

Lindsey Graham questions Pakistan's role in Iran mediation



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Lindsey Graham on Tuesday questioned Pakistan's credibility as a mediator in the Iran conflict after reports alleged Iranian aircraft were using Pakistani military bases. During a Senate defense budget hearing, Graham pressed Joint Chiefs Chairman Dan Caine and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth about the claims. Caine acknowledged seeing one report but declined further comment, citing ongoing negotiations. Graham argued such actions would undermine Islamabad's peace efforts and said he did not trust Pakistan's role in the crisis. The hearing also focused on China's purchases of Iranian oil and regional tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

India pushes BRICS agenda for stronger multilateralism and Global South cooperation



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday outlined India's vision for a stronger and more inclusive global order as the two-day BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting began in New Delhi under India's chairmanship. Modi said BRICS had emerged as a key platform for advancing cooperation among emerging economies and amplifying the voice of the Global South. He said India would focus on strengthening multilateralism, promoting sustainable development, boosting economic resilience and building a more inclusive international order.

Jaishankar said the meeting comes at a time of growing global uncertainty affecting emerging and developing economies. He stressed the need for secure supply chains, safe maritime routes, food and energy security, and stronger cooperation against terrorism. He also renewed India's push for reforms to the United Nations Security Council. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also met Modi during the summit, with both leaders discussing Ukraine, West Asia and ongoing India-Russia cooperation. Modi reiterated India's support for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve global conflicts.

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Norwegian newspaper calls Modi world's most popular leader ahead of Nordic visit

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A leading Norwegian financial newspaper has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the world's most popular politician ahead of his visit to Norway on Sunday for the India-Nordic Prime Ministers' meeting.

In an article published by Dagens Næringsliv, the paper said Nordic leaders could learn from Modi's political success, highlighting his domestic approval ratings, economic policies and leadership style.

The report credited Modi's popularity to India's economic growth, green energy expansion and the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which it described as the world's largest political party.

The article also praised Modi's rise from humble beginnings and said India's economy could become the world's second



largest by 2050 if current growth trends continue. It further argued that stronger

India-Norway ties could benefit both countries economically and strategically.

Trump and Xi end Beijing talks with trade progress but Taiwan tensions linger

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded high-stakes talks in Beijing on Friday with both leaders projecting optimism on trade and economic ties, even as Taiwan emerged as the biggest flashpoint in United States-China relations.

During private discussions on Thursday, Xi warned Trump that mishandling Taiwan could push the two powers toward "clashes and even conflicts," according to Chinese officials. Secretary of State Marco Rubio later reiterated that United States policy on Taiwan remains unchanged and warned against any attempt to seize the island by force.

Despite tensions, Trump described

relations with China as being in "a good place" and said Xi had congratulated him on recent successes. The summit focused heavily on preserving the fragile trade truce reached last October, including Chinese purchases of American agricultural products, beef and Boeing aircraft. Trump said China had agreed to buy 200 Boeing jets, though the smaller-than-expected deal caused Boeing shares to fall.

The leaders also discussed Iran, energy security and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Trump said Xi privately offered help in resolving the Iran conflict and expressed interest in increasing Chinese purchases of United States oil. Talks additionally included market access for American companies such as Visa and Mastercard, as Washington pushes for broader commercial cooperation with Beijing.



Jaishankar urges broader narrative on science, highlights India's contributions at United Nations



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday called for moving beyond what he described as a uni-dimensional narrative of mathematics and science and toward a more inclusive "democratization of history" that recognizes India's foundational contributions. Speaking at the United Nations, he cited early innovations such as the binary system linked to third-century scholar Pingala, saying these ideas underpin today's digital technologies and artificial intelligence. He argued that scientific progress has often been viewed through a narrow geographic and historical lens and said correcting that imbalance is important for the future. An exhibition on India's contributions to mathematics showcased developments ranging from zero and algebra to trigonometry and calculus, and their spread across global centers of learning.

Israeli parliament approves special tribunal law for October seventh attack suspects



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The Israeli parliament has approved a law establishing a special military tribunal for Palestinians suspected of involvement in the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attack. The tribunal is authorized to impose the death penalty, a sentence not carried out in Israel since 1962. The law has triggered sharp criticism from human rights groups. Adalah said the legislation denies suspects basic fair trial protections and warned that any death sentence could violate international law and amount to an arbitrary deprivation of life. Critics also argue the framework creates a dual legal system that treats Palestinians and Israelis differently in similar offenses. The October 7 attack killed about 1,200 people in Israel and led to the capture of more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli figures.

Russia pounds Kyiv for third straight day as deadly strikes flatten apartment block



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia launched another massive wave of drone and missile attacks across Ukraine on Thursday, killing at least nine people after a strike destroyed a residential apartment building in Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said. The attack marked the third consecutive day of large-scale Russian bombardments targeting cities across the country. Emergency crews searched through the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building in Kyiv's Darnytsia district, where all 18 apartments were destroyed. Among the dead was a 12-year-old girl, while more than 30 people were injured and about 20 remained missing. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko declared Friday a day of mourning. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had launched more than 1,560 drones since Wednesday, damaging around 180 sites nationwide, including dozens of residential buildings. Cities including Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy and Kremenchuk also came under attack. The strikes coincided with President Donald Trump's summit in China, prompting Ukrainian officials to urge Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the war. Russia claimed the attacks targeted Ukraine's military-industrial infrastructure and said hypersonic Kinzhal missiles were used in the operation.

Lebanon-Israel talks resume in Washington as Hezbollah clashes continue

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Lebanon and Israel opened a new round of direct negotiations in Washington on Thursday as cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah continued despite an ongoing ceasefire. The talks, backed by the Trump administration, aim to secure a broader truce, address Israeli troop withdrawals from southern Lebanon and discuss Hezbollah's future role. Lebanese officials are seeking a security agreement short of diplomatic normalization, while Israeli leaders continue pressing for Hezbollah's disarmament.

The discussions began hours after a Hezbollah drone attack injured three civilians in northern Israel. Israeli strikes



in Lebanon on Wednesday also killed more than 20 people, including children, according to Lebanese health authorities. U.S. officials described the first day of talks as "productive and positive," with negotiations set to continue on Friday as both sides attempt to prevent a wider regional escalation.

Trump jokes about 2028 contenders and mocks Democrats during White House dinner

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United States President Donald Trump turned a White House law enforcement dinner into a political address, joking about potential 2028 candidates, mocking Democrats, and highlighting White House renovations. Speaking for about 30 minutes during Police Week, Trump referenced immigration, crime, former President Barack Obama, and what he called a "rigged" election. Vice President JD Vance, cabinet members, and law enforcement leaders attended the Rose Garden event.

Trump asked guests to react to JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio as possible future Republican contenders, later joking they could form a "dream team." He also criticized former Vice President Kamala



Harris and California Governor Gavin Newsom. A portion of his remarks focused on White House restoration work, which he said he helped fund. He also praised law enforcement officers for their strong support and joked about drones after spotting birds overhead.

Labour turmoil grows as MP resigns to clear path for Andy Burnham's return

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fresh political crisis hit Britain's ruling Labour Party on Thursday after MP Josh Simons resigned to allow Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to contest a by-election and potentially return to Parliament. Burnham is widely viewed as a possible challenger to Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

In his resignation statement, Simons said the government had failed to deliver meaningful change for his constituency. Burnham later confirmed he would seek approval from Labour's National Executive Committee to stand in the Makerfield by-election. The development came as Starmer faced growing pressure following Labour's poor local election performance and the resignation of Health Secretary Wes Streeting.

Asian alliance launched to strengthen rare disease research and care across Asia Pacific

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Asia Pacific alliance focused on rare diseases was launched on Sunday under the Human Genome Project II Rare Disease Alliance of the Asia Pacific Region to improve regional collaboration in diagnosis, research, and public health response. The initiative brought together experts in genomics, clinicians, and policy representatives from 10 countries, including India, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Pakistan. Co-initiated by China's BGI Group and regional partners, the alliance aims to address gaps in diagnostic capacity, uneven access to precision medicine, and fragmented standards across the



region. Members signed a joint declaration committing to cooperation. Officials from Malaysia and other institutions highlighted the importance of shared expertise. The program also emphasizes the role of genetic technology and artificial intelligence in transforming rare disease care.

United Nations warns Afghanistan faces deepening poverty and drought crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nearly 28 million people in Afghanistan are unable to meet basic needs as poverty, drought and shrinking international aid worsen the country's humanitarian crisis, according to a new report from the United Nations Development Programme released this week. The report said Afghanistan's economy grew by just 1.9 percent in 2025, far below population growth, causing continued declines in household income. More than 80 percent of families are now carrying debt, while many rely on extreme coping measures to survive.

The United Nations also linked the worsening crisis to Taliban restrictions on women and girls, saying limits on education and employment have weakened the workforce and reduced family incomes. Severe drought now affects nearly two-thirds of Afghanistan's farmland, while hundreds of health centers have shut down or reduced operations because of funding shortages.

Anti-Arab chants and clashes erupt during Jerusalem Day march

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Far-right Israeli nationalists chanting anti-Arab slogans marched through Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter on Thursday during annual Jerusalem Day celebrations, escalating tensions in the city's Old City. Marchers shouted slogans including "death to Arabs" and "may your villages burn" as clashes broke out between Jewish extremists and Palestinian residents before police intervened. Many Palestinian businesses had closed before the march began. Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir later waved an Israeli flag at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, one of the region's most sensitive religious sites. Activists from the Israeli group Standing Together formed protective patrols to help shield Palestinian residents from violence. Critics said the annual event has become increasingly aggressive and politically charged in recent years.

CIA chief visits Havana as Cuba's fuel crisis sparks unrest

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CIA Director John Ratcliffe met Cuban officials in Havana on Thursday in a rare diplomatic engagement as Cuba struggles with a worsening fuel and electricity crisis. The visit came one day after protests broke out across Havana following government warnings that the country had run out of diesel and fuel oil. Residents banged pots, demanded electricity restoration and protested blackouts lasting up to 22 hours. Cuba blamed the crisis on the United States blockade and called for sanctions relief. President Miguel Díaz-Canel said the humanitarian suffering was being deliberately intensified by Washington's policies. Despite worsening tensions under President Donald Trump, both governments continue limited diplomatic talks, including a recent high-level meeting held in Havana last month.

Flávio Bolsonaro under fire after leaked recordings reveal film funding request

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian senator Flávio Bolsonaro is facing mounting political pressure after leaked recordings revealed he sought nearly \$27 million from jailed banker Daniel Vorcaro to finance a film about his father, former President Jair Bolsonaro. The recordings, published Wednesday, allegedly captured Flávio Bolsonaro requesting money for a "heroic" biopic starring actor Jim Caviezel. Vorcaro is currently imprisoned over allegations tied to one of Brazil's biggest banking fraud scandals. Flávio Bolsonaro initially denied the reports before later admitting he had sought private sponsorship for the film project. The controversy has triggered criticism across Brazil's political spectrum and is being viewed as a major setback to his presidential ambitions ahead of October's election.

ICC-wanted Philippine senator slips out of senate amid chaos

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Philippine senator Ronald dela Rosa, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court over his alleged role in former President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug crackdown, secretly fled the Senate building after days under protective custody. Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano confirmed Thursday that dela Rosa had slipped out before dawn from the heavily guarded complex. The situation turned chaotic earlier this week after supporters gathered outside the building and gunfire later erupted inside the compound. Dela Rosa is accused by the International Criminal Court of helping oversee thousands of killings during Duterte's anti-drug campaign. He denies wrongdoing. Authorities are now investigating the shooting incident as political tensions between President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Duterte family continue to intensify.

South Korea court pauses Yoon insurrection appeal after recusal request



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A Seoul appellate court on Thursday suspended former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's insurrection appeal trial after his lawyers sought the removal of all three judges handling the case. The court had been expected to begin formal proceedings in Yoon's appeal against a life sentence tied to his failed 2024 martial law declaration.

His legal team argued the judges could not ensure a fair trial because they had already ruled against former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo in a related case last week. Under South Korean law, proceedings must pause while recusal requests are reviewed. Yoon is facing multiple additional criminal trials.

Russia says it does not want war with NATO amid nuclear shield concerns

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Russia's ambassador to Germany Sergey Nechayev said Russia does not want war with Germany or NATO but warned that discussions around a joint nuclear shield in Europe could alter the continent's strategic balance. Speaking at a Berlin panel discussion on Friday, he said Russia is closely monitoring proposals for expanded nuclear protection systems and cautioned that such moves could trigger changes in its military posture. He stressed that Russia does not seek conflict with NATO, but added that escalating nuclear-related discussions would require a response under Russia's doctrine. He also



argued that Western messaging portrays Russia as an existential threat and said continued military support for Ukraine is shaping public perceptions. Russian President Vladimir Putin separately said Russian forces are fighting a NATO-backed adversary in Ukraine during Victory Day remarks in Moscow.

Finnish survey shows strong support for reducing dependence on United States and China

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A new survey in Finland shows strong public support for reducing Europe's economic and technological dependence on both the United States and China, even if it affects relations with Washington. The study, conducted by the Finnish Innovation Fund and the Finnish Business and Policy Forum, found that 77 percent of respondents favor cutting reliance on the United States. About three-quarters also support reducing dependence on China in areas such as batteries and electric vehicles, even if it slows climate goals. Respondents also backed tighter control over strategic infrastructure, including energy



networks and ports, and greater support for European firms in public procurement. Security and self-sufficiency ranked higher than climate action for many participants. Researchers noted that Finns distinguish between security cooperation and economic dependence, rather than expressing anti-American sentiment.

Iraq swears in new prime minister amid deadlock over key ministries

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Ali al-Zaidi was officially sworn in on Thursday after Iraq's Parliament approved 14 cabinet ministers, while disagreements over key posts delayed the formation of a full government. Lawmakers approved ministers including Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Oil Minister Basim Mohammed Khudair and Finance Minister Faleh al-Sari. Votes on the defense and interior ministries were postponed for further political negotiations. Al-Zaidi, nominated last month by the Shiite-led Coordination Framework alliance, took the constitutional oath alongside approved ministers. Under Iraq's power-



sharing system, the presidency is held by a Kurd, the parliamentary speakership by a Sunni Muslim and the prime ministership by a Shiite Muslim. President Donald Trump earlier congratulated al-Zaidi and expressed support for stronger US-Iraq ties.

Armed group in Congo announces ceasefire ahead of Uganda-backed talks

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The Convention for the Popular Revolution announced a unilateral ceasefire on Thursday ahead of preliminary talks with the Congolese government under Ugandan mediation. In a statement signed by leader Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the group said the ceasefire would begin at midnight to improve chances for dialogue and reduce violence in Ituri Province. The Congolese government had not publicly responded by Thursday evening.

Lubanga, a former militia commander convicted by the International Criminal



Court for using child soldiers, was released in 2020 after serving 14 years in prison. The announcement follows escalating violence and humanitarian concerns in eastern Congo, where thousands of displaced civilians continue facing severe shortages of food, healthcare and clean water.

Former China critic elected Solomon Islands leader after political upheaval



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Opposition leader Matthew Wale was elected prime minister of the Solomon Islands on Friday after lawmakers voted to replace former leader Jeremiah Manele following a successful no-confidence motion. Wale won the parliamentary vote 26-22 and acknowledged the country faces growing geopolitical challenges. The Solomon Islands has drawn international attention in recent years because of its deepening relationship with China, including a controversial security pact signed in 2022 that alarmed the United States and regional allies. Although Wale previously criticized the China agreement, he has softened his tone in recent years and publicly backed the "One China" policy during a visit to Beijing last year. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese congratulated Wale and pledged continued regional cooperation.

Vance announces major healthcare fraud crackdown targeting states

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President J. D. Vance on Wednesday announced a broad crackdown on alleged Medicaid and Medicare fraud, targeting several Democratic-led states, especially California. He said the federal government would defer \$1.34 billion in Medicaid reimbursements to California while demanding stronger anti-fraud enforcement.

Mehmet Oz said investigators uncovered suspicious billing worth nearly \$630 million and suspended 800 hospice providers in the Los Angeles area. Officials called it the largest hospice fraud action in federal history. The administration also imposed a nationwide freeze on new hospice and home healthcare providers.

United States Air Force explores replacement for MQ-9 Reaper drones

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Air Force told lawmakers on Wednesday it is urgently studying a successor to the MQ-9 Reaper drone as modern conflicts expose the aircraft's vulnerabilities. Officials said lessons from the Middle East and Ukraine are reshaping how drones are designed and deployed. General David Tabor said recent combat operations highlighted the drone's value despite losses, while Lieutenant General Christopher Niemi said future systems would likely be cheaper, modular and easier to mass produce. Officials also confirmed the Air Force is exploring new purchases to replenish current MQ-9 losses.



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India's strategic maturity in a volatile Middle East



Dr. Avi Verma

The Middle East today is suspended in a delicate and deeply uncertain moment. What appears on paper as a ceasefire is, in practice, a fragile pause overshadowed by proxy clashes, cyber operations, and military signaling that reveal how close the region remains to renewed escalation. Intelligence communities across Washington, Brussels, and the Gulf increasingly warn that the current calm is less a step toward peace and more an operational intermission before the next phase of confrontation. In such an environment, the world is searching for stabilizing voices—actors capable of injecting restraint, credibility, and strategic clarity into a landscape defined by volatility.

It is in this context that speculation has grown around the potential role of South Asian powers, particularly India and Pakistan. Yet much of this discussion has been shaped by political imagination rather than geopolitical reality. Mediation in the modern Middle East requires not only diplomatic access but also trust, consistency, and strategic coherence. These qualities are not evenly distributed.

Pakistan has attempted to position itself as a bridge between Washington, Tehran, and the Arab world. But trust—the essential currency of mediation—is precisely where Islamabad faces its greatest challenge. This sentiment was captured bluntly by U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, who remarked, “I don’t trust Pakistan as far as I can throw them.” His statement reflects a broader skepticism within Western strategic circles, rooted in concerns about Pakistan’s

overlapping security commitments and its difficulty maintaining a stable, transparent posture in regional crises.

Allegations that Pakistani airfields quietly accommodated Iranian aircraft during periods of heightened U.S.–Israeli pressure have only deepened doubts. At the same time, Pakistan’s longstanding military deployments in Saudi Arabia and its deep security ties with Gulf monarchies complicate its claims of neutrality. These overlapping alignments do not make Pakistan a villain; they simply illustrate the structural constraints that limit its ability to act as a credible mediator in a conflict where neutrality must be unimpeachable.

India, by contrast, has approached the crisis with a steadiness that stands out in an era of reactive diplomacy. New Delhi has articulated its priorities clearly: safeguarding energy security, protecting millions of Indian nationals living across the Gulf, maintaining balanced relationships with key regional actors, and avoiding unnecessary entanglement in conflicts where its leverage is limited. This is not disengagement—it is disciplined realism.

India’s partnerships with the United States, Israel, and major Gulf states are transparent, long-term, and rooted in national interest rather than tactical improvisation. Its outreach to Israel, expanding defense and technology cooperation with Western partners, and deepening economic ties with Arab nations reflect a coherent strategic vision. Critics may describe this as a departure from traditional non alignment, but in reality, India has evolved from passive neutrality into responsible strategic autonomy—a doctrine that prioritizes stability over symbolism.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar captured this approach succinctly when he stated that India “cannot be a broker nation.” This is not an admission of weakness; it is an acknowledgment of the risks inherent in Middle Eastern mediation. Entering the conflict as a formal intermediary could expose Indian expatriates to insecurity, disrupt vital energy flows, and entangle India in a prolonged geopolitical

confrontation with limited upside. By declining to chase the spotlight, India is demonstrating a maturity that many larger powers struggle to emulate.

At the same time, India has maintained communication and goodwill across multiple regional actors. Decades of cultural engagement, economic cooperation, and non interventionist diplomacy have earned New Delhi something rare in global politics: respect without overreach. India does not need to insert itself dramatically into the crisis to be influential; its credibility stems from consistency, restraint, and the perception that it acts from principle rather than opportunism.

Meanwhile, the Middle East itself has become a far more complex diplomatic arena. Strategic alignments, economic dependencies, and military partnerships shape every decision. In this environment, countries like Qatar and Turkey—each with unique leverage and institutional access—may serve as more direct operational channels for negotiation.

But this does not diminish India’s importance. Rather, it highlights the value of India’s role as a stabilizing force: a nation that supports dialogue, avoids inflammatory rhetoric, and prioritizes long-term regional balance.

As the region stands at another dangerous crossroads, India’s posture offers a reminder that responsible leadership is not always loud. Sometimes it is defined by clarity, consistency, and the wisdom to avoid actions that generate headlines but undermine stability. In a moment when many actors are driven by impulse or ideological rigidity, India’s strategic maturity stands out as a source of steadiness in an increasingly fragmented Middle East.

“India’s restraint may ultimately prove to be not weakness—but wisdom.”

Best Regards,
Dr. Avi Verma.
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune



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Norovirus outbreak confirmed aboard cruise ship in Bordeaux



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French authorities on Wednesday confirmed a norovirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship 'Ambition' after dozens of passengers and crew members developed symptoms while docked in Bordeaux. Officials said no severe cases had been reported and asymptomatic passengers would be allowed to disembark. The British-operated vessel arrived on Tuesday carrying about 1,700 passengers and crew. Around 80 people reported digestive symptoms, while a passenger in their 90s died aboard the ship. Authorities said the death may be linked to the illness. Infected passengers remain isolated as hygiene and quarantine measures continue.

Report accuses China of eroding Tibetan identity through schools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A report published this week in the Journal of Democracy accused China of using boarding schools in Tibet to weaken Tibetan cultural identity. Written by the Dalai Lama's nephew Khedroob Thondup, the report claimed more than one million Tibetan children have been separated from families and placed in Mandarin-dominated education systems. The report alleged Tibetan language and Buddhist traditions are being marginalized while children are taught Chinese Communist Party ideology. Beijing has consistently defended its Tibet policies as necessary for development, education and national unity.

Pakistan criticized after Baloch groups barred from Aurat March

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

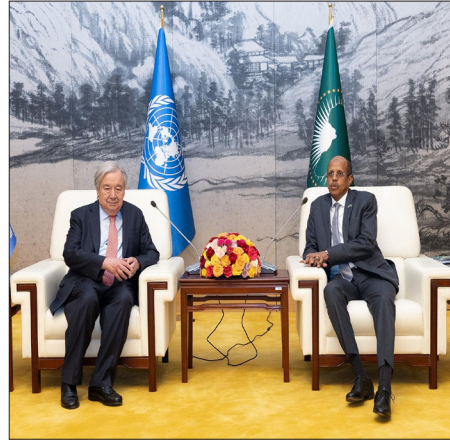
Rights activists and journalists in Pakistan criticized the Sindh government after authorities barred supporters of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee and Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz from participating in Karachi's Aurat March. The conditions were included in a 28-point permission order issued for the women's rights demonstration.

Activists described the restrictions as undemocratic and questioned the legal basis for labeling the groups "proscribed." Baloch rights campaigner Sabiha Baloch said the move reflected state fear of voices speaking against enforced disappearances and alleged repression in Balochistan. Journalists also questioned whether Baloch activists were being denied rights available to citizens in other provinces. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee insisted it remains a peaceful democratic movement focused on human rights issues and condemned the restrictions as political suppression.

AU and UN accuse foreign powers of fueling Africa's conflicts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday that outside interference is worsening conflicts across Africa. Speaking at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa after signing a new AU-UN cooperation declaration, Youssouf said foreign countries were supplying weapons, funding and fighters to conflicts in Sudan, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and eastern Congo. Guterres called it "absolutely intolerable" for non-African countries to interfere for strategic or economic interests. He also condemned the growing use of drones against civilians and accused foreign powers of supplying



the technology fueling violence. Both leaders stressed that African-led peace negotiations remain essential to resolving the continent's security crises.

Iran accuses UAE of supporting attacks during regional conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kazem Gharibabadi accused the United Arab Emirates on Thursday of supporting military aggression against Iran during remarks at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. Gharibabadi claimed the UAE helped facilitate attacks against Iran and therefore had no legitimacy to accuse

Tehran of aggression. He said Iran had documented aircraft movements originating from the UAE and submitted evidence through 120 diplomatic notices to the United Nations Security Council. The Iranian official also defended Tehran's targeting of facilities linked to US bases in the UAE, calling the actions lawful self-defense under the UN Charter. The UAE had earlier accused Iran of escalating regional tensions.

Pakistani nationals and Hong Kong resident charged in US dark web drug case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors in New Jersey charged Pakistani nationals Waleed Shamim and Sameer Shamim along with Hong Kong resident Shareef Beig in a major dark web narcotics trafficking investigation. Authorities alleged the group used online marketplaces, encrypted messaging services and international shipping networks to

distribute counterfeit Adderall and synthetic opioid pills across the United States between 2021 and 2022. Investigators said shipments containing amphetamine-based counterfeit pills and isotoniazene were traced from Hong Kong to New Jersey. Each defendant faces charges carrying a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. US officials said the case reflects growing concerns over international dark web drug trafficking operations.

Russia and Ukraine prepare for another major prisoner exchange

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dmitry Peskov said Thursday that Russia and Ukraine are preparing another large prisoner exchange while both sides finalize detainee lists. The proposed exchange follows discussions tied to a temporary ceasefire announced earlier this month ahead of Russia's

World War II victory commemorations. Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said Moscow had agreed to a "1,000 for 1,000" swap proposed by President Donald Trump. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed Sunday that Kyiv had already submitted its list of detainees. Fighting has continued despite the short-lived ceasefire, with Moscow accusing Kyiv of thousands of violations.

Latvian prime minister quits as stray drone controversy topples coalition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Latvian Prime Minister Evika Siliņa resigned on Thursday after her coalition collapsed following criticism over the government's handling of suspected Ukrainian drones entering Latvian territory. The crisis deepened after Defense Minister Andris Sprūds resigned earlier this week over the incidents. Two suspected Ukrainian drones crossed into Latvia on Wednesday, with one crashing near a fuel storage facility.

Officials said the drones were likely aimed at Russia but veered off course. Critics argued the incidents exposed weaknesses in Latvia's air defense and military response systems.

The Progressives Party later withdrew support from Siliņa's coalition, leaving her without a parliamentary majority. President Edgars Rinkēvičs is expected to meet political parties on Friday to begin the process of forming a new government ahead of October's election.

India, Bangladesh monitor alleged ISI campaign over migration issue



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Bangladesh are closely monitoring alleged efforts by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence to exploit migration concerns and derail improving bilateral ties following the election victory of Tarique Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Officials said relations, strained after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, have improved through cooperation on border management, consular services and river-sharing talks. Intelligence officials alleged the ISI was spreading misinformation through digital campaigns and activating networks linked to groups such as HuJI and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh. Bangladesh High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah traveled to Dhaka on Tuesday for consultations on the sensitive migration issue.

North Korea raises retirement age as population ages

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea has raised the retirement age for office workers by three years amid worsening demographic pressures and population aging, according to a North Korean academic paper published Wednesday. The revised law increases the retirement age to 63 for men and 58 for women eligible for state pensions, up from 60 and 55 respectively. The changes apply only to office workers, while rules for manual laborers and farmers remain unchanged. Officials said the move reflects longer life expectancy and the growing importance of intellectual labor. South Korean data shows people aged 65 and older now make up 11.4 percent of North Korea's population.

Pentagon avoids public details on damage to Iran military assets

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Top Pentagon officials on Tuesday refused to publicly disclose detailed assessments of damage inflicted on Iran during ongoing United States military operations, triggering sharp exchanges with lawmakers during a Senate defense budget hearing. Senators questioned whether Iran still retained major missile and drone capabilities despite weeks of strikes. Joint Chiefs Chairman Dan Caine declined to discuss intelligence estimates in an open setting, while Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said battlefield assessments could not be discussed publicly. Lawmakers also raised concerns about Iran's continued use of drones and naval tactics in the Strait of Hormuz despite repeated American strikes.

India and Japan deepen cooperation in strategic industries to strengthen supply chains

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan held the second round of their Economic Security Dialogue in New Delhi on Monday, agreeing to deepen cooperation in strategic industrial sectors to improve supply chain resilience. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Japan's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi. Both sides discussed shared concerns such as economic coercion, non-market practices, and vulnerabilities in critical supply chains. Key focus areas included semiconductors, critical minerals, information technology, clean energy, and pharmaceuticals. Officials also reviewed inputs from private sector groups and emphasized stronger public-private coordination. They additionally discussed regional security, including the Indo-Pacific and Middle East, and agreed to cooperate on energy security and supply chain stability amid global disruptions.

India and Honduras expand cultural cooperation with focus on yoga and wellness

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Honduras discussed expanding cultural cooperation during a meeting in Tegucigalpa on Tuesday between Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Honduras Secretary of Culture, Arts and Heritage Yasser Handal Carcamo. Both sides agreed to strengthen people-to-people ties through collaboration in arts, yoga, wellness, cinema, and cultural exchanges. Margherita highlighted India's commitment to deepening bilateral engagement during his official visit, the first ministerial-level visit after the formation of Honduras' new government in January 2026. During his broader Latin America tour, he also visited Costa Rica, where he met officials, interacted with the Indian diaspora, and discussed cooperation in science, innovation, and trade. He also attended President Laura Fernandez's swearing-in ceremony.

Australia boosts funding to strengthen economic and maritime ties with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia will allocate 25.3 million dollars in its 2026-27 budget to strengthen economic, strategic, and maritime cooperation with India. The funding will support Australia's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with India, including business engagement, Maitri grants, and Indian Ocean maritime security initiatives. Both countries are also deepening cooperation in trade, education, clean energy, defence, and technology. The announcement comes amid global economic uncertainty and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Bilateral trade has grown significantly under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, with Indian exports more than doubling in recent years. From January 2026, all Indian exports will receive zero-duty access to Australia, further boosting trade ties. Officials say the partnership remains central to Australia's Indo-Pacific strategy.

Portugal says India-EU free trade pact will go beyond tariffs to ensure stable framework

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Portugal's Secretary of State for Economy Joao Rui Ferreira said the proposed India-EU free trade agreement will not be limited to tariff reductions but will establish a stable, predictable regulatory framework for long-term economic cooperation between India and the European Union. He said Portugal has supported the agreement from the outset and expects it to be finalized by 2027, describing it as a key step in strengthening the strategic partnership.

Ferreira noted that India, now the world's fourth largest economy and on track to become the third largest, is undergoing a major transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stressed growing opportunities in artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, energy and industrial



development, and encouraged Indian investors to consider Portugal as a gateway to Europe and Portuguese-speaking markets. He also confirmed discussions with Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada on trade and investment ties.

India strengthens engagement with Belize, discusses development cooperation and diaspora ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita met Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam in Belize on Thursday, discussing ways to strengthen bilateral relations and expand development cooperation. Margherita conveyed greetings from India's President and Prime Minister and highlighted opportunities for deeper engagement between the two countries. He also

interacted with members of the Indian diaspora, praising their role in strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties. During his wider visit to Central America, he held meetings in Honduras and Costa Rica, engaging with government leaders, business groups, and alumni of India's technical cooperation programs. Discussions focused on trade, capacity building, innovation, and institutional cooperation. The visit marks continued efforts to expand India's diplomatic outreach in the Caribbean and Central American region.



India and Philippines strengthen counterterrorism cooperation and information sharing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the Philippines held the second meeting of their Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism in Manila, focusing on emerging global and regional security threats. Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all forms, including cross-border attacks, and reiterated solidarity following recent terrorist incidents in India. The two countries discussed expanding cooperation in law enforcement, judicial assistance, capacity building, and countering terror financing. They also emphasized the need to address misuse of emerging technologies by terrorist groups and strengthen efforts against radicalization. Officials stressed enhanced information sharing and cooperation in multilateral forums such as the United



Nations and the Financial Action Task Force. The meeting concluded with an agreement to hold the next session in India at a mutually convenient time.

India and Chile review trade expansion and strategic cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Chile held bilateral discussions in New Delhi on Wednesday between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chilean Foreign Minister Francisco Perez Mackenna, focusing on strengthening cooperation across trade, investment, and strategic sectors. Both sides agreed to diversify markets and supply chains, promote export opportunities, and expand the services economy. The Chilean delegation is on a week-long visit aimed at deepening bilateral ties and advancing negotiations on a proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also held talks with the delegation, reviewing progress in trade negotiations and investment cooperation. Officials highlighted shared support for multilateralism and rules-based global order.

India and Uzbekistan review wide-ranging cooperation in foreign office consultations

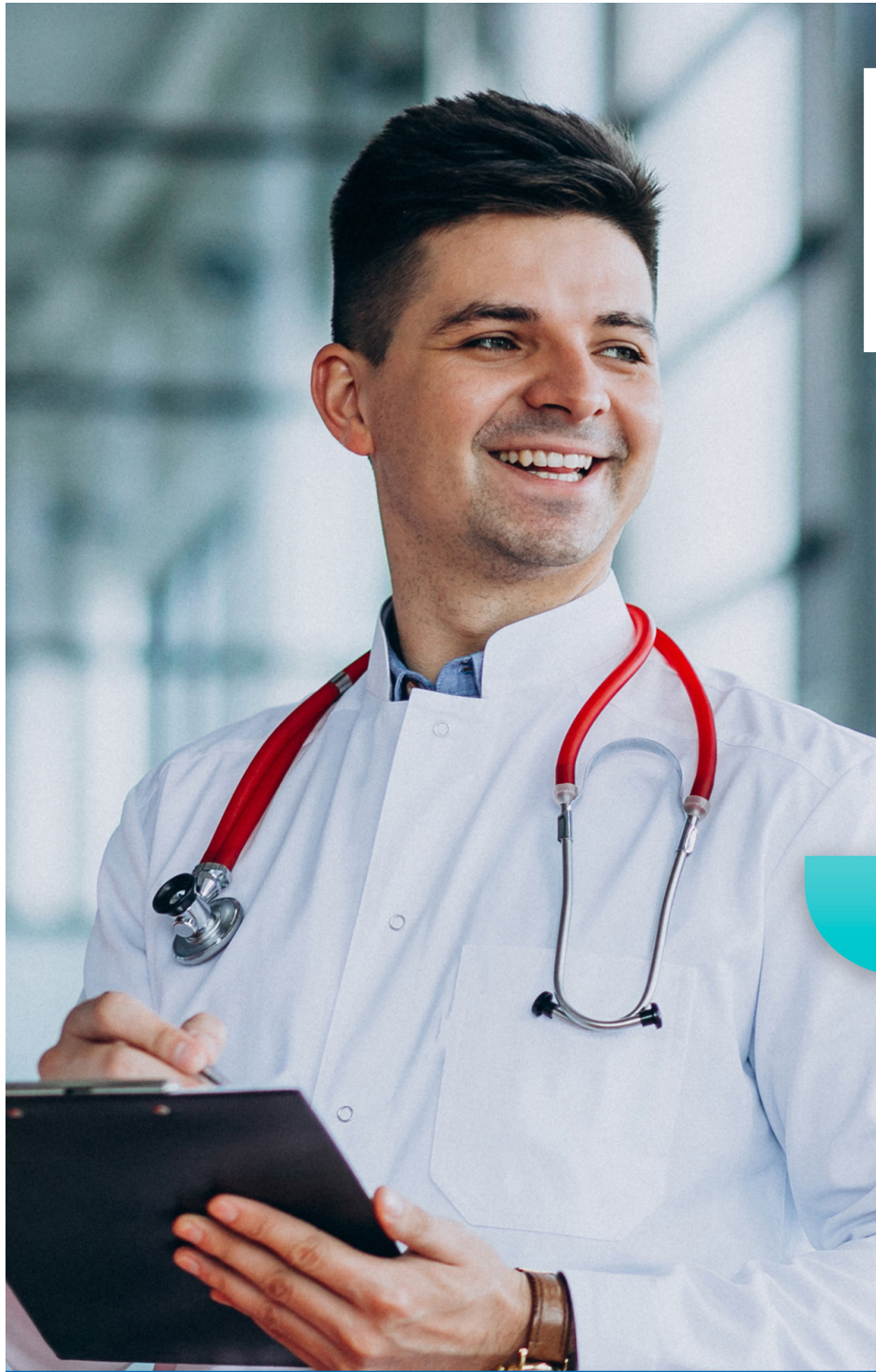
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Uzbekistan held the seventeenth round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on Wednesday, reviewing the full range of bilateral relations. The talks were co-chaired by Secretary West Sibi George and First Deputy Foreign Minister Bakhromjon Alov. Both sides discussed cooperation in trade, investment, energy, technology, tourism, education, and cultural exchanges. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest. The Uzbek delegation's visit also included participation in the upcoming BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by India. The discussions reaffirmed the long-standing historical ties between the two countries, which established diplomatic relations in 1992 and elevated their partnership to a strategic level in 2011.

Pavan Kapoor holds bilateral talks with Iranian and Kyrgyz officials on SCO sidelines in Kyrgyzstan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Deputy National Security Adviser Pavan Kapoor held a series of bilateral meetings with senior security officials on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Security Council Secretaries' meeting in Bishkek. He met Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy for International Affairs at Iran's Supreme National Security Council, on Wednesday, exchanging views on bilateral cooperation and regional developments, according to the Indian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan. Kapoor also held discussions with Kyrgyz Security Council Secretary Adilet Orozbekov to deepen security partnership between the two countries. He arrived in Kyrgyzstan the same day to attend the two-day SCO meeting of member states' security council secretaries. Officials said the discussions focused on strengthening regional security coordination, including counterterrorism cooperation and shared strategic concerns in the broader Eurasian region.



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Friday, 15 May 2026

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House fails to advance effort to limit presidential war powers on Iran

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

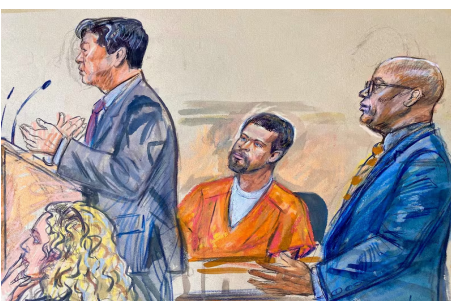
The House of Representatives narrowly failed to advance a Democratic-led resolution aimed at restricting military action against Iran without congressional approval, falling short in a 212 to 212 tie vote on Thursday. The measure sought to require authorization before continued U.S. involvement in the conflict. Several Republicans joined Democrats in support, while one Democrat opposed it. It was the third such vote this year as debate grows over presidential war powers following U.S. and Israeli strikes in February. Republicans defended the administration's authority, while Democrats argued Congress must approve war decisions under the Constitution amid rising economic concerns and global tensions.

Minnesota fraud probe alleges billions in taxpayer losses and systemic failures

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minnesota legislative report released Wednesday alleged that a "culture of fraud" within state agencies led to more than nine billion dollars in misused taxpayer funds across Medicaid and related programs. The 16-month investigation, led by Republican lawmakers, accused the state administration of weak oversight, missed eligibility checks, and failure to act on whistleblower warnings. It claimed tens of thousands of ineligible recipients received benefits before being removed in a recent review. Democrats disputed the findings as partisan. The report also called for stricter oversight, electronic attendance tracking, and improved fraud reporting systems across child care, health care, and social service programs.

Man pleads not guilty in White House correspondents' dinner attack case involving alleged assassination attempt



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California man accused of storming the White House Correspondents' Association dinner while armed with guns and knives pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges including attempted assassination of President Donald Trump. Cole Tomas Allen, 31, appeared in federal court in Washington in handcuffs and an orange jail uniform, where his attorney entered the plea on his behalf. Prosecutors allege Allen fired a shotgun at a Secret Service officer who confronted him after he breached a security checkpoint at the April 25 event. The officer was struck by buckshot but protected by a ballistic vest, while Allen was arrested after being injured. Allen's lawyers are seeking to disqualify senior Justice Department officials, arguing Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and United States Attorney Jeanine Pirro could be witnesses because they attended the dinner. The judge has asked for further arguments, and the case is set for another hearing on June 29.

US House approves year-round E15 gasoline sales, boosting ethanol industry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. House on Wednesday passed legislation allowing year-round nationwide sales of E15 gasoline, a blend containing 15 percent ethanol, marking a major victory for corn growers and biofuel producers. The bill passed 218 to 203 and would remove seasonal restrictions linked to smog-related concerns, enabling retailers to sell the fuel throughout the year. It still requires approval from the Senate and President Donald Trump's signature to become law.

Supporters, including agricultural groups and lawmakers from farming states like Iowa, said the move would expand corn demand and help lower fuel prices, which



have risen amid global energy disruptions tied to the Iran war. Critics, particularly in refining states such as Texas and Oklahoma, warned it could increase compliance costs for smaller refineries and raise federal deficit pressures, with estimates suggesting a \$2.3 billion increase over the next decade.

US deportations to El Salvador nearly double amid closer Bukele-Trump alignment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The number of Salvadorans deported from the United States nearly doubled in early 2026, rising to 5,033 in the first three months compared with 2,547 during the same period a year earlier, according to Salvadoran migration data. The increase comes as President Nayib Bukele strengthens cooperation with President Donald Trump's administration on immigration enforcement and expanded deportation flights.

Officials and analysts say deportations

from the United States have surged globally, with a reported 61 percent rise in deportation flights between 2024 and 2025. Bukele has positioned El Salvador as a key partner, including accepting deportees accused of gang ties and housing them in high-security prisons under a U.S.-El Salvador agreement that includes financial support.

The policy shift has drawn criticism from human rights groups, particularly after controversial deportation cases and allegations of mistreatment in Salvadoran prisons, while legal battles continue over migrant protections in the United States.

Federal judge blocks US sanctions on UN Gaza expert over free speech concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked United States sanctions against Francesca Albanese, a United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, ruling that the measures likely violated her free speech rights. The Trump administration had barred Albanese from entering the United States and accessing banking services after she criticized Israel's military campaign in Gaza and urged international war crimes investigations.

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio imposed the sanctions in July 2025 under an executive order targeting individuals linked to International Criminal Court investigations. Albanese's family later sued, arguing the sanctions severely disrupted her daily life.

Judge Richard Leon found her First Amendment protections apply even though she lives outside the United States, writing that she was penalized for expressing opinions. He said she "has done nothing more than speak," and the ruling paused enforcement of the sanctions while litigation continues.

Supreme Court preserves access to abortion pill amid ongoing legal fight

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Thursday preserved access to the abortion drug mifepristone, allowing pharmacies and mail delivery to continue while a lawsuit proceeds. The order blocks lower court restrictions that would have required in-person doctor visits and ended telehealth prescribing. The case, brought by Louisiana, challenges Food and Drug Administration rules that have allowed expanded access since 2020. The decision keeps the status quo in place, likely through next year, while litigation continues. Conservative justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented, arguing



the companies were not entitled to relief. Medication abortions now account for nearly two-thirds of procedures in the United States.

Muslim American groups criticize congressional hearings on Sharia law



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Muslim American organizations on Thursday condemned Republican-led congressional hearings on Sharia law, calling them politically motivated and harmful to Muslim communities. The hearings, titled "Sharia-Free America," were held in the House Judiciary Subcommittee and argued that political Islam is incompatible with the United States Constitution. Critics, including civil rights groups, said the sessions promote fear and reinforce stereotypes. Muslim advocacy organizations said there is no evidence of efforts to impose Sharia law in the United States. Lawmakers defended the hearings as a constitutional concern, while Democrats called them a distraction from pressing national issues and a threat to religious freedom protections.

Justice Department probes Yale medical school admissions for alleged bias

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Justice Department said Thursday that Yale School of Medicine's admissions process may have favored Black and Hispanic applicants, citing findings from a federal investigation. Officials said applicants from those groups were often admitted with lower academic credentials than White and Asian peers. The department is seeking a voluntary agreement with Yale, which rejected claims of discrimination and defended its admissions process. The probe follows the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling striking down race-conscious admissions policies. The Trump administration has expanded scrutiny of diversity programs in higher education, while civil rights advocates argue such efforts address long-standing inequities in education access.

Jury awards nearly fifty million dollars in Boeing 737 Max crash case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Chicago jury on Wednesday awarded 49.5 million dollars to the family of a victim killed in the 2019 Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max crash. The verdict includes compensation for emotional suffering, loss of companionship, and grief. The case involved 24-year-old passenger Samya Stumo. Boeing did not contest liability, and most related lawsuits have already been settled. The crash, along with a 2018 disaster in Indonesia, led to the deaths of 346 people and grounded the aircraft worldwide. Boeing continues to face civil litigation, though criminal charges were previously dismissed through a government agreement.

Senators vote to withhold congressional pay during government shutdowns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Senate unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday that would withhold senators' pay during any government shutdown, beginning after the November general election. The measure aims to pressure lawmakers during funding deadlocks by freezing salaries until government operations resume. It applies only to the Senate, not the House of Representatives. The proposal follows repeated shutdowns that left federal workers unpaid, including a recent 76-day partial closure of the Department of Homeland Security. Supporters say it enforces accountability for Congress, while critics note lawmakers are constitutionally guaranteed pay. The measure now moves forward for implementation after the election cycle.

ICE names David Venturella as acting director amid leadership transition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Homeland Security has named David Venturella as the next acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, replacing outgoing chief Todd Lyons, officials confirmed this week. Venturella, a longtime immigration enforcement official, has decades of experience across federal agencies and private sector security firms. His appointment comes as ICE continues large-scale enforcement operations under President Donald Trump's administration. Lyons, who led the agency since March 2025, is stepping down after overseeing expanded immigration enforcement efforts. Officials say the transition will maintain continuity as the agency continues its focus on interior enforcement and border security operations across the United States.

NASA's Psyche spacecraft completes Mars flyby en route to metal-rich asteroid

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA's Psyche spacecraft completed a close flyby of Mars this week, using the planet's gravity to accelerate its journey toward a rare metal-rich asteroid in the main asteroid belt. Traveling at about 12,333 miles per hour, the spacecraft passed within 2,800 miles of Mars, capturing thousands of images as part of instrument testing. Scientists and orbiting spacecraft also observed the flyby for comparison studies. Psyche is targeting a potato-shaped asteroid believed to be the exposed metallic core of an early planet, offering clues about how Earth and other planets formed 4.6 billion years ago. Launched in 2023, the spacecraft is expected to reach its target in 2029 after a six-year journey powered by solar electric propulsion.

Miami residents sue Florida over Trump library land transfer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Miami residents and a nonprofit group on Wednesday filed a lawsuit challenging Florida's decision to donate valuable state-owned land in Miami for a planned Donald Trump Presidential Library, arguing the move violates constitutional anti-corruption rules. The property, a 2.63-acre waterfront parcel formerly used by Miami Dade College, is estimated to be worth more than \$300 million. The plaintiffs say the land could be used for profitable private development and represents an improper benefit to President Donald Trump and his family, violating the Constitution's emoluments clauses. They are



seeking to block the transfer and void the deal entirely.

The lawsuit names Governor Ron DeSantis, Miami Dade College, and the Trump library foundation as defendants. Trump has said the project, to be built after he leaves office, may include a museum and a hotel, along with other exhibits.

Meta challenges New Mexico's \$3.7 billion teen mental health remedy in social media trial

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta Platforms on Wednesday pushed back against New Mexico's \$3.7 billion proposal to address teen mental health harms linked to social media, arguing in court that the plan unfairly requires the company to fund care for all teenagers in the state, not just those allegedly affected by its platforms. The dispute is part of an ongoing trial over claims that Meta designed its services to be addictive for young users.



for youth mental health treatment, along with screening and awareness programs.

The trial follows a prior jury finding that Meta violated consumer protection law, and the judge will later decide whether to impose broader remedies.

Border Patrol chief Michael Banks resigns amid immigration leadership shake-up

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Border Patrol chief Michael Banks has resigned, the Department of Homeland Security confirmed Thursday, marking another leadership change within federal immigration agencies. Banks said he was stepping down after helping stabilize the agency during a period of heightened border enforcement under President Donald Trump's administration. Officials thanked him for his service during a challenging period for border security. His departure comes as other immigration agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also undergo leadership transitions. Banks previously played a key role in expanding enforcement



operations and coordinating border strategy during a period of declining illegal crossings and increased federal immigration activity.

Harvey Weinstein returns to court as jurors continue rape retrial deliberations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harvey Weinstein returned to court on Thursday as jurors resumed deliberations in his rape retrial after he reported chest pains the previous day. The 74-year-old former film producer, who uses a wheelchair, appeared pale but said he felt fine. Jurors had paused deliberations after requesting additional testimony from accuser Jessica

Mann and reviewing evidence and legal instructions on reasonable doubt. Mann testified that Weinstein forced unwanted sex on her in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013, while the defense argues the encounter was consensual. Weinstein did not testify. The jury has reviewed extensive testimony over several weeks but has not reached a verdict. Deliberations are expected to continue on Friday in the closely watched case tied to the broader MeToo movement.

Southern states escalate congressional redistricting battles after voting rights ruling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Several Southern states are rapidly redrawing congressional maps following a United States Supreme Court decision that weakened protections under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, triggering a wave of partisan redistricting. Tennessee has approved a map splitting Memphis into multiple districts and removing its only Democratic seat. Louisiana is preparing a new plan that could eliminate another Black Democratic seat, while Alabama has been cleared to adopt a map previously ruled discriminatory. South Carolina is considering a special legislative session that could target Representative Jim Clyburn's district. Civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have filed lawsuits challenging the changes. They warn that canceled primaries and rushed redistricting could weaken fair representation and reduce Black political influence across the South.

FDA recalls thousands of naproxen bottles over contamination concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Food and Drug Administration has recalled 6,336 bottles of prescription naproxen oral solution after detecting elevated levels of lead and lithium. The affected 16-ounce bottles include lot numbers 23F02 and 25A37, with expiration dates ranging from May 2026 to January 2028. The medication was distributed by Georgia-based Acella Pharmaceuticals and manufactured in Canada. The agency classified the recall as Class II, meaning exposure may cause temporary or medically reversible health effects. Naproxen is a widely used nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug prescribed for pain, inflammation, and conditions such as arthritis. Officials have not explained how contamination occurred, and the company has not issued a public statement. The recall adds to a growing list of pharmaceutical and food safety alerts involving trace heavy metal contamination in recent years.

Ship operator charged in Baltimore bridge collapse that killed six workers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors have filed criminal charges against a Singapore-based ship operator and a technical superintendent over the 2024 collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, which killed six construction workers.

The indictment alleges that Synergy Marine and its India-based affiliate used an improper fuel pump on the cargo ship Dali and misled investigators after repeated power failures. The vessel lost power twice within minutes before striking a bridge support column in March 2024. Prosecutors say earlier blackouts were not properly investigated and critical safety issues were ignored.

The companies face charges including conspiracy, obstruction, and misconduct causing death. The case follows a multibillion-dollar civil settlement tied to negligence claims. The indictment intensifies legal pressure as families of victims prepare for upcoming civil trials.

Friday, 15 May 2026

www.indoutribune.com

Indian origin tech leader Sanjay Mehrotra joins Trump's elite China delegation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India-born semiconductor executive Sanjay Mehrotra has emerged as a key diaspora presence in global technology diplomacy after joining President Donald Trump's high-profile delegation to China this week. He was the only Indian-origin business leader among top American corporate figures meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping, alongside executives such as Tim Cook, Elon Musk, Larry Fink, and Jane Fraser.

Born in Kanpur in 1958, Mehrotra represents the rise of the Indian diaspora in shaping United States technology strategy. As chief executive of Micron Technology, he sits at the center of the global semiconductor competition between Washington and Beijing. His career, spanning SanDisk and Intel, highlights how Indian-origin leaders increasingly influence policy, trade, and innovation in critical sectors like artificial intelligence and chip manufacturing.

Punjabi-origin gang founder jailed in United States over illegal arms trade and outlaw motorcycle club



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 27-year-old man of Punjabi origin has been sentenced to five years and four months in a United States federal prison for illegal firearms trafficking and possession of a machine gun. Jashanpreet Singh, based in Lodi, California, founded the outlaw motorcycle club Punjabi Devils in Stockton, which used patches featuring the map of Punjab and a turbaned skull.

Authorities said he attempted to sell weapons to an undercover officer in June 2025, including assault rifles, a short-barrel rifle, conversion devices, and a revolver. A search of his home uncovered additional firearms, a silencer, high-capacity magazines, and explosive devices, which were later destroyed by bomb squads. He was arrested in July 2025 while attempting to flee to India. The investigation involved multiple United States federal agencies.

Indian American executive Yogesh Chugh appointed to California state board

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Gavin Newsom on Thursday announced the appointment of Indian American business executive Yogesh Chugh to California's Structural Pest Control Board as part of a broader series of appointments across state agencies.

Chugh, a Fremont resident, has served as Executive Managing Director at S5 Advisory since 2013. Earlier, he held leadership positions at Sony Interactive Entertainment from 1996 to 2012, overseeing customer relationship management technologies and consumer services operations. He also previously worked at Boston Consulting Group.

According to the Governor's office, Chugh is affiliated with the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs organization and the Foundation for India and Diaspora Studies. He earned degrees from California State University, San Jose and Delhi University. The position does not require Senate confirmation.

The announcement also included the appointment of Indian American



technology executive Subbarao Mupparaju as Director of the Financial Information System for California. Mupparaju previously served in senior technology leadership roles within California state agencies and earlier worked with IBM, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Tata Consultancy Services.

California remains home to one of the largest Indian American populations in the United States, with Indian-origin professionals continuing to expand their presence in public service, technology and business leadership.

Indian-origin transgender student elected to Scottish Parliament sparks immigration debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian doctoral student from Tamil Nadu has been elected to the Scottish Parliament, triggering a wider debate in the United Kingdom over immigration and political representation. Q Manivannan, who identifies as non-binary and uses they/them pronouns, won a seat on the Edinburgh and Lothians East regional list for the Scottish Greens.

Born in Tamil Nadu, Manivannan moved to Scotland in 2021 on a student visa to pursue international relations studies. Their victory has drawn both praise and criticism, with supporters highlighting diversity in politics while opponents question eligibility rules



allowing Commonwealth citizens and some visa holders to contest elections.

Manivannan said their win reflects "politics of care" and inclusion for marginalized communities. Scottish Greens leaders said they would support the visa process required for continued stay. The case has intensified debate on electoral access and immigration policy in Scotland.

Indian-Origin man appeals conviction in deadly human smuggling case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel has appealed his conviction and prison sentence in a human smuggling case linked to the 2022 deaths of a family from Gujarat near the Manitoba-Minnesota border. Patel, sentenced in May 2025 to more than 10 years in prison, is seeking to overturn his conviction before a U.S. appeals court. Court records show Patel is representing himself and argues that trial errors, jury instructions and sentencing calculations unfairly affected the verdict.

Patel and co-accused Steve Shand were convicted in November 2024 for operating a cross-border human smuggling network that brought Indian nationals into Canada on fraudulent student visas before illegally moving them into the United States. Prosecutors said Patel coordinated the smuggling logistics while Shand transported



migrants after they crossed the border. The case drew international attention after Jagdish Patel, his wife Vaishaliben, daughter Vihangi and son Dharmik froze to death during a blizzard in January 2022 while attempting to cross into Minnesota on foot. Authorities said the migrants were left in extreme weather conditions with inadequate protection. Shand, who received a six-and-a-half-year sentence, has also appealed his conviction. Federal prosecutors are urging the court to reject both appeals and uphold the original verdicts.

Punjabi diaspora celebrates Ranjit Chaudhary's rise to Cricket Canada leadership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Punjabi diaspora in Canada is celebrating the election of Ranjit Chaudhary, originally from Dangori-Beet village in Hoshiarpur, as vice chairman of the Cricket Canada managing committee. His appointment has been widely seen as a proud milestone for the Indian-origin community, strengthening ties between Punjab and its global diaspora.

Chaudhary migrated to Canada in 1982 and has built a successful corporate career, currently serving as a director at FedEx. Community members and family recalled his academic excellence and discipline, crediting his early upbringing in Punjab for shaping his international success.

Local leaders and residents have hailed his achievement as an inspiration for young people aspiring to global careers. His rise reflects the growing influence of Indian-origin professionals in leadership roles across sports administration and community institutions in North America.

Indian diaspora death in Maldives raises safety concerns among expatriate community



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national from the diaspora community died in a road accident in Male, Maldives, underscoring safety concerns for expatriates working abroad. The 50-year-old man was riding a motorcycle on Wednesday night when it skidded near the Sinamale Bridge traffic lights, according to police. He sustained critical injuries in the crash and was later run over by a pickup vehicle.

Authorities confirmed that the Maldives Police Service is investigating the incident. Emergency responders reached the scene quickly, but the victim could not be saved. His identity has not yet been released.

The tragedy has resonated within the Indian expatriate community in Maldives, one of the largest foreign populations in the country, where many Indians work across construction, hospitality, and service industries, highlighting the vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers abroad.

Prashant Pise named India's ambassador to Oman with extensive diplomatic experience



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior Indian Foreign Service officer Prashant Pise has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Oman, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Monday. Currently serving as Additional Secretary in the ministry, the 1995 batch officer is expected to assume charge in Muscat shortly. He will succeed Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas. Over his diplomatic career, Pise has served in Cairo, Tripoli, Tokyo, Mauritius, Tunisia, Iraq and Slovenia, gaining wide experience across bilateral and multilateral assignments. He has also worked in the Ministry of External Affairs on Eurasian and United Nations-related issues. Pise has earlier served as India's ambassador to Iraq and Slovenia and held senior roles at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. More recently, he led Indian delegations on migration and labour mobility discussions, reflecting his focus on diaspora affairs and international cooperation frameworks.

Indian American author simplifies Hinduism for young readers through new illustrated book



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ohio-based Indian American author Usha Mahajan has released a new illustrated children's book titled 'Discovering Hinduism: The Timeless Path of Kindness, Truth & Love', aimed at introducing Hindu philosophy to children aged six to twelve. The 63-page book explains core concepts such as Dharma, Karma, Ahimsa, Moksha and Seva through simple language, stories and illustrations, making it suitable for both family reading and classrooms. It presents Hinduism as a tradition centered on kindness, truth and respect for all living beings. The book also addresses common misconceptions, including caste and idol worship, and highlights epics like the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita as guides to ethical living. Mahajan, a retired mental health professional, said the book reflects values-based learning rooted in Hindu philosophy and aims to help young readers connect spirituality with everyday life in an accessible way.

From Dehradun to starting a quant hedge fund in the U.S., Divyanshu Verma secures \$4.3 million for VRC

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

From Dehradun to the fast-moving world of quantitative investing, Divyanshu Verma is emerging as one of the young Indian-origin quantitative professionals building a presence in the United States investment landscape. A recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee with a master's degree in Computer Science, Verma recently launched Milwaukee-based hedge fund Verma Research Capital, securing investor commitments of \$4.3 million. The firm focuses on quantitative trading, systematic investing, and long-term equity strategies driven by mathematical research, artificial intelligence, and data-driven models.

Before launching his firm, Verma served as Quant Portfolio Manager at the university's Student Investment Club, where he managed a live \$203,000 investment portfolio across multiple asset classes. During this time, he developed quantitative stock screening frameworks and led sessions on machine learning in finance, derivatives, options strategies, and risk management. His growing profile in quantitative trading earned recognition when he ranked among the top traders in the United States during the Gelber Group Breakout Trading Competition in Chicago, finishing 13th nationally.

Beyond investing, Verma has been actively involved in quantitative research, authoring multiple research papers focused



on market volatility, trading systems, derivatives, portfolio strategy, and data-driven investment frameworks. He has also authored a book on investing, reflecting his interest in combining research with practical market applications.

Verma has delivered lectures and presentations at institutions including the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Georgetown University, and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, speaking on topics such as quantitative investing, hedge funds, artificial intelligence in finance, and India's economic growth trajectory. With plans to expand operations across both India and the United States, Verma's long-term vision is to build a globally competitive quantitative hedge fund at the intersection of technology, research, and strategic financial innovation.

Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti under scanner amid extradition push from India



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti is under investigation in India in multiple cases linked to terror recruitment, radicalization and espionage, with more than a dozen cases reportedly registered by different agencies. Officials say Bhatti, believed to operate from Dubai and move across several countries in the Middle East, has built a wide recruitment network using social media platforms. Indian agencies are now prioritizing efforts to dismantle his network and pursue extradition, though officials note legal hurdles as he is a Pakistani national and has never travelled to India. Investigators suspect his network has been linked to several recent attacks and arrests across Indian states. Officials also say Bhatti has claimed a presence in multiple countries and hundreds of operatives, raising concerns over a modular recruitment system used to mobilise youth with promises of money and influence.

Punjabi-origin man charged in Surrey shooting linked to extortion violence in Canada

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 27-year-old Punjabi-origin man has been arrested and charged in Canada following a shooting investigation in Surrey believed to be linked to ongoing extortion-related violence. Jaskaran Saroye was taken into custody by the Surrey Police Service Extortion Response Team after a search warrant was executed at a residence in the city.

Police said gunshots were fired into an occupied home shortly before 3 am

on April 13 near 94A Avenue and 127 Street. No injuries were reported, though property damage occurred. Investigators later identified a suspect vehicle, leading to Saroye's arrest with support from regional emergency response units.

He has been charged with discharging a firearm into a place while being reckless about occupants inside. Authorities said he remains in custody pending a bail hearing. Police also released his photo as part of efforts to uncover links to broader extortion networks targeting the South Asian community in the region.



Sikh community urged to condemn misuse of Guru Nanak image in Pakistan viral video



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A report has urged Pakistan's Sikh community and religious institutions to strongly condemn a viral video in which an image of Guru Nanak Dev is allegedly used to promote black magic, tantra, hypnotism and other occult practices. The video reportedly claims such issues can be resolved through the "blessings of Guru Nanak," a portrayal described as deeply offensive and contrary to Sikh teachings. The report by Khalsa Vox said Sikhism is rooted in truth, compassion and wisdom, and rejects superstition or spiritual exploitation. It warned that such misuse of religious imagery cannot be treated as an isolated act and called for greater awareness within the community. The report also suggested that such incidents risk inflaming religious sensitivities and stressed the need for Sikhs to respond with clarity, restraint and adherence to the Gurus' teachings.



Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra released on parole



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was released on parole from Bangkok's Klong Prem Central Prison after serving part of a one-year sentence, officials said on Monday. The 76-year-old was granted early release due to age eligibility and having served two-thirds of his term. He appeared outside the prison around 7:40 a.m., briefly met family members, and left under police supervision as supporters gathered nearby. Authorities said he must follow strict conditions, including electronic monitoring, regular reporting, and a travel ban until his sentence ends in September. Thaksin remains involved in a separate legal case.

South African parliament restarts impeachment process against president after court ruling

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Africa's National Assembly will restart impeachment-related proceedings against President Cyril Ramaphosa following a Constitutional Court ruling, local media reported on Monday. The court ruled that parliament acted unconstitutionally when it rejected a report on the Phala Phala farm matter, reopening the Section 89 process. The case involves allegations linked to money stolen from Ramaphosa's private farm in 2020 and questions over disclosure. Parliament Speaker Thoko Didiza said the process will resume in line with constitutional rules, with timelines and committee details to be announced. Ramaphosa said he respects the ruling but denied wrongdoing and vowed to continue serving.

India moves ahead with strategic Indo Pacific base near key shipping lane

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is advancing a major infrastructure and defence project on Great Nicobar Island to strengthen its presence near vital global shipping routes, according to reports on Saturday. The \$9 billion plan includes a trans-shipment terminal, airport, power plant, and township.

The island sits near the Strait of Malacca, a critical maritime corridor linking the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Officials say the project will improve surveillance, logistics, and defence readiness while supporting civilian development.

Analysts say concerns over other maritime chokepoints have increased focus on securing sea lanes. Experts say the location boosts India's Indo Pacific strategic reach.

Netanyahu claims secret United Arab Emirates visit during Iran war, Emirati officials deny it

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed he made a secret visit to the United Arab Emirates at the height of the Iran conflict to meet President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to his office. The Israeli government said the meeting, reportedly held in the city of Al Ain near the Oman border on March 26, resulted in what it described as a "historic breakthrough" in bilateral relations.

However, the United Arab Emirates foreign ministry has strongly denied the claim, calling reports of the visit "baseless." Reuters reported that intelligence coordination between the two countries continued during the conflict, including alleged trips by Israel's intelligence chief to the Gulf state. Media reports also suggested expanded military cooperation, including shared air defense coordination.

The claims come amid growing reports of covert regional activity during the Iran war, including alleged strikes and



intelligence exchanges involving multiple Middle Eastern states. Israel and the United Arab Emirates normalized relations in 2020 under the Abraham Accords and have since deepened security and economic ties, particularly under United States mediation.

Analysts say the partnership has expanded significantly in recent years, though both countries face international scrutiny over their roles in regional conflicts and allegations of human rights violations.

US pledges humanitarian aid to United Nations with focus on Trump administration priorities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has announced \$1.8 billion in new humanitarian assistance through the United Nations, with officials saying the funding will align with the foreign policy priorities of President Donald Trump's administration, according to a statement on Thursday. The announcement builds on \$2 billion pledged in December under a new system designed to improve accountability and efficiency

in aid delivery. A senior State Department official said 92 percent of recent assistance has gone to "hyper-prioritized" countries identified as most in need by the United Nations humanitarian office, including newly added countries such as Venezuela and Lebanon. Officials said funding decisions reflect areas where United States interests and United Nations priorities overlap. United Nations officials emphasized ongoing reforms amid declining global aid funding and rising humanitarian needs affecting millions worldwide.

Miners clash with police in La Paz as Bolivia faces deepening economic crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Violent clashes broke out in Bolivia's capital La Paz on Thursday as mining groups protested against President Rodrigo Paz, demanding his resignation amid worsening economic conditions. Demonstrators attempted to reach Plaza Murillo, the city's central square, and confronted police, with witnesses reporting the use of dynamite sticks during the unrest. The miners are demanding greater access to fuel and explosives,

contract reforms, and changes to mining regulations. The protests have intensified alongside a broader economic crisis driven by shortages of United States dollars and declining domestic energy production, with farmers and union groups also joining demonstrations. Authorities said they have held talks with protest leaders on fuel subsidies and social policies, while a controversial agrarian reform law was recently repealed. Roadblocks have disrupted transport, causing shortages of food, medical supplies, and hospital oxygen supplies across the country.

Aid flotilla departs from Turkey again aiming to challenge Gaza blockade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An international Gaza-bound aid flotilla has set sail again from Turkey, just weeks after being intercepted by Israeli naval forces, organizers and Turkish state media reported on Thursday. The Global Sumud Flotilla departed from the port of Marmaris carrying more than 50 vessels with activists from around 40 countries. The mission aims to challenge Israel's naval blockade of Gaza, which has

been in place since 2007 with Egyptian coordination, and deliver humanitarian supplies to the war-affected enclave. The flotilla was previously stopped in international waters near Crete, when more than 20 vessels were intercepted and 175 people detained, according to Israeli figures. Israel later deported most participants and defended the operation as lawful, while activists and some European Union states questioned its legality. Organizers said they remain committed to relaunching until the blockade is lifted.

Trump announces fertility benefits and maternal healthcare expansion in United States

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced a new fertility benefit option for employers and a broader maternal healthcare initiative during a White House event on Monday aimed at expanding access to in vitro fertilization, childcare, and rural care. The plan allows employers to offer fertility coverage outside standard insurance. Trump also launched a federal website for mothers and a drug pricing program he said has lowered fertility medication costs. Officials highlighted rural maternal health gaps and new funding for care systems. Supporters said the initiative supports families and reduces maternal deaths. The administration also outlined childcare reforms focused on lowering costs and expanding parental choice.

Strait of Hormuz open to all except hostile countries, says Iranian FM Araghchi



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz remains open to all vessels except those from countries engaged in conflict with Iran. Speaking during a press conference in New Delhi, Araghchi said Iran has already helped several Indian ships pass safely through the strategic waterway and remains committed to secure maritime transit. He said vessels must coordinate with Iranian military authorities because of mines and other obstacles in the area. Araghchi also reiterated that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and denied Tehran seeks nuclear weapons. He added that regional instability stems from American aggression and said conditions would normalize once hostilities end.

Russia says successful Sarmat missile test strengthens nuclear deterrence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia said it successfully tested its Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, according to reports on Monday. The Strategic Missile Forces commander said the test confirmed key performance parameters including range, readiness, and countermeasure capability. President Vladimir Putin congratulated the military and described the missile as one of the most powerful in the world, capable of carrying heavy nuclear warheads and evading missile defenses. He said it will strengthen Russia's strategic deterrence. Officials said the missile system will be deployed later this year. The Sarmat has been under development since the 2000s to replace older Soviet-era systems.

Eleven climbers reach Mount Everest summit as Nepal opens 2026 season

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Eleven climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest on Wednesday after completing rope fixing operations, officially opening the route for the 2026 spring climbing season, Nepal's tourism department said. The team of Sherpa guides and icefall specialists completed the final ascent at 10:25 a.m., ensuring safe passage through the Khumbu Icefall and higher routes. The operation was coordinated by government and mountaineering agencies. Officials said eight icefall doctors and 11 guides worked on the mission under difficult weather conditions. Nearly 500 permits have already been issued, and hundreds of climbers are expected in the coming weeks.

IMF says US China dialogue supports global economic stability

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday that constructive dialogue between the United States and China and easing tensions between the world's two largest economies would support global economic stability. An IMF spokesperson welcomed recent discussions between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying engagement at the highest level is important. The Fund said lower trade tensions and uncertainty would benefit both economies and global growth. It also noted risks from geopolitical tensions and energy disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz. Despite short term inflation pressures from higher energy prices, medium term expectations remain stable.

Italy urges swift decision on EU defense loan scheme



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italy's defense minister has urged the government to decide quickly whether to access a European Union defense financing program, warning that the deadline for participation is near. Defense Minister Guido Crosetto said he has written twice to the treasury ministry and that contracts must be signed by the end of May. The Security Action for Europe instrument is a joint borrowing scheme backed by the European Union to support defense spending and NATO commitments. Italy had earlier shown interest, but officials remain divided due to fiscal constraints and repayment concerns. Rising energy costs are also shaping budget priorities.

WHO warns more hantavirus cases may emerge after cruise ship evacuation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Tuesday that additional hantavirus cases could emerge in the coming weeks following the evacuation of passengers from the outbreak-hit cruise ship MV Hondius. Speaking alongside Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in Madrid, Tedros said 11 cases, including three deaths, had been reported, with most linked to the Andes virus strain. He stressed that the global public health risk remained low and there was no sign of a wider outbreak. Spain coordinated the evacuation of more than 120 passengers



from Tenerife under strict health measures, while the World Health Organization recommended 42 days of monitoring for all exposed passengers.

North Korean troops join Russia's Victory Day parade in historic first

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean soldiers marched in Russia's Victory Day military parade in Moscow for the first time, according to footage released by the state-owned Tass news agency, highlighting deepening military cooperation between the two countries. Troops were seen in formation crossing Red Square carrying the North Korean flag and a banner marking the annual event commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two. North Korean Ambassador Sin Hong-chol and other officials were seen applauding from the stands. The participation follows a 2024 strategic partnership treaty between Moscow and Pyongyang and reports that North Korea has deployed thousands of troops to support



Russia's war effort. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un also sent a congratulatory message reaffirming closer ties and commitment to the alliance.

Texas sues Chinese-owned company over alleged H-1B visa fraud tied to fake childcare centers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a lawsuit against a North Texas company and its Chinese owner, alleging they operated fake childcare businesses to fraudulently obtain H-1B visas. The complaint says Golden Qi Holdings and its owner advertised childcare and autism services that did not exist.



Investigators reportedly found empty buildings and overgrown facilities at listed addresses. The state alleges the companies submitted visa applications for multiple professional roles despite lacking childcare licenses. Texas seeks injunctions to halt

operations, remove ads, and block visa sponsorships. The case comes amid wider scrutiny of visa fraud and immigration enforcement in the United States.

China blocks Taiwan from attending World Health Assembly again

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China announced on Monday that it would not approve Taiwan's participation in the upcoming World Health Assembly in Geneva, extending Taiwan's exclusion for a tenth straight year. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Taiwan's involvement in international organizations must follow the 'One China' principle and accused Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party of promoting separatism. Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin



Chia-lung said Taipei was still planning advocacy events in Geneva during the assembly. Taiwan last attended the World Health Assembly as an observer in 2016, when relations with Beijing were less tense.

Roger Stone faces backlash over Myanmar military lobbying contract

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US lobbyist Roger Stone, a longtime ally of President Donald Trump, has been condemned for taking \$50,000 a month to provide public affairs services to Myanmar's military-led government. Foreign Agents Registration Act filings show he works through the DCI Group for Myanmar's ministry of information, focusing on trade, natural resources and humanitarian issues. The military junta seized power in a 2021 coup, faces sanctions and war crimes allegations, and remains internationally isolated after widely condemned elections. Rights groups criticised the arrangement as supporting an abusive regime. Stone was pardoned in 2020 after a 2019 conviction.

US and China agree Iran must not obtain nuclear weapons and Hormuz must remain open



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and China agreed during a high-level summit in Beijing on Thursday that Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons and that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open for global shipping, according to a White House official. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed the issue along with trade and regional security. Both sides emphasized maintaining free energy flow through the waterway, while China opposed its militarization. The talks also covered expanding economic cooperation, including agriculture and energy, and efforts to reduce fentanyl precursor flows amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Macron ends Africa visit with call for UN reform and African representation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron concluded his Africa visit on Wednesday with talks in Ethiopia focused on United Nations reform and stronger African representation in global governance. He met Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, African Union Commission officials, and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres to discuss inclusive international institutions. Macron reiterated support for permanent African seats on the United Nations Security Council, echoing calls raised at the Africa Forward Summit co-hosted by France and Kenya. United Nations officials said reform is needed to improve legitimacy. Ethiopia also secured funding for green energy and digital development.

Karnataka BJP accuses chief minister over row on religious symbols in schools



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of bias after the government allowed limited religious symbols in schools alongside uniforms. Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka said the chief minister was hostile toward Hindu traditions while favoring minority practices. The move follows withdrawal of a 2022 uniform order. The Congress government defended the decision as inclusive and aimed at protecting student rights. The Bharatiya Janata Party and Hindu groups opposed it, calling it divisive.

Tamil Nadu chief minister urges removal of cotton import duty amid crisis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove the 11 percent import duty on cotton, warning of a crisis in the textile sector. He said rising cotton and yarn prices are hurting manufacturers and jobs, with cotton prices rising nearly 25 percent in recent months due to shortages. He said duty-free imports would stabilize supply, protect employment, and boost exports. He added the textile sector is a major job creator and needs urgent support.

Kuki body calls three-day shutdown after killing of church leaders



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kuki Inpi Manipur on Wednesday called a three-day shutdown across Kuki-Zo areas after the killing of three Baptist church leaders in Kangpokpi district. The shutdown began Tuesday midnight and will continue until Thursday midnight, with essential services exempted. The group also announced mourning and candlelight vigils. It alleged armed groups carried out the attack and condemned the killings, which also left several injured. Multiple organizations and leaders have demanded strict action against those responsible.

Mamata Banerjee calls for opposition unity, BJP accuses her of Maoist revival pitch

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sparked a fresh political clash after calling for unity among all anti-Bharatiya Janata Party forces, a move that has triggered sharp allegations from the ruling party that she is encouraging extremist elements.

Banerjee, reacting after the Trinamool Congress's electoral defeat and allegations over the special intensive revision exercise, said all opposition groups should come together. "All parties should unite against the Bharatiya Janata Party. We will take everyone along. It is not my ego," she said, also inviting even the

Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other Left groups into a broad alliance.

The Bharatiya Janata Party accused her of attempting to revive Maoist networks under the guise of unity and said Trinamool Congress's past political rise involved extremist support. It also called her pitch a dangerous attempt to bring together anti-national forces in West Bengal. The Congress also criticised her, recalling past political friction.

Banerjee made the remarks during a Rabindranath Tagore birth anniversary event, while political tensions continue to rise following the recent change in state leadership.



Uttar Pradesh cabinet expanded with new ministers ahead of assembly elections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttar Pradesh government expanded the Yogi Adityanath cabinet on Sunday, inducting two cabinet ministers and four state ministers, ahead of next year's assembly elections. Former Bharatiya Janata Party state chief Bhupendra Chaudhary and Samajwadi Party rebel Manoj Pandey were sworn in as cabinet ministers. Four leaders, including Krishna Paswan and Kailash Rajput, joined as state ministers, while two others received independent charge.

The expansion brings the total strength of the ministry closer to the constitutional limit. Officials said the reshuffle reflects caste and



regional balance, including outreach to Jat, Dalit, and Brahmin communities. The cabinet now includes 23 cabinet ministers, 16 with independent charge, and 21 state ministers.

Prime minister urges fuel conservation amid global energy crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to conserve fuel and adopt responsible energy use amid global conflicts affecting oil and fertilizer prices. Addressing a Bharatiya Janata Party rally in Telangana, he said international tensions have disrupted supply chains and increased fuel costs worldwide. He called for reduced use of petrol, diesel, and gas, and encouraged adoption of electric vehicles to lower dependence on imports.

Modi said the government is working to shield citizens from economic hardship but stressed that public cooperation is essential.



He urged people to prioritize national interest during the crisis and use energy resources judiciously to help reduce financial and environmental pressure.

Assam swearing-in draws massive political gathering in Guwahati



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath for a second term on Tuesday in a major ceremony in Guwahati attended by national leaders, including the Prime Minister. Held at the Khanapara Veterinary College Field, the event was described as the largest political gathering in Northeast India. Several ministers also took oath.

Chief ministers, union ministers, and other leaders from across India attended, along with cultural and sports personalities. Officials said the gathering reflected Assam's rising political importance and marked the start of a new term under the National Democratic Alliance.

Stalin orders DMK overhaul after admitting electoral defeat responsibility

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chennai, May 14 (IANS) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president and former Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Thursday accepted full responsibility for the party's defeat in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and called for major organisational reforms. Addressing district secretaries in Chennai, he urged unity, introspection, and an end to internal blame games, stressing that victory and defeat must be owned equally. Stalin said the party would launch a statewide field review and set up a committee to submit a report within 20 days. He also announced a feedback portal and hinted at "drastic changes" to rebuild the party structure.

Plea in supreme court seeks wage review for temple priests and staff in state-run temples

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking the formation of a judicial commission or expert committee to review wages and benefits of priests, sevadars, and staff in state-controlled temples. The plea, filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, argues that temple workers should be recognized as employees under the Code on Wages, 2019, since the state manages temple administration. It claims denial of minimum wages violates the right to livelihood under Article 21. The petition cites inflation, protests in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and a Tamil Nadu directive restricting dakshina. It also urges welfare measures, alleging systemic underpayment and state control over temple institutions.

Delhi government orders two-day work from home as part of fuel saving drive



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi government on Thursday announced a two-day work from home policy for all state government offices as part of sweeping measures to reduce fuel consumption following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for conservation amid global energy pressures. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the steps, effective immediately, also include a ban on large events for three months, suspension of foreign travel for officials for one year, a 20 per cent cut in fuel allowance, and promotion of electric vehicles. Residents are also encouraged to observe a weekly "no vehicle day" as part of the initiative.

European Union draft includes India, ensuring continued seafood exports beyond 2026



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has been included in a revised draft list by the European Union allowing continued export of aquaculture products beyond September 2026, the government said on Thursday. The inclusion is a major boost for India's seafood sector and reflects confidence in its food safety and regulatory systems. Once approved, it will ensure uninterrupted exports to the European market, which accounted for nearly 19 per cent of India's seafood exports in 2025-26, valued at \$1.59 billion. The development follows sustained efforts by Indian agencies to strengthen residue monitoring, traceability, and aquaculture standards in coordination with European authorities.

Punjab chief minister pledges complete crackdown on drugs and organized crime

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday reaffirmed his government's commitment to eliminating drug abuse, saying the state's anti-narcotics drive has already led to major action against traffickers and criminal networks.

He said more than 63,000 drug smugglers have been arrested under the ongoing "Yudh Nashean Virudh"

campaign, while properties linked to drug money have been demolished or seized. Mann said the campaign has become a people-driven movement with strong public participation.

He also highlighted rehabilitation efforts and parallel action against organized crime. The chief minister said the fight will continue until Punjab is fully free of drugs and urged citizens to actively support the state's efforts to curb the menace.



Delhi High Court starts contempt proceedings against Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party leaders

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Thursday initiated criminal contempt proceedings against former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and several Aam Aadmi Party leaders, citing an alleged coordinated campaign to undermine the judiciary in the excise policy case.



Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said social media posts, videos, and public statements questioned her impartiality after she refused to recuse from hearing the matter. Notices were issued to Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Vinay Mishra, and Durgesh Pathak.

but organized attempts to scandalize the judiciary cannot be tolerated. It also observed that Kejriwal chose social media over legal remedies. The judge later recused herself from the case, while contempt proceedings will continue.

West Bengal mandates compulsory singing of 'Vande Mataram' in schools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The West Bengal government on Thursday issued a notification making the singing of 'Vande Mataram' compulsory in state-run schools during morning assemblies. The School Education Department order said the national song will be sung in all government schools with immediate effect. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari shared the notification on social media.



The Bharatiya Janata Party welcomed the move, calling it patriotic, while the Trinamool Congress supported it but stressed harmony. Opposition parties urged that the national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' should not be overshadowed by the decision.

BJP questions Rahul Gandhi over foreign travel expenses and funding sources



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged discrepancies between his declared income and spending on foreign trips. BJP MP Sambit Patra claimed Gandhi's declared income over a decade was about Rs 11 crore, while expenses on 54 foreign visits over 22 years were around Rs 60 crore.

He asked for disclosure of funding sources and compliance with tax and foreign exchange rules. The BJP also raised concerns over transparency, citing his recent foreign travel, and alleged lack of public disclosure. The Congress has not responded to the allegations.

NIA probe details 'Operation Heavenly Hind' terror conspiracy and Faridabad module



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Investigation Agency has detailed an alleged terror conspiracy code-named "Operation Heavenly Hind" linked to the Faridabad module case, according to a chargesheet. The agency said the group planned coordinated blasts across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir using ammonium nitrate and other materials procured in small quantities to avoid detection.

Investigators allege the objective was to trigger unrest, propaganda, and recruitment, with links to attempts to revive Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind. The module also allegedly raised funds, built support networks, and planned multiple attacks before 11 arrests were made. The probe is ongoing.

Boeing shares slide after Trump announces smaller-than-expected China jet deal



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shares of Boeing fell more than 4 percent on Thursday after Donald Trump announced that China had agreed to buy 200 Boeing aircraft, far below market expectations of a deal involving about 500 jets. Speaking after talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing, Trump described the agreement as a major breakthrough, though details on aircraft models and delivery timelines were not disclosed. Analysts said investors had anticipated a much larger order package that could have significantly boosted Boeing's position in China. China's last major Boeing order came during Trump's 2017 Beijing visit, when the country agreed to purchase 300 aircraft.

India targets \$1 trillion exports after record \$863 billion trade year

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India achieved record exports worth \$863 billion despite global economic headwinds and is now targeting \$1 trillion in exports during the current financial year, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.



Speaking at the LEAPS Awards 2025 event on Wednesday, Goyal said India's expanding trade agreements, infrastructure investments and logistics reforms are helping strengthen the country's competitiveness in global markets.

and blocs including Chile, the Maldives, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Canada, Mexico and Mercosur.

India has signed nine free trade agreements over the past three-and-a-half years, covering 38 developed economies. Four agreements are already operational, while five more are expected to take effect within the next year.

Goyal emphasized that reducing logistics costs remains a major government priority under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic strategy. He said improvements in transportation networks and supply chain efficiency are expected to further boost exports and foreign exchange earnings amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and slower global growth.

The minister said India is also negotiating trade deals with countries

Tesla strengthens India expansion with Bengaluru experience centre



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla has opened its first Bengaluru experience centre in Whitefield as part of its growing India expansion strategy.

The facility will showcase the Model Y lineup, including the six-seater Model Y L, which offers a range of up to 681 kilometers. Tesla said the SUV can add 288 kilometers of range in 15 minutes through Superchargers. The company also launched after-sales support and home charging services in Bengaluru. Tesla already operates experience centres in Mumbai, Delhi and Gurugram as it gradually expands its retail and service presence in India's growing electric vehicle market.

US moves toward ending fraud probe against Gautam Adani



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US authorities are moving closer to dropping fraud charges against Gautam Adani, with the Department of Justice expected to take a decision this week. The US Securities and Exchange Commission is also discussing a settlement in a parallel civil case tied to alleged bribery in solar energy contracts. The cases accused executives linked to the Adani Group of concealing details from US investors while raising funds. Adani's lawyers argued the SEC lacks jurisdiction because the transactions occurred entirely in India. The group denied wrongdoing and said investors suffered no losses because Adani Green Energy repaid its bonds in full last year.

US mortgage rates ease slightly as housing market remains sluggish

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Average long-term US mortgage rates edged lower this week after rising for two straight weeks, though elevated borrowing costs continue to slow the housing market.



Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage slipped to 6.36 percent from 6.37 percent last week. Rates on 15-year fixed mortgages also eased slightly to 5.71 percent.

borrowing costs for homebuyers. Despite rates remaining below last year's levels, economists said home sales have stayed weak through the spring buying season as many buyers continue struggling with affordability challenges across the United States.

Mortgage rates have remained elevated since tensions linked to the Iran conflict disrupted energy markets and pushed oil prices higher, fueling inflation concerns. Rising Treasury yields have also increased

Samsung faces strike threat after wage talks collapse



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Samsung Electronics is facing the threat of a major strike after government-mediated wage negotiations with labor unions collapsed on Wednesday. The dispute centers on demands for larger bonuses linked to booming artificial intelligence-driven semiconductor profits. Union leader Choi Seung-ho said workers would not return to negotiations unless Samsung guarantees bonus transparency and improved payouts. The union is demanding bonuses equal to 15 percent of semiconductor division profits and removal of payout caps. Samsung recently reported record quarterly operating profit, fueled by strong global demand for artificial intelligence memory chips.

SEBI plans sweeping revamp of India's derivatives trading framework

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed a major overhaul of derivatives regulations aimed at simplifying trading rules and reducing compliance burdens for exchanges. The regulator suggested merging existing frameworks for equity, currency and commodity derivatives while removing "close-to-the-money" options in commodity trading to cut complexity. Other proposals include reducing mandatory advisory committee meetings for non-agricultural commodities to once a year and shifting disclosures from newspapers to exchange websites. SEBI said the changes are intended to streamline market operations without weakening investor protection. Public comments on the proposals have been invited until Wednesday, June 4.

Honda posts first annual loss as electric vehicle strategy backfires

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Honda Motor reported its first-ever annual loss on Thursday after heavy spending on electric vehicle projects and weakening demand for battery-powered cars sharply hurt profitability.

electric vehicle operations could reach 2.5 trillion yen across the current and previous fiscal years. Honda blamed declining electric vehicle demand on the rollback of environmental policies in the United States under Donald Trump.

The automaker posted a net loss of 423.9 billion yen, or about \$2.7 billion, and estimated total losses linked to its

Chief Executive Officer Toshihiro Mibe said Honda would continue pursuing carbon neutrality while placing greater focus on hybrid and gasoline-powered vehicles alongside electric models.

Cisco cuts jobs as company sharpens artificial intelligence focus

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cisco plans to cut fewer than 4,000 jobs globally as part of a restructuring focused on artificial intelligence and high-growth businesses. Chief Executive Officer Chuck Robbins informed employees of the layoffs alongside quarterly earnings results. The cuts will affect less than 5 percent of Cisco's workforce. The company said affected employees would receive severance packages and access to training programs in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and networking technologies. Cisco added it would continue investing heavily in artificial intelligence infrastructure after posting record quarterly revenue of \$15.8 billion, up 12 percent from a year earlier.

China renews then abruptly halts approvals for US beef exporters

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China briefly renewed export licenses for hundreds of American beef plants on Thursday before abruptly reversing the approvals hours later, creating fresh uncertainty during trade talks between Washington and Beijing.

renewal. Industry analysts said restoring approvals would have been a major win for American beef producers amid ongoing trade tensions.

More than 400 US beef facilities had lost export eligibility over the past year after previous licenses expired without

Chinese customs listings initially showed the registrations as active before later changing their status back to expired. Beijing did not explain the sudden reversal. The development came during talks between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, where agriculture and trade cooperation were key topics of discussion.

Uber joins hands with Adani Group for first India data centre



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uber will establish its first India data centre with the Adani Group as the company expands its technology footprint in the country. After meeting Gautam Adani in Ahmedabad this week, Uber Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi said India was becoming a major innovation hub for the company's global operations. The facility will support Uber's engineering, product development and technology operations and is expected to become operational later this year. The announcement comes as Adani Group rapidly expands its digital infrastructure business through its data centre venture AdaniConneX.

Maruti Suzuki taps startups to drive AI-led factory automation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maruti Suzuki India has selected six startups under its accelerator program to develop artificial intelligence and automation solutions aimed at improving manufacturing efficiency and customer experience. The startups will work on projects involving robotics, predictive maintenance, digital product development and dealership support systems. Managing Director Hisashi Takeuchi said the partnerships would help improve factory safety, shorten product development timelines and strengthen material traceability. The company said the initiative aligns with the government's Startup India vision while helping Maruti modernize operations and build future-ready manufacturing systems.

Volvo looks for US partnerships to boost factory output

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Volvo Cars is exploring partnerships in the United States to better utilize production capacity at its South Carolina factory, Chief Executive Officer Hakan Samuelsson said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Financial Times Future of the Car conference, Samuelsson said Volvo is open to cooperation in assembly, sourcing and supply chain operations as it expands manufacturing in the United States. The move comes as automakers rethink production strategies following tariffs introduced by Donald Trump on imported vehicles. Volvo, majority-owned by China's Geely Holding, has already announced plans to increase US-based vehicle production.

Court filing reveals Sam Altman's multibillion-dollar ties to OpenAI partners

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court filing linked to Elon Musk's lawsuit against OpenAI revealed that Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman holds more than \$2 billion in stakes in companies that have business relationships with OpenAI.

The document, presented during hearings in California on Tuesday, listed investments in companies including Helion Energy, Stripe and Retro Biosciences. Musk's lawsuit accuses Altman of self-dealing and conflicts of interest as OpenAI pursues a for-profit structure.

Altman denied wrongdoing and testified that he recused himself from negotiations involving



companies where he held investments. Several Republican state attorneys general have also asked the SEC to review OpenAI's governance and conflict-of-interest policies ahead of a potential initial public offering.

India tightens gold import rules amid pressure on forex reserves

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has capped duty-free gold imports for exporters at 100 kilograms per license under the advance authorization scheme to prevent diversion into the domestic market. Under revised rules issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, first-time applicants must undergo factory inspections before approval, while exporters must complete half of earlier export obligations before receiving fresh permits.

The move follows Wednesday's decision to raise customs duties on gold and silver imports to 15 percent amid concerns over foreign exchange reserves and rising oil prices linked to the West Asia conflict. Earlier this month,



Narendra Modi urged citizens to avoid non-essential gold purchases for a year.

Air India's mounting losses weigh heavily on Singapore Airlines

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Air India posted a \$2.8 billion loss in 2025-26, sharply impacting earnings at Singapore Airlines, which owns a 25.1 percent stake in the carrier.

Singapore Airlines Group reported a 57.4 percent fall in annual net profit, citing Air India's losses and the absence of a one-time accounting gain from the Air India-Vistara merger. Air India's recovery plans have also been disrupted by the closure of Pakistani airspace, Middle East tensions and rising fuel costs.

India's aviation sector slowed in April,



with international passenger traffic dropping 20 percent from March, reflecting broader pressure on the industry.

BP resumes refinery labor talks after months-long lockout

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BP will resume contract negotiations on Monday with union leaders representing workers at its Whiting refinery in Indiana after months of labor tensions.

Around 800 workers at the 440,000-barrel-per-day refinery, the largest in the US Midwest, have been locked out since Wednesday, March 19, after talks over a new labor contract failed. The United Steelworkers said it would again ask BP to end the lockout and withdraw proposed job cuts and wage reductions. BP said it remains committed



to reaching a long-term agreement that improves refinery performance and safety.

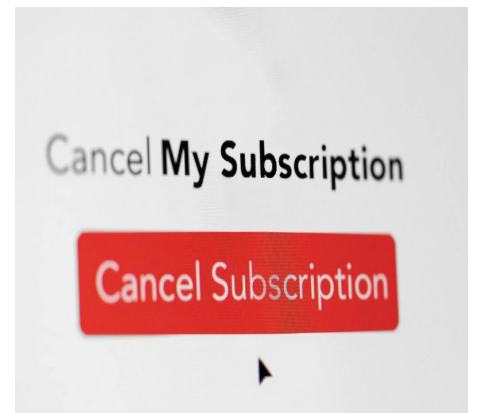
BYD targets unused European factories in expansion drive



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BYD is negotiating with Stellantis and other European carmakers to take over underused factories as it expands across Europe. Executive Vice President Stella Li said on Wednesday that the company is exploring plants in countries including Italy to make use of spare production capacity. She added BYD prefers operating facilities independently instead of through joint ventures. The company has already launched trial production at a plant in Hungary and announced plans for a manufacturing base in Turkey as Chinese automakers rapidly expand overseas.

Shutterstock to pay \$35 million in FTC subscription settlement



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Shutterstock will pay \$35 million to settle claims by the Federal Trade Commission that it misled consumers about subscription renewals and cancellation policies. The regulator said Shutterstock failed to clearly disclose automatic renewals and cancellation fees tied to annual plans. Customers also allegedly faced lengthy cancellation procedures, including long phone waits and multiple follow-up steps. The settlement announced on Wednesday provides full consumer relief, according to the FTC. Shutterstock neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing and is still awaiting regulatory approval for its planned merger with Getty Images.

French court upholds book delivery fee in Amazon dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France's highest administrative court on Wednesday rejected a challenge by Amazon against the country's minimum delivery fee on books. France introduced the three-euro delivery charge in 2023 to help independent bookstores compete with Amazon, which had previously offered book deliveries for one euro cent. The fee does not apply to purchases above 35 euros. Amazon argued the policy violated European Union rules and unfairly hurt readers living far from bookstores. French authorities defended the measure as part of efforts to protect local booksellers and the country's cultural sector from growing pressure linked to digital commerce.

Svitolina shocks Swiatek to reach third Italian Open final



Elena Svitolina reached her third Italian Open final on Thursday after defeating three-time champion Iga Swiatek 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in a high-quality semifinal.

The two-time former champion will face Coco Gauff in the final, having beaten her twice earlier this season. Svitolina also defeated Swiatek in the quarterfinals of the Paribas Open in March, continuing her strong record against the world number. She saved 11 of 16 break points, including all five in the final set, to win in two hours and 14 minutes. Svitolina said it felt “unreal” to return to the Rome final after several years, calling it a special achievement on a big stage.

Pollard fined for code of conduct breach during Punjab Kings clash



Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for breaching the Indian Premier League Code of Conduct during a match against Punjab Kings at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the 19th over of the second innings when Pollard allegedly used an audible obscenity directed at the fourth umpire. He accepted the charge and sanction imposed by match referee Pankaj Dharmani. On the field, Mumbai Indians ended their season with a win, while Punjab Kings suffered a fifth straight defeat despite posting 200. Tilak Varma’s unbeaten 75 off 33 balls stood out.

NFL global expansion accelerates as record international schedule fuels rising demand

The National Football League’s global expansion is gathering pace as international demand grows “very, very rapidly,” according to executive vice president Peter O’Reilly, with the league preparing its most ambitious overseas schedule yet. Speaking on Thursday, O’Reilly said the upcoming season will feature a record nine regular-season games outside the United States, with new venues in Melbourne, Rio de Janeiro, and Paris, alongside London, Madrid, Munich, and Mexico City. He said the league enters each market with a “humble” approach, focused on partnerships, access, and long-term growth rather than short-term spectacle.



Since international games began in 2007, more than 60 regular-season matches have been played abroad, including in Germany, Ireland, Brazil, and Canada. O’Reilly said demand has been particularly strong in Australia, where ticket interest for the Melbourne matchup has exceeded expectations. He described overseas fixtures as “mini Super Bowls” due to their scale and atmosphere, but stressed the goal is to “put down roots” and build lasting

fan bases. The league is also expanding youth programs, including flag football initiatives in Australian schools, as part of broader grassroots development. While a Super Bowl outside the United States has been discussed previously, O’Reilly said it is not a current priority, though it remains a possibility in the future.

Hockey India appoints Frederic Soyez as junior men’s head coach



Hockey India on Thursday appointed French coach Frederic Soyez as head coach of the junior men’s team, bringing in a veteran with extensive Olympic and World Cup experience. Soyez has previously coached Spain and France at multiple Olympic Games and guided Spain to a European silver medal in 2019. He also led France to a Junior World Cup silver in 2013 and recently worked with the French youth setup. He succeeds P. R. Sreejesh, whose tenure ended in December 2025. Hockey India said the appointment supports its long-term plan for Olympic success in 2036, with a structured system integrating Indian and international coaches for continuity and development.

Cadillac F1 learns reality check as debut project faces steep climb

Cadillac’s Formula One project has moved from planning to execution, but the team is already confronting the difficulty of competing in the sport’s most complex environment. Team owner Dan Towriss admitted there was early “naivete” in underestimating the scale of coordination required across its global bases in Silverstone, Indianapolis and North Carolina. While the team has built its structure and entered competition, it is still far from challenging midfield teams. With drivers Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas delivering consistent finishes, Cadillac has avoided major



setbacks. However, leadership stresses that finishing races is not the target, with aerodynamics and data correlation seen as key development areas.

Saudi Arabia to launch six-team professional T20 cricket league in October

Saudi Arabia will launch its first professional Twenty20 cricket league in October, marking a significant step in expanding the sport in the Gulf region. The six-team competition is scheduled to begin in the second week of October and will feature a mix of international stars and emerging players. The Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation awarded operational

rights in 2025 to South Asian Network Limited to establish the tournament. Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh will serve as league ambassador. Organizers say the league aims to grow cricket in the region while delivering a global-standard entertainment product. Details regarding venues, franchises, and broadcast partners are expected to be announced later.

Fans boo Mbappe as Real Madrid beat Oviedo in tense home win



Real Madrid defeated Real Oviedo 2-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday, but the match was overshadowed by fan unrest despite having no impact on the La Liga title race. Supporters booed the team at kick-off, and Kylian Mbappe was jeered when he came on as a substitute, with sections of fans questioning his commitment. Gonzalo Garcia scored just before half-time before Jude Bellingham sealed the win in the 80th minute. Oviedo, already relegated, created chances but failed to score. The match came amid growing tension around the club following Barcelona’s title win and internal scrutiny. Despite the result, the atmosphere reflected frustration more than celebration.



Lisa Leslie to be honored with statue outside Crypto.com Arena

The Los Angeles Sparks announced Thursday that Hall of Fame center Lisa Leslie will be honored with a statue outside Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. Leslie, an eight-time All-Star, remains the franchise leader in points, rebounds, and blocks and is widely regarded as a pioneer of women’s basketball. She becomes only the second player in league history to receive a statue from her team. Leslie said she is proud to be immortalized in the city that shaped her career, thanking her family, teammates, and fans for their support throughout her journey.



Inter Milan seal domestic double with Coppa Italia victory over Lazio



Inter Milan completed a domestic double by defeating Lazio 2-0 in the Coppa Italia final on Wednesday, adding the trophy to their Serie A title. Marcus Thuram scored in the 14th minute with a deflected header, before Lautaro Martinez doubled the lead just before half-time after a pass from Denzel Dumfries. It is Inter's tenth Coppa Italia title, capping a dominant season. Manager Cristian Chivu praised the team's consistency, while Martinez said the squad had responded strongly after last season's disappointment. The club finishes the campaign with two major trophies and renewed momentum heading into next season.

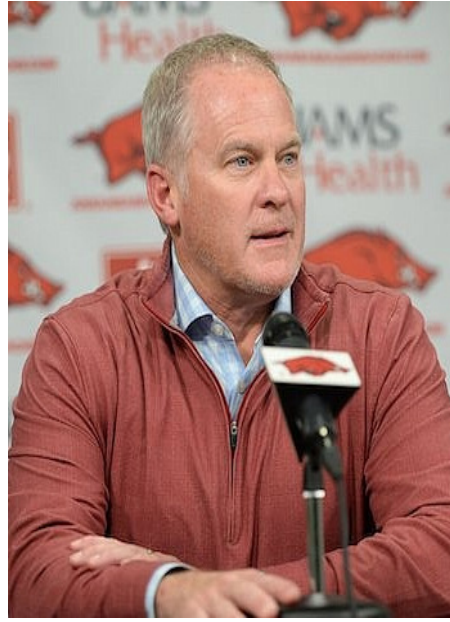
Messi stars as Inter Miami complete stunning 5-3 comeback win



Lionel Messi scored twice and provided an assist as Inter Miami produced a dramatic 5-3 comeback win over FC Cincinnati at TQL Stadium on Wednesday. Messi opened the scoring, but Cincinnati responded with a penalty and two second-half goals to lead 3-2. The Argentine equalised with a first-time finish before Miami turned the match late. Mateo Silveti levelled at 3-3 in the 79th minute, German Berterame put Miami ahead in the 84th, and an own goal sealed the victory. The result helped Inter Miami match a Major League Soccer record for points from their first nine away games.

Arkansas restores tennis programs after donor funding rescue

University of Arkansas has reinstated its men's and women's tennis programs after donors provided short-term financial support, athletic director Hunter Yurachek said Thursday. The teams had been discontinued three weeks earlier due to budget pressures linked to the evolving revenue-sharing model in college sports. Yurachek said alumni support has created a temporary path forward, while efforts continue toward a long-term endowment to sustain the programs. The decision follows widespread concern across collegiate athletics after a major Southeastern Conference program dropped both teams. Arkansas spent about \$2.35 million on tennis in fiscal 2025. The men's team had recently competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament before the abrupt suspension announcement,



which triggered strong reactions from players and supporters nationwide.

Pakistan lose World Test Championship points after slow over-rate in Bangladesh defeat

Pakistan national cricket team were docked eight World Test Championship points and fined 40 percent of match fees after a slow over-rate offence in the first Test against Bangladesh national cricket team in Dhaka. The International Cricket Council confirmed on Friday that Pakistan were eight overs short after time allowances, with captain Shan Masood accepting the sanction. The penalty dropped Pakistan to eighth place in the standings with four points. Bangladesh secured a 104-run victory, powered by a five-wicket haul from Nahid Rana, marking a historic home Test win over Pakistan. The result lifted Bangladesh to sixth place in the World Test Championship table and strengthened their campaign in the current cycle.



Hockey India opens global player registration for Hockey India League 2027

Hockey India has opened registrations for the Hockey India League 2027 player auction, scheduled for September ahead of the season start in January 2027. The league continues its revival momentum after successful editions in 2024-25 and 2025-26, which saw strong international participation and rising fan engagement. Eligible players include talent from India,

Europe, Australia, Argentina, and several other leading hockey nations. Last season saw over 1,000 registered players, with SG Pipers winning the women's title and Kalinga Lancers claiming the men's championship. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said the league has become a key global platform for talent development and will continue strengthening India's hockey ecosystem through the 2027 edition.

Mitoma injury forces Japan to reshuffle World Cup squad



Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu named a 26-player FIFA World Cup squad on Friday without injured Premier League winger Kaoru Mitoma, who was ruled out after suffering a hamstring injury during Brighton's win over Wolves last week. Monaco forward Takumi Minamino also missed selection due to a knee ligament injury sustained in December. Captain Wataru Endo and veteran defender Yuto Nagatomo headline a balanced squad as Japan prepares for its eighth consecutive World Cup appearance in North America. The team enters the tournament in strong form on a five-match winning streak and will complete preparations with a friendly against Iceland in Tokyo. Japan's recent surge includes notable wins over Brazil, England, and Scotland.

Gina Carano and Ronda Rousey headline Netflix MMA spectacle after long layoffs

Former MMA pioneer Gina Carano will return to competition on Saturday after a 17-year absence, facing fellow former champion Ronda Rousey in the main event of Netflix's first MMA card in California. Carano, now 44, last fought in 2009 before transitioning to acting after her loss to Cris Cyborg. Rousey, also returning after a long hiatus, helped drive the comeback fight. Carano said renewed discipline and intensive training have reshaped her approach to the sport, while acknowledging she is unsure about future fights. Both fighters were once among the most influential figures in women's MMA, and their bout is expected to be one of the most watched combat sports events of the year, marking a dramatic crossover moment between early MMA legends and modern global streaming audiences.

Brazil extend Carlo Ancelotti deal through 2030 World Cup cycle

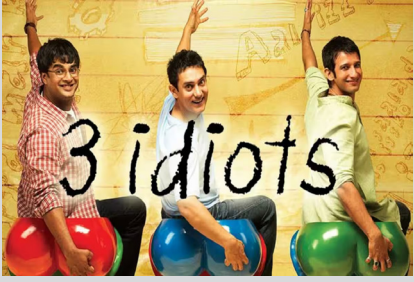
Carlo Ancelotti will remain head coach of Brazil's national football team until 2030 after signing a contract extension announced by the Brazilian Football Confederation this week. Since taking charge in May 2025, Ancelotti has guided Brazil to World Cup qualification and recorded five wins, two draws, and three losses in ten matches. He said the goal is to restore Brazil to the top of world football. Brazil football president Samir Xaud called the extension historic as the team prepares for the 2026 World Cup, where Ancelotti will become the first foreign coach to lead Brazil.



Libya football fan unrest sparks fire at government headquarters

Violent scenes erupted in Tripoli this week after supporters of Al-Ittihad protested a referee decision during a match against Swehly in nearby Tarhouna. The game ended in chaos after a denied penalty led to pitch invasions and injuries to stadium guards. The unrest escalated when fans marched to the Government of National Unity headquarters and set fire to its facade. Firefighters later brought the blaze under control as security forces restored order. Both clubs demanded a review of refereeing decisions following the incident, which disrupted the capital and raised security concerns in the Libyan capital.

Rancho and friends gear up for a new chapter in '3 Idiots' sequel



Bollywood star Aamir Khan has reportedly begun work on a sequel to the 2009 blockbuster '3 Idiots', with R. Madhavan and Sharman Joshi set to reprise their beloved roles. Industry sources said the project is currently in pre-production and will feature a major time leap, showing the trio at a completely different stage of life. Reports also suggest filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani is likely to return as director. However, details about whether the sequel takes place before or after the events of the original film are still being kept secret. The first movie, also starring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Boman Irani, became one of Indian cinema's biggest worldwide hits.

'Bridgerton' breaks tradition as season 5 lands in 2027



Bridgerton is officially returning for a fifth season in 2027, ending the show's usual two-year release pattern. The announcement was made by Bela Balaria during Netflix's upfront presentation. Production on the eight-episode season is already underway in the United Kingdom. The upcoming story will center on Francesca Bridgerton, played by Hannah Dodd, and Michaela Stirling, played by Masali Baduza. According to the official synopsis, Francesca returns to society after losing her husband John, but Michaela's arrival in London forces her to confront unexpected emotions. The series is based on the bestselling novels by Julia Quinn.

Diljit Dosanjh shuts down calls for political entry in Punjab

Punjab singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh has dismissed growing speculation about entering politics after a public appeal urged him to become a new political voice for Punjab. The debate intensified online after 'Jago Punjab Manch' circulated an open message asking Diljit to step into leadership amid concerns over Punjab's social and political future. Reacting to a newspaper headline discussing the possibility, Diljit responded on X with a firm "Kadey V Nhi," meaning "never ever," adding that his work is purely entertainment and that he is happy in his field. The singer's response quickly went viral among fans. On the film front, Diljit is preparing for the release of Main Vapas Aaunga, his second collaboration with filmmaker Imtiaz Ali after Amar Singh Chamkila.

'Pan's Labyrinth' returns to Cannes 20 years after historic ovation

Twenty years after 'Pan's Labyrinth' stunned the Cannes Film Festival with a record 22-minute standing ovation, filmmaker Guillermo del Toro returned to Cannes on Tuesday for a restored screening of the fantasy classic. The director recalled arriving at the 2006 premiere anxious after a troubled production and limited early buzz, only to witness one of the festival's most celebrated reactions.



saying audiences still value artistry and human imperfections over virtual filmmaking and artificial intelligence-generated visuals.

Set in Francoist Spain in 1944, the film follows young Ofelia, played by Ivana Baquero, as she escapes into a haunting fantasy world. Del Toro said the film became a turning point in his career, helping shape later works including The Shape of Water and Frankenstein.

The filmmaker also reflected on the movie's handcrafted production design,

FIFA taps Madonna, Shakira and BTS for blockbuster World Cup halftime show

FIFA announced on Wednesday that the 2026 World Cup final will feature its first-ever Super Bowl-style halftime show, headlined by Madonna, Shakira and BTS. The concert will take place during the final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 19, and will support the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, which aims to raise \$100 million for children's education and soccer access worldwide. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said the event would unite music and sports "for a very special cause." The halftime show will be curated by Chris Martin of Coldplay. FIFA described the performance as a global cultural event blending entertainment, sport and



philanthropy. The 2026 World Cup will be co-hosted by United States, Canada and Mexico.

Usha Uthup rejects political spin around viral 'Didi Go' performance

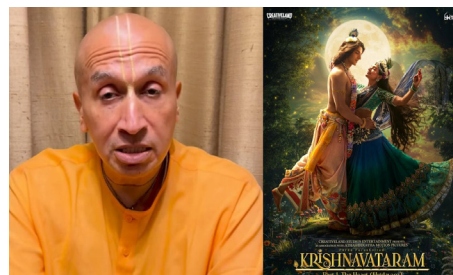
Veteran singer Usha Uthup has responded to online controversy surrounding her performance of the Bengali song 'Didi Go', denying claims that it carried political messaging aimed at former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. In a statement shared on Instagram on Wednesday, Uthup clarified that the song has been part of her performances for more than two decades and was inspired by an Arabic tune. She also dismissed rumors claiming she had moved from Kolkata to Mumbai because of political pressure. The singer stressed that Kolkata has remained her home since



1976 and urged people not to drag her into controversies unrelated to music or her personal beliefs.

ISKCON leader hails 'Krishnavataram' for bringing Krishna's teachings to cinema

International Society for Krishna Consciousness leader Gauranga Das Prabhu has praised 'Krishnavataram Part 1: The Heart' and encouraged families to watch the movie with their children. Speaking about the film on Tuesday, he said spiritually driven stories are important in a time dominated by negative online content. He particularly appreciated the film's portrayal of Krishna's teachings, the Dwarka sequences and the 'Syamantaka Mani' storyline. Directed by Hardik Gajjar, the film is the first chapter of a planned trilogy.



Gauranga Das Prabhu added that while the movie uses some creative liberties, much of its storytelling remains rooted in scripture and

Akshay Kumar drops slick jungle look from 'Welcome to the Jungle'



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar has sparked excitement among fans after unveiling a stylish first look from 'Welcome to the Jungle' on social media. In the image shared Tuesday, Akshay is seen confidently walking through a jungle wearing a sharp dark suit and sunglasses. The film marks the third installment in the hit 'Welcome' series and features a massive ensemble cast including Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Raveena Tandon and Jacqueline Fernandez. The project will also reunite Akshay and Raveena onscreen after more than two decades.

Jr NTR issues warning over unauthorized charity drives in his name

The team of Jr NTR has issued a public statement distancing the actor from charity drives and fundraising campaigns being organized by certain fan groups in his name. The clarification, released on Wednesday, urged fans and well-wishers not to contribute to any unofficial initiatives claiming links to the actor. The statement added that any official charity activity or public communication would only come directly from Jr NTR or his office. Meanwhile, the actor is preparing for his highly anticipated film NTRNeel with director Prashanth Neel. The action drama's release has reportedly been pushed to Sunday in June 2027, increasing anticipation around the large-scale project.

Deep Purple roars back with explosive new anthem 'Arrogant Boy'



Legendary British rock band Deep Purple has released 'Arrogant Boy', the lead single from its upcoming album SPLAT. The song debuted Tuesday alongside an official performance video on YouTube. Frontman Ian Gillan said the track follows a rebellious character named Billy who enjoys challenging powerful elites. The album is scheduled for release on Friday in July and reunites the band with producer Bob Ezrin. Gillan described the new material as some of Deep Purple's heaviest work in years and said it reconnects with the spirit of classic hits such as 'Smoke on the Water' and 'Highway Star'. The band will support the album with a world tour spanning 28 countries.

Kannada film industry mourns actor Dileep Raj's sudden death at 47

Kannada actor and television producer Dileep Raj died on Wednesday after reportedly suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 47 and is survived by his wife and two children. Dileep Raj was widely known for his performances in 'Milana' and 'U Turn', along with several successful television serials. Actor Rishab Shetty paid tribute to him on social media, remembering him as both a talented artist and a kind-hearted person. Dileep Raj was last seen in 'Love Mocktail 3', which released earlier this year and marked the final installment in the popular franchise.

Demi Moore urges Hollywood to embrace AI with safeguards in place



Hollywood actor Demi Moore says the film industry must learn how to work with artificial intelligence instead of resisting it, while also pushing for stronger protections and regulations. Speaking during the Cannes Film Festival jury press conference on Tuesday, Moore acknowledged that AI is now unavoidable in filmmaking and entertainment. The actor, who recently appeared at Cannes with 'The Substance', said AI can offer useful creative tools but can never replace the emotional depth and humanity behind real art. Moore also admitted Hollywood is probably not doing enough to protect artists and creators from potential risks. She is serving on this year's Cannes competition jury alongside filmmaker Park Chan-wook and director Chloé Zhao.

Amy Madigan joins John Sayles' long-awaited return to Western filmmaking



Hollywood actor Amy Madigan has joined 'I Passed This Way', the first feature film in over a decade from acclaimed filmmaker John Sayles. She will star opposite Chris Cooper in the Western drama.

Set in 1898, the film follows a cowboy fleeing across New Mexico after robbing a bank before facing a moral crossroads while hiding at a disease-stricken homestead. Production is expected to begin later this year in Spain's Canary Islands and Almería. The project is based on Eugene Manlove Rhodes' novella 'Paso Por Aqui', with Sayles saying the story's themes of morality and justice strongly resonated with him during President Donald Trump's first administration.

Conan O'Brien locked in for third straight Oscars hosting gig

Comedian Conan O'Brien will return to host the 99th Academy Awards on March 14, 2027, marking his third consecutive year leading Hollywood's biggest night. The announcement was made Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Disney executives during Disney's upfront presentation in New York.

Disney Television Group President Craig Erwich praised O'Brien's "singular comedic voice" and credited him with bringing renewed energy to the ceremony. Executive producers Raj Kapoor and Katy Mullan will also return for a fourth consecutive year.

O'Brien is set to join an elite list of repeat Oscars hosts that includes Steve Martin and Bob Hope, who hosted the ceremony a record 19 times. The 2026 Oscars telecast



drew 17.9 million viewers, continuing the industry's effort to attract younger audiences increasingly watching highlights online rather than live television.

Shekhar Suman promises fearless conversations with return of 'Shekhar Tonite'

Actor and television host Shekhar Suman is returning to late-night television after 14 years with his new show 'Shekhar Tonite'. Speaking during a recent interview, Suman said the show aims to raise important social and political questions while representing the concerns of ordinary people.

The veteran host explained that he wants conversations on the show to remain bold yet respectful, without crossing into abuse or hostility. He added that the platform would focus on speaking honestly about issues affecting society and democracy. The show has been created by his son Adhyayan Suman, who described the project as deeply personal



and praised his father's legacy in conversational entertainment. The series marks Shekhar Suman's return to a format that once made him a television favorite.

Mandana Karimi bids emotional goodbye to India after 16 years

Actor and model Mandana Karimi has announced that she is leaving India after nearly 16 years, calling the country her "second home." During an Instagram question-and-answer session shared Tuesday, Mandana posted a video from an airport and revealed she was preparing for a fresh start in a new country.

The actor previously spoke about wanting to leave India because of security concerns and also confirmed earlier this year that returning to Iran was not an option, as she had reportedly been banned there for nearly a decade. Mandana moved to India in her early twenties to pursue modeling before making



her acting debut in 'Bhaag Johnny'. She later gained popularity through reality shows including 'Bigg Boss' and 'Lock Upp'.

Priyanka Chopra joins Mira Nair's star-studded film 'Amri'

Aclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair has unveiled her next feature film, 'Amri', starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Jaideep Ahlawat and Jim Sarbh. Inspired by the life of pioneering artist Amrita Sher-Gil, the film explores her journey across Europe and India during the early twentieth century.

Actor Anjali Sivaraman will portray Sher-Gil, while Priyanka Chopra Jonas also serves as an executive producer. Nair said Sher-Gil's art has deeply influenced her filmmaking style for decades. The project, currently filming across India and Hungary, examines identity, self-expression and artistic rebellion through the story of one of



modern India's most celebrated painters. The ensemble cast also includes Emily Watson and Anjana Vasani.

Dua Lipa files \$15 million lawsuit against Samsung

Pop star Dua Lipa has filed a \$15 million lawsuit against Samsung, accusing the company of using her image on television packaging without permission. According to court documents filed in California, the singer alleged her photograph appeared on Samsung television boxes beginning last year as part of a marketing campaign that falsely implied her endorsement. The complaint claims the image was taken backstage at the 2024 Austin City Limits Music Festival and used without compensation or approval. Dua Lipa's legal team argued that the unauthorized campaign damaged her carefully managed premium brand identity. The lawsuit includes copyright, trademark and publicity rights claims, while also citing online comments from customers who believed the singer officially endorsed Samsung products.

Britney Spears opens up about 'spiritual journey' after rehab stay



Pop icon Britney Spears says she is embracing a "spiritual journey" following her recent rehabilitation treatment and driving under the influence case in California. The singer, who entered a treatment facility in April after her March arrest, shared an Instagram post featuring herself with a snake during an outing with her sons Sean Preston and Jayden. Britney described snakes as symbols of healing, higher consciousness and luck, while reflecting on personal growth and learning to be kinder to herself. Prosecutors later charged the singer with misdemeanor driving under the influence involving alcohol and drugs. Authorities said the case may be resolved through a "wet reckless" plea agreement, a common arrangement for first-time offenders who seek treatment and rehabilitation voluntarily.

Red Hot Chili Peppers cash in with massive \$300 million catalog deal



Legendary rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers has reportedly sold its recorded music catalog to Warner Music Group for nearly \$300 million in one of the year's biggest music rights deals. Reports said the agreement covers the band's entire recorded catalog, including iconic albums such as Blood Sugar Sex Magik and Californication. The catalog is believed to generate around \$26 million annually through streaming and licensing revenue. The sale follows the band's earlier publishing rights agreement with Hipgnosis Songs Fund in 2021. Bassist Flea recently confirmed the group is also working on a new album with guitarist John Frusciante, continuing a career that has spanned more than four decades.

असम के मंदिरों की यात्रा का पाँचवा और अंतिम पड़ाव नवग्रह मंदिर, गुवाहाटी

ताम्रेश्वरी मंदिर की रहस्यमयी शक्ति और पुराने इतिहास को देखने के बाद IndoUS Tribune की असम यात्रा अब अपने पाँचवें और अंतिम पड़ाव पर पहुँचती है। सदिया के ताम्रेश्वरी मंदिर ने हमें असम की पुरानी परंपराओं, शक्ति पूजा और जनजातीय संस्कृति की झलक दिखाई। अब हमारी यात्रा हमें गुवाहाटी के प्रसिद्ध नवग्रह मंदिर तक ले आती है, जहाँ आस्था, ज्योतिष और प्राचीन भारतीय ज्ञान का सुंदर मेल देखने को मिलता है।

हमारा अंतिम पड़ाव है गुवाहाटी की चित्राचल पहाड़ी पर बना प्राचीन नवग्रह मंदिर। यह मंदिर नौ ग्रहों को समर्पित है और हिंदू धर्म में इसका बहुत विशेष महत्व माना जाता है। पहाड़ी पर स्थित यह मंदिर ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी और पूरे शहर का सुंदर दृश्य भी दिखाता है।

नवग्रह मंदिर का इतिहास

नवग्रह मंदिर असम के सबसे पुराने मंदिरों में से एक माना जाता है। कहा जाता है कि पुराने समय में गुवाहाटी को 'प्रागज्योतिषपुर' कहा जाता था, जिसका अर्थ है 'ज्योतिष का नगर।' मान्यता है कि इसी स्थान से पूर्वोत्तर भारत में ज्योतिष और ग्रहों के अध्ययन की शुरूआत हुई थी।

मौजूदा मंदिर का निर्माण 1752 में अहोम राजा राजेश्वर सिंह ने करवाया था। इससे पहले यहाँ एक



पुराना पत्थर का मंदिर था, जो 1697 के बड़े भूकंप में टूट गया था। बाद में राजा ने इसका फिर से निर्माण कराया।

राजा राजेश्वर सिंह ने मंदिर के नीचे एक नौ कोनों वाला तालाब भी बनवाया था, जिसे आज 'सिलपुखुरी' कहा जाता है। यह तालाब श्रद्धालुओं के लिए पानी का मुख्य स्रोत था।

मंदिर की विशेषता

इस मंदिर में नौ ग्रहों की पूजा शिवलिंग के रूप में की जाती है। मंदिर के गर्भगृह में नौ शिवलिंग हैं, जो सूर्य, चंद्रमा, मंगल, बुध, बृहस्पति, शुक्र, शनि, राहु और केतु का प्रतीक हैं।

बीच में रखा शिवलिंग सूर्य देव का प्रतीक माना जाता है और बाकी ग्रह उसके चारों ओर स्थापित हैं। हर शिवलिंग पर अलग रंग का कपड़ा चढ़ाया जाता है, जो उस ग्रह को दर्शाता है।

आस्था और पूजा

हर दिन बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालु यहाँ नवग्रह शांति पूजा करवाने आते हैं। लोगों का विश्वास है कि इस पूजा से ग्रह दोष कम होते हैं और जीवन में सुख, शांति और सफलता मिलती है।

विशेष रूप से शनि, राहु और केतु से जुड़े दोषों की शांति के लिए लोग दूर-दूर से यहाँ आते हैं।

मंदिर में रोज पूजा, अभिषेक और वैदिक मंत्रों का पाठ होता है।

त्योहार और आयोजन

महाशिवरात्रि और शिव चतुर्दशी यहाँ के बड़े त्योहार हैं। इन दिनों मंदिर में हजारों श्रद्धालु दर्शन के लिए आते हैं। माघ और फाल्गुन संक्रांति के समय यहाँ तीन दिन का महायज्ञ भी किया जाता है।

असम के कई अन्य मंदिरों की तरह यहाँ पशु बलि की परंपरा नहीं है। श्रद्धालु केवल फल, मिठाई, अन्न और पूजा सामग्री चढ़ाते हैं।

मंदिर का वातावरण

नवग्रह मंदिर का लाल रंग का गुंबद बहुत आकर्षक दिखाई देता है। पहाड़ी पर बना यह मंदिर शांत और भक्तिमय माहौल से भरा रहता है।

सुबह और शाम की आरती के समय यहाँ का वातावरण बहुत सुंदर और मन को शांति देने वाला होता है। मंदिर से ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी और गुवाहाटी शहर का दृश्य भी बहुत मनमोहक लगता है।

असम यात्रा का समापन

IndoUS Tribune की असम मंदिर यात्रा का यह पाँचवा और अंतिम पड़ाव हमें यह सिखाता है कि असम केवल प्राकृतिक सुंदरता की भूमि नहीं, बल्कि आस्था, संस्कृति, शक्ति पूजा और प्राचीन भारतीय ज्ञान का भी महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है।

कामाख्या मंदिर से शुरू हुई यह यात्रा उमानंद मंदिर, हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर, ताम्रेश्वरी मंदिर और अब नवग्रह मंदिर तक पहुँचकर पूरी होती है। इस यात्रा ने हमें असम की धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक विरासत को करीब से जानने का अवसर दिया।

अब अगले सप्ताह IndoUS Tribune शुरू करेगा एक नई आध्यात्मिक यात्रा – 'बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा' – जहाँ भारत की प्राचीन संस्कृति, इतिहास और भक्ति के नए अध्याय हमारा इंतजार कर रहे हैं।



Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana Why did Hanuman Ji think of dying in Lanka?

The greatest difference between the Ramcharitmanas and the Valmiki Ramayana is that the Valmiki Ramayana presents every event in remarkable detail. It explores the emotions of every character with extraordinary depth. Sage Valmiki examined each character closely and gave powerful expression to their inner feelings. As we will see in this article, when Hanuman Ji was searching for Sita Ji in Lanka, he went through immense emotional turmoil. In his despair, he even thought that it would be better to give up his life there rather than return unsuccessful.



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In the Ramcharitmanas, this episode appears in the Sundarkand section. Tulsidas Ji concluded it within just a few verses. Hanuman Ji first meets Vibhishan, who informs him that Sita Ji is in the Ashok Vatika. Hanuman Ji then directly proceeds there and receives the darshan of Mother Sita.

Juguti Vibhishan sakal sunai, chalu pavansut bida karai

Kar soi roop gayau puni tahava, ban Ashok Sita rah jahava

And Hanuman Ji reached the Ashok Vatika.

Dekhi manahi mahu keenh pranama, baithehi beeti jat nisi jama

Krus tanu sees jata ik beni, japati hriday Raghupati gun shreni

Sita Ji's body had grown weak from the agony of separation. Day and night, she appeared immersed in the remembrance of Lord Ram with deep sorrow in her heart. Seeing her condition, Hanuman Ji became deeply distressed. The episode ends within these few verses.

But when one studies the Valmiki Ramayana, it becomes clear that



Hanuman Ji had to struggle immensely before reaching Sita Ji. During this process, he endured many moments of despair. What thoughts crossed his mind in those painful moments becomes evident in the following shlokas.

Bhuyishtham lodita Lanka Ramasya charatah priyam |

Na hi pashyami Vaideheem Sitam sarva anga shobhanam || 5-13-3

“I have searched all of Lanka in search of Sita, yet I have not been able to find the beautiful Vaidehi anywhere.”

Hanuman Ji feared that perhaps his great effort of crossing the ocean would go in vain. He then began worrying about Sita Ji's safety.

Upari upari va noonam sagaram kramatah tada || 5-13-10

Viveshtamana patita samudre Janak atmaja

“Could Sita Ji have fallen from the Pushpak Viman into the ocean while being brought here?”

“Did Sita Ji sacrifice her life while trying to escape Ravana's grasp?”

“Did she jump into the ocean from the aerial route to protect her honor?”

Ha Ram Lakshman iti eva ha Ayodhye iti cha Maithili || 5-13-14

Vilapya bahu Vaidehi nyasta deha bhavishyati |

“Crying out ‘O Ram! O Lakshman! O Ayodhya!’ perhaps the grieving Sita gave up her life in despair.”

Hanuman Ji remained tormented by these thoughts for a long time. Then another fear entered his mind — if Sita Ji could not be found, this terrible news could never be conveyed to Lord Ram. The sorrow would utterly devastate Him. Hanuman Ji thought that he could not return to Kishkindha after such failure. It would be better to die there itself. His despair had reached its peak. He was even prepared for death.

Then began another chain of thoughts in his mind. He wondered what effect the news of his failure would have on everyone connected to Lord Ram.

Gatva tu yadi Kakutstham vakshyami param apriyam || 5-13-23

Na drishta iti maya Sita tatah tyakshyanti jeevitam |

“If I deliver this tragic news to Lord Ram, He will not be able to bear the separation. It is possible He may even give up His life.”

“And if Lord Ram gives up His life, then Lakshman Ji, who loves his elder brother more than his own life, will not remain behind either.”

Vinashtau bhratarau shrutva Bharato api marishyati || 5-13-26

Bharatam cha mritam drishtva Shatrughno na bhavishyati |

“If the news of the deaths of these two brothers reaches Ayodhya, Bharat and Shatrughna will also not survive.”

Putran mritan sameekshya atha na bhavishyanti matarah || 5-13-27

Kausalya cha Sumitra cha Kaikeyi cha na sanshayah |

“The news of the deaths of all four sons will shatter the three mothers. In the absence of their sons, Mother Kausalya, Mother Sumitra, and Mother Kaikeyi may also not survive.”

This chain of thought did not end there. Hanuman Ji then wondered: “Will my king Sugriv remain alive after hearing of Ram Ji's death? If something happens to Sugriv, what will become of his wife Ruma? Will Crown Prince Angad survive this grief? And in such a terrible crisis, when the leaders of the Vanar race are gone, how will the Vanar army or the Vanar community itself survive?”

The mere thought of the destruction of the entire Vanar race shook Hanuman Ji deeply. Beyond this, he could think no further. His body weakened under the weight of despair. When he regained some composure, he concluded that it would be better not to return at all than to return in failure.

He decided that after spending some time there, he would give up his life in Lanka itself, but would not become the cause of such catastrophic destruction.

Only a great sage like Valmiki could portray the inner conflict of Hanuman Ji with such subtlety and emotional depth.

Through Hanuman Ji, Valmiki Ji masterfully depicted the terrifying mental state created by despair and failure. This is the beauty and strength of the Valmiki Ramayana. These very emotions awaken devotion and reverence in the hearts of devotees of Lord Ram.

Akshaya Patra Michigan chapter hosts 'Music for Meals' fundraiser in Novi



● By: Prachi Jaitly

The Michigan chapter of The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA hosted its 'Music for Meals' charity fundraiser on Friday, May 9, at the Novi Civic Center, bringing together community members, supporters, sponsors and music lovers for an evening dedicated to fighting classroom hunger and supporting children's education in India.

The event drew strong participation from the local Indian American community, with attendees gathering to support Akshaya Patra's

mission of providing nutritious mid-day meals to schoolchildren across India. Blending music, culture and philanthropy, the evening highlighted the importance of ensuring that no child is deprived of education because of hunger. Entertainment for the program was led by Sargam Desi Rhythm, whose musical performances captivated the audience. Several local artists also participated in the event, presenting cultural and musical performances that added warmth and energy to the evening.

Organized by volunteers of the Akshaya Patra Michigan chapter, the fundraiser reflected months of planning and community

outreach focused on raising awareness about school meal programs and their impact on children's education, nutrition and well-being.

Sponsors and supporters attending the event spoke about the work being carried out by The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA in addressing classroom hunger and supporting millions of children through nutrition-focused educational initiatives. Guests also praised the organization's long-standing commitment to transparency and social impact.

Chapter Chair Sampath Prahlad addressed the gathering and shared insights into the

chapter's journey, previous fundraising efforts and community engagement initiatives. He also discussed upcoming projects, including a summer golf fundraiser and additional outreach programs aimed at expanding awareness and strengthening community participation.

The success of 'Music for Meals' once again highlighted the power of volunteer-driven service and collective compassion. Beyond celebrating music and culture, the event reinforced a shared commitment toward creating a future where every child has access to nutritious meals and quality education.

Vaisakhi celebration brings culture, service and community spirit to Carmel



● By: Prachi Jaitly

Carmel's Gazebo at Civic Square was filled with vibrant colors, music, and community spirit as residents gathered to celebrate Vaisakhi, the traditional Sikh festival marking the spring harvest season.

Organized by Asawari Kaur, the celebration welcomed families and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds for an afternoon focused on unity, cultural appreciation, and community service. The event featured lively musical and dance performances, traditional festivities, and educational activities that showcased the richness of

Indian heritage and Sikh traditions.

Designed as a family-friendly and multigenerational gathering, the program included attractions and activities for children, adults, and seniors. A community blood drive was also held during the event, reflecting the values of compassion, service, and giving that are closely associated with Vaisakhi. Several distinguished guests and community leaders attended the celebration, including Mayor Sue Finkam, Dr. Anita Joshi, J.D. Ford, Victoria Garcia Wilburn, K.P. Singh, Anita Lerche, Sukhmanpreet Singh, Joel Thacker, Rich Taylor, Shannon Minnar, Rocky Singh, and Jeff Worrell. Sponsors supporting the event included 1st Source Bank, Key Bank,

Rick Campbell, Smile N Style Dental, and Lindsay Gramlich. Their participation highlighted the region's continued support for diversity, inclusion, and cultural engagement.

Adding to the excitement, the celebration featured special performances by well-known Punjabi entertainers who traveled from India to participate in the festivities. Attendees enjoyed energetic performances by renowned Punjabi anchor and performer Satinder Satti along with popular entertainers Satvinder Satti and Harmandeep Kaur.

Their lively stage presence and performances created an enthusiastic

atmosphere and kept the audience engaged throughout the event.

The celebration attracted a full house in the heart of Carmel, reflecting the growing popularity of Vaisakhi celebrations and the community's increasing appreciation for Indian culture, music, and traditions. Organizers noted that the event was not only an opportunity to celebrate Sikh heritage, but also a platform to strengthen intercultural understanding and bring communities together through shared experiences and service initiatives. With rising participation each year, organizers expressed hope of continuing and expanding the annual tradition in the future.

Indian Seniors of Chicago mark Mother's Day and Gujarat Day with culture and community spirit



By: Jayanti Oza

Members of Indian Seniors of Chicago celebrated Mother's Day and Gujarat Day with devotion, music and community fellowship during a vibrant gathering held on Friday, May 9, at the Manav Seva Mandir hall in Bensenville near Chicago. Around 380 members attended the celebration, which began with prayers and devotional songs led by members celebrating birthdays in May.

Along with Geetaben Suthar, participants presented Ganesh Stuti, Sarva Dharma Prarthana, Hanuman Chalisa and the popular birthday song 'Baar Baar Din Ye Aaye.' Special guests Saroj Patel and Dahyabhai Patel greeted birthday

celebrants with flower bouquets and best wishes.

The event also featured a yoga demonstration by Umaben Desai, promoting wellness and healthy living among seniors. ISC Treasurer Hemant Modi presented the organization's April financial report and acknowledged donors supporting community activities.

Lunch and sweet sponsors were honored with garlands by ISC President Kantibhai Patel in recognition of their contributions. Gujarat Day celebrations included musical performances highlighting Gujarati culture and heritage.

As part of the Mother's Day program, Pannaben Shah honored 12 women with roses and boxes of sweets. Adding an emotional

touch to the event, Bhadra Shah performed the song 'Janani Ni Jod Sakhi Nahi Jade Re Lol,' which received warm appreciation from attendees.

Continuing an annual tradition, artwork created by 12 senior members was displayed during a special Mother's Day art exhibition. The gathering also included an informational session on the 'Vardan' mobile app, designed to help seniors live independently and remain connected with doctors and family members during emergencies.

The event concluded with ISC Vice President Navinbhai Patel encouraging members to RSVP early for future events before attendees joined in a collective prayer, lunch and social interaction.



Art of Living Chicago marks Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's birthday with service and devotion

IndoUS Tribune extends warm birthday wishes to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The Art of Living Chicago community celebrated the birthday of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at the Shree Radhey Shyam Temple in Bloomingdale, Chicago, on May 13, 2026. The gathering drew a wide participation of Indian American community members, including Vinesh Virani, Preeti



Bala, Devi G Vora, Indra Sharma, Dr Avi Verma, and Nita Virani, alongside representatives from the Indian Association of Greater Chicago and other local community groups. The celebration combined spiritual observance with community service, as



participants organized a food drive in support of a local food pantry. Organizers said the initiative was inspired by Gurudev's teachings on compassion and selfless service, aiming to extend the spirit of the occasion into meaningful social impact.

Set in a devotional and culturally vibrant atmosphere, the event brought together families and volunteers from across the Chicago Indian American community in a shared expression of gratitude and celebration.

Indian diaspora joins interfaith Chicago event centered on hope, healing and resilience

● By: Jayanti Oza

An evening centered on reflection, resilience and cross-cultural solidarity brought together members of the Indian, Jewish, Assyrian and Christian communities in Chicago during a special gathering titled 'Choosing Life: From Survival to Resilience,' organized by the Global Indian Diaspora Foundation. The event's most moving moment came through the testimony of Barak Morag, a survivor of the October 7, 2023 attack on Kibbutz Nir Oz in Israel. Sharing the tragedy experienced by his family, Morag spoke about rebuilding life after immense personal loss and choosing hope in the face of devastation.

Addressing attendees, Morag said darkness can never overcome light when people stand together with courage, compassion and humanity. His remarks resonated deeply with the audience and underscored the enduring strength of the human spirit. The evening opened with remarks from Consul General Somnath Ghosh, who reflected on India's long tradition of tolerance and acceptance. Referring to Swami Vivekananda's landmark 1893 speech at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago, Ghosh highlighted India's history of offering refuge and dignity to persecuted communities, including Jewish populations.

Deputy Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, Delphine Gamburg, also addressed the gathering and recalled visiting Kibbutz Nir Oz alongside Indian community leaders. She spoke about the devastation witnessed there and expressed appreciation for the solidarity shown by Chicago's Indian community toward Israel during a difficult period. Rakesh Malhotra, president of GIDF, said the event reflected the strong emotional and



cultural bonds shared between the Indian and Jewish communities. He noted that both communities are deeply rooted in values of resilience, family, education and cultural pride.

GIDF General Secretary Abhinav Raina thanked attendees for supporting peace and humanity, stressing that unity across communities becomes even more important during periods of global conflict and

division. The event was attended by faith leaders, civic representatives and members of several community organizations.

Jim Scudder Jr. attended with members of the Quentin Road Baptist Church congregation, representing support from the Christian community. Representatives from Jewish organizations, including StandWithUs, also participated in the gathering. Leaders from the Assyrian

American Civic Club of Chicago and United Assyrian Appeal joined in expressing solidarity rooted in their own histories of survival and displacement.

Several members of Chicago's Indian diaspora and cultural organizations also participated in the program, reinforcing the event's message of standing united with communities facing persecution and hardship worldwide. The Global Indian Diaspora Foundation continues to organize cultural dialogue and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening ties between the Indian diaspora and diverse global communities.

Photos from the gathering captured Deputy Consul General of Israel to the Midwest Delphine Gamburg delivering remarks, members of the Indian diaspora alongside Consul General Somnath Ghosh, and Rakesh Malhotra addressing attendees during the event.



Dallas-based INDICA unveils global expansion of its 'positive cinema' movement

By: Avatans Kumar

INDICA's Center for Indic Films today announced a major transformation as it enters its 7th year. After six successful years of the Indic Film Utsav, including four years as a pioneering OTT festival and two years as a brick-and-mortar theatrical festival in Dallas, the platform is now evolving into a dual-festival model, marking a new chapter in its journey. Over the past six years, Indic Film Utsav has screened over 350 films, establishing itself as a unique platform for meaningful, culturally rooted INDIC storytelling.

Beginning this year, the initiative will move forward as two distinct and focused festivals: INDICA Dallas Film Utsav and INDICA Heritage Film Utsav (online).

INDICA DALLAS FILM UTSAV

A 3-day, in-person theatrical festival held annually in Dallas every November.

The upcoming edition will be held November 13-15, 2026, at the Galaxy Theaters in Dallas, US.

INDICA HERITAGE FILM UTSAV (Online)

A global online 24/7 anytime/anyday festival held every March, dedicated to civilizational, cultural, and heritage-driven cinema. The next edition is scheduled for March 11-14, 2027.

This 'double-powered' format reflects a strategic shift, expanding reach while deepening impact by creating both a physical destination for cinematic experience and a digital platform for global accessibility.

"Cinema is one of the most powerful mediums to preserve and transmit civilizational knowledge. At INDICA, we strongly believe in the power of positive cinema, stories that uplift, inspire, and reflect the deeper values



of our civilization. With this dual-format evolution, we are creating both a global digital platform and a vibrant physical gathering space to celebrate such meaningful storytelling," said Hari Vadlamani, Founder of INDICA.

The Dallas-based INDICA DALLAS FILM UTSAV will continue to offer an immersive theatrical experience, bringing together filmmakers, audiences, and thought leaders. In parallel, the INDICA HERITAGE FILM UTSAV (Online) will serve as a curated online space for films that explore deeper civilizational themes, making them accessible to audiences worldwide.

"Each festival is designed with a clear audience in mind and delivers distinct value. The Dallas event offers a wholesome, immersive film festival experience for local audiences, featuring Indic films across features, documentaries, and shorts, along with workshops,

contests, and filmmaker socials. The online event, on the other hand, caters to a global audience through a 24/7, anytime-anywhere model, ensuring these important stories are accessible beyond geographic boundaries," said Danji Thotapalli, Chief Curator & Co-founder of the Center for Indic Films.

This transition underscores a continued commitment to championing independent filmmakers and curating cinema that emphasizes hope, human values, cultural depth, and artistic courage, true to its identity as a Festival of Positive Cinema.

INDICA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institute for Indian Knowledge Systems.

Further details on submissions, programming, and festival timelines please visit their website at www.cif.indica.in.



National INDIA HUB to host Expo 2026 in Schaumburg

By: Dr. Avi Verma

National INDIA HUB will host Expo 2026 on Thursday, May 21, bringing together more than 60 federal, state government and business agencies under one roof to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and community collaboration.

The 'Amazing Adventures in Product and Innovation Expo' is being organized by APEX in partnership with several organizations, including the South Asian American Chamber of Commerce. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at National INDIA HUB, located at 930 National Parkway in Schaumburg.

Organizers expect participation from entrepreneurs, startups, business owners, innovators and community members from across the region.

The expo will feature

government booths, business showcases, workshops, seminars, networking sessions and resource opportunities aimed at helping businesses grow and build new partnerships.

According to organizers, the event is designed to connect businesses directly with government agencies, support organizations and industry leaders while creating opportunities for collaboration and growth.

National INDIA HUB said it continues to serve as a collaborative platform where communities, businesses and public agencies can come together to create meaningful impact and expand opportunities.

Organizers described the gathering as more than a traditional expo, calling it a space where innovation, opportunity and community converge to inspire new ideas and partnerships.

The event is open to the public.

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- GOVERNMENT & PRIME BOOTHS
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- NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

LOCATION:

NATIONAL INDIA HUB
930 NATIONAL PKWY,
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Spiritual celebrations gather momentum at Ludhiana's Siddh Peeth Hanuman Mandir



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Devotees in large numbers are showing immense enthusiasm ahead of the 22nd foundation day celebrations of Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Mandir at Joshi Nagar Dham in Shankaracharya Nagar, Haibowal Kalan. The temple premises have been witnessing an atmosphere filled with devotion, faith and community service as preparations for the May 27 celebration continue in full swing.

Temple representatives said that devotees visiting the shrine with true faith experience spiritual peace and believe their wishes are fulfilled through the blessings of Shri Balaji Maharaj. The temple has become widely known among worshippers for its spiritual environment and regular religious activities.

As part of the foundation day celebrations, holy water brought from Salasar Dham and Mehandipur Dham will be sprinkled on devotees during the foundation day event, allowing them to experience a sense of spiritual bliss and divine blessings.

A series of invitation drives is also being carried out across the city to invite



prominent residents and devotees to participate in the ceremony.

Religious gatherings and evening devotional programs are being organized regularly at the temple, where bhajan singers are creating a devotional atmosphere through spiritual hymns dedicated to Shri Balaji Maharaj. During these events, guests are being welcomed with respect, sacred flags are being hoisted and Hanuman Chalisa recitations are being held.

Temple members also highlighted that every Tuesday, a large community feast (bhandara) is organized for more than 3,000 devotees. They described the ongoing service as a symbol of faith, devotion and humanity that has continued uninterrupted with the blessings of Shri Balaji Maharaj.

The organizers added that the inspiration and guidance of the late Ashok Jain continue to motivate the team involved in the preparations and invitation campaign for the grand foundation day celebrations.



OFBJP Chicago celebrates BJP victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Overseas Friends of BJP hosted a community celebration in Chicago to mark the Bharatiya Janata Party's electoral victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, drawing nearly 300 attendees, including community leaders and members of the Bengali community.

The event combined political enthusiasm with cultural traditions, featuring Bengali delicacies such as jhalmuri, rosogolla and sandesh. Musical performances by Pushpita Chatterjee and a saxophone rendition of "Vande Mataram" by Vardaan Tiwari added to the evening's celebrations.

The program began with the national anthems of India and the United States.



Dr Bharat Barai, Dr Panna Barai, Mrs Lina Chakraborty, Dr Ram Chakraborty (Founder of Chicago Kali Bari) and Rakesh Malhotra, Coordinator of Chicago Chapter of OFBJP



Amar Upadhyay, Abhinav Raina, Chetan Rege, Rakesh Malhotra, Anurag Awasthi, Jonika and Ronit enjoying famous Indian snack Jhalmuri.

State Coordinator Amar Upadhyay welcomed guests, while Chicago Co-Coordinator Rakesh Malhotra spoke about the election outcomes, describing them as a mandate for change and inclusive governance.

Speakers including Dr. Ram Chakraborty and Dr. Bharat Barai reflected on the significance of the election results and emphasized democratic participation, governance and community unity.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of party workers whose sacrifices were acknowledged during the event. Volunteers of the Chicago chapter were also honored for their dedication and service.

The evening concluded with continued celebrations and interaction among attendees, reflecting strong engagement within the Indian American diaspora community.

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Regenerative medicine moves closer to reality, but human treatments remain years away



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Scientists at Scripps Research and Harvard University are reporting major advances in regenerative medicine — an emerging field focused on helping the body repair damaged tissues and organs using its own biological pathways rather than relying solely on transplants or artificial devices.

One of the most closely watched developments involves an experimental small-molecule drug called CMV852, being developed by researchers at Scripps Research and the Calibr-Skaggs Institute. According to Scripps, the drug activates a cellular repair pathway known as YAP signaling, stimulating the growth of new heart muscle cells after a heart attack.

In animal studies involving mice and pigs, researchers observed the formation

of functional cardiac tissue and significant improvement in heart function. Human clinical trials have not yet begun, but investigational studies are expected to advance in the coming years.

The work is part of a broader scientific effort to harness the body's dormant regenerative abilities. Michael Bollong and colleagues are studying how targeted small molecules may encourage damaged organs — including the heart, lungs, cartilage and retina — to repair themselves from within. Researchers believe this strategy could someday help treat chronic diseases associated with aging, fibrosis, heart failure and degenerative conditions.

Separately, researchers linked to Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard have explored genes such as Lin28a, which appear to regulate tissue repair

and cellular regeneration during early development. Scientists are investigating whether safely reactivating such pathways in adults could improve healing after injury or disease.

However, experts caution that manipulating growth pathways carries potential risks, including uncontrolled cell growth and cancer, meaning extensive safety testing is still required before widespread human use.

Researchers at University of California, San Francisco and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center are also advancing stem-cell technologies aimed at growing organ-specific tissues in laboratories. While these developments represent important scientific progress, scientists emphasize that fully functional lab-grown human organs suitable for routine transplantation are still experimental and not yet

clinically available.

The promise of regenerative medicine is enormous. If successful, these approaches could eventually reduce dependence on organ transplants, improve recovery after heart attacks and potentially slow aspects of age-related tissue decline. But for now, most of these therapies remain in preclinical or early-stage research, and experts stress that patients should not view them as available cures.

Disclaimer

This article is intended for informational and educational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice. The therapies discussed are largely experimental and are not approved standard treatments for most medical conditions. Readers should consult qualified healthcare professionals before making any medical decisions.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: AUTO-LOANS

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread +5.3% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 67 (greed)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 62.37% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 50.80% (positive, barely)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 3/31/26

OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 60.49%, Hybrids 4.01%, Bonds 17.98%, M-Mkt 17.53%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
 Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 3.50-3.75%
 FOMC 6/17/26+ hold
 FOMC 7/29/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.69%, 1-yr 3.75%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.90%, 5-yr 4.02%, 10-yr 4.38%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.95%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.40%, 10-yr 1.93%, 30-yr 2.66%
 FRNs Index 3.643%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 5/1/26

TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
 Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%
 Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%,
 IRA-101110+ 3.50%

TIAA MYGA 4.15% (3-yr), 4.30% (5-yr), 4.40% (7-yr) (NEW)
 TSP G Fund 4.50% (previous 4.375%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 68.27 (greed-high)

Weekly ETFs: INDA +1.47%, INDY +0.32%, EPI +0.92%, INDH +0.26% | SPY +2.36%

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



MARKETS

India NSE exchange to launch Brent crude oil cash-settled futures (in rupees) with monthly expiries. This will allow Indian oil traders to speculate & refineries to hedge locally.

IT/TECH

SES (Luxembourg) & Jio Platforms joint-venture (JV) Orbital Connect India is weeks away from going live with its MEO satellite operations for B2B mobile services. SES acquired Intelsat in 2025 to expand its multi-orbit capacity (GEO, MEO, LEO), some in partnership with others. GEO = geostationary earth orbit, MEO = medium earth orbit, LEO = low earth orbit.

Newly listed US Nasdaq AI analytics & services company Braiin/BRAI (CEO Natraj Balasubramanian) acquired VIS Networks (CEO Umashankar Bantwal). Braiin has growth via acquisition strategy & previously acquired businesses in India & Australia. Indian VIS has customer service businesses in India, ASEAN, Middle East, US & UK.

INDUSTRIAL

Japanese DNP has a R&D center in

collaboration with IIT-Hyderabad. It will initially focus on packaging for EV batteries (handled as hazardous materials) & synthesis of drug APIs.

PHARMA

Indian Sun Pharma has a cash bid for NJ-based women's health firm Organon/OGN (spun off from Merck/MRK in 2021). Organon develops treatments for reproductive health, contraception, fertility & has a portfolio of biologic drugs & brands for dermatology, neurology, cardiovascular conditions, oncology & obesity. It will expand Sun Pharma beyond generics & provide a larger global footprint (U.S., Europe, China, Canada & Brazil).

FINANCIAL

RBI gold reserves update: 16.7% of total reserves at 03/2026, up from 13.92% at 09/2025. With additional gold repatriations to India (i.e. bringing the gold home), 680 metric tonnes (77%) of total RBI gold of 880.52 metric tonnes are now held domestically. 23% of gold reserves held abroad (US, UK, Switzerland) is more than enough for global trading needs.

Indian conglomerate TVS Venu is acquiring PGIM India Asset Management (AUM \$3.23 billion in 25 funds) from US Prudential/PRU.

SPECIAL TOPIC - AUTO-LOANS

Auto-loan calculators may be customized (see Edmunds link) to include loan amount financed, trade-in value, cash-incentive, loan rate (APRs), loan duration, title & registration fees, delayed payment starts(30-45 days), sales tax rates, etc.

Bankrate www.bankrate.com/loans/auto-loans/auto-loan-calculator/
 Edmunds www.edmunds.com/calculators/simplified-pricing.html
 Investopedia www.investopedia.com/

car-loan-calculator-5084761

A study was conducted for %Payoff-balance (FV) remaining at 36 months for various interest rates (APRs of 3-6%) & loan-durations (36m-84m). For high trade-in flexibility, the halfway points when %Payoff-balances were about half the original loan amounts were watched. At 36 months, the typical replacement time, the %Payoff-balances were LESS than 50% of the original loan amounts for 4-5-year loans, but MORE than 50% for 6-7-year loans.

The %Residual-values of 3-yr old car vary from 50-60% of the original costs depending on the models, miles driven, condition of the cars, etc. The %Trade-in values from the dealers will be significantly lower (40-50%). So, many people who replace cars every 3 years find themselves underwater for longer loan terms (72-84 months), i.e. they owe more than the car is worth.

A deeper look at the halfway points revealed that APRs of 3-6% didn't have much effect, but the halfway points were significantly affected by loan durations. Car buyers are forced to extend payment durations because new cars with features just cost lot more now & that's the only way to keep monthly payments within household budgets (or, they can buy less expensive new cars or buy used cars, & some of that is happening too).

It took decades for Americans to get into the habit of replacing (buying or leasing) cars every 3 years. But they will have to adjust to replacing cars every 4-5 years. US new car sales are typically 16 million/year & car manufacturers & dealers have interest in keeping those going.

For more information, see www.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!

Join IUHS to transform your dream of becoming a medical doctor into reality.

For more information and to apply, visit www.iuhs.edu



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Cannes 2026 red carpet turns Riviera into global fashion stage as celebrity looks dominate spotlight



The Cannes Film Festival 2026 continues to command global attention as its red carpet transforms the French Riviera into a 12-day showcase of high fashion, running from Tuesday, May 12, to Saturday, May 23.

While 21 films compete for the Palme d'Or, the festival's strongest visual narrative is unfolding on the red carpet, where celebrity appearances are driving as much conversation as the cinema itself. Each premiere and photo call is producing closely watched fashion moments, with luxury labels and star power merging in one of the world's most influential style arenas.



The screening of 'Histoires Parallèles (Parallel Tales)' on Wednesday, May 14, added to the momentum, with Barbara Palvin and Dylan Sprouse among those drawing attention for their coordinated red-carpet appearance. Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Gillian Anderson also stood out with their individual style statements, while Charles Leclerc and Alexandra Leclerc brought a high-profile sporting presence to the fashion-heavy event.

As premieres continue, Cannes remains the definitive global red-carpet platform where cinema and couture intersect and every appearance becomes part of a wider cultural and fashion narrative.

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