

Trump refiles ten billion dollar lawsuit against Wall Street Journal over Epstein report



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday refiled his ten billion dollar defamation lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal, reviving a legal battle over a report that alleged he sent a sexually suggestive birthday card to Jeffrey Epstein in 2003. The amended complaint follows a Florida judge's decision last month to dismiss the original case without prejudice, allowing Trump to return with additional arguments.

His legal team again accused the newspaper, its parent company Dow Jones, and two reporters of publishing false and malicious claims, insisting no authentic letter or drawing exists. The filing argues that the Journal ignored Trump's repeated denial and relied on disputed material linked to Epstein's estate. The case renews Trump's long-running conflict with media organizations tied to Rupert Murdoch, with damages still set at ten billion dollars.

United States senator Lindsey Graham criticizes Pakistan's role in Iran mediation and rejects Abraham Accords stance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Washington on Tuesday saw sharp political reaction after Republican Senator Lindsey Graham questioned Pakistan's suitability as a mediator in Iran-related diplomacy, calling its role "more than problematic." His remarks followed Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's public rejection of joining the Abraham Accords, which established diplomatic normalization between Israel and several Arab nations. Asif had said participation in such agreements would conflict with Pakistan's ideological foundations and questioned trust in Israel.

In a post on social media platform X, Graham said Pakistan's long-standing hostility toward Israel raised serious concerns about its neutrality in regional mediation efforts. He also referred to unverified claims circulating in US policy discussions alleging that Iranian military aircraft had been placed at Pakistani air bases, calling the situation troubling. Graham urged Islamabad to respond to President Donald Trump's broader push for expanded participation in the Abraham Accords framework.

The senator, a close political ally of Trump, said Pakistan's position on Israel made its mediation role in Iran-related negotiations difficult to accept. Pakistan has not publicly responded to the allegations or Graham's comments.

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India rejects China-Pakistan reference to J&K, reaffirms sovereignty and territorial integrity

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New Delhi on Tuesday strongly rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan following high-level talks between their leaders in Beijing, saying no third country has any right to comment on matters that are internal to India.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India "categorically rejects" what it called unwarranted references to the Union Territory and reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are, have been, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. He said India's position is consistent and well known, and that the issue of sovereignty is non-negotiable.

The statement came after Chinese President Xi Jinping met Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during which both sides reiterated commitments to strengthening their "all-weather strategic partnership" and advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. India reiterated its objections to the corridor, stating that parts of it pass through Indian territory under illegal occupation and therefore violate



sovereignty and territorial integrity.

New Delhi also rejected references to "trans-boundary water cooperation" between China and Pakistan, saying the two countries do not share a boundary

and such framing has no basis in international law. India added that it has never recognized the 1963 boundary agreement between China and Pakistan, and has repeatedly conveyed its objections to both governments.

United States and Iran weigh ceasefire extension amid Strait of Hormuz tensions and maritime security warnings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and Iran are reportedly moving toward a preliminary understanding to extend their fragile ceasefire for another 60 days following renewed military and diplomatic tensions in the Gulf region, though the arrangement still requires approval from President Donald Trump. The discussions come at a sensitive moment for regional stability, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy shipping lanes.

On Wednesday, Trump warned Oman against any attempt to influence navigation through the strait, rejecting Iranian media reports suggesting Tehran and Muscat

could jointly manage maritime traffic under a proposed arrangement. He insisted the waterway would remain open international waters under United States oversight and threatened consequences if access were restricted.

The ceasefire talks follow recent exchanges of strikes, including Iranian attacks near United States military positions and intercepted drones by American forces, alongside reports of a destroyed launch site. Kuwaiti officials also reported intercepting a ballistic missile. If finalized, the extension would also allow limited discussions on Iran's enriched uranium stockpile while easing pressure on commercial shipping through the Gulf.



Ajit Doval urges nations to reject double standards on terrorism at Moscow forum



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Thursday that countries must avoid double standards in the fight against terrorism and take firm action against states that support extremist groups. Speaking at an international security forum in Moscow, Doval stressed the importance of protecting global trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, amid rising tensions in West Asia.

The meeting was hosted by Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu and focused on global security challenges in an increasingly multipolar world. Doval also held bilateral talks with Shoigu on defense, energy and economic cooperation, while discussions included preparations for the upcoming BRICS security advisors meeting in New Delhi later this year.

European Union pushes for reopening of Strait of Hormuz amid Middle East tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on Thursday that European Union countries are working to support the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to safeguard global trade and freedom of navigation. Speaking during a meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Cyprus, Tajani said partners including India and Saudi Arabia were participating in discussions on restoring stability in the Middle East. Talks also focused on the ongoing tensions involving Iran and the impact on international shipping routes. Tajani highlighted the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor as a key project for boosting trade and economic growth between Asia, the Gulf and Europe amid rising geopolitical uncertainty.

European Union explores new Lebanon stability plan after United Nations peace mission ends



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union leaders are considering new joint measures to stabilize southern Lebanon after the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon ends operations later this year, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on Thursday during talks in Cyprus. Tajani said the bloc is examining ways to strengthen Lebanon's government institutions and prevent another conflict along the Israeli border. He also urged Israel to scale back strikes against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and Beirut, warning that civilians are suffering the most from the violence. Tajani added that the European Union plans to provide development aid to border villages damaged by the fighting as concerns grow over wider instability in the region.

United States, Canada and Mexico tighten Ebola travel precautions ahead of 2026 World Cup

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States, Canada and Mexico announced coordinated public health travel measures on Thursday in response to the Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa. The three countries said the steps are designed to protect residents and international visitors ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup while keeping trade and travel routes open. On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Trump administration was working aggressively to stop Ebola cases from entering the country. Rubio said federal agencies are monitoring travelers and supporting containment efforts in affected African regions, especially the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, Uganda has banned concerts, rallies and other large gatherings to slow the spread of the virus.

Netanyahu orders military expansion in Gaza to 70 percent, ceasefire strains deepen

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that he has ordered the military to expand control over Gaza to 70 percent, escalating pressure on an already fragile ceasefire arrangement and signaling a further shift in Israel's battlefield objectives. Speaking at a West Bank settlement, Netanyahu said Israeli forces have steadily increased their presence from about 50 percent to 60 percent of the territory, with additional expansion planned as part of what he described as sustained efforts to weaken Hamas.

The October ceasefire deal had established



a demarcation line intended to separate Israeli-controlled and Hamas-controlled areas, but fighting and military operations have continued, with more than 900 Palestinians reported killed since the truce came into effect.

Netanyahu's remarks come amid growing international alarm over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where expanded military control would further compress more than 2 million residents into an increasingly restricted and overcrowded area. Aid agencies have warned that the already dire living conditions, marked by displacement, shortages of essentials, and damaged infrastructure, could deteriorate further if territorial pressure continues to intensify.

Zelenskyy urges faster United States delivery of Patriot missiles amid escalating Russian strikes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday that he is "very persistent" in pressing the United States to accelerate deliveries of Patriot air defense missiles, as Russia steps up its missile and drone campaign across Ukraine. Speaking during a visit to Sweden, he said Kyiv has still not received a response to a recent letter sent to President Donald Trump and members of Congress requesting additional American-made air defense ammunition, warning that Ukraine's existing stockpiles are becoming critically strained amid competing global defense demands and supply bottlenecks.

Zelenskyy said the urgency has grown as Russian forces continue to target Ukraine's



power grid, infrastructure, and urban centers with long-range ballistic missiles, placing civilian areas under sustained pressure. He also highlighted a major new defense arrangement with Sweden, confirming that Ukraine will purchase 20 new Gripen fighter jets and receive 16 older aircraft as interim support. The newer jets are expected from 2030 under a broader European Union-backed financing package aimed at strengthening Ukraine's long-term air capabilities.

Carney calls for stronger United States Canada partnership while warning of global trade pressures

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Thursday urged a renewed and more structured United States Canada partnership during a speech in New York, calling for deeper cooperation in key economic sectors while warning that global trade fragmentation is intensifying.

He said Canada seeks to strengthen ties with the United States but is also working to diversify trade relationships to reduce overdependence on any single market. Carney warned that economic integration is increasingly being used as a tool of leverage, arguing that countries unable to secure food, energy, and defence supply chains risk long-



term vulnerability. He highlighted Canada's role as a major supplier of electricity, oil, and critical minerals, including nickel, copper, uranium, and potash, to the United States. Despite political tensions under President Donald Trump, Carney stressed that both countries remain deeply interconnected and continue to share significant strategic and economic interests.

India warns Pakistan over cross-border terrorism as United Nations Security Council debate highlights deep divisions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Tuesday issued a strong warning to Pakistan at a United Nations Security Council debate, saying that Islamabad must end its support for cross-border terrorism or face consequences. India's Permanent Representative P Harish said Pakistan would have to "credibly and irrevocably" stop backing terrorism in all forms, adding that India reserves the right to defend itself against cross-border attacks. His remarks came during a Council discussion on strengthening the United Nations-centred international system, where Pakistan's representative raised the Kashmir issue. Harish accused Pakistan of sustaining a long-standing policy of cross-border terrorism and attempting to justify it through rhetoric on the United Nations Charter. He said Pakistan's actions contradicted its claims, pointing to what he described as continued use of militant proxies and extremist networks. India reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India is legal and final, and cited historical United Nations resolutions that required Pakistan to withdraw forces from the region, saying those conditions were never met.

Hamas confirms killing of senior commander in Israeli strike as Gaza violence escalates



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hamas on Wednesday confirmed that Mohammed Odeh, a senior commander in its military wing, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City earlier in the week, along with his wife and two children.

The group said the strike occurred on Tuesday and hit a residential building near a busy market area shortly before the Eid al-Adha holiday. Israeli officials had already identified Odeh as a key figure involved in the October 2023 attacks, stating that he was among several senior militants targeted in ongoing operations against Hamas leadership.

Additional Israeli strikes on Wednesday evening killed at least seven more people, including children and a woman, according to hospital officials, with more than twenty others wounded. The escalation comes amid a fragile ceasefire that has repeatedly broken down, while thousands of displaced residents continue to attend funerals amid worsening humanitarian conditions across Gaza.

Poland moves ahead with \$27 billion European Union-backed military expansion

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Poland will finalize military procurement agreements worth about \$27.5 billion with the European Union by the end of May, Prime Minister Donald Trump said on Thursday. The funding, provided through the European Union's Security Action For Europe program, is expected to support around 10,000 Polish companies and strengthen the country's defense capabilities. Deputy Prime Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said the program would reinforce the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern flank and improve regional security. Poland is currently the largest beneficiary of the European Union's SAFE initiative. Last week, the country also received three F-35 fighter jets from the United States, marking the first deployment of the advanced aircraft on the alliance's eastern border.

Russia warns United States-Japan missile drills threaten Asia-Pacific stability



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Russia said on Thursday that planned United States and Japanese military exercises involving the Typhon missile system pose a direct threat to regional security and Russian interests in the Far East. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova warned that deploying medium-range missile systems in Japan could destabilize the Asia-Pacific region and escalate tensions near Russia's borders. Reports in Japanese media said the United States plans to deploy the Typhon system and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems in Japan between June and September. Zakharova also said Russia no longer considers itself bound by its earlier moratorium on medium and short-range ground-based missiles and could respond with additional military measures if necessary.

Kuwaiti air defenses intercept Iranian missile amid escalating Gulf tensions

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United States Central Command said on Thursday that Kuwaiti forces successfully intercepted a ballistic missile launched by Iran toward Kuwait late Wednesday. The command also said US forces intercepted five Iranian drones near the Strait of Hormuz and stopped another drone launch from Bandar Abbas. Kuwait's military confirmed that its air defense systems responded to hostile missile and drone activity overnight. The United Arab Emirates condemned the attacks and expressed support for Kuwait's security and sovereignty. The developments come as tensions continue to rise between Washington and Tehran. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump said the United States would not allow Iran to control the Strait of Hormuz, calling it an international waterway that must remain open.

Washington paper mill disaster leaves eleven feared dead as recovery continues under hazardous conditions

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Recovery operations continued on Thursday at a paper mill in Longview, Washington, after a catastrophic chemical tank rupture earlier in the week left eleven workers feared dead and several others injured. Authorities said a large tank containing more than five hundred thousand gallons of highly corrosive white liquor collapsed, releasing chemicals and triggering one of the deadliest workplace disasters in recent United States history. Officials said there is no realistic expectation of survivors, and recovery efforts are being conducted cautiously due to dangerous chemical exposure at the site. Victims include experienced



mill employees, a grandfather known for his generosity in the community, and a young husband described as devoted to his family. Several others, including a firefighter, were injured. Investigators are still determining the cause of the structural failure, while authorities said there is no evidence of significant air or drinking water contamination so far.

US aviation regulator orders investigation into SpaceX Starship booster mishap

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The US Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday ordered SpaceX to investigate a mishap involving the Super Heavy booster during the latest Starship test flight. The booster suffered engine failures during its return sequence before making a hard splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico. The Federal Aviation Administration said the investigation will determine the cause and identify corrective measures before future launches are approved. SpaceX said the upper-stage Starship successfully completed most mission objectives, including testing



heatshield performance and deploying Starlink simulators during the flight designed to support future Moon and Mars missions.

Israeli strike near Beirut raises fears of wider Lebanon conflict

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An Israeli airstrike hit Beirut's southern suburbs on Thursday, marking the first strike near the Lebanese capital in several weeks and raising fears of a broader conflict with Hezbollah. Israeli officials said the attack targeted Ali al-Husseini, whom they identified as a militia commander linked to Hezbollah and Iran. Lebanese security sources said two precision missiles struck a residential building in the suburb. The

strike came as Israel intensified attacks across southern Lebanon after expanding evacuation warnings to additional towns north of the border zone. Lebanon's Health Ministry said separate strikes near Adloun killed six people, including two children and their parents, while another attack in Sidon killed five people, including two women. Residents described widespread panic and destruction as Israeli surveillance drones continued flying over Beirut despite ongoing ceasefire efforts backed by international mediators.

Japan rejects Russian criticism of military buildup at United Nations

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Japan on Thursday strongly rejected Russian criticism of its growing defense capabilities during a United Nations Security Council session on global security and multilateral cooperation. Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, accused Japan and Germany of dangerous "remilitarization" that threatened international stability and reversed post-World War Two principles. In response, Japan's ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki called the accusations "ridiculous," pointing to Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine as a violation of the United Nations Charter. Yamazaki stressed that Japan's military expansion remained



entirely defensive and was driven by worsening regional security concerns, including China's growing military presence. Germany also defended its own military buildup during the meeting, saying the country remained committed to peace and European security. Both nations rejected comparisons between their current defense policies and militarism from the twentieth century.

US ambassador cautions Spain over China's growing role in critical industries



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United States Ambassador to Spain Benjamin Leon warned on Wednesday that Spain should be cautious about China's growing involvement in strategic sectors such as telecommunications, defense and data management. Speaking in comments reported by Greek outlet To Vima, Leon raised concerns about contracts involving Chinese technology company Huawei, which Washington considers a security risk. He said Spain could maintain broader economic relations with China but should prevent Chinese influence in sectors tied to national security and critical infrastructure. Leon also warned that China's trade practices and technological expansion could create risks for global supply chains and scientific research. His remarks come during growing tensions between Madrid and Washington over defense spending and military cooperation.

New climate report warns record-breaking global heat could continue through 2030

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Global temperatures are expected to remain at or near historic highs over the next five years, according to a report released Thursday by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Kingdom's Met Office. Scientists said there is an 86 percent chance that at least one year between 2026 and 2030 will become hotter than 2024, currently the warmest year on record. The report also found a 91 percent chance that global temperatures will temporarily exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels during that period. Researchers said a likely El Niño event developing in late 2026 could further raise temperatures in 2027. The findings renewed concerns about intensifying extreme weather events and the long-term impact of climate change worldwide.

China says Trump-Xi summit helped ease tensions between Washington and Beijing

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China on Wednesday described the recent meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping as an important step toward stabilizing bilateral ties. Chinese Deputy Ambassador Qui Wenxing said the summit produced progress on tariffs, trade cooperation and educational exchanges despite continuing disputes over Taiwan and technology restrictions. He said both sides agreed to improve economic coordination and maintain high-level engagement. Qui also confirmed that Xi accepted Trump's invitation to visit the United States later this year. The remarks came as Washington and Beijing continue efforts to prevent further deterioration in relations amid growing strategic rivalry.



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When outrage meets algorithms, political satire is born



Dr. Avi Verma

There was a time when political satire lived in newspaper cartoons, late-night comedy shows, or whispered jokes at tea stalls. In today's India, satire is born on Instagram reels, spreads through hashtags, weaponizes memes, and reaches millions before television debates can even react.

The sudden rise of the "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP) is not merely an internet joke. It is a reflection of a changing political culture where outrage, unemployment, frustration, and social media have combined to create a new form of digital rebellion.

The controversy began after remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during a Supreme Court proceeding in May 2026. The comments, widely interpreted online as comparing unemployed youth and institutional critics to "cockroaches" and "parasites," triggered instant backlash across India's hyperactive digital ecosystem. Though the Chief Justice later clarified that his remarks were directed at individuals using fake degrees and not at India's unemployed youth as a whole, the internet had already delivered its verdict.

Within days, communications strategist Abhijeet Dipke transformed the insult into a movement by launching the "Cockroach Janta Party" — a satirical political platform that mocked both the establishment and the frustrations of modern India. What followed was extraordinary. Millions of young Indians rallied behind the hashtag #MainBhiCockroach, sharing memes, AI-generated insect mascots, parody campaign videos, and dark humor aimed at unemployment, inflation, corruption, and institutional arrogance. For many older Indians, this may appear unserious.

But history teaches us that political satire often begins as comedy before evolving into a deeper social expression.

From Charlie Chaplin mocking fascism to television comedians influencing elections in the West, satire has always flourished when citizens lose faith in formal political communication. In India too, cartoons during the Emergency era, political mimicry, and stand-up comedy have long served as pressure valves against authority. The difference now is speed. Social media compresses outrage, humor, mobilization, and amplification into a matter of hours. The CJP is the first major Gen Z political satire movement in India to achieve national scale almost entirely through algorithms rather than organization.

That alone makes it politically significant.

The movement's rapid growth exposed a deeper reality: beneath India's economic optimism lies an undercurrent of anxiety among millions of educated young people struggling with unemployment, rising living costs, competitive exam controversies, and diminishing trust in institutions. The cockroach became symbolic — not because youth admired the insect, but because they identified with its resilience and survival instincts in hostile conditions.

The ruling establishment initially dismissed the movement as a meaningless digital fad. BJP leaders argued, correctly, that political power is not built through Instagram followers alone. India's elections are still won through booth-level organization, caste equations, welfare delivery, and ground mobilization developed over decades.

Yet the state's response soon revealed something else — nervousness.

Reports of social media restrictions, blocked accounts, allegations of foreign influence, and threats directed at the movement's founder elevated the issue far beyond parody. Once governments begin treating memes as matters of national security, satire acquires unintended legitimacy. And that is where the Cockroach Janta Party becomes more than a joke.

Is the CJP a genuine political movement? Not yet.

It has no Election Commission registration, no visible grassroots structure,

no ideological coherence, and no roadmap for electoral conversion. At present, it remains primarily a digital protest phenomenon driven by outrage and internet culture. But dismissing it entirely would also be shortsighted.

Modern politics is increasingly shaped by perception before policy. Social media does not need to win elections immediately to influence narratives, embarrass governments, shape public discourse, or energize dissatisfied demographics. The CJP has already succeeded in forcing India's political class to confront an uncomfortable truth: the country's digital generation is losing patience with traditional political messaging.

The larger question is whether this frustration remains confined to satire or evolves into organized political energy. Historically, youth-led digital uprisings have followed two paths. Most collapse under the weight of their own virality, fading as quickly as they emerge. Others become incubators for future political leaders, movements, or ideological shifts. India itself witnessed how anti-corruption protests in the early 2010s eventually transformed into mainstream political movements. Could the CJP follow that trajectory? Possibly — but only if it evolves beyond memes into sustained issue-based engagement.

At the same time, the movement also exposes the limitations of India's opposition parties. The fact that millions of young Indians gravitated toward satire instead of established opposition platforms suggests a widening vacuum in political representation. Many youth appear more comfortable expressing dissent through irony than through conventional party politics.

For the BJP, the CJP is not yet an electoral threat. The ruling party remains the most organized political force in India with unmatched grassroots infrastructure and a powerful leadership-driven narrative.

But the movement is a warning signal.

It reflects a growing emotional disconnect between sections of urban youth and the political establishment. And in politics, emotional disconnect often appears online long before it becomes visible at the ballot box.

Ultimately, the Cockroach Janta Party may disappear within weeks or months. Viral movements often do. But its legacy may endure as a case study in the future of political communication.

It demonstrated that in the age of algorithms, satire can mobilize faster than speeches, memes can outperform manifestos, and ridicule can become a form of resistance.

Most importantly, it proved that when outrage and social media come together, political satire is no longer entertainment alone. It becomes a language of dissent.



Best Regards,
Dr. Avi Verma,
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Tony Abbott set to return as Liberal party president in Australia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott is expected to return to frontline politics after emerging as the sole nominee for president of Australia's Liberal Party. His appointment is set to be confirmed at the party's federal council meeting in Melbourne next weekend. Abbott, who lost his Sydney seat in 2019, will replace former South Australian premier John Olsen in the unpaid administrative role. Some moderate Liberals have expressed concern that Abbott could push the party further right on issues such as immigration and social policy. Abbott said Friday he wants to help opposition leader Angus Taylor become Australia's next prime minister and believes serving as party president is the best way to support that goal.

Norway joins France-led talks on strengthening European nuclear deterrence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said on Wednesday that Norway will join French President Emmanuel Macron's initiative on European nuclear deterrence amid rising security concerns in Europe. Store stressed that Norway's policy against hosting nuclear weapons in peacetime will remain unchanged and said Oslo will not fund France's nuclear arsenal. Norway and France also signed a new defense agreement committing both countries to provide military support if needed. Macron has been seeking broader European cooperation on nuclear security following heightened tensions with Russia and uncertainty over long-term regional defense arrangements.

Hungary reverses decision and halts withdrawal from International Criminal Court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary's parliament on Wednesday voted to revoke the country's earlier decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court following a change in government. The move came after Prime Minister Peter Magyar's administration took office earlier this month promising to rebuild Hungary's international relationships and restore public trust in state institutions. Hungary had announced plans in April to leave the court and lawmakers later approved the withdrawal. Magyar told parliament that his government would strengthen ties with Western allies while continuing to protect Hungary's interests within the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Trump praises Tulsi Gabbard for intelligence reforms and classified disclosures

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday praised outgoing Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard for major reforms within the US intelligence community and the release of classified records. Speaking during a Cabinet meeting, Trump credited Gabbard with exposing evidence tied to investigations into alleged Russian election interference and reducing staffing levels at the intelligence office. He also said she helped declassify files related to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Trump added that the administration plans to release additional records involving unidentified aerial phenomena and extraterrestrial investigations.



Canadian researchers urge united G7 action against Chinese interference

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian researchers on Friday called for a coordinated Group of Seven response to alleged Chinese foreign interference in democratic countries. A report by the Montreal Institute for Global Security examined activities linked to China across Canada, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan. Researchers warned about influence operations involving business, academic, and civil society networks, along with alleged intimidation of Chinese nationals and Uyghur activists abroad.



McKay urged Foreign Minister Anita Anand to raise the issue during talks in Ottawa with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday.

Separately, the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project called on Prime Minister Mark Carney to publicly address alleged human rights abuses against Uyghurs during the diplomatic meetings.

Former Canadian lawmaker John

Turkey warns against wider Black Sea conflict after cargo vessel attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Turkey on Friday warned against an "uncontrolled escalation" in the Black Sea after a Turkish-owned cargo vessel was struck by a drone while sailing from Ukraine to Turkey. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said the Vanuatu-flagged ship, carrying dry cargo from the Port of Odesa, was attacked Thursday night, leaving two Turkish crew members with minor injuries. Officials said the condition of the injured workers is being closely

monitored by Turkey's Consulate General in Odesa. Ankara said it has repeatedly conveyed concerns to all parties about growing risks in the Black Sea and the possibility of broader regional instability. Turkey also renewed calls for civilian shipping routes in the Black Sea to remain protected and urged an end to the war through negotiations. Meanwhile, Romania said a Russian drone entered its airspace overnight Thursday and crashed into a residential building, injuring two people and sparking a fire near the border with Ukraine.

Mexico moves to allow elections to be overturned over foreign interference

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexico's Congress on Thursday approved a constitutional amendment that would allow elections to be annulled if evidence of foreign interference is found, a move critics say could weaken confidence in the country's electoral system. The proposal passed the lower house with 307 votes in favor, 128 against, and one abstention. It still requires approval from the Senate before becoming law. The amendment defines foreign interference as illicit financing, propaganda, digital manipulation, disinformation campaigns,

and intervention by foreign governments or agencies intended to influence public opinion or election outcomes.

President Claudia Sheinbaum defended the measure Friday, saying there is a genuine risk of foreign involvement in Mexican elections and acknowledging past cases involving foreign funding linked to local political groups. The proposal comes amid rising tensions between Mexico's ruling Morena party and foreign critics, including comments earlier this month from Spanish conservative politician Isabel Díaz Ayuso and repeated pressure from President Donald Trump over drug trafficking policies.

Nepal Prime Minister Balen Shah faces criticism over continued absence from Parliament



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra "Balen" Shah is facing criticism after failing to address Parliament since taking office in March. Opposition lawmakers this week accused Shah of avoiding democratic accountability and urged parliamentary leaders to compel his attendance. Shah, a former rapper and independent mayor of Kathmandu, rose to power after joining the Rastriya Swatantra Party and defeating former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in national elections. Reports said Shah has also declined several high-level diplomatic meetings. Government allies defended him, saying ministers are authorized to answer questions on behalf of the administration.

New York and New Jersey investigate FIFA World Cup ticket pricing practices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Attorneys general in New York and New Jersey have launched an investigation into FIFA's ticketing practices for the upcoming World Cup, issuing a subpoena over concerns about pricing transparency and seat assignments. Officials said Thursday they are reviewing whether fans were misled about ticket costs and stadium locations, particularly after complaints involving dynamic pricing and seating categories at MetLife Stadium, which will host key matches including the final. Regulators are also examining reports that fans paid for premium categories but received less desirable seats. FIFA has defended its pricing strategy, citing high global demand and limited supply. The probe seeks detailed information on pricing structures and ticket allocation systems as concerns grow ahead of the tournament.

France seeks investigation into alleged abuse of Gaza flotilla activists

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France on Friday asked prosecutors to investigate allegations that Israeli authorities violently mistreated activists detained after attempting to breach the naval blockade of Gaza earlier this month. Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said French diplomats in Turkey documented claims of sexual violence, beatings, exposure to cold, and repeated humiliation involving French nationals held in Israeli custody. The activists were part of the Global Sumud Flotilla, a convoy of 50 boats intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters before participants were deported to Turkey. Israel has denied allegations of mistreatment. France had already imposed an indefinite entry ban on Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir over remarks and actions linked to the detained activists.

India and Romania deepen strategic trade partnership ahead of European Union free trade agreement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Romanian Foreign Minister Oana Toiu held discussions on Thursday in Cyprus on expanding bilateral trade and preparing for the proposed European Union-India Free Trade Agreement. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the informal European Union foreign ministers' gathering, known as the Gymnich meeting.

Following the talks, Toiu said both countries are laying the groundwork to ensure businesses benefit fully from the future trade agreement, particularly in sectors such as defense manufacturing, renewable energy, steel, automotive production, fertilizers and port infrastructure.

She noted that bilateral trade between India and Romania reached about \$1.2 billion in 2025, marking growth of more than 20 percent compared with the previous year. Discussions included the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which both countries view as an important strategic trade route linking Asia and Europe.

India and Japan push for stronger cultural and tourism ties through Wakayama partnership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan took another step toward strengthening regional and cultural cooperation on Thursday as India's Ambassador to Japan, Nagma Mallick, met Niijima Takeshi at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo. The discussions focused on expanding tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties between India and Japan's Wakayama Prefecture. The meeting builds on growing cooperation between Wakayama and the Indian state of Maharashtra, which has maintained a sister-state relationship since 2013. Earlier this year, Wakayama Governor Izumi Miyazaki visited India and met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai to discuss infrastructure, technology and cultural partnerships. Fadnavis highlighted Japan's major role in Maharashtra's infrastructure development, including projects such as the Atal Setu bridge, underground metro systems and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor. The leaders also discussed new initiatives tied to Buddhist heritage and tourism, including a proposal to build a replica of the Bamiyan Buddha in Nagpur as a symbol of peace and cultural connection. Officials from both countries said growing regional cooperation is helping deepen the broader India-Japan strategic partnership.

US trade team to visit India for interim agreement talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. trade delegation will visit India from Sunday through Wednesday next week to finalize details of a proposed interim trade agreement and advance negotiations on a broader bilateral economic pact, India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Wednesday. The discussions will cover key areas including market access, customs and trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers, investment promotion and economic security cooperation. The visit follows a joint India-U.S. statement issued on Friday, February 7, outlining a framework for reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade negotiations. Indian officials also traveled to Washington from Sunday through Wednesday, April 20-23, for in-person meetings with American counterparts.

Last week, U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said Washington was optimistic about completing a landmark trade agreement in the coming months. Speaking at the American Chamber of Commerce leadership



summit in New Delhi, he said the deal could strengthen supply chains, boost investment flows and expand opportunities for businesses in both countries. Gor also highlighted growing economic ties, noting that Indian companies committed more than \$20 billion in investments in the United States during the annual Select Investment Summit. He added that American companies continue to expand their presence in India's rapidly growing consumer and industrial sectors.

India, China review border stability and push for stronger coordination mechanisms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China held the 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs in Beijing on Wednesday, focusing on border management, delimitation issues, cross-border cooperation and confidence-building measures. According to India's Ministry of External Affairs, both sides described the discussions as constructive and forward-looking, while expressing satisfaction over continued peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control.

The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) Sujit Ghosh, emphasized the need for an early meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers. Chinese officials were led by Hou Yanqi, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of China's Foreign Ministry.

Both countries agreed to maintain regular



diplomatic and military-level engagement and begin preparations for the next Special Representatives meeting, which will be hosted by China. During the visit, Indian officials also met senior Chinese diplomats Liu Jinsong and Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei.

The talks come amid broader efforts by both nations to gradually normalize bilateral relations following years of military tensions along the Himalayan border.

India and Cyprus expand strategic cooperation amid rising Mediterranean tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides on Thursday to discuss strengthening bilateral ties and reviewing the evolving security situation in West Asia and the Mediterranean region. The meeting came shortly after Christodoulides' state visit to India earlier this month, during which both countries agreed to elevate relations to a Strategic Partnership. Jaishankar conveyed greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi while assuring Cyprus of India's commitment to implementing agreements reached during the recent visit. Discussions focused on regional connectivity, economic cooperation and India's growing strategic interests in the Mediterranean. The two sides also reviewed progress on several initiatives



announced during Christodoulides' India visit, including plans for a Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism, cooperation between diplomatic training institutions and partnerships in higher education and research. During his Cyprus visit, Jaishankar additionally met foreign ministers from several European countries as India continues to deepen engagement with the European Union and Mediterranean partners amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region.

Australia and India prepare for high-level defense dialogue to strengthen Indo-Pacific cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles will visit India later this week for the second Australia-India Defense Ministers' Dialogue, as both countries seek to deepen military and strategic cooperation across the Indo-Pacific region. Ahead of the visit, Marles said he looks forward to meeting Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to build on the progress achieved during Singh's visit to Australia last year.

Before arriving in India, Marles will attend the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, where regional maritime security and Indo-Pacific stability are expected to dominate discussions among global defense leaders. Australian officials described India as one of Canberra's top-tier security partners and said the dialogue reflects growing trust between the two nations.

Earlier this month, India and Australia held the 10th Defense Policy Talks in New Delhi, during which both sides welcomed the increasing scale and complexity of joint military exercises and maritime cooperation.

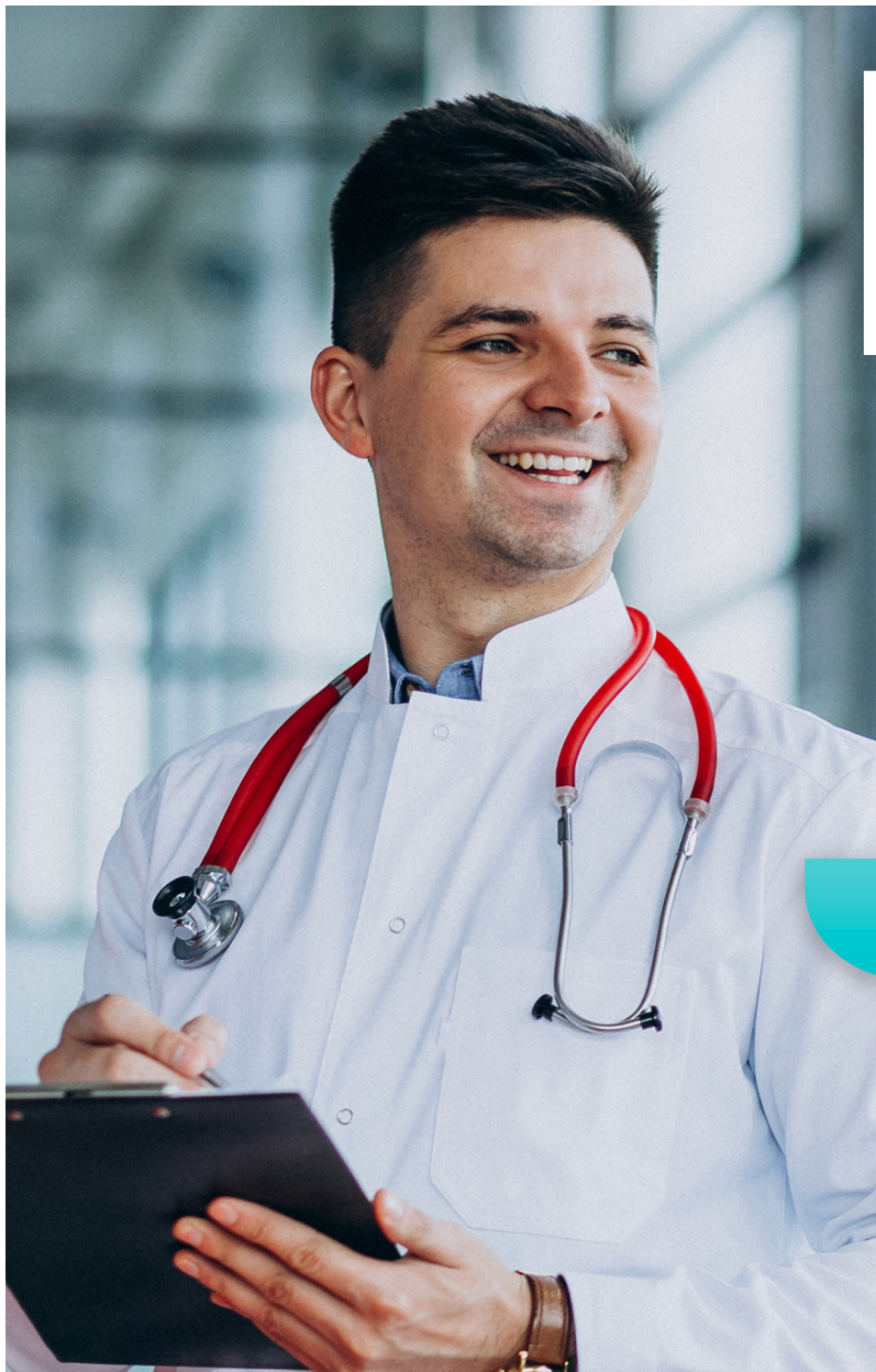
India expands Caribbean engagement through technology, trade and development partnerships

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is strengthening its relationship with Caribbean nations through high-level diplomatic outreach, technology partnerships and development cooperation, according to a report published Tuesday in Trinidad and Tobago's Daily Express. The report highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Guyana last year, which marked only the second visit by an Indian prime minister to the Caribbean region in more than five decades.

During the visit, India and Caribbean Community leaders held the second CARICOM-India summit and launched a seven-pillar cooperation framework focused on technology, agriculture, renewable energy, healthcare, maritime security and digital infrastructure. India announced 1,000 information technology scholarships for Caribbean students, plans for expanded technology centers and support for renewable energy initiatives through the International Solar Alliance and the Global Biofuel Alliance.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also recently visited Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago to advance bilateral cooperation. The report noted that India's digital payment systems, affordable healthcare programs and maritime security support are increasingly viewed as valuable partnerships for Caribbean nations navigating global economic and geopolitical uncertainty.



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Chicago federal prosecutor denies E. Jean Carroll investigation after conflicting reports

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The top federal prosecutor in Chicago on Thursday denied reports that his office had opened an investigation into writer E. Jean Carroll, rejecting earlier media claims that the Justice Department was probing whether she lied during civil litigation involving President Donald Trump. Multiple news organizations had reported, citing anonymous sources, that federal prosecutors in the Northern District of Illinois were examining possible perjury related to Carroll's testimony. However, U.S. Attorney Andrew Boutsos issued a statement saying his office "has not opened — and has never opened — a criminal investigation into E. Jean Carroll." A source familiar with the matter later clarified the focus was instead a nonprofit that supported her legal costs. Carroll, who has won civil judgments against Trump, has not commented. The Justice Department has faced scrutiny over politically sensitive investigations.

Trump suggests Social Security savings could come from anti-fraud crackdown led by vice president

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said during a Wednesday cabinet meeting that his administration's anti-fraud efforts could help preserve Social Security funding without reducing benefits. He said Vice President JD Vance is leading a crackdown on entitlement fraud and claimed officials have uncovered large-scale misuse of federal programs. Trump stated that "billions and billions" in fraud have been identified, though he did not provide detailed evidence. The Social Security trust fund is projected to face shortfalls in the 2030s, with the possibility of reduced benefits if no reforms are made. Administration officials argue that addressing fraud could strengthen the system's finances. Critics note that earlier government reports attribute the funding gap mainly to demographic pressures rather than fraud. Vance said coordination problems between agencies have hindered enforcement efforts. Lawmakers continue to debate long-term solutions to ensure the program's stability.

Blue Origin rocket explodes during launchpad engine test in Florida

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Blue Origin rocket exploded during an engine-firing test on Thursday night at Cape Canaveral, Florida, briefly lighting up the sky and shaking nearby homes in Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach. The company confirmed on social media platform X that all personnel were accounted for and said there was no threat from fumes or debris. The New Glenn rocket, intended for future NASA lunar missions, had already faced setbacks earlier in the year after a satellite was placed in the wrong orbit. Emergency officials said no hazardous conditions remained after the blast. Blue Origin described the incident as an anomaly and said investigations are underway.

Senator revives push to block Chinese digital yuan from United States financial system

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senator Rick Scott, Republican of Florida, on Monday reintroduced legislation that would ban the use of China's central bank digital currency in any United States financial transactions, escalating concerns in Congress over Beijing's expanding financial technology ambitions. The measure, called the Chinese Central Bank Digital Currency Prohibition Act, targets the digital yuan, also known as e-CNY or digital renminbi, which is issued and regulated by China's central bank, the People's Bank of China. If enacted, the bill would prohibit money services businesses, currency dealers, and the United States Postal Service from directly or indirectly engaging in transactions involving the digital currency, effectively blocking its use within the United States financial system.

Scott, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the legislation is intended to safeguard the United States dollar's global position and protect Americans from what he described as surveillance risks tied to China's state-



controlled digital payment system. He warned that the Chinese Communist Party could use the currency to track financial activity and exert pressure on users, raising privacy and national security concerns.

The proposal would amend the Bank Secrecy Act and revives a similar effort first introduced in 2023 with Republican support. China, meanwhile, has expanded large-scale trials of the digital yuan domestically, processing billions of transactions as it promotes the currency as part of a broader push toward a more multipolar international monetary system.

National Memorial Day parade honors fallen service members while marking America's 250th anniversary

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands of people gathered along Constitution Avenue in Washington on Monday for the National Memorial Day parade, the nation's largest annual commemoration honoring fallen service members. The event brought together veterans, active-duty military personnel, first responders, and 9/11 survivors, all marching in a shared tribute to those who gave their lives in service to the United States. Organizers said the parade honored roughly 1.3 million Americans who have died in military service. This year's edition carried added significance as it also marked the 250th anniversary of the United States, with themed floats, military units, marching bands, and historic vehicles reflecting key moments in American history.

Sponsored by Boeing and hosted by the



American Veterans Center, the 22nd annual parade took place under rainy conditions but still drew large crowds. Speakers and participants highlighted the continuing sacrifices of service members deployed around the world. The program also referenced major historical milestones, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, underscoring the long arc of American military service and remembrance.

Judge permanently blocks Manhattan Project-era radioactive waste shipments to Michigan landfill

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Wayne County Circuit Court judge on Wednesday permanently blocked a landfill in Van Buren Township, Michigan, from accepting radioactive waste tied to Manhattan Project-era cleanup sites. Judge Kevin Cox upheld a prior injunction, making permanent a ruling that prevents Wayne Disposal, owned by Republic Services, from receiving elevated radiation waste from Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program locations managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The judge said the environmental harms are long-lasting or permanent and cannot be addressed through financial damages or existing monitoring systems. He also ruled that accepting additional waste would



create a public nuisance and unreasonably interfere with public rights. The dispute stems from plans to ship contaminated material from sites in New York to Michigan for disposal. Local governments argued the waste poses risks to waterways including the Huron River, Belleville Lake, and Lake Erie. The company said it disagrees with the ruling and will appeal, arguing the facility is engineered to safely handle such materials.

Scripps National Spelling Bee crowned in lightning-round tiebreaker win



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fourteen-year-old Shrey Parikh of Rancho Cucamonga, California, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday in Washington, securing victory in a 90-second lightning-round spell-off. He correctly spelled 32 words, defeating 12-year-old Ishaan Gupta of Jersey City, New Jersey, who spelled 25 words in the tiebreaker. The final round followed a tense competition that featured strong performances from top finalists. Shrey, previously a third-place finisher in 2024, credited intensive preparation and coaching for his success. He shook hands with his competitor after the win. The event concluded at Constitution Hall, where a large audience witnessed one of the most competitive finals in recent years.

U.S. plans to send Ebola patients to Europe for treatment under new protocol

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior U.S. administration officials said on Thursday that Americans who contract Ebola will be treated in Europe rather than in the United States under a new emergency health protocol. Officials said a quarantine facility in Kenya, set up for exposed individuals, will open with 50 beds and may expand for isolation cases. Confirmed patients would then be transferred to undisclosed European medical centers for advanced care. The policy follows an ongoing Ebola outbreak in Central Africa and aims to reduce transport time for critically ill patients. Officials said no additional exposed Americans currently require evacuation beyond those already transferred abroad.

FDA panel recommends updating Covid vaccines to target XFG variant for fall season

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel on Thursday recommended updating this fall's Covid vaccines to target the XFG variant, a fast-spreading strain circulating widely in the United States. The recommendation was made during a meeting of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. Data presented showed XFG and its subvariants account for more than half of recent infections. Vaccine manufacturers said updated formulations may produce stronger immune responses, though experts noted current vaccines remain effective against severe illness. The recommendation now goes to the Food and Drug Administration for final approval ahead of the upcoming respiratory virus season.

U.S. treasury prepares contingency plan for proposed 250 dollar note featuring Donald Trump



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Treasury is preparing contingency plans to produce a proposed 250 dollar bill featuring President Donald Trump if Congress approves legislation allowing a living person on currency, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday in Washington. Current law prohibits living individuals from appearing on U.S. banknotes. Bessent said the department routinely prepares for potential legal changes and is acting in case the bill is passed. The proposal, introduced in Congress last year, remains under committee review. Officials stressed that no production will begin unless legislation becomes law. The idea is linked to upcoming 250th anniversary commemorations of the United States.

Stampede at South Carolina motorcycle festival leaves 19 injured

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 19 people were injured early Sunday in a stampede at the Black Pearl Cultural Heritage and Bike Festival in Atlantic Beach, South Carolina. Local officials said the incident occurred near a stage area when one person began running, triggering a brief chain reaction through the crowd. Emergency crews responded shortly after 1 a.m. and transported three people to hospital, while others sought treatment independently. Authorities said all injuries were non-life-threatening and confirmed there were no reports of fights, weapons, or threats to public safety. Officials noted that the reaction lasted only seconds and was quickly brought under control. The festival, which draws up to 40,000 attendees annually, was described by organizers as otherwise successful despite the disruption.

U.S. Justice Department sues states over refusal to issue undercover plates to ICE agents

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Justice filed lawsuits this week against Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington state after they refused to issue confidential license plates to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. The federal government argued the plates are necessary for undercover operations and officer safety. State officials said they opposed assisting civil immigration enforcement activities conducted in secret. The Justice Department claimed the refusal violates constitutional obligations to federal agencies. State leaders defended their policies, saying they support legitimate criminal investigations but not covert immigration enforcement. The cases mark a new legal clash between the federal government and Democratic-led states over immigration policy.

Louisiana advances Republican-backed redistricting plan after Supreme Court ruling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Louisiana House on Thursday approved a Republican-backed congressional redistricting plan that could reshape the state's political balance by eliminating a majority-Black district currently represented by a Democrat. The proposal now heads to the state Senate for a final vote and, if approved, will go to Republican Governor Jeff Landry. It follows a United States Supreme Court ruling that struck down an earlier map as an unlawful racial gerrymander, triggering renewed efforts to redraw districts ahead of the midterm elections.

The new plan could give Republicans a chance to gain an additional United States House seat and strengthen incumbents, including House Speaker Mike Johnson. Lawmakers said the map focuses on political



performance rather than race, but critics argue it still weakens Black voter influence by dispersing communities into surrounding districts.

The debate reflects broader redistricting battles across Southern states following the court's decision and has already drawn warnings of further legal challenges.

Florida governor calls special legislative session to consider eliminating homestead property taxes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on Wednesday called for a special legislative session to consider his proposal to eliminate property taxes on primary residences. He said lawmakers will be required to convene in Tallahassee starting June 1 to review the plan, which he described as part of his "Save Our Homes" initiative. DeSantis argued that property taxes unfairly burden homeowners who already pay taxes when acquiring property.

The proposal would phase in exemptions and create a state fund to offset lost revenue for local governments. Because it would require a constitutional amendment, it must pass the legislature and then be approved by voters in



November. Supporters say it could improve affordability, while critics warn it could severely damage funding for schools, public safety, and infrastructure. DeSantis said he wants voters to decide on a policy he believes could significantly reshape state taxation.

Federal judge declines to block Trump order limiting mail voting and creating voter list

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday declined to block President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at creating a federal voter list and restricting mail voting, allowing the policy to move forward for now. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols ruled that challengers, including Democratic and civil rights groups, had not yet shown the order was ready for immediate legal suspension because it has not been implemented. The order would require federal

agencies to develop eligibility lists and limit mail ballots to those on them.

Plaintiffs argued it exceeds presidential authority, saying election rules are set by Congress and states. The Trump administration said the changes are needed to improve election integrity. The judge emphasized that future legal challenges remain possible once implementation begins. Separate lawsuits are already pending in other jurisdictions, and no immediate changes are expected ahead of upcoming primary elections.

Supreme Court sides with pension funds in employer withdrawal liability dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled unanimously in favor of pension funds in a dispute over how employers are charged when withdrawing from underfunded multi-employer retirement plans. Writing for the court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said the Employee Retirement Income Security Act does not require actuaries to rely only on assumptions made before a measurement date when calculating withdrawal liability. The case involved employers that exited the IAM

National Pension Fund between April and December 2018. The fund recalculated its financial assumptions in early 2018, lowering expected investment returns, which increased withdrawal costs for departing employers. Companies argued this inflated their liability, but courts upheld the fund's approach. The ruling clarifies that pension plans may adjust actuarial assumptions, even if it increases exit costs, as long as calculations follow statutory requirements. The decision reinforces flexibility for underfunded pension systems and could significantly affect employers participating in union-managed retirement plans nationwide.

U.S. sues University of California, Los Angeles over alleged discrimination claims



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the University of California, Los Angeles on Tuesday, alleging the institution failed to protect Jewish and Israeli students during campus protests following the 2023 Hamas attack on Israel. The complaint claims the university allowed an encampment that blocked access to campus facilities and led to harassment incidents. Officials say the university did not act quickly enough to address complaints of discrimination. The lawsuit seeks enforcement of civil rights protections and changes to campus policies. University leadership said it has implemented reforms and maintains that antisemitism has no place on campus.

US Treasury removes 76 names from sanctions list to streamline enforcement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Treasury Department on Thursday said it is removing 76 names and entities from its sanctions blacklist in an effort to strengthen and streamline enforcement. Officials said the Specially Designated Nationals list updates include 39 deceased individuals, 14 vessels no longer in operation, and 13 defunct companies. The move follows complaints from businesses about high compliance costs tied to monitoring low-risk or inactive targets. Treasury said sanctions lists have expanded sharply in recent years, rising from 880 new designations in 2017 to more than 3,000 in 2024. Officials emphasized that sanctions are not meant to be permanent and said resources will now focus on higher-risk evasion networks and active targets tied to countries such as Russia, Iran, Syria, and Venezuela.

Rising travel costs deepen divide between American vacationers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rising airfare and hotel prices are reshaping summer travel in the United States, with budget-conscious Americans delaying or canceling trips while wealthier travelers continue to spend. The trend, highlighted on Thursday, reflects what analysts describe as a K-shaped recovery, where higher-income households remain resilient while middle-income groups cut back. A recent survey found 45 percent of Americans have planned summer travel, the lowest level in six years, with the sharpest decline among households earning \$100,000 to \$199,000. Airfares rose more than 20 percent in April compared with a year earlier, while international bookings are down by a quarter. Airlines report strong premium cabin demand, but economy travelers are increasingly waiting for lower prices or choosing shorter, closer destinations.

British Sikh man convicted of murder in Southampton knife attack case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A British Sikh man who claimed he carried a large knife for religious reasons has been found guilty of murdering an 18-year-old university student in south-east England. On Thursday, Vickrum Digwa was convicted of fatally stabbing Henry Nowak five times with a 21-centimeter blade as the Southampton University student returned home from a night out in Portswood last December. Digwa denied murder, manslaughter and possession of a bladed article, claiming self-defense. His mother, Kiran Kaur, was also found guilty of assisting an offender after she removed the weapon from the scene. The court heard Digwa delayed seeking help and filmed the injured victim while police were initially misled at the scene. Sentencing for Digwa is scheduled for Monday, while his mother will be sentenced on July 17. The case also prompted scrutiny of police response procedures during the chaotic early moments of the incident.

Indian-origin man sentenced to 29 years for killing woman in England



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin delivery driver has been sentenced to 29 years in prison for murdering a 41-year-old woman in the West Midlands region of England. Tanveer Singh was convicted of strangling Shara Millar and dumping her body by the roadside in Smethwick, where it was later discovered by a member of the public in August last year. On Wednesday, at Wolverhampton Crown Court, the judge described Singh as manipulative and showing no remorse during sentencing. Prosecutors said Singh met Millar while driving a delivery van, after which she was fatally attacked. Evidence showed attempts to destroy forensic traces at the scene. Police tracked the vehicle and arrested Singh following CCTV analysis. Investigators also noted that Millar was living in vulnerable circumstances at the time of her death. The court found the killing to be a deliberate and brutal act.

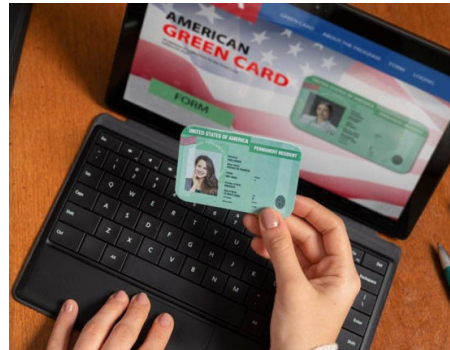
Immigration uncertainty pushes Indians to rethink the American dream

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Growing uncertainty around United States immigration rules is reshaping the decisions of Indian students and professionals worldwide, with ripple effects now visible across education and skilled migration pathways. A recent United States Citizenship and Immigration Services clarification on Green Card eligibility, combined with broader policy tightening under the Donald Trump administration, has intensified concerns among Indian communities already navigating long visa backlogs and work permit uncertainty.

Officials said some Green Card applicants may be exempt if their cases demonstrate economic benefit or national interest, but others could be required to complete the process from their home countries. While the rule does not change immigration law, it has created anxiety among Indian professionals in sectors such as information technology, engineering, healthcare, and research. Indians remain one of the largest groups in the Green Card backlog, with waiting periods stretching 10 to 15 years due to annual caps and country-based limits.

At the same time, education experts say similar uncertainty is influencing student mobility patterns. A separate immigration memo has reinforced perceptions that the



United States is becoming less predictable for long-term settlement, especially when it comes to Optional Practical Training, STEM extensions, and H-1B visa lotteries. As a result, Indian students are increasingly exploring Europe as an alternative destination.

Countries such as Germany, Ireland, France, and the Netherlands are seeing rising interest due to clearer post-study work rights and more structured residency pathways. Experts say the shift reflects a broader diaspora trend, where both students and skilled workers are recalibrating expectations away from the United States "green card dream" toward more stable immigration systems elsewhere.

While the United States remains a top destination for education and employment, the combined uncertainty across student visas and permanent residency pathways is beginning to reshape long-term migration choices among Indians globally.

Canadian police arrest 17 Punjabi-origin youths in major extortion and shooting network crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian police have arrested 17 suspects, most of them young men of Punjabi origin, in a major crackdown on what investigators describe as a violent and organized extortion network operating across the Greater Toronto Area. On Monday, Peel Regional Police said the group, known as "Four Brothers," is linked to coordinated attacks including shootings, arson, and intimidation targeting South Asian-owned businesses in Brampton, Mississauga, and Caledon, with activity also reported in British Columbia and alleged connections extending to California in the United States.

Authorities said the investigation began in December 2025 as a multi-agency operation involving Peel Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and financial intelligence units. Officials said

the group has been linked to 24 criminal incidents, including 16 violent cases involving arson and multiple shootings, with more than 300 rounds fired in total.

Investigators said the victims were largely members of the South Asian diaspora, including restaurant owners, trucking operators, and small business families who were allegedly targeted through threats and escalating violence designed to force extortion payments. The case has raised concern within tightly connected immigrant business communities already dealing with safety fears.

A total of 106 charges have been filed, and six suspects may face immigration action, including removal from Canada. Authorities also confirmed separate immigration detentions and deportations linked to the case. The investigation remains ongoing, with further arrests expected.

Canadian Sikh mountaineer honored after scaling Mount Everest

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ajaypal Singh Dhaliwal, a Punjabi expatriate from Faridkot district, has been felicitated in India after becoming the first Canadian Sikh to summit Mount Everest. Dhaliwal successfully reached the world's highest peak on May 20 after years of preparation and a previous unsuccessful attempt. On Thursday, Faridkot Deputy Commissioner Rahul Chaba honored him and praised his determination, noting that his

achievement brings pride to Punjab and the global Sikh community. Dhaliwal, who now lives in Surrey, Canada, is a lawyer by profession and has also completed multiple international mountain climbs. He is additionally recognized as a marathon runner and an Iron Man title holder. Officials said his accomplishment reflects the growing global presence of Punjabi talent across sports and endurance challenges, and highlighted his perseverance in overcoming setbacks before finally achieving his long-cherished dream of reaching the Everest summit.

Byju's founder jailed in Singapore contempt case amid investor dispute



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Byju Raveendran, founder of the Indian edtech company Byju's, has been sentenced to six months in jail by a Singapore court in a contempt of court case related to alleged non-compliance with disclosure orders. The ruling was issued on Thursday and also includes a directive to pay legal costs of 90,000 Singapore dollars, along with producing documents linked to a Singapore-based investment entity. The case was filed by a subsidiary of the Qatar Investment Authority amid ongoing disputes involving investors and creditors, including a major United States term loan issue. Raveendran called the ruling procedural, denied wrongdoing and said he plans to appeal. He also stated that settlement discussions with stakeholders were close to completion. The decision marks a significant legal setback for Byju's, which has faced financial stress and litigation following its rapid rise and subsequent downturn in valuation and operations.

UK tribunal suspends Indian-origin doctor over patient relationship



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin neurosurgeon working in the United Kingdom has been suspended for eight months after a medical tribunal found he had a sexual relationship with a patient under his care. Dr Chirag Patel, who worked at a National Health Service hospital in Cardiff, Wales, admitted wrongdoing but told the General Medical Council he was deeply remorseful and claimed he was also subjected to blackmail. The Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service ruled that suspension was a proportionate sanction, issued to maintain public confidence and uphold professional standards. The tribunal heard that Patel treated the patient over several years and later prescribed controlled medication while their relationship continued. It concluded that striking him off the medical register would be excessive given his remorse and remediation efforts. Patel has been barred from practicing for the suspension period but avoided permanent removal from the medical register.



Indian national returns to Kerala after 20 years in Saudi prison



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian national Abdul Rahim returned to Kerala on Thursday after spending nearly 20 years in a Saudi Arabian prison in a case that drew widespread attention across the diaspora. Rahim had been convicted in connection with the death of a 15-year-old Saudi boy with disabilities in what was described as an accidental incident. Although he once faced a death sentence, he was later pardoned following a large community-led crowdfunding effort that raised about 15 million Saudi riyals as blood money. The Indian Embassy said it had consistently engaged with Saudi authorities throughout his imprisonment. Rahim's release followed completion of his sentence and procedural delays linked to religious holidays. Emotional scenes were reported as he arrived home, with family members describing years of uncertainty and hope. Rahim said he was deeply grateful for the support that helped secure his eventual release.

Indian national charged in Singapore for harbouring overstayers



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 26-year-old Indian national has been charged in Singapore for allegedly harbouring 13 immigration offenders after their visit passes had expired. Kanojiya Riken was charged alongside two others on May 21, according to the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority. Authorities said the overstayers, aged between 19 and 44, were discovered during a March 3 raid on a residential flat where they had been staying unlawfully between December last year and March this year. Investigators allege Riken failed to conduct checks on their immigration status before allowing them to remain. He was arrested on March 3 and later charged with immigration offences. Singapore authorities said penalties for such offences include imprisonment of six months to two years and fines. The case also involves separate charges against other individuals accused of employing or housing undocumented workers in violation of immigration laws.

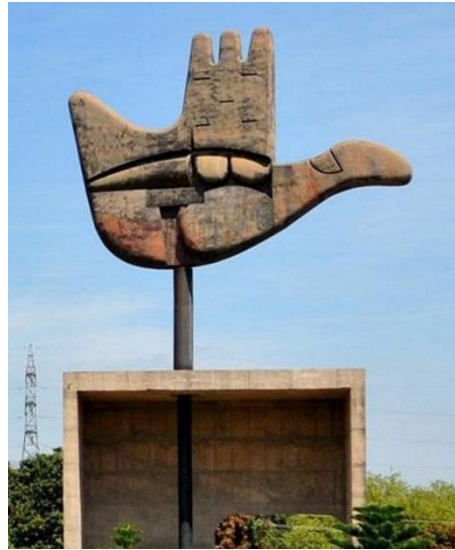
Diaspora brothers transform Punjab village into 'Mini Chandigarh' with major development push

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Manak village in the Phagwara sub-division of Punjab has emerged as a striking example of diaspora-led rural transformation, earning the nickname "Mini Chandigarh" for its upgraded infrastructure, cleanliness, and improved civic amenities. The change has been driven largely by two United Kingdom-based non-resident Indian brothers, Rajveer Manak and Surinder Manak, who have invested both resources and personal commitment into their native village since 2014.

The brothers, who settled in the United Kingdom in 1982 and built successful careers in construction and law, said their efforts were inspired by their late father, former village sarpanch Karnail Singh, who had envisioned modern facilities for Manak similar to developed countries. After his passing, they decided to turn that vision into a sustained development mission.

Working with local representatives, the brothers have invested heavily in education and infrastructure. Around Rs 1 crore was used to upgrade the government primary school into a middle school with modern



facilities, while nearly Rs 10 crore has gone into road construction, sewage systems, and interlocking street tiles, significantly improving sanitation and mobility. About 40 CCTV cameras have also been installed, helping reduce petty crime.

Social welfare projects include a daily free community kitchen serving around 200 people, regular sanitation employment, annual sports tournaments, and large medical camps benefiting over 1,000 residents.

Diaspora pressure grows as UK urged to act in Jagtar Singh Johal case in India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pressure is intensifying on the United Kingdom government to intervene in the long-running detention of British citizen Jagtar Singh Johal, a case that has become a major flashpoint within the Sikh diaspora across Britain, Canada, and beyond. Senior British lawyers, including former attorney general Dominic Grieve, have written to Prime Minister Keir Starmer urging diplomatic engagement with India over what they describe as repeated and unfair prosecution.

Johal has been detained in India since 2017 on terrorism-related charges. Last year, he was acquitted in Punjab of some of the key allegations due to lack of evidence. However, he continues to face multiple overlapping cases pursued by India's National Investigation Agency, all linked to a contested confession that his supporters say was obtained under torture, allegations Indian authorities strongly reject.

Diaspora advocacy groups argue the case has become emblematic of prolonged detention and lack of legal closure, with



Johal's family in the United Kingdom repeatedly campaigning for his release. His brother has described the proceedings as "rigged," saying the process has become repetitive and unjust.

The lawyers argue that continuing prosecution despite acquittals raises concerns under international fair trial standards and may violate protections against double jeopardy. They have urged the British government to raise the matter with New Delhi, although Indian authorities have not responded to the renewed appeal.

Punjab woman seeks help after husband goes missing in Russia-Ukraine war

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A woman from Punjab has appealed for government assistance after her husband went missing following his recruitment into the Russian military. On Thursday, Navdeep Kaur met Rajya Sabha member Sant Seechewal, seeking help to trace her husband Heera Singh, who has been uncontactable for eight months. Singh had travelled to Moscow in October 2024

for higher studies but was later recruited into the Russian army in August 2025, reportedly with promises of a salary and lump-sum payment. The family said he last contacted them in September 2025 after just 15 days of training, following which he was deployed to the front lines. His family also faces severe hardship due to their six-year-old son suffering from Cerebral Palsy. Seechewal has assured assistance through India's External Affairs Ministry and support for the child's treatment and education.

Punjab man dies in New Zealand Uber shift crash, leaves family devastated

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 36-year-old man originally from Punjab died in a road accident in New Zealand on Wednesday evening while working an Uber shift in Papamoa. New Zealand Police said Ramandeep Dhillon died at the scene after a two-vehicle collision on Te Puke Highway, while two occupants of the other vehicle were injured. Dhillon had moved to New Zealand on a student visa in 2015 and later settled with his wife, Veerpal Kaur, after marrying in 2024. The couple had an 18-month-old daughter and worked in kiwifruit orchards before he began driving part-time to support the family. His wife said he had spent time with their daughter before leaving for work that evening and never returned home. His funeral was held on May 20, attended by members of the Indian diaspora community.

Social media debate highlights struggles of some NRI marriages abroad

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A social media post shared on X has sparked debate over the realities faced by some Indian women who move abroad after marriage. The discussion began after a user claimed her cousin returned to India following an unhappy experience with her NRI husband overseas. According to the post, the woman faced isolation, heavy household responsibilities, and pressure from in-laws while living abroad. She reportedly described herself as a "24/7 unpaid labourer" with limited social life. The post has triggered wider reactions from diaspora users, with some arguing that such challenges stem from toxic family dynamics rather than migration itself, while others supported concerns about emotional isolation and dependence in overseas marriages. The debate has reopened conversations around arranged marriages, gender roles, and adjustment pressures faced by some Indian women in the diaspora.

Haryana family makes history as mother and son become mayors in the United Kingdom

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A mother and son from Haryana's Rohtak have achieved a rare political milestone in the United Kingdom, becoming mayors within a week of each other. Twenty-three-year-old Tushar Kumar was elected Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council on May 13, followed by his mother, Parveen Rani, who became Mayor of Hertsmere Borough Council on May 20.

The family moved to the United Kingdom in 2013 and has remained actively involved in community service. Tushar, who entered local politics at a young age while studying at King's College London, is believed to be the youngest Indian-origin mayor in the United Kingdom.

His father said the family continues to maintain strong ties with their roots in Haryana, regularly visiting Rohtak. Both leaders are known for their work in education, cultural outreach, and local community development.



Ukraine secures Gripen jet deal as Sweden fast-tracks interim fighter support



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukkraine will purchase 20 new Gripen fighter jets while Sweden will deliver 16 older C/D models next year, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday in Uppsala. The agreement advances a broader plan signed in 2025 for up to 150 Saab-built Gripen E aircraft, though full deliveries are still years away. Ukraine has allocated part of a European Union loan package for the purchase. Officials said the older jets will provide immediate air defense capacity. Saab shares rose sharply following the announcement, reflecting investor optimism about expanding defense cooperation.

Russian claim of new Ebola vaccine comes as outbreak spreads across central Africa

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia said on Tuesday that its scientists have developed a vaccine targeting a new Ebola strain linked to an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The embassy in South Africa said the vaccine may also protect against the rare Bundibugyo strain. The World Health Organization reported more than 900 suspected cases and over 200 suspected deaths as of Monday, with confirmed cases also recorded in Uganda. Health officials say the outbreak remains severe and fast-moving, with no approved vaccine specifically for the current strain, raising concerns across affected regions.

North Korea showcases cruise missile capability in latest weapons test under Kim Jong Un

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea tested a newly developed lightweight missile launcher and multiple tactical cruise missiles on Tuesday under leader Kim Jong Un, state media reported Wednesday. The Korean Central News Agency said the tests were part of a five-year military modernization plan. South Korea's military said it detected short-range ballistic missiles and rocket launches toward the Yellow Sea from North Phyongan Province. Kim praised the results, particularly the cruise missile system, which officials said can strike targets within 100 kilometers using advanced navigation and artificial intelligence-based targeting systems.

Quad boosts Indo-Pacific security and critical minerals cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Foreign ministers from Australia, India, Japan, and the United States met in New Delhi on Tuesday, unveiling a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening maritime security, energy resilience, and critical mineral supply chains across the Indo-Pacific. The meeting included India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong. The Quad partners announced a new maritime surveillance initiative to integrate monitoring systems and improve real-time information sharing across key sea lanes. They also agreed to work with Fiji on upgrading port infrastructure in the Pacific islands, marking the bloc's first joint regional infrastructure project.

The ministers launched an Indo-Pacific



energy security initiative to strengthen fuel supply chains and address rising demand. The United States said it will host a Quad energy forum later this year to advance coordination. Separately, India and the United States signed a framework agreement on critical minerals covering mining, processing, recycling, and investment. The deal aims to reduce reliance on China-dominated supply chains for materials used in semiconductors, electric vehicles, solar panels, and defense technology. The Quad reaffirmed support for a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific order.

UK minister visits Australia for 'lessons' ahead of expected British social media crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Kingdom's online safety minister said he spent a week in Australia studying the "practical lessons" from its under-16 social media restrictions as Britain prepares to tighten rules on children's online access. Speaking after meetings with ministers, regulators, and students, Kanishka Narayan said Australia's approach has shaped Britain's ongoing policy debate. The United Kingdom is expected to announce new measures within weeks, including possible age limits and stricter controls on addictive platform design. Australia's ban has faced scrutiny, with regulators reporting that about two-thirds of users under sixteen still access social media. Several platforms, including



Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, are under investigation for compliance failures. Narayan said Britain can learn from Australia's enforcement challenges, especially around age verification systems and platform accountability. He said implementation is an evolving process rather than a "silver bullet," adding that public awareness and regulatory pressure have already influenced behavior and national conversations about teen safety online.

Over 1.5 million Haj pilgrims arrive in Mecca; Riyadh increases air defence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Mecca for the annual Haj pilgrimage, which began this week amid heightened regional tensions and renewed concerns over security in West Asia. Saudi authorities have reinforced air defence systems around the holy sites, deploying advanced batteries on the outskirts of the city to protect the pilgrimage from potential aerial threats. The Saudi Ministry of Defence said its forces are responsible

for safeguarding the skies over the holy sites and ensuring the safety of millions of worshippers performing the rituals. Video released by the ministry showed upgraded air defence positions as white-clad pilgrims continued traditional rites, including the tawaf around the Kaaba, before moving to Mina. The pilgrimage is taking place against a backdrop of ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, including tensions linked to Iran and instability in the Strait of Hormuz region. Saudi officials have reported previous drone interceptions in recent weeks and continue to maintain heightened vigilance.

Dormitory fire at Kenyan girls' school kills at least 16 students

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least sixteen students have died after a fire swept through a dormitory at Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil, Kenya, on Thursday, leaving dozens injured and parents searching for answers. The blaze broke out shortly after midnight in Nakuru County, about 76 miles northwest of Nairobi, while around 220 girls were asleep in the building. Education officials said 79 students were injured, most of whom have since been

discharged from hospital, while others remain under treatment. Survivors reported that some doors on the upper floor were locked, forcing students to jump from windows to escape the flames. Early accounts suggest a student may have ignited a mattress, although authorities have not confirmed the cause. Dozens of parents gathered at the school throughout the day awaiting news of their children. The tragedy has renewed scrutiny of fire safety standards in Kenyan boarding schools following several similar incidents in recent years.

NASA plans drone fleet and robotic network to build permanent lunar presence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA unveiled an ambitious plan on Wednesday to deploy autonomous drones, robotic rovers, and a satellite network to support long-term exploration at the Moon's south pole. The "MoonFall" mission will use drones to map terrain, search for water ice, and prepare landing zones for future astronaut missions scheduled under the Artemis program. Launch is planned for 2028. Officials said the future lunar base will span wide regions rather than a single site, requiring distributed habitats, power systems, and communications infrastructure to support sustained exploration and eventual missions to Mars.

European Union summons Russian envoy after warnings over escalation in Ukraine



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union summoned Russia's chargé d'affaires on Tuesday after Moscow warned of intensified strikes on Kyiv and advised foreign nationals to leave the Ukrainian capital. EU officials called the remarks unacceptable and confirmed they would maintain operations in Kyiv while increasing military and financial support for Ukraine. Russia said it was targeting Ukrainian military infrastructure following drone attacks. Norway also summoned Russia's ambassador in protest. The exchanges highlight escalating tensions as both sides continue to accuse each other of attacks on military and civilian-linked infrastructure.

Britain's new sanctions on Russia dismissed by Moscow as ineffective pressure tactic

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia's embassy in London on Tuesday dismissed new British sanctions as ineffective, saying Moscow had already adapted to long-term economic restrictions. Britain announced fresh measures targeting financial and cryptocurrency-linked networks accused of helping Russia bypass sanctions and fund its war effort in Ukraine. British officials said the measures were aimed at disrupting military supply chains and oil revenues. Russia rejected the claims and accused the United Kingdom of hypocrisy, arguing that sanctions would ultimately harm British businesses and citizens more than Moscow's economy.

Taiwan warns of surveillance risks as Chinese apps surge in popularity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan's digital ministry warned on Wednesday that several widely used Chinese-developed apps may pose cybersecurity risks, including potential data access by mainland authorities. Officials cited concerns over navigation and entertainment platforms that request extensive permissions such as location tracking, microphone access, and contact data. One navigation app was flagged for particularly high levels of data activity. The advisory comes amid broader concerns over information security and online influence operations, with Taiwanese agencies reporting coordinated disinformation campaigns targeting public opinion following recent high-level diplomatic developments involving the United States and China.

Colombia jungle clashes between armed groups leave dozens dead in drug corridor violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 52 fighters were killed in clashes between rival armed groups in Colombia's Guaviare region, according to a faction of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia involved in the fighting, in a statement released on Thursday. The violence erupted in a remote jungle area used for cocaine production and trafficking. Colombia's defense ministry confirmed fighting but did not verify the death toll, saying troops had been deployed to protect civilians. The clashes reflect escalating territorial battles between dissident factions competing for control of strategic drug routes in southeastern Colombia.

Russia pressures Armenia over European Union ties ahead of decisive election



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia criticized Armenia on Thursday for strengthening ties with the European Union, warning that Yerevan was drifting from what it called a balanced foreign policy ahead of a June parliamentary election. Russian officials said Armenia remained a partner but accused its leadership of aligning with Western states hostile to Moscow. The comments come as Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan seeks reelection amid a divided political landscape featuring pro-Western and pro-Russian factions. Moscow has increasingly voiced concern over Armenia's deepening engagement with Europe, raising tensions in the South Caucasus region.

Brazil urges respect for international law, negotiation amid United States threats against Cuba

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil has called for restraint, diplomacy, and respect for international law in response to recent United States rhetoric and threats directed at Cuba, urging that tensions in the region be resolved through negotiation rather than escalation. Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said on Monday that Latin America should remain a "zone of dialogue and cooperation," stressing that Brazil rejects any form of foreign military pressure on the Caribbean nation. Vieira said he hoped the situation would not move toward military intervention and insisted that dialogue remains the only responsible path forward. He noted that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva recently raised concerns over Cuban sovereignty during a visit to Washington, emphasizing the need for regional balance and peaceful dispute resolution. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-



Canel has separately accused Washington of using "empty rhetoric" and misinformation to justify pressure on Havana, including allegations related to terrorism. He rejected claims that Cuba poses a threat to the United States and said successive administrations have used sanctions and military intimidation against the island. Díaz-Canel added that Cuba continues to seek peaceful relations but faces sustained political and economic pressure from Washington.

Putin signs law permitting use of army to protect Russians abroad

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new law authorizing the use of Russia's armed forces to protect Russian citizens abroad under specific circumstances, expanding the legal framework for potential overseas military involvement. The legislation allows intervention if Russian nationals face arrest, prosecution, or legal action by foreign or international courts that Moscow considers illegitimate or lacking Russian participation. According to state media reports on Monday, the measure gives the president discretion to instruct government agencies to take protective actions in such cases. It builds

on existing powers that already allow the deployment of Russian forces beyond national borders. The move comes amid heightened diplomatic tensions following the arrest of retired Russian Orthodox Church bishop Hilarion Alfeyev in the Czech Republic. Russian officials have described the case as politically motivated and demanded his release, claiming he was detained on fabricated charges after police allegedly found an unspecified substance in his vehicle. The Russian Foreign Ministry has announced plans to summon the Czech ambassador, accusing authorities of targeting religious figures and escalating anti-Russian sentiment. Czech authorities have not publicly responded in detail to Moscow's allegations.

Wild weather unleashes thunderstorms across south-east Australia, triggering flash flooding

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe thunderstorms have swept across south-east Australia on Thursday, triggering flash flooding, travel disruptions, and widespread power outages across Queensland, New South Wales, and Tasmania. Authorities reported hundreds of thousands of lightning strikes and heavy rainfall driven by a low-pressure system drawing tropical moisture into the region. The Bureau of Meteorology said the system is unusually late in the season, more typical

of spring or summer weather patterns. Meteorologists warned that a developing low-pressure cell off the New South Wales coast on Friday could bring further heavy rain and possible flooding, particularly in the mid-north coast and Hunter regions. Emergency services issued warnings for flash flooding, road hazards, and rising river levels, with isolated rainfall totals expected to reach up to 100 millimeters. Tasmania also recorded significant flooding, with some areas exceeding 100 millimeters of rain. Conditions are expected to ease over the weekend as the system moves offshore.

Suicide bombing near railway track in Pakistan kills at least 23 people

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 23 people were killed and more than 70 injured on Sunday after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near a railway track in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan, as a passenger train passed through the area. The explosion caused two train carriages to derail and catch fire, sending thick smoke over the city. Officials said the blast struck an area normally patrolled by security forces and also damaged nearby buildings and vehicles.

Hospitals reported that around 20 injured people were in critical condition. The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility, saying it targeted security personnel. Authorities condemned the attack and declared a medical emergency in local hospitals. Pakistan's leadership called it a terrorist act and vowed action against those responsible. The incident comes amid long-running insurgency in Balochistan, a resource-rich province that has seen repeated militant violence targeting civilians and security forces despite government claims of improved control.

Iceland moves closer to EU accession talks with referendum set for August



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iceland's parliament voted on Thursday to hold a referendum on August 29 on whether to restart European Union accession talks, marking a major step toward potential membership negotiations. The proposal reflects renewed interest in joining the bloc driven by economic pressures and geopolitical uncertainty following the war in Ukraine. If approved, formal negotiations would resume, followed by a second referendum on final membership terms. Iceland abandoned EU talks in 2013, but shifting public opinion and regional security concerns have revived debate over the country's long-term alignment with Europe.

NATO strengthens Baltic defense command with German-Netherlands corps role

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NATO will assign the German-Netherlands Corps to command allied forces in Estonia and Latvia in the event of war with Russia, German and Dutch officials said on Thursday, strengthening the alliance's eastern defense structure. The move creates a second command layer for the Baltic region, which NATO considers highly vulnerable to potential Russian aggression. The corps, based in Germany, will assume its new role around midyear. Officials said the restructuring will improve rapid deployment and coordination of multinational forces, as NATO continues to expand its deterrence posture in Eastern Europe.

IMF releases \$695 million to Sri Lanka after economic review

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Monetary Fund on Thursday approved a fresh \$695 million disbursement to Sri Lanka after completing the fifth and sixth reviews of the country's economic reform program under the Extended Fund Facility arrangement.

The latest tranche raises total IMF support to about \$2.4 billion under the four-year \$3 billion program launched in 2023. The IMF said Sri Lanka had met all end-2025 quantitative targets, although some structural reforms were delayed. The fund warned that the Middle East conflict and the impact of Cyclone Ditwah could hurt economic recovery. Sri Lanka's growth is projected to slow to 3 percent in 2026, while inflation is expected to rise to around 5 percent due to higher oil prices and weaker tourism revenue.

Amit Shah defends voter revision exercise and attacks opposition criticism



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday accused Rahul Gandhi and opposition parties of spreading misinformation against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision process. Speaking at an event in Ahmedabad, Shah said the opposition had approached the courts alleging voter fraud, but claimed the process had now been upheld as constitutionally valid.

He said only Indian citizens should have the right to decide the country's future and linked the issue to infiltration concerns. Shah also announced that the government had formed a Demographic Change Commission to study population changes and related issues.

Sukhendu Sekhar Roy says Trinamool failed to understand public anger

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Sukhendu Sekhar Roy on Thursday admitted that the party failed to recognize growing public anger in West Bengal over corruption, governance failures, and women's safety issues. He said the RG Kar medical college rape and murder case became a turning point that deeply damaged public trust. Roy alleged corruption had become widespread within the system and criticized the party for weakening opposition space in the state. He also claimed that welfare schemes alone could not outweigh public concerns over safety and accountability, particularly among women voters.

Delhi minister rejects allegations of irregularities in Ayushman health centres



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh on Thursday denied allegations of financial irregularities in the development of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the capital. He said all projects were carried out strictly under central government guidelines and approved funding norms. According to the minister, 370 health centres became operational during the 2025 to 2026 financial year under national healthcare schemes. He said more than 66 crore rupees had been released for infrastructure upgrades and service improvements. Singh added that the centres were established to strengthen primary healthcare delivery and improve diagnostic and patient services across Delhi.

Eid-ul-Adha prayers draw large gatherings across India under tight security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Eid-ul-Adha, popularly known as Bakrid, was celebrated across India on Thursday with prayers, community gatherings, and messages of peace and brotherhood. Authorities deployed heavy security arrangements in several cities to ensure peaceful celebrations. Large crowds gathered at Eidgahs and mosques in Uttar Pradesh cities including Lucknow, Noida, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Deoria, Amethi, and Hardoi. Police teams,

drones, CCTV surveillance, and Quick Response Teams were deployed in sensitive areas. In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh minister Danish Azad Ansari offered prayers and appealed for communal harmony. In Delhi, devotees gathered at Jama Masjid for prayers, while similar scenes were witnessed in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Vasai-Virar in Maharashtra. In Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, prayers were held peacefully at Eidgahs and mosques under security arrangements. Eid-ul-Adha commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah's command.



Arvind Kejriwal escalates row over alleged intelligence bureau calls to Aam Aadmi Party workers in Gujarat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A political controversy erupted after Aam Aadmi Party leaders accused unidentified individuals of making repeated calls to party workers in Gujarat, allegedly claiming to be from the Intelligence Bureau and asking for verification details. Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday that he personally called the number involved and demanded clarification on the legal basis of such verification. According to party leaders, nearly 100 workers reportedly received similar calls over the past few weeks, with some alleging they were summoned and questioned after responding. Kejriwal claimed the caller initially confirmed affiliation with the agency but later disconnected when asked about legal authority. He said he plans to visit the Intelligence Bureau office during his next trip to Gujarat to seek answers. The Intelligence Bureau and Gujarat Police have not issued any response so



far. The party has urged workers to publicly document such calls, while raising concerns about privacy and alleged intimidation.

President Murmu calls for citizen-friendly policing while honoring Sikkim Police

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday presented the prestigious 'President of India's Police Colour' to the Sikkim Police in Gangtok, recognizing the force's contribution to maintaining peace and public trust. She said India's policing system still carries traces of its colonial past and stressed the need for a more people-centric approach.

The President urged police personnel to become "partners and guides" for citizens and called for greater transparency, accountability, and sensitivity toward women and vulnerable groups. She praised the Sikkim Police for its professional conduct and public-friendly approach since its establishment in 1897. The



award is one of the country's highest honors for a police force and is given for exceptional service to society and the nation.

Hamirpur bridge collapse kills six as rescue operations continue in Uttar Pradesh



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least six workers were killed after an under-construction bridge over the Betwa River collapsed late at night in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday during a storm. The structure gave way around 2 a.m. amid heavy rain and strong winds, trapping workers who were reportedly resting on the slab. Rescue teams, including the State Disaster Response Force, police, and district officials, are continuing search operations, with fears the death toll could rise as debris is cleared. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief and directed officials to speed up rescue efforts, ensure treatment for the injured, and provide compensation to victims' families. Authorities said five bodies have been recovered so far, while efforts continue to locate those still missing under the rubble.

Karnataka Governor accepts Siddaramaiah resignation, caretaker arrangement in place

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Karnataka Governor on Friday accepted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers headed by him, marking a major political transition in the state. The Governor's order, issued under constitutional provisions, confirmed that the resignation submitted a day earlier was accepted with immediate effect. Siddaramaiah has been asked to continue as caretaker Chief Minister until alternative arrangements are made, with instructions limiting executive decisions during this period. The Council of Ministers also stands dissolved. The move follows Siddaramaiah's resignation after directions from party leadership, as the ruling party retains a majority in the state assembly. The decision has triggered a leadership transition process within the state's political establishment.

Princee Rani becomes first woman IG of BSF Tripura Frontier

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Police Service officer Princee Rani has been appointed Inspector General of the Border Security Force Tripura Frontier, becoming the first woman to hold the post. She will oversee security along the 856-kilometre India Bangladesh border, officials said on Thursday. A 2005-batch officer, she previously served in senior roles in Tripura Police and also held a position in the National Security Guard on central deputation. She has been recognized for her work in policing and internal security. Officials said she will take charge soon. The appointment comes as the region continues to face challenges including cross-border smuggling and illegal migration.

Bharatiya Janata Party alleges irregularities in Punjab municipal elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Punjab Bharatiya Janata Party has submitted a complaint to the State Election Commission alleging booth capturing, voter list manipulation, and misuse of official machinery during municipal elections. The party demanded re-polling in affected areas and a transparent counting process.

Officials said the elections recorded 64 percent turnout across 102 civic bodies, with counting scheduled for Friday under tight security and CCTV surveillance.

The Bharatiya Janata Party said electoral fairness must be ensured to protect democratic values. Results are expected by afternoon as counting progresses across multiple centres.

Indian Air Force to transport NEET re-exam papers for enhanced security



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government has decided to deploy the Indian Air Force to transport question papers for the National Eligibility cum Entrance

Test Undergraduate re-examination on June 21, citing logistical challenges and weather concerns. The decision was announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan after a high-level meeting with senior ministers. Officials said the move is part of a coordinated strategy involving multiple ministries to ensure a leak-proof and secure examination process. The postal system will continue to assist, but the Air Force will handle sensitive transport. The government said the step aims to strengthen exam security and ensure timely delivery of papers nationwide, reinforcing transparency and credibility in the testing system.

Beniwal halts Jaipur march after Rajasthan government pauses Bhairana Dham project

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party chief and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal on Wednesday night called off his march to Jaipur after the Rajasthan government agreed to suspend industrial activities linked to the proposed RIICO project at Bhairana Dham in Jaipur district. The agitation had intensified after a large Mahapanchayat of saints and villagers opposed the proposed industrial zone and dairy plots on nearly 800 bighas of land, claiming the area serves as grazing land, a religious site, and a natural water conservation zone. Following failed talks earlier in the day, Beniwal began a late-night march with thousands of supporters from several districts. Authorities later stopped the convoy and resumed negotiations with senior officials and RIICO representatives. After the talks, Beniwal said all construction and dairy plot allotments had been put on hold. A joint committee of saints, officials, and public representatives will inspect the disputed land within seven days and examine whether natural water bodies or drainage channels exist in the project area.

Punjab BJP turns to Sikh leadership ahead of 2027 state elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday appointed former Congress legislator Kewal Singh Dhillon as the new Punjab unit chief, replacing Sunil Jakhar as the party sharpens its strategy ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Political observers see the move as an attempt to project a prominent Sikh face in the Sikh-majority state and strengthen the party's rural outreach. Dhillon, 75, served as a Congress MLA from Barnala

between 2007 and 2017 before joining the BJP in 2022 after the Congress' Assembly election defeat. A close associate of former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, he later contested both the Sangrur parliamentary bypoll and the 2024 Barnala Assembly bypoll on a BJP ticket but lost. Jakhar, a former Punjab Congress president and three-time MLA from Abohar, had led the BJP's Punjab unit since 2023. Reports of his differences with the party leadership had surfaced in recent months, though he continued participating in organizational activities across the state.

Bharatiya Janata Party begins nationwide election outreach ahead of crucial 2027 state polls

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a major nationwide organizational outreach campaign ahead of the 2027 assembly elections, beginning with national president Nitin Nabin's three-day visit to Uttarakhand on Thursday. During the visit, Nabin is expected to hold marathon meetings with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, state ministers, legislators, party office-bearers, and booth-level workers to assess political preparedness and strengthen the party structure at the grassroots level.

Party sources described the Uttarakhand

tour as the first phase of a broader strategy covering all poll-bound states, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Goa, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The Bharatiya Janata Party currently governs all these states except Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. The leadership is focusing on early election planning, governance reviews, and organizational restructuring to avoid complacency ahead of the high-stakes polls.

In a significant move, Nabin also appointed Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon as Punjab unit president, signaling the party's effort to strengthen its Sikh leadership and challenge the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in the border state.

Army commander reviews fourth day of anti-terror operation in Rajouri

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Northern Army Commander Pratik Sharma on Wednesday visited Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district as the anti-terror operation in the Gambhir Mughlan forest area entered its fourth day. The operation began on Sunday after intelligence inputs indicated the presence of terrorists in the region. Army officials said Sharma reviewed operational preparedness and met Army, police, intelligence and Central Reserve Police Force personnel involved in 'Operation



Sheruwali'. Reports suggested two to three Pakistani terrorists were trapped in the area, including suspected operatives linked to earlier attacks on security forces, although officials have not confirmed their identities.

Asaram surrenders after Rajasthan High Court upholds life sentence in rape case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Self-styled godman Asaram surrendered at Jodhpur Central Jail on Thursday after the Rajasthan High Court upheld his life sentence in the 2013 minor rape case and cancelled his interim bail. He arrived in Jodhpur amid tight security as large crowds of supporters gathered at the airport. Before surrendering around 5

p.m., he visited his ashram and underwent a medical examination at AIIMS Jodhpur. The High Court on Wednesday rejected his appeal and ordered immediate cancellation of bail, reaffirming that his life sentence would continue for the remainder of his natural life. The case relates to allegations that a minor student was sexually assaulted at his Jodhpur ashram in 2013. Asaram was originally convicted in April 2018.

NGT seeks responses over resort construction near Palamu Tiger Reserve

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Green Tribunal has issued notices over alleged illegal hotel and resort construction activities in Jharkhand's Netarhat eco-sensitive zone and Palamu Tiger Reserve. The tribunal acted on a petition filed by environmental activist Govind Pathak, who alleged that several commercial projects were being developed without mandatory

environmental clearances. During a hearing held on Sunday, the eastern zonal bench of the tribunal sought responses from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the Jharkhand government, and officials linked to the Palamu Tiger Reserve. The petition claims around 59 hotels and resorts are under construction in the eco-sensitive zone, including two inside the wildlife sanctuary area. The next hearing is scheduled for Tuesday.

Surjewala dismisses Karnataka leadership change speculation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Wednesday dismissed speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka, saying there was no "power-sharing" arrangement within the party. Speaking in Bengaluru, the Congress general secretary said no official discussion had taken place regarding replacing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He said recent meetings involving Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal focused only on Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections. Surjewala described reports of political turmoil as speculation and said any future decision would be taken in the interest of Karnataka and its people. He also praised both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for their contributions to the party.

Meghalaya says tribal identity will remain protected amid UCC debate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

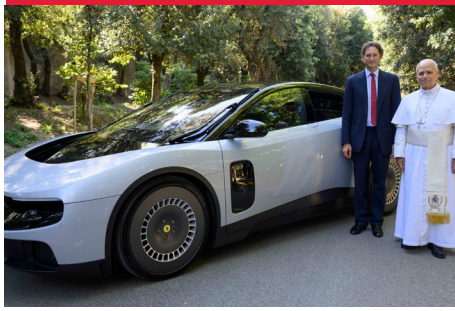
Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Wednesday said the state government is studying Uniform Civil Code laws passed in states such as Assam and Uttarakhand before taking a final position. Speaking in Shillong, Sangma stressed that protecting Meghalaya's tribal customs and matrilineal social structure remains the government's top priority. He said earlier concerns over the Uniform Civil Code arose because people lacked clarity about its provisions. According to Sangma, a preliminary review suggests tribal customary laws have largely been kept outside the scope of the legislation in other states. However, he said Meghalaya would continue examining the issue carefully from legal and political perspectives before making any decision.

Shinde announces major relief measures for Maharashtra onion and sugarcane farmers

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Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday said several relief measures for onion growers and sugarcane farmers were approved during a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Centre decided that NAFED and NCCF would procure onions at \$18.50 per quintal, while procurement capacity would be expanded from 200,000 tonnes to 1 million tonnes. Shinde said the government would also improve onion storage and grading facilities and take steps to boost exports. The meeting also discussed increasing ethanol quotas, reviewing sugar prices, restructuring debts of sugar mills, and resolving provident fund issues affecting sugarcane workers.

Ferrari's first electric car faces skeptical market reaction



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Ferrari unveiled its first fully electric vehicle, the Luce EV, on Monday, but the launch drew mixed reactions from investors and auto critics. Company chairman John Elkann presented the model to Pope Leo XIV at Castel Gandolfo near Rome. The five-seat vehicle delivers 1,000 horsepower, reaches 60 miles per hour in 2.5 seconds, and offers a range of more than 329 miles. Reports estimate the Italian price at about \$570,000. Ferrari shares fell sharply Tuesday after the unveiling, while critics questioned the car's taller design and high price. Ferrari has also reduced its target for fully electric vehicles in its lineup by 2030 as global electric vehicle demand remains uneven.

Caesars Entertainment to be acquired in \$17.6 billion deal



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Caesars Entertainment is set to be acquired by Fertitta Entertainment in a deal valued at roughly \$17.6 billion, including debt. The agreement announced Thursday includes a \$5.7 billion cash payment and the assumption of nearly \$12 billion in Caesars debt. Caesars shareholders will receive \$31 per share, representing a 49% premium over the company's stock price before merger speculation began in February. Fertitta Entertainment owns the Golden Nugget casino brand along with restaurant chains including Rainforest Cafe and Morton's. Caesars, famous for the opening of Caesars Palace in Las Vegas in 1966, may still seek rival bids through Friday, July 11. Shares of Caesars rose nearly 2% before markets opened Thursday.

India retains top global consumer confidence ranking in May

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India remained the world's most confident consumer market in May, according to the latest LSEG-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index released Thursday. The country recorded a score of 66.6, rising 0.4 points from April and remaining the only surveyed market above 60. Malaysia and Indonesia followed at 56.7, while France, Japan, and Turkey ranked among the weakest performers. Ipsos India Chief Executive Officer Suresh Ramalingam said stronger confidence in personal finances and investments helped support sentiment despite concerns over fuel prices, geopolitical tensions, and a weakening rupee. However, the employment outlook weakened amid worries about artificial intelligence-related disruption and corporate cost-cutting.

Gold and silver retreat as stronger dollar, Iran tensions pressure bullion

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Gold and silver prices declined in global markets on Thursday as investors reacted to a stronger U.S. dollar, rising crude oil prices and escalating geopolitical tensions following fresh American military action against Iran. Spot gold fell nearly 2% to about \$4,369 per ounce, while COMEX gold futures traded around 1.8% lower. Silver also came under heavy pressure, with spot prices dropping more than 3% to nearly \$71.94 per ounce and COMEX silver futures declining over 3.5%. Commodity market analysts said uncertainty surrounding ongoing U.S.-Iran tensions and unresolved negotiations continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Key disputes include Iran's insistence on maintaining influence over the Strait of Hormuz and preserving its nuclear program, while President Donald Trump has rejected easing sanctions or accepting what he described as an unfavorable agreement.

Analysts said higher crude oil prices are fueling inflation concerns globally, reducing expectations of near-term interest rate cuts by major central banks. They added that persistent geopolitical risks, elevated energy

costs and a firmer dollar are likely to keep precious metals volatile in the coming weeks. Domestic trading on India's Multi Commodity Exchange remained closed on Thursday for Eid al-Adha. Gold and silver prices declined in global markets on Thursday as investors reacted to a stronger U.S. dollar, rising crude oil prices and escalating geopolitical tensions following fresh American military action against Iran. Spot gold fell nearly 2% to about \$4,369 per ounce, while COMEX gold futures traded around 1.8% lower. Silver also came under heavy pressure, with spot prices dropping more than 3% to nearly \$71.94 per ounce and COMEX silver futures declining over 3.5%. Commodity market analysts said uncertainty surrounding ongoing U.S.-Iran tensions and unresolved negotiations continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Key disputes include Iran's insistence on maintaining influence over the Strait of Hormuz and preserving its nuclear program, while President Donald Trump has rejected easing sanctions or accepting what he described as an unfavorable agreement. Analysts said higher crude oil prices are fueling inflation concerns globally, reducing expectations of near-term interest rate cuts by major central banks.

India and Canada reaffirm goal of expanding bilateral trade to \$50 billion

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India and Canada have reaffirmed their commitment to increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday after concluding a three-day visit to Canada aimed at reviving economic ties and accelerating trade negotiations. Current bilateral trade between the two countries stands at about \$8.5 billion. Goyal led the largest Indian business delegation ever sent to Canada, with representatives from more than 100 Indian companies participating in meetings across Ottawa and Toronto from Sunday through Wednesday. The visit focused heavily on advancing negotiations for the

proposed India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Goyal held discussions with business leaders, institutional investors, innovation groups and members of the Indian diaspora. He also met Ontario Premier Doug Ford to discuss cooperation in manufacturing, clean energy, infrastructure, technology, food processing and critical minerals. During engagements at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and the Ontario Centre of Innovation, Goyal highlighted India's expanding startup ecosystem and opportunities for collaboration in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cleantech and agritech. He said both countries are well-positioned to deepen long-term investment and technology partnerships.

Australia files record lawsuit against 3M over PFAS 'forever chemicals' contamination

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Australia's government on Thursday launched its largest-ever compensation lawsuit, seeking more than \$1.4 billion from 3M over contamination linked to PFAS chemicals at 28 military bases. The case, filed in the Federal Court of Australia, accuses the company and its Australian subsidiary of failing to disclose environmental risks tied

to firefighting foam containing so-called 'forever chemicals.' Attorney-General Michelle Rowland said authorities spent billions investigating and cleaning contaminated land and water. Defense officials said more than 200,000 metric tons of polluted soil and 13 billion liters of water had already been treated. 3M denied responsibility, arguing it stopped selling the products in Australia around two decades ago while the Defense Department continued using them afterward.

Inflation rises to three-year high as Americans' spending power weakens

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A key United States inflation measure climbed to 3.8% in April, its highest level in three years, according to Commerce Department data released Thursday. Rising prices for gasoline, groceries, clothing, and electricity added pressure on households and complicated the economic outlook for President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans ahead of the

midterm elections. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, increased to 3.3%. The report also showed inflation-adjusted incomes fell for a third straight month, while consumer spending barely increased after accounting for higher prices. Economists warned inflation pressures remain widespread, driven partly by energy costs linked to the Iran conflict. The Federal Reserve may now delay interest rate cuts, with some officials signaling the possibility of future rate increases.

Meta prepares paid subscription plans for Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp



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Meta is preparing to roll out premium subscription plans for Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp across global markets, according to reports published Thursday. The new 'Plus' plans will offer advanced features, customization tools, and greater visibility for paying users. Instagram Plus and Facebook Plus are expected to cost about \$3.99 monthly, while WhatsApp Plus may cost \$2.99. Premium Instagram features include anonymous Story viewing, extended Story visibility, custom profile tools, and audience analytics. WhatsApp Plus will focus on personalized chat themes, stickers, and pinned chats. Meta said the subscriptions will remain separate from its existing Meta Verified service.

China intensifies crackdown on illegal offshore stock trading

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Chinese regulators have intensified action against unauthorized offshore stock trading platforms as authorities seek tighter control over capital outflows and overseas investing. The China Securities Regulatory Commission penalized brokerage firms including Tiger Brokers, Futu Securities International, and Long Bridge Securities for illegally offering mainland investors access to foreign markets without approval. Regulators said the firms violated China's securities laws by processing overseas trading orders within mainland China. Authorities also pledged to eliminate illegal offshore brokerage activity within two years as part of broader efforts to strengthen capital controls, improve investor protection, and maintain financial stability amid rising demand for global investments.

Bangladesh government reviews controversial United States trade deal

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Bangladesh's new government is reviewing a controversial trade agreement signed with the United States under the previous interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus, according to ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Khaled Hossain Mahub Shyamal. Speaking Thursday, Shyamal said authorities would examine the deal while protecting Bangladesh's sovereignty and national interests. Critics allege the agreement, signed days before February's national election, included undisclosed strategic and trade conditions favoring Washington. Concerns reportedly include tariff concessions, restrictions on agreements with countries such as China and Russia, and limitations on certain nuclear purchases. The deal has faced mounting political pressure since Prime Minister Tarique Rahman assumed office earlier this year.

USPS signs exclusive \$10 billion delivery partnership with DHL



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United States Postal Service and DHL eCommerce announced Wednesday an exclusive multi-year agreement for last-mile parcel deliveries in the United States valued at more than \$10 billion. The deal is the largest in the companies' 25-year partnership. DHL will continue handling package pickup and sorting through its 19 United States hubs, while USPS will manage final deliveries across more than 170 million addresses and 41,550 ZIP codes six days a week. DHL executives said the agreement could help double the company's United States business by 2030 and support expansion into heavier package deliveries. USPS called the contract a major milestone as the agency faces financial pressure and declining shipping volumes from key customer Amazon.

Boeing says China's 200-jet order is only the beginning

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Boeing Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ortberg said Wednesday that China's commitment to purchase 200 Boeing aircraft represents only an "initial tranche" of what could become a much larger deal. Speaking at a conference in the United States, Ortberg said the agreement reopened the Chinese market to Boeing narrowbody jets after years of trade tensions between Washington and Beijing. The aircraft are expected to be distributed among state-owned carriers Air China, China Eastern Airlines, and China Southern Airlines. Reports suggest China could eventually order between 300 and 500 additional aircraft if Boeing guarantees spare parts supplies. President Donald Trump has previously said total purchases could rise to as many as 750 planes.

Taiwan says chip tariff protections already secured in United States trade deal

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Taiwan said Thursday that the United States has not set a timetable for possible semiconductor tariffs under Section 232 investigations and confirmed that preferential treatment for Taiwanese chipmakers had already been secured under a January trade agreement. Vice Premier Cheng Li-chiun said the deal guarantees favorable treatment for Taiwanese companies investing in the United States if future semiconductor tariffs are introduced. The agreement also lowers or removes tariffs on several Taiwanese exports, including auto and aircraft parts, wood, and steel products. Taiwan is home to TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker, which is investing \$165 billion in manufacturing facilities in Arizona. Cheng said the preferential protections for Taiwan's semiconductor industry would remain unchanged regardless of future United States tariff decisions.

European Union fines Temu \$232 million over unsafe products

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The European Union on Thursday fined Chinese online retailer Temu \$232 million after investigators found the platform failed to prevent sales of unsafe toys and electronics. The penalty was issued under the bloc's Digital Services Act following an investigation that uncovered hazardous baby toys and electronic chargers that violated European safety standards. European regulators said Temu failed to properly assess risks linked to illegal products sold through its marketplace. The company disputed the ruling, calling the fine disproportionate, while stating it had cooperated with investigators and improved safety systems.



Temu, owned by PDD Holdings, has around 92 million users in Europe and must submit a corrective action plan by the end of August or face additional penalties.

Dollar faces long-term pressure as Europe seeks bigger role in global markets

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Senior executives from JPMorgan Asset Management and Euroclear said on Thursday that the U.S. dollar could weaken over the long term as investors grow increasingly concerned about America's rising debt burden and fiscal outlook. Speaking at an International Capital Markets Association conference in London, JPMorgan Asset Management EMEA Chief Executive Patrick Thomson said the U.S. Treasury market remains dominant, but long-term debt sustainability concerns could weigh on the dollar's future strength.



The dollar has gained nearly 2% since the Iran conflict escalated earlier this year, supported by its safe-haven appeal and the

United States' role as a major energy exporter. However, Thomson said Europe has an opportunity to attract more global investment if it deepens its capital markets and encourages greater retail participation. Euroclear Chief Executive Valerie Urbain also stressed that Europe needs stronger investor participation and broader financing markets to compete more effectively with the United States.

Panama approves tougher tax rules for multinational companies

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Panama's National Assembly approved a new law on Wednesday requiring multinational companies based in the country to prove they have genuine local operations or face a 15% tax on passive foreign income earned abroad. The measure is aimed at strengthening tax transparency standards and supporting Panama's efforts to be removed from European Union monitoring lists. Under the legislation, companies must demonstrate economic substance in Panama, including qualified employees, operational facilities, strategic management activity and real business expenses. Firms failing to meet those requirements will face taxes on income such as dividends, royalties, interest, capital gains and overseas real estate earnings. The law, which still requires approval from President



Jose Raul Mulino, will take effect in fiscal year 2027, with regulations expected within 90 days of enactment. Panama also included incentives for intellectual property developed locally, including patents and trademarks, while exempting the banking, insurance and merchant marine sectors from the new rules.

Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines expand joint flight network

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Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines announced Thursday a major expansion of their joint network for the Northern Winter 2026 season, increasing seat capacity between Singapore and New Zealand by 17%. The alliance will add about 72,000 seats, bringing total capacity to more than 490,000 seats during the season. Air New Zealand will

launch three weekly nonstop Singapore-Christchurch flights using Boeing 787 aircraft and add four weekly Auckland services. Singapore Airlines will deploy its Airbus A380 daily on Auckland routes, replacing Boeing 777 aircraft. Combined Christchurch operations will rise to 15 weekly flights during peak months. Both airlines said the expansion aims to meet growing travel demand between New Zealand, Asia, Europe, and India through Singapore's global aviation hub.

United States and Mexico begin formal talks to revise trade pact



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The United States and Mexico launched formal negotiations Thursday to revise the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, with Washington seeking stricter regional content requirements for vehicles manufactured in North America. According to reports, the United States wants a minimum level of specifically American-made content in cars and trucks assembled in Mexico, marking a significant shift from current rules. Jamieson Greer said the talks aim to strengthen manufacturing within the United States. Canada is not participating in the current round of negotiations, which will continue through Friday in Mexico City, followed by additional bilateral meetings later this summer. The discussions come as the Trump administration maintains tariffs on autos, steel, aluminum, and copper imports, ending decades of largely duty-free North American trade under previous agreements.

Gucci to become Alpine F1 title partner in 2027

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Gucci will become the title partner of Alpine Formula One Team beginning with the 2027 Formula One season, the companies announced Wednesday. The team will compete under the name Gucci Racing Alpine Formula One Team and adopt a new Gucci-inspired color scheme, replacing its current blue and pink design. Gucci is also launching 'Gucci Racing,' a new platform focused on luxury, sport, and performance experiences. Alpine Executive Advisor Flavio Briatore called the partnership a major step forward for the team, which currently sits fifth in the Constructors' Championship after improving from last place in 2025. Gucci described the partnership as its first title sponsorship in Formula One.

Royal Caribbean drops Mexico water park project after environmental objections

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Royal Caribbean has abandoned plans to build a major water park on Mexico's Caribbean coast after authorities denied environmental permits for the project, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum confirmed Wednesday. The proposed 'Perfect Day' attraction in Mahahual faced strong opposition from residents and environmental activists concerned about damage to nearby mangroves and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the world's second-largest coral reef system. Mexico's environmental ministry ruled the project would be too invasive for the fragile ecosystem. Sheinbaum said officials are discussing alternative locations with the company. The project was part of a proposed \$1.5 billion investment. Royal Caribbean is still proceeding with a separate beach club development on the nearby island of Cozumel.

Messi headlines Argentina's World Cup title defense squad



Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni on Friday announced a 26-member squad for the FIFA World Cup 2026, with Lionel Messi set to play in his sixth World Cup. The defending champions will also rely on Lautaro Martinez, Julian Alvarez, Alexis Mac Allister and Emiliano Martinez as they attempt to retain the title won in Qatar in 2022. Messi recently suffered minor physical discomfort while playing for Inter Miami, but Scaloni said initial reports were not serious. Seventeen players from Argentina's 2022 World Cup-winning squad have been retained, while veterans including Angel Di Maria and Paulo Dybala were omitted. Argentina open their campaign against Algeria on Monday, June 16.

Barcelona close to signing Newcastle winger Anthony Gordon



Barcelona are close to completing the signing of England winger Anthony Gordon from Newcastle United ahead of the 2026-27 La Liga season. Spanish media reports said the deal could be worth around \$81 million plus performance-related add-ons. Barcelona reportedly beat competition from Bayern Munich to secure the 25-year-old, who scored 17 goals in 46 appearances for Newcastle last season. Gordon is expected to arrive in Barcelona on Friday for medical tests and contract formalities before joining England's World Cup preparations. The move is seen as part of coach Hansi Flick's effort to strengthen Barcelona's attack after the club's La Liga title-winning campaign.

Kyle Busch's death certificate reveals pneumonia led to fatal sepsis complications

Former NASCAR star Kyle Busch died after complications from bacterial pneumonia triggered sepsis and multiple medical emergencies, according to his death certificate released in North Carolina. The certificate stated that Busch suffered hemorrhagic shock and disseminated intravascular coagulation after experiencing pneumonia symptoms for "days to weeks" before his condition rapidly worsened. His death was ruled natural. Busch, 41, was cremated in Mooresville following an autopsy.



Despite being ill, Busch continued racing throughout May and even won a Truck Series race at Dover before competing in the All-Star Race days before his death. Reports stated he became unresponsive while testing in a Chevrolet racing simulator facility in Concord and was

later taken to a Charlotte hospital, where he died the following day. Emergency call records reportedly mentioned shortness of breath and coughing up blood. Busch was a two-time Cup Series champion and recorded 234 victories across NASCAR's top three national series during his celebrated career.

Demichelis stays at Mallorca despite relegation from La Liga



CD Mallorca on Thursday confirmed that head coach Martin Demichelis has signed a new contract until June 2028 despite the club's relegation from La Liga. The former Argentina defender joined Mallorca in February but could not prevent the team from dropping to the second division after finishing with 42 points. Mallorca ended the season with a 3-0 win over Oviedo, but results elsewhere confirmed relegation. Demichelis replaced Jagoba Arrasate earlier in the season after Mallorca slipped into the relegation zone. As a coach, Demichelis previously managed River Plate and Monterrey and won a league title and Supercup with the Argentine club.

NBA approves sweeping draft lottery changes to discourage tanking

The National Basketball Association approved major reforms to its draft lottery system on Thursday in an effort to reduce tanking and encourage teams to remain competitive throughout the regular season. Beginning in 2027, the lottery will expand from 14 to 16 teams, while the odds structure will also change significantly. Under the revised system, the three teams with the league's worst records will receive only two lottery balls each, while teams ranked fourth through 10th from the bottom will receive three balls, reducing incentives to finish among the NBA's bottom three teams.



The updated format will also prevent franchises from winning the No. 1 overall pick in consecutive seasons or appearing

in the top five for three straight years. The measure passed overwhelmingly by a 29-1 vote, with only the Memphis Grizzlies opposing it. League officials believe the changes will create more meaningful late-season competition while limiting intentional losing aimed at securing top draft prospects.

New Zealand's Tim Payne becomes viral World Cup favorite after influencer campaign

Tim Payne has unexpectedly become one of the most talked-about players ahead of the FIFA World Cup after Argentine soccer influencer Valen Scarsini launched an online campaign encouraging fans to support the New Zealand defender. Earlier this week, Payne had fewer than 5,000 Instagram followers, but his account exploded in popularity after Scarsini described him as the least-known player participating in the World Cup and urged fans worldwide to make him famous. By Friday, Payne's

follower count had climbed beyond one million. Fans also created songs, memes, and videos celebrating the defender, who recently made his 50th international appearance for New Zealand after debuting at age 18. Payne thanked supporters online and said he was grateful for the global encouragement ahead of the tournament. New Zealand, known as the All Whites, will play in their third FIFA World Cup and face Belgium, Iran, and Egypt in Group G, beginning with a match against Iran on Monday in Los Angeles.

Neymar doubtful for Brazil's opening World Cup match after calf injury



Brazil forward Neymar is set to miss upcoming international friendlies and is doubtful for the team's opening FIFA World Cup 2026 match after suffering a calf injury. The Brazilian Football Confederation confirmed on Thursday that scans showed a Grade 2 injury in Neymar's right calf, the same problem that sidelined him earlier this month while playing for Santos. Team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar could need up to three weeks to recover. Brazil are scheduled to face Panama on Sunday and Egypt next Thursday in warmup matches. Neymar missed the team's first training session while undergoing further medical evaluations.



Nihal Sarin qualifies for Esports World Cup chess event

Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin qualified for the chess main event at the Esports World Cup 2026 through the Champions Chess Tour leaderboard. Representing S8UL Esports, Nihal became one of only two Indians to secure qualification so far. He narrowly missed direct qualification after finishing fourth in the Chess.com Open but gained crucial leaderboard points through strong performances in the Titled Tuesday Grand Prix circuit. A second-place finish in the Spring Split helped him finish with 139 points overall. Last year, Nihal reached the quarterfinals before losing to Magnus Carlsen.



Canada overpower United States to reach Ice Hockey World Championship semifinals



Canada defeated defending champions United States 4-0 on Thursday to advance to the semifinals of the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship in Switzerland. Macklin Celebrini opened the scoring in the first period before Dylan Holloway doubled Canada's lead in the second. The United States pressed hard in the final period, but Canadian goaltender Jet Greaves produced several key saves to preserve the shutout. Connor Brown and Sidney Crosby later added empty-net goals. Canada will now face Finland in the semifinals after the Finns defeated the Czech Republic 4-1 in their quarterfinal clash.

India grouped with Uzbekistan and Syria in AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers



India have been drawn alongside Uzbekistan, Syria and Bangladesh in Group B of the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers. The matches will be played in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, between Tuesday, August 25, and Sunday, September 6, in a centralized round-robin format. The group winners and seven best second-placed teams will qualify for the main tournament in China. India, placed in Pot 3 based on recent performances, are aiming to qualify for the competition for the first time since hosting it in 2006. India narrowly missed qualification for the previous edition on goal difference.

Wembanyama powers Spurs past Thunder to force Game 7

Victor Wembanyama dominated on both ends of the court Thursday night as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 118-91 to force a decisive Game 7 in the Western Conference finals. Wembanyama finished with 28 points, 10 rebounds, and three blocks, helping San Antonio recover from a disappointing Game 5 loss earlier in the week. The Spurs delivered their strongest defensive performance of the series, holding Oklahoma City scoreless for nearly eight minutes during the third quarter while launching a decisive 22-0 run. Dylan Harper added 18 points, Stephon Castle scored 17, and Devin Vassell contributed 12 points along with key defensive plays.

Oklahoma City struggled offensively throughout the game, with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander limited to 15 points on 6-for-18 shooting. The Thunder also received little impact from returning



guard Jalen Williams, who played limited minutes after recovering from a hamstring injury. Game 7 will be played Saturday in Oklahoma City, with the winner advancing to face the New York Knicks in the NBA Finals next week.

Arsenal aim for European glory as PSG stand in way of historic title



Arsenal F.C. will attempt to complete one of the club's greatest seasons when they face Paris Saint-Germain F.C. in the UEFA Champions League final on Saturday in Budapest. Arsenal recently secured their first Premier League title in 22 years under manager Mikel Arteta and now have an opportunity to win the club's first European Cup. The London side enters the final after an impressive Champions League campaign in which they remained unbeaten and conceded only six goals in 14 matches, keeping a competition-high nine clean sheets. PSG, coached by Luis Enrique, are viewed as slight favorites after another dominant European season built around attacking flair and tactical discipline. Arsenal previously lost their only Champions League final appearance to FC Barcelona in 2006. French authorities announced Friday that nearly 22,000 police officers would be deployed across France during the final to prevent violence and maintain security.

WFI moves Supreme Court against Vinesh Phogat trial relief

The Wrestling Federation of India has approached the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court order allowing wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials scheduled for Friday and Saturday. The High Court had ruled last week that motherhood could not be treated as a barrier to

professional opportunities and directed the federation to permit Phogat to compete despite her absence from qualifying events during maternity leave and recovery. The court also ordered video recording of the trials under independent supervision. WFI has challenged the order, while Phogat has filed a caveat seeking a hearing before any interim decision is passed.



Terry Rozier faces new bribery charges in sports gambling investigation

Federal prosecutors on Thursday filed additional charges against former Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier in an ongoing sports gambling investigation, alleging he accepted a bribe to leave a game early during the 2023 season. The superseding indictment, filed in Brooklyn federal court, added charges of bribery in sporting contests and conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud. Prosecutors allege Rozier conspired with gamblers while playing for the Charlotte Hornets and intentionally exited a March 2023 game citing a leg injury so bettors could profit from wagers on his reduced statistics. Authorities claim the scheme generated more than \$250,000 in bets and that Rozier ultimately accepted roughly \$70,000 after some wagers failed. Rozier has denied wrongdoing and previously pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and money laundering charges. He remains free on a \$3 million bond while awaiting trial.

India to host Asian Indoor Championships and Asian Relays

India secured hosting rights for the Asian Relays in 2027 and the Asian Indoor Championships in 2028 during the Asian Athletics Council meeting in Hong Kong on Wednesday. Chandigarh will host the Asian Relays, while Bhubaneswar will stage the Asian Indoor Championships. Adille Sumariwalla called it a proud moment for Indian athletics. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the decision strengthens Odisha's reputation as a global sports hub. Bhubaneswar earlier hosted the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017 and a World Athletics Continental Tour event last year.



Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh dies at 79

Former Olympian and veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh died on Wednesday at the age of 79. A five-time Olympian, he represented India in shooting between 1968 and 1984 and won a historic trap shooting gold medal at the 1978 Asian Games. Singh later became one of India's most influential sports administrators, serving as secretary general of the Indian Olympic Association and holding senior positions with the Olympic Council of Asia and the International Olympic Committee. He received the Arjuna Award in 1979 and the Olympic Order Silver in 2014.

Taylor Swift concert attack plot ends with 15-year prison sentence in Austria



An Austrian court has sentenced a 21-year-old man to 15 years in prison for planning a terrorist attack targeting a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna nearly two years ago. The defendant, identified under Austrian privacy laws as Beran A., was convicted on charges including membership in a terrorist organization and preparing violent attacks. Authorities said he planned to target fans outside the stadium using knives or homemade explosives, but the plot was discovered before Swift's scheduled performances in August 2024, which were subsequently cancelled for security reasons. Prosecutors linked the accused to extremist networks and said he attempted to acquire weapons and bomb-making materials in the days leading up to the event. Swift later expressed deep distress over the cancellations and the fear surrounding her 'Eras Tour'. A co-defendant received a separate 12-year sentence in related charges.

National Spelling Bee venue shift sparks debate over convenience and experience



The Scripps National Spelling Bee has returned to Washington, DC, this year after 15 years in suburban Maryland, moving into Constitution Hall near the National Mall. The change in venue has sparked mixed reactions from participants and families, with some praising the historic setting while others complain about logistical difficulties. Spellers and parents noted longer travel times, crowded hallways, and stricter security protocols compared to the previous all-in-one hotel setup at the Gaylord National Resort. The new location, however, places competitors closer to major landmarks such as the Smithsonian museums and the White House, adding a sense of occasion to the competition. Security has been significantly increased due to nearby national events, further complicating movement around the area. The competition continued through the week, with hundreds of students progressing through multiple elimination rounds before the final stage determines the champion.

Matthew Perry's assistant sentenced to prison in ketamine case

Matthew Perry's former assistant Kenneth Iwamasa has been sentenced to 41 months in prison for his role in the death of the late actor, marking the final sentencing among five defendants in the case. On Wednesday, a judge also ordered him to pay fines totaling \$10,100 and to serve two years of supervised release after completing his prison term. He must surrender to authorities by July 17 to begin serving his sentence. Iwamasa previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute ketamine causing death. Prosecutors argued for the 41-month sentence, while his defense team had sought six months in prison followed by home confinement. Perry died on October 28, 2023, with his death ruled to be the result of acute effects of ketamine. In his plea, Iwamasa admitted



repeatedly injecting Perry in the days leading up to his death, including three times on the day he died. He also told the court he was "horribly, horribly sorry" and expressed regret to Perry's family, who were present in court.

Bruce Springsteen announces protest festival and escalates criticism of White House

Bruce Springsteen has announced a major protest festival near Washington, DC, scheduled just weeks before the United States midterm elections, while delivering a sharply political message during his concert on Wednesday night. Performing at Nationals Park with Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello, Springsteen confirmed the one-day "Power to the People" festival set for October 3 in Maryland. The lineup includes Foo Fighters, Dave Matthews, Brittany Howard, Joan Baez, and other prominent artists, with proceeds benefiting voter engagement groups VoteRiders and HeadCount. During the concert, Springsteen performed songs such as 'American Skin (41 Shots)' and 'Streets of Minneapolis', and urged fans to



mobilize politically, saying citizens must "fight for the America that we love." He also led chants opposing immigration enforcement tactics and intensified his criticism of President Donald Trump's administration, framing the event as both musical and civic activism.

Cannes Film Festival awards Palme d'Or to 'Fjord' in politically charged ceremony

Cristian Mungiu's Norway-set drama 'Fjord' won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, marking the Romanian filmmaker's second top prize at the prestigious event. The film follows a Romanian Evangelical family that relocates to Norway, only to face state intervention after their children are taken into custody over disciplinary concerns, raising questions about cultural conflict and ideological division. Mungiu described the story as a

critique of "fundamentalism" and a call for greater empathy in a polarised world. The Grand Prix went to 'Minotaur', a Russia-focused thriller by Andrey Zvyagintsev that intertwines domestic suspicion with the backdrop of the Ukraine war. The jury, led by filmmaker Park Chan-wook, distributed major awards across multiple films in a widely split decision. Despite a quieter year for Hollywood presence, the festival maintained strong international attention and continued its pattern of spotlighting politically resonant cinema.

Karan Johar calls Instagram unfollow spree a digital detox, dismisses controversy

Filmmaker Karan Johar has clarified that his recent decision to unfollow several high-profile Bollywood celebrities on Instagram is part of a personal digital detox rather than any industry fallout or controversy. In an Instagram story, Johar said he was consciously reducing his social media engagement to save time and mental energy, adding that the move had been unnecessarily amplified in public discussion. The unfollowing included major industry names such as Shah Rukh

Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, and others, though he continues to follow select individuals including Priyanka Chopra and key Dharma Productions associates. Johar, who is known for his highly active online presence, recently produced the romantic drama 'Chand Mera Dil', which received mixed critical reception. He is next producing 'Naagzilla', starring Kartik Aaryan. Johar stressed that his social media reset is purely personal and not reflective of professional relationships.

Steven Spielberg warns against replacing human creativity with artificial intelligence



Legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg has spoken out strongly against the use of artificial intelligence as a substitute for human creativity in filmmaking, saying it should remain a supportive tool rather than a creative authority. Appearing on a podcast, Spielberg acknowledged that artificial intelligence can assist with technical tasks such as location scouting or production planning, but rejected the idea of it writing dialogue, directing scenes, or making artistic decisions. He argued that storytelling is rooted in human emotion and lived experience, stating that there is no replacement for "soul" in art. While he accepted that artificial intelligence could streamline parts of the filmmaking process, he insisted it must never become the final decision-maker in creative work. His remarks align with other Hollywood voices who have expressed concern over machine-generated content and its impact on originality, authorship, and the future definition of art.

Anne Hathaway reveals she was legally blind in one eye for a decade

Hollywood actress Anne Hathaway has revealed that she struggled with severe vision problems for nearly a decade, leaving her legally blind in one eye. The 'The Devil Wears Prada 2' actress, 43, shared that she developed an early onset cataract between the ages of 30 and 40, which significantly affected her left eye. Speaking on a podcast appearance in April, she said the condition left her unable to properly see until she eventually underwent surgery. Hathaway described the experience as physically and emotionally taxing, adding that she only realized how much her vision had deteriorated after regaining clarity. She now says the recovery has made her deeply appreciative of everyday sight.

Nicolas Cage draws inspiration from pop art for 'Spider-Noir'

Nicolas Cage has revealed that pop art influences from Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein shaped his performance approach in the upcoming series 'Spider-Noir'. He said he had long imagined a performance style blending comic book energy with classic black and white cinema. When the episodic format of the series came along, he felt it matched his vision perfectly. The show marks Cage's first television lead role and features an ensemble cast including Lamorne Morris and Brendan Gleeson. Produced by Sony Pictures Television for MGM and Prime Video, it will stream in multiple languages and is directed by Harry Bradbeer.

Ellie Goulding teases sixth studio album as she confirms new music era

Singer Ellie Goulding has confirmed that her sixth studio album is on the way, marking her first full-length release since 'Higher Than Heaven' in 2023. The 39-year-old singer said she has been working closely with producer Jack Rochon, whom she discovered on social media before he went on to collaborate with global artists. Goulding shared that they have recorded hundreds of songs, describing the process as creative and deeply personal, like musical journaling. She recently previewed new material, including her single 'Black Prada Dress', which explores themes of self-criticism and emotional struggle. The upcoming album is also expected to reflect her life changes, including her separation from husband Caspar Jopling in 2024.

Ram Charan apologises to Jasprit Bumrah after naming mix-up at public event



Actor Ram Charan has issued a public apology to Indian cricket star Jasprit Bumrah after mistakenly referring to him as a footballer during a recent event. Taking to social media, the actor clarified that the error was unintentional and called it a "genuine human mistake" made in the excitement of the moment. He also expressed admiration for Bumrah, praising his performance and saying he makes every Indian proud. During the event, Ram Charan had incorrectly associated Bumrah with football while speaking about Indian athletes. On the work front, the actor is preparing for the release of his upcoming film 'Peddi', directed by Buchi Babu Sana and featuring Janhvi Kapoor among others, set for a worldwide release in June 2026.

Paul McCartney compares Taylor Swift's fame to The Beatles



Paul McCartney has said Taylor Swift's global fame is comparable to the level of The Beatles during their peak. He noted that both have achieved massive worldwide cultural impact. Speaking on a podcast, he said Swift does not need advice but he would offer it if asked. He also recalled meeting her along with Billie Eilish and Olivia Rodrigo at a gathering hosted by his family. McCartney praised their talent and said he admires their voices. He added that while he once enjoyed the thrill of fame, he has learned over time to manage life in the spotlight.

Ranveer Singh responds to FWICE boycott directive, says he respects film industry

Actor Ranveer Singh has issued an official response after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees announced a non-cooperation directive against him, stating that he holds the film fraternity in the highest regard and continues to focus on his professional commitments.

The workers' body claimed it had sent multiple notices to Singh before deciding on the boycott action. In response, his spokesperson said the actor has deliberately remained silent amid ongoing discussions around 'Don 3', believing that professional matters and personal equations should be handled with dignity, maturity, and mutual respect.

The statement further added that Singh has chosen not to engage in public speculation despite several narratives circulating around his exit from the project. It emphasized that his priority remains his work and future commitments, while he continues to wish well for everyone involved with the



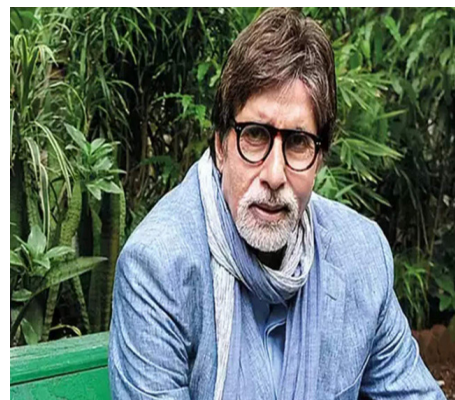
franchise. The controversy comes after filmmakers Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani reportedly claimed losses of around 45 crore rupees due to pre-production work on 'Don 3', from which Singh stepped away. FWICE also noted that Singh had responded by saying the matter was contractual and should be addressed in a legal forum rather than through the federation.

The association has said it remains open to dialogue to resolve the issue amicably.

Vikrant Massey emotional about playing Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in 'White'

Actor Vikrant Massey grew emotional while speaking about portraying spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in the upcoming film 'White'. After meeting him and sharing a warm hug, Massey expressed gratitude during a satsang, calling the role deeply personal.

He said he considers the spiritual leader his guide and inspiration and feels honored to play him on screen. Massey has been preparing by visiting the Art of Living Ashram in Bengaluru and participating in the Happiness Programme. He also underwent a physical transformation for the role. Directed by Montoo Bassi and backed by Siddharth



Anand along with Mahaveer Jain Films, 'White' is currently being filmed in Colombia. Massey will also appear in 'Talaakhon Mein Ek' and 'Yaar Jigri'.

Kailash Kher visits Badrinath after Kedarnath pilgrimage

Singer Kailash Kher continued his spiritual journey by visiting Badrinath after earlier offering prayers at Kedarnath. He shared photos on social media showing himself in the Himalayan region wearing a Rudraksh mala and tilak. Earlier this month, he performed his devotional song 'Bam Lahiri' at Kedarnath Temple. He described the experience as deeply spiritual and powerful. Kedarnath is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas dedicated to Lord Shiva, while Badrinath is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, both located in Uttarakhand. Alongside



his pilgrimage, Kher recently released the devotional track 'Jogi', a tribute to Adi Shankaracharya.

Christopher Nolan retrospective announced at Toronto festival ahead of 'The Odyssey'

Christopher Nolan will be celebrated with a retrospective titled 'Christopher Nolan: Grand Designs' at the Toronto International Film Festival ahead of his upcoming film 'The Odyssey'. Running from July 8 to August 20, the program will screen all twelve of his features, including 'Inception', 'Interstellar', and

'Oppenheimer', in 35 millimeter and 70 millimeter formats. The lineup also includes additional curated screenings such as 'The Right Stuff'. The festival highlights Nolan's long association with Toronto, where his debut 'Following' premiered in 1998. Organizers said the series honors his filmmaking legacy, though he is not expected to attend.

Harry Styles defends stage design after fan backlash

Harry Styles has defended the stage design of his Together, Together tour after fans complained about limited visibility during his Amsterdam shows. Speaking on stage, he said the circular layout was created to bring him closer to fans and make the experience more intimate. He said the aim was to create togetherness and shared energy between performer and audience, describing the tour as a collective experience. Despite this, some fans on social media called the setup the "worst of all time" and said their view was blocked. The criticism comes during his ongoing 10-night run in Amsterdam as part of a global tour following his hit albums 'Harry's House' and 'Fine Line'. He thanked fans for their support despite the debate.

Shankar Mahadevan, Sonu Nigam and Shaan unite for 'Anandam'



Shankar Mahadevan, Sonu Nigam, and Shaan will come together for a large-scale devotional music event titled 'Anandam - The Symphony of Devotion', designed as an immersive Bhakti experience. Mahadevan said the concept aims to present devotion through music, emotion, and energy on an unprecedented scale. The event will feature several artists including Nandi Sisters, Siddharth Mahadevan, Himani Thakur, Shivam Mahadevan, and DJ Aferall. Scheduled for June 27 in Mumbai, the show blends spirituality, music, and technology. Organizers describe it as a collective cultural experience. Mahadevan said bringing such artists together makes the project especially meaningful.

Russell Crowe defends hotel encounter with fans in Paris



Russell Crowe has defended a viral video showing him in a heated exchange with fans outside a Paris hotel. The clip showed him warning fans to maintain space while saying he would leave if anyone acted aggressively. Crowe later said on social media that the situation was handled without security and called the criticism "clickbait." He said everyone received autographs and selfies and that he managed the situation smoothly. The actor was in Paris with his partner Britney Theriot and also attended the French Open. He dismissed rumors of marriage, saying he is happy in his relationship and has no plans to marry again.



बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का दूसरा पड़ाव विष्णुपद मंदिर, गया

IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत हम बिहार की पावन और ऐतिहासिक धार्मिक यात्रा पर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। महाबोधि मंदिर, बोधगया की दिव्य यात्रा के बाद अब हमारा दूसरा पड़ाव है — गया का प्रसिद्ध और अत्यंत पवित्र विष्णुपद मंदिर।

बिहार की यह भूमि केवल ज्ञान और तपस्या की धरती ही नहीं, बल्कि मोक्ष, पितृ श्रद्धा और सनातन परंपराओं का भी एक महान केंद्र रही है। गया स्थित विष्णुपद मंदिर हिंदू धर्म के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ स्थलों में से एक माना जाता है। यह मंदिर भगवान विष्णु को समर्पित है और यहाँ स्थित भगवान विष्णु के चरणचिह्न करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं की आस्था का केंद्र हैं।

विष्णुपद मंदिर का महत्व

विष्णुपद मंदिर बिहार के गया शहर में फल्गु नदी के तट पर स्थित है। मंदिर के गर्भगृह में काले पत्थर पर भगवान विष्णु के लगभग 40 सेंटीमीटर लंबे चरणचिह्न बने हुए हैं। इन्हें अत्यंत पवित्र माना जाता है।

मान्यता है कि भगवान विष्णु ने राक्षस गयासुर को दबाने के लिए अपने चरण उसके सीने पर रखे थे। उसी समय उनके चरणों का निशान इस पत्थर पर अंकित हो गया,

जिसे आज 'धर्मशिला' कहा जाता है।

गयासुर की पौराणिक कथा

पुराणों के अनुसार गयासुर नाम का एक राक्षस था, जिसने कठोर तपस्या करके भगवान विष्णु को प्रसन्न किया। भगवान ने उसे वरदान दिया कि जो भी उसे देखेगा या स्पर्श करेगा, उसे मोक्ष प्राप्त होगा। इस वरदान के कारण लोग बिना अच्छे कर्म किए ही मोक्ष पाने लगे। इससे संसार का कर्म संतुलन बिगड़ने लगा। तब देवताओं ने भगवान विष्णु से सहायता मांगी।

भगवान विष्णु ने गयासुर से यज्ञ के लिए उसका शरीर मांगा। गयासुर सहमत हो गया और धरती पर लेट गया। तब भगवान विष्णु ने उसके सीने पर अपना पैर रखकर उसे धरती के नीचे दबा दिया। गयासुर ने अंतिम इच्छा व्यक्त की कि इस स्थान का नाम उसके नाम पर रखा जाए और यहाँ पितरों के श्राद्ध एवं पिंडदान करने से आत्माओं को मोक्ष प्राप्त हो। तभी से यह स्थान 'गया' कहलाया और पिंडदान का सबसे बड़ा तीर्थ बन गया।

पिंडदान और पितृ तर्पण का केंद्र

विष्णुपद मंदिर पूरे विश्व में पिंडदान और श्राद्ध कर्म के सबसे प्रमुख स्थान के रूप में जाना जाता है।

हिंदू मान्यता के अनुसार यहाँ अपने पूर्वजों के लिए पिंडदान करने से उनकी आत्मा को शांति और मोक्ष प्राप्त होता है। हर वर्ष पितृपक्ष के दौरान लाखों श्रद्धालु गया पहुँचते हैं और फल्गु नदी के तट पर अपने पूर्वजों का श्राद्ध करते हैं।

मंदिर में पूजा और धार्मिक अनुष्ठान कराने वाले पारंपरिक पुरोहित 'गयावाल पंडा' कहलाते हैं, जिनकी परंपरा सदियों पुरानी है।

मंदिर की वास्तुकला

वर्तमान विष्णुपद मंदिर का निर्माण 1787 में इंदौर की महान महारानी अहिल्याबाई होल्कर ने करवाया था। मंदिर नागर शैली में बना हुआ है और इसकी ऊँचाई लगभग 100 फीट है। मंदिर विशाल काले ग्रेनाइट पत्थरों से निर्मित है। गर्भगृह अष्टकोणीय आकार का है और उसके मध्य में भगवान विष्णु के चरणचिह्न स्थित हैं, जिन्हें चांदी से घेरा गया है।

मंदिर परिसर में कई छोटे-छोटे मंदिर, स्तंभ, प्राचीन मूर्तियाँ और एक पवित्र वटवृक्ष 'अक्षयवट' भी स्थित है। मान्यता है कि यहाँ पिंडदान करने से पितरों को अक्षय शांति प्राप्त होती है।

फल्गु नदी और सीता माता की कथा

फल्गु नदी से जुड़ी एक प्रसिद्ध कथा रामायण में भी मिलती है। कहा जाता है कि भगवान राम, माता सीता और लक्ष्मण राजा दशरथ का पिंडदान करने गया आए थे। जब राम और लक्ष्मण सामग्री लेने गए, तब पितरों का समय समाप्त होने वाला था। तब माता सीता ने स्वयं फल्गु नदी के किनारे पिंडदान किया। बाद में जब प्रमाण मांगा गया, तो केवल अक्षयवट वृक्ष ने सत्य का साथ दिया।

माता सीता ने फल्गु नदी को श्राप दिया कि वह अधिकांश समय सूखी रहेगी। आज भी फल्गु नदी अधिकतर समय रेत से भरी दिखाई देती है।

आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा का केंद्र

विष्णुपद मंदिर केवल एक धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि गहरी आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा का केंद्र है। यहाँ आने वाले श्रद्धालु शांति, भक्ति और आत्मिक संतोष का अनुभव करते हैं। मंदिर परिसर में भगवान विष्णु, शिव, देवी माँ, हनुमानजी और अन्य देवी-देवताओं के छोटे मंदिर भी स्थित हैं। यहाँ की प्राचीन मूर्तियाँ और धार्मिक वातावरण श्रद्धालुओं को भारतीय संस्कृति और सनातन परंपरा से जोड़ते हैं।

समापन

गया का विष्णुपद मंदिर भारत की प्राचीन आस्था, पितृ श्रद्धा और मोक्ष परंपरा का एक जीवंत प्रतीक है। यह मंदिर हमें यह संदेश देता है कि भारतीय संस्कृति केवल पूजा-पाठ तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि अपने पूर्वजों के प्रति सम्मान, कर्तव्य और आध्यात्मिक चेतना का भी महान मार्ग है।

IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' का बिहार अध्याय हमें लगातार भारत की अद्भुत धार्मिक विरासत और आध्यात्मिक शक्ति से परिचित करा रहा है।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी बिहार के कैमूर जिले स्थित प्राचीन और रहस्यमयी मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर की ओर, जिसे भारत के सबसे पुराने जीवित मंदिरों में से एक माना जाता है। वहाँ हम देवी शक्ति, प्राचीन स्थापत्य कला और सनातन परंपरा के एक और अद्भुत अध्याय से परिचित होंगे।



Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

Did Ravana meet Sita in a previous birth?

According to the Valmiki Ramayana, the answer to the above question is yes. This episode is not described in the Ramcharitmanas, but it is mentioned in detail in the seventeenth canto of the Uttara Kanda of the Valmiki Ramayana. In this canto, Sage Agastya narrates a story from Ravana's youth.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291



“My father was the great sage Kushadhwaaja, son of Brihaspati, the guru of the gods. He was highly revered among sages and equal to Brihaspati in wisdom. My name is Vedavati.

When I came of age, many gods, Gandharvas, and Yakshas sought my hand in marriage, but my father refused them all. Instead, he dedicated himself to training me in austerity and spiritual discipline. He desired only one husband for me — Lord Vishnu Himself.”

When the proud demon king Shambhu learned of this, he became enraged.

Tena raatrau shayaane me pitaa paapena himsitaah 14
Tato me jananee deenaa tachchhareeram pitur mama Parishvajya mahaabhaagaa pravishtaa havya-vaahanam 15

“That sinful demon murdered my father while he slept at night. My mother, overcome with grief, embraced my father's body and entered the funeral fire along with him. Thus, I was left alone.

From that day onward, I vowed that I would perform severe penance to fulfill my father's wish. If I marry, it shall only be Lord Vishnu, ruler of the three worlds. Otherwise, I shall never marry. That is why I am engaged in this intense austerity.”

Hearing her noble words, Ravana became even more desperate to possess her. Filled with arrogance, he declared:

“I am the mighty king Dashagriva, lord of Lanka. Become my wife and enjoy all worldly pleasures with me. Why waste your youth in penance?”

Aham Lankaapatir-naama Dashagreeva iti shrutah

Tasya me bhava bhaaryaa tvam bhunkshva bhogaan yathaa-sukham 23

“Do you even know who this Vishnu is, whom you call the lord of the universe? Can he equal me in strength and glory? Have you ever even seen him? Is he as magnificent as I am?”

Vedavati was shaken by Ravana's arrogance but replied firmly:

“No, I have not seen Lord Vishnu, but I can never think of anyone except Him. Narayana is the supreme lord of the universe. The whole world worships Him. My father could never be wrong. I belong to Vishnu alone, and to Him alone I shall remain devoted.”

Hearing this, Ravana became furious. He seized Vedavati by her hair and violently shook her. Then, drawing his sword, he cut off her hair.

Tato Vedavati kruddhaa keshhaan hastena saacchinat Asi-bhootvaa karastasyaah keshhaan chhitvaa nyavartata Saa jvalantee iva roshena dahantee iva nishaacharam Uvaachaagnim samaadhaaya maranaaya krita-tvaram 29

Burning with rage, Vedavati assumed a fierce form and thundered:

“O wicked demon! You have insulted me and tried to dishonor me. I will never belong to you. This body now feels impure to me. I no longer wish to live. I shall enter the fire before your eyes. But before I go, I warn you — in my next birth I shall meet you again and become the cause of your death.”

Yasmaat tu dharshitaa chaaham tvayaa paapaatmanaava vane

Tasmaat tava vadhaartham hi samutpatsyaamyaham punah 31 Nahi shakyah striyaa hantum purusha paapa-nishchayah Shaape tvayi mayotsrishte tapasashcha vyayo bhavet 32

“A woman may not possess the

physical strength to destroy a sinner like you directly. If I curse you, the fruits of my penance would be wasted. Therefore, I depart now, but I shall soon return in another birth.”

Saying this, Vedavati entered the sacred fire, and flowers rained down from the heavens.

Later, King Janaka was ploughing the earth near his palace when his plough struck something in the ground. There appeared a young girl. She was first called Bhumija, meaning “born from the earth.” Later, her parents named her Sita.

In time, Sita's swayamvara was held, where Lord Rama, prince of Ayodhya, fulfilled the challenge and won her hand in marriage. But destiny had not yet completed Vedavati's vow.

During their exile in the forest, Ravana once again heard of Sita's extraordinary beauty. Overcome with the same desire that had consumed him in his youth, he abducted her from Panchavati with the help of Maricha and took her to Lanka.

By then, Sita's first wish — attaining Lord Vishnu (Rama) as her husband — had already been fulfilled. But her second vow still remained: to become the cause of Ravana's destruction.

Lord Rama repeatedly offered peace to Ravana, but Ravana refused every proposal. He also tried many times to persuade Sita to become his queen, but she rejected him each time. Eventually, Lord Rama fought Ravana to rescue Sita, and thus Sita became the ultimate cause of Ravana's downfall and death. This is one of the rare hidden episodes found in the Valmiki Ramayana — a story seldom discussed elsewhere.

“Jai Shri Ram”

According to the story, once during his younger days, Ravana was wandering near the Himalayas. There he saw an extraordinarily radiant young woman deeply immersed in penance. She was wearing a black deer skin over her body, and her beauty was incomparable. The moment Ravana saw this beautiful ascetic maiden, he became restless with desire to possess her. Lust and infatuation overtook him. Her name was Vedavati.

Sa drishtva roopa-sampannaam kanyaam taam su-mahaa-vrataam Kaama-moha-paritaatma papraccha prahasanniva 3

Ravana approached her and began speaking in a persuasive manner:

“O beautiful one, such severe penance at this young age does not suit you. Your beauty is divine. You should rule over the hearts of young men.”

Kasyaasi kimidam bhadre kashcha bhartaa varaanane

Yena sambhujyase bheeru sa narah punya-bhaag bhavet 6

“O graceful lady, tell me about yourself. Whose daughter are you? Why are you performing such severe austerities? Is there some man who is your husband? What do you hope to achieve through this penance?”

Hearing this, Vedavati rose respectfully and welcomed him as a guest. She offered him a proper seat and replied:

Kushadhvaja naama pitaa brahmarshir-amita-prabhah Brihaspati-sutah shreemaan buddhyaay tulyo Brihaspatch 8

Tasyaaham kurvato nityam vedaabhyaasam mahaatmanah Sambhootaa vaangmayee kanya naamnaa Vedavati smritaa 9

BJP's Punjab reset

Strategic expansion or a betrayal of its core base?

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Bharatiya Janata Party's decision to replace Sunil Jakhar with Kewal Singh Dhillon as Punjab BJP president is far more than a routine organizational reshuffle. It reflects a radical, high-stakes gamble that forces an uncomfortable question to the forefront: in its desperate bid to court the rural Sikh electorate, is Delhi's national leadership deliberately abandoning the very community that kept its lamp burning during its darkest years in the state?

By systematically sidelining established leadership in favor of newly imported faces, the party's current trajectory looks less like a masterstroke and more like a calculated betrayal that has left Punjab's Hindu community deeply disillusioned.

The shadow of 1966 and the erasure of a bedrock

To understand the depth of the current dismay, one must look back to the pivotal 1966 reorganization of Punjab. Before the linguistic division that carved out Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, undivided Punjab was a region where Hindu leaders routinely held the state's highest office.

The 1966 demarcation fundamentally altered that reality. It left the newly shaped Punjab as a Sikh-majority state with a dramatically altered political landscape. In the six decades since, a stark unwritten rule has governed Punjab politics: every single Chief Minister has been from the Sikh community.

For decades, Punjab's Hindu minority—concentrated largely in urban centers—accepted this demographic reality. They found security in numbers by voting as a consolidated bloc, relying on the BJP (and its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh) to safeguard their socio-political interests and ensure their voices were not entirely erased from the state's power structure. Beyond politics, this community became the engine of Punjab's urban trading economy, industrial resilience, and post-1966 financial stability. They held the economic fort while the state navigated volatile agricultural shifts and decades of complex regional policy.

Sidelining the bridge: The exit of Sunil Jakhar

When the BJP severed its long-standing



alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) over the farm laws controversy, it faced an existential crisis in Punjab. Sunil Jakhar's entry and subsequent elevation to party president provided a lifeline.

Jakhar was a rare, bridge-building figure. As a seasoned leader with deep agricultural roots and a sophisticated urban appeal, he gave the BJP instant credibility among both educated urbanites and moderate rural voters. He symbolized continuity, stability, and reassurance. For the state's Hindu population, Jakhar represented a sophisticated Punjabi identity that could protect urban interests while expanding the party's footprint cleanly and independently.

Replacing him with Kewal Singh Dhillon—a Malwa-belt Jat Sikh leader imported from the Congress party—shatters that sense of reassurance. It sends a jarring signal to the party's traditional base that their loyalty is being bartered away for raw electoral arithmetic ahead of the 2027 assembly elections.

Internal friction: Turncoats over loyalists

The appointment of Dhillon has thrown the internal mechanics of the Punjab BJP into sharp friction. Local party circles

are rife with discontent, with long-term organizational workers openly questioning why Delhi continues to reward political turncoats. Dhillon, who joined the BJP only in 2022 after decades in the Congress, represents the corporate, elite political tier—a stark contrast to the grassroots cadres who weathered physical threats and political isolation during the farm law protests.

Opposition voices have already begun twisting the knife. Commenting on the reshuffle, AAP leader Batej Pannu pointedly noted that while this is an internal BJP matter, the continuous sidestepping of long-standing leaders—and even recent high-profile inductees like Ravneet Singh Bittu, who now stands disappointed—highlights a systemic instability. By bypassing its traditional, fiercely loyal local leadership to place a premium on imported corporate-political faces, Delhi has alienated its own ground soldiers.

Questioning the BJP's intent

The appointment of Dhillon forces a critical interrogation of the BJP's core intent in Punjab. For years, the party justified its junior-partner status to the Akali Dal by arguing it was maintaining communal harmony—the historic Sanjwalta (communal bonding)—by representing urban Hindus while the Akalis represented rural Sikhs. Now, operating on its own, the BJP seems to have internalized a dangerous assumption: that its traditional urban Hindu base has nowhere else to go.

By replacing Jakhar with another recently inducted former Congressman, the BJP's intent appears nakedly opportunistic. The party seems convinced that it cannot capture power in Punjab without aggressively penetrating the rural Jat Sikh vote bank. However, in chasing an elusive rural demographic that has historically viewed the saffron party with intense skepticism, the BJP is actively alienating the one community that has been its bedrock. The dismay within the Hindu community is palpable. Long-

term organizational workers who stood by the party through the turbulent militancy eras and the recent, volatile farm law protests feel completely marginalized. The prevailing perception is that the BJP is suffering from an ideological identity crisis in Punjab, prioritizing desperate regional experiments and turncoat leaders over its own loyal cadre.

A risky, uniquely Punjab experiment

The BJP's standard national playbook—relying on heavy-handed ideological polarization—does not work in Punjab. The social fabric here is deeply intertwined; Hindu and Sikh communities share profound cultural, linguistic, and familial ties that resist artificial divisions.

Therefore, when Delhi attempts to play standard regional politics by shuffling leaders based purely on caste and community arithmetic, it risks upsetting a delicate social balance. The party's current strategy treats the Hindu community as a guaranteed, passive asset that can be ignored while the party courts other groups. This is a severe miscalculation. Discontented voters do not simply switch allegiance; they stay home, or they seek alternatives that treat their representation with respect.

The verdict of 2027

The replacement of Sunil Jakhar with Kewal Singh Dhillon marks a definitive turning point for the Punjab BJP. It exposes a central leadership searching frantically for an electoral formula, even if it means weakening the confidence of its most loyal supporters.

Punjab's electorate has historically humbled political parties that misread its complex social architecture or took its voters for granted. If the BJP believes it can build a broad-based platform by alienating its core base to chase an uncertain rural vote, the ultimate price will not be paid in television studios. The real answer to the BJP's dangerous political experiment will be delivered directly by the disillusioned voters of Punjab in 2027.



Illinois Tech to honor Indian-American engineer Darsh Wasan for transformative academic legacy

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Darsh Wasan will receive an Honorary Doctor of Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology during the university's 157th commencement ceremony on Friday at Credit Union 1 Arena in Chicago. Wasan, who joined the faculty in 1964, has spent nearly 60 years helping shape the university's global outreach, research programs, and academic leadership. University President Raj Echambadi praised Wasan's role in expanding Illinois Tech's international footprint and strengthening its research enterprise. Between 1996 and 2022, Wasan led the university's international initiatives, building partnerships and academic centers across India, China, Europe, and South Korea. He also pioneered graduate distance-learning programs in India in 1997, helping broaden access to higher education abroad. In 1988, Wasan helped establish the Institute for Food Safety and Health after securing a five-building campus donation and initial funding from the United States Food and Drug Administration. A member of both the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Wasan holds 10 patents and has authored more than 400 publications. He also mentored dozens of graduate and doctoral students during his academic career.



Indian-American community joins Arlington Heights Memorial Day parade to honor fallen heroes

By Jayanti Oza & IndoUS Tribune News Desk

Representatives from several prominent Indian-American organizations took part in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Arlington Heights on Monday, May 25, joining thousands of Americans in honoring service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

Arlington Heights, a community with deep military ties, has lost 67 local heroes in service over the years. The Memorial Day observance carried

special significance, serving as a solemn reminder that the occasion is not simply a holiday weekend but a day of gratitude, remembrance, and reflection on sacrifices that uphold freedom and democracy.

Members of the Indian-American community marched alongside veterans, active-duty personnel, and civic groups, expressing solidarity and respect for the United States' fallen heroes. Their participation reflected the diaspora's growing civic engagement and shared commitment to honoring military service.

A particularly emotional moment

came when distinguished Indian Army veterans joined the parade. They marched alongside community representatives and were formally recognized by the organizing committee along with U.S. military officials. Their presence drew appreciation and highlighted shared values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism between India and the United States.

Community members described the moment as deeply moving, noting that honoring Indian Army veterans at a major American patriotic event symbolized strengthening ties between the two nations and the increasing visibility

of the Indian diaspora in national commemorations.

The event was supported by community sponsors and volunteers who helped coordinate participation. Organizers encouraged greater involvement from families and youth in future civic and cultural events that promote remembrance, unity, and national service.

The parade concluded on an emotional and inspiring note, leaving participants with a renewed sense of gratitude toward those who laid down their lives for the freedoms enjoyed today.



CCIW celebrates Mother's Day with wellness, music, and tribute to five decades of community service



By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Chicagoland Club of Indian Women (CCIW) celebrated Mother's Day with elegance, warmth, and community spirit on May 22 at the International University of Vedic Wellness in Streamwood, bringing together members, guests, and community leaders for an afternoon dedicated to honoring mothers and celebrating sisterhood. The beautifully decorated venue reflected the spirit of the occasion as guests were welcomed with nourishing health drinks prepared by the Vedic Wellness team, followed by a wholesome Satvik lunch that highlighted wellness and mindful living.

The event was gracefully emceed by Mamta Bhargav, who welcomed attendees and guided the afternoon's proceedings with poise and enthusiasm. CCIW President Vinita Gulabani acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the organizing team and thanked members for their continued trust and support. Event Chair Madhu Uppal extended heartfelt Mother's Day greetings and spoke about CCIW's long-standing commitment to community service and cultural engagement. General Secretary Alka

Sood thanked attendees for their participation and encouraged new members to become part of the CCIW family.

One of the most touching moments of the celebration came when founding member Prem Sharma reflected on the organization's inspiring journey spanning nearly five decades. Sharing memories with emotion and pride, Sharma recounted how CCIW was founded alongside co-founders Suman Maula, Rani, Manju Gupta, and Urmil Chawla with a shared vision of service, friendship, and empowerment for women in the Indian-American community.

During the event, Sharma also unveiled the brochure for the "Golden Book of CCIW 50 Years," marking the official launch of preparations for the organization's Golden Anniversary celebrations scheduled for April 2027. She noted that Urmil Chawla, Pimi Malhotra, and Usha Wasan are leading the Golden Book committee.

Mrs. Santosh Kumar, a community leader and founder of the International University of Vedic Wellness, addressed the gathering and praised CCIW for its decades-long contribution to community building and



Photos by: Ramesh Punatar

women's empowerment. The wellness-focused retreat also featured Ayurvedic physician Dr. Pushpa, who shared practical health insights on gut wellness and holistic living. Yoga instructor Purvi led participants through rejuvenating face yoga and immersive sound meditation sessions that were enthusiastically appreciated by attendees. Event Manager Aditi also addressed the audience and thanked the

organizing team and guests for making the celebration a success.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, renowned vocalists Tara Swaminathan and Shikha Pandey presented a captivating musical performance featuring geet and ghazals, accompanied by Victor on sound. The timeless melodies inspired many in the audience to sing along and dance, creating an atmosphere filled with joy and nostalgia.

On behalf of Team CCIW and the university, Vandana Bunkapur and Sarita Sood distributed elegant gift pouches to all guests. The Treasurer Team — Fal Rana, Pankaj Tanna, and Usha Gupta — efficiently managed registration and event accounts throughout the day.

Special appreciation was extended to media team members Vandana Jhingan, Gurleen Kaur, and photographer Ramesh Punatar for documenting and supporting the event.

The celebration concluded with evening tea, snacks, and a guided tour of the university campus. Guests departed with smiles and cherished memories from an event that beautifully honored motherhood, wellness, and the enduring legacy of CCIW.



GHHF Chicago meeting focuses on Hindu temple autonomy and preservation of Sanatana Dharma

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A meeting organized by the Global Hindu Heritage Foundation (GHHF) on the theme "Hinduism at Crossroads: Time for Action" drew community members, religious advocates, and supporters to India Hub in Chicago on May 24, where speakers discussed Hindu temple autonomy, preservation of Sanatana Dharma, and concerns over government interference in religious institutions in India.

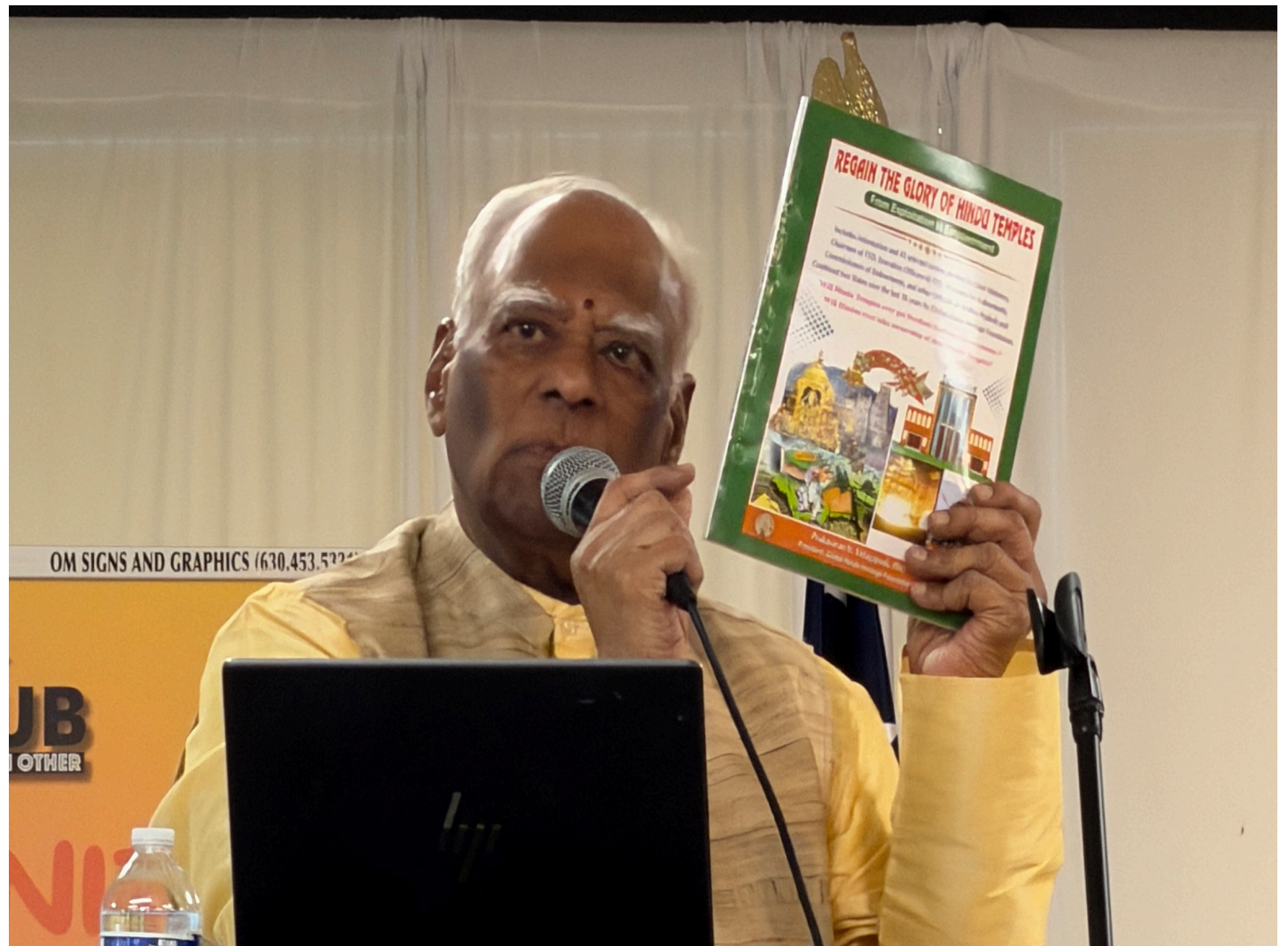
Organizers described the event as a major success and said it highlighted the organization's two-decade-long efforts to protect Hindu religious institutions and traditions.

According to GHHF leaders, the organization was founded nearly 20 years ago by Chairman Prasad Yalamanchi and other board members with two central objectives: freeing Hindu temples from state government control and preserving, protecting, and promoting Sanatana Dharma. The organization said it is currently involved in 16 projects across India.

During the presentation, speakers alleged that several state governments in India have exercised excessive control over Hindu temples by taking over temple lands and funds, appointing politically connected individuals to temple boards, and using temple revenues for non-religious purposes. They argued that such actions violate Articles 25 and 26 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantee religious freedom and the right of religious groups to manage their own institutions.

The speakers claimed that while Hindu temples have been placed under government administration in several states, churches and mosques have largely remained independent. GHHF representatives said Hindu organizations and activists have challenged these practices in various High Courts and the Supreme Court over the years.

According to the organization, a recent development in the Supreme Court may mark an important turning point. GHHF leaders stated that the Court had sought the opinion of the Central Government regarding state control of temples and that the Union government supported releasing temples from state administration. Speakers called May 18, 2026, a "historic day" in the movement for Hindu temple autonomy.



A major portion of the discussion focused on the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which administers the Tirumala temple complex in Andhra Pradesh.

GHHF representatives said the organization had raised concerns over what they described as non-spiritual activities and commercial projects near Tirumala and Tirupati. Among the issues discussed was the proposed construction of the Mumtaj Hotel near Tirumala Hills. Speakers alleged that the project conflicted with the sacred atmosphere of the temple town and said sustained opposition from Hindu groups eventually led to its cancellation.

The organization also objected to the proposed Lulu Mall project in Tirupati, arguing that large-scale commercial developments could alter the demographic and cultural character of the city. GHHF further criticized permission allegedly granted for a large Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Tirupati, expressing concerns about maintaining the sanctity of the temple region.

Another issue raised during the meeting

was the alleged employment of non-Hindus within the TTD administration. GHHF said it had repeatedly requested investigations into claims that Christians were employed in significant numbers within temple operations.

As part of its proposed solutions, the organization renewed its demand for Tirumala, Tirupati, and Tiruchanur to be officially declared "Punyakshetra," or holy zones, where restrictions on alcohol, meat, and other activities considered inconsistent with the spiritual character of the region would apply. Speakers cited former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao, who had once envisioned Tirupati as a global spiritual center for Hindus comparable in significance to the Vatican for Christians.

The meeting also addressed what organizers described as opposition faced by GHHF while attempting to hold awareness programs in Tirupati. According to the organization, permissions for meetings at several venues, including a TTD facility and other locations, were canceled shortly before scheduled events discussing temple sanctity and the proposed holy zone

designation.

GHHF additionally criticized comments allegedly made in 2025 by B. R. Naidu, Chairman of the TTD Board. Organizers claimed that Naidu accused the organization of misleading Hindus and questioned its activities after GHHF publicly advocated for declaring Tirupati and Tirumala as protected religious zones.

The event also highlighted the actions of Andhra Pradesh politician Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, whom speakers praised for advocating stricter enforcement of laws related to illegal religious structures and public order issues.

Concluding the program, speakers called for equal treatment of all religions under the law while urging Hindus to work collectively to preserve temple traditions and religious heritage. Organizers also acknowledged the contributions of community members and volunteers who supported the Chicago event, including Harish Kolasani for providing India Hub as the venue and several others who assisted with outreach and arrangements.



Global Hindu Heritage Foundation

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Chicago Chapter



Indian-American community in Texas voices concern over escalating anti-immigrant rhetoric and viral accusations

Community warns of rising pattern of targeted hostility amid viral incidents and public remarks

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Indian-American community across Texas and the United States is expressing growing concern over an escalating pattern of anti-immigrant rhetoric, viral social media allegations, and politically charged public commentary targeting Indian professionals and religious minorities, particularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

What began as localized debates over H-1B visa compliance and housing concerns has evolved into a broader and increasingly polarized public narrative. Community leaders say the shift reflects not isolated disagreements, but a sustained pattern of identity-based targeting that risks inflaming tensions in rapidly diversifying suburbs.

A series of incidents in 2026 has intensified concern. In February, Frisco City Council discussions on demographic

change and immigration became highly politicized, with debates over H-1B visas and housing trends drawing heightened attention. Viral social media posts, including claims by influencer Kaylee Campbell alleging housing “scams” involving Indian residents, triggered widespread backlash and accusations of stereotyping and xenophobia.

Tensions escalated further in late March when an altercation involving H-1B worker Naveen Tummla at the Golconda Xpress food truck circulated widely online, becoming a national talking point and fueling broader immigration-related discourse.

The most serious flashpoint came during a Frisco City Council meeting on May 19, which extended into the early hours of May 20. The session, which included zoning discussions related to a mosque, Hindu temple, and Jain temple, drew intense public scrutiny. During the meeting, January 6

riot participant Edward “Jake” Lang made inflammatory remarks, including derogatory language and claims of an “Indian takeover,” drawing immediate condemnation from attendees and civic leaders.

Community leaders describe the pattern as “manufactured hostility,” arguing that isolated incidents are being amplified into sweeping generalizations that unfairly target Indian-Americans. Civil rights groups warn that repeated amplification of such rhetoric risks normalizing discrimination against immigrant communities.

At the same time, commentators and influencers across social media have continued to link isolated disputes to broader claims about fraud, displacement, and cultural incompatibility, further deepening polarization in North Texas suburbs.

Residents and community organizations have pushed back, emphasizing that

Indian-American families contribute significantly to local economies and civic life, while also participating actively in schools, healthcare systems, and small business ecosystems.

Faith and civic leaders are now calling for restraint and fact-based discourse, urging policymakers and media platforms to avoid amplifying divisive narratives. They stress that immigration remains a legitimate policy issue, but caution that rhetoric crossing into collective blame threatens social cohesion.

Indian-American associations say they remain committed to civic participation and contribution to the United States but are seeking stronger safeguards against what they describe as identity-based scapegoating.

As one community member said, “We came here to build and belong. We will not accept being turned into scapegoats for political convenience.”

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PRESENTS



CHICAGO INDIAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL

INDIAN VOICES, NEW GROUND.

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RISHAD TOBACOWALA
(KEYNOTE SPEAKER)



SCOTT SOMMER
(KEYNOTE SPEAKER)



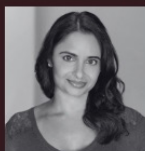
SONALI DEV
(KEYNOTE SPEAKER)



JYOTI CHAND



SRIKANTH REDDY



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Chicago to host first Indian literature festival celebrating diaspora storytelling

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Chicago will host its first major Indian literature festival on Saturday as Chicago Indian Arts launches the inaugural Chicago Indian Literature Festival at the historic Congress Plaza Hotel. Organizers said the event is the Midwest’s first large-scale festival dedicated entirely to Indian literature, storytelling, and cultural dialogue. The day-long festival will bring together authors, poets, filmmakers, scholars, artists, and members of the Indian diaspora to celebrate India’s literary traditions across languages and genres. Festival founder Jigar Shah described

the gathering as a cultural “homecoming” for Indian Americans reconnecting with stories, memories, and traditions that shaped generations. Featured speakers include Rishad Tobaccowala, Sonali Dev, Jyoti Chand, Srikanth Reddy, Scott Sommer, and Victor Henderson. Sessions will explore themes including migration, identity, family, artificial intelligence in storytelling, fiction writing, and digital narratives. Presented in partnership with the Consulate General of India in Chicago, the festival aims to become an annual cultural institution highlighting the growing influence of Indian and South Asian storytelling in the United States.

SEWA International Chicago Chapter hosts inaugural Annual Gala celebrating service, compassion and community impact



By: Jayanti Oza

The SEWA International Chicago Chapter successfully hosted its inaugural Annual Gala on May 16 at the Pearl Banquet & Conference Center, bringing together community leaders, dignitaries, supporters, volunteers, and families for an evening dedicated to service, compassion, and community engagement.

The event showcased SEWA International's expanding humanitarian initiatives and partnerships across the

Chicagoland area and beyond. Key programs highlighted during the evening included Sponsor a Child (SAC), SHE, LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment and Development of Youth), Senior Sewa, and Serve 9/11, all aimed at uplifting underserved communities through education, empowerment, volunteerism, and social support. The gala was attended by distinguished guests, including Consul (Press, Information & Culture) Sanjeev Kumar Pal, along with several prominent community leaders and supporters who gathered to celebrate the organization's growing impact and mission of selfless

service. The evening featured a blend of inspiring presentations and lively entertainment that kept attendees engaged throughout the program. Musical performances, magic entertainment, and cultural segments added energy and excitement to the celebration, while motivational speaker Tori Franklin delivered an inspiring address focused on perseverance, purpose, and the importance of giving back to society.

Representing SEWA International at the national level, senior leadership members shared the organization's vision and ongoing

efforts with more than 180 attendees, many of whom were introduced to SEWA's work for the first time. Organizers noted that the enthusiastic response reflected growing interest in volunteerism and community-driven initiatives among Indian-Americans and the broader Chicagoland community. Attendees expressed appreciation for the organization's efforts in creating awareness about humanitarian projects both in India and across the United States. Programs such as Senior Sewa, Serve 9/11, and LEAD particularly resonated with guests for their focus on youth development, senior care, and community resilience.

The Chicago Chapter also acknowledged the generous contributions of sponsors, donors, and well-wishers whose support helped make the gala a success. Several business and community organizations sponsored tables and participated in the fundraising efforts, while long-time supporters and donors were recognized for their continued commitment to SEWA's mission. Adding excitement to the evening were raffle prizes donated by supporters, including grand raffle prizes sponsored by Tanishq. Organizers said the event also helped connect with several new volunteers interested in contributing their time and skills toward SEWA's future projects and outreach efforts.

SEWA International Chicago Chapter extended heartfelt gratitude to its advisory board members, volunteers, sponsors, donors, media partners, and the entire organizing team for making the inaugural gala a memorable and meaningful success.

Through initiatives and events such as this gala, SEWA International continues to strengthen its commitment to serving humanity through compassion, volunteerism, and community engagement.





Protect your vision, protect your life

Why regular eye exams, early detection, and healthy habits are critical to preventing vision loss in today's digital and aging world. (Part 1)

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The eyes are among the most precious gifts of human life. Through our eyes, we experience the beauty of nature, recognize loved ones, read, work, drive, learn, and remain connected to the world around us. Healthy vision is essential not only for daily living, but also for independence, confidence, emotional well-being, education, and overall quality of life. Yet millions of people silently suffer from eye diseases that develop gradually and often without pain or early warning signs. Many serious eye conditions remain unnoticed until permanent vision damage has already occurred. According to eye health experts, regular comprehensive eye examinations remain the best defense against avoidable blindness.

Recognizing the growing importance of vision care in today's digital and aging world, IndoUS Tribune Health Corner is launching a special educational series:

“Protect Your Vision, Protect Your Life”

This awareness series will help readers understand:

- ▶ Early warning signs of eye diseases
- ▶ Risk factors and prevention
- ▶ Modern treatments and surgeries
- ▶ Lifestyle habits for healthy vision
- ▶ The importance of routine eye examinations

In this first article, we focus on serious vision-threatening eye diseases that require prompt diagnosis and treatment.

Serious Vision-Threatening Eye Diseases 1. Glaucoma — The “Silent Thief of Sight” What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve — the nerve responsible for carrying visual information from the eye to the brain. In most cases, this damage is caused by increased pressure inside the eye, known as intraocular pressure. The eye constantly produces a clear fluid called aqueous humor. Normally, this fluid drains properly through microscopic channels. When drainage becomes blocked or inefficient, pressure builds up inside the eye and slowly damages the optic nerve. Because glaucoma often develops silently without pain or noticeable symptoms, many people lose vision before realizing they have the disease.

Types of Glaucoma

Open-Angle Glaucoma

This is the most common form of glaucoma.

In this condition:

- ▶ Drainage channels slowly become clogged
- ▶ Eye pressure rises gradually
- ▶ Vision loss occurs slowly over years
- ▶ Patients usually do not notice symptoms early

Angle-Closure Glaucoma

This is a medical emergency.

In angle-closure glaucoma:

- ▶ Drainage channels suddenly become blocked
- ▶ Eye pressure rises rapidly
- ▶ Severe pain and sudden vision loss may occur

Without emergency treatment, blindness can occur quickly.



Normal-Tension Glaucoma

In some people, optic nerve damage occurs even though eye pressure remains normal. Reduced blood supply to the optic nerve may contribute.

Symptoms

Early Symptoms

Most people have:

- ▶ No pain
- ▶ No early warning signs
- ▶ Normal appearing vision initially

Progressive Symptoms

As glaucoma worsens:

- ▶ Peripheral (side) vision becomes patchy
- ▶ Difficulty seeing while driving
- ▶ Trouble navigating in dim lighting
- ▶ “Tunnel vision” in advanced disease

Acute Angle-Closure Symptoms

Emergency symptoms include:

- ▶ Severe eye pain
- ▶ Sudden blurred vision
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Nausea and vomiting
- ▶ Halos around lights
- ▶ Redness of the eye

Risk Factors

Risk increases with:

- ▶ Age above 60
- ▶ Family history of glaucoma
- ▶ Diabetes and hypertension
- ▶ Long-term steroid use
- ▶ Severe nearsightedness
- ▶ Previous eye injury
- ▶ African American, Hispanic, or Asian ancestry

Diagnosis

Eye specialists diagnose glaucoma using:

- ▶ Eye pressure testing (Tonometry)
- ▶ Optic nerve examination
- ▶ Visual field testing
- ▶ OCT retinal imaging
- ▶ Corneal thickness testing

Because glaucoma damage is permanent, early diagnosis is critical.

Treatment

While vision already lost cannot usually be restored, treatment can prevent further blindness.

Treatment includes:

- ▶ Prescription eye drops to reduce pressure
 - ▶ Laser procedures to improve drainage
 - ▶ Minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS)
 - ▶ Traditional glaucoma surgery in severe cases
- Lifelong monitoring is usually required.

2. Diabetic Retinopathy — Diabetes Can Blind the Eye

What is Diabetic Retinopathy?

Diabetic Retinopathy is a serious complication of diabetes that damages the retina — the light-sensitive tissue lining the back of the eye.

High blood sugar levels weaken and damage tiny retinal blood vessels over time.

These damaged vessels may:

- ▶ Leak blood and fluid
- ▶ Swell the retina
- ▶ Become blocked
- ▶ Trigger abnormal blood vessel growth

If untreated, diabetic retinopathy can lead to severe vision loss or blindness.

Types of Diabetic Retinopathy Non-Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy (NPDR)

This is the early stage.

In NPDR:

- ▶ Blood vessels weaken
- ▶ Small bulges form in vessels
- ▶ Fluid leakage causes retinal swelling
- ▶ Vision may remain normal initially

Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy (PDR)

This is the advanced stage.

In PDR:

- ▶ New abnormal blood vessels grow
- ▶ These vessels are fragile and bleed easily
- ▶ Scar tissue develops
- ▶ Retinal detachment may occur

This stage can cause severe blindness.

Symptoms

Early diabetic retinopathy may have no symptoms.

As damage progresses:

- ▶ Blurred or fluctuating vision
- ▶ Dark floating spots
- ▶ Difficulty reading
- ▶ Distorted vision
- ▶ Dark or empty areas in vision
- ▶ Sudden vision loss from bleeding

Risk Factors

Higher risk occurs with:

- ▶ Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes
- ▶ Poor blood sugar control
- ▶ High blood pressure
- ▶ High cholesterol
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ Kidney disease
- ▶ Long duration of diabetes
- ▶ Pregnancy in diabetic women

Diagnosis

Doctors use:

- ▶ Dilated retinal examination
- ▶ Retinal photography
- ▶ OCT imaging
- ▶ Fluorescein angiography

Treatment

Blood Sugar Control

Good diabetes management is the most important protection.

Anti-VEGF Injections

These medications reduce swelling and stop abnormal vessel growth.

Laser Treatment

Laser seals leaking vessels and reduces bleeding risk.

Vitrectomy Surgery

Used in advanced bleeding or retinal detachment.

Regular annual eye exams are essential for every diabetic patient.

3. Macular Degeneration (AMD) — Loss of Central Vision

What is AMD?

AMD stands for Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

It affects the macula — the central part of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision needed for:

- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Driving
- ▶ Recognizing faces
- ▶ Watching television
- ▶ Using computers and phones

When the macula becomes damaged, central vision deteriorates while side vision usually remains normal. AMD is one of the leading causes of severe vision loss among older adults.

Types of AMD

Dry AMD

This is the most common form.

In Dry AMD:

- ▶ The macula slowly thins with age
- ▶ Tiny yellow deposits called drusen build up beneath the retina
- ▶ Vision loss progresses gradually over years

What are Drusen?

Drusen are deposits made of fats and waste materials that collect under the retina. Large drusen increase the risk of vision loss.

Wet AMD

This is the more aggressive and dangerous form.

In Wet AMD:

- ▶ Abnormal blood vessels grow beneath the retina
- ▶ These vessels leak blood and fluid
- ▶ Swelling and scarring rapidly damage the macula

This process is called neovascularization.

Wet AMD can cause sudden severe vision loss.

Symptoms

Dry AMD Symptoms

- ▶ Mild blurry central vision
- ▶ Difficulty reading
- ▶ Need for brighter light
- ▶ Faded color perception

Continued in next edition...

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: PRIVATE-EQUITY/CREDIT

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -11.9% (low)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 59 (greed-low)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 56.43% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 58.00% (positive)

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

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

INTEREST RATES

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

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.68%, 1-yr 3.86%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.13%, 5-yr 4.27%, 10-yr 4.56%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.07%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.73%, 10-yr 2.16%, 30-yr 2.77%
 FRNs Index 3.633%

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 61.88 (greed)

Weekly ETFs: INDA +0.83%,
 INDY +0.35%, EPI +0.67%, INDH +0.18% | SPY +0.88%



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

AGRICULTURE

US ag-sciences company FMC will divest its commercial business in India to Crystal Corp Protection by 2026 yearend; the plan was announced in 07/2025. FMC will continue its global R&D & manufacturing operations in India; it will use the proceeds to reduce the debt of its Indian operations.

Indian multinational Wipro (also trades on US Nasdaq as WIT) is buying Mindsprint unit (IT & digital services) from food & ag company Olam Group, Singapore (majority owned by Temasek Holdings). Mindsprint-Wipro will focus on global farm to fork supply-chains enhanced by AI.

INDUSTRIAL. German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp has paused the deal for its steel unit with Jindal Steel, India (60.5% owned by Jindal Group) after a labor agreement & some EU relief. Higher energy

costs due to Iran war have changed the financials of the previously announced bid by Jindal Steel & the decision to pause the deal was mutual. Thyssenkrupp may now spinoff the steel unit & retain a small stake.

SPECIAL TOPIC - PRIVATE-EQUITY/CREDIT

Investors are familiar with equity & bond markets that work through exchanges & are well regulated by SEC. But there are significant organized or ad-hoc/ unorganized activities that are off-exchanges & those include private-equity/ credit. These activities escape most regulations & monitoring.

After the GFC (Great Financial Crisis, 2008-09), banks withdrew from direct private-equity/ credit due to stricter banking regulations & monitoring. The vacuum created was filled by nonbank financials. They own companies, datacenters, hospitals, apartments, CREs (& many politicians!). An unregulated shadow banking system has evolved that may pose systemic risks for the entire financial system.

They can use their own discretion & judgement to value their illiquid holdings. There have also been some frauds. For a long time, private-equity/ credit was the domain of institutions, pension funds, endowment funds & large sophisticated investors (accredited-investors meeting income &/or asset requirements).

There have been changes recently that allow targeting general retail investors (via OEFs, ETFs, IFs, nontraded funds) & retirement savers & retirees with 401k/403b (via TDFs - target-date funds). Thinking is that the problems of risks & illiquidity of alternatives (alts) can be handled within hybrid TDFs (stocks-bonds-

alts). Alts may include interval-funds (nontraded), real estate, precious metals, private-equity/ credit, cryptos. They are being pitched as democratization of investing. However, retail investors may not be aware of their risks, illiquidity & gates (withdrawal restrictions).

TDFs are funds-of-funds that have top-level fees & those coming from underlying funds. In principle, the underlying funds can be of various types (OEFs, ETFs, CITs, IFs, etc), but OEFs are the most common underlying funds, i.e. TDF-OEFs with stricter SEC regulations that allow no or very limited alts.

A less regulated fund form is CIT (collective investment trust). CITs have lower fees, aren't listed & are loosely regulated by banking regulator OCC or states, not by SEC. TDF-CITs allow alts such as private-equity/ credit (& lifetime income options) & that may lead to problems for plan sponsors & retirement investors.

Both TDF-OEFs & TDF-CITs are allowed as default options in 401k/403b & may serve as placeholders until employees get more information about the plan & investing.

Retirement investors should (i) learn about these plan changes & alts, (ii) ignore the hype (e.g. democratization of investing), (iii) watch fees because alts have high fees & TDF-CITs with them would also have higher fees, (iv) not ignore plan notices, (v) check plan default fund (typically a TDF-OEFs or TDF-CITs) & what they contain (these were supposed to be simple investments but now some can have esoteric alts).

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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Summer 2026 fashion trends

10 style shifts defining the new season

Summer 2026 is shaping up to be a season of playful contrasts, where nostalgia, futurism, and effortless styling collide. From runway signals to TikTok-driven aesthetics, fashion is leaning into expressive individuality while still keeping looks wearable and personal. Tied sweaters continue their reign as an easy styling hack, draped over shoulders or waists for that off-duty energy seen on street style stars like Kendall Jenner. Bandanas are also making a strong comeback, worn as headscarves or neck accents for a practical yet polished summer upgrade. The color story turns bold with all-purple everything, spanning soft lavender to deep eggplant, already spotted on red carpets.

Prints stay loud with polka dots and



checked patterns, both evolving into modern wardrobe staples across dresses, skirts, and tailored pieces. Layered outfits are gaining traction, with multiple textures and silhouettes

styled together for a more editorial feel. Accessories take center stage with brooches returning as a statement detail, often pinned across jackets, shirts, and even bags.



A preppy revival is also shaping summer looks, led by loafers, structured layering, and collegiate influences. Footwear leans experimental with wedge sneakers returning, blending comfort with height and nostalgia. On the color front, not-so-neutrals bring subtle pink undertones into everyday wardrobes, softening classic palettes.

Silhouettes continue to shift with low-rise pants making a modern comeback in relaxed, wide-leg fits, while tracksuit pants blur the line between sportswear and street style when paired with elevated pieces. Together, these trends reflect a summer defined by mix-and-match freedom, where personal style matters more than strict rules.



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