स्थित यह मंदिर भक्तों के लिए अद्वितीय आध्यात्मिक अनुभव का केंद्र है।

केदारनाथ की पौराणिक कहानियां

केदारनाथ से जुड़ी कई पौराणिक कथाएं हैं, जो इसे और भी पवित्र बनाती हैं:

पांडवों की कथा: जैसा कि पहले बताया गया, भगवान शिव बैल के रूप में छिप गए थे, और पांडवों ने उनके कूबड़ को केदारनाथ में पाया। भगवान शिव के अन्य अंग तुंगनाथ, रुद्रनाथ, मध्यमहेश्वर और कल्पेश्वर में प्रकट हुए, जिन्हें पंचकेदार के नाम से जाना जाता है।

नर और नारायण की कथा: एक अन्य कथा के अनुसार, नर और नारायण ऋषि ने केदारनाथ में कठोर तपस्या की थी, जिससे प्रसन्न होकर भगवान शिव ने उन्हें यहां वास का आशीर्वाद दिया।

लिंग का निर्माण: ऐसा माना जाता है कि केदारनाथ में स्थित शिवलिंग प्राकृतिक रूप से पृथ्वी, वायु, जल और अग्नि के तत्वों से बना है, जो इसे विशेष और अद्वितीय बनाता है।

केदारनाथ धाम का महत्व

केदारनाथ धाम हिंदू धर्म के चार धामों में से एक है और हर साल लाखों भक्त भगवान शिव के दर्शन के लिए यहां आते हैं। यह मंदिर समुद्र तल से 3,583 मीटर की ऊंचाई पर स्थित है और यहां तक पहुंचने के लिए भक्तों को कठिन यात्रा करनी पड़ती है। हालांकि, अब हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा भी उपलब्ध है, जिससे यात्रा थोड़ी आसान हो गई है।

केदारनाथ मंदिर का द्वार हर साल कार्तिक माह (अक्टूबर-नवंबर) में बंद होता है और वैशाख माह (अप्रैल-मई) में फिर से खुलता है। इस दौरान मंदिर के कपाट बंद रहते हैं, लेकिन भक्तों की श्रद्धा और विश्वास कभी नहीं थमता। मंदिर के निकट स्थित मंदाकिनी और सरस्वती नदियों के किनारे यह धाम एक अद्वितीय आध्यात्मिक वातावरण प्रदान करता है।

केदारनाथ के अन्य आकर्षण

केदारनाथ धाम में कई अन्य धार्मिक और पर्यटक स्थल भी हैं, जैसे गौरीकुंड, चोरबारी ताल, भैरव मंदिर और वासुकी ताल। ये स्थान भी केदारनाथ की यात्रा को और भी अधिक पवित्र और स्मरणीय बनाते हैं।

कैसे पहुंचें केदारनाथ

केदारनाथ धाम उत्तराखंड के रुद्रप्रयाग जिले में स्थित है और

यह समुद्र तल से 3,583 मीटर (11,755 फीट) की ऊंचाई पर स्थित है। यहाँ पहुँचने के दो प्रमुख रास्ते हैं:

पैदल यात्रा: गौरीकुंड से केदारनाथ तक की दूरी लगभग 16 किलोमीटर है, जिसे भक्त पैदल तय करते हैं। इस यात्रा को पवित्र माना जाता है और भक्तगण इस कठिन यात्रा को श्रद्धापूर्वक करते हैं। यात्रा के दौरान आपको पहाड़ों की मनमोहक प्राकृतिक सुंदरता और मंदिर की अद्भुत छटा देखने को मिलेगी।

हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा: यदि आप पैदल यात्रा नहीं करना चाहते हैं, तो केदारनाथ तक पहुँचने के लिए हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा का भी उपयोग कर सकते हैं। यह सेवा जोली ग्रांट एयरपोर्ट, देहरादून और सेरसी गाँव के पास फाटा हेलीपैड से उपलब्ध है। हेलीकॉप्टर द्वारा यात्रा लगभग 40 मिनट में पूरी हो जाती है।

समापन

केदारनाथ धाम का इतिहास, पौराणिक कथाएं और प्राकृतिक सुंदरता इसे न सिर्फ एक धार्मिक स्थल बल्कि एक आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का अद्वितीय अनुभव बनाते हैं। भगवान शिव के 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगों में से एक केदारनाथ धाम में भगवान शिव की कृपा और आशीर्वाद प्राप्त करना हर भक्त का सपना होता है।



When to take Social Security?

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

You can start collecting Social Security benefits early at age 62 with up to 30% penalty (graduated) or delay benefits up to age 70 with up to 32% bonus (graduated). The full retirement age (FRA) is between 66-67 based on the date of birth. The side benefits of taking Social Security before age 65 are that Medicare signup at age 65 is automatic & the Medicare premiums are just deducted from the Social Security payments (otherwise, a separate application for Medicare is required & you may be billed monthly or quarterly). Notably, Medicare signup at age 65 is through Social Security Administration (SSA), but billing & benefits are handled later by the federal CMS.

Annual adjustments (COLA) to SSA payments are based on year-over-year increases in the Q3 averages of the CPI-W (July, August, September readings). These adjustments become known in mid-October (2025 COLA est +2.5% pending CPI-W on 10/10/24) but are officially announced by the SSA in November or December. There is some discussion about replacing the CPI-W (workers) with a newer CPI-E (elderly).

Make decisions to start SSA payments early at age 62 (29% opt for it), at FRA (29% opt for it), or late at age 70 (only 10% wait for it) based on your personal financial situation. Explanations to take them early are that (i) many need the money for living expenses, (ii) some who don't need the money still like spare cash now for discretionary expenses while they are healthy, & (iii) except for related dependent & survivor benefits, the SSA payments stop at death, so higher benefits later may not materialize.

Some who delay Social Security may rely on pensions, annuities, & withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts (T-IRA, 401k/403b) & taxable accounts.

A 2nd chance is possible for those who started early but then change their mind - they can suspend benefits at/after their FRA, & their higher benefits will resume at 70, but beware that most related spousal benefits will also suspend (an abusive loophole was closed in 2015).

The breakeven ages for starting Social Security benefits early vs late range from late-70s to early-80s. There are special strategies for couples

with different levels of income; for example, the lower income spouse may start the benefit earlier (to get maximum of own or spousal benefit) & the higher-income spouse may delay the benefit.

Many federal & state employees don't participate in Social Security due to historical exemptions, but may qualify for spousal benefits based on the work records of their spouses. If some of your previous job(s) weren't covered by Social Security (i.e. you didn't have to pay the FICA payroll tax), then your benefit payments may be reduced due to the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision). Another, GPO (Government Pension Offset), may reduce your spousal benefit payments. Spousal benefit for Medicare (if not eligible on own) is not affected by these offsets. These WEP & GPO offsets are harsh & there are proposals to reduce or eliminate them in some cases.

If you get Social Security, there are restrictions on your earned income until you reach the FRA; specifically, your benefits will be reduced. These restrictions don't apply to the unearned income or to the earned income after the FRA.

Portions of your Social Security payments may be taxable based on your combined income (AGI + nontaxable interest + 0.5 x Social Security payments). These taxes have the effect of reducing benefits for those with higher income.

Worries about the finances of Social Security shouldn't lead people to take benefits early. It's a form of social support system that is intended to provide only partial income needed in retirement & some dependent, spousal & survivor benefits. It would be fixed before drastic 21-23% SSA payment cuts kick in 2033 when the Treasury IOUs run out & the FICA payroll taxes must be equal to the SSA payments. The so-called SSA trust fund is just a Treasury IOU, not a segregated fund that can be redeployed. Proposals to fix Social Security include increasing payroll tax & applicable salary limits, benefit reductions (including raising FRA or eligibility age, taxes), means testing, etc. Problem is that politicians don't want to deal with tough choices until it becomes absolutely necessary.

For more information, see <https://ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/>



Jack Smith's explosive revelations: How Trump's 2020 election efforts could impact the 2024 race

By: Dr. Avi Verma, MD(h)

In a newly unsealed legal brief, Special Counsel Jack Smith has laid out in vivid detail former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, painting a picture of desperation, deceit, and political manipulation. The 165-page filing, released last week, reveals private conversations Trump had with top Republican officials, including RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel, as he sought their help in promoting baseless claims of election fraud. These shocking revelations not only threaten Trump's legal defense but also hold the potential to reshape the landscape of the 2024 presidential election.

The Desperate Bid to Hold Power

At the heart of Smith's case is a clear narrative: Trump, in his bid to retain power, pursued increasingly desperate tactics despite knowing that the allegations he was promoting were false. According to the filing, Trump pressed McDaniel to push a false claim that voting machines in Michigan had been manipulated. McDaniel, however, resisted, noting that Michigan's Republican House Speaker, Lee Chatfield, called the claim unsubstantial.

This interaction is just one of many included in Smith's brief that showcases Trump's aggressive strategy to subvert the 2020 election results. The special counsel's investigation drew on interviews with key figures, including former Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. These conversations, confirmed by phone records, illustrate that while Trump's inner circle expressed doubts or outright rejected his claims, the former president remained determined to find a way to cling to power.



Smith's filing also accuses Trump of stoking the January 6th Capitol riot. According to the brief, Trump was alone in the Oval Office dining room when he tweeted about Pence, accusing him of lacking the "courage" to reject the election results during the height of the violence. The tweet, echoed by rioters chanting "hang Mike Pence," is presented as evidence of Trump's intent to derail Congress' certification of the Electoral College results.

The Legal and Political Implications

Smith's revelations have far-reaching legal and political consequences. Legally, the special counsel's case challenges Trump's defense of presidential immunity, arguing that Trump's efforts to overturn the election were taken as a candidate, not in his official capacity as president. This

distinction is crucial, as it could remove one of Trump's key legal defenses. The case, already delayed by the Supreme Court's decision to review Trump's claims of immunity, may continue to evolve as new evidence is presented. The legal battle, which could return to the Supreme Court, could set a major precedent regarding the limits of presidential power.

Politically, the fallout from Smith's brief could severely impact Trump's 2024 presidential ambitions. The vivid details of Trump's attempts to pressure Republican officials and his role in inciting the January 6th violence may deepen the divisions within the GOP. While Trump continues to hold sway over the Republican base, these new revelations may prompt establishment Republicans to distance themselves from his campaign. For GOP leaders already skeptical of Trump's electability, this brief provides new reasons to push for alternative candidates in the 2024 race.

In the broader electorate, Smith's filing could further polarize the political climate. Trump's base is likely to rally behind him, viewing the legal proceedings as politically motivated. However, for moderate Republicans, independents, and swing voters, the details of Trump's conduct could serve as a turning point, raising serious concerns about his ability to govern effectively and fairly.

The 2024 Presidential Race

As the 2024 race heats up, Smith's revelations will undoubtedly be used as a tool by Trump's political rivals. Democrats, led by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, are likely to seize on this information to paint Trump as a danger to democracy,

focusing on his attempts to subvert the will of the voters in 2020. The legal case, coupled with Trump's ongoing rhetoric on social media, could overshadow policy debates and distract from other pressing issues, making the election a referendum on Trump's conduct.

At the same time, Trump's legal troubles could embolden third-party candidates like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. or potential Republican challengers who present themselves as more stable alternatives. This could split the GOP vote and weaken Trump's chances in a general election, where he would need to appeal to a broader coalition of voters beyond his loyal base.

A Divided Nation

Jack Smith's brief not only tightens the legal noose around Trump but also underscores the deep political divisions in the country. For Trump's supporters, these revelations may be dismissed as part of a larger political conspiracy. For others, they provide further evidence of Trump's disregard for democratic norms. As the legal proceedings unfold, the impact on both the Republican Party and the broader electorate will be profound.

In conclusion, Jack Smith's revelations about Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election mark a pivotal moment in both Trump's legal journey and his 2024 campaign. With the trial looming and more details likely to emerge, the question remains: will this be the final blow to Trump's political ambitions, or will it further fuel his narrative of persecution and deepen the support of his base? As the 2024 election approaches, these revelations ensure that Trump's actions in the wake of the 2020 election will remain at the center of the political conversation.





Student life at IUHS

By: Dr. Avi Verma, MD(h)

At IUHS, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enriching activities beyond their academic studies.

Students can serve as Student Ambassadors, creating user-generated content for the university's official social media platforms. They can conduct interviews, write articles for the Student Newsletter, and share their advice during in-house webinars designed specifically

for IUHS students. Additionally, students have the chance to mentor newcomers through a Buddy System, and speak at webinars for prospective students, offering insight into what it's really like to be a medical student at IUHS.

For those with an interest in research, students can join group or individual research projects, collaborating with experienced physicians. There are also opportunities to attend in-person medical conferences and participate in volunteer initiatives both within their



local communities and on the island of St. Kitts, where IUHS's study center is located. Students and staff engage in charity work and support local fundraising events on the island. Students can also become part of the IUHS chapter of the American Medical Students Association (AMSA), taking part in advocacy and activism initiatives.

To support their studies, students often form virtual study groups for peer support and guidance, especially considering the global nature of the

university. These groups are often organized by time zones, with students from different countries coming together to collaborate. Over time, these friendships grow, and it is not uncommon for students to live together during their clinical rotations, especially when completing clerkships may require relocation.

IUHS also encourages its alumni to give back by working as tutors or providing support in other capacities. Alumni, having experienced the unique IUHS journey firsthand, are well-positioned to help guide current students toward success. Despite geographical distances, IUHS fosters a close-knit community where students receive ample support and engage in extracurricular activities that prepare them for their professional careers as medical doctors.



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How much exercise do we need to ‘offset’ a day of sitting?

By: Dr. Avi Verma, MD(h)

Sitting for long periods has become an unfortunate norm in today’s world, especially with desk jobs and increased screen time. However, research shows that prolonged sitting is associated with a higher risk of various health problems, including obesity, heart disease, and early death. The good news is, scientists have determined just how much physical activity is needed to counteract these negative effects.



A 2020 meta-analysis of nine studies, involving over 44,000 people across four countries, found that 30-40 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day can help balance out the harmful effects of sitting for up to 10 hours.

This means even if you’re stuck at your desk for long periods, a solid 30-40 minutes of physical exercise can help reduce the health risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

Finding the Right Balance

The analysis revealed that as time spent sitting increased, so did the risk of early death, particularly in those who engaged in little to no physical activity. However, individuals who were able to incorporate 30-40 minutes of daily activity—whether that’s cycling, brisk walking, or gardening—were able to significantly reduce their risk of health complications tied to prolonged sitting.

The researchers summarized their findings: “In active individuals doing

about 30-40 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity, the association between high sedentary time and risk of death is not significantly different from those with low amounts of sedentary time.”

What Counts as Physical Activity?

You don’t have to engage in intense gym workouts to achieve these health benefits. The study encourages a variety of activities—brisk walking, cycling, household chores, dancing, and even playing with children or pets can all contribute to your daily exercise goal. Walking up the stairs instead of taking the elevator, or opting for a walk during your lunch break, are small changes that can have a big impact over time.

These findings align with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, which recommend 150-300 minutes of moderate activity or 75-150 minutes of vigorous activity

per week to counter the effects of sedentary behavior.

Fitness Trackers and Reliable Data

One significant advantage of this study is its use of fitness trackers to gather data, rather than relying on participants’ self-reports. This objective approach provides more reliable insights into the relationship between sitting, physical activity, and overall health outcomes.

This research, published alongside the WHO’s 2020 Global Guidelines on Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour, emphasizes that any amount of physical activity is better than none.

While 30-40 minutes is ideal, even smaller increments of activity throughout the day can still protect your health and mitigate the risks of a sedentary lifestyle.

Gaps in Knowledge and Future Research

While the current guidelines provide a strong foundation, some questions remain. For instance, researchers are still working to determine exactly how much sitting time is “too much” and how different levels of physical activity can offset it. As more data emerges, we’ll continue to refine our understanding of the best ways to stay healthy, especially for those who spend long hours at a desk.

For now, the takeaway is simple: if your daily routine involves extended periods of sitting, aim for 30-40 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise each day. Whether you choose to walk, garden, cycle, or dance, every step counts toward better health.

Stay tuned for more updates on medical breakthroughs and health tips in IndoUS Tribune’s Health Corner.

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Fall refresh: Elevate your beauty game this season

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, the arrival of fall signals a perfect opportunity to refresh and elevate your beauty regimen.



With the changing seasons come new challenges and inspirations, prompting us to adapt our skincare, haircare, and makeup routines to not only protect ourselves from the elements but also embrace the rich and warm aesthetics of autumn. Here's how to make the most of your beauty game this fall.

Revamping Skincare for Autumn

The transition from summer's humidity to fall's drier air can take a toll on your skin. As temperatures drop, it's essential to adjust your skincare routine to maintain hydration and glow.

1. Switch to Richer Moisturizers:

Lightweight summer lotions may no longer suffice. Look for creams that contain nourishing ingredients such as shea butter, ceramides, or hyaluronic acid. These ingredients help create a barrier that locks in moisture and keeps your skin supple.

2. Incorporate Serums: A hydrating serum can be a game-changer in the fall. Serums rich in antioxidants, like vitamin C or E, help combat environmental stressors while delivering an extra boost of hydration. They prepare your skin for the colder months ahead.

3. Exfoliate Gently: With the accumulation of dead skin cells, fall is an excellent time to incorporate gentle exfoliation into your routine. Opt for chemical exfoliants like AHAs or BHAs to slough off dullness without irritating the skin. This will

help your complexion look bright and rejuvenated.

4. Don't Skip Sunscreen: Just because it's cooler doesn't mean UV rays are absent. Make sunscreen a non-negotiable part of your daily routine to protect against sun damage and premature aging.

Haircare Transformations for the Season

Just as your skin needs extra care in fall, so does your hair. The change in humidity can leave your locks feeling dry and brittle, making it crucial to refresh your haircare regimen.

1. Moisturizing Shampoo and Conditioner: Transition to a hydrating shampoo and conditioner that combats dryness. Look for products free of sulfates and packed with nourishing oils like argan or coconut oil. These will help maintain moisture and shine.

2. Deep Conditioning Treatments: Incorporate a deep conditioning mask into your weekly routine. This will nourish and repair any damage, keeping your hair healthy and vibrant. Look for masks with protein-rich ingredients that strengthen hair.

3. Minimize Heat Styling: The cooler weather is a great excuse to embrace natural textures. If you do use heat styling tools, always apply a heat protectant spray to shield your hair from damage.



4. Regular Trims: Schedule regular trims to remove split ends and encourage healthy growth. A fresh cut can make a significant difference in the overall appearance of your hair.

Makeup Trends to Embrace

Fall is not only about skincare and haircare; it's also an ideal time to refresh your makeup routine and experiment with seasonal colors.

1. Rich, Warm Tones: Embrace the season's palette by incorporating warm shades of burgundy, burnt orange, and deep browns into your makeup collection. These colors can add depth and warmth, complementing the fall landscape.

2. Bold Lips: Autumn is the perfect time to make a statement with bold lip colors. Deep reds, plums, and dark berries can enhance your look and add a touch of

drama. Pair these with a more natural eye to let your lips take center stage.

3. Dewy Complexion: Instead of heavy foundations, opt for tinted moisturizers or BB creams that offer hydration and a natural finish. A dewy complexion is perfect for the fall, giving your skin a fresh and healthy glow.

4. Nail Trends: Don't forget your nails! Fall is a great time to switch to darker, more muted colors. Think deep greens, rusty reds, or even metallics to reflect the season's vibe.

As fall ushers in a season of change, it's an excellent opportunity to refresh your beauty game. By adjusting your skincare and haircare routines and embracing the rich colors of the season, you can not only protect your skin and hair from the elements but also celebrate the beauty of autumn.

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