

Finland says India's voice is vital in a shifting global order



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Finnish President Alexander Stubb described India as an influential global actor during a meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Kultaranta Talks in Helsinki on Thursday. The leaders discussed the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine, and the upcoming Group of Seven summit. Stubb said India's views were important to hear at a time of global uncertainty.

Jaishankar said they exchanged views on the changing geopolitical situation and stressed the need for diplomacy. India and Finland also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing their Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability and strengthening coordination in multilateral forums. Jaishankar later joined Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen and United Arab Emirates Minister of State Lana Nusseibeh for a discussion on emerging powers, geopolitical competition, resilient supply chains, energy choices, and India's ties with the Gulf region.

From Pune to Delhi, India's viral Cockroach Janta Party launches nationwide youth protest campaign



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Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke launched a nationwide agitation from Pune on Thursday, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

The protest was held at Savitribai Phule Pune University, with climate activist Sonam Wangchuk also present. Dipke said the movement would release an education manifesto focused on preventing question paper leaks, ensuring timely results, improving transparency in recruitment and entrance examinations, and strengthening accountability among examination authorities.

The group plans to take the campaign to Lucknow on Friday, followed by Amritsar, Hyderabad, Jaipur and other cities. It has also warned of an indefinite sit-in at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi if Pradhan does not resign.

The group, which grew rapidly through social media satire and youth-focused messaging, says it wants the government to address student concerns instead of dismissing the movement as fake.



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Modi's record tenure draws world leaders' praise amid India's rising influence

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P rime Minister Narendra Modi received congratulatory messages from several world leaders on Thursday after becoming India's longest continuously serving elected prime minister, a milestone that also reflected New Delhi's expanding diplomatic reach.

United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan called Modi a friend, wished him success in leading India toward further achievements, and said ties between India and the United Arab Emirates had seen a major transformation under their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon praised his work with Modi on advancing a free trade agreement and said he looked forward to deeper cooperation. Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said the milestone reflected the Indian people's confidence in Modi's leadership and



pledged to strengthen ties with India. Former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also congratulated Modi on

crossing 4,000 days in office, underscoring India's growing engagement across the Gulf, Indo-Pacific and wider democratic world.

Trump says Iran deal is near, but Tehran warns talks are not final

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

P resident Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United States and Iran were close to signing a peace agreement and claimed he had canceled planned strikes against Iran after negotiations reached Tehran's senior leadership. Iran pushed back on the claim, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei saying no final decision had been made and that Tehran would not compromise on its red lines. The proposed framework reportedly includes a timeline for demining the Strait of Hormuz, continued discussions on Iran's nuclear program, and possible steps involving



frozen Iranian assets. Trump also said the strait could reopen soon if an agreement is signed, but Iranian media cautioned that any claim should be dismissed until Tehran announces an understanding. The diplomatic push followed two days of United States-Iran strikes that further strained a fragile ceasefire.

India urges diplomacy as Gulf tensions threaten trade and energy security

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

I ndia used a United Nations Security Council debate on Wednesday to renew its call for dialogue and diplomacy amid fears that conflict in the Gulf could reignite into a wider war. India's Permanent Representative P. Harish said people across the Middle East deserved sustained peace and normalcy, while warning that the crisis had deeply affected India because of its proximity and economic stakes in the region.

He urged all sides to avoid targeting civilians, infrastructure and commercial shipping, and to preserve freedom of navigation and commerce. Harish said nearly 10 million Indian citizens live in the Gulf and their safety remains a top priority. He also highlighted India's dependence



on regional stability for trade and energy supplies, especially through the Strait of Hormuz. The remarks came after renewed attacks threatened a United States-Iran ceasefire and after Indian seafarers were killed in a strike on a commercial tanker.

India protests to United States as ship attacks raise fears for seafarers in West Asia



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I ndia lodged a strong protest with the United States on Thursday after a series of attacks on commercial vessels in West Asia put Indian seafarers at risk and left three Indian nationals dead. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the United States chargé d'affaires in New Delhi was summoned after the attack on the commercial vessel Settebello off Oman, where 21 Indian crew members were rescued.

Calling the continuing attacks "deeply worrisome," Jaiswal said India conveyed its serious concern and urged that such incidents must stop immediately. He said New Delhi remains in touch with Indian seafarers through its embassies and the Ministry of Shipping to ensure their safety. India also called for dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace in the region and stressed that access through the Strait of Hormuz must remain unimpeded under international law. Officials said the affected vessels were foreign-flagged and not Indian-owned.

Putin rules out Zelensky meeting, touts new world order at Russian forum



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday he saw no reason to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a day after Zelensky called for direct talks to end the war. Speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin said negotiations should first be handled by experts before leaders meet to sign any agreement.

He thanked President Donald Trump for efforts to end the conflict but said there was still “work to do.” His remarks came days after Ukrainian drone strikes hit St. Petersburg, setting an oil terminal on fire, disrupting flights and forcing local authorities to restrict mobile internet access. Putin also used the forum to promote a shifting world order, praising the BRICS bloc and claiming it had overtaken the Group of Seven in economic influence. He said Russia would strengthen its air defenses while remaining open to diplomacy if Ukraine accepted terms discussed with Washington.

Starmer faces new pressure as defense minister quits over funding dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

British Defense Minister John Healey resigned on Thursday after a months-long dispute with Prime Minister Keir Starmer over military spending. In his resignation letter, Healey accused Starmer and the Treasury of failing to commit the resources needed to protect the country amid rising global threats. Starmer expressed regret and appointed Security Minister Dan Jarvis as the new defense secretary. The political pressure deepened when junior defense minister Al Carns also resigned, saying the government’s spending plans were not strong enough for the threats facing Britain. Healey said the proposed Defense Investment Plan would raise spending to only 2.68 percent of gross domestic product by 2030, short of the 3 percent target. The resignations add to concerns about Starmer’s leadership ahead of a NATO summit.

Israel faces diplomatic backlash over alleged abuse of Gaza flotilla detainees

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel is facing growing international pressure over allegations that activists detained from the Global Sumud Flotilla were abused after Israeli commandos intercepted the Gaza-bound aid mission in international waters last month. Several countries, including France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands, have raised concerns over the treatment of their nationals.

Flotilla organizers alleged beatings, humiliation, forced stress positions, sexual

abuse and denial of proper medical care. They said at least 67 detainees were taken to hospitals after release, with 12 hospitalized. France has opened a preliminary investigation into alleged torture and possible war crimes involving French nationals. Israel’s military and prison service have denied the abuse allegations, saying detainees were handled according to established procedures. The controversy intensified after far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted a video showing restrained activists being taunted, drawing criticism from European leaders and from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



South Korea and United States reaffirm North Korea denuclearization goal

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South Korea and the United States reaffirmed on Thursday their shared goal of denuclearizing North Korea during a key nuclear deterrence meeting in Seoul. The sixth meeting of the Nuclear Consultative Group was held as Pyongyang intensifies efforts to secure recognition as a nuclear-armed state and says it will never abandon its weapons program. South Korea’s Deputy Defense Minister for Policy Kim Hong-cheol and United States official Robert Soofer led the talks. In a joint statement, both sides said they would continue strengthening extended deterrence as North Korea’s nuclear and missile capabilities evolve. Extended deterrence refers to the United States commitment to use its full military capabilities, including nuclear



weapons, to defend South Korea. The allies also discussed nuclear contingency planning, South Korea’s conventional support for United States nuclear missions, and new security guidelines to protect information linked to the consultative group.

World Bank economist says India is entering peak development potential

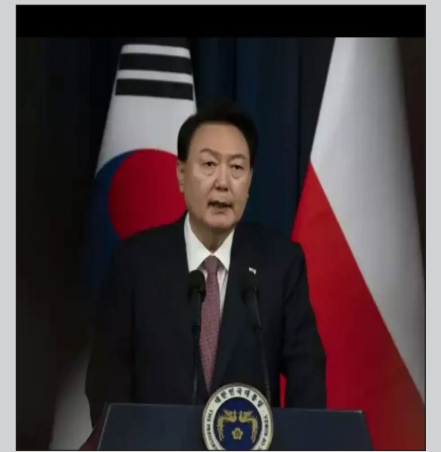
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

World Bank Chief Economist Indermit Gill said on Wednesday that India has entered a phase of “peak development potential” and could sustain strong growth over the next two decades. Speaking during a briefing on the World Bank’s latest Global Economic Prospects report, Gill said India’s long-term outlook is supported by favorable demographics, relatively low private-sector debt and strong domestic consumption. He argued that India’s growth path would not simply copy China’s export-led model, saying India would be “the next India,” not the next China. Gill said India’s consumption-driven economy and youthful workforce give it an advantage as



many major economies face aging populations and weaker productivity. However, he cautioned that India must become more open, attract more private and foreign investment, and pursue business-friendly and trade-friendly reforms. The comments came as the World Bank projected weaker global growth but continued to see India as the fastest-growing major economy.

South Korea’s Yoon gets 30 years in drone case tied to martial law attempt



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A South Korean court sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to 30 years in prison on Friday in a case linked to military drones sent over Pyongyang before his failed martial law declaration in December 2024.

The Seoul Central District Court found Yoon guilty of abuse of power and aiding the enemy, according to Yonhap. Prosecutors said the October 2024 drone incursion was intended to heighten tensions with North Korea and create justification for emergency rule.

Yoon denied wrongdoing, with his lawyers arguing he did not order or approve the operation. The ruling adds to earlier convictions against the ousted conservative leader, who is already in custody and can appeal.

United States authorities probe ‘8647’ marking on National Mall grass



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States authorities are investigating a large “8647” marking found on the grass of the National Mall in Washington on Thursday, near the World War Two Memorial. A Reuters photographer saw the discoloration from the Washington Monument before United States Park Police and National Guard members arrived.

Officials said the cause of the brown markings has not been determined, and grass samples were collected for testing. The phrase has been used by opponents of President Donald Trump, with “86” meaning to remove something and “47” referring to Trump as the 47th president. The Interior Department called the incident vandalism and said any possible threat against the president would be taken seriously.

Meloni urges NATO to rethink defense priorities as Italy raises spending

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Thursday that Italy will increase defense and security spending this year, but urged North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies to look beyond headline budget targets. Addressing parliament, Meloni said Rome expects to spend about 2.8 percent of gross domestic product on defense and security in 2026, up from last year. Much of the increase will come from domestic security spending, including some police duties, under NATO accounting rules.

Meloni said the war in Ukraine had shown that modern warfare is being reshaped by drones, satellites and data. She warned that expensive tanks and traditional systems can be destroyed by low-cost drones, making it essential for Western allies to reassess what effective defense spending means.

United States lawmakers warn against sending Afghan allies to unsafe countries



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More than 80 United States lawmakers urged the Trump administration on Thursday not to relocate Afghan allies stranded in Qatar to unsafe third countries. In a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, lawmakers asked the administration to reconsider plans affecting about 1,100 Afghans who worked with United States forces during the war in Afghanistan. Some officials had discussed sending them to the Democratic Republic of Congo, despite security risks and an Ebola outbreak. The lawmakers said the United States has a moral and national security obligation to protect interpreters, contractors and security personnel who supported American operations. They also asked for a briefing on relocation talks, legal authority for third-country transfers and possible entry to the United States for Afghans who have cleared enhanced vetting.

Slovenia reverses Israel restrictions under new conservative government

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Slovenia's new conservative government on Thursday lifted an entry ban on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and two of his ministers, marking a sharp policy shift toward Israel. Prime Minister Janez Jansa's government also ended a ban on imports from Jewish settlements and removed restrictions on the export and transit of military weapons and equipment to and from Israel. The previous center-left government, led by Robert Golob, had been among Israel's strongest critics in the European Union and recognized a Palestinian state in 2024. It later imposed entry bans on Netanyahu, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. The new government said it wanted to reopen political communication and use quiet diplomacy to support efforts toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

Report says pro-Khalistan groups are using historical grievances to influence youth

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A report has claimed that pro-Khalistan organizations continue to invoke the events of June 1984 to provoke youth, spread anti-India sentiment and advance separatist political agendas. The report cited a recent statement by Babbar Khalsa International, saying it promoted armed struggle and exposed divisions within the wider pro-Khalistan camp. According to the report, some groups support electoral campaigns and referendums, while others reject political methods and advocate violence. It argued that such organizations lack a clear roadmap, economic plan, administrative framework or meaningful international support, but continue to exploit historical pain to influence young Sikhs. The report said the community's real challenges include education,

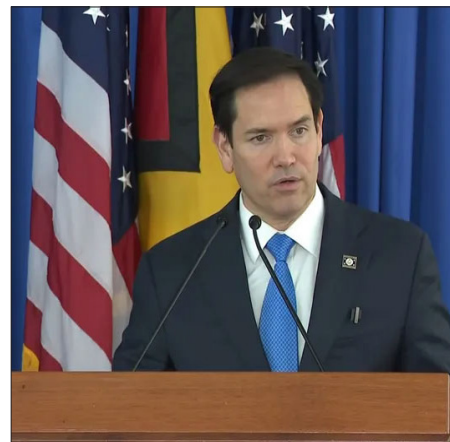


employment, drug abuse, agricultural distress and youth empowerment. It also referred to a recent Brampton tableau that allegedly glorified the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, calling for stronger action against hate displays and incitement in

Rubio brings UFC into United States sports diplomacy push

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The United States signed an agreement with the Ultimate Fighting Championship on Thursday, adding mixed martial arts to Washington's growing sports diplomacy efforts. Secretary of State Marco Rubio signed the memorandum of understanding with company executives at the State Department, calling the organization a global American brand with fighters from many countries. Officials said the partnership will use the sport's international reach to support people-to-people engagement, leadership programs and cultural outreach through United States missions abroad. Ultimate Fighting Championship leaders said the organization holds events worldwide and represents athletes



from more than 75 countries. Rubio also linked the agreement to plans for a White House event marking the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Empty seats at World Cup match revive debate over FIFA ticket prices

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Empty seats at Thursday's World Cup Group A match between South Korea and Czech Republic in Guadalajara renewed criticism of FIFA's ticket pricing strategy for the expanded 48-team tournament. FIFA listed attendance at 44,985 for the stadium, but visible rows of vacant seats drew attention in a city known for its strong soccer culture.

Some supporters blamed high prices, while separate ticket listings and media reports showed seats for the match starting around \$400 in upper sections and hospitality packages rising above \$4,000 to \$5,000. Fan groups have said prices for the 2026 tournament are nearly five times higher than the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. FIFA President Gianni Infantino defended the pricing Wednesday, saying costs were comparable with other major sports events. South Korea won 2-1.

Pope Leo blesses Sagrada Família tower on Gaudí centenary visit

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Pope Leo XIV celebrated Mass at Barcelona's Sagrada Família on Wednesday, marking the centenary of architect Antoni Gaudí's death and blessing the basilica's newly completed central Tower of Jesus Christ.



The tower, crowned with a large ceramic cross, makes the unfinished basilica the tallest church in the world. The Barcelona Mass capped Leo's first major European trip since becoming pope last year and his first visit to Spain, a largely Catholic country where church attendance has

sharply declined. During the trip, Leo also addressed Spain's parliament and warned against war, political polarization and rising military spending. The visit highlighted Gaudí's religious legacy as the Catholic Church considers his path toward sainthood.

China urges cooperation as Macron seeks trade balance before G7 summit



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Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing called for economic cooperation and inclusive growth on Thursday during a video conference hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of next week's G7 summit in France. Zhang urged countries to maintain a free and convenient trade environment and said China would continue opening its economy. Macron warned that global imbalances could lead to disorderly economic and financial shocks if major economies fail to coordinate. The talks came as Europe weighs a tougher approach toward low-priced Chinese exports, including electric vehicles, batteries and other advanced goods. European Union leaders are expected to discuss China after the summit, though member states remain divided over tariffs.

Kim hosts Xi from stronger position as North Korea deepens global ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pyongyang on Monday with a major ceremony, signaling a renewed show of unity between the two allies. The visit, Xi's first to North Korea in seven years, came as Kim appeared to be negotiating from a stronger position.

North Korea has benefited from closer ties with Russia, expanded its weapons program and seen its economy recover from pandemic isolation and sanctions. The leaders marked the 65th anniversary of their mutual defense treaty and pledged deeper cooperation in areas including trade, agriculture and technology. Analysts said China may be trying to reassert influence as Pyongyang grows closer to Moscow.

Taiwan test-fires United States rocket system on coast facing China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan test-fired its United States-made High Mobility Artillery Rocket System on Wednesday from its west coast for the first time, in a drill simulating a response to a Chinese invasion. The exercise took place in Taichung, facing the Taiwan Strait, where beaches and mudflats are seen as possible landing points for Chinese forces. Taiwan's military said the drill showed the system's "shoot-and-scoot" ability, allowing troops to fire and quickly move before enemy radar can lock on. The weapon has been widely used by Ukraine and can reach coastal targets in China's Fujian province. Taiwan is modernizing its forces with mobile systems designed to make the island harder to attack.



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From Jantar Mantar to a national conversation: Should the BJP be worried about the Cockroach Janta Party?



Dr. Avi Verma

The June 6 rally at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi marked a significant turning point for the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). What began as a satirical online response to controversial remarks directed at unemployed youth quickly transformed into a visible public movement, bringing hundreds of students and young supporters to the streets of the nation's capital.

The protest was centered on growing frustration over the NEET-UG 2026 and CBSE paper leak controversies, issues that have shaken the confidence of millions of students and parents. For participants, the rally was about more than examination irregularities—it was a demand for accountability, transparency, and respect for the aspirations of India's youth.

While the turnout was modest compared to traditional political rallies, the event demonstrated something important: a movement born on social media had successfully translated digital engagement into real-world activism. In an era where political narratives are increasingly shaped online, that achievement alone deserves attention.

However, the rally also highlighted one of the biggest challenges facing any fast-growing movement, the risk of political appropriation.

Reports from the event highlighted attempts to introduce symbols of highly controversial figures. Activists displayed posters of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and Kanhaiya Kumar. Critics widely categorize these student leaders as prominent faces of the "Tukde Tukde Gang." Furthermore, elements linked to Kashmiri and Khalistani separatist movements

attempted to register their presence. Government supporters quickly capitalized on these specific references. They argued that anti-establishment forces and radical fringe actors were systematically co-opted into the students' legitimate grievances.

What stood out, however, was the response from organizers and participants. They reportedly rejected attempts to divert attention away from the issues of education, employment, and examination integrity. Their message was clear: the movement's focus was on students and systemic failures, not on ideological battles or unrelated political agendas.

This distinction is critical because the CJP derives its strength from the authenticity of its core concerns. Youth unemployment, recruitment delays, examination cancellations, and paper leaks are not manufactured issues. They affect millions of families across India and have generated genuine frustration among a generation that increasingly feels its future is uncertain.

At the same time, questions remain about the movement's long-term direction.

The founder of the CJP, Abhijeet Dipke, comes from a political communications background and has previously worked with the Aam Aadmi Party. In addition, several opposition leaders, including Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, have publicly acknowledged the movement and encouraged greater youth participation in public affairs.

These developments have fueled speculation that the CJP could eventually evolve beyond a protest movement. Comparisons with the India Against Corruption movement of 2011 are inevitable. That campaign began as a citizen-led anti-corruption movement but eventually reshaped India's political landscape and led to the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party. Whether the CJP follows a similar path remains uncertain, but the parallels are difficult to ignore.

This brings us to the central question: Should the BJP be worried?

From an immediate electoral perspective,

the answer is probably no. The CJP lacks the organizational structure, grassroots network, leadership depth, and governance platform necessary to function as a serious electoral challenger. It remains a movement rather than a political party.

Yet dismissing it entirely would be a mistake.

The BJP's success over the past decade has not rested solely on electoral machinery. It has also been built on its ability to dominate political narratives and connect with aspirational voters, particularly young Indians. The CJP poses a different kind of challenge—not because it can win elections today, but because it has captured a conversation that resonates deeply with a large segment of India's youth.

Through satire, memes, short-form videos, and decentralized social media networks, the movement communicates in a language that many traditional political organizations struggle to replicate. It bypasses conventional media channels and engages directly with young citizens who increasingly consume information online.

More importantly, it has centered its message on opportunity. A government can effectively challenge opposition parties, but it is much harder to counter widespread frustration among students and first-time job seekers.

History offers a valuable lesson. The political establishment initially underestimated the India Against Corruption movement, viewing it as a temporary protest. Over time, however, it reshaped public discourse and created lasting political consequences. The CJP is not yet comparable in scale or influence, but its rapid growth suggests that youth-driven movements should never be dismissed outright.

The real challenge for the government is not the movement itself but the issues fueling its rise. If concerns about employment, examination integrity, and institutional accountability remain unresolved, similar movements will continue to emerge.

The CJP, meanwhile, faces its own test. A movement built on public anger must eventually offer solutions. A movement demanding accountability must remain transparent about its own leadership and objectives. Most importantly, it must resist becoming a vehicle for opportunistic political actors seeking to exploit legitimate grievances.

The June 6 rally at Jantar Mantar revealed both the promise and the risks of the Cockroach Janta Party. It showcased the frustrations of a generation demanding answers while also demonstrating how quickly such movements can become targets for political influence. Whether the CJP becomes a lasting force or a temporary phenomenon remains to be seen. What is already clear, however, is that India's youth have found a powerful new platform to express their concerns. Ignoring that reality would be a mistake for any political party.

Best Regards,
Dr. Avi Verma,
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G7 summit brings tight security to Swiss-French border



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French and Swiss authorities are imposing strict security measures around the G7 summit opening Monday in Evian-les-Bains, France, amid concerns over possible violent protests. The summit, expected to include President Donald Trump and other leaders, will focus on the Middle East, Ukraine and global economic imbalances. Although Switzerland is not a Group of Seven member, Geneva is central to the operation because leaders will pass through its airport, which sits close to the French border. Swiss authorities will deploy about 4,000 army personnel, while France plans to send more than 13,000 police and gendarmerie officers. Road, airspace and lake restrictions will be in place, and only seven of 35 border crossings will remain open. Businesses in Geneva have boarded up storefronts, while some institutions have told staff to work remotely. An authorized protest march is planned for Sunday, but unapproved gatherings are banned.

India monitors border as Jamaat-led protests raise tension over Bangladeshi repatriation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies are closely monitoring the India-Bangladesh border after Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and allied groups announced protests against alleged push-ins of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals. Reports said rallies were planned in border districts on Friday, followed by a larger protest and procession in Dhaka on Monday. Indian officials said the claims of forced push-ins and Border Security Force killings are false, maintaining that India is repatriating illegal foreign nationals only through legal procedures and bilateral mechanisms.

The protests come amid sensitive border-management talks between India and Bangladesh, with both sides agreeing to strengthen intelligence sharing, coordinated patrols and vigilance along the 4,000-kilometer frontier. Indian agencies fear the demonstrations could spread misinformation, inflame anti-India sentiment and create tensions near border areas. Officials also flagged calls by student-led groups to form “human shields,” warning that any attempt to provoke unrest near the frontier would be closely watched.

Brazil cites Amazon deforestation drop to challenge United States tariffs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian officials said Tuesday that Amazon deforestation fell sharply in May, pushing back against United States claims used to justify proposed tariffs on Brazilian imports. The National Institute for Space Research and the Environment Ministry said Amazon deforestation was 61.4 percent lower than in the same month last year, while deforestation in the Cerrado savanna fell 12 percent. Environment Minister João Paulo Capobianco said the May figure was the lowest ever recorded for the month and argued that it undercut accusations from Washington. The Trump administration recently proposed 25 percent tariffs on Brazilian goods, citing illegal deforestation and other trade concerns. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Brazil remains committed to reducing deforestation



to zero by 2030, calling forest protection a national responsibility.

Saudi Arabia lifts Lebanese import ban in sign of regional thaw

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia lifted its five-year ban on Lebanese imports Wednesday, marking a major step toward repairing relations between Lebanon and Gulf countries. Riyadh first banned Lebanese fruits and vegetables in 2021 after saying shipments were being used to smuggle drugs, including Captagon pills hidden in pomegranates. The ban was later expanded to all Lebanese products after a Lebanese minister criticized Saudi Arabia’s war against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. Saudi Arabia said the reversal followed positive steps by the Lebanese state, though it did not specify them.



Lebanon’s government has recently pledged reforms and efforts to curb non-state armed groups, including Hezbollah. President Joseph Aoun thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, saying the decision would support Lebanese producers, exporters and the struggling national economy.

China bars Philippine defense chief over South China Sea remarks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China this week banned Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and his family from entering China, including Hong Kong, over his criticism of Beijing’s claims in the South China Sea. China’s Foreign Ministry accused Teodoro of making remarks that harmed China’s interests and damaged relations with the Philippines. Teodoro has repeatedly rejected Beijing’s maritime claims, calling them a “fiction and lie,” and has criticized Chinese President Xi Jinping’s leadership. The move comes amid growing tensions between Beijing and Manila over disputed waters, where confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels have become



more frequent. An international tribunal rejected China’s sweeping South China Sea claims in 2016 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, but Beijing has refused to recognize the ruling.

Hong Kong seizes \$20 million in fake goods before World Cup kickoff

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong customs officials announced this week that they had seized about 230,000 suspected counterfeit items worth an estimated \$20 million just hours before the World Cup opened. The haul included nearly 30,000 soccer jerseys linked to the tournament, with some fake player-edition shirts made so closely to authentic versions that ordinary buyers could struggle to tell the difference. Officials said the

goods were meant for overseas markets, with nearly 80 percent headed to the Americas, where the World Cup is being hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. The seizure also included fake handbags, watches, speakers and footwear, some modeled on luxury brands. Authorities arrested a truck driver at a border checkpoint and five people linked to online jersey sales. All were released on bail as investigations continue. Anyone convicted of selling or possessing counterfeit goods for sale could face up to five years in prison and a fine.

Hong Kong charges seven people, two firms over deadly apartment fire



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong authorities charged seven people and two companies on Wednesday over last November’s Wang Fuk Court fire, which killed 168 people in the Tai Po district. Consultancy firm Will Power Architects Company and main contractor Prestige Construction & Engineering Co. were charged with manslaughter, along with senior company officials. Police and anti-corruption authorities also filed charges including conspiracy to defraud, money laundering, tax evasion and attempting to pervert public justice. Officials said suspected negligence over renovation materials, including non-fire-retardant scaffolding netting and foam boards, may have helped the fire spread rapidly and blocked escape routes. The case was adjourned until September.

High-stakes Senate races push U.S. midterm ad spending to record \$11.6 billion

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Political advertising for the November midterm elections in the United States is projected to reach a record \$11.6 billion, surpassing both the 2024 presidential cycle and the 2022 midterms, according to AdImpact. The updated forecast, released Thursday, is higher than the firm’s earlier \$10.8 billion estimate and reflects rising spending in competitive races that could decide control of Congress. Republicans are defending narrow majorities in the House and Senate amid high living costs and weak approval ratings for President Trump. AdImpact said the biggest increases are expected in Senate and gubernatorial contests in Ohio, Alaska and Iowa, along with Senate races in Texas and Maine. Ohio spending is projected at \$749 million, Texas at \$850 million and Maine at \$491 million. Democrats are favored to retake the House but face a tougher path in the Senate.

Iran will not get nuclear weapons while I am Israel’s Prime Minister, says Netanyahu

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that Iran would not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons as long as he remains in office, asserting that he and President Donald Trump are in complete agreement on the issue. Netanyahu said he has led an international campaign against Iran’s nuclear program for more than 30 years and argued that the effort prevented Tehran from developing weapons that could threaten Israel.

His statement came after Trump said a proposed United States-Iran framework agreement was close to completion and could be signed soon. Trump claimed Iran had approved terms permanently barring it from acquiring or developing nuclear weapons, though Tehran has not confirmed a final deal. The comments follow weeks of conflict and heightened tensions across the Gulf.

Modi's Europe visit may set stage for trade and security talks with Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit France and Slovakia from Saturday as India steps up its diplomatic engagement with Europe amid shifting global economic and security challenges. In France, Modi is expected to discuss bilateral cooperation and wider global issues, with defense, technology, clean energy, innovation and strategic coordination likely to remain central to the agenda. The visit could also include a possible meeting with President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit, where trade, visas and energy cooperation are expected to be key discussion points.

India and the United States are working toward an interim trade arrangement that could be finalized by mid-July, while tariff concerns, market access and issues affecting Indian professionals in the United States remain important. Modi will then travel to Slovakia, marking the first visit by an Indian prime minister to the country in nearly three decades, with trade, investment, technology, education and mobility expected to shape the talks.

Kuwait governor praises Indian community as New Delhi focuses on diaspora safety



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Mohammad Al-Habshi praised the Indian community's contribution to Kuwait's development during a meeting with Indian Ambassador Paramita Tripathi this week. The two discussed ways to further strengthen India-Kuwait relations, with special emphasis on economic cooperation, community-led initiatives and people-to-people ties. The meeting came at a sensitive time, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke by phone with Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and strongly condemned recent attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Modi also appreciated the Kuwaiti leadership's efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian nationals in the country. According to Kuwaiti authorities, recent attacks on Kuwait targeted civilian areas and Kuwait International Airport, killing one member of the Indian community and injuring others. Ambassador Tripathi visited injured Indian nationals earlier in the week, reflecting New Delhi's close monitoring of its diaspora's welfare in the Gulf. The Indian community remains one of the largest expatriate groups in Kuwait and plays a significant role in the country's workforce, business networks and cultural ties with India.

Goyal heads to Switzerland to fast-track \$100 billion trade pact

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Berne, Switzerland, from Thursday to Friday for talks aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association states. He is scheduled to meet Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Helene Budliger Artieda and Swiss Federal President Guy Parmelin, along with senior representatives of Switzerland's pharmaceutical industry. The discussions are expected to focus on operational issues under the agreement, investment flows, market access and institutional cooperation. Goyal will also meet Swiss companies and investors in Zurich to explore new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. The pact, signed in 2024 and implemented last year, covers India's engagement with Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland. It includes a commitment of \$100 billion



in investment over 15 years and aims to create one million direct jobs in India. The agreement is also expected to reduce tariffs on select European Free Trade Association goods, including Swiss watches, whisky and chocolates, while protecting sensitive Indian sectors such as dairy, soya, coal and some agricultural products.

India sends measles vaccines and medical supplies to Maldives under first responder role

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India sent 20,000 doses of measles vaccines and nearly three tonnes of medical supplies to Maldives on Thursday as the island nation works to contain a rise in measles cases. The Ministry of External Affairs said the consignment would help the Maldivian government strengthen immunization coverage and protect public health. The assistance came after Maldives' Health Protection Agency reported four more measles cases last week, raising confirmed infections this year to 15. The agency urged people with symptoms such as cough or red rash to wear masks, seek medical help and remain isolated until test results are confirmed. New Delhi said Maldives holds a special place in India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, and described India as a trusted first responder in the region. The gesture also comes amid efforts by both countries to stabilize and strengthen ties. Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu



recently congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected prime minister and said Maldives looked forward to deeper cooperation with India based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and shared interests.

India strengthens Myanmar quake response with final relief equipment shipment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India handed over the second and final consignment of earthquake relief equipment to Myanmar on Wednesday, reinforcing cooperation between the two neighbors in disaster response and resilience-building. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Abhay Thakur presented the equipment to U Khin Maung Htaey, president of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies, in Yangon.

The consignment includes thermal imaging cameras, microtremor devices, profoscopes, structural health monitoring sensors and real-time kinematic drones to support post-earthquake building inspections, geospatial mapping and rapid damage assessment.

The handover follows the first batch delivered in March, bringing India's total grant assistance under the initiative to more



than 357 pieces of advanced engineering equipment. Indian officials said the support will help Myanmar improve earthquake preparedness, structural assessment, rehabilitation planning and long-term disaster management capacity.

Indian envoy in Tibet reviews Kailash Mansarovar Yatra arrangements with Chinese officials

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami arrived in Lhasa on Thursday to review arrangements for Indian pilgrims participating in the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, which resumes fully after years of disruption. The Embassy of India in Beijing said Doraiswami and embassy officials visited the Tibet Autonomous Region to jointly assess preparations made by local authorities before official pilgrims arrive later this month.

He was received at Lhasa airport by Yang Lahong, Deputy Director General of the region's Foreign Affairs Office, and later met Zhao Peng, Vice Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region, who briefed him on facilities for the pilgrims. The 2026 yatra will begin in June and continue until August, with 1,000 pilgrims selected through a computerized, random and gender-balanced process.

They will travel in 20 batches of 50 through the Lipulekh and Nathu La passes. Both routes are now fully motorable and involve limited trekking, though the journey remains physically demanding because pilgrims pass through high-altitude terrain. The yatra, sacred to Hindus, Jains and Buddhists, had been suspended from 2020 until its resumption after disruptions linked to the pandemic and India-China arrangements.

India and Indonesia deepen strategic dialogue amid Indo-Pacific shifts



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Indonesia reviewed their growing strategic partnership during the eighth Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi on Sunday, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono discussing cooperation across trade, defense, maritime security, connectivity, digital infrastructure and regional affairs. The talks came as both countries seek a larger role in shaping Indo-Pacific stability, resilient supply chains and economic cooperation among major Asian economies. Indonesia remains a key Southeast Asian partner for India because of shared maritime interests, expanding trade prospects and common concerns over secure sea lanes. The meeting under the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership also reflected New Delhi's broader push to strengthen ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Both sides agreed to sustain high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation in areas that support regional security and long-term economic growth.



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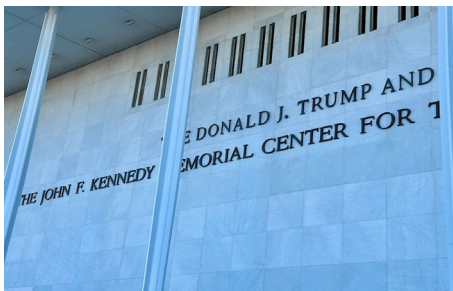
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GKN Aerospace faces lawsuits over California chemical tank scare

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 30 lawsuits have been filed against GKN Aerospace after an overheated chemical tank at its Garden Grove facility forced about 50,000 California residents to evacuate last month. The tank contained thousands of gallons of methyl methacrylate, a highly flammable chemical used in plastics and coatings. Plaintiffs, including residents and businesses, accuse the company of negligence and say they suffered health symptoms, financial losses and anxiety during the evacuation. Ten lawsuits were filed as class actions in federal court, while others are in state court. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Environmental Protection Agency searched the facility Wednesday for evidence related to possible environmental crimes. GKN said it respects the legal process.

Trump appeals order removing his name from Kennedy Center



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's administration appealed Thursday against a federal court order requiring his name to be removed from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The ruling also blocked Trump's plan to close the Washington venue for a two-year renovation. United States District Judge Christopher Cooper ruled last month that Congress named the center for former President John F. Kennedy and that only Congress can change it. The case was brought by Democratic Representative Joyce Beatty, a Kennedy Center board member through her position in Congress. Trump later said he wanted to transfer control of the center to Congress, citing safety and repair concerns at the building.

Kirk shooting suspect seeks sanctions over prosecutor comments

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Attorneys for Tyler Robinson, the man accused of killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk, are asking a Utah judge to hold prosecutors in contempt over media comments about a bullet fragment recovered from Kirk's body. Robinson's defense team argues prosecutors violated court restrictions on discussing the case publicly. Prosecutors said they were allowed to correct misinformation after reports focused on a preliminary ballistics finding that did not immediately match fragments to a gun allegedly used by Robinson. Robinson, 23, is charged with aggravated murder in Kirk's shooting at Utah Valley University and prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty if he is convicted. He has not entered a plea. A key evidence hearing is scheduled for next month.

Trump locks in long-term immigration funding after 116-day standoff

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump signed the Secure America Act on Wednesday, ending a 116-day dispute over immigration enforcement funding and giving Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol resources through the end of his term. The package provides about \$70 billion for enforcement operations, staffing, training, equipment, border security technology and screening systems.

More than \$38 billion is directed to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including personnel, removal operations,

Homeland Security Investigations and support for local law enforcement agencies that work with federal immigration authorities. Another \$22 billion goes to Border Patrol for recruitment, pay, training and mission support. Trump praised immigration agents as "heroes" and said the bill would help secure the border.

Democrats opposed the measure, calling it a blank check for mass deportation without adequate oversight or accountability. The legislation passed narrowly in the House after clearing the Senate through budget reconciliation, which allowed Republicans to bypass the 60-vote filibuster threshold.

Pentagon adds major Chinese tech firms to military-linked blacklist

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pentagon has added several major Chinese companies, including Alibaba, Baidu and electric vehicle maker BYD, to a list of firms it says support China's military. The list, released Monday in a Federal Register notice, also includes companies tied to artificial intelligence, solar technology, biotechnology, semiconductors, robotics and electric batteries. The designation does not immediately impose sanctions, but it bars the Pentagon from directly or indirectly buying goods, services or technology from listed firms.

Officials described the companies as contributors to China's "military-civil fusion"



strategy, which links commercial innovation with military modernization. The list is required under defense law and is meant to alert the public and private sectors to national security risks. Several Chinese firms have denied military links, while Beijing has criticized the move as discriminatory.

Pentagon denies retaliation claim in Anthropic security-risk case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pentagon denied Monday that it retaliated against artificial intelligence company Anthropic by labeling it a supply-chain risk after the firm refused to give the government unrestricted access to its Claude model. Anthropic sued in March, arguing the designation punished the company for protected speech and could block it from federal contracts. The Pentagon said the claim should not be reviewed under the Administrative Procedure Act because Anthropic was not challenging a final agency action.

It also denied plans to use Claude for mass domestic surveillance or weapons systems that kill without human oversight.



A federal judge in California temporarily blocked the designation in March, allowing Anthropic to keep working with federal agencies and contractors while litigation continues. The dispute highlights growing tensions over military use of commercial artificial intelligence.

Judge strikes down Trump's \$100,000 H-1B visa fee

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge in Massachusetts ruled Monday that President Donald Trump's \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions was unlawful, saying the policy imposed a tax without authorization from Congress. United States District Judge Leo Sorokin said the president may restrict entry of some noncitizens, but Congress controls taxation

and had not delegated that power for the visa fee. He also found the policy violated the Administrative Procedure Act because it took effect without public notice and comment. The ruling vacates the fee in full, offering relief to employers, universities and skilled foreign workers who rely on the H-1B program. The lawsuit was filed by Massachusetts and 19 other states. The White House defended the policy and said it expects the decision to be reversed on appeal.

Appeals court lets Trump tariffs continue during legal fight

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States government can keep collecting President Donald Trump's 10 percent worldwide tariff while legal challenges continue, a federal appeals court ruled Thursday. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit said the administration's case was likely to succeed on the merits, giving Trump a procedural victory. The tariffs were imposed in February under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows temporary worldwide tariffs of up to 15 percent for 150 days to address international payments problems. A lower trade court had ruled the tariffs unlawful, saying Trump exceeded authority delegated by Congress. The tariffs are set to expire in July unless Congress extends them, and the case could reach the Supreme Court.

Newsom sends \$46 million to fight Tijuana River pollution

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced Thursday that the state will provide \$46 million in voter-approved funding to address chronic pollution in the Tijuana River near the United States-Mexico border. Since 2018, more than 100 billion gallons of raw sewage mixed with industrial chemicals and trash have flowed into the river, according to officials. The funding, drawn from a 2024 climate and water bond, will support competitive grants for projects that reduce bacteria and trash, address public health threats and restore damaged areas. Newsom said San Diego County residents should not face polluted air, closed beaches or illness risks. Environmental groups welcomed the money but said far more federal funding is needed.

Justice Department seeks to revoke citizenship of 17 naturalized Americans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department said Monday it has asked federal courts to revoke the citizenship of 17 naturalized Americans accused of concealing crimes or making false statements during the naturalization process. Officials said the cases involve people who pleaded guilty or were convicted of offenses including child sexual abuse, drug crimes, fraud and visa-related violations. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said naturalized citizens who break the law and hide past crimes can face consequences, while Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said citizenship must be earned honestly. Under federal law, citizenship can be revoked if it was obtained through concealment of a material fact or willful misrepresentation. Immigration experts note denaturalization remains legally difficult and historically rare, though recent filings show an expanded enforcement push.

Justice Department sues Virginia over law enforcement mask ban



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department sued Virginia on Thursday over a new state law restricting law enforcement officers from wearing masks, calling it an unconstitutional attempt to regulate federal agents. The department argued that the ban could endanger federal officers by exposing their identities during operations. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said Virginia's policy created risks for agents and could not stand. The law was signed last month by Governor Abigail Spanberger and applies limits on facial coverings for law enforcement. Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones said his office was reviewing the lawsuit. Similar proposals have also emerged in states such as California and New York.

Trump nominates Jay Clayton for top intelligence post

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Thursday he is nominating Jay Clayton, the United States attorney for the Southern District of New York and former Securities and Exchange Commission chairman, as director of national intelligence. The nomination came after criticism of Trump's plan to install Bill Pulte as acting director following Tulsi Gabbard's resignation. The director oversees coordination across 18 intelligence agencies. Trump praised Clayton's credentials and urged quick Senate confirmation. Senate Republicans said they hoped to move rapidly, while Democrats continued to object to Pulte remaining in the role even temporarily. Clayton has led the Manhattan federal prosecutor's office through cases involving terrorism, espionage, public corruption, securities fraud and national security threats.

Florida high court rejects bid to block congressional map

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Florida Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a petition seeking intervention in a legal challenge to the state's 2026 congressional map, saying it lacked jurisdiction at this stage. The 6-1 ruling did not address the merits of claims that the map violates Florida's Fair Districts Amendment. Equal Ground Education and other plaintiffs had asked the court to step in after the First District Court of Appeal declined to expedite the case. The map was enacted in May after a special legislative session called by Governor Ron DeSantis. Florida redistricting has long been politically contentious, with voters approving constitutional protections in 2010 to limit partisan favoritism and require compact, contiguous districts.

Supreme Court revives challenge to Biden-era gas furnace rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court on Monday revived a legal challenge to Biden-era energy efficiency standards for consumer gas furnaces and commercial water heaters. In an unsigned order, the justices vacated a District of Columbia appeals court ruling that had upheld the Department of Energy rules and sent the case back for further review.

The American Gas Association argues the standards would effectively push many traditional non-condensing gas furnaces out of the market by 2028, forcing families to switch appliances or pay for costly home renovations.

The Trump administration has since changed the department's position, saying the rules are legally and factually flawed and are being reconsidered. The case also reflects the wider impact of the Supreme Court's 2024 decision limiting



judicial deference to federal agencies. Environmental groups and New York officials had urged the court to leave the rule in place, arguing it would reduce emissions and save consumers money.

Supreme Court blocks Alabama nitrogen execution for now

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court on Thursday refused to lift an injunction blocking Alabama from executing Jeffery Lee by nitrogen gas, leaving in place a lower-court finding that the method is unconstitutionally cruel. The 6-3 order came after the scheduled execution time had passed and offered no detailed explanation. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch said they would have allowed the execution to proceed. Lee's lawyers welcomed the ruling, noting that his jury had voted for life imprisonment before a judge overrode that recommendation. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall



criticized the decision and said the state would continue seeking to carry out Lee's sentence for the murders of Jimmy Ellis and Elaine Thompson.

New York plans major events for America's 250th anniversary

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York will host a wide range of summer and fall events to mark the United States' 250th anniversary, with celebrations planned from Long Island to the Hudson Valley and northern New York. Port Jervis will hold the America the Beautiful Festival on Saturday and Sunday, featuring Revolutionary War reenactors, music, food and family activities. A festival near Rochester will include a Declaration of Independence reading, historical games and stories about Seneca and Haudenosaunee peoples. New York Harbor will welcome tall



ships in July, including a parade and public visits. Other events include Independence Day tributes in Rome, fireworks in Albany, the FourLeaf Air Show, Saratoga-area commemorations and a Battle of White Plains reenactment.

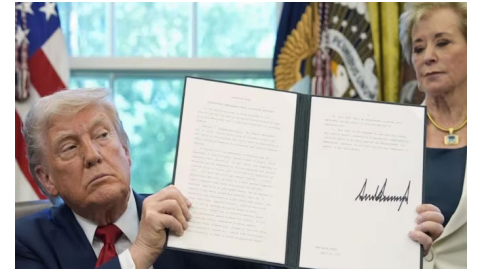
Trump administration says 146,000 unaccompanied migrant children located

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said Thursday that the Trump administration has located 146,000 unaccompanied migrant children who officials say had been missing after entering the United States. Speaking at a Justice Department news conference with acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, Mullin said investigators uncovered cases of severe abuse and accused the previous

administration of neglecting child safety. Blanche said the Justice Department is tracking 15,500 "super sponsor" cases and announced indictments of three undocumented immigrants accused of trafficking more than a dozen children into the country. Officials said some children were allegedly told to use false identities or lie to federal authorities. Mullin also criticized sanctuary jurisdictions, saying many cases were found in cities with limited cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

States sue Trump administration over anti-DEI contract rules



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A coalition of 20 Democratic attorneys general sued the Trump administration Wednesday over new federal contract rules tied to President Donald Trump's executive order targeting diversity, equity and inclusion practices. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Maryland, says federal agencies imposed vague restrictions on contractors without proper notice, public comment or legal justification. Trump's March order requires agencies to include clauses barring contractors from engaging in what it calls "racially discriminatory DEI activities" while performing federal work. Noncompliance could lead to canceled contracts, suspension, removal from future bidding and possible False Claims Act liability. The states argue the rules violate federal administrative and procurement laws. The lawsuit seeks to block enforcement of the contract terms.

Kennedy rejects report that he is disengaged at health agency

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pushed back Tuesday against a report suggesting he appeared disengaged from parts of the Department of Health and Human Services. Kennedy said he works long hours, holds daily meetings with leaders from the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and makes final decisions across the department. He said he often leaves the office in the evening only to continue emails and calls until late at night. The report drew criticism from Democrats and health professionals, who pointed to leadership gaps during an Ebola outbreak. Kennedy said some anonymous sources cited had been fired or left before dismissal.

Tornadoes batter Midwest as heat grips East Coast

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least three tornadoes struck communities outside Chicago after severe storms swept across the Midwest on Wednesday, damaging homes, ripping down trees and power poles, and disrupting flights. Merrillville, Indiana, warned residents to take cover immediately as a large funnel cloud moved through the area, while Streator, Illinois, opened a family reunification center after major damage. Officials reported no deaths there. In Des Moines, Iowa, police said a man died when a tree fell during strong storms. Flights were delayed or halted in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York, and more than 1,000 Chicago flights were delayed or canceled. Meanwhile, the East Coast faced dangerous heat and humidity, with Philadelphia opening cooling centers.

Ludhiana youth returns from Mauritius detention after Seechewal's intervention



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Ludhiana resident has returned to India after being detained in Mauritius, with his family crediting Rajya Sabha member Balbir Singh Seechewal's intervention for his release. Jaswinder Singh said he had travelled to Mauritius last year on a tourist visa after being assured by travel agents that it would be converted into a work visa. Instead, he alleged, company officials took his passport, made him work long shifts, withheld one month's salary and later dismissed him once work ended. Without his passport and legal status, he was detained by local police and lost contact with his family for nearly three weeks. His relatives approached Seechewal in May, after which he wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs and followed up with authorities. The Indian Embassy helped secure Jaswinder's release, recover his passport and arrange his return, exposing renewed concerns over trafficking-style exploitation through fake overseas job promises.

Hyderabad family seeks justice after son is shot dead in Philadelphia



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of 28-year-old Anshul Kuncha from Hyderabad has sought justice after he was shot dead while delivering pizzas in Philadelphia. Kuncha had moved to the United States about four years ago for studies and was working with a multinational company in North Philadelphia while taking weekend delivery jobs for extra income. His sister said the family was told he was shot multiple times and left on the road. She alleged the delivery appeared to be a trap because he was sent to a vacant or abandoned location and nothing was stolen from him. The Consulate General of India in New York expressed condolences and said it was in touch with the family while extending assistance. Kuncha's family has appealed to the Ministry of External Affairs to help bring his mortal remains to India and ensure a fair investigation into the killing.

H-1B fee ruling offers relief to Indian professionals but leaves visa uncertainty unresolved

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A federal court in Massachusetts struck down the Trump administration's \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications on Monday, bringing significant relief to Indian professionals, students and United States employers that depend on skilled foreign workers. The court ruled that the executive branch lacked the authority to impose such a major financial burden without approval from Congress. The decision is especially important for Indians, who form the largest share of H-1B visa holders and are strongly represented in technology, engineering, healthcare, finance and research roles.

Diaspora organizations welcomed the ruling, saying it restores fairness and predictability to employment-based immigration and helps American companies access global talent. For Indian graduates at United States universities, the judgment also reduces fears that employers may avoid sponsorship because of prohibitive costs. However, immigration experts cautioned that the issue is not fully settled. The administration could appeal the ruling or pursue tighter H-1B controls through increased scrutiny, processing delays, compliance checks or regulatory changes. For now, the ruling removes an immediate barrier, but the larger debate over skilled immigration remains active.



Southampton Sikhs plan Akhand Path to honor Henry Nowak and promote community healing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Southampton's Sikh community is planning a 48-hour Akhand Path in memory of Henry Nowak, the teenage university student murdered by Vickrum Singh Digwa, as a gesture of solidarity with his family and the wider city. Local gurdwaras are discussing arrangements for the uninterrupted reading of Sikh scripture, with plans to invite Nowak's family, local residents and members of different communities. Baldev Singh of the Supreme Sikh Council United Kingdom said Sikhs shared the grief of Henry's family and wanted the event to become a moment of prayer, sympathy and healing.



Community leaders said the killing should not be allowed to create suspicion or hostility toward an entire faith group. Retired judge Anup Singh Choudry also urged the public not to link Digwa's crime with Sikh religious practice, stressing that the fatal weapon was reportedly a Pesh Kabz, not a kirpan. The

distinction is important because the kirpan is an article of faith recognized under British law. Digwa was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 21 years. The planned prayers are expected to honor Henry's memory while reaffirming Southampton's commitment to unity.

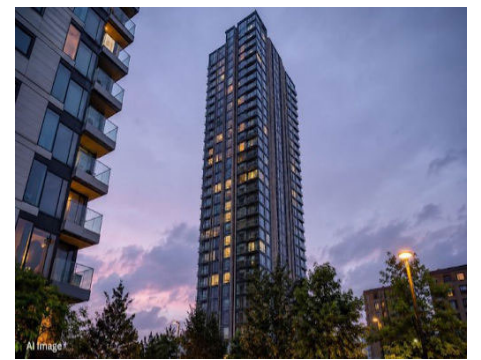
Ludhiana family searches for deported son missing since return from United States

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Ludhiana family is still searching for 29-year-old Amritpal Singh, who disappeared after returning to India following deportation from the United States last year. His family said they had borrowed about Rs 50 lakh to send him abroad through a Jalandhar-based travel agent, who allegedly routed him through Dubai and several countries using the illegal "donkey route." Amritpal later entered the United States

and found work, but was detained during an immigration crackdown and remained in custody for months before being deported. After landing in Delhi, he reached Ludhiana and contacted his family once before vanishing. Security-camera footage later showed him near a hotel and a food outlet close to Dayanand Medical College and Hospital. His family fears he may have slipped into depression after deportation or been illegally confined. Police have registered a case against unidentified persons and say the investigation is underway.

Indian-origin family dies after fall from London tower block



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin couple and their nine-year-old son died after falling from the 36th floor of a luxury apartment block in south London, in what British media reports have described as a suspected murder-suicide. Rakesh Pai, 47, Aditi Paralkar, 46, and their son Sid were pronounced dead at the scene after emergency services responded to reports of people falling from the Highpoint tower in Elephant and Castle.

Local lawmaker Neil Coyle said the child had severe medical conditions, reportedly including kidney disease, and police believe the family's circumstances may have contributed to the tragedy. Pai and Paralkar, both born in India, worked as consultants in finance and construction.

Reports said the couple had earlier sought medical treatment for their son in India before returning to Britain last year. Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances, while an inquest is expected to determine exactly what happened.

Punjab-origin Ontario police officer killed during attempted arrest



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Constable Tarun Bali, a Punjab-origin officer with the Ontario Provincial Police, died in the line of duty on Tuesday after being critically injured during an investigation near Hearst in northern Ontario. Bali, who hailed from Nangal in Punjab's Ropar district, had served with the Dufferin Detachment and was on a special assignment with the James Bay Detachment. Police said he and another officer were injured when a vehicle allegedly rammed into them during an attempted apprehension near Kendall Concession Road 7 and Concession Road 6. Bali later died of his injuries, while the second officer remained under medical care. An 18-year-old suspect has been charged with first-degree murder, dangerous driving, flight from police, assaulting a peace officer and resisting arrest. Bali's death has shocked his family, hometown and the Indo-Canadian community, with tributes honoring his service, courage and sacrifice.

Brampton sweet shop shooting raises concern over gang-style intimidation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gunshots were reportedly fired at a sweet shop in Brampton, Canada, with a purported video of the incident going viral on social media on Thursday. The video allegedly shows a person sitting inside a car, loading a firearm and firing several rounds toward the business. Soon after, a social media post under the name Aarzo Bishnoi claimed responsibility for the attack and alleged that the shop owner had ignored repeated phone calls. The post also named Tyson Bishnoi and Shubham Lokar in connection with the firing and denied rumors of differences between the Bishnoi brothers. Police had not issued a public statement when the report emerged, and the shop owner reportedly said he was unaware of the firing. The incident has added to concern among South Asian businesses in Canada over intimidation-style attacks and alleged links to transnational gang networks.

Indian-American couple donates \$5.5 million to boost community health care in Texas

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American entrepreneur Brij Agrawal and his wife, Sunita Agrawal, have donated \$5.5 million to St. Luke's Health-Sugar Land Hospital in Texas, marking the largest single philanthropic gift in the hospital's history. The contribution will support clinical programs and help create a new Primary Care Community Clinic aimed at expanding access to regular medical care for underserved residents. In recognition of the donation, the hospital's main patient tower and pavilion will be renamed the Agrawal Family Patient Tower and Pavilion. Brij Agrawal, who moved from Chhattisgarh to Houston as a teenager, later studied mechanical engineering at the University of Houston and built VKC Group, a restaurant company with more than 150 locations across Texas, Colorado and New Mexico. The gift reflects the couple's long-standing commitment to health care, education and community development in the Houston region.

Indian-origin founder warns students against risky loans for private German universities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin entrepreneur and researcher Mayukh Panja has warned Indian students against taking large loans to enroll in what he called "scammy" private universities in Germany. Panja, founder of artificial intelligence firm Populations, said on X that many students desperate to move to Europe are being drawn in by institutions that "sell you a dream" of easy jobs and financial security. He claimed some students end up working long hours in delivery, restaurant or gig jobs in Berlin while struggling with debt, low pay and poor academic outcomes. Panja urged students not to borrow heavily or sell family land for low-standard private programs, advising them instead to target Germany's competitive, low-cost state universities. He also said Germany remains an excellent destination for those entering strong public universities or top research institutes.

Indian-origin CEO faces citizenship loss in United States visa fraud crackdown

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-origin businessman Neeraj Sharma is among 17 naturalized United States citizens facing possible denaturalization as the Department of Justice expands action against people accused of obtaining citizenship through fraud, concealment or misrepresentation. Sharma, 50, was born in India and formerly served as chief executive officer of Magnavision LLC, a New Jersey-based staffing company.

Federal prosecutors allege that between 2015 and 2017, the company filed 11 fraudulent H-1B visa petitions claiming that foreign workers would be placed at a major global financial institution. Authorities said the applications included forged executive signatures and fabricated documents designed to secure immigration benefits. Prosecutors further allege that when Sharma applied for United States citizenship in 2017, he falsely denied having committed offenses, providing false information or lying to immigration authorities.

His application was approved and he



became a United States citizen later that year. The government says he was later convicted in connection with the visa fraud scheme and is now seeking to revoke his citizenship through civil proceedings. The case is part of a broader Trump administration crackdown targeting naturalized citizens accused of immigration fraud or serious crimes, raising concern among immigrant communities about expanded denaturalization enforcement.

Rohtak surgeon's United Kingdom fellowship highlights India's growing medical research profile

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dr. Amrish Bhagol, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Post Graduate Institute of Dental Sciences in Rohtak, has earned international recognition through a prestigious fellowship and visiting professorship in the United Kingdom. Bhagol completed the International Travel Fellowship jointly offered by the Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India and the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was selected from 62 applicants through a rigorous two-stage national process, underscoring the competitive nature of the honor. As part of the fellowship, he trained at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, one of the largest and most advanced National Health Service hospitals in the United Kingdom.

His training exposed him to advanced surgical techniques and multidisciplinary treatment of complex cases involving maxillofacial trauma, head and neck cancer, cleft and craniofacial deformities, and



reconstructive surgery. Bhagol has also been recognized as a visiting professor at the Glasgow hospital in acknowledgment of his academic achievements, research work and international collaborations. He has authored more than 100 research papers, contributed chapters to several textbooks, holds three registered patents and is known for highly cited research on mandibular condylar fractures. His achievement reflects the growing global footprint of Indian medical scholarship.

Indian-origin biologist's European award highlights diaspora leadership in frontier science

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin scientist Gautam Dey has won the 2026 European Molecular Biology Organization Gold Medal, one of Europe's most prestigious honors for early-career researchers in the life sciences. Dey, who leads a research group at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, shared the honor with Omayya Dudin of the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Dey was recognized for his work on the evolutionary origins of nuclear organization and cell division, while Dudin was honored for research on the origins of multicellularity.

The European Molecular Biology Organization said its council selected

two winners this year to recognize scientific excellence as well as the open and productive collaboration between the researchers. Dey studied biochemistry at the University of Delhi and completed research training at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bengaluru before earning his doctorate at Stanford University.

He later worked at University College London on eukaryogenesis, the evolutionary process through which simple cells developed complex internal structures such as nuclei. Since 2021, he has led his own group in Heidelberg. His award places him among a growing group of Indian-origin scientists making influential contributions to global research in cell biology, evolution and molecular science.

Indian-origin achievers stand out in Forbes immigrant success list



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twenty-seven Indian-origin leaders have been named in Forbes' list of 250 successful living immigrants in America, underscoring the growing influence of the Indian diaspora across United States technology, business, academia, philanthropy and media. The list, released as the United States prepares to mark its 250th anniversary, recognizes immigrants who have helped shape the country's economy and public life. Indian-origin names include Google chief executive Sundar Pichai, Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella, IBM chief executive Arvind Krishna, Adobe chief executive Shantanu Narayen, Micron chief executive Sanjay Mehrotra, cybersecurity entrepreneur Jay Chaudhry, venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, investor Naval Ravikant and Google early backer Kavitar Ram Shriram. Former PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi, Nobel Prize-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee, television host and author Padma Lakshmi, philanthropist Neerja Sethi, Confluent cofounder Neha Narkhede and clean-energy entrepreneur K. R. Sridhar were also featured. The recognition comes amid a heated immigration debate, offering a sharp reminder of how Indian-origin immigrants continue to drive American innovation, job creation, research, culture and global competitiveness.

Indian-origin Singaporean charged over abusive emails to lawmaker and staff



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 72-year-old Indian-origin Singaporean man has been charged in court over allegedly abusive emails sent to a Member of Parliament and town council employees. Manickam Manohar faces harassment-related charges after allegedly sending messages to Marsiling-Yew Tee Member of Parliament Hany Soh and town council staff member Neo Yeng Kwang. Reports said the emails accused Soh of wrongdoing and contained insulting language directed at town council employees. Manickam reportedly told the court that he had written an apology letter to Soh and the town council employee. The case has drawn attention because it involves alleged online abuse of public officials and municipal staff, an issue Singapore authorities have treated seriously under harassment laws. The matter is expected to return to court next month.



Gates tells Congress Epstein tried to pressure him over past affairs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bill Gates told United States lawmakers on Wednesday that Jeffrey Epstein tried to pressure him into renewed contact by using knowledge of his extramarital affairs, along with what Gates described as additional false claims. Testifying privately before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Gates said he did not fully understand the extent of Epstein's crimes when he met him to discuss possible fundraising for the Gates Foundation.

He also said he never witnessed criminal conduct by Epstein and has acknowledged that meeting him was a mistake. The committee is investigating the Justice Department's handling of the Epstein case, including prosecutions, plea deals, Epstein's death and delayed release of government files. Epstein pleaded guilty to a Florida prostitution charge in 2008, was later charged federally with sex trafficking of minors, and died in jail in 2019 before trial.

Strong El Niño raises fears of costly global weather extremes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmed on Thursday that El Niño has formed in the Pacific Ocean, with scientists warning it could become one of the strongest events on record.

El Niño is a natural warming of equatorial Pacific waters that can shift weather patterns worldwide, and this one is expected to add heat to a planet already warmed by fossil fuel pollution. Forecasters said there is a 63 percent chance it could rank among the largest El Niño events recorded since 1950 by late fall or early winter.

Experts warned of more intense heat, floods, droughts, wildfires and storms across several regions. The effects will vary as per different regions wherein India may face stronger heat waves, Australia could see drought and fire risks, western South America may face flooding, and the Pacific could see heightened storm activity.

European Central Bank raises rates as Iran war drives new inflation pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Central Bank raised interest rates on Thursday for the first time since 2023, responding to renewed inflation pressure linked to the war in Iran and higher energy costs. The bank lifted its main deposit rate from 2 percent to 2.25 percent, while the rate on main refinancing operations rose to 2.4 percent. Eurozone inflation climbed to 3.2 percent in May, above the bank's 2 percent target. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said the economic outlook remained uncertain as the conflict continued to affect energy prices. The bank also lowered its eurozone growth forecasts to 0.8 percent for 2026 and 1.2 percent for 2027.

Ukraine's strikes on Russian supply routes deepen Crimea's fuel crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian drone strikes on refineries, depots, pipelines and fuel trucks have triggered the worst fuel crisis in Russian-held Crimea since Moscow annexed the peninsula in 2014. The attacks have disrupted supplies along the land corridor from Russia to Crimea, leaving motorists in long lines at gas stations and forcing authorities to ration fuel.

The shortages come as Russia marks its national holiday on Friday, the start of the summer travel season, threatening Crimea's tourism-dependent economy. Authorities have limited gasoline purchases, while tourists have sought help after being stranded.

Ukraine has also repeatedly targeted bridges and routes used to move troops, ammunition and fuel. The Kremlin has acknowledged the shortages and promised action, while Russian military



bloggers have criticized Moscow's failure to protect supply lines. The strikes underline Kyiv's growing ability to damage Russian logistics despite Moscow's continuing hold on Crimea.

Southern Philippines reels after powerful earthquake kills dozens and displaces thousands



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 37 people were killed and hundreds injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the southern Philippines early Monday, causing buildings to collapse and triggering tsunami alerts. The quake hit off the coast of Sarangani province, with strong shaking felt across Mindanao and as far as parts of Indonesia. Civil defense officials said 479 people were injured and four were missing, while about 88,000 people were affected, including more than 20,000 displaced. Authorities warned residents not to enter damaged homes or buildings because of aftershocks. Hospitals, schools and commercial buildings were damaged. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said evacuation centers were ready and schools in affected areas would remain suspended.

Hegseth warns Cuba against weapons that could threaten Guantánamo or United States mainland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned Cuba on Wednesday against acquiring weapons capable of threatening the United States military base at Guantánamo Bay or the American mainland. Speaking to troops during a visit to the base in southeastern Cuba, Hegseth said Havana would be inviting a confrontation it could not withstand if it sought such weapons.

His remarks came as the Trump administration increases pressure on Cuba through sanctions and an oil blockade. The warning followed reports that Cuba had obtained military drones and discussed possible plans to target Guantánamo, United States vessels or Florida. Havana rejected the claims, with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez



accusing Washington of using baseless allegations to prepare for conflict.

Guantánamo Bay remains the site of the controversial prison used after the September 11 attacks and has also been considered by President Donald Trump as a holding site for deported immigrants.

Trump's anime posts spark backlash from Japanese manga fans over copyright concerns

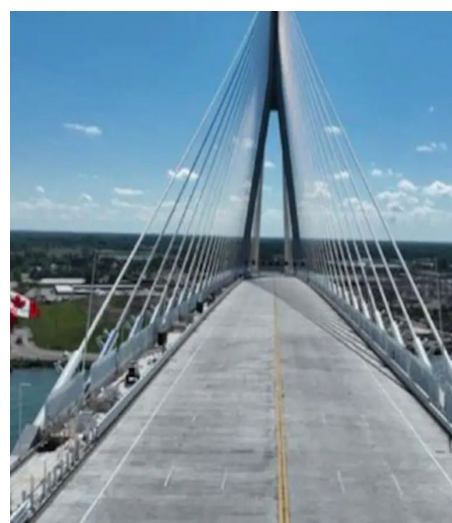
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japanese manga and anime fans are urging President Donald Trump and the White House to stop using popular characters in political social media posts. A Change.org petition, which has gathered about 20,000 signatures, objects to the use of imagery from series such as 'Dragon Ball,' 'Yu-Gi-Oh!' and 'Naruto.' The petition was first created in March after the official White House X account posted a video combining United States strikes on Iran with anime footage. Outrage grew again after an image appeared on Truth Social showing Trump as Naruto Uzumaki. Fans said the posts showed disregard for Japanese culture and copyright. The official 'Yu-Gi-Oh!' account earlier said no permission had been granted.

Gordie Howe bridge opening delayed amid United States-Canada trade tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and Canada have delayed the opening of the \$4.7 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, after objections from President Donald Trump. A ribbon-cutting ceremony had been planned for Friday, but officials said both countries agreed to take more time to resolve outstanding issues. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada accepted the delay at the request of the Trump administration, adding that a few weeks were worthwhile for a bridge expected to serve both countries for decades. Trump had earlier cited trade disputes, including Canadian restrictions on some United States alcoholic beverages, dairy tariffs and Canada's talks with China. The bridge, financed by Canada, is intended



to ease pressure on the rival Ambassador Bridge, the busiest commercial crossing on the United States-Canada border. It is expected to reduce truck crossing times and save billions in transportation costs.

Thailand's royal succession questions deepen after Princess Bajrakitiyabha's death

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, the eldest child of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, has died at age 47 after spending nearly four years in a coma, the palace said Friday. Known as Princess Bha, she had been hospitalized since December 2022 after suffering heart problems while training her dogs. The palace said her condition had worsened in recent weeks because of multiple infections, irregular heartbeat, kidney complications and breathing difficulties. Born in 1978, Bajrakitiyabha held degrees from Cornell University and served as Thailand's ambassador to Austria, in the attorney general's office, and as a United Nations goodwill ambassador. Her death is expected to revive sensitive questions about royal succession in Thailand.

Canadian mother sues OpenAI, alleging ChatGPT failed to protect suicidal daughter

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canadian mother sued OpenAI and Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman in a United States court on Thursday, alleging ChatGPT encouraged her 24-year-old daughter to kill herself.

Kristie Carrier said her daughter, Alice Carrier, a web developer in Montreal, shared suicidal thoughts with ChatGPT more than a dozen times before her death, but the company's safety systems failed to stop or flag the conversations.

The lawsuit claims the chatbot acted like a confidant or therapist, validated her distress and criticized crisis hotlines. OpenAI said it was reviewing the filing and that the interactions involved an older version of ChatGPT that is no longer available. The lawsuit seeks damages and stronger safeguards.

Kenya protest over proposed United States Ebola facility turns deadly

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A man was shot dead on Tuesday during a protest in Nanyuki, Kenya, against a proposed Ebola quarantine facility for United States citizens. Protest organizer Patrick Wahome said the man died from a gunshot wound to the head, while Reuters reporters saw his body in a police van.

Demonstrators had gathered near Laikipia airbase, the proposed site of the center, with some wearing protective gear and carrying a coffin marked "Ebola." Police used tear gas and made arrests.

Opponents say Kenya should not host people potentially exposed to the virus. A Nairobi court has temporarily blocked the facility, but President William Ruto has said Kenya should support Washington because of years of United States aid.

Toronto officer killed during probe into United States Consulate attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Toronto police officer Marc Pinizzotto was shot and killed on Thursday during an investigation linked to a March gunfire attack on the United States Consulate in Toronto.

Police Chief Myron Demkiw said the 43-year-old officer, an 18-year veteran of the force, died in hospital after being shot while officers executed search warrants tied to several shootings.

One suspect, 19-year-old Nicholas Bennett, was in custody in critical condition and is expected to face a first-degree murder charge. Police were still searching for 19-year-old Zara Jabbi, who is wanted in connection with the consulate attack and considered armed and dangerous. The March shooting damaged the consulate's exterior but caused no injuries.

Western allies sanction Israeli settlers over rising violence in occupied West Bank

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Norway and New Zealand announced coordinated sanctions Tuesday targeting Israeli settlers and groups accused of enabling violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The countries said extremist settlers had attacked Palestinians with near impunity while settlement expansion continued with support from Israel's government. France barred Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich from entering the country, saying he had promoted settlement expansion and policies aimed at weakening the Palestinian Authority. The United Kingdom imposed sanctions on entities and individuals accused of financing settlements or violent



acts. Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the measures as disgraceful. More than 700,000 Israelis live in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Sudan drone strikes kill at least 15 as war hits central region

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sudanese paramilitary forces carried out overnight drone strikes in the central city of el-Obeid, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens, health officials said Thursday. The attacks began late Wednesday and targeted several areas, including sites near an army position, a cemetery where mourners had gathered, and a gas station. The strikes were blamed on the Rapid Support Forces, which have been fighting Sudan's military since 2023. The war has killed at least 59,000 people, displaced about 13 million



and left more than 30 million in need of humanitarian aid. Aid workers said recent drone attacks have disrupted schools, markets and relief operations, while monitors warned the toll could rise.

Poland moves to punish violent crime livestreams with jail terms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Polish lawmakers voted Thursday to impose prison terms of up to five years for people who livestream violent crimes, rape, murder, cruelty to animals or humiliating violence online. The measure targets so-called "trash streaming" and is part of Poland's broader effort to regulate harmful digital content. Under the new rules, broadcasting serious crimes that carry prison terms of more than five years will become a separate offense. The law also covers staged or simulated portrayals of such crimes and content promoting gambling. Poland has



recently moved to tighten online protections, including limits on mobile phone use by children under 16 in schools and stricter age checks for pornography. Platforms are already covered by the European Union's Digital Services Act.

Pakistani Kashmir helicopter crash kills 22 military personnel

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 22 military personnel were killed after a Pakistan Army Mi-17 helicopter crashed in Pakistani Kashmir on Wednesday, security sources said Thursday. Pakistan's military said the helicopter went down near Muzaffarabad because of a technical fault and confirmed that all personnel on board were killed. Security sources said the dead included 19 soldiers, one army major and two colonels, while an inquiry has been ordered to determine the exact cause. Funeral processions were held in Muzaffarabad, where coffins draped in Pakistani flags were carried by members of



an artillery unit. The crash occurred as strict security restrictions remained in place after clashes between security forces and supporters of a recently banned civil society alliance left at least 11 people dead.

Musk faces backlash as anti-immigrant riots spread through Belfast

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk faced criticism on Thursday over social media posts accused of inflaming anti-immigrant riots in Belfast. The unrest followed a knife attack that left local man Stephen Ogilvie in a coma. Police charged Hadi Alodid, a Sudanese man, with attempted murder, though officials said the attack was not believed to be terrorism.

Ogilvie's family urged people not to exploit the incident for violence or political gain. Rioters torched homes and vehicles while targeting people they believed were immigrants. Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn called the violence "racist thuggery." First Minister Michelle O'Neill criticized Musk and other online figures for stirring hate, while police said 12 officers were injured and 16 people arrested.

Bangladesh measles toll rises as outbreak exposes vaccination gaps

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's measles outbreak continued to worsen on Thursday, with three more children dying of suspected measles symptoms and the combined toll of confirmed and suspected deaths reaching 642.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, suspected deaths rose to 550, while confirmed measles deaths remained unchanged. Health officials reported 1,110 new suspected cases in 24 hours, taking the national suspected caseload to 83,139, while 132 new laboratory-confirmed infections raised confirmed cases to 10,059. Since mid-March, more than 68,000 suspected patients have been hospitalized. The surge has raised concern among experts, who say reported vaccination coverage may not reflect gaps in actual immunity.

Argentina inflation slows, giving Milei a political boost

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Argentina's inflation slowed for a second straight month in May, offering President Javier Milei a welcome economic boost after months of persistent price pressures. Government statistics released Thursday showed consumer prices rose 2.1 percent from April, the lowest monthly rate in eight months, according to Economy Minister Luis Caputo.

Annual inflation edged up to 33.2 percent because last year's May reading had been unusually low. Communications costs recorded the sharpest monthly increase, followed by education, while food prices rose 2.5 percent. Milei praised Caputo after the report and also welcomed an upgrade of Argentina's sovereign credit rating by S&P Global. Despite the improvement, high living costs, layoffs and corruption allegations continue to weigh on his government.

Ashok Gehlot denies making allegations against Sachin Pilot



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has clarified that he did not make allegations against Sachin Pilot while speaking about the political developments of September 2022. His remarks came after renewed discussion within the Congress and Pilot's comment that Gehlot considers him "like a son." Gehlot said Wednesday that he had spoken honestly and only wanted to explain the sequence of events that shaped public perception that he declined the Congress president's post to remain chief minister. He said anyone who finds factual errors in his version can raise them, and he is ready to respond. Gehlot also acknowledged his long association with Pilot, saying their families have known each other for years and Pilot had visited his home since childhood.

Punjab BJP seeks assured fertilizer supply for paddy season

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Bharatiya Janata Party president Kewal Singh Dhillon has urged Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister J. P. Nadda to ensure uninterrupted supply of DAP and urea during the paddy sowing season. In a letter sent Wednesday, Dhillon said fertilizer demand in Punjab peaks in June and July, and any shortage could delay sowing, hurt crop yields and affect national food security. He said shortages also encourage hoarding and black marketing, forcing farmers to pay higher prices. Dhillon requested an additional DAP quota for Punjab, a buffer stock of two to three lakh metric tons and a monthly urea supply schedule. He also sought real-time monitoring involving the Centre, fertilizer companies and the state government.

Kerala women's free bus travel plan triggers protest call

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala government's decision to offer free travel for women in Kerala State Road Transport Corporation ordinary buses from Monday has sparked opposition from the All Kerala Men's Association. The group has announced a protest outside the Secretariat and warned that members may board buses without tickets to oppose the scheme. Association president Vattiyoorkavu Ajith Kumar questioned why the benefit has no income or age restrictions, saying the group would support targeted free travel for economically weaker sections. The scheme, named 'Priyadarshini', is part of the state's Indira Guarantee program and is aimed at improving women's mobility. The government estimates that it could cost the transport corporation around Rs 750 crore to Rs 800 crore annually, but has promised reimbursement.

India pushes BRICS farm agenda around small growers and food security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Friday urged BRICS nations to place small and marginal farmers at the center of global food security, climate resilience and sustainable agricultural growth. Addressing a two-day meeting of BRICS agriculture ministers in Indore, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said member countries can jointly shape a more inclusive food system by sharing technology, strengthening farmer incomes and addressing common challenges in agriculture.

Chouhan said small farmers across the world are facing pressure from climate change, rising input costs, shrinking natural resources and unstable markets. He added that their empowerment is essential because food security cannot be strengthened unless those who produce food are economically secure and technologically capable.

Highlighting India's performance, Chouhan said the country's agriculture



sector has grown at an average annual rate of nearly 4.5 percent over the past decade. He said foodgrain production is close to 376 million tonnes, horticulture output has crossed 378 million tonnes and fish production has exceeded 19 million tonnes. He also noted that nearly 43 percent of India's workforce depends on agriculture and allied sectors, while about 87 percent of Indian farmers are small or marginal.

Indian Air Force to help secure NEET-UG retest papers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Air Force will help transport question papers for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate retest scheduled for Sunday June 21, as authorities tighten security after the earlier exam was canceled over paper leak allegations. Officials said specialized aircraft will airlift confidential question paper packets to 18 secure hubs across

the country. From there, the material will be moved to examination centers under strict monitoring and layered security. The National Testing Agency is coordinating with defense authorities to reduce vulnerabilities in paper distribution and restore confidence among medical aspirants. The retest will be conducted across 551 Indian cities and 14 international locations. The Central Bureau of Investigation is probing the alleged leak network behind the original exam breach.

Mamata Banerjee and Sonia Gandhi discuss opposition strategy after INDIA bloc meet

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee met senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence in New Delhi on Tuesday, a day after the INDIA bloc meeting, as opposition parties look to rebuild coordination ahead of future elections. Sources said the two leaders discussed political strategy, including the possibility of cooperation for the 2029 general election. The closed-door meeting came after Banerjee and Gandhi were seen in a long conversation during Monday's INDIA bloc gathering. It was also their first such meeting after the Trinamool Congress' defeat in West Bengal and amid fresh tensions involving investigations against the party.

Around the same time, the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department



searched the Trinamool office adjoining Banerjee's Kolkata residence in connection with an alleged signature forgery case. Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien called the action political vendetta. Banerjee also met Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal during her Delhi visit.

Trinamool leader Jahangir Khan arrested near Nepal border

Trinamool Congress leader Jahangir Khan, accused in multiple cases linked to alleged electoral irregularities in West Bengal's Falta Assembly constituency, was arrested near the Nepal border after weeks on the run. Officials said the Special Task Force detained Khan while he was allegedly trying to leave India. He faces several first information reports, including allegations

of voter intimidation and tampering with electronic voting machines by covering Bharatiya Janata Party symbols. The Election Commission had earlier ordered repolling in Falta, citing serious electoral offenses and subversion of the democratic process. Khan had withdrawn from the repoll at the last minute after briefly resurfacing. Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Debangshu Panda later won the seat by more than one lakh votes.

India defends Great Nicobar push as strategic and economic necessity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government has defended the Great Nicobar Island Development Project as a strategic and economic investment to strengthen India's presence in the Indian Ocean region. Officials said the Rs 13,000 crore project includes an international container transshipment port, a dual-use greenfield airport and naval air station, a township and a power plant.

Great Nicobar's location near the Six Degree Channel, a major shipping route linking the Gulf of Aden and the Malacca Strait, gives the project strong security importance. Officials said the port could reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment hubs, while the airport would improve maritime surveillance, logistics and connectivity. Responding to environmental and tribal rights concerns, officials said only 166.1 square kilometers will be developed, while more than 81 percent of the island will remain under forests, reserves and tribal conservation zones. A Rs 2,220 crore conservation package has also been proposed.

Gujarat police recount massive AI-171 crash response as probe continues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat Director General of Police G. S. Malik has recalled the large-scale rescue, traffic and identification effort after Air India Flight AI-171 crashed in Ahmedabad last year. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, flying from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 260 people, including passengers, crew and people on the ground. One passenger survived. Malik said police created green corridors for ambulances and fire tenders, while Civil Hospital and forensic teams handled body identification. Nearly 200 police personnel helped with documents and DNA procedures. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is still probing the crash, with preliminary findings pointing to both engine fuel control switches moving to cut-off soon after takeoff.

Centre exempts past nuclear power imports from customs duty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre has retrospectively exempted customs duty on specified goods used for nuclear power generation for imports made between April 2019 and January 2026. The Finance Ministry notification covers non-irradiated fuel elements and cartridges used in nuclear reactors, formally recognizing what the government said had been the general practice of not levying duty on such imports. The decision follows an earlier order that allowed duty-free imports of nuclear power goods on a prospective basis. The relief is expected to benefit Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, the state-run operator that imports fuel assemblies for India's nuclear reactor fleet. The move comes as India looks to expand clean energy capacity and increase the role of nuclear power in its energy mix.

BJP marks Modi's record elected tenure with development and security pitch



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Bharatiya Janata Party president Nitin Nabin on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest continuously serving elected prime minister, calling the milestone a defining moment in the country's democratic history. Modi crossed Jawaharlal Nehru's elected-tenure mark of 4,399 days in office, counting from his first swearing-in in 2014 through successive mandates in 2019 and 2024.

Shah said Modi's 12 years in office had focused on restoring India's pride, strengthening national security and advancing cultural renewal. He listed major government decisions and projects, including the construction of the new Parliament building, implementation of new criminal laws, the National Education Policy, abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, construction of the Ram Temple and stronger responses to terrorism.

Nabin said Modi's tenure had also reshaped governance through financial inclusion, digital services, the 'One Nation, One Tax' system, defense self-reliance, manufacturing growth and modern infrastructure. He said the government's long-term focus is now on achieving the goal of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'.

From Kuwait to Kyrgyzstan, Indian missions hold yoga events ahead of IDY 2026



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian missions in Kuwait, Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Fiji and Niger held curtain-raiser yoga events Friday ahead of International Day of Yoga on June 21. In Kuwait, the Indian Embassy organized a first-of-its-kind session at the Gulf SPIC Labour Camp, a site visited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Kuwait trip in 2024. Indian nationals practiced the Common Yoga Protocol under this year's theme, 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'. Ambassador Paramita Tripathi also distributed sports kits, linking the event to the Fit India and Khelo India vision. In Algeria, Embassy officials and yoga enthusiasts joined a session led by Algerian teacher Wasila Hamouni. Kyrgyzstan hosted a master session for more than 100 State Border Service personnel. Similar events were held at Abdou Moumouni University in Niger and Rambhassan Memorial Primary School in Fiji.

Manipur shutdown deepens tensions after six abducted Naga civilians found dead

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-hour shutdown called by the United Naga Council disrupted normal life across Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur on Thursday after the bodies of six abducted Naga civilians were recovered near Kharam Vaiphei village in Kangpokpi district. Shops, schools, offices, banks and transport services remained largely shut as the council demanded justice for the victims.

The six villagers were among civilians abducted during inter-community violence on May 13. The United Naga Council has refused to receive the bodies until its demands are addressed, including action against those allegedly involved and the scrapping of the Suspension of Operations agreement with Kuki militant



groups. The case has been handed to the National Investigation Agency. Police said security forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from unauthorized bunkers in Ukhrul district amid fresh intelligence warnings about possible attacks on isolated hill villages.

Amit Shah reviews security plan for Amarnath Yatra

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review security and operational preparedness for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. The meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Central Reserve Police Force Director-General G. P. Singh and senior officials. The pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine will begin in July and continue for 57 days, ending on Raksha Bandhan. Security agencies are using surveillance technology, intelligence-based monitoring and multi-agency coordination to secure



the routes through Pahalgam and Baltal. Police have deployed anti-sabotage equipment and launched a QR-based 'Pahchan App' to verify workers and vendors along the route.

Centre, Assam and Nagaland sign pact to boost oil exploration

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre on Friday signed a tripartite agreement with Assam and Nagaland to expand domestic oil and gas exploration in the North East. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the pact will create a cooperation framework among the governments, improve investor certainty and support long-term energy projects. Assam accounts for nearly 22 percent of India's crude oil reserves and around 15 percent of natural gas reserves, while Nagaland has significant hydrocarbon potential in the Naga-Schuppen Belt



of the Assam-Arakan Basin. Puri said the agreement could allow Nagaland to produce oil and gas again after 31 years. The government expects renewed exploration to create jobs, support local businesses, improve infrastructure and contribute to the region's economic growth.

Karnataka to review panel as Bitcoin scam probe widens

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said Friday that the state government will review whether a Cabinet subcommittee needs to be reconstituted as the Enforcement Directorate-led Special Investigation Team probes the Bitcoin scam. The case has drawn attention after Karnataka Youth Congress leader Mohammed Haris Nalapad was named in a chargesheet linked to the 2017 Unocoin Bitcoin theft case. Nalapad, son of Congress legislator N. A. Harris, has been named along with alleged hacker Srikrishna Ramesh, also known as Sriki,



and accountant Robin Khandelwal. Investigators allege that large sums were routed through transactions linked to Nalapad during illegal conversion of Bitcoins into Indian currency. Kharge said the Enforcement Directorate case is outside the state's jurisdiction, but the government will discuss the next steps.

Agencies warn of worsening crisis in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian and international agencies have warned of a possible humanitarian crisis in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as protests spread from Muzaffarabad to other areas, including Rawalakot. Officials said the Joint Awami Action Committee has shown no sign of withdrawing its agitation despite reports of killings, disruption of essential services and pressure from Pakistani authorities. Security officials allege that Pakistan's military leadership may be using proposed talks as a delay tactic while preparing a tougher crackdown. Protesters have demanded that the ban on the committee be lifted before any dialogue. Agencies fear the situation could worsen if force is used to suppress dissent, with concerns growing over human rights violations and access to power and water.

Omar Abdullah seeks more trains during Srinagar airport closure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Wednesday and sought expanded rail services for the region. Abdullah praised the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express for improving comfort, punctuality and connectivity between the Valley and the rest of India. He requested a stoppage at Anantnag to help passengers from South Kashmir and adjoining areas. The Chief Minister also highlighted the planned closure of Srinagar International Airport from October 1 to October 15 for runway maintenance and resurfacing. Since the closure will coincide with peak tourist and festive travel, Abdullah urged the ministry to increase the frequency of Vande Bharat services as a reliable alternative.

Trinamool faces fresh crisis after second Rajya Sabha exit



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev resigned Wednesday from both Parliament's Upper House and the party, becoming the second Trinamool parliamentarian to step down in a week. Her resignation follows the exit of veteran leader Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, who cited public dissatisfaction with the party after its recent West Bengal defeat. Dev, a former Congress leader from Assam's Silchar constituency, joined Trinamool in 2021 and was given responsibility for expanding its presence in the Northeast. She later served two terms in the Rajya Sabha, including an interim term from 2021 to 2023 and a second term beginning in 2024. Her meeting with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has fuelled speculation about her next move.

Visa links payments to ChatGPT for AI shopping

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Visa said Wednesday it has embedded its payment network into ChatGPT, allowing artificial intelligence agents to help users shop and complete purchases through linked Visa cards. The partnership is designed to let ChatGPT move beyond product recommendations and initiate transactions at merchants that accept Visa, subject to user controls. OpenAI will provide the agent technology that handles discovery and purchase instructions, while Visa will manage payment authorization, fraud monitoring and transaction safeguards. Visa said the system will include guardrails such as spending limits, approval steps and merchant controls to reduce unauthorized purchases and disputes. The move follows OpenAI's earlier Instant Checkout effort, which was retired in March after limited adoption. Visa executives said users may initially approve most purchases manually, but trust could grow over time as artificial intelligence agents become more common in shopping, travel bookings and household purchases.

Energy prices push United States inflation above 4 percent

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rising energy prices pushed United States inflation to its highest level in three years in May, adding pressure on households, businesses and the Federal Reserve. Consumer prices rose 4.2 percent from a year earlier, up from 3.8 percent in April, while prices climbed 0.5 percent on a monthly basis, according to government data. Energy accounted for most of the monthly increase as gasoline prices jumped amid disruptions linked to the Iran conflict and restrictions around the Strait of Hormuz. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, rose more modestly, suggesting the latest surge has not yet spread fully across the economy. Still, higher fuel costs are affecting airfare, shipping, electricity and small-business expenses. The Federal Reserve is expected to hold interest rates steady next week, but stubborn inflation could push policymakers away from rate cuts and toward a tougher stance later this year.

Embraer eyes India assembly line as regional aviation demand grows

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer is looking at India as a potential manufacturing and assembly base for its smaller, fuel-efficient jets, as airlines seek alternatives to Airbus and Boeing amid delivery delays and rising fuel costs. Embraer Commercial Aviation chief executive Arjan Meijer said discussions are progressing with partners, airlines and the Indian government. The company has signed an agreement with Adani Defence and Aerospace to explore a final assembly line for E-Jets in India. Embraer sees strong demand for smaller aircraft that can connect secondary and tertiary cities, especially as India expands regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme. The company is also working with Mahindra Group on the C-390 military transport aircraft.

United States and European Union race to protect aircraft tariff truce

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and the European Union are approaching a key deadline in their decades-old aircraft subsidy dispute, with \$11.5 billion in suspended tariffs at stake. The dispute began in 2004, when both sides filed cases at the World Trade Organization accusing each other of unfair support for Boeing and Airbus. The trade body later allowed Washington to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion of European Union goods, including cheese and other products, while Brussels was authorized to retaliate with duties on \$4 billion of United States imports, including tobacco and spirits. Both sides suspended the tariffs in 2021 for five years while working toward a broader agreement on aircraft subsidies



and competition from non-market actors, especially China. Talks are still underway as the truce nears expiry. If no extension is reached, renewed tariffs could add pressure to global supply chains, aircraft trade and already strained transatlantic commercial ties at a time of wider tariff uncertainty.

European Union reviews Paramount-Warner deal over Gulf fund backing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union regulators are reviewing Paramount Skydance's proposed \$110 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, focusing on financial backing from three Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds. The European Commission confirmed Wednesday that it is assessing the deal under the bloc's foreign subsidies rules and will decide by Sunday whether to approve it or open a deeper investigation. Paramount's filings show support from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, Abu Dhabi's LIMAD Holding and the Qatar Investment Authority, which together are contributing about \$24 billion.



The deal would combine two major Hollywood studios and reshape the global entertainment industry. It is also under review by California officials, the United Kingdom's antitrust authority and the United States Justice Department. More than 1,000 Hollywood professionals have opposed the merger, warning it could reduce competition.

Oil slides, gold gains as Iran peace hopes reshape global market mood

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gold and silver prices rose Friday while oil extended losses, as global markets reacted to hopes that United States-Iran peace talks could ease the risk of a wider energy shock from the West Asia conflict. President Donald Trump called off planned strikes on Iran and said talks had progressed, suggesting a peace agreement could reopen the Strait of Hormuz soon. Tehran, however, said no final decision had been made. Brent crude fell more than 2 percent to about \$88 a barrel, while United States West Texas Intermediate crude dropped to about \$86, improving risk sentiment across equity, currency and commodity markets. The Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries about

one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, remains a major concern after Iran said it had closed the route to unauthorized vessels. Despite lower oil prices, investors continued to buy gold and silver as safe-haven assets because the ceasefire remains fragile and shipping risks are unresolved. COMEX gold climbed above \$4,200 per ounce, while silver traded near \$67 per ounce. Indian futures also gained on the Multi Commodity Exchange. Analysts said further movement will depend on diplomatic progress, Strait of Hormuz access and United States Federal Reserve signals, especially as another rate hike could limit demand for non-yielding assets such as gold. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries also lowered its 2026 oil demand growth forecast.

OpenAI reportedly moves toward public listing after Anthropic filing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI has reportedly filed confidentially for a United States initial public offering, joining a wave of major technology companies preparing to enter public markets. The ChatGPT maker did not disclose the size, timing or terms of the potential offering, and said a listing could still take time because some plans may be easier to pursue as a private company. Previous reports suggested OpenAI could

seek a valuation of up to \$1 trillion, making it one of the most closely watched public offerings in years. The filing comes shortly after rival Anthropic reportedly began its own initial public offering process and after SpaceX moved ahead with a historic public-market debut. OpenAI's path follows major fundraising, rapid revenue growth and a renegotiated Microsoft partnership that gives it more room to pursue other technology alliances. The listing would test investor appetite for artificial intelligence stocks at peak valuations.

India leads global skilled migration as demand for talent rises

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India remains one of the world's biggest exporters of high-skilled talent, ranking first for United States H-1B visas and near the top for United Kingdom Skilled Worker visas, European Union Blue Cards and United Arab Emirates work permits, according to a Deel report released Thursday. The report, based on data from more than 40,000 companies across over 150 countries, said global hiring is increasingly driven by talent shortages rather than wage savings. Indian professionals are in high demand across engineering, artificial intelligence, software and digital services. Australia recorded the fastest growth in hiring Indian talent, followed by the United Kingdom and the United States. The United Arab Emirates remains the top destination for Indian professionals.

TCS partners with Anthropic to scale Claude AI across workforce

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tata Consultancy Services said Thursday it has formed a global strategic partnership with United States-based Anthropic to expand enterprise adoption of Claude AI. The Indian technology major plans to enable 50,000 associates across functions to use Claude as part of its artificial intelligence strategy. TCS will also create a dedicated business unit to deliver industry solutions using Anthropic's Claude family of models. The partnership is aimed at moving artificial intelligence projects beyond pilots, especially in regulated sectors that require governance, resilience and compliance. TCS said its United Kingdom life and pensions business, Diligenta, will use Claude to improve customer experience, while banking and financial services teams will use Claude Code to boost software engineering productivity.

South Korea fines Coupang record \$410 million over data breach

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's data protection regulator fined e-commerce giant Coupang a record \$410 million on Thursday over privacy violations, including a massive data breach affecting more than 37 million users.

The Personal Information Protection Commission imposed about \$278 million for the breach and an additional \$132 million for unauthorized collection of online activity records and other violations. Regulators said the breach exposed names, phone numbers and delivery details of about 33.2 million members and 4.3 million non-members. Officials also found that Coupang collected records of websites and applications visited by more than 11 million users without consent.

The fine is the regulator's largest ever for a single data breach and related privacy violations.

India rejects United States claims on steel, textile overcapacity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has rejected claims made under a United States Section 301 trade investigation that its steel and textile sectors have excess capacity used to push low-priced exports. Commerce Ministry official Amitabh Kumar said Wednesday that India's production must be viewed against the country's large population and growing domestic consumption. He argued that per capita production and consumption in both sectors remain below levels in many developed economies. The Section 301 probe examines whether foreign trade practices unfairly burden United States commerce. The issue is significant because India and the United States are expected to finalize a trade agreement only after the investigation concludes. New Delhi is seeking tariff predictability and more favorable treatment for Indian exports.

Starlink denies India approval freeze, says talks remain active



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Starlink has denied reports that India has frozen approvals for its satellite internet services, saying it remains in active and productive discussions with the government. Lauren Dreyer, vice president of Starlink Business Operations, said Tuesday that the company has complied with regulatory and security requirements and remains committed to launching services in India. Her remarks came after a report claimed India had paused commercial approvals over concerns linked to satellite terminal use in the Iran conflict. Starlink said it has developed a customized deployment model for India to meet sovereign technology, regulatory and security needs. The company already has a license to provide satellite broadband in India, but final clearances for commercial operations are still awaited.

India rolls out E85 fuel as ethanol transition gains speed

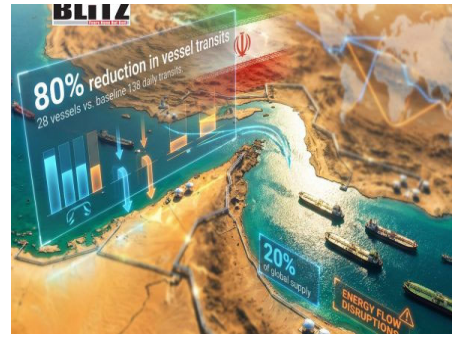
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has introduced E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles as part of its broader push toward cleaner and more self-reliant energy systems, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Wednesday. E85 contains a high share of ethanol and can be used only in vehicles designed for that blend. Puri said India has made rapid progress in ethanol blending, rising from 1.5 percent in 2014 to 10 percent in 2022, while achieving its 20 percent target in 2024, well ahead of the 2030 deadline. The government is now holding detailed consultations with the automobile industry on expanding ethanol-based fuels. Puri said India is also investing in domestic exploration, biofuels and renewable energy capacity.

United States oil export surge redraws global energy power map

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has become the world's largest exporter of crude and fuel, marking a major reversal for a country once shaken by the 1973 Arab oil embargo and long dependent on foreign energy. United States exports climbed to about 10.5 million barrels per day in May, making it the top global exporter for the third straight month, ahead of Russia at about 7 million barrels per day and Saudi Arabia at about 5.9 million barrels per day. The shift has been driven by the shale boom that accelerated after 2010, turning the United States into the world's top natural gas producer and then its leading oil producer. The change has gained new significance amid the United States-Iran war, sanctions on Russian supplies and weaker growth in Middle Eastern



output. Analysts say Washington now has a powerful energy tool that could reduce the pricing influence of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies. Europe and Asia have increasingly turned to American oil, though European officials have warned against becoming too dependent on United States suppliers.

SpaceX IPO makes Elon Musk the world's first trillionaire on paper

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk has become the world's first trillionaire on paper after SpaceX's record initial public offering gave the rocket, satellite and artificial intelligence company a massive market valuation. SpaceX raised \$75 billion on Thursday, with shares set to begin trading Friday.

Based on company filings and wealth estimates, Musk's net worth is expected to exceed \$1.1 trillion, with his SpaceX stake alone valued at about \$866 billion.

The milestone reflects intense investor confidence in Musk's long-term bets on commercial spaceflight, Starlink, satellite technology and artificial intelligence.

It also reinforces what market watchers call the "Elon premium," where investor faith in Musk's vision lifts company valuations beyond traditional measures.

At the same time, his unprecedented wealth and influence have renewed concerns about corporate governance, political power and the risks of tying several major industries to one entrepreneur.

Eli Lilly, hospitals head for showdown over drug discount data

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Eli Lilly is moving toward suspending federal drug discounts for large hospitals that do not provide claims-level data under its new 340B program policy. The drugmaker set a Monday deadline for hospitals to submit non-personal claims information, saying the data is needed to prevent duplicate discounts and rebates. The 340B program requires pharmaceutical companies to sell medicines at steep discounts to eligible safety-net providers, including certain hospitals, clinics and rural health centers. Lilly argues some providers may be receiving both the 340B price and separate rebates on the same drugs, increasing costs for employers, governments and patients. Many large hospitals have resisted the request, calling it administratively burdensome and



questioning Lilly's authority to demand the data. The dispute involves a program that has grown rapidly since the Affordable Care Act expanded Medicaid eligibility and brought more hospitals into the system.

Bankruptcy filings rise United States as small businesses face pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States bankruptcy filings rose 7 percent in May from a year earlier, reflecting growing financial pressure on households and small businesses. Individual bankruptcy filings increased 8 percent, while overall commercial filings were nearly flat. Small-business bankruptcies, however, jumped 36 percent, according to data cited by the American Bankruptcy Institute. Analysts said the increase points to the combined strain

of elevated interest rates, persistent inflation, higher operating costs and limited access to affordable credit. Commercial Chapter 11 filings fell 7 percent in May from a year earlier, reversing the stronger increases seen earlier in the year, including a sharp rise in April. Companies that filed recently include specialty materials firm Trinseo, which said its restructuring plan could reduce debt by about \$2 billion. The figures suggest more consumers and businesses are turning to restructuring tools to stabilize finances as borrowing and operating conditions remain difficult.

Uber and Lyft challenge New York driver protection law

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uber and Lyft have sued New York City to block a new driver retention law, arguing that it could make it harder to remove unsafe or fraudulent drivers from their platforms. Lyft filed its lawsuit Wednesday, a day after Uber filed a similar challenge in Manhattan federal court. The companies are targeting Local Law 52 of 2026, which is scheduled to take effect in July and generally prevents large ride-sharing platforms from deactivating drivers without "just cause" or a valid economic reason.

Uber and Lyft say the rule violates their due process and free speech rights while exposing passengers to safety risks. They also object to provisions requiring advance notice before deactivation and possible reinstatement of drivers removed since 2019. City Council leaders defended the law, saying app-based drivers deserve basic protections against arbitrary or wrongful removal from work.

Judge denies Meta, YouTube new trial in youth addiction case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A California judge has denied requests by Meta and Google's YouTube for a new trial after a jury found the companies liable for platform design features that harmed a young user. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carolyn Kuhl issued the ruling Tuesday in a case brought by a woman identified in court documents as Kaley or KGM. She alleged that she became addicted to Instagram and YouTube at a young age because of features designed to maximize attention and engagement. After more than 40 hours of deliberation, jurors found Meta and YouTube negligent and said their platform design was a substantial factor in causing harm.

The jury awarded \$6 million in damages, assigning 70 percent of liability to Meta and 30 percent to YouTube. The judge rejected the companies' request for a new trial, keeping the verdict intact as both prepare appeals.

Tesla gets go-ahead to sell self-driving technology in Belgium

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla has received approval to sell its Full Self-Driving supervised driver assistance software in Belgium, giving the electric vehicle maker another foothold in Europe as it seeks wider acceptance for the technology. Annick De Ridder, transport minister for Belgium's Flanders region, said Wednesday that she had signed the authorization after Tesla completed a series of tests in the country. Since approvals granted by one of Belgium's three regions apply nationwide, the decision clears the way for Tesla to roll out the software across Belgium. The system still requires human supervision and is not fully autonomous. Belgium becomes the fifth European Union country to approve the technology after the Netherlands, Lithuania, Estonia and Denmark. The clearance comes as Tesla faces slowing European sales and rising competition from Chinese electric vehicle makers.

Knicks pull off record finals comeback to move within one win of title



The New York Knicks moved within one win of their first NBA championship since 1973 after completing a record 29-point comeback to beat the San Antonio Spurs 107-106 in Game 4 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday. The Knicks trailed 81-52 in the third quarter but stormed back behind Jalen Brunson's 36 points and OG Anunoby's 33. Anunoby delivered the decisive moment with 1.2 seconds left, tipping in Brunson's missed 3-point attempt to seal one of the most dramatic wins in finals history. No team had overcome a larger deficit in an NBA Finals game since detailed play-by-play tracking began in 1997. Victor Wembanyama had 24 points and 13 rebounds for San Antonio, but the Spurs collapsed after building a 27-point halftime lead. New York now leads the best-of-seven series 3-1, with Game 5 set for Saturday in San Antonio.

England weighs alcohol ban as Stokes captaincy question remains open

England men's managing director Rob Key said Thursday there was "no rush" to decide Ben Stokes' future as a player or captain after a nightclub incident involving Stokes and Gus Atkinson. Both players were made unavailable for the second Test against New Zealand at The Kia Oval after breaking a midnight curfew following England's 115-run win at Lord's. Key said the situation remained raw and any decision would be based on what was best for the team and for Stokes. He also said England may consider a complete alcohol ban on international duty, arguing that players must regain public trust. Joe Root will captain the side temporarily, with Key saying the responsibility was too big for Harry Brook at this stage.

FIFA World Cup begins in style as Mexico beats South Africa at Azteca

The 2026 FIFA World Cup opened in grand style on Thursday at Mexico City's iconic Estadio Azteca, where music, football history and home-team passion set the tone for the biggest edition of the tournament. Spanish actress Salma Hayek and FIFA President Gianni Infantino declared the World Cup open before the trophy was placed inside the stadium, while Shakira and Burna Boy headlined the ceremony with the official anthem, "Dai Dai." The venue added historic weight to the night, becoming the first stadium to host matches in three World Cup editions after 1970 and 1986. Mexico then gave the packed home crowd a memorable start, beating South Africa 2-0 in the Group A opener. Julián Quiñones scored the tournament's first goal in the ninth minute after capitalizing on a defensive lapse, before Raúl Jiménez doubled the lead in the second half with a close-range header



at the far post. Mexico controlled long spells, pressed aggressively and kept South Africa under pressure. The match turned heated late, with South Africa reduced to nine men after red cards to Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane, while Mexico's César Montes was also sent off in stoppage time.

Kerala turns World Cup goals into grocery discounts

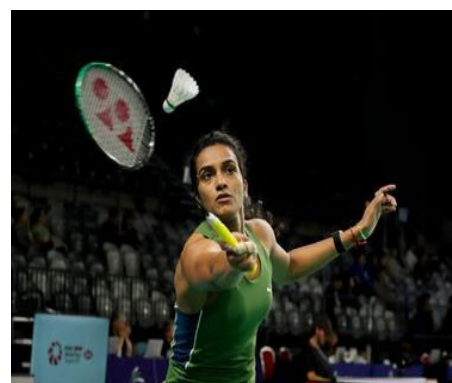
Kerala's World Cup fever is moving from football screens to grocery counters, with Supplyco launching a "Supplyco Soccer Eleven" offer that links match goals to discounts on Sabari products. Starting Monday, 11 leading World Cup teams will be paired with 11 household items, and the discount on each product will match the number of goals scored by its linked team in its latest match. If Brazil scores three goals, for instance, Sabari turmeric powder will get a 3 percent discount until Brazil's next game begins. Penalty shootout goals will not count, and the offer ends once a linked team is eliminated. The teams include Brazil, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Argentina,



Belgium, Portugal, Croatia, England, Morocco and France. Supplyco said the campaign is designed to turn everyday shopping into part of Kerala's football celebration, with an extra discount if any linked team wins the World Cup.

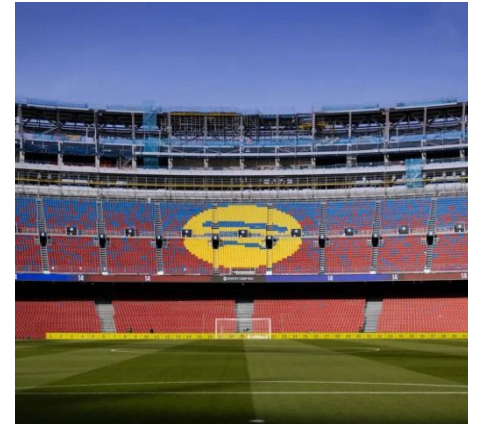
Sindhu and Tanvi reach Australian Open quarterfinals after all-Indian wins

Two-time Olympic medalist P. V. Sindhu and teenager Tanvi Sharma moved into the women's singles quarterfinals of the Australian Badminton Open on Thursday after winning all-Indian contests in Sydney. World number 10 Sindhu beat Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-12 in 42 minutes, surviving a tight opening game before taking control in the second. The third seed will face Chinese Taipei's Chen Su-yu for a place in her second semifinal of the year after the Malaysia Open. Seventeen-year-old Tanvi produced a composed 21-13, 21-15 win over Malvika Bansod to reach her second quarterfinal this season. She now faces top seed and three-time world



champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. Tanya Hemant exited, while M. R. Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan advanced in men's doubles.

Barcelona submits Camp Nou bid for 2029 Champions League final



Football Club Barcelona formally submitted its bid to the Union of European Football Associations to host the 2029 Champions League final at the renovated Spotify Camp Nou. The proposal was prepared with Barcelona City Council, the Government of Catalonia and the Royal Spanish Football Federation as host and co-organizing association. The club said the dossier includes technical, contractual and institutional guarantees required to stage one of football's biggest matches. Barcelona highlighted the city's experience in hosting major events and Camp Nou's status as Europe's largest stadium by capacity. The venue is undergoing a major transformation intended to make it one of the most modern stadiums in world football. The bidding process now moves to the evaluation phase, with the final host decision expected later this year.

Ben Davies signs new Spurs deal for 13th season in north London

Tottenham Hotspur defender Ben Davies has signed a new contract with the club, extending his stay into a 13th season in north London. The 33-year-old Wales international has made 363 appearances for Spurs since joining from Swansea City in 2014 and was part of the squad that won the Union of European Football Associations Europa League in 2025. Davies said Tottenham feels like home and promised to give everything for the club. Although injury limited his role in recent months, he said he tried to contribute as a dressing-room voice and senior presence. One of Tottenham's longest-serving modern players, Davies has featured in major runs including the 2019 Champions League final campaign and has captained the club on several occasions.



Federer to return to U.S. Open stage for New York exhibition

Roger Federer will return to the U.S. Open spotlight on Tuesday, August 25, for a one-night exhibition at Arthur Ashe Stadium, marking his first Flushing Meadows appearance since 2019. The 20-time Grand Slam champion, who retired in 2022, will headline "Roger Federer: An Icon Returns to New York" alongside Andy Roddick, Andre Agassi and John McEnroe. Federer won five straight U.S. Open titles from 2004 to 2008 and said New York remains one of the most special places of his career.



Mourinho returns to Real Madrid on three-year deal



Real Madrid confirmed Thursday that José Mourinho has returned as first-team head coach, 13 years after the end of his first spell at the club. The Portuguese manager has signed a three-year contract through the 2028-29 season and will take charge when preseason begins next month. Real Madrid agreed to pay Benfica a compensation fee after Mourinho led the Lisbon club through an unbeaten league campaign, although it finished third. His return follows Florentino Pérez's re-election as club president and a difficult season in Madrid. Mourinho previously coached Real Madrid from 2010 to 2013, winning one La Liga title, one Copa del Rey and one Spanish Super Cup. He now returns with the task of restoring discipline, competitiveness and silverware at the Spanish giant.

Ohtani homers before knee issue in Dodgers win over Pirates



Shohei Ohtani hit his 13th home run of the season before leaving with left knee inflammation as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-6 on Thursday. Ohtani reached base in all four plate appearances, adding a single and two walks before being lifted for a pinch hitter in the seventh inning. Dodgers starter Justin Wroblewski also exited after taking a Bryan Reynolds line drive and suffering a left hamstring contusion. Andy Pages had two hits, Kyle Tucker drove in two runs and Miguel Rojas added two runs batted in. Pittsburgh rookie Rafael Flores Jr. hit his first major league homer.

Olympic reforms aim to reshape sports program and host elections

The International Olympic Committee Executive Board has proposed major reforms to the Olympic program review and host election process, aiming to improve transparency, cost management, sustainability and athlete-centered decision-making. The proposals, presented by President Kirsty Coventry, would shift evaluation from entire sports to individual disciplines, reflecting the different venue, operational and cost demands within each sport. If approved, the new system would begin with the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane. Disciplines would be reviewed for governance standards, anti-doping compliance, integrity, safeguarding, global appeal, cost, complexity and athlete representation. The board also proposed a new "Strategic Dialogue" phase in host elections, allowing interested cities or regions to be shortlisted before



deeper talks. The changes are part of the organization's wider "Fit for the Future" reform effort.

Iran squad gets United States visas before World Cup matches



Iran's World Cup team has been cleared to enter the United States after players and key staff received visas, United States officials said Friday. The approval allows Iran to travel from its training base in Tijuana, Mexico, for its first two group matches near Los Angeles. Visa processing had been complicated by Iran's war with Israel and the United States, forcing the team to move its planned camp from Tucson, Arizona, to Mexico. Officials said players, coaches, trainers and necessary support staff were approved, though some affiliated applicants may have been rejected. Iran opens against New Zealand before facing Belgium and Egypt.

Wolves sack Rob Edwards after Premier League relegation

Wolverhampton Wanderers sacked head coach Rob Edwards on Wednesday after the club's relegation from the Premier League. Edwards was appointed in November on a three-and-a-half-year deal but could not prevent Wolves from dropping to the Championship after eight seasons in the top flight. The club finished bottom of the table, well adrift of safety, and Edwards won only a small number of matches during his seven months in charge. Executive chairman Nathan Shi said the decision followed a full review of football operations and was not about Edwards' character, professionalism or dedication. He said



Wolves needed a different football direction to rebuild competitiveness and identity. The club has already begun searching for a new head coach to lead the next phase of its sporting development.

Hardik setback leaves India short of senior all-rounder option

Hardik Pandya is likely to miss India's three-match one-day international series against Afghanistan after suffering a late leg injury setback. The seam-bowling all-rounder had been training at the Board of Control for Cricket in India Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru since June 2 and was close to fitness clearance for the series beginning Saturday in Dharamshala. Sources said he had bowled at full intensity and completed batting and fielding drills before developing the niggle, which is expected to require a few weeks of recovery. His absence leaves India without a senior all-rounder option as selectors assess combinations for the 2027 World Cup.

Mickelson loses California club membership after misconduct allegation

Phil Mickelson is no longer a member of The Farms Golf Club in Rancho Santa Fe, California, after allegations of misconduct involving a female staff member, Golf Digest reported. The longtime Southern California club told NBC News that a staff report of member misconduct prompted support for the employee, an independent investigation and "decisive action." The report alleged Mickelson made nonconsensual and inappropriate physical contact at the clubhouse this spring. Mickelson's representative called the matter a misunderstanding, while an attorney said the claims were contradicted by video evidence.



Mickelson, a six-time major champion, has recently stepped away from competition for a family health matter.

O'Neill gets permanent Celtic role after domestic double

Celtic appointed Martin O'Neill as permanent manager on Thursday, handing the 74-year-old a one-year contract with an option for another season. O'Neill earned the role after guiding Celtic to a domestic double last season, winning the Scottish Premiership and Scottish Cup during his latest return to the club. He first managed Celtic from 2000 to 2005, winning nine major trophies and leading the team to the 2003 European final in Seville. O'Neill said continuing in the job was a privilege and that last season's success had increased his desire to achieve more. Celtic said his experience and leadership would be vital.

Kerr regains top all-rounder spot as Harmanpreet returns to top 10

New Zealand captain Melie Kerr has reclaimed the top spot in the International Cricket Council women's Twenty20 International all-rounder rankings, edging West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews by five points before the Women's Twenty20 World Cup. Matthews slipped to second after missing West Indies' final tri-series match in Ireland. Australia's Georgia Voll and Beth Mooney remain the top two batters, while India captain Harmanpreet Kaur returned to the top 10 after an unbeaten half-century against England. England spinner Linsey Smith retained the number one bowling ranking.



Botha steps down from Queensland and Brisbane Heat roles

Former South Africa captain Johan Botha has stepped down as head coach of Queensland and Brisbane Heat despite having one season left on his contract, Queensland Cricket confirmed Tuesday. Botha took charge before the 2024-25 season and led Queensland to a Sheffield Shield final in his first campaign, but the Bulls finished third in the Shield and One-Day Cup last season. Brisbane Heat placed fifth and seventh in consecutive Big Bash League seasons. Queensland praised his work with young players and began its successor search.

Salman Khan moves court against 'Kaala Hiran' release



Salman Khan has approached the Delhi High Court seeking to stop the production, promotion and release of 'Kaala Hiran: The Battle for Legacy'. The actor has filed for permanent and interim injunctions against the film's makers, alleging that its poster and promotional material misuse his name, image and public identity for commercial gain. Khan has argued that the project appears to draw from the 1998 blackbuck hunting case, which remains pending before the Rajasthan High Court, and could affect his reputation and legal rights. He had earlier sent a legal notice demanding that the film's development and promotion be halted. The blackbuck case stems from allegations that Khan hunted two blackbucks near Jodhpur while filming 'Hum Saath Saath Hain'.

Tom Hanks says Oscars do not need voice acting category



Tom Hanks has said the Academy Awards do not need a separate Oscar category for voice acting, arguing that voice performers can already be recognized in existing acting categories. The two-time Oscar winner, who returns as Woody in 'Toy Story 5', said any performance that moves audiences should qualify for consideration. He cited Andy Serkis' motion-capture work in 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'Planet of the Apes' franchises as an example of acting that may not appear traditionally on screen but still provides the emotional foundation of a character. Hanks' comments come as 'Toy Story 5' prepares for release more than 30 years after the original 'Toy Story'. No pure voice performance has won an acting Oscar so far.

Taylor Swift makes history as youngest woman in Songwriters Hall of Fame

Taylor Swift became the youngest woman ever inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame on Thursday, adding another major milestone to her record-breaking career. The 36-year-old singer-songwriter was honored at the annual gala in New York, where she spoke emotionally about songwriting as an instinctive force in her life and credited her family for moving from Pennsylvania to Nashville when she was young to support her music dream. Steven Spielberg introduced Swift with a surprise tribute, praising the lasting emotional power of songs and noting how her writing has connected deeply with listeners. Swift said examples like Spielberg's helped her trust her imagination. Gen Z singer Sombra opened her segment with performances of 'Cardigan' and 'Dear John'.



In her speech, Swift advised young songwriters to protect what they love most, saying that passion becomes essential through the challenges of a creative career. The

ceremony also honored Christopher 'Tricky' Stewart, Kiss members Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley, Alanis Morissette and Kenny Loggins. The evening featured performances of classics including 'Single Ladies', 'Uninvited', 'Rock and Roll All Nite' and 'Danny's Song', making Swift's induction part of a broader celebration of songwriting across generations.

Diljit honors Punjabi music legends before Madison Square Garden performance

Diljit Dosanjh paid an emotional tribute to Punjabi music legends before taking the stage at Madison Square Garden, saying his global success was built on the work of artists who carried Punjabi music forward long before him. In a video shared Sunday, Diljit said the energy around his performance did not belong to him alone, but to icons such as Amar Singh Chamkila, Lal Chand Yamla Jatt, Gurdas Maan, Surinder Shinda, Kuldeep Manak, Mohammad Sadiq and others who shaped the sound and spirit of Punjabi music. Diljit said what audiences see today is a reflection of their hard work, adding that current artists could not have reached international stages without the foundation those musicians created. After stepping on



stage, he said every Punjabi artist who had worked for the language and music was present with him in spirit. He then performed 'Pehle Lalkare' from 'Amar Singh Chamkila'.

Resul Pookutty warns against misuse of name, voice and AI likeness

Oscar-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty has issued a public legal notice warning individuals and entities against unauthorized use of his name, photographs, videos, voice, trademarks and other intellectual property. The notice said some websites, social media accounts, YouTube channels and digital platforms had falsely claimed association with him and monetized content using his identity. Pookutty's lawyer said only officially owned or written-authorized platforms may use the names Resul Pookutty, Canaries Post Sound and Resul Pookutty Foundation. The notice also specifically warned against deepfake videos, artificial intelligence-generated content,



voice cloning, morphed images and synthetic media that could suggest false endorsement or damage his reputation. It called for immediate removal of infringing content and warned of civil and criminal action.

Anthony Head, beloved 'Buffy' and 'Ted Lasso' actor, dies at 72

British actor Anthony Head, best known to American audiences for playing Rupert Giles in 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' and Rupert Mannion in 'Ted Lasso', has died at 72. His daughters, Emily and Daisy Head, said Friday that he died peacefully from complications linked to pneumonia while surrounded by family. Head became a fan favorite as Buffy's mentor in the

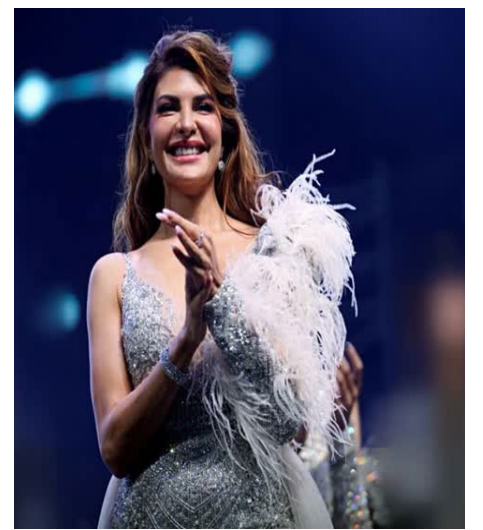
supernatural series, appearing in most of its episodes between 1997 and 2003. Sarah Michelle Gellar, David Boreanaz and other co-stars paid tribute to his warmth, humor and generosity. In recent years, Head reached a new generation as the villainous football club owner in 'Ted Lasso'. He also had a long stage and screen career in Britain, including 'Little Britain' and the famous Nescafé Gold Blend commercials.

Jennifer Lawrence to star in Apple rom-com 'One Month Mark'



Jennifer Lawrence is set to star in and produce the romantic comedy 'One Month Mark' for Apple Studios. The film is based on a spec script by writer, director and performer Sophie Fleur de Bruijn. Its premise follows two people with opposite romantic patterns: she has never made it past one month in a relationship, while he has never gone longer than one month without one. Lawrence will produce through Excellent Cadaver with Justine Ciarrocchi, while Chernin Entertainment's David Ready, Brady Fujikawa and Peter Chernin are also attached as producers. The project marks another Apple collaboration for Lawrence after 'Causeway', 'Bread & Roses' and Martin Scorsese's upcoming 'What Happens at Night', co-starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Supreme Court judge recuses from Jacqueline Fernandez case



Supreme Court Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra recused himself Thursday from hearing Jacqueline Fernandez's plea in the \$24 million money laundering case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. Justice Mishra said his son had appeared for the government in a connected matter and directed that the case be placed before another bench. The matter is now listed for June 25. Fernandez has challenged a Delhi High Court order refusing to quash the Enforcement Directorate's complaint and the trial court's decision to frame charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. She recently pleaded not guilty before a Delhi court and said she would face trial. The Enforcement Directorate alleges she received luxury gifts from Chandrashekhar using proceeds of crime, a claim she has denied.

'Tanu Weds Manu' franchise set for new chapter

'Tanu Weds Manu – The Next Chapter', the third installment in the popular franchise, is set to go on floors in 2026 as part of Eros Innovation's new content slate. The film will be directed by Mitakshara Kumar, known for 'Heeramandi' and 'The Empire', and co-produced with Rudrak Soma Jyoti Limited. The announcement is part of Eros Innovation's wider plan to expand familiar titles and build new storytelling universes. Its slate includes Eros Brahmam, a mythology-inspired cinematic universe with titles such as 'Nandi – War of Kailasa', 'Dwaarka: Gateway to the Universe' and 'Mahabharat 5000 A.D.'. Eros Universe will expand titles including 'Tanu Weds Manu', 'English Vinglish', 'Desi Boyz', 'Rangeela' and 'Tere Naam' across formats.

Bharathiraja, filmmaker who transformed Tamil cinema, dies at 84



Veteran Tamil filmmaker Bharathiraja, widely credited with bringing rural life and social realism to mainstream Tamil cinema, died Wednesday at 84 after a period of ill health. A Padma Shri awardee, he made a landmark debut with '16 Vayathinile', starring Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth and Sridevi, and went on to direct acclaimed films including 'Mudhal Mariyadhai', 'Mann Vasana', 'Pudhumai Penn', 'Vedham Pudhithu', 'Kizhakku Cheemaiyile', 'Karuthamma' and 'Nadodi Thendral'. Born Chinnasamy in Theni district, he directed about 44 films and was also an actor in movies such as 'Aayudha Ezhuthu', 'Seethakaadhi', 'Maanaadu' and 'Thiruchitrabalam'. Actress Khushbu Sundar led tributes, calling his death a dark moment for Tamil cinema.

Hugh Laurie apologizes for sharp response to 'House' criticism

Hugh Laurie has apologized after posting a pointed response to an online critique of his medical drama 'House'. The exchange began when journalist Janet Street-Porter said she had started watching the show and found its episode structure repetitive, describing a pattern of wrong diagnoses, near-death moments and last-minute solutions. Laurie replied sharply, defending the writers and comparing the show's repeated structure to variations in music and visual art. He later apologized on X, saying he had been "very slightly drunk" and upset about something unrelated when he responded. Laurie said he had meant to defend the writers he admired, not trigger attacks on the critic. 'House' ran from 2004 to 2012 and earned Laurie six Emmy nominations.

French singer Patrick Bruel charged in sexual assault investigation

French singer and actor Patrick Bruel has been handed preliminary charges of rape, attempted rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment involving several women, prosecutors said Thursday. The 67-year-old denies the allegations. Prosecutors said the formal investigation covers alleged incidents between 2008 and 2019 in France, Belgium and Corsica, while other related claims remain under review. Bruel was released under strict judicial supervision after two days in police custody and was barred from leaving France. He must surrender his passport, undergo psychological treatment, post bail of about \$576,760 and avoid contact with the complainants and their families. His lawyers said he will cooperate



fully with judicial authorities. Bruel became one of France's biggest stars in the late 1980s and 1990s, when his popularity was widely described as "Bruelmania."

Katy Perry and Justin Trudeau step into spotlight as a couple

Katy Perry and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made their red carpet debut together Monday at the Tribeca Festival in New York, turning months of romance speculation into a public appearance. Trudeau attended the premiere of Perry's concert film 'Katy Perry: The Lifetimes Tour - Live from Paris', where the singer described the project as a major concert experience created for fans who have supported her for more than 18 years. Perry wore a white halter-neck gown with rose-like detailing, while Trudeau chose a classic black suit. The pair first sparked rumors last July after being seen together in Montreal and later dining at Le Violon, where staff described them as warm and friendly. Trudeau



was also seen at Perry's Montreal concert days later. Their appearance comes after Perry's split from Orlando Bloom following a nine-year relationship and engagement.

'Batwara 1947' revisits Partition through a story of loss and survival

'Batwara 1947' has offered its first look with a motion poster that places Partition's human cost at the center of the story. Shared by Sunny Deol on Tuesday, the poster opens with burning paper and scenes of chaos before showing his character running through violence and displacement. It then shifts to Deol holding a flaming torch while standing protectively before his family, including Preity Zinta's character. The film, earlier

titled 'Lahore 1947', marks Deol's reunion with Rajkumar Santoshi after 'Ghayaal' and 'Damini'. Reports say the story is adapted from Asghar Wajahat's play 'Jis Lahore Nai Dekhya, O Jamiy Nai', which explores Partition through the fate of a Hindu family allotted a Lahore haveli after migration, only to find an elderly Muslim woman still living there. Also starring Shabana Azmi and Ali Fazal, the film is expected to release in August.

Kangana Ranaut says cinema must evolve as audiences demand relevance

Kangana Ranaut has said cinema must evolve with society as changing audience expectations and box office pressure force the film industry to rethink its spending and storytelling. Speaking Tuesday while promoting 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata', the actor and member of Parliament said that when films fail, high production costs and star fees naturally come under scrutiny, much like household expenses are reconsidered when income falls. She said films can no longer depend only on old formulas and must respond to shifting social and market realities. Co-star Smita Tambe added that viewers look for relevance and are drawn to stories where ordinary people see themselves represented. 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' is inspired by real events from the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and focuses on common citizens and hospital workers at Cama Hospital who helped save



lives during the crisis. The film is scheduled to release Friday.

Zahara Jolie files to drop Pitt from her surname

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's daughter Zahara has officially filed a petition in California to remove "Pitt" from her surname. The 21-year-old's filing follows similar moves by her siblings Maddox and Shiloh after their parents' divorce was finalized last year. Zahara had already used "Zahara Marley Jolie" publicly, including during her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority introduction and when her name was read at her college graduation in Atlanta. Jolie and Pitt share six children: Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh, Knox and Vivienne. Vivienne has also been credited professionally as Vivienne Jolie, including in connection with 'The Outsiders', although it is unclear whether she has legally changed her name. A source close to Pitt described the developments as painful.

Ramesh Sippy praises Hema Malini as concert marks six-decade journey

Veteran filmmaker Ramesh Sippy has praised Hema Malini's professionalism, charisma and range as the actress completes more than six decades in cinema. She will be honored at 'The Dream Girl's Diamond Jubilee Concert' on Friday at Shanmukhananda Hall in Mumbai, in collaboration with the Federation of Western India Cine Employees.

Sippy, who worked with her in 'Andaz', 'Sholay' and 'Seeta Aur Geeta', said few artists could match her long and varied journey. He added that she often rose above the roles written for her through her screen presence. The event will feature performances by artists including Padmini Kolhapure, Anup Jalota, Shabbir Kumar, Suresh Wadkar and Kavita Krishnamurthy. Hema Malini is also expected to share stories from her career.

Hugh Laurie apologizes for sharp response to 'House' criticism



Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali has described his collaboration with Diljit Dosanjh on 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' as a tribute to people uprooted by Partition and forced migration. The makers have released a special video for 'Kya Kamaal Hai', which will play during the film's end credits and is dedicated to refugees around the world who have had to leave their homes because of war, hatred and displacement. Ali said the song is meant as a cry of hope and a salute to human resilience. The track brings together Diljit Dosanjh, A. R. Rahman, Irshad Kamil and Ali. 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' stars Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari and Vedang Raina, and is scheduled to release Friday.



बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का चौथा पड़ाव पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर, हाजीपुर

IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत बिहार की हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब चौथे पड़ाव पर पहुँच चुकी है। महाबोधि मंदिर (बोधगया), विष्णुपद मंदिर (गया) और विश्व के प्राचीनतम जीवित हिंदू मंदिरों में से एक मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर (कैमूर) की दिव्य यात्रा के पश्चात अब हम बढ़ रहे हैं बिहार के वैशाली जनपद के ऐतिहासिक नगर हाजीपुर स्थित पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर की ओर।

बिहार की यह पावन धरती केवल बौद्ध, जैन और वैदिक परंपराओं का केंद्र ही नहीं रही, बल्कि भगवान शिव की उपासना, तांत्रिक साधना और प्राचीन धार्मिक मान्यताओं का भी महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र रही है।

हाजीपुर के जदुआ रोड पर स्थित पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर अपनी अनूठी भूमिगत संरचना, स्वयंभू शिवलिंग और रहस्यमयी लोककथाओं के कारण श्रद्धालुओं और इतिहासकारों दोनों के लिए विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र है। यह मंदिर भक्तों को शिवभक्ति, आस्था और प्राचीन भारतीय संस्कृति की गहराइयों से जोड़ता है।

पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर की पावन कथा

पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर की उत्पत्ति एक अत्यंत रोचक और आध्यात्मिक लोककथा से जुड़ी हुई है, जो सोलंकी काल से संबंधित मानी जाती है।

किंवदंती के अनुसार महारानी मीनलदेवी ने एक पुत्र को जन्म दिया, जो आगे चलकर प्रसिद्ध राजा सिद्धराज सोलंकी के रूप में विख्यात हुआ। अपने पुत्र के जन्म की खुशी में महारानी ने यात्रियों, व्यापारियों और साधु-संतों की सुविधा के लिए एक प्रमुख मार्ग पर एक गहरा कुआँ खुदवाने का आदेश दिया।

जब मजदूर लगभग 40 फीट गहराई तक खुदाई कर चुके थे, तब उन्हें धरती के भीतर एक कठोर पत्थरनुमा संरचना मिली। और अधिक खुदाई करने पर वहाँ एक दिव्य स्वयंभू शिवलिंग प्रकट हुआ। इस चमत्कारिक घटना को भगवान शिव का प्रत्यक्ष आशीर्वाद मानते हुए कुएँ के निर्माण का कार्य तत्काल रोक दिया गया और उस स्थान को मंदिर के रूप में विकसित किया गया।

चूँकि शिवलिंग धरती की गहराइयों अर्थात 'पाताल' से प्रकट हुआ था, इसलिए भगवान शिव के इस स्वरूप का नाम 'पातालेश्वर' रखा गया, जिसका अर्थ है – पाताल में विराजमान भगवान।

ऐतिहासिक महत्व

पुरातात्विक आकलनों के अनुसार इस मंदिर की मूल स्थापना लगभग आठवीं शताब्दी ईस्वी में हुई मानी जाती है। प्रारंभिक काल में यह मंदिर एक खुले, कुएँनुमा गहरे गड्ढे के भीतर स्थित था, जहाँ श्रद्धालु नीचे उतरकर दर्शन करते थे।

समय के साथ मंदिर के संरक्षण और श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसके ऊपर आधुनिक पत्थर निर्मित संरचना और छत का निर्माण कराया गया। यद्यपि वर्तमान मंदिर अपेक्षाकृत नया दिखाई देता है, लेकिन इसका मूल गर्भगृह आज भी अपनी प्राचीनता और ऐतिहासिक स्वरूप को संजोए हुए है।

भूमिगत गर्भगृह की अनूठी विशेषता

पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता इसका भूमिगत गर्भगृह है।

आज भी श्रद्धालुओं को भगवान शिव के दर्शन के लिए सीढ़ियों से नीचे उतरना पड़ता है। लगभग 40 फीट नीचे स्थित यह प्राचीन शिवलिंग भक्तों को एक अद्वितीय आध्यात्मिक अनुभव प्रदान करता है। जैसे-जैसे श्रद्धालु धरती की गहराइयों में उतरते हैं, वातावरण अधिक शांत, गंभीर और आध्यात्मिक प्रतीत होने लगता है।

यह अनुभव मानो भक्त को सांसारिक जगत से दूर ले जाकर सीधे भगवान शिव की दिव्य उपस्थिति से जोड़ देता है।

प्राचीन शिल्पकला और नाग प्रतीक

मंदिर परिसर में संरक्षित कई प्राचीन पत्थर और शिलाखंड इस स्थल के ऐतिहासिक महत्व को प्रमाणित करते हैं।

खुदाई के दौरान प्राप्त अनेक पत्थरों पर सपाकार आकृतियाँ और नाग प्रतीक उकेरे गए हैं। चूँकि भगवान शिव के गले में नाग का विशेष महत्व है,

इसलिए इन शिल्पों को शिव उपासना की प्राचीन परंपरा से जोड़ा जाता है।

इन ऐतिहासिक अवशेषों को आधुनिक मंदिर की दीवारों में सुरक्षित रूप से स्थापित किया गया है, जिससे श्रद्धालु आज भी उस प्राचीन विरासत को देख सकते हैं।

शिवलिंग की आध्यात्मिक महिमा

हिंदू धर्म में शिवलिंग को भगवान शिव के निराकार, अनंत और सृजनात्मक स्वरूप का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर का शिवलिंग विशेष रूप से पूजनीय है क्योंकि इसे स्वयंभू माना जाता है, अर्थात यह किसी मानव द्वारा स्थापित नहीं किया गया बल्कि स्वयं धरती से प्रकट हुआ।

स्थानीय श्रद्धालुओं का विश्वास है कि यहाँ सच्चे मन से की गई प्रार्थना अवश्य फलित होती है और भगवान शिव अपने भक्तों की मनोकामनाएँ पूर्ण करते हैं।

महाशिवरात्रि का भव्य उत्सव

मंदिर में वर्ष भर श्रद्धालुओं का आगमन होता रहता है, किंतु महाशिवरात्रि के अवसर पर यहाँ विशेष उत्साह और भक्ति का वातावरण देखने को मिलता है।

इस अवसर पर हजारों श्रद्धालु मंदिर पहुँचते हैं और रात्रि भर भगवान शिव का अभिषेक, रुद्राभिषेक, भजन-कीर्तन तथा विशेष पूजन करते हैं। पूरी रात मंदिर 'हर हर महादेव' और 'बम बम भोले' के जयघोष से गूँजता रहता है।

श्रावण मास में भी यहाँ श्रद्धालुओं की बड़ी संख्या दर्शन के लिए आती है।

सामाजिक सेवा का केंद्र

पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर केवल धार्मिक गतिविधियों का केंद्र नहीं है, बल्कि सामाजिक सेवा के क्षेत्र में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

मंदिर समिति द्वारा संचालित भोजनशाला, सामुदायिक भवन और आवासीय सुविधाएँ स्थानीय लोगों के लिए

अत्यंत उपयोगी हैं। विशेष रूप से आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर परिवारों के विवाह, सगाई और सामुदायिक आयोजनों के लिए यह परिसर एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र बन चुका है।

इस प्रकार यह मंदिर धर्म और समाज सेवा दोनों का सुंदर संगम प्रस्तुत करता है।

दर्शन संबंधी जानकारी

स्थान: जदुआ रोड, हाजीपुर, जिला वैशाली, बिहार
आरती एवं दर्शन: प्रतिदिन प्रातः से सायं तक
मुख्य उत्सव: महाशिवरात्रि, श्रावण मास, सोमवारी विशेष पूजा

विशेष आकर्षण: 40 फीट गहराई में स्थित स्वयंभू शिवलिंग, प्राचीन नाग शिल्प, भूमिगत गर्भगृह

निष्कर्ष

हाजीपुर का पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर केवल एक प्राचीन शिवालय नहीं, बल्कि आस्था, इतिहास और आध्यात्मिक रहस्यों का अद्भुत संगम है। धरती की गहराइयों में विराजमान स्वयंभू शिवलिंग, मंदिर से जुड़ी प्राचीन लोककथाएँ, भूमिगत गर्भगृह और सदियों पुरानी पूजा परंपरा इसे बिहार के सबसे विशिष्ट शिवधामों में स्थान प्रदान करती हैं। यहाँ पहुँचकर भक्त भगवान शिव की उस दिव्य अनुभूति का अनुभव करते हैं, जो उन्हें बाहरी संसार से हटाकर आत्मिक शांति और भक्ति के मार्ग पर ले जाती है।

IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत बिहार अध्याय हमें राज्य की समृद्ध धार्मिक विरासत, प्राचीन स्थापत्य और सनातन संस्कृति के अद्भुत आयामों से परिचित करा रहा है।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा अपने अंतिम और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव की ओर बढ़ेगी – बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम, जहाँ भगवान शिव के बारह ज्योतिर्लिंगों में से एक की दिव्य महिमा, श्रावणी परंपरा और करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं की अटूट आस्था के दर्शन होंगे।

बिहार यात्रा के इस अंतिम अध्याय में हम बाबा बैद्यनाथ की आध्यात्मिक महत्ता और उससे जुड़ी पौराणिक कथाओं के एक अद्भुत संसार से परिचित होंगे।

Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

The birth and destruction of King Sagara's sixty thousand sons



The Valmiki Ramayana contains many fascinating and lesser-known episodes that offer profound lessons on duty, humility, and the consequences of arrogance. One such remarkable story is that of King Sagara and his sixty thousand sons, found in the Balakanda of the Ramayana. King Sagara was one of the great rulers of the Ikshvaku (Raghu) dynasty, the same royal lineage into which Lord Rama was later born. Despite his greatness, King Sagara faced one sorrow—he had no children. He had two queens: Keshini and Sumati. Desiring offspring, King Sagara, along with his queens, undertook severe penance in the Himalayas. After many years of austerity, the great sage Bhṛigu appeared before them.

**Atha varsha-shate poorne tapasaaradhito munih |
Sagaraaya varam praadaad Bhṛiguh satyavataam varah || 1.38.6 ||**

Meaning:

After a hundred years of penance, Sage Bhṛigu, best among the truthful, appeared and offered a boon to King Sagara. The sage informed the king that one queen could have a single son who would continue the dynasty, while the other could have sixty thousand sons.

**Ekaa janayitaa taata putram vamshakaram tava |
Shashtim putra-sahasraani aparaa janayishyati || 1.38.8 ||**

Queen Keshini chose to have one son, while Queen Sumati desired sixty thousand sons. In due course, Keshini gave birth to a son named Asamanja, while Sumati gave birth to a gourd-shaped mass.

Miraculously, this mass divided into sixty thousand parts, each of which was placed in jars filled with clarified butter (ghee).

**Ghritha-poorneshu kumbheshu dhaatryas taan samavarddhayan |
Kaalena mahataa sarve yauvanam pratipedire || 1.38.18 ||**

Meaning:

The infants were nurtured in pots filled with ghee, and in time all sixty thousand grew into strong young princes. The Ashwamedha Yajna and the Missing Horse Later, King Sagara decided to perform the Ashwamedha Yajna, a royal sacrifice symbolizing sovereignty. As part of the ritual, a horse was released to wander freely. However, Indra, king of the gods, fearing the growing power of Sagara, secretly stole the sacrificial horse and hid it. King Sagara ordered his sixty thousand sons to search every corner of the earth. The princes spread across the world, digging through the earth and harassing anyone who stood in their way. Their reckless behavior caused widespread suffering. When they initially failed to find the horse, the king scolded them, and they resumed their search with even greater anger.

Tasya kopaagninaa dagdhaa bhavishyanti nripaataamajaah || 1.40.2 ||

The Destruction of Sagara's Sons

Unable to bear the princes' destruction and cruelty, the gods approached Lord Brahma for help. Brahma revealed that Lord Vishnu had incarnated on earth as Sage Kapila and that he would bring an end to the princes' arrogance. The gods arranged for the sacrificial horse to be found near

Kapila Muni's hermitage. Eventually, the princes arrived at the hermitage and saw the horse grazing nearby. They also saw Sage Kapila deep in meditation.

**Te tu sarve mahaatmaanah bheema-vegaa mahaabalaah |
Dadrishuh Kapilam tatra Vaasudevam sanaatanam || 1.40.24 ||**

**Hayam cha tasya devasya charantam avidooratah |
Praharsham atulam praaptaah sarve te Raghunandana || 1.40.25 ||**

Instead of respectfully inquiring, the princes accused Kapila Muni of stealing the horse and began insulting him.

**Teshaam Kapilo Raghunandana |
Roshena mahataa'vishto hunkaaram akarot tadaa || 1.40.28 ||**

Filled with righteous anger, Kapila Muni uttered a powerful roar. Instantly, all sixty thousand sons of Sagara were reduced to ashes. Thus ended the lives of the mighty princes in a single moment.

Anshuman's Humility

When King Sagara learned of the tragedy, he sent his wise and humble great-grandson Anshuman to Kapila Muni's hermitage. Unlike the princes, Anshuman approached the sage with reverence and humility. Pleased with his conduct, Kapila Muni explained what had happened and allowed him to take the sacrificial horse back to complete the Ashwamedha Yajna.

**Kapilena aprameyena dagdhaa heeme mahaabalaah |
Salilam naarhasi praaajna daatum eshaam hi laukikam || 1.41.18 ||**

Final Blessing

**Gaccha chaashvam mahaabhaaga tam grihya purusharshabha |
Yajnam paitaamaham veera samvartayitum arhasi || 1.41.21 ||**

Meaning:

“O noble one, take this horse and return. Complete your grandfather's sacred sacrifice, for that will bring welfare to all.”

The Lesson of the Story

The story of King Sagara's sixty thousand sons teaches an eternal lesson. Power without wisdom leads to destruction.

Arrogance, anger, and impulsive actions can undo even the strongest of individuals, while humility, patience, and respect open the doors to success and divine grace. The sixty thousand princes perished because of pride and recklessness, while Anshuman succeeded because of humility and good conduct. This timeless episode from the Valmiki Ramayana reminds us that every action should be guided by wisdom and self-control. When ego governs our decisions, destruction follows; when humility leads, blessings arrive.

“Jai Shri Ram”



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

Boston then vs. now

From bridging global democracies to disguising political anarchy

● By: Arun Mundra

The city of Boston, Massachusetts, has long been an international hub where the paths of the Indian diaspora and global leaders intersect. However, a stark contrast has emerged between two distinct timelines. In recent years, Boston served as a stage for high-level diplomacy and the reinforcing of ties between the world's oldest and largest democracies. Today, it has become the remote operating base for digital mobilization aimed at generating political disruption in India. The contrast between "Boston Then" and "Boston Now" reveals the shifting dynamics of political expression within the global Indian community.

Boston then: Nurturing democracy and strengthening Indo-US bonds

During a previous North American visit for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Summit, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was formally felicitated in Boston by Arun Mundra, a prominent international coordinator representing global NRI platforms like Mein BHARAT Hoon and the All India Maheshwari Mahasabha (ABMMS). The high-profile event took place in the presence of key diplomats, including then-Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu and then-Consulate General in New York Randhir Jaiswal.

During the ceremony, Speaker Om Birla was presented with two highly symbolic gifts designed to mirror India's democratic values: a hand-painted plate featuring the "House of Freedom" and the Indian Constitution, representing institutional integrity and the rule of law; and a freely self-revolving globe. Presented by Mundra with a specific geopolitical message, this globe symbolized that if the United States (the oldest democracy) and India (the largest democracy) collaborate effectively, the global community can rotate freely, unburdened by cross-border terrorism or predatory infrastructure debt traps that challenge developing nations across Africa and South Asia.

The felicitation recognized the legislative efficiency achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and



Speaker Om Birla. The parliament successfully debated and passed critical, long-delayed legislation that had faced decades of political hesitation, such as the abrogation of Article 370, the Triple Talaq Prohibition Bill, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and the Women's Reservation Bill. Speaker Birla later shared photos of the meeting on social media, emphasizing the deep bilateral bridges and economic confidence built through active NRI engagement.

Boston now: The rise of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)

In sharp contrast to this diplomatic legacy, Boston has recently been associated with the launch of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)—a digital movement founded by Abhijit Dipke. The group adopted its provocative name following a side remark by a judicial figure regarding public apathy, turning it into a brand for anti-establishment satire.

A critical analysis of the CJP's leadership reveals deep, pre-existing ties to established political networks rather than an independent student collective. Founder Abhijit Dipke maintains documented links to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Delhi Government, while key team



members like Saurav Das, Vijetha Dahiya, and Ashutosh Ranka bring records of partisan digital content creation and past political alignment. Critics note that while these leaders claim to champion student anxieties over exam irregularities, their silence during past regional paper leaks under different state administrations raises questions about their ideological neutrality.

The operational gap between the CJP's digital footprint and its actual grassroots mobilization became evident during the June 6th protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Moving from Boston to Delhi, the organizers heavily publicized a massive turnout. Despite failing to submit the standard 7-day advance notice required for Jantar Mantar demonstrations, Delhi Police exceptionally granted last-minute clearance to prevent public disruption.

However, while the CJP claimed an online community of over 23 million followers—with heavy digital traffic originating from international hubs indicating a reliance on online bots—the actual physical turnout was estimated at fewer than 2,000 attendees. The crowd was largely outnumbered by media personnel, security forces, and casual spectators. On-ground reports indicated that many attendees were unfamiliar with specific NEET-UG or CBSE exam technicalities. Instead, the event quickly shifted toward broad political slogans, including chants for "Azadi" and statements targeting traditional cultural organizations like the RSS. The protest struggled to sustain momentum under local weather

conditions, with core leaders departing from the venue well before the scheduled police curfew.

Critical Conclusion: Guarding institutional integrity

The evolution from "Boston Then" to "Boston Now" illustrates a growing challenge within international political discourse. While global platforms can be used to showcase India's democratic growth and build economic partnerships, they can also be utilized to remotely manage localized domestic friction. For the diaspora and domestic observers alike, discerning genuine student advocacy from highly organized, partisan campaigns remains essential. Protecting democratic institutions requires recognizing when authentic grievances—such as exam security—are being channeled into broader, non-academic political agendas.

About the author

Arun Mundra is an international coordinator, community leader, and prominent voice within the global Indian diaspora. He holds key leadership positions across several international organizations, serving as the International Coordinator for Mein BHARAT Hoon, the All India Maheshwari Mahasabha (ABMMS) NRI Global Coordination, and the Statue of Unity (SOU) Global Outreach initiative.

Dedicated to strengthening cultural, economic, and strategic ties between India and the global community, he has spearheaded major transnational events, including the International Dussehra Diwali Global Coordination and the International Cultural Committee (ICC).

Through his extensive work with non-resident Indian (NRI) platforms, Mundra continuously builds institutional bridges that foster global collaboration, promote democratic values, and preserve India's rich cultural heritage on the world stage.

Disclaimer: The views, opinions, and perspectives expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or views of this publication.



Indian mangoes make a strong entry into the U.S. Pacific Northwest as Seattle hosts 'Mango Magic 2026'

Seven premium varieties from India showcase growing export potential and consumer demand in the United States

By: Vandana Jhingan

The vibrant flavors of India's world-renowned mangoes took center stage in Seattle as the Consulate General of India hosted the second edition of "Mango Magic: Promotion and Tasting Event of Indian Mangoes," bringing together leading fruit importers, retailers, policymakers, and community leaders to celebrate the growing popularity of Indian mangoes in the United States.

More than 100 participants, including senior executives from retail giant Costco, attended the event and sampled seven premium varieties of Indian mangoes now making their way into American markets. The showcase featured **Alphonso and Kesar from Maharashtra, Banganapalli and Himayat from Andhra Pradesh, Langra and Dussheri from Uttar Pradesh, and Rajapuri from Gujarat**, highlighting the rich diversity of India's mango heritage.

Addressing the gathering, Denny Heck, Lieutenant Governor of Washington State, welcomed the introduction of a broader range of Indian mangoes to consumers in the Pacific Northwest and praised efforts to bring these premium fruits to major U.S. retailers. Among the distinguished guests were Washington State Senators Tina Orwall, Manka Dhingra, and Vandana Slatter, along with Consuls General from Japan and Uzbekistan.

The event builds upon efforts launched by the Consulate General of India in Seattle in July 2025 to expand market access for Indian agricultural products in the Pacific Northwest. Working closely with exporters, retailers, and trade stakeholders in both India and the United States, the Consulate has actively promoted Indian fruits, particularly mangoes, among major American retailers.

Those efforts gained momentum following discussions with Costco leadership earlier this year. In April 2026, Costco introduced Maharashtra's Bhagwa pomegranates in select stores, followed by the arrival of Kesar mangoes in May.

The response from consumers exceeded expectations. During the third week of May, Costco imported its first shipment of Indian Kesar mangoes to stores in the Greater Seattle region, Las Vegas,



Guests sample premium Indian mango varieties during the second edition of 'Mango Magic' hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, showcasing the growing popularity of Indian mangoes in the U.S. market.

New Jersey, and Greater Los Angeles. According to company representatives, the mangoes sold out within two hours of being placed on store shelves, underscoring the strong demand for authentic Indian fruit varieties among American consumers.

India remains the world's largest producer of mangoes, cultivating more than 26 million metric tons annually across over 1,000 named varieties. Since the resumption of mango exports to the United States in 2007 following an 18-year suspension, trade has grown significantly. Indian mango exports to the U.S. reached approximately \$10 million in FY 2023-24, representing a 130 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

The broader U.S. mango market continues to expand as well. Industry projections indicate that American mango imports are expected to grow by an additional 7 percent in 2026, while the overall U.S. mango import market surpassed \$1 billion in value in 2025.

The growing international recognition of Indian mangoes was also highlighted recently by Narendra Modi during his "Mann Ki Baat" address, where he celebrated India's rich mango diversity and praised farmers for successfully bringing regional varieties from local orchards to global markets.

Hosted in partnership with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority



(APEDA), the Seattle event featured not only fresh mango tastings but also a special luncheon showcasing Indian cuisine prepared using the seven featured mango varieties.

Organizers noted that events such as Mango Magic play an important role in introducing American consumers to India's agricultural excellence while creating new opportunities for Indian farmers and exporters.

With demand continuing to rise, stakeholders believe that premium Indian mango varieties have significant potential to expand their presence in U.S. supermarkets and specialty food markets.

As Indian mangoes continue to win over American consumers, Seattle's Mango Magic event served as both a celebration of India's agricultural heritage and a promising sign of growing trade and cultural connections between India and the United States.



Diwali awareness and Hindu heritage to be preserved in Skokie community Time Capsule until 2050

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a meaningful recognition of cultural diversity and community heritage, the Skokie Heritage Museum announced that materials commemorating Diwali awareness and Hindu heritage will be preserved in the community's Time Capsule, scheduled to be opened in the year 2050. The announcement was made during a special gathering attended by community members and local officials, including Ann Tennes, at the Skokie Public Library on June 7. The inclusion of Diwali Awareness and Hindu Heritage materials in the Time Capsule represents an important acknowledgment of the growing contributions of the Hindu community to the social, cultural, and civic life of Skokie and the surrounding region. When opened in 2050, the preserved items will provide future generations with a glimpse into how Hindu traditions and cultural celebrations became an integral part of the community's evolving identity during the early decades of the 21st century. Museum representatives explained that the Time Capsule project was



created to document significant milestones, events, and cultural developments that reflect the rich diversity of Skokie. By preserving materials related to Diwali—the Festival of Lights—and Hindu heritage, organizers hope to ensure that future residents gain a deeper understanding of the traditions, values, and community engagement that helped shape the village's multicultural character.

"Community history is strengthened when it reflects the stories of all its residents," organizers noted during the announcement. The Time Capsule will serve as a historical archive, capturing the experiences and contributions of various cultural and community groups that have enriched life in Skokie over the years. Local community leaders welcomed the recognition, describing it as a bridge connecting present and future generations. They emphasized that preserving

cultural heritage today helps future residents appreciate the diversity, traditions, and achievements that contributed to building a stronger and more inclusive community. The decision also reflects the growing visibility of Diwali celebrations throughout the United States, where the Festival of Lights has increasingly been recognized by schools, municipalities, businesses, and public institutions as an important cultural and educational observance.

For many members of the Hindu community, the inclusion in the Time Capsule carries symbolic significance. It not only preserves the history of Diwali Awareness initiatives but also recognizes the broader contributions of Hindu Americans in promoting cultural understanding, community service, education, and civic engagement. When the Time Capsule is opened in 2050, residents will have the opportunity to look back on a period marked by efforts to celebrate diversity, foster mutual respect, and strengthen connections across cultures and generations. The preservation of Diwali Awareness and Hindu Heritage recognition stands as a lasting symbol of inclusion, remembrance, and the shared commitment to passing cultural knowledge from one generation to the next.

विश्व पोहा दिवस
World Poha Day

पोहा है सुबह की पहली किरण,
स्वाद का जादू, खुशबू का आँगन।
चटपटा, नरम, मसालों से सजा,
एक कौर में छुपा जीवन का रस।

बहुत अनोखी है पोहे की कहानी,
सुनते ही आ जाए मुँह में पानी।
हर कोई घर में है पोहे का दीवाना,
मम्मी पापा, दादा-दादी, नाना-नानी।

पोहे में बसते हैं स्वाद के पाँचों रंग,
इसकी महक छेड़ देती मन में मधुर तरंग।
जीरावन और सेव बढ़ाते इसकी शान निराली,
संग जलेबी जैसे राजा-रानी की जोड़ी प्यारी।

नास्ते की थाली से जम्म लेता हर दिन सवेरा,
दिन भर साथ रहता स्वाद का अदृष्ट बसेरा।
पोहे में पकवान नहीं, अपनापन घुला होता है,
हर निवाले में ममता का सुख मिला होता है।

बिना पोहे के इंदौर में नास्ता कहाँ पूरा होता है,
इसके बिना इंदौर में दिन आरंभ नहीं होता है।
बचपन से पचपन तक, याद रहे छप्पन की पहचान,
सेव और हरी मिर्च से सजता स्वाद का सम्मान।

समय कोई हो, चाहे सौझ हो या फिर भोर,
पोहे की खुशबू ले जाती सबको रसोई की ओर।
एक बार चखो तो मन फिर बार-बार मचले,
इंदौर की इस सौगात के किस्से दूर-दूर तक चलें।

चाहे मराठी हो, या कोई राजस्थानी,
पोहा है सबका प्यारा, सबका अपना।
लाजवाब है पोहा, खुशबू इसकी मस्तानी,
इसीलिए पूरी दुनिया है पोहे की दीवानी।

— राकेश की कलम से —

विश्व पोहा दिवस
मुबारक हो,
ये साधारण व्यंजन,
असाधारण आनंद।

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**June 21, 2026 – 3:00 PM
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**June 28, 2026 – 3:00 PM
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ALL ARE WELCOME

United Senior Pariwar of Chicago celebrates 18 years of service with special Mother's Day program

By: Jayanti Oza

The United Senior Pariwar of Chicago (USPC) marked a significant milestone as it celebrated its 18th anniversary of service to the Indian senior community while also honoring mothers during a special Mother's Day program held on May 17, 2026.

Founded nearly two decades ago by visionary community leader Ramanbhai Patel, former President of USPC, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, the organization was established to address the social and emotional needs of senior citizens within the Indian-American community. Many first-generation immigrants who arrived in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s worked tirelessly to build successful lives and provide opportunities for their children.

As those children grew into successful professionals and started families of their own, many seniors found themselves seeking companionship and meaningful social engagement.

Today, USPC has grown into a thriving organization with 371 members, providing a vibrant platform for fellowship, cultural activities, education, and community connection.

The Mother's Day celebration began with a traditional Deep Pragatya (Lamp Lighting Ceremony), performed by Rameshbhai Chokshi, Virendrabhai Patel, Bhanubhai Vyas, Kanubhai Patel, Pradumnabhai Pathak, Smitaben Pathak, and Manubhai Patel. The ceremony was accompanied by sacred Vedic mantras recited by Kiritbhai Pandya, creating a spiritual and uplifting atmosphere.

USPC President Rameshbhai Chokshi and Operating Branch Advisor Virendrabhai Patel welcomed members and provided updates regarding the organization's upcoming Annual Program scheduled for June 13, 2026.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was an inspiring performance by young Krishiv Gupta, son of Varunbhai and Sivaniben Gupta. Displaying remarkable



Members of United Senior Pariwar of Chicago enjoying the Mother's Day celebration and 18th anniversary gathering.

confidence and devotion, Krishiv captivated the audience with his recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa, earning enthusiastic applause and admiration from members. His performance added a special spiritual touch to the celebration and became one of the most memorable moments of the event.

Senior member Pradumnabhai Pathak, known for his extensive knowledge and engaging speaking style, delivered an informative presentation on the importance of Mother's Day. He also shared fascinating historical insights about the United States, which were appreciated by the audience.

During a brief intermission, members enjoyed Havmor ice cream, generously sponsored by Pradumnabhai Pathak and Smitaben Pathak.

The cultural segment of the program featured entertaining performances by Jyosanaben Chokshi, Dipeshbhai Modi, Smitaben Sutaria, and Neetaben Shah, whose talents added joy and energy to the gathering.

Continuing a cherished USPC tradition, members celebrating birthdays in the month of May were recognized with a special birthday celebration. Guests joined together in singing birthday songs, distributing sweets, and presenting gifts to the celebrants while extending



Pradumnabhai and Smitaben Pathak addressing members on the significance of Mother's Day.

wishes for good health, happiness, and prosperity.

On behalf of the organization, Kiritbhai Pandya expressed sincere appreciation to the Swaminarayan Temple for its continued support and cooperation, which has helped make many USPC programs successful over the years.

The event concluded with a delicious vegetarian lunch enjoyed by members and guests, providing an opportunity for fellowship and social interaction. As

participants departed, many expressed excitement about reconnecting at the organization's annual June gathering.

Over the past 18 years, the United Senior Pariwar of Chicago has played an important role in enriching the lives of senior citizens by fostering friendship, cultural engagement, and community service. The Mother's Day celebration once again demonstrated the organization's commitment to keeping seniors active, connected, and valued members of the community.



Members born in the month of May celebrating their birthdays with songs, sweets, and gifts.



Young Krishiv Gupta reciting the Hanuman Chalisa during the program.

Protect your vision, protect your life: Part 2

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The eyes are among the most precious gifts of human life. Through them, we experience the beauty of the world, recognize loved ones, and maintain our independence. Yet millions of people silently suffer from progressive eye diseases that develop without pain or early warning signs. Regular comprehensive eye examinations remain your best defense against avoidable blindness.

In this second article of our series, we focus on serious vision-threatening eye diseases affecting the optic nerve and retina that require prompt diagnosis and treatment.

Glaucoma

Often called the "silent thief of sight," glaucoma damages the eye's optic nerve, usually due to abnormally high pressure within the eye.

- ▶ **Symptoms:** Early stages typically have no symptoms. Progresses to a gradual loss of peripheral (side) vision and eventual tunnel vision. Acute attacks (angle-closure) cause sudden, severe eye pain, headaches, and blurred vision.
- ▶ **Risks:** Age over 40-60, family history, high intraocular pressure, diabetes, and African or Hispanic descent.
- ▶ **Diagnosis:** Diagnosed via a comprehensive exam including tonometry (eye pressure), ophthalmoscopy (optic nerve check), and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT).
- ▶ **Severity:** High. Vision loss is permanent and irreversible. Early detection is paramount.
- ▶ **Treatment Options:** Progression can be halted with prescription eye drops, oral medications, laser treatments, or surgery to lower eye pressure.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy occurs when high blood sugar levels damage the blood vessels in the retina, leading to swelling, leakage, or the growth of abnormal new vessels.

- ▶ **Symptoms:** Early stages typically feature no noticeable symptoms. Later stages cause blurred vision, floating spots, and sudden, severe vision loss.
- ▶ **Risks:** Long duration of diabetes, poor blood sugar management, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking.
- ▶ **Diagnosis:** Detected through dilated eye exams, OCT scans, and fluorescein angiography to map leaking vessels.
- ▶ **Severity:** High. Can lead to irreversible legal blindness if left unmanaged.
- ▶ **Treatment Options:** Mild cases require strict glycemic control. Advanced stages require intravitreal eye injections (anti-VEGF), protective laser therapy, or vitrectomy surgery.

Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) affects the macula—the central,



most sensitive part of the retina—resulting in the loss of central, detailed vision.

- ▶ **Symptoms:** Blurry or distorted central vision, straight lines looking wavy, and difficulty recognizing faces or reading text.
- ▶ **Risks:** Age over 50, smoking, genetic predisposition, and being Caucasian.
- ▶ **Diagnosis:** Diagnosed using a dilated eye exam, visual field tests, and structural OCT scans to check for fluid or cellular deposits (drusen).

▶ **Severity:** Varies. Dry AMD progresses slowly but has no cure. Wet AMD is less common but highly severe, causing rapid, abrupt central vision loss.

▶ **Treatment Options:** Dry AMD can be slowed with high-dose antioxidant vitamins (AREDS2 formulas). Wet AMD is actively treated with anti-VEGF eye injections to stop blood vessel leakage.

Retinal Detachment

Retinal detachment is a critical medical emergency where the thin, light-sensitive retina pulls away from its underlying support tissue and vital blood supply.

- ▶ **Symptoms:** A sudden increase in floaters, frequent flashes of light, or a dark curtain-like shadow descending over the field of vision.
- ▶ **Risks:** Advanced age, severe nearsightedness (myopia), direct eye trauma, or previous cataract surgery.

▶ **Diagnosis:** Identified during an urgent dilated eye exam or using an ocular ultrasound to inspect the retinal wall.

▶ **Severity:** Extremely high. Can lead to permanent, total blindness within days without immediate treatment.

▶ **Treatment Options:** Requires prompt emergency surgery or laser treatment to reattach the retina via pneumatic retinopexy, scleral buckling, or a vitrectomy.

Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)

Retinal vein occlusion happens when a blood clot blocks a vein carrying blood away from the retina, causing blood and fluid to back up.

- ▶ **Symptoms:** Blurry vision or a painless loss of vision in one eye, which often develops suddenly or over a few hours.
- ▶ **Risks:** High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, and preexisting glaucoma.

▶ **Diagnosis:** Diagnosed using a dilated eye exam, OCT to locate fluid swelling, and fluorescein angiography to track blood flow.

- ▶ **Severity:** Moderate to high. Can trigger severe complications like macular edema or neovascular glaucoma.
- ▶ **Treatment Options:** Focuses on managing fluid and complications through intravitreal eye injections (anti-VEGF or steroids) and targeted laser therapy.

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP)

Retinitis pigmentosa is a large group of rare, inherited genetic eye disorders that trigger the progressive breakdown and loss of photoreceptor cells (rods and cones) in the retina.

▶ **Symptoms:** Difficulty seeing in low light

(night blindness) is usually the first sign, followed by a slow loss of peripheral vision, resulting in tunnel vision.

- ▶ **Risks:** Handed down through families; driven entirely by genetic mutations.
- ▶ **Diagnosis:** Confirmed through visual field tests, an electroretinogram (ERG) to measure retinal electrical activity, and genetic testing.
- ▶ **Severity:** Chronic and progressive. Most individuals develop severe low vision or legal blindness by early adulthood to middle age.
- ▶ **Treatment Options:** There is no cure. Focuses heavily on low-vision aids and mobility training. Luxturna gene therapy is available for specific RPE65 genetic mutations.

Our next installment will address Cornea & Surface Disorders, detailing:

- ▶ Cornea Care and Protection
- ▶ Keratoconus: Symptoms & Care
- ▶ Corneal Ulcers and Infections
- ▶ Cornea Transplant
- ▶ Corneal Endothelial Transplant
- ▶ Fuchs' Dystrophy: Symptoms & Treatment
- ▶ Blepharitis

Disclaimer

This article is intended for educational and awareness purposes only and should not be considered medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Readers experiencing eye symptoms or vision problems should consult a qualified ophthalmologist or healthcare professional immediately. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential to protecting eyesight.

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: NOMINAL & EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATES

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -0.7% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 42 (fear-low)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 49.18% (negative)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 54.60% (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

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.78%, 1-yr 3.88%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.17%, 5-yr 4.29%, 10-yr 4.55%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.01%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.81%, 10-yr 2.19%, 30-yr 2.74%
 FRNs Index 3.664%

Bank Rates 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 4.35% (3-yr), 4.50% (5-yr), 4.60% (7-yr)
 TSP G Fund 4.500% (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 50.33 (greed, barely)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -2.51%, INDY -2.37%, EPI -2.44%, INDH -2.40% | SPY -2.50%



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

AIR INDIA 171 ANNIVERSARY

It was a year ago that tragic Air India 171 (Boeing 787-8/Dreamliner) accident happened on 6/12/25. Among 12 crew members & 230 passengers on board, only 1 passenger survived; dozens on ground were also killed or injured. The "preliminary" Indian AAIB report was hastily released on 7/12/25. Flight numbers AI-171/172 were retired & temporarily changed to AI-159/160, but later, Ahmedabad-London Gatwick route was dropped. There have been various media speculations about the cause(s) - pilot error, defective fuel switches, water leak or fire in the tail area electronics, chip or software malfunction, faulty WOW sensor, overloaded aircraft on a hot day, etc. The recent news was about Indian DGCA sending representatives to observe testing of the fuel switches at Boeing plant in Seattle.

With the recovery of both black boxes, 26 minutes of audio & lot of forensic investigations for 12 months, it's time that full accident report be issued. AAIB may issue an "interim" report on the

anniversary (6/12/26 - today) or the "final" report after a few months.

IT/TECH

Indian IT multinational LTM, a Larsen & Toubro Group company, will acquire some tech & consulting businesses of Netherlands' HR multinational Randstads in Europe & Australia.

Gorilla Technology/GRRR (UK), Super Micro Computers/SMCI (US) & Yotta Data Services (India) are launching AI datacenter services will be provided for Asia, Europe & Middle East. Yotta Data Services (India) is no longer planning a listing in US through SPAC merger & it's not related to fintech Yotta Technologies (US).

ECONOMY. RBI held repo rate at 5.25%. RBI gold remains at 880.52 tonnes - ignore rumors of gold sales to defend rupee.

SPECIAL TOPIC - NOMINAL & EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATES

Annual nominal interest rate ($i_{nom}\%$), also called the annual percent rate (APR), is the quoted rate by BANKS that may be simple, or compounded daily, monthly, semiannually or annually. If the compounding period is monthly, then the monthly nominal rate is ($i_{nom}/12$).

Effective annual rate (EAR) $i_{eff}\%$ includes the compounding effect., i.e. interest-on-interest. So, for MONTHLY compounding,

$$i_{eff} = 100 * \{ [1 + (i_{nom}/1200)]^{12} - 1 \}$$

Applying this formula to annual nominal rate of 6.00%,

$$i_{eff} = 100 * \{ [1 + (6/1200)]^{12} - 1 \}$$

$$= 100 * [1.005^{12} - 1]$$

$$= 100 * 0.061678$$

$$= 6.1678$$

So, the effective annual rate is 6.1678% & the extra amount over the annual nominal rate of 6.00% is the interest-on-interest compounded MONTHLY. Also note that $i_{eff} > i_{nom}$ (or, EAR > APR).

For WEEKLY compounding, $i_{eff} = 6.1800\%$; for DAILY compounding, $i_{eff} = 6.1831\%$. So, as the compounding periods increase, the incremental increases become small, and finally, the limit for CONTINUOUS compounding is 6.1837%, not much above daily compounding.

The differences with compound interest grow over multiple years. So, with APR of 6% compounded DAILY over 10 years, the initial \$amount will grow by +82.2029% (+105.4312% in 12 years, almost double), while with simple interest only by $10 * 6 = 60\%$ (+72% only in 12 years). This is referred to as compounding magic.

Be careful that several ANNUITY companies will quote the higher EAR but banks are required to quote the lower APR. So, an annuity quote of 6% effective annual rate may be only 5.8274% annual nominal rate (if compounded DAILY). Why? They have different regulators.

You can use apps or business/scientific calculators for these calculations, or just ask a properly formulated question from AI ("What is the effective annual rate for nominal 6% compounded MONTHLY?" Answer 6.17%).

A more complicated AI question: "What is the monthly payment for 30-year \$100,000 loan at 6% nominal rate compounded MONTHLY?" Answer \$599.55.

For more information, see www.ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

1. Location: Our study 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



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Summer's chicest shoe is not a sandal

Loafers are stepping out of their fall-only reputation and becoming the polished, practical and surprisingly playful shoe of the season.

Summer usually belongs to sandals, slides and open-toe flats, but this year, the loafer is making a convincing case for staying in the rotation. It has the ease of a flat, the polish of a dress shoe and the versatility to move from workdays to weekends without looking overdone. The trick is to treat it less like a formal classic and more like a warm-weather styling tool.

For a preppy summer look, pair black penny loafers with sporty track shorts and an oversized striped shirt. The mix of athletic and tailored pieces feels relaxed but intentional, especially with sharp sunglasses or a structured bag.

For office days, soften the loafer with linen trousers, a knit tank and a raffia tote. A ruched leather pair or a sleek black style can make breathable summer basics feel instantly more refined.



Loafers also work beautifully with dresses. A glossy black pair can ground a printed mini or plaid halter dress,

while woven leather loafers bring an easy vacation mood to knit midis and market totes. If your style leans minimal, try an

all-white set with black loafers and one sculptural pendant. The contrast feels clean, modern and expensive without trying too hard.

Tailored shorts are another strong match. A blue button-up, pleated shorts, a slim belt and smooth loafers create a crisp outfit that works for brunch, meetings or city errands. For a softer approach, suede loafers in camel or taupe can be worn with column skirts, ribbed tanks and delicate jewelry.

The summer loafer rule is simple: balance the shoe with lighter fabrics and relaxed proportions. Socks are optional, but invisible liners keep the look clean and comfortable.

Whether styled with linen, denim, dresses or shorts, loafers prove that summer polish does not always have to come from a sandal.



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