

After year-long chill,  
India-Canada ties see fresh  
spark with G7 invite



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta next week, marking his first Canada visit since beginning a third term in office. The invitation came during a phone call from newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, as both leaders agreed to “explore pathways” to reset bilateral ties that have been strained since 2023.

India-Canada relations deteriorated after Carney’s predecessor, Justin Trudeau, made unsubstantiated allegations linking India to the killing of a Canadian Sikh separatist. India rejected the claims and accused Canada of tolerating extremist elements that threaten Indian interests.

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Trump announces final  
US-China trade deal with rare  
earth supply and 55% tariffs



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On June 11, President Donald Trump announced the finalization of a major trade deal with China, raising tariffs on Chinese goods to 55 percent while securing critical supplies of rare earth elements and magnets. The agreement, negotiated during talks in London and pending formal approval by Chinese President Xi Jinping, also allows Chinese students to continue studying in the U.S.—a point Trump emphasized as beneficial.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick confirmed that U.S. tariffs will not change again. The deal comes after months of tariff escalations, including a 145 percent peak earlier this year and a temporary 90-day truce reached in Geneva on May 12. Trump had previously accused Beijing of delaying commitments under that agreement, prompting renewed talks.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stated that the deal will help stabilize trade and rebalance economic ties. The White House has also signed a security pact with Ukraine to diversify critical mineral supplies and reduce dependency on China, which currently controls about 60 percent of global rare earth production.

The June 11 announcement saw limited market reaction but marked a significant step in Trump’s ongoing efforts to reshape global trade before the November elections.

## Israel launches major airstrikes on Iran’s nuclear and military sites, escalating Middle East tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a dramatic escalation of Middle East tensions, Israel launched a large-scale airstrike operation against Iran early Friday, hitting more than 100 sites linked to Tehran’s nuclear and missile infrastructure. The operation—codenamed Rising Lion—targeted major facilities in Natanz and Tehran, as well as military headquarters and air defense systems. Israel claimed it aimed to cripple Iran’s nuclear ambitions and preempt an “existential threat.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared in a televised statement that the strikes were “just the beginning,” asserting, “We struck at the heart of Iran’s nuclear enrichment and weaponization programs.” He said the operation would continue for “many days.”

According to Iranian media, senior



Revolutionary Guard officials—including General Hossein Salami—and nuclear scientists such as Fereydoun Abbasi and Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani were killed.

Civilian casualties, including children, were also reported.

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## Investigators race for answers after deadly Air India crash in Ahmedabad kills 269



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A devastating crash of Air India Flight 171 in Ahmedabad has left at least 269 people dead, including all 241 passengers and crew onboard and 28 individuals on the ground. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, bound for London Gatwick, crashed shortly after takeoff on Thursday, slamming into a hostel block at B.J. Medical College in the densely populated Meghani Nagar neighborhood and erupting in flames.

Authorities confirmed the recovery of both the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder on Friday. India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, in coordination with the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing, and General Electric, has launched a full investigation into the tragedy.

The sole survivor, British national Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, was seated in an emergency row and escaped through a

broken door. “There was fire everywhere... I saw bodies around me,” he told Indian media.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the wreckage and met survivors at a local hospital, calling the tragedy “beyond words.” DNA testing is underway to identify the charred remains, including several medical students who were in the hostel at the time.

The Tata Group, which owns Air India, announced compensation of 1 crore Rupees (approximately \$117,000) for each victim’s family, and has committed to covering medical costs and reconstruction.

Condolences have poured in from global leaders including Keir Starmer, Mark Carney, Benjamin Netanyahu, Vladimir Putin, Emmanuel Macron, and Ursula von der Leyen.

This is one of the deadliest air disasters in India’s history. The cause remains under investigation.

Jaishankar thanks Macron  
for support as India, France  
mark 25 years of strategic ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris on Thursday, thanking him for France’s strong support in India’s fight against terrorism and reaffirming the two nations’ long-standing strategic partnership.

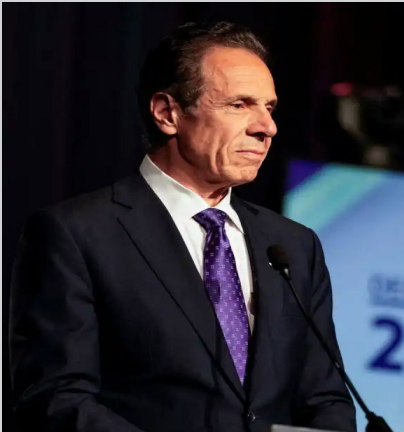
Jaishankar conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted that the two countries share trust and ambition in global affairs. “Our discussions reflected the comfort and ambition of our Strategic Partnership,” he said.

India and France are marking 25 years of their strategic alliance, and Jaishankar’s visit comes amid heightened global tensions and after the recent Pahalgam terror attack. Following that incident, Macron had personally called Modi to express solidarity and pledged continued cooperation in combating terrorism.

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## Cuomo and Mamdani clash in fiery final New York mayoral debate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In the final debate before New York City's June 24 Democratic primary, frontrunners Andrew Cuomo and Zohran Mamdani traded fierce attacks over their records, leadership, and integrity. Cuomo, attempting a comeback after resigning in 2021 over sexual harassment allegations, accused Mamdani of inexperience. Mamdani hit back, criticizing Cuomo's past scandals and defending his own grassroots campaign, which has over 36,000 volunteers.

Other candidates on stage included Brad Lander, Adrienne Adams, Zellnor Myrie, Scott Stringer, and Whitney Tilson. Immigration, housing, public safety, and Islamophobia were key themes. Mamdani accused a Cuomo-linked Super PAC of altering his image in campaign materials, calling it Islamophobic. The debate followed high-profile endorsements: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Mamdani, and Michael Bloomberg for Cuomo.

The general election is set for November 4, with ranked-choice voting in the Democratic primary starting June 14.

## Israel launches major airstrikes on Iran's nuclear and military sites, escalating Middle East tensions

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Iran's newly appointed Revolutionary Guards commander, Mohammad Pakpour, vowed a "harsh and decisive" response, saying Tehran would "open the gates of hell." Iran launched more than 100 missiles and drones in retaliation, most of which were intercepted. Air raid sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and Israel briefly shut down Ben Gurion Airport.

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed damage to the Natanz enrichment facility but reported no radiation leaks. The attack came just days before U.S.-Iran nuclear talks were scheduled in Oman. While President Donald Trump insisted the U.S. had no direct involvement, he praised the Israeli action as "excellent" and warned Tehran of further consequences. Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized that the strike was entirely unilateral, while Senator Chris Murphy criticized Israel's move as undermining peace efforts and damaging U.S. credibility. As both nations brace for further hostilities, regional leaders and global powers are urging urgent de-escalation to avoid a full-scale war.

## Newsom condemns Trump's troop deployment as unconstitutional as LA protests grow

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Governor Gavin Newsom has sharply criticized President Donald Trump for deploying federal troops to Los Angeles amid ongoing immigration raid protests, calling the move "unconstitutional," "madness," and "political theater." In a June 12 interview with The Daily podcast, Newsom said Trump federalized 2,000 National Guard troops without notifying him during their June 6 call—an act Newsom described as an unprecedented overreach not seen in over 50 years. Marines have since joined the force to assist ICE in arrests that have allegedly involved the unlawful detention of civilians.

Protests erupted earlier this month in Los Angeles after sweeping immigration raids began. Demonstrations have since spread to other cities including New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, Austin, and Seattle. Over 1,600 officers are on duty in LA, where the city's mayor has urged calm, and



hundreds more arrests were made late on June 11.

Newsom revealed his 15-year-old daughter cried at the thought of his arrest, after Trump reportedly suggested detaining him. Meanwhile, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem accused protesters of being funded by outside groups, and federal agents forcibly removed California Senator Alex Padilla from a June 12 press conference when he tried to question her about oversight.

## Bolsonaro denies coup plan, admits considering military options

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro denied plotting a coup but admitted in court to discussing "constitutional alternatives" to remain in power after losing the 2022 election. In his supreme court testimony, Bolsonaro said ideas like deploying the military or suspending civil liberties were explored but never acted on.

He also apologized for accusing justices of election fraud, calling it "rhetoric." Bolsonaro, barred from running again due to a separate conviction, used the broadcast to defend his term and criticize President Lula.

The trial involves top military officials and allies. Prosecutors allege Bolsonaro



edited a decree to arrest lawmakers and call fresh elections.

## BYD launches cheapest model in UK as it pushes to overtake Tesla

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China's BYD has launched its most affordable electric vehicle in the UK—the Dolphin Surf—in a bid to overtake Tesla as the world's top electric carmaker. Priced at approximately \$23,750 (converted from £18,650), the compact EV is among the cheapest new vehicles available in Britain.

The Dolphin Surf's debut follows a significant shift in Europe's EV market. In April, BYD surpassed Tesla in pure electric car registrations for the first time in Europe. While Tesla still narrowly led global EV sales in 2024, it has faced setbacks, including a sharp drop in European registrations amid backlash against Elon Musk's political ties.

Despite a 17.4% European Union tariff on BYD for alleged state aid, the UK—unaffected by these tariffs—has become a



key market. In March, 30% of all Chinese EVs sold in Europe were bought in the UK.

The Dolphin Surf, with an official range of 137 miles, features a rotating touchscreen, cruise control, and emergency braking. It uses BYD's cost-efficient Blade battery based on lithium iron phosphate (LFP) chemistry. Analysts say BYD could further lower prices, noting the Seagull—a similar model sold in China—costs about \$7,650.

## Japan accuses China of reckless jet maneuvers after near miss in Pacific

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan has raised "serious concern" after a Chinese J-15 fighter jet reportedly came within 45 meters of a Japanese patrol plane in international airspace over the weekend of June 7–8. The Chinese aircraft had launched from the carrier Shandong, which, along with the Liaoning, was conducting drills near Japan's Okinotori and Minamitori islands—marking the first such activity east of the second island chain. On June 12, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi warned that such close encounters risk dangerous accidents and urged China to avoid future incidents.

Japan's Defense Ministry said the Chinese jet also performed other hazardous moves, including crossing in front of another Self-Defense Forces plane. China denied any wrongdoing. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian accused Japan of provoking the incident through close reconnaissance and defended the carrier drills as legal and routine. The confrontation comes amid rising regional tensions over China's expanding military presence across the western Pacific.

## After year-long chill, India-Canada ties see fresh spark with G7 invite

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MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the upcoming meeting on the sidelines of the G7 offers "an important opportunity" for both nations to build trust and move forward based on "mutual respect, shared interests, and sensitivity to each other's concerns." India expects its security concerns to be taken seriously, he added.

Despite tensions, both sides acknowledge deep people-to-people ties, expansive trade, and cooperation in areas such as education and technology. PM Modi stated on X that India and Canada would work "with renewed vigor."

The summit will take place June 15–17. This marks Modi's fifth consecutive G7 participation, following his attendance at the 50th G7 Summit in Italy last year, where India was invited as an Outreach Country.

## Jaishankar thanks Macron for support as India, France mark 25 years of strategic ties

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During the ongoing visit, Jaishankar is also scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot and participate in the inaugural Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue in Marseille. He is expected to engage with think tanks, media, and leaders across the European Union and Belgium during the June 8–14 trip. India and the EU also signed a trilateral cooperation agreement during his visit to Brussels, focusing on joint development in connectivity, clean energy, and the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor. Both sides emphasized the agreement's significance for the Global South.



## French court releases New Caledonia leader amid riot charges



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** French appeals court has released Christian Tein, a pro-independence leader from New Caledonia, who had been held in custody since June 2024 over deadly riots on the Pacific island. Tein, who is indigenous Kanak, was charged over unrest in May 2024 that left over a dozen dead. He denies inciting violence and describes himself as a political prisoner. Tein will remain under judicial supervision and must stay in eastern France, avoid contacting other suspects, and not return to New Caledonia. Prosecutors are appealing the decision. His lawyer called the ruling a “first victory,” adding the case is monitored by the United Nations as part of decolonization efforts.

## Top U.S. general warns Putin may expand war beyond Ukraine



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine told the Senate on June 11 that Russian President Vladimir Putin likely won't stop at Ukraine if he succeeds in the ongoing war.

At a Senate Appropriations hearing, Caine said, “I don't think he is,” when asked if Putin would halt aggression at Ukraine's borders. Senator Lindsey Graham urged action, comparing the situation to pre-World War II appeasement.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth offered a more cautious view. Graham also warned about Iran and China, and pushed for a 500% tariff on goods from countries that buy Russian exports.

Talks between U.S. and Russian officials are reportedly being planned, though major disagreements remain unresolved.

## Piyush Goyal strengthens trade ties in Sweden with focus on green, tech-driven growth

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**n the first day of his official visit to Sweden, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met senior government officials and industry leaders in Stockholm to advance India-Sweden trade and investment relations, with a special focus on green technology and innovation.

Goyal held meetings with Swedish ministers including Benjamin Dousa and Hakan Jevrell, discussing sustainable industrial collaboration and joint growth in sectors like clean energy, smart manufacturing, and digital technologies. The 21st India-Sweden Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation was also convened.



He addressed the India-Sweden Business Roundtable and invited Swedish companies to expand their operations in India, citing the country's business-

friendly policies, skilled workforce, and growing market. CEOs from Swedish firms expressed confidence in India's economic trajectory and shared plans for deeper investment.

Goyal also participated in the High-Level Trade and Investment Policy Forum organized by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. The forum highlighted evolving trade frameworks, including the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Discussions covered land access, skill partnerships, and fast-track approvals to support Swedish businesses entering or scaling operations in India. The visit underlined shared goals in resilient supply chains, advanced materials, and space and maritime technologies.

## Sheinbaum denies encouraging LA protests, urges calm amid U.S. accusations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**exican President Claudia Sheinbaum dismissed U.S. claims that she encouraged migrant protests in Los Angeles, calling the accusation “totally false.” At a press conference in Mexico City, Sheinbaum said her comments opposing a U.S. proposal to tax remittances were taken out of context. She emphasized that neither she nor her party, Morena, has ever supported violent demonstrations. U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem had accused Sheinbaum of inciting unrest after immigration raids led to widespread protests. Sheinbaum condemned Mexican opposition figures for fueling tensions with the U.S. and stressed the importance of defending Mexicans abroad while



maintaining a “cool head” in bilateral relations. Sixty-one Mexicans have been arrested in connection with the protests.

## Canadian man wins fourth lottery jackpot, totaling \$2.5 million



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**avid Serkin, a cancer survivor from Alberta, Canada, has defied astronomical odds by winning four lottery jackpots, most recently accumulating about \$2.5 million between August 2024 and May 2025. His winnings include \$500,000 on August 20, \$1 million on November 16, and another \$1 million on May 3. Serkin previously won \$250,000 over a decade ago. He told officials he's played the lottery since 1982 simply for enjoyment. The odds of winning one of his jackpots were 1 in 33.3 million. Serkin plans to celebrate with a vacation to Newfoundland, after having taken his wife to Hawaii with a previous prize.

## Colombia rocked by deadly attacks as rebel violence resurges

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t least seven people were killed and 50 wounded in coordinated bombings and gun attacks across southwestern Colombia. The violence targeted Cali and nearby towns, striking police stations, municipal buildings, and civilians. Authorities say 19 attacks involved car and motorcycle bombs, rifle fire, and possibly drones. Police blame the Central General Staff (EMC), a dissident faction of the former FARC guerrilla group. The violence follows a failed assassination attempt on a senator in Bogotá and appears to be retaliation for a military operation injuring the EMC's leader. Experts warn the offensive marks a dangerous escalation in Colombia's ongoing security crisis.

## Indian, UK navies conduct high-level joint drills in Arabian Sea

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Indian Navy and the UK's Royal Navy held a high-intensity Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the North Arabian Sea on June 9–10. The Indian fleet included INS Tabar, a conventional submarine, and P-8I aircraft, while the UK deployed the HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond.

The two-day drill featured anti-submarine operations, tactical maneuvers, and integrated helicopter missions. This exercise, following India's military mobilization after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, reflects growing maritime cooperation amid regional security concerns. Officials said the drills reinforce both countries' commitment to freedom of navigation and a rules-based international order at sea.





INDOUS

TRIBUNE

Published Weekly by:

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of USA, LLC

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Lincolnwood, IL 60712

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Our deepest condolences

on the Air India crash in Ahmedabad

Dr. Avi Verma

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are profoundly saddened by the devastating crash of Air India Flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick, which occurred on June 12, 2025, shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. The aircraft, carrying 242 people, tragically crashed into a residential and medical college area in the Meghani Nagar neighborhood, claiming the lives of at least 240 individuals—passengers, crew, and persons on the ground.

Our grief extends deeply to every victim and every shattered family. These were lives full of promise: 169 Indian nationals, 53 British citizens, seven Portuguese, one Canadian, passengers, crew, students eating lunch in the hostel—and more. The scene of charred devastation, smoky wreckage, and frantic rescue efforts underscores the magnitude of this catastrophe.

Miraculously, one man—Vishwashkumar Ramesh, a 40-year-old British–Indian—survived, severely injured but awake. He was seated near an emergency exit and pulled to safety, evidence of extraordinary bravery and response from local emergency teams. With the debris still smoldering, emergency personnel—including firefighters, paramedics, and Indian Army units—continue the arduous task of recovery and relief. Ahmedabad’s police and state officials report over 200 bodies recovered, with several injuries, particularly among medical students whose hostel was struck.

No Indications of Terrorism — Yet

There is currently no credible evidence of terrorist activity or foul play. Aviation experts and official reports indicate mechanical issues—possibly engine failure, flight-control misconfiguration, or loss of power—may be involved.

Demanding a full, transparent investigation

This tragedy raises critical questions: Was it pilot error? A technical failure? A design flaw? Or a failure in safety protocols? We echo global calls for an immediate, thorough, and independent inquiry led by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), with full support from Boeing, the U.S. NTSB, and the U.K. AAIB. Every component—from engines to black box data—must be analyzed with transparency. Accountability must be swift: whether with the airline, its safety practices, Boeing, or any other party implicated in this preventable tragedy.

The world stands united in sorrow

Global leaders, including India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.K. PM Keir Starmer, and Boeing’s CEO Kelly Ortberg, have expressed profound grief and pledged support. Britain and the U.S. are dispatching expert teams to assist. Boeing has offered full cooperation with Indian authorities.

A call to justice and vigilance

While the emotional toll may never heal, justice demands action:

► Families deserve truth, clarity, and redress

for their unthinkable loss.

► Civil and criminal accountability

must extend to those whose negligence contributed.

► Global transparency in airline practices and aircraft design

is imperative to prevent future tragedies.

This is not only Ahmedabad’s loss—it is ours. It is global aviation’s warning that complacency has no place where lives are at stake.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, the injured, the rescue workers, and every person affected. We stand in solidarity with Ahmedabad and the global Indian diaspora in this hour of mourning.

May we honor their memory by demanding transparency, ensuring justice, and making safety our lasting legacy.

Best Regards,

Dr. Avi Verma,

Publisher, IndoUS Tribune



## New Zealand PM to meet Xi amid growing debate on ties with China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang in Beijing next week, amid domestic warnings not to position New Zealand as a Chinese adversary.

Luxon's office says the visit will focus on trade and regional issues, while former prime ministers Helen Clark and Sir Geoffrey Palmer warned that closer defense alignment with the U.S. could jeopardize relations with China—New Zealand's largest trading partner. Foreign Minister Winston Peters dismissed the criticism, calling it outdated.

The visit comes as China's regional assertiveness grows, including recent unannounced live-fire drills in the Tasman Sea. Defense Minister Judith Collins has defended a shift toward stronger military partnerships, saying New Zealand must prepare for strategic tensions in the Pacific.

## India rejects revived Trump mediation talk on Kashmir



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Despite India's repeated refusal to allow third-party mediation on Kashmir, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce suggested it would not be surprising if President Donald Trump attempted to get involved. At a June 11 briefing, Bruce said Trump's approach often involves resolving generational conflicts and implied that Kashmir would fit into that model. Her comments revived Trump's past claims of interest in mediating between India and Pakistan, which New Delhi has consistently rejected.

India's External Affairs Ministry reaffirmed its stance, with spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasizing that the Kashmir issue must be resolved bilaterally under the framework of the 1972 Tashkent Agreement. He also dismissed U.S. claims of brokering last month's ceasefire, crediting India's military pressure in Operation Sindoor for ending the hostilities.

## Oil prices surge after Israeli strikes on Iran raise supply fears

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global oil prices soared on Friday after Israel launched a military strike on Iran, triggering concerns of broader conflict in the energy-rich Middle East. Brent crude rose over 10% in early trading, reaching its highest price since January, before easing to a 5% gain at \$72.80 per barrel. U.S.-traded crude reached \$73.20.

Traders fear the escalation could disrupt oil shipments, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for nearly 20% of global oil flows. A broader regional

war could cut millions of barrels from daily supply if Iranian infrastructure or shipping routes are targeted. Equity markets in Asia and Europe slipped, with the FTSE 100 down 0.6%. Meanwhile, safe-haven assets like gold and the Swiss franc gained as investors sought stability. Analysts say markets are bracing for further escalation. "This could either deescalate quickly or spiral into a wider war," said Vandana Hari of Vanda Insights.

Energy markets will remain volatile as traders assess the potential impact on global oil supply chains.



## Terror from Pakistan is an act of war, Indian MPs tell Europe during diplomatic tour

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Members of Parliament concluded a six-nation European tour under 'Operation Sindoor Outreach', delivering a clear message: terrorism emanating from Pakistan will be treated as an "act of war". The bipartisan delegation, led by senior BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, visited France, Italy, Denmark, the UK, Belgium, and Germany to bolster diplomatic ties and push India's national security narrative.

During the visit, the MPs highlighted the recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu &

Kashmir, which drew strong condemnation from all six host nations. BJP MP Ghulam Ali Khatana stated that India's firm stance on terrorism was clearly conveyed and taken seriously by the international community. AIADMK's M. Thambidurai and BJP's Daggubati Purandeswari said the delegation showcased decades of cross-border threats while securing moral support from European leaders, officials, and diaspora groups.

The visit ended in Germany on June 7 with India reiterating its zero-tolerance policy on terrorism.



## Iran slams US sanctions on ICC judges as attack on international justice

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran has condemned the United States' decision to impose sanctions on four judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling it a "new low" in U.S. foreign policy. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei criticized the move on June 9, saying Washington was retaliating against the ICC for its judicial independence—especially following its issuance of an arrest

warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and its previous probe into alleged U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan. Baghaei, posting on X, accused the U.S. of "harassing" ICC personnel and using coercion to dictate foreign policy. He also linked the action to the U.S. vote against a recent UN resolution to stop "genocide" in Gaza, calling Washington an enduring accomplice in Israeli crimes. The sanctioned judges are from Uganda, Peru, Benin, and Slovenia.

## Boeing offers full support for probe into Air India crash

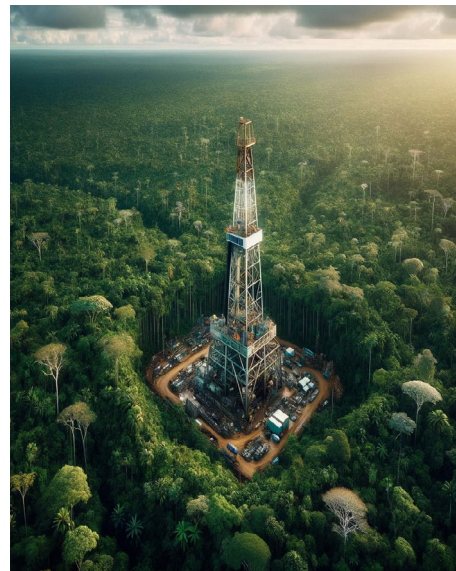


IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said the company is fully supporting India's investigation into the fatal crash of Air India Flight 171. Ortberg confirmed he spoke with Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and that a Boeing team is ready to assist the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the government has initiated a formal probe and is forming a high-level committee to enhance aviation safety. Air India CEO Campbell Wilson called it a "difficult day," adding the airline is focused on supporting affected passengers and families. The Boeing 787 crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing many.

## 'Doomsday auction' sparks outrage ahead of Brazil's Cop30 climate summit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Brazil plans to auction oil and gas exploration rights over 56,000 square miles just months before hosting the Cop30 UN climate summit, drawing strong backlash from Indigenous groups and environmentalists.

The auction, led by the ANP regulator, includes 172 blocks—47 in the Amazon basin—amid warnings from campaigners about biodiversity loss, Indigenous rights violations, and massive carbon emissions.

Instituto ClimaInfo estimates potential emissions from the sites at 11 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>—5% of the global carbon budget to stay below 1.5°C.

Critics call it a contradiction to Brazil's climate goals. Despite lawsuits and opposition, President Lula defends the auction, saying oil revenues will aid development and fund clean energy. Petrobras continues pushing for Amazon drilling permits amid international scrutiny.



### Judge blocks Trump administration from detaining Columbia student over foreign policy concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge has ruled that the Trump administration cannot detain or deport Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University student, on the grounds of foreign policy interests. Khalil, a prominent figure in the university’s 2024 pro-Palestinian protests, was arrested on March 8 after the administration revoked student visas as part of its anti-Semitism crackdown on campuses. He has been held in Louisiana since. On June 11, U.S. District Judge Michael Farbiaz granted an injunction, citing irreparable harm to Khalil’s reputation and free speech. The judge found the administration’s use of a 1952 immigration law, which allows deportation based on perceived foreign policy threats, to be a likely violation of constitutional rights. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had argued that Khalil’s activism against Israel endangered U.S. foreign policy. Farbiaz also rejected claims Khalil misrepresented his permanent residency application, calling it a pretext. The injunction takes effect June 13 unless the ruling is appealed.

### Trump acknowledges Elon Musk’s apology as tensions ease



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has acknowledged Elon Musk’s apology over controversial remarks that sparked a recent public fallout, the White House confirmed Wednesday. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump was “appreciative” of Musk’s statement and is focused on serving the American people. Musk personally called Trump on Monday and issued a public apology on Wednesday, following earlier discussions with Vice President JD Vance and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. CNN reported that Republican lawmakers and Trump allies have been encouraging Musk to reconcile and support the administration’s key domestic policy initiative, the “Big Beautiful Bill,” which is facing Senate resistance. Though Trump previously suggested reviewing Musk’s government contracts, Leavitt said no action has been taken. While Musk remains wary of the bill’s spending levels, both parties appear open to renewed cooperation. The development signals a possible thaw in the strained relationship between the President and the influential tech mogul.

## Appeals court backs Trump on National Guard deployment as immigration raids escalate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court has temporarily allowed President Donald Trump to retain control of California’s National Guard troops in Los Angeles, blocking a lower court’s order that had declared the deployment illegal. Judge Charles Breyer had ruled the move violated the Tenth Amendment and exceeded presidential authority, but paused enforcement to allow an appeal, which was quickly filed. The 9th Circuit will hear arguments Tuesday.

Governor Gavin Newsom, who challenged the deployment, said the ruling was a test of democracy, calling Trump’s actions a dangerous federal overreach. Trump, defending his use of troops to assist immigration enforcement, claimed they prevented the city from “burning to the ground.”

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem vowed the immigration crackdown would continue, calling the raids in Los Angeles a “blueprint” for other cities. Protests remain mostly peaceful downtown but have led to 470 arrests, largely for curfew violations. Tensions



rose after Sen. Alex Padilla was removed from Noem’s press conference while demanding answers about enforcement actions.

Roughly 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines have been deployed. Some are authorized to detain suspects temporarily. Critics argue the federal response is a politicized use of the military. Democratic governors have called the deployment “an alarming abuse of power” as protests spread nationwide.

## RFK Jr. reshapes CDC vaccine panel with new appointments focused on transparency

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has replaced all 17 members of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) with eight new experts, citing concerns over pharmaceutical industry ties and a need for greater scientific transparency. The announcement, made June 11, includes appointments like Dr. Robert Malone, co-inventor of mRNA technology, and epidemiologist Martin Kulldorff.

Kennedy emphasized that the new members are committed to evidence-based medicine and unbiased evaluations of vaccine safety and efficacy. Critics, including top medical associations, warned the abrupt dismissal could undermine public confidence in immunization guidance.



Eight outgoing members had received payments or research funding from drug companies, raising concerns of conflicts of interest. Kennedy’s office stated that most members were Biden-era appointees, limiting the current administration’s ability to enact change. While some experts welcomed the shift, others, including Senator Bernie Sanders and physician groups, criticized it as politically motivated and potentially harmful to public health.

## Padilla’s removal from Noem press conference sparks bipartisan outrage

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democratic Senator Alex Padilla was forcibly removed and handcuffed during Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem’s press conference in Los Angeles, prompting bipartisan outrage. Padilla, attempting to ask a question, identified himself but was taken down by federal agents who allegedly mistook him for a threat. Homeland Security later defended the action, citing security protocols, while Noem said she and Padilla had a “productive” conversation afterward. However, prominent Democrats including Senators Chuck Schumer, Adam Schiff, and Cory Booker condemned the incident, calling it an abuse of authority. Some, like Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, even called for Noem’s resignation. Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski also criticized the treatment, calling it “horrible.” House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries



demanded accountability for those involved, while Speaker Mike Johnson accused Padilla of “wildly inappropriate” behavior. The Senate and House remain divided on the response, with many lawmakers urging a full investigation. California Governor Gavin Newsom warned the event raises broader concerns about civil liberties and democratic norms in the U.S.

### Ax-4 mission with Indian astronaut delayed again due to ISS technical issue



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The launch of the Ax-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), featuring Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, has been postponed again due to technical issues with the Zvezda module of the ISS. NASA announced the delay on June 13, citing safety concerns. The mission was originally set to launch on May 29, then rescheduled multiple times, most recently for June 11.

ISRO confirmed it is collaborating with NASA, SpaceX, and Axiom Space to resolve the issue, emphasizing that safety remains the top priority. The Ax-4 mission marks a historic moment for India, as Shukla will become the first Indian astronaut aboard the ISS and only the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma.

Shukla will serve as pilot alongside U.S. Commander Peggy Whitson. The crew also includes Polish and Hungarian astronauts. Once on the ISS, Shukla will lead space nutrition experiments developed by ISRO and India’s Department of Biotechnology.

## ‘Trump card’ offers \$5 million path to U.S. residency for the global elite

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump has launched a new immigration initiative dubbed the “gold card,” offering wealthy individuals a pathway to permanent residency in exchange for a \$5 million payment. Unveiled via the new website trumpcard.gov, the program allows users to join a waiting list by submitting their contact information, though applications are not yet open. Trump promoted the plan as a sophisticated alternative to the existing EB-5 investor visa, describing it as offering “green card privileges plus.” While the program promises permanent residency, it does not provide automatic citizenship, which will still require fulfilling legal and residency requirements. Trump emphasized that the gold card is aimed at individuals of “wealth or great talent,” and part of his broader push for merit-based immigration. The announcement comes as Trump continues courting global investment while advocating for stricter control over traditional immigration pathways.



## FDA expands use of Moderna’s RSV vaccine to at-risk adults under 60



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expanded approval of Moderna’s respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, mRESVIA, to include adults aged 18 to 59 who are at increased risk of RSV-related illness. The shot was previously approved only for those 60 and older. Moderna’s mRESVIA is the first non-COVID-19 messenger RNA vaccine to be authorized in the United States.

Before it becomes widely available to this new age group, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must recommend its use. Currently, the CDC recommends RSV vaccines for adults over 75 and for high-risk individuals between 60 and 74. In April, its advisory panel suggested broadening that to include high-risk adults aged 50 to 59.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. replaced all 17 members of the CDC’s vaccine advisory panel, drawing criticism for appointing individuals with anti-vaccine views, which experts warn could further erode public trust in vaccine policy.

## Trump blocks California’s gas car ban, threatens steep auto tariffs



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Trump has signed joint congressional resolutions overturning California’s planned ban on gas-powered car sales by 2035, reversing the previous administration’s support. The blocked policy would have required electric vehicles to gradually dominate new car sales, alongside clean-air mandates for trucks. Trump called the rule “a disaster,” arguing it would eliminate internal combustion engines preferred by most Americans. He also threatened to increase automotive tariffs beyond the current 25 percent to encourage domestic production. This move follows recent hikes on aluminum and steel tariffs to 50 percent. The decision rolls back California’s aggressive climate goals and challenges state authority to set stricter emissions standards. Trump’s actions signal a broader effort to shift U.S. environmental and manufacturing policy in favor of fossil fuels and domestic industry protection.

## Canadian wildfire smoke worsens air quality across U.S. Midwest and Northeast

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Smoke from Canadian wildfires is triggering air quality alerts across major U.S. cities in the Midwest and Northeast, including Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Washington, and New York. Over 8.6 million acres have already burned in Canada—well above the seasonal average of 6.5 million acres—with months still left in the fire season. Experts warn this year could rival 2023, when 43 million acres burned and the U.S. saw record smoke exposure.

The smoke, carried south by the jet stream, is largely from boreal forests in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Prolonged drought, low



snowfall, and “overwintering” fires are worsening conditions. Health officials caution that wildfire smoke poses serious risks, especially to vulnerable populations.

## Federal judge blocks key parts of Trump’s order on election rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Massachusetts has blocked several provisions of President Donald Trump’s executive order that sought to overhaul U.S. election processes by requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. Judge Denise Casper granted a preliminary injunction in a case brought by 19 state attorneys general, finding that the president’s order overstepped legal bounds.

Casper ruled that the president cannot unilaterally impose new registration requirements, which are governed by

Congress and existing federal law. The blocked provisions include mandates for the Election Assistance Commission to add proof-of-citizenship requirements to federal voter forms and instructions for the Defense Department to revise military absentee voting materials.

She also halted efforts to compel public agencies to verify citizenship before distributing voter forms and to penalize states accepting mail-in ballots after Election Day. Casper concluded these changes conflict with federal election laws and risk suppressing voter participation, directly undermining congressional intent.



## Trump met with mixed reactions at Kennedy Center’s ‘Les Miserables’ performance

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former President Donald Trump received both boos and applause as he attended Les Miserables at the Kennedy Center, marking his first appearance since reshaping the venue’s leadership and programming. Trump and First Lady Melania arrived in the presidential box, facing a visibly divided crowd. The evening doubled as a major fundraiser, reportedly generating over \$10 million. Trump has overhauled the arts institution by removing liberal-leaning leadership and promoting conservative-friendly shows. Despite robust ticket sales for Les Miserables, subscription revenue has dropped 36% year-on-year, and some



shows, like Hamilton, have withdrawn. The event also drew symbolic attendees, including drag performers, amid Trump’s criticism of drag shows. Vice President JD Vance and other top officials were also present. Trump praised the performance, calling it one of his favorites.

## Average age of mothers in the U.S. nears 30, CDC report finds



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The average age of women giving birth in the U.S. rose to 29.6 in 2023, up from 28.7 in 2016, according to new CDC data. First-time mothers also saw an increase, from 26.6 to 27.5 years. Experts attribute this shift to improved fertility technology, changing social norms, and financial pressures. The report also noted a drop in teen births, which fell from 11.8% of first births in 2016 to 8.7% in 2023.

## FAA limits helicopter operations near Reagan Airport after fatal mid-air collision



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reduced the airspace available to helicopters around Reagan Washington National Airport following a deadly January 29 mid-air collision that killed 67 people. The crash involved an American Airlines regional jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter. In March, the FAA permanently restricted non-essential helicopter traffic and shut down a key route to avoid mixing rotorcraft with commercial jets. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy backed calls for an independent audit of airspace operations in Washington, D.C. In response to safety concerns, the Army will reduce VIP helicopter flights, restrict training near the Pentagon, and limit transport eligibility to top defense officials. The FAA is also finalizing an agreement with the Army to ensure safe coordination of military and civilian flights near Reagan. This follows a May 1 near-miss that forced two civilian aircraft to abort landings, further highlighting ongoing communication issues between the military and air traffic controllers.



# 'I can't believe I survived,' says Air India crash survivor in emotional meeting with PM Modi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**ritish national Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, the lone survivor of the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and shared the harrowing details of his escape. Ramesh, originally from India, is currently receiving treatment at a local hospital for injuries sustained in the crash.

Ramesh had been traveling with his 45-year-old brother, Ajay Kumar Rakesh, who was seated in a different row and did not survive.

"Everything happened in front of my eyes — the noise, the fire, the impact. I thought I was going to die," he told the Prime Minister. He believes he survived because he was seated on the opposite side of where the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner hit the building.



The aircraft, en route to London, crashed shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, slamming into the BJ Medical College hostel. Many students were in the dining hall at the time. Prime

Minister Modi also visited other victims at the Civil Hospital as rescue teams continue their efforts to identify bodies and investigate one of India's worst air disasters in recent history.

## Indian envoy joins Mongolia's Buddha Day, highlights shared spiritual heritage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



**I**ndia's Ambassador to Mongolia, Atul Malhari Gotsurve, participated in Buddha Purnima celebrations at the Battsagaan Temple of the Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar on June 11. In his address, he emphasized the continued relevance of Buddha's Panchsheel principles and reaffirmed the deep spiritual connection between India and Mongolia. He also announced that two sets of the Mongolian Kanjur, reprinted in India, had been handed over to the monastery, with 38 more on the way. The event drew dignitaries, Buddhist monks, and scholars from various countries. Ambassador Gotsurve recalled the contributions of former Indian Ambassador Rinpoche Kushak Bakula in reviving Buddhism in Mongolia. Buddha Day, or Vesak, is a public holiday in Mongolia and commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing. This year's theme was "Let's Spread Peace Together."

## Indian-origin man gets six years in US for multimillion-dollar elder fraud



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**ranav Patel, a 33-year-old Indian-origin man from New Jersey, has been sentenced to six years and three months in federal prison for laundering over \$1.7 million in a nationwide fraud scheme that targeted elderly Americans. Operating between October and December 2023, Patel acted as a "money mule" for foreign call centers that impersonated U.S. officials and coerced victims into turning over cash and gold to avoid fabricated legal trouble.

Patel personally collected packages from at least 15 senior victims across the East Coast, including in New York and Florida. In one instance, a victim was so devastated by the financial loss that he was forced to sell his home. Patel was arrested while attempting to retrieve a decoy package in Virginia, during a law enforcement sting operation.

He pleaded guilty in December 2024 to money laundering and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. In addition to his prison sentence, the court ordered the forfeiture of the laundered funds. Prosecutors emphasized that elder fraud is on the rise and warned that even intermediaries like Patel will face serious consequences for aiding in such schemes.

## Bobby Mukkamala becomes first Indian-American president of AMA

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**r. Bobby Mukkamala has been sworn in as the 180th president of the American Medical Association (AMA), becoming the first physician of Indian origin to lead the powerful national doctors' body. An otolaryngologist based in Flint, Michigan, Mukkamala has served the AMA for over two decades in various leadership roles. He chaired the AMA's Substance Use and Pain Care Task Force and was a vocal advocate during the opioid crisis. His tenure comes after a challenging personal health battle—he was diagnosed with a large brain tumor last year, making his inauguration especially emotional. "A few months ago, I didn't know if this night would even be possible," he said in his address.

Mukkamala has been widely praised for his contributions to community health, particularly his work in addressing the Flint water crisis. He also serves on the



board of the CDC Foundation and has been recognized for advancing equity in medicine. His appointment marks a significant moment for South Asian representation in U.S. medical leadership. Mukkamala emphasized the need for compassion in care and greater diversity in health policy as priorities for his term.

## Indian diaspora in UAE praises Modi's 11-year leadership and global impact

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**embers of the Indian diaspora in the UAE credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11-year leadership for enhancing India's global stature. NRIs in Dubai said India is now seen with greater respect across the world, especially in countries like the UAE and Canada. One Indian-Canadian, Tarun, said PM Modi's global outreach and inclusive governance have raised the profile of Indian citizens abroad. Gopal recalled Modi's unprecedented public event in the UAE, while longtime Dubai resident Shekhar Bhatia said



Modi's diplomacy and economic reforms have improved India's image and economy. As Modi prepares to attend the G7 Summit in Canada, many expatriates expressed pride in India's rising international influence and development over the past decade.

## Vikram Misri lauds UAE's BAPS temple as a symbol of global harmony

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**oreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi on June 11, calling it a "miraculous" and "transcendental" space uniting humanity. Accompanied by senior officials, he was welcomed with traditional honors by Pujya Brahmavihari Swami. Misri experienced the temple's immersive visual show, 'The Fairy Tale,' which he described as deeply moving. He offered prayers at the inner sanctum and praised the Harmony Dome and Tolerance Trees for reflecting spiritual and cultural values. Misri stated the temple was not just a place of worship but a global beacon of interfaith harmony and architectural brilliance. He called it a site every Indian must visit. The temple, inaugurated in 2024, is the UAE's first traditional Hindu mandir and symbolizes deepening India-UAE relations.



### Sydney man of Punjabi origin faces life in prison in global drug syndicate case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**urvindar Singh, a 42-year-old Punjabi-origin man living in Sydney, has been charged with leading a multinational drug and tobacco trafficking syndicate spanning Panama, Canada, and Australia. The two-year investigation by Australia's Multi Agency Strike Team revealed Singh allegedly imported cocaine, liquid methamphetamine, and over 20 million illicit cigarettes using legitimate freight companies. He was arrested in May following coordinated raids and faces life in prison if convicted. Authorities also arrested two Indian-origin Canadians allegedly involved in the operation. Singh's use of encrypted apps and shell companies has drawn attention to weaknesses in global logistics systems, while Australian leaders debate whether high tobacco taxes are fueling black market trade.

### 'Captain Sikh America' challenges comic book norms with faith and inclusion



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**V**ishavjit Singh, a Sikh cartoonist and activist, is using comic books and cosplay to redefine what it means to be an American hero. Since debuting his alter ego, Captain Sikh America, in 2013, Singh has used the character to confront stereotypes and educate young people about Sikh values. His mission began after facing post-9/11 discrimination and intensified following the 2012 Oak Creek gurdwara attack. Dressed as a turbaned, bearded version of Captain America, Singh engages audiences across the U.S., sparking conversations on identity, equality, and inclusion. "That image has power," he says, describing a child's reaction to his appearance. Singh doesn't preach religion directly but emphasizes Sikh values like justice and oneness. He's part of a broader shift in comics where creators are authentically representing their spiritual and cultural roots. From African deities to Zen reflections and Amar Chitra Katha's evolving portrayals, diverse faiths are increasingly visible in graphic storytelling, helping children—and adults—see themselves in narratives long dominated by Western ideals.

## Indian tutors in high demand abroad as diaspora seeks academic edge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian teachers are increasingly providing online tutoring to children of Indian-origin families living abroad, particularly in countries like Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Many parents in the diaspora believe their local school systems lack the academic rigor of Indian institutions, prompting them to hire subject-specific tutors based in Punjab and other Indian states. The most sought-after subjects include mathematics, physics, chemistry, and computer science.

Teachers like Simranjit Kaur in Jalandhar and retired principal Jatinder Singh in Amritsar say that online tutoring has grown

into a lucrative business, with sessions typically scheduled in the early mornings or late evenings to accommodate time zones. Students often share their school materials digitally, and tutors prepare customized lessons in return.

Besides core academic subjects, demand for Punjabi language instruction is also growing as families look to preserve cultural ties. Many children abroad speak only English and are unfamiliar with their native language, creating opportunities for heritage education. The model also benefits Indian educators, especially retired professionals and homemakers, by allowing flexible work from home. The growing trend underscores how digital education is helping bridge cultural and academic gaps globally.



## Indian-American candidates win city council races in Texas runoff elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo Indian-American candidates have secured city council seats in Texas after winning runoff elections. In Sugar Land's District 2, retired energy executive Sanjay Singhal defeated fellow Indian-American Nasir Hussain in a decisive victory. According to unofficial results from Fort Bend County, Singhal received 2,346 votes, while Hussain garnered 777. Singhal, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, brings years of professional experience and community engagement to the role. Meanwhile, Sukh Kaur also won her race in Texas, expanding Indian-American representation at the municipal level. Their wins mark a growing presence of Indian-



origin leaders in U.S. local governance, reflecting increased civic participation by the South Asian community. Both candidates campaigned on promises of transparency, infrastructure improvements, and inclusive representation. Their victories come amid rising interest in grassroots political involvement by Indian Americans, especially in states like Texas, where immigrant communities are reshaping local electoral dynamics.

## Family of Indian student found dead in Canada lake demands investigation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 20-year-old Indian student from Haryana's Bhiwani district was found dead in a lake in Hamilton, Canada, just over a month after he arrived for higher studies. The victim, Sahil, had left for Canada on April 23 to pursue a web design course, and was in regular contact with his family until late May. His body was recovered from a lake during the night of May 26–27 after he went missing.

Canadian authorities have reportedly stated that Sahil drowned, but his family suspects foul play. His uncle, Mukesh, told reporters that

Sahil was a strong swimmer and unlikely to have drowned accidentally. The family believes he may have been murdered and his body dumped in the lake.

Sahil's father, retired army personnel Harish Kumar, had sold land and used retirement funds to raise Rs. 40 lakh (around \$48,000) to send his son abroad. The family, devastated by the loss, is demanding a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

The incident has sparked concern among the Indian diaspora and raised questions about student safety and the need for more transparent inquiries into such cases abroad.

## India raises concerns with US over handcuffed student at Newark Airport



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has formally raised concerns with the US Embassy in New Delhi after a viral video showed an Indian student being handcuffed and restrained at Newark Airport. The incident, which caused widespread outrage on social media, was shared by an Indo-American entrepreneur who described the treatment as inhumane. India's Consulate General in New York and the Embassy in Washington are seeking details from US authorities but have yet to receive official clarification. In response, the US Embassy reiterated its stance against illegal entry and visa abuse, emphasizing that entry into the country is a privilege, not a right. The controversy comes amid tightened US immigration policies, with President Trump recently enacting travel bans on multiple nations, citing national security concerns.

## Indian students in Tehran urge evacuation as tensions rise after Israeli airstrikes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian students studying in Tehran have appealed to the government for evacuation following Israel's airstrikes on Iran. The strikes, which targeted nuclear and military sites including near the capital, led to explosions and widespread panic.

Students at Tehran University of Medical Sciences said they felt tremors as the attacks began early Friday morning. "We are scared," said Tabiya Zahra, a second-year MBBS student from Kashmir.

While university officials visited hostels and advised students to stay calm, they provided no details on safe zones. Internet disruptions and closed airspace have further heightened anxiety. The Indian Embassy has asked students to submit local contact information for emergencies.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association has written to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar seeking urgent intervention, especially for those from conflict-prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir.

Association convenor Nasir Khuehami confirmed reports of air raid sirens and urged the Indian government to prepare an evacuation plan if needed.

With Iran vowing retaliation and regional tensions escalating, families of Indian students are increasingly worried. Flights from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport remain suspended. The students' call highlights growing fears of being caught in a widening conflict.



## Rescue efforts overwhelmed as South Africa floods kill at least 78

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



At least 78 people have died in flooding in South Africa’s Eastern Cape province, where heavy rains caused a river to overflow in the early hours of Tuesday. The disaster, which hit the town of Mthatha and nearby rural communities, swept away homes, vehicles, and residents as water levels surged up to 13 feet. Rescue operations have been hampered by a severe lack of resources in the region, which has only one rescue helicopter and no local dive teams or K-9 units.

Premier Oscar Mabuyane described the situation as “paralyzed,” with residents stranded on rooftops and in trees for hours. Many victims were found in the floodwaters by teams arriving from other parts of the country. Four high school students were among the missing after their bus was caught in the floods; six other students and the driver had already been confirmed dead.

The storm damaged at least 127 schools, 20 health facilities, and key infrastructure. President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to visit the province, which has been declared a disaster zone by the national government.

## Greta Thunberg among activists facing deportation after Gaza-bound aid yacht stopped by Israel



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and 11 others face deportation from Israel after being detained aboard a humanitarian aid yacht bound for Gaza. The group, sailing as part of a mission organized by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, was intercepted by Israeli forces at sea and taken to Ben Gurion Airport for removal. The Israel Foreign Ministry stated that those who refuse to sign deportation documents will be brought before a judicial authority.

The activists, who aimed to deliver urgently needed supplies to the Gaza Strip, included nationals from Brazil, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey. Their attempt to reach Gaza comes amid heightened international scrutiny over Israel’s handling of humanitarian aid during the ongoing war. French President Emmanuel Macron joined other global leaders in calling for the immediate release of the activists, stressing the importance of humanitarian principles.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition has previously launched similar missions, often met with Israeli blockades.

## UN General Assembly demands immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access in Gaza

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on Thursday calling for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, as well as unrestricted humanitarian aid access. The resolution passed during the 10th Emergency Special Session, resumed at the request of the Arab Group and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation after the United States vetoed a similar Security Council measure last week.

With 149 votes in favor, 12 against—including the U.S. and Israel—and 19 abstentions, the resolution condemns the use of starvation as a weapon and the denial of humanitarian access. It demands Israel immediately end its blockade of Gaza, open all border crossings, and facilitate full-scale humanitarian relief throughout the territory.

The resolution reaffirms the obligations of occupying powers under international law to ensure aid reaches all civilians in



need. It also demands an immediate halt to settlement expansion, land confiscation, home demolitions, and settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The text opposes any demographic or territorial changes and reiterates support for a two-state solution.

Additionally, it calls for the protection of UN and humanitarian personnel, medical workers, and facilities. The Assembly reaffirmed the UN’s enduring responsibility to resolve the Palestinian question through international law and UN resolutions.

## Ukraine says Russian casualties exceed one million as drone warfare escalates

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has suffered over 1 million military casualties in its war on Ukraine, according to Ukrainian officials, who issued the statement on June 12 as Russia marked its national holiday. Ukraine’s military claim, consistent with Western intelligence assessments, includes both deaths and injuries. The U.K. Defense Ministry confirmed similar figures, estimating about 250,000 Russian troops have been killed since the invasion began on February 24, 2022. The Kremlin has not acknowledged these numbers and last gave a figure of 6,000 deaths early in the war.

As Russia pushes a new offensive in eastern Ukraine, its military launched widespread drone strikes overnight, killing at least three people and injuring dozens. Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Kherson were among the hardest hit, with residential neighborhoods and schools targeted. Ukrainian forces responded with their own



drone attacks; Russia claimed it intercepted 52 drones, though one Ukrainian strike killed a child in Belgorod.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and Russia conducted another prisoner exchange involving severely wounded soldiers. Talks for a ceasefire continue to stall, despite U.S. and NATO-backed diplomatic pushes. German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, visiting Kyiv, pledged \$10.3 billion in aid and missile development support for Ukraine, citing Russia’s continued aggression.

## Pakistani journalists boycott post-budget briefing over lack of transparency

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistani journalists staged a walkout during Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb’s post-budget press conference, protesting the government’s failure to hold a technical briefing—a 20-year-old tradition. Reporters interrupted the session in Islamabad, demanding transparency and adherence to past practices.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar acknowledged the lapse and issued an apology. Meanwhile, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rejected the federal budget for 2025–26, calling it “anti-people” and dictated by the IMF. Opposition leader Shibli Faraz criticized



rising inflation, heavy taxation, and the declining value of the Pakistani rupee.

He warned that the country cannot prosper while relying on what he described as “IMF crutches.”

## Spanish prime minister apologizes amid corruption scandal, rules out early election



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has apologized to voters after top Socialist party official Santos Cerdán resigned following a judge’s finding of “firm evidence” linking him to alleged kickbacks on public contracts. Cerdán is accused of discussing illicit payments with former transport minister José Luis Ábalos and aide Koldo García. Though Sánchez denied prior knowledge, he pledged an external audit of party finances.

He ruled out a snap election, stressing the need to focus on governance. The conservative opposition, which recently held a mass protest, renewed calls for early elections. Cerdán, who maintains his innocence, will testify before the Supreme Court on June 25.

## South Korea grounds KF-16 jets after accident during US-led exercise



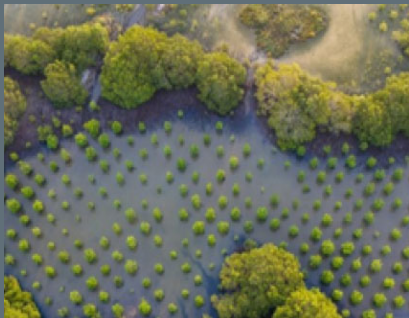
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea’s Air Force has grounded its KF-16 fighter jets following an accident at the Red Flag-Alaska air exercise. On June 11, two pilots ejected safely after an emergency during takeoff at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. The aircraft caught fire and was partially damaged but remained on the grass near the runway.

A 20-member South Korean team has been dispatched to investigate and conduct emergency maintenance in coordination with U.S. officials. The Air Force has yet to decide whether to continue participating in the exercise, which runs through June 27. This is the first known overseas accident involving a South Korean fighter jet.



## UN names new ecosystem restoration flagships across three continents



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The UN has recognized three major ecosystem restoration projects as part of its World Restoration Flagship program. Announced during the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, the new honorees include the coral-rich Northern Mozambique Channel, over 60 islands in Mexico, and Spain's Mar Menor lagoon—Europe's first ecosystem granted legal personhood. Together, these efforts aim to restore five million hectares of marine environments. Led by the UN Environment Programme and FAO, the initiative highlights the links between biodiversity, climate action, and sustainable development. The projects are part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which seeks to restore one billion hectares globally by 2030.

## Former South Korean president challenges summons in martial law probe



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's former President Yoon Suk Yeol has submitted a legal opinion rejecting police summons for questioning over alleged attempts to impose martial law in December 2023.

His lawyer claims the summons lacks legal basis, and argues the detention warrant against him was unlawfully issued. Yoon is accused of ordering the deletion of secure communications and obstructing the warrant's execution.

Current President Lee Jae-myung has signed three special counsel bills authorizing investigations into Yoon's actions, his wife's alleged corruption, and a marine's death during flood relief. The probes mark Lee's first legislation since taking office, intensifying legal pressure on Yoon.

## Global cleanup announced to target plastic waste in 50 marine heritage zones

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

UNESCO and the NGO Plastic Odyssey have announced a major partnership to clean up and restore 50 World Heritage marine sites threatened by plastic pollution. The initiative, unveiled at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, builds on a successful 2024 cleanup on Henderson Island, where 9.3 metric tons of waste were removed.

Future missions will remove waste, gather scientific data, promote recycling, and benefit local communities. A pilot project will begin in October at the Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO's Director-General, praised Plastic Odyssey's commitment, while co-founder Simon Bernard called the effort a turning point for global marine conservation. The French government also supports the plan.



## Chinese student charged with smuggling roundworms into U.S. lab

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese researcher Chengxuan Han has been arrested in Michigan for smuggling biological materials—specifically roundworms—into the U.S. for use at a University of Michigan lab. Han, a PhD student from Wuhan's Huazhong University, allegedly lied to U.S. Customs and wiped her electronic devices before arriving on June 8.

The case is part of a broader investigation into agroterrorism and biological smuggling by foreign nationals. Previously, two other Chinese nationals were charged for smuggling *Fusarium graminearum*, a crop-damaging fungus. U.S. officials stress the security risk such acts pose to agriculture and public health, warning of potential threats linked to Chinese research entities.



## Iran vows 'harsh and powerful' response to Israeli airstrikes on Tehran

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned Friday's Israeli airstrikes on Tehran and other cities, calling them a "brutal aggression" that killed civilians, military leaders, and nuclear scientists. In a statement posted on his official website, Pezeshkian promised a "legitimate and powerful" response that would make Israel "regret its foolish action." He urged national unity, stressing that the Iranian people and officials would not remain silent in the face of what he labeled a "crime" by Israel. The president also assured that his government would maintain stability and daily services for citizens despite the attacks.

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, top military figures killed included Mohammad Bagheri, Hossein



Salami, Gholam-Ali Rashid, and Amir Ali Hajizadeh. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also vowed harsh retaliation, accusing Israel of violating international law and committing atrocities. The strikes mark a sharp escalation in regional tensions and risk broader conflict between the two countries.

## Taiwan thanks India for rescue operation amid ship fire dispute with China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Taiwan has expressed gratitude to India for rescuing 18 crew members from the fire-struck cargo ship Wan Hai 503, located off Kerala's coast. The ship, flying a Singapore flag, caught fire on June 9, and four crew members—including two Taiwanese—remain missing.

Taiwan condemned China's claim that all 14 Chinese nationals on board, including six from Taiwan, were Chinese citizens, calling it "false and absurd." Taiwan stressed only its elected government represents its people. The vessel, en route from Colombo to Mumbai, experienced a container explosion. India's Navy and Coast Guard, along with other agencies, led the coordinated rescue effort.

## Cambodia to take border dispute with Thailand to UN court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Cambodia will take its long-running border dispute with Thailand to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Prime Minister Hun Manet confirmed. A high-level committee has been formed to prepare documents regarding contested areas, including the Ta Moan and Ta Krabei temples. The announcement comes ahead of a scheduled June 14 meeting of the Joint Boundary Commission in Phnom Penh. Thailand, however, insists on resolving the issue bilaterally and does not accept ICJ jurisdiction. The dispute escalated after a May 28 clash at the Emerald Triangle border left one Cambodian soldier dead. Both sides maintain a commitment to peaceful resolution.



## Chavan slams 'Operation Sindoor' as failure, urges special Parliament session



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan has criticized the government's recent diplomatic outreach under 'Operation Sindoor', calling it "unsuccessful" and lacking in both visibility and impact. He emphasized that while sending an all-party delegation abroad was a positive gesture, it failed to deliver meaningful results due to weak planning by the Ministry of External Affairs. Chavan questioned the absence of top Indian leadership, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from the global stage during the crisis with Pakistan. "Our MPs did their job, but the outreach didn't capture the attention of global leaders or major international media," he said, noting only limited coverage, primarily in Russia.

He also called for a special three- to four-day session of Parliament to review the mission, referencing past examples like the 1962 and 1999 crises when leaders addressed the nation with transparency and unity. "If we want global support, leadership must lead from the front," Chavan said, urging the Prime Minister to show the same openness as his predecessors.

## Calcutta High Court reserves verdict on plea against Bengal government's stipend scheme



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Calcutta High Court has reserved its verdict on a petition challenging the West Bengal government's new stipend scheme for non-teaching school staff who lost jobs after a Supreme Court verdict annulled over 25,000 school appointments. The case was heard by Justice Amrita Sinha, who questioned the calculation basis for stipend amounts—Rs.25,000 for Group C and Rs.20,000 for Group D staff—and whether similar aid had been given in past cases. The petitioner argued public funds are being misused, while the state defended its scheme under the Labor Department. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee introduced the scheme after court challenges to prior state appointments. The Supreme Court's April 3 ruling annulled the appointments over the West Bengal School Service Commission's failure to distinguish between "tainted" and "untainted" candidates. The state has filed review petitions in the apex court.

## India in talks with China to maintain rare earth supply chains, says MEA

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is actively engaging with China to ensure a steady supply of rare earth elements critical for manufacturing, especially in the automobile sector, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. The move follows China's April decision to impose export controls on key rare earth items, requiring licenses for seven elements and finished magnets. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that discussions with Beijing are ongoing both in New Delhi and in China to ensure supply chain predictability aligned with international norms. India relies heavily on China for rare earth imports—more than 80 percent of its 540-tonne magnet imports last year came from China.

In response, Indian automakers are building inventories, sourcing alternative suppliers, and boosting domestic production under government incentives. The long-term strategy includes accelerating exploration, local production,



and recycling infrastructure. India is also working with Central Asian nations to explore joint rare earth ventures and is reportedly considering fiscal incentives to support domestic rare earth industries and reduce import dependence.

## Vande Bharat cuts travel time as it begins Katra-Srinagar journey

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Vande Bharat Express began commercial operations between Katra and Srinagar on June 8, marking a major milestone in connecting Jammu with the Kashmir Valley. Flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, the train cuts the travel time from eight hours by road to just three by rail.

The route features 36 tunnels and iconic bridges, including the Chenab

Railway Bridge, the tallest in the world. Two trains made four trips on the first day, with high public enthusiasm and fully booked coaches. The train offers two classes—chair car (USD 8.70) and executive (USD 15.85)—and is equipped with air-conditioning, heating, and food service. Officials say that once the Jammu station upgrade is complete, service will extend to Jammu by September. The route also opens new opportunities for Kashmiri apple growers, who will benefit from faster and cheaper freight options.



## Over 300 Army personnel donate blood for plane crash victims

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a show of solidarity, over 300 Indian Army personnel donated blood at Ahmedabad's Military Cantonment for victims of the Air India AI-171 plane crash. Coordinated with local hospitals, the drive aimed to assist emergency care efforts. Army commanders also joined the initiative, reflecting the forces' commitment to national service beyond combat. Meanwhile, identification of the deceased

continues at Civil Hospital, where 192 families have submitted DNA samples. Five victims, including two from Rajasthan and one from Madhya Pradesh, have been identified. Around 250 post-mortems have been completed. A special team of 70–80 doctors from nearby regions is assisting the process. The state has also set up helplines and a control room to support grieving families. DNA matching may take at least three days, officials said. The Kasoti Bhavan in B.J. Medical College is now the central location for DNA collection.

## Karnataka Minister Kharge showcases state's innovation at global forums in France



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge is in France to promote the state's leadership in technology and aerospace at global events including VivaTech, the Paris Air Forum, and the Paris Air Show. During his June 11–16 visit, he met with the President of the Île-de-France region to build on a prior partnership and discussed student exchanges and joint research initiatives. At VivaTech, Kharge launched the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025, highlighting Bengaluru's rise to 14th place globally. He also spoke at La French Tech in Europe and is expected to participate in key defense and aerospace panels. The trip underscores Karnataka's push for international collaborations, investment, and leadership in innovation, space, and defense technologies.

## Congress leader Udit Raj blames DGCA oversight for deadly plane crash



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Udit Raj has blamed regulatory failures for the Air India crash in Ahmedabad that killed 241 people, alleging that a top official in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) holds a fake degree. Raj claimed Sikkim University has discredited the degree and a court petition has been filed. He accused the government of ignoring warnings and protecting the official. Raj criticized the Home Minister's description of the incident as just an "accident," saying it downplays serious negligence. He also noted that if Congress were in power, opposition parties would be calling for top resignations. The Dreamliner crashed shortly after takeoff en route to London, also causing casualties in the residential area where it fell. An official investigation has begun.



## Ujjwala scheme delivers LPG to over 13,800 households in Andaman and Nicobar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has transformed kitchens across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with over 13,800 low-income households receiving LPG connections. Previously reliant on smoky chulhas and scarce firewood—especially during the rainy season—many women now enjoy safer, faster, and healthier cooking. Beneficiaries like A. Venkatalakshmi and K. Tanuja credit the scheme for improved health and convenience. Children no longer suffer from smoke-related issues, and cooking has become less burdensome. Indian Oil’s logistical efforts, including deliveries to remote islands, have ensured last-mile access. Families also received free stoves and pipes. The scheme has saved time, improved well-being, and empowered women across the archipelago. With fresh, timely meals and fewer illnesses, the Ujjwala Yojana is not just about clean fuel—it’s about dignity and transformation.

## Karnataka High Court questions multiple probes into stadium stampede

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Karnataka High Court has questioned the state government’s decision to initiate multiple inquiries into the June 4 stampede at Bengaluru’s Chinnaswamy Stadium, which killed 11 people. The state submitted a sealed report to the court on June 12, but the bench, led by Acting Chief Justice V. Kameshwara Rao, warned against conflicting findings from different commissions.

The court asked for all communications and terms of reference to be submitted within two days. Investigations include a magisterial probe, a CID inquiry, and a judicial commission. The bench also queried lapses in crowd control, medical response, and gate management. While the government claims all 21 gates were open, other submissions suggest only three were accessible. Around 2.5 lakh people had gathered for the event—far beyond the stadium’s 35,000 capacity. The court has demanded clarity on planning and responsibility.

## Odisha Police arrest two senior Maoist cadres in Malkangiri

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two senior Communist Party of India (Maoist) members were arrested by Odisha Police during a counter-insurgency operation in Malkangiri district on June 13. Identified as Kesa Kawasi and Sanu Kunjam alias Rakesh, both carried rewards of Rs. 300,000 (USD 3,600) each.

The arrests followed an exchange of gunfire after Maoists opened fire while fleeing into the forest near Sodiguda and Tentuliguda. Kawasi was a member of the Kanger Ghati Area Committee, while Rakesh held a key position in the Andhra-Odisha Border military unit. Weapons, explosives, communication equipment, and Maoist literature were seized. Both confessed to involvement in multiple deadly attacks in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh.

## Former Manipur CM meets Home Minister to urge peace and political restoration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday to seek urgent intervention in restoring peace in the state. Joined by BJP Rajya Sabha Member Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, Singh highlighted issues like illegal immigration and the ongoing ethnic crisis. He emphasized that a popular, elected government—not just President’s Rule—is essential for long-term stability. Singh returned to Imphal urging all stakeholders to act responsibly. He had earlier met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in May with similar demands. Meanwhile, BJP’s Northeast In-Charge Sambit Patra visited



key districts to meet Kuki leaders and civil society groups. The 60-member Manipur Assembly remains under suspended animation since February.

## Union Minister Kurian promotes seaweed farming in Lakshadweep

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minister of State George Kurian emphasized the potential of seaweed farming in Lakshadweep during an event under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan. He cited success stories from Tamil Nadu and highlighted the region’s designation as a “Seaweed Cluster.” Kurian praised the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and KVK-Lakshadweep for driving seaweed cultivation and supporting women-led initiatives. He also emphasized the role of tuna fisheries, coconut farming, and tourism in boosting the local economy. Kurian distributed equipment to farmers and visited an ornamental fish hatchery



supported by the National Cooperative Development Corporation. The campaign aims to modernize agriculture and allied sectors as part of India’s development goals for 2047.

## Delhi under red alert as heat index soars to 51.9°C

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Delhi continues to face an intense heatwave, prompting a red alert from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday. Temperatures ranged from 40.9°C in Mayur Vihar to 45°C in Ayanagar, with the heat index reaching a dangerous 51.9°C. Other high readings were recorded in Palam (44.5°C), Ridge (43.6°C), and Safdarjung (43.3°C). The IMD warned that temperatures were three to four degrees above normal, urging residents to stay hydrated, avoid peak sun hours, and limit outdoor activity. Relief is expected from June 13 onward, when the



alert will likely be downgraded to orange. Light rain and gusty winds between June 14 and 17 may bring temperatures down to between 37°C and 42°C, offering some respite to the heat-stricken capital.

## Lakhs gather in Puri for Snana Yatra ahead of Rath Yatra

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lakhs of devotees gathered at the Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, on Wednesday to witness the sacred 'Snana Purnima' ritual, marking the ceremonial bathing of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra. The deities were brought out in a grand procession and bathed with 108 pots of holy water from the temple’s 'Golden Well'. They were then adorned in elephant masks for the 'Gajanana Besha'. Afterward, the idols were placed in seclusion, believed to recover from fever, and will reappear for 'Naba Jaubana Darshana'. Chief Minister Mohan



Charan Majhi attended the ceremony and reviewed preparations for the upcoming Rath Yatra on June 27.

## Kiren Rijiju to inaugurate paperless Delhi Assembly initiative on Saturday



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju will lay the foundation stone for the e-Vidhan project on Saturday, launching the transition to a fully paperless Delhi Assembly. Backed by the central government’s ‘One Nation, One Application’ mission, the initiative aims to modernize legislative processes with greater efficiency and transparency. Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta confirmed that the July Monsoon Session will be entirely digital. The NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application) system, hosted on the NIC Cloud (MeghRaj), will centralize legislative operations, provide real-time access to documents, and eliminate paper-based workflows. Speaker Gupta, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and Rijiju will attend the event.

## Sohra holds peace rally to honor Raja Raghuvanshi and counter false safety fears

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Residents of Sohra in Meghalaya held a peace rally to honor Raja Raghuvanshi, whose death had stirred fears about tourist safety in the region. Local leaders, including MLA Gavin Myllem and traditional heads of Hima Sohra, joined the five-kilometer march. The rally aimed to dispel misinformation and reaffirm Sohra’s reputation as a safe tourist destination. Authorities had earlier recovered Raghuvanshi’s body after a large-scale search operation. His wife, Sonam Raghuvanshi, was later arrested in Uttar Pradesh. Participants held placards welcoming tourists and held a candlelight ceremony to honor the deceased. Police and rescuers were also felicitated for their efforts.

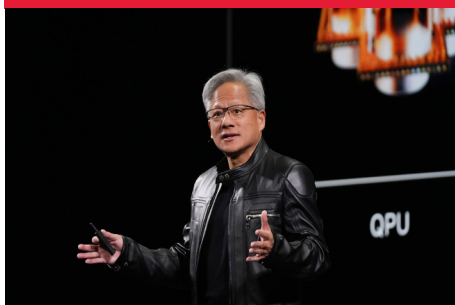
## India and Sri Lanka deepen military ties with top commander’s visit to Jaipur

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sri Lanka Army Commander Lt Gen BKGM Lasantha Rodrigo visited India’s South Western Command in Jaipur from June 12–13 to strengthen defense cooperation. Welcomed by Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, the two military leaders discussed regional security, joint training, and strategic interoperability. Rodrigo witnessed a live counter-terrorism combat demonstration and explored key military landmarks and heritage sites in Rajasthan. The visit emphasized the long-standing defense relationship between India and Sri Lanka and aimed to enhance collaboration on emerging security challenges. Officials described the trip as a boost to mutual trust and capacity building between the two nations’ armed forces.



## 'AI is the greatest equalizer,' says Nvidia CEO as Europe lags in infrastructure



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

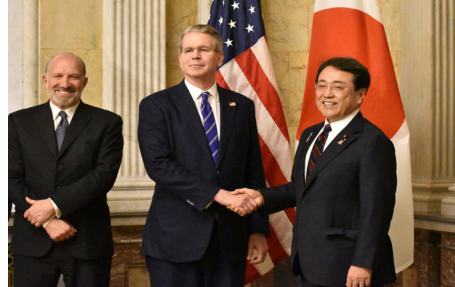
**A**t the VivaTech fair in Paris on June 11, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang called AI "the greatest equalizer of people," emphasizing its potential to democratize intelligence and break down barriers for startups and nations. However, he warned that Europe risks falling behind without proper infrastructure and innovation strategies. To support growth, Nvidia announced a major expansion in Europe: 18,000 Blackwell chips in France with Mistral AI, an AI cloud in Germany, and new initiatives in the U.K., Italy, Spain, and Finland. Huang also promoted "sovereign AI"—national AI systems built on local values—and downplayed misuse risks, citing multi-layered AI oversight.

## UK and EU reach Gibraltar deal to ease border flows and preserve sovereignty

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he U.K. and EU have struck a post-Brexit agreement to streamline travel and trade across the Gibraltar-Spain border while preserving British sovereignty. Modeled after London's Eurostar system, the deal includes joint passport checks at Gibraltar airport, allowing travelers smoother entry into the EU zone. With around 15,000 daily border crossings, the pact aims to prevent delays expected from the EU's Entry/Exit system. U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo welcomed the deal as a safeguard for Gibraltar's economy and sovereignty. Spain and the EU hailed it as a positive shift in post-Brexit cooperation. A treaty will follow.

## Japan rules out partial deal ahead of final U.S. trade talks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan's chief negotiator Ryosei Akazawa has rejected any partial agreement with the U.S., saying Tokyo is committed to a comprehensive deal ahead of final trade talks in Washington. The sixth and last round precedes the G7 summit in Canada, where Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and President Donald Trump are expected to meet. Japan seeks a review of U.S. tariffs on industrial goods and autos, while Washington wants greater access to Japan's agricultural markets. Akazawa's statement signals a firm stance as both sides work toward a broader trade package reflecting major economic interests and strategic goals.

# Google expands employee buyout program amid AI transition and antitrust challenges

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**oogle is offering voluntary buyouts to more employees across its core divisions, signaling ongoing cost-cutting as the company faces legal pressure and pivots aggressively toward artificial intelligence. The move, reported by several outlets and confirmed by Google, affects staff in the search, advertising, research, and engineering teams. While the exact number of employees impacted remains unclear, the buyouts are part of a broader restructuring strategy ahead of a critical antitrust ruling.

Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., employs nearly 186,000 people worldwide. A spokesperson said the exit offers are being extended to additional teams to support the company's future direction. Remote employees located near offices are also being asked to shift to hybrid work schedules.

The timing coincides with looming court decisions in two major antitrust



cases. A federal judge is set to rule by Labor Day on whether Google must divest parts of its search business after it was declared an illegal monopoly. Another case targets the company's digital advertising dominance, with the Justice Department

seeking a breakup of key technologies. Since laying off 12,000 workers in early 2023, Google has continued downsizing even as it boosts AI investments, reshaping its core services for a more conversational, AI-powered experience.

## U.S. to cut tariffs on British cars as trade deal moves forward

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States is set to reduce tariffs on British cars within days, U.K. Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds confirmed after talks in Washington.

Discussions with Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick focused on implementing the U.S.-U.K. trade deal, particularly automotive tariff reductions. President Donald Trump also received reassurances from the U.K. ambassador about readiness for new trade quotas.

Meanwhile, the U.K. nears a \$2 billion trade deal with Gulf nations, despite concerns over human rights. Reynolds defended the deal, saying it reflects pragmatic diplomacy. He added that Britain must engage globally post-Brexit, even with nations that differ from Western democracies.



## South Korea blocks Korean Air-Asiana mileage merger proposal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**outh Korea's Fair Trade Commission has rejected a proposed mileage integration plan from Korean Air Lines and Asiana Airlines, citing inadequate details and insufficient consumer benefits.

The plan was submitted as part of their broader merger efforts but failed to meet criteria for a formal review. Regulators said the mileage redemption proposal was weaker than Asiana's existing offer, with unclear integration ratios.

Korean Air has been asked to revise and resubmit. The merger, announced in November 2020, aims to create the world's 10th-largest airline.

Separately, Korean Air plans to invest \$844 million to build an advanced aviation hub west of Seoul, with completion expected by 2030.



## Credit Suisse ignored early warnings about Greensill ties, regulator finds

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**wiss regulator Finma revealed that Credit Suisse received multiple warnings starting in 2018 about its dealings with Greensill Capital, years before the firm's 2021 collapse. Anonymous messages questioned the judgment of senior executives for entrusting Greensill with \$12.7 billion in client funds, much of it tied to risky loans involving Sanjeev Gupta's steel empire. Despite growing concerns and the collapse of similar funds at rival firms, Credit Suisse continued backing Greensill until its downfall. Finma's 2022 report cited serious regulatory failures, contributing



to Credit Suisse's own collapse in 2023. UBS, which later acquired the bank, said the matter predates its ownership.



## World Bank maintains India's 2026 growth forecast at 6.3%



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he World Bank has maintained its forecast for India's economic growth at 6.3% for fiscal year 2025–26, confirming the country's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Growth is projected to average 6.6% in the following two years, driven by strong services and rising exports.

Though FY2024–25 saw a slowdown in industrial growth, construction and services remained steady, and agriculture rebounded from drought. Globally, growth is expected to fall to 2.3% in 2025, the slowest pace since 2008 outside of recessions.

The World Bank urged developing countries to diversify trade, prioritize fiscal reform, and pursue strategic partnerships amid increasing global uncertainty.

## Meta buys 49% of Scale AI for \$14.3 billion in strategic AGI push

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



**M**eta has acquired a 49% stake in San Francisco-based Scale AI for \$14.3 billion, valuing the data-labeling startup at \$29 billion. The deal, one of Meta's largest AI investments, places Scale AI CEO Alexandr Wang in charge of a new AGI unit. Founded in 2016, Scale AI is key to training AI systems with high-quality data.

The move strengthens Meta's position in the race for artificial general intelligence and foundation models. The acquisition may face regulatory scrutiny, given Meta's history with WhatsApp, Instagram, and Oculus. It also underscores the company's escalating investment in AI infrastructure and control over key assets.

## Air taxi firm Archer raises \$850 million after Trump backs sector growth

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**rcher Aviation announced on Thursday that it has raised \$850 million in fresh funding, shortly after U.S. President Donald Trump signed executive orders aimed at accelerating the growth of electric air taxis. The directives also address strengthening defenses against hostile drones and advancing supersonic

commercial aircraft development.

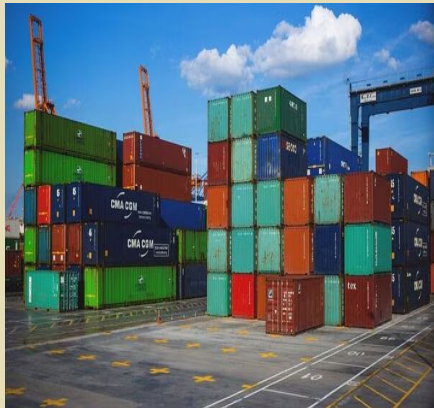
This funding follows a \$300 million round earlier this year led by institutional investors, including accounts managed by BlackRock. Archer has made significant strides in urban air mobility, including a partnership with United Airlines to build an air taxi network in New York City. The company is also the designated air taxi provider for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.



## India imposes anti-dumping duties on Chinese and EU chemical imports

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of Vitamin-A Palmitate and insoluble sulfur from China, Japan, Switzerland, and the EU to protect domestic manufacturers. The duties, effective June 6 for five years, follow a probe revealing significant underpricing and injury to Indian producers. Duties on Vitamin-A Palmitate range from \$0.87 to \$20.87 per kilogram. Chinese firms other than Shangyu NHU BioChem face \$14.95/kg, Swiss firm DSM will pay \$0.87/kg, and EU exporters face \$11.09/kg. Duties on insoluble sulfur range from



\$259 to \$358 per metric ton, with Chinese imports taxed at \$307/MT and Japanese exporters up to \$358/MT.

## Huawei's AI chip output capped at 200,000 for 2025, says U.S. official

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**uawei Technologies will be able to manufacture no more than 200,000 advanced AI chips in 2025, according to Jeffrey Kessler, a top official at the U.S. Commerce Department. Speaking to lawmakers, Kessler cautioned that while the number is below China's total demand, the country is rapidly narrowing the tech gap with the U.S.

Huawei, restricted by U.S. export controls since 2019, is producing Ascend 910C chips for Chinese clients as alternatives to Nvidia's AI processors. Despite being one to two years behind in chip performance, China is heavily investing in AI capabilities. Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei said the firm invests over \$25 billion annually in R&D.

While no new export curbs are planned



for now, the U.S. says controls will remain strong. A recent tentative U.S.-China trade truce was reached in London amid tensions over critical mineral exports and tech access.

## LG chief inspects Indonesia battery plant amid EV market slowdown



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**G Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo visited Indonesia this month to review the company's EV battery and electronics operations. At the Hyundai LG Indonesia Green Power plant near Jakarta—a 320,000 square-meter facility producing 10 gigawatt-hours annually—Koo urged employees to boost battery competitiveness amid softening global demand. He also visited LG Electronics' West Java complex, which combines R&D, production, and sales, and serves as a Southeast Asia hub. Koo met local executives in Jakarta to discuss market trends and customer preferences. LG is expanding its footprint across emerging economies in the Global South, including India, Latin America, and Africa, to capture new growth opportunities.

## Kia begins mass production of new military tactical vehicle



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**K**ia has officially started mass production of its next-generation Medium Tactical Vehicle (KMTV), the company's first new model in 48 years.

The rollout was held at its Autoland Gwangju plant, 270 km south of Seoul. The KMTV, offered in 2.5-ton and 5-ton variants, features 280-hp and 330-hp diesel engines with 8-speed automatic transmissions. It includes modern upgrades like around-view monitoring, air suspension, and navigation systems.

Deliveries to the South Korean Army begin this month, with exports planned. Kia recently showcased military vehicles at IDEX 2025 in the UAE, including the KLTV and Tasman pickup, underscoring its commitment to defense mobility innovation.



### Wimbledon prize pool grows to \$68 million, but structural reform urged



The All England Club has increased the 2025 Wimbledon prize pot to approximately \$68 million (GBP 53.5 million), a 7% rise from last year and double the amount awarded in 2015. This year’s men’s and women’s champions will each receive around \$3.8 million, while first-round losers will earn \$83,600. Despite responding to player demands for higher payouts, tournament officials emphasized that deeper structural changes in tennis—such as the lack of an off-season and rising injury concerns—need urgent attention. AELTC Chair Debbie Jevans said ongoing discussions with top players revealed a shared understanding that prize money alone cannot fix systemic issues. Wimbledon also defended its decision to shift singles finals start times to 4 p.m., aiming to enhance scheduling and audience experience.

### Cricket teams in England honor victims of Ahmedabad plane crash

Indian, Australian, and South African cricket teams observed a minute’s silence and wore black armbands in England on June 13 to honor the victims of a tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. The Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, bound for London Gatwick, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing more than 240 people. The aircraft struck a hostel near BJ Medical College, with only one survivor reported. In Beckenham, Indian players and staff observed a moment of silence ahead of their intra-squad match. At Lord’s, players from Australia and South Africa, along with umpires and fans, joined in the tribute. The somber gesture preceded day three of the ICC World Test Championship Final, where Australia held a 218-run lead.

### Oilers mount historic comeback to stun Panthers and level Stanley Cup final

The Edmonton Oilers pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in Stanley Cup final history on Thursday night, rallying from a 3–0 deficit to beat the Florida Panthers 5–4 in overtime and tie the series 2–2. Leon Draisaitl sealed the win with his fourth overtime goal of the playoffs, 11:18 into the extra frame.

Florida appeared to be in control early, with goals from Matthew Tkachuk and Anton Lundell putting them up 3–0 in the first period. But Edmonton responded with four straight goals, including second-period tallies by Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Darnell Nurse, and Vasily Podkolzin. Florida’s Sam Reinhart tied the game in dramatic fashion with 19.5 seconds left in regulation—just before Draisaitl’s winner.

The Oilers became the first road team since 1919 to erase a three-goal deficit and win a Stanley Cup final game, marking only the sixth such comeback in NHL history.

Game 4 was another thriller in an already intense series—three of the four games have gone to overtime, making it



only the eighth final in NHL history to reach that mark.

The stars were also out in the crowd: Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce drew headlines, as did hockey icons Wayne Gretzky and Jaromir Jagr. With the series heading back to Edmonton, momentum has shifted—but both teams know this final is far from settled.

### India defeats Belgium 3–2 for third straight win in Europe hockey tour

India’s junior women’s hockey team earned a 3–2 win over Belgium in Antwerp on June 13, marking their third consecutive victory on their European tour.

Early in the match, Sonam opened the scoring in the fourth minute. Lalthantluangi added another goal off a penalty corner in the 32nd minute.

Belgium responded quickly in the third quarter, with Marie Goenns converting a penalty stroke in the 37th minute, followed by Marte Marie’s equalizer in the 40th. Kanika Siwach sealed the match with a 51st-minute penalty corner.

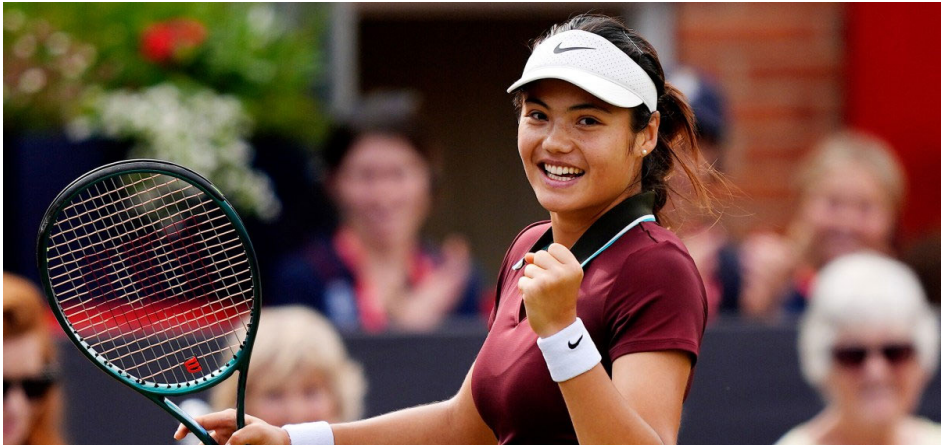
After three close wins over Belgium, India next faces Australia on June 14. These matches are key to India’s preparation for the FIH Women’s Junior World Cup in Chile this December.

### Jay Shah rings Lord’s bell ahead of World Test Championship Final



ICC Chairman Jay Shah called it a “privilege” to ring the bell at Lord’s Cricket Ground ahead of the 2025 ICC World Test Championship Final between Australia and South Africa. This is the first time the historic venue has hosted the WTC Final. On day one, South Africa reduced Australia to 67/4 at lunch, continuing their strong form after topping the WTC table with a 69.44% points percentage. Australia finished second with 67.54%. South Africa qualified after a tight win over Pakistan, while Australia defeated India in Sydney. The title winner will earn \$3.6 million, while the runner-up receives \$2.16 million—both a significant increase from previous editions. A reserve day is scheduled for June 16 if needed.

### Raducanu reclaims British No 1 after dominant win at Queen’s



Emma Raducanu is set to return as British No 1 for the first time since 2023 after a commanding 6–4, 6–1 victory over Slovakia’s Rebecca Sramkova at Queen’s Club. With Katie Boulter falling to fifth seed Diana Shnaider in three sets earlier on Thursday, Raducanu’s win secured her climb to world No 35 in the live rankings.

Raducanu, 22, impressed with aggressive baseline play and sharp returns,

overcoming a brief lapse in the first set before finishing strong. Despite recent back spasms, she has looked physically fit throughout the tournament, also playing doubles with Boulter.

Now coached by Mark Petchey and supported again by Nick Cavaday, Raducanu will next face top seed Zheng Qinwen in the quarter-finals. Boulter welcomed the new rivalry, calling it “fun to chase her now.” Raducanu’s post-match camera message: “Long live Boultercanu.”

### India continues finals streak at Shooting World Cup in Munich

India maintained its perfect finals appearance at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, with Manu Bhaker finishing sixth in the women’s 25m pistol and Chain Singh placing seventh in the men’s 50m rifle 3 positions. Manu scored 588 in qualifying, including an impressive 298 in rapid fire. Chain shot 592 to reach his second World Cup final this year. While neither medaled, India remains in strong form. Medal hopes continue with men’s 10m air rifle and women’s 3P finals up next.





Red Bull to rescue Newcastle Falcons with takeover and \$49 million debt deal



Red Bull has agreed to acquire the Newcastle Falcons, taking on the club's \$49 million debt to keep the struggling Premiership rugby team afloat. The deal includes a commitment to remain at Kingston Park, quashing earlier speculation of a move to Darlington. The Falcons, winless last season and bottom of the table for two years, were at risk of collapse, following in the footsteps of Wasps, Worcester, and London Irish. Other clubs had even agreed to provide a \$5 million loan to ensure Newcastle's participation next season. This marks Red Bull's first rugby investment, and aligns with their strategy of reviving underperforming sports teams using global marketing and youth engagement.

McIlroy's momentum stalls as Spaun takes lead at US Open



Rory McIlroy's strong start at the US Open unraveled with a back-nine collapse, finishing four over par after a 74 in the first round at Oakmont. The reigning Masters champion, who briefly climbed to two under, faltered late with a double-bogey at the 8th hole, closing with a back nine of 41. In contrast, JJ Spaun surged into the lead with a consistent round, ending one stroke ahead of Thruston Lawrence. McIlroy's performance reflects his ongoing struggle for form since achieving the career grand slam in April. Oakmont's punishing layout once again proved unforgiving as top players jostled for early control in one of golf's most demanding majors.

Antonio Brown wanted for attempted murder after Miami boxing event shooting

Former NFL star Antonio Brown is wanted for attempted murder with a firearm following a May 16 shooting outside a celebrity boxing event in Miami, according to a warrant reviewed by the Washington Post. The warrant alleges Brown, 36, punched a man during a fight, grabbed a gun from a security officer, and fired two shots while chasing the victim. One bullet reportedly grazed the man's neck.

Police found shell casings and an empty holster at the scene but did not initially arrest Brown. Surveillance footage allegedly shows Brown initiating the altercation and chasing the victim with a gun. Brown later claimed he was being robbed and was released after giving his statement. Once a top NFL wide receiver, Brown has faced multiple legal issues since leaving the league in 2021.



Carlsen wins sixth Stavanger title despite shaky finish and rare outburst

Magnus Carlsen claimed his sixth title in seven years at the Stavanger tournament, edging Fabiano Caruana by just half a point. The world No. 1 had a turbulent run, particularly during a dramatic clash with India's Gukesh Dommaraju, when Carlsen slammed his fist on the table after squandering a winning position. He later admitted regret over his gameplay, not the gesture,

citing mental exhaustion. Despite inconsistent Armageddon rounds, Carlsen finished strong in classical matches. Meanwhile, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk won the women's event, defeating world champion Ju Wenjun. The unique format of Stavanger—with sudden-death rules and intense time pressure—once again delivered unpredictable and thrilling moments for chess fans.



Texans' Jimmie Ward released on bail, faces felony domestic violence charge



Houston Texans safety Jimmie Ward has been released on \$30,000 bail after being arrested on Thursday morning in Montgomery County, Texas. Ward, 33, is facing a third-degree felony charge of assault-family violence impeding breath or circulation. According to local reports, sheriff's deputies responded to a call at Ward's home around 5:30 a.m. His fiancée has accused him of assault, strangulation, and making threats. She has since filed for an emergency protective order. The Texans and the NFL confirmed they are aware of the incident. Ward, who is currently recovering from foot surgery, has not participated in the team's offseason program. Under Texas law, third-degree felony charges can result in serious penalties, including imprisonment. The case remains under investigation.

NCAA puts Wisconsin football on probation for impermissible recruiting calls

The University of Wisconsin football program has been placed on one year of probation and fined \$25,000 after an NCAA investigation revealed 139 impermissible phone calls to 48 recruits in 2023. Nine coaches and staff members were involved, including former defensive line coach Greg Scruggs and former director of player personnel Max Stienecker, both of whom received one-year show-cause penalties. Head coach Luke Fickell and assistant coach Matt Mitchell are barred from recruiting communications for one week in June. The violations were classified as Level II infractions. Wisconsin's own compliance system uncovered the breaches, which the school self-reported in September 2023. Officials cited a lack of familiarity with compliance procedures by new staff as a factor. Wisconsin stressed its commitment to integrity and noted the rule has since been amended. The NCAA acknowledged the school's cooperation during the investigation.

Kevin De Bruyne joins Napoli after ending decade-long City era

Kevin De Bruyne has signed with Napoli on a free transfer, leaving Manchester City after a historic 10-year spell. The Belgian star turned down MLS offers to stay in European competition, joining forces with new Napoli coach Antonio Conte. Unveiled as "King Kev," De Bruyne leaves behind 19 major trophies and a Treble-winning legacy at City. The 33-year-old described his time in Manchester as "an unbelievable ride," bidding farewell in an emotional Etihad ceremony after his final home game.



Real Madrid sign Franco Mastantuono from River Plate in latest summer move

Real Madrid have signed 17-year-old Franco Mastantuono from River Plate, fending off competition from top European clubs. The Argentine midfielder, who recently became the youngest player to debut for Argentina's national team, has agreed to a six-year deal and will join Madrid in August after the Club World Cup. River Plate revealed the transfer cost as \$72.6 million. Mastantuono is Madrid's third summer signing, following Dean Huijsen and Trent Alexander-Arnold, bringing the club's total summer spending to around \$152.6 million.

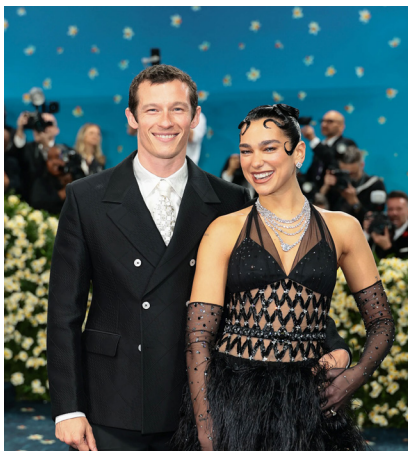


## Sunjay Kapur, Karisma Kapoor's ex-husband, dies of heart attack in England



**S**unjay Kapur, the former husband of Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor, has passed away at the age of 53. He died in England after suffering a heart attack during a polo match. Reports suggest that he may have swallowed a bee during the game, which could have triggered the fatal cardiac event. Kapur was a prominent industrialist and the CEO of Sona Comstar. He and Kapoor married in 2003 and have two children together. The couple divorced in 2016 after a lengthy legal battle. Kapur later married Priya Sachdev. His sudden death has shocked both the business and entertainment communities. No official statement from his family has been released yet.

## Dua Lipa confirms engagement to Callum Turner after a year of dating



**P**op star Dua Lipa has officially confirmed her engagement to British actor Callum Turner after a year of dating. In an interview with British Vogue, Lipa shared that Turner proposed with a custom-designed ring created with help from her close friends and sister Rina Lipa.

The couple went public with their relationship in mid-2024, after first being spotted together earlier that year. Lipa expressed excitement about their future together, saying, "We are engaged. It is very exciting. The ring feels very me." Despite fans' eagerness for wedding details, the couple is keeping their plans private for now. Lipa is focused on her 'Radical Optimism' tour, while Turner is busy filming.

## Supreme Court issues notice to Karnataka over ban on 'Thug Life'



**T**he Supreme Court of India has issued notice to the Karnataka government over its alleged unofficial ban on the release of 'Thug Life', a film by director Mani Ratnam and actor Kamal Haasan. A bench led by Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan sought responses from the state's Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, and Director General of Police. The petition, filed by Bengaluru resident M. Mahesh Reddy, claims the government prevented

the film's release despite Central Board of Film Certification clearance. It argues that police interference and verbal orders violate the constitutional right to free speech and profession. The controversy stems from Haasan's statement at the film's audio launch, where he said Kannada originated from Tamil—triggering backlash and threats from extremist groups. The film's release remains stalled, with Karnataka High Court suggesting an apology from Haasan, which he has declined to offer.

## Will Smith stuns London crowd with surprise street performance



Hollywood star Will Smith thrilled fans in London with a surprise street performance outside King's Cross Station. Teaming up with DJ AG, the 56-year-old actor and musician performed his classic hit 'Summertime' and the iconic theme from 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air'. The impromptu show drew a large crowd, with fans capturing the moment on social media. British singer Jamelia opened the set with her songs 'Superstar' and 'Thank You', followed by a dance cameo from Rita Ora, who later performed her hits 'Hot Right Now' and 'R.I.P.'. The performance comes ahead of Smith's reunion with DJ Jazzy Jeff at Capital's 'Summertime Ball' at Wembley Stadium. The duo, known for hits like 'Boom! Shake the Room', will headline the event.

## Harvey Weinstein convicted in one sexual assault count as jury faces tension

**D**isgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein has been convicted on one count of criminal sexual assault in his New York retrial but acquitted on another. The jury, made up mostly of women, found Weinstein guilty of assaulting Miriam Haley but not guilty in the case involving Kaja Sokola. Jurors could not reach a unanimous decision on a third charge related to Jessica Mann and will resume deliberations. Weinstein, who addressed the court before the partial verdict, claimed the trial was unfair and called for a mistrial, citing intense conflict among jurors. The jury foreperson described ongoing infighting, including threats and shouting in the deliberation room. The judge acknowledged one



juror was allegedly told, "I'll meet you outside one day." Weinstein's attorney described the atmosphere as "menacing and harassment." Weinstein faces multiple charges, including first-degree criminal sexual acts and third-degree rape, stemming from testimonies by three women during the weeks-long trial.

## Zoe Saldana says her Oscar statuette is gender-fluid and uses they/them pronouns

**H**ollywood actress Zoe Saldana has revealed that her Oscar statuette is "gender-fluid" and uses they/them pronouns. Saldana, who won her first Academy Award earlier this year for Best Supporting Actress in the Spanish-language musical 'Emilia Perez', made the comment during the Los Angeles premiere of her new Pixar film 'Elio'. When asked where she keeps the award, Saldana said it is displayed in her office and jokingly described the golden statuette as "trans" and "gender-fluid." In 'Emilia Perez', she plays a lawyer who helps a cartel leader undergo gender-affirming surgery. Saldana also stars as Olga Solis in 'Elio', a Disney-Pixar animated film that follows a young space enthusiast. Speaking on



Good Morning America, she shared how working on children's films helps her connect with her sons and earn "cool points" as a mother.

## BJP-affiliated union demands ban on 'Sardar Ji 3' over Pakistani cast members



**T**he release of 'Sardar Ji 3', starring Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh, is facing strong opposition from the BJP Chitrapat Kamgar Aghaadi. The organization has called for a nationwide ban on the film, objecting to the inclusion of Pakistani actors such as Hania Aamir, Nasir Chinyoti, Daniel Khawar, and Saleem Albela in the cast. The group has urged the Central Board of Film Certification to deny the film a censor certificate, citing rising tensions between India and Pakistan, especially after the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, where 26 civilians were killed. In a public statement, the union said the film disrespects national sentiment and the sacrifices made by Indian armed forces. It condemned continued collaboration with Pakistani artists, calling it "unacceptable" while Pakistan "openly declares India as an enemy." The union has appealed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to block the film's release in Indian theaters in line with national security and public sentiment.



Friday, 13 June 2025

## Eminem once wanted Mariah Carey to play his mother in '8 Mile'



Music producer Damion “Damizza” Young has revealed that rapper Eminem originally wanted pop icon Mariah Carey to play his mother in the 2002 film '8 Mile'. Speaking on the TFU Podcast, Young claimed Eminem approached Carey for the role, even though she is only four years older than him. At the time, Carey was exploring film opportunities, and Young said he introduced the two stars despite warning Eminem it might cause problems. When Carey learned the role was to play Eminem’s mother, she reportedly declined due to insecurities about the part. Actress Kim Basinger eventually took on the role. The surprising casting idea sheds new light on the early development of the semi-autobiographical film.

## Bappi Lahiri’s grandson Rego B debuts with heartfelt single ‘Yaara’

Rego B, the 15-year-old grandson of legendary Indian singer Bappi Lahiri, has launched his music career with the release of his debut single ‘Yaara.’ Born Swastik Bansal, Rego B wrote, composed, and sang the emotional track as a tribute to friendship. He described the song as a celebration of childhood bonds and thanked his friends who supported him through life’s highs and lows. “‘Yaara’ is for the unsung heroes of our everyday lives—our friends,” he said. Promoting the song on Instagram, Rego B shared how the project marks a new chapter after completing tenth grade. He made his singing debut at age 12 with the song ‘Bachcha Party,’ continuing his family’s rich musical legacy.

## Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter reunite on Broadway in ‘Waiting for Godot’

Hollywood stars Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter are set to reunite on stage in a new Broadway revival of Samuel Beckett’s iconic play Waiting for Godot. Winter confirmed the news during the 2025 Tony Awards in New York City, where both actors appeared as presenters. He explained that after working together on the Bill and Ted film series, the two longtime friends were eager to collaborate again. “It’s a play about two people who have known each other a very long time,” Winter said. “Keanu had this crazy, inspired idea that became a reality for both of us.” Reeves will make his Broadway debut as Estragon, while Winter will portray Vladimir. The production begins preview performances on September 13 at the Hudson Theatre and officially opens on September 28. The limited run is scheduled through January 4, 2026.

## Passenger to make India debut with three-city tour in November

British indie folk singer-songwriter Passenger, best known for his global hit 'Let Her Go', will make his India debut this November with a three-city tour. As part of his Asia Tour, Passenger—whose real name is Michael Rosenberg—will perform in Delhi-NCR on November 19, Mumbai on November 21, and Bengaluru on November 22. 'Let Her Go', from his 2012 album 'All The Little Lights', topped charts in 19 countries and became one

of the most searched songs on Shazam. Known for his introspective songwriting and grassroots touring, Rosenberg has released 15 studio albums and recently performed at top venues including London’s Royal Albert Hall and New York’s Beacon Theatre. The India tour is being produced by BookMyShow Live. Its Chief Business Officer, Naman Pugalia, described Passenger’s music as “quietly resonant” and called the tour an “intimate, honest” musical experience for Indian fans.



## Ed Sheeran opens up about protecting his children’s privacy and struggles with fame

Grammy-winning singer Ed Sheeran has revealed why he is extremely private about his daughters, Lyra and Jupiter, whom he shares with his wife Cherry Seaborn. Speaking on The Louis Theroux Podcast, Sheeran explained he avoids public places with his children to shield them from unwanted attention. “They haven’t signed up for fame,” he said, adding that he mourns the loss of normal experiences like pushing his kids on a swing in a public park.

Despite choosing commercial flights for environmental reasons, Sheeran noted this sometimes exposes his family to fans, especially after concerts. He added that while he occasionally uses private jets



during heavy promotional periods, he prefers to minimize that footprint.

Reflecting on his career, Sheeran believes his peak came with the 2017 Divide album. Though grateful for his success, he admitted that extreme fame once made him feel like a “zoo animal,” and he is now happier with a more balanced life.

## Katy Perry startled by fan who stormed the stage during Sydney concert

Pop star Katy Perry was caught off guard during a concert in Sydney when a fan unexpectedly jumped on stage while she was performing her hit song Hot N Cold. A video posted on social media shows the 40-year-old singer visibly shocked as the man put his arm around her and danced erratically before security intervened.

Despite the disruption, Perry handled the moment with composure, telling the crowd, “Well, there’s never going to be another show like this. So just enjoy it, Sydney.” Security personnel quickly removed the man from the stage, with backup arriving to assist.

The incident follows other unpredictable



fan interactions on Perry’s tour. At a recent Las Vegas show, she jokingly called out a fan for direct messaging her fiancé Orlando Bloom. That same night, she also experienced a wardrobe malfunction during Part of Me, but smoothly played it off mid-performance.

## Akshay Kumar wears disguise to hear firsthand reactions to ‘Housefull 5’



Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar surprised moviegoers by going undercover in a “killer mask” to personally experience public reactions to his latest film, Housefull 5. On June 8, the Airlift star posted a video on Instagram showing himself in disguise outside a cinema hall in Bandra, Mumbai. In the clip, Kumar interviews people exiting the theater, asking for their thoughts on Housefull 5. Unaware of his identity, the audience shared candid feedback, with many praising the film.

Kumar captioned the post, “I decided to wear the killer mask and interview people coming out of the Housefull 5 show at Bandra today. Almost got caught at the end but managed to escape. Great experience.” Directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film features a star-studded cast including Sanjay Dutt, Riteish Deshmukh, and Abhishek Bachchan.

## Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller reunite for 25th anniversary of ‘Meet the Parents’



Actors Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller reunited with director Jay Roach to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their hit comedy Meet the Parents at the Tribeca Festival in New York City. The 2000 film, which follows male nurse Greg Focker as he meets his girlfriend’s intimidating father for the first time, remains a fan favorite. De Niro played Jack Byrnes, a retired CIA agent and overprotective father, while Stiller portrayed the hapless Greg.

During the event at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, Stiller reflected on the film’s lasting appeal. “It’s so much fun to hear laughter in a theater with comedy that’s 25 years old. It still works,” he said. He also joked about still being called “Focker” in public.

Director Roach revealed that the film nearly had a different cast—Jim Carrey was once considered for the lead, with Steven Spielberg in talks to direct.





# IndoUS Tribune की हरिद्वार मंदिर यात्रा का 17वाँ पड़ाव वैष्णो देवी मंदिर: माँ की भक्ति, शक्ति और शरण का जीवंत प्रतीक

हरिद्वार — गंगा के किनारे बसे इस पावन नगरी में जहाँ हर मंदिर एक नई कथा कहता है, IndoUS Tribune की मंदिर यात्रा के सत्रहवें चरण में हम पहुँचे हैं वैष्णो देवी मंदिर — एक ऐसा स्थल जहाँ भक्त माँ की गुफा में प्रवेश कर केवल मूर्ति के नहीं, बल्कि आत्मा के दर्शन करते हैं। यह मंदिर हरिद्वार के जगदीश नगर, ज्वालापुर क्षेत्र में स्थित है और अपने विशिष्ट स्थापत्य, सुगन्धुमा प्रवेशद्वारों और आध्यात्मिक वातावरण के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।

## सुगंधों से मंदिर तक एक आंतरिक यात्रा

वैष्णो देवी मंदिर में प्रवेश करते ही श्रद्धालु एक ऐसी यात्रा पर निकलते हैं जो केवल भौतिक नहीं बल्कि आध्यात्मिक भी है। मंदिर की संरचना इस प्रकार की गई है कि दर्शन से पहले भक्तों को एक संकरी सुगंध से होकर गुजरना होता है — यह प्रतीक है जीवन की कठिनाइयों और आत्मिक खोज की उस संकरी राह का, जहाँ अंतिम लक्ष्य मोक्ष है।

इस गुफा-यात्रा में पग-पग पर सजग रहना पड़ता है — श्रद्धालु हाथों से दीवारों को छूते हुए, सिर झुकाते हुए, और कभी-कभी रेंगते हुए माँ के दर्शन तक पहुँचते हैं। यह यात्रा एक विशेष प्रकार का आत्म-समर्पण मांगती है — अहं का विसर्जन और भक्ति का पूर्ण समर्पण।

## तीन देवियों का सजीव स्वरूप

मंदिर के गर्भगृह में पहुँचते ही भक्तों को माँ वैष्णो देवी के दर्शन होते हैं, जो लक्ष्मी, काली और सरस्वती के त्रिदेवियों के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित हैं। तीनों मूर्तियाँ अलग-अलग प्रतीकों को दर्शाती हैं —

**लक्ष्मी:** समृद्धि और संतुलन

**काली:** शक्ति और अज्ञान का विनाश

**सरस्वती:** ज्ञान और बुद्धि की देवी

यहाँ दर्शन मात्र से ही एक अद्भुत ऊर्जा का संचार होता है,

जो व्यक्ति को भीतर तक झकझोर देती है।

## 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगों के दर्शन भारत के तीर्थों की झलक

इस मंदिर की विशेषता यह भी है कि इसके परिसर में भारत के 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगों की सुंदर और यथासंभव सजीव प्रतिकृतियाँ निर्मित की गई हैं। काशी विश्वनाथ से लेकर सोमनाथ तक, प्रत्येक ज्योतिर्लिंग का विशेष स्थान और विवरण दिया गया है, जिससे श्रद्धालु बिना देश की लंबी यात्रा किए ही इन पवित्र स्थलों के दर्शन कर पाते हैं।

## पौराणिक कथा और त्रिकुटा की भक्ति

मंदिर से जुड़ी कथा अत्यंत मार्मिक और प्रेरणादायक है। त्रिकुटा नामक एक युवती ने बाल्यकाल से ही भगवान राम को पति रूप में स्वीकार कर लिया था और कठोर तपस्या के माध्यम से उन्हें पाने का प्रयास किया। भगवान राम ने त्रिकुटा की भक्ति से प्रसन्न होकर वचन दिया कि वे कलियुग में माँ वैष्णो देवी के रूप में पूजी जाएँगी। यही त्रिकुटा, माँ वैष्णो देवी के रूप में विख्यात हुईं।

यह कथा उस नारी शक्ति की याद दिलाती है, जो समर्पण और साधना से ब्रह्मांड को भी प्रभावित कर सकती है।

## हरिद्वार का सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक रंग

मंदिर परिसर में प्रवेश करते ही चारों ओर एक अद्भुत शांति का अनुभव होता है। चिर-परिचित घंटियों की मधुर ध्वनि, अगरबत्तियों की सुगंध, और भक्तों के स्वर मंदिर को जीवंत बना देते हैं। यहाँ के पुजारी न केवल विनम्र और सेवा-भाव से ओतप्रोत हैं, बल्कि हर श्रद्धालु को व्यक्तिगत रूप से मार्गदर्शन भी देते हैं।

**त्योहारों के समय** — विशेषकर नवरात्रि, दुर्गाष्टमी, और

रामनवमी के अवसर पर — मंदिर का वातावरण और भी आध्यात्मिक हो उठता है। रंगीन झोंकियाँ, संकीर्तन, भजन संध्या और दीपमालिका की सजावट इस स्थान को एक दिव्य लोक में बदल देती है।

## गंगा के दर्शन भक्ति और प्रकृति का समागम

मंदिर की ऊँचाई से गंगा नदी का विहंगम दृश्य मन को मोह लेता है। भक्त यहाँ न केवल देवी माँ के दर्शन के लिए आते हैं, बल्कि प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य और हरिद्वार की सांस्कृतिक आत्मा को महसूस करने के लिए भी आते हैं। सूर्योदय और सूर्यास्त के समय जब मंदिर की दीवारों पर सूर्य की किरणें पड़ती हैं, तो यह दृश्य साक्षात् स्वर्ग जैसा प्रतीत होता है।

## कैसे पहुँचें

मंदिर हरिद्वार रेलवे स्टेशन से लगभग 5 किलोमीटर दूर स्थित है। जगदीश नगर, ज्वालापुर में बने इस मंदिर तक टैक्सी, ऑटो रिक्शा अथवा निजी वाहन द्वारा आसानी से पहुँचा जा सकता है। मंदिर प्रत्येक दिन सुबह 8:00 बजे से रात 8:00 बजे तक खुला रहता है।

IndoUS Tribune की ओर से श्रद्धा-सम्मान IndoUS Tribune की हरिद्वार मंदिर यात्रा में वैष्णो देवी मंदिर केवल एक तीर्थस्थल नहीं, बल्कि माँ की गोद जैसा शरणस्थल है। यहाँ न केवल देवी के दर्शन होते हैं, बल्कि भक्त को अपने भीतर की शक्ति, भक्ति और साधना की अनुभूति भी होती है। यह स्थल नारी शक्ति, समर्पण और आत्मिक संतुलन का प्रतीक है।

हमारी अगली कड़ी में हम आपको हरिद्वार के एक और दिव्य मंदिर या घाट की यात्रा पर ले चलेंगे। तब तक माँ गंगा और माँ वैष्णो देवी की कृपा आप पर बनी रहे — ऐसी हमारी मंगलकामना है।







चौथे अध्याय का आरम्भ दिव्य ज्ञान से होता है. भगवान कृष्ण अर्जुन को बताते हैं कि, जो ज्ञान मैं तुम्हें दे रहा हूँ, वह बहुत दिव्य है.



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# गीता स्वाध्याय- मेरी समझ से, चौथा अध्याय

इसी ज्ञान को मैंने सबसे पहले इस कल्प के आरम्भ में आदित्य नारायण सूर्य को दिया था. सूर्य ने इसे अपने बेटे मनु के साथ साझा किया. फिर मनु ने इसे अपने पुत्र राजा इक्ष्वाकु को प्रदान किया. इस प्रकार यह रघुवंश में परम्परागत बँटता रहा. अब यह लगभग लुप्त सा हो गया था. अब मैं इसे तुम्हें सुना कर, इसे पुनः जीवित करना चाहता हूँ.

इस पर अर्जुन एक शंका प्रगट करते हैं, बोले आपका जन्म तो अभी इसी युग में हुआ है, तो आपने इसे कल्प के आरम्भ में सूर्य भगवान को कैसे बताया था? इसके उत्तर में प्रभु बोले, तुम्हारी आयु सीमित है, लेकिन मैं एक अविनाशी ब्रह्म हूँ. मेरे और तुम्हारे इससे पहले कई जन्म हो चुके हैं. वह सब मुझे याद है, लेकिन तुम्हें याद नहीं. इस पर भगवान कृष्ण ने एक बहुत बड़ा रहस्य अर्जुन के सामने रखा. रहस्य था, भगवान के जन्म का कारण:

**यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।  
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥**

भावार्थ: हे भारत! जब भी और जहाँ भी धर्म की हानि होती है और अधर्म की वृद्धि होती है, तब मैं अपने स्वरूप को प्रकट करता हूँ।

इस श्लोक में प्रभु सभी भक्तों के लिए यह स्पष्ट करते हैं कि, जब जब इस धरती पर धर्म विलुप्त होने लगता है. अधर्म चारों ओर अराजकता फैलाने लगता है, तो मैं उस समयानुसार कोई न कोई वेष धारण कर इस धरती पर अवतरित होता हूँ. और ऐसे समय में मेरा काम होता है, धर्म की पुनर्स्थापना करना. इस उद्देश्य पूर्ति के लिए, मैं दुष्टों का संहार करता हूँ. और सन्त लोगों को अपनी शरण में ले, उन्हें आश्रय देता हूँ. यही मैंने त्रेता युग में, राम का अवतार लेकर किया. यही मैंने सतयुग में प्रह्लाद की सुरक्षा के लिए नरसिंह अवतार लेकर किया. ऐसे और भी बहुत से युगों में, मैं अवतरित होता आया हूँ.

ज्ञानी लोग हर प्रकार के भय और राग से मुक्त हुए, मेरे इस अलौकिक रूप को पहचान, मुझ में समर्पित हो जाते हैं. वह मेरे लिए तप करते हैं. मेरे लिए हर कर्म को करके, मुझे ही समर्पित कर देते हैं. और अंतकाल में मुझे प्राप्त कर लेते हैं.

वह पूरे अनन्य भाव से मुझे भजते हैं, जो मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगता है. और मैं उनके इस अनन्य भाव को आत्मसात कर उन्हें अपना लेता हूँ.

**चातुर्वर्ण्यं मया सृष्टं गुणकर्मविभागशः ।  
तस्य कर्तारमपि मां विद्धयकर्तारमव्ययम् ॥ ( १३ )  
न मां कर्माणि लिम्पन्ति न मे कर्मफले स्पृहा ।  
इति मां योऽभिजानाति कर्मभिरन स बध्यते ॥ ( १४ )**

भावार्थ: प्रकृति के तीन गुणों ( सत, रज, तम ) के आधार पर कर्म को चार विभागों ( ब्राह्मण, क्षत्रिय, वैश्य और शूद्र ) में मेरे द्वारा रचा गया, इस प्रकार मानव समाज की कभी न बदलने वाली व्यवस्था का कर्ता होने पर भी तू मुझे अकर्ता ही समझ।

कर्म के फल में मेरी आसक्ति न होने के कारण कर्म मेरे लिये बन्धन उत्पन्न नहीं कर पाते हैं, इस प्रकार से जो मुझे जान लेता है, उस मनुष्य के कर्म भी उसके लिये कभी बन्धन उत्पन्न नहीं करते हैं।

और एक बड़ी बात जो प्रभु यहाँ स्पष्ट करते हैं, वह यह कि, इस समाज में, जो जाति विभाजन तुम्हें दिखाई देता है, वह भी मेरा बनाया हुआ है. इसी के आधार पर, तुम इस समाज में ब्राह्मण, क्षत्रिय, वैश्य और शूद्र आदि भिन्न भिन्न लोग देखते हो. यह विभाजन मैंने इसलिए किया, ताकि हर कोई अपने अपने स्वभाव के अनुसार समाज को अपना बेस्ट दे सके. उनके स्वभाव के अनुसार, मैं उन्हें वैसे ही कर्म करने की प्रेरणा देता हूँ. और उसी कर्म स्वभाव से वह लोग समाज की सेवा करते हैं. यह विभाजन केवल और केवल कर्मों की शुद्धता के आधार पर निश्चित होता है.

ज्ञानी लोग वेदों और पुराणों के पठन पाठन से समाज को पढ़ाने का काम सम्भाल लेते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें ब्राह्मण कहा जाता है. समाज की सुरक्षा के लिए, जो लोग शस्त्रों में निपुणता प्राप्त कर लेते हैं, उन्हें क्षत्रिय कहा जाता है. वैश्य लोग समाज की व्यवस्था को बनाये रखने के लिए व्यापार आदि कार्य में व्यस्त हो जाते हैं. और शूद्र गण समाज के

निम्न कामों को सम्भाल, समाज में एक संतुलन बनाए रखते हैं. इनमें कोई छोटा बड़ा नहीं होता. निम्न काम करने वालों का आदर सम्मान भी उतना ही होना चाहिए, जितना की किसी क्षत्रिय या वैश्य का होना चाहिए. इसे किसी और दृष्टि से कम कभी नहीं देखना चाहिए.

**सवार्णीन्द्रियकर्माणि प्राणकर्माणि चापरे ।  
आत्मसंयमयोगान्नौ जुह्वति ज्ञानदीपिते ॥ ( २७ )**

**द्रव्ययज्ञास्तपोयज्ञा योगयज्ञास्तथापरे ।  
स्वाध्यायज्ञानयज्ञाश्च यतयः संशितव्रताः ॥ ( २८ )**

भावार्थ: कुछ मनुष्य सभी इन्द्रियों को वश में करके प्राण-वायु के कार्यों को मन के संयम द्वारा आत्मा को जानने की इच्छा से आत्म-योग रूपी अग्नि में हवन करते हैं। कुछ मनुष्य धन-सम्पत्ति के दान द्वारा, कुछ मनुष्य तपस्या द्वारा और कुछ मनुष्य अष्टांग योग के अभ्यास द्वारा यज्ञ करते हैं, कुछ अन्य मनुष्य वेद-शास्त्रों का अध्ययन करके ज्ञान में निपुण होकर और कुछ मनुष्य कठिन व्रत धारण करके यज्ञ करते हैं।

इस दिव्य ज्ञान को प्राप्त करने के लिए, कुछ लोग कठोर साधना करते हैं, तो कुछ लोग पूजा ध्यान आदि में व्यस्त ही जाते हैं. कुछ अन्य लोग योगाभ्यास का सहारा लेते हैं. कुछ वेद पुराण आदि के अध्ययन में लग जाते हैं. लेकिन सभी का लक्ष्य केवल एक ही होता है, और वह है, भगवद् प्राप्ति. प्रभु के साथ आत्मसात. प्रभु के चरणों में बैठ, उनकी अनुकम्पा की परम अनुभूति.

**अपरे नियताहाराः प्राणान्प्राणेषु जुह्वति ।  
सर्वेऽप्येते यज्ञविदो यज्ञक्षपितकल्मषाः ॥ ( ३० )**

भावार्थ: कुछ मनुष्य भोजन को कम करके प्राण-वायु को प्राण-वायु में ही हवन किया करते हैं, ये सभी यज्ञ करने वाले यज्ञों का अर्थ जानने के कारण सभी पाप-कर्मों से मुक्त हो जाते हैं।

इसी प्रयास में कुछ लोग यज्ञ का रास्ता अपनाते हैं. यज्ञ में बहुत शक्ति होती है. यज्ञ की अग्नि में, भक्त के बहुत से पाप जल कर भस्म हो जाते हैं. अग्नि में यह विशेषता होती है कि, वह हर अच्छी बुरी चीज को भस्म कर देती है. इसी तरह ज्ञान भी एक अग्नि समान है, जो भक्त के सभी पापों को भस्म कर उसे निखार कर, दिव्य बना देती है. इस प्रकार यह यज्ञ प्रक्रिया, करने वाले योगी को, दिव्य धाम की ओर ले चलती है.

**अज्ञश्चश्रद्धानश्च संशयात्मा विनश्यति ।  
नायं लोकोऽस्ति न परो न सुखं संशयात्मनः ॥ ( ४० )**

भावार्थ: जिस मनुष्य को शास्त्रों का ज्ञान नहीं है, शास्त्रों पर श्रद्धा नहीं है और शास्त्रों को शंका की दृष्टि से देखता है वह मनुष्य निश्चित रूप से भ्रष्ट हो जाता है, इस प्रकार भ्रष्ट हुआ संशयग्रस्त मनुष्य न तो इस जीवन में और न ही अगले जीवन में सुख को प्राप्त होता है।

साथ ही प्रभु चेतावनी भी देते हैं कि, जो पुरुष इस दिव्य ज्ञान को अनदेखा कर, भोग विलासों में रमे रहते हैं, वह इस मनुष्य जीवन का सही लाभ नहीं उठा पाते. उन्हें हमेशा शंकाएँ घेरे रहती हैं. ऐसे साधारण जन भोग विलासों में लिप्त हुए, अधोगति को प्राप्त होते हैं. उन्हें न तो इस लोक में और न ही परलोक में कोई सुख प्राप्त होता है.

इसलिए मेरी तुमसे यही सलाह है कि, तुम हर प्रकार का संशय त्याग दो. अगर कोई दुविधा अभी भी है तो, उसे इस दिव्य ज्ञान अस्त्र से काट फेंको. पूर्णतया संशय रहित हो कर, एक नयी ऊर्जा से अपने आप को प्रेरित कर, अपने स्वाभाविक क्षत्रिय धर्म में उद्यत हो, युद्ध के लिए तत्पर हो जाओ. बाकी सब मुझ पर छोड़ दो. मन और कर्म की शुद्धता और स्पष्टता तुम्हें तुम्हारे गंतव्य तक अवश्यमेव पहुँचा देगी. ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है. हमेशा यह भरोसा रखो कि, मैं सदा सदा तुम्हारे साथ खड़ा हूँ.

जय श्री कृष्णा!!!



# India's living heritage through the worship of Rama

By Kushagra Aniket and  
Rudra Vikrama Srivastava

The inauguration of the Ayodhya Rama Mandir on January 22, 2024, captured global attention. It marked a milestone not just in temple construction, but in India's civilizational story—one shaped by cultural memory and spiritual yearning across centuries. Behind this monumental event lies a quieter, long-standing tradition told through temples, poetry, and inscriptions: the transformation of Rama, the prince of Ayodhya, into a revered deity worshiped across the Indian subcontinent.

In December 2024, we made a breakthrough while conducting fieldwork at Garhwa Fort in Prayagraj. There, we uncovered a previously unidentified 11th-century stone inscription issued under Chandela ruler Kirtivarman. After reconstructing and translating it, we found it to be the earliest known eulogistic inscription (prasaṣṭi) dedicated to Rama. The record describes a ceremonial procession during the festival of 'Rama Navami' and the construction of a temple in his honor.

The inscription not only identifies Rama with Vishnu but also reveals that as early as the 11th century—well before the Bhakti movement gained momentum in North India—devotional celebrations and poetic praise of Rama had already been institutionalized. Since Garhwa is associated with Rama's exile journey, the discovery affirms how sacred geography, local memory, and royal patronage helped shape Rama worship into a living tradition. The site had previously yielded a 5th-century Gupta inscription referring to Rama as 'Chitrakuta-svamin', showing that veneration of Rama existed even then.

Our recent discovery reinforces the continuity of this tradition. The inscription notes that Garhwa was a resting place for Rama, Sita, and Lakshman during their exile. By correlating this record with Valmiki's 'Ramayana', we have identified Garhwa as Rama's campsite after crossing the Yamuna en route to Chitrakoot. The location, long forgotten, has now reemerged as a vital link in the epic's sacred geography. We also retranslated a 9th-century inscription from the same site, first reported by Alexander Cunningham, which is carved onto the pedestal of a



colossal Vishnu idol. It refers to Rama as a synonym for Vishnu, reflecting the deep roots of Rama devotion during the post-Gupta era.

Rama worship is not tied to a single place or period. Long before medieval vernacular 'Ramayanas' were composed, his worship was widespread—from Chola temples in Tamilakam to Kalachuri records in Central India. Many ancient Vishnu temples along routes connected to Rama's exile were later transformed into Rama shrines. These connections were not merely devotional—they were communal, spatial, and political, often linked to festivals and the idea of divine kingship.

In Tamilakam, Rama was worshiped as 'Kottanda Rama' (Rama with the bow), and temples dedicated to him can be traced to the early 10th century during the reign of Parantaka I. These examples show that Rama was integrated into South Indian Vaishnava temple networks and royal ideologies long before poets like Kambar or Tulsidas reimagined his story. Rama is not just a literary or religious figure—he is a living presence in Indian art, culture, and everyday life. His worship has remained a unifying thread through evolving political, cultural, and linguistic landscapes.

Some modern scholars argue that Rama's rise as a symbol of royal virtue was shaped largely by medieval Hindu-Muslim rivalry. However, our findings challenge this view. Rama was celebrated as an ideal king as early as the Gupta period. The Garhwa inscription, for instance, commemorates Rama during a Chandela military triumph over the Kalachuri—two Hindu dynasties. This suggests Rama's ideals were invoked across political contexts, not simply as a reactive symbol but as a proactive cultural model. Rama's image as a righteous king, warrior, and deity was adaptable to varied local and historical narratives.

Our project to trace the antiquity of Rama worship highlights how

collaborative efforts—including those by scholars in the diaspora—can play a powerful role in preserving India's civilizational legacy. We focus on the 'archaeology of worship', encompassing devotional inscriptions, temple architecture, and iconography. By combining on-the-ground fieldwork with international research, our work illustrates how global collaboration can uncover and safeguard India's sacred heritage.

Rama's influence reaches far beyond scripture. He lives in sculpture, festival chants, temple rituals, popular retellings, and sacred landscapes.

As India moves toward its centennial of independence in 2047, efforts to recover and celebrate such deep-rooted traditions become all the more essential. They remind us that heritage is not static; it evolves through memory, devotion, and rediscovery.

## About the authors:

**Kushagra Aniket** is a New York-based economist, management consultant, and scholar of classical languages. He is the co-author of *Krishna Niti: Timeless Strategic Wisdom* (2024).

**Rudra Vikrama Srivastava** is an archaeologist and epigraphist based in India. He specializes in early medieval Indian political-religious history.



# Chicago’s Swetha Chinnari redefines grace and grit

IndoUS Tribune wishes her all the success at the Mrs. India Worldwide 2025 Grand Finale in Dubai

By: Dr. Avi Verma

As anticipation mounts for the prestigious Haut Monde Mrs. India Worldwide 2025 finale in Dubai starting June 15, one finalist stands out—not just for her graceful presence on stage but for her inspiring story of transformation, courage, and purpose.

Meet Swetha Chinnari, a proud Indian-American woman who is redefining modern womanhood. As a respected Associate Director in Business Technology, a devoted mother, and founder of InspireBySwetha, Swetha seamlessly balances a demanding career, family life, and a passion for advocacy.

Her participation in this international pageant is not a return to vanity—it is a bold re-entry into visibility, voice, and vulnerability. A former teen pageant winner, Swetha steps back into the spotlight after over a decade—not

for a crown, but for a cause. “My journey has been one of pausing, peeling back layers, and rediscovering my voice,” Swetha shared while speaking to IndoUS Tribune.

“Born in the roots of patriarchy and now based in Chicago, I’ve redefined my path—balancing motherhood, a career in technology, and a purpose-driven life. Through Inspire by Swetha, I aim to help women build confidence, embrace their identity, and realize that it’s never too late to become who they’re meant to be.”

This message lies at the core of her mission. With InspireBySwetha, she leads coaching workshops, confidence-building tutorials, runway training, and leadership mentoring, specifically designed for working women and mothers who often lose their identity in the noise of daily responsibilities.

“This isn’t just about a title,” she told



IndoUS Tribune.

“It’s about representation, resilience, and reigniting dreams that many women put on hold.”

Swetha uses her platform to advocate for mental health awareness, identity exploration, and breaking cultural taboos—particularly those affecting South Asian women. Her message resonates because it is deeply personal yet universally relatable: a call for women to see themselves as worthy, seen, and celebrated.

Beyond the pageant stage, Swetha is also a Board Member and Cultural Ambassador for a leading Telugu organization in Chicago, fostering intergenerational dialogue, youth mentoring, and women’s empowerment through fashion, dance, and cultural programs. Her community work bridges tradition

and transformation—preserving roots while nurturing wings. Whether guiding someone in a sari or stilettos, Swetha encourages every woman to own her story and step into her power.

“Pageantry is just the medium,” she reminds us.

“Empowerment is the message.” As Swetha prepares for the grand finale in Dubai, IndoUS Tribune proudly extends its heartfelt wishes for her continued success.

With grace in her step and grit in her spirit, she walks not just as a finalist, but as a torchbearer for women everywhere who are daring to dream again.

All the very best, Swetha—your journey is already a crown, and your community stands behind you with pride.



# Congressman Krishnamoorthi speaks out on key issues as he eyes U.S. Senate run

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, now a candidate for the U.S. Senate, has made several high-profile statements this week, underscoring his leadership on civil rights, public safety, and civil discourse.

## Calls for Secretary Noem's Oversight hearing

In response to the recent forceful removal and handcuffing of Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) during a press conference hosted by Secretary Kristi Noem, Krishnamoorthi demanded accountability.

"Senator Padilla represents some 40 million Americans," he said. "Detaining a U.S. Senator in broad daylight cannot be ignored. I am calling on Secretary Noem to testify before the House Oversight Committee immediately."

## Responds to Air India crash

Addressing the tragic crash of an Air India flight near Ahmedabad, India, Krishnamoorthi expressed deep sorrow on behalf of the global diaspora. "My heartfelt condolences go out to all affected by this tragedy," he stated.

He added that a full and transparent investigation is vital to prevent similar disasters—an appeal reflected in both



community and aviation circles.

## Condemns anti-Sikh and anti-Muslim remarks

After Representative Mary Miller singled out and misidentified a Sikh chaplain during a House prayer, Krishnamoorthi denounced the remarks as hateful.

"Her comments were both anti-Sikh and anti-Muslim, and they reflect a disturbing pattern of religious intolerance," he said, reaffirming America's commitment to religious freedom and urging bipartisan unity against hate.

## Confronts HHS Secretary RFK Jr. on vaccine policy

In his capacity as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, Krishnamoorthi co-authored letters with Rep. Stephen Lynch to challenge what he termed "life-threatening mismanagement" by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. They demanded clarity on the cancellation of a \$766 million avian flu vaccine contract and the firing of all 17 members of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The congressman warned these moves risk public health and urged HHS to submit internal

communications by June 25, 2025.

Amid his U.S. Senate campaign, Congressman Krishnamoorthi has positioned himself as a champion of constitutional norms, public safety, and scientific integrity. From defending elected representatives and minority communities to defending immunization policy, his leadership continues to resonate both in Congress and among Illinois voters. IndoUS Tribune will continue to track Krishnamoorthi's Senate campaign and key policy positions as the primary season progresses.

# India Day Parade to go ahead, but festival and concert canceled due to city regulations

By: Jayanti Oza

Indian Community Outreach (ICO) has announced major changes to its 2025 India Day celebrations, citing new public safety and event compliance mandates from the City of Naperville as the reason for scaling back the event.

While the annual India Day Parade will still take place on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 11:00 AM, beginning at Naperville Central High School, the day-long cultural festival at Rotary Hill and the evening concert have both been canceled. These events have been signature elements of Naperville's India Day, drawing tens of thousands of attendees over the past decade.

"This was not an easy decision," said Krishna Bansal, Chairman of Indian Community Outreach. "India Day has become a cornerstone event in Naperville, but the new city requirements—

including park fencing, metal detectors, a clear bag policy, enhanced security, and increased cost-sharing—have added a financial burden of over \$150,000, which our nonprofit simply cannot absorb."

The new policies also limit space traditionally reserved for sponsors, reducing revenue opportunities that would have helped offset the expanded security costs. Bansal said the organization explored scaled-down alternatives and funding options, but continuing with Rotary Hill programming would put ICO at serious financial risk. Founded over a decade ago, India Day has served as a major cultural celebration for Naperville, showcasing Indian-American contributions, supporting small businesses, and highlighting the city's diversity on a national platform.

Despite the scaled-back format this year, ICO says it is exploring the possibility of hosting an alternate community event later in 2025 and



fully intends to restore complete India Day programming in 2026 and beyond. "We're grateful to the City of Naperville, our volunteers, sponsors, and the thousands of families who make India Day special each year," Bansal said. "This year's celebration

may look different, but our mission remains the same."

*For parade details and updates, visit [www.indiancommunityoutreach.org](http://www.indiancommunityoutreach.org) or follow ICO on social media.*



# ‘Spirit of Service: Walk-Runs’ in Illinois raise support for homelessness and senior care



By: Vandana Jhingan

Communities in Skokie and West Chicago, Illinois came together this weekend in a powerful display of unity and compassion as BAPS Charities hosted its annual ‘Spirit of Service: Walk-Run’ events. Held on June 7 and June 8, the walks drew over 2,000 participants in support of DuPagePads and the Center of Concern, two nonprofit organizations tackling homelessness and senior housing challenges in the region.

Part of a broader initiative taking place in over 100 cities across North America, the Walk-Run is rooted in the values of selfless service and community empowerment. It raises funds and awareness for critical causes including education, healthcare, humanitarian aid, environmental protection, and local responder support.

The June 7 event in West Chicago drew 1,400 walkers supporting DuPagePads, an organization working to combat homelessness through transitional housing, meals, and safety resources. “The core of our work is human kindness,” said Chad Pedigo, Vice President of Development at DuPagePads. “Today was a beautiful representation of how communities can support those without family systems or safety nets. This kind of collective care can help someone move from survival to stability.”

On June 8 in Skokie, the Walk-Run gathered another 750 participants to support the Center of Concern, which provides housing solutions and counseling to aging residents and those at risk of losing their homes. Tom Merlin, representing the organization, emphasized the broader impact: “You’re not just raising funds—you’re raising hope. This event helps a senior remain in their home, a single parent avoid eviction, and reminds people they’re not alone.”

The event saw participation across generations, with youth engagement drawing particular praise. Carol Stream Mayor Frank Savereno, who attended the walk, said, “The thing that excites me most is the youth getting involved. They are the future, and this kind of involvement ensures a future grounded in empathy.”

Manisha Patel, a lead event organizer, added, “The heart of this event has been the participants and fundraisers. Their energy and sense of purpose were incredible—they didn’t just show up, they showed up with heart.”

BAPS Charities, founded by Guru Pramukh Swami Maharaj, operates on the guiding principle ‘in the joy of others lies our own’. Since its inception over two decades ago, the organization has hosted more than 1,000 Walk-Runs, 500 health fairs, and provided humanitarian support around the world—including



aid to Ukrainian refugees, wildfire and hurricane relief, and building schools in disaster-hit areas.

causes in the name of our guru’s vision of joy through giving.”

Reflecting on the spirit of the event, participant Rashmika Patel said, “This walk began 25 years ago as an expression of service. I’m proud to support local

With every step taken this weekend, BAPS Charities reinforced its role as a bridge between service and community. For more information, visit: [www.bapscharities.org](http://www.bapscharities.org).



# The India-U.S. comprehensive strategic partnership: Shaping the architecture of the 21st century

● By: Rakesh Malhotra, President, Global Indian Diaspora Foundation, USA

**A**s the global political and economic center of gravity continues to shift toward the Indo-Pacific, the partnership between India and the United States has taken on new urgency and unparalleled significance. No longer a transactional relationship marked by cautious diplomacy, it is now a dynamic and multidimensional alliance—firmly rooted in shared democratic values. This common ground forms the strong foundation of the India-U.S. partnership.

In recent years, this relationship has grown into a full-spectrum strategic partnership that helps write the rulebook for the 21st century. This partnership's sheer breadth and ambition underscore a fundamental truth: India and the U.S., as the world's largest democracies, are uniquely positioned to lead in a world marked by geopolitical uncertainty, technological disruption, and climate imperatives. Their democratic values and leadership provide a reassuring beacon in these uncertain times.

## Trade: The economic backbone of a strategic vision

Trade forms the bedrock of the bilateral relationship, with two-way goods and services trade reaching a record \$190 billion in 2023, a dramatic rise from \$36 billion just two decades ago and targeting \$500 billion by 2030; this partnership now anchors 21st-century geopolitics through three transformative pillars: economic codependence, defense-industrial integration, and technological co-creation. This surge is not merely a reflection of economic interdependence but of strategic convergence.

U.S. companies view India as a reliable partner and an alternative to China in the global value chain. India has streamlined investment norms, introduced production-linked incentives, and established special economic zones to attract American capital.

The U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum has become instrumental in resolving market access issues, aligning standards, and supporting digital trade. Meanwhile, growing collaboration in e-commerce, logistics, and digital payments points to the depth of economic synergy.

## Technology: Forging the future together

Technology collaboration has emerged as a cornerstone of the partnership, accelerated by the 2022 launch of the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). This bilateral initiative covers frontier domains such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and 5G/6G infrastructure.

India's \$10 billion Production-Linked



Incentive (PLI) scheme in semiconductors has already attracted major U.S. players like Micron, which is investing \$2.75 billion in a chip assembly and testing plant in Gujarat. Similarly, joint research initiatives between the U.S. National Science Foundation and India's Department of Science and Technology channel over \$50 million into collaborative innovation in AI and quantum sciences.

In space, NASA and ISRO are co-developing the NISAR satellite, a landmark mission to monitor Earth's ecosystem and climate. Meanwhile, the two countries have transitioned from dialogue to joint operations in cybersecurity, sharing threat intelligence and fortifying digital infrastructure.

## Health: Building resilience through collaboration

The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a crucible for Indo-U.S. cooperation in healthcare. It catalyzed new engagement models across public health, biotechnology, telemedicine, and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Agreements now support U.S. investment in India's pharmaceutical sector, particularly API (active pharmaceutical ingredient) production, to reduce overdependence on Chinese suppliers.

Hackensack Meridian Health's partnership with Apollo Hospitals, for instance, is paving the way for collaborative telehealth solutions, clinical research, and workforce training. American regulatory expertise and technology and India's cost-effective scalability create a symbiotic advantage.

Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA), a physician and senior House Foreign Affairs Committee member, aptly remarked, "The future of global health security depends on robust U.S.-India cooperation, from vaccine development to digital health platforms."

## Clean energy: The green alliance

Few areas exemplify the forward-looking nature of the India-U.S. partnership more than clean energy. Under the U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership, both nations have committed to an ambitious roadmap involving green hydrogen, solar energy,

and grid modernization.

India's \$2 billion National Green Hydrogen Mission has created fertile ground for U.S. companies like Cummins and Plug Power to develop hydrogen electrolyzers and fuel cell technologies with Indian partners. American firms are also investing in solar manufacturing; First Solar is constructing a \$700 million plant in Tamil Nadu with sustainable, low-carbon processes.

USAID and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have pledged over \$1 billion in clean energy investments to support rural electrification, electric vehicle infrastructure, and climate-smart urban planning.

## Defense: Co-developing security for a shared future

From being arms buyers and sellers, India and the U.S. are now co-developers and co-producers in defense. The defense trade has surpassed \$25 billion, complemented by deep interoperability and joint exercises.

The 2023 establishment of INDUS-X—a defense innovation bridge between India's iDEX and America's DIU—fosters joint R&D in battlefield AI, drones, and secure communications. The agreement between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. to co-produce GE F414 jet engines in India is emblematic of this new era.

Joint military drills like Yudh Abhyas and Malabar have built trust and interoperability, while logistics pacts like LEMOA and BECA allow seamless operational coordination. India's entry into the Combined Maritime Forces and enhanced Quad engagement further underscore its emergence as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific.

## Strategic realignment: A shared vision in a multipolar world

Strategically, the partnership helps both nations diversify away from China-centric dependencies. India benefits from technology transfer, enhanced global standing, and market access. The U.S. gains a stable partner in Asia, a counterweight to Beijing's

assertiveness, and access to a large, innovation-driven market.

By investing in semiconductor supply chains, vaccine manufacturing, and cybersecurity, the two countries are building parallel economic and technological resilience architectures. This alignment is not aimed at containment but at creating an open, rules-based international order.

## Navigating the challenges

Despite robust momentum, the road is not without hurdles. Regulatory bottlenecks, inconsistent intellectual property frameworks, and digital data localization norms pose persistent challenges. Bureaucratic inertia on both sides can slow execution.

Yet both governments are working to address these frictions. High-level dialogues are tackling standards harmonization, investment facilitation, and export controls. The private sector, particularly in tech and clean energy, is proving to be a catalyst for acceleration.

## Voices from the Ecosystem

Industry leaders are optimistic. A senior executive at a leading U.S. semiconductor firm commented, "This is no longer about just entering markets; it's about building the future together." Indian entrepreneurs echo this sentiment. "Partnerships with American firms have helped us scale globally while maintaining our innovation edge," said the CEO of a Bengaluru-based energy startup.

Defense officials stress strategic trust. "We are building interoperability, not just in weapons but in doctrine and mindset," notes a retired Indian admiral. That's what true partnership looks like.

## A defining axis for the century

President Joe Biden put it succinctly during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2023 visit: "The partnership between India and the United States is among the most consequential in the world."

Indeed, this partnership is no longer a matter of choice; it is a necessity dictated by the imperatives of our time. It embodies a shared vision of prosperity, peace, and progress for the Indo-Pacific and the global community.

The India-U.S. strategic partnership is not merely a bilateral arrangement but a global blueprint for democratic collaboration in an age of polycrisis. As Washington and New Delhi work hand-in-hand to shape the new world order, this partnership will continue to serve as a beacon of hope, resilience, and innovation.

In an increasingly complex world, the arc between India and the United States may well define the trajectory of the 21st century.



# Uniform Penalty-Free Withdrawals -72T/SEPP

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

**S**ome people hesitate to contribute to IRA, 401k, 403b because they fear that the money would be locked up until retirement. While the retirement money shouldn't be tapped for ordinary expenses, or kids' college education, there are ways to tap retirement money without penalties (but there is no escape from taxes).

Roth IRA contributions can be withdrawn without penalty (or tax) anytime. And Roth IRA can be used for any purpose in retirement.

Specific 401k/403b can be tapped early & penalty-free if the associated job loss is between the age 55-59.5, while the IRAs cannot be. So, don't rush into rolling over 401k/403b into IRA after job loss.

Use 529 or loans for kids' education. Remember that you can get loans for kids' education, but nobody will loan you money for your retirement.

Now the topic of this article. An important exception for penalty-free early withdrawals (before age 59.5) from tax-deferred/ free retirement accounts is the uniform withdrawal method, called the 72T/SEPP exception. These withdrawals are taxable.

SEPP = Substantially Equal Periodic Payments; 72T refers to the IRS code section.

Withdrawing uniform amounts (monthly, quarterly or annual) must be based on a "reasonable" interest rate over the "life-expectancy"; IRS provides guidelines, but the overall rules are complex.



Once started, these withdrawals cannot be stopped until the later of (i) 5 years or (ii) age 59.5 even if at some point you don't need these taxable payments. Keep this in mind if you are considering 72T at an early age. A violation (e.g. early stoppage) will cause a 10% penalty on all your SEPP payments, past & current. You may want to use broker's or fund firm's AWP (automatic withdrawal plan) or SWP (systematic withdrawal plan) to avoid mistakes of missing the SEPP payments & triggering the early stoppage penalty.

There have been some recent changes in these rules. First, after the modification of the RMD tables (effective 1/1/22), the IRS has also modified other life-expectancy

tables. This is a slight negative for 72T as the new life-expectancies are a bit higher & that will reduce the withdrawal amounts slightly. Another more significant change is in the "reasonable" interest rate - it can be higher of (i) 120% of the federal midterm rate or (ii) 5% (so, the rate floor is 5%). This rate modification was to account for rather low current rates during the ZIRP era & will significantly increase the withdrawal amounts.

SECURE 2.0 has also modified some rules about transfers & rollovers. For example, one old rule prohibited transfer & rollover to or from an account running a 72T program unless the entire balance was rolled over or transferred to a new account.

Secure 2.0 repealed that limitation for rollovers & transfers made after 2023—including partial transfers & rollovers—provided the total annual payments equal the amount initially established under the program.

Lifetime Annuitization may count as 72T exception depending on circumstances. The IRS allows 3 methods that include an "Annuitization Method" - it requires the use of a reasonable interest rate for uniform distributions over life-expectancy; there are also restrictions on when such a program can be terminated & other restrictions on the account running the 72T-SEPP. Slightly different rules apply for qualified (401k/403b) & nonqualified (IRAs) accounts. To avoid problems, complete the 72T-SEPP (before 59.5) as required & then, if desired, buy lifetime income annuity at the end of the 72T program. A later start for lifetime annuitization (in 60s or 70s) may be better anyway.

For simplicity, the IRA owners & plan participants should keep 72T account balances segregated from other amounts. Doing so will help to maintain the integrity of the program & avoid any risk of breaking any of the rules—particularly failing to withdraw no less or more than the payment amounts due for a year. The IRA holder must keep good, detailed records & the IRS Form 5329 may have to be filed for penalty waiver. The IRA sponsor may treat this as any other systematic withdrawal program with all the flexibilities, so the onus is on the IRA owner/holder to follow all the 72T-SEPP rules.

*For more information, see [ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/](http://ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/)*







# Summer glow-up: Easy beauty hacks to beat the heat

**A**s the days stretch longer and the sun shines brighter, summer brings with it both golden light and golden challenges—especially for your beauty routine. Rising temperatures, increased humidity, and relentless UV rays can wreak havoc on skin, hair, and makeup. But with a few seasonal hacks, you can stay fresh-faced, glowing, and effortlessly put-together from sunrise to sunset.

## 1. Switch to lightweight, multitasking products

When it comes to summer beauty, less is definitely more. Trade heavy foundations for tinted moisturizers or BB creams with SPF. These hybrid products even out skin tone, hydrate, and provide sun protection—all in one step. For oily or combination skin, consider formulas with a matte finish or ingredients like niacinamide that help balance sebum production.

## 2. Keep your skincare chilled

Store your toner, aloe vera gel, or face

mist in the fridge for a refreshing, inflammation-reducing boost. A cool spritz of rose water not only hydrates

but also revives tired, overheated skin during midday. Even under-eye patches and jade rollers offer de-puffing benefits when used cold.

## 3. Blotting papers are your best friend

Humidity can turn even the most matte makeup into a melting mess. Instead of layering on powder, gently blot excess oil with blotting sheets to avoid clogging pores and caking. For a DIY solution, tissue paper or coffee filters can work in a pinch.

## 4. Braid your way to beachy hair

Skip the hot tools and embrace heatless hairstyles. Lightly dampen your hair and braid it before bed for natural, frizz-free waves in the morning.

Use a lightweight leave-in conditioner

or coconut milk spray to tame flyaways and add shine.

## 5. SPF: Your ultimate beauty essential

No hack is more important than sunscreen. Use a broad-spectrum SPF 30 or higher daily—even when it's cloudy. Don't forget overlooked areas like ears, neck, and the tops of your feet. For makeup lovers, powder or spray SPF formulas make touch-ups easy without disrupting your look.

## 6. Ice cubes for instant skin refresh

A quick facial ice cube massage can tighten pores, reduce redness, and give your skin an instant glow. Add green tea, cucumber juice, or rose water to your ice tray for added benefits.

## 7. Waterproof and smudge-proof everything

Sweat and swim-safe products are key during summer. Look for waterproof mascaras, smudge-proof eyeliners, and long-lasting lip tints. Bonus hack: use a tinted balm with SPF to keep lips protected and pretty.

## 8. Hydrate inside and out

Drink more water than you think you need—especially after time outdoors. For a skin-boosting twist, infuse your water with mint, lemon, or cucumber. On the outside, swap thick creams for hydrating gels and serums with hyaluronic acid for lightweight moisture.

## Final thoughts: Less polish, more radiance

Summer is the perfect time to let your natural beauty shine. With the right hacks and a touch of seasonal self-care, you can beat the heat and glow with confidence. So stash your essentials, sip your infused water, and head out into the sunshine—your best summer skin awaits.



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# Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

By: Dr. Avi Verma

**1. Location:** Our study centre is based on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, but there is no requirement to travel there. The administrative office is in Winnipeg, Canada.

## 2. Program Structure & Exams:

- ▶ **Preclinical Phase (Years 1 & 2):** Fully online, divided into 11 study blocks. The first block is 12 weeks, the rest are 8 weeks each. After completion, students take the IUHS Exit Exam, and U.S. students also prepare for Step 1.
- ▶ **Clinical Phase (Years 3 & 4):** 80 weeks of rotations—48 weeks core, 32 weeks electives. Students then take the IUHS Exit Exam 2 and officially graduate. U.S. students also take Step 2 before graduation.

## 3. Assessments:

- ▶ End-of-block graded exams
- ▶ DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments • Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify knowledge gaps
- ▶ Lectorio self-assessments which are

mandatory but not graded

## 4. Teaching methods:

- ▶ **Systems-based learning:** Integrates anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology within each body system.
- ▶ **Problem-based learning:** Encourages critical thinking and challenges students to draw on all the knowledge they have acquired as they would in a real-life scenario when treating a patient.
- ▶ **Spaced repetition:** Reinforces knowledge through periodic review, enhancing long-term retention.

## 5. Clinical rotations:

- ▶ U.S. students can complete all rotations at the main affiliated hospital in

# IUHS School of Medicine

Chicago, Illinois with additional sites in Texas, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona (subject to availability). Clinical rotation preparation starts around Block 8.

- ▶ Australian students have a dedicated clinical director assisting them with the arrangements for clinical placements.

**6. DxR Clinician:** is a medical education software designed to help students develop clinical reasoning and diagnostic skills. It provides virtual patient cases that simulate real-life medical scenarios, allowing students to practice taking patient histories, ordering diagnostic tests, making differential diagnoses, and developing treatment plans.

## Key Features:

- ▶ Interactive case-based learning with simulated patient encounters
- ▶ Clinical reasoning training to improve diagnostic accuracy
- ▶ Access to medical history, physical exams, and lab results
- ▶ Immediate feedback on decision-making and reasoning DxR Clinician is integrated into IUHS's problem-based learning (PBL) and case-based learning (CBL) curricula to enhance students' ability to apply medical knowledge in real world scenarios.

**7. Live lectures:** Learn from top-tier professors who also teach at prestigious universities through live, interactive lectures. Sessions are scheduled on weekdays, and if you miss one, you can easily catch up with recorded lectures available in the virtual library at your convenience.

**8. Question and Concept Sessions:** In addition to live lectures, students can participate in weekly live Q&C sessions with the academic advisor for their current block of study. These sessions provide valuable support for students studying from home, fostering engagement with both peers and faculty.

**9. Lectorio:** is a digital learning platform providing medical education resources. It offers a comprehensive, AI-driven learning system designed to support medical education through high-quality video lectures, question banks, and advanced learning tools.

## Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.
- ▶ High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- ▶ AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- ▶ Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- ▶ Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

Lectorio supplements the education delivered, improves student performance, and provide flexible, self-paced learning opportunities.

**10. Mentorship:** IUHS integrates the Integrated Clinical Medicine program into the preclinical years of the MD curriculum, allowing students to gain early exposure to clinical settings. This hands-on experience gives IUHS students a competitive edge over their peers from other universities.

IUHS students become comfortable and confident in a clinical environment before starting clinical rotations having developed the necessary clinical skills. Working alongside a local physician mentor, each student spends 20 hours per month shadowing and discussing cases with their mentor, a doctor from their own community. Under the guidance of IUHS's clinical director, students select a mentor who fits their needs and location. This early integration of clinical skills enhances learning, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and making the transition to full-time clinical training more seamless and rewarding.

**11. Get in Touch:** You can ask me anything about IUHS if you still have more questions!

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# Scientists' breakthrough in bowel cancer offers hope for future treatments

By: Dr. Avi Verma

## 'Shapeshifting' cells could be the missing link in aggressive cancer spread

A new discovery about how bowel cancer cells behave could prove crucial in the ongoing battle against one of the most prevalent cancers in the world. Researchers from the Cancer Research UK Scotland Centre and the University of Edinburgh have identified a phenomenon known as "cellular plasticity" as a major factor in how some bowel cancers spread aggressively.

Bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In the United States alone, the American Cancer Society estimates approximately 152,000 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in 2025, with a rising number of patients under 50.

The study, recently published in the journal Nature, explains that some cancer cells can "shapeshift"—losing their original identity and taking on the characteristics of other types of cells, particularly squamous cells, which are commonly found in the skin and muscle.

### Why 'cellular plasticity' matters

The researchers found that in the most aggressive cases of bowel cancer, tumor cells lose their colonic identity and begin to resemble squamous cells. These cells are tougher, more resilient, and better able to spread to other organs such as the liver, lymph nodes, and diaphragm.

### Lead investigator Dr. Patrizia Cammareri explained:

"Skin cells can tolerate much harsher day-to-day conditions due to their external position. Bowel cancer cells



may be mimicking them to become more robust and invasive."

One of the genetic clues identified in this process is the absence of the ATRX gene. This gene is already known to be associated with higher cancer risk, but researchers now believe it may also encourage this shapeshifting behavior in tumor cells.

### Implications for future treatment

Although this discovery does not

directly translate into a new treatment yet, it represents a major step forward in understanding the mechanisms of metastasis—the process by which cancer spreads from one part of the body to another.

### Dr. Kevin Myant, co-author of the study, remarked:

"With more and more younger people being diagnosed with bowel cancer, it's vital we understand how this disease grows and spreads. This finding could

be pivotal in stopping aggressive cancer from advancing and improving patient outcomes."

Research suggests that therapies targeting cellular plasticity may help prevent cancer from becoming metastatic, potentially improving survival rates.

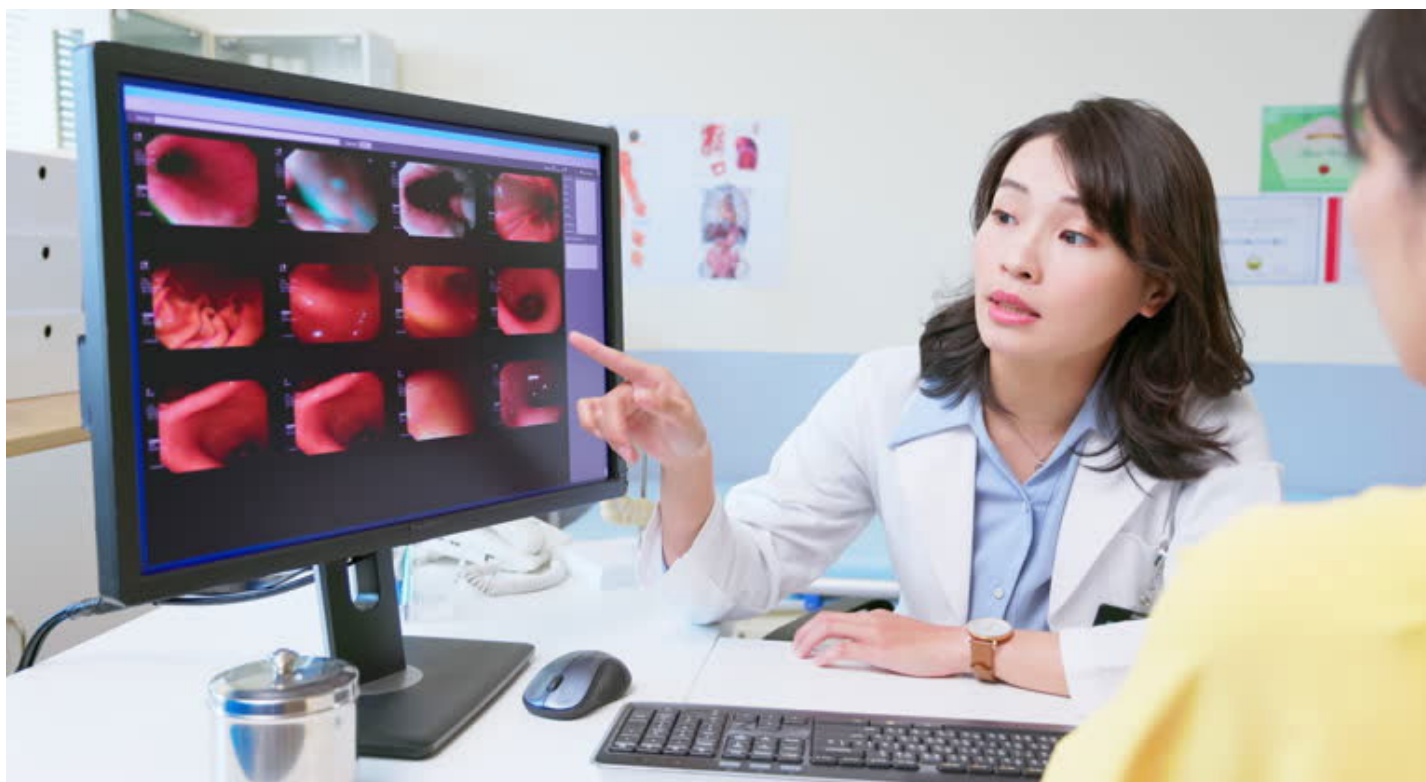
### Global context and rising concern

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer globally, with over 1.9 million new cases diagnosed in 2020, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A troubling trend has been the rising incidence among adults under 50, often presenting at later stages and with more aggressive forms.

Early detection remains critical. Regular screening, especially for individuals over 45 or with a family history of colorectal cancer, is key to reducing mortality.

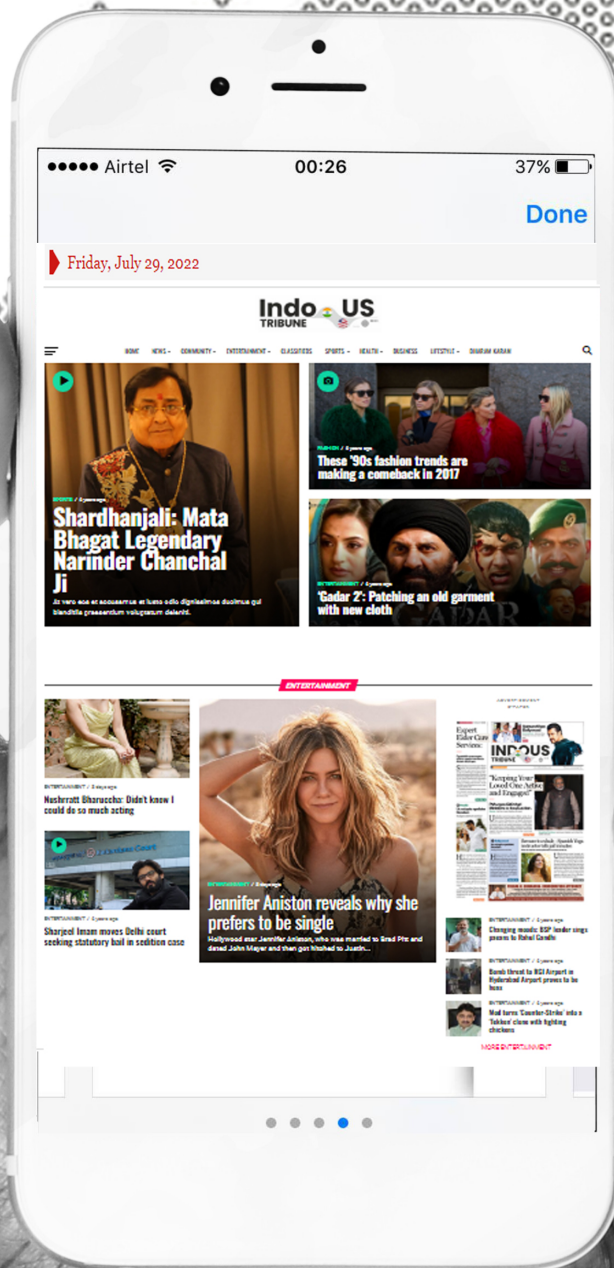
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