

Ceasefire hopes dim as Hezbollah demands full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ezbollah on Thursday rejected a new United States-brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon, dealing a setback to efforts to end months of fighting and ease wider regional tensions linked to the Iran conflict.

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem called the proposal unacceptable, arguing that withdrawing fighters from southern Lebanon while Israeli operations continue would amount to surrender. The agreement calls for Hezbollah forces to leave areas south of the Litani River and for the Lebanese army to assume control of those zones.

The rejection came as violence continued across Lebanon. Israeli strikes killed at least four people, while a Serbian peacekeeper serving with United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was killed and two others were wounded by mortar fire. Israel also reported the death of a 21-year-old army captain in southern Lebanon. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun described the proposal as a final opportunity to secure a comprehensive ceasefire, but Hezbollah has not committed to ending hostilities. The conflict has killed more than 3,500 people and displaced over 1.2 million across Lebanon.

## India rejects third-party role in border discussions with Nepal



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia on Tuesday firmly rejected any role for outside countries in resolving boundary issues with Nepal after Nepali Prime Minister Balendra Shah suggested that Nepal had discussed the dispute with China and the United Kingdom. Responding to the remarks, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said nearly 98 percent of the India-Nepal border has already been demarcated and that remaining issues are being addressed through established bilateral mechanisms.

He noted that changes in the course of the Gandak River, along with cases of cross-border occupation and encroachment in no-man's land, have created unresolved segments that are currently being jointly mapped. Shah had said Sunday that both India and Nepal occupy land claimed by the other and called for talks to resolve the matter. Nepal later clarified that his comments referred mainly to technical boundary issues and cross-border land use. India and Nepal continue to have differing claims over areas including Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani.

# IndoUS TRIBUNE

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## Putin backs India's independent foreign policy and criticizes pressure on Modi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**ussian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that attempts to pressure Prime Minister Narendra Modi over India's ties with Russia are harmful to international relations and bilateral partnerships.

Speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin dismissed suggestions that India's growing relationship with the United States has complicated ties between Moscow and New Delhi. He described India as a major economic and democratic power and said it is natural for the country to pursue relationships that serve its national interests.

Putin argued that pressure from any country regarding India's cooperation with Russia is counterproductive, particularly given India's global importance. His remarks come as New Delhi continues to balance strong partnerships with both Washington and Moscow while expanding its influence on the global stage.



## House vote signals bipartisan concern over Trump's authority to strike Iran

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**A**bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a measure aimed at limiting President Donald Trump's ability to take military action against Iran without congressional approval, highlighting growing concern in Washington over the risk of a wider Middle East conflict.

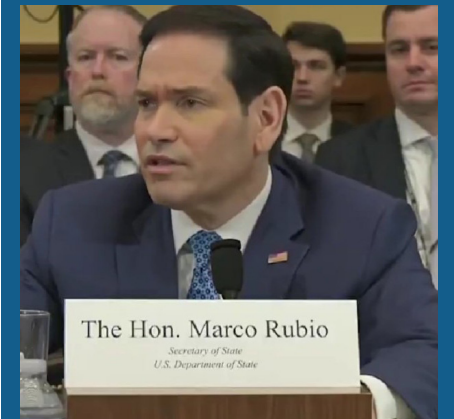
The resolution, backed by Democrats and four Republicans, seeks to reaffirm Congress' constitutional authority over war powers and require lawmakers to authorize any significant military action against Iran. Supporters argued that decisions that could

draw the United States into another regional conflict should not be made unilaterally by the president.

The vote comes amid heightened tensions involving Iran, Israel, and U.S. forces in the region, raising concerns about the potential for broader military escalation and disruptions to global energy markets.

Although the measure faces an uncertain future, the House vote underscores bipartisan unease over expanding presidential war powers and signals increasing pressure on the Trump administration to consult Congress before pursuing further military action involving Iran.

## Rubio dismisses reports of Pakistani warning on Iran



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday rejected reports that Pakistan had conveyed a message warning that Iran was prepared to demonstrate a nuclear weapon if current tensions escalated further.

During a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Representative Scott Perry asked Rubio whether Pakistan's foreign minister had personally delivered such a warning. Rubio responded that he was unaware of any such communication and said he would likely have known if it had occurred.

Pressed further, he reiterated that he had neither seen the reports nor received any message of that nature. Rubio added that if Iran were to threaten or demonstrate a nuclear capability, it would reinforce longstanding concerns about Tehran's intentions and could force President Donald Trump to consider additional policy options.

## Khalistan-linked groups shift focus to Azerbaijan, officials say

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian officials say Khalistan-linked groups are increasingly turning to Azerbaijan as a new platform to promote their agenda following improved India-Canada ties under Prime Minister Mark Carney.

According to officials, organizations associated with the movement have begun collaborating with the Baku Initiative Group, which has hosted conferences highlighting alleged discrimination against Sikhs in India.

Events held in Baku this year drew participants from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Pakistan, including tributes to slain Khalistan figure



Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Officials allege the effort is part of a broader strategy to keep the movement internationally visible through think tanks and advocacy networks. They also claim Pakistan-backed elements are helping amplify these campaigns as pressure on Khalistan groups increases in traditional overseas hubs.

**Musk's comments on Henry Nowak case draw sharp rebuke from Starmer**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**ritish Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday accused Elon Musk of attempting to inflame divisions in Britain through social media commentary surrounding the killing of Henry Nowak. After meeting Nowak's family, Starmer pledged to pursue action over the handling of the case, in which the 18-year-old was arrested while fatally wounded after his attacker, Vickrum Digwa, falsely accused him of racist abuse. Starmer also backed Labour lawmaker Jess Asato in her legal action against Musk's artificial intelligence company over allegedly fake sexualized images generated by Grok. The controversy has fueled online misinformation, threats against police officers, and protests, placing the Nowak case at the center of a growing political debate in Britain.

**Zelenskyy proposes direct meeting with Putin to pursue ceasefire talks**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**krainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy issued an open letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, proposing a face-to-face meeting aimed at ending more than four years of war. Zelenskyy said Ukraine supports a full ceasefire throughout negotiations and suggested holding talks in countries that have traditionally hosted peace discussions, including Switzerland, Turkey, or Arab nations. He argued that diplomacy must begin from the front lines and warned that Ukraine would continue fighting for its survival if Russia remained unwilling to pursue peace. Zelenskyy also claimed many Russians have grown weary of the conflict amid economic pressures and drone attacks. The Kremlin confirmed it had received the letter and said Putin would be briefed on its contents, though Moscow offered no immediate response to the proposal.

**Iran and US signal diplomatic progress despite fresh regional tensions**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ran and the United States signaled continued momentum in negotiations this week despite renewed military tensions across the Middle East. Speaking on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi warned that Tehran would respond if Israel attacked Beirut, saying Iran considers the security of Lebanon and Iran closely linked and would not tolerate an assault on the Lebanese capital. He said communication with Washington remains ongoing through exchanged messages, although no major breakthrough has yet been reached.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Donald Trump said a proposed agreement with Iran could be finalized within days and pledged that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen immediately after a memorandum of understanding is signed. Trump said the central goal of the negotiations is preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and claimed both sides could cooperate in removing and destroying remaining nuclear-related material. The diplomatic optimism comes amid recent military exchanges, including Iranian strikes on United States facilities in the Gulf and continuing disputes involving Israel and Lebanon, underscoring the fragile balance between diplomacy and conflict in the region.



**Trump targets tariff evasion with toughest customs reforms yet**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump on Wednesday signed a sweeping executive order aimed at strengthening customs enforcement and cracking down on tariff evasion, supply chain fraud, forced labor imports, and illegal trade practices. The order directs federal agencies to tighten audits, increase penalties, and close loopholes that officials say have allowed companies to avoid duties and conceal ownership structures.



involved in illegal imports, including fentanyl-related goods, could lose their ability to import products into the United States.

Under the new rules, the Department of Homeland Security must revise importer eligibility requirements within 180 days, including stricter disclosure standards and higher bond coverage. Foreign importers will face additional scrutiny, while companies

The administration will also target undervaluation, misclassification, counterfeit goods, and illegal transshipment. Trade adviser Peter Navarro said the measures could generate billions of dollars in additional revenue while protecting American businesses from unfair competition and customs fraud.

**NIA probes possible Hamas connections as Pahalgam terror investigation widens**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's National Investigation Agency is expanding its investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack by examining possible links between Pakistan-based terror groups and the Palestinian militant organization Hamas.



Investigators are assessing whether groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and The Resistance Front maintain operational, financial, or ideological ties with Hamas or even Al-Qaeda. Officials said intelligence agencies had previously flagged interactions between Hamas figures and leaders of Pakistan-based terror organizations.

The agency is also studying possible similarities between the planning and execution of the Pahalgam attack and tactics associated with Hamas. Officials believe any confirmed connections could signal efforts to strengthen Pakistan-backed proxy groups through cooperation with internationally active extremist organizations.

**United States ramps up security planning for 2026 World Cup**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**omeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told lawmakers on Tuesday that preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup are underway on an unprecedented scale. Speaking before a Senate appropriations panel, Mullin described the tournament as "78 Super Bowls in 38 days," reflecting the challenge of securing dozens of matches across North America. The expanded competition will feature 48 teams and be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Mullin said federal, state, and local agencies are coordinating security operations that include stadium sweeps, expanded security perimeters, traffic management, and crowd-control measures. He added that even cities with differing political views have cooperated with federal authorities. Millions of international visitors are expected to attend the tournament, making it one of the largest sporting events ever staged.

**Baloch group alleges prolonged military restrictions in Mashkai**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Baloch National Movement has accused Pakistani security forces of imposing a two-week "military siege" in Mashkai, a region of Balochistan's Awaran district. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the group said markets, schools, hospitals, and businesses remained largely closed while residents faced severe restrictions on movement. It alleged that villagers were being summoned to military camps and subjected to harassment and abuse, claims that Pakistani authorities have not publicly addressed. The group also accused security forces of carrying out unlawful killings and detentions in the region. Separately, the Baloch Voice for Justice raised concerns about military operations across several areas of Balochistan and called on the United Nations and international rights organizations to investigate alleged human rights violations and civilian harm.

## Trump administration widens pressure campaign against Cuba's ruling elite

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Thursday announced new sanctions against Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, members of his family, and relatives of former leader Raúl Castro, signaling a further escalation in Washington's pressure on Havana. The measures also target Cuba's armed forces ministry and several state-linked organizations.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the sanctions are aimed at networks that support and finance Cuba's government and warned that foreign companies and banks dealing with the listed entities could face penalties. The move follows earlier visa restrictions and comes as Cuba grapples with a worsening economic and energy crisis under mounting United States pressure.

## Germany's failed Security Council bid delivers setback for Merz on global stage



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Germany's unsuccessful bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council has sparked criticism of Chancellor Friedrich Merz and raised questions about Berlin's international influence. In voting on Wednesday, Germany secured only 104 votes, while Austria and Portugal won the European seats. Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl suggested Germany's strong support for Ukraine and Israel may have hurt its chances among some member states. Opposition parties and coalition lawmakers described the result as a significant diplomatic setback. The defeat is particularly notable as Merz has sought to restore Germany's leadership role in Europe and project a stronger presence in global affairs since taking office.

## Gaza deaths continue despite ceasefire as Israeli strikes kill at least 10

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza on Thursday, according to local hospitals, highlighting the fragility of the ceasefire that took effect last October. Nine people, including two women and two children, died in multiple strikes in Gaza City, while another person was killed later in the day. Israel's military said some of the strikes targeted four Hamas militants involved in protecting the group's leaders and gathering intelligence. Gaza's Health Ministry says 936 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire began, while Israel says it has responded to threats and truce violations. The war began after Hamas' October 2023 attack on Israel.

## From minerals to technology, China challenge dominates US foreign policy agenda

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told lawmakers on Wednesday that competition with China now influences nearly every major diplomatic engagement undertaken by the United States. Appearing before congressional committees, Rubio described Beijing as America's most significant long-term strategic challenge, citing concerns over critical minerals, pharmaceutical supply chains, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and industrial capacity. He warned that excessive dependence on China poses growing economic and national security risks.

Rubio highlighted a recent rare earth minerals ministerial attended by more than 30 countries and a new initiative called



"Pax Silica," involving 14 nations working to secure artificial intelligence-related supply chains. He also reaffirmed support for Taiwan and raised concerns about Chinese influence operations and industrial dominance. The testimony underscored how reducing strategic dependence on China has become a central pillar of Washington's foreign and economic policy.

## Trump appoints Bill Pulte as acting intelligence chief, sparks Democratic criticism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's decision to appoint Bill Pulte as Acting Director of National Intelligence on Tuesday triggered sharp criticism from Democrats, who questioned his qualifications for one of the nation's top security roles. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Pulte lacked national security, military, and law enforcement experience, warning the appointment could complicate efforts to renew surveillance legislation.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer also criticized the move, arguing intelligence officials must remain independent of political influence. Republicans took a more cautious stance. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said lawmakers had only recently learned of



the appointment, while Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Tom Cotton declined to comment. The dispute comes as Congress prepares to debate surveillance authorities and broader intelligence reforms.

## Solomon Islands to review controversial China security pact

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale said on Wednesday that his government will review the security agreement signed with China in 2022. Speaking alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra, Wale revealed he received a copy of the pact only a day before traveling to Australia after making changes to key government positions. He said

the agreement, which includes a non-disclosure clause, will be reviewed alongside other security arrangements. The pact had raised concerns in Australia when it was signed under former Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare. During the visit, Albanese announced plans for a new comprehensive treaty to strengthen bilateral ties and expand policing cooperation between the two countries, underscoring Australia's commitment to regional security and partnership with Solomon Islands.

## Thailand joins UN arbitration with Cambodia but freezes bilateral talks over maritime dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thailand on Friday said it will take part in a United Nations arbitration process initiated by Cambodia to settle a long-running maritime border dispute, while suspending all bilateral talks with Phnom Penh. The dispute covers about 26,000 square kilometers in the Gulf of Thailand, a resource-rich area believed to hold major oil and gas reserves worth about \$300 billion. Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow said Thailand will send representatives to the UN-backed process but criticized Cambodia for moving ahead without adequate coordination. Cambodia said bilateral efforts had already been exhausted.



Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said no further bilateral negotiations will be held, including on land border issues, and border crossings will remain closed. The dispute follows years of tension and previous deadly border clashes, though a ceasefire signed last year still holds. Thailand said it will participate in the arbitration process but does not expect it to improve broader relations.

## Political tensions erupt into violence ahead of Somalia opposition rally



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Clashes between Somali security forces and opposition supporters continued in Mogadishu on Thursday ahead of a planned anti-government demonstration, underscoring deepening political tensions in the country. Residents reported heavy gunfire and explosions, while several buildings were damaged during the unrest. No official casualty figures were released. The government accused armed groups linked to the opposition of attacking security positions, while opposition leaders said security forces targeted political rivals, including former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire. The United Nations and the United States urged restraint and called for dialogue as disputes over elections and constitutional reforms continue to strain Somalia's political landscape.

## Authorities seize more than a ton of cocaine from tunnel linking Mexico and California

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States authorities have uncovered a sophisticated tunnel stretching from Tijuana, Mexico, into Southern California and seized more than 1,029 kilograms of cocaine valued at about \$45 million. Officials said Tuesday that four people were charged following a months-long investigation into a smuggling route connected to a warehouse operating as a supposed retail store near the Otay Mesa border crossing.

The nearly 1,933-foot tunnel was equipped with reinforced walls, electricity, ventilation, rail tracks, and a hydraulic lift. Investigators discovered 851 packages of suspected cocaine during searches of vehicles and the warehouse. Authorities said the operation dealt a major blow to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, which is believed to have used the tunnel to move drugs into the United States while bypassing border security.

## Bangladesh measles outbreak death toll rises to 605

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's worsening measles outbreak claimed four more lives on Thursday, raising the combined confirmed and suspected death toll to 605 since March. According to health authorities, one of the latest deaths was confirmed as measles-related, while three others involved patients with symptoms of the disease. More than 75,700 suspected cases and 9,260 confirmed infections have been reported nationwide. Healthcare facilities are facing mounting pressure, particularly pediatric intensive care units and isolation wards. The opposition Awami League blamed vaccine procurement failures under the previous interim administration and criticized the current government's response, calling for a public health emergency and an accelerated vaccination campaign.



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# Rubio in India

## Diplomacy, damage control, and the new global chessboard



**Dr. Avi Verma**

**T**he visit of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to India this week was far more than a ceremonial diplomatic engagement. It was a strategic mission wrapped in symbolism, urgency, and geopolitical calculation. At a time when the world is facing mounting instability—from the escalating Iran-Israel-U.S. conflict to rising energy insecurity, China’s growing assertiveness, and shifting alliances in South Asia—Rubio’s India visit signals Washington’s recognition that India remains indispensable to the emerging global order.

For months, Indo-U.S. relations appeared strained. Trade disputes, tariff disagreements, America’s renewed outreach toward Pakistan, and Washington’s inconsistent messaging toward China had generated skepticism in New Delhi. Many in India questioned whether the United States still viewed India as a trusted long-term strategic partner or merely as another transactional ally under an “America First” framework. Rubio’s visit was clearly designed to repair that trust deficit.

**Yet the larger question remains: Why now? The answer lies in the rapidly evolving global crisis.**

The ongoing confrontation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States has shaken international energy markets and threatened global oil supply routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz. India, one of the world’s largest energy importers, sits at the center of this storm. Washington understands that India’s energy security is now directly tied to global economic stability. Rubio openly pushed for deeper U.S.-India energy cooperation, emphasizing America’s willingness to become a major long-term energy supplier to India.

**This was not merely about oil and gas.**

It was about preventing India from drifting further toward strategic neutrality—or worse, toward alternative power blocs led by China and Russia. Rubio’s repeated references to India as a “natural partner” and a cornerstone of Indo-Pacific strategy underline America’s realization that it cannot effectively counter China without India firmly within its strategic orbit.

The Quad alliance also loomed large over the visit. With concerns growing that the Quad had lost momentum, Rubio’s India trip attempted to reassure allies that Washington remains committed to the Indo-Pacific architecture. Discussions on semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, defense technology, and maritime security reveal that the U.S.-India relationship is evolving far beyond traditional diplomacy.

**At the same time, the visit carries major implications for Pakistan.**

Islamabad has recently tried to reposition itself as a diplomatic intermediary amid Middle East tensions, while simultaneously strengthening ties with Washington. Rubio’s engagement with Pakistani leadership shortly before and after the India visit reflects a careful

balancing act by the United States.

**However, this balanced strategy comes with risks.**

India remains deeply cautious about any U.S. attempt to “hyphenate” India and Pakistan diplomatically. For decades, New Delhi has worked hard to establish itself as a global power distinct from the South Asian regional framework historically dominated by India-Pakistan rivalry. Any perception that Washington is reviving old balancing formulas could create fresh distrust.

**Did India give Rubio a cold shoulder?**

Not publicly. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar maintained diplomatic warmth and emphasized continued cooperation. Rubio was welcomed with ceremonial engagements, strategic meetings, and cultural outreach across multiple Indian cities.

But beneath the optics, India’s response appeared measured rather than enthusiastic.

There was no dramatic breakthrough announcement. No sweeping trade agreement. No major defense package. No extraordinary strategic declaration. Instead, India projected confidence, caution, and strategic autonomy. New Delhi appears increasingly aware that global powers now need India as much as India needs them.

**That may be the biggest geopolitical shift of all.**

Unlike previous decades, India today negotiates from a position of growing economic strength, technological importance, military relevance, and demographic power. Washington’s urgency in rebuilding trust with New Delhi reflects that changing reality. India is no longer merely a regional partner—it is now central to global supply chains, Indo-Pacific security, critical technology competition, and energy stability.

**The Rubio visit therefore represents something deeper than routine diplomacy.**

It reflects America’s recognition that the future global balance of power may depend significantly on the direction India chooses in the coming decade.

For India, the challenge will be maintaining strategic independence while maximizing opportunities from multiple global partnerships. For the United States, the challenge will be proving that its commitment to India extends beyond temporary geopolitical necessity.

Because in today’s fractured world order, trust—not symbolism—will define the future of Indo-U.S. relations.

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



### Pakistani Christian leaders press Pope and government on minority rights



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

A delegation of Catholic bishops from Pakistan met Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican and raised concerns about discrimination against Christians, including alleged misuse of blasphemy laws, forced conversions, and forced marriages involving Christian girls. The bishops also invited the Pope to visit Pakistan, with Pope Leo expressing interest in a future trip. Separately, minority rights groups in Islamabad last week urged the government to strengthen constitutional protections for religious minorities, women, and children. Leaders of the Minorities Alliance Pakistan called for direct representation of minorities in parliament and proposed measures to prevent child marriages and religious conversions involving minors, arguing that equal rights remain out of reach for many non-Muslim communities.

### Hungary's prime minister seeks new powers to remove president

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar said on Monday that he plans to pursue constitutional changes that could allow the removal of President Tamas Sulyok, accusing him of failing to uphold the responsibilities of his office. Speaking outside the presidential palace, Magyar said the presidency had lost credibility because of what he described as silence on key national issues. He warned that if Sulyok does not resign, parliament could begin proceedings under a broader constitutional framework that would apply to other senior officials as well. Magyar also advocated giving voters a greater role in choosing future presidents, arguing that the office should better reflect the will of the Hungarian people.

### France backs diplomacy with Iran as tensions remain high



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that France is ready to support efforts by President Donald Trump to reach a new agreement with Iran. Following talks with Trump and several Middle Eastern leaders, Macron called a U.S.-Iran deal a unique opportunity to improve regional security. He said a French and British-led maritime mission could help secure shipping through the Strait of Hormuz once an agreement is reached. Macron also stressed the need for a ceasefire in Lebanon and said future negotiations should address Iran's nuclear program, ballistic missile activities, and broader regional stability concerns.

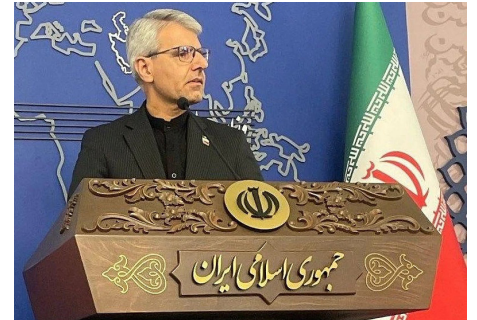
### South Korea urges trade disputes be handled within tariff agreement

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo urged the United States on Wednesday to resolve trade disputes within the framework of the bilateral tariff agreement reached last year. During talks with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Paris, Yeo raised concerns over a proposed Section 301 tariff investigation related to goods allegedly produced with forced labor. South Korea is among dozens of economies that could face additional duties under the proposal. Yeo stressed that future trade issues should be addressed through existing agreements rather than new tariffs. Under last year's deal, Washington reduced tariffs on South Korean goods from 25 percent to 15 percent in exchange for a \$350 billion investment commitment from Seoul. South Korea is also facing a separate U.S. investigation into alleged unfair trade practices.



### Iran condemns European Union criticism over strikes on Kuwait



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Iran on Monday rejected European Union criticism of its recent strikes linked to Kuwait, calling the bloc's position hypocritical and politically biased. Foreign Minister spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said Tehran's actions were a lawful exercise of self-defense against attacks launched from bases in neighboring countries.

The response came after the European Union condemned an Iranian attack on Kuwait and expressed solidarity with the Kuwaiti government. The bloc said the strikes violated Kuwaiti sovereignty and threatened regional stability. Iran countered that countries have a legal obligation not to allow their territory to be used for attacks against other states and accused the European Union of blaming the victim rather than the aggressor.

### Spanish prime minister denies knowledge of alleged corruption probe interference plot

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Friday denied any knowledge of an alleged plot to obstruct corruption investigations involving members of his Socialist Party, calling the claims unacceptable and saying he was outraged. The case stems from a High Court order last week involving documents linked to former party official Santos Cerdán and others accused of trying to influence administrative and judicial processes. Sánchez said he never approved or was informed of any such actions and insisted his government remains clean. He added that his party's legal team is reviewing all court materials. Although Sánchez has not been personally implicated, the scandal has intensified political pressure as Spain's courts continue multiple corruption-related inquiries involving party figures and allies.

### Italy seeks release of hunger-striking flotilla activists detained in Libya

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Italy on Friday appealed for the release of two Italian pro-Palestinian activists held in eastern Libya, as part of a wider group of Global Sumud Flotilla volunteers who have been on a hunger strike for four days. Ten detainees are now in their fifth day without food and water in protest against their detention and alleged mistreatment. The activists were detained since May 24 after attempting to negotiate safe passage for a humanitarian convoy toward Gaza near Sirte. Libya's eastern authorities have not commented. The Italian consul in Benghazi has requested access and the release of the nationals. The flotilla group said detainees are being held in isolated facilities under the Interior Ministry and warned of rapidly deteriorating health, calling for immediate medical access and unconditional release.

### NASA concludes MAVEN mission after losing contact with spacecraft

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

NASA announced on Wednesday that its long-running MAVEN mission has officially ended after engineers failed to re-establish contact with the spacecraft. Launched in 2013 and placed into Mars orbit in 2014, MAVEN was designed for a one-year mission but operated for more than 11 years. The spacecraft last transmitted data on Saturday, December 6, 2025, after passing behind Mars. A review board determined it is no longer recoverable. Preliminary findings suggest the spacecraft entered a rapid rotation, disrupting its orbit and draining



its batteries, which ultimately disabled communications. NASA said the root cause remains under investigation and a final report is expected later this year. The agency has begun archiving MAVEN's extensive scientific data, which has helped researchers better understand Mars' atmosphere and future human exploration needs.

### Rights group accuses China of suppressing Tiananmen remembrance

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

On the eve of the 37th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, Human Rights Watch accused China of intensifying efforts to erase public memory of the 1989 crackdown while strengthening social controls. The organization said Chinese authorities continue to ban commemorations, censor discussion of the event, and have never provided compensation or accountability for victims' families. Human Rights Watch highlighted a recent appeal from the Tiananmen Mothers, whose members called for justice and recognition of those killed. The group also cited restrictions placed on victims' relatives during memorial gatherings. Human



Rights Watch urged governments worldwide to press Beijing to acknowledge responsibility, provide reparations, and allow public remembrance of the events that unfolded when Chinese troops opened fire on protesters and civilians in Beijing in June 1989.

### India intensifies crackdown on Dawood Ibrahim's financial network

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Indian authorities have stepped up efforts to dismantle the criminal network linked to Dawood Ibrahim, which officials say remains a key source of funding for anti-India activities. Agencies including the Enforcement Directorate, National Investigation Agency, Central Bureau of Investigation, and state police forces are coordinating operations targeting narcotics trafficking, counterfeit currency, extortion, and money laundering. Officials describe

the drug trade as the syndicate's financial backbone and allege that a significant portion of its profits supports terrorism. Recent investigations have been aided by information obtained from extradited associate Salim Dola. On Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate searched multiple locations across Maharashtra and Gujarat as part of a money laundering probe. Authorities say sustained pressure on the network is intended to weaken both the syndicate's operations and the financial channels allegedly linked to Pakistan-based handlers.

**From healthcare to security, India broadens engagement with emerging African partners**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India expanded its engagement with Africa this week through new initiatives focused on healthcare, education, investment, and defense cooperation. On Wednesday, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held talks with South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile in Hyderabad, where both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in skilled workforce development, education, medical tourism, healthcare, and investment. Telangana also invited South African participation in its upcoming global investment summit and showcased Hyderabad's strengths in pharmaceuticals, technology, and healthcare services.

Separately, India and Zimbabwe held the inaugural meeting of their Joint Defence Committee in New Delhi on Thursday. Both countries agreed to expand defense cooperation through training, maintenance support, joint manufacturing, counterterrorism efforts, border management, and peacekeeping operations. Officials described the discussions as another step in India's growing strategic outreach across the African continent.

**India and Venezuela look beyond oil to build a broader economic partnership**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodríguez used talks in New Delhi on Thursday to explore a broader economic partnership extending well beyond energy cooperation. While oil remained central to discussions, both sides identified opportunities in trade, investment, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, transportation, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Indian officials highlighted the natural complementarity between Venezuela's vast energy resources and India's growing energy demand, while also emphasizing opportunities for Indian businesses in emerging sectors of the Venezuelan economy. Rodríguez, who arrived on Wednesday for a five-day visit with a large ministerial delegation, is also touring Indian industrial facilities to identify areas for future collaboration. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation and expanding economic engagement across a wider range of sectors.

**Trade deal talks enter final stretch as Washington and New Delhi strengthen ties**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and India are only weeks away from concluding a long-awaited trade agreement, according to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who signaled growing momentum in bilateral economic relations on Wednesday. Speaking before lawmakers, Rubio said both governments are eager to finalize the deal, describing India as a key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific. He also highlighted recent cooperation through the Quad, which includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.

Rubio said the four countries are working together on maritime domain awareness, shipping security, and monitoring critical infrastructure such as undersea cables. He also pointed to expanding collaboration on critical minerals and emerging technologies through initiatives designed to reduce



dependence on China. The proposed trade agreement is expected to further deepen economic cooperation and strengthen the broader strategic partnership between Washington and New Delhi.

**From trade to critical minerals, India and United Kingdom accelerate strategic alignment**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United Kingdom took major steps to deepen their strategic partnership on Thursday, expanding cooperation across trade, technology, education, maritime security, and critical minerals. During talks in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper reviewed progress under the India-UK Vision 2035 framework and highlighted growing collaboration in high-priority sectors. Key outcomes included the launch of the India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory, aimed at strengthening supply chain resilience and securing resources vital for clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

Both countries also advanced educational cooperation with approval for the University of Liverpool's Bengaluru campus and announced a maritime security partnership between King's



College London and India's National Maritime Foundation. Officials said recent agreements on trade, defense, technology security, and supply chains reflect a rapidly evolving relationship focused on economic resilience and future industries.

**Israel and Russia emerge as key partners in India's high-tech growth ambitions**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India strengthened its technology diplomacy on Thursday through separate engagements with Israel and Russia aimed at accelerating growth in emerging sectors. In Tel Aviv, India's Ambassador to Israel, J. P. Singh, met Israeli artificial intelligence chief Erez Askal to explore collaboration in artificial intelligence, innovation, and advanced technologies. The discussions build on cooperation agreements signed earlier this year that cover artificial intelligence research, education, and capacity building. Meanwhile, speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh invited Russian companies to invest in the state's expanding space, semiconductor, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing sectors. He highlighted plans for the proposed Tirupati Space City near Sriharikota and sought partnerships



in satellite manufacturing, propulsion systems, launch technologies, and quantum computing, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a gateway to India's rapidly growing technology ecosystem.

**Defense engagement signals continuing thaw in India-Canada relations**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Canada continued efforts to rebuild strategic engagement as a delegation from India's National Defence College held discussions with officials from Canada's Department of National Defence and Global Affairs Canada during a five-day visit to Ottawa. The 16-member delegation is examining opportunities to expand defense cooperation and deepen institutional ties between the two countries. The visit follows a series of recent high-level interactions, including defense discussions on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue and diplomatic meetings at Commonwealth gatherings. Delegates are also scheduled to engage with academic institutions and visit key defense establishments across Canada. The growing defense dialogue reflects broader attempts by both countries to restore momentum in bilateral relations and identify areas of practical cooperation amid an improving diplomatic climate.

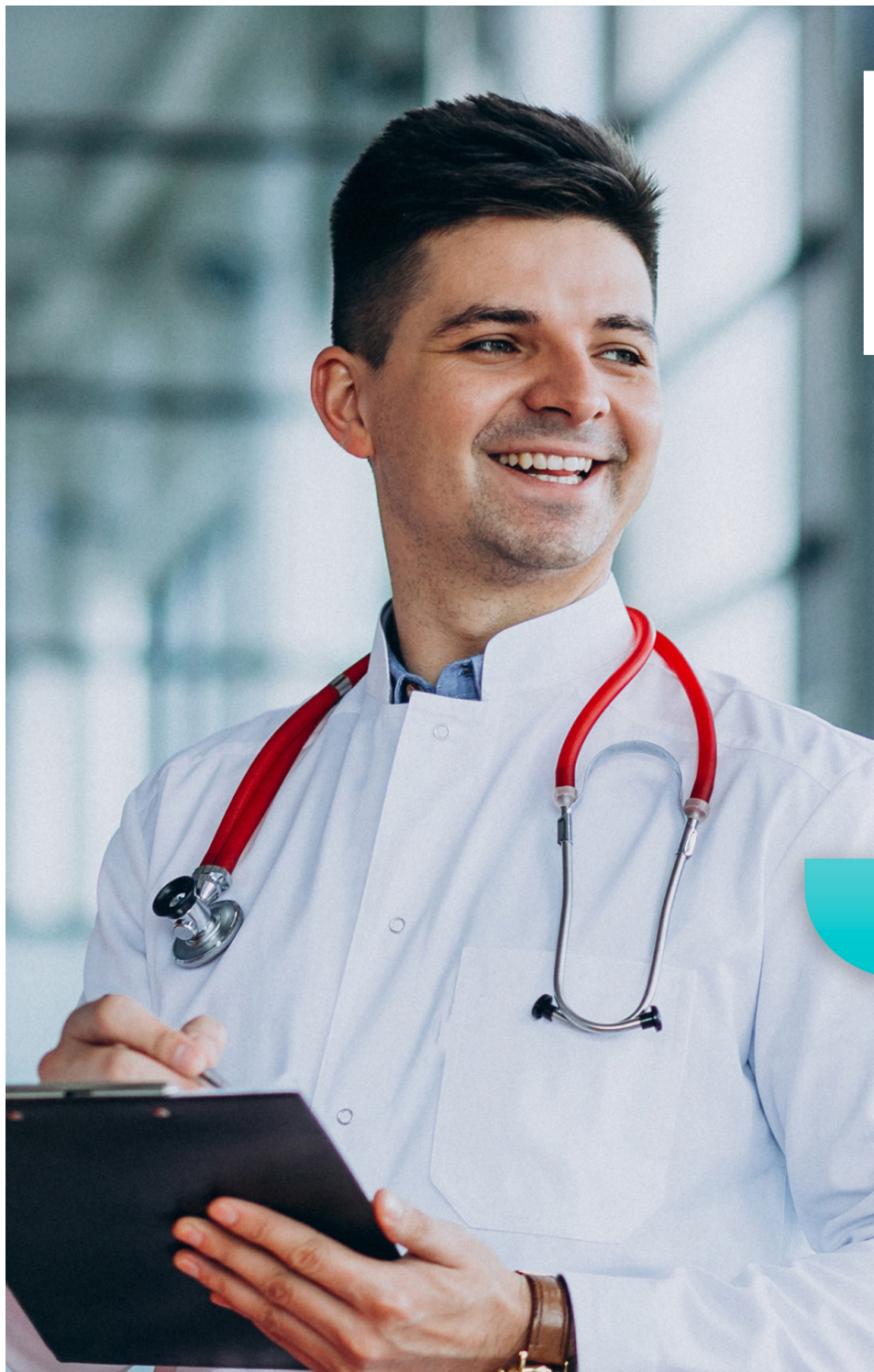
**India and Oman launch landmark trade pact to deepen Gulf ties**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Oman have formally implemented a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, making India only the second country after the United States to secure such a trade deal with Oman. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that the agreement will provide duty-free access for more than 99 percent of Indian exports and strengthen economic ties across the Gulf region.

The pact, signed last year, comes as bilateral trade exceeds \$11 billion. Officials said the agreement will benefit labor-intensive sectors, create jobs, attract investment, and improve access to Gulf and East African markets through Oman's major logistics hubs.



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## Senate immigration bill debate centers on Trump's controversial funding proposal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Senate worked late into Thursday night on a \$70 billion immigration enforcement bill, with debate dominated by a controversial \$1.8 billion fund backed by President Donald Trump. Democrats, led by Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, sought to eliminate what they called an "anti-weaponization" fund that critics say could benefit Trump's political allies. Their effort failed in a 50-49 vote, though Republican Senators Susan Collins, Jon Husted, and Dan Sullivan joined Democrats. The bill would fund deportation and border enforcement efforts over the next three years. Several Republicans also pushed amendments to permanently end the fund, reflecting growing concern ahead of November's midterm elections. If approved by the Senate, the legislation could reach the House of Representatives as early as next week.

## Lawmakers press for visa flexibility to address US workforce shortages



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday urged the federal government to ease visa-related hurdles affecting critical workers in healthcare and education. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand warned that delays in processing J-1 visa waivers could force hundreds of foreign-trained doctors to leave the country, worsening physician shortages in rural and underserved communities. She called on health officials to speed up approvals before many doctors complete their residency programs later this summer. At a separate Senate hearing, Senator Lisa Murkowski sought relief from a proposed \$100,000 H-1B visa fee for foreign teachers recruited to remote school districts. Homeland Security officials said they were willing to consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

## Trump administration expands drug pricing program and eases equipment tariffs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

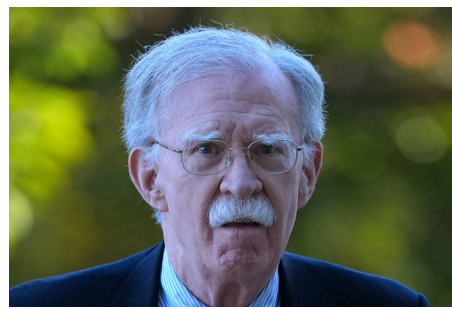
The Trump administration announced two economic measures on Monday aimed at lowering costs and supporting domestic industries. Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Mehmet Oz said 160 medicines had been added to the administration's drug-price transparency platform, bringing the total to more than 750. He also announced that eligible Medicare beneficiaries will be able to purchase certain weight-loss drugs for \$50 a month beginning Tuesday, July 1. Separately, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation reducing tariffs on selected agricultural and industrial equipment from 25 percent to 15 percent through 2027. The White House said the move would help farmers and manufacturers while encouraging greater use of American-produced metals.

## Former Trump adviser John Bolton reaches plea deal in classified information case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former national security adviser John Bolton has agreed to plead guilty to a single count of retaining classified information, according to a person familiar with the matter. The agreement would resolve an 18-count case filed in October alleging that Bolton improperly retained and shared classified material, including diary-style notes from his government service. Under the proposed deal, Bolton would pay a \$2.25 million fine and face a maximum prison sentence of five years, though he could avoid incarceration.

A re-arraignment is scheduled for Thursday in federal court in Maryland. Bolton, who served in President Donald



Trump's first administration before a public falling-out, had previously denied wrongdoing and argued the prosecution was politically motivated. Prosecutors alleged he shared sensitive information with family members while preparing his memoir, including details involving intelligence sources, foreign adversaries, and national security matters.

## Science board dismissals draw concerns over US innovation leadership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democratic Representatives Ro Khanna and Haley Stevens on Wednesday questioned the Trump administration's decision to remove all 22 members of the National Science Board, warning that the move could undermine the United States' scientific and technological competitiveness.

The lawmakers said they had sought explanations from the National Science Foundation and the White House, noting that the board serves as an independent adviser on science and technology policy. They pointed to a recent board report showing that China has overtaken the



United States in research and development spending, arguing that the dismissals come at a critical time in global competition.

Khanna and Stevens also requested details on who authorized the removals and how the administration intends to preserve the foundation's leadership in science and innovation.

## Rubio defends 'America First' approach as Senate reviews foreign policy priorities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday strongly defended President Donald Trump's foreign policy approach, telling the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that every diplomatic decision should be measured by whether it advances American interests. Appearing before lawmakers during a review of the administration's proposed State Department budget, Rubio said foreign policy must focus on national security, economic strength, and sovereignty.

He argued that diplomacy and foreign aid programs should deliver measurable outcomes rather than continue for their own sake, saying the United States government is not a charity. Rubio described foreign policy



decisions as choices between competing priorities rather than clear-cut options. Committee Chairman Jim Risch praised the administration's efforts on immigration, fentanyl trafficking, and diplomatic restructuring. Rubio acknowledged Congress would ultimately shape the final budget through the appropriations process.

## Ohio State University reaches \$100 million settlement with abuse survivors

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ohio State University announced Wednesday that it will pay \$100 million to settle lawsuits brought by 279 former students who accused campus doctor Richard Strauss of sexual abuse. All but one plaintiff in five active federal lawsuits agreed to the settlement. The agreement marks a major step toward

ending years of litigation over allegations that university officials failed to stop Strauss from abusing students, many of them athletes, from the 1970s through the 1990s. Ohio State has already paid more than \$61 million to 317 other survivors and has publicly apologized. An independent investigation found that university officials were aware of complaints about Strauss for decades but failed to act. Strauss died by suicide in 2005.

## Rubio allies gain influence as White House reshapes national security team

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House is preparing to replace its top Europe and Russia policy official as a broader restructuring of the National Security Council continues under the leadership of Marco Rubio. Charles McLaughlin, the senior director for European and Russian affairs, is expected to leave in the coming days and return to the National Defense University, where he had been serving on temporary assignment.

The move comes as several Rubio allies assume key positions within the National Security Council, potentially giving the Secretary of State greater influence over day-to-day foreign policy decisions. Among those reportedly being considered as McLaughlin's successor is Chris Curran, a senior State Department official involved in Ukraine peace discussions.

The personnel changes reflect an ongoing effort to reshape the National Security Council, whose role has diminished since President Donald Trump's return to office.

## Supreme Court backs FCC authority to issue telecom penalties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that the Federal Communications Commission can continue using its internal enforcement system to impose penalties on telecommunications companies. In an 8-1 decision, the court upheld fines of \$57 million against AT&T and nearly \$47 million against Verizon over allegations that they shared customer location data without consent. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the FCC's process does not violate the constitutional right to a jury trial because the agency's findings are not final and can be challenged in court. Justice Clarence Thomas was the lone dissenter.

## Questions emerge over omission of hair-loss drug from Trump health reports

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's recent medical disclosures no longer list finasteride, a hair-loss medication that his physicians previously said he used during and before his first term. A White House report released on Friday mentioned three medications but did not include the drug. Officials declined to say whether Trump had stopped taking finasteride, stating only that the report contained all clinically relevant information. The omission has prompted criticism from some medical ethics experts, who argue it raises broader questions about transparency surrounding the health of the nearly 80-year-old president. The White House maintains that President Donald Trump remains in excellent health and that no significant medical information was withheld.

## Rubio highlights Venezuela operation ahead of congressional testimony



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Secretary of State Marco Rubio was expected to tell lawmakers on Tuesday that the removal of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro stands among the Trump administration's most significant foreign policy accomplishments.

According to prepared testimony, Rubio will argue that the operation strengthened regional security by dismantling a government the administration viewed as a source of organized crime, illegal migration, and instability. He is also expected to highlight efforts against criminal groups such as MS-13 and Tren de Aragua and emphasize closer security cooperation with Latin American nations.

## Trump administration appeals order to refund billions in disputed tariffs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has appealed a court order requiring U.S. Customs and Border Protection to refund about \$166 billion in tariffs that were previously ruled unlawful by the Supreme Court. The Justice Department's filing on Monday challenges an April ruling by the U.S. Court of International Trade directing refunds to businesses that paid duties imposed under President Donald Trump's emergency tariff program. The Supreme Court ruled in February that the administration exceeded its authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act when imposing the tariffs. While both sides agree refunds are owed, the dispute now centers on how and when businesses should be repaid. A hearing scheduled for Monday will address unresolved refund issues, including payments owed to smaller importers.

## Kennedy Center begins removing Trump name after federal court ruling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts directed staff on Thursday to remove references to President Donald Trump from official materials following a federal court order. An internal memo instructed employees to immediately use the institution's original name on email signatures, letterhead, and documents, with updates to signs, brochures, and websites due by next Thursday. The move follows a ruling by Judge Christopher Cooper that the center cannot be renamed without congressional approval. President Donald Trump had added his name to the venue last year, prompting a lawsuit from board member Joyce Beatty.

## Former California mayor admits acting as unregistered Chinese agent as separate case targets commentator

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Eileen Wang, the former mayor of Arcadia, pleaded guilty on Friday to acting as an unregistered agent of the Chinese government, according to court filings. Prosecutors said Wang, 56, promoted Chinese government messaging between 2020 and 2022 through a Chinese American news website she operated with former fiancé Yaoning 'Mike' Sun. Authorities alleged the pair followed instructions from Chinese officials, including publishing content denying abuses against Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

Wang resigned as mayor in April after the plea agreement became public and faces up to 10 years in prison when sentenced in October. Separately, federal prosecutors charged commentator Thomas Weir Pauken II with acting as an



unregistered Chinese agent. Investigators allege he worked under the direction of individuals linked to China's Ministry of State Security, cultivated U.S. contacts, and received about \$100,000 for assignments between 2019 and 2025. His case remains pending.

## Trump expands authority to dismiss thousands of senior federal employees

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order reclassifying about 8,000 federal positions, making it easier to remove senior employees involved in policy-making roles. The new classification reduces civil service protections for affected workers while keeping the positions as career jobs. The White House said the change will improve accountability and allow agencies to dismiss employees for poor performance, misconduct, corruption, or failure to carry out presidential directives.

According to the administration, about 97 percent of the affected positions are senior-level roles outside the Senior Executive



Service, including directors, chiefs of staff, senior advisers, and policy analysts. The move is part of President Trump's broader effort to reshape the federal workforce and reduce what his administration views as government inefficiency.

## Senate supporters seek path forward for nationwide E15 gasoline sales

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Supporters of expanded nationwide sales of E15 gasoline are pursuing a strategy to advance the measure through the Senate after its narrow approval in the House of Representatives. The proposal would allow broader sales of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol, a move backed by farm-state lawmakers and biofuel producers. Supporters are considering attaching the measure to larger must-pass legislation, such as the Farm Bill or spending bills, to overcome Senate procedural hurdles. Negotiations are focused on protections for small refineries and winning support from key senators. Advocates



hope to send the legislation to President Donald Trump before the end of September.

## Federal Aviation Administration investigates near miss involving JetBlue flight

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday it is investigating a close call involving a JetBlue passenger plane and another aircraft near Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida. The incident occurred Monday evening as JetBlue Flight 1256 arrived from Ecuador. According to the agency, the

aircraft received an onboard warning about another plane that was not communicating with air traffic controllers. The JetBlue crew successfully maneuvered away, and required separation between the aircraft was maintained. The flight landed safely, and no injuries were reported. The incident comes amid continuing scrutiny of aviation safety following several high-profile close calls and accidents across the United States over the past two years.

## Texas officials move quickly to contain flesh-eating screwworm outbreak



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal and state officials intensified containment efforts on Thursday after a flesh-eating New World screwworm infestation was confirmed in a Texas calf, the first such case in the state since 1966. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said no additional cases had been detected. Authorities halted livestock movement within a 12-mile radius, established inspection checkpoints, and began releasing sterile flies to stop the parasite's spread. While officials expressed confidence the outbreak can be contained, ranchers remain concerned about potential economic losses and further pressure on the nation's already depleted cattle herd.

## South Carolina identity fraud probe leads to immigration arrests and indictments



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A two-year investigation into fake identification documents resulted in the detention of 48 workers and the indictment of six people in South Carolina, authorities announced on Thursday. Immigration officials took the workers into custody during a Wednesday raid at a metal casting plant in Abbeville. State Attorney General Alan Wilson said the company's plant manager and human resources director were charged with knowingly hiring people in the country illegally. Four others were accused of producing and selling fraudulent identification documents. Officials said the investigation remains active and additional arrests or indictments could follow.

## New York Democrats launch effort to reshape redistricting rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York Democrats took the first step on Monday toward changing the state's congressional redistricting process, opening the door to new electoral maps before the 2028 elections. The proposed constitutional amendment would make it easier for lawmakers to approve district boundaries and remove a ban on maps that favor political parties. Governor Kathy Hochul said the measure would help counter Republican redistricting efforts in other states. The proposal must pass the legislature again next year before going to voters in 2027. Republicans criticized the plan as an attempt to gain a partisan advantage.

## Indian-origin Disney executive sentenced in Russia over THC gummies case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin Disney program manager Jugal Daterao has been sentenced in Russia after being found guilty of drug possession and smuggling linked to THC-infused gummies, according to Russian media reports. Daterao, who works with The Walt Disney Company as a program manager based in New York, was detained on arrival at Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport on a flight that reportedly transited through Qatar on a Monday in January 2026.

Authorities said customs officials discovered THC-infused gummy candies during a baggage inspection. A court in the Moscow region later sentenced him to two years and six months in a medium-security penal colony and imposed a fine of 30,000 rubles.

During proceedings, Daterao reportedly argued the gummies were legally prescribed in the United States to manage post-surgical effects following brain surgery, but the court rejected the claim. Russian media identified him as an Indian citizen, though his broader citizenship status remains unclear. Details about the purpose of his travel to Russia have not been made public.

## Punjab youth dies in Canada after road accident injury



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-year-old man from Rasulpur village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district has died in Canada after succumbing to injuries sustained in a road accident, his family said. Jujhar Singh, who moved to Canada around two years ago and married there about a year ago, was hospitalized after the crash involving multiple individuals. His father, Mukhtar Singh, said he was informed by phone about the accident and had remained in contact during his son's treatment before receiving news of his death on Friday. Hospital authorities are preparing a post-mortem examination, while the family has sought assistance from the Indian government to repatriate the body. The father also said he had taken a loan to finance his son's move abroad, which remains unpaid, adding to the family's distress following the sudden loss.

## Indian-American group plans India heritage museum near Washington, D.C.

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-American community leaders are working to establish a major museum dedicated exclusively to India's civilizational history, culture, and global contributions in the Washington, D.C. region. The proposed India Heritage Center aims to create an immersive educational space highlighting India's achievement in science, mathematics, philosophy, spirituality, arts, and culture through interactive exhibits and programs.

Organizers say the museum will serve both the Indian diaspora and wider American audiences, helping younger generations connect with their roots while introducing visitors to India's historical legacy and modern global influence. The initiative is being led by Indian-American educationist

Dr. Amitabh Sharma along with historians, curators, and community supporters. The planned facility is expected to include galleries, educational spaces, cultural programming, and digital exhibits.

Social media posts have described the project as "America's first-ever Indian museum," though that claim requires clarification. The United States already hosts several institutions and museums connected to Indian and South Asian heritage, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, which focuses on Native American history. What distinguishes the India Heritage Center is its exclusive focus on the civilization and history of India. The project is currently in the planning and fundraising stage, with Washington, D.C. chosen for its cultural and diplomatic significance.



## Indian Army officer earns top honours at US command college in Kansas

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian Army officer was among the top-performing graduates at a prestigious United States military leadership programme in Kansas, earning two major academic awards during the annual graduation ceremony at Fort Leavenworth on Wednesday. Major Prabhat Mishra was recognized for outstanding research work and excellence in military leadership writing as 951 officers completed the 10-month Command and General Staff Officer Course at the United States Army Command and General Staff College. The graduating cohort included 120 international officers from allied and partner nations, underscoring the global nature of the programme. Senior United States Army officials said the course prepares mid-career officers for higher command and staff roles in increasingly complex security environments. The event also highlighted growing defense



cooperation between India and the United States, particularly through professional military education, joint exercises, and officer exchange programs aimed at strengthening interoperability and strategic coordination between the two countries.

## Four players of Indian origin to feature in upcoming FIFA World Cup

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four footballers of Indian origin are set to feature in the upcoming FIFA World Cup, highlighting the growing global presence of diaspora talent in elite international football. The players include Sarpreet Singh representing New Zealand, Samuel Moutoussamy representing the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nishan Velupillay representing Australia, and Tahsin Mohammed Jamshid representing Qatar. Each player has ancestral links to India through parents or grandparents,

reflecting diverse migration histories across continents. Sarpreet Singh, born in Auckland to Punjabi parents, previously played in Germany's Bundesliga and has represented New Zealand at multiple age-group World Cups. Moutoussamy, born in France with Indo-Guadeloupean Tamil heritage, has earned more than 50 international caps for Congo. Velupillay has emerged as a key attacking option for Australia, while Tahsin developed through Qatar's Aspire Academy system. Their participation underscores the expanding footprint of Indian-origin athletes in global football.

## Himachali diaspora event in California becomes showcase of identity, tradition and intergenerational pride



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sunnyvale, California, turned into a cultural meeting point for the Himachali diaspora as the Himachali Night event brought together families from across the Bay Area in a celebration aimed at preserving heritage among younger generations born outside India. The evening was structured as a cultural showcase, blending spirituality, performance, and cuisine to recreate the essence of Himachal Pradesh abroad. The program opened with Saraswati Vandana, diya lighting, and a traditional Devta procession, setting a devotional tone rooted in hill state customs. It was followed by a series of folk performances including Nati, Gaddan, and Gidda, performed by children and community artists, highlighting how traditional art forms continue to be passed down across generations.

A key highlight was a fashion presentation reflecting Himachal's regional diversity, along with a special cultural segment inspired by the Raulane festival of Kinnaur, led by Vaishali Sharma. The event also featured an authentic Himachali Dham prepared by Bhavna Satya, offering participants a culinary connection to their roots. Organized by community volunteers, the gathering served as a cultural anchor for the diaspora, strengthening identity and preserving traditions far from home.

## Centuries-old Pakistan fort from Hindu Shahi era deteriorates amid neglect and encroachment



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A centuries-old fortress near Islamabad, believed to date back to the Hindu Shahi period between the tenth and fifteenth centuries, is steadily deteriorating due to prolonged neglect, unchecked encroachment, and environmental damage, according to a detailed report. Located around 40 kilometres from Islamabad in the Potohar plateau region, the site once served as a strategic stronghold guarding key routes into the Indian subcontinent. Today, large portions of its defensive walls and gates are covered in overgrown vegetation, while livestock and local residents move freely through the ruins. Waste accumulation and informal settlements near the structure have further accelerated its decline. Officials cited in the report estimate that nearly 20 to 30 percent of the fort has already been damaged. Around 25 families still live in and around the site, viewing it as part of their heritage, even as conservation delays raise fears of irreversible loss.

**Khalistan groups shift from radicalisation to glamorised recruitment online**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**ro-Khalistan networks operating abroad are increasingly using social media to “romanticise” violence in an effort to recruit younger followers, according to intelligence officials cited in reports. Instead of overt ideological messaging, these groups are now circulating images and videos of armed individuals, including footage of the slain extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar firing weapons at a training site in British Columbia. Officials say the content is widely shared on major platforms to project guns, wealth and status as aspirational. Security sources compare the strategy to past militant recruitment tactics in Kashmir, warning that the shift reflects both desperation and sustained pressure on such networks.

**Indian national killed in Kuwait airport strike amid Iran–United States escalation**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian national was killed and several others injured after a strike hit Kuwait International Airport on Wednesday amid escalating military exchanges between Iran and the United States, officials said. The Ministry of External Affairs condemned the attack and urged restraint, reiterating that civilian infrastructure must not be targeted during conflict. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has provided assistance to those affected and remains on alert across the region. The incident comes as tensions in West Asia intensify following recent cross-border strikes, raising concerns over wider regional instability and risks to civilian populations and critical infrastructure.

**Indian-origin Delta pilot killed in Georgia helicopter crash hours after wedding**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 25-year-old Indian-origin Delta Air Lines pilot was killed in a helicopter crash in Georgia, United States, just hours after his wedding, while his bride survived after being trapped for nearly five hours, authorities said. Dave Fiji died when a Robinson R66 helicopter crashed near Dawsonville on Saturday night, shortly after departing a wedding venue where hundreds had attended the ceremony. His wife, Jessni, sustained multiple injuries but is recovering in hospital. Family members said weather conditions deteriorated after the reception, with heavy rain and fog reducing visibility. The aircraft later went down in a heavily wooded area, killing both the pilot and the helicopter operator. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash, with a preliminary report expected within 30 days.

**CJP founder and diaspora activist announces returns to India as education accountability protest builds momentum**

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**C**ockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke is set to return to India on Saturday, June 6, to launch a planned peaceful protest in Delhi demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities and systemic failures in national testing. In a video posted on Instagram and X, Dipke said he will arrive in the morning, meet supporters at the airport, and then proceed to Parliament Street police station to seek formal permission for a demonstration at Jantar Mantar.

CPJ, a youth-focused digital movement that has gained traction online in recent weeks, has positioned itself as a platform raising concerns about exam governance and student distress. Dipke claimed the alleged disruptions have affected more than one crore candidates across major examinations including the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, Central Board of Secondary Education assessments, Common University Entrance Test, and



Staff Selection Commission recruitment tests. He also said an online petition calling for the minister’s resignation has received around eight lakh signatures.

Framing the protest as constitutional and non-violent, Dipke said it is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and B. R. Ambedkar, while acknowledging fears of possible arrest but insisting on continuing the agitation through democratic means.

**Indian-origin woman secures \$8.3 million in landmark UK divorce ruling after 24-year legal battle**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian-origin woman has been awarded a £6.6 million, or about \$8.3 million, settlement in the United Kingdom after a 24-year legal battle over concealed assets in one of the country’s longest-running divorce disputes concluded this week. The case began in 2002 when she first challenged the financial settlement with her former husband, alleging that he had failed to disclose significant wealth during divorce proceedings. Her claims gained traction years later after her ex-husband became entangled in a major money-laundering investigation, which uncovered millions of pounds in previously hidden assets linked to offshore accounts and complex financial structures.

The High Court ruled that the original settlement could be reopened due to deliberate non-disclosure. While prosecutors argued that



much of the wealth was criminal proceeds, the court found that a portion was legitimately accumulated during the marriage and therefore constituted matrimonial property. The final ruling concluded that \$8.3 million of untainted assets should be awarded to her, bringing a long-running and closely watched legal saga to a close.

**Manny Malhotra’s rise to Canucks head coach highlights growing South Asian presence in NHL leadership**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**anny Malhotra’s appointment as head coach of the Vancouver Canucks marks a notable milestone in National Hockey League coaching history and a rare moment of South Asian representation at the sport’s highest level. The former National Hockey League player of Indian origin has been named the franchise’s 23rd head coach, following weeks of speculation during Vancouver’s search for a new bench leader.

Born in Mississauga, Ontario, Malhotra is the son of a Punjabi father born in India and a French Canadian mother, a background that has often been highlighted in discussions around diversity in professional hockey. Drafted seventh overall by the New York Rangers in 1998, he built an 18-year playing career in the National Hockey League, featuring for teams including the Vancouver Canucks, Dallas Stars, Columbus Blue Jackets,



San Jose Sharks, Carolina Hurricanes, and Montreal Canadiens.

After retiring as a player, he moved into coaching, serving in development and assistant roles with Toronto Maple Leafs and Vancouver systems. His coaching credentials were strengthened in 2025 when he led the Abbotsford Canucks to a Calder Cup championship, a breakthrough achievement that positioned him as a leading candidate for the Vancouver head coach role.

**Brother named prime suspect in missing Australian citizen case in Amritsar**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he disappearance of 66-year-old Australian citizen of Punjabi origin Sunil Sharma in Amritsar has taken a major turn, with police naming his brother as the prime suspect.

Sharma, a Melbourne-based mathematics teacher, went missing on May 22 while visiting Punjab in connection with property-related work. He had reportedly gone to supervise renovation at a house in Amritsar and also owns property in Mohali. Police said his brother, Sunny Sharma, and other family members are currently absconding, and a kidnapping case has been registered.

Investigators also noted that Sunny Sharma is wanted in another case in Himachal Pradesh under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The case has drawn attention in Australia, where Sharma’s family has appealed for assistance from authorities, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian High Commission in India, as the search continues.

**Anti-police protests erupt in Southampton after Sikh man’s murder conviction**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**V**iolent clashes broke out in Southampton after large groups gathered on Tuesday evening following the conviction of Vickrum Digwa for the murder of 18-year-old student Henry Nowak.

Police in riot gear were deployed as protesters, including anti-immigration activists, threw stones and bottles at officers, injuring 11 police personnel and a police dog, according to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

The unrest followed controversy over body-worn camera footage and wider debate about policing and race relations. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood condemned the violence, saying there was no justification for exploiting the tragedy to incite disorder. The incident has intensified political tensions, with far-right groups reportedly seeking to use the case during an upcoming by-election. The case has also renewed scrutiny of the Sikh kirpan tradition and policing guidelines.

### South Korean and US Marines discuss deeper defense cooperation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he heads of the South Korean and United States Marine Corps met at the Pentagon on Tuesday to discuss expanding military cooperation and joint exercises. Lieutenant General Ju Il-suk and General Eric M. Smith agreed on the importance of maintaining a strong combined defense posture, including after the future transfer of wartime operational control to Seoul. Smith emphasized the Marine Corps' role in strengthening the alliance and expressed support for continued training and personnel exchanges. During his visit, Ju also paid tribute to United States soldiers who fought in the Korean War by visiting memorial sites in the Washington area.

### Bipartisan bill seeks restrictions on Chinese-made robots

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**bipartisan group of United States lawmakers introduced legislation on Wednesday that could restrict Chinese-made robots from entering the American market over national security concerns. The proposed GUARD Act would require federal agencies to review humanoid and quadruped robots produced in China and other designated adversary nations. Devices considered security risks could be banned and added to a federal restricted list. Lawmakers argued such robots could be used for espionage, data collection, or other harmful activities. Supporters also claimed Chinese manufacturers benefit from state subsidies, potentially undermining American robotics companies and increasing dependence on foreign technology.

### Kim Jong-un unveils new nuclear facility and vows expansion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**orth Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited a newly revealed nuclear material production facility on Wednesday and pledged to accelerate the country's nuclear weapons program. State media reported that Kim said North Korea's weapons-grade nuclear material production capacity has more than doubled over the past five years. South Korean officials assessed the site as a uranium enrichment facility. Kim also chaired a meeting on strengthening nuclear forces and called for expanding capabilities "at an exponential rate." Photographs released by state media showed rows of centrifuges used for uranium enrichment, underscoring Pyongyang's continued commitment to advancing its nuclear arsenal.

### Trump says first US-Hezbollah talks could support wider Middle East de-escalation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States had held direct talks with Hezbollah for the first time, describing the contact as part of broader efforts to reduce tensions across the Middle East. Speaking at the White House, Trump claimed Hezbollah had agreed not to fire on Israel and said Israel would also refrain from attacks, though he provided no further details.

Trump said the discussions were separate from ongoing negotiations with Iran, which he described as progressing well. He suggested a potential agreement on Iran's nuclear program could be reached within days and reiterated that Washington's goal is to ensure Tehran never acquires a nuclear weapon. The president also said a future deal could allow the United States



to help remove and destroy nuclear-related materials at Iranian facilities. He added that progress in diplomacy could contribute to reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global energy shipments.

### Ebola outbreak grows in Congo, WHO says response is gaining ground

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ealth officials said Thursday that the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to expand, with more than 340 confirmed cases and around 60 deaths reported since May. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain, has also spread to neighboring Uganda, which has confirmed 15 cases, including infections among healthcare workers. Four patients in Uganda have recovered.

After a visit to Congo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the response is beginning to catch up with the outbreak, although significant challenges remain. The World Health Organization has warned that misinformation, community mistrust, travel



restrictions, and the lack of an approved vaccine or treatment for the Bundibugyo strain continue to hinder efforts. The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern in May.

### Australia sanctions Israeli settlers over escalating West Bank violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

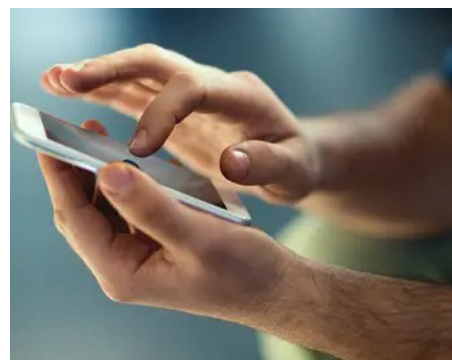
**A**ustralia imposed sanctions on Tuesday on three Israeli individuals and four entities linked to settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the measures include financial sanctions and travel bans. For the first time, Australia also targeted

farming outposts that authorities say have served as bases for violent activities. Wong said settler violence has contributed to displacement, property destruction, injuries, and deaths. The sanctions were coordinated with partners including New Zealand and follow growing international criticism of Israeli settlement expansion. Australia reiterated its support for a negotiated two-state solution between Israel and Palestine.

### Maldives moves toward social media ban for children under 16

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Maldives plans to ban children under 16 from accessing certain social media platforms to address cyberbullying, online grooming, and other digital threats. President Mohamed Muizzu said Monday that the government will study policies adopted in countries such as Australia before introducing new regulations. The proposed restrictions would apply to specific platforms considered harmful to children while preserving access to educational resources. Officials plan to consult technology companies and amend existing cyber safety laws before



implementation. The government aims to finalize the framework within a year after public consultations.

### France seizes sanctioned Russian tanker as Moscow protests



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**rance announced on Monday that its navy intercepted the Russian-linked tanker Tagor in the Atlantic Ocean as part of efforts to enforce international sanctions tied to the war in Ukraine. President Emmanuel Macron said the operation was conducted legally in international waters with support from several partners, including Britain. Macron argued that vessels attempting to evade sanctions help finance Russia's war effort and pose environmental and safety risks. The Kremlin condemned the move, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov describing it as illegal and comparable to international piracy. The interception comes amid expanded European sanctions targeting Russia's energy and shipping sectors.

### Switzerland and France agree security cooperation plan for upcoming G7 summit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**witzerland on Friday said it has reached a joint military and security cooperation agreement with France ahead of the upcoming Group of Seven summit scheduled for mid-June. The plan focuses on securing the Lake Geneva region and managing airspace during the high-level gathering. Swiss authorities said the summit, taking place from June 15 to 17 near Evian-les-Bains on the French side of the border, will require exceptional security measures due to rising global tensions. Around 4,000 Swiss troops are expected to be deployed domestically to support the operation. The coordination with France is aimed at ensuring cross-border security readiness as world leaders attend the event, which is expected to bring heightened logistical and security challenges across both countries.

### Five nations win seats on United Nations Security Council

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**ustria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe were elected on Wednesday as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 term. The election marked Kyrgyzstan's first-ever seat on the council. The newly elected countries will replace Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia when their terms begin in January 2027. Candidates required support from two-thirds of member states voting in the General Assembly. While most races were settled quickly, Kyrgyzstan secured the Asia-Pacific seat after defeating the Philippines in multiple rounds of voting. The Security Council is the United Nations' most powerful body and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

## New Mexico commission expands probe into Epstein's activities at ranch

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Mexico lawmakers on Monday announced plans to issue subpoenas to 14 government agencies and private institutions as part of a renewed investigation into the activities of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein at his ranch near Santa Fe. The bipartisan New Mexico Truth Commission is seeking records from the Justice Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, law enforcement agencies, former banks Deutsche Bank and JPMorgan Chase, and the Santa Fe Institute. Lawmakers said the goal is to create a complete public record and identify anyone who may still face prosecution. The commission is working with New Mexico's Justice Department, which recently reopened a criminal investigation closed in 2019. Survivors and families of victims urged investigators to uncover the full extent of Epstein's network.

## Canada and Mexico seek long-term trade pact renewal amid tensions with Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada and Mexico are pushing to extend the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement for another 16 years ahead of a scheduled review in July. On Tuesday, Canadian Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc formally proposed the extension to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Mexican Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, who also backed renewal. The move comes as President Donald Trump again suggested Canada should become the "51st state," prompting renewed criticism from Canadian leaders. Ontario Premier Doug Ford rejected the idea, while Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada would continue working with the Trump administration despite disagreements. If all three countries do not agree to an extension, the trade pact will remain in effect for 10 more years with annual reviews.

## 13 foreign nationals among dead in Delhi fire, says India's foreign ministry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's foreign ministry said on Friday that 13 foreign nationals were among those killed in a major fire incident in Delhi's Malviya Nagar this week, with around 22 others injured.

Officials said the deceased included citizens from Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Liberia, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Congo, and Iraq. The fire broke out at a multi-storey restaurant complex, leaving a total of more than 20 people dead, according to earlier official estimates, with dozens more hurt.

The ministry said it is coordinating with the respective embassies to assist with documentation, medical care, and repatriation processes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences and announced compensation of about 2,400 dollars for each deceased victim and 600 dollars for the injured.

Authorities are continuing rescue, investigation, and support operations as families and foreign missions are being briefed on the incident.

## Bangladesh demand return of rail links, but no talks held with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh remain suspended nearly two years after political unrest in Bangladesh disrupted cross-border travel, with no formal discussions underway to restore operations. Services on the Maitree Express between Kolkata and Dhaka and the Bandhan Express linking Kolkata and Khulna were halted in July 2024 following unrest that led to the removal of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Although relations between the two countries have improved since elections brought the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to power, railway services have not resumed. Officials said restoration would require approval from India's Ministry of External Affairs. Many Bangladeshi travelers, particularly those seeking



medical treatment in India, have been affected, citing higher fares and the inconvenience of road travel. Indian officials said the situation would be reviewed if Bangladesh formally requests the resumption of services.

## Brazil seeks talks with United States over concerns about financial sovereignty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian Finance Minister Dario Durigan said Monday that he will meet United States officials this week to discuss proposals that could classify major Brazilian criminal gangs as international terrorist organizations. Durigan warned that such a designation could have unintended consequences for Brazil's financial system, including risks to Pix, the country's widely used instant payment platform.

While acknowledging that criminal groups such as Primeiro Comando da Capital and Comando Vermelho spread violence and disrupt public services, Durigan argued they do not meet the legal criteria for international



terrorist organizations under United States law. He also linked the issue to a broader trade dispute involving Washington's investigation of Brazilian practices. The minister said Brazil is working to prevent any economic fallout and protect the operation of Pix, which has become the country's primary digital payment system.

## Trump says Netanyahu canceled Beirut operation after direct appeal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu halted a planned military operation in Beirut after a direct request from him, amid growing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. Writing on social media, Trump said Netanyahu agreed to turn Israeli forces back and claimed Hezbollah had also agreed, through intermediaries, to stop attacks on Israel.

The comments came as concerns mounted over a possible escalation in Lebanon that could complicate ongoing United States diplomatic efforts involving Iran. Media reports said Trump has been pressing to prevent the conflict from expanding, while Lebanese officials reportedly received a United States-backed proposal aimed at reducing hostilities. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah immediately confirmed Trump's account, and it remained unclear whether any formal ceasefire arrangement had been reached.

## EU GSP-plus benefits to Pakistan face criticism over rights concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union's trade concession scheme for Pakistan is facing renewed criticism from rights observers over alleged ongoing human rights violations, according to reports highlighted on Friday. Pakistan has benefited from the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus status since 2014, granting tariff reductions on more than 66 percent of exports to the European market in exchange for progress on governance and rights standards.

However, groups including Human Rights Without Frontiers argue that Pakistan has failed to meet key commitments on minority rights, labour protections, and rule of law. Reports cited cases of forced conversions, abductions, and discrimination against religious minorities, particularly Christian communities, as evidence of continuing abuses. Critics say the European Union should reconsider or suspend the trade benefits until measurable reforms are implemented, while supporters argue the scheme remains an important economic lifeline despite ongoing concerns.

## Russia summons ambassador to Armenia over EU tilt concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia on Saturday summoned its ambassador to Armenia, Sergey Kopyrkin, for consultations amid concerns over Yerevan's growing ties with the European Union. Moscow warned that closer European Union engagement could affect Armenia's commitments to the Eurasian Economic Union. President Vladimir Putin said leaving the bloc would mean losing important trade benefits. Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan jointly urged Armenia to hold a referendum on its long-term alignment. Armenia has expanded cooperation with the European Union while remaining a member of the Eurasian Economic Union since 2015, highlighting its effort to balance relations with both sides. The developments underscore increasing geopolitical competition for influence in the South Caucasus region.

## IAEA inspects damage after drone strike near Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant unit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

International Atomic Energy Agency experts on Sunday inspected damage at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant after a reported Ukrainian drone strike near Unit 6, according to Russian officials and agency statements. The inspection focused on a metal access hatch, debris, and burned optical fiber remains, with the agency saying the findings were consistent with a drone impact. During the visit, the team briefly took shelter after hearing nearby drones and gunfire, though radiation levels were confirmed to remain normal. The agency requested access to the interior of the affected building, which is located close to the reactor unit, for further assessment. Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi described the incident as serious, warning it endangered nuclear safety principles and urging an end to attacks on nuclear facilities to avoid catastrophic risks at Europe's largest nuclear power plant.

## Rubio warns of Chinese pressure in South China Sea, reaffirms Philippines alliance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday warned of growing Chinese pressure in the South China Sea while reaffirming Washington's support for the Philippines during testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said he had repeatedly raised concerns with Chinese officials over activity near the disputed Scarborough Shoal and cautioned against efforts to change the status quo. Rubio described the Philippines as a critical Indo-Pacific partner and highlighted expanding defense, technology, and economic cooperation, including joint military exercises and new agreements on advanced technologies and artificial intelligence. He also warned that any regional code of conduct must not legitimize Chinese territorial claims or undermine freedom of navigation. Rubio said competition with China would remain a long-term challenge, stressing the importance of maintaining communication channels despite rising tensions.



### DMK targets Tamil Nadu chief minister over governance approach



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Monday criticized Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, saying he is still in “campaign mode” instead of governing. DMK leader Dr Ezhilan Naganathan said the chief minister’s public meetings and media approach resemble election campaigning rather than administration. He also alleged delays in key promises on electricity billing, free power, and farm loan waivers, and said several welfare schemes being highlighted were started under previous DMK governments. The party further raised concerns over law and order, water disputes, and governance, urging the chief minister to engage more directly with the media and address public issues.

### DK Shivakumar set to become Karnataka’s richest chief minister with assets over 1,400 crore rupees

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka Congress leader D K Shivakumar, set to take oath as chief minister on June 3, is expected to become India’s richest chief minister with declared assets of 1,413 crore rupees, according to his affidavit. The filing shows movable assets of over 1,100 crore rupees and immovable property worth more than 270 crore rupees, along with liabilities of around 265 crore rupees. Shivakumar, a veteran leader with over four decades in politics, began as a student leader and rose through panchayat and assembly politics. He served as energy minister in 2013 and led the party’s 2023 campaign in Karnataka.

### Assam plants over one crore saplings in single-day green drive



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Assam marked World Environment Day on Friday with the plantation of over 1.02 crore saplings in a single-day drive led largely by women from Self-Help Groups. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said more than 35 lakh women participated, calling it a major step in the state’s green mission. Barpeta, Golaghat, Biswanath and Dhubri were among the top contributors. Officials said the drive saw participation across districts and aimed to boost green cover and climate awareness. The government said the initiative reflects community-led environmental action and will support long-term ecological balance in the state.

### Tharoor calls full ‘Vande Mataram’ rendition at events an ‘unnecessary imposition’

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday questioned the push to mandate the full rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ at official events, calling it an “unnecessary imposition” on audiences.

He said respect for the national song should not require compulsory singing of all verses at every function, noting that the traditional practice has been to sing select verses at the start of events.

Tharoor added that making the full song mandatory at both the beginning and end of programmes was impractical and not backed by any parliamentary law, describing it instead as a matter of convention. He said such requirements could be debated or adjudicated if needed.

The remarks triggered political criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party, which accused him of opposing national traditions, while Tharoor maintained he fully respects the song and its significance.



### Sonam Wangchuk may join Delhi protest over education concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Education reformer Sonam Wangchuk on Tuesday said he may join a June 6 protest in Delhi seeking the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan if he does not step down by June 5. The protest has been called by a youth group over alleged exam irregularities and education governance issues.

Wangchuk said his possible participation is driven by long-standing concerns over India’s education system, especially rural schooling and reform implementation. He said he had spoken with organisers and found their intentions patriotic but stressed the need for accountability. He also questioned how education policies are being implemented on the ground and said ministerial responsibility is essential in a democracy.

### Police summon former West Bengal sports minister over Lionel Messi event row

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police on Tuesday summoned former West Bengal sports minister Aroop Biswas to appear on June 5 in connection with alleged irregularities linked to last year’s Lionel Messi event at Salt Lake Stadium. The summons follows a complaint by organiser Satadru Dutta, alleging ticket fraud, misuse of complimentary passes, and intimidation. Dutta has accused Biswas of involvement in alleged diversion of tickets and accreditation cards during the December 13 event.



The programme turned chaotic with overcrowding, security lapses, and complaints from ticket holders who could not view Messi properly. The Argentine star reportedly left early amid disorder, after which vandalism

broke out at the stadium. The incident had triggered a political controversy over crowd management and planning.

### Cloudburst in Reasi triggers flash floods, schools closed in Kishtwar

A cloudburst hit the Bathoi area in Jammu and Kashmir’s Reasi district on Friday, triggering flash floods that inundated several homes and damaged property. Officials said there were no casualties, but the sudden surge of water and debris caused panic in the hilly Mahore subdivision. It is the fifth cloudburst in the Jammu region in three days. Rescue

teams have been deployed, and traffic near Jamlan bridge was briefly halted due to rising water levels. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said he had directed immediate relief for affected families. In Kishtwar, authorities closed all schools for the day due to heavy rain, slippery roads, and landslide risks, though some schools in the city area remained open. Officials said the situation is under control.

### India Navy confines Pakistani fleet during Operation Sindoor, says defense leadership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s defense leadership on Sunday said the Indian Navy played a decisive role during Operation Sindoor by restricting the Pakistani Navy to its ports and increasing pressure in the Arabian Sea. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said the Navy’s deployment of a carrier battle group forced Pakistani vessels to remain near coastal waters, raising shipping risks and insurance costs. The operation, launched on May 7, 2025, involved precision strikes on terror infrastructure and concluded after a ceasefire understanding on May 10. Officials said the Navy’s posture strengthened deterrence and safeguarded maritime interests.

### Rajya Sabha elections for 24 seats scheduled for June 18



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission has announced biennial elections for 24 Rajya Sabha seats across ten states, with polling scheduled for June 18. Seats from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram will go to polls. Counting will be held the same day as voting. The elections will also include bypolls in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Several prominent members, including former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and Union ministers, are completing their terms. The Rajya Sabha currently has 245 members, with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance holding the largest share.

### Kerala plans insurance scheme for people living in forest areas

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala on Friday announced plans to introduce an insurance scheme for people living in forest fringe areas as part of efforts to address human-animal conflict. Forest Minister Shibu Baby John said the department will take responsibility for compensation and work with local panchayats and public sector insurers. The government also plans to expand solar fencing from 2,000 kilometres to 3,000 kilometres in phases. Other measures include strengthening rapid response teams, conducting a tiger population study in Wayanad, and preparing a wild boar census. The initiative is part of the state’s 100-day action program.

### Supreme Court refuses bail to YouTuber accused of espionage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to grant bail to YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who is accused of espionage and sharing sensitive information with Pakistani intelligence operatives. She was earlier denied bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which cited prima facie evidence of anti-national activities. Investigators allege she used her travel channel contacts to build links with Pakistani officials and shared strategic location data. The case, registered in May 2025, includes charges under the Official Secrets Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Malhotra has been in custody since her arrest the same day.

### Congress renews opposition to Great Nicobar development project



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Congress on Friday intensified its opposition to the Great Nicobar development project, warning of large-scale environmental and tribal displacement. Senior leader K C Venugopal joined a campaign backing Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's "Nicobar Matters" initiative, claiming massive deforestation and land diversion for commercial projects. The Union government has rejected the allegations, saying the project follows environmental safeguards and aims to boost maritime and strategic infrastructure. Officials say the plan includes a transshipment terminal, airport and power plant, and is located near key global shipping routes in the Indian Ocean region.

### Karnataka BJP attacks Congress over internal cabinet disputes



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka BJP leader R Ashoka on Friday attacked the Congress over reported internal disputes in the state cabinet, calling the situation ongoing infighting within the ruling party.

He referred to dissatisfaction among ministers over portfolio allocation and alleged frequent intervention by senior central leaders. The BJP also claimed contradictions between the party's social justice claims and its governance practices. The remarks come amid resignations and public criticism by some ministers over department assignments, further highlighting tensions within the Karnataka Congress government shortly after the new cabinet formation.

### Digvijaya Singh holds PM accountable for NEET retest amid leak concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be accountable for the NEET UG retest scheduled for June 21, amid concerns over past exam irregularities. He said the Prime Minister is overseeing preparations and warned that any future paper leak would trigger demands for resignation. Singh stressed stronger safeguards for national-level exams. The remarks follow government submissions before the Supreme Court on enhanced



security measures for the exam. The Congress later clarified that his comments were based on official statements on monitoring arrangements.

### Congress intensifies attack over CBSE on-screen marking row, seeks minister's resignation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Congress on Tuesday stepped up its attack over alleged irregularities in the Central Board of Secondary Education on-screen marking system, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and calling recent transfers an "eyewash." It also sought a judicial inquiry into the issue affecting around 1.85 million Class 12 students. The controversy escalated after two senior board officials were transferred amid allegations linked to the digital evaluation system. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge accused the



government of shielding political leadership while avoiding accountability. Students had flagged mismatches in scanned answer sheets, raising concerns over evaluation accuracy. A one-member committee has been formed to examine procurement issues.

### Center signs Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 agreements with states and Puducherry

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Center has signed memoranda of understanding with Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Puducherry under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 to improve rural drinking water supply, officials said on Tuesday. The Ministry of Jal Shakti said the reform-based framework promotes a gram panchayat-led, community-driven model to ensure safe and regular water supply to rural households. Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil said the mission has improved rural



water access and eased the burden of fetching water, especially for women. He also stressed water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and community monitoring of water quality.

### DRDO and Indian Air Force test RudraM-II missile successfully

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force on Tuesday successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile, the Defence Ministry said. The missile met all trial objectives, with systems guiding it accurately to a target. The Integrated Test Range at Chandipur validated its performance. Developed by Research Centre Imarat with support from DRDO labs and industry



partners, the project marks a key step in India's defense self-reliance push. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the teams, saying the success reflects growing strength in indigenous advanced weapon systems.

### INDIA bloc to meet in Delhi on June eight to rebuild coordination

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior leaders of the INDIA bloc are likely to meet in New Delhi on June 8 to discuss joint strategy and strengthen coordination among opposition parties, according to sources. The meeting is expected to bring together representatives of around 15 parties at the

Constitution Club. Key leaders likely to attend include Mamata Banerjee, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Akhilesh Yadav, and Uddhav Thackeray. The agenda includes post-election introspection and evolving political equations in several states, following recent assembly election setbacks for key alliance partners. The bloc last held a formal meeting ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

### Gujarat deputy chief minister escalates attack on opposition after fake IB call probe



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Saturday intensified his criticism of Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal after police investigations into an alleged Intelligence Bureau impersonation case led to the arrest of two party-linked individuals, including a senior office bearer in Vadodara.

The controversy began after social media claims alleged that party workers were being contacted by officials posing as Intelligence Bureau personnel, a charge later amplified by Kejriwal. Police in Anand district said the probe found that a caller had posed as an Intelligence Bureau officer during a phone call to an Aam Aadmi Party worker, allegedly as part of an internal political rivalry. Sanghavi accused the opposition of spreading misinformation, while police said the case remains under investigation under cybercrime and criminal intimidation provisions.

### Revanth Reddy escalates pressure on Center over crop procurement deadline

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday warned of protests if the Center does not procure paddy and other crops by June 15, citing farmer distress and storage concerns. He accused the Union government of ignoring the state's demands and urged Union Minister G Kishan Reddy to intervene. He also warned of public demonstrations if procurement delays continue. Reddy said the state has procured 7.5 million metric tonnes of paddy and highlighted rising output this season. He also raised pending irrigation issues, including the proposed Tummidihatti barrage.

### E-rickshaw campaign powers Punjab's anti-drug drive at grassroots level

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab's "Yudh Nashean Virudh" anti-drug campaign led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is expanding through a grassroots initiative using specially designated e-rickshaws. The project operates across 86 assembly segments, with one e-rickshaw in each selected segment across 23 districts, covering about 40 villages per unit. It spreads awareness, collects anonymous tips, and connects people to de-addiction support, reaching nearly 3,440 villages.

Village Defence Committees are reporting higher public participation and better communication with authorities. A phased review system will assess progress through June, ending with a review by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in the final week. Health Minister Balbir Singh said the mobile units are turning the campaign into a community-driven movement against drug abuse.

**Oil India reports natural gas discovery in Andaman offshore block**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**il India Limited said on Friday it has confirmed natural gas presence in its third exploratory well, Vijayapuram-3, in the Andaman shallow offshore block under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy. The well, drilled about 15 kilometres off the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 355 metres, reached more than 1,900 metres in the Eocene formation. The company reported continuous gas flaring after perforation and pressure build-up during initial testing, indicating hydrocarbon presence. Gas sampling and isotope studies are underway to assess composition and origin. This marks the second confirmed hydrocarbon indication in the block after an earlier discovery in September in the second well. Out of three wells drilled so far, two have shown hydrocarbon presence, strengthening exploration prospects and guiding future drilling strategy in the region.

**Neelkanth Mishra appointed India's World Bank executive director**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**easoned economist Neelkanth Mishra has been appointed as India's Executive Director at the World Bank for a three-year term, the government said on Friday, following approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He will assume charge at the World Bank headquarters in Washington after Parameswaran Iyer completes his extended tenure. Mishra will represent India on the World Bank Board, which oversees lending operations, policy decisions and development projects, making it a key economic diplomacy role. He is currently Chief Economist at Axis Bank and a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. He previously spent nearly two decades at Credit Suisse as a senior strategist. Mishra has also served on several government advisory bodies, including the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the Unique Identification Authority of India.

**Trump announces \$700 million support package for U.S. coal sector**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump on Thursday announced nearly \$700 million in federal support aimed at reviving the struggling U.S. coal industry, using authority under a Cold War era defence law. The funding will support 13 coal-fired power plants, help build new facilities in Alaska and West Virginia, restart a shuttered plant in Maryland, and assist development of a coal export terminal in California. The administration said the initiative could create or sustain more than 14,000 jobs across mining, construction, rail and shipping sectors. Officials said the plan is intended to extend the lifespan of coal infrastructure and strengthen grid reliability amid rising electricity demand. The move is part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to reverse the long-term decline of coal amid competition from natural gas and renewable energy sources.

**Gold, silver edge lower as geopolitical risks and oil inflation keep markets volatile**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**old and silver prices slipped on Wednesday as investors tracked rising geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran along with firmer crude oil prices, which kept inflation concerns elevated. Spot gold traded near \$2,320 per ounce, while COMEX gold eased toward \$2,335 per ounce, reflecting cautious sentiment after intraday volatility.

Silver also declined, with spot prices around \$29.10 per ounce and COMEX silver near \$29.25 per ounce, as both metals moved within a narrow but unstable range.

Analysts said safe-haven demand



continues to support bullion, but gains are being capped by shifting interest rate expectations and energy-driven inflation pressures. Near-term direction is likely to depend on developments in West Asia, crude oil movements, and upcoming United States economic data that could guide Federal Reserve policy outlook.

**TransAlta agrees to one billion dollar acquisition of Colorado gas plants from Blackstone**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**ransAlta Corporation will acquire two natural gas-fired peaking plants in Colorado from Blackstone for about 1 billion dollars, expanding its footprint in the Western United States power market, the company said on Wednesday. The assets have a combined capacity of 318 megawatts and are backed by long-term contracts with investment-grade customers.

The deal includes about 750 million dollars in project debt and 250 million dollars raised through equity issuance. The plants are expected to generate about 80



million dollars in annual adjusted earnings and 33 million dollars in free cash flow.

The acquisition reflects rising demand for flexible gas power driven by data center growth. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026 after the remaining facility begins operations.

**Alaska Arctic oil lease sale tests US push to expand drilling amid environmental opposition**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States government is preparing for a new oil and gas lease sale in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, reviving a long-running political and environmental dispute over drilling in the region. The coastal plain, roughly the size of Delaware, is believed to hold up to 11.8 billion barrels of recoverable oil, according to government estimates. Supporters say development could boost domestic energy production and create jobs, while conservation groups argue the region is too ecologically sensitive and faces mounting climate risks. Major oil companies have shown limited interest in earlier lease rounds, raising doubts about



commercial viability. Indigenous groups remain divided, with some supporting development for economic reasons while others oppose drilling due to its impact on caribou migration and traditional livelihoods. The lease sale highlights the administration's broader push to expand fossil fuel development in Alaska.

**EU delays Basel capital rules by three years to align with US and United Kingdom**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he European Union has delayed implementation of key Basel III trading book capital rules by three years, pushing full enforcement of the market risk framework to 2030, officials said on Thursday. The European Commission said the move is intended to avoid putting European banks at a disadvantage compared with United States and United Kingdom lenders, as both jurisdictions continue to

finalise their own versions of the global standards. The rules, part of the Fundamental Review of the Trading Book, were originally set to take effect in 2027. EU officials said the delay will temporarily ease capital requirements for major banks, including BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank and Santander, potentially supporting lending and market activity. However, it also extends regulatory uncertainty as global standards diverge. The decision will be reviewed over the next six months and could be vetoed by lawmakers.

**Tyco agrees to \$10 million PFAS settlement with Wisconsin**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**yco Fire Products has agreed on Thursday to a \$10 million settlement with Wisconsin over decades-long contamination of drinking water with PFAS chemicals, state officials said. The agreement resolves a 2022 lawsuit alleging that firefighting foam used at a Marinette training facility polluted groundwater since the 1960s. Under the settlement, funds will go into a state trust dedicated to PFAS cleanup, while Tyco will continue providing replacement wells, water treatment systems and long-term monitoring for affected residents. The company, a subsidiary of Johnson Controls, said it was pleased to resolve the case and highlighted ongoing remediation efforts. State officials called the deal an important step toward accountability, though some residents said the compensation is insufficient given the scale of contamination linked to so-called forever chemicals affecting water supplies across the region.

**US jobless claims rise to highest level since February**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**eekly U.S. jobless claims rose on Thursday to their highest level since February, suggesting a modest cooling in the labor market amid uncertainty linked to the war in Iran. Initial filings for unemployment benefits increased by 13,000 to 225,000 for the week ending May 30, above analyst expectations. Despite the rise, layoffs remain historically low and the broader labor market continues to show a low hire, low fire pattern. The unemployment rate remains near 4.3 percent, while hiring has slowed compared with earlier in the year. Analysts said higher energy costs and inflationary pressures tied to geopolitical tensions are weighing on business confidence. Economists expect the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged as inflation risks persist, while a separate report showed continued claims remain elevated across the United States.

**American Airlines trims summer routes as jet fuel costs rise**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**merican Airlines said on Thursday it will temporarily suspend select routes in August and September as elevated jet fuel prices continue to pressure airline operating costs amid global geopolitical tensions. The carrier said affected passengers will receive refunds or alternative travel arrangements and stressed that the changes are temporary and part of broader industry adjustments. Jet fuel prices have surged due to disruptions in global oil flows linked to the war in Iran, with the Strait of Hormuz remaining largely closed. Industry data shows fuel costs remain significantly above pre conflict levels, forcing airlines worldwide to reduce capacity or increase fees. American said it continues to maintain a strong network and is not permanently cutting routes. Analysts note that fuel accounts for about 30 percent of airline operating costs, making carriers highly sensitive to price volatility.

**Ecuador ends Colombian tariff dispute, restores zero duty trade**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**ccuador on Monday removed a 100 percent tariff on goods from Colombia, ending a months-long trade dispute that had strained bilateral relations. The National Customs Service confirmed that the security surcharge, which had gradually increased from 30 percent to 50 percent and then 100 percent by May 1, has now been reduced to zero. Officials said the decision opens a new phase of cooperation in trade, security, and development. The measure had been introduced earlier this year over border security concerns and allegations of limited cooperation against drug trafficking. Colombia responded with retaliatory tariffs and halted electricity exports. The Andean Community later intervened, urging both countries to lift restrictions in line with regional rules. Authorities said the rollback will strengthen legal trade flows, support regional integration, and improve customs coordination while continuing efforts to combat illicit economies.

**Mexico seeks removal of tariffs in USMCA trade review talks**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**exico will push the United States to eliminate existing tariffs during the ongoing review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said on Monday. He noted that the first round of negotiations last week included US proposals covering rules of origin, third-country trade provisions, steel, aluminium, automotive goods, and economic security. Ebrard said Washington is reshaping its trade policy through differentiated tariffs, creating complexity for regional partners. Mexico's goal, he said, is to secure the lowest possible tariffs, with a long-term preference for free trade. The next round of talks will be held on June 16 and 17 in Washington, followed by a third round in Mexico City in the week of July 20. These discussions will focus on agriculture, fair competition, and remaining technical issues ahead of the formal joint review later this year.

**Andrew Left convicted in \$21 million stock manipulation scheme**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**federal jury in Los Angeles on Monday convicted stock commentator Andrew Left of orchestrating a long-running securities fraud scheme that prosecutors said generated at least 21 million dollars in illegal profits. The Citron Research founder was found guilty of one count of securities fraud scheme and 12 counts of securities fraud after a 15-day trial. Prosecutors said Left used his media presence and online commentary to influence stock prices while secretly taking positions that benefited from short-term price movements. In one case involving Nvidia in 2018, he publicly promoted the stock but sold his holdings within hours for a large profit. The jury acquitted him on four counts tied to other companies. He faces up to 25 years in prison on the main charge and is scheduled for sentencing on August 31.

**Meta escalates trade clash with Australia over proposed digital revenue tax**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**eta Platforms has accused Australia of breaching its free trade agreement with the United States over a proposed 2.25 percent tax on large digital platforms that do not reach licensing deals with local media. In a statement on Thursday, the company called the plan "indefensible," arguing it unfairly targets mostly American firms and could trigger U.S. trade retaliation.

The tax would apply to total domestic revenue, including income unrelated to social media activity, replacing Australia's earlier news bargaining framework. The dispute dates back to 2021 when Australia first forced platforms to negotiate payments with publishers.



Australia says revenue from the tax would support news organizations. Meta, Google, and TikTok are now covered under the proposal, which has become a growing diplomatic flashpoint between Washington and Canberra.

**OpenAI chief opposes mandatory government approval for artificial intelligence model releases**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**penAI Chief Executive Sam Altman will argue against proposals requiring government approval before artificial intelligence models are released, according to a company statement on Wednesday. Instead, he will push U.S. lawmakers to expand existing federal testing programs led by the Department of Commerce.

Altman is expected to meet members of Congress in Washington this week, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, while urging increased funding for safety evaluation systems that assess risks in cybersecurity, biological threats, and national security.



The proposal comes as the artificial intelligence industry prepares for major public listings and rapid expansion. OpenAI says stricter approval rules could slow innovation and reduce competitiveness. The debate highlights growing tension between regulatory oversight and fast-moving commercial development in artificial intelligence.

**SpaceX plans massive stock market debut that could push Elon Musk toward trillion-dollar wealth**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**paceX has outlined plans for one of the largest initial public offerings in history, aiming to raise up to \$75 billion at a valuation of about \$1.77 trillion. The company plans to sell more than 555 million shares at \$135 each, potentially making it the biggest listing ever, surpassing Saudi Aramco's 2019 debut. The filing shows Elon Musk could control more than 80 percent of voting power through his dual-class share structure. The company reported a loss of \$2.6 billion last year despite \$18.7 billion in revenue, reflecting heavy spending on expansion. SpaceX plans to use proceeds to scale rocket systems, Starlink satellite networks,



and artificial intelligence infrastructure. The listing could significantly increase Musk's net worth, depending on market valuation, and set the stage for one of the most closely watched public debuts in technology and aerospace history.

**Dow surges to record as oil eases and investors rotate beyond artificial intelligence trade**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**all Street rose on Thursday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average hitting a record as falling oil prices and easing bond yields supported broader market participation beyond artificial intelligence-driven stocks. The Dow jumped 874 points, while the S&P 500 rose 0.4 percent, extending its recent winning streak, and the Nasdaq slipped slightly. Gains were led by banks,

small-cap stocks, and cyclicals as energy prices fell, with Brent crude dropping to about \$95 per barrel. Investors also welcomed a dip in the ten-year Treasury yield to around 4.47 percent. However, some high-flying artificial intelligence stocks retreated, including Broadcom and Micron Technology, as traders locked in profits after strong year-to-date rallies. Analysts said markets are rotating toward undervalued sectors as volatility in energy and geopolitics continues to shape sentiment.

**RBI expands foreign investor access and eases capital flow rules**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Reserve Bank of India on Friday announced expanded investment limits for non-resident Indians and overseas citizens of India in equity instruments traded on stock markets without securities regulator registration. Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the same access will now extend to all individual persons resident outside India. He also introduced measures to attract foreign capital, including concessional foreign currency swap facilities for public sector external borrowing and relaxed conditions for foreign currency deposits. Limits on short-term and concentration investments in government securities under the fully accessible route have been removed, while all new long-tenor government bonds have been included under eligible securities. The central bank also extended the export realisation period to nine months. Malhotra said India will continue balancing exchange rate flexibility with intervention only to curb excessive volatility.

**TCS, Infosys and Wipro scale Microsoft Copilot use to over 300,000 employees**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's top IT firms TCS, Infosys and Wipro have collectively deployed Microsoft 365 Copilot to more than 300,000 employees, marking one of the world's largest enterprise artificial intelligence rollouts, Microsoft said on Wednesday. Each company has scaled usage beyond 100,000 employees within months, up from earlier pilot deployments. Infosys reported over 91 percent monthly active usage, while TCS said around 86 percent of enabled staff actively use the tool, with productivity gains of up to 25 percent in some tasks. Wipro said it records more than 95 percent monthly engagement and generates millions of prompts monthly, saving significant workforce time through automation. Microsoft said global paid Copilot seats have reached around 20 million, reflecting rapid enterprise adoption. The companies are now expanding use of artificial intelligence across engineering, delivery, and operations, positioning it as a core business productivity tool.

**Uday Kotak calls Google fundraising a wake-up call for Indian firms**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**V**eteran banker Uday Kotak on Monday called Alphabet's 80 billion dollar fundraising plan a wake-up call for Indian companies, urging stronger investment in future technologies such as artificial intelligence. Kotak said Google's financial scale, including annual profits of about 160 billion dollars and a 4.5 trillion dollar market value, is comparable to the combined profits and valuations of all Indian listed firms. He said the move highlights the importance of continuous reinvestment, even for already strong companies. Alphabet recently announced one of the world's largest capital-raising exercises, including public offerings and a private investment agreement with Berkshire Hathaway, aimed at expanding artificial intelligence and computing infrastructure. Kotak said businesses must prioritise long-term growth over short-term caution and focus on building competitive capacity in emerging technologies.

**Sabalenka suffers dramatic collapse as Diana Shnaider reaches French Open semifinals**



**T**op-ranked Aryna Sabalenka endured a shocking quarterfinal exit at the French Open on Wednesday, falling 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 to Diana Shnaider after holding a strong position in the match. The four-time major champion appeared in control when she led 4-1 in the second set and later stood just two points from victory while serving at 5-4. However, the momentum shifted completely as Shnaider, playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, clawed her way back to level the match and then dominated the final set. Sabalenka lost 12 of the last 13 games as her level dropped sharply under pressure. She showed visible frustration during the decider but was unable to recover despite saving two match points. Shnaider said she stayed focused on each point and described the win as an emotional breakthrough in her career.

**Liverpool appoint Andoni Iraola to revive high-intensity football identity**

**L**iverpool have appointed Andoni Iraola as manager on Thursday, turning to the former Bournemouth coach to restore a high-pressing, aggressive style similar to the approach that defined the Jurgen Klopp era. Iraola arrives after guiding Bournemouth to sixth place in the English Premier League and an 18-match unbeaten run that secured their first-ever European qualification. He replaces Arne Slot, who was dismissed after a difficult second season despite winning the league title in his first year and delivering Liverpool's record-equalling 20th English league championship. Iraola said joining Liverpool was a "special opportunity" and highlighted the club's supporters, squad quality, and title ambitions. However, he faces challenges, including no previous experience at a club of Liverpool's scale, no major trophies, and a squad in transition following recent high-profile departures and significant spending.

**PM Modi urges athletes to promote 'Yoga 365' as global ambassadors**

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged athletes participating in the inaugural World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad to become global ambassadors of the Ministry of Ayush's 'Yoga 365' campaign. Speaking at the opening ceremony, he said the initiative aims to encourage year-round practice of yoga and promote healthier lifestyles worldwide. Modi linked the campaign to the International Day of Yoga theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," saying yoga supports preventive healthcare and lifelong fitness. He asked competitors from more than 60 countries to carry the message back home and spread awareness.



The championship, held from June 4 to 8, has drawn over 400 participants and is being seen as a step toward formalising Yogasana as an international sport. Modi

said yoga is affordable, accessible, and helps maintain physical and mental well-being, calling it a tool for global health transformation.

**President Donald Trump plans Madison Square Garden appearance for NBA Finals as New York Knicks lead series**



**P**resident Donald Trump said on Thursday that he plans to attend at least one NBA Finals game at Madison Square Garden, calling himself a "big fan" of the New York Knicks and team owner James Dolan. Trump said he received an invitation and is considering attending Game 3 on Monday or Game 4 on Wednesday, with the possibility of appearing at both. The NBA said it believes no sitting president has previously attended an NBA Finals game. Trump also said he watched parts of the Knicks' Game 1 win over the San Antonio Spurs, praising the team's performance while noting he missed portions of the game due to calls with military officials. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Trump has been a longtime Knicks supporter and highlighted his past presence at league events. Silver also noted that the president's attendance would require additional security arrangements at Madison Square Garden.

**WADA urges global unity ahead of new anti-doping code rollout**

**T**he World Anti-Doping Agency has called for strong global coordination and "harmonisation" as it prepares stakeholders for the rollout of the updated World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards, which will take effect on January 1 next year. Speaking on Tuesday at the Asia and Oceania Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting and Symposium, WADA president Witold Banka stressed that all signatories must be ready by the deadline and said the agency would support nations in implementing the changes. He added that the anti-doping system is strongest when unified, citing momentum from last year's World Conference in Busan. Banka said governments must accelerate adoption



to maintain a fair system and avoid inconsistencies. The meeting brought together representatives from around 40 countries, with a resolution unanimously adopted rejecting politicisation of anti-doping efforts.

**Serena Williams set for Queen's Club doubles return with Victoria Mboko**

**S**erena Williams is set to make a surprise return to competitive tennis, partnering Canadian player Victoria Mboko in the doubles draw at the Queen's Club Championships. Mboko announced the pairing on social media, calling it an honour to share the court with the 23-time Grand Slam champion. The duo has received a wildcard entry for the 16-team event, which marks the start of the grass-court season. It will be Williams' first competitive appearance since her 2022 US Open farewell and her debut at Queen's Club. The tournament,



returning its women's event only recently, runs from June 8 to 14, with attention firmly on the high-profile pairing.

**Mexico crush Serbia 5-1 in final World Cup warm-up**

**M**exico delivered a dominant 5-1 comeback win over Serbia in their final World Cup preparation match in Toluca on Thursday. Serbia took an early lead through Petar Stanic in the 19th minute, but Mexico responded before halftime with a header from Johan Vasquez and an own goal that put them ahead.

Raul Jimenez extended the lead after the break before two more own goals added to Serbia's misery. Luis Chavez sealed the emphatic win with a long-range strike near full time.

The match ended with fireworks as Mexico built momentum ahead of the World Cup opener against South Africa next Thursday. The team is co-hosting the tournament with the United States and Canada.



**ICC celebrates Rod Tucker's landmark 100th Test at Lord's**

The International Cricket Council on Thursday congratulated Australian umpire Rod Tucker for standing in his 100th Test during the opening World Test Championship match between England and New Zealand at Lord's. He becomes only the fourth umpire to reach the milestone, after Aleem Dar, Steve Bucknor, and Rudi Koertzen. Tucker, who debuted in 2010 and joined the elite panel the same year, was honored with a crystal trophy. ICC Chairman Jay Shah praised his consistency and professionalism. Tucker, a former NSW and Tasmania player, said officiating 100 Tests was a dream come true.



## Shaun Tait steps down as Bangladesh bowling coach ahead of Australia series



Former Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait has resigned as Bangladesh's fast bowling coach, ending a brief tenure of just over a year ahead of their white-ball series against Australia. Tait said family commitments led to his decision to step away from the role, which was originally set to run until the 2027 ODI World Cup. During his time, Bangladesh's pace attack showed clear improvement, with young bowler Nahid Rana emerging as a standout talent. Tait also played a key role in reshaping confidence within the unit, including during Bangladesh's Test success in Pakistan. Bangladesh will now face Australia in a limited-overs series from June 9 to 21, with a replacement expected soon.

## LA28 chair Casey Wasserman rejects resignation calls over Epstein links



LA28 chair Casey Wasserman said he has no plans to resign despite renewed scrutiny over past ties to convicted sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell, revealed in United States Justice Department files related to Jeffrey Epstein. Speaking at a press conference, Wasserman said he remains in regular contact with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who had previously called for his resignation. Wasserman dismissed suggestions that he should step down, responding "no and yes" when asked if he had considered quitting or spoken with Bass about his position. The controversy comes as preparations continue for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Wasserman reaffirmed his commitment to staying on and overseeing planning for the global sporting event.

## Fleetwood shares Memorial lead as Scheffler struggles in windy opening round

Tommy Fleetwood is part of a four-way tie for the lead after the opening round of the Memorial Tournament in Ohio, where tough conditions tested the field. Fleetwood shot a bogey-free five-under 67, alongside Wyndham Clark, J.J. Spaun and Ryan Gerard.

World number one Scottie Scheffler endured a difficult round, finishing six shots back after a series of errors in windy conditions, including a costly double bogey on the 16th hole.

Gerard produced a dramatic round featuring five straight birdies, while only 22 players broke par overall. Scheffler, who briefly chipped in for birdie on the 17th, admitted frustration



but said the conditions made scoring extremely difficult.

## Japan's Kubo targets World Cup breakthrough after Qatar lessons

Japan winger Takefusa Kubo believes his team can finally break past the Round of 16 at the 2026 World Cup, drawing confidence from their strong qualification campaign. Kubo said the squad has grown significantly since their Qatar 2022 run, where they defeated Germany and Spain before losing to Croatia on penalties.

Now 25, Kubo said Japan's cohesion and consistency have improved, with many players competing in top European leagues. He stressed that small details will decide knockout matches in North America. Japan, placed in Group F alongside the Netherlands, Tunisia and Sweden, became



the first team to qualify for the tournament after hosts. Kubo said belief within the squad is stronger than ever.

## Neymar ruled out of Brazil friendly against Egypt due to calf injury

Brazil forward Neymar will miss the team's exhibition match against Egypt as he continues recovery from a calf injury, the Brazilian Football Confederation confirmed. The 34-year-old stayed in New Jersey for treatment and is expected to remain sidelined for up to three weeks.

Neymar's availability for Brazil's World Cup opener against Morocco on June 13 remains uncertain. Coach Carlo Ancelotti has said the forward may still regain fitness in time, depending on recovery progress. The star striker, Brazil's all-time top scorer, has struggled with injuries since returning from a major knee setback in 2023. FIFA rules allow squads



to replace injured players up to one day before their first match.

## FIFA bans reusable water bottles inside stadiums ahead of World Cup kickoff



FIFA has updated its Stadium Code of Conduct just a week before the World Cup begins across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, banning reusable plastic water bottles inside stadiums. The governing body said the move is aimed at preventing objects that could cause injury if thrown, expanding restrictions already applied to other containers. Limited medical and infant exceptions apply. Fans have raised concerns about hydration during extreme heat, though FIFA said water stations, cooling areas, and misting systems will be available. The policy will apply throughout the tournament from Wednesday to Sunday.

## Hoffenheim sign Patrick Wimmer on long-term deal from Wolfsburg

TSV Hoffenheim on Thursday signed Austria international Patrick Wimmer from Wolfsburg on a long-term contract running until June 2031 after activating his release clause. The 25-year-old midfielder joins after Wolfsburg's relegation and will remain in Germany's top flight. Wimmer, part of Austria's World Cup squad, has made 125 Bundesliga appearances and scored 16 goals. Hoffenheim sporting director Paul Pajdusch praised his versatility and intensity, while Wimmer said the club's playing style and head coach Christian Ilzer influenced his decision. He previously worked under Ilzer at Austria Vienna, where he began his professional career.

## England back Ben Stokes on managing Jofra Archer workload amid criticism

England captain Ben Stokes has backed the decision to rest fast bowler Jofra Archer for the opening Test against New Zealand at Lord's, saying player workload must be carefully managed in modern cricket. Archer, who featured heavily in the Indian Premier League season for Rajasthan Royals, was left out of the squad, with a possible return later in the series still uncertain. Stokes said mishandling such situations could push players away from international cricket. He stressed that cricket's evolving calendar requires balance between franchise and national commitments while England looks to rebound after a tough Ashes series in Australia.

## India to assess Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma fitness ahead of Afghanistan ODIs

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Thursday that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's fitness will be assessed in the coming days before the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, with official updates expected after medical review. Rohit is recovering from a hamstring injury, while Kohli also picked up a strain during the IPL final for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. All-rounder Hardik Pandya's availability is also uncertain due to back spasms. Ten Doeschate said decisions will be made case by case to balance workload and ensure players are fully fit for international duty.



## Ferrari extends Charles Leclerc contract ahead of Monaco Grand Prix

Ferrari on Thursday announced a new multi-year contract extension for Leclerc, keeping the Monegasque driver with the team for upcoming Formula One seasons. Leclerc joined Ferrari in 2019 and has delivered wins at Monza and Monaco, building a long-standing association with the Scuderia since joining its academy in 2016. Team principal Fred Vasseur praised his growth and commitment. Leclerc said Ferrari remains his dream team and pledged to continue pushing for a world title. The announcement comes ahead of his home Monaco Grand Prix, where Ferrari is expected to be competitive this weekend.

### Manipuri film 'Boong' wins big at New York Indian Film Festival



**M**anipuri film 'Boong' was among the standout winners at the New York Indian Film Festival, securing three major awards at the ceremony held on Sunday in New York. The film won Best Debut Film, Best Director for Lakshmi Priya Devi, and Best Child Actor for Gugun Kipgen. The four-day festival concluded with a ceremony honoring films across multiple Indian languages, highlighting the increasing global reach of regional cinema. 'Baksho Bondi' won Best Film at the event, which featured 19 narrative features, four documentaries, and 27 short films, including international premieres. Other winners included 'Vimukt' for Best Actor and 'Victoria' for Best Actress. Organized by the Indo-American Arts Council, the festival also showcased restored classics and independent films, reinforcing its role as a major platform for Indian cinema in North America.

### Sabrina Carpenter gets restraining order against alleged stalker after attempted home intrusion



**A** Los Angeles court has granted pop star Sabrina Carpenter a temporary restraining order against a 31-year-old man she alleges stalked her and attempted to break into her Hollywood Hills home. According to court filings, the man, identified as William Applegate, allegedly tried to force open her front door on Friday, May 23, and had been surveilling the property since around April 20. Security personnel intervened after the incident, during which he reportedly claimed he knew Carpenter and was expected. He was later arrested on suspicion of trespassing but allegedly returned to the area in the following days, continuing what Carpenter described as deliberate surveillance. The order bars him from contacting or approaching Carpenter, her family, or her workplace. A hearing on possible criminal charges is scheduled for June 18. Authorities are continuing their investigation.

### Producers Guild warns against last-minute exits amid Ranveer Singh-'Don 3' controversy

**T**he Producers Guild of India has issued a strong statement addressing growing concerns over artists, directors, and technicians allegedly withdrawing from projects at the last minute, citing the ongoing controversy linked to actor Ranveer Singh's reported exit from 'Don 3'. The guild said it has received formal complaints from Excel Entertainment Private Limited and Panorama Studios International Limited, claiming such decisions have caused significant financial and reputational losses. The statement, issued by guild president Shibasish Sarkar, emphasized that sudden withdrawals undermine trust, professionalism, and the collaborative foundation of the film industry. It also warned that such disruptions affect hundreds of crew members whose livelihoods depend on timely production schedules.



The guild urged all parties to resolve disputes amicably while stressing the need to protect the industry's working environment. The issue has also drawn attention from the Federation of Western India Cine Employees, which earlier issued a non-cooperation directive against Ranveer Singh in connection with the dispute.

The guild urged all parties to resolve

### Diljit Dosanjh confirms Wembley Stadium show, marks major milestone in global tour

**P**unjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh has confirmed that his 'AURA World Tour 2026' will include a landmark performance at London's Wembley Stadium on September 12, following his announcement during a concert in Toronto. Ending weeks of speculation, he told fans that the tour would reach one of the world's most iconic venues, drawing massive cheers from the audience. Wembley Stadium, with a capacity of around 90,000, has hosted global legends such as Michael Jackson, Adele, Coldplay, and Prince, making it one of the most prestigious stages in live music. The announcement also ended rumors of a possible collaboration with Drake. Fans celebrated



the news widely on social media, calling it a defining moment in Diljit's global rise and a significant milestone for Punjabi and South Asian representation on the international music stage.

### Scott Pelley fired from CBS '60 Minutes' after internal clash over editorial direction

**C**Bs News has fired veteran journalist Scott Pelley from '60 Minutes' following an internal dispute over the program's editorial direction, deepening tensions at the long-running newsmagazine. Pelley, who had worked at CBS since 1989 and was once anchor of 'CBS Evening News', reportedly criticized new leadership during a staff meeting, accusing management of undermining the show's journalistic integrity. According to internal accounts, he also questioned recent leadership changes and called out senior executives over staffing decisions. In his termination letter, executive producer Nick Bilton accused Pelley of an "ambush" and said his conduct showed hostility toward the program's future direction. Pelley, who has won multiple



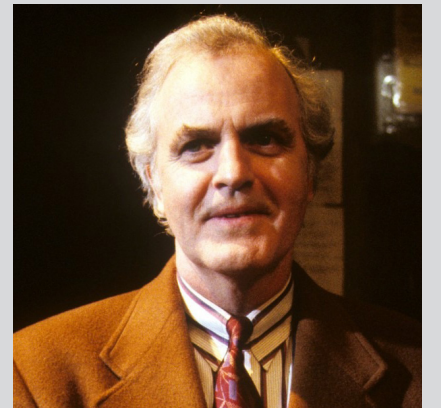
Emmy Awards, said the show had lost its core identity under new management and claimed he was being asked to introduce bias into reporting. The dispute comes amid broader restructuring at CBS News following leadership changes and strategic shifts at the network.

### Kannada microdrama 'Kit Boy to Cricket King' tells underdog cricket story

**T**he Kannada microdrama 'Kit Boy to Cricket King' has officially launched as the industry's first sports-focused microdrama series. Directed by Jegan M S, it stars Varun Aradhya and Tejus Gowda and streams on a mobile-first platform. The story follows Raja, a young kit assistant from a modest background who dreams of becoming a cricketer despite limited opportunities. His

journey from the sidelines to the cricket field is shaped by rivalry, ambition, and perseverance. Set against India's passion for cricket, the series blends sports drama with emotional storytelling. The creators highlight themes of resilience and self-belief, aiming to set a new benchmark for short-format digital content. Promotional clips have already generated millions of online views ahead of release.

### Actor James Handy killed in Los Angeles stabbing, suspect arrested



**A**ctor James Handy, known for roles in films including 'Top Gun: Maverick' and 'Arachnophobia', was stabbed to death in Los Angeles on Wednesday morning in an incident police say appears isolated. Authorities said the 81-year-old actor was found unconscious in the front yard of a home in the Tarzana neighborhood with a chest wound after a 911 call reported a stabbing. Police arrested 44-year-old Michael Gledhill, who lives at the residence with his mother, after he flagged down responding officers and admitted involvement. Officials said the suspect made a disturbing statement during the emergency call and was booked on suspicion of murder. He is being held on a two million dollar bail. Investigators said there is no ongoing threat to the public. Handy had a long acting career spanning film and television, including roles in 'Jumanji', 'NCIS: Los Angeles', and 'Law and Order'.

### Jennifer Garner reflects on balancing motherhood and Hollywood career



**A**ctor Jennifer Garner has spoken about how motherhood and her personal life reshaped her Hollywood career, saying she significantly reduced her workload while raising her children and further stepped back after her separation from actor Ben Affleck. In an interview, she explained that pregnancy, childcare, and recovery naturally limited her acting schedule, and she later prioritized family during her children's early years. Garner shares three children with Affleck, whom she married in two thousand five before separating in two thousand fifteen and finalizing their divorce in two thousand eighteen. She said she often struggled with time away from her children but has since found a healthier balance, returning more actively to acting while maintaining boundaries. Garner added that her children are now more understanding of her work commitments.

Nick Jonas returns to 'Camp Rock 3' after sixteen years

Nick Jonas has confirmed his return to the Disney franchise 'Camp Rock 3', describing it as surreal to revisit his role as Nate Gray sixteen years after the original films. Speaking on a late-night talk show, Jonas said the experience felt "bizarre" but exciting as he reunited with the musical world alongside his brothers, who will also appear in cameos. The new installment will introduce a fresh generation of campers, with Jonas praising the new cast as "absolute superstars." He said the film aims to reintroduce the franchise to younger audiences while honoring its legacy. The original 'Camp Rock' released in 2008, followed by a 2010 sequel starring Demi Lovato and the Jonas Brothers, both of which became major Disney hits.

Pahlaj Nihalani, former film producer and censor board chief, dies at seventy-six



Veteran film producer and former Central Board of Film Certification chairperson Pahlaj Nihalani has died at the age of seventy-six in Mumbai, according to industry representatives. He had reportedly been unwell for some time due to liver-related health issues, and his last rites are expected to be held in the city. Nihalani was a prominent figure in Hindi cinema, known for producing several commercial films including 'Ilzaam', 'Aankhen', 'Talaash', and 'Rangeela Raja'. He began his career in the early nineteen eighties and later expanded into directing and briefly acting in films.

He also served as the head of the film certification body between twenty fifteen and twenty seventeen, a tenure that drew widespread debate over censorship policies. Industry colleagues and filmmakers paid tribute following news of his passing, describing him as a strong and influential presence in Bollywood with a long-standing contribution to mainstream Indian cinema.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma visit Premanand Maharaj after RCB title win

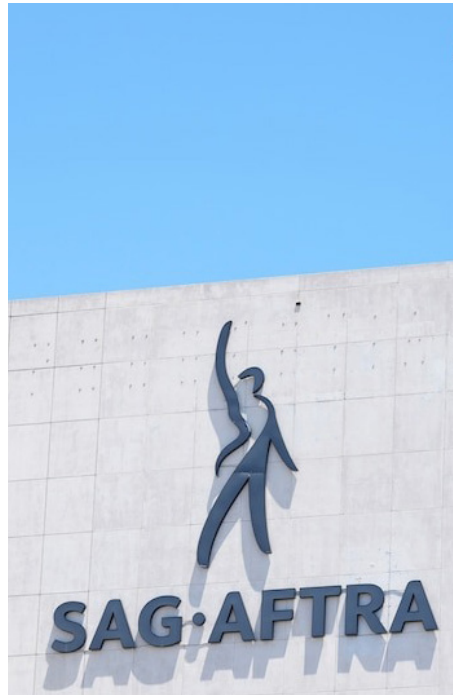
Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli visited Vrindavan on Tuesday to meet Premanand Maharaj following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's latest Indian Premier League triumph. The couple was seen in photos and videos wearing face masks as they spent time at the spiritual leader's ashram in a private setting. The visit came days after Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League final in Ahmedabad to secure back-to-back titles. Kohli played a key role with an unbeaten seventy-five in the chase of 156. Anushka, meanwhile, has stayed away from films in recent years, with her projects 'Chakda Xpress' shelved and her last appearance a cameo in 'Qala'.

SAG-AFTRA members approve four-year deal with studios and streaming platforms

Actors in the United States have overwhelmingly approved a new four-year contract between the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and major studios and streaming platforms, marking a period of renewed stability for Hollywood labor relations. The agreement was ratified earlier this week after members voted in large numbers in favor of the deal, which union leaders say strengthens pay structures and introduces expanded protections around artificial intelligence and digital replicas of performers.

Union president Sean Astin said the contract delivers meaningful gains in compensation and safeguards members' long-term benefits while addressing evolving industry practices. More than ninety percent of participating members supported the agreement, with roughly one-fifth of eligible voters casting ballots.

The deal follows a similar four-year agreement approved by writers earlier this



year, reducing the likelihood of another industry-wide shutdown like the strikes that disrupted Hollywood in 2023.

Dutch court clears way for Ye concerts amid public order dispute

A court in Amsterdam has rejected an appeal seeking to block two upcoming concerts by rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, ruling that his planned performances do not pose a threat to public order. The decision clears the way for shows scheduled for the weekend in the eastern Dutch city of Arnhem, despite strong objections from a Jewish organization.

The Central Jewish Council had filed an emergency petition arguing that Ye should be barred due to his past antisemitic remarks and controversial public statements. However, the court found no legal grounds to prevent his entry or performances, stating there was no evidence of imminent public safety risks.

The ruling has drawn criticism from the council, which said the decision sends the wrong message. Ye's European appearances have faced repeated cancellations



elsewhere, though his concert in Turkey earlier this year reportedly drew large crowds. Organizers say tens of thousands of tickets have already been sold for the Dutch shows.

Global lineup announced for iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas

The iHeartRadio Music Festival is set to return to Las Vegas this fall with a star-studded lineup featuring global artists including BTS, Cardi B, Snoop Dogg, Muse, Lainey Wilson, Zara Larsson, and Benson Boone. The two-day festival will take place at the T-Mobile Arena and will be broadcast live across multiple streaming platforms and radio stations.

Hosted once again by Ryan Seacrest, the event will also feature performances by Weezer, Goo Goo Dolls, and Kenny Chesney, with additional artists expected to be announced. Ticket sales begin in mid-June, with presales for select cardholders opening earlier that week.

Organizers said the lineup reflects the diversity of contemporary music across genres. BTS's appearance marks another



major live moment following their return from a multi-year hiatus and military service commitments, during which members pursued solo projects. Their recent reunion has been widely celebrated by fans worldwide, making the festival one of the group's key international appearances this year.

Manoj Bajpayee says India will emerge stronger amid global uncertainty



Actor Manoj Bajpayee has expressed confidence that India will overcome current global economic and geopolitical challenges, saying the country has a history of resilience. Speaking during promotions of his upcoming film 'Governor', he said people adapt quickly during crises and manage resources wisely in difficult times.

He pointed to past global downturns, including the 2008 financial crisis, saying India recovered through collective strength. Bajpayee also referenced regional crises in nearby countries to highlight how nations respond differently under pressure.

His film 'Governor', set for release on June 12, 2026, is inspired by India's 1991 economic crisis and follows an Reserve Bank of India governor navigating financial turmoil. The film is directed by Chinmay Mandlekar and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah.

John Travolta dedicates new film 'Propeller One-Way Night Coach' to family



Actor John Travolta has dedicated his upcoming film 'Propeller One-Way Night Coach' to his late wife Kelly Preston, his son Jett, and his parents and siblings, reflecting on the personal losses that shaped his life. Travolta said life has "tested" him but he chooses optimism over despair.

He lost his son Jett in 2009 after a seizure-related accident and his wife in 2020 following a battle with cancer. Despite the tragedies, he said he continues to seek positivity in life and work.

The film, inspired by his childhood and adapted from his 1997 book, is semi-autobiographical and also stars his daughter Ella Bleu Travolta. It premiered at Cannes, where Travolta received an honorary Palme d'Or.

# बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का तीसरा पड़ाव मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर, कैमूर



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत बिहार की हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब एक ऐसे दिव्य और ऐतिहासिक तीर्थ तक पहुँच रही है, जिसे विश्व का सबसे प्राचीन जीवित हिंदू मंदिर माना जाता है। महाबोधि मंदिर, बोधगया और विष्णुपद मंदिर, गया की पावन यात्रा के बाद अब हमारा तीसरा पड़ाव है - बिहार के कैमूर जिले की पहाड़ियों पर स्थित अद्भुत और रहस्यमयी मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर।

बिहार की यह भूमि केवल ज्ञान, मोक्ष और तपस्या की धरती ही नहीं, बल्कि शक्ति साधना, तंत्र उपासना और सनातन संस्कृति की हजारों वर्षों पुरानी परंपराओं का जीवंत केंद्र भी रही है। कैमूर पर्वतमाला की पौनरा पहाड़ी पर लगभग 608 फीट की ऊँचाई पर स्थित यह मंदिर भारतीय सभ्यता, वास्तुकला और अखंड आस्था का अनमोल प्रतीक है। यहाँ सदियों से निरंतर पूजा-अर्चना होती आ रही है, जो इसे विश्व के सबसे प्राचीन सक्रिय हिंदू मंदिरों में विशेष स्थान प्रदान करती है।

**विश्व का सबसे प्राचीन जीवित हिंदू मंदिर**  
मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर को भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (अस्क) तथा बिहार राज्य धार्मिक न्यास बोर्ड द्वारा विश्व के सबसे पुराने कार्यरत हिंदू मंदिरों में शामिल माना गया है। अस्कके अनुसार इस मंदिर की प्राचीनता लगभग 108 ईस्वी तक पहुँचती है, जबकि कई इतिहासकार इसकी वर्तमान स्थापत्य संरचना को 6वीं-7वीं शताब्दी का मानते हैं।

यह मंदिर 1915 से अस्कद्वारा संरक्षित स्मारक घोषित है। यहाँ की विशेषता केवल इसकी प्राचीनता नहीं, बल्कि लगभग दो हजार वर्षों से निरंतर चल रही पूजा-पद्धति और धार्मिक परंपरा भी है।

## माँ मुंडेश्वरी की पौराणिक कथा

पुराणों के अनुसार इस क्षेत्र में चंड और मुंड नामक असुरों का अत्याचार बढ़ गया था। देवी दुर्गा ने अपने उग्र रूप में प्रकट होकर इन दैत्यों का संहार किया। कहा जाता है कि देवी ने मुंड का वध इसी पर्वत पर किया था, जिसके कारण उनका नाम 'मुंडेश्वरी' पड़ा।

मंदिर में विराजमान देवी की प्रतिमा महिषासुरमर्दिनी

स्वरूप में है। माँ को दस भुजाओं के साथ भैंसे पर आरूढ़ दर्शाया गया है, जो बुराई पर अच्छाई की विजय का प्रतीक है।

## शिव और शक्ति का अद्भुत संगम

मुंडेश्वरी मंदिर की सबसे बड़ी आध्यात्मिक विशेषता यह है कि यहाँ शिव और शक्ति दोनों की संयुक्त उपासना होती है। मंदिर के गर्भगृह के केंद्र में पंचमुखी शिवलिंग स्थापित है, जबकि देवी मुंडेश्वरी की प्रतिमा दक्षिण दिशा में स्थित है।

यह शिव-शक्ति का अद्वितीय संगम पूर्वी भारत की तांत्रिक साधना परंपराओं का भी महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र माना जाता है। यहाँ आज भी शक्ति उपासना और तांत्रिक परंपराओं का प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है।

## रंग बदलने वाला पंचमुखी शिवलिंग

मंदिर का पंचमुखी शिवलिंग श्रद्धालुओं और शोधकर्ताओं दोनों के लिए रहस्य और आकर्षण का विषय बना हुआ है। मान्यता है कि यह विशेष पत्थर से निर्मित शिवलिंग दिनभर सूर्य की किरणों के अनुसार अपना रंग बदलता प्रतीत होता है।

सुबह, दोपहर और शाम के समय शिवलिंग के रंगों में सूक्ष्म परिवर्तन देखने को मिलते हैं, जिसे श्रद्धालु दिव्य चमत्कार मानते हैं।

## अनोखी 'निर्जीव बलि' परंपरा

मुंडेश्वरी मंदिर की एक अत्यंत अनूठी परंपरा पशु बलि से जुड़ी है। यहाँ बलि के लिए लाए गए बकरे की हत्या नहीं की जाती। विशेष मंत्रोच्चार और धार्मिक प्रक्रिया के दौरान बकरा कुछ समय के लिए अचेत हो जाता है और बाद में उसे जीवित छोड़ दिया जाता है।

यह अनोखी परंपरा पूरे भारत में विरले ही देखने को मिलती है और श्रद्धालुओं के बीच गहरी आस्था का विषय है।

## अद्भुत स्थापत्य कला

मुंडेश्वरी मंदिर बिहार की प्रारंभिक नागर शैली वास्तुकला का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण माना जाता है। यह मंदिर पूरी तरह पत्थरों से निर्मित है और इसकी सबसे अनोखी विशेषता इसका अष्टकोणीय (Octagonal)

आकार है, जो भारतीय मंदिर स्थापत्य में अत्यंत दुर्लभ माना जाता है।

मंदिर में चार प्रवेश द्वार हैं, जिनमें से एक बंद और एक आंशिक रूप से खुला है। दीवारों पर सुंदर नक्काशी, द्वारपाल, गंगा-यमुना की मूर्तियाँ तथा पुष्प अलंकरण मंदिर की प्राचीन कलात्मक समृद्धि को दर्शाते हैं।

मुख्य प्रवेश द्वार के पश्चिम दिशा में विशाल नंदी की प्रतिमा स्थापित है। मंदिर परिसर में गणेश, सूर्य और विष्णु की प्रतिमाएँ भी विद्यमान हैं।

## ह्वेनसांग और विदेशी यात्रियों का उल्लेख

चीनी यात्री ह्वेनसांग ने 7वीं शताब्दी में अपनी भारत यात्रा के दौरान एक चमकते हुए पहाड़ी मंदिर का उल्लेख किया था, जिसे इतिहासकार मुंडेश्वरी मंदिर से जोड़ते हैं।

ब्रिटिश यात्रियों फ्रांसिस बुकानन, आर.एन. मार्टिन तथा डेनियल बंधुओं ने भी 18वीं और 19वीं शताब्दी में इस मंदिर का वर्णन किया था। 1790 में थॉमस डेनियल द्वारा बनाई गई मंदिर की चित्रकारी आज भी ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज मानी जाती है।

## धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व

रामनवमी, महाशिवरात्रि और नवरात्रि के दौरान यहाँ हजारों श्रद्धालु दर्शन के लिए पहुँचते हैं। नवरात्रि के समय लगने वाला विशाल मेला पूरे बिहार और पूर्वी भारत में प्रसिद्ध है।

यह मंदिर केवल धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय आध्यात्मिक निरंतरता, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और प्राचीन ज्ञान परंपरा का जीवंत प्रतीक है।

## यात्रा और पहुँच

- ▶ **स्थान** - पौनरा पहाड़ी, रामगढ़ गाँव, कैमूर जिला, बिहार
- ▶ **ऊँचाई** - लगभग 608 फीट
- ▶ **निकटतम रेलवे स्टेशन** - मोहनिया-भभुआ रोड (लगभग 22 किमी)
- ▶ **निकटतम हवाई अड्डा** - लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, वाराणसी (102 किमी)

▶ **भभुआ जिला मुख्यालय से दूरी** - (लगभग 10-12 किमी)

▶ पहाड़ी तक पहुँचने के लिए सीढ़ियाँ और सरकारी रोपवे सुविधा उपलब्ध

▶ सितंबर से अप्रैल तक का समय यात्रा के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त माना जाता है।

## संरक्षण और पुनरुद्धार

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण ने मंदिर के संरक्षण और पुनरुद्धार के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण कार्य किए हैं।

मंदिर के अंदर सफाई, प्राचीन मूर्तियों की मरम्मत, बिखरे पत्थरों का दस्तावेजीकरण, सौर ऊर्जा आधारित प्रकाश व्यवस्था और श्रद्धालुओं के लिए सुविधाओं का विकास किया गया है।

बिहार सरकार ने भी मंदिर तक बेहतर पहुँच और पर्यटन सुविधाओं के लिए विशेष बजट आवंटित किया है।

## निष्कर्ष

कैमूर की पहाड़ियों पर स्थित मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर केवल एक प्राचीन धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि भारत की हजारों वर्षों पुरानी सनातन चेतना, शक्ति साधना और सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता का जीवंत प्रमाण है।

यहाँ की अखंड पूजा परंपरा, रहस्यमयी शिवलिंग, अद्वितीय स्थापत्य कला और माँ मुंडेश्वरी की दिव्य उपस्थिति श्रद्धालुओं को आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा और आस्था से भर देती है।

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

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी गया स्थित प्राचीन और रहस्यमयी पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर की ओर, जहाँ भगवान शिव की अद्भुत पाताल परंपरा, धार्मिक मान्यताओं और आध्यात्मिक रहस्यों के एक और अनोखे अध्याय से हम परिचित होंगे।

# बाल्मीकि रामायण में छिपे कुछ विरले प्रसंग

## सगर के साठ हजार पुत्रों की उत्पत्ति और विनाश



रामजी के रघुकुल में, इशवाकु और रघु वंश की परम्परा में, एक महान राजा हुए थे। जिनका नाम था, महाराज सगर। उनकी कथा बाल्मीकि रामायण के बालकाण्ड में मिलती है। उन्हें साठ हजार पुत्रों का आशीर्वाद मिला था। यहाँ हम उसी कहानी का विस्तार से उल्लेख करेंगे।

महाराज सगर की दो रानियाँ थी, लेकिन कोई संतान नहीं थी। एक रानी का नाम था, केशिनी और दूसरी का नाम था सुमति। महाराज सगर को पुत्र की बड़ी अभिलाषा थी। ऐसी दशा में उन्होंने प्रभु से प्रार्थना करनी आरंभ की। वह अपनी दोनों रानियों सहित, हिमालय के घने वनों में, तपस्या करने चले गए। घोर तपस्या के बाद, एक दिन उनके सम्मुख, भृगु ऋषि प्रगट हुए।

**अथ वर्षशते पूर्ण तपसाराधितो मुनिः ।  
सगराय वरं प्रादाद्भृगुः सत्यवतां वरः ॥ 1.38.6 ॥**

सगर परिवार की तपस्या से प्रसन्न, ऋषि ने वर माँगने को कहा। फिर क्या था, अंधा क्या चाहे दो आँखें? राजा सगर ने पुत्र प्राप्ति की अभिलाषा प्रगट की। ऋषि ने प्रसन्न हो कर कहा राजन, तुम्हें एक नहीं, हजारों पुत्रों का योग है। फिर उन्होंने दोनों रानियों की तरफ देखा, और बोले, तुममें से एक को एक पुत्र होगा और दूसरी को साठ हजार पुत्रों की प्राप्ति होगी। चुनना तुम्हें होगा, कि किससे एक पुत्र चाहिए और किससे हजारों?

**एका जनयिता तात पुत्रं वंशकरं तव । षष्टिं  
पुत्रसहस्राणि अपरा जनयिष्यति ॥ 1.38.8 ॥**

महाराज सगर की उत्सुकता बढ़ गई। उन्होंने आपस में विचार विमर्श किया। और फिर ऋषिवर के सामने जा खड़े हुए। रानी केशिनी ने केवल एक पुत्र की कामना की और महारानी सुमति ने हजारों पुत्रों की कामना सामने रखी।

कुछ समय व्यतीत होने के बाद, दोनों रानियों गर्भवती हुईं। केशिनी को असमंजस नाम का एक बेटा हुआ और रानी सुमति ने, एक तूँबी के आकार के, एक पिंड को जन्म दिया। पिण्ड जन्म के कुछ क्षणों के बाद, साठ

हजार टुकड़ों में बँट गया।

**धृतपूणोर्षु कुम्भेषु धात्र्यस्तान् समवर्द्धयन् ।  
कालेन महता सर्वे यौवनं प्रतिपेदिरे ॥ 1.38.18 ॥**

उन टुकड़ों को घी के घड़ों में डाल कर पाला गया। जिनमें से कुछ समय बाद सुंदर राजकुमारों का जन्म हुआ।

जब पुत्र युवा हो गए तो राजा सगर के मन में एक अश्वमेध यज्ञ का विचार आया। विचार आते ही, गुरुओं के आशीर्वाद से, यज्ञ की तैयारी आरम्भ कर दी गई। अश्वमेध यज्ञ में एक अश्व बाहर घुमाया जाता है कि, अगर राजा की प्रजा में से, अगर किसी को कोई शिकायत हो तो, वह अश्व को रोक कर, अपना विरोध प्रगट कर सकता था। बस फिर क्या था, देवताओं को अपनी सत्ता खतरे में नजर आयी, तो इन्द्र ने उस अश्व को रोक कर, कहीं छुपा दिया। महाराजा सगर परेशान हो उठे। पुरोहितों ने अश्व खोज का आदेश दे दिया। महाराज सगर ने अपने साठ हजार पुत्रों को कहा, की धरती का कोना कोना छान मारो और अश्व को ढूँढ कर लाओ।

पिता का आदेश सुन, सगर पुत्र धरती की चारों दिशाओं में फैल गए। जहाँ कोई मिलता, उसे मार पीट कर पूछते। रास्ते में कोई जीव जन्तु बाधा डालता, तो उसे भी समाप्त कर देते। चारों दिशाओं में, त्राहि त्राहि मच गई। फिर भी अश्व नहीं मिला। निराश वापस अपने घर लौटे, तो पिता क्रोधित हो गए। तुम लोग इतने सारे, और एक छोटा सा काम नहीं कर पाए। पिता की डाँट खाकर क्रोधित भाव से, सगर पुत्र फिर खोज के लिए निकल पड़े।

**तस्य कोपाग्निना दग्धा भविष्यन्ति नृपालज्जाः ।  
॥ 1.40.2 ॥**

**सगर पुत्रों का विनाशः**

सगर पुत्रों के अत्याचार से जब देवता गण परेशान हुए, तो सीधा पितामह ब्रह्मा जी के पास, सहायता माँगने

पहुँचे। ब्रह्मा जी ने बतलाया कि, इस समय भगवान विष्णु कपिल मुनि के अवतार में प्रगट हो, धरती पर निवास कर रहे हैं। वही तुम्हारी सहायता कर पायेंगे। देवताओं ने कपिल मुनि का आश्रम ढूँढ कर, अश्व को वहाँ छोड़ दिया।

इधर सगर पुत्र जब क्रोधित हो, अश्व को ढूँढ रहे थे, तो उन्हें देवताओं का भेजा एक तेजस्वी पुरुष मिला, जिसने बताया कि, अश्व कपिल मुनि के आश्रम के पास चर रहा है। उसने उन्हें पूर्वोत्तर दिशा में जाने की सलाह दी। जब वे सब, वहाँ पहुँचे, तो उन्होंने वहाँ कपिल मुनि को एक यज्ञ करते देखा। पास ही अश्व को भी चरते देखा।

**ते तु सर्वे महात्मानो भीमवेगा महाबलाः ।  
ददृशुः कपिलं तत्र वासुदेवं सनातनम् ॥ 1.40.24 ॥**

**हयं च तस्य देवस्य चरन्तमविदूरतः ।  
प्रहर्षमतुलं प्राप्ताः सर्वे ते रघुनन्दन ॥ 1.40.25 ॥**

सगर पुत्रों को लगा यही वह मुनि है, जो उनके पिता के यज्ञ में विघ्न डाल रहा है। यह विचार आते ही वह कपिल मुनि को, भला बुरा कहने लगे। मुनि के समझाने पर भी जब सगर पुत्र शान्त नहीं हुए, तो कपिल मुनि को क्रोध आ गया।

**तेषां कपिलो रघुनन्दन । रोषेण महता ऽऽविष्टो  
हुङ्कारमकरोत्तदा ॥ 1.40.28 ॥**

इधर सगर पुत्रों का अभद्र व्यवहार बढ़ता ही गया। ऐसे में, कपिल मुनि ने सगर पुत्रों को तुरन्त भस्म होने का श्राप दे डाला। बस फिर क्या था, सगर के साठ हजार पुत्र, एक ही क्षण में भस्म हो कर, राख हो गए। और इस प्रकार उनका युवावस्था में ही विनाश हो गया।

जब राजा सगर को अपने पुत्रों की मृत्यु का समाचार मिला, तो बड़े दुखी हुए। लेकिन उन्हें पता था कि, कपिल मुनि अनावश्यक क्रोधित नहीं होंगे। ऐसे में उन्होंने अपने बड़े समझदार एवं विनम्र स्वभाव वाले,

प्रपोत्र अंशुमान को कपिल मुनि के आश्रम पर भेजा। अंशुमान ने कपिल मुनि के आश्रम पहुँच, बड़े आदर सत्कार के साथ ऋषि का अभिवादन किया। और अपने आने का उद्देश्य बताया।

**कपिलेनाप्रभेयेन दग्धा हीमे महाबलाः । सलिलं नाहंसि  
प्राज्ञ दातुमेषां हि लौकिकम् ॥ 1.41.18 ॥**

अंशुमान ने अपने चाचों को तिलांजलि अर्पित करनी चाही, लेकिन ऋषिवर ने समझाया कि, उसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है। सगर पुत्रों ने काफी उत्पात मचा रखा था, इसीलिए उनका मरना समाज के लिए एक मंगलमय घटना थी। कपिल मुनि ने, अंशुमान को अश्व ले जाने की अनुमति दी और कहा, इसे ले जाओ और अपने दादा जी के यज्ञ को पूर्णाहुति देने में सहायता करो। इसी में सबका मंगल है।

**गच्छ चाश्वं महाभाग तं गृह्य पुरुषर्षभ ।  
यज्ञं पैतामहं वीर संवर्तयितुमर्हसि ॥ 1.41.21 ॥**

इस प्रकार इस महान कथा का सुखद अन्त हुआ। इसीलिए यह कथा विश्व प्रसिद्ध हो गई। इस कहानी से यह सीख मिलती है कि, कोई भी काम सोचे समझे बिना नहीं करना चाहिए, नहीं तो उससे मंगल की बजाय अमंगल हो सकता है।

जय श्री राम



Rajendra Kapil  
Phone: 847-962-1291



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The latest cybercrime raid in Panchkula is not just another police story. It is another warning sign of a growing moral and reputational crisis confronting India's global image. According to investigators, a fake call center allegedly operating from Panchkula targeted American citizens by impersonating Amazon customer support representatives and stealing sensitive banking information.

Computers, cash, communication equipment, and multiple suspects were reportedly recovered during the raid. Sadly, this is no longer shocking news. Similar raids have become increasingly common across North India, especially in the Chandigarh-Mohali-Panchkula technology corridor.

What should disturb every Indian — both in India and abroad — is not merely the crime itself, but the normalization of such crimes among educated youth.

India earned worldwide respect over the past three decades through hard work, engineering excellence, and technological innovation. Indian doctors, engineers, software professionals, entrepreneurs, and researchers built a reputation for intelligence, discipline, and reliability. Silicon Valley, Wall Street, global hospitals, universities, and Fortune 500 companies are filled with successful Indian-origin professionals who became symbols of merit and achievement.

**Yet alongside this success story, a darker parallel economy has emerged.**

Fake call centers, online scam factories, phishing operations, cryptocurrency frauds, and impersonation rackets are increasingly recruiting educated, English-speaking young Indians to prey upon elderly Americans, immigrants, and vulnerable consumers abroad.

These are not crimes born out of poverty alone. Many involved are technologically skilled individuals seeking fast money with little regard for ethics or consequences.

**The damage goes far beyond stolen dollars.**

Every international cyber fraud story linked to India weakens the credibility of honest Indians living and working overseas. Every fake "Amazon support" call from India makes an American citizen more suspicious of Indian accents, Indian customer service agents, and Indian technology professionals. It creates stereotypes that millions of law-abiding Indians abroad must quietly battle every day.

Indian-Americans today occupy positions of immense trust and influence in American society — from CEOs and scientists to elected officials and physicians. But reputations built over decades can be damaged by repeated headlines connecting India to organized digital fraud.

**This should concern policymakers in New Delhi as much as local police in Haryana.**

India cannot aspire to become a trusted global digital superpower while simultaneously becoming associated with

global scam networks. The contradiction is dangerous.

Part of the problem lies in society's growing glorification of wealth without questioning its source. Luxury lifestyles on social media, easy-money culture, online gambling, influencer excess, and declining ethical accountability have created an environment where fraud is often viewed as "smartness" rather than criminality.

Many of these fake call center operators function openly from commercial office spaces with sophisticated infrastructure, night shifts aligned with American time zones, and organized management structures. Such operations rarely survive without broader local networks, financial channels, and silent enablers.

Law enforcement agencies deserve credit for intensifying crackdowns. Haryana's cybercrime units and other agencies across India have conducted major raids and arrests over the past year. But policing alone cannot solve the problem.

**India needs a larger moral conversation.**

Educational institutions must emphasize ethics alongside technical skills. Families must stop measuring success solely by income and material display. Society must stop celebrating shortcuts to wealth. And governments must strengthen cybercrime prosecution, international cooperation, and digital financial monitoring.

The world respects India for its talent. It would be tragic if a generation of cybercriminals undermines the goodwill earned by millions of honest Indians across the globe.

India gave the world software engineers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. It must not become known for exporting scams.



# Chicago-area author launches 'VARNA: Know Your Why' and revolutionary leadership framework to overwhelming response

By: Vandana Jhingan

An innovative blend of ancient wisdom and modern leadership science took center stage in Naperville as Chicago-area entrepreneur, inventor, and author Poonam Gupta-Krishnan officially launched her debut book, VARNA: Know Your Why, along with her patent-pending Varna-CQ™ Leadership Alignment Framework. The invitation-only event, held on May 30 at the Naperville Public Library, drew an impressive audience of diplomats, Padma awardees, corporate executives, educators, healthcare professionals, and community leaders.

The response to the launch was immediate and enthusiastic. Every available copy of the book was sold or reserved before the conclusion of the program, while nearly 90 percent of attendees signed up for the complimentary Varna-CQ™ Leadership Alignment Assessment offered during the event.

Hosted by Bharathi Theertha, a nonprofit organization dedicated to



education, environment, and health, the program was organized under the leadership of environmental scientist and global sustainability leader Dr. Prakasam Tata. The event also served as a celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The keynote address was delivered by Padma Bhushan Prof. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, renowned scholar, author, and former Rajya Sabha member. Speaking on the cultural and philosophical foundations of the framework, he praised the work for drawing inspiration from the Bhagavad Gita and Vedic traditions while addressing modern leadership challenges.

He later described the book as a significant contribution that connects India's timeless wisdom with contemporary human development.

Among the distinguished guests were Padma Shri Dr. S.V. Rama Rao, Deputy Consul General of India Kriti Das Thokchom, business executives, university faculty members, chief information

officers, and civic leaders from across the Chicago region.

According to Gupta-Krishnan, the framework was inspired by a simple but powerful question: why do talented and capable individuals often feel disconnected, exhausted, or misaligned despite achieving success? The Varna-CQ™ system seeks to answer that question by helping individuals understand their natural strengths, decision-making styles, leadership potential, and career alignment.

With workplace disengagement estimated to cost the global economy trillions of dollars annually, the framework offers a unique approach by combining principles of Sanatan Dharma with modern behavioral science. Organizers described the event as more than a book launch—it was the introduction of a new leadership model aimed at fostering purpose-driven success, personal fulfillment, and organizational effectiveness in an increasingly complex world.

# Hindu Women's Network and National India Hub to host community networking event in Schaumburg

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Hindu Women's Network (HWN), in collaboration with National India Hub, will host a unique community engagement and networking event on Sunday, June 28, at 2:30 p.m. at India Hub, 930 National Parkway, Schaumburg. Organizers are inviting Hindu sisters and brothers from across the Chicago area to participate in an afternoon focused on community building, meaningful dialogue, and cultural connection.

The event will feature networking

**Hindu Women's Network**  
*presents*

**Women, Wellness & Community**

Women's health and healthy life

CHICAGO CHAPTER

SHAKTI  
SEVA  
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An Initiative of VHPA

opportunities, informative discussions, interactive activities, and social engagement designed to bring community members together in a welcoming environment.

According to organizers, the gathering aims to strengthen community bonds while encouraging greater participation in service-oriented initiatives rooted in the values of Seva (service), Shakti

(empowerment), and Sadhana (spiritual growth). The event is free to attend; however, advance registration is required. Participants are encouraged to RSVP through the official registration link provided by the organizers.

Community leaders say the program offers an excellent opportunity for individuals and families to connect, exchange ideas, and explore ways to work together for the betterment of the broader community.

"Let's unite together and serve the community with Seva, Shakti, and Sadhana," the organizers stated.

# Vivekananda Spiritual Center at HTGC continues to inspire Chicago community through weekly spiritual and cultural programs

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Vivekananda Spiritual Center (VSC), located within the sprawling campus of the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC) in Lemont, continues to serve as a beacon of spirituality, education, meditation, and cultural enrichment for the Indian-American community and beyond. Established in 2010 and inaugurated by globally renowned spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the Vivekananda Spiritual Center has grown into one of the Chicago area's most respected platforms for spiritual learning and community engagement. Located at 10915 Lemont Road, Lemont, Illinois, the center remains open daily from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, welcoming devotees, families, youth, and seekers from all walks of life.

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Sudha Rao, Chair of the Vivekananda Spiritual Center, VSC has significantly expanded its educational and spiritual outreach programs. Dr. Rao, widely respected as a spiritual and community leader in the Chicago area, has helped transform the center into a vibrant hub of weekly learning, devotion, meditation, and cultural exchange. She is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers and community leaders, including Mr. Amrish Mahajan, a highly respected Chicago business and community leader known for his long standing service and support of Indian cultural and spiritual initiatives.

**The Vivekananda Spiritual Center regularly hosts:**

- Spiritual and philosophical discourses



- Bhagavad Gita lectures and scriptural discussions
- Satsangs and devotional gatherings
- Public meditation and yoga sessions
- Cultural showcases featuring Indian classical music and dance
- Educational programs focused on personal growth and spirituality

The center's Sunday educational functions have

become increasingly popular among families and spiritual seekers looking for guidance, inner peace, and community connection in today's fast-paced world.

In addition to its weekly programming, the Vivekananda Spiritual Center is also preparing for a major fundraising cultural event scheduled for August 8, 2026, featuring the acclaimed dance production "Chaitanya," with a performing arts group traveling from California specially for the occasion. Community members say the VSC has become much more than a spiritual venue — it is now a center for emotional healing, cultural continuity, youth engagement, and intergenerational learning.

"At a time when stress, isolation, and uncertainty affect so many lives, places like the Vivekananda Spiritual Center provide hope, wisdom, and a sense of belonging," said one longtime devotee.

Inspired by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, the center continues to uphold values of universal harmony, service to humanity, self-realization, and spiritual awakening. The Vivekananda Spiritual Center invites the entire community to participate in its upcoming programs and experience the richness of Indian spiritual traditions in an atmosphere of peace, devotion, and learning.

For more information about programs and events, community members may visit the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago campus in Lemont or follow upcoming announcements through community outreach platforms.

## THE HINDU TEMPLE OF GREATER CHICAGO

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### VIVEKANANDA SPIRITUAL CENTER

#### UPCOMING SPIRITUAL EVENTS 2026

Bhajans • Meditation • Yoga • Satsang • Spiritual Talks • Family Celebrations

### Upcoming June and July Programs

VSC has announced an inspiring lineup of spiritual and cultural events for June and July 2026 at Ritu Meditation Hall

**June 6, 2026 – 11:00 AM**  
Talk by Swami Ishatmananda Ji from Vivekananda Vedanta Society

**June 14, 2026 – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**  
Bhajan Sangam by Dr. Shekhar Mayanil

**June 21, 2026 – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**  
Father's Day Special Celebration

**June 28, 2026 – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**  
"GYM for Spiritual Growth" – An inspiring session focused on inner development and spiritual wellness

**July 4, 2026 – 11:00 AM**  
Talk by Swami Ishatmananda Ji from Vivekananda Vedanta Society

**July 12, 2026**  
Bhajan Sangam featuring Dr. Kamla Chawla, Mrs. Tara Swaminathan, and Dr. Shamu Swaminathan

## AT RITU MEDITATION HALL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE FRONT DESK AT (630) 972-0300

ALL ARE WELCOME

# Rising tensions in Texas spotlight divisions over growing Indian-American community

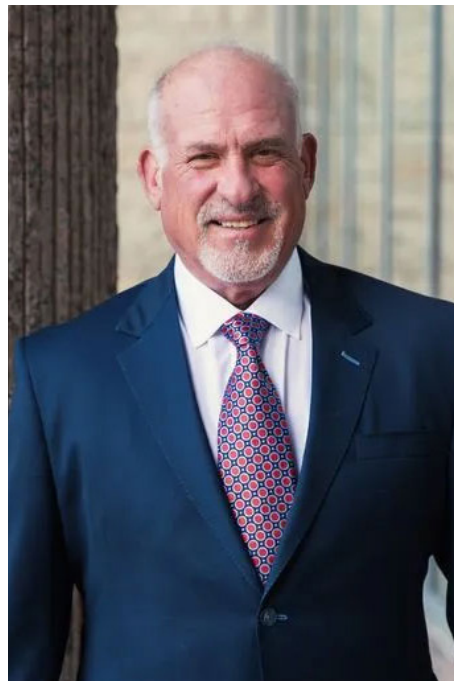
By: Dr. Avi Verma

A series of controversial incidents in Frisco has drawn national attention to rising tensions surrounding the city's rapidly growing Indian-American population, sparking debate over immigration, diversity, and community identity in one of Texas' fastest-growing suburbs.

The latest controversy erupted after

a viral video showed a man tearing an Indian national flag outside Frisco City Hall while shouting anti-India slogans during what appeared to be an anti-immigration protest. The incident triggered widespread outrage across social media, with many condemning the act as racist and inflammatory.

The episode comes amid an increasingly heated political atmosphere ahead of Frisco's June 13 mayoral runoff election



between former school board trustee Mark Hill and retired businessman Rod Vilhauer. Neither candidate secured the required majority in the May election, forcing a runoff.

Recent city council meetings have seen some residents complain about an alleged "Indian takeover," reflecting growing backlash against demographic changes in the city, where the South Asian population has expanded significantly in recent years.

Many Indian-American residents have

rallied behind Hill, describing him as a unifying figure capable of easing tensions and promoting inclusivity. Local resident Marin Mouli Padeti publicly endorsed Hill, praising his "compassion and leadership" and calling for respectful coexistence regardless of race or national origin.

Political observers say the Frisco controversy reflects broader national debates over immigration, multiculturalism, and changing demographics across suburban America.

## Consulate General of India, Chicago to celebrate 12th International Day of Yoga at Navy Pier

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Consulate General of India in Chicago has announced the celebration of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 on Sunday, June 21, 2026, at Polk Bros Park, Navy Pier, one of Chicago's most iconic waterfront destinations. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. CST and is expected to attract hundreds of yoga practitioners, wellness enthusiasts, community leaders, and families from across the Midwest.

This year's International Day of Yoga theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," highlights the growing importance of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, emotional balance, and healthy lifestyles across all age groups. The theme emphasizes how regular yoga practice can help individuals maintain vitality, flexibility, and overall wellness as they age.

Participants will have the opportunity to perform yoga postures and breathing exercises based on the internationally recognized Common Yoga Protocol, joining

millions of people around the world who celebrate the ancient Indian practice on the same day. The event is designed to be inclusive and welcoming, offering an opportunity for both beginners and experienced practitioners to experience the benefits of yoga in a community setting. The Consulate General of India has extended an open invitation to residents of Chicago and surrounding areas to participate in the celebration and has encouraged community members to share the invitation with friends, family, and colleagues. Organizers emphasized that no prior yoga experience is necessary, making the event accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels.

Since its adoption by the United Nations in 2014, the International Day of Yoga has become a global movement promoting health, harmony, and mindfulness. The annual observance continues to showcase yoga's universal appeal and its role in fostering a healthier and more balanced society. Community members are encouraged to attend and join this celebration of wellness, unity, and holistic living at Chicago's scenic Navy Pier.





## Consulate General of India Chicago

*In partnership with Friends of Yoga  
Invites you to join the*

### 12<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'

on Sunday, 21 June 2026  
from 10:00 AM  
Participants may kindly assemble  
by 9:30 AM  
Venue:  
Polk Bros Park, Navy Pier  
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

*(Free Yoga T shirt, Yoga mat and light refreshment will be provided)*

*Entry is free. Interested participants  
may kindly register at the QR code below:*



# 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 2)

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

*Continued from last edition...*

### What is AREDS2?

#### AREDS2 stands for:

“Age-Related Eye Disease Study 2”

This major scientific study identified a special vitamin formula that may slow progression of moderate-to-advanced Dry AMD.

#### The AREDS2 formula commonly contains:

- ▶ Vitamin C
- ▶ Vitamin E
- ▶ Zinc
- ▶ Copper
- ▶ Lutein
- ▶ Zeaxanthin

These antioxidants help protect retinal cells from damage.

AREDS2 supplements do not cure AMD but may reduce progression risk.

### What is Anti-VEGF Treatment?

#### VEGF means:

“Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor”

VEGF is a protein that stimulates new blood vessel growth.

In Wet AMD, excessive VEGF causes abnormal leaking blood vessels to form under the retina.

#### Anti-VEGF medications:

- ▶ Block abnormal vessel growth
- ▶ Reduce fluid leakage
- ▶ Decrease retinal swelling
- ▶ Help preserve vision

These medicines are injected directly into the eye by retinal specialists.

#### Common medications include:

- ▶ Avastin
- ▶ Lucentis
- ▶ Eylea
- ▶ Vabysmo

#### Risk Factors

- Age above 60
- Smoking
- Family history
- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Obesity
- Poor diet

Smoking is one of the strongest preventable risk factors.

#### Diagnosis

##### Doctors diagnose AMD using:

- Dilated eye examination
- OCT imaging
- Amsler Grid testing
- Fluorescein angiography

#### Treatment

##### Dry AMD

- ▶ AREDS2 supplements
- ▶ Healthy diet rich in leafy vegetables and fish
- ▶ Smoking cessation

##### Wet AMD

- ▶ Anti-VEGF injections
- ▶ Laser treatment in selected cases

Early diagnosis significantly improves outcomes.



### 4. Retinal Detachment — A Medical Emergency

#### What is Retinal Detachment?

Retinal Detachment occurs when the retina pulls away from the back wall of the eye. The retina depends on oxygen and nutrients from underlying tissues. Once detached, retinal cells begin dying quickly. Without urgent surgery, permanent blindness can occur.

#### Symptoms

##### Warning signs often appear suddenly:

- ▶ Sudden flashes of light
- ▶ Large increase in floaters
- ▶ Shadow or curtain over vision
- ▶ Peripheral vision loss
- ▶ Sudden blurred vision

Symptoms are painless but extremely serious.

#### Risk Factors

- ▶ Severe nearsightedness
- ▶ Aging
- ▶ Eye trauma
- ▶ Previous eye surgery
- ▶ Family history
- ▶ Diabetes

#### Diagnosis

##### Doctors use:

- ▶ Dilated retinal examination
- ▶ Ultrasound imaging
- ▶ OCT retinal scans

#### Treatment

##### Emergency surgery is required:

- ▶ Pneumatic retinopexy
- ▶ Scleral buckle surgery
- ▶ Vitrectomy surgery

Earlier treatment greatly improves chances of saving vision.

### 5. Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)

#### What is RVO?

Retinal Vein Occlusion occurs when veins carrying blood away from the retina become blocked.

#### This blockage causes:

- ▶ Retinal swelling
- ▶ Bleeding
- ▶ Reduced oxygen supply
- ▶ Vision damage

It is often compared to a “stroke of the eye.”

#### Types

Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion (BRVO)  
Smaller branch veins become blocked.  
Central Retinal Vein Occlusion (CRVO)  
The main retinal vein becomes blocked and vision loss is usually more severe.

#### Symptoms

- ▶ Sudden painless blurred vision
- ▶ Vision loss in one eye
- ▶ Distorted vision
- ▶ Dark spots in vision

Symptoms may worsen gradually over hours or days.

#### Risk Factors

- ▶ High blood pressure
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Glaucoma
- ▶ High cholesterol
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ Blood clotting disorders

#### Diagnosis

- ▶ Retinal examination
- ▶ OCT imaging
- ▶ Fluorescein angiography

#### Treatment

- ▶ Control of blood pressure and diabetes
- ▶ Anti-VEGF injections
- ▶ Steroid injections
- ▶ Laser treatment

### 6. Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) — A Rare Genetic Eye Disease

#### What is Retinitis Pigmentosa?

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is a group of inherited genetic disorders that slowly damage retinal cells responsible for vision.

The disease primarily affects rod photoreceptor cells, which help us see in dim light and peripheral vision.

Over time, cone cells responsible for central vision may also become damaged.

#### Symptoms

##### Early symptoms include:

- ▶ Night blindness
- ▶ Difficulty seeing in dim lighting
- ▶ Peripheral vision loss
- ▶ Tunnel vision

Advanced disease may eventually affect central vision.

#### Risk Factors

- ▶ Family history
- ▶ Genetic inheritance

#### Diagnosis

##### Doctors may perform:

- ▶ Genetic testing
- ▶ Visual field testing
- ▶ Electroretinography (ERG)
- ▶ Retinal imaging

#### Treatment

##### Currently there is no cure, but treatments may help preserve function:

- ▶ Low vision aids
- ▶ UV-protective sunglasses
- ▶ Vitamin A palmitate in selected patients
- ▶ Gene therapy research
- ▶ Retinal implant technology under development

#### Protecting Your Vision

##### Eye specialists strongly recommend:

- ▶ Comprehensive eye exams every 1–2 years
- ▶ Annual eye exams for diabetics and high-risk individuals
- ▶ Wearing UV-protective sunglasses
- ▶ Managing diabetes and blood pressure
- ▶ Avoiding smoking
- ▶ Eating antioxidant-rich foods
- ▶ Seeking immediate care for sudden vision changes

#### Coming Next Issue

Common Age & Lifestyle Related Eye Conditions

#### We will cover:

- ▶ Aging and the Eye
- ▶ Digital Eye Strain & Screen Fatigue
- ▶ Dry Eye Syndrome
- ▶ Cataracts
- ▶ Floaters and Flashes
- ▶ Eye Allergies

#### 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: ROLE OF GOLD IN GLOBAL PORTFOLIOS

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

### CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -6.3% (below average)  
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 60 (greed)  
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 58.66% (positive)  
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 54.40% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 4/30/26

OEfs & ETFs: Stocks 62.61%,  
 Hybrids 3.96%, Bonds 17.12%,  
 M-Mkt 16.31%

### INTEREST RATES

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

### Treasury

-Bills 3-mo yield 3.69%, 1-yr 3.79%;  
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.98%, 5-yr 4.13%, 10-yr 4.45%;  
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.99%;  
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.61%, 10-yr 2.07%, 30-yr 2.71%  
 FRNs Index 3.627%

### Bank Rates [www.depositaccounts.com/](http://www.depositaccounts.com/)

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 6/1/26  
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates  
 Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%  
 Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%,  
 IRA-101110+ 3.65%  
 TIAA MYGA (not updated) 4.15% (3-yr), 4.30% (5-yr), 4.40% (7-yr)  
 TSP G Fund pending (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 70.37 (extreme greed)

Weekly ETFs: INDA +0.35%, INDY +0.35%, EPI +0.45%, INDH -0.13% | SPY +1.45%

The data above are as of Sunday



preceding the publication date.

**FINANCIAL.** Prudential plc (2378/HK, PRU/UK, PUK/US; CEO Anil Wadhvani) is buying 75% controlling stake in Bharti Life Insurance from Bharti Life Ventures & 360 ONE Asset Management. Prudential plc-India operations will include (i) majority-owned Bharti Life Insurance (75%) & Prudential HCL Health Insurance (70%), & (ii) minority-owned ICICI Prudential Asset Management (35%) & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (to be reduced from 22% to 10%).

### INDUSTRIAL.

US Tesla/TSLA took a pass on manufacturing EVs in India. It will only have showrooms to sell imported Tesla - sales have been very slow. To attract foreign EV manufacturers to India, the Government reduced import duties to 15% (from 110%) for EVs priced above \$35K if commitments for substantial local manufacturing were made (\$500+ million in 3 years), but Tesla decided not to play. Mercedes-Benz, Skoda-Volkswagen, Hyundai, Kia, etc have shown interest.

Indian multinational Eicher Motors is strengthening its partnership with Volvo-India by buying 50% stake in nonbank financial Volvo Financial-India. Eicher & Volvo already have a joint-venture VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV; Eicher 54.4%, Volvo 45.6%).

**MARKETS.** Barron's 5/25/26 had 2 stories on INDIA. The INTERNATIONAL column noted significant impacts of Iran war & free fall of rupees that may be headed to \$1 = Rs100. RBI has intervened without much effect but is reluctant to raise rates from 5.25% just to defend rupee. Inflation is +3.5% (understated due to government caps on energy prices) & economic growth has slowed a bit (but still the highest globally). Indian stocks may not have bottomed. The FUNDS column was more favorable & noted US ETFs: indexed INDA, EPI (also, rupee-hedged INDH); active ETFs GIND, NDIA.

### SPECIAL TOPIC - ROLE OF GOLD IN GLOBAL PORTFOLIOS

Indian obsession with gold is puzzling. There are reports of massive gold holdings by Indian households (~30x RBI gold). Unfortunately, that's a lot of capital locked away in this unproductive asset.

A simple explanation is that's a defensive move necessitated by rapidly falling rupee (& resulting inflation). Buying & hoarding gold is easily understood & widely accepted by Indian masses. This has taken hold over centuries & it would be hard to change by the urging of financial advisors or speeches by politicians. The trend of lower custom duties for gold was only recently reversed as total gold duties/fees went up from 6% to 15%.

Long-term comparison of gold with other assets would show that Indian stocks & real estate have performed

comparably or better than gold, but those investments require some knowledge & experience. Gold has outperformed Indian stocks only since 10/2025.

[tinyurl.com/4u8e8zjz](http://tinyurl.com/4u8e8zjz)

BTW, gold isn't popular among the US investors because relatively stable dollar makes this unproductive asset lag vs other investments - stocks, bonds, alternatives. Europeans seem more appreciative of gold.

So, here are some practical guidelines for the Indo-US community:

1. Your residential home doesn't count as investment - you have to rent or own. But rental properties are genuine investments.
2. Look at diversified portfolios of stocks, bonds & alternatives (including gold, real estate). Higher investments in productive assets will boost Indian economic activity. Be aware that US investors may have too little gold while Indian investors may have too much gold & an appropriate allocation to gold may be in between.
3. Salaried people should use payroll plans (AIP/SIP/DCA, retirement plans, 401k/403b) that offer equity & fixed-income funds.
4. Use conservative options strategies such as call-writing to boost stock/ETF income that caps some capital gains. Leave speculative options strategies for the experts.
5. Don't chase fads such as meme-stocks, illiquid & leveraged private-investments (nontraded/unlisted), cryptos & prediction markets.

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



# Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

**1. Location:** Our study center 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](http://www.iuhs.edu)*



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# The new face of hand care

## Why your hands are finally getting a skincare routine of their own

**F**or decades, beauty has revolved around the face. Serums, acids, masks, and in-office treatments have built entire rituals around preserving smooth, luminous skin. Hands, meanwhile, have quietly aged in plain sight, touched up only with a quick dab of cream, if that. Now, dermatologists and skincare brands say that imbalance is finally being corrected. Hands are having their own beauty moment.

Unlike the face, hands are exposed to constant stress: UV rays, frequent washing, environmental pollution, and the everyday wear of life. Over time, this leads to uneven tone, fine lines, thinning skin, and more visible veins and tendons. Add lifestyle factors like stress, lack of sleep, and diet, and the pace of aging accelerates.

**The first rule of modern hand care is non-negotiable: sunscreen.** Dermatologists agree that ultraviolet



exposure is the leading cause of dark spots and premature aging on the hands. Daily

SPF, reapplied throughout the day, is now considered essential rather than optional.

**Next comes repair.** Retinoids, peptides, and growth factors, long staples in facial skincare, are now being used on hands to improve texture and stimulate collagen production. The goal is not just hydration, but visible renewal.

**Then there is the barrier itself.** Because hands are washed more than any other part of the body, they are constantly stripped of moisture. Ingredients like ceramides and hyaluronic acid help replenish and reinforce the skin's protective layer, restoring softness and resilience.

Dermatologists also warn against overdoing fragrance-heavy or alcohol-based hand creams, which

can irritate sensitive skin and further weaken the barrier over time. Even cleansing has become a considered step, with lukewarm water and gentle formulas replacing harsh soaps and hot water.

At the more advanced end of the spectrum, hands are now entering the treatment room. Fillers restore lost volume, lasers target pigmentation and texture, and radiofrequency microneedling boosts collagen from within.

The new philosophy is simple: treat your hands the way you treat your face. Morning SPF, daytime hydration, nighttime repair, and, when needed, clinical treatments. In beauty's latest shift, the most honest part of you is finally getting the attention it has always deserved.



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