

Former US ambassador warns trade disputes and visa tensions are straining India-US relations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former US Ambassador to India Richard Verma said Tuesday that trade disputes, visa restrictions, and rising anti-Indian rhetoric were creating fresh strain in US-India relations despite decades of growing cooperation. Speaking at the Capitol Hill Summit 2026, Verma described the partnership as one of the world's most important but said "warning signs" were emerging.

He pointed to higher US tariffs on Indian goods, concerns affecting Indian students, and increasing anti-Indian content online. Verma said bilateral trade had expanded to more than \$200 billion and defense cooperation had strengthened significantly since 2000.

Despite current tensions, he said strong institutional ties and the Indian American community continued to anchor the relationship.

India refuses to accept arbitration ruling on Indus treaty projects in Jammu and Kashmir



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Saturday rejected a fresh ruling issued by what it called an "illegally constituted" Court of Arbitration under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, declaring the award "null and void." The Ministry of External Affairs said the tribunal had no legal standing and reiterated that India has never recognized its authority.

The ruling reportedly concerned maximum pondage linked to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. India maintained that its decision to place the treaty in abeyance after the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack remains in effect until Pakistan ends support for cross-border terrorism.

New Delhi also accused Pakistan of misusing international forums to evade accountability on terrorism-related issues.

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India urges stronger BRICS cooperation against terrorism and radicalization

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India on Thursday called for stronger international cooperation against terrorism during the 11th Annual BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting in New Delhi. Secretary for the West at the Ministry of External Affairs, Sibi George, stressed the need for unified global efforts to combat terrorism, cross-border extremism, terror financing, and radicalization.

George highlighted the growing threat posed by emerging technologies being used by terrorist groups and urged BRICS nations to adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward terrorism in all forms. He also called for strengthening the global counterterrorism framework through sustained international cooperation and information sharing.

India currently holds the BRICS chairmanship for 2026 under the theme



'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.' George said the BRICS counterterrorism platform should become more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready. He reaffirmed India's

commitment to working closely with member countries to build a safer and terror-free world as the bloc continues expanding with new member and partner nations.

Pulwama attack conspirator Hamza Burhan killed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hamza Burhan, also known as Arjumand Gulzar Dar and 'Doctor,' was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. Indian authorities had designated him a terrorist in 2022 for his alleged role in the 2019 Pulwama attack and his activities with the Pakistan-based Al Badr group.

Originally from Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, Burhan reportedly traveled to Pakistan in 2017 before joining Al Badr and later expanding recruitment networks across south Kashmir. The Pulwama suicide bombing killed 40 Central

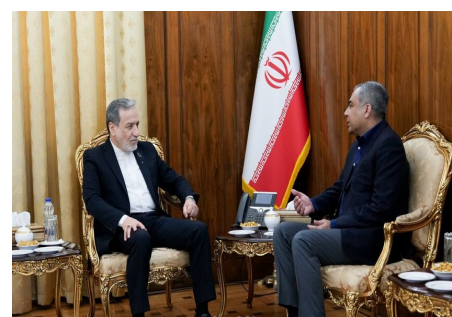


Reserve Police Force personnel and led to Indian airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed facility in Balakot. His death follows a series of killings targeting senior operatives linked to Pakistan-based terror groups.

Iran says message exchanges with US continue through Pakistani mediation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran said on Wednesday that indirect exchanges with the United States are continuing through Pakistani mediation as both sides review new proposals aimed at reducing tensions. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran remains focused on ending regional conflict and securing guarantees for maritime safety in the Strait of Hormuz. He added that Iran wants the release of frozen assets and an end to what it called hostile U.S. actions against Iranian shipping. Iranian media reported that Washington submitted a revised



proposal after Tehran presented a 14-point plan earlier in the week. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran remained open to diplomacy but rejected attempts to force Tehran into surrender.

Trump-branded rickshaws roll through New Delhi for America's 250th anniversary campaign



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Auto-rickshaws displaying large images of President Donald Trump and the slogan "Happy Birthday America!" have appeared across New Delhi as part of a United States campaign marking the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence. Around 100 vehicles featuring Trump and the Statue of Liberty have been seen moving through the capital in recent weeks.

The campaign was launched by United States Ambassador Sergio Gor as part of a broader international outreach initiative. The United States Embassy promoted the campaign online, encouraging residents to spot the rickshaws across Delhi. Several drivers said they knew little about the promotion itself. One said he agreed after being offered free tea, while another said the advertisement helped cover damaged sections of his vehicle. The campaign comes amid efforts to stabilize relations between Washington and New Delhi after recent trade tensions.

Taiwan's president seeks stronger US military support amid growing China pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Wednesday that continued American arms sales are critical to maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait as tensions with China intensify. Marking two years in office, Lai said he would tell President Donald Trump that Taiwan's increased defense spending is necessary to counter Beijing's military pressure. He added that "only strength can bring peace" and rejected China's claims over Taiwan.

China condemned Lai's remarks, accusing him of promoting separatism and destabilizing the region. The comments came after Trump approved a proposed \$11 billion arms package for Taiwan and suggested future defense agreements could be tied to broader negotiations with Beijing. China has repeatedly warned the United States against deepening military cooperation with Taiwan.

Belarus accuses Lithuania after suspected Ukrainian drone crosses border

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Belarus summoned Lithuania's chargé d'affaires on Thursday after accusing a Ukrainian military drone launched from Lithuanian territory of entering Belarusian airspace earlier this week. Belarusian officials said the drone was detected near the Vitebsk region on Sunday and claimed it had been heading toward Russian targets before crossing the border. Minsk criticized Lithuania for failing to issue warnings or prevent the incident, calling it a threat to regional security and a violation of international law. Belarus demanded a formal investigation and measures to stop similar breaches in the future.

The incident follows a series of recent drone incursions across the Baltic region. Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania have all reported similar cases, with authorities believing several Ukrainian drones may have veered off course while targeting Russian sites.

Republican lawmaker says Adani settlement could strengthen India-US business ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Congressman Lance Gooden on Monday welcomed the US Treasury Department's \$275 million settlement with Adani Enterprises, calling it a positive development for India-US relations and future investment.

The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said the settlement resolved alleged Iran-related sanctions violations involving the company. Gooden criticized the previous Biden administration, claiming the case was politically motivated and harmful to Indian investment in the United States.

He said he had raised concerns with officials in President Donald Trump's administration and expressed support for future Adani investments, particularly in Texas. Gooden also described India as one of America's most reliable partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

India's viral Cockroach Janta Party turns Supreme Court remark into nationwide online rebellion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A parody political movement called the Cockroach Janta Party has become an unexpected online sensation in India, using satire and memes to channel growing frustration among young people over unemployment, rising living costs and political discontent. The movement emerged after Supreme Court Chief Justice Surya Kant last week compared some unemployed youths and activists to "cockroaches" during a court hearing, triggering widespread backlash on social media.



Founded on Saturday by Abhijeet Dipke, a political communications strategist and student at Boston University, the Cockroach Janta Party quickly turned the controversial remark into a symbol of resilience and protest. By Thursday, its Instagram account had crossed 15 million followers, surpassing the online following of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on the platform.

The movement's satirical posts mock corruption, joblessness, exam paper leaks and political dysfunction, while its tongue-in-cheek membership criteria include being unemployed, "chronically online" and professionally skilled at ranting. Dipke, who

previously worked with the Aam Aadmi Party, said the campaign was not tied to any political organization but reflected growing anger among young Indians who feel ignored by the government.

Supporters view the movement as a rare space for open criticism of the government, while opponents dismiss it as a short-lived digital stunt backed by opposition sympathizers. The movement has already spilled offline, with volunteers appearing at protests dressed as cockroaches. On Thursday, the group's X account was temporarily withheld in India before a new account was launched with the message: "Cockroach is back."

IEA warns global oil market could hit crisis point by late summer

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Energy Agency warned on Thursday that global oil markets could enter a "red zone" by July and August as shrinking reserves, rising summer travel demand, and reduced Middle East exports tighten supplies. Speaking at London's Chatham House, IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said the ongoing Iran crisis had already removed nearly 14 million barrels of oil per day from global markets, describing the disruption as worse than the oil shocks of 1973, 1979, and 2022.



Birol urged the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and said IEA members could release additional strategic reserves if necessary. He warned that no significant new oil supplies

were emerging from the Middle East and predicted higher prices for energy from politically stable regions and renewable sources.

The warning came as Pakistan's mediation efforts between Iran and the United States appeared stalled. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei reiterated that Tehran would not export its stockpile of highly enriched uranium under any future agreement with Washington.

Germany pushes European Union to deepen Ukraine ties and revive Russia peace talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has proposed offering Ukraine a form of "associate membership" in the European Union while also encouraging renewed diplomatic engagement with Russia to help end the war in Ukraine.



According to a letter seen on Thursday by The Associated Press, Merz suggested allowing Ukraine to participate in European Union meetings and institutions without voting rights while formal membership negotiations continue. He argued the proposal would go beyond the current association agreement and help strengthen Ukraine's long-term security and European integration.

The proposal comes as European Union leaders debate whether to launch an

independent diplomatic track with Moscow while United States-led peace talks remain stalled. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed signs of progress in accession talks and said Ukraine had fulfilled the necessary conditions for advancement.

Merz also suggested the framework could later be extended to Western Balkan nations seeking membership. European officials remain divided, however, over whether Ukraine should receive special treatment before completing all required reforms and accession benchmarks.

China's new welfare law faces scrutiny over inequality and minority exclusion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new report released on Thursday warned that China's upcoming Social Assistance Law could deepen inequality despite promises of broader welfare protections. The law, scheduled to take effect in July, has been promoted by Beijing as a major reform aimed at strengthening the country's social safety net. However, the Organisation for Research on China and Asia said poorer provinces struggling with debt and unemployment may be unable to provide the same level of support as wealthier regions, creating unequal access to welfare benefits. The report also criticized the legislation for failing to address discrimination faced by ethnic and religious minorities. Researchers argued the law focuses more on maintaining social stability than addressing structural inequality and warned that the lack of independent civil society involvement could leave vulnerable communities without adequate support.

Canada triples financial contribution rules for major streaming platforms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada's broadcast regulator announced on Thursday that large online streaming platforms must contribute 15% of their Canadian revenue toward supporting Canadian content, tripling the previous 5% requirement introduced in 2024. The decision affects major U.S.-based services including Apple, Amazon, and Spotify, which are already challenging the earlier rules in court. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission said the policy would help stabilize more than \$2 billion in funding for Canadian and Indigenous programming, including French-language content and news. Traditional broadcasters will see their contribution rates reduced to 25%. The move comes amid ongoing trade tensions between Canada and the United States over digital media regulations.

Bangladesh measles deaths rise sharply amid worsening vaccine crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh reported seven more child deaths linked to measles in the 24 hours leading into Thursday, raising the outbreak's death toll to 488 since mid-March. Health officials said four of the latest deaths were suspected measles cases while three were laboratory-confirmed. The country has recorded more than 59,000 suspected infections and over 8,200 confirmed cases during the outbreak, placing major pressure on hospitals and health services. UNICEF said it repeatedly warned Bangladesh's previous interim government about vaccine shortages beginning in 2024. UNICEF representative Rana Flowers said the agency sent several letters and held multiple meetings urging authorities to secure vaccines before the outbreak worsened. Bangladesh's current government has launched an investigation into the handling of vaccine supplies and the country's public health response.

Friday, 22 May 2026

US targets Lebanese officials with sanctions over alleged Hezbollah support

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States imposed sanctions on Thursday against Lebanese lawmakers, security officials, and Hezbollah allies accused of helping preserve the militant group's influence within Lebanon's state institutions. Those sanctioned included Hezbollah parliamentarians Hassan Fadlallah, Ibrahim al-Moussawi, Hussein Hajj Hassan, and former minister Mohammed Fneish.

Washington also targeted two Lebanese security officials accused of providing intelligence and support to Hezbollah during the ongoing conflict with Israel. Iranian diplomat Mohammad Reza Sheibani was included in the sanctions list as well. The move comes as pressure grows on Lebanon's government to disarm Hezbollah under a reform agenda introduced earlier this year. The sanctions freeze any assets linked to the United States and block access to the American financial system.

Venezuela tells WHO that US sanctions are worsening healthcare crisis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuela told the World Health Assembly in Geneva on Wednesday that U.S. sanctions have severely affected its health care system by limiting access to medicines, medical supplies, and equipment. Vice Minister of Hospitals Mauricio Vega said the restrictions had also contributed to shortages of health care workers because of migration. He warned that diseases could resurface due to structural pressures caused by the sanctions. Vega defended Venezuela's public health model, saying health care should be treated as a human right rather than a commodity. Caracas also renewed calls for the "total and unconditional" removal of what it described as inhumane unilateral coercive measures.

India accuses Pakistan of deadly attacks on Afghan civilians at United Nations debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India sharply criticized Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday, accusing it of carrying out deadly cross-border attacks on Afghan civilians. India's envoy P. Harish cited a United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan report that documented 750 civilian deaths and injuries during the first three months of 2026 due to Pakistani military action. He highlighted a March airstrike on Kabul's Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital during Ramadan that reportedly killed 269 civilians and injured 122 others. Harish accused Pakistan of hypocrisy for invoking international law while targeting civilians and medical facilities, adding that more than 94,000 people had been displaced by the violence.

Trump and Rubio renew pressure on Cuba while raising possibility of military action

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday intensified pressure on Cuba by again raising the possibility of United States military action against the island nation. The comments came a day after federal prosecutors announced criminal charges against former Cuban leader Raúl Castro over the 1996 shootdown of civilian planes operated by Miami-based exiles. Speaking at an environmental event in the Oval Office, President Donald Trump said previous administrations had considered intervening in Cuba for decades and suggested he could be the president to act. Rubio later said the United States still preferred a peaceful negotiated settlement, but acknowledged he had little confidence in reaching a diplomatic



breakthrough with Cuba's current leadership. Rubio cited Cuba's close ties with China, Russia, and anti-American governments in Latin America as a major national security concern. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel condemned the indictment against Castro as a political move meant to justify aggression against Cuba. China also criticized Washington's pressure campaign and reaffirmed support for Cuban sovereignty.

United Nations pushes for Hamas disarmament as Gaza ceasefire faces growing strain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The official overseeing the United States-brokered Gaza ceasefire urged the United Nations Security Council on Thursday to pressure Hamas into disarming, warning that continued violence could collapse the fragile truce. Nikolay Mladenov, head of the Board of Peace created by President Donald Trump, said Hamas remains the main obstacle to fully implementing the ceasefire because it refuses to surrender weapons and allow a civilian transition in Gaza.

Mladenov also criticized Israel for failing to fully uphold ceasefire commitments, citing



Palestinian deaths and limits on humanitarian aid. He warned that without progress, Gaza's 2 million residents could remain trapped in devastated conditions without reconstruction or stability. Hamas rejected the board's report, accusing it of ignoring Israeli violations, while Israeli officials accused Hamas of using diplomacy to rebuild its military strength.

Japan dismisses China and Russia's criticism over defense expansion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan on Thursday rejected accusations from China and Russia that it is pursuing "remilitarization," calling the claims unfounded and politically motivated. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Masanao Ozaki said Japan has remained committed to democracy, the rule of law, and its exclusively defense-oriented policy since World War II.

The comments came after Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin criticized Japan's recent defense policies

and warned they threaten regional stability. Their joint statement also expressed concern about discussions within Japan regarding its long-standing non-nuclear principles.

Tensions between Tokyo and Beijing have increased since Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested last year that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could trigger a response from Japan's Self-Defense Forces. Japanese officials have defended moves to strengthen defense production and loosen restrictions on defense equipment exports, citing growing regional security threats and China's expanding military presence.

WHO declares global health emergency as rare Ebola strain spreads in Congo

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The World Health Organization declared an international public health emergency on Tuesday after a rare Bundibugyo strain of Ebola spread rapidly across eastern Congo, with more than 500 suspected cases and at least 134 suspected deaths reported. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned of the "scale and speed" of the outbreak, which has already reached urban areas and infected healthcare workers.

The virus reportedly circulated undetected for weeks after early tests mistakenly screened

for the more common Zaire strain of Ebola. Officials confirmed cases in Bunia, Goma, Butembo, and other densely populated areas, while neighboring Uganda reported infections linked to travelers from Congo.

Health authorities said there are currently no approved vaccines or medicines specifically for the Bundibugyo strain. Congo expects shipments of experimental vaccines from the United States and Britain, though officials warned supplies could take months to arrive. Aid efforts have also been complicated by armed conflict in eastern Congo and shortages of isolation facilities and medical resources.

Thousands in Tokyo protest Japan's military expansion and constitutional revision plans



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

About 10,000 protesters gathered outside Japan's National Diet Building in Tokyo on Tuesday to oppose Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's push for constitutional revision and expanded military policies. Demonstrators carried signs defending Article 9, Japan's pacifist clause, and chanted slogans against missile deployment and military expansion. Protesters said the government was pursuing major security changes without broad public support. The rally followed reports that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party drafted plans to strengthen air defense systems and deploy advanced submarines capable of carrying long-range missiles. Critics warned the proposals undermine Japan's postwar pacifist principles and could pull the country deeper into regional military tensions.

US indicts Chinese shipping executives over alleged container price-fixing scheme

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Justice Department has charged seven Chinese executives and four major container manufacturing companies with allegedly conspiring to restrict production and inflate global shipping container prices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prosecutors said the scheme operated from late 2019 through early 2024 and nearly doubled container prices worldwide between 2019 and 2021. Authorities accused executives of coordinating factory slowdowns, limiting production shifts, and enforcing output caps through surveillance systems and financial penalties. One executive, Vick Ma of Singamas Container Holdings, was arrested in France last month and is awaiting extradition. U.S. officials said the conspiracy disrupted global supply chains and boosted profits for manufacturers.

PTI stages sit-in after police block leaders from meeting Imran Khan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leaders and supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf staged a sit-in protest in Rawalpindi after police stopped them from meeting jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, Khan's sisters, and party workers were blocked near Adiala Jail, leading to clashes and demonstrations that continued into early Wednesday.

PTI accused police of using rubber bullets and excessive force against peaceful protesters. Afridi said preventing elected officials from meeting Khan violated democratic norms. Pakistan's Human Rights Council also condemned the crackdown and warned against restrictions on peaceful protest. PTI has regularly protested outside the jail over limits on Khan's meetings with family and party leaders.



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The MAGA purge

Trump consolidates power ahead of high-stakes Midterms



Dr. Avi Verma

The results of Tuesday's primaries may well be remembered as the moment the Republican Party completed its transformation from a coalition party into a movement party centered almost entirely around one man — President Donald Trump. What unfolded across Kentucky, Texas, and other states was not simply a routine ideological correction within a political party. It was a systematic purge of dissent.

The defeat of Kentucky Congressman Thomas Massie at the hands of Trump-backed challenger Ed Gallrein sent shockwaves through conservative circles. Massie was hardly a liberal Republican. In fact, he voted with Republicans the overwhelming majority of the time. Yet independence itself became disqualifying. His disagreements with Trump on issues ranging from foreign policy to fiscal spending, and particularly his pressure campaign surrounding the Epstein files, made him a target for political elimination. Trump openly campaigned against him, and the effort succeeded in what became one of the most expensive House primaries in modern history.

At the same time, in Texas, veteran Senator John Cornyn found himself politically isolated after Trump endorsed Attorney General Ken Paxton in the Republican Senate runoff. Cornyn, a longtime establishment conservative and former Senate leadership figure, suddenly represented an older Republican order that no longer commands grassroots enthusiasm within today's GOP.

This pattern is now unmistakable. Republicans who voted for impeachment after January 6, questioned Trump's leadership, resisted parts of the MAGA agenda, or even displayed an independent streak are steadily being removed from positions of influence. Figures such as Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger were early casualties. Now the purge has expanded deeper into the conservative establishment itself.

The political significance of these primaries extends far beyond the individual races. The Republican Party under Trump is no longer functioning as a traditional "big tent" coalition balancing libertarians, national security conservatives, evangelicals, moderates, and fiscal hawks. Instead, ideological unity and personal loyalty have become the defining tests of political survival.

For Trump politically, this is a remarkable demonstration of strength. Few modern American presidents — current or former — have exercised such direct influence over primary voters years after first taking office. Tuesday proved again that a Trump endorsement can still make or break Republican careers.

But the same strength that dominates primaries may become a liability in a national election.

Primary electorates reward ideological intensity. General electorates reward coalition-building. Those are two very different political environments.

Current polling trends suggest that while Trump-aligned candidates remain popular with Republican base voters, the national environment remains challenging for the GOP overall. Democrats continue to hold an advantage in generic congressional ballot polling, while economic anxieties over inflation, energy costs, and global instability continue to weigh heavily on independent voters.

Even within Republican circles, there are growing concerns that some MAGA-backed candidates may prove too polarizing in

competitive suburban districts and swing states. Ken Paxton's legal controversies, for example, may energize Republican loyalists while simultaneously mobilizing independents and moderates against him in a statewide general election.

This creates the central question heading into November: Can a party built around ideological loyalty rather than ideological diversity still command a national majority?

If Republicans lose the House this fall, many analysts will interpret it as a rejection of the MAGA consolidation strategy. If they narrowly retain the Senate, it may owe more to the Senate map and structural advantages than to broad national approval of Trump-style politics.

At the same time, Democrats should not assume victory is automatic. Trump's ability to energize nontraditional voters, dominate media narratives, and maintain intense grassroots enthusiasm remains politically formidable. The Republican base today is arguably more emotionally committed and energized than at any point in recent decades.

Yet Tuesday's primaries also revealed something deeper about the American political moment: both parties are increasingly punishing internal dissent. The ideological middle ground in American politics continues to shrink, replaced by movements driven more by identity, loyalty, and confrontation than consensus-building.

The Republican Party has now firmly chosen its direction. November will determine whether the broader American electorate accepts that choice — or pushes back against it.

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



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At least 25 killed in twin gun attacks along Honduran coast



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gunmen killed at least 25 people in two separate attacks along the Honduran coast on Thursday, including six police officers, authorities said. In the first attack, at least 19 plantation workers were shot dead in Trujillo, a region long affected by violent land disputes and environmental conflicts. Hours later, attackers ambushed police officers traveling to Omoa near the Guatemalan border, killing six officers assigned to an anti-gang operation. Honduras' Security Ministry said forensic teams and prosecutors were investigating both incidents. The country has struggled for years with gang violence, drug trafficking, and human rights concerns linked to militarized anti-crime operations.

Putin visits Beijing as Russia and China deepen alliance amid global tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a two-day state visit focused on strengthening Russia-China ties and discussing global security issues with President Xi Jinping. Chinese officials said the talks would cover trade, defense cooperation, and international affairs. The visit comes during the 30th anniversary of the countries' strategic partnership and marks Putin's 25th trip to China. Putin said relations with China had reached an "unprecedented level" built on mutual trust and support for sovereignty. Russian officials also indicated that President Donald Trump's recent visit to China could be discussed during the meetings. Beijing said closer cooperation with Moscow would help bring stability to global affairs amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Norway arrests Chinese citizen in second suspected espionage case linked to national security concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norwegian authorities said Tuesday they had arrested a Chinese citizen on suspicion of attempted espionage in Nordland, marking the second such case reported this month. Security service spokesperson Eirik Veum said the suspect was accused of conducting illegal intelligence activities and was ordered held for four weeks. The man denied the allegations. Earlier in May, another Chinese national was accused of attempting to establish a satellite data receiving station in Norway that prosecutors said could threaten national security. Investigators searched locations linked to the case, including sites connected to the Andoya Spaceport, which is central to Europe's growing space ambitions. Officials have not disclosed whether additional suspects remain in custody.

Ukraine intensifies deep strikes on Russian oil infrastructure with drone attacks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine said on Thursday that its drones struck another Russian oil refinery deep inside Russian territory as Kyiv intensifies long-range attacks on Moscow's energy infrastructure. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the latest strike targeted the Syzran refinery in Russia's Samara region, more than 800 kilometers from Ukraine's border. Russian officials confirmed drone attacks in the area and reported casualties but did not officially acknowledge refinery damage. Ukraine says the campaign is aimed at weakening Russia's oil revenues, which help finance the war.

Analysts say the repeated strikes are increasing economic pressure on Moscow



while helping Ukraine regain some battlefield momentum. Russia responded with another overnight drone barrage on Ukrainian cities and continued joint nuclear military exercises with Belarus.

International backlash grows after Israel detains and deports Gaza aid activists

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel deported hundreds of foreign activists on Thursday after intercepting a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, triggering widespread international condemnation over the detainees' treatment. The backlash intensified after Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted videos showing activists kneeling with bound hands while he mocked them. Britain summoned Israel's chargé d'affaires, while Italy and Poland pushed for sanctions or travel restrictions against Ben-Gvir. Several activists alleged they were beaten, kicked, humiliated, and transported in handcuffs after Israeli forces intercepted the flotilla in international waters earlier in the week. Rights groups also accused



Israeli authorities of using rubber bullets and abusive detention practices, allegations denied by Israel's prison service. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended the interception but criticized Ben-Gvir's conduct, saying it did not reflect Israel's values.

Anti-US protests erupt in Greenland over new consulate and Trump expansion push

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Nuuk on Thursday against the opening of a new U.S. consulate after President Donald Trump's Arctic envoy, Jeff Landry, said it was time for Washington to "put its footprint back" on Greenland. Demonstrators waved Greenlandic flags, held signs reading "Stop USA," and shouted "go home" outside parliament and the consulate building. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen and several politicians boycotted the opening ceremony. Landry's uninvited visit intensified tensions after Trump repeatedly pushed for greater U.S. influence over the mineral-rich Arctic territory. Greenland's



leaders again insisted the island was not for sale and said self-determination belonged to Greenlanders alone. Protest organizers accused Washington of trying to pressure the semi-autonomous Danish territory under the guise of security and economic cooperation.

Rights groups condemn alleged home demolitions and disappearances in Balochistan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

ABaloch human rights organization on Thursday accused Pakistani security forces of demolishing civilian homes during a military operation in Balochistan's Awaran district earlier this month. Paank, the human rights department of the Baloch National Movement, said the homes of two local residents were bulldozed during operations in the Peer Mashkai area. The group described the demolitions as part of a broader pattern of

collective punishment involving enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and harassment of Baloch families. It also reported new cases of alleged enforced disappearances involving a student and a driver employed in the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistani authorities have not publicly responded to the allegations. Human rights groups have repeatedly raised concerns about military operations and disappearances in Balochistan amid continuing separatist violence in the province.

JD Vance accuses Biden administration of abusing US asylum system



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President JD Vance accused the Biden administration on Tuesday of allowing widespread abuse of the U.S. asylum system and failing to properly screen migrants entering the country. Speaking at the White House, Vance claimed many migrants falsely sought asylum to gain work permits and remain in the United States for years while awaiting hearings. He said the Trump administration had tightened border enforcement and launched investigations into immigration-related fraud. Vance also linked illegal immigration to economic pressures in Western countries and defended stricter border controls. He rejected broad immigration amnesty proposals, arguing the administration should focus on raising wages and protecting American workers.

Russia warns NATO nuclear buildup is increasing risk of direct military conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia said Tuesday it would factor NATO's expanding nuclear capabilities into future military planning, warning that growing tensions with the alliance were raising the risk of a catastrophic confrontation. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov accused European countries of strengthening NATO's nuclear posture alongside the United States' security umbrella. He criticized France's efforts to expand nuclear deterrence across Europe and warned that countries hosting such systems would face closer scrutiny from Russia's military. Ryabkov also condemned Finland's reported plans to allow nuclear weapons imports and upcoming French-Polish military exercises in the Baltic region. Moscow said Europe's accelerated militarization and increasingly hostile rhetoric toward Russia were sharply escalating strategic risks.

US renews pressure on China over disappearance of Tibetan spiritual leader Panchen Lama

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Monday called on China to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Panchen Lama recognized by the Dalai Lama, marking 31 years since his disappearance. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said Chinese authorities detained the Tibetan spiritual figure and his family days after he was identified as a future Buddhist leader at age six. Washington renewed criticism of Beijing's policies in Tibet and said Tibetan Buddhists should be free to choose their own religious leaders without government interference. China rejected the Dalai Lama's recognition in 1995 and installed another figure as the state-backed Panchen Lama. Beijing has maintained strict control over Tibetan religious institutions for decades.

India and Cambodia wrap up joint military exercise CINBAX-II 2026

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Cambodia concluded the second edition of their joint military exercise CINBAX-II 2026 in Cambodia's Kampong Speu province after a two-week engagement aimed at strengthening tactical coordination and interoperability. Conducted between the Indian Army and the Royal Cambodian Army, the exercise focused on joint planning and execution of operations in semi-urban, sub-conventional environments. Over 14 days, troops carried out tactical drills, drone operations, sniper training, mortar handling and field exercises, culminating in a validation phase. Officials said the exercise enhanced operational synergy and reinforced India's defense cooperation with ASEAN countries under its Act East policy.

Zambia partners with India to adapt digital vaccine system for medicine tracking



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Zambia, in collaboration with UN Development Programme teams from India and Zambia, has launched efforts to adapt India's Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network platform for tracking essential medicines and strengthening supply chain management. The five-day technical mission from May 18 to 22 involves Zambia's Health Ministry, the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency and the Smart Zambia Institute. Originally developed in India, the platform enables real-time stock visibility and improved logistics monitoring. Officials said the initiative will assess integration with existing systems and could position Zambia as a regional model for digital health innovation and transparent pharmaceutical supply chains in Africa.

India showcases digital health leadership at World Health Assembly in Geneva

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India reaffirmed its commitment to equitable healthcare and digital transformation at the seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in Geneva. Health Minister J.P. Nadda said India's Universal Health Coverage approach is driven by a whole-of-government strategy, supported by over 185,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs providing primary care services nationwide. He highlighted the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, which has created more than 880 million digital health identities enabling integrated patient records and seamless care. India also emphasized its artificial intelligence strategy in healthcare and pandemic preparedness. Nadda noted that India supplied nearly 300 million vaccine doses to around 100 countries under Vaccine Maitri.

From Rome to Oslo, Prime Minister Modi expands India's strategic footprint across Europe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent multi-nation Europe tour highlighted India's growing diplomatic influence and deepening strategic partnerships across the continent, with key engagements in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway focused on trade, technology, clean energy and global cooperation. The tour began in Italy, where Prime Minister Modi held talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and President Sergio Mattarella, building on the momentum of the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29. Italy has emerged as one of India's key European economic partners, particularly in manufacturing, infrastructure and connectivity projects linked to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. Bilateral trade between the two nations has continued to expand, while investments in sectors such as automobiles, energy and technology are gaining pace.

In the Netherlands, India elevated ties to a strategic partnership during discussions with Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten. Cooperation in semiconductors, clean technology, water management and resilient supply chains formed the core of the talks. A notable development was the partnership between Tata Electronics and Dutch semiconductor giant ASML, supporting India's semiconductor manufacturing ambitions. Sweden honored Prime Minister Modi with the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star', Commander Grand Cross, the country's



highest recognition for a head of government. During his visit to Gothenburg, PM Modi and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson discussed innovation, industrial cooperation and emerging technologies. The visit also included participation in a high-level European industry forum alongside European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

In Norway, PM Modi received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit from King Harald V, becoming his 32nd international honor. India and Norway elevated bilateral ties into a Green Strategic Partnership focused on renewable energy, blue economy initiatives, Arctic cooperation, artificial intelligence and sustainability. The visit also included the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, where leaders emphasized climate resilience, green transition and technological collaboration. Iceland Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir drew attention to PM Modi's repeated use

of the Hindi word 'sambandh', meaning connection, noting its similarity in Nordic languages and describing it as symbolic of the growing bond between India and the region. From strategic technology partnerships to climate cooperation and economic integration, the tour reinforced India's position as a central global partner for Europe in an increasingly interconnected geopolitical landscape.

United States lawmakers and diplomats highlight growing strategic depth in India-United States partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Capitol Hill Summit 2026, organized by the US India Friendship Council, brought together lawmakers and diplomats who underscored the long-term strength of the India-United States partnership, emphasizing cooperation across education, defense, technology and innovation despite occasional policy frictions. Congresswoman Deborah Ross called for expanded educational, technological and cultural exchanges, saying stronger people-to-people ties are essential to the future of the relationship. She urged more Americans to study and travel to India, and noted that Indian students make up the largest group of international students in the United States. She also highlighted the growing Indian American community in North Carolina and described academic exchange as a core pillar of bilateral engagement.

India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the relationship enjoys strong bipartisan support and continues to expand across defense, semiconductors, critical minerals and civil nuclear energy. He said perceptions of strain do not reflect realities on the ground and pointed to India's economic transformation as a key driver of deeper cooperation. He also described the Indian diaspora in the United States as a foundational link in the partnership.

Congressman Ami Bera called India



the fastest growing major economy and said the strategic foundations of the relationship have remained steady across successive United States administrations. He highlighted cooperation in artificial intelligence, energy and semiconductor supply chains, while encouraging greater political engagement from Indian Americans in shaping policy.

Republican Senator Steve Daines described India as a trusted global partner and said mutual confidence is essential for long-term strategic progress. He emphasized opportunities in science, technology and innovation, arguing that combined talent from both countries can strengthen global competitiveness. He also praised the Indian American community and reiterated support for deeper bilateral ties. The summit reflected broad bipartisan agreement that the India-United States relationship remains one of Washington's most important global partnerships, anchored in shared democratic values, economic opportunity and growing technological cooperation.

Gujarat and Russia's Astrakhan region expand cooperation across key sectors

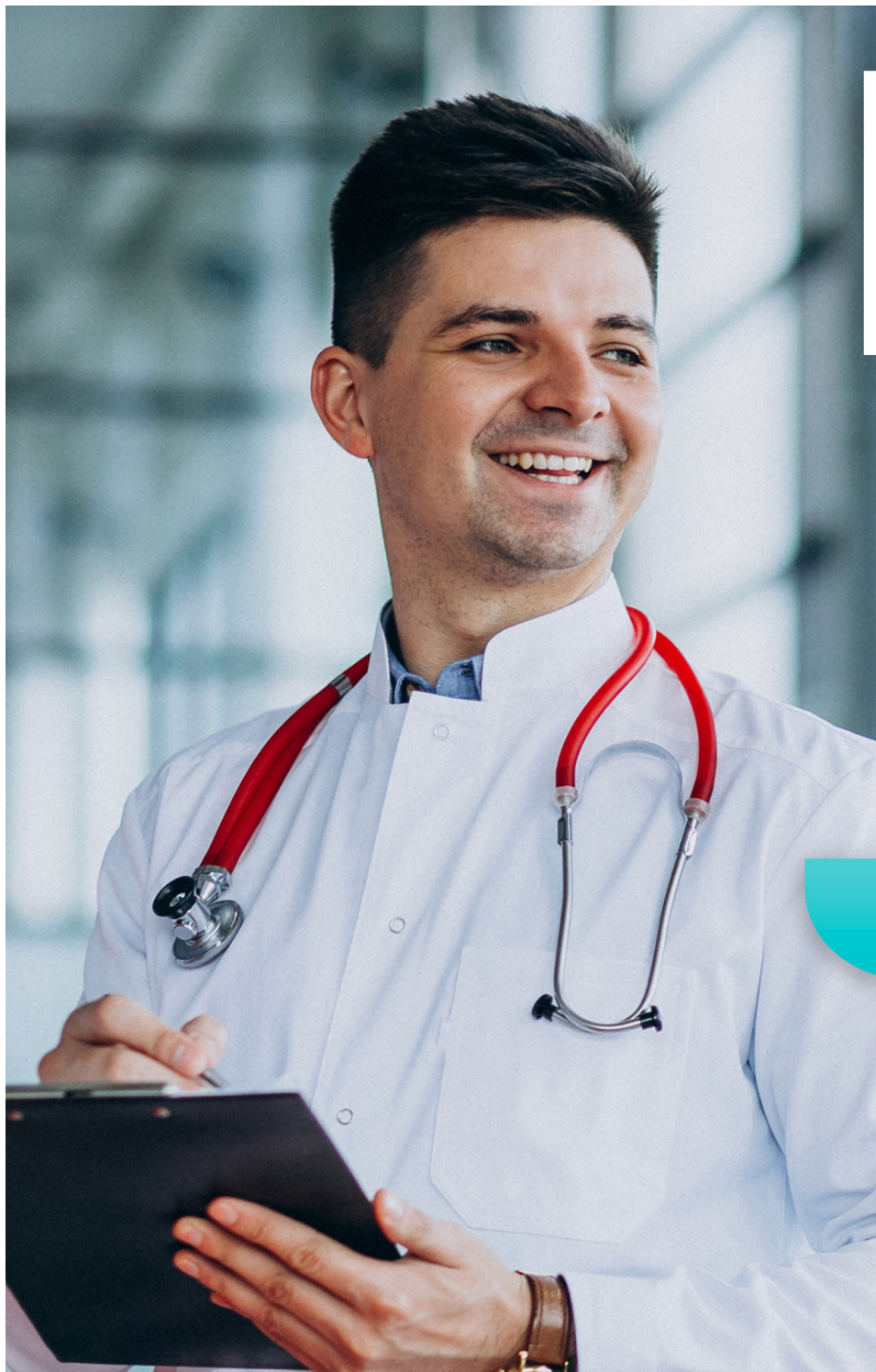
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat and Russia's Astrakhan region have agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, education, shipbuilding, transport and logistics following a virtual meeting between Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Governor Igor Babushkin. The discussions reviewed their long-standing partnership under a 2001 agreement and explored new opportunities in maritime development, agriculture, energy and pharmaceuticals. Gujarat also expressed interest in expanding collaboration through the International North-South Transport Corridor to improve connectivity. Both sides discussed academic exchanges between universities and maritime institutions, along with cultural cooperation and investment opportunities. Officials said the talks reinforced institutional ties and expanded the scope of bilateral engagement.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Indian war memorial in South Korea, honors shared history

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park in Seoul, honoring Indian soldiers who served during the Korean War. The memorial commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the conflict and recognizes the contributions of the 60 Para Field Ambulance and the Custodian Force of India. Singh, along with South Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, paid tribute to the soldiers and highlighted India's humanitarian role during the war. He said the memorial reflects shared history and strengthens the India-South Korea special strategic partnership. The visit marked the conclusion of his four-day trip to Vietnam and South Korea.



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Tennessee man jailed over Charlie Kirk post wins \$835,000 settlement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Tennessee man jailed over Facebook posts referencing the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk has been awarded an \$835,000 settlement in a civil rights case. Larry Bushart, a retired police officer, spent 37 days in jail after being arrested over memes linked to Kirk's killing. The charges were later dropped. Bushart alleged he lost his job and missed key family milestones during his detention. His lawsuit claimed the posts were protected speech under the First Amendment, while authorities argued they caused public alarm.

Kevin Warsh takes over Federal Reserve amid inflation pressures



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kevin Warsh will be sworn in Friday as chair of the Federal Reserve as the United States faces persistent inflation and economic uncertainty. Backed by President Donald Trump, the former Fed governor has called for tighter control of inflation even as growth is reshaped by artificial intelligence and global energy shocks. Inflation remains above the Fed's 2 percent target, with policymakers debating whether interest rates may need to rise further. Warsh begins his tenure ahead of the central bank's June policy meeting, where officials will reassess rate strategy amid pressure to balance growth and price stability.

Charges dropped against Chicago immigration protest defendants



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors in Chicago dropped charges against four protesters accused of obstructing Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations during a 2025 demonstration outside a detention facility in Illinois. The case, tied to protests against the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, was dismissed with prejudice, meaning it cannot be refiled. Prosecutors had alleged the group blocked a federal vehicle during the protest, but defense lawyers said the actions were protected speech. Earlier charges against two other defendants in the same case had also been dropped. The decision adds to a series of collapsed prosecutions linked to the broader immigration enforcement operation in Chicago.

Senate adjourns for Memorial Day recess without passing \$72 billion ICE funding bill

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Senate on Thursday adjourned for the Memorial Day recess without passing a roughly \$72 billion reconciliation bill that would fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, after Republicans failed to resolve internal disagreements over key provisions.

The dispute centered on \$1 billion in Secret Service funding linked to White House security upgrades, including a proposed East Wing ballroom, and a \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" settlement fund tied to a legal dispute involving the Internal Revenue Service and President Donald Trump. Senate Majority Leader John Thune filed a motion to hold pro forma sessions before the chamber reconvenes on June 1. The delay risks missing a June 1 deadline set by President Donald Trump for passage of the package.

Senators offered mixed signals before



leaving Washington, with some Republicans saying the bill was not ready for a vote. Democrats described the delay as evidence of GOP dysfunction, while Republicans defended ongoing negotiations. The legislation would allocate tens of billions of dollars for immigration enforcement agencies and related federal departments but remains stalled amid disputes over spending priorities and legal provisions.

House Republicans delay vote on war powers resolution over Iran conflict

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

House Republicans on Thursday canceled a planned vote on a war powers resolution seeking to end U.S. military involvement in Iran, a move that Democrats said helped avoid political embarrassment for President Donald Trump. Democratic leaders Hakeem Jeffries, Katherine Clark and Pete Aguilar called the decision "cowardly,"

arguing the resolution had bipartisan support and would likely have passed if brought to a vote. The measure has been postponed until Congress returns from recess in June, when lawmakers expect it to come back for consideration. Some Republicans, including Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, said the delay would not prevent its eventual passage. The dispute highlights growing divisions in Congress over presidential war powers and U.S. involvement in the Middle East conflict.

Below normal Atlantic hurricane season expected as El Niño develops

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal scientists on Thursday forecast a below-normal 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, citing the influence of a developing El Niño pattern in the Pacific Ocean. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projected eight to 14 named storms, with a 55 percent probability that overall activity will remain below average. One to three storms are

expected to become major hurricanes.

Officials said El Niño conditions are likely to suppress Atlantic storm formation while increasing activity in the eastern Pacific, though unusually warm ocean temperatures could still intensify systems. The hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through November 30. Experts cautioned that even a quieter season can produce destructive storms and urged continued preparedness.

Justice department charges 15 in Minnesota in alleged \$90 million healthcare fraud scheme

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Department of Justice on Thursday charged 15 people in Minnesota in connection with an alleged \$90 million healthcare fraud scheme targeting federal programs. Officials said the defendants exploited Medicaid and related services, including autism and housing programs, causing massive cost overruns. One autism program reportedly surged from \$600,000 to more than \$400 million in six years, while a housing initiative rose from \$2.5 million to \$104 million annually before being shut down. Assistant Attorney General Colin McDonald called the fraud levels a



"crisis," describing it as the largest autism-related fraud case and highest-loss Medicaid case in Minnesota.

Judge orders White House to follow presidential records law



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge ordered Trump administration officials to comply with the Presidential Records Act, rejecting a Justice Department opinion claiming the law is unconstitutional. Judge John Bates ruled that the government has long followed the statute and would face little burden in continuing to do so. The case was brought by historians and press groups who argued the administration's position risked erasing official records. The Justice Department had argued Congress overstepped its authority in regulating presidential materials. The ruling affirms congressional power over presidential record keeping and preserves requirements to archive official documents after a presidency ends.

Barney Frank, former congressman and LGBTQ rights pioneer, dies at 86

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Barney Frank, the longtime Democratic congressman from Massachusetts and influential liberal lawmaker, died on Tuesday at the age of 86. Frank served in the United States House of Representatives for 32 years, becoming one of the most prominent advocates for LGBTQ rights after publicly coming out in 1987, the first sitting member of Congress to do so voluntarily. He later became the first sitting lawmaker to enter a same-sex marriage in 2012. Frank also played a key role in shaping major financial reforms during his time as chair of the House Financial Services Committee, particularly following the 2008 financial crisis. He had recently entered hospice care in Maine. Colleagues remembered him as a sharp-tongued and influential figure in Democratic politics.

Teen gunmen radicalized online, killed three at San Diego mosque, FBI says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two teenagers who killed three people in a shooting at a San Diego mosque were radicalized online and shared extremist white supremacist views, according to investigators. Authorities said the suspects, aged 17 and 18, met on the internet and expressed hate toward multiple groups, including Muslims, Jewish people, Black people, and others. The attack took place on Monday at the Islamic Center of San Diego, where a security guard and two others were killed before the gunmen died by suicide. Officials recovered dozens of weapons from two locations and are investigating whether the suspects planned further violence. Authorities credited the victims, including the security guard, with preventing the attackers from reaching nearby schoolchildren during the assault.

Trump drops IRS lawsuit as Justice Department creates \$1.8 billion 'weaponization' fund



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The administration of President Donald Trump on Monday agreed to drop a lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service in exchange for the creation of a nearly \$1.8 billion fund aimed at compensating individuals claiming political "weaponization" by the United States government. The agreement settles Trump's lawsuit seeking \$10 billion over alleged mishandling and leakage of his tax records by a former contractor. The Justice Department said Trump will receive an apology but no monetary damages. The fund, totaling \$1.776 billion, will be overseen by a commission largely appointed by acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, a former Trump defense lawyer. Officials said the program is open to all claimants, though critics have called it a politically driven "slush fund."

Harvard caps A grades in move to curb grade inflation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harvard University faculty on Tuesday approved a policy limiting the number of A grades awarded in undergraduate courses in an effort to address grade inflation. Beginning in fall 2027, instructors may award A grades to no more than one-fifth of students in a class, plus up to four additional students. More than two-thirds of voting faculty supported the change after concerns that rising top grades were weakening academic rigor. A university report found A grades increased from 24 percent in 2005 to 60 percent in 2025. The policy does not restrict lower grades and aims to restore academic distinction. Officials say the change is intended to strengthen fairness in academic evaluation.

US releases second batch of declassified unidentified aerial phenomenon files

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Department of Defense on Friday released a second batch of previously classified files on unidentified aerial phenomenon, including reports of unexplained green orbs, discs, and fireballs. The disclosure follows a first release on May 8, ordered by President Donald Trump. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the material, which includes documents, photos, and videos, has long fueled speculation and should now be made public. One file details 209 sightings near a New Mexico military facility between 1948 and 1950. Officials said no evidence of extraterrestrial life has been confirmed, despite decades of public interest in the reports. The files are part of an ongoing effort to increase transparency around unexplained sightings.

Democrats release 2024 election autopsy while distancing themselves from findings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Democratic National Committee on Thursday released a long-delayed internal review of its 2024 election loss, while simultaneously distancing itself from its conclusions. The report examines Kamala Harris's defeat to Donald Trump and warns that Democrats lost ground with male voters, rural voters, non-college voters and irregular voters due to weak state party funding and messaging failures.

Party chair Ken Martin said the document did not meet Democratic standards but was published for transparency. The report, written by strategist Paul Rivera, argues the party failed to respond to voter concerns and became disconnected from key



constituencies. It also criticizes the Biden White House for not adequately preparing Harris to lead the ticket after the president exited the race in 2024.

Despite strong midterm prospects, the report says Democrats risk stagnation if they dismiss the findings. Some party leaders have criticized both the report's conclusions and the leadership handling its release.

NAACP launches boycott campaign over voting rights redistricting



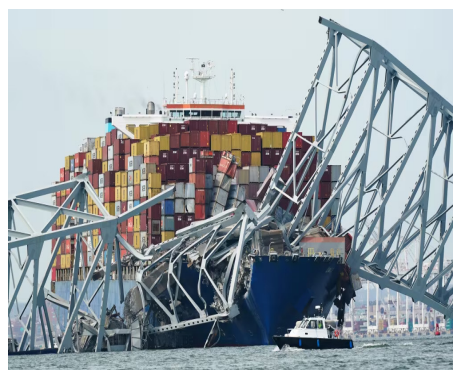
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Monday launched a campaign urging Black athletes, fans, and donors to boycott major public universities in several Southern states over disputed redistricting efforts. The campaign targets schools in eight states that recently redrew congressional maps following a United States Supreme Court ruling that weakened federal voting rights protections. The group argues the changes reduce Black political representation. It is urging athletes to reconsider commitments, current players to speak out, and donors to redirect funding to historically Black colleges and universities. Officials say the campaign will continue until fair maps and voting protections are restored. Leaders say economic pressure is needed to force political accountability.

Judge keeps June 1 trial on track in Baltimore bridge collapse case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday refused to delay a civil trial set to begin June 1 over claims arising from the 2024 collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, rejecting requests from companies tied to the disaster. U.S. District Judge James Bredar said the schedule would proceed despite recent criminal charges filed against operators of the cargo ship Dali, which lost power and struck the bridge in March 2024. Six construction workers were killed in the collapse. Attorneys for victims had urged the court to keep the trial date unchanged, while company lawyers argued that ongoing criminal proceedings could complicate witness testimony. Prosecutors recently



indicted Singapore-based Synergy Marine and an Indian-based affiliate, along with a ship superintendent, on charges including conspiracy and misconduct causing death. The judge said proceeding as planned was the most efficient use of judicial resources.

SpaceX files initial public offering, plans stock market debut

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk's SpaceX filed paperwork on Wednesday to go public, marking a major step toward listing one of the world's most valuable private companies on the stock market. The filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission indicates the company plans to trade under the ticker "SPCX" on Nasdaq, while Musk is expected to retain control through special voting shares. SpaceX reported \$18.6 billion in revenue in 2025 but also posted significant losses due to heavy investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure. The company,



founded in 2002, operates rockets, satellites, and the Starlink network and says it handled most United States government launches in 2025. It also outlined long-term ambitions including lunar bases, Mars settlements, and orbital manufacturing.

Federal government drops tax claims in settlement involving Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States government agreed on Tuesday to drop tax-related claims against President Donald Trump as part of a broader settlement tied to a lawsuit over leaked tax records. A newly filed document states the government is barred from pursuing current tax examinations involving Trump, his sons, and related businesses, though future audits are not affected. The settlement follows a separate

agreement creating a \$1.8 billion fund for individuals claiming political targeting through federal investigations.

Critics, including ethics watchdogs and Democratic lawmakers, called the arrangement unprecedented and potentially corrupt, while administration officials defended it as compensation for wrongful prosecution. A federal judge dismissed the underlying lawsuit this week but criticized the lack of transparency in the settlement process.

Airlines oppose proposal to replace federal airport security at small airports

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Major United States airlines on Tuesday voiced opposition to a White House proposal that would require small airports to replace federal Transportation Security Administration screeners with private security contractors. The airlines warned Congress that making privatization mandatory could undermine aviation security and efficiency. The plan is part of a broader effort to cut staffing and reduce the Transportation Security Administration's budget by about 20 percent, including more than 9,000 jobs. The White House says the changes would modernize operations and improve efficiency. Critics, including labor unions, argue privatization could weaken safety standards across the national air travel system. The proposal comes amid wider efforts to restructure federal aviation security operations.

South Carolina advances congressional map targeting Representative Clyburn

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Carolina lawmakers on Wednesday advanced a new congressional map that could jeopardize longtime Democratic Representative Jim Clyburn's seat ahead of the November elections. The Republican-controlled House approved the proposal after extended debate during a special legislative session called by Governor Henry McMaster. The measure still requires approval from the state Senate. The plan also pushes the federal primary election from June 9 to August 18. Republicans say the redistricting reflects voter preferences, while Democrats argue it dilutes Black political representation. The move follows a United States Supreme Court decision that eased restrictions on redistricting based on racial demographics. The changes come amid broader national battles over electoral map drawing.

Two Punjab-origin leaders make history in British politics



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two politicians of Punjabi origin from Jalandhar district have achieved major milestones in United Kingdom politics, drawing celebration from Indian communities in both Britain and Punjab. Fifty-six-year-old Kulwinder Singh Johal became Leicester's first turbaned Sikh mayor after formally taking office earlier this month. Originally from Tehang village near Phillaur, Johal moved to Britain as a child and later spent decades involved in community service, local sports and Sikh religious organizations. Meanwhile, Preet Kaur Gill, whose family traces roots to Jamsheer village in Jalandhar, was appointed Junior Health Minister in Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government reshuffle. Gill made history in 2017 as the first British Sikh woman elected to the UK Parliament and has since been re-elected multiple times. Both appointments are being viewed as significant achievements for the Punjabi diaspora in Britain.

Incredible India' campaign showcased Rome's landmarks during Prime Minister Modi's Italy visit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's tourism and cultural heritage are being showcased across Rome through the city's popular 'Hop On Hop Off' sightseeing buses as part of an 'Incredible India' outreach campaign launched ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy earlier this week. The initiative was flagged off on Saturday by Deputy Chief of Mission Gaurav Gandhi, according to the Indian Embassy in Rome. The red double-decker buses, widely used by tourists, feature promotions highlighting India's heritage, destinations and cultural attractions. Prime Minister Modi visited Italy from Monday through Wednesday at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The visit comes amid expanding India-Italy ties under the Joint Strategic Plan of Action 2025-29. Italy is India's fourth-largest trading partner in the European Union, with bilateral trade reaching about \$16.77 billion in 2025.

'Sikhs of America' honours diaspora leaders at Vaisakhi gala in Washington

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Sikhs of America hosted its annual Vaisakhi gala dinner in Washington on Sunday, honouring Sikh community leaders, lawmakers, philanthropists, entrepreneurs and public figures from the United States and Britain for their contributions to public service, humanitarian work and representation of Sikh values. Among those recognised were Virginia lawmaker JJ Singh, entrepreneur Baldev Singh Kang, Oregon-based philanthropist Sardar Bahadur Singh, Pakistan Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora, and British Member of Parliament Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi.

JJ Singh, the first turbaned Sikh to serve in a United States state legislature, said Sikh principles guided his public service, adding that Sikh values align closely with American ideals of service, hard work and community responsibility. He also highlighted legislation he has supported in Virginia on protecting places of worship, improving college



affordability and addressing gun violence. Arora was recognised for promoting Sikh heritage and facilitating pilgrimages, including efforts linked to the Kartarpur Corridor and access to historic gurdwaras in Pakistan. Dhesi was honoured for representing minority communities in the British Parliament and advocating diversity and democratic inclusion. Other awardees were recognized for contributions in business, humanitarian work and philanthropy.

Indian-origin businessman becomes first Indian American elected to Texas city council

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin businessman Yash Asarsa was sworn in on Thursday as the first Indian American elected to the City Council in Rusk, marking a milestone for the small East Texas community. Originally from India, Asarsa moved to the United States more than two decades ago with just \$950 and later built a successful business as the owner of Truckerz gas station in Rusk. He won the District 3 council seat unopposed earlier this month.

Speaking after taking office, Asarsa said the local community had embraced him and inspired him to give back through public service. He said his years working in retail helped him understand residents from different backgrounds and motivated him to focus on listening to people's concerns. Asarsa said his priorities include improving



roads, addressing the city's budget deficit, hiring a police chief and revitalizing downtown Rusk. He also described himself as "an ambassador of India" and said hard work and determination make success possible in America.

Haryana-born councillor becomes youngest Indian-origin mayor in UK history

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twenty-three-year-old Tushar Kumar has become the youngest Indian-origin mayor in United Kingdom history after being appointed Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood during a civic ceremony held on Tuesday at Fairway Hall in Borehamwood. Originally from Haryana, Kumar was elected councillor at the age of 20 while studying political science at King's College London. Speaking after the ceremony, he described the appointment as "the privilege of a lifetime" and said he hoped his journey would encourage more young people to participate in public service and local democracy.

The event was attended by civic leaders, councillors, residents and community groups. Kumar thanked outgoing Mayor Councillor Dan Ozarow for his mentorship and congratulated Councillor



Linda Smith on becoming deputy mayor. Kumar said he intends to remain closely connected with residents and local organizations while serving the community throughout his mayoral term.

Indian national among three arrested in Nepal drug trafficking case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal Police arrested an Indian national and two Nepali citizens on Tuesday in connection with an alleged drug trafficking case in Siraha district, officials said on Wednesday. Police identified the Indian citizen as 21-year-old Nandan Kamati from Bihar's Madhubani district. The two Nepali nationals arrested alongside him were identified as Ram Udar Yadav and Ram Bilaxen Yadav.

Authorities said the trio was detained during a security inspection on a public bus traveling from Siraha toward Kathmandu. Officers reportedly recovered a small quantity of brown sugar, a street term commonly used for low-grade heroin, during the search. The arrests were made in Bishnupur municipality in southeastern Nepal. Police officials said an investigation is underway to determine the source of the narcotics and whether the suspects were connected to a larger trafficking network operating across the India-Nepal border.

Indian-origin scientists receive South Africa's highest civilian honors



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two internationally recognized Indian-origin scientists, Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda, received South Africa's highest civilian honors from President Cyril Ramaphosa during a ceremony in Pretoria on Tuesday. Karim received the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for his groundbreaking work in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis research, as well as his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. South African officials praised his contributions to evidence-based public health policy and medical science.

Dheda was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver for pioneering research in pulmonology and tuberculosis treatment, particularly drug-resistant respiratory infections. Based at the University of Cape Town, Dheda has led major scientific advances in tuberculosis diagnostics and lung disease management. President Ramaphosa said the recipients reflected South Africa's growing global reputation for scientific and medical excellence.

Punjab nursing student killed in Australia road accident, family seeks help to bring body home



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nineteen-year-old Komalpreet Kaur, daughter of Indian Army Subedar Amrik Singh from Punjab's Ludhiana district, died in a road accident in Perth, Australia, on Saturday night, leaving her family devastated and struggling to bring her body back to India. Komalpreet, who had moved to Australia in 2025 to study nursing at Stanley College in Perth, was reportedly struck by a speeding vehicle after finishing work near Bentley Shopping Centre. Emergency responders attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation before she was taken to Royal Perth Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Police in Perth have launched an investigation into the crash involving another 19-year-old driver. Family members said Komalpreet had also been working part-time in the Canning Vale area to support her studies. Relatives said the family, already burdened by education loans, now faces major financial challenges arranging the repatriation of her body, estimated to cost about 14,000 Australian dollars.

Guyana launches investigation into abuse allegations involving Indian quarry workers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government of Guyana has launched an investigation into allegations of labor abuse and exploitation involving 38 Indian workers employed by quarry company Ekaa HRIM Earth Resources in the country's Region Seven mining area. The workers alleged their passports were confiscated and claimed they faced withheld wages, delayed salary payments, unsafe working conditions and misleading employment contracts. Reports also linked the investigation to the death of one worker and serious injuries suffered by another. Guyana's Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning issued the company a 24-hour notice seeking an explanation and said a joint team involving police, anti-trafficking authorities and labor officials had begun inquiries at the quarry site.

Indian officials are also monitoring the case. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the Indian government would take all necessary steps to support affected workers. Authorities confirmed that the workers' passports were returned after government intervention.

Gunfire at Cricket Canada chief's Surrey home sparks extortion investigation

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Canadian police are investigating an apparent extortion-linked shooting after gunfire struck the Surrey home of newly elected Cricket Canada president Arvinder Khosa early Tuesday morning. Authorities have not ruled out the possible involvement of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which has previously been linked to intimidation cases targeting members of the Indo-Canadian community. The shooting occurred around 4:40 a.m. near 57 Avenue and 148 Street in Surrey's Newton neighborhood. Surrey Police Service officers found multiple bullet impacts on the home's doors, windows and rear exterior. Khosa confirmed the attack but did not comment further. No injuries were reported, although the house was occupied at the time.

The Surrey Police Service's Extortion Response Team has taken over the investigation, while forensic teams continue collecting physical and digital evidence. Police have appealed for surveillance footage



and witness information. The incident comes less than two weeks after Khosa officially became Cricket Canada president following the organization's annual meeting in Mississauga. Canadian cricket has recently faced scrutiny over alleged intimidation, match-fixing and spot-fixing concerns surrounding members of the national T20 setup.

Former Microsoft executive S. Somasegar dies, sparking tributes across tech industry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The global technology industry is mourning the death of Indian American technology executive S. "Soma" Somasegar, the former Microsoft leader and Madrona Venture Group managing director who died on Monday at the age of 59.

Somasegar spent nearly 27 years at Microsoft, where he played a major role in shaping the company's developer ecosystem, including leadership of products such as Visual Studio and .NET. He also helped establish Microsoft's India Development Center in Hyderabad in 1998, a milestone in the company's India expansion.

Tributes poured in from across Silicon Valley and Seattle, with entrepreneurs, engineers and investors remembering him as a generous mentor and influential technology leader. White House artificial intelligence adviser Sriram Krishnan



described Somasegar as someone who transformed careers through his guidance and support.

After leaving Microsoft in 2015, Somasegar joined Madrona Venture Group, focusing on investments in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and enterprise software startups.

Jalandhar youth returns home after alleged job scam and months of hardship in Dubai

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lovepreet Singh, a resident of Sofi village in Punjab's Jalandhar district, returned to India on Tuesday after allegedly being stranded in Dubai for nearly five months following a suspected overseas job fraud case. Lovepreet claimed he was promised a packing job by a travel agent and traveled to Dubai on a tourist visa, but was instead forced to work at a steel company where his passport was allegedly confiscated and his wages withheld. He said he worked for four months without receiving his agreed monthly salary of about 1,300 dirhams, roughly \$9,000 annually.

He also alleged that the company denied him medical care after he fell ill. His family



in Punjab reportedly had to send money for his daily expenses while trying to secure his return. Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal intervened after Lovepreet's mother sought help in April. With support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy, Lovepreet safely returned to India last week.

Indian-origin finance expert appointed to senior leadership role at London's Metropolitan Police



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Metropolitan Police on Tuesday appointed Indian-origin finance expert Hardev Virdee as its new Chief Strategy and Investment Officer, placing him in charge of long-term financial planning and strategic reform for Britain's largest police force. Virdee previously served in senior financial leadership positions within the National Health Service and is credited with helping stabilize finances at Barts Health NHS Trust. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mark Rowley said Virdee's experience in financial stewardship and organizational transformation would be critical as the force addresses rising operational demands and budget pressures.

Virdee said he was excited to continue his commitment to public service through the new role and looked forward to strengthening resources that support frontline policing across London. He is also vice president of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and is expected to assume its presidency later this year.

Indian-origin founder of 'Punjabi Devils' biker gang sentenced in US gun trafficking case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin man who founded the 'Punjabi Devils Motorcycle Club', an outlaw biker gang linked to the Hells Angels network in California, has been sentenced to more than five years in federal prison in the United States on firearms charges. Twenty-seven-year-old Jashanpreet Singh of Lodi, California, was sentenced on Monday by US District Judge Dale Drozd to five years and four months in prison for unlawful firearms dealing and possession of a machine gun, according to US Attorney Eric Grant.

Federal prosecutors said Singh founded the Stockton-based 'Punjabi Devils Motorcycle Club', which investigators described as being associated with the outlaw biker organization Hells Angels. Court records showed Singh attempted to sell multiple illegal weapons to an undercover officer last year, including a short-barreled rifle, assault weapons, machine gun conversion devices and a revolver. Authorities later recovered additional firearms during a search of his residence in California.



Friday, 22 May 2026

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Families of Air France crash victims say justice remains incomplete



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Paris appeals court on Thursday found Air France and Airbus guilty of manslaughter over the 2009 Flight 447 crash that killed 228 people traveling from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. Both companies were fined about \$260,000 and said they would appeal the ruling. Brazilian victims' association leader Nelson Faria Marinho, who lost his son in the disaster, said justice remained incomplete because no executives faced prison sentences. Investigators found that frozen pitot tubes, pilot error and technical failures contributed to the crash. The tragedy led to major reforms in pilot training and aircraft safety regulations.

US boards Iranian-linked tanker amid widening Gulf tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. military said on Wednesday it boarded the Iranian-flagged tanker M/T Celestial Sea in the Gulf of Oman over suspicions it was violating Washington's blockade on Iranian shipping. Donald Trump has used the blockade to pressure Tehran into reopening the Strait of Hormuz and negotiating an end to the conflict.

U.S. Central Command said the tanker was searched and redirected away from an Iranian port. The operation marked the fifth boarding of a commercial vessel since mid-April. The move came days after Trump delayed planned military strikes on Iran, citing ongoing diplomatic efforts by Gulf allies. Officials say more than 1,500 vessels remain stranded in the Persian Gulf because of the crisis.

Germany charges suspected Iranian operatives over alleged attack plot

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

German prosecutors on Thursday charged two men accused of plotting attacks against prominent Jewish figures in Germany on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Danish national Ali S. faces charges including espionage, sabotage and attempted murder, while Afghan national Tawab M. was charged with attempted murder.

Authorities allege the suspects gathered intelligence on Josef Schuster, former lawmaker Volker Beck and two Jewish grocery store owners in Berlin to prepare assassination and arson attacks. Prosecutors said Ali S. worked closely with Iran's Quds Force and recruited accomplices. Iran has denied the allegations.

Trump reverses course with pledge of 5,000 more US troops for Poland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United States will send an additional 5,000 troops to Poland, days after the Pentagon delayed a planned troop rotation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern flank. Trump linked the move to his relationship with Polish President Karol Nawrocki, whom he endorsed during last year's election campaign.

The announcement appeared to reverse an earlier Pentagon decision to postpone the deployment of about 4,000 troops as part of a broader review of American forces in Europe. Vice President JD Vance had defended the delay earlier in the week, saying Europe should take greater responsibility for its own defense.

The decision came ahead of a North



Atlantic Treaty Organization foreign ministers' meeting in Sweden, where Secretary of State Marco Rubio criticized alliance members, particularly Spain, for not supporting U.S. operations linked to the Iran conflict. Poland welcomed Trump's announcement, calling the U.S.-Poland alliance "ironclad."

United Kingdom to release documents on Prince Andrew's trade envoy role amid Epstein scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Kingdom government is set to release confidential documents related to the former appointment of Prince Andrew as a trade envoy, following renewed scrutiny over his past ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The files are expected to provide details about his official role between 2001 and 2011 and the circumstances surrounding his resignation. Lawmakers had pushed for the release earlier this year after allegations that Andrew shared sensitive government information during his tenure. The move comes amid broader examination of Epstein's global network and its connections to political and financial elites. The controversy has intensified public debate



in the United Kingdom over accountability within the royal establishment. Prince Andrew, who no longer uses his royal title and is formally known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, was previously removed from public duties after criticism over his associations. The government says the documents will be released on Thursday as part of transparency measures.

Turkish court removes opposition leader in major blow ahead of future elections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

ATurkish appeals court on Thursday annulled the 2023 congress that elected Ozgur Ozel as head of the Republican People's Party, effectively removing him from leadership and reinstating former chairman Kemal Kilicdaroglu. The ruling marks a major setback for Turkey's main opposition party, which is already facing multiple legal challenges and political pressure. The court suspended Ozel and the party's executive

board, ordering that leadership temporarily return to Kilicdaroglu and previous officeholders. The decision triggered emergency meetings at party headquarters in Ankara and drew crowds outside, prompting police to set up barriers. Ozel called for resistance and vowed not to back down, while Kilicdaroglu urged calm and internal resolution. The opposition has said it will appeal the ruling to Turkey's Supreme Court. Critics say the legal cases against the party are politically motivated, a claim the government rejects.

Trump rolls back Biden-era refrigeration rules, cites lower consumer costs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday announced the rollback of two environmental regulations introduced under former President Joe Biden that required businesses to transition to newer refrigerants and cooling systems. Speaking at the White House alongside Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin and grocery industry executives, Trump said the rules had increased costs for supermarkets,

restaurants and transport operators. He claimed the reversal would save Americans more than \$2 billion annually, reduce grocery and transportation costs and protect roughly 350,000 jobs. Retail executives argued that replacing refrigeration systems could cost individual stores up to \$1.5 million. Trump also dismissed concerns about environmental impact, saying the rollback would not harm the environment. During the event, he confirmed he had postponed signing a planned executive order related to artificial intelligence because of concerns over specific provisions.

Veteran engineer becomes first woman to lead Panama Canal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino on Thursday appointed Ilya Espino de Marotta as the first woman to lead the Panama Canal. She will begin her seven-year term on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Espino de Marotta, a 35-year veteran of the canal authority, previously helped oversee the canal's \$5 billion expansion project. Her appointment comes amid tensions involving the United States and China over port operations in Panama. She is expected to oversee plans for new ports, a natural gas pipeline and a logistics corridor tied to the canal's expansion strategy.

Myanmar military retakes two key border towns from resistance groups



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Myanmar's military government said on Thursday it had regained control of Tonzang near India and Mawtaung near Thailand after weeks of fighting with ethnic militias and resistance forces. State media said Tonzang was recaptured on Wednesday after a 10-day operation, while Mawtaung was retaken Tuesday after two weeks of fighting. The military has regained momentum in the civil war since mid-2025 following China-brokered ceasefires and increased troop recruitment through conscription. Myanmar has remained in conflict since the 2021 coup that removed the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Independent verification of the army's claims remains difficult because of reporting restrictions.

US Marines stage rapid HIMARS rocket drill near Mount Fuji

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Marines carried out a live-fire HIMARS exercise Wednesday near Japan's Mount Fuji, showcasing rapid "shoot and scoot" tactics designed to avoid enemy counterattacks. The drill at Camp Fuji involved firing dummy rockets from mobile launchers mounted on military trucks. The HIMARS system has become increasingly important in modern warfare because drones make static positions more vulnerable. The weapon has been used in Iraq, Afghanistan and recent operations tied to the Iran conflict. Analysts say the system could play a major role in deterring possible Chinese military action against Taiwan because missiles launched from nearby Japanese islands could reach targets in the Taiwan Strait.

Zimbabwe moves closer to joining BRICS development bank

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Zimbabwe has begun formal negotiations to join the BRICS New Development Bank, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube announced on Saturday. Ncube said the government received official communication from bank president Dilma Rousseff confirming the start of the accession process. He described the move as a major step in Zimbabwe's international re-engagement strategy and said membership would help the country secure long-term financing for infrastructure and development projects. Zimbabwe applied to join the bank in 2023 under President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The announcement comes weeks after the International Monetary Fund approved a 10-month monitoring program aimed at supporting Zimbabwe's economic reforms and macroeconomic stability.

Latvian president asks opposition lawmaker to form new government

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics on Saturday nominated opposition lawmaker Andris Kulbergs to form a new government following the resignation of Prime Minister Evika Silina. Rinkevics said recent political consultations showed an opportunity for the opposition United List party to propose a new governing approach ahead of parliamentary elections in October. He asked Kulbergs to present coalition plans and a draft government declaration by Sunday, May 25. Silina resigned on Thursday after her three-party coalition collapsed amid disputes over defense leadership. The crisis deepened after Defense Minister Andris Spruds stepped down following reports that Ukrainian drones crossed into Latvian airspace from Russia and struck an oil facility.

Saudi Arabia intercepts drones entering airspace from Iraq

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia said Sunday it intercepted three drones that entered its airspace from Iraq, as regional tensions continue to rise across the Gulf.

Defense Ministry spokesperson Brigadier General Turki Al-Maliki said the kingdom reserves the right to respond at an appropriate time and place and would take all necessary measures to protect national security. The incident comes amid ongoing instability linked to the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

Saudi authorities have intercepted several drones in recent months. Last month, Riyadh summoned Iraq's ambassador over repeated drone threats allegedly launched from Iraqi territory.

Saudi Arabia also strongly condemned a recent drone strike near the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates, where Emirati officials said two drones were intercepted and another caused a fire near an electrical generator outside the facility.

India criticizes UN Security Council reform records as misleading on membership support

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Tuesday criticized the way United Nations Security Council reform talks are being documented, saying official records fail to accurately reflect widespread support among member states for expanding both permanent and non-permanent seats. Speaking at an Intergovernmental Negotiations session, India's envoy P. Harish, speaking for the G4 group, said describing majority support as merely "significant" misrepresents the actual position of most countries. The G4 group, which includes India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, argued that meeting records should objectively reflect member state positions. India also pushed for text-based negotiations, saying the lack of a formal draft has stalled progress on long-pending



reforms. A small group of countries opposing expansion of permanent membership continues to block adoption of a negotiating text. India warned that without structured negotiations, meaningful reform of the Security Council will remain delayed despite broad international support for change.

Australia fines X in landmark online safety case after three-year legal battle

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Australian court on Thursday fined X Corp. 650,000 Australian dollars, about 465,000 US dollars, for failing to provide required information to the country's online safety regulator about how it addressed child sexual exploitation content in 2023. The Federal Court also ordered the company to pay 100,000 Australian dollars toward legal costs of eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant within 45 days.



The case stems from a transparency notice issued in early 2023 that required detailed reporting on child safety measures. X did not fully comply, triggering a three-year legal dispute in which the company argued it was not obligated to answer all questions. The court ruled the penalty

was necessary to ensure compliance and prevent violations from being treated as a routine business expense. The ruling reinforces Australia's Online Safety Act and strengthens enforcement powers over global technology companies operating in the country.

Hungary moves to impose term limits and block Orbán return

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary's new government, led by Prime Minister Péter Magyar, has proposed a constitutional amendment that would limit future prime ministers to a maximum of eight years in office, effectively preventing former leader Viktor Orbán from returning to power. The amendment, submitted Wednesday, counts all terms served since Hungary's transition to democracy in 1990.

Orbán, who served five terms totaling about 20 years, would therefore be barred. Magyar's Tisza party said the proposal is aimed at restoring democratic safeguards after years of constitutional changes under Orbán's Fidesz party. The draft amendment also seeks to dismantle the controversial sovereignty protection office and return state oversight over public assets controlled by foundations linked to Orbán allies. The proposal is expected to pass next week due to the government's parliamentary supermajority.

Macron opens door to reparations debate over France's slavery legacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that France must address the question of reparations linked to its role in the transatlantic slave trade, marking one of the clearest acknowledgments yet by a French leader on the issue. Speaking at the Élysée Palace during an event marking 25 years since France recognized slavery as a crime against humanity, Macron said the subject of "repair" could

not be ignored, though he stopped short of proposing financial compensation. He announced that France and Ghana would launch a joint international research initiative to study the legacy of enslavement and recommend future actions. Macron also backed efforts to symbolically repeal the historic 'Code Noir', the French colonial law that regulated slavery. The remarks come amid growing pressure in France to formally confront the enduring social and political consequences of slavery and racism.

Canada confirms first hantavirus case linked to cruise outbreak

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian health authorities confirmed the country's first hantavirus case on Sunday after a cruise passenger in British Columbia tested positive following laboratory analysis. The Public Health Agency of Canada said the infected passenger had traveled aboard the expedition ship MV Hondius, where an outbreak has already been linked to three deaths. Officials said another traveler tested negative and no additional cases have been detected so far. High-risk contacts remain in isolation while authorities continue monitoring the situation. The Dutch-operated vessel is expected to arrive in Rotterdam on Monday, where most crew members will undergo a six-week quarantine. Officials said the overall public risk in Canada remains low.

Brazil court probes alleged public funding links to Bolsonaro biopic

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Supreme Federal Court on Friday opened an investigation into whether public parliamentary funds were improperly diverted to finance cultural projects, including a film based on former President Jair Bolsonaro. Justice Flavio Dino ordered the probe after a complaint by Socialist Party lawmaker Tabata Amaral alleged that lawmakers from Bolsonaro's Liberal Party transferred nearly \$514,000 in public amendment funds for projects tied to the former president. Authorities are also examining reports that Senator Flavio Bolsonaro sought nearly \$25 million from a jailed private banker for a planned feature film titled 'Dark Horse'. The court is investigating whether public money was illegally linked to the production. Bolsonaro, who was sentenced last year to more than 27 years in prison over an attempted coup case, remains at the center of multiple legal battles in Brazil.

Indian agencies monitor Al-Qaeda-linked group targeting youth online

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies are closely monitoring renewed online activity by Ansarullah Bangla Team, a Bangladesh-based affiliate linked to Al-Qaeda, amid concerns over attempts to recruit Indian youth. Officials said the group, also known as Ansar al-Islam, has remained largely inactive on the ground but has intensified digital propaganda targeting people in West Bengal and neighboring states. Investigators believe the outfit is coordinating with Pakistan-based operatives and using extremist material linked to Osama bin Laden to radicalize recruits. Agencies fear the group aims to inspire lone-wolf attacks against secular writers, intellectuals and political figures rather than build traditional terror modules. Officials also warned that the organization is pushing disinformation campaigns related to immigration and communal tensions in eastern India. Intelligence agencies said surveillance of the group's online operations has been intensified.

India opens Kailash Mansarovar Yatra selection for 2026 pilgrims



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday conducted a computerized draw to select 1,000 pilgrims for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026. The Ministry of External Affairs said the selected pilgrims will travel in 20 batches between June and August through the Lipulekh and Nathu La passes. The entire selection process was computer-based and gender-balanced. The pilgrimage, organized jointly with China, resumed after being suspended since 2020. Officials said the routes are now fully motorable with minimal trekking. The yatra remains spiritually significant for Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains, and is supported by Indian state agencies and border forces.

CBI arrests sixth accused in Suvendu Adhikari aide murder case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a sixth accused in the murder case of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath, officials said on Thursday. The accused, identified as Navin Kumar Singh from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district, was arrested in a joint operation with local police. Investigators are examining a firearm recovered from him to determine its link to the crime. Rath, a former Indian Air Force officer, was shot dead in North 24 Parganas district on May 6. Several arrests have already been made as the probe continues.

Maharashtra assures fuel stability, urges public to avoid panic buying



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Thursday assured citizens that there is no fuel shortage in the state and urged them to avoid panic buying or hoarding. He said petrol and diesel sales had increased by nearly 20 percent due to rumours, creating artificial pressure on supply chains. Bhujbal said both central and state authorities are fully capable of maintaining steady fuel supplies. Public sector oil companies also confirmed that fuel availability remains stable across terminals, depots and petrol pumps. He appealed to citizens to purchase fuel only as needed and avoid misinformation-driven panic.

Tharoor defends 'Cockroach Janta Party' satire, warns against suppressing youth dissent

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday defended the controversial "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP), saying it should not be dismissed as a foreign-backed or manufactured conspiracy and arguing that most of its followers were Indians. Citing claims by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, a Boston University student, he said around 94 percent of its followers were based in India, suggesting that the movement reflects genuine sentiment among young Indians rather than external influence. In a detailed post on social media platform X, Tharoor said democracy must be able to accommodate satire, dissent, and unconventional expressions, especially when they come from the youth. He said such platforms often act as safety valves that allow frustration and grievances to be expressed in a non-violent and creative form, rather than being suppressed.

Tharoor cautioned both the government and opposition against ignoring or dismissing the underlying anger among young people. He said suppression would be counterproductive and could worsen discontent. He emphasized that satire plays an important democratic role by releasing



social pressure, comparing it to a pressure valve that prevents escalation into chaos. The CJP movement, launched on May 16, gained rapid online traction amid controversy over remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, which were later clarified as being misinterpreted. The movement's social media account was subsequently withheld after attracting widespread attention.

Rahul Gandhi demands sacking of education minister over NEET paper leak

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday escalated his attack on the government over the NEET controversy, demanding the immediate removal of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and alleging a systemic breakdown in India's examination framework. He said that if the minister is not removed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must take direct responsibility for the alleged paper leak.

Gandhi claimed that the NEET question paper was circulated two days before the exam and accused the government of failing millions of students. In a video statement and post on social media platform X, he said that 22 lakh candidates had been "cheated" and criticised what he described as an unresponsive administration. The Congress leader also alleged an "RSS-BJP nexus" in higher education institutions, claiming that appointments were being made based on affiliation rather than merit. He further cited



a parliamentary panel report questioning the credibility of the National Testing Agency and demanded arrests of those involved. The government has not yet issued a fresh response to his latest remarks.

Goa bans government-funded foreign travel for officials

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Goa government has banned foreign travel for officials funded by public money, following calls to cut unnecessary spending. The order, issued under Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, cancels all previously approved overseas trips until further notice. It applies to ministers and government employees whose travel is fully or partly state-funded.

Officials said the move aims to reduce costs and foreign exchange outflow and aligns with national appeals to limit non-essential travel.

Goa is expected to shift focus from foreign



visits to domestic alternatives for training and promotion activities.

Rajya Sabha bypolls announced for Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu seats



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission of India has announced bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu following resignations of Sunetra Ajit Pawar and C. Ve. Shanmugam. Voting will be held on June 18, with the entire process concluding by June 20. Notification will be issued on June 1, and nominations can be filed until June 8. The Commission said polling and counting will take place on the same day. The bypolls aim to fill vacancies for the remaining terms of both members and ensure continued representation in the Upper House.

Delhi court defers order in Lalu Prasad Yadav IRCTC case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

ADelhi court on Friday deferred until June 9 its decision on framing charges against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members, and others in the IRCTC hotel money laundering case linked to the Enforcement Directorate. The case stems from alleged irregularities in awarding railway hotel contracts during his tenure as Railway Minister. The prosecution claims land was acquired through benami transactions in exchange for favours. The accused have denied wrongdoing, calling the process fair. The trial court had earlier reserved its order after hearing arguments from both sides.

Tamil Nadu orders Amma canteen overhaul after complaints

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has ordered a statewide upgrade of Amma canteens after repeated complaints over food quality. The review found several outlets needing repairs, better hygiene, and improved systems to ensure consistent meal quality. Hundreds of canteens operate across the state, serving low-cost food to workers and low-income groups daily. The government has directed immediate renovation work and stricter monitoring, along with upgraded kitchens and standardized food preparation.

Harbhajan Singh alleges Punjab Rajya Sabha seats were 'sold'

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Indian cricketer and ex-Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Harbhajan Singh on Friday alleged that Rajya Sabha seats from Punjab were "sold" and claimed he would reveal details "when the time comes." Singh, who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in April after leaving AAP, made the remarks while responding to criticism from former party colleagues who labeled him a "traitor." In posts on X, Singh accused AAP leaders of orchestrating protests outside his home in Jalandhar and painting derogatory slogans on its walls. He also alleged corruption in ministerial appointments and governance in Punjab. The controversy follows the defection of six Punjab-based AAP Rajya Sabha members to the BJP.

Viral bullet train image sparks buzz over India rail project



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A viral image of India's bullet train has sparked online buzz, with users debating its design and launch timeline. The saffron, black, and white train has been widely shared as a symbol of a futuristic India, with comparisons to the Vande Bharat Express for its advanced design. The project is part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor, set to begin operations in August 2027 and cut travel time to about two hours. The image surfaced alongside updates from the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited on tunnel construction in Mumbai. Officials have not confirmed the design as final.

Delhi High Court issues contempt notices to Aam Aadmi Party leader Gopal Rai, journalist over posts on judge



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued contempt notices to Aam Aadmi Party leader Gopal Rai and journalist Saurav Das over alleged scandalous social media posts targeting Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma in connection with the excise policy case. The court directed preservation of online material and sought responses from the respondents. The matter will be heard on August 4 along with related proceedings already pending before the court. The petition alleges a coordinated campaign to influence judicial proceedings, while earlier suo motu contempt action has already been initiated in the same matter.

India rejects press freedom concerns, defends democratic scale in Oslo

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India strongly defended its democratic credentials after a Norwegian journalist raised concerns about press freedom and human rights during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Norway.

Responding to the query, Sibi George, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said India's constitutional framework guarantees fundamental rights and provides legal remedies for citizens. He stressed that India, despite being home to one-sixth of the world's population, does not face proportionate levels of global problems. George said critics often rely on limited or misleading reports and argued that India's vast media ecosystem, with hundreds of television channels and publications in multiple languages, reflects a vibrant press environment. He added that



external assessments often fail to understand the country's scale and diversity.

He also reiterated that India functions under the rule of law and remains committed to democratic values, equality, and freedom of expression. The remarks followed earlier Indian responses rejecting similar concerns raised by European leaders, calling them based on a lack of understanding of India's social and political complexity.

India to launch Vande Ganga water conservation campaign on Ganga Dussehra

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced that the state will launch the 'Vande Ganga Water Conservation Campaign' on Ganga Dussehra on Sunday, focusing on rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge in rural areas. During his visit to Dhambola village in Dungarpur district, he interacted with residents, reviewed welfare schemes, and addressed grievances. He said water conservation and pond restoration are key to solving rural shortages. Sharma also announced 'Atal Gyan Kendras' in panchayats to support students and directed officials

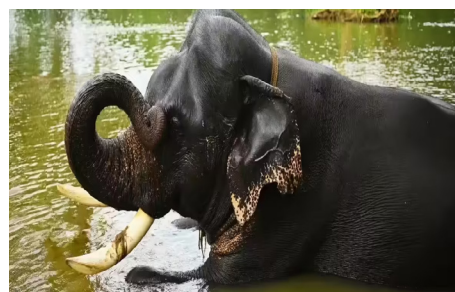


to improve infrastructure, promote drug awareness, and strengthen rural development initiatives across villages in the state.

Tourist killed, elephant dies after violent clash at Dubare camp

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A male elephant involved in a deadly clash at Karnataka's Dubare Elephant Camp has died a day after a tourist was killed in the same incident. The 35-year-old captive elephant, Marthanda, was badly injured during a fight with another elephant, Kanjan, while being bathed in the Cauvery River. Officials said his condition worsened despite treatment. The clash earlier led to the death of a 33-year-old tourist from Chennai watching the bathing session. The incident escalated when one elephant fell



during the fight. Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre expressed grief and ordered stricter safety rules. Authorities have restricted tourist access near elephants and banned close contact, feeding, and bathing activities.

Supreme Court forms panel to review cartoons in NCERT textbooks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court of India on Thursday ordered a review of cartoons and illustrations used in National Council of Educational Research and Training textbooks, questioning whether some visual content is appropriate for school students. A bench constituted an expert panel headed by a retired judge to examine complaints related to political science and other textbooks for grades 6 through 12. The committee will assess the educational value,

cultural sensitivity, and age appropriateness of the material and recommend whether certain cartoons should be retained, modified, or removed. The matter reached the court after multiple petitions alleged that some depictions were politically biased, disrespectful toward national leaders, or unsuitable for children. The move comes amid broader debates over recent curriculum revisions and rationalization in NCERT textbooks used by millions of students through the Central Board of Secondary Education and state education boards across India.

Kamal Haasan urges national summit on West Asia crisis impact



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a meeting of all Chief Ministers to address the economic impact of the West Asia crisis on India. In a video message, he warned that rising energy prices and disrupted trade routes are affecting households and inflation. He supported calls for fuel saving and said governments must share the burden with citizens. Haasan suggested reducing fuel taxes and transport fares to ease pressure. He also highlighted India's growing renewable energy capacity and called for collective national action above political differences during the global crisis.

Bengal IAS reshuffle transfers 17 officers in major administrative move

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The West Bengal government has transferred 17 Indian Administrative Service officers in a major reshuffle aimed at improving administrative efficiency, officials said on Thursday. The transfers include district-level officers, municipal commissioners, and senior secretariat officials from various batches. The changes cover departments such as home affairs, technical education, municipal administration, and information services. Officials said the reshuffle is intended to strengthen governance and accelerate development work across districts. The move is part of routine administrative restructuring to ensure smoother functioning of state departments and better coordination at both district and state levels.

Nagaland governor urges united efforts to preserve Northeast tribal heritage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav on Friday called for coordinated efforts to preserve and promote the tribal heritage of Northeast India, warning that globalization and rapid modernization are weakening traditional institutions and indigenous cultures. Speaking at a national seminar at Nagaland University, Yadav said preserving heritage should complement development rather than resist it.

He urged universities and researchers to strengthen indigenous knowledge systems, promote local languages, and bridge traditional wisdom with modern scholarship. The governor highlighted the Northeast's rich tribal diversity and said indigenous practices in environmental conservation and community harmony offer valuable lessons for modern society. The seminar focused on challenges and opportunities related to preserving tribal identity in the region.

Indian companies urged to form joint ventures with United States firms for technology access

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday called for stronger collaboration between Indian and United States companies, saying joint ventures are essential for gaining access to advanced technologies. Speaking at the American Chamber of Commerce annual leadership summit, he said India is the fastest-growing major economy while United States firms lead in innovation, making partnerships increasingly important. Gadkari also said his ministry is exploring consultations with United States companies for preparing detailed project reports for highway development. He noted logistics costs have fallen to about 10 percent of gross domestic product from 16 percent earlier, driven by expressways and economic corridors. He also reiterated the goal of making India's automobile sector the world's largest within five years.

Global gold and silver ease as strong dollar and crude oil volatility shape sentiment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global precious metals traded lower on Thursday as investors weighed safe-haven demand against a stronger United States dollar, shifting interest rate expectations, and renewed geopolitical tensions. Spot gold fell about 0.4 percent to roughly \$4,522 per ounce, while silver declined around 0.6 percent to approximately \$76.25 per ounce, according to latest international market data. The weakness came as the dollar hovered near multi-week highs, reducing demand for dollar-priced commodities. Gold remained sensitive to expectations of prolonged higher interest rates in the United States, while silver saw sharper swings due to its dual industrial and investment demand profile.



Crude oil continued to influence inflation expectations and broader commodity positioning. Brent crude rose to around \$104.49 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate traded near \$97.67 per barrel,

reflecting persistent supply concerns linked to Middle East tensions. Analysts said gold is currently consolidating at elevated levels but remains under pressure from monetary policy signals, while silver is facing volatility due to weaker industrial demand expectations and broader macro uncertainty. Near-term direction is expected to be driven by United States economic data, Federal Reserve policy cues, and geopolitical developments affecting risk sentiment. Overall, commodities remain tightly range-bound but highly reactive, with investors balancing inflation risks from energy markets against tightening financial conditions in the United States.

Samsung labor strike paused as chip bonus dispute heads to vote



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The largest labor union at Samsung Electronics suspended a planned strike on Thursday after reaching a tentative wage agreement with the South Korean technology company, temporarily easing concerns over disruptions at the world's biggest memory chipmaker during a surge in demand driven by artificial intelligence data centers. The union, representing about 48,000 workers, had planned industrial action over how profits from booming chip demand are distributed, particularly between memory chip staff and other divisions. Members will now vote on the deal between May 22 and May 27. The dispute highlights tensions over bonuses tied to artificial intelligence chip production and broader semiconductor competition.

Seoul and Tokyo deepen energy security and supply chain alignment amid global volatility



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea and Japan agreed on Tuesday to strengthen coordination on supply chains and energy security as geopolitical tensions disrupt global markets. President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi committed to closer cooperation on crude oil and liquefied natural gas procurement, alongside improved information sharing on energy flows and pricing trends. The two sides also discussed potential swap mechanisms to stabilize energy supply. Beyond energy, both leaders reaffirmed collaboration in artificial intelligence, defense supply chains, and critical economic sectors, while reinforcing trilateral coordination with the United States to support regional trade and economic stability.

United Auto Workers push for stronger labor terms ahead of North America trade talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Auto Workers union is calling for stricter labor protections, higher wage standards, and requirements for automakers to manufacture vehicles where they sell them, ahead of upcoming trade negotiations between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Union leaders, including President Shawn Fain, outlined their priorities during a media briefing on Thursday, ahead of formal talks expected to begin next week. The union warned that if worker-focused provisions are not included in a revised trade agreement, the United States should consider withdrawing from the deal. The group is also pushing for stronger enforcement of labor laws in Mexico, wage increases, and improved workplace safety



standards. The United Auto Workers has long criticized free trade agreements for shifting manufacturing jobs to lower-cost countries. A revised pact could raise U.S. content requirements for vehicles, though analysts warn this could increase costs and complexity across the North American auto supply chain.

InPost sets timetable for FedEx-led nine billion dollar takeover offer window



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Polish parcel locker company InPost said on Friday that a nine billion dollar buyout offer led by FedEx and backed by Advent International and other investors will run from May 26 through July 27. The company said regulatory approvals have already been secured in several jurisdictions, while remaining reviews are expected to conclude in the second half of 2026. The transaction covers one of Europe's largest logistics consolidation deals in recent years and comes amid growing competition in cross-border e-commerce delivery. InPost added that the offer process will proceed under standard takeover rules as final approvals move forward.

United States moves toward formal trade framework with China to stabilize commercial ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has outlined plans for a more structured trade framework with China following President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, signaling an effort to stabilize one of the world's most important economic relationships. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said both sides are moving toward institutional mechanisms, including proposed trade and investment boards, to manage disputes and improve predictability. Key sectors under discussion include agriculture, aviation, and industrial goods, while tariffs on sensitive products remain unchanged. China has resumed selected imports such as beef and soybeans and may increase aircraft purchases, including Boeing jets, as part of ongoing negotiations.

European Union signals investment pact momentum with India to unlock deeper market access

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union has indicated progress toward a dedicated investment agreement with India, building on momentum from ongoing trade negotiations. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the proposed pact would complement the India-European Union trade agreement and provide businesses with clearer market

access and investment certainty. She described the investment framework as essential for strengthening supply chains and economic security in a shifting global landscape. Alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, she highlighted expanding cooperation in defense, maritime security, and technology, positioning the India-European Union partnership as a key pillar of long-term economic resilience.

Dollar holds near six-week high as United States Iran negotiations keep markets cautious

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The dollar traded near a six-week high on Friday as investors weighed mixed signals from United States and Iran negotiations over nuclear-related issues and regional security concerns. The currency index stood close to its recent peak after earlier volatility driven by shifting diplomatic messages and uncertain progress in talks. The dollar also drew support from stronger United States economic data, including lower weekly jobless claims and improved manufacturing activity. Analysts said markets remain cautious as geopolitical risks persist, while expectations for clearer policy direction from Washington and Tehran continue to influence currency and commodity movements across global markets.

Critical Metals signs long-term rare earth supply deal for Greenland project

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Critical Metals announced on Thursday that it has signed a 15-year binding offtake agreement with REalloys for rare earth concentrate from its Tanbreez project in Greenland. Under the agreement, REalloys will purchase 15 percent of annual production from one of the world's largest known heavy rare earth deposits. The deal strengthens earlier cooperation between the

companies and follows Greenland's approval for Critical Metals to raise its stake in the project to 92.5 percent. REalloys will receive priority access to concentrates containing high-value elements such as dysprosium and terbium, with pricing linked to global rare earth benchmarks. Deliveries will be made through a southern Greenland port. The agreement comes as Western countries intensify efforts to secure critical mineral supplies outside China's dominant processing supply chain.

Volvo faces possible Thai legal action after additional electric SUV battery fires



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Volvo Cars is facing potential civil legal action in Thailand after two additional battery-related fires involving its EX30 electric sport utility vehicle raised fresh safety concerns. The country's consumer protection authorities are reviewing complaints that could lead to legal proceedings against the automaker and its local distributors. The issue comes amid a global recall affecting tens of thousands of vehicles linked to overheating battery modules. Volvo said incidents remain rare but acknowledged delays in replacement parts and ongoing customer frustration. The company is working to accelerate repairs while regulators assess whether compensation or refunds should be required for affected owners.

Tesla rolls out Full Self Driving software in Lithuania following Dutch approval pathway

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla said on Tuesday that its Full Self Driving supervised driver assistance software has been launched in Lithuania, marking the second rollout in Europe following regulatory approval in the Netherlands. Lithuanian transport authorities confirmed recognition of Dutch certification, enabling deployment under mutual regulatory acceptance. Other European countries, including Belgium and Greece, are also exploring similar approval pathways for the technology. The rollout reflects Tesla's gradual expansion of advanced driver assistance systems across European markets, subject to national regulatory alignment. Dutch regulators previously conducted extensive testing before granting approval, setting a precedent for broader regional adoption discussions within the European Union.

Wendy's names former executive Bob Wright as new chief executive officer

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Wendy's has appointed Robert "Bob" Wright as its new chief executive officer, effective Thursday, following a leadership transition aimed at strengthening operational performance and long-term growth. Wright previously held senior roles within the company and most recently led another restaurant chain, where he focused on expansion and digital transformation. He returns to Wendy's at a time when the company is prioritizing efficiency, franchise performance, and customer experience improvements. The board said Wright's industry experience and familiarity with the brand made him a strong fit for the role. The outgoing interim leadership team will continue supporting the company's ongoing strategic initiatives.

Waymo pauses freeway rides and suspends Atlanta service after safety updates

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Waymo, the autonomous driving unit of Alphabet, has temporarily suspended its robotaxi rides on U.S. freeways and paused operations in Atlanta, Georgia, as it rolls out software updates aimed at improving safety in challenging road conditions. The company said on Thursday that it is refining performance around construction zones and flooded roadways after identifying areas needing improvement. Freeway rides had been available in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Miami, but those services are now on hold while technical adjustments are completed. Waymo added that street-level rides remain unaffected and continue



to operate in cities where the service is active. In Atlanta, the pause also follows an incident in which an unoccupied robotaxi entered flood water while operating through a partnership with Uber. The move comes shortly after a recall of about 3,800 vehicles linked to risks involving flooded roads.

South Korea to impose anti-dumping duties on European polyvinyl chloride imports

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's trade watchdog on Thursday decided to recommend anti-dumping duties on polyvinyl chloride paste resin imports from Germany, France, Norway, and Sweden, according to the industry ministry. The Korea Trade Commission said the proposed tariffs, ranging from 25.79 percent to 31.55 percent, follow findings that dumped imports caused material harm to domestic producers. The case was initiated after Hanwha Solutions Corp. filed a complaint last year. Polyvinyl chloride paste resin is widely used in construction materials and industrial products such as shoes and gloves.



The commission also opened a separate investigation into alleged dumping of steel bars and rods by China-linked companies. Earlier this year, it had proposed preliminary tariffs on other Chinese steel products amid ongoing trade remedy actions.

Indian government monitoring rupee weakness as policy options considered

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said the government is closely monitoring the recent depreciation of the Indian rupee against the United States dollar and is considering multiple policy measures to stabilize the currency. Speaking in New Delhi, he said all arms of the government are working in coordination to respond to global economic pressures. The rupee recently hit a record low of 96.88 against the dollar amid high crude oil prices, foreign fund outflows, and geopolitical uncertainty. Goyal expressed confidence in India's economic resilience despite global headwinds. He also said discussions with a United States trade



delegation are expected next month. He ruled out restrictions on non-essential imports but urged more cautious import-related spending.

EU consumer groups accuse major technology firms of failing to curb financial scams

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union consumer organizations have filed complaints against Google, Meta Platforms, and TikTok, accusing them of failing to adequately protect users from financial scams circulating on their platforms. The European Consumer Organisation, along with 29 member groups across 27 countries, submitted complaints under the Digital Services Act, arguing that

the companies do not effectively remove fraudulent advertisements even after being notified. The groups claim users are exposed to scams causing significant financial losses. The companies rejected the allegations, saying they invest heavily in artificial intelligence tools and moderation systems to block harmful content, with Meta reporting it removed millions of scam ads last year. Regulators may investigate compliance, with potential fines reaching up to 6 percent of global annual turnover.

Google rejects union recognition request for DeepMind workers but agrees to mediated talks



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Google has rejected a request from British unions to voluntarily recognize a labor agreement for employees at its DeepMind artificial intelligence unit but has agreed to engage in mediated discussions through a government-backed conciliation service on Tuesday. The move delays a potential statutory process that could force formal recognition if negotiations fail. The Communication Workers Union and Unite had sought collective bargaining rights after an internal vote showed support among some employees. Google said it prefers direct engagement with staff while continuing discussions on workplace issues. The case comes as United Kingdom labor rules make union recognition procedures more accessible for workers.

AT&T challenges California rules in court over copper phone network requirements

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AT&T filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against California regulators seeking permission to discontinue traditional copper-based telephone services and shift fully to modern internet-based networks. The company argues that maintaining legacy infrastructure is costly and serves a shrinking share of customers, while it plans significant investment in expanding broadband access across the state. AT&T is also petitioning federal regulators to preempt state rules that require continued operation of the aging system. The company says transitioning away from copper networks will improve reliability, reduce outages, and support long-term infrastructure modernization in one of its largest United States markets.

James Murdoch expands media portfolio with New York Magazine and Vox podcast network acquisition

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Media executive James Murdoch has agreed on Tuesday to acquire New York Magazine and the Vox Media podcast network in a deal valued at more than three hundred million dollars, significantly expanding his media holdings. The transaction, conducted through Lupa Systems, includes digital and audio assets that have strong influence in political and cultural media markets. Vox Media's podcast division, home to several popular programs, is considered a major driver of the deal's value. The acquisition underscores Murdoch's continued push into independent journalism and digital media platforms following earlier ventures in investment and entertainment-focused companies.

Indian women's hockey team leaves for Australia tour ahead of Nations Cup



Led by captain Salima Tete, the Indian women's hockey team departed on Thursday for a crucial tour of Australia, where they will play four matches against Australia on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Perth Hockey Stadium. The tour is part of preparations for upcoming global tournaments and will be followed by the FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Auckland from June 15 to 21. Salima said the squad is eager to test itself against one of the world's strongest sides after an intense training camp. She added that the matches will help India build combinations, improve fitness and gain momentum ahead of a packed international calendar including the World Cup and Asian Games.

Hardik Pandya fined for code breach as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Mumbai Indians



Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee and given one demerit point for breaching the Indian Premier League Code of Conduct during their match against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on Wednesday. The Level 1 offence related to abuse of equipment after Pandya knocked the bails while returning to his run-up. He admitted the breach and accepted the sanction. Kolkata Knight Riders chased 148 with seven balls remaining to win by four wickets, moving up to sixth on the table while Mumbai Indians slipped further out of playoff contention.

Aston Villa end 44-year European wait with emphatic Europa League triumph

Aston Villa captured their first European trophy in 44 years and secured a maiden Europa League title on Wednesday in Istanbul, defeating Freiburg with goals from Youri Tielemans, Emiliano Buendia and Morgan Rogers. The victory made Villa the 31st different winners of the competition and only the sixth English club to lift the trophy. Manager Unai Emery became the first coach to win the tournament with three different clubs, having previously triumphed with Sevilla and Villarreal.

The match began cautiously at Besiktas Park before Tielemans broke the deadlock just before halftime with a powerful volley from Rogers' precise delivery. Buendia then doubled the lead with a curling strike at the end of the first half. He later set up Rogers for the third goal around the hour mark. Freiburg, chasing their first



major title, struggled to respond as Villa controlled the second half and secured a European crown.

America's Cup teams begin preliminary sailing regatta off Sardinia



America's Cup teams began preliminary racing off Sardinia on Friday, with five crews competing in AC40 foiling boats in Cagliari ahead of next year's event in Naples. Defending champions New Zealand, along with Britain and Italy, are fielding two crews each, while France and Switzerland have one entry apiece. Australia and the United States are not competing in this regatta. The three-day event concludes on Sunday with match racing after fleet races across Friday and Saturday. Women's and youth crews are also participating, with Italy's Luna Rossa youth team setting the early pace in practice sessions.

NASCAR mourns Kyle Busch after sudden death at 41 following severe illness

NASCAR is mourning the death of two-time Cup Series champion Kyle Busch, who died at 41 after being hospitalized with a severe illness. Busch was taken to a Charlotte hospital after becoming unresponsive on Wednesday while testing in a racing simulator in Concord, North Carolina, according to people familiar with the situation. His family, Richard Childress Racing and NASCAR confirmed the news in a joint statement on Thursday, saying no cause of death has been released.

Busch, one of the most successful drivers in NASCAR history, won championships in 2015 and 2019 and recorded victories across all three national series. He is survived by his



wife Samantha and children Brexton and Lennix, and was the younger brother of NASCAR Hall of Famer Kurt Busch. Tributes from fellow drivers poured in, with Denny Hamlin and Brad Keselowski expressing shock as the sport prepared for the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Matthew Stafford signs Los Angeles Rams extension through 2027 season



Reigning National Football League Most Valuable Player Matthew Stafford has agreed to a one-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Rams through the 2027 season, the team confirmed on Thursday. Reports suggest the deal is worth between 55 million and 60 million dollars. The 38-year-old quarterback, who led the Rams to a Super Bowl title in 2022, has continued his year-to-year approach to career planning since joining the franchise. The extension signals his willingness to remain with the team beyond 2026 as he continues to perform at an elite level following his award-winning season.

India proposes stricter anti-doping law with jail terms for trafficking networks

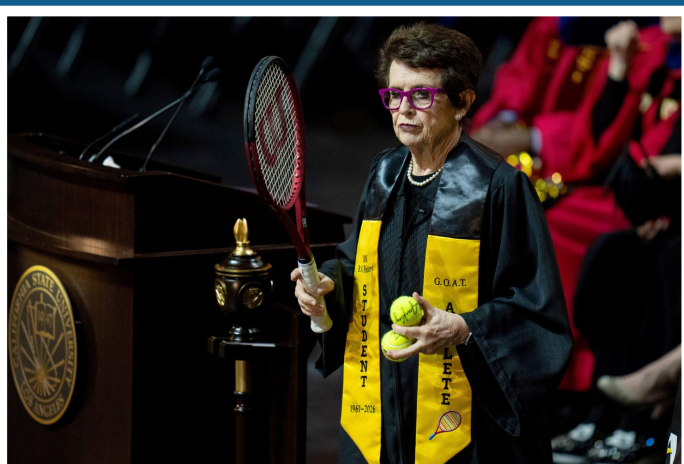
India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Wednesday placed proposed amendments to the country's anti-doping framework in the public domain for consultation, aiming to introduce criminal penalties for organised doping networks while keeping athletes out of criminal prosecution for routine violations.

The draft targets traffickers, illegal suppliers, syndicates and support

staff involved in distribution or administration of banned substances, with offences such as trafficking, supply to minors, unauthorised sale and promotional activity potentially carrying up to five years in prison. Athletes would continue to be dealt with under existing anti-doping rules unless directly involved in criminal activity. The proposal aligns with UNESCO conventions and World Anti-Doping Agency standards.

Billie Jean King completes college degree six decades after leaving tennis career

Billie Jean King walked across a graduation stage on Monday, earning her bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Los Angeles, more than sixty years after leaving college to pursue tennis. The eighty-two-year-old originally enrolled in 1961 and left in 1964 after winning her first Wimbledon doubles title. She went on to win 39 Grand Slam titles and co-founded the Women's Tennis Association. At the ceremony she wore a stole reading "student athlete" and "G.O.A.T." and celebrated by hitting tennis balls from the stage.



French Open faces tension as players limit media duties over prize money dispute

Tension has increased ahead of the French Open at Roland Garros after several leading tennis players decided to limit media obligations in protest over prize money distribution and governance issues. Tournament director Amelie Mauresmo said on Thursday she regretted the move but expects ongoing discussions after the tournament begins on Sunday. Players are reportedly restricting media appearances to mandatory sessions, arguing that the Grand Slams provide a smaller revenue share than regular tour events. World number one Aryna Sabalenka has previously warned that players could consider boycott action if concerns are not addressed.

Brooks Koepka closes in on leader Taylor Moore at CJ Cup Byron Nelson



Brooks Koepka shot an eight-under-par 63 on Thursday to move within one shot of leader Taylor Moore after the opening round of the CJ Cup Byron Nelson at TPC Craig Ranch. Moore leads after a career-best round, while world number one Scottie Scheffler is tied further back after a 66 in his hometown event. Si Woo Kim and several others are also in contention on a crowded leaderboard. Koepka, playing the course for the first time since leaving for LIV Golf, said he enjoyed the competitive atmosphere as players pushed each other throughout the round.

New York City launches lottery for discounted World Cup tickets

New York City will offer residents the chance to buy World Cup tickets for 50 dollars through a lottery system for matches in New Jersey this summer, Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced on Thursday alongside Governor Kathy Hochul. Around 1,000 discounted tickets will be available across seven matches, including group stage and knockout games, with winners also receiving free round-trip bus transport to East Rutherford stadium. Officials said the initiative aims to improve affordability for the FIFA World Cup 2026 amid rising ticket prices and strong demand.

La Liga season heads to dramatic final night with Europe and relegation spots undecided

La Liga heads into a dramatic final weekend on Saturday night with European qualification and relegation places still to be decided across Spain's top flight. Barcelona are already champions, Real Madrid are confirmed second, while Atletico Madrid, Villarreal and Real Betis have secured Champions League qualification for next season. Celta Vigo lead the race for Europa League qualification, needing only a draw against Sevilla, while Getafe and Rayo Vallecano remain close behind. The relegation battle is equally tense, with several clubs including Girona, Elche, Osasuna, Mallorca and Levante still fighting to survive. Valencia and Espanyol still hold outside hopes of reaching Europe depending on final results across the league.

Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa and Athletic Club manager Ernesto Valverde will both take charge of their final matches



on Sunday. Atletico Madrid face Villarreal on Sunday to decide third and fourth place in the table.

Sinner and Djokovic drawn on opposite paths as French Open sets blockbuster men's field

Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic were placed in opposite halves of the French Open men's singles draw at Roland Garros in Paris, setting up a potential final showdown. The world number one Sinner arrives with a 29-match winning streak and will open against French wild card Clement Tabur as he pursues a career Grand Slam.

Djokovic, a three-time champion at Roland Garros, begins against Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard and could meet Joao Fonseca in the third round, with second seed Alexander Zverev in his half. Arthur Fils meets Stan Wawrinka, who is playing his final season, while Gael Monfils also continues his farewell campaign at Roland Garros.

Casper Ruud remains a potential fourth-round opponent for Djokovic



after strong recent form, while several NextGen players including Rafael Jodar, Martin Landaluce and Moise Kouame also learned their draws, adding fresh intrigue to the tournament.

Indian pickleball association to hold junior world cup trials in Ahmedabad

The Indian Pickleball Association will conduct trials for the under 14 and under 18 national squads from Thursday to Saturday in Ahmedabad ahead of the Pickleball World Cup in Vietnam from August 30 to September 9. More than 100 players from across India, including Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam,

Rajasthan, Odisha, Haryana and Gujarat, are competing for selection. The trials will determine India's junior contingent for the third edition of the global tournament. Notable participants include Arjun Singh, Naomi Amalsadiwala and Panth Thakkar, while the selection panel features senior officials and the association's chief executive.

Lewis Hamilton dismisses retirement talk ahead of Ferrari future

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton has dismissed retirement speculation, saying he remains fully committed to Ferrari and expects to continue in Formula One beyond 2027. Speaking on Thursday ahead of the Canadian Grand Prix, Hamilton said he is still under contract, motivated and focused on progress rather than external pressure. The British driver, who joined Ferrari after a long spell with Mercedes, said suggestions of retirement are not affecting him. He added that he continues to enjoy racing and believes he will remain in the sport for years to come.

Thomas Tuchel leaves out Phil Foden and Cole Palmer from England squad



Thomas Tuchel has made several major omissions from his England World Cup squad, leaving out Phil Foden, Cole Palmer and Harry Maguire while recalling Ivan Toney. The England manager prioritised form and fitness, with Foden and Palmer struggling for consistency this season. Maguire expressed disappointment after a strong campaign for Manchester United. Tuchel is expected to rely on Harry Kane as the main striker, supported by Ollie Watkins and Toney, while Jude Bellingham, Bukayo Saka and Eberechi Eze feature in attack as England prepare for the tournament in North America.

Florentino Perez could face rival in Real Madrid presidential election

Real Madrid could face a contested presidential election for the first time since 2009 after Enrique Riquelme signalled his intention to challenge incumbent Florentino Perez. Perez called early elections despite recently securing another mandate, but Riquelme said the short timeline makes it difficult to meet the financial guarantee requirement of around 15 per cent of the club's budget. He acknowledged Perez's achievements but argued for a change in direction. Perez has governed unopposed for years, supported by strong member backing and strict eligibility rules for challengers.

Pep Guardiola set to announce Manchester City exit after Aston Villa finale

Pep Guardiola is expected to announce his departure from Manchester City during Sunday's final Premier League match against Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium. He signed a contract extension until 2027 in November 2024, but speculation over his future has continued. Since arriving in 2016, he has guided City to unprecedented success including a 100-point season, a continental treble in the 2022 and 2023 season and four consecutive league titles. His possible exit comes amid ongoing financial investigations. Former assistant Enzo Maresca is reported to be a leading candidate to replace him.



Neymar returns to Brazil squad after more than two years away

Neymar has been recalled to Brazil's squad for next month's World Cup, ending more than two and a half years away from international football, named by coach Carlo Ancelotti. The 34-year-old Santos forward last played in October 2023 before suffering a serious knee injury. Brazil's all-time top scorer with 79 goals in 128 matches, he has struggled for consistency since returning to club football. Brazil open their campaign on June 13 against Morocco in New Jersey, followed by matches against Haiti and Scotland.

Animated film 'Mahaprabhu Jagannath' launches first chapter of 'Sanatan Universe'



Animated feature film 'Mahaprabhu Jagannath' is set to release across more than 300 screens in Hindi, Odia, and Telugu, marking the first chapter of the proposed 'Sanatan Universe'. The film, produced by Ele Animations Pvt. Ltd., expands the studio's Pogo channel series 'Jay Jagannath' into a theatrical experience. It explores the mythology and teachings of Lord Jagannath through vibrant animation aimed at children while remaining emotionally engaging for all ages. Creator Durga Prasad Dalai said the project aims to preserve cultural heritage through entertainment and will expand into an interconnected universe spanning films, education, music, and immersive experiences in Puri, alongside future animated stories based on Hindu deities.

Vijay Antony's 'Appa Kutty' eyeing August release as post-production wraps



Actor and filmmaker Vijay Antony's upcoming film 'Appa Kutty', directed by Mu. Maran, is reportedly targeting an August release after completing shooting and entering post-production. The film, also referred to as 'Nanna Kutty', is described as an emotional action drama centered on the bond between a father and daughter. Vijay Antony shared the first-look poster recently, calling it a story where love is shown through protection and sacrifice. The film blends action, family emotions, and intense drama, with a strong ensemble cast including Preethi Asrani and others. Vijay Antony also handles music and editing, while the team aims to deliver a commercially engaging and emotionally rich theatrical experience.

Paul McCartney turns surprise final guest as Stephen Colbert ends 'The Late Show' with star-studded farewell

Stephen Colbert closed out CBS' 'The Late Show' on Thursday night with an ambitious, emotionally charged finale that mixed comedy, music, and surreal spectacle, marking the end of its 33-year legacy. The final broadcast featured a surprise appearance by Paul McCartney, who replaced a fictional last-minute cancellation by Pope Leo XIV in a running gag. McCartney then joined Colbert on stage for a raucous performance of 'Hello, Goodbye', bringing the audience to its feet. Earlier in the show, Colbert reflected on 11 years and more than 1,800 episodes, thanking viewers for their energy and support. The episode also included appearances from Bryan Cranston, Paul Rudd, Tim Meadows, and others, while Colbert's final week featured guests like Bruce Springsteen and Steven Spielberg. The show ended with the cast and crew



flooding the stage before McCartney symbolically shut off the theater lights, capping a farewell filled with humor, nostalgia, and star power.

John Travolta says Cannes Palme d'Or honor was a complete surprise

Hollywood actor John Travolta has revealed that his Palme d'Or honor at the Cannes Film Festival came as a total surprise, saying the recognition was kept completely secret until the moment it was announced. Speaking on "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon," Travolta said even his team and Apple executives were unaware of the plan. Travolta explained that festival director Thierry Frémaux had seen his film "Propeller One-Way Night Coach" months earlier and decided to honor it in a way that had never been done before. He said the decision was made well in advance but kept under wraps, adding that he only realized the scale of the moment when he arrived at the festival. The actor said he was already grateful just to



have a film screened at Cannes, calling it a privilege. Fallon praised Travolta's humility and career legacy, while noting the emotional nature of the surprise honor, one of cinema's highest recognitions.

International Booker prize goes to Mandarin Chinese novel for the first time with Taiwan Travelogue

"Taiwan Travelogue" by Yang Shuang-z, translated by Lin King, has won the International Booker Prize, becoming the first novel originally written in Mandarin Chinese to receive the honour. The £50,000 award, shared equally between author and translator, was announced on Tuesday evening at Tate Modern in London. The novel is presented as a rediscovered memoir set in 1938 Japanese-occupied Taiwan, following a novelist on a culinary journey who falls in love with her interpreter. Judges praised its inventive structure, which blends fictional footnotes, afterwords, and translator commentary into a layered metafictional narrative. Jury chair Natasha Brown described it as both a romance and a sharp postcolonial exploration. The win marks a



second consecutive victory for independent publisher And Other Stories. The panel highlighted the book's cultural and literary significance, noting its ability to combine emotional storytelling with historical reflection. The prize celebrates the best fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Lupita Nyong'o says Christopher Nolan film introduced her to 'The Odyssey'

Lupita Nyong'o has revealed that she knew little about the Greek epic 'The Odyssey' before agreeing to star in Christopher Nolan's upcoming adaptation of the classic story. Speaking to ELLE magazine, the Oscar-winning actress said she immediately began reading Homer's work after joining the project, describing the experience as a "crash course" in Greek mythology. Nyong'o portrays

Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra in the film, which also stars Matt Damon, Tom Holland, and Anne Hathaway. She praised Nolan for involving actors in creative decisions related to costumes, makeup, and character development. Nyong'o also addressed criticism over her casting as Helen of Troy, saying the diverse cast reflects the global nature of the story and that she has no interest in defending her role against racist backlash.

Pedro Almodóvar calls on Europe to resist political pressure and censorship



Filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar has urged Europe to resist political influence from President Donald Trump, saying the continent "must never be subjected to Trump" during a Cannes press conference for his film 'Bitter Christmas'. He warned against censorship and said artists have a moral duty to speak out against political and social pressure. Almodóvar criticized silence in the creative community and called for filmmakers to defend democratic values. He also expressed concern about declining political expression in major award shows, referencing past Oscar ceremonies. The director said artists should act as a "shield" against fear and censorship, reinforcing the importance of free creative expression.

Kylie Minogue reveals second cancer diagnosis in emotional Netflix documentary



Kylie Minogue has revealed that she was diagnosed with cancer for the second time in early 2021, sharing the news publicly for the first time in a Netflix documentary released on Tuesday. The pop star, who previously battled breast cancer in 2005, said she underwent treatment privately and is now in good health. Minogue said she chose to keep the diagnosis confidential while recovering, describing it as an emotionally difficult period in which she often struggled to leave her home. She reflected on how her 2023 hit "Padam Padam" marked a creative and personal turning point during her recovery.

She also said her song "Story" reflects that chapter of her life. Minogue urged viewers to prioritize regular health checkups, emphasizing the importance of early detection. She referenced the intense media scrutiny during her first diagnosis, which led her to step back from touring, including her planned Glastonbury appearance at the time. The three-part Netflix documentary features interviews and archival moments spanning her career.

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal highlight role of film festivals ahead of New Zealand debut event



Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal will attend the launch of New Zealand's first Indian film festival, the Indian Film Festival of New Zealand, on June 2. The couple will also present their production 'Girls Will Be Girls' at the event. In a joint statement, they said film festivals are important platforms that encourage dialogue and create space for diverse storytelling. The festival, set for October 2026, will feature screenings, workshops, and cultural events across Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Founded by Petrina D'Rozario, it aims to showcase around 30 films, strengthening creative ties between India and New Zealand while amplifying South Asian voices.

Michael Bay to direct military rescue film based on Operation Epic Fury



Director Michael Bay is developing a new military drama based on Operation Epic Fury, focusing on the rescue of two United States Air Force pilots from Iran earlier this year. The project, produced with Universal Pictures, is inspired by a real-life operation involving a downed F-15E Strike Eagle. The film reunites Bay with collaborators Scott Gardenhour and Erwin Stoff from '13 Hours'. The script is being adapted from an upcoming book by Mitchell Zuckoff. The operation reportedly involved a large-scale rescue mission ordered by President Donald Trump. Bay, known for action-heavy films like 'Transformers', continues his long association with military-themed storytelling and realism-driven productions.

Karan Johar enters Gujarati cinema with 'Jindagi Once More'

Filmmaker Karan Johar's Dharma Productions is set to make its Gujarati cinema debut with "Jindagi Once More," in collaboration with Vaartakaar Films, marking a major expansion into regional storytelling. The film is scheduled for release on Thursday, June 19, 2026, and is produced by Vaasu Dholakia with Jaymin making his directorial debut. Siddharth Randeria leads the cast, with Aarti Patel in a key role.

The project reflects Dharma's growing interest in regional narratives, with CEO Apoorva Mehta saying the Gujarati industry is undergoing a creative revival and offers strong culturally rooted stories with universal appeal. Producer Vaasu Dholakia called the collaboration a milestone that validates Gujarati cinema's commercial and artistic potential.

"Jindagi Once More" is an emotional drama centered on a father-son relationship exploring identity, memory,



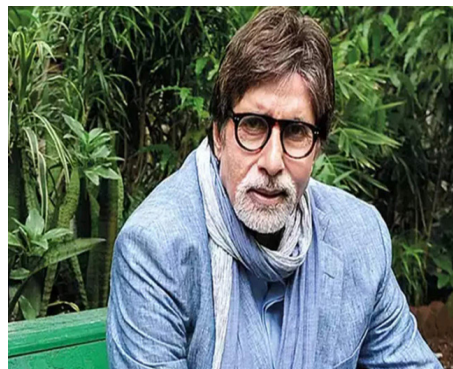
and generational distance. Written by Deep Dholakia, the film also marks his acting debut alongside Jahanvi Dhakan. Deep also contributes to the screenplay. The film aims for a theatrical launch during the Father's Day weekend.

Amitabh Bachchan begins blog with Ramcharitmanas verses amid hospital reports

Amitabh Bachchan returned to his personal blog with a reflective post beginning with verses from "Ramcharitmanas," as reports of his recent hospital visit continued to circulate. The actor had reportedly been admitted to Nanavati Hospital's VIP wing earlier for routine stomach-related checks before being discharged and returning home.

In his early morning blog entry, Bachchan opened with the line "Mangal Bhavan Amangal Haari" and followed it with a series of poetic reflections blending spiritual references, Punjabi phrases, and personal musings. He concluded the post with a message of "love, prayers and more."

The post comes amid continued public attention around his health updates, though



sources earlier clarified that his hospital visit was for routine examination. The veteran actor remains active professionally, having recently appeared in "Vettaiyan" and continuing work on "Kalki 2898 AD." He is also expected in "Ramayana: Part 1" and recently wrapped the latest season of "Kaun Banega Crorepati."

Grey's Anatomy expands universe with new Texas-set spinoff series

The "Grey's Anatomy" universe is expanding once again with a new spinoff set to premiere during the 2026-2027 broadcast season, continuing the long-running medical drama's legacy of character-driven storytelling. The untitled one-hour series shifts focus to a rural West Texas medical center, described as the last stop for care before miles of isolation.

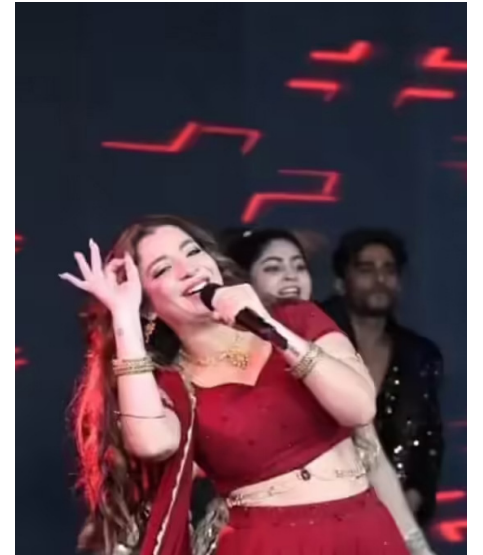
Original creator Shonda Rhimes serves as co-creator and executive producer alongside Meg Marinis, who currently runs "Grey's Anatomy." Ellen Pompeo also joins as an executive producer, with production handled by 20th Television and Shondaland. Marinis said the series will introduce new characters while maintaining the emotional core that defined the flagship show.

It remains unclear whether familiar characters from Seattle's Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital will appear. The new



project becomes the fourth spinoff in the franchise, following "Private Practice," "Station 19," and "Grey's Anatomy: B-Team," reinforcing the show's continued dominance in medical television storytelling.

Jasmine Sandlas halts Dehradun concert after barricade mishap



Singer Jasmine Sandlas stopped her performance mid-concert in Dehradun after a section of barricading near the audience collapsed, causing several attendees to fall and prompting immediate intervention. The singer paused the show, asked her internal team and security to take control, and ensured safety measures were prioritized before continuing. Witnesses said she appeared visibly concerned and urged calm while chanting prayers during the incident. Sandlas later apologized to the audience and insisted that safety be handled carefully before resuming the event. The incident briefly disrupted the concert but was brought under control without reports of serious injuries.

Mick Jagger joins star-studded cast for Alice Rohrwacher's gothic adaptation



Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger will appear alongside Dakota Johnson, Josh O'Connor, Saoirse Ronan, Jessie Buckley, and Isabella Rossellini in director Alice Rohrwacher's upcoming film "Three Incestuous Sisters". The film is adapted from Audrey Niffenegger's illustrated gothic novel and marks Rohrwacher's first English-language feature. Production is underway on the Italian island of Stromboli. The story follows three isolated sisters whose lives are disrupted by the arrival of a lighthouse keeper's son, with further plot details kept secret. Jagger has previously acted in films such as 'Performance' and 'The Burnt Orange Heresy', adding another high-profile role to his eclectic film career.



बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का पहला पड़ाव महाबोधि मंदिर, बोध गया

IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत हम आंध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश और असम के दिव्य, ऐतिहासिक और आध्यात्मिक मंदिरों की सफल यात्रा पूर्ण कर चुके हैं। इन यात्राओं ने हमें भारत की सांस्कृतिक विविधता, प्राचीन परंपराओं और गहरी आस्था से परिचित कराया।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा प्रवेश कर रही है भारत की प्राचीन ज्ञानभूमि और आध्यात्मिक धरा — बिहार में। जिस प्रकार असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश और आंध्र प्रदेश अपने प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों और धार्मिक विरासत के लिए जाने जाते हैं, उसी प्रकार बिहार भी अनेक अत्यंत पवित्र, ऐतिहासिक और विश्व प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों तथा तीर्थ स्थलों का केंद्र रहा है।

बिहार केवल भारतीय सभ्यता का ही नहीं, बल्कि विश्व की आध्यात्मिक चेतना का भी महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र रहा है। यही वह भूमि है जहाँ भगवान **Gautam Budh** को ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ, जहाँ सनातन परंपराएँ सदियों से जीवित हैं, और जहाँ श्रद्धा, मोक्ष, तपस्या

और भक्ति का अद्भुत संगम देखने को मिलता है।

इस विशेष श्रृंखला में **IndoUS Tribune** बिहार के कुछ अत्यंत पूजनीय और प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों की यात्रा करेगा। हमारी इस नई यात्रा का पहला पड़ाव होगा विश्व प्रसिद्ध महाबोधि मंदिर, बोध गया। इसके पश्चात हम प्रस्थान करेंगे विष्णुपद मंदिर, गया की ओर, जो सनातन आस्था और पितृ तर्पण की परंपरा का एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र माना जाता है।

पहला पड़ाव — महाबोधि मंदिर, बोध गया (प्रारंभिक परिचय)

बिहार के गया जिले में स्थित महाबोधि मंदिर विश्व के सबसे पवित्र बौद्ध तीर्थ स्थलों में से एक माना जाता है। यही वह पावन स्थान है जहाँ भगवान **Gautam Budh** ने कठोर तपस्या और ध्यान के पश्चात बोधि वृक्ष के नीचे ज्ञान प्राप्त किया था।

यह मंदिर केवल बौद्ध धर्म के अनुयायियों के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि सम्पूर्ण मानवता के लिए शांति, ज्ञान और आध्यात्मिक जागरण का प्रतीक है। **UNESCO**

विश्व धरोहर सूची में शामिल यह मंदिर अपनी भव्य वास्तुकला, शांत वातावरण और गहरी आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा के लिए विश्वभर में प्रसिद्ध है।

हर वर्ष लाखों श्रद्धालु, साधु-संत, पर्यटक और शोधकर्ता यहाँ पहुँचकर ध्यान, प्रार्थना और आत्मिक शांति का अनुभव करते हैं। महाबोधि मंदिर हमें यह संदेश देता है कि सत्य, करुणा, ध्यान और आत्मज्ञान ही मानव जीवन का सबसे बड़ा मार्ग है।

महाबोधि मंदिर : ज्ञान और शांति का विश्व प्रसिद्ध केंद्र

महाबोधि मंदिर बिहार के बोध गया में स्थित विश्व प्रसिद्ध धार्मिक और ऐतिहासिक स्थल है। यह वही पवित्र स्थान है जहाँ राजकुमार सिद्धार्थ ने कठिन तपस्या और गहन ध्यान के बाद ज्ञान प्राप्त किया और **Gautam Budh** बने। इसी कारण यह स्थान दुनिया भर के बौद्ध श्रद्धालुओं के लिए सबसे बड़ा तीर्थ माना जाता है।

मान्यता है कि लगभग 531 ईसा पूर्व भगवान **Gautam Budh** ने बोधि वृक्ष के नीचे ध्यान करते हुए सत्य और ज्ञान की प्राप्ति की थी। इसके बाद यह स्थान पूरी दुनिया में शांति, करुणा और आध्यात्मिक जागृति का प्रतीक बन गया।

महाबोधि मंदिर का इतिहास अत्यंत प्राचीन है। माना जाता है कि सम्राट अशोक ने तीसरी शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व इस पवित्र स्थल पर सबसे पहला मंदिर बनवाया था। वर्तमान मंदिर का मुख्य ढाँचा गुप्त काल में पाँचवीं-छठी शताब्दी के दौरान निर्मित हुआ, जो आज भी अपनी भव्यता और मजबूती के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। यह भारत के सबसे पुराने ईंटों से बने मंदिरों में गिना जाता है।

मंदिर परिसर में स्थित पवित्र बोधि वृक्ष विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र है। श्रद्धालुओं का विश्वास है कि यह वृक्ष उसी मूल बोधि वृक्ष की वंश परंपरा से जुड़ा हुआ है जिसके नीचे भगवान **Gautam Budh** को ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ था। भक्त यहाँ बैठकर ध्यान करते हैं और मानसिक शांति का अनुभव करते हैं।

मंदिर परिसर में 'वज्रासन' भी स्थित है, जिसे 'डायमंड

श्रोन' कहा जाता है। मान्यता है कि यही वह स्थान है जहाँ भगवान **Budh** ध्यान में बैठे थे। इसके अतिरिक्त मंदिर परिसर में वे सभी स्थान आज भी सुरक्षित हैं जहाँ भगवान **Budh** ने ज्ञान प्राप्ति के बाद सात सप्ताह तक ध्यान और साधना की थी।

महाबोधि मंदिर की वास्तुकला भी बेहद आकर्षक है। लगभग 55 मीटर ऊँचा मुख्य शिखर दूर से ही दिखाई देता है। इसके चारों ओर छोटे-छोटे शिखर बने हुए हैं जो इसकी सुंदरता को और बढ़ाते हैं। मंदिर के चारों तरफ प्राचीन पत्थरों की नक्काशी और रेलिंग इसकी ऐतिहासिक विरासत को दर्शाती हैं।

यह मंदिर केवल धार्मिक महत्व ही नहीं रखता, बल्कि पूरी दुनिया को शांति और मानवता का संदेश भी देता है। भारत सहित श्रीलंका, थाईलैंड, जापान, चीन, तिब्बत, म्यांमार और अन्य देशों से लाखों श्रद्धालु हर वर्ष यहाँ दर्शन करने आते हैं।

महाबोधि मंदिर प्रतिदिन सुबह लगभग 5 बजे से रात 9 बजे तक श्रद्धालुओं के लिए खुला रहता है। नवंबर से फरवरी तक का समय यहाँ आने के लिए सबसे अच्छा माना जाता है, जबकि बुद्ध पूर्णिमा के अवसर पर यहाँ विशेष उत्सव और धार्मिक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाते हैं।

समापन परिचय

महाबोधि मंदिर की यह यात्रा हमें आत्मिक शांति, ध्यान और आध्यात्मिक जागृति का अनमोल अनुभव कराती है। बोध गया की पवित्र धरती आज भी भगवान **Gautam Budh** के ज्ञान, करुणा और मानवता के संदेश को पूरे विश्व में प्रसारित कर रही है।

IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' का बिहार अध्याय हमें यह अनुभव कराता है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक विरासत केवल पूजा तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि मानव कल्याण, शांति और ज्ञान की अनंत धारा है।

अब हमारी यह दिव्य यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी गया स्थित प्रसिद्ध विष्णुपद मंदिर की ओर, जहाँ सनातन परंपरा, पितृ श्राद्ध और भगवान विष्णु की महिमा का अद्भुत संगम हमारा इंतजार कर रहा है।



बाल्मीकि रामायण में छिपे कुछ विरले प्रसंग

क्या रावण सीताजी को पूर्व जन्म में भी मिल चुका था ?



वाल्मीकि रामायण के अनुसार उपरोक्त प्रश्न का उत्तर है, हाँ, रामचरितमानस में इस प्रसंग का कोई विवरण नहीं है। लेकिन वाल्मीकि रामायण के उत्तर काण्ड के सत्रवहें सर्ग में इसका उल्लेख विस्तार से है। इस सर्ग में ऋषि अगस्त्य एक कथा सुना रहे हैं, जिसका प्रसंग रावण का युवाकाल है। इस कथा के अनुसार, एक बार, रावण अपनी युवावस्था में हिमालय के आसपास विचरण कर रहा था। वहाँ पर एक परम तेजस्विनी कन्या, जिसने अपने शरीर पर, काले रंग का मृगचर्म पहना हुआ था, तपस्या में लीन थी। उस तपस्विनी का रूप सौंदर्य अप्रतिम था। जब रावण की दृष्टि उस रूप सुंदरी पर पड़ी, तो वह उसे पाने को, आतुर हो उठा। उस पर कामजनित मोह हावी हो गया। उस कन्या का नाम था, वेदवती।

**स दृष्टा रूपसम्पन्नां कन्यां तां सुमहाव्रताम् ।
काममोहपरीतात्मा पप्रच्छ प्रहसन्निव ॥ ३ ॥**

वह उसके निकट जाकर उपदेश देने लगा। हे परम सुंदरी, इस युवावस्था में इतना घोर तप ? यह तुम्हारे लिए उचित नहीं है। तुम्हारा रूप सौंदर्य अति दिव्य है। तुम्हें तो युवा पुरुषों के मनो पर राज करना चाहिए।

**कस्यासि किमिदं भद्रे कश्च भर्ता वरानने । येन
सम्भुद्भ्यसे भीरु स नरः पुण्यभाग्युभि ॥ ६ ॥**

हे सुमुखी अपना परिचय दो। तुम किसकी पुत्री हो ? तुम यह इतना कठोर व्रत क्यों कर रही हो ? क्या कोई पुरुष तुम्हारा पति है ? इस तपस्या के माध्यम से तुम क्या पाना चाहती हो ?

यह सब देख सुनकर, वेदवती ने उठकर अतिथि का आदर सत्कार किया। बैठने के लिए उचित आसन दिया, और बोली:

**कुशध्वज नाम पिता ब्रह्मर्षिरमितपभः । ब्रुहस्पतिसुतः
श्रीमान्बुद्ध्या तुल्यो बृहस्पतेः ॥ ८ ॥
तस्याहं कुवतो नित्यं वेदाभ्यासं महात्मनः सम्भूता
वाङ्मयी कन्या नाम्ना वेदवती स्मता ॥ ९ ॥**

महाराज, मैं ऋषि कुशध्वज की पुत्री हूँ, जोकि देवगुरु बृहस्पति के पुत्र थे। उन्हीं के समान बुद्धिमान एवं ऋषि

समाज में पूजे जाते थे। मेरा नाम वेदवती है। जब मैं बड़ी हुई, तो बहुत सारे देव, गंधर्व और यक्ष आदि मेरे पिता से मेरा हाथ माँगने आए, तो पिता ने सबको साफ मना कर दिया। मुझे तप आदि की शिक्षा दीक्षा दे, एक शुद्ध बुद्ध तपस्विनी बनाने में लगे रहे। मेरे पिता मुझे किसी देव या यक्ष के हाथ इसलिए नहीं सौंपना चाहते थे कि, उनके मन में, मेरे लिए एक विशेष दामाद की मनोकामना थी। वह मेरा विवाह, जगदपति विष्णु से करवाना चाहते थे। यह बात, जब उस समय के महा अभिमानी दैत्यराज शम्भु को पता चली, तो वह कुपित हो उठा।

**तेन रात्रौ शयाने मे पिता पापेन हिंसितः ॥ १४ ॥
ततो मे जननी दीना तच्छरीरं पितुर्मम । परिष्वज्य
महाभागा प्रविष्टा हव्यवाहनम् ॥ १५ ॥**

उस कुपित दैत्यराज ने रात को सोते हुए, मेरे पिता की हत्या कर दी। इससे मेरी माँ को बहुत दुख हुआ। और वह भी पिता के साथ चिता अग्नि में समाहित हो गई। और मैं अकेली रह गई। सबसे मैंने यह प्रतिज्ञा कर ली कि, मैं घोर तपस्या कर, पिता की मनोवांछा को पूरा करने का प्रयास करूँगी। अगर मेरा विवाह होगा तो, केवल त्रिलोकपति विष्णु से ही होगा, अन्यथा विवाह ही नहीं होगा। इसीलिए हे राजन, मैं यह विकट तपस्या कर रही हूँ।

उस कन्या की इतनी सुलझी हुई बातें सुनकर रावण, उसे पाने को, और भी अधीर हो उठा। बड़े अभिमान के साथ बोला, हे सुंदरी, तुम मुझे नहीं जानती। मैं अति बलशाली एवं समृद्ध राजा हूँ। मेरी बात पर ध्यान दो। यह तप आदि काम बूढ़ी स्त्रियों को शोभा देते हैं, तुम जैसी यौवना को नहीं। तुम जैसी सौंदर्या को मेरे जैसे राजा के साथ भोग विलास करना चाहिए।

**अहं लंकापतिमद्र दशग्रीव इति श्रुतः तस्य मे भवभार्या
त्वं भंक्ष्व भोगान्यथासुखम् ॥ २३ ॥**

सुनो सुमुखि, मैं लंकापति का महाराज दशग्रीव हूँ। तुम मेरी पत्नी बन जाओ और सुख पूर्वक उत्तम भोगों को भोगते हुए, जीवन का आनन्द उठाओ। क्या तुम जानती हो कि, जिसे तुम त्रिलोकनाथ या नारायण कहती हो, वह हैं कौन ? क्या वह विष्णु महाराज, बल और पराक्रम में

मेरी समानता कर सकते हैं ? क्या कभी तुमने उन्हें देखा है ? क्या वह मेरे समान वैभवशाली हैं ? वेदवती रावण की, अभिमानी बातें सुन कर थोड़ा घबरा सी गई। रावण से बोली, नहीं, मैंने उन्हें देखा तो नहीं, लेकिन मैं नारायण के सिवाय किसी और के बारे में, सोच भी नहीं सकती। नारायण इस विश्व के अधिपति हैं। सारा संसार उनकी आराधना करता है। वह सर्वगुण सम्पन्न हैं। मेरे पिता मेरे लिए गलत नहीं हो सकते। मैं उसी विष्णु की हूँ, और उन्हीं की हो कर रहूँगी।

**ततो वेदवती कुब्जा केशान्दस्तेन साच्छिनत । असिभूत्वा
करस्तस्याः केशरिच्छन्नास्तदा करोत ॥
सा ज्वलन्तीव रोषेण दहन्तीव निशाचरम् । उवाचाग्निं
समाधाय मरणाथ कृतत्वरा ॥ २९ ॥**

वेदवती की यह बातें सुनकर रावण को बड़ा क्रोध आया। उसने वेदवती को बालों से पकड़ कर झिंझोड़ दिया और फिर अपनी तलवार से उसके केश काट डाले। अब वेदवती रोष से, रौद्र रूप में आ गई। क्रोध से हुँकारते हुए बोली, हे नीच राक्षस, तूने ये मेरा तिरस्कार किया। तूने मुझे कुरूप बनाने का प्रयास किया ? मैं तेरे हाथ कभी नहीं आऊँगी। मुझे तो अब यह मेरा शरीर ही, अपवित्र लगने लगा है। मुझे इस जीवन का मोह नहीं रह गया। मैं अभी, तेरे सम्मुख अग्नि में प्रवेश करने जा रही हूँ। लेकिन जाने से पहले तुम्हें चेतावनी देना चाहती हूँ कि, अगले जन्म में, फिर तुमसे मिलूँगी और इस दुष्टता के लिए, तुम्हारी मृत्यु का कारण बनूँगी।

**यस्मात् धर्षिता चाहं त्वया पापात्मना वने । तस्मात्तव
वधार्थं हि समुत्पत्यत्वहं पुनः ॥ ३१ ॥
नहि शक्यः स्त्रिया हन्तुं पुरुषा पाप निश्चयः । शापे त्वयि
मयेच्छेते तपसश्च च्यवो भवेत् ॥ ३२ ॥**

तुझ जैसी पापात्मा ने मेरा अपमान किया है। एक स्त्री शारीरिक शक्ति से, तेरे जैसे पापाचारी का अंत नहीं कर सकती। अगर मैं तुम्हें श्राप दूँ तो, मेरी तपस्या का फल क्षीण हो जाएगा। इसलिए बस इतना ही कहूँगी कि, अभी मैं जा रही हूँ, और जल्द ही अगले जन्म में प्रगट हो, तुझ से जल्द ही मिलूँगी। यह कह वेदवती अग्नि में समा गई, और चारों तरफ से पुष्पों की वर्षा होने लगी। इस प्रकार सीता धरती में विलीन हो गई।

एक दिन राजा जनक अपने महल के पास हल चला रहे थे, तो हल धरती में किसी चीज से टकराया, तो वहाँ एक कन्या प्रगट हुई। इस कन्या को पहले भूमिजा कहा गया। जिसका अर्थ है, भूमि से जन्म लेने वाली। बाद में माता पिता ने उसका नाम सीता रखा। आगे चल कर इसी सीता का स्वयंवर हुआ, जिसमें अयोध्या नरेश रामजी ने स्वयंवर की शर्त पूरी कर, सीता को वरण किया। अयोध्या पहुँच, सीता जी को एक और परीक्षा से गुजरना पड़ा। रामजी को पिता की आज्ञा अनुसार, चौदह वर्ष के लिए वनवास जाना पड़ा। सीताजी भी पति के साथ वनों में पहुँच गईं। वहीं एक बार फिर रावण ने सीता के सौंदर्य की चर्चा पुनः सुनी, और उसका मन उसे पाने के लिए अधीर हो उठा। उसने मारीच की सहायता से पंचवटी से, सीता का अपहरण कर लिया और उसे लँका ले आया।

अब तक सीता का एक मनोरथ, त्रिलोकपति नारायण (रामजी) को पति रूप में पाना, पूरा हो चुका था। लेकिन दूसरा मनोरथ, लंकापति की मृत्यु का कारण बनना अभी शेष था। रामजी ने रावण को कई शान्ति प्रस्ताव भेजे, लेकिन रावण नहीं माना। रावण ने सीता को अपनी पटरानी बनाने के भी कई प्रलोभन दिए, लेकिन सीता ने उसकी एक नहीं मानी। अंततः रामजी ने अपनी पत्नी को पाने के लिए रावण से युद्ध किया। और इस प्रकार सीता उसकी मृत्यु का कारण बनीं। यह था वाल्मीकि रामायण में छिपा एक और विरला प्रसंग, जिसकी चर्चा कहीं और नहीं मिलती।

जय श्री राम



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Avinash Rai Khanna accuses Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann of giving Pakistan a clean chit to malign BJP

Senior BJP leader predicts massive anti-incumbency wave against AAP in Punjab during explosive interview with Dr. Avi Verma.

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

In a sharp and politically charged interview with Dr. Avi Verma, Publisher of IndoUS Tribune, senior BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Avinash Rai Khanna accused Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of “giving a clean chit to Pakistan” in an attempt to politically target the BJP ahead of upcoming elections in Punjab.

Khanna, who is also a former Punjab BJP President, member of the BJP National Executive Committee, and currently overseeing BJP’s Batala Municipal and Corporation election strategy, launched a fierce attack on the AAP government, describing Punjab as a state suffering from “failed governance, fear, corruption, and political revenge.”

Referring to the recent blasts near BSF installations in Jalandhar and Amritsar, Khanna strongly criticized Bhagwant Mann for publicly suggesting that the BJP was trying to create fear ahead of elections.

“Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav clearly pointed toward Pakistan-backed ISI involvement in these attacks, yet Bhagwant Mann chose to blame BJP instead,” Khanna said during the interview. “This is extremely irresponsible. The Chief Minister of a border state is indirectly giving a clean chit to Pakistan just to tarnish BJP’s image in Punjab.”

Khanna called the remarks dangerous and politically motivated, saying national



security should never become a tool for electoral politics. “The BJP strongly condemns these statements. At a time when security agencies are warning about cross-border threats, the Punjab Chief Minister is busy playing political games,” he added.

The interview quickly turned aggressive as Khanna accused the Bhagwant Mann government of betraying the people of Punjab through false promises and weak

administration. “AAP promised to end the drug problem within one month after coming to power. That promise completely failed,” Khanna stated.

“Women were promised Rs.1000 per month. That promise remains unfulfilled. Thousands of fake insurance cards were distributed that major hospitals refuse to accept.” Khanna also targeted the state’s law-and-order situation, claiming fear and insecurity have spread across Punjab.

“No one feels safe in Punjab today,” he said. “Police stations are attacked, BJP offices are attacked, and there is no accountability. This is not democracy — this is goonda raj.”

Discussing the upcoming 2027 Assembly elections, Khanna claimed a major anti-incumbency wave is building not only in Punjab but across several states. “The Modi wave is growing again,” he said confidently. “BJP is expected to retain power in states like Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Manipur, while making major gains in Punjab and West Bengal.” Khanna also accused the ruling AAP government of attempting to manipulate municipal elections in Batala, where he is overseeing BJP’s campaign efforts. “In Batala’s 50 wards, BJP candidates were not even allowed to file nominations in five wards,” he alleged. “Out of the remaining wards, 22 BJP nominations were rejected. This is the kind of dirty politics AAP is playing to steal municipal elections.”

He further stated that BJP, under the leadership of Punjab BJP President Sunil Jakhar, is preparing a strong voter-focused campaign with qualified candidates and a development-oriented manifesto. “The people of Punjab are frustrated and angry,” Khanna said. “They want law and order, development, jobs, and honest governance. BJP will emerge as a strong force in Punjab.” He concluded that, after witnessing the success of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s double-engine government model, voters in Punjab now clearly recognize the need for a similar double-engine government in their own state.



Friday, 22 May 2026

Gun violence in America

A growing crisis that demands action

● By: Ashwani Mahajan

Gun violence has become one of the most serious social and public safety challenges facing the United States today. Every year, nearly 44,000 people lose their lives due to gun-related incidents in America. These deaths include murders, suicides, domestic violence incidents, gang shootings, and mass shootings that continue to shock the nation. The issue of gun violence in the United States is not caused by a single factor. It is a complex and deeply rooted problem involving easy access to firearms, social conditions, crime, mental health issues, weak enforcement gaps, and political divisions over gun control laws.

The United States today has more civilian-owned guns than people. This widespread availability of firearms increases the chances that ordinary conflicts, arguments, domestic disputes, or criminal activities can quickly become deadly. According to reports, nearly 76 percent of murders in the U.S. involve firearms.

Violence exists in many countries around the world, but in America, it is far more likely to turn fatal because guns are so easily accessible.

Experts also point to economic and social conditions as major contributors to gun violence. Poverty, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, and social inequality create environments where crime and violence grow. Certain communities experience higher rates of shootings due to economic stress, gang conflicts, and drug-related activities.

Many shootings in America are connected to gang violence, illegal drug trade, and revenge attacks. While these incidents may target specific individuals or groups, innocent bystanders often become victims as well.

Mental health and emotional crises also play a major role in gun-related deaths. A large percentage of gun deaths in America are actually suicides. Studies show that nearly 62 percent of gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides. Feelings of depression, anger, emotional isolation, and severe stress often lead individuals to use firearms against themselves or others.

Domestic violence is another major factor behind gun-related tragedies. Family disputes and intimate partner violence become far more deadly when firearms are present inside homes.

America also has a unique gun culture. For many citizens, gun ownership is closely tied to personal freedom, self-defense, and constitutional rights protected under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This creates intense political disagreement whenever stricter gun regulations are proposed.

Gun laws also vary from state to state, making nationwide enforcement difficult.



Some states have strict laws, while others have more relaxed regulations, allowing loopholes that can be exploited by traffickers and criminals.

Although illegal guns are already banned under U.S. law, the real challenge lies in enforcement and supply control. Fully automatic weapons, guns owned by convicted felons, trafficked firearms, and illegally modified weapons are already prohibited. Agencies like the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) actively work to enforce these laws.

However, many illegal guns originally begin as legal purchases. Guns often enter illegal markets through theft, straw purchasing, and unregulated private sales. Once firearms move through secondary markets, tracking them becomes extremely difficult.

The scale of gun ownership in America



also creates major enforcement challenges. With hundreds of millions of firearms already in circulation, any effort to impose strict bans or confiscation would face enormous legal, logistical, and political resistance.

Mass shootings receive the most media attention, but they represent only a small portion of overall gun deaths. Many innocent people lose their lives simply because they happen to be in public places during shootings, become caught in gang violence, or are victims of impulsive acts of anger and violence.

Another concern is the impact of extensive media coverage. Some experts believe repeated exposure to violent incidents may encourage copycat behavior, especially among emotionally disturbed individuals and vulnerable youth.

The gun violence crisis in America

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EXPERTS ALSO POINT TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO GUN VIOLENCE. POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, LACK OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY CREATE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE CRIME AND VIOLENCE GROW.

clearly shows that the problem cannot be solved through a single law or policy. It requires a balanced and comprehensive approach involving stronger enforcement, responsible gun ownership, mental health support, community development, better education, anti-crime measures, and bipartisan political cooperation.

Gun violence is not only a law enforcement issue — it is also a social, emotional, economic, and public health challenge. Until America addresses the root causes along with responsible firearm regulation, innocent lives will continue to be lost every year

AIANA's third Asian Heritage Fest celebrates diversity, culture, and community spirit in Naperville



By: Dr. Avi Verma

The third annual Asian Heritage Fest organized by the Alliance of Indian Americans of Naperville Area (AIANA) turned into a vibrant celebration of culture, diversity, and community spirit as hundreds gathered in Naperville on May 16, 2026, to celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Led by AIANA President Madhu Uppal, the festival showcased the rich traditions, food, music, and artistic heritage of several Asian countries while promoting unity and cultural understanding within the community.

The event was honored by the presence of Somnath Ghosh and Bill Foster, who joined residents and community leaders in celebrating the growing cultural diversity of the Naperville area.

Country booths representing India, China, the Philippines, and Korea attracted visitors with interactive cultural displays and educational activities. Food vendors including China Station, Padi House, Tandoor Hut, and Chicago



Nightingales offered authentic regional cuisine that drew enthusiastic crowds throughout the evening.

The festival also featured colorful performances representing China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Russia, and

the Philippines, highlighting traditional music and dance forms from across Asia. Free Mehndi art by Tanya Sood added a festive touch, while the energetic dhol performance by Jaslyn Singh had attendees dancing as the celebration concluded on a high note.

Several elected officials and community leaders also participated in the event, including John Leach, Shweta Baid, Ashfaq Syed, Michelle Mussman, DuPage County Board members Lucy Chang Evans and Yeena Yoo, Oakbrook Village Trustee Dr. Suresh Reddy, and Bolingbrook Village Trustee Bhavini Patel.



Community organizations and leaders supporting the event included Krishna Bansal of Indian Community Outreach, Nancy Chen of Chinese American Women in Action, Erica Wood of Frye Family YMCA, and Nina Menis of KidsMatter.

Organizers described the event as another successful step toward strengthening multicultural understanding and community collaboration in the western suburbs of Chicago. The celebration was made possible through a SECA grant provided by the City of Naperville.

Photos for the event were provided by Ramesh Punatar.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi named Ranking Member of key House Intelligence Subcommittee

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Raja Krishnamoorthi has been appointed Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on the National Intelligence Enterprise, a major leadership role overseeing several of the nation's top intelligence and national security agencies. Krishnamoorthi, a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, will help oversee the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), FBI intelligence operations, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Treasury Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and intelligence divisions operating across the federal government.

In his new position, the Illinois Congressman said he would focus on strengthening national security oversight while protecting constitutional freedoms and civil liberties. "As Ranking Member of the National Intelligence Enterprise Subcommittee, I will work to ensure our intelligence agencies are prepared to confront the growing threats posed by foreign adversaries, cyberattacks, espionage, terrorism, and transnational criminal organizations," Krishnamoorthi stated. He also emphasized the importance of congressional oversight and



accountability in intelligence operations.

"Congress has a responsibility to conduct rigorous oversight of the Trump Administration, strengthen our national security capabilities, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively and responsibly," he said. "At the same time, we must

safeguard the constitutional rights and civil liberties that define our democracy." The appointment places Krishnamoorthi in a prominent role within Congress at a time when national security concerns, cybersecurity threats, global geopolitical tensions, and foreign intelligence activities continue to remain central issues in

Washington. Krishnamoorthi has previously been active on issues involving technology security, international affairs, economic competitiveness, and oversight investigations. His leadership role is expected to further elevate his influence on intelligence and national security policy debates in Congress.

Ancient Indian wisdom finds a home in Chicago

International University of Vedic Wellness promotes Vedic sciences in the U.S.

By: Ashwani Mahajan

At a time when increasing stress, anxiety, lifestyle disorders, and mental health challenges are affecting communities across the United States, an institution in the Chicago suburbs is working to revive the ancient Indian knowledge systems of wellness and holistic living. The International University of Vedic Wellness (IUVW), founded in 2021 by Dr. Santosh Kumar in Streamwood, Illinois, has emerged as a unique center dedicated to promoting Vedic sciences, Ayurveda, Yoga, Indian philosophy, and Sanatan Dharma-based wellness education in America.

Established with the vision of preserving

and spreading India's ancient spiritual and scientific heritage, the university seeks to combine traditional Vedic wisdom with modern research and practical application. According to the institution, its mission is to create awareness about conscious living, universal harmony, and holistic well-being through education rooted in the Vedas.

Located in the Greater Chicago area, the campus features lecture halls, a Vedic library, museum facilities, and a Panchakarma and wellness center aimed at offering transformative healing experiences through traditional Indian methods. The university offers academic and research-oriented programs in Ayurveda, Yoga, Vedic Studies, Indian arts and culture, and wellness



sciences. Organizers say the institution is not merely focused on academic instruction, but also on personal transformation and character development.

"Our philosophy is simple — where there is harmony, there is health; where there is disharmony, there is disease," said Dr. Santosh Kumar while explaining the guiding principles behind the institution. He emphasized that Vedic wellness provides a bridge between ancient traditions and modern scientific understanding, especially at a time when many Americans are seeking alternatives that focus on prevention, mental peace, and balanced living rather than symptom-based treatment alone.

University leaders believe that Vedic sciences have growing relevance in today's world, particularly in the United States, where fast-paced lifestyles, social isolation, chronic illnesses, and emotional stress continue to rise. Through disciplines such as Yoga, Ayurveda,

meditation, disciplined living, and spiritual awareness, the university hopes to promote healthier and more meaningful lifestyles.

The institution's long-term vision is to establish itself as a globally recognized center of excellence in Vedic education and research, contributing toward human well-being by integrating ancient Indian wisdom with contemporary approaches to health and wellness. Officials at the university say students are encouraged not only to learn Vedic philosophy but also to apply it within their communities by becoming ambassadors of healing, balance, and cultural understanding. As holistic wellness continues to gain acceptance across mainstream American society, institutions like the International University of Vedic Wellness are helping introduce ancient Indian knowledge traditions to a wider global audience while preserving the spiritual and cultural legacy of Sanatan Dharma.



Thousands expected as Ludhiana's Shri Balaji Hanuman Temple prepares for grand 22nd Foundation Day celebrations



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Devotion, spiritual fervor, and large-scale preparations are underway at Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankat Mochan Shri Hanuman Mandir, Joshi Nagar Dham, Haibowal, as the temple prepares to celebrate its 22nd Foundation Day on May 27 with grand religious ceremonies, devotional music, and community service activities. Temple management announced that thousands of devotees from Punjab and neighboring states are expected to attend the annual celebration, which has grown into one of the city's major spiritual gatherings dedicated to Shri Balaji Maharaj.

Temple leadership, including president Aman Jain, chairman Rishi Jain, and vice president Anuj Madan, said the event reflects the unwavering faith devotees place in Shri Balaji Maharaj, whom they described as a divine source of strength and relief during difficult times. According to organizers, the celebration will feature elaborate decorations, uninterrupted langar service, devotional singing, special offerings, and religious rituals. Renowned devotional singers, including Punjabi artist Roshan Prince and local bhajan singers, are expected to perform



during the spiritual gathering. A major attraction during the celebrations will be the temple's illuminated complex and the widely revered giant idol of Shri Balaji Maharaj, which draws devotees throughout the year. Organizers stated that special arrangements are being made to ensure smooth crowd management and devotee convenience. More than 300 volunteers and sevadars have been assigned responsibilities ranging from langar

service and prasadam distribution to crowd control, water service, stage management, and religious offerings. Temple officials emphasized that discipline, humility, and respectful service toward devotees remain central to the event.

As part of the celebrations, 51 fortunate devotees will also receive silver images of Shri Balaji Maharaj through a special

draw during the foundation day event. Devotees attending the function will have the opportunity to participate by submitting their names and contact details at the temple premises. Over the past several days, temple representatives have conducted an extensive invitation campaign across Ludhiana, inviting religious leaders, political representatives, social workers, and prominent citizens to participate in the celebrations. Several community leaders praised the temple for promoting Sanatan Dharma, social harmony, and community service through its regular religious and charitable activities.

The organizers also paid tribute to late Ashok Jain, remembered as the inspirational force behind the temple's growth and spiritual mission. Temple leaders said the annual foundation day continues to carry forward his vision of devotion, faith, and service to society.

Temple management noted that the Siddh Peeth has become widely known for devotees' belief that sincere prayers and seven consecutive "chowkis" at the shrine help fulfill wishes and bring relief from hardships — a faith that continues to attract large numbers of worshippers every Tuesday.

The celebrations are expected to conclude with collective prayers, bhajans, and blessings for peace, prosperity, and community unity.



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JAGRAN

OR CHOWKI

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Protect your vision, protect your life

IndoUS Tribune launches special eye care awareness series



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The eyes are among the most precious gifts of human life. Through vision, people experience the beauty of nature, recognize loved ones, read, work, drive, learn, and stay connected to the world around them. Healthy eyesight is essential not only for daily living, but also for independence, confidence, mental well-being, education, and overall quality of life.

Yet millions of people worldwide silently suffer from eye diseases that often develop gradually and without pain. Many serious eye conditions show little or no warning signs in their early stages. By the time symptoms appear, permanent vision damage may already have occurred. The encouraging news is that many eye

diseases can be prevented, controlled, or treated if detected early.

Recognizing the growing importance of vision care in today's fast-paced digital world, IndoUS Tribune Health Corner is launching a special educational series focused on eye care and major eye diseases. Over the coming weeks, the series will feature easy-to-understand articles on some of the most common and vision-threatening conditions affecting children, adults, and seniors.

What readers will learn

- ▶ Early warning signs of eye diseases
- ▶ Risk factors and prevention strategies
- ▶ Available treatments and surgical options
- ▶ Lifestyle habits that support healthy vision

- ▶ The importance of regular eye examinations

Topics covered in the special series

- Common age- and lifestyle-related eye conditions
- ▶ Aging and the eye
 - ▶ Digital eye strain and screen fatigue
 - ▶ Dry eye syndrome
 - ▶ Cataracts
 - ▶ Floaters and flashes
 - ▶ Eye allergies

Serious vision-threatening diseases

- ▶ Glaucoma: symptoms, risks, and treatment
- ▶ Diabetic retinopathy
- ▶ Macular degeneration
- ▶ Retinal detachment
- ▶ Retinal vein occlusion
- ▶ Retinitis pigmentosa

Cornea and surface disorders

- ▶ Cornea care and protection
- ▶ Keratoconus: symptoms and care
- ▶ Corneal ulcers and infections
- ▶ Cornea transplant
- ▶ Corneal endothelial transplant
- ▶ Fuchs' dystrophy: symptoms and treatment
- ▶ Blepharitis

Children's eye health

- ▶ Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- ▶ Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- ▶ Childhood vision problems
- ▶ Myopia (nearsightedness) in children

Other important eye health issues

- ▶ Eye injuries and emergency care
- ▶ LASIK and vision correction surgery
- ▶ Eye pressure and optic nerve damage
- ▶ Nutrition for healthy eyes
- ▶ Contact lens safety
- ▶ Preventing blindness
- ▶ Importance of routine eye exams

In a world increasingly shaped by excessive screen time, diabetes, stress, pollution, and aging populations, eye care can no longer be overlooked. Vision loss affects individuals not only physically, but also emotionally, socially, and financially. Awareness and early diagnosis remain the strongest tools in protecting eyesight.

Through this special series, IndoUS Tribune aims to provide reliable and practical health information that empowers families and communities to take proactive steps toward lifelong eye health. Because protecting your vision today can help preserve your independence tomorrow.

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: SHOULD YOU BUY MUNIS?

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread +2.7% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 63 (greed)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 47.74% (negative)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 44.20% (negative)

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

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

INTEREST RATES

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 3.82%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 4.09%, 5-yr 4.26%,
 10-yr 4.59%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.12%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.56%, 10-yr 2.10%,
 30-yr 2.81%
 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 57.01 (greed)

Weekly ETFs: INDA -3.71%, INDY -3.00%,
 EPI -3.68%, INDH -2.09%



| SPY +0.21%

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

PHARMA. Japanese KM Biologics (a unit of Meiji Seika Pharma Co) will have technical collaboration with Serum Institute of India to initially develop & produce Japanese encephalitis vaccine. The collaboration may be expanded in future.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

ORBITAL DATACENTERS are the latest developments that combine space & AI/datacenter technologies. Satellites in SSO (sun-synchronous orbit) & LEO (low-earth-orbit) orbits are used. There are high costs associated with satellite launches, datacenter equipment & data transmission networks.

Datacenters are power hogs, but in space, they can tap unlimited solar power. With lot of computing done on board, the load on data transmission systems is reduced. But

equipment servicing poses challenges.

Several companies are involved in the related developments: Amazon/AMZN, Blue Origin, Google/GOOGL, Nvidia/NVDA, OpenAI, Pixxel (India-US), Sarvam (India), SpaceX, Starcloud & several startups. A notable Indian effort is the partnership between Pixxel (for satellites) & Sarvam (for AI infrastructure). Space is the next frontier critical for defense, science & technology. India cannot afford to wait & depend on technology transfer later.

SPECIAL TOPIC - SHOULD YOU BUY MUNIS?

Munis are a small segment of the bond market. It's a market dominated by retail investors.

Munis are attractive for high income investors. The muni income is exempt from federal taxes. In addition, state/local munis are exempt from state/local taxes. There are state muni funds for high tax states. States typically disallow exemptions for national muni funds unless they have high % of income from that state munis.

Some munis such as from Puerto Rico (PR) are exempt from all state/local taxes. That's why PR bonds are found in many national & state muni funds.

Equivalent Taxable Yield = Muni Yield / (1 - f - s), where f is the federal tax rate in fractions (e.g. for top federal tax rate 37% in 2025, f = 0.37) & s is the state tax in fractions (top CA rate is 13.3% in 2025, so s = 0.133). For high income earners in CA in 2025, the equivalent taxable yield = 1.99 x muni yield.

For investors in middle tax brackets, the decision to buy munis is based on additional factors: (i) muni

interest is excluded from some MAGI calculations & that may affect some other benefits, (ii) muni prices may be more attractive than their tax-exempt features would justify, so there may be potential for capital gains (CGs), (iii) munis are less interest sensitive because foreigners aren't interested in munis.

Brokerages & fund firms don't allow munis in IRAs (normally, it wouldn't make sense), but after sharp muni selloffs, some who want to buy munis or muni CEFs for CGs in IRAs must get special permissions. There are times when muni yields may be almost comparable to Treasury yields.

Munis can be government-obligations (GOs) or revenue-bonds supported by specific projects or facilities (airports, hospitals, highways, universities, special industrial or housing developments).

In order to promote industrial or housing developments in their communities, some municipalities may raise funds for use by private companies or developers by issuing revenue-bonds at lower interest rates than the companies or developers may get on their own. The municipality has minimal risks & investors may believe that such projects are more sound financially or worthy of support. This type of muni financing may come with local incentives such as tax increment financing (TIF).

Muni ETFs include SUB, ITM, MUB, VTEB;
 CEFs NAD, NDMO, NEA, NVG, NZF, NMCO;
 HY muni ETFs HYD, HYMB;
 HY muni CEFs NMZ.

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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White jeans are redefining denim as a year-round fashion essential

White jeans are no longer confined to summer wardrobes. They have become a year-round fashion essential, embraced by designers, stylists, and street style stars as a modern alternative to classic blue denim. What was once considered a seasonal piece has now evolved into a versatile foundation that works across spring, summer, fall, and even winter styling.

Originally popularized in the 1960s by style icons such as Françoise Hardy and Jane Birkin, white denim has made a strong comeback on runways and in contemporary collections. Today, it is being reinterpreted in nearly every silhouette



imaginable, reflecting how far denim design has come. Straight-leg white jeans remain a timeless favorite, offering a clean, minimal look that pairs effortlessly with everything from crisp shirts to casual knits. Wide-leg styles are gaining momentum for their relaxed, fluid movement and modern proportion play. Low-rise white jeans, inspired by Y2K fashion, are also back in focus, bringing a nostalgic yet edgy attitude to everyday dressing.

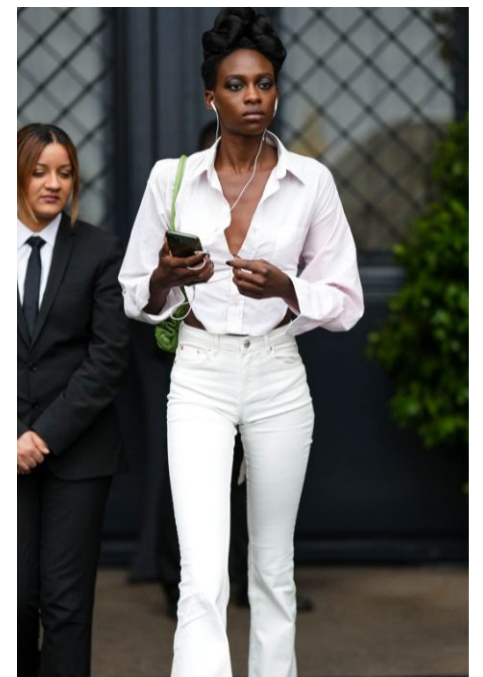
Slim-fit versions offer a more polished alternative, bridging the gap between skinny and straight cuts and making them ideal for elevated office-to-evening looks. Barrel or curved-leg jeans are another standout trend, known for their sculptural shape and utilitarian detailing that adds a directional edge to outfits.

Baggy white jeans continue to dominate streetwear-inspired styling, favored for their comfort and oversized silhouette.

Pleated styles are emerging as a dressier option, adding structure and tailoring-inspired refinement. Flared and bootcut white jeans are also resurfacing, driven by retro influences and a renewed interest in elongated, leg-lengthening shapes. Cropped variations, meanwhile, are gaining popularity for their playful proportions and versatility with footwear.

Across all these styles, white denim is being reimagined with new washes, textures, and construction details such as raw hems, rigid cotton fabrics, and relaxed tailoring. Shades range from bright optic white to softer tones like ivory, bone, and ecru, giving wearers more styling flexibility than ever before.

Fashion insiders say the appeal lies in their adaptability. White jeans can be styled for minimal monochrome looks, bold contrast outfits, or relaxed everyday dressing, making them one of the most dynamic denim trends of the moment.



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