

India warns NATO chief against 'double standards' over Russia trade sanctions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has strongly pushed back against NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte’s recent remarks suggesting sanctions on countries trading with Russia, cautioning against “double standards.” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal asserted that India’s energy needs are paramount and guided by market availability.

Rutte, during a visit to Washington, warned that countries like India, China, and Brazil could face secondary sanctions if Russia fails to engage in peace talks over Ukraine. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri emphasized that India sources oil from 40 countries and is not overly concerned about such threats.

Puri underscored that India’s crude purchases from Russia have helped stabilize global prices, preventing costs from spiking to \$130 per barrel after the Ukraine war began. He noted Russian crude is under a price cap but not formal sanctions, and India adheres to global norms.

The warning from India follows President Donald Trump’s announcement of a 100 percent tariff on Russian exports and possible secondary sanctions on countries that continue Russian oil trade unless a peace deal is reached within 50 days.

Two Hindu girls abducted in Pakistan spark outrage over minority rights



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Hindu girls in Pakistan’s Sindh province have become the focus of growing concerns over minority rights violations. On June 23, 15-year-old Shaneela Meghwar was abducted at gunpoint from her home in Badin district. Despite police registering a First Information Report under public pressure, the main accused remains unnamed, prompting fears of a cover-up.

Minority rights group VOPM says Shaneela may have been forcibly converted and married. Separately, 14-year-old Kamla Kolhi, abducted three months ago, was handed over by a local court to her alleged abductor, despite clear evidence of her age. Rights activists criticized the court’s decision, calling it a violation of Pakistan’s child marriage laws and a systemic failure to protect minority girls.

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Jaishankar hails US designation of TRF as boost to counter-terrorism cooperation

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India’s External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on Friday welcomed Washington’s designation of The Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) proxy, as both a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). Calling it “a strong affirmation of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation,” Jaishankar thanked U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio for the decision, which follows TRF’s claim of responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local guide.

Rubio said the designation reinforces the Trump administration’s commitment to defending national security and ensuring accountability for the deadliest terror strike in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The move will block TRF’s access to global financial networks, increase scrutiny of its



operatives, and step up pressure on Pakistan-based terror groups. India has long urged international recognition of TRF’s role in cross-border violence.

The announcement comes amid

global condemnation of the Pahalgam attack, including a statement by the United Nations Security Council calling for justice against its perpetrators and sponsors, reinforcing a zero-tolerance stance against terrorism.

Pilot error suspected in Air India crash that killed 260 people, report says



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. officials suspect that the captain of the Air India flight that crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad on July 12 may have mistakenly shut off the fuel supply, according to The Wall Street Journal. All 260 people onboard were killed.

A preliminary report from Indian authorities revealed that both fuel cutoff switches were flipped from “RUN” to “CUTOFF” within seconds of takeoff.

Cockpit voice recordings captured one pilot questioning the other about the action, with the second denying responsibility.

Sources familiar with the investigation

say the captain may have shut off the fuel inadvertently and turned it back on 10 seconds later—too late to save the flight.

The aircraft, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed near Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

The Federation of Indian Pilots pushed back on the WSJ account, arguing that the preliminary report does not definitively state who flipped the switches and urging patience until the final investigation is complete.

Air India has begun precautionary checks on all its Boeing 787s. No mechanical faults have been found with the fuel switch locking systems, according to the airline.

Trump demands release of Epstein grand jury records amid scandal over birthday note



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has ordered Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek the release of sealed grand jury testimony in Jeffrey Epstein’s sex-trafficking case. The directive came shortly after The Wall Street Journal published a report alleging that Trump contributed a sexually suggestive note, including a drawing of a naked woman, to Epstein’s 50th birthday album in 2003.

The note, allegedly signed with a stylized “Donald” under the drawing’s waistline, concluded: “Happy Birthday — and may every day be another wonderful secret.” Trump has denied writing the letter and called the story part of an “Epstein Hoax.” He announced his intention to sue The Wall Street Journal, Rupert Murdoch, and News Corp for defamation. The album was compiled by Ghislaine Maxwell and included greetings from various Epstein associates, including Les Wexner and Alan Dershowitz. Trump reportedly attempted to prevent publication by contacting WSJ leadership directly. While Trump praised Epstein in a 2002 magazine profile, calling him a “terrific guy,” he has recently distanced himself from the disgraced financier. The White House has pushed back hard against the report, demanding the letter’s release and calling on the Justice Department to unseal related records.

Russia calls EU's new sanctions package 'illegal'



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Moscow has rejected the European Union's (EU) newly approved 18th sanctions package, calling the measures unlawful and pledging to limit their effect. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia would review the sanctions, which target its financial, energy, and military sectors, including an oil price cap that sets Russian crude exports to third countries 15 percent below market rates. Peskov asserted that Russia has developed "a certain immunity" to repeated Western restrictions and adapted to operating under them.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the sanctions aim to strike "at the heart of Russia's war machine," while Vice-President Kaja Kallas called them the EU's strongest package yet, adding that they target 105 shadow fleet ships, Russian banks, military-linked technology, and Rosneft's largest Indian refinery. The measures follow President Vladimir Putin's refusal of an unconditional ceasefire.

Shubhanshu Shukla in stable condition after space return, says ISRO



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has confirmed that astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is in stable condition after returning from the International Space Station (ISS). Shukla, who flew as part of Axiom Space's AX-4 mission, is undergoing a week-long medical and psychological rehabilitation program in Houston, USA.

According to ISRO, no health concerns have been reported so far. The Indian Air Force officer reunited with his family shortly after returning to Earth, describing the moment as "magical."

He spoke about the mental challenge of being away from his young son during the 18-day mission. Shukla's historic spaceflight marks a significant milestone for India's ambitions in human spaceflight and international collaboration.

Trump warns of 100 percent secondary tariffs on Russian energy buyers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday warned of imposing a 100 percent secondary tariff on countries that continue importing oil, gas, and uranium from Russia if Moscow fails to agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine within 50 days. Standing alongside NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte at the White House, Trump said the measure aims to drain funds for Russia's war machine by targeting its energy revenue and pressuring major buyers, including China and India, to cut purchases.

"We're very, very unhappy with them, and we're going to be doing very severe tariffs," he told reporters, adding that he also supports a pending congressional proposal for a 500 percent tariff on Russian energy exports. Trump said he could enact the punitive duties through executive authority if necessary.



He stressed that the sanctions are designed to push Moscow toward negotiations, while the U.S. continues supplying Ukraine with Patriot missiles and other weaponry. India has defended its Russian energy imports

as essential for economic stability and moderating global oil prices, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar previously warning that curbs could push prices above \$200 per barrel.

Israeli airstrike escalates Syrian sectarian violence as Druze-Bedouin clashes intensify

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel launched an airstrike near the Syrian city of Sweida on Thursday, escalating ongoing sectarian clashes between Druze militias and Arab Bedouin fighters. The violence erupted earlier in the week after Syrian government forces withdrew from Sweida, creating a power vacuum in the southern province. Druze militias, asserting autonomy, reportedly launched retaliatory attacks on Bedouin villages, leading to civilian deaths and widespread displacement. According to Syrian media, some villages were set ablaze. One Druze spiritual leader called for peace, while others demanded retribution.

The Israeli military, which also struck Damascus earlier this week, said its latest attack was a warning to Syria's leadership. The conflict is the most serious challenge to Damascus's authority since March, when 1,500



people were killed in the north.

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa condemned the Israeli strikes and said foreign mediation—especially from the U.S., Turkey, and Arab nations—had averted a wider war. The United Nations Security Council is expected to meet to address the crisis. Druze leaders remain divided on how to engage with the new Syrian state. The clashes have also strained Israel-Syria diplomatic talks, with Israeli Druze communities expressing outrage over the unfolding violence.

Jaishankar, Xi discuss stabilizing India-China ties at SCO meeting



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing earlier this week, discussing the state of India-China relations amid a push for broader engagement between the two Asian giants. Conveying greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaishankar highlighted the importance of high-level guidance for navigating bilateral challenges. The meeting took place as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers' collective call on Xi, with Jaishankar in China for his first visit since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.

Over two days, Jaishankar held talks with senior Chinese leaders, including Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Vice President Han Zheng, and International Department Minister Liu Jianchao, focusing on resolving border issues, easing trade restrictions, and expanding people-to-people ties. He underscored that "mutual respect, interest, and sensitivity" are key to shaping a constructive relationship. Marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, both sides welcomed the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. India's intensified participation in SCO activities, including defense and security dialogues, comes ahead of the bloc's 25th Heads of State Council meeting later this year in Tianjin.

Iraq mourns 50 killed in massive hypermarket fire

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Around 50 people, including children, died in a massive fire at the Corniche Hypermarket in Kut, Iraq's Wasit province. Governor Mohammed Jamil Al-Mayahi declared three days of mourning and promised accountability, saying authorities have taken legal action against the mall owners and others involved.

Emergency teams rescued several people trapped in the five-story building, while civil defense units battled the blaze through the night. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Social media footage showed flames engulfing the structure as rescue efforts continued. Al-Mayahi vowed not to spare anyone responsible, and preliminary findings are expected within 48 hours.



Lula warns against US interference amid tariff and tech row



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has strongly rejected foreign interference following rising tensions with the United States over new import tariffs and digital regulations. Speaking at a student congress in Goiania, Lula stated, “No foreigner gives orders to the president of Brazil,” stressing national sovereignty.

He announced that U.S.-based tech companies must comply with Brazilian laws and pay taxes, accusing them of spreading disinformation.

Meanwhile, Brazil has formally protested Washington’s decision to impose a 50% tariff on Brazilian exports starting August 1. In a letter to U.S. officials, Brazilian ministers expressed “indignation,” warning of economic fallout. Lula dismissed claims that the tariffs were connected to former President Jair Bolsonaro’s prosecution.

South Korea, US and Japan pledge stronger deterrence against North Korea



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior diplomats from South Korea, the United States, and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to strong deterrence against North Korea’s nuclear threats during trilateral talks in Tokyo, South Korea’s foreign ministry reported. South Korea’s First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo, US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau, and Japan’s Vice Foreign Minister Takehiro Funakoshi agreed to strengthen security cooperation amid regional tensions.

They also pledged to expand economic security collaboration, focusing on critical minerals, supply chains, and artificial intelligence, and to maintain regular high-level dialogue through their trilateral partnership framework. Park shared Seoul’s plans to ease tensions and resume talks with Pyongyang under the Lee Jae Myung administration. In a bilateral meeting, Park and Funakoshi stressed enhancing South Korea-Japan relations based on mutual trust and closer policy coordination.

Iceland to begin defense partnership talks with EU by year-end

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen confirmed this week that the European Union will start negotiations on a security and defense partnership with Iceland, independent of the country’s NATO membership and its defense agreements with the United States.

Speaking in Keflavík after talks with Icelandic Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir, von der Leyen said cooperation will focus on hybrid threat response, civil protection, secure communications, and investment in critical infrastructure.

Frostadóttir expressed hope the talks would conclude by late 2025, citing Iceland’s need to strengthen cyber resilience and dual-use defense capabilities.

The agreement will give Iceland access to the EU’s SAFE project, which



invests about \$163 billion annually in security. Von der Leyen noted eight non-EU allies, including Norway, the United Kingdom, and Canada, already

participate. Frostadóttir also announced a comprehensive review of Iceland’s trade relations with the EU, ahead of a planned 2027 referendum on EU membership.

Europe warns Iran of UN sanctions if nuclear talks stall

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain, France, Germany, and the European Union warned Iran that United Nations sanctions would be reimposed under the “snapback” mechanism if no progress is made on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal by late summer. They urged Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to return to talks swiftly to secure a verifiable, long-term agreement. Concerns have mounted since Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June disrupted negotiations. Under the deal, sanctions can be reinstated if Tehran fails to comply.

Mediated U.S.-Iran discussions broke down following the attacks, but both sides have since indicated readiness to resume



talks, while Iran insists on its right to peaceful nuclear energy. The agreement expires in October.

India sends 300,000 measles and rubella vaccines to Bolivia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has sent 300,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines to Bolivia in a show of solidarity with the Global South amid a national health emergency there. The consignment, announced by the Ministry of External Affairs, also includes ancillary medical supplies. Bolivia has reported 119 confirmed measles cases, most concentrated in the Santa Cruz region.

The aid follows a recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bolivian President Luis Arce at the BRICS Summit in Brazil, where both leaders reviewed cooperation in health, technology, and trade. India and Bolivia maintain cordial ties, with previous Indian medical assistance sent in 2020. This vaccine delivery underscores India’s growing role in global health diplomacy.

France ends military presence in Senegal amid waning influence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France has completed its military withdrawal from Senegal, ending a decades-long troop presence and signaling a broader decline in its influence in West Africa. About 350 troops departed Camp Geille and a nearby air facility in Dakar after Senegal’s new government demanded the closure, citing sovereignty concerns.

French military chief General Pascal Ianni said the handover reflected a “new phase” in bilateral defense ties. Senegal’s armed forces chief General Mbaye Cissé said the move would strengthen national autonomy and regional security.

France has been under mounting pressure from African leaders critical of its



colonial legacy. French forces had been in Senegal since independence in 1960 under longstanding military agreements.

Torrential rains devastate South Korea, leaving four dead and thousands displaced

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three days of heavy rainfall across South Korea have killed four people, left two missing, and displaced over 5,600 residents, officials said Friday. Record downpours in South Chungcheong Province and Gwangju triggered flash floods and landslides. Most fatalities occurred in South Chungcheong, including victims trapped in a flooded car, a collapsed wall, a basement, and a stream. Rescuers are searching for two people swept away in Gwangju, where rainfall topped 400 millimeters. President Lee Jae Myung raised the disaster alert to its highest level and ordered ministries to use “every available resource” to prevent further damage. Authorities reported more than 900 property damage cases, transport disruptions, and power outages. Additional rain of 100–300 millimeters is expected in southern and central regions, with warnings of further flooding and landslides.

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Chicago Office:

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marketing@indoustribune.com

PUBLISHER

Dr. (H) Avi Verma

publisher@indoustribune.com

(773) 866-1222

Editor

Nikita Sharma

editor@indoustribune.com

Graphics & Web Development

Sunil Panchal

graphics@indoustribune.com

Board of Advisors

Rakesh Malhotra

Ramesh Soparwala

Madhu Patel

Vandana Jhingan

Neelam Verma

Legal Advisors

Seth Kebron

Ankush Ansal

Special Contributor

Rajesh Ansal

Special Correspondent

Sunita Verma

Social Media

Pooja Singh

Chicago Office:

Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Surrey Canada Office

surrey@indoustribune.com

San Jose Office

sanjose@indoustribune.com

Delhi Office:

delhi@indoustribune.com

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BOOK

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marketing@indoustribune.com

At the crossroads of power

Trump’s wins, Musk’s moves & the Epstein storm



Dr. Avi Verma

A season of wins—or warning signs?

The summer of 2025 has delivered a double dose of momentum for Donald Trump and the Republican establishment. From the triumphantly titled “One Big Beautiful Bill” to the swift passage of a \$9 billion Senate package aimed at border defense, infrastructure, and AI tech supremacy, Trump’s legislative machine is in overdrive.

But do these wins guarantee political safety—or do they foreshadow a deeper reckoning in November?

The Big Beautiful Bill: MAGA economics, rebranded

Signed into law on July 1, 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill is Trump’s economic crown jewel. It makes the 2017 tax cuts permanent, creates a “Trump Account” for every American newborn (\$1,000 per child), and boosts funding for ICE and defense. But the bill also slashes support for Medicaid, SNAP, clean-energy programs, and student loan aid—reigniting fears of a regressive social impact.

While the bill boosts businesses, wealthy Americans, and MAGA-aligned sectors like defense and fossil fuels, it cuts essential services for the poor and middle class. The long-term economic inequality it may foster could backfire politically, especially in swing districts.

The \$9 billion Senate bill: Border & tech focus

Shortly after passing the Big Bill, the Republican-controlled Senate fast-tracked a \$9 billion legislative package that includes billions in funding for AI tech, chip manufacturing, border security, fossil fuel exploration, and rural hospital bailouts—primarily in red states.

The bill appeals to national security hawks and rural communities but alienates environmental advocates, urban infrastructure needs, and progressive constituencies. Its emphasis on defense and surveillance over social spending may mobilize opposition among younger and diverse voters.

Can Trump survive the Epstein fallout?

The unsealing of more Jeffrey Epstein court documents, some allegedly implicating donors and known political insiders like Pam Bondi, has rattled public trust. Trump has labeled it a “deep-state deflection campaign,” but MAGA loyalists are questioning why names are being buried.

If the story grows legs, it could peel away younger and independent voters, especially libertarians who were already skeptical of government secrecy. Trump’s deflection strategy might not withstand the drip-drip

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TRUMP ACCOUNT” FOR EVERY AMERICAN NEWBORN (\$1,000 PER CHILD), AND BOOSTS FUNDING FOR ICE AND DEFENSE. BUT THE BILL ALSO SLASHES SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID, SNAP, CLEAN-ENERGY PROGRAMS, AND STUDENT LOAN AID—REIGNITING FEARS OF A REGRESSIVE SOCIAL IMPACT

of media scrutiny.

Elon Musk’s “America Party”: Spoiler or savior?

Billionaire Elon Musk’s “America Party” is polling between 5% and 14% across states. His platform—pro-free speech, pro-nuclear, AI-verified governance—has appeal with disenchanted libertarians, Silicon Valley independents, and even former MAGA voters.

While not expected to win seats, Musk’s party could become a spoiler, splitting the right-wing and anti-establishment vote. Even a few percentage points in key states could flip House or Senate control—likely benefitting Democrats.

Trump ascendant, but unstable

Trump’s current legislative victories energize his base and show strong internal GOP control. But the social spending cuts, new competition from Musk’s movement, and the unpredictable fallout from the Epstein files make the 2025 midterms anything but certain. This is a moment of strength for Trump—but also of deep political risk.

Trump has the headlines, the bills, and the base. But he also faces emerging fractures on the right, mounting legal distractions, and growing economic backlash from the very Americans he seeks to energize. As we head toward November, expect a volatile political climate—where momentum may not guarantee victory, and loyalty may not guarantee silence.

Dr. Avi Verma is the Publisher of IndoUS Tribune. The views expressed are editorial reflections based on verified sources and political developments

Best Regards,

Dr. Avi Verma.

Publisher,

IndoUS Tribune



Trump administration advances plan to reopen Alcatraz as federal prison



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Attorney General Pam Bondi toured Alcatraz Island this week alongside Interior Secretary Doug Burgum as part of President Donald Trump’s initiative to restore the historic site to a maximum-security federal prison. Once famed for housing Al Capone, the facility closed in 1963 due to high costs and now attracts 1.6 million annual visitors, generating about \$60 million for San Francisco. Trump says the rebuilt prison would hold “America’s most ruthless offenders,” but critics, including Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie, call the plan wasteful and harmful to the city’s economy. Restoring Alcatraz could require hundreds of millions in upfront costs and up to \$100 million yearly to operate. The Justice Department says agencies are developing plans to rehabilitate the site, last used as a prison in 1963.

Lavrov ends North Korea visit with pledge of closer military ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov concluded a three-day visit to Wonsan, North Korea, on Sunday, meeting leader Kim Jong-un, who reaffirmed “unconditional” support for Russia’s war in Ukraine. Lavrov and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui agreed to strengthen relations under a mutual defense treaty.

North Korea has supplied Russia with more than 12 million artillery shells and 28,000 containers of weapons since October 2023, with additional troop deployments expected by August. Experts say the visit also aimed to promote Wonsan’s new tourist zone to Russian visitors. Lavrov left for China to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organization ministerial meeting.

Canada urges stability and clarity in G20 amid rising tariffs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At the G20 finance ministers’ meeting near Durban on July 17, Canada’s Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne warned that major economies must not allow uncertainty to become the “new norm” as global trade faces escalating tariffs and restrictions. The meeting, overshadowed by President Donald Trump’s new tariff measures and the absence of U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, struggled to finalize a communique. Champagne said uncertainty dominated discussions



and urged a collective focus on restoring investor and consumer confidence. He emphasized the importance of stability, predictability, and rule of law in attracting investment, highlighting Africa’s \$3.4 trillion economy and its young population as key opportunities. Champagne called for stronger investment protection agreements and cooperation on infrastructure and development. He expressed cautious optimism about reaching consensus before the meeting ends on July 18, adding that the G20 must deliver messages that promote diversification and build trust in new trade alliances and shipping routes.

Ukraine appoints new prime minister in wartime leadership overhaul

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine’s parliament on July 17 approved Yulia Svyrydenko, 39, as the country’s new prime minister in its most significant cabinet reshuffle since Russia’s full-scale invasion in February 2022. President Volodymyr Zelensky tasked Svyrydenko, formerly first deputy prime minister, with accelerating domestic weapons production to supply half of Ukraine’s battlefield arms within six months and reviving the war-battered economy. She pledged “swift and decisive” action, prioritizing defense manufacturing, technological modernization, and fiscal discipline. Parliament is also expected to confirm outgoing Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal as defense minister.

The overhaul comes as Russian forces intensify offensives along the 620-mile front and increase strikes on Ukrainian cities. With foreign aid dwindling, Kyiv



faces a projected \$19 billion budget shortfall in 2026. Svyrydenko, known for negotiating U.S. access to Ukraine’s mineral wealth, promised to audit public finances, accelerate privatization, and foster entrepreneurship while strengthening cooperation with Western allies.

UK and Germany sign landmark treaty to deepen defense and economic ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

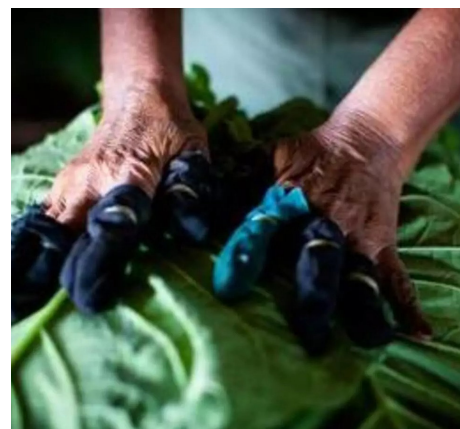
British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz signed the Kensington Treaty on Wednesday in London, a wide-ranging accord aimed at strengthening defense, economic, and immigration cooperation amid mounting threats to European security. Merz called the pact historic, marking the first major bilateral defense agreement between the two nations. The treaty commits the U.K. and Germany to 17 joint projects, including long-range strike weapons development, mutual assistance provisions, and expanded

arms support for Ukraine. It also pledges joint export campaigns for jointly built military equipment, a new direct rail link, and expanded youth mobility. Germany will criminalize facilitating illegal migration to Britain by late 2025.

The treaty complements similar agreements between Britain and France, underscoring tighter cooperation among Europe’s leading powers amid uncertainty about U.S. security guarantees. Merz acknowledged Brexit regrets but stressed the deal cements a “new era” in bilateral relations.



Namibia considers tax hikes on tobacco and alcohol to curb health crisis



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Namibia plans to reform taxes on tobacco and alcohol to address substance abuse and rising rates of non-communicable diseases, Health Minister Esperance Luvindao announced Monday. Speaking at a workshop in Windhoek, she said revisions would target new nicotine products, including vapes and e-cigarettes, and align with World Health Organization strategies.

Tobacco and alcohol contribute significantly to Namibia’s preventable deaths, with per capita alcohol consumption reaching 12 liters annually, triple the African average. WHO representative Richard Banda urged closing policy gaps and strengthening enforcement to combat rising health costs and disease burdens, calling for swift action to protect public health.

Former Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari dies at 82

Former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari passed away Sunday in London at the age of 82, President Bola Tinubu confirmed. Buhari, who served from 2015 to 2023, had been receiving treatment in a London clinic. Tinubu ordered Vice President Kashim Shettima to accompany Buhari’s body back to Nigeria and declared flags be flown at half-mast. Born on December 17, 1942, Buhari had a distinguished military and political career, becoming the first opposition candidate to defeat an incumbent president in 2015. His tenure focused on fighting Boko Haram, recovering stolen public funds, and boosting agriculture and infrastructure but faced economic stagnation and persistent insecurity.

Court dismisses NRA lawsuit against New York regulator over free speech claims



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court this week dismissed the National Rifle Association’s lawsuit alleging that Maria Vullo, New York’s former financial regulator, violated its free speech rights by pressuring banks and insurers to cut ties with the group. The Second Circuit ruled that Vullo was entitled to qualified immunity because the law governing her actions was unclear at the time.

The lawsuit stemmed from her probe into “Carry Guard,” an NRA insurance program that offered coverage for intentional gun use, which New York deemed illegal. NRA President Doug Hamlin expressed disappointment and vowed to explore further appeals, while Vullo called the decision a rejection of “false allegations.”

Powerful earthquake strikes Gulf of Alaska, residents report light damage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake in the Gulf of Alaska triggered a tsunami warning Wednesday, sending coastal residents to higher ground before the alert was canceled two hours later. Authorities initially confirmed the possibility of tsunami impacts, prompting evacuations in small coastal communities. Sand Point Police Chief Benjamin Allen reported no significant damage beyond items falling off shelves. On Kodiak Island, hotel staff and residents scrambled to evacuate after alarms sounded.

Officials said several aftershocks were recorded, though none caused further threats. Residents expressed relief at the quick downgrade, crediting the warning system for providing ample time to reach safe zones.

President Trump diagnosed with benign venous condition after leg swelling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency, a common condition in older adults in which leg veins struggle to return blood to the heart, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed Thursday. Ultrasounds showed no signs of heart, kidney, or systemic disease, and Trump reportedly experiences no discomfort. Leavitt said swelling and minor bruising on Trump’s legs and hands are linked to the condition, frequent handshaking, and his daily aspirin regimen. Trump, 79, recently faced speculation over ankle swelling during a public appearance, but doctors emphasized the diagnosis is benign and not expected to affect his health.

Nationwide ‘Good Trouble’ protests mark John Lewis anniversary and oppose Trump policies

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tens of thousands of Americans took part Thursday in the “Good Trouble Lives On” day of action, a nationwide protest against the Trump administration coinciding with the fifth anniversary of civil rights icon John Lewis’s death. Demonstrations occurred at more than 1,500 sites across all 50 states, organized by dozens of advocacy and voting rights groups. The events invoked Lewis’s call to make “good trouble” in defense of democracy, equality, and inclusion. Atlanta, Lewis’s longtime political base, hosted one of the day’s largest gatherings, with 1,000 people marching from Big Bethel AME Church to Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Senator Raphael Warnock serves as pastor. “He gave his life for inclusion, and the things he fought for are under attack,” said Reverend Jonathan Jay Augustine.

Other rallies took place near the White



House in Washington and in Minneapolis, where speakers urged participants to continue Lewis’s fight for civil rights. Chicago hosted the flagship evening event, with additional large gatherings in St. Louis, Annapolis, and Oakland. Protesters demanded an end to Trump administration policies targeting minorities, immigrants,

and social programs.

Organizers called the coordinated protests a demonstration of collective action’s power. “If you see something that’s wrong, you have an obligation to speak up,” said Daryl Jones of the Transformative Justice Coalition.

Supreme Court clears Trump plan to downsize Education Department

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed President Donald Trump’s administration to proceed with dismantling the Department of Education, lifting a lower court order that temporarily reinstated 1,400 laid-off employees. The 6-3 emergency ruling marks the second major Supreme Court victory for Trump in a week.

The administration argues the move will decentralize education and expand state control, while opponents—21 Democratic attorneys general, school districts, and unions—warn it could undermine federal oversight of college loans, civil rights, and



funding for under-resourced schools.

The department, created in 1979, has been central to federal education policy and enforcement of students’ rights.

Trump rescinds \$4 billion for California high-speed rail over cost and funding gaps

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that his administration is canceling \$4 billion in federal funding for California’s high-speed rail project, citing missed deadlines, rising costs, and uncertain financing. The Transportation Department and Federal Railroad Administration said the 800-mile system lacks a “viable path forward,” with California yet to secure \$7 billion needed for the first 171-mile segment between

Merced and Bakersfield. Originally budgeted at \$33 billion and slated for completion in 2020, the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line’s costs have ballooned to \$128 billion. California Governor Gavin Newsom, whose budget pledges \$1 billion annually over two decades, called the administration’s findings “misguided.” Active construction continues on 119 miles in the Central Valley. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy defended the decision, calling the project a “boondoggle” plagued by “incompetence and possibly corruption.”



Medicaid data-sharing deal with ICE sparks backlash over privacy concerns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has granted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to Medicaid records, allowing agents to search personal data, including addresses and Social Security numbers, to locate undocumented migrants. Critics call it an unprecedented privacy breach that could deter people from seeking medical care.

Medicaid covers 79 million Americans, with noncitizen immigrants representing about 6% of enrollees. Undocumented migrants are generally ineligible.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ deputy director had warned the data-sharing violated federal law, but officials overruled objections.

The Department of Homeland Security defended the move as a fraud-prevention measure to protect taxpayer funds.

Democratic Representative Pramila Jayapal said it “weaponizes data” and betrays public trust, while advocates warn it could have civil rights and health consequences for vulnerable communities.

Judge reviews nationwide block on Trump’s birthright citizenship order



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Boston is set to decide whether to keep in place a nationwide injunction against President Donald Trump’s executive order restricting birthright citizenship. The order, effective February 19, denies U.S. citizenship to children born in the country if neither parent is a citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Eighteen Democratic-led states and Washington, D.C., argue the policy violates the 14th Amendment and would disrupt federal programs by complicating eligibility checks. They also contend only a universal injunction prevents confusion for families crossing state lines.

Judge Leo Sorokin’s review follows a June 27 Supreme Court ruling that limited universal injunctions but allowed them in cases requiring “complete relief.” A separate New Hampshire court already blocked the order in a class-action suit. DOJ maintains Sorokin’s February order was overly broad, while immigrant-rights groups back the states’ challenge.

State Department bars diplomats from commenting on foreign elections



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has instructed American diplomats not to comment on the fairness or legitimacy of foreign elections, according to a July 17 internal cable. The directive marks a major departure from Washington’s long-standing advocacy for free and fair elections. It states that election-related statements will be issued only when a “clear and compelling” U.S. foreign policy interest exists and must focus on congratulating winners or shared priorities. Rubio referenced President Donald Trump’s May 13 Riyadh speech, where he denounced “Western interventionists” dictating governance abroad. The order requires approval from senior leadership for any statements and emphasizes partnerships based on strategic interests. Traditionally, U.S. diplomacy has promoted democracy and human rights, but the Trump administration has scaled back such efforts, calling prior approaches interference.

House narrowly approves \$9 billion cut to foreign aid and public media

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The House of Representatives on Friday approved President Donald Trump’s plan to cut \$9 billion from foreign aid and public broadcasting, passing the bill 216–213. Only two Republicans, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Mike Turner of Ohio, joined Democrats in opposition. The Senate had removed \$400 million in cuts to the global PEPFAR HIV/AIDS program before sending the measure back to the House. Republicans argue the cuts target wasteful spending, while Democrats warn they will undermine U.S. global influence and reduce emergency broadcast access in rural areas. Passage came after hours of Republican



debate over unrelated demands for greater transparency about documents tied to Jeffrey Epstein. A concurrent House resolution requires the Justice Department to release those records within 30 days. The bill, a fraction of the \$6.8 trillion federal budget, now awaits Trump’s signature.

Lawmakers say USDA food aid database violates privacy protections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democratic lawmakers have called the Trump administration’s plan to build a database of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients a violation of privacy laws. In a July 17 letter to Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, Senator Adam Schiff and 12 other Democrats urged the Department of Agriculture to halt plans to collect Social Security numbers, immigration status, and other personal data to prevent duplicate enrollment and check eligibility. The agency argued the database would reduce fraud and meet Trump’s data-sharing mandates. About 42 million Americans receive SNAP benefits, which undocumented immigrants

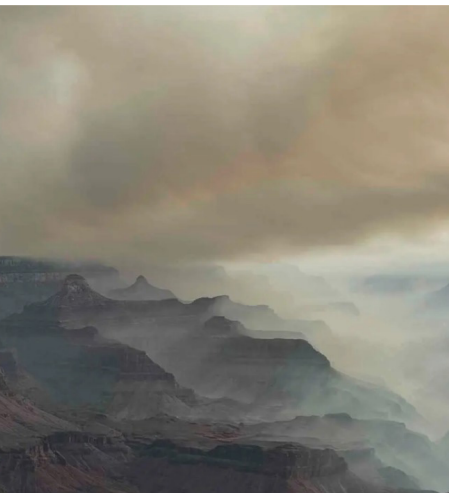


are ineligible to access. Critics warn the effort could erode trust in food aid programs and deter participation. The move follows reports that Immigration and Customs Enforcement will gain access to Medicaid data, expanding the administration’s hardline approach to immigration enforcement.

Grand Canyon fire destroys historic lodge, sparks outcry over management strategy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A lightning-sparked wildfire on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon has grown by about 50%, scorching 8,570 acres after destroying the historic Grand Canyon Lodge and 70 other structures, including staff housing and tourist cabins. The Dragon Bravo Fire, first detected on July 4, left roughly 280 National Park Service employees without homes. Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs has called for an investigation into why officials let the blaze burn for a week under a “confine and contain” plan during peak dryness, a strategy intended to improve forest health. Strong winds on July 11 forced a shift to full suppression as flames advanced toward park buildings. Critics compared the



incident to the 2006 Warm Fire, another managed blaze that spiraled out of control on the canyon’s North Rim.

Pentagon to pull 2,000 National Guard troops from Los Angeles

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered 2,000 of the 4,000 California National Guard troops deployed to Los Angeles to stand down, citing successful efforts to protect federal property and personnel during last month’s protests. Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell credited the troops with helping reduce unrest in the city. President Donald Trump deployed the Guard and about 700

Marines in June, overriding Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom’s objections, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement workplace raids sparked widespread demonstrations. Despite legal challenges, a federal appeals court allowed Trump to retain control over California’s Guard. The deployment stirred a national debate over using military forces domestically and heightened tensions in the country’s second-largest city. About 2,000 Guard members and the Marines will continue federal protection duties in Los Angeles.

Newsom threatens to redraw California maps in response to Texas redistricting push



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Governor Gavin Newsom has threatened to redraw the state’s 52 congressional districts to counter a Republican plan to add seats in Texas. Newsom, viewed as a 2028 presidential hopeful, argues Democrats must “play hardball” as Texas Governor Greg Abbott prepares a Trump-backed redistricting session that could give Republicans five additional House seats. Democrats hold 43 California seats and believe new maps could yield up to seven more. However, the state’s independent redistricting commission, established by a voter-approved constitutional amendment, makes such a move legally doubtful.

Election experts warn bypassing the commission would erode democratic norms, with watchdogs calling the plan “a familiar playbook.” Newsom says the moment demands aggressive tactics, but critics argue Democrats risk undermining their own case against Republican gerrymandering.

Justice Department launches probe into George Mason over hiring practices



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Justice Department has opened an employment discrimination investigation into Virginia’s George Mason University, alleging hiring practices influenced by race and sex to meet diversity goals. Announced July 17, the civil rights probe follows remarks by the university’s president and policies that raised concerns about bias in faculty hiring. President Gregory Washington said the school, already facing other civil rights inquiries, would cooperate and has retained Torridon Law, founded by former Attorney General Bill Barr, for representation. Justice Department officials say the case is part of broader Trump administration scrutiny of diversity, equity, and inclusion policies on campuses. Similar investigations have targeted the University of California and led to the resignation of the University of Virginia’s president last month. The Education Department is separately reviewing George Mason for possible Title VI violations.

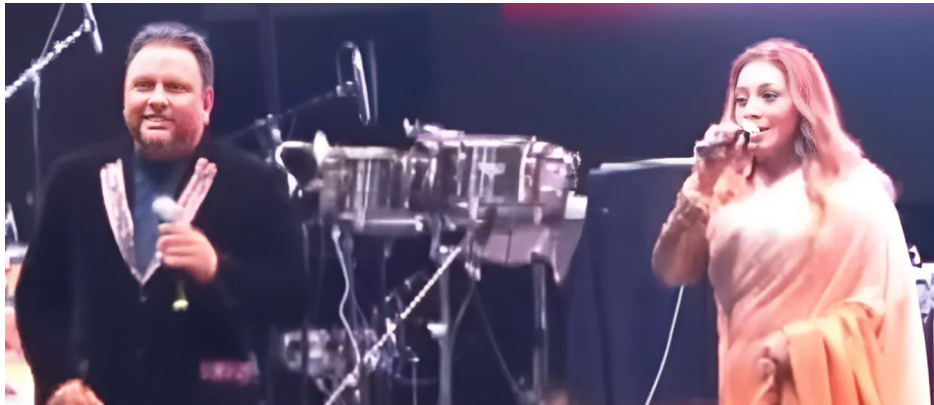
Plano Indian-American couple accused of \$4 million fraud, maintain public appearances amid investigation

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A once-celebrated Indian-American couple in Plano, Texas, known for their musical performances and vibrant presence in North Texas's South Asian community, has been charged with first-degree felony theft in connection with an alleged \$4 million fraud scheme.

Sidhartha "Sammy" Mukherjee and his wife Sunita Mukherjee, regulars at Bollywood-themed galas and cultural fundraisers, are accused of orchestrating a sprawling financial scam that targeted dozens of victims—many from within their extended community. According to court documents, the couple allegedly used fake real estate investment schemes, forged contracts, and fabricated invoices tied to non-existent public housing projects to solicit money from friends and associates.

"They convinced us they had inside access to city contracts," said Seshu Madabhushi, one of the victims. "We were blindsided." Another victim reportedly lost his life savings.



The investigation, launched by the Euless Police Department and later joined by the FBI, uncovered forged documents referencing the Dallas Housing Authority, which denied any affiliation. Authorities estimate over 100 potential victims.

The couple is also accused of securing fraudulent COVID-19 relief loans and manipulating elderly victims through email scams. Despite the scrutiny, the Mukherjees continued to appear at cultural events—including one in May attended by a Bollywood star and local officials.

Both were arrested at their Plano home, which also serves as the registered address of a nonprofit they recently founded. Sammy Mukherjee was later detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Authorities say he and his wife originally entered the U.S. on asylum claims and may also face unresolved fraud charges in India.

The couple has denied the allegations and claimed a conspiracy to defame them. Meanwhile, investigators say most of the stolen funds may never be recovered.

India condemns egg attack on Toronto Rath Yatra, urges Canada to uphold religious freedom



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has strongly condemned an incident during the 53rd annual ISKCON Rath Yatra in Toronto, where unknown individuals threw eggs at devotees participating in the procession. A video shared on social media showed worshippers chanting on the streets when the attack occurred, sparking outrage and allegations of racism and religious intolerance.

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called the act "despicable" and said it went against the spirit of unity and inclusivity promoted by the festival. He confirmed that India has raised the issue with Canadian authorities and urged action to hold those responsible accountable.

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also expressed deep concern, noting the emotional and cultural importance of Rath Yatra to devotees, especially in Odisha. The incident has drawn widespread condemnation and renewed calls for stronger protections for religious minorities in Canada. The festival, organized by ISKCON, is described as a joyful public celebration featuring chanting, singing, and spiritual processions.

US Embassy warns of visa revocation after Indian woman charged with shoplifting in Illinois



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Embassy in India has issued a strong advisory following the arrest of an Indian woman in Illinois for alleged shoplifting. The woman is accused of stealing items worth \$1,300 from a Target store in the state on May 1. According to police bodycam footage, she spent over seven hours inside the store before attempting to leave without paying. When confronted by a store employee, she reportedly offered to pay but was subsequently detained and charged with felony theft.

In a post on social media platform X, the Embassy cautioned foreign nationals that crimes such as assault, theft, or burglary can result in immediate visa cancellation and jeopardize future eligibility for U.S. visas. The Embassy warned, "Committing assault, theft, or burglary in the United States won't just cause you legal issues — it could lead to your visa being revoked and make you ineligible for future U.S. visas." The case has drawn widespread attention and serves as a reminder of strict U.S. immigration enforcement regarding criminal conduct.

UK's first turbaned Sikh MP defends Afghan allies in data breach fallout

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

British Member of Parliament Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesei has emerged as a strong voice for thousands of Afghan nationals left vulnerable after a major UK government data breach. Dhesei, who chairs the Defence Select Committee and represents the diverse town of Slough, condemned the Ministry of Defence for exposing the identities of over 33,000 Afghans who supported British forces during the war.

Speaking after a court lifted a long-standing gag order on the case, Dhesei called the situation "an absolute mess" and said it put innocent lives at risk. The breach, caused by an official mistakenly emailing a spreadsheet of applicants under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), has sparked outrage across



immigrant and veterans' communities.

Dhesei, the first turbaned Sikh MP in the UK, said he is considering launching a formal inquiry and stressed the moral obligation to protect those who risked their lives for Britain. Legal action on behalf of nearly 1,000 affected Afghans is now underway, with claims potentially amounting to hundreds of millions of pounds. Dhesei's intervention highlights the role of South Asian diaspora leaders in advocating for displaced communities.

Indian techie in Sweden criticized for video on challenges of expat life in Europe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian software developer in Sweden has sparked an online debate after sharing a viral video about the hardships of expatriate life in Europe. Dev Vijay Vargiya's Instagram video, which has garnered over 3.7 million views, highlights job insecurity, expensive housing and groceries, extreme weather, and emotional isolation as major challenges for immigrants.

He claimed that some countries require foreign workers to leave within a week of job loss, due to visa conditions tied to employment. However, many users pointed out that several European nations, including Sweden, typically offer 30 to 90-day grace



periods. While some commenters sympathized with Vargiya's struggles, others accused him of exaggeration and urged him to return to India.

The video has triggered a broader discussion about migration expectations, the psychological toll of living abroad, and the importance of sharing balanced perspectives on life in foreign countries.

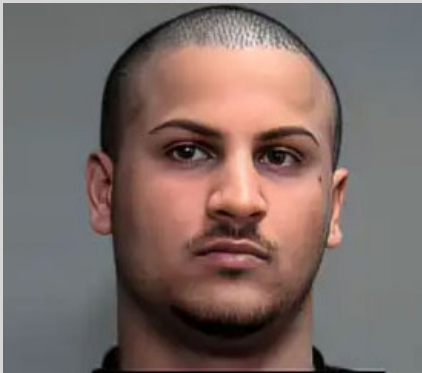
Singapore jails Indian student for pushing compatriot into river during drunken night out

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a deeply tragic case that has stunned the Indian community in Singapore, 22-year-old student Legha Pawan has been sentenced to 35 months in prison for pushing fellow Indian national Jasbir Singh into the Singapore River during a night of heavy drinking. Singh, a 33-year-old construction worker, drowned after being shoved off a ledge in the bustling Clarke Quay entertainment district on June 30, 2024.

Eyewitnesses said Pawan, who was in Singapore on a student visa, had been drinking with Singh and a group of friends when the mood turned unexpectedly reckless. A bystander couple who saw Singh fall into the water immediately alerted authorities. Despite rescue divers being dispatched swiftly, Singh's body was found hours later. The court accepted that Pawan had not intended to kill Singh but held him responsible for a dangerous and fatal act. Singh, who supported his wife and children back in Punjab, is remembered by colleagues as hardworking and kind. The case has brought attention to the vulnerabilities faced by migrant laborers and the importance of responsible behavior among international students.

Indian-Canadian gangster Opinder Singh Sian held in US over global drug ring



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-Canadian gangster Opinder Singh Sian has been arrested in the United States for allegedly running a transnational drug smuggling network moving methamphetamine and fentanyl precursors across continents. A U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) probe linked Sian to Ireland’s Kinahan cartel, the Italian mafia, Canadian crime groups, and Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel.

Investigators say the operation spanned Turkey, Australia, Canada, and other countries, involving undercover agents and international intelligence coordination. Sian, previously tied to British Columbia’s Brothers Keepers gang, was earlier convicted in 2007 for careless firearm use and obstruction and survived a 2008 Surrey gang shooting. His notoriety dates back to a failed 2015 Canadian marriage application, which authorities deemed fraudulent. Sian is scheduled to appear in U.S. court on July 21 to face international drug trafficking charges.

Sikh leader elected unopposed to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly minority seat



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gurpal Singh, a Sikh religious leader, has been elected unopposed to Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on a minority seat allocated to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), the provincial election commission confirmed on Thursday. Singh, who hails from the Malik Deen Khel tribe in Bara, Khyber district, secured the seat after the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) withdrew its nominee, Gorsaran Lal, in his favor.

The allocation followed the Election Commission of Pakistan’s directive to distribute one minority seat between PML-N and JUI-F and one women’s seat between the Awami National Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf through a draw. Shahida Waheed of ANP won the women’s seat.

Seats reserved for minorities and women are proportionally distributed based on party strength in the assembly. JUI-F’s gain strengthens its representation as Imran Khan’s PTI leads the provincial government formed after last year’s elections.

Indian students in Canada jailed for fatal hit-and-run, face deportation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian students in British Columbia have been sentenced to three years in prison following a tragic hit-and-run that took the life of a 43-year-old Indigenous man. Gaganpreet Singh and Jagdeep Singh, who were studying in Canada on student visas, were behind the wheel of a red Ford Mustang on January 27, 2024, when they struck the pedestrian in Surrey and fled the scene.

Witnesses reported seeing the victim dragged under the car for more than a kilometer before the students reversed in an apparent attempt to remove the body, which had become lodged beneath the vehicle. The man died instantly. Both students later turned themselves in and pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death, failure to stop, and interfering with a dead body.

During sentencing, the judge noted



their lack of remorse immediately after the act, describing it as “cold and calculated.” Crown prosecutors highlighted the gravity of the students’ conduct, while defense attorneys emphasized their youth and lack of criminal history.

Immigration authorities have indicated that deportation proceedings may follow their prison terms. The case has sent ripples through the South Asian student community in Canada, raising questions about accountability, public safety, and the pressures faced by international students abroad.

India steps up efforts to save Nimisha Priya as Yemen execution put on hold

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has reaffirmed its commitment to securing the release of Nimisha Priya, a Kerala nurse on death row in Yemen, after authorities temporarily delayed her scheduled execution. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday it is providing Priya’s family with legal assistance, consular support, and is in touch with “friendly governments” to help negotiate clemency. Priya was sentenced to death for the

2017 murder of her Yemeni business partner, Talal Abdo Mehdi, in a case that allows for forgiveness under Sharia law through payment of ‘blood money’. A postponement of her July 16 execution has given negotiators more time to reach an agreement with Mehdi’s family. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stressed India’s “all possible support,” while a Kerala billionaire has reportedly offered to fund the settlement. Priya, arrested while trying to flee Yemen, has been in prison since her conviction in 2018.



Indian-origin businessman, three US police chiefs charged in major visa fraud scheme

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin businessman Chandrakant “Lala” Patel and three Louisiana police chiefs have been charged in a U.S. federal visa fraud case. Prosecutors allege Patel paid officers \$5,000 per fabricated armed robbery report, enabling at least 25 people to falsely claim crime-victim U visas. Police chiefs Glynn Dixon, Tebo Onishea, and Chad Doyle, along with Oakdale Marshal Michael Slaney, were indicted by a federal grand jury. Patel, who owns stores and a restaurant, is linked to \$230,000 and property worth \$51,000 tied to the scheme. Separately, Doyle’s wife faces state corruption charges. Similar fraud cases involving staged robberies have recently led to convictions of other Indian-origin individuals.



Indian woman dies in Sharjah apartment fire during home ritual

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian woman in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, died in a late-night apartment fire while reportedly performing a ritual at her home in Al Majaz. The 46-year-old victim was alone in her eighth-floor flat when the fire broke out, according to initial investigations. Emergency crews managed to contain the fire before it spread to other units, but the woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities are probing whether ritual items such as incense or candles may have contributed to the blaze. Her body has been sent for forensic examination, and further details are expected pending the outcome of the investigation.

In a separate incident, Sharjah Police are investigating the death of another Indian woman who allegedly killed her infant before taking her own life. Though unrelated, the two cases have raised fresh concerns about the mental health challenges faced by expatriate women in the Gulf region, where isolation, financial strain, and cultural pressures can become overwhelming.

FBI arrests eight linked to Khalistani group for torture and kidnapping in California



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a major crackdown on transnational gang activity, the FBI arrested eight Indian-origin men in San Joaquin County, California, including Pavittar Singh Batala, a fugitive linked to the Khalistani extremist group Babbar Khalsa International. Batala is on India’s most-wanted list for alleged terror links and fled the country after multiple criminal charges.

The arrests took place on July 11, 2025, following a joint investigation involving local law enforcement, SWAT teams, and the FBI. The suspects are accused of kidnapping and torturing a man, as well as intimidating witnesses. Authorities recovered six illegal firearms, high-capacity magazines, and over \$15,000 in cash.

The arrests form part of a broader U.S. Department of Justice campaign dubbed “Operation Summer Heat,” aimed at dismantling violent international gangs operating within the United States. U.S. agencies say they are increasingly encountering gang elements who entered North America through illegal immigration channels. The case is likely to heighten India–U.S. cooperation on transnational terrorism and extradition protocols.



Friday, 18 July 2025

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Felix Baumgartner, famed for supersonic skydive, dies in Italy accident



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner, 56, was killed Thursday when his motorized paraglider crashed near Porto Sant'Elpidio in Italy's Marche region. Local police said he lost control midair, possibly due to a sudden medical emergency, and fell near a hotel pool. Nicknamed "Fearless Felix," Baumgartner made history in 2012 by jumping from a balloon 24 miles above Earth over Roswell, New Mexico, becoming the first skydiver to break the sound barrier at speeds exceeding 834 mph. A former military parachutist, he made thousands of high-risk jumps from aircraft and landmarks worldwide. Baumgartner's legacy includes advancing extreme sports while courting controversy for outspoken political views.

Oxford University Press ends China-linked forensic journal over ethics concerns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oxford University Press (OUP) will stop publishing Forensic Sciences Research (FSR), a journal affiliated with China's Ministry of Justice, by the end of 2025. Critics had raised alarms over studies using genetic data from Uyghurs and other surveilled minorities, questioning whether consent was freely given. Two such papers have been retracted since 2023, while another remains under scrutiny. FSR, launched in 2016, has faced sustained criticism for potentially aiding state surveillance in Xinjiang, where a UN report says policies could amount to crimes against humanity. Belgian DNA expert Yves Moreau welcomed OUP's decision but urged fuller accountability, citing ongoing human rights concerns.

Ukraine eyes 'mega-deal' with US on drone technology

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv is in advanced talks with Washington over a potential "mega-deal" that would give the United States access to Ukraine's battle-tested drone technology in exchange for the purchase of American weapons. Speaking to the New York Post on July 17, Zelensky said Ukraine is prepared to share expertise gained during its three-year war with Russia, where its drones have struck targets as far as 800 miles inside Russian territory.

He cited Operation Spiderweb, in which 117 drones destroyed dozens of Russian bombers, as an example of Kyiv's advanced capabilities. Zelensky emphasized that the U.S., currently lagging behind Russia and China in small drone development, would benefit



greatly. Talks are also underway with Denmark, Norway and Germany. The Pentagon has already moved to fast-track drone production and increase next year's budget for unmanned aerial systems. Zelensky added that additional agreements with Washington are forthcoming, describing drone warfare as "the future of conflicts."

Pakistan monsoon floods claim 159 lives

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Heavy monsoon rains across Pakistan have killed at least 159 people since late June, officials reported on July 17. In the past 24 hours alone, 63 fatalities and nearly 300 injuries were recorded in Punjab province, where flooding and building collapses caused widespread destruction. The worst-hit areas included Lahore, Faisalabad, and several farming towns. Rescue teams used boats and helicopters to evacuate stranded families, and a public holiday was declared in Rawalpindi to keep residents safe.

Authorities issued a high flood alert for the Jhelum River near Mangla, warning of potential overflows. More than 1,000 homes have been damaged nationwide, with Punjab alone reporting 103 deaths and 393 injuries. Experts warn that rapid urban



growth, inadequate drainage, and climate change have intensified the seasonal devastation, leaving vulnerable communities at greater risk.

Bangladesh halts demolition of Satyajit Ray's ancestral home after India's appeal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh has paused the demolition of filmmaker Satyajit Ray's ancestral home in Mymensingh after India urged its preservation. The dilapidated property, linked to Ray's grandfather and Bengali literary icon Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury, faced safety-related demolition.

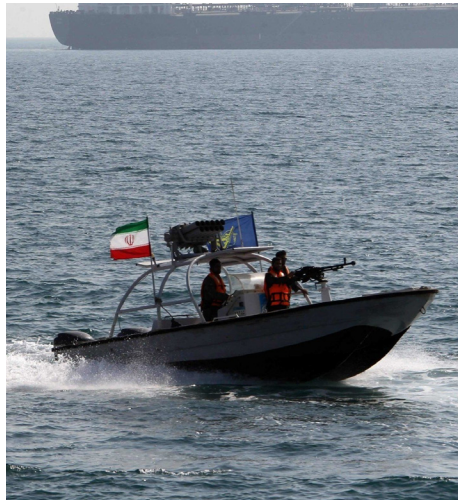
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the destruction "extremely distressing," urging Dhaka to protect the cultural landmark.

India's Ministry of External Affairs offered support to restore the building as a heritage museum celebrating



shared Bengali heritage. Bangladesh has formed a panel to explore reconstruction. Advocates say the home represents an irreplaceable piece of cultural history tied to both countries' literary and artistic renaissance.

Iran seizes foreign tanker carrying smuggled fuel in Gulf of Oman

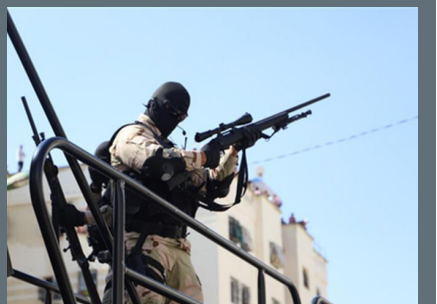


IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran has seized a foreign oil tanker carrying about two million liters of smuggled fuel in the Gulf of Oman, detaining its 17 crew members, judiciary media reported Wednesday. Hormozgan Chief Justice Mojtaba Qahremani said the vessel lacked proper documents during inspection and is now under judicial review. Authorities did not disclose the ship's nationality.

Iran's Intelligence Ministry recently dismantled 35 major fuel-smuggling networks valued at \$1.82 billion and froze over 700 linked bank accounts. Subsidized domestic fuel prices have made smuggling a lucrative trade, with naval forces regularly intercepting vessels transporting illicit fuel to international markets.

Ethiopia arrests 82 over Islamic State-linked terror plots



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ethiopia's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) has detained 82 people allegedly connected to Islamic State's Somali wing, accused of planning terror attacks nationwide. Officials said the suspects, trained in Puntland, were setting up sleeper cells to expand IS operations in Ethiopia and neighboring states. The arrests followed an extensive investigation with federal police and regional forces. Authorities accused IS of using religious institutions to recruit vulnerable individuals and spread extremist ideology. Earlier this year, Ethiopian and Kenyan forces launched a joint campaign against the Oromo Liberation Army to bolster border security and counter cross-border terrorism.

Netanyahu government loses key partner as Shas exits coalition



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel's coalition government suffered a blow Wednesday as the ultra-Orthodox Shas party withdrew over stalled legislation guaranteeing military draft exemptions for religious students. The move comes a day after United Torah Judaism, another ultra-Orthodox ally, quit for the same reason, leaving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu struggling to maintain his majority amid domestic protests and a prolonged Gaza war.

The Israeli Supreme Court had ruled last year to end blanket exemptions, sparking a fierce political battle. Shas leaders said they would not topple the government but insisted on protecting seminary students, warning mandatory conscription threatens religious study and identity.

China accuses foreign spies of targeting rare earth sector

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China's Ministry of State Security on Friday accused foreign intelligence agencies of trying to steal rare earths, vowing tougher action against infiltration and espionage in the country's critical mineral sector. The ministry said foreign operatives had worked with "domestic lawbreakers" to acquire rare earth-related items, threatening national security.

Officials cited attempts by an unnamed country to evade export controls through forged labels, falsified shipping records, and transshipment via third countries. This follows reports that large quantities of antimony, vital for batteries, chips, and flame retardants, were rerouted to the United States via Thailand and Mexico after China's export ban.

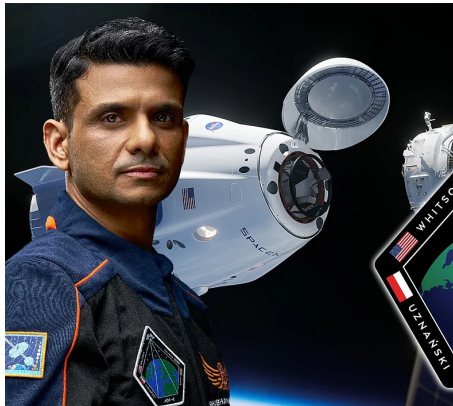
Beijing expanded rare earth export restrictions in April in response to U.S. tariffs, disrupting supply chains crucial for electric vehicles, robotics, and defense. Despite curbs, rare earth exports rose 32 percent in June, possibly reflecting recent U.S.-China agreements to ease metal flows.

Axiom Space hails Ax-4 mission as historic success

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Axiom Space has celebrated the return of its Ax-4 crew after a 20-day mission to the International Space Station, marking a milestone for commercial spaceflight and India's human space program. Piloted by Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to visit the ISS, the mission launched June 26 with NASA, SpaceX, and international partners. Shukla, a 39-year-old Indian Air Force officer, conducted seven experiments on sustainable space nutrition, crucial for future long-duration missions.

Returning Tuesday aboard SpaceX's Dragon Grace, Shukla described the



mission as an inspiration for India's youth. His participation also advances India's 2027 Gaganyaan program, with U.S. astronaut Peggy Whitson commanding the Ax-4 and Polish and Hungarian crew completing the team.

Russia confirms all dead in Far East helicopter crash

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia's emergencies ministry has confirmed that all five people aboard a Mi-8 helicopter died when it crashed July 14 in Khabarovsk, a remote Far Eastern region. The aircraft vanished en route from Okhotsk to Magadan, prompting a two-day search that ended with wreckage found near

Cape Gadikan, showing signs of fire. Investigators are examining debris and flight data to determine the cause. Those killed included three crew members and two engineers. The Mi-8, a Soviet-era multipurpose helicopter widely used for military and civilian transport, has a history of deadly accidents, including a March crash in Magadan that killed two. Officials have pledged to review operational safety standards.

India renews UN push for justice for fallen peacekeepers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has reaffirmed its commitment to prosecuting crimes against United Nations peacekeepers during a meeting it co-chaired at the UN headquarters in New York. Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish emphasized that attacks on peacekeepers remain largely unpunished, undermining mission safety and credibility. India, the UN's largest cumulative troop contributor with over 300,000 deployed since 1948, has lost 182 peacekeepers in service. The Group of Friends for Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers, launched under



India's 2022 Security Council presidency, seeks to strengthen accountability mechanisms. Officials said prosecuting attackers is vital to mission success and the protection of personnel, calling accountability "a strategic necessity" for the future of UN operations.

Laos and Cambodia expand cooperation against drug networks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Laos and Cambodia have pledged to strengthen coordination against drug trafficking during their first prosecutors' meeting on transnational crime in Vientiane. Senior officials agreed to increase intelligence sharing, joint training, and enforcement strategies. Laos' top prosecutor Xaysana Khotphouthone called drug abuse a threat to national stability, fueling crime

across rural and urban communities.

The Lao government, which recorded more than 5,000 drug cases in 2024 and 1,422 in early 2025, has made narcotics control a national priority. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment during a June 26 drug-burning ceremony marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse, where Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone underscored the urgency of regional cooperation.

Seoul pledges close alignment with Trump on tariffs, security



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's foreign minister nominee Cho Hyun has promised to work closely with President Donald Trump's administration to ease U.S. tariff measures and "modernize" the alliance. Speaking at his confirmation hearing, Cho said Seoul would seek mutually beneficial agreements before new 25 percent tariffs take effect on August 1.

He emphasized deepening cooperation in security, technology, and economic policy while reaffirming efforts to resume denuclearization talks with North Korea. Cho also backed stronger trilateral ties with the U.S. and Japan, alongside patient engagement with China. He said managing historical disputes with Tokyo and addressing regional threats, including North Korea-Russia cooperation, remain critical priorities for South Korea's foreign policy.

Former South Korean president escalates trial boycott



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol skipped his insurrection trial for the second time, insisting he will not attend further hearings unless the special counsel is replaced. Yoon, detained on allegations of attempting martial law in December, claims investigators violated his rights through an "illegal" probe. Prosecutors have asked the court to compel his attendance, noting his repeated absences.

Judges instructed Yoon's defense to submit medical records if health concerns prevent his appearance and to challenge the counsel's authority through proper legal channels. The trial, already in its 11th hearing, has heightened political tensions as Yoon contests both his detention and the charges against him.

Taranjit Sandhu takes leadership role at US-India strategic forum

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Veteran diplomat and former Indian Ambassador to Washington Taranjit Singh Sandhu has joined the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) as Advisor to the Board and Chairman of its Geopolitical Institute. Sandhu, who retired in 2024 after a 35-year career, is expected to guide discussions on the Indo-Pacific Quad, India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, and I2U2 initiatives.

Known for strengthening U.S.-India ties, he emphasized the partnership's evolution into a comprehensive strategic alliance, rooted in shared values and economic cooperation. USISPF President Mukesh Aghi called Sandhu one of India's most experienced envoys. His focus will include infrastructure, technology, defense, and supply chain resilience to deepen bilateral collaboration.

NITI Aayog proposes easing Chinese investment curbs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's policy think tank NITI Aayog has recommended a partial relaxation of restrictions on Chinese investment, proposing that Chinese firms be allowed to acquire up to a 24% stake in Indian companies without prior government approval. The measure aims to revive foreign direct investment (FDI), which has plummeted sharply—from \$43.9 billion in 2021 to just \$353 million in the last fiscal year.

The decline has stalled several major deals, including electric vehicle maker BYD's proposed Indian venture. Officials said easing the restrictions could attract capital flows and rejuvenate stalled projects, provided that stringent safeguards remain in place to protect national security and sensitive sectors.

Bihar to offer 125 units of free power to all families, says Nitish Kumar



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At a rally alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Motihari, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced plans to provide 125 units of free electricity to all state households, pending cabinet approval. Kumar cited improved infrastructure and expanded access, recalling that Patna once had only eight hours of supply daily.

He highlighted his government's record of creating 29 million jobs and pledged one crore more jobs in five years. Stressing cooperation with the Prime Minister, Kumar called the initiative a "double-engine government" effort. The announcement comes ahead of Bihar's 2025 Assembly elections, signaling an effort to strengthen rural and urban voter support.

Modi credits Bihar's patriotic zeal for inspiring Operation Sindoor

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a massive public gathering in Motihari, Bihar, on Friday, lauded the state's deep-rooted patriotism and credited it with inspiring India's recent cross-border military success, Operation Sindoor. He said the operation reflected the courage and resilience of the people of Bihar, whose sacrifices have long fortified the nation's security and unity.

Modi used the occasion to draw a sharp contrast between his government's record and what he termed the years of neglect under previous regimes led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). He pointed to strides made in infrastructure, electricity supply, and welfare programs, saying Bihar's progress is a testament to the "double-engine" government's commitment to development and national defense.



The prime minister also emphasized the state's strategic role in India's security matrix and its proud history of producing soldiers and freedom fighters. Referring to ongoing welfare schemes, he reiterated his administration's focus on empowering rural communities and expanding

employment opportunities.

Modi concluded by reaffirming that the spirit of Bihar continues to energize India's fight against external threats, ensuring that operations like Sindoor remain symbols of resilience and national pride.

Kanwar Yatra fuels booming demand for devotional goods as security measures intensify

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The holy month of Sawan has sparked a wave of religious devotion across India, with the annual Kanwar Yatra drawing thousands of Lord Shiva devotees and significantly boosting the demand for religious merchandise. Markets, particularly in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, are bustling with sales of kanwars, rudraksha beads, tridents, damrus, and Kanwariya clothing. Local vendors report that footfall has surged since the pilgrimage began, crediting newly developed facilities along the ghats for accommodating the influx of worshippers.

To ensure safety during the massive pilgrimage, the Uttar Pradesh Police have stepped up security, deploying over 66,000 personnel, including 1,486 women sub-inspectors and 8,541 women constables, supported by round-the-clock patrols and UP-112 emergency vehicles. Pilgrims are required to walk on the left side of highways, with rest camps set at least 20 feet away from roads.

In Delhi, more than 3,000 police and paramilitary personnel are stationed along



the Kanwar routes to maintain order, manage traffic, and ensure cleanliness. Welcoming gates provide water, medical aid, and rest areas for devotees. Food safety inspections are also being conducted to protect public health. As chants of "Bol Bam" resonate through the air, the Kanwar Yatra continues to highlight both the spiritual zeal of devotees and the extensive measures in place to ensure their safety and comfort.

Bomb threat at Golden Temple prompts arrest and heightened security

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Police detained unemployed software engineer Shubham Dubey from Faridabad for allegedly sending bomb threats to Amritsar's Golden Temple. Authorities registered two FIRs after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) received five emails since July 14 threatening RDX attacks. Heightened security now surrounds the shrine, with bomb disposal units, SGPC task force, and additional personnel deployed.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann vowed zero tolerance for anti-social forces and urged the public to ignore rumors. Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan condemned the threats, saying attempts to disrupt Punjab's communal harmony will fail. The investigation remains ongoing as security agencies stay on high alert.

Joint disaster management drill strengthens HADR preparedness in Arunachal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A large-scale disaster management workshop and exercise focusing on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations concluded in Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district. Personnel from the Indian Army's Spear Corps, Indian Air Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Reserve Police Force, National Disaster Response Force, and the Union Ministry of Power collaborated in the joint effort. Officials said the exercise improved inter-agency readiness, especially for remote disaster-prone regions. Senior dignitaries, including Deputy Commissioner A. Balan and NDMA consultant Maj. Gen. Ajay Kumar Verma (Retd.), attended. The event emphasized the strategic importance of civil-military cooperation in ensuring swift, coordinated responses to emergencies, reinforcing India's proactive approach to disaster preparedness.

Congress MLAs suspended in Chhattisgarh over fertilizer protest

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thirty Congress legislators, including former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and senior leader Charan Das Mahant, were suspended for one day from the Chhattisgarh Assembly following a heated protest over the shortage of DAP fertilizer. The Congress MLAs entered the well of the House, raising slogans against the ruling BJP government and demanding answers. Speaker Raman Singh termed the protest disorderly and suspended the members for disrupting proceedings.

Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam



acknowledged a fertilizer shortage and assured that corrective steps were underway. The protest comes amid growing concerns among farmers over limited fertilizer supplies during the ongoing kharif season, which is critical for crop sowing and food security in the state.

Robert Vadra chargesheeted by ED in Haryana land scam



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against businessman Robert Vadra in connection with a money laundering case involving a 2008 land deal in Haryana. The chargesheet names Vadra, his firm Sky Light Hospitality, and nine others. According to the ED, Vadra acquired land worth approximately Rs. 7.5 crore (about \$900,000) using false declarations and leveraged political influence to secure commercial permits.

The land was later sold for Rs. 58 crore (around \$7 million). The ED has attached assets worth Rs. 37.64 crore (approximately \$4.5 million). Vadra, who is on bail, was previously questioned multiple times in the case. The agency alleges the deal reflects a pattern of financial misconduct and misuse of influence.

RBI to mandate climate-risk reporting by banks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon require banks and financial institutions to disclose climate-related risks in their lending portfolios. The new framework, aimed at assessing vulnerabilities to events such as cyclones and heatwaves, will be voluntary starting in fiscal year 2027 and mandatory from 2028. Institutions will also be required to conduct climate stress tests. The move aligns with India's commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and strengthens the financial sector's resilience to environmental shocks. Officials said the guidelines are intended to help banks quantify exposure to climate-related risks, improve transparency, and enable better capital allocation in the face of growing environmental challenges.

BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over 'election chori' accusation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he accused the Election Commission (EC) of helping the ruling party commit electoral fraud. Gandhi alleged that names of voters were being deliberately deleted during the electoral roll revision in Bihar, branding the EC as the BJP's "election chori" wing.

He also singled out Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during a rally. BJP leaders dismissed his remarks as baseless, saying Gandhi, who is out on bail, lacks credibility. The EC clarified that the revision process aimed only at removing ineligible voters. BJP leaders accused Gandhi of eroding trust in democratic institutions and attempting to incite public distrust for political gain.

Delhi set to receive \$72 million boost for infrastructure projects

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has secured a \$72 million allocation under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment scheme following discussions with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The interest-free funds, expected by month-end, will support urban development initiatives including traffic systems, drainage upgrades, waste management, and green energy projects. Gupta highlighted ongoing improvements driven by close cooperation between Delhi and the federal government, calling the capital a model of planned growth and governance. She stressed that the projects aim to enhance residents' quality of life and build Delhi into a world-class city. The SASCI



program, launched in 2020–21, provides long-term interest-free loans to states and union territories to stimulate infrastructure development, create jobs, and promote sustainable economic growth. Senior officials from both governments attended the meeting, which Gupta described as an example of cooperative federalism.

Mamata Banerjee accuses rivals of spreading false Rohingya infiltration claims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused political opponents of spreading false claims about Rohingya infiltration to remove genuine voters from electoral rolls. Speaking at a housing project inauguration in New Town, Kolkata, she challenged those alleging mass Rohingya presence to provide evidence. Banerjee condemned the targeted harassment of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in other states, emphasizing that over 15 million workers from outside West Bengal live peacefully in the state. She reminded that Bengali is the second most-spoken language in Asia and defended



citizens' right to live and speak freely anywhere in India. She also briefly addressed India's decision to grant asylum to former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, noting possible diplomatic reasons while declining further comment.

CISF undergoes Army-led training to counter terror threats after Operation Sindoor

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is undergoing intensive combat training with the Indian Army to prepare for terror strikes in the wake of Operation Sindoor, launched after the April 22 Pahalgam attack. A senior official said the Union Home Ministry and CISF decided to upgrade capabilities so personnel can respond "at par with the Army" during emergencies.

So far, 120 Quick Response Team (QRT) commandos have trained with the Army's Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir, with a third batch of 60 to follow. The program covers urban



and jungle warfare, drone operations, and crisis response at high-risk sites like airports, nuclear plants, and Parliament. CISF, which took over Parliament security last year, may also receive AK-203 rifles after the Army and CRPF. Fifteen CISF companies deployed during Operation Sindoor now guard the Amarnath Yatra route.

Punjab Police dismantle cross-border arms smuggling network

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Police's Counter Intelligence unit in Amritsar has busted an arms smuggling ring linked to Pakistan, arresting Harjinder Singh of Tarn Taran and seizing ten pistols with magazines. Police said Singh, a known narcotics trafficker recently released on bail, was supplying weapons to criminals across Punjab. Preliminary investigations revealed his ties to a Pakistan-

based handler who used drones to deliver arms across the border. The arrest follows a similar operation two weeks ago that led to the recovery of eight weapons, one kilogram of heroin, and drug proceeds. Singh was intercepted near Bohru Pul while delivering a consignment. Authorities are working to trace intended recipients and further connections. A case has been filed under multiple sections of the Arms Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the State Special Operation Cell in Amritsar.

Centre resumes key talks with Naga groups for political solution



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Government interlocutor A. K. Mishra held a meeting in Dimapur with two factions of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), led by N. Kitovi Zhimomi and Neokpao Konyak with Alezo Venuh, to push for a political resolution to the decades-old Naga issue. Mishra, adviser on Northeast Affairs to the Ministry of Home Affairs, also met leaders of the dominant NSCN IM faction. NNPG leaders emphasized unity among all Naga groups and renewed calls for an early settlement. The talks build on previous negotiations, including the 1997 ceasefire and the 2015 Framework Agreement. Mishra is expected to meet the NSCN K Niki group during this visit to accelerate the process.

Karnataka cabinet reviews Chinnaswamy stampede inquiry report

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Karnataka cabinet received the one-man commission report on the June 4 stampede at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, which killed 11 people during an IPL victory celebration. Justice John Michael Cunha, a retired High Court judge, led the inquiry established on June 5. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H. K. Patil said the cabinet will study the findings in its next meeting before making a decision. Other cabinet approvals included a nuclear plant feasibility study, land allocation for ISKCON's Akshaya Patra kitchen, a horticulture technology park in Koppal, and developing North Karnataka's tourism circuit. Plans for new schools and regulations for property records in Bengaluru were also cleared.

Gujarat clears eco-friendly tehsil panchayat offices in 11 districts

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has approved building new tehsil panchayat offices in 11 districts to strengthen grassroots governance while prioritizing sustainability. The offices, with a sanctioned budget of \$1.5 million, will feature solar rooftop systems and rainwater harvesting in line with state green energy goals and the Centre's 'Catch the Rain' campaign. The facilities will be built in Dang, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Chhota Udepur, Patan, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Mahisagar, and Rajkot. An additional \$2.5 million was allocated for ongoing projects in six more tehsils. Officials said the initiative will cut power costs, improve public service delivery, and modernize Gujarat's Panchayati Raj infrastructure.

Coca-Cola's switch to cane sugar raises cost and supply concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Coca Cola's plan to replace high fructose corn syrup with cane sugar in U.S. drinks, endorsed by President Donald Trump, is expected to bring billion dollar costs and major supply challenges. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has promoted the move under his Make America Healthy Again campaign, citing modest health benefits.

Industry analysts warn the change could exceed \$1 billion annually, disrupt bottling plants, and slash U.S. corn demand, costing farmers an estimated \$5.1 billion. With U.S. cane sugar production at 3.6 million metric tons, imports—largely from Brazil—would likely rise despite Trump's 50% tariff. PepsiCo has promised similar changes if consumers demand it, though experts predict price hikes and supply chain disruptions could spark backlash.

House sends cryptocurrency 'GENIUS Act' to Trump amid push for digital finance



The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the GENIUS Act, a bill establishing consumer safeguards for stablecoins, sending it to President Donald Trump as part of his "crypto week" initiative. Two related bills, aimed at creating new market structures for digital assets, head to the Senate.

The GENIUS Act passed with bipartisan support in a 308–122 vote, while the companion bills were approved by smaller margins. House Financial Services Chair French Hill said the legislation would "ensure American competitiveness and strong guardrails for our consumers." Trump's administration aims to position the U.S. as the "crypto capital of the world," though critics warn that looser regulation could enable corruption and foreign influence.

Advocates say the measures could integrate cryptocurrency into mainstream financial systems.

Meta reaches settlement in \$8 billion shareholder lawsuit over Facebook privacy breaches

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg and other senior leaders have agreed to settle a shareholder lawsuit alleging mismanagement of repeated privacy violations, including the Cambridge Analytica scandal that exposed the data of millions of Facebook users. The Delaware case sought \$8 billion in damages for fines and legal costs Meta incurred, including a \$5 billion Federal Trade Commission penalty in 2019.

The settlement, reached just before the trial's second day, spares Zuckerberg, former COO Sheryl Sandberg, and board members including Peter Thiel, Reed Hastings, and Jeffrey Zients from testifying under oath.

Plaintiffs argued Meta's leaders ignored warnings about data misuse, concealed risks, and profited from insider stock sales.

Meta, not directly named as a defendant, has since spent billions strengthening privacy safeguards. Legal experts say the resolution prevents a full public accounting of how the company handled the breaches. The suit, filed in 2018, followed Cambridge Analytica's use of Facebook data in Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.

Professor Ann Lipton of the University of Colorado said the trial could have revealed "how Facebook came to adopt and approve any illegal practices," underscoring the broader social importance of transparency in tech governance.



Quad partners spotlight India's growing role in secure digital infrastructure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's emergence as a key global digital hub took center stage at the Wavelength Forum in New Delhi, part of the U.S. State Department's CABLES program to strengthen Indo-Pacific subsea cable networks.

More than 70 officials, industry leaders, and Quad partners discussed expanding undersea connectivity to support surging data demand from 5G, AI, and the Internet of Things.

India, now handling 20% of global internet traffic, faces mounting pressure to modernize its cable infrastructure, improve permitting, and boost repair capacity. Discussions also addressed cyber threats and sabotage risks, highlighting the

need for trusted vendors.

The forum advanced the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience, reaffirmed at the July 1 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

U.S. chargé d'affaires Jorgan Andrews emphasized deepening U.S.-India cooperation: "We are working together to enhance secure connectivity and support economic growth across the Indo-Pacific." Participants stressed that resilient cable systems are critical to safeguarding global digital commerce and innovation.

The meeting underscored India's rising strategic importance as digital demand surges, with stakeholders urging collective action to secure future infrastructure.



China urges deeper Nvidia collaboration as AI demand surges

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During his third China visit this year, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, who reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to attracting foreign investment and delivering high-quality technology to Chinese customers. Huang described China as "a very attractive market" and praised AI models from Deepseek, Alibaba, and Tencent as "world-class." He confirmed high demand for Nvidia's H20 AI chips, recently cleared of U.S. export controls, though orders await licensing approval. Nvidia is also developing the RTX Pro GPU tailored to Chinese clients under U.S. restrictions. Chinese officials emphasized their openness to multinational partnerships, with Wang promising broader access for foreign firms in China's expanding AI and technology sectors.

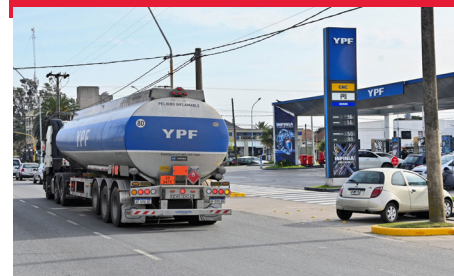
Texas investigates Mars over failure to phase out synthetic dyes in candy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has opened an investigation into Mars, the maker of M&M's and Skittles, for allegedly failing to honor a 2016 pledge to remove synthetic dyes from its products. Paxton issued a civil investigative demand seeking internal documents and accused Mars of misleading U.S. consumers by eliminating artificial colors in Europe while maintaining them domestically.

The probe aligns with Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Make America Healthy Again campaign, which promotes cleaner food ingredients.

U.S. backs Argentina's appeal in YPF share turnover dispute



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. government has urged a federal appeals court to halt a ruling forcing Argentina to hand over its 51% stake in energy company YPF to settle a \$16.1 billion judgment. Washington argued the order could damage U.S.-Argentina relations and should be paused until Argentina's appeal is heard.

Investors Petersen Energia and Eton Park Capital oppose the stay, citing Argentina's history of delaying payments but said they might accept collateral to secure the judgment. Argentina warns surrendering YPF, seized from Spain's Repsol in 2012, could destabilize its economy.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will review the case ahead of a July 22 deadline.

Friday, 18 July 2025

Canada pursues Mercosur trade deal to ease U.S. dependence



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada is accelerating efforts to secure a free-trade pact with Mercosur—Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay—as part of a push to diversify from heavy reliance on U.S. markets. Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu said talks with Brazil showed strong interest, with Prime Minister Mark Carney’s government seeking multiple deals to offset U.S. tariffs that have eroded competitiveness.

Canada already holds 15 trade agreements covering 1.5 billion consumers and recently signed pacts with Ecuador and the UAE. Sidhu emphasized plans to broaden defense procurement and deepen Indo-Pacific trade ties. Canadian exports to the U.S. fell to 68% in May, a record low, as businesses increasingly look for alternative markets.

Indian investors favor Nvidia and Google amid Q2 global market rebound



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nvidia led trading among Indian investors in Q2 2025, capturing 6.4% of buy and 8.3% of sell volumes, according to Vested Finance’s Global Investing Behavior Report. The \$4 trillion chipmaker dominated profit-taking and fresh buying, while Alphabet saw the largest net inflows and a 113% surge in unique investors.

Tesla, Advanced Micro Devices, and Apple were other top picks, with Duolingo posting a 2,255% jump in investor base. Healthcare giants UnitedHealth Group and Novo Nordisk saw more than 500% growth. Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) surged, with iShares Russell 2000 ETF up 622% and iShares Core S&P Small-Cap ETF up 222%.

A 20.47% rise in buy volumes and a 35.4% jump in assets under management reflected disciplined diversification, with Indian investors seeking exposure to healthcare, semiconductors, and AI while expanding into Europe, China, and Brazil.

Maharashtra targets EV leadership as Tesla opens first India center

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated Tesla’s first Indian Experience Center in Mumbai on Tuesday, declaring Maharashtra poised to become the country’s top electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub. The facility serves as a delivery, logistics, and service center, with bookings for Tesla’s Model Y. Fadnavis highlighted Maharashtra’s EV

Policy 2025, which offers incentives of up to \$2,400 for commercial EVs and \$24,000 for buses, alongside tax exemptions, toll waivers, and a charging network of four hubs and 32 stations in Mumbai alone. The state mandates charging stations every 25 km on major highways and EV infrastructure in new buildings.

Tesla plans to expand services to two more Indian cities, with the policy targeting a 30% rise in EV adoption by 2030.



FAA says Boeing fuel switches safe after Air India crash

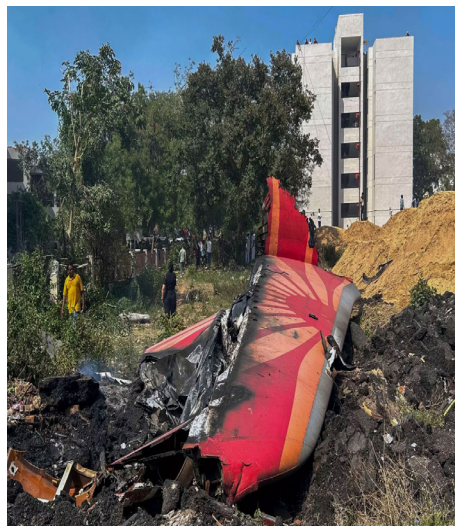
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. FAA has declared that Boeing’s fuel control switches are safe, including those on the 787 Dreamliner involved in Air India’s fatal Ahmedabad crash.

Over 275 people died when both engines shut down seconds after takeoff. Investigators found fuel switches had moved to "CUT-OFF," though neither pilot acknowledged doing so.

A 2018 FAA bulletin had urged airlines to inspect switch locks, but Air India treated it as advisory, not mandatory.

Despite concerns, the FAA stated no safety directive is needed. The crash



remains under investigation with U.S. and U.K. agencies assisting Indian authorities.

India accelerates trade talks with EU, US, and ASEAN ahead of 2025 deadlines

India is intensifying negotiations with major partners—the European Union, the United States, and the ASEAN bloc—as it races to finalize trade agreements by late 2025, Commerce Ministry officials said Tuesday. Special Secretary Satya Srinivas reported that the 12th round of EU talks concluded last week with the exchange of market access offers and agreement on several chapters.

The next round is set for early September in India, with both sides aiming for an interim deal to fast-track a full free trade agreement.

Talks with the U.S. are also advancing, with Indian officials in Washington for the third round this year to finalize a bilateral



trade agreement by fall. Meanwhile, negotiations with ASEAN are slated for August in New Delhi and October in Malaysia, with significant progress expected before the ASEAN-India summit at the end of October.

India’s UPI overtakes Visa as world’s top real-time payments system



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant praised UPI for becoming the world’s top real-time payment platform, processing over 650 million daily transactions—surpassing Visa. He called it a landmark achievement of the Modi government.

According to the RBI, UPI handled 185.8 billion transactions worth \$3.1 trillion in 2024–25, growing 41% year-on-year. Its share in India’s digital payment volume rose to 83.7%.

India now leads with a 48.5% share in global real-time payments. UPI is accepted via QR in seven countries, and the RBI aims to expand it to 20 by 2029. Despite fewer fraud cases, total fraud amounts tripled, mainly due to lending scams.

Bitcoin crosses \$121,000 driven by institutional demand



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bitcoin surged past \$121,000 for the first time on Monday, rising nearly 3% with a market cap of \$2.41 trillion, according to CoinMarketCap.

Analysts credit the rally to rising institutional interest, U.S. Bitcoin ETF inflows exceeding \$50 billion, and pro-crypto policies under President Donald Trump. BlackRock alone holds over \$65 billion in Bitcoin.

Other drivers include a weaker dollar, clearer regulations, and Web3 adoption. Ethereum also gained 3.28% to \$3,054.

Bitcoin is now seen as a key hedge and long-term asset, with predictions it could reach \$125,000 soon.

The U.S. House is set to begin debates on new crypto bills this week.

Arsenal sign Canada's Olivia Smith in record-breaking \$1.3 million deal

Arsenal have completed a landmark signing by acquiring Canadian forward Olivia Smith from Liverpool for a reported \$1.3 million—the highest fee in women's football history. The 20-year-old has signed a four-year contract with the reigning European champions, surpassing the previous record of \$1.1 million paid by Chelsea for U.S. defender Naomi Girma earlier this year. Smith, who became Canada's youngest-ever senior international at age 15, scored nine goals in 25 appearances for Liverpool. She was signed from Sporting CP last summer for approximately \$260,000, giving Liverpool a substantial return on their investment. The transfer strengthens Arsenal's squad ahead of their Champions League title defense. The club also recently added England's Chloe Kelly, former Liverpool vice-captain Taylor Hinds, and German goalkeeper Anneke Borbe on free transfers.

Wallabies hand surprise debut to de Crespigny as injuries hit Lions Test opener



Australia have named 29-year-old flanker Nick Champion de Crespigny for a surprise debut in the first Test against the British & Irish Lions following a string of injury setbacks. Star back-rowers Rob Valetini and Langi Gleeson are sidelined with leg injuries, and veteran lock Will Skelton is also out. Head coach Joe Schmidt has reshuffled the lineup and entrusted the No. 8 shirt to Harry Wilson, who retains the captaincy. Fly-half duties go to 22-year-old Tom Lynagh, making his first Test start. Lynagh, the son of former Wallabies captain Michael Lynagh, becomes part of Australia's first father-son duo to face the Lions in Test rugby.

R&A holds talks with Trump family on possible return of The Open to Turnberry

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club (R&A) has confirmed holding constructive talks with Eric Trump and representatives from the Trump Turnberry resort about the possibility of bringing The Open Championship back to the famed Scottish course. Although Turnberry has not hosted the tournament since 2009, R&A Chief Executive Mark Darbon said discussions focused on infrastructure improvements such as transportation access, roadways, and accommodations necessary to support a crowd of over 250,000—similar to recent events at Royal Portrush.

Darbon emphasized that Turnberry remains "a consideration" for future Opens, possibly as early as 2028, though no official timeline has been announced. The R&A is also reviewing other venues, including Portmarnock in the Republic of Ireland, which, if selected, would mark the first Open held outside the



United Kingdom.

Separately, the R&A confirmed minor adjustments to tee times for Saturday's round at Royal Portrush to avoid conflict with a scheduled loyalist parade. The shift, by 10 to 15 minutes, was made in consultation with local authorities to ensure both the sporting and community events proceed smoothly and without disruption.

Protester disrupts Tour de France stage as Pogacar recovers from crash

Stage 11 of the Tour de France ended in drama as Tadej Pogacar, the two-time champion, crashed with just six kilometers remaining but managed to recover and rejoin the peloton. The Slovenian star suffered scrapes to his arm and hip after clipping the curb during a tight section of road. Despite the fall, his general classification rivals showed sportsmanship by easing the pace to allow him to return.

Meanwhile, Jonas Abrahamsen of Norway claimed his first-ever Grand Tour stage victory for the Uno-X team after a powerful breakaway performance. The

finish was further interrupted when an anti-Israel protester ran onto the course wearing a shirt reading "Israel out of the Tour." The individual was tackled by Tour official Stéphane Boury and later arrested by police on public order charges.

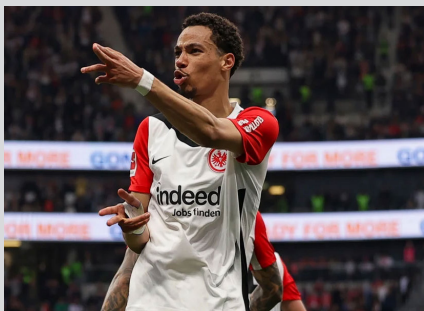
Pogacar later said he was fortunate the crash did not result in serious injuries and confirmed he will continue in the race. The next stage will be a major test, with a high-altitude finish at Hautacam. Race organizers have increased security in response to the incident and are reviewing access control measures for the remaining stages.



Sunil Chhetri urges calm as Indian Super League faces uncertain future

Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri has issued a rallying call for unity as the future of the Indian Super League (ISL) remains unclear. The league's 2025–26 season has been put on hold due to unresolved negotiations between the All India Football Federation and Football Sports Development Limited over the Master Rights Agreement. Chhetri admitted he initially welcomed the delay during his vacation, but now sees the growing uncertainty as deeply troubling. He shared messages from worried players, staff, and support personnel across clubs. Despite the disruption, Chhetri remains hopeful that the governing bodies will resolve the crisis soon. "Please stay calm. We'll ride this storm together," he wrote, urging all stakeholders to keep training and supporting one another until football resumes.

Liverpool prepare offer for Ekitike as striker favors Anfield move



Liverpool are preparing a formal bid for Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike, who is reportedly keen to join the Premier League champions over other suitors like Newcastle United. The 23-year-old French U21 international has a release clause set at \$109 million, although Liverpool's initial offer is expected to be lower. Newcastle had a \$91 million bid rejected earlier this week but remain in negotiations. Liverpool, however, have intensified talks and received positive signals that Ekitike prefers a move to Anfield. The club sees him as a long-term solution at center forward. Liverpool initially targeted Newcastle's Alexander Isak, but sources suggest the Swedish striker is not for sale. With Ekitike open to leaving Frankfurt and discussions gaining momentum, the Reds are moving quickly to finalize terms. Ekitike had a standout season in the Bundesliga and has drawn interest from top European clubs. If signed, he would be among Liverpool's marquee additions this summer as they look to strengthen their squad for a demanding campaign.



Thisara Perera and Shakib Al Hasan join Super 60 Legends USA

Sri Lanka's Thisara Perera and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan have joined the inaugural Super 60 Legends USA tournament, scheduled from August 5 to 16. Shakib will represent the Detroit Falcons and sees this 60-ball format as a fresh challenge for elite players. Perera, known for his T10 experience, said playing in the U.S. is exciting and important for cricket's global growth. The tournament aims to attract younger fans and expand the sport's reach through fast-paced, high-impact games.



Palani, Bhatnagar and Klair elected to key ICC governing committee

Gurumurthy Palani (France), Anurag Bhatnagar (Hong Kong), and Gurdeep Klair (Canada) have been elected to the Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) of the International Cricket Council (ICC), beating incumbents Sumod Damodar and Sankar Renganathan. The elections involved votes from 40 associate members and five regional representatives.

The CEC is one of ICC's top decision-making bodies, responsible for shaping the global cricket agenda. This election marks the start of the ICC's Annual General Meeting in Singapore, the first under chairman Jay Shah and new CEO Sanjog Gupta. The trio's victory underscores the increasing influence of Associate nations in ICC policy-making.

Sabalenka and Badosa pull out of Montreal event ahead of US Open



World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka has withdrawn from the National Bank Open in Montreal due to fatigue, choosing to rest ahead of her title defense at the U.S. Open. Paula Badosa of Spain has also pulled out due to a psoas injury that will keep her sidelined for several weeks.

Badosa shared on social media that she's going through a difficult phase but vowed to keep fighting. As a result of their withdrawals, Caty McNally and Moyuka Uchijima have been added to the main draw.

Sabalenka, who is the defending champion in Cincinnati, plans to return to competition there before heading to New York for the U.S. Open, where she leads the main-draw entry list. She has previously reached the semifinals in 2021 and 2022, and won the title in 2024 after defeating Jessica Pegula. All top 70 WTA players are expected at the U.S. Open, which begins on August 24.

Grand Slam tournaments propose new player council amid rising demands for reform

Tennis' four Grand Slam tournaments—Wimbledon, the Australian Open, the French Open, and the U.S. Open—have proposed forming a dedicated player council to address growing concerns over prize money, maternity protections, pensions, and scheduling. The move follows high-level meetings at Wimbledon in mid-July with top-ranked players, including Coco Gauff and Jannik Sinner, who are demanding more structured input into tournament operations.

Players have voiced frustration over not being consulted on key changes such as earlier Sunday starts, late-night matches, and limited rest periods. They are also pushing for greater financial transparency

and long-term healthcare contributions. In response, representatives from all four Slams reconvened at the close of Wimbledon and confirmed "positive and constructive" discussions, with a commitment to continue talks.

The initiative coincides with the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA) considering an antitrust lawsuit against the Slams. However, the PTPA has agreed to a 90-day pause before naming defendants, allowing negotiations to continue. PTPA CEO Ahmad Nassar described the temporary legal hold as "an opportunity to sit down and hammer out real progress," signaling cautious optimism for meaningful change in player governance.

Mandaviya says sports governance bill shaped by global and national inputs

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the upcoming National Sports Governance Bill has been drafted after extensive consultations with international and domestic stakeholders. Speaking at the Khelo Bharat Conclave, he said the bill reflects feedback from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), FIFA, sports federations, athletes, coaches, and over 600 public suggestions. Mandaviya emphasized the importance of bringing transparency and professionalism to Indian sports governance. He also engaged with sports lawyers and dispatched a special officer to FIFA's headquarters for further discussions. The bill aims to establish a framework for ethical practices, athlete welfare, dispute resolution, and fair governance within national sports



federations. Scheduled to be introduced in the Parliament's monsoon session, the bill incorporates global standards from the Olympic Charter, Paralympic Charter, and other international benchmarks. It seeks to strengthen institutional capacity, promote fair play, and streamline grievance redress mechanisms in Indian sports administration.

AB de Villiers to lead South Africa Champions in his return at World Championship of Legends

AB de Villiers is set to return to competitive cricket for the first time in four years at the World Championship of Legends (WCL), which begins July 18 across English venues including Birmingham and Leeds. The former South Africa captain will lead the South Africa Champions in a tournament sanctioned by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The league features cricket greats like Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle, Shikhar Dhawan, Brett Lee, and Alastair Cook. De Villiers, known for his dynamic strokeplay, expressed excitement about



reuniting with fellow legends and representing South Africa. The South Africa squad includes Albie Morkel and Wayne Parnell. The event blends nostalgia with competition, aiming to become a major fixture on the global cricket calendar.

Praggnanandhaa stuns Carlsen at Freestyle Chess Grand Slam in Las Vegas



Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa delivered a stunning win over World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour in Las Vegas. The 19-year-old outplayed Carlsen in just 39 moves, taking the joint lead in Group White with 4.5 points.

The tournament features two eight-player round-robins with a 10-minute plus 10-second increment format. Praggnanandhaa's win marks his first in the Freestyle Chess format against Carlsen, having previously beaten him in Classical, Rapid, and Blitz formats. Carlsen, who had won the Paris and Karlsruhe legs, has now dropped to the lower bracket after finishing tied for fourth in his group and losing a playoff to Levon Aronian.

With top names like Hikaru Nakamura, Hans Niemann, and Fabiano Caruana advancing from the Black Group, the event now moves into its knockout phase. The winner will receive a first prize of \$200,000.

Bellingham undergoes shoulder surgery, to miss La Liga opener

Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham has undergone surgery for a recurring shoulder dislocation and will miss the start of the 2025–2026 La Liga season. The operation, conducted under the supervision of the club's medical team, addressed a lingering injury sustained in November 2023.

Bellingham had opted to delay the procedure to play in the FIFA Club World Cup. The English international is expected to be sidelined for at least six weeks, ruling him out of Madrid's league opener on August 19, Champions League matches, and England's World Cup qualifiers in September.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar face key rivals in 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers

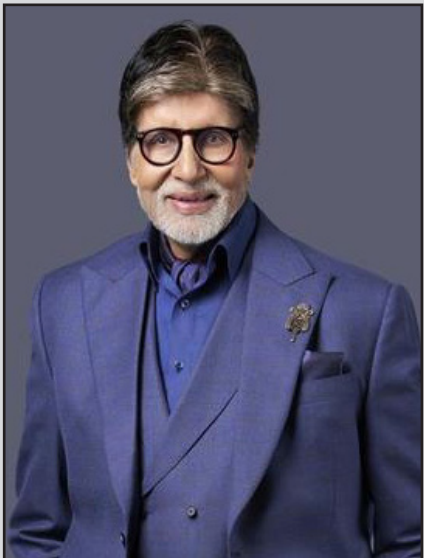
Saudi Arabia will face Iraq and Indonesia in Group B of the fourth round of Asian qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Qatar, the reigning Asian champions, are grouped with the United Arab Emirates and Oman in Group A. Only the group winners will qualify directly, while runners-up will compete in a two-leg playoff in November. The playoff winner will enter FIFA's intercontinental playoff. Australia, Japan, South Korea, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Jordan have already secured their spots at the Finals.



Salman Khan joins Indian Supercross Racing League as investor and ambassador

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has been named brand ambassador and investor for Season 2 of the Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), which unveiled major expansion plans in Mumbai on July 16. Khan also launched the new 'ISRL Proving Grounds' near Pune—a 7-acre training facility for young riders. With 155 international athletes registered, ISRL aims to blend motorsport and entertainment through fan parks and grassroots hubs. ISRL's Managing Director Veer Patel said Khan's involvement boosts the league's credibility and appeal nationwide.

Amitabh Bachchan's 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' returns with season 17 on August 11



The much-loved game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' is set to return with its 17th season on August 11. This season's theme, 'Jahaan Akal Hai, Wahaan Akad Hai', celebrates India's growing pride in knowledge and intellect. Directed by Vikas Bahl, the campaign highlights how wisdom is driving ambition and self-confidence across the country.

Host Amitabh Bachchan called it a tribute to the "quiet pride" that comes from knowing. Airing Monday to Friday at 9 PM on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV, the show aims to inspire viewers to believe in their 'Can Do' spirit and celebrate the power of intellect over possessions.

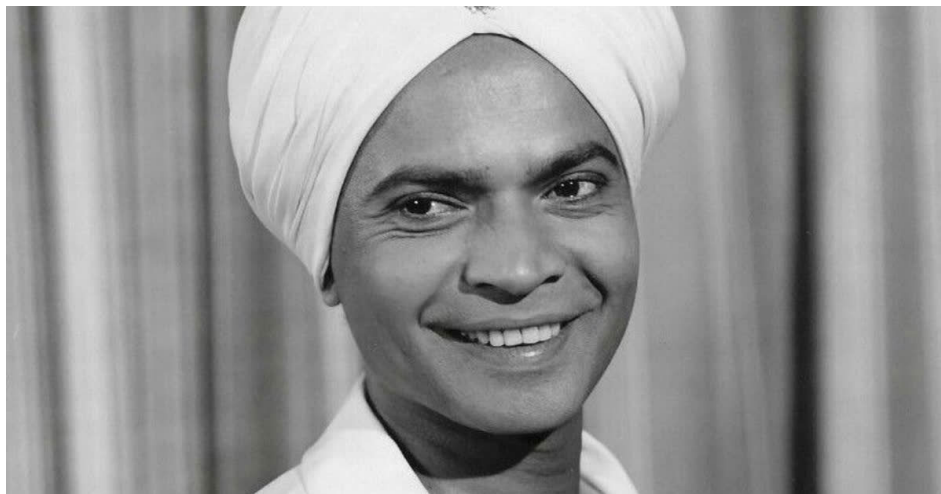
Manisha Koirala receives honorary doctorate from University of Bradford



Veteran actress Manisha Koirala has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Bradford. Expressing her gratitude on Instagram, the 'Dil Se' and 'Heeramandi' star called the recognition "a huge honor," especially as it coincides with Bradford being named the UK City of Culture 2025. Manisha also shared her joy at receiving the award alongside Burberry's Creative Director Daniel Lee.

In an earlier video, she reflected on her journey, saying the recognition validates a life shaped by "hard work, failure, resilience, and service." Her message to graduates: "Keep growing. Keep shining." Fans praised her humility and celebrated her latest milestone.

'Sabu' biopic to spotlight India's forgotten Hollywood trailblazer



A new biopic will chronicle the life of Sabu Dastagir, the Indian-born actor who became a groundbreaking figure in Hollywood during the 1930s and 1940s. Titled 'Sabu,' the film is being directed by Ritesh Batra, best known for 'The Lunchbox.'

Sabu, who was discovered as a teenager in Mysore by documentary filmmaker Robert Flaherty, went on to star in iconic films such as 'The Thief of Bagdad' and 'Jungle Book' (1942). The film aims to explore his rise to international fame and the complexities of his identity as an

Indian actor navigating fame in the West during a time of colonialism and racial barriers.

The project is being produced by Film4 and Batra's PoeticLicense Motion Pictures. Casting is underway, with the lead actor expected to be announced later this year. The film will also delve into Sabu's later years, including his service in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and his untimely death at age 39.

The biopic is seen as a long-overdue tribute to one of India's earliest global stars.

Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell sues sheriff over repeated beach trespassing

Backstreet Boys star Brian Littrell has filed a lawsuit against the Walton County Sheriff's Office in Florida, alleging that deputies failed to stop persistent trespassing on his private beachfront property in Santa Rosa Beach. Littrell, who owns the \$3.8 million estate through his company BLB Beach Hut LLC, claims his family has endured months of harassment by beachgoers ignoring multiple "No Trespassing" signs and violating the posted private property lines.

Despite repeated calls to law enforcement and videos showing intruders confronting Littrell and his guests, the sheriff's office reportedly refused to intervene. The lawsuit seeks a court order mandating the sheriff's department enforce private property rights and take action against trespassers.



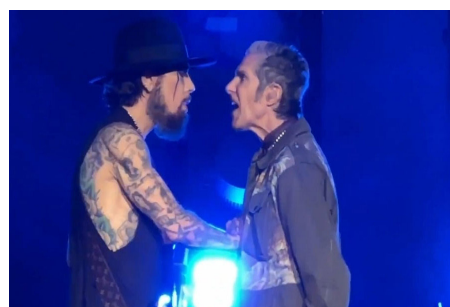
The 49-year-old singer has since hired private security to protect the residence and ensure his family's safety. His attorney emphasized that Littrell is not seeking arrests, but simply wants the sheriff's office to uphold the law. Littrell has owned the beachfront home since 2022 and says the stress of the ongoing violations has disrupted his family's privacy and peace.

'Jane's Addiction' reunion crumbles into lawsuits after onstage meltdown

The much-hyped reunion tour of alternative rock band 'Jane's Addiction' has collapsed into a legal mess, with lawsuits flying following an explosive onstage altercation. The drama unfolded during a show in São Paulo earlier this month when frontman Perry Farrell and guitarist Dave Navarro erupted into a physical confrontation mid-performance.

The incident reportedly stemmed from mounting tensions between Farrell and Navarro over creative direction and setlist choices. Eyewitnesses say Farrell shoved Navarro during a heated exchange, prompting Navarro to storm offstage. The band's management halted the tour the next day.

Now, Navarro has filed a civil suit in Los



Angeles Superior Court, alleging assault and breach of contract. Farrell, in response, is countersuing for defamation, claiming Navarro misrepresented the altercation in the media. The tour's abrupt cancellation has also prompted claims from venues and promoters, adding financial strain to the band's already volatile reunion.

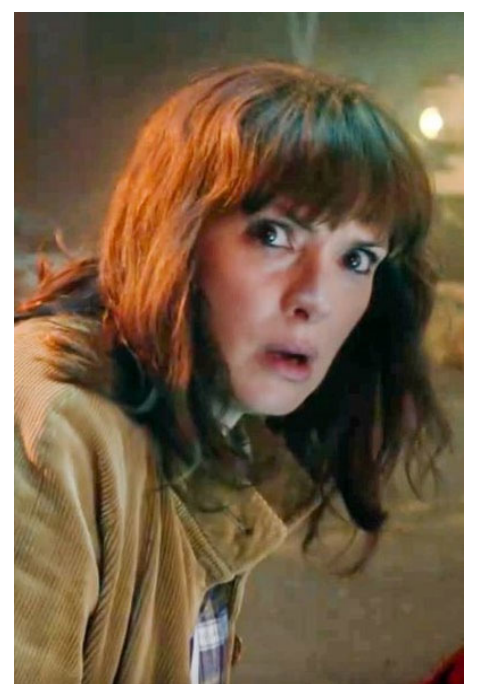
Singer Connie Francis, voice of 'Stupid Cupid' and 'Pretty Little Baby,' dies at 87



Legendary American singer Connie Francis passed away on July 16 at the age of 87. Known for chart-toppers like 'Stupid Cupid', 'Pretty Little Baby', and 'Who's Sorry Now', Francis had recently been hospitalized with severe pain and health complications.

A friend confirmed her passing via social media, describing her as a cherished voice of the 1950s and '60s. Just weeks ago, 'Pretty Little Baby' had gone viral on social media, introducing her music to a new generation. Francis rose to fame after her cover of 'Who's Sorry Now' aired on 'American Bandstand' in 1958, cementing her place in pop music history.

Final season of 'Stranger Things' teases battle for Hawkins' survival

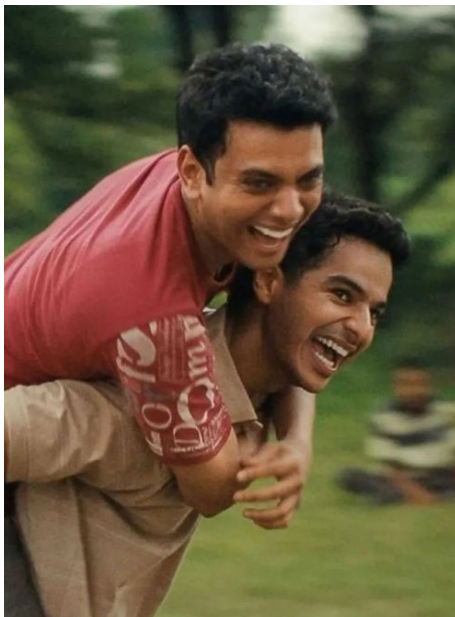


Netflix has unveiled a teaser for the fifth and final season of its hit show 'Stranger Things', hinting at an epic showdown between Hawkins and Vecna. The town, now under military quarantine, is still reeling from the opened Rifts, while the gang prepares for one last mission. Max remains in a coma, Eleven faces her destiny, and Will senses an ominous connection with the Upside Down.

Created by The Duffer Brothers, the final season features returning stars Millie Bobby Brown, David Harbour, Winona Ryder, and more. The teaser amps up anticipation for the show's climactic conclusion filled with action, emotion, and mystery.

Friday, 18 July 2025

Karan Johar's 'Homebound' heads to TIFF 2025



Karan Johar's emotional drama 'Homebound', starring Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter, has been officially selected for the Toronto International Film Festival 2025 in the Gala Presentations category. Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, the film follows two childhood friends from a small North Indian village chasing dreams of becoming police officers, only to face strains in their bond.

The film also stars Vishal Jethwa and Harshika Parmar. It has already premiered at Cannes and is also nominated at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. The cast and crew have called the project a heartfelt journey that explores ambition, identity, and friendship under pressure.

Emma Watson banned from driving for six months over speeding incident



Actress Emma Watson has been banned from driving for six months following a 2024 speeding violation in Oxford, England. The 'Harry Potter' alum was caught driving 38 mph in a 30 mph zone and received the penalty after a legal hearing. Watson has mostly stayed out of the spotlight in recent years, enrolling in a creative writing master's program at Oxford in 2024 and dabbling in directing with a Prada campaign in 2022.

In a past interview, she expressed gratitude for her break from acting, saying it helped her rediscover her voice and creative autonomy. Watson's fans continue to support her low-key journey.

Javed Akhtar honored for championing Urdu at UK Parliament session

Veteran lyricist, poet, and screenwriter Javed Akhtar was honored at the UK Parliament for his lifelong contribution to Urdu literature and cinema. The event, held at the House of Lords in London, celebrated Akhtar's influence in promoting Urdu language and culture globally.

Hosted by members of the British Parliament and South Asian community leaders, the session featured readings from Akhtar's poetry and tributes from prominent artists. Akhtar spoke about the importance of linguistic preservation and the unique power of Urdu to bridge cultures.

The award recognized Akhtar's work in enriching Urdu through Indian cinema, from classics like 'Silsila' and 'Dil Chahta Hai' to his poetry collections and speeches. His recent efforts to introduce Urdu poetry to new generations through translations and digital platforms were also highlighted.

Akhtar expressed gratitude and emphasized the importance of nurturing mother tongues in a globalized world. The honor marks a significant moment for the South Asian diaspora and the growing appreciation of literary traditions in multicultural spaces like the UK.



'Severance' dominates Emmy nominations as streamers and stars break new ground

The 2025 Emmy nominations, announced on July 15, saw Apple TV+'s psychological thriller 'Severance' leading the pack with an impressive 27 nods for its second season. Close behind was HBO Max's 'The Penguin' with 24 nominations, underscoring the continuing dominance of streaming platforms in television's biggest awards show.

This year's lineup blended prestige and fresh acclaim, with newcomers like 'The Pitt', 'Adolescence', and 'The Studio' securing major nominations alongside returning favorites such as 'The Bear', 'The Last of Us', and 'The White Lotus'.

In a moment of historic firsts, 15-year-old Owen Cooper ('Adolescence') became the youngest-ever acting nominee in his category, while Harrison Ford earned his first Emmy nod at 83 for 'Shrinking'.

Trailblazers also made headlines—Bowen Yang became the most-nominated Asian male actor in Emmy history, and RuPaul secured a record 10th nomination for Outstanding Host. Beyoncé earned two nods for her electrifying 'Cowboy Carter' halftime performance.

The 77th Emmy Awards will air live on CBS and Paramount+ on September 14, hosted by comedian Nate Bargatze. Final-round voting runs from August 18 to 27.

Tomorrowland's main stage destroyed by fire just days before festival begins

The iconic main stage at Belgium's Tomorrowland music festival was reduced to ashes on Wednesday, just two days before the global event was set to begin. A massive fire broke out in Boom, near Brussels, gutting the elaborate stage structure and damaging surrounding woodland. No injuries were reported, but the blaze has left organizers scrambling to redesign or replace the stage in time for the festival's opening weekend.

Tomorrowland, one of the world's largest electronic music events, attracts hundreds of thousands of fans annually. This year's headliners include Martin Garrix, Armin van Buuren, and Alesso, among others. In a statement, organizers said the stage was "severely damaged," and they were exploring "immediate alternatives" to prevent delays or cancellations.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, though Belgian authorities have launched an investigation. Fans who had already

arrived in Belgium expressed concern but remained hopeful. "It won't be the same



without the iconic stage, but we're here for the music," one fan told local media. Tomorrowland is expected to issue further updates before gates open Friday.

'Superman' ushers in new era for DC with \$122 million debut



James Gunn's 'Superman' has opened to a strong start, earning \$122 million in its first weekend across theaters in the United States and Canada, according to studio estimates released Sunday. The film, which marks the first major release under the stewardship of Gunn and Peter Safran at DC Studios, is seen as a crucial reset for the franchise after recent box office failures including 'The Flash' and 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods.'

Starring David Corenswet as Superman and Rachel Brosnahan as Lois Lane, the \$225 million production skips the traditional origin story and instead picks up after the superhero's first defeat. Despite mixed global numbers — just \$95 million across 78 markets and \$6.6 million in China — the film secured the third-highest domestic opening of 2025 and is the first DC title since 2017's 'Wonder Woman' to surpass \$100 million on opening weekend.

While political commentary followed Gunn's depiction of Superman as "an immigrant," the film received largely positive reviews, with 82% on Rotten Tomatoes and an "A-" CinemaScore.

Chris Brown pleads not guilty in U.K. nightclub assault case



U.S. singer Chris Brown has pleaded not guilty to assault charges stemming from an alleged nightclub attack in London in 2023. The 36-year-old artist appeared at Southwark Crown Court on Friday, where he denied charges of causing actual bodily harm and possessing an offensive weapon during what prosecutors described as an "unprovoked attack" on music producer Abraham Diaw.

Brown had previously denied a more serious charge of attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm. His co-defendant, Omololu Akinlolu, also pleaded not guilty to causing actual bodily harm, having already rejected the grievous bodily harm charge. Their trial is scheduled to begin on October 26, 2026.

Brown, who was arrested in May after returning to the U.K. for his 'Breezy Bowl XX' tour, was granted bail after posting a \$6.7 million security bond. Around 20 supporters attended the court session, with some shouting "we love you, Chris" as he exited.



वृंदावन मंदिर यात्रा का चौथा पड़ाव श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर के दर्शन

IndoUS Tribune की आध्यात्मिक श्रृंखला यात्रा और दर्शन: वृंदावन मंदिर में आपका हार्दिक स्वागत है। यह श्रृंखला केवल मंदिर दर्शन तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि एक गहन यात्रा है — उन लीलाओं, परंपराओं और भक्ति रस की, जो युगों से इस पावन भूमि में प्रवाहित होती आ रही हैं।

वृंदावन की पवित्र धूल में, जहाँ हर कण में राधा-कृष्ण की रासलीलाओं की गूंज है। हमारा अगला पड़ाव है श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर, जो रस-भक्ति की पराकाष्ठा का जीवंत केंद्र है।

श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर: भक्ति, इतिहास और चमत्कार का संगम

स्थापना और परंपरा

श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर की स्थापना 16वीं शताब्दी में हुई थी। इसके संस्थापक हित हरिवंश महाप्रभु थे, जिन्हें भगवान कृष्ण की मुरली का अवतार माना जाता है। उनके शिष्य सुंदरदास भटनागर ने 1585 ई. में इस मंदिर का निर्माण करवाया। सुंदरदास मुगल सम्राट अकबर के दरबार में नवरत्न अब्दुल रहीम खानखाना के अधीन कार्यरत थे।

उन्हीं के माध्यम से उन्होंने लाल बलुआ पत्थर (जो उस काल में केवल शाही इमारतों में उपयोग होता था) के प्रयोग की अनुमति प्राप्त की और आर्थिक सहायता भी मुगल दरबार से प्राप्त हुई। यह घटना इस बात का प्रतीक है कि उस काल में भी आध्यात्मिक स्थलों के लिए सामाजिक और राजनीतिक समर्थन संभव था।

भगवान राधा वल्लभ की दिव्य मूर्ति

एक प्राचीन किंवदंती के अनुसार, यह विग्रह किसी मूर्तिकार की रचना नहीं है। भगवान शिव ने अपने परम भक्त आत्मदेव ब्राह्मण को अपनी कठोर तपस्या से प्रसन्न होकर, अपने हृदय से श्री राधा वल्लभ जी की यह मूर्ति प्रदान की थी।

बाद में आत्मदेव की दो कन्याओं का विवाह हित हरिवंश महाप्रभु से हुआ और यह विग्रह उनके साथ चारथावल गाँव से वृंदावन लाया गया।

यहाँ भगवान श्रीकृष्ण "राधा वल्लभ" — अर्थात् राधा के प्रियतम — के रूप में पूजित होते हैं। श्रीराधा की मूर्ति का स्थान एक सुंदर मुकुट ने ले लिया है जो साक्षात् देवी की उपस्थिति का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

वास्तुशिल्प और मंदिर का स्वरूप

श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर वृंदावन के गोतम नगर क्षेत्र में, बांके बिहारी मंदिर के समीप स्थित है। यह लाल बलुआ पत्थर से निर्मित है — वही पत्थर जो उस समय केवल राजमहलों और किलों में प्रयुक्त होते थे।

मंदिर की दीवारें लगभग 10 फीट मोटी हैं और दो स्तरों में बनी हैं। इसकी भव्यता और दिव्यता, भक्तों के हृदय में श्रद्धा का संचार करती है। मंदिर का गर्भगृह, शिखर और स्तंभ भारतीय मंदिर वास्तु परंपरा के उत्कर्ष को दर्शाते हैं।

प्रमुख पर्व और उत्सव

श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर में कई वार्षिक उत्सव अत्यंत भव्यता से मनाए जाते हैं:

- ▶ हितोत्सव: 11 दिवसीय उत्सव, जिसमें हित हरिवंश महाप्रभु की लीलाओं, शिक्षाओं और काव्य का स्मरण होता है।
- ▶ राधाष्टमी: श्री राधारानी के जन्मोत्सव पर 9 दिन तक चलने वाला भावमय उत्सव।
- ▶ कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी: रात्रि भर भजन, कीर्तन, रास-लीला के माध्यम से भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का प्राकट्य मनाया जाता है।
- ▶ व्याहलू उत्सव (मनोरथ उत्सव): राधा-कृष्ण के विवाह की रस-परंपरा को जीवंत करती यह लीला, भक्तों को अनुपम रसिक भाव में सराबोर कर देती है।
- ▶ अन्य उत्सव: होली, दीवाली, झूलन उत्सव, फूल बंगला, सांझी, शरद पूर्णिमा, पतोत्सव आदि।

दर्शन और आरती समय

गर्मी में:

- ▶ मंगला आरती: 05:30 AM
- ▶ श्रृंगार आरती: 08:15 AM
- ▶ राजभोग आरती: 12:45 PM

- ▶ संध्या आरती: 05:30 PM
- ▶ शयन आरती: 09:00 PM
- ▶ समाज गायन: 07:30 PM

सर्दियों में:

- ▶ मंगला आरती: 07:00 AM
- ▶ श्रृंगार आरती: 08:35 AM
- ▶ राजभोग आरती: 12:30 PM
- ▶ संध्या आरती: 05:30 PM
- ▶ शयन आरती: 08:15 PM
- ▶ समाज गायन: 07:00 PM

भक्ति का केंद्र: श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर

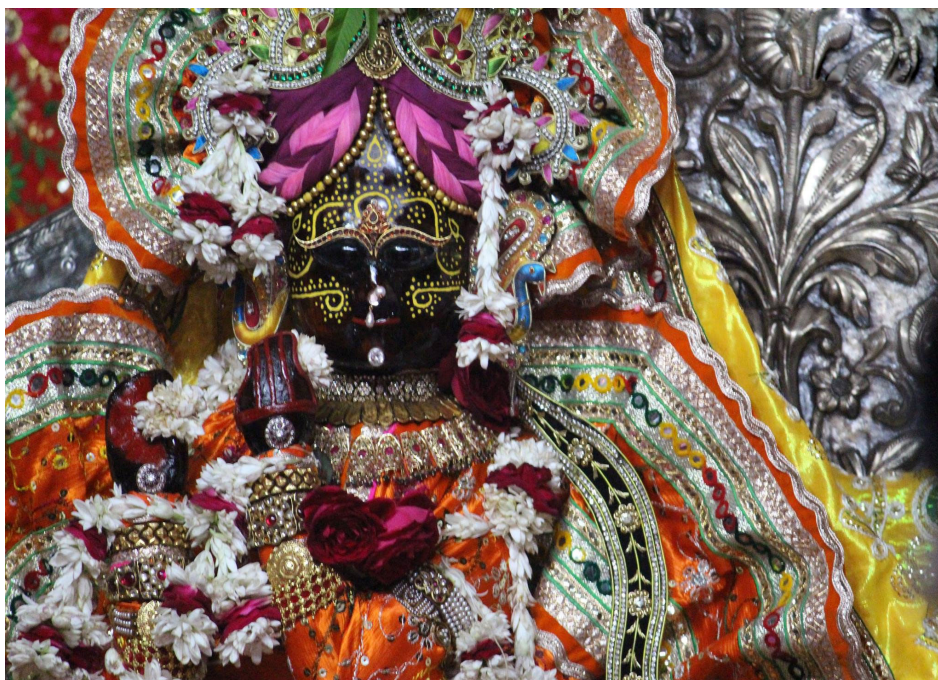
श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर केवल एक स्थापत्य चमत्कार नहीं — यह जीवंत भक्ति रस का केन्द्र है। यहाँ दर्शन मात्र से भक्त को विरह और संयोग के भावों की अद्वितीय अनुभूति होती है। हित हरिवंश जी ने जिस प्रकार से भक्ति के रस में डूबकर राधा-कृष्ण की लीलाओं का वर्णन किया, वह आज भी समाज गायन की परंपरा के रूप में जीवित है। यह मंदिर उस विचार को भी पुष्ट करता है कि भक्ति में भगवान स्वयं भक्त के चरणों में आ जाते हैं — और 'प्रेम' सबसे ऊँचा धर्म है।

IndoUS Tribune की यह श्रृंखला केवल मंदिरों का दौरा नहीं, बल्कि सनातन परंपरा, प्रेम और भक्ति का सजीव अनुभव है। श्री राधा वल्लभ मंदिर — जहाँ राधा और कृष्ण एकत्व रूप में पूजित होते हैं — वहाँ मन और आत्मा दोनों अलौकिक आनंद में लीन हो जाते हैं।

अगली कड़ी में हम चलेंगे श्री गोविंद देव जी मंदिर, जो वास्तुकला, इतिहास और भक्तिभाव का एक अप्रतिम संगम है।

तब तक के लिए, श्री राधा वल्लभ जी की मुस्कान और श्रीराधा रानी की करुणा आपके जीवन को प्रेम, श्रद्धा और भक्ति से आलोकित करती रहे।

जय श्री राधा रमण!



Shreemad Bhagwat Gita - As I understand

Chapter Six: The yoga of renunciation of action

This chapter is known as 'The Yoga of Self-Control' (Ātma-Samyam Yoga). Self-control is generally found in a renunciate or a true yogi. That is why, in this chapter, Lord Krishna attempts to describe the qualities of a true renunciate to Arjuna.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

The first and foremost quality of a renunciate is that he performs all his duties naturally, without any attachment. Such a person is considered a true renunciate, a 'Yogārūha' — one who has fully mounted the path of yoga. A renunciate who has mastered yoga and gained complete control over it is one who emphasizes the importance of controlling the mind completely. On the other hand, if a devotee continues to practice yoga but is constantly disturbed by desires and impulses, then such agitation will prevent him from reaching his true goal.

Without mastering the mind, no yogi's sādhanā (spiritual practice) is complete. This weakness of the mind can lead to a downward path. Arjuna, too, was a victim of this mental weakness, which is why he felt incapable of fighting.

Self-Controlled Yoga (Ātma-Sayam Yoga):

**Bandhur ātmātmanas tasya
yenātmaivātmanā jita |**

**Anātmanas tu śatrutve vartetātmaiva
śatru-vat || (6)**

Meaning:

One who has conquered the mind, for him, the mind becomes his best friend. But for one who has not mastered the mind, it becomes the greatest enemy.

In this verse, Lord Krishna makes it clear that our mind can be our greatest friend or our worst enemy. How we manage its movement and restlessness

depends entirely on our yogic practice. A yogi who recognizes this and controls his mind can easily unite with God and attain supreme peace.

But those who fail to discipline the mind become slaves to desire and pleasure, gaining neither peace in this world nor in the afterlife.

Conduct of a Yogi:

**Yogī yuñjīta satatam ātmāna rahasi
sthita |**

**Ekākī yata-cittātmā nirāśīr aparigraha
|| (10)**

Meaning:

Such a person constantly engages in meditation, remaining in solitude, free from desires and possessions, with mind and self fully controlled.

**Śucau deśe pratihāpya sthiram āsanam
ātmana |**

**Nātyucchrita nāti-nīca cailājina-
kuśottaram || (11)**

**Tatraikāgra mana ktvā yata-
cittendriya-kriya |**

**Upaviśyāsane yuñjyād-yogam ātma-
viśuddhaye || (12)**

Meaning:

To practice yoga, one should choose a pure and quiet place, set up a seat neither too high nor too low, covered with grass, deerskin, and cloth, then sit steadily. Fix the mind, control the senses, and begin the practice for purification of the inner self. A yogi spends his time in deep contemplation of the Lord, thus he prefers solitude. He is far from worldly pleasures, having risen above material desires and possessions.

He sets up a seat with deerskin and cloth, concentrates the mind on divine contemplation, and meditates with eyes closed and focus at the tip of the nose. Practicing brahmacharya (celibacy), he avoids carnal desires.

He consumes roots and herbs, distancing himself from taste indulgences. Through this disciplined sādhanā, he eventually attains the supreme goal — God-realization.

Then he remains detached from worldly pleasures and experiences divine bliss in Lord's feet. There is no spiritual experience greater than this.

**Yo mā paśyati sarvatra sarva ca mayi
paśyati |**

**Tasyāha na praaśyāmi sa ca me na
praaśyati || (30)**

Meaning:

One who sees Me in all beings and all beings in Me — for such a person, I am



never lost, and he is never lost to Me.

upāyata || (36)

In this verse, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that when a yogi becomes fully immersed in Him, he begins to see Krishna in every particle of creation. He loses his ego, his individuality, and sees the divine everywhere — in animals, birds, men, and women.

He sees the same divine form in the rich and poor, in the foolish and the wise. He holds no discrimination or bias. It is said that Sant Kabir, later in life, reached such a state. He sang:

**"Lāli mere Lāl kī, jīt dekhū tīt Lāl
Lāli dekhne main gayī, to main bhī ho
gayī Lāl."**

Such a devotee, a renunciate yogi, becomes very dear to the Lord.

**Cañcala hi mana ka pramāthi balavad
dham |**

**Tasyāha nigraha manye vāyor iva su-
dukaram || (34)**

Meaning:

O Krishna, the mind is truly restless, turbulent, strong, and obstinate. To control it, I think, is as difficult as restraining the wind.

Hearing Lord Krishna, Arjuna responds:

"O Madhusudana, the yoga and renunciation you speak of sound beautiful in theory, but practicing them seems extremely difficult, because the mind you keep referring to is extremely restless. It doesn't come under control easily. Please tell me a simpler way to master it."

**Asaśaya mahābāho mano durnigraha
calam |**

**Abhyāsenā tu kaunteya vairāgyeā ca
ghyate || (35)**

**Asayat-ātmanā yogo duprāpa iti me
mati |**

Vaśyātmanā tu yatatā śakyo 'vāptum

Meaning:

Lord Krishna said: O mighty-armed, without doubt the mind is hard to control, but it can be conquered through practice (abhyāsa) and detachment (vairāgya).

For one who has not mastered the mind, yoga is difficult to attain. But for one who has controlled the mind, yoga is easily attainable — this is My view.

Hearing Arjuna's concern, Lord Krishna agrees, saying:

"Yes, the mind is truly very restless. But that does not mean it can't be controlled. It requires consistent practice and discipline.

To break free from the desires of the senses, repeated effort and focus are necessary.

Through such discipline and concentration, the mind can certainly be tamed — this is My personal experience.

Then the Lord explains to Arjuna that a renunciate who always performs good deeds and constantly worships Me, never strays from the path.

Such a pure yogi takes birth in virtuous homes, uplifting even the family lineage. Born into learned or spiritual households, he easily completes the unfulfilled path to God-realization.

But such a birth is rare. However, when I am pleased, such rare births are made possible by My grace.

So, O Arjuna, give up all doubts and strive to become the renunciate described above.

Control the mind, rise above gain and loss, perform your duties, and dedicate every action to Me.

Abandon laziness and doubt, and prepare yourself like a brave warrior for this battle.

I will always stand by a renunciate like you — have unwavering faith in Me!!

Jai Shri Krishna!!

Krishnamoorthi demands answers as RFK Jr. and Trump administration slash life-saving HIV programs

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, has joined Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, in demanding immediate answers from Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. over the Trump Administration's sweeping elimination of HIV and AIDS-related research, vaccine development, and prevention programs.

In a letter addressed to Secretary Kennedy, the two lawmakers expressed grave concern over what they called a "reckless" dismantling of decades-long public health efforts. They warned that these politically motivated cuts could lead to catastrophic consequences both in the United States and globally.

"The Trump Administration's reckless decision to gut HIV prevention and research programs is not only scientifically indefensible—it's morally unconscionable," said Congressman Krishnamoorthi.

"These cuts jeopardize the health of millions and reverse decades of bipartisan



progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

The letter highlights the Trump Administration's decision to eliminate the HIV prevention division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cut a \$285 million vaccine development program, and halt the globally lauded President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has saved an estimated 26 million lives since its inception.

According to internal analyses, President Trump's second-term budget proposal

included a \$1.5 billion reduction in domestic HIV funding, which could result in more than 143,000 new HIV infections and 127,000 additional deaths in the next five years if implemented.

Rep. Garcia, a prominent voice on LGBTQ+ and minority health issues, condemned the move in stark terms said,

"It is shameful that HHS Secretary RFK Jr. and the Trump Administration are working to dismantle our HIV research, care, and prevention programs aimed at eradicating the disease across the world. This decision is absolutely reckless and puts millions of lives at risk."

The lawmakers further cited RFK Jr.'s long history of spreading misinformation about HIV, including his past claims that HIV does not cause AIDS and instead attributing the disease to recreational drug use, such as "poppers." Such disinformation, they warned, could now be guiding federal policy at the highest levels of public health.

Their letter raises pointed questions about whether the decision to terminate these programs is based on sound science or rooted in Kennedy's discredited views. The lawmakers are requesting all internal documents and communications related to the

program terminations be provided to Congress by July 31, 2025. The move by Krishnamoorthi and Garcia comes amid broader scrutiny of the Trump Administration's health agenda, particularly its alignment with conspiracy-driven narratives and its hostility toward global aid programs.

A legacy at risk

HIV and AIDS-related programs have long received bipartisan support in Congress. Initiatives like PEPFAR have been held up as gold standards in global public health policy. Health advocates warn that the recent dismantling of these efforts could erase decades of hard-won progress and set the world back in its fight against one of the deadliest epidemics in human history.

"We're demanding answers because the American people, and the global community, deserve better than politically motivated neglect of public health," Krishnamoorthi said. As the July 31 deadline for document submission approaches, the Oversight Committee's Democratic members have signaled that they will continue pressing for accountability—and possibly pursue formal hearings—if the Trump Administration fails to provide sufficient justification for its actions.

Swadeshi Fest returns to Naperville with cultural celebration and global trade

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Swadeshi Fest – The International Trade Fair is making a vibrant comeback with its third annual edition from September 4 to 7, 2025, at the Mall of India parking lot. Hosted by nonprofit DTRIBALS Foundation (501(c)(3)), the four-day festival promises a dynamic blend of traditional Indian culture, festival shopping, and international business networking.

A global marketplace with local heart

Running daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, the fair will feature more than 100 exhibitors from the U.S. and abroad, showcasing handicrafts, handlooms, jewelry, groceries, and festive merchandise—perfect for Diwali shopping. It offers retailers and entrepreneurs a valuable platform to connect, collaborate, and explore new markets.

Family-friendly entertainment and cultural flair

Swadeshi Fest is designed for all ages. Families can enjoy:

- Face painting

- Interactive art stations
- Carnival rides
- Live cultural performances throughout the day

Evenings will feature headline concerts on the main stage:

- **Sept 5 (8–10 PM):** Live performance by 7th Heaven Band
- **Sept 6 & 7:** India Fusion Rocks – a high-energy Indo-western music show

Celebrating culture and commerce With over 30,000 attendees expected, Swadeshi Fest stands as one of the Midwest's largest Indian cultural festivals. "Swadeshi Fest is not just a trade fair; it's a movement to celebrate our heritage and empower local businesses," said a spokesperson from DTRIBALS Foundation.

Event details

Location: Parking Lot, Mall of India, Naperville

Dates: September 4–7, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily

Entry: Free and open to the public

Fraud, greed, and a reckoning for the Indian-American community

By Dr. Avi Verma

As the Indian-American community continues to make remarkable strides in politics, business, and academia, a disturbing pattern is emerging—one that threatens to overshadow decades of hard-earned respect: a wave of large-scale fraud cases involving members of our own diaspora. From healthcare scams to elder abuse and immigration fraud, these are no longer isolated incidents—they represent a systemic breach of trust that demands collective introspection.

A trail of fraud: Names that shame

Several high-profile cases from just the past year paint a damning picture:

- ▶ **Dr. Mona Ghosh (Illinois):** Convicted of \$2.4 million in medical billing fraud; sentenced to 10 years for billing insurers for procedures never performed.
- ▶ **Pranav Patel (New Jersey):** Laundered \$1.7 million in an elder fraud scheme; sentenced to over 6 years.
- ▶ **Minal Patel (Georgia):** Orchestrated a

\$463 million Medicare fraud; sentenced to 27 years.

- ▶ **Rishi Shah & Shradha Agarwal (Chicago):** Found guilty in a \$1 billion investor fraud tied to Outcome Health.
- ▶ **Kishore Dattapuram (California):** Ran a fraudulent H-1B visa racket preying on foreign workers.
- ▶ **Sidhartha & Sunita Mukherjee (Texas):** Accused in a \$4 million real estate and PPP loan scam targeting seniors.
- ▶ **Tonmoy Sharma (California):** Arrested for \$149 million Sovereign Health fraud involving kickbacks and false claims.

And now, an Indian tourist has been caught stealing over \$1,300 worth of goods from a Target store in Illinois—a petty but equally damaging crime that reinforces harmful stereotypes.

This single act drags the community into disrepute, casting a long shadow over years of sacrifice and progress.

The root of the crisis: Not just crime, but culture

This pattern reflects a deeper cultural contradiction. The Indian-American identity often links success with status and material wealth. But when these markers become the primary measure of worth, ethical boundaries become blurred. Many of the accused used their cultural ties to deflect suspicion and manipulate trust. They didn't just steal—they weaponized their community's confidence.

Reputational fallout: A black spot on the diaspora

These crimes don't just victimize individuals—they tarnish the moral standing of an entire community. In an environment where immigrants are often stereotyped and scrutinized, every headline amplifies the perception of dishonesty.

Remaining silent in the face of such breaches is no longer an option.

What must be done: Community responsibility begins now
Change must begin at home. The Indian-American community

needs to:

- ▶ Promote ethical mentorship in high-risk fields.
- ▶ Launch fraud-awareness initiatives for elders and immigrants.
- ▶ Establish norms of accountability within associations and networks.
- ▶ Publicly denounce unethical behavior—regardless of status.

This is a moment of reckoning

The Indian-American story is one of resilience and excellence. But integrity must remain at its heart. Fraud is not just illegal—it's a betrayal of the values that built this community.

We must stop glorifying wealth over worth. We must reject silence in the face of corruption. And we must commit to holding ourselves to a higher moral standard.

This isn't just a call to prosecutors. It's a call to every Indian-American to defend the very soul of our community.

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Bollywood nostalgia and a literary honor mark special day for DuPage seniors



Site Managers Sushila Ray and Anjali Khare receive a copy of 'India Calling 2022' from journalist Jayanti Oza on behalf of Manish Media.



The 'Panch Sur Beats' team brings golden-era Bollywood melodies to life

By: Jayanti Oza

The DuPage Senior Citizen Council hosted a lively cultural event at Golconda Restaurant in Naperville, Illinois, last week as part of its popular Senior Lunch Program. The highlight of the afternoon was a soulful live performance by 'Panch Sur Beats,' a local musical group known for reviving the golden era of Bollywood. The group performed beloved songs from the 1960s and 70s—classics made famous by icons like Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, and Kumar Sanu—filling the room with joy and prompting many seniors to dance and sing along.

The performance featured Tushar and Nisha Chotalia, Raj and Smita Rai, Jayant Shah, Chetan Ved, and Vibhakar Parikh, with sound support by Shailendra Bhatnagar.

In a special moment during the event, veteran journalist Jayanti Oza, Midwest representative of Manish Media (Jaipur), presented a copy of 'India Calling 2022'—a book celebrating Prime Minister Narendra Modi, authored by Chandmal Kumavat—to site managers Sushila Ray and Anjali Khare. The event blended cultural nostalgia with a gesture of literary diplomacy, creating an unforgettable afternoon for attendees.



(L to R) Sushila Ray, Jayanti Oza, and Anjali Khare during the community cultural event



Seniors enjoy a lively afternoon of music and dance at Golconda Restaurant, Naperville









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Lakhbir Singh Lakha

New \$250 U.S. Visa Integrity Fee will impact Indian tourists, students, and cultural visitors starting 2026

By Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A major shift is coming for international travelers to the United States — especially those from India. Beginning January 1, 2026, a new \$250 “Visa Integrity Fee” will be imposed on all non-immigrant visa applicants, as mandated by the recently signed “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, a sweeping immigration and national security legislation signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on July 4, 2025. This mandatory, non-refundable fee adds a substantial cost burden on top of existing visa processing fees such as the MRV (Machine Readable Visa) fee, SEVIS fee (for students), and other consular charges.

How will this impact Indian visitors?

India is among the top five nations sending non-immigrant visa applicants to the U.S. This new fee is poised to have significant economic and cultural effects on Indian travelers across several categories:

Tourists (B-1/B-2 Visas)

- ▶ Families visiting for weddings, graduations, or holidays will now pay an additional \$250 per traveler.
- ▶ For a family of four, that's an added cost of \$1,000 – a considerable sum for middle-class households.

- ▶ Senior citizens visiting children or grandchildren — a large demographic of Indian B-2 travelers — will be particularly affected, especially those on pensions or fixed incomes.

Students' families

Parents visiting children pursuing higher education in the U.S. will also be required to pay this fee, further increasing the financial burden already faced by Indian families sending students abroad. Combined with existing SEVIS and visa issuance fees, total upfront costs for a student visa journey may now range between \$700–\$900.

P-3 Visa holders: Cultural visitors

The Integrity Fee will also apply to P-3 visa applicants, which include:

- ▶ Indian classical musicians
- ▶ Dance troupes
- ▶ Theater groups
- ▶ Community and temple festival performers
- ▶ These groups often travel for non-commercial purposes or are supported by nonprofit organizations, making the additional cost a potential deterrent to cultural exchange.

Wider implications for U.S. tourism revenue

The new fee may create a chilling effect on tourism from countries like India, Brazil, the Philippines, and Nigeria, which are not part of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

Cities such as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Orlando, which heavily benefit from Indian tourist spending in hospitality, retail, and air travel sectors, could see a noticeable dip in arrivals — especially with graduation season and summer travel spikes.

At a glance: Key stats from removed charts

- ▶ India is projected to contribute over \$1.8 billion of the expected \$9 billion in Integrity Fee revenue in the first fiscal year.
- ▶ Tourist visa cost for Indian applicants will increase from ~\$185 to ~\$435.
- ▶ For students, total visa-related expenses could approach \$900.

Is the fee refundable?

According to early guidance:

- ▶ Refunds may be possible in rare cases — such as leaving the U.S. within 5 days of visa expiry without violating terms.
- ▶ However, no official refund mechanism has yet been released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or Department of State.
- ▶ Until further notice, assume the fee is non-refundable.

Implementation timeline

- ▶ The \$250 fee will take effect January 1, 2026, in line with the U.S. government's fiscal year planning.
- ▶ Technical and procedural rollout is underway at consulates worldwide.

Political and diplomatic ramifications

While the “Visa Integrity Fee” is part of broader efforts to enforce immigration accountability and fund

border infrastructure, it also:

- ▶ Risks damaging soft power and cultural diplomacy with major allies like India.
- ▶ May spark calls for reciprocal action or fee waivers in bilateral negotiations.
- ▶ Could impact long-term academic, professional, and cultural exchange programs.

What Indian travelers should do

- ▶ **Plan ahead:** Budget for the extra \$250 per visa applicant.
- ▶ **Stay informed:** Watch DHS and U.S. Embassy in India for procedural updates.
- ▶ **Avoid scams:** Be cautious of fake refund agents or unofficial payment portals.

Final takeaway

The introduction of the Visa Integrity Fee will affect Indian tourists, students' families, and cultural delegations in a direct and costly way. As the U.S. gears up for global events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympics, this policy risks undermining goodwill and people-to-people connections with one of its most significant international partners — India.

IndoUS Tribune will continue tracking developments, including any changes to the law or possible exemptions for select visa categories.

For questions or to share your experience as an Indian traveler navigating the new fee system, email us at editor@indoustribune.com.



US-India summit on Capitol Hill highlights strategic ties and diaspora engagement



Group picture of FIIDS delegation with the members of US Congress

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Nearly 150 Indian-American delegates from across the United States gathered on Capitol Hill on July 15, 2025, for the US-India Partnership Summit and Legislative Day, organized by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS). The event underscored the growing importance of U.S.-India strategic cooperation and the increasing influence of the Indian-American community in shaping bilateral policy.

Participants engaged in discussions with more than 120 lawmakers, addressing a range of issues including trade, security, immigration reform, counterterrorism, and technological collaboration. Alliances such as the Quad, I2U2, and IMEC also featured prominently in the agenda.

India's Ambassador to the United

States, Vinay Kwatra, lauded the event and the role of the diaspora in bridging the two democracies. "The diaspora serves as a living bridge between our societies, economies, and nations," he said, noting the shared values that continue to drive the partnership forward.

FIIDS President Khanderao Kand emphasized the substantive nature of the conversations with lawmakers. "These meetings were not just photo ops," Kand said. "Delegates addressed pressing topics like AI, critical minerals, quantum computing, Indo-Pacific security, and the EAGLE Act."

Members of Congress echoed the summit's message of deepening collaboration. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) highlighted the dramatic rise in U.S.-India trade—from \$20 billion in 2000 to over \$200 billion today—and described the



relationship as "stronger, deeper, and wider."

essential to ensuring global stability in the 21st century.

Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, emphasized the need for continued political engagement from the Indian-American community. "Progress takes persistence," Khanna said. "The work FIIDS is doing is critical in advancing the long-term strategic interests of both our nations."

Khanna also expressed congressional support for India's right to self-defense following the recent terror attacks in Pahalgam, framing India as a vital military, economic, and technological partner.

The summit closed with a bipartisan consensus that U.S.-India relations are not only critical to the two nations but



Ambassador of India to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra



Khanderao Kand founder of FIIDS, and Chicago delegation : Nirav Patel, Rakesh Malhotra, Devesh Pandit with Congressman Raja KrishnaMoorthy



Why ‘skin longevity’ is replacing anti-aging in beauty conversations

For decades, beauty shelves were filled with products promising to reverse, erase, or freeze the signs of aging. Now, a new phrase is gaining ground: skin longevity. Rather than “fighting” age, the concept emphasizes strengthening and maintaining the skin’s natural functions for the long term.

At its core, skin longevity is about cellular health—keeping skin resilient against environmental stress and slowing premature damage. Experts describe it as helping the skin “work better,” focusing on optimal repair and protection instead of chasing an impossible state of youth.

Treatments often associated with longevity include daily sun protection, antioxidants, and regenerative ingredients that support the skin’s structure and elasticity.



The appeal goes beyond aesthetics. Advocates argue that approaching skin health this way feels empowering and gender-neutral, aligning with broader ideas of wellness and biohacking. Still, skeptics warn that the term could become a rebranded version of anti-aging, fueling the same pressures around youthfulness.

Supporters of skin longevity encourage reframing aging itself: not as a flaw to correct but as a natural process to navigate with intention. The goal, they say, is skin that stays healthier, stronger, and more vibrant—whatever the decade.



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Personal finance insights: News & Features

Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

SENTIMENTS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +5.8% (below average)
 \$NYA50R, NYSE %Above 50-dMA 74.44% (overbought)
 \$SPXA50R, SP500 %Above 50-dMA 68.40% (positive)
 Delta MSI 77.9% (overbought)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 5/31/25
 OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 60.61%, Hybrids 4.16%, Bonds 17.70%, M-Mkt 17.54%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
 Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 4.25-4.50%
 FOMC 7/30/25+ hold
 FOMC 9/17/25+ cut

Treasury

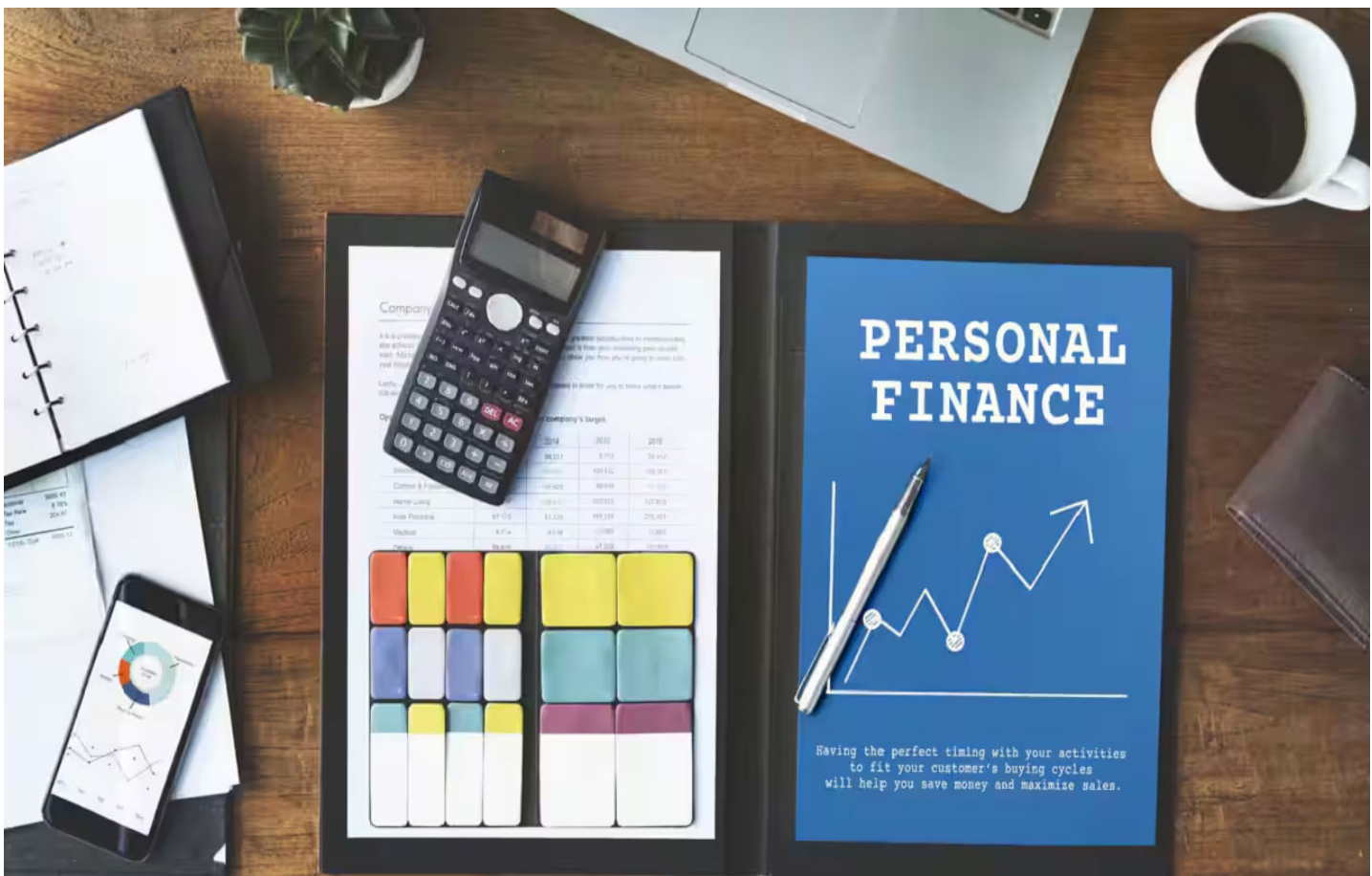
T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.41%, 1-yr 4.09%; T-Notes 2-yr 3.90%, 5-yr 3.99%, 10-yr 4.43%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.96%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.55%, 10-yr 2.06%, 30-yr 2.64%
 FRNs Index 4.301%
 US Savings I-Bonds rate from 5/1/25 – 10/31/25 is 3.98% (previous 3.11%); the fixed rate is 1.10%, the semiannual inflation is 1.43%.

For current banking rates, see www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 7/1/25
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
 Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%
 Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%, IRA-101110+ 4.50%
 TSP G Fund 4.25% (previous 4.500%).

Weekly ETFs INDA -1.63%, EPI -1.87%, INDH -1.19%, SPY -0.20%

The data above are as of Sunday preceding the publication date.



MARKETS

SEBI has banned Jane Street (US). It made HUGE profits exploiting the lack of intermarket trading controls in India (options & underlying stocks/Indexes). Irregularities are suspected. But SEBI should also focus on developing those controls & penalizing Jane Street shouldn't be the end.

ECONOMY

US tariffs on India are still pending. The drama at WTO also continues. US tariff letters to several countries indicated tariffs of 20-50%; the sectoral tariffs will be separate.

SPECIAL TOPICS

AAIB preliminary report on Air India 171 (Boeing 787/Dreamliner) crash indicated that during the takeoff, both engine fuel switches suddenly “transitioned” from RUN to CUTOFF. There are locking mechanisms to hold switches in position & deliberate manual efforts are required to flip them. Both pilots seemed surprised. Switches “transitioned” back to RUN. This

initiated the auto-restart cycles for engines. One engine turned on but the other had difficulty restarting. Unfortunately, the flight crashed into a medical college complex near Ahmedabad Airport.

Torrent Pharma (a subsidiary of Torrent Group) will acquire a controlling stake in J B Chemicals & Pharma from KKR (US) & combine the entities in stages. Stage 1 - 46.39% stake from KKR, 2.80% stake from certain KKR employees, 26.00% stake from open public offer. Stage 2 - Merge Torrent Pharma & J B Pharma.

PORTFOLIO ANALYTICS SOFTWARE (Part I)

If you have multiple investment accounts, it becomes difficult to monitor all those portfolios. There are several portfolio analytics software that handle uploaded, stored or linked portfolios, but don't have any transactional capabilities. The analytics may include total-returns (TRs), rolling-returns, inflation-adjustments, portfolio value charts, drawdowns, U/D CR, benchmarking, SWRs/PWRs, MPT statistics (alpha, beta, correlation, standard deviation, Sharpe Ratio, etc), etc.

MFO Premium (MFOP)

It has great analytics at low-cost that is partially tax deductible. Partial site updates are daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly. It can handle mutual funds/OEFs, ETFs, CEFs & insurance VAs (internal tickers, selected Q-tickers), but not stocks. There is charting for portfolio components but not for portfolio values. Monthly return data are used for analytics. There are regular enhancements. MFOP runs are not linkable. MFO = Mutual Fund Observer; it's a 501c3 organization.

Portfolio Visualizer (PV)

Its free version is now limited to 10-year lookback from the date of the PV run, so that practically means 9 recent full years; the subscription version has medium-high costs. The PV runs can be longer with older start & end dates. It can handle mutual funds/OEFs, ETFs, CEFs & stocks. Portfolio can be manually entered or uploaded from Excel or csv files. An interesting feature is to include cash additions or withdrawals as percentages or that are uniform (with or without inflation-adjustments; default balances are nominal, but inflation-adjustment balances are also available). Monthly return data are used for analytics. PV runs are linkable.

TestFol

It's relatively new & rapidly evolving. It has a free version only & maybe a good substitute for PV as it doesn't have timeframe limitations. It can handle mutual funds/OEFs, ETFs, CEFs, stocks, & some VAs with Q-tickers. Login isn't offered, but it saves recent portfolios using browsers' local storage features. Cash additions/ withdrawals are also available. Unfortunately, the inflation-adjustment is applied to both the additions/ withdrawals (good) & final balances (not good), so the results won't match with the default balance values in PV. A unique feature is that it uses daily return data, so its MPT statistics won't match those from sites using monthly return data. Sometimes, the daily return data jumps around the ex-div dates & that may introduce small errors in MPT stats. Several rolling-stats are also available (TRs, SDs, Sharpe Ratios, etc). TestFol runs are linkable.

For more information, see ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/



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.

- ▶ Lecturio 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 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. Lecturio: 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.

Lecturio 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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A promising breakthrough in brain health: GAI-17 shows potential to reverse stroke damage and combat Alzheimer's



By: Dr. Avi Verma

In what could be a game-changing development for millions affected by stroke and neurodegenerative diseases, Japanese scientists at Osaka Metropolitan University have unveiled a new drug, GAI-17, that appears to significantly reverse stroke-induced brain damage—even when administered six hours after onset. Even more exciting? It may also hold potential to fight Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.

What is GAI-17?

GAI-17 is a protein aggregation inhibitor, developed by a research team led by Associate Professor Hidemitsu Nakajima from the Graduate School of Veterinary Science at Osaka Metropolitan University. The drug targets GAPDH (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase), a key enzyme with multiple roles in both metabolism and the progression of brain diseases.

In recent years, researchers have found that GAPDH, when it clumps together abnormally, plays a role in brain cell death after stroke and in chronic disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. GAI-17 works by preventing this protein from aggregating, thus safeguarding neurons from the damaging cascade that follows a stroke.

How does it work?

When mice were subjected to acute ischemic strokes in a controlled setting, those treated with GAI-17 demonstrated:

- ▶ Significantly reduced neuronal death
- ▶ Lower rates of paralysis
- ▶ Improved motor function
- ▶ Sustained neurological recovery

What's particularly remarkable is that these improvements occurred even when the drug was given six hours after the stroke

event. This is a far wider treatment window than current therapies like tPA (tissue plasminogen activator), which is only effective within 3–4.5 hours post-stroke and comes with risks of hemorrhage.

No major side effects reported

Another promising aspect of GAI-17 is its favorable safety profile. In early trials on animal models, the drug:

- ▶ Did not impact cardiovascular or cerebrovascular health
- ▶ Showed no toxicity to heart tissue
- ▶ Did not affect blood pressure or liver enzyme levels

While these are preclinical results, they represent a major step forward in stroke and Alzheimer's research, where treatment options are severely limited and often come with serious side effects.

GAI-17 vs. Alzheimer's and other brain disorders

Given GAPDH's link to Alzheimer's, the research team believes GAI-17 could have much broader uses than stroke therapy alone. Ongoing research is underway to explore its effectiveness in Alzheimer's disease models, where GAPDH aggregation is also seen to contribute to neurodegeneration.

Professor Nakajima noted, "The GAPDH aggregation inhibitor we have developed is expected to be a single drug that can treat many intractable neurological diseases, including Alzheimer's disease."

Why this matters for the Indo-US community

Stroke remains a leading cause of long-

term disability and death in both India and the United States. According to the American Heart Association:

- ▶ Someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds
- ▶ It is the 5th leading cause of death
- ▶ South Asians are particularly at risk due to genetic and lifestyle factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity

If GAI-17 eventually passes clinical trials in humans, it could offer a longer treatment window, making it accessible to rural and underserved populations that typically miss the narrow emergency timeframe for existing treatments.

What's next?

The researchers are preparing for human trials, focusing not just on stroke recovery but also long-term treatment strategies for dementia, ALS, and Huntington's disease. While a commercial version of GAI-17 is likely still several years away, the early results are encouraging.

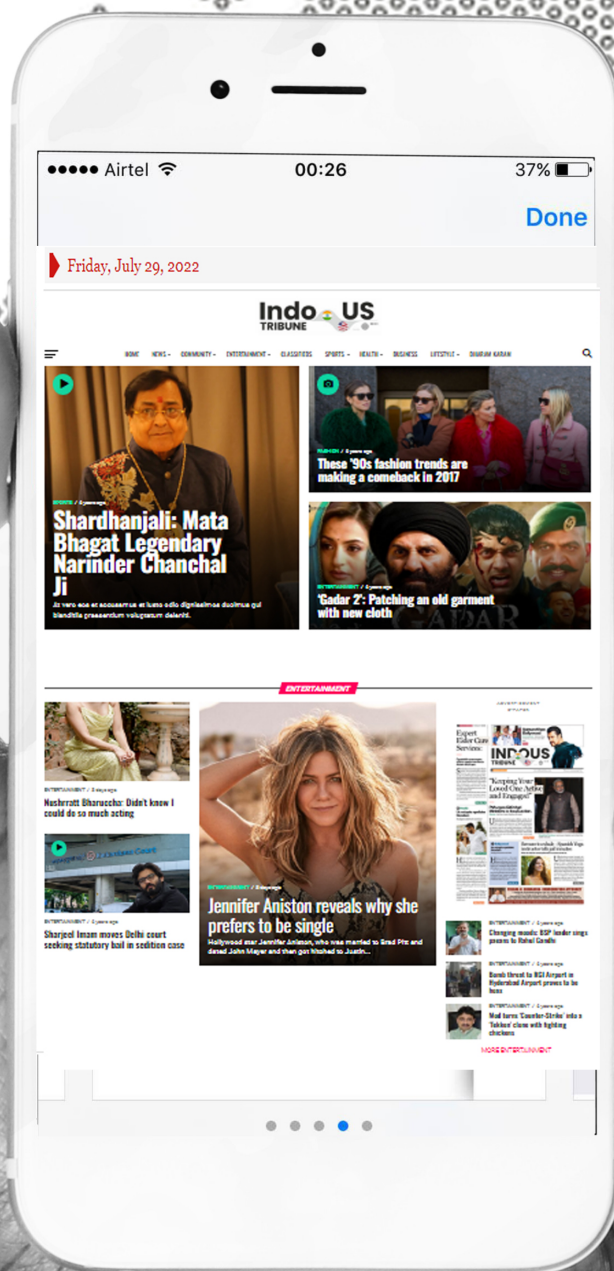
The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal *iScience*, and further testing will involve collaboration with neurology departments and global biotech firms.

Disclaimer:

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