

India-United Kingdom trade deal to take effect as business groups see major gains



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United Kingdom announced on Wednesday that their Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will take effect on July 15, alongside a social security pact aimed at helping temporary workers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the trade agreement a “historic milestone” and said it would boost investment while creating opportunities for farmers, workers, small businesses, startups and innovators.

The Double Contribution Convention will also begin the same day, extending the exemption period for eligible Indian professionals from three years to five years, a key gain for temporary workers in the United Kingdom. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the pact gives India immediate duty-free access on 99 percent of tariff lines, benefiting sectors such as textiles, leather, marine products, engineering and processed foods.

The UK India Business Council welcomed the final go-ahead, saying the deal would reduce barriers, expand services trade and support investment. Bilateral trade reached nearly \$56 billion to \$60 billion in 2025, and both countries aim to double trade by 2030.

At presidential center opening, Obama warns against threats to democracy



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former President Barack Obama used Thursday's opening ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago to reflect on democracy, citizenship and his long ties to the city, while drawing indirect contrasts with President Donald Trump. Speaking at the South Side campus, Obama urged Americans not to give in to cynicism and warned against complacency at a time of political division.

Michelle Obama also addressed the crowd, emphasizing belonging and the center's connection to the local community. Former presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Joe Biden attended the ceremony, along with public figures and artists. The \$850 million center in Jackson Park includes a museum, civic spaces, a library, gardens and athletic facilities. It opens to the public on Friday as a major legacy project.

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Trump's Iran deal reopens Hormuz, but fragile peace faces early strain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil tankers began moving through the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday as an interim agreement between the United States and Iran took effect, easing immediate pressure on one of the world's most critical energy routes and sending oil prices back toward prewar levels.

President Donald Trump signed the agreement on Wednesday during a dinner with French President Emmanuel Macron at Versailles, while Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed separately in Tehran. The deal gives Washington and Tehran 60 days to negotiate a broader settlement over Iran's nuclear program. Under the interim terms, Iran would dilute its stockpile of highly enriched uranium under international monitoring, while the United States would issue sanctions waivers allowing Iran to resume unrestricted oil sales.

The agreement also lifts the United States blockade on Iranian ports and allows toll-



free passage through Hormuz during the negotiation period, though Iran said it would continue issuing permits and directing traffic through the strait.

The fragile deal faces immediate tests. Israel carried out fresh strikes in Lebanon on

Thursday, raising doubts about whether the ceasefire can extend across the wider region. Vice President JD Vance warned Israel to respect the peace process, while Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said future nuclear talks would be difficult if Washington made excessive demands.

Trump-Modi talks at G7 put trade, talent and maritime security in focus

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi used their first bilateral meeting in more than a year on Wednesday to signal renewed momentum in United States-India ties, with trade, skilled workers, defense cooperation and maritime security high on the agenda. Meeting on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in France, Trump said a trade agreement with India was “very close” and praised Modi as one of the toughest negotiators he had dealt with. Trump also backed continued opportunities for highly skilled Indian professionals in the United States, calling Indians “very talented people” and citing long-standing employment links between the two countries. He said India would



play a growing global role under Modi's leadership and suggested Washington would support New Delhi if it came under attack. Modi praised Trump's efforts to restore stability in West Asia and stressed that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open was vital for the global economy. He also raised the safety of Indian seafarers working across global shipping routes.

India and Canada push trade deal as ties regain momentum

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney used their Tuesday meeting on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in France to signal a rapid reset in India-Canada relations, with both leaders setting their sights on completing a long-pending trade agreement in 2026.

Carney said the two countries were making “very good progress” on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and pointed to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, education, culture and business exchanges. Modi said he was trying to visit

Canada this year and hoped the agreement could be concluded before that trip.

The leaders also reviewed cooperation in energy, technology, innovation, education and people-to-people ties. Commercial discussions on liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas and metallurgical coal were also noted as part of a broader push to strengthen supply chains and energy security.

Both sides agreed to begin talks on a General Security of Information Agreement to deepen defense and security cooperation. They also welcomed progress under the Canada-India Talent and Innovation Strategy and announced Raisina Americas as a new platform for dialogue and engagement.

Macron's Hindi message adds personal warmth to Modi visit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron's farewell message in Hindi for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday added a personal touch to India-France ties during Modi's visit to France.

In the video message, Macron welcomed Modi's presence in Nice, Evian and Paris and said he was happy to host him. Speaking in Hindi, the French President said the friendship between India and France is immortal, using the phrase “Dosti amar rahe” to underline the warmth between the two countries.

Macron later switched to English and thanked Modi for his friendship, saying he looked forward to visiting India next February. The message came after the two leaders attended VivaTech 2026 in Paris, where they highlighted cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, emerging technologies, startups, defense, space and innovation.

Gas prices ease after United States-Iran deal, but relief remains limited



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gasoline prices in the United States fell below \$4 a gallon on Thursday for the first time since March, after President Donald Trump signed a preliminary agreement with Iran to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the American Automobile Association, the national average for regular gasoline stood at \$3.999 a gallon. The decline followed easing crude oil prices, with Brent crude falling below \$78 a barrel and the United States benchmark near \$74.

Drivers are seeing some relief, but prices remain about \$1 higher than before the conflict began in February and roughly 25 percent above last year's levels. Experts warned that refinery limits, depleted inventories and supply chain costs could keep prices elevated.

Iran plans Hormuz fees as shipping resumes after blockade ends



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran said on Thursday that it plans to introduce maritime fees in the Strait of Hormuz after a 60-day negotiation period triggered by its memorandum of understanding with the United States.

The announcement came as the United States lifted its blockade of Iranian ports and oil tankers began moving again through the critical waterway. Tehran said the strait must now be managed at a cost, while Gulf officials challenged the proposal, arguing that shipping had operated freely before the conflict.

The agreement signed by President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is expected to be followed by technical talks in Switzerland. Those talks will focus on reopening traffic, easing sanctions on Iranian oil exports and implementing the 14-clause deal.

NATO faces pressure as Ukraine war intensifies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine's widening drone campaign against Moscow coincided with high-level defense talks in Brussels on Thursday, where the North Atlantic Treaty Organization faced renewed pressure over Europe's security role.

United States Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth sharply criticized European allies, saying the alliance had become a "paper tiger" and a "one-way street." He accused some members of relying too heavily on Washington and announced a review of the United States military posture in Europe.

Poland and Lithuania signaled interest in a permanent United States military presence, while alliance leaders discussed



modernizing nuclear capabilities and strengthening planning. The talks came as European Union leaders met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and pledged continued support for Kyiv amid intensified Russian and Ukrainian strikes.

California billionaire tax advances despite tech opposition

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A California proposal to impose a one-time wealth tax on billionaires has gained enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, state officials said on Wednesday.

The California Billionaire Tax Act would levy a one-time 5 percent tax on residents worth more than \$1 billion, with revenue meant for health care, food assistance and education programs. The proposal is backed by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West.

Governor Gavin Newsom and several technology billionaires oppose the measure, warning it could drive wealthy residents out of California and reduce state revenue. Tech



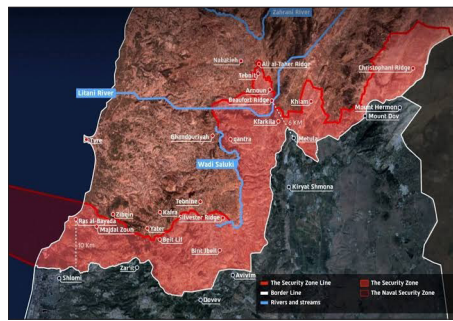
figures including Sergey Brin, Peter Thiel and others have funded opposition efforts. Supporters have offered a possible compromise, asking Newsom to back a reduced 2 percent tax before the campaign's decision deadline.

Israel expands Lebanon security map despite withdrawal pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel's military published a new map on Thursday showing an expanded zone of operation in southern Lebanon, even as the United States-Iran interim pact calls for Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty to be respected. Israeli officials told Reuters that talks with the United States were underway over continuing Israel's troop deployment. Israel invaded southern Lebanon in March after rocket fire by Hezbollah and has rejected calls for a full withdrawal.

The new map shows Israeli forces operating several kilometers deeper into Lebanon, including near Nabatieh, a Hezbollah



stronghold. Hezbollah has continued attacks on Israeli positions, including explosive drone strikes. Israeli officials say troops will remain until security concerns are addressed, while critics argue the deployment challenges the new regional agreement.

CDC expands Ebola response as outbreak strains Congo and Uganda

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday it will use \$107 million in emergency funding to strengthen the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, where a Bundibugyo strain outbreak has become one of the largest recorded. Health officials said the outbreak has caused hundreds of confirmed cases

and more than 200 deaths across the two countries, though the global risk remains low because Ebola spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids, not through the air. The agency has deployed field staff in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and more than 125 personnel across both countries. The response will focus on surveillance, isolation, diagnostics, safe burials and border readiness. Officials are also coordinating with United States cities hosting World Cup matches.

Belfast rallies against racism after anti-immigrant violence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands gathered outside Belfast City Hall on Saturday to condemn anti-immigrant violence that erupted earlier in the week after a stabbing blamed on an asylum seeker. The unrest followed the arrest of a 30-year-old Sudanese man on attempted murder charges after a man was partly blinded in the attack. Rioters set fire to homes they believed housed immigrants, torched vehicles and attacked police with bricks, bottles and firebombs. More than two dozen people were left homeless and 12 officers were injured. Demonstrators carried anti-racism signs and said the violence did not reflect Belfast's wider community. Similar tensions were also reported in Glasgow.

Putin critic shot dead in Poland, suspects detained



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian artist and Kremlin critic Robert Kuzovkov was shot dead near his home in Biala Podlaska, eastern Poland, on Monday, prosecutors said Tuesday. Polish media identified him as Kuzovkov, while prosecutors named him as Robert K. under privacy rules. He used the pseudonym Semyon Skrepetsky and was known for satirical portraits of President Vladimir Putin, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and other Russian officials. Prosecutors said he was shot multiple times at close range and died at the scene. Two Belarusian citizens were initially detained, and Polish officials later said another suspect had been arrested as the investigation continued.

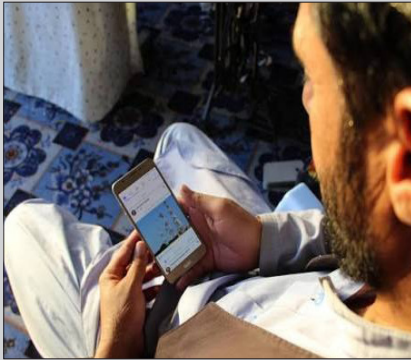
Norway crown princess' son convicted of rape, sentenced to 4 years in prison

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marius Borg Hoiby, the son of Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, was sentenced to four years in prison on Monday after an Oslo court convicted him of two counts of rape, domestic violence and other crimes. Hoiby, 29, who became part of the royal family when his mother married Crown Prince Haakon in 2001, denied the most serious accusations while admitting to some lesser charges. He was acquitted on two other rape counts and can appeal the verdict. Prosecutors had sought a longer sentence. The seven-week trial drew intense attention in Norway and added pressure on the monarchy, whose popularity has declined amid recent controversies.

Friday, 19 June 2026

Taliban smartphone ban raises fears of wider digital crackdown



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Taliban have ordered a ban on smartphone use by government officials in Afghanistan, raising concerns that broader restrictions on civilians could follow. A directive issued by Taliban military courts says officials, fighters and service staff are barred from using smartphones. It warns that violators could have their phones destroyed and face legal and Sharia punishment. Any exemption would require written approval from Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. Reports from Afghanistan suggest enforcement has been uneven, with some areas extending restrictions to women, teachers, medical workers, students and civilians. Analysts said the move may be linked to fears of leaks, falling productivity and videos of public protests spreading online. The order follows a recent internet blackout that disrupted commerce and emergency services.

United States boat strike kills three in Pacific drug operation



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The United States military struck a boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Thursday, killing three people it accused of drug smuggling.

United States Southern Command said the vessel was operating along known smuggling routes, but the military did not publicly provide evidence that it was carrying drugs. Video posted online showed a boat moving through the water before being hit and bursting into flames.

The strike is part of the Trump administration's campaign against alleged "narcoterrorists" in Latin America. At least 211 people have been killed in such boat strikes since the campaign began in September. Critics, including lawmakers and legal scholars, have questioned the legality and effectiveness of the strikes, while senators have demanded unedited video of the operations.

Messi, Mbappé and Haaland light up World Cup opening week

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Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappé and Erling Haaland delivered the biggest individual statements of the World Cup between Sunday and Wednesday, turning the opening group-stage matches into a showcase of football's biggest names. Messi scored his first career World Cup hat trick as defending champion Argentina beat Algeria 3-0. His third goal

tied Miroslav Klose's all-time World Cup scoring record of 16, making it the standout moment of the week. Mbappé also made history, scoring twice in France's 3-1 win over Senegal to become France's all-time leading scorer. Haaland marked his World Cup debut in style, netting twice as Norway defeated Iraq 4-1. Together, the three performances underlined how the tournament's early headlines were shaped by elite forwards delivering on the biggest stage.



China arrests United States scholar in espionage case

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China said on Friday that it had arrested United States scholar Min Zin on suspicion of espionage, a rare national security case involving an American citizen. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Min Zin was suspected of activities endangering China's national security. A Myanmar activist said Min Zin disappeared after traveling to Kunming on June 3 for a conference.

Min Zin, a former student activist from



Myanmar's 1988 uprising, later sought asylum in the United States. He founded ISP Myanmar, a think tank that studies Chinese foreign policy, trade with Myanmar and rare-earth exports.

Britain moves to ban social media for children under 16

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British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Monday that the United Kingdom will ban social media use for children under 16, citing concerns over online safety and mental health. The proposed restrictions will cover platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, but not messaging services such as WhatsApp and Signal. The move follows a national consultation in which most responding parents supported a minimum social media age of 16. The measures are expected to be brought to Parliament before Christmas and take effect



next spring. Critics warned that enforcement could be difficult and may raise privacy and free speech concerns.

Swiss voters reject bid to cap population at 10 million

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Swiss voters on Sunday rejected a right-wing proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million by 2050, after a campaign focused on immigration, housing, infrastructure and ties with the European Union. The initiative, backed by the Swiss People's Party, would have forced the government

to restrict asylum, family reunification and residency permits if the population reached 9.5 million. It could also have threatened Switzerland's agreement with the European Union on free movement of people. Critics warned the plan would damage the economy by limiting foreign workers in health care, finance, pharmaceuticals and technology. Switzerland's population is about 9.1 million.

African lawmakers back tougher anti-LGBT legislation after Ghana conference



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Lawmakers from more than a dozen African countries pledged to push tougher restrictions on LGBT rights after a conference in Ghana focused on "family values" and national sovereignty. The Accra gathering came after Ghana's parliament passed one of the continent's strictest anti-LGBT measures, including penalties for promoting LGBT rights. Organizers said representatives from 20 countries attended, and lawmakers from 18 countries backed an African Charter on Family, Sovereignty and Values. The charter urges governments to resist international agreements linked to LGBT rights, abortion or non-abstinence-based sex education. Rights groups warned the push could deepen discrimination across the continent.

France says Iran sanctions relief needs European and United Nations approval



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France said on Friday it will not approve the lifting of United Nations sanctions on Iran unless it is satisfied with the terms of any final nuclear agreement. Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said France, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, must have a role in decisions tied to sanctions relief. He said regional stability would require negotiations to address Iran's nuclear program, ballistic missiles and support for proxy groups. The warning follows a United States-Iran framework that sets a 60-day period for further talks. France, Britain and Germany want a greater role in the process going forward.

Czech Republic delays NATO spending goal as Babis prioritizes public finances

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Czech Republic will miss NATO's 2 percent defense spending target again this year, Prime Minister Andrej Babis said on Friday, adding that his government must first put public finances in order. Babis said defense spending will remain around 1.7 percent to 1.8 percent of gross domestic product in 2026, despite pressure on European allies to raise military budgets amid Russia's war against Ukraine. His government has increased spending on energy subsidies and road projects while expanding the overall budget deficit. Babis said the Czech Republic aims to meet the 2 percent target from 2027 under alliance pressure.



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The Trump–Pezeshkian accord

Ceasefire, compromise, or strategic illusion?



Dr. Avi Verma

The signing of the 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian marks one of the most consequential geopolitical developments in the Middle East in recent years. While many headlines present this as a historic breakthrough, the reality is more complex. This is not a peace treaty, it is a temporary de-escalation framework built on fragile trust, strategic compromise, and political necessity.

At its core, the agreement establishes an immediate cessation of hostilities, including in Lebanon, commits both sides to respect sovereignty, mandates reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and creates a 60-day negotiation window to address broader issues including sanctions, Iran’s nuclear program, and regional security architecture.

The global implications are significant. The Strait of Hormuz carries nearly 20% of global oil trade, making its reopening vital for energy markets and supply chain stability. Yet despite the immediate relief, the most critical questions remain unresolved, particularly nuclear dismantlement, proxy militias, and long-term enforcement.

The winners
Donald Trump — Political and tactical victory

For President Trump, this agreement delivers a major political victory. He can present himself as the leader who halted a dangerous conflict without dragging the United States into another prolonged war in the Middle East, reinforcing his long-standing opposition to “endless wars.”

Trump also gains by securing de-escalation

while limiting direct U.S. financial and military exposure. Reports suggest the proposed \$300 billion reconstruction package will rely largely on private and Gulf-backed investment rather than American taxpayer money.

However, this victory comes with strategic compromises. Instead of immediate dismantling of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure, Washington has deferred the most difficult technical and political issues to future negotiations. Trump has won time and political momentum—but not yet a permanent strategic solution.

Iran — economic relief and strategic survival

Iran arguably gains the most immediate tangible benefits. Tehran secures relief from direct military pressure, potential sanctions easing, access to frozen assets, and a pathway to restoring oil exports—critical lifelines for its struggling economy.

More importantly, Iran appears to have avoided outright capitulation. While the agreement includes commitments preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and references future oversight, there is no confirmed requirement for immediate dismantlement of its nuclear infrastructure.

This allows Tehran to preserve leverage heading into the next phase of negotiations. From Iran’s perspective, survival without surrender is itself a strategic victory.

The non-winners and losers
Israel — strategic isolation and uncertainty

The biggest strategic loser may be Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu now faces a difficult dilemma. The accord addresses direct U.S.–Iran hostilities but leaves Israel’s primary security concerns only partially addressed—namely Iran’s nuclear capabilities, ballistic missile program, and support for regional proxies such as Hezbollah.

What makes this even more significant is that Israel is not a formal party to the agreement, despite being central to the broader conflict. This raises a critical question: where does this leave Israel?

Israeli officials have made it clear that Israel does not consider itself bound by the agreement and reserves the right to

act unilaterally if it perceives an imminent threat. This also raises an uncomfortable but important question: Is this the beginning of political fallout between Trump and Netanyahu?

For years, Trump and Netanyahu projected one of the strongest U.S.–Israel strategic alliances in modern history. Yet this agreement exposes visible cracks in priorities.

Trump’s focus is de-escalation, economic stability, and diplomatic victory. Netanyahu’s focus remains the long-term elimination of Iran’s military and nuclear threat—even if that requires continued military pressure.

This divergence may represent more than tactical disagreement; it may signal increasingly different visions for regional security. If Trump moves toward a broader settlement involving Iran and Gulf states, Israel could find itself increasingly isolated unless its security concerns are directly addressed.

Long-term regional stability — The ultimate gamble

The larger loser may ultimately be long-term regional stability. This agreement functions more as a pause than a durable peace settlement. It creates breathing room but does not resolve the structural conflicts driving instability.

The biggest unanswered questions remain:

- ▶ Can the 60-day negotiation window produce a lasting agreement?
- ▶ Will Gulf states fully support reconstruction financing?
- ▶ Can nuclear verification satisfy both Washington and Tehran?
- ▶ Will proxy conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza remain contained?

The framework’s survival depends heavily on political restraint, discipline, and momentum—three variables historically scarce in Middle Eastern diplomacy. A single major escalation in Lebanon, the Gulf, or around nuclear facilities could derail the entire process.

Bottom line

No one has won peace yet. They have only won time. Trump has won a diplomatic and political victory. Iran has gained economic breathing room and preserved strategic leverage. Israel, however, finds itself in perhaps the most uncomfortable position—watching negotiations that directly affect its security without having a seat at the table.

The most consequential question may no longer be whether the U.S. and Iran can sustain this agreement.

It may be whether Washington and Jerusalem can remain strategically aligned in the months ahead.

If that alignment weakens, this accord may be remembered not only as a ceasefire with Iran—but also as the moment the first serious cracks emerged in the Trump–Netanyahu strategic partnership.

Best Regards,
Dr. Avi Verma,
Publisher,
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Ukraine drone strike sets Moscow refinery ablaze

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukkraine launched one of its largest drone attacks on Moscow on Thursday, striking a major oil refinery in the Russian capital for the second time in a week.

The attack sent thick black smoke over the city, disrupted flights and forced temporary shutdowns at major airports. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said Russian forces shot down 190 drones overnight and that several reached the refinery. He later said the fire had mostly been put out and no one was hurt.

Kyiv presented the strike as retaliation for Russian attacks, including damage to a historic monastery. Ukraine has increasingly targeted Russian energy infrastructure to disrupt Moscow's war economy. The attack came as European leaders met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss continued support for Kyiv.

Iran orders faster ship clearance as Hormuz route reopens



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Friday it had ordered faster clearance for vessels seeking to cross the Strait of Hormuz under the new memorandum of understanding with the United States. The order is an early step toward restoring regular traffic through the strategic waterway, which carries a major share of global oil and natural gas shipments. Under the arrangement, ships will not pay transit fees for 60 days, with Iran covering related expenses during that period. Vessels must submit requests to the Persian Gulf Strait Authority and follow designated routes and schedules because of safety risks along the passage. Iranian officials said traffic would increase gradually as technical rules are announced. Vice President JD Vance said Thursday the 60-day period would test whether the framework can become a lasting deal.

South Korea keeps door open for dialogue with North Korea

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said on Sunday that hope for dialogue and cooperation with North Korea remains alive, reaffirming his commitment to reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Speaking at a special Mass in Rome, Lee recalled the inter-Korean joint statement of 2000, saying it had opened the way for family reunions, humanitarian cooperation and exchanges. He said his government would continue efforts to prevent accidental clashes, rebuild military trust and work toward a durable peace system. Lee also noted that South Korea had suspended propaganda loudspeaker campaigns and would not seek unification by absorption. North Korea, however, has remained unresponsive and continues to treat Seoul as a hostile state.

Brazil court punishes Eduardo Bolsonaro over United States lobbying effort

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Supreme Court sentenced Eduardo Bolsonaro to four years and two months in prison on Tuesday after finding him guilty of seeking United States interference in his father's coup plot case. Prosecutors said Eduardo Bolsonaro, who lives in the United States, lobbied the Trump administration to pressure Brazilian authorities by seeking sanctions against Supreme Court justices and tariffs on Brazilian goods. His father, former President Jair Bolsonaro, is serving more than 27 years in prison for plotting a coup after losing the 2022 election to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Eduardo Bolsonaro denied wrongdoing and said he had not been properly notified about the court process. He previously said



his lobbying in the United States was meant to defend Brazil's constitution, not secure his father's acquittal.

Vance warns allies as Trump's Iran deal faces early resistance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President JD Vance warned critics of the Trump administration's Iran agreement on Thursday, saying efforts to undermine the deal could weaken a rare chance to stabilize the Middle East after months of war. Speaking at the White House, Vance defended the interim pact against criticism from some Israeli officials and Republican lawmakers, arguing that many objections misstated its terms. He said the 60-day negotiation period had begun and that Washington would use it to seek limits on Iran's nuclear activity, regional conduct and long-range missiles. Vance also said Hezbollah should stop attacks on Israel, while Israel should avoid escalating in Lebanon. His



sharpest warning was aimed at Israeli ministers criticizing Trump, whom he described as Israel's most powerful remaining ally.

Women peacekeepers central to lasting peace, India tells United Nations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, P. Harish, said Wednesday that women peacekeepers are central to building durable peace because they help create trust in communities affected by conflict. Speaking at a Security Council debate on Women, Peace and Security, Harish said more than 160 Indian women are serving in United Nations missions

and supporting vulnerable populations, especially women and children. He cited Major Abhilasha Barak, who received the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award this month, as an example of India's contribution. Harish also recalled that India was the first country to deploy an all-female unit to the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He said women peacekeepers help address gender-based violence and ensure peace processes reflect the needs of all communities.

Russia and ASEAN mark 35 years with broader partnership plan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted the Kazan Declaration on Thursday during a commemorative summit marking 35 years of relations, setting out a broader plan for strategic cooperation. The summit in Kazan was co-chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whose country chairs the regional bloc this year. Leaders and delegations adopted four outcome documents, including the Kazan Declaration, joint statements on energy and cultural cooperation, and a 2026 to 2030 action plan for the strategic partnership. The documents call for deeper cooperation in energy, food security, transport, logistics, agriculture, digitalization, science, technology,



artificial intelligence, tourism and innovation. For Moscow, the summit reinforced its push to expand partnerships outside the West amid shifting global alignments.

Taiwan accuses China of blocking its Kenya conference role



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday criticized China after Taiwanese academics were allegedly blocked from attending the Our Ocean Conference in Kenya. The ministry said the academics had traveled to Mombasa on Sunday at Kenya's invitation for a preconference academic exchange, but were denied entry badges because Taiwanese passports were not recognized. Taiwan also alleged that their phones and passports were confiscated and that they were detained for more than 20 hours before leaving the country. Taiwan's planned official delegation canceled its visit over safety concerns. Taipei accused Beijing of pressuring Kenya and said the incident undermined professional cooperation on ocean sustainability. China considers Taiwan part of its territory.

Amit Shah and United States envoy discuss security cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday and discussed expanding cooperation on counterterrorism, narcotics control, border security and criminal justice. Gor said the meeting focused on protecting citizens in both countries from terrorism, illicit drugs and cross-border threats. The meeting came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the Group of Seven Summit in France, where both leaders reviewed progress in trade, energy, defense, technology and people-to-people ties. The talks also build on recent remarks by United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who described India as one of America's most important strategic partners.

Modi raises seafarer safety during Group of Seven outreach

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi specifically raised the safety and security of seafarers during his meetings at the Group of Seven Summit in Evian, France. Misri said Modi emphasized the need to maintain freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce through international waterways, especially amid tensions in West Asia. He noted that hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers serve global maritime trade and that their safety should be a shared international concern. India also welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran and expressed hope for a quick return to peace and stability in the region. Modi also discussed India-United States trade progress with President Donald Trump.

Modi and Merz focus on defense, trade and mobility

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz met on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Group of Seven Summit in Evian, France, as India and Germany mark 75 years of diplomatic ties in 2026. The leaders reviewed renewed momentum in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership after Merz's India visit and the conclusion of India-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations. They discussed trade, investment, defense, green development, technology, education and mobility.

They welcomed the Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and a transit visa waiver for Indian nationals traveling through Germany. Merz invited Modi to Germany for the next India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations later this year.

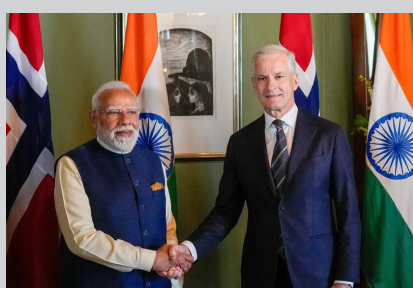
Modi, United Arab Emirates president discuss West Asia and trade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Tuesday in Evian, France, their third meeting this year. The leaders reviewed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including cooperation in technology, trade, investment, energy and defense. Modi also thanked the United Arab Emirates for its care of the Indian community.

Against the backdrop of tensions in West Asia, both sides stressed dialogue, diplomacy, international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also called for free, safe and unimpeded navigation and trade through the Strait of Hormuz. Modi invited Sheikh Mohamed to the BRICS Summit to be hosted by India later this year.

India and Norway carry forward green partnership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Norway reviewed global priorities and bilateral cooperation on Monday, weeks after the two countries upgraded ties to a Green Strategic Partnership. Norwegian Ambassador May-Elin Stener and India's Aparna Ray discussed ways to strengthen cooperation. The wider partnership focuses on clean energy, the blue economy, green shipping, innovation, research, education, health care and skills. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Norway visit, India invited Norwegian investment in clean energy and welcomed Norway's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

India and Slovakia turn a page with wider strategic partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Slovakia on Monday marked a significant step forward in India-Slovakia relations, with both countries elevating their ties to a Comprehensive Partnership.

Modi held talks with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and President Peter Pellegrini in Bratislava, reviewing the full range of bilateral cooperation and identifying new areas of collaboration. The two sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on counterterrorism, reflecting shared concerns over global security and the need for coordinated international action against terrorism.

Several agreements were also signed in key sectors, including digital technologies, labor migration, higher education, research, quantum communication, critical infrastructure protection, tourism and scientific cooperation. The visit also carried a strong cultural and diplomatic message, as



Slovakia conferred its highest state honor, the Order of the White Double Cross First Class, on Modi.

Fico praised India's progress in digitalization and Artificial Intelligence and expressed support for India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

India-European Union trade push gains fresh momentum in Evian

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday in Evian, France, signaled fresh momentum in India-European Union relations.

Held on the sidelines of the Group of Seven Summit, the meeting focused on strengthening economic ties at a time when both sides are looking to deepen strategic and commercial cooperation. The leaders reviewed progress made after the 16th India-European Union Summit in India and welcomed the conclusion of Free Trade Agreement negotiations, calling it a major milestone in the partnership.

The discussions covered investment cooperation, stronger economic linkages, security and defense ties, and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, which is seen as a key connectivity project linking Asia,



the Middle East and Europe.

Modi said closer India-European Union cooperation could help promote peace, stability and prosperity in a changing global environment. Costa said both sides would work toward signing the Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year and speeding up an investment agreement.

Naidu courts Singapore for Amaravati's next phase

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu used his Singapore visit on Monday to position Amaravati as a future-ready capital open to global partnerships. In talks with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Naidu sought cooperation in semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, research, university partnerships, logistics, urban governance and advanced manufacturing. He also invited Singapore's government-linked companies and industry leaders to support Amaravati's growth.

The visit reflected Andhra Pradesh's effort to tap Singapore's expertise in urban planning, technology and infrastructure. Naidu also met Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan to discuss connectivity, digital infrastructure and data center ecosystems, and United Nations Habitat Executive



Director Anaclaudia Rossbach to explore sustainable urban development, climate resilience and a proposed Centre of Excellence for Urban Affairs in Amaravati.

India deepens development support in Kiribati

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Kiribati reviewed development cooperation on Wednesday during meetings led by Indian High Commissioner Suneet Mehta.

The discussions covered infrastructure, digitalization, training, capacity building, multilateral cooperation and climate-resilient development. Mehta also visited a dialysis center being established with Indian support, highlighting India's health care outreach in the Pacific.

India and Kiribati also discussed water and sanitation projects, a desalination plant promised under the third Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, and sustainable growth in the coconut and copra sectors. The engagement reflects India's wider focus on Pacific island nations through development-driven diplomacy.

India strengthens Sri Lanka defense and health support



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India handed over military equipment to the Sri Lankan Army on Tuesday under a \$5.5 million grant to support its United Nations deployment.

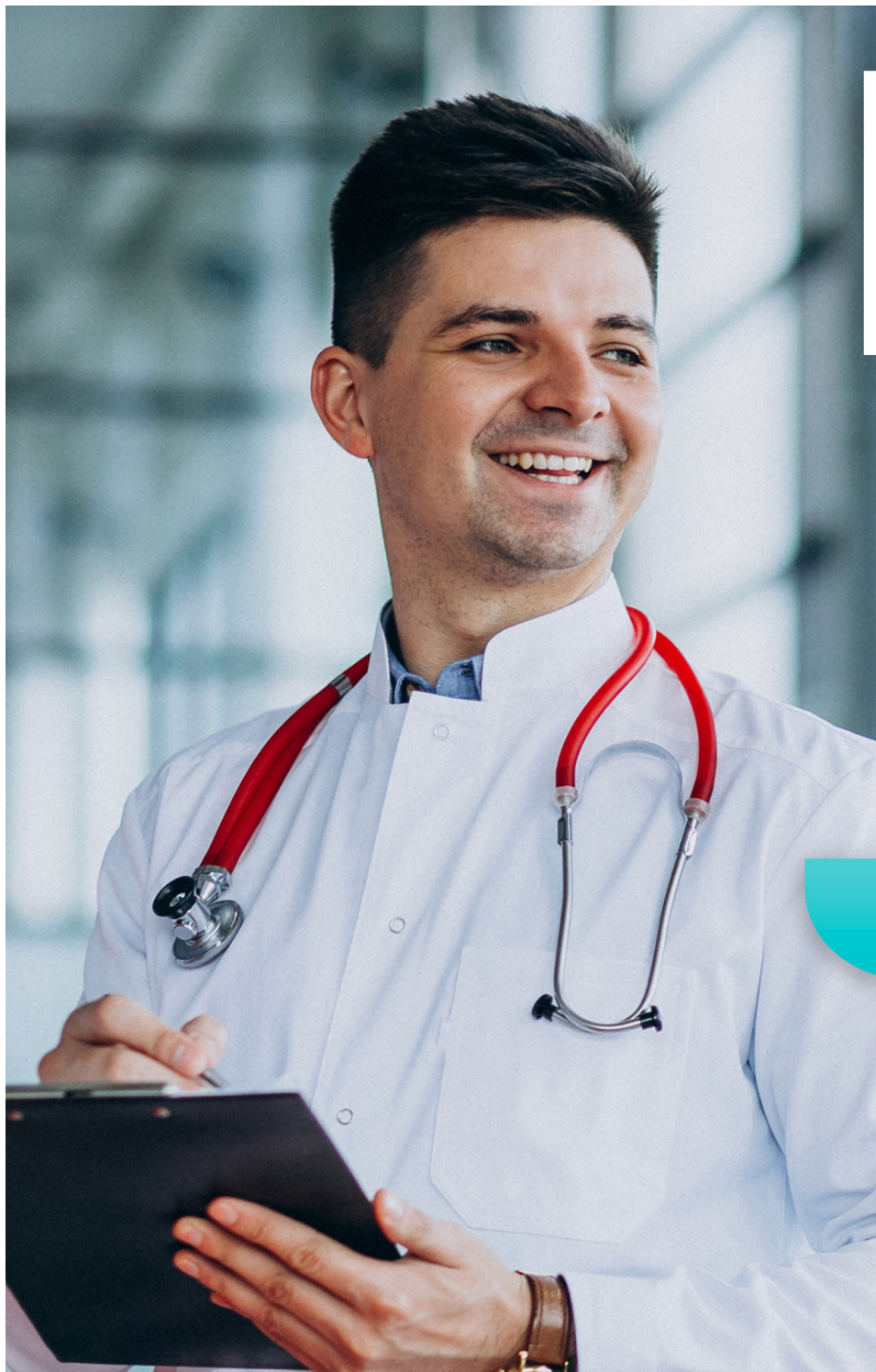
Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha said the equipment was mobilized quickly after Sri Lanka's request, reflecting trust in bilateral defense ties.

The handover adds to India's recent support for Sri Lanka, including personal watercraft and safety gear for the Coast Guard and portable medical units under the Aarogya Maitri initiative. The medical units can help manage emergency cases and are equipped with essential medicines and surgical tools.

India and Australia focus on skills and mobility

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Australia reviewed skills cooperation on Monday during a meeting between Indian High Commissioner Nagesh Singh and Australian Minister for Skills and Training Andrew Giles in Canberra. The talks focused on workforce mobility, skills recognition and cooperation under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Singh also met Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan to discuss trade, education, innovation, skills, culture and diaspora ties. The engagement builds on earlier efforts to operationalize the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications mechanism and create clearer pathways for skilled professionals.



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New York celebrates Knicks' first basketball championship in 53 years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Millions of New York Knicks fans filled Lower Manhattan on Thursday to celebrate the team's first National Basketball Association championship in 53 years. Police said more than 2 million people lined the Canyon of Heroes, the city's famous parade route, as orange-and-blue crowds packed Broadway, City Hall Park and nearby streets. The parade featured current players, former Knicks stars and celebrity fans, including Spike Lee, Timothée Chalamet, Fat Joe and members of Wu-Tang Clan. Jalen Brunson received loud "MVP" chants, while the team was later given keys to the city at City Hall. Alicia Keys closed the celebration with "Empire State of Mind."

Luigi Mangione drops mental health defense in United Healthcare CEO killing case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Luigi Mangione's lawyers withdrew plans on Thursday to use a psychiatric defense in his New York state murder trial over the killing of UnitedHealthcare Chief Executive Officer Brian Thompson. The decision came a day after a judge said the defense planned to argue that Mangione was experiencing "extreme emotional disturbance" when Thompson was fatally shot outside a Manhattan investor conference in December 2024. Mangione faces eight felony charges, including second-degree murder, and has pleaded not guilty. He also faces federal stalking charges. If accepted, the emotional-disturbance defense could have reduced a murder conviction to manslaughter. His state trial is scheduled to begin in September.

Flu outbreak hits Texas air force recruits after vaccine mandate ends

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An influenza outbreak has sickened at least 159 recruits at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, weeks after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth made flu vaccination optional for service members. Reports said only about 40 percent of recruits chose to get vaccinated after the mandate ended in April. Lackland is part of Joint Base San Antonio, where recruits live, train and eat in close quarters, making respiratory illnesses easier to spread. Air Force officials reportedly ordered recruits to receive flu shots as part of containment efforts. It remains unclear whether the recent death of trainee Keon McDaniel after a medical emergency was connected to the outbreak.

Supreme Court limits federal gun ban for marijuana users in unanimous ruling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

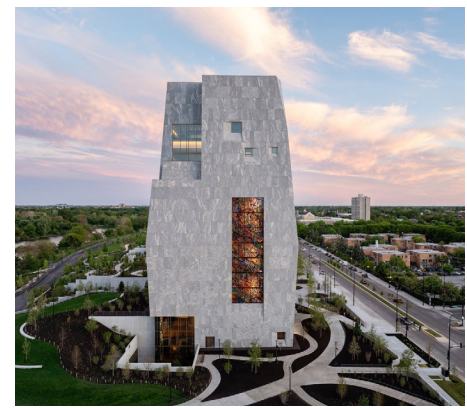
The United States Supreme Court on Thursday limited the reach of a 1968 federal law that bars unlawful drug users from owning firearms, ruling unanimously in favor of Texas resident Ali Hemani. Hemani, a dual United States-Pakistani citizen, had been charged after authorities found a Glock pistol, marijuana and cocaine during an FBI raid at the home he shared with his parents. Prosecutors said he was a regular marijuana user, but did not accuse him of being

intoxicated while possessing the weapon. Writing for the court, Justice Neil Gorsuch said the government had not shown that applying the law to Hemani was consistent with the Second Amendment. The ruling does not strike down the law entirely, but limits its use against marijuana users when prosecutors cannot show addiction or danger. The decision could affect millions of Americans as marijuana laws continue to change. The same federal restriction gained attention after Hunter Biden was convicted under it in 2024 before receiving a presidential pardon.

Obama Presidential Center opens in Chicago as United States marks Juneteenth

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Obama Presidential Center opened to the public in Chicago on Friday as Americans across the country celebrated Juneteenth, the federal holiday marking the end of slavery in the United States. The timing brought together two powerful symbols: the legacy of the nation's first Black president and the continuing struggle for racial equality.



Located on Chicago's South Side, the nearly 20-acre campus includes a museum, a life-size Oval Office replica, a public library branch, a garden designed by former first lady Michelle Obama, a basketball court and community gathering spaces.

Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Organizers say the center is designed to inspire civic action, reflection and community leadership.

Juneteenth marks June 19, 1865, when

Arthur's remnants trigger Gulf Coast flooding as tornadoes batter Midwest

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The remnants of Tropical Storm Arthur drenched parts of the southeastern United States on Thursday, triggering flash floods, water rescues and storm damage across Louisiana and Mississippi, while a separate round of severe weather tore through parts of the Midwest.



Arthur, the first tropical storm of the Atlantic season, weakened quickly after forming but left behind dangerous rainfall. In Louisiana's Avoyelles Parish, more than two feet of rain fell over 48 hours, flooding at least 200 homes and prompting rescue operations involving the National Guard and state wildlife officials.

tornadoes in Louisiana, including one in Avoyelles Parish and others near New Orleans.

Governor Jeff Landry declared a state of emergency for some hard-hit areas. The National Weather Service confirmed several

In Mississippi, Governor Tate Reeves said a county road crew worker was killed during storm cleanup. Farther north, tornadoes in Illinois damaged homes, downed power lines, flipped a semi-truck and left several people with minor injuries.

Washington wildfire near Spokane forces mass evacuations and destroys homes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fast-moving wildfire in eastern Washington forced about 1,500 people to evacuate after high winds pushed flames into a neighborhood near Spokane on Tuesday. Officials said the Upriver Fire had burned 222 acres by Wednesday night, destroyed at least 15 homes and was only 10 percent

contained. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office said possible human remains were found inside one burned home after relatives asked authorities to check on a resident who had refused to evacuate. No other injuries were reported. Firefighters from Washington and neighboring Idaho fought the blaze from the air and ground. Federal emergency funds were approved to help cover firefighting costs.

Judge releases Wisconsin mosque leader detained over Palestinian rights advocacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge ordered the release of Salah Sarsour, president of Wisconsin's largest mosque, from immigration custody on Thursday after finding that officials may have detained him in retaliation for his advocacy for Palestinian rights.

Sarsour, a legal permanent resident who has lived in the United States for more than three decades, was arrested in March and held in Indiana. Judge James Patrick Hanlon said Sarsour had presented a serious First Amendment claim involving free speech protections.

Government lawyers cited old convictions in Israel, which Sarsour denies. The court ordered his release without cash bond but required him to remain in Wisconsin while his immigration case continues.

Trump administration reverses plan to shut down major ocean monitoring network

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration reversed its plan on Thursday to dismantle the \$368 million Ocean Observatories Initiative after scientists and lawmakers warned that the move would harm climate and ocean research. The National Science Foundation said it would stop removing equipment, continue operations and maintenance, and seek expert and public input on the network's future. The system includes more than 900 instruments that track ocean currents, climate patterns, marine biodiversity and ocean health off United States coasts and in the North Atlantic. Scientists said the data helps improve storm forecasting and climate monitoring. The reversal followed bipartisan Senate action to block decommissioning without a full review.

FDA panel supports Moderna's messenger RNA flu vaccine for older adults

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Food and Drug Administration advisory panel on Thursday recommended approval of Moderna's messenger RNA flu vaccine for adults 50 and older, bringing the United States closer to its first messenger RNA seasonal flu shot. In a late-stage trial, the vaccine, called mFlusiva, was about 27 percent more effective than a standard flu shot. The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must still give final approval before it becomes available. Experts said messenger RNA technology could allow vaccine makers to update flu shots faster than traditional methods. Moderna must also conduct an additional post-market trial for adults 65 and older.

ICE arrests 117 people in eastern Tennessee immigration sweep

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement said a weeklong operation in eastern Tennessee led to 117 arrests in Sevier County and nearby Smoky Mountains communities. The operation, carried out in late May with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, included both criminal and administrative immigration arrests.

Officials said some of those arrested had convictions or pending accusations involving theft, domestic assault, drunken driving, cocaine possession, attempted aggravated sexual battery and child rape allegations. ICE said people with final removal orders or those who re-entered the country after prior removal may face quick deportation, while others will remain in custody for immigration proceedings. The operation comes as Tennessee expands local cooperation with federal immigration authorities under Section 287(g) agreements.

Eight victims named after B-52 crash at California air base

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Edwards Air Force Base in California identified the eight people killed when a B-52 Stratofortress crashed shortly after takeoff during a routine test mission on Monday.

The victims included active-duty Air Force personnel, a reservist, Boeing employees and a government contractor. Officials named them as Col. Gregory Watson, retired Lt. Col. Miles Middleton, Lt. Col. Gabriel Estrella, Maj. Robert Dee, Maj. Brad Hovey, Maj. Alexander Davis, Jeromy Smith and Christopher Rischar.

The aircraft was supporting modernization testing for the long-serving bomber fleet when it crashed and caught fire. The cause remains under investigation, and Air Force leaders said their focus is supporting the families.

Arizona drops 2020 fake elector case but plans to seek fresh indictment

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes is dismissing the state's criminal case accusing several allies of President Donald Trump of trying to overturn his 2020 election loss in Arizona, but she plans to bring the matter before a new grand jury. The defendants included former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and others tied to the fake elector effort. The decision announced Thursday followed a court setback and a deadline for restarting grand jury proceedings. Prosecutors said the case is complex and requires more time to present evidence and allow defendants to testify or submit material. Defense attorneys argued the original grand jury did not receive relevant legal instructions on presidential electors. Mayes said the case will not be abandoned. Arizona is one of several states where fake elector cases have faced major legal hurdles.

Appeals court allows Trump to curb union rights for federal workers tied to national security

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump can prevent some federal employees from unionizing when national security concerns are involved. A unanimous panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated a preliminary injunction that had blocked parts of Trump's 2025 executive order. The order excluded several agencies and subdivisions, including parts of the Justice Department, from collective bargaining protections.

The court said federal law allows the president to exclude agencies mainly involved in intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative or national security work if union protections conflict with security



needs. Labor groups argued the order punished unions for protected speech. The court said the current record showed a legitimate national security basis, though the broader case is not fully resolved.

Senate committee advances bill to sanction forced organ harvesting in China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced a bipartisan bill Tuesday aimed at penalizing people accused of involvement in state-sponsored forced organ harvesting in China. The Falun Gong and Victims of Forced Organ Harvesting Protection Act would require the United States government to identify foreign individuals who knowingly engaged in or helped facilitate forced organ harvesting. Those listed could face frozen assets, blocked transactions, visa cancellations, entry bans and loss of immigration benefits in the United States. The bill also calls for a formal investigation into China's organ transplant system, including allegations involving Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs and other prisoners of conscience.



Lawmakers said Beijing has failed to provide a credible and independently verifiable response to long-running concerns raised by human rights groups and medical ethics experts.

FTC and states sue transgender health group over guidance for minors

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday that Abraham Hermosillo Alvarez, the alleged ringleader of a plot targeting the White House UFC event, was a Mexican national who overstayed a visitor visa and later received protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The department said Alvarez entered the United States on a visitor visa

in 2001 and was granted DACA status in 2014. Federal prosecutors allege Alvarez, also known online as "Shepherd," helped organize a planned attack on the UFC Freedom 250 event held over the weekend on the White House South Lawn. The Department of Justice said Alvarez and four others were arrested in Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska and California. Prosecutors alleged the group discussed weapons, explosive drones and plans to trigger wider unrest. Alvarez has not entered a plea.

Justice Department challenges Virginia limits on immigration enforcement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration's Justice Department sued Virginia over state laws that restrict federal immigration enforcement cooperation and limit face coverings by law enforcement officers. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Richmond, challenges measures that would bar state and local agencies from entering 287(g) agreements with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement for civil immigration enforcement. The complaint also challenges a face-mask

restriction, arguing Virginia cannot regulate federal officers or expose them to prosecution for concealing their identities while on duty. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said officers should not face doxing or harassment for carrying out federal law enforcement duties. The Justice Department said the state laws conflict with congressional authority allowing immigration cooperation agreements between federal and local agencies. Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones said his office is reviewing the lawsuit and remains committed to safe communities and transparent enforcement of the law.

Native Americans mark United States 250th anniversary with pride, pain and resilience



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary, Native Americans are reflecting on the milestone with a mix of pride, pain, patriotism and resilience. The celebration comes against a long history of broken treaties, forced removals, land seizures, boarding schools and efforts to erase Native languages, religions and cultures.

Museums and tribal scholars are using the anniversary to show how Native communities survived those policies while continuing to shape American life. Exhibits feature patriotic beadwork, military service, code talkers and contemporary Native art that challenges simplified versions of United States history.

Scholars say the country cannot be understood without Native history, influence and sovereignty. Today, 575 federally recognized tribes maintain government-to-government relationships with Washington. Native youth are also adding their voices through essays on sovereignty, identity, land and culture, making the anniversary a moment of remembrance and renewal.

Veterans group challenges Trump administration's rollback of abortion access



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minority Veterans of America has sued the Trump administration over its decision to reinstate a near-ban on abortion access for veterans and family members who receive health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The lawsuit says the rule removes care that advocates describe as crucial to the health, autonomy and equality of veterans and their dependents.

The Veterans Affairs Department first added limited abortion coverage in 2022, after the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. The Biden-era policy allowed abortions when the pregnant person's life or health was at risk, or in cases of rape or incest.

The new rule allows abortions only when the pregnant person's life is threatened. It removes exceptions for rape, incest and health risks, and also bars abortion counseling. The lawsuit argues the department changed policy without adequate medical or legal justification.

Friday, 19 June 2026

www.indoutribune.com

Indians are always welcome in Nice, mayor says as France-India ties grow



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nice Mayor Eric Ciotti said on Sunday that Indians are always welcome in the French city, using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to underline the growing people-to-people and business connection between India and France. Ciotti, who received Modi at Nice airport, said his private meeting with the Indian leader was an opportunity to thank him for choosing the city. He described Nice as open to Indian talent, investors, entrepreneurs and future partnerships. Modi arrived in Nice on Saturday at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron before leaving for Slovakia. During his France visit, Modi and Macron agreed to elevate ties to a Special Global Strategic Partnership, with discussions covering defense, technology, space, security, counterterrorism and innovation.

Young Indian techie's American dream ends in Missouri skydiving tragedy



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian diaspora in the United States is mourning 24-year-old Sai Karthik Varma Datla, who was among 12 people killed in a skydiving plane crash in Missouri on Sunday. Datla, the only Indian among the victims, was a technology professional based in the Kansas City metropolitan area. He had earned a master's degree in computer science from the University of Central Missouri and worked in the health care technology sector, including with AdventHealth and Capgemini. The aircraft, a 2010 Pacific Aerospace 750XL, crashed shortly after takeoff from Butler Memorial Airport in Bates County, about 80 miles south of Kansas City. It was carrying a pilot and 11 skydivers. Federal investigators said it was too early to determine the cause, and the plane did not have a commercial-style black box.

From Hoshiarpur roots to the World Cup, Sarpreet Singh inspires Punjab's football belt

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

New Zealand footballer Sarpreet Singh's FIFA World Cup journey has become a deeply emotional moment for Dhada Khurd village in Hoshiarpur, where his maternal family has strong roots.

Known as Punjab's cradle of football, the Mahilpur region is celebrating Sarpreet's rise as more than a sporting achievement. For local players, his selection is proof that Punjabi-origin athletes can carry their heritage to the world's biggest football stage.

After his World Cup selection, Sarpreet's mother, Sarabjit Kaur, asked family friends to hold an Ardas at the village gurdwara and distribute prashad in gratitude. Before he left for the tournament, she again requested prayers for him. She also sent sports kits for about 40 young footballers training at Principal Harbhajan Singh Sporting Club in Mahilpur.

Sarpreet's family migrated to New Zealand nearly 35 years ago, but his mother said their bond with Punjab remains strong. She recalled that Sarpreet began playing football when he was just two and a half years old and built his

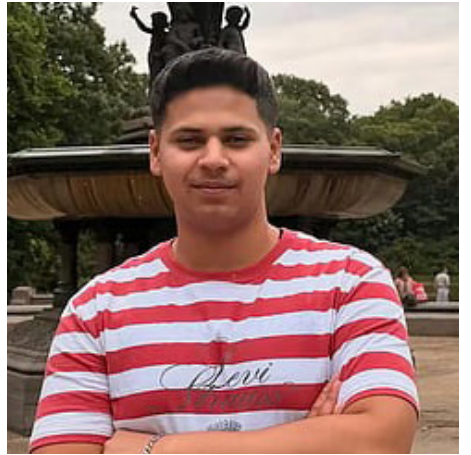


career through discipline, sacrifice and hard work.

Local sports officials said his success carries special meaning because Mahilpur has produced generations of footballers. For the young players who received the kits, Sarpreet's story is not distant inspiration. It is a reminder that a child with Punjabi roots, family support and relentless dedication can reach the global stage.

For Dhada Khurd, Sarpreet is not only a New Zealand international. He is one of their own, carrying Punjab's football pride into the FIFA World Cup.

Indian teen's final act of love in New York leaves family shattered



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An 18-year-old Indian teenager, Romanch Mahajan, died in New York City on Wednesday after trying to save his mother during a horse-drawn carriage accident in Central Park.

Mahajan was on his first trip to New York with his family when the carriage driver stopped to take a photograph. The horse suddenly bolted, ran onto the sidewalk and grass, and the carriage eventually overturned.

When Mahajan's mother, Priya, fell from the carriage, he jumped down to help her. He suffered a severe head injury and later died at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center. His parents and younger brother escaped with minor injuries. The tragedy has renewed calls for tighter regulation or a ban on horse-drawn carriages in Central Park.

Indian H-1B worker sues employer over alleged \$100,000 demand

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian H-1B worker in Texas has sued his employer, alleging he was forced to pay nearly \$100,000 to keep his job and protect his immigration status in the United States. Rishikesh Raj Meesala accused his Indian American employer, Sai Jitender Kalagra, of demanding payments and threatening to report him to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement when he questioned them. The allegations have not been proven in court. Meesala said he came to the United States on a student visa, completed his master's degree in 2023 and later got a job with H-1B sponsorship. The lawsuit claims he was placed on the "bench" without active project work but was pressured to keep paying money to maintain employment records. The complaint accuses



the company of forced labor, labor trafficking and document servitude.

Khalsa Aid brings stranded Punjab workers home from Lebanon

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Five workers from Punjab who were stranded in Lebanon for years have safely returned home with the help of humanitarian organization Khalsa Aid, bringing relief to families who had been waiting through months of uncertainty.

The men, Karam Singh from Patiala, Dalbir Singh from Jalandhar, Harjinder Kumar from Jalandhar, Jaspreet Singh from Patiala and Vichitra Singh from Hoshiarpur, had traveled to Lebanon on legal work permits. They said their salaries

became irregular, they were unpaid for eight to 10 months and their passports were kept by agents.

Their plight reached Khalsa Aid founder Ravi Singh through Pritpal Singh, head granthi of Adonis Gurdwara in Beirut. The matter was then taken up with senior Indian Foreign Service officer and Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Khalsa Aid said coordination with Indian authorities and the Indian Embassy in Beirut helped bring the men back within 10 days. The group has also appealed for help for other workers from Punjab and Haryana still stranded in Lebanon.

Indian thinkers take center stage at Russia's top policy forum



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Six Indian experts will speak at the 12th Primakov Readings International Forum in Moscow next week, making India the largest foreign expert delegation at one of Russia's leading foreign policy platforms.

The two-day forum, themed "World Without Rules: Power Game?", will bring together diplomats, policymakers and experts from about 20 countries. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other senior Russian officials are expected to attend. The Indian speakers include Manjit Kripalani, Samir Saran, Shishir Priyadarshi, Pankaj Saran, Arvind Gupta and Lieutenant General Dushyant Singh. They will participate in sessions on regional conflicts, global order, trade risks, Eurasian security, Artificial Intelligence, digital platforms and military technology.

Their presence reflects the expanding role of Indian strategic voices in global debates on security, technology and shifting power structures.

Indian jurist Bimal Patel elected to Law of the Sea tribunal at United Nations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Bimal Patel has been elected a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, marking another proud moment for India's global legal presence. Patel was elected in New York on Thursday by countries that are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He received 115 of 168 valid votes and will join the tribunal in September.

His election ensures India's continued representation on the 21-member tribunal after Judge Neeru Chadha, currently its vice president, completes her nine-year term in September. The Hamburg-based tribunal hears disputes related to seas, oceans and interpretation of maritime law. Patel is an international jurist, a member of the United Nations International Law Commission and vice chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat. He also serves on India's National Security Advisory Board. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar thanked convention members for supporting India's candidate.

Indian-origin former Texas county judge gets jail term in campaign money case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin former Fort Bend County Judge KP George has been sentenced to 180 days in jail and five years of probation after a Texas court convicted him in a felony money laundering case. George, a Kerala-born Democrat who once held one of Fort Bend County's top elected posts, was accused of using campaign funds for personal expenses, including money linked to a house purchase. Prosecutors said he moved campaign money through personal bank accounts, while his defense argued the transfers were legal repayments. The court imposed a 10-year prison sentence but suspended it in favor of probation, along with a \$5,000 fine. George has been removed from office and taken into custody. His lawyers have said he plans to appeal.

Indian expat's UAE bank app account turns into \$544,000 lucky draw win

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian expatriate Shajeer Venga, a 34-year-old Abu Dhabi resident, has won 2 million dirhams, or about \$544,000, in Sharjah Islamic Bank's Millionaire campaign just weeks after opening a savings account through the bank's digital app. Venga became eligible for the prize after opening the account less than two months earlier, turning a routine savings decision into a major windfall. The campaign is designed to encourage customers to save by linking eligible deposits to prize draws. According to the bank's campaign details, customers can win monthly cash prizes and other rewards based on qualifying savings balances. Reports said an Emirati participant won a luxury BMW XM in the same draw, while 40 other customers received cash prizes.

A Lahore classroom keeps alive a friendship beyond Partition

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A classroom at Lahore's Aitchison College has been named after former Punjab Chief Minister Harcharan Singh Brar, honoring a friendship that survived Partition, politics, religion and borders. The tribute was initiated by Syed Babar Ali, one of Pakistan's leading industrialists and Brar's closest friend from their school days. Brar's daughter, Babli Brar, traveled from India to attend the gathering at the college.

Ali and Brar met at Aitchison in the 1930s. Brar came from a Sikh landlord family near Ferozepore, while Ali belonged to a Syed Muslim business family from Lahore. Their friendship continued for more than seven decades, even after Partition separated their countries and communities.

Both men later built distinguished public lives. Ali founded major institutions, including Lahore University of Management Sciences, while Brar



served as Chief Minister of Punjab and Governor of Haryana and Odisha.

Ali, now Aitchison's oldest living alumnus, donated 4 million Pakistani rupees to name the classroom after Brar as the college marks 140 years. The gesture stands as a powerful reminder of South Asia's shared past and the human bonds that outlive political borders.

Southall stabbing alarms Indian-origin community in London

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The killing of 26-year-old Indian-origin man Gurbhej Singh has raised concern among the South Asian community in Southall, west London.

According to the Metropolitan Police, Singh was stabbed earlier this week on North Road near the junction with Dormers Wells Lane. Emergency services found two injured men at the scene. Singh died despite medical efforts, while another man in his 30s was taken to a hospital.

Police launched a murder investigation and appealed for witnesses, camera footage and information from anyone who was in the area at the time. The incident has added to wider concern over knife crime



in neighborhoods with large Indian-origin and South Asian populations.

Indian captain held in United Kingdom shadow fleet probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 38-year-old Indian national was arrested after United Kingdom authorities intercepted the sanctioned Russian shadow fleet oil tanker SMYRTOS in the English Channel on Sunday. The operation was carried out by the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency, Royal Marine Commandos and British armed forces. Authorities said the arrest was linked to suspected sanctions offenses under Russia regulations, though the agency initially did not specify the exact charges. Later reports identified the arrested man as Ajay Pant, the ship's captain. Officials said 24 Indian and Georgian crew members remained on board and were assisting the investigation.

The case has drawn attention because many Indian seafarers work on global



vessels and can become caught in complex sanctions, ownership and maritime enforcement disputes.

Surrey verdict compounds grief for Punjabi immigrant's widow



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of Punjabi immigrant Saraj Singh says a Canadian court verdict has deepened their pain after the driver involved in the crash that killed him avoided jail time.

Michael Gordon Bovencamp, 46, received a \$1,500 fine, 18 months of probation and a one-year driving ban after pleading guilty to a lesser charge under the Motor Vehicle Act. Singh, 33, died after Bovencamp's Ford F350 crossed into oncoming traffic and struck two pedestrians near 144 Street and Hyland Drive in Surrey, British Columbia.

Bovencamp had used cannabis on the morning of the crash, but tests showed his THC level was just below the legal limit. The court accepted that he had likely suffered a medical emergency. Singh had recently moved from Punjab to Canada with his wife and young son.

Pakistan gurdwara killings renew Sikh safety concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The killing of a Sikh caretaker couple inside a gurdwara in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has renewed concern about the safety of religious minorities and their places of worship. Police said the attack took place on Wednesday in Babu Mohallah in Mardan, about 60 kilometers northwest of Peshawar. Assaults opened fire inside the gurdwara, killing Jagannath and his wife, Asma Wanti.

Community members and Sikh organizations have called for a swift investigation and stronger protection for historic gurdwaras, caretakers and small Sikh settlements in Pakistan. Police said they were searching for those responsible. For the Sikh diaspora, the killings have deepened concerns about the vulnerability of minority communities in the region.



Brazil bridge death sparks arrests over failed bungee safety

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 21-year-old woman died in São Paulo, Brazil, on Saturday after being thrown from a bridge during what appeared to be a bungee activity without properly secured safety equipment.

Authorities said the incident happened at the Skeleton Bridge Trail in Limeira. Video circulating online showed the woman near the edge wearing a helmet before three men lifted her and two appeared to throw her off. Officials said the safety equipment was not properly fixed, and emergency teams confirmed her death at the scene after she fell about 130 feet.

Six people were initially questioned. Three men, ages 27, 32 and 42, were arrested on homicide charges as investigators continue examining responsibility.

Iran sets delayed public funeral for late Supreme Leader Khamenei

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran will hold a delayed public funeral for late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei next month, state media reported Saturday, more than four months after he was killed during United States and Israeli strikes.

The ceremonies are scheduled to begin in Tehran on Saturday, continue in Qom on Tuesday and conclude with burial in Khamenei's hometown of Mashhad on Thursday. Islamic law generally calls for burial as soon as possible, but exceptions can be made during war.

Khamenei, 86, led Iran for 36 years and built the Islamic Republic into a major anti-United States power. His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, succeeded him but has not appeared publicly since being injured during the conflict.

Cambodia court ruling keeps opposition figure out of politics

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cambodia's Supreme Court on Friday upheld the incitement conviction of opposition politician Rong Chhun, while suspending the rest of his prison sentence. The ruling keeps the 56-year-old Nation Power Party adviser out of prison, but bars him from political activity for five years, including voting or running for office. He is also banned from traveling abroad for three years.

Rong Chhun was convicted last year after meeting villagers displaced by government construction projects. Supporters outside the court reacted angrily, saying he had done nothing wrong. Human Rights Watch said the ruling showed a lack of judicial independence, while Cambodia's government rejected claims of political interference and said courts act independently.

Lebanon clashes put United States-Iran ceasefire framework at risk

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Renewed fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon on Friday raised fresh doubts over the fragile United States-Iran interim agreement, which calls for military operations to stop on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Israel's military said it struck targets across southern Lebanon overnight and also hit sites in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Hezbollah reported intense clashes in the south, where Israeli troops have remained after entering Lebanese territory in March following rocket fire by the Iran-backed group.

Lebanon's state-run media reported at least 18 deaths in Israeli airstrikes. Israel said four of its soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon, including a lieutenant colonel, while an explosive drone attack wounded five others.

The escalation forced the postponement of planned United States-Iran talks in Switzerland, where Vice President JD Vance had been expected to attend. Mediators are now trying to calm the Lebanon front before negotiations



resume on a permanent settlement.

The interim deal seeks to end the wider conflict, reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping and bring Washington and Tehran back to talks on Iran's nuclear program. However, Israel and Hezbollah are not direct parties to the agreement, leaving one of the region's most volatile fronts outside the formal ceasefire structure.

Cuba turns to private enterprise in emergency economic plan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuba's Communist Party approved an emergency economic plan on Thursday that would open more space for private enterprise as the island struggles with power outages, shortages and rising international pressure.

The plan, which is set to go before the National Assembly, includes expanded opportunities for private businesses, more autonomy for municipalities and state companies, and efforts to attract foreign investment, including from Cubans living abroad.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel said Cuba had endured long-standing punishment from United States sanctions and growing



threats. He said the plan was shaped partly by the experiences of China and Vietnam, where market-oriented reforms were introduced under one-party rule. The move comes after recent protests over power cuts in Havana.

Burnham win puts Starmer under fresh Labour pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andy Burnham won a special election in Makerfield on Friday, returning to the British Parliament and intensifying pressure on Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership.

Burnham, the mayor of Greater Manchester, defeated Reform UK candidate Rob Kenyon by more than 9,000 votes and secured nearly 55 percent of ballots cast. His victory gives him a platform to challenge Starmer, whose popularity has fallen amid economic frustration, public-service pressures and Labour unrest.

In his victory speech, Burnham said politics was not working and called the



result a possible turning point. Starmer congratulated him on social media but has said he will fight any leadership challenge. Burnham is expected to be sworn in as a lawmaker soon.

Pakistani-American community leader accused in \$38 million adult daycare Medicaid fraud



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistani-American community leader Pervez Siddiqui has been arrested in New York in connection with an alleged \$38 million Medicaid fraud involving adult daycare centers in Brooklyn. Federal prosecutors accused Siddiqui and seven others of running a false-billing scheme through APNA Adult Daycare and Ashiana Social Adult Daycare. The centers were meant to serve adults with disabilities or medical needs, but prosecutors said the accused recruited people who either did not attend or did not need services. Authorities alleged Medicaid was billed using fake sign-in sheets, with some listed participants reportedly in Pakistan. Prosecutors also cited Pakistan-based billing staff, shell companies and code words.

Pakistan child labor survey exposes hazardous work crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 8.6 million children are engaged in child labor in Pakistan, including over 6.6 million in hazardous work, according to a national report by the National Commission for Human Rights and UNICEF. The report, described as Pakistan's first nationally representative child labor dataset in nearly 30 years, found Punjab had the highest number of working children, followed by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. Poverty, low parental education and lack of schooling were identified as major drivers. Working children were more likely to miss school, suffer injuries, work long hours and face poor mental health risks nationwide.

Dali chief engineer charged over Baltimore bridge collapse

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors charged Karthikeyan Deenadayalan, chief engineer of the cargo ship Dali, in connection with the deadly 2024 collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge. The charge, filed Monday in Maryland, accuses him of violating the federal Port and Waterways Safety Act by failing to alert the United States Coast Guard about a hazardous condition aboard the vessel. Prosecutors said Deenadayalan did not report that an improper fuel pump, with no backup system, was being used to power two generators before the ship left the Port of Baltimore. The Dali lost power twice within minutes before striking a bridge support in March 2024, killing six construction workers who were repairing potholes. Prosecutors also filed notice of a deferred prosecution agreement, though its terms were not disclosed. Separate criminal cases against the ship's operator and a former technical superintendent remain pending.

India rejects Pakistan and OIC comments on Jammu and Kashmir at rights council

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India strongly rejected Pakistan's allegations and references to Jammu and Kashmir by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation during the United Nations Human Rights Council session in Geneva. Exercising India's right of reply, First Secretary Anupama Singh called Pakistan's claims baseless and malicious and said Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. She said the only unresolved issue was Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories. India accused Pakistan of using propaganda to hide domestic failures, repression in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and support for terrorism as state policy before the world during the session.

Over 100 Bangladesh garment workers fall ill after drinking factory-supplied water

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 100 garment workers in Bangladesh's Gazipur district fell ill on Thursday after reportedly drinking water supplied at Dressman Limited factory in Chandra, Kaliakoir upazila. Workers reported vomiting, stomach pain, dizziness, weakness and breathing difficulty. They were taken to Kaliakoir Upazila Health Complex and nearby hospitals and clinics as panic spread inside the workplace. Justice Makers Bangladesh in France condemned the incident and called for an independent, transparent investigation. The rights group said clean drinking water and safe working conditions are legal and moral responsibilities of



employers and urged stronger workplace safety checks across Bangladesh's garment sector after the incident.

Trump honors three service members with Medal of Honor for wartime bravery

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump awarded the Medal of Honor on Thursday to retired Marine Major James Capers Jr., retired Army Major Nicholas Dockery and, posthumously, Marine Colonel John W. Ripley. Capers was recognized for leading wounded Marines during a four-day reconnaissance mission in Vietnam in 1967. Ripley was honored for destroying a bridge under heavy enemy fire in 1972, halting a North Vietnamese advance. Dockery received the honor for rescuing wounded soldiers, leading counterattacks and directing air support during a Taliban ambush in Afghanistan in 2012. Trump said the three represented extraordinary military courage and sacrifice across two wars.

United Nations marks International Yoga Day with focus on healthy ageing



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hundreds of diplomats, United Nations staff and visitors gathered at United Nations headquarters on Thursday to celebrate International Day of Yoga with chants, breathing exercises and asanas. This year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," focused on physical and mental well-being, mobility and dignity as populations age worldwide. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yoga teaches mindfulness, respect and care for oneself, others and the planet. India's Permanent Representative P. Harish recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message that yoga can grow from an individual practice into a global movement for wellness and international cooperation across generations across communities and generations.

Gabbard releases Covid-origin files alleging Fauci role in intelligence review

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard released newly declassified documents that she said raise questions about former United States infectious disease official Anthony Fauci's role in intelligence discussions on Covid-19's origins. Gabbard alleged that Fauci influenced assessments during debates over whether the virus emerged naturally or from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, and later denied such contacts under oath. The documents include communications from intelligence officials during the 2021 review of



the pandemic's origins. The release is part of the Trump administration's renewed examination of pandemic-era decisions and claims that some dissenting intelligence analysts faced retaliation and congressional scrutiny.

Titan disaster report blames weak testing, design flaws and OceanGate culture



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian safety officials blamed design flaws, limited testing and company culture for the 2023 Titan submersible disaster that killed five people near the Titanic wreck. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada found that OceanGate's carbon-fiber hull accumulated damage during repeated deep dives and was not tested according to standard engineering practices. Investigators also identified structural defects in hull materials and said the warning system failed to provide reliable advance notice of danger. The report said OceanGate suffered from groupthink and confirmation bias, with some employees who raised safety concerns leaving or being dismissed before the fatal voyage in Atlantic waters.

United States senators press Treasury to confront China over currency practices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Rick Scott urged Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to take stronger action against what they described as China's continued currency manipulation. In a bipartisan letter after the G7 summit, the senators said Beijing appears to be suppressing the renminbi to make Chinese exports cheaper and American goods less competitive. They argued China now routes intervention through less visible state-owned banks, policy banks and sovereign wealth channels. The lawmakers said China's record trade surplus should normally push its currency higher and urged the administration to consider formally designating China a currency manipulator in its next report.

Toronto police say gun-for-hire network recruited youth for shootings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Toronto police said on Tuesday that dozens of shootings, including one at the United States Consulate in March, may be linked to a gun-for-hire network recruiting young people through encrypted messaging apps. Police Chief Myron Demkiw said teenagers and young adults were allegedly recruited through platforms such as Telegram, Signal and WhatsApp and paid to carry out attacks, sometimes filming them as proof. Investigators said two handguns seized in raids could be



connected to 27 shootings across the Greater Toronto Area. Police are also examining possible links to attacks on synagogues, Jewish schools and community sites in Toronto and nearby communities.

World Cup sponsor Hyundai faces protest over steel supply chain and missing activists

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Protesters planned to rally against World Cup sponsor Hyundai before the Mexico-South Korea match in Guadalajara on Thursday over concerns about the automaker's supply chain links to steel company Ternium. Campaigners accused Hyundai of using steel connected to environmental damage and controversy surrounding the disappearance of two Mexican activists who had criticized mining activity linked to Ternium. The rally at Plaza de la Liberación was also intended to highlight Mexico's wider crisis of disappeared people. Ternium denied involvement in the disappearances. Hyundai said it expects suppliers to follow strict conduct standards and conducts due diligence globally during the tournament.

Australia probes suspected mainland H5N1 case after seabird tests positive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia is investigating a suspected mainland case of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain after a migratory brown skua tested positive for avian influenza in Western Australia. The bird was found unwell at Cape Le Grand National Park on Sunday and later died. Samples were sent to CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to confirm whether it is H5N1. A second sick bird, a giant petrel, is also being tested. Officials said there was no evidence of infection in poultry or mass bird deaths on the



mainland. If confirmed, it would mark a serious development for Australia across the country.

India to host BRICS forum for small businesses in Agra



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India will host the first BRICS forum for micro, small and medium enterprises and the third small and medium enterprises working group meeting in Agra on Friday. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises said the event will focus on resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. Delegates from BRICS members and partner countries are expected to discuss stronger business ecosystems, access to finance, technology adoption and sustainability-oriented growth. India's small business sector includes more than 8.6 crore enterprises and plays a major role in employment, exports and manufacturing. The forum is expected to encourage policy exchange, partnerships and global competitiveness while positioning small businesses as key drivers of inclusive economic growth.

Pilots' federation questions Air India crash findings, cites possible electrical failure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federation of Indian Pilots on Thursday challenged the interim findings into the Air India Flight AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad, claiming simulator tests point to a major electrical failure rather than deliberate pilot action. Federation president Captain C.S. Randhawa said tests recreating the aircraft's weight, balance and weather conditions showed that a manual fuel cut-off would take about 18 seconds to deploy the ram air turbine, not four seconds as cited in the report. The pilots' body said the lone survivor's account of flickering cabin lights supported its theory. It has submitted findings to Boeing and aviation authorities and demanded a pause on the final report.

Calcutta High Court notices put Trinamool rally under judicial scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Calcutta High Court on Friday issued contempt notices to former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee over the party's Martyrs' Day rally held in Kolkata last year. The petition alleges that the rally violated a 2018 court order barring political events from blocking major road junctions and requiring clear passage for pedestrians, vehicles and emergency services. The plea said the event blocked the Esplanade junction in central Kolkata and caused public inconvenience. A division bench headed by Justice Arijit Banerjee issued the notices after a preliminary hearing. The matter will be heard next on July 3.

Congress asks RSS chief to prove commitment to Constitution

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday stepped up his attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, challenging its chief Mohan Bhagwat to show accountability and bring the organization under the ambit of the Indian Constitution. Khera's remarks came after Bhagwat's recent comments and an alleged threat-like statement by Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Ramesh Jigajinagi against Congress leader Priyank Kharge.



It views Dalits who raise questions. Khera also asked whether Jigajinagi's remarks reflected the Sangh's thinking. Framing the dispute as an ideological battle, he said the Constitution, shaped by leaders such as Babasaheb Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru, has repeatedly defeated divisive politics.

In a video shared on social media, Khera said the Sangh often asks citizens to "show papers" and must now present its own. He accused the RSS of harboring casteist and communal attitudes and questioned how

Congress' Parashuram-themed tribute to Rahul Gandhi sparks BJP backlash in Varanasi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress workers in Varanasi marked Rahul Gandhi's 56th birthday on Friday with a religiously themed celebration that drew sharp criticism from the BJP. Youth Congress members gathered on the banks of the Ganga, portrayed the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as Lord Parashuram, performed a milk abhishek, cut a laddoo cake and displayed his image holding a copy of the Constitution.

Youth Congress leader Vikas Singh said the event was organized to pray for Gandhi's long life and continued efforts to raise people's issues. BJP leaders objected to the portrayal, saying no political leader should be presented as a deity.

Uttar Pradesh Minister Anil Rajbhar accused Congress of using religious symbols selectively, while Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Sharma called the comparison inappropriate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended birthday wishes to Gandhi.

Akali Dal announces religious protest to seek Punjab chief minister's removal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Thursday announced that it would launch a Dharam Yudh Morcha from Sri Akal Takht Sahib on Friday to seek the removal of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Party president Sukhbir Singh Badal accused Mann of repeatedly insulting Sikh traditions, Guru Sahiban and established Sikh heroes, saying the chief minister had tested the patience of the Sikh community. Badal said the protest would be launched under the spiritual patronage of Sri Akal Takht Sahib and appealed to religious organizations, Sant Samaj, Sikh scholars, intellectuals, socio-religious groups and leaders from the Aam Aadmi Party, Congress and



Bharatiya Janata Party to join the campaign. The party also formed a five-member coordination panel led by Balwinder Singh Bhunder to reach out for support. Badal said Akali legislators would boycott the Vidhan Sabha while Mann remained chief minister. He also cited earlier allegations linked to Mann's conduct at Sikh shrines.

Justice Surya Kant calls cyber fraudsters 'parasites' as court rejects plea to club cases

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a petition filed by a Bihar-based man accused in multiple cyber fraud cases, seeking the consolidation of First Information Reports registered in different states. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana dismissed the petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, saying no case had been made out for the court to interfere. However, the petitioner was given liberty to approach the jurisdictional High Courts for appropriate relief. During the hearing, Justice Surya Kant made strong oral observations against cyber criminals, calling them "parasites" who cheat innocent investors and operate

across state boundaries. The bench noted that cyber fraudsters often target people in one state and move across the country, making such offenses a serious concern for society. The petitioner claimed that the cases registered in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka arose from the same alleged transactions linked to an ICICI Bank account opened in the name of M/s Ananya Engineering and Trading Ltd. He argued that he was merely a matriculate, had no knowledge of share trading and was allegedly induced by another person to open the account, which he claimed was later misused by third parties without his knowledge. The court declined to club the cases at this stage and said the petitioner could seek remedies before the competent High Courts.

Kolkata Metro plans historic 4 a.m. start for Yoga Day and NEET rush

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kolkata Metro will begin services at 4 a.m. on June 21 for the first time in its 42-year history to support travel for International Yoga Day celebrations and NEET-UG candidates. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to lead the mass yoga event at Red Road under this year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." Officials said trains will run every 14 to 15 minutes between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. on the Blue, Green and Yellow lines. The Blue Line will operate 214 services, while the Green Line between Howrah Maidan and Salt Lake Sector 5 will run 173 services through the day.

Centre tightens cough syrup sales with mandatory prescription rule



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre has banned over-the-counter sale of syrup-based medicines, including cough syrups, without a doctor's prescription by amending the Drugs Rules, 1945. The change was notified through the Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026, after the government removed "syrups" from a Schedule K exemption category. Earlier, cough syrups could be sold in villages with fewer than 1,000 people without certain retail licensing requirements. That exemption will no longer apply. The Health Ministry said the move is meant to strengthen oversight of syrup formulations, promote responsible distribution and improve public safety. Manufacturers, distributors and retailers have been asked to strictly follow licensing norms.

Scholarship access eased for SC, OBC students studying away from home



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has removed the domicile certificate requirement for students applying under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The move is expected to reduce paperwork and help students studying outside their home states access benefits more easily. Nearly 1.2 crore students receive support under these schemes every year. The department has also launched SETU, or Scholarship for Educational Transformation and Upliftment, on the UMANG platform. The digital service gives students, institutional nodal officers, district officials and state authorities a single interface to register, track and validate scholarship applications.

Delhi rolls out early winter pollution plan with curbs on vehicles and construction



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday said the government has notified a Proactive Winter Air Quality Management Framework months ahead of the pollution season to help residents, businesses and institutions prepare. The framework will operate with the Graded Response Action Plan from November 1 to February 28 every year. Key measures include allowing refueling only for vehicles with valid Pollution Under Control certificates and restricting non-Bharat Stage VI commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi from November 1 to January 31. Compressed natural gas, electric, emergency and government vehicles will be exempt. Parking charges will double during winter, while construction sites must follow strict dust-control measures.

Mayawati rejects sting row as attempt to derail BSP's 2027 campaign

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday dismissed an alleged sting operation controversy as a planned campaign to defame the party before the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. In a statement on X, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister accused political rivals and sections of the media of spreading confusion because the BSP's organizational work and support base were growing. She said the party follows a transparent, multi-layered candidate selection process that examines aspirants' social standing, political background, loyalty and organizational strength. Mayawati urged party workers not to be distracted by rumors and asked them to stay focused on strengthening the BSP's Mission 2027 campaign.

ISI uses new gangster names to shield Dawood network, officials say

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian security agencies believe Pakistan's intelligence handlers are projecting newer gangster figures to reduce attention on Dawood Ibrahim's network as pressure mounts on D-company. Officials said the names of Pakistan-based gangster Abid Jatt and alleged ISI asset Shahzad Bhatti surfaced during probes into recent recruitment modules busted by the Delhi Police Special Cell. Investigators claim recruits were offered money to put up Jatt's posters, gather information on sensitive locations and carry out targeted attacks. Officials said the campaign was meant to create fear while shifting focus away from Dawood's alleged role in narcotics trafficking and terror financing. Agencies believe Jatt and Bhatti rely on D-company's financial channels and logistics, while the ISI wants Dawood's network to continue raising funds for terror groups through drug trafficking.

Rajasthan approves rare earth exploration and special court for NIA cases

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has approved several key measures aimed at strengthening the state's mining sector, judicial system and disaster response network.

The major decision includes granting an exploration license for Rare Earth Element minerals across 207.63 square kilometers in Navatala and Devigarh villages of Balotra district. The license has been given to the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute.

The block falls in the Pachpadra and Shergarh regions and is expected to support mineral development and create

local employment. Rare Earth Elements are considered strategically important because they are used in electronics, renewable energy, electric vehicles and defense manufacturing.

The Chief Minister has also approved a special court for cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency to help ensure faster disposal of national security-related matters.

As part of the 2025-2026 Budget announcements, Civil Defence Corps units will also be formed in Balotra, Didwana-Kuchaman, Phalodi, Salumber, Khairthal-Tijara, Deeg, Kotputli-Behror and Beawar to improve emergency preparedness.

Amit Shah says Modi government has blended growth with cultural pride

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office have marked a rare balance between national development and cultural revival. In a social media post, Shah described the period as a "golden era" in which welfare delivery, infrastructure expansion and heritage preservation have moved together. He pointed to the Shri Ram Temple, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Ujjain Mahakal Lok as major cultural milestones, while citing the Prime Minister's housing program, Ayushman Bharat, food security initiatives, Make in India and improved connectivity as examples of the government's development agenda. Shah also highlighted the digitization of one crore archival records, the return of 668 ancient artifacts, 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums



and classical language status for 11 Indian languages. He said these efforts showed that development and heritage can strengthen each other. Shah also met United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor to discuss counterterrorism, border security, narcotics control and cooperation in bringing criminals to justice.

Electronics becomes India's third-largest goods export category, says minister

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Electronics manufacturing has become India's third-largest goods export category, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday, calling it a major milestone in the country's manufacturing push. He said India's electronics manufacturing sector has grown to about Rs 13 lakh crore, moving steadily from the ninth position to the third spot among export categories. Vaishnaw made the remarks while inaugurating Jabil's advanced manufacturing facility in

Ranjangaon, Pune, along with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. The facility will produce components for artificial intelligence-enabled data centers, 5G technology, high-end networking equipment, industrial power electronics and consumer electronics. The minister said data centers are becoming a major global growth engine and that India must manufacture key electronic components domestically under the Make in India vision. Officials said the facility is expected to create up to 11,000 jobs and strengthen local supply chains and small businesses.

Manipur security crackdown dismantles bunkers, arrests seven

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Security forces in Manipur arrested seven people, including three alleged militants, recovered arms and ammunition, and destroyed 39 illegal bunkers and camps during operations across multiple districts, officials said on Thursday. A United Kuki National Army militant was also killed during a joint operation by the Indian Army and Assam Rifles in Churachandpur district.

Officials said the operation in Henglep subdivision was launched after intelligence

inputs about militant movement. A gunfight broke out as security personnel approached the hideout, leading to the death of one militant while others fled. Subsequent searches led to the recovery of weapons and warlike stores.

Police said three militants linked to the Kangleipak Communist Party and the Socialist Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak were arrested from Imphal West and Bishnupur. Security forces also recovered 12-bore guns, ammunition, gunpowder and bulletproof vests in Kangpokpi. Authorities said checkpoints and convoy protection remain in place across sensitive areas.

IIT Delhi rises in global rankings as India expands academic footprint

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has been ranked 118th in the QS World University Rankings 2027, becoming India's highest-ranked institution for the second consecutive year. The institute improved from its 123rd position last year, reflecting steady progress in teaching, research, innovation and international visibility. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan welcomed the development, noting that 52 Indian institutions have entered the rankings, with 13 placed among the world's top 550. He said the achievement reflects the strengthening of India's higher education ecosystem under the National Education Policy 2020. The government said sustained reforms, research focus, faculty development and global collaborations are helping Indian universities build a stronger presence in international academia.

Gujarat prepares water and farm plan amid El Niño concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday reviewed the state's preparedness for a possible El Niño impact, focusing on drinking water, agriculture, livestock and inter-departmental coordination. Officials said the government has expanded the limit for filling village and taluka lakes with Narmada pipeline water from three kilometers to seven kilometers. More than 300 lakes in North Gujarat will be filled, while reservoirs in Saurashtra will be replenished under the SAUNI scheme. The agriculture department said seeds and fertilizers for the Kharif season are adequate, and a contingency plan will guide farmers toward short-duration, low-water crops. Officials also said Gujarat has enough fodder buffer stock for up to two years and urged citizens to avoid misinformation.

Congress urges President Murmu to address tribal concerns in Madhya Pradesh



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As President Droupadi Murmu began her five-day visit to Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, state Congress chief Jitu Patwari urged her to take note of tribal concerns in education, health and livelihood. Welcoming the President, Patwari said Madhya Pradesh has India's largest tribal population, with Scheduled Tribes making up about 21 percent of the state. He said tribal literacy remains far below the state average and health services in tribal regions face shortages of doctors, malnutrition and maternal health challenges. The Congress demanded a special action plan for education and healthcare, time-bound recruitment of teachers and doctors, full implementation of the Forest Rights Act and an employment mission for tribal youth. President Murmu is scheduled to attend programs in Betul, Omkareshwar, Jabalpur and Kuno National Park.

BHP shares slide as Canada potash project costs jump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
BHP Group shares fell sharply on Friday after the world's largest listed miner flagged fresh cost overruns at its Jansen Stage 2 potash project in Canada and announced a \$2.3 billion impairment charge.

The Melbourne-based company's stock dropped as much as 4.4 percent to \$43.69, putting it on track for its worst session since March. BHP raised the estimated investment for the project's second stage to \$6.9 billion from \$4.9 billion.

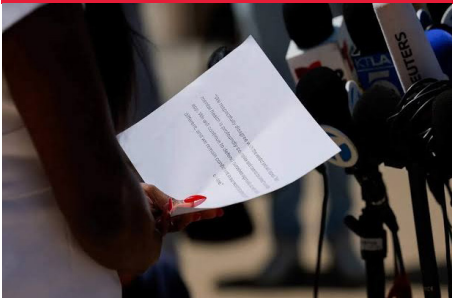
The revision marks another setback for BHP's long-term strategy to diversify beyond copper and iron ore. The Jansen project is central to the company's push into potash, a key fertilizer ingredient.

Lululemon apologizes after Great Wall drum row



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Lululemon apologized on Tuesday after a yoga festival it sponsored on the Great Wall of China sparked criticism over the apparent use of a Japanese taiko drum at an event promoted as celebrating Chinese culture. The late-May event near Beijing included more than 2,000 participants and Chinese actor Zhu Yilong. After Zhu posted images on Weibo, users accused organizers of confusing a Japanese taiko drum with a Chinese dagu drum. The backlash drew millions of views online, prompting Lululemon to apologize to Zhu and the public. The company said it failed to identify possible cultural concerns and would strengthen future event reviews.

Meta seeks lawsuit shield as Congress weighs online child safety rules



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Meta Platforms has lobbied the United States Congress for legal immunity from child-harm lawsuits tied to platforms such as Instagram, Reuters reported. The proposed language would protect online companies from state-law claims related to children's online safety and privacy. If added to the Kids Online Safety Act, it could affect thousands of pending lawsuits from young users, families and school districts. Meta declined to comment but has previously supported federal age-verification standards. Critics said the proposal would weaken accountability for technology companies. A spokesperson for Senator Marsha Blackburn said she had not seen the language and would not consider it.

India's digital payments push lands at a French retail landmark

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched India's Unified Payments Interface at Galeries Lafayette in Nice, France, on Tuesday, marking another step in the global expansion of India's digital payments network. The launch allows Indian travelers in France to make payments through familiar digital platforms, reducing the need for currency exchange, cash handling and unfamiliar foreign transaction processes. The initiative, supported by Lyra Collect and NPCI International Payments Limited, also gives French retailers access to India's growing base of digitally active travelers. Goyal said bringing Unified Payments Interface to one of France's premier retail destinations reflects India's ability to deliver trusted, seamless and interoperable digital solutions at scale. He added that the move strengthens economic



and technological ties between India and France. France became the second country this month to launch Unified Payments Interface services after Cambodia, where Indian travelers can now make QR payments. The development highlights India's wider push to turn its homegrown digital payments system into a global financial connector.

India and United States enter final stretch on interim trade deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
India and the United States will hold a fresh round of trade talks in New Delhi on Tuesday and Wednesday as both sides try to finalize the first tranche of a proposed interim trade agreement. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday that senior officials from the Office of the United States Trade Representative will meet Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and other Indian officials during the visit. The talks are expected to focus on giving final shape to the interim deal while also advancing discussions on a broader bilateral trade agreement.



The upcoming meetings follow talks held in New Delhi earlier this month, when both sides discussed goods trade, non-tariff measures, customs, trade facilitation and economic security alignment. In February, India and the United States had outlined a framework for a reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade arrangement. United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor recently said the deal was "99 percent" complete, with only a few issues remaining.

Force Motors reaches 200,000 Mercedes-Benz engine milestone in Pune

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Force Motors on Wednesday rolled out its 200,000th Mercedes-Benz engine from its Chakan facility in Pune, marking a major milestone in its nearly three-decade manufacturing partnership with the German automaker. The landmark unit was a six-cylinder M256 engine fitted into a Mercedes-Benz GLS 450. Force Motors has manufactured engines for Mercedes-Benz in India since 1997 and now produces engines and axles for all Mercedes-Benz cars and SUVs assembled in the country. Company leaders said the milestone reflects



India's growing role in precision automotive manufacturing. Industry observers view the partnership as a strong example of Indo-German industrial cooperation and India's expanding capabilities under the Make in India initiative.

Stanford walkout puts Big Tech's global scrutiny back in focus

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai faced a student walkout on Sunday while delivering Stanford University's commencement address, highlighting the growing pressure on global technology companies over their government contracts and geopolitical roles. Reports said more than 100 students, with some estimates around 200, left the ceremony as Pichai took the stage. Protesters objected to Google's ties with

the Israeli government, particularly Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion cloud-computing contract involving Google and Amazon. Some students waved Palestinian flags, displayed banners and used whistles before walking out. Pichai avoided a heavy focus on Artificial Intelligence, a subject that has drawn criticism at other commencement events this year. Instead, he spoke about his journey from India to Silicon Valley, his early struggles in California and his rise at Google. The protest reflected a wider global debate over technology, ethics, war and corporate accountability.

Justice Department clears \$110 billion Paramount-Warner merger despite industry concerns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
The United States Justice Department has approved Paramount Skydance's \$110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, clearing a major hurdle for one of Hollywood's biggest mergers. The department said on Friday that the deal was unlikely to harm competition or consumers after an eight-month review. The merger would bring Paramount, CBS and Paramount+ together with Warner Bros., HBO Max, CNN and other major media assets. The deal still faces criticism from entertainment professionals and lawmakers who warn it could further consolidate the industry. State attorneys general may still challenge the transaction.

Precious metals rise as global markets shift from war risk to rate signals

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Gold and silver prices rose sharply on Monday as global investors looked beyond easing West Asia tensions and focused instead on the weaker United States dollar and future Federal Reserve policy signals. In Indian futures trade, gold climbed as much as 2.19 percent to about \$1,800 per 10 grams, while silver rose nearly 3 percent to about \$2,960 per kilogram. The rally came even after President Donald Trump announced that the United States and Iran had finalized a peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Analysts said the fall in the dollar helped support precious metals, while investors assessed whether the Federal Reserve could adjust rates if inflation pressures persist. Crude oil prices fell sharply after the deal eased fears of energy supply disruptions, shifting global market attention from geopolitical risk to monetary policy.

Trump says Apple will work with Intel on United States chipmaking

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Apple has agreed to work with Intel to design and manufacture chips in the United States, a move that could support Washington's push to strengthen domestic semiconductor production. The reported partnership would help Apple diversify its chip supply beyond Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, whose advanced production capacity is in high demand from Artificial Intelligence chipmakers. For Intel, an Apple deal would provide steady demand from one of the world's largest consumer electronics companies and boost its foundry ambitions. Apple and Intel did not immediately comment. Intel recently said its next-generation 18A manufacturing technology had entered initial production amid strong demand for advanced processors.

Federal Reserve keeps rates unchanged as inflation stays above target

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged on Wednesday at Kevin Warsh's first rate-setting meeting as chairman.

The central bank said the United States economy is still expanding, but inflation remains a concern amid higher energy costs linked partly to the Middle East conflict. Warsh said high prices continue to burden Americans and that the Federal Reserve must prevent cost increases from spreading across the wider economy.

Policymakers lowered their growth outlook slightly and projected core inflation to remain elevated through next year. Stocks fell after the announcement as investors raised expectations of a possible rate hike later this year.

Fox to buy Roku in \$22 billion push for streaming scale and ad data



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fox Corporation said on Monday it will buy Roku in a deal valued at about \$22 billion, strengthening its position in streaming, advertising and viewer data. Roku will continue operating as a standalone platform. The acquisition gives Fox access to more than 100 million global streaming households and expands its ability to sell targeted ads. Fox already owns Tubi, and Roku's platform remains a major gateway for viewers using services such as Netflix and YouTube. Roku's advertising revenue has been growing, but Fox shares fell after the announcement as investors questioned the deal's cost.

Delhi High Court seeks Centre's reply on Telegram's challenge to exam-linked suspension

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Union government's response to Telegram's plea challenging the temporary suspension of its services in India ahead of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test undergraduate re-examination. Telegram challenged restrictions issued under the Information Technology Act after the National Testing Agency flagged alleged paper leak channels, misinformation and cheating networks. The government said the restriction would continue until Sunday, covering the examination and its immediate aftermath. Authorities also directed Telegram to disable its message-editing feature in India until June 30, claiming it had been misused to fabricate leak claims. Telegram founder Pavel Durov criticized the move, saying more than 150 million users were affected.

SpaceX earns investment-grade ratings after blockbuster market debut

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

SpaceX received investment-grade credit ratings from Moody's, Fitch and S&P Global Ratings on Thursday, with all three agencies assigning stable outlooks after the company's high-profile stock market debut.

Moody's rated SpaceX "Baa1," Fitch assigned "BBB+" and S&P gave it "BBB," signaling moderate credit risk and confidence in the company's ability to meet financial commitments. The ratings reflect broad confidence in SpaceX's space and connectivity businesses.

The company's valuation surged past \$2 trillion after its Nasdaq debut last week,



though shares have pulled back as investors assess its expensive push into Artificial Intelligence. S&P said SpaceX's core businesses remain strong, but its Artificial Intelligence plans carry uncertainty because of high capital needs and competition.

BSE-listed companies regain \$5 trillion value as crude prices ease

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The combined market capitalization of companies listed on the BSE crossed the \$5 trillion mark on Wednesday, reaching its highest level in nearly six weeks as domestic equities rallied. The rebound was supported by easing geopolitical concerns, a proposed United States-Iran peace agreement and falling crude oil prices, which improved

investor sentiment. Analysts said lower crude prices could reduce pressure on India's inflation, current account balance and corporate earnings. The broader market recovery has been led by midcap, smallcap and microcap stocks, which outperformed benchmark indices. Steady domestic investor inflows helped offset foreign selling, while analysts said banking, telecom and information technology could support the next phase of the rally.

Yum Brands sells Pizza Hut in \$2.7 billion strategic shake-up

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yum Brands said on Tuesday that it will sell its Pizza Hut business in two deals totaling \$2.7 billion as part of a strategic overhaul.

Private equity firm LongRange Capital will acquire Pizza Hut operations outside Mainland China for about \$1.5 billion, while Yum China Holdings will buy Pizza Hut China for about \$1.2 billion. The move follows a strategic review launched in November 2025 to unlock shareholder value and improve the brand's growth prospects.

Yum said separate ownership structures would allow Pizza Hut to pursue market-specific strategies. The company expects



about \$2.3 billion in net proceeds and will continue providing its Byte by Yum technology platform to Pizza Hut operations outside China.

Tesla opens Hyderabad Experience Centre as India retail network grows

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla opened its fifth Experience Centre in India on Wednesday at HITEC City in Hyderabad, expanding its retail presence in one of the country's major technology hubs.

Visitors can view the 2026 Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive and Model Y L through guided walkarounds and product experiences led by Tesla advisers. The company has also begun delivery and after-sales support from Bollaram Industrial Area to serve customers in Telangana.

Tesla said both models are available for online orders, with customers ordering



before June 30 eligible for a complimentary wall connector. The Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive is priced at Rs 50.89 lakh, with deliveries expected from July.

HDFC entities settle SEBI venture fund case over delayed liquidation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

HDFC Property Fund and HDFC Capital Advisors have settled a case with the Securities and Exchange Board of India by paying Rs 26 lakh over alleged violations of venture capital fund rules. The case involved delays in liquidating assets and distributing proceeds from HDFC India Real Estate Fund and HDFC IT Corridor Fund, both launched in 2005. The regulator said one scheme completed liquidation and distribution years after its extended tenure ended, while both retained amounts for contingent liabilities until March 2025. The entities settled the matter without admitting or denying the findings. The regulator said HDFC Capital Advisors had no role in the earlier decisions before becoming investment manager in 2023.

Tata Motors joins Delhi-NCR old truck and bus replacement scheme

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tata Motors on Thursday signed an agreement with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to support the replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR with cleaner vehicles.

Under the scheme, Tata Motors will offer an 8 percent discount on the ex-showroom price of eligible trucks and buses. The Union government will add a 5 percent interest subsidy and monthly fuel vouchers for five years, while participating states may offer motor vehicle tax concessions and registration fee waivers.

The scheme aims to replace vehicles that meet Bharat Stage-IV or older emission norms with Bharat Stage-VI, stricter emission-compliant or electric vehicles to reduce pollution and modernize fleets.

SEBI proposes broader funding routes for margin trading

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Securities and Exchange Board of India on Thursday proposed major changes to the margin trading facility framework to improve risk controls while giving brokers greater operational flexibility.

In a consultation paper, the regulator suggested allowing brokers to raise money through non-convertible debentures and other debt instruments, beyond existing sources such as bank borrowings and commercial paper. It also proposed wider collateral options, higher exposure limits and a 30-day rebalancing period when eligible securities lose their status.

The regulator recommended raising the minimum net-worth requirement for brokers offering margin trading from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore. Public comments have been invited until July 9.

Achraf Hakimi to face trial in France rape case



A French appeals court confirmed on Friday that Paris Saint-Germain and Morocco defender Achraf Hakimi will stand trial in a rape case. Hakimi, currently playing for Morocco at the FIFA World Cup, had appealed a February decision by an investigative judge that followed prosecutors' recommendation for trial. The case stems from a 2023 allegation by a 24-year-old woman, who said she was raped at Hakimi's home in a Paris suburb. Hakimi denies wrongdoing and said he has waited for the trial to speak publicly. The plaintiff's lawyer said the ruling brought her client relief and hope. A trial date has not yet been announced.

Filipino wildcard Alexandra Eala stuns Elena Rybakina in Berlin



Filipino wildcard Alexandra Eala produced a major upset on Thursday by beating world number two Elena Rybakina 7-5, 6-4 at the Berlin grass-court tournament. Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion and reigning Australian Open winner, raced to a 4-1 lead in the opening set, but Eala fought back strongly and broke the Kazakh player's powerful serve twice. The 21-year-old, ranked 35th in the world, stayed composed in the second set and sealed a memorable win to reach the quarterfinals. Eala, the first Filipino player to break into the top 50, will next face world number eight Elina Svitolina.

Manpreet Singh surpasses Dilip Tirkey to become India's most-capped hockey star

Veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh became India's most-capped hockey player on Wednesday, making his 413th international appearance during the FIH Hockey Pro League match against Germany in Rotterdam. The 33-year-old surpassed former India captain and current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, who had held the record with 412 caps.



and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh. Manpreet dedicated the milestone to his teammates and family, saying his dream of winning more medals for India continues to motivate him.

Since making his senior debut in 2011, Manpreet has been central to India's modern hockey revival. He captained the team to a historic bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics and was also part of the squad that won another Olympic bronze in Paris. He played key roles in India's Asian Games gold medals in 2014 and 2022.

Hockey India congratulated Manpreet

Real Madrid urges UEFA to act against Barcelona in Negreira case

Real Madrid have asked UEFA to reopen disciplinary proceedings against Barcelona over the long-running Negreira case involving payments to former Spanish refereeing official Jose Maria Negreira. In a statement on Wednesday, Madrid said it had submitted written material to UEFA's disciplinary bodies, citing what it called significant evidence of prolonged and opaque payments made by Barcelona to companies linked to Negreira. Barcelona have maintained that the payments, reportedly worth more than \$7.6 million between 2001 and 2018, were for consultancy services and technical reports on referees. Real Madrid, however, said



the matter raised serious concerns over sporting integrity, competitive equality and refereeing neutrality. The club urged UEFA to act independently of ongoing judicial proceedings in Spain.

Messi team's email puts former Bengal minister under scrutiny in Kolkata event chaos

Lionel Messi's team has reportedly blamed former West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas for the mismanagement during the 'GOAT India Tour' event at Yuva Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata last December. In an email to the Bidhannagar Police Commissioner, one of Messi's advisers alleged that chaos began after Biswas entered the field with unauthorized people. The message also claimed that Biswas repeatedly touched Messi while posing for photographs and that around 40 people entered an area meant for only three photographers.



early. Event organizer Satadru Dutta, who was earlier arrested after the incident, has accused Biswas of taking 22,000 of the 70,000 printed tickets and contributing to the disorder. Biswas has received interim protection from arrest, while Dutta has challenged that relief in the Calcutta High Court.

The email said the situation raised security concerns and forced Messi to leave

Canada celebrates historic first World Cup win in Vancouver



Canada earned its first victory at a FIFA World Cup finals with a commanding 6-0 win over Qatar on Thursday at a sold-out BC Place in Vancouver. The result sent home fans into celebration and placed Canada on top of Group B on goal difference ahead of Switzerland. Cyle Larin and Jonathan David scored in the opening half-hour, while Qatar's hopes faded after Homam Ahmed was sent off in the 33rd minute. Qatar later went down to nine men after Assim Madibo received a red card for a reckless challenge that left Canadian midfielder Ismael Kone with a suspected broken leg. Canada face Switzerland next.

Pakistan and Bangladesh eye turnaround in Women's Twenty20 World Cup



Asian rivals Pakistan and Bangladesh will look to revive their Women's Twenty20 World Cup campaigns when they meet in a crucial Group A match at The Rose Bowl in Southampton on Saturday. Pakistan are still searching for their first win after back-to-back defeats, while Bangladesh have one victory from two games. Pakistan will again rely on captain Fatima Sana, who scored an unbeaten 55 and took three wickets in the narrow loss to South Africa. Bangladesh began with a six-wicket win over the Netherlands before suffering a heavy nine-wicket defeat against Australia. Juairiya Ferdous remains Bangladesh's key batting hope.



Harshit Rana returns to India squad for final Afghanistan one-dayer

India have added Harshit Rana to the squad for the third and final One-Day International against Afghanistan in Chennai on Saturday. The Board of Control for Cricket in India said Rana has completed rehabilitation at its Centre of Excellence and joined the team. The 24-year-old all-rounder had suffered a right knee ligament strain during a Twenty20 World Cup warm-up against South Africa and later missed the Indian Premier League after surgery. India lead the three-match series 2-0.



Aguirre keeps Mexico grounded after topping World Cup group



Mexico coach Javier Aguirre played down a historic milestone after his team beat South Korea 1-0 on Thursday to top a World Cup group for the first time since 2002. The co-hosts became the first team to reach the knockout stage and secured at least one more match on home soil in Mexico City. Aguirre, who also coached Mexico at the 2002 World Cup, said the achievement was only "anecdotal" because the final tournament position mattered more. He praised his players' patience and maturity after a nervous opener against South Africa, while saying home support would remain a major advantage.

Arsenal to open Premier League title defense against Coventry



Premier League champions Arsenal will begin their 2026-27 title defense at home against newly promoted Coventry City on Friday, according to fixtures released on Friday. Coventry are returning to the top flight after 25 years and will face Mikel Arteta's side, who ended Arsenal's 22-year title wait last season. Playoff winners Hull City will host Manchester United, while Ipswich Town will open at home against Sunderland. Manchester City, starting life after Pep Guardiola, will face Bournemouth. Newcastle United will host Liverpool, now managed by Andoni Iraola, while Chelsea begin under Xabi Alonso with a London derby at Fulham. The Manchester derby is set for Saturday.

Mexico to host women's basketball pre-qualifier on road to Los Angeles Olympics

Mexico will host the women's basketball pre-qualifying tournament for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games in Guadalajara from August 17 to 23, the International Basketball Federation said. Eight teams that failed to qualify for the 2026 Women's Basketball World Cup will compete for one place in the Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments scheduled for February 2028.

The participating teams are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan and Mexico, which replaces Colombia. Mexico was selected as the best non-qualified team from the same continent in the FIBA women's world rankings after Colombia became unavailable. The teams will be divided into two groups of four, with the top two from each group reaching



the semifinals. Teams that miss out in Guadalajara can still qualify through the 2027 continental cups.

India A women's squads revised after Prema Rawat's senior call-up

The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Friday revised the India A women's squads for the England A tour after leg-spinner Prema Rawat was promoted to the senior national team for the Women's Twenty20 World Cup. All-rounder Niki Prasad has been added to the Twenty20 squad, while off-spinner Minnu Mani has been included in the One-Day squad. The changes came after Shreyanka Patil was ruled out of the World Cup with an ankle injury sustained against the Netherlands. Anushka Sharma will captain the Twenty20 side, while Harleen Deol will



lead the One-Day team. The tour begins on Saturday.

Late Swiss surge crushes Bosnia in World Cup group clash

Switzerland scored four late goals on Thursday to beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-1 in their Group B match at the FIFA World Cup. Bosnia defended stubbornly until the 74th minute, when substitute Johan Manzambi scored three minutes after coming on. Bosnia's Tarik Muharemovic was then sent off, giving Switzerland full control. Ruben Vargas added the second, Manzambi struck again, and captain Granit Xhaka converted a stoppage-time penalty after Ermin Mahmic had scored a consolation goal for Bosnia. Switzerland now have four points and need one more from their final group match against



Canada to guarantee progression. Bosnia, with one point, face Qatar next.

London Marathon to expand into two-day race in 2027



The London Marathon will become a two-day event for one year only in 2027, allowing 100,000 runners to take part across Saturday and Sunday. Organizers said the expansion follows record demand, with more than 1.33 million people applying for the ballot. The move is expected to raise more than \$190 million for charities and generate about \$508 million in social and economic benefits for the United Kingdom. Both races will use the traditional route from Greenwich to Westminster, while ballot applicants will be entered for both days. Organizers said final format details will be announced later, but stressed the two-day edition is a one-time expansion.

Scheffler struggles as wind disrupts United States Open start

Scottie Scheffler made a difficult start to his career Grand Slam bid at the United States Open on Thursday, carding a two-over 72 in windy first-round conditions at Shinnecock Hills. Americans Sam Stevens and Max McGreevy shared the clubhouse lead at two-under 68 with amateur Ryder Cowan before play was suspended because of darkness. Former champion Wyndham Clark was six-under with two holes remaining when the round stopped. Scheffler, already a Masters, PGA Championship and British Open winner, struggled with his putting and said the course could change quickly in strong winds. Rory McIlroy finished at one-under, while play was scheduled to resume Friday.

Nikhil, Deepak and Saneh advance at Boxing World Cup in China

Indian boxers Nikhil, Deepak and Saneh advanced to the next round of the Boxing World Cup Stage 2 in Guiyang, China, after strong performances on Tuesday. Nikhil dominated Brazil's Kelvy Trindade in the men's 55 kilogram category, winning by a 5-0 unanimous decision. Deepak produced another impressive result in the men's 70 kilogram division, defeating Japan's Sewon Okazawa, a 2025 World Championships silver medalist, by the same margin. In the women's 65 kilogram category, Saneh battled past South Korea's Seon Sujin 4-1. However, Malsawmtluanga lost 1-4 to Jordan's Ashaish Hussein, while Mahi Lama fell 0-5 to Mongolia's Monkhor Namuun. Minakshi and Abhinash Jamwal will be in action next.

Tommy Paul extends Queen's Club winning run to seven matches

United States player Tommy Paul continued his strong Queen's Club run on Thursday, beating Botic van de Zandschulp 7-6(5), 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals. Paul, the 2024 champion, missed last year's event because of an abdominal injury but recovered well after dropping serve in the opening game. He edged a tight first-set tiebreak before controlling the second set with sharper baseline play. The 29-year-old has now won seven straight matches at the London grass-court event.



Real Madrid sign Ibrahima Konaté after Liverpool exit

Real Madrid have signed France defender Ibrahima Konaté on a four-year deal after his Liverpool contract expired. The 27-year-old center back will officially join at the end of June as another major summer addition. Konaté spent five seasons at Liverpool after arriving from RB Leipzig in 2021, making 183 appearances across competitions. He helped the club win the Premier League in 2024-25, along with two League Cups and an FA Cup, and is currently with France at the FIFA World Cup.

Carlos Mencia arrested in California tax evasion case over \$8.7 million earnings



Comedian Carlos Mencia was arrested on Thursday in Los Angeles and charged with 12 felony counts for allegedly failing to report or pay California taxes on more than \$8 million in earnings.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said Mencia faces six counts tied to personal income taxes and six tied to corporate taxes for the years 2019 to 2024. Prosecutors said he earned about \$8.7 million and owes more than \$300,000 in state taxes.

Mencia, known for Comedy Central's 'Mind of Mencia,' has not entered a plea. He was being held on \$250,000 bail and is expected in court Monday. If convicted on all counts, he could face more than 11 years in prison.

Daveigh Chase, voice of Lilo and villain of 'The Ring,' dies at 35



Former child actor Daveigh Chase, best known as the voice of Lilo in Disney's 'Lilo & Stitch' and for playing Samara in 'The Ring,' has died at 35. Her father, John David Schwallier, told The New York Times that Chase died from complications of bacterial meningitis and a blood infection. TMZ first reported on Wednesday that she had died Tuesday.

Chase was 8 when she auditioned for 'Lilo & Stitch,' released in 2002. That same year, she appeared as the chilling long-haired villain Samara in 'The Ring,' a role that won her an MTV Movie Award for best villain.

Her other credits included 'Spirited Away,' 'Donnie Darko' and the television series 'Oliver Beene.'

Vijay and Rashmika honor students with Thummanpet scholarship promise

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna visited Thummanpet village in Telangana on Sunday to fulfill their promise of supporting government school students from Achampet Mandal. The couple had earlier announced the Virosh Scholarship initiative through The Deverakonda Foundation to support meritorious students from 44 government schools. The program focuses on students in grades 9 and 10, helping ease the financial burden on families by supporting education-related needs such as fees, notebooks and study materials.

Vijay shared that Thummanpet holds personal significance because it is the village where his father was born. Rashmika also expressed her happiness by sharing his post. The initiative is aimed at encouraging students to continue their education and reducing the risk of dropouts due to financial constraints.



On the work front, Vijay and Rashmika are expected to reunite on screen in the upcoming period drama 'Ranabaali.'

Fans and family remember Sushant as Bollywood tributes grow quieter

Six years after Sushant Singh Rajput's death, the actor's family and fans remembered him with emotional tributes on Sunday, even as public posts from Bollywood colleagues remained limited this year. In previous years, several of his co-stars and industry friends had marked his birth and death anniversaries on social media. This time, Bhumi Pednekar was among the few film personalities to remember him, sharing memories from their film 'Sonchiriya.' Ankita Lokhande did not post a dedicated tribute, but reshared fan-made memories from their television show.



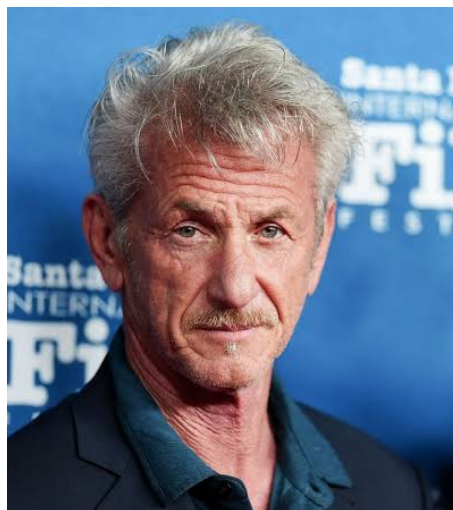
Po Che!, 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story,' 'Kedarnath,' 'Chhichhore' and his posthumous release 'Dil Bechara.'

Sushant's sisters, Shweta Singh Kirti and Priyanka, posted heartfelt messages, while fans revisited his work in films including 'Kai

Sean Penn to direct Warner Bros. film inspired by January 6 police officer

Sean Penn will write and direct an untitled Warner Bros. film about a police officer who was at the January 6 Capitol riot, the studio announced Tuesday. The film is based on a real person, though Warner Bros. and Penn's representatives did not identify the officer. Bradley Cooper is in talks to star, but no deal has been finalized. The project is described as a story about "an unexpected friendship," with production expected to begin in mid-2027.

Penn attended the 2022 House committee hearings on the Capitol attack, sitting near Metropolitan Police officers Michael Fanone and Daniel Hodges, both of whom testified about being assaulted during the riot.



Grammys expand global music reach with new Asian pop category

The Recording Academy announced on Tuesday that it is adding five categories and changing several rules for the 2026 Grammy Awards. The new categories include best Asian pop music performance, covering K-pop, J-pop, C-pop and related music, and best traditional pop vocal performance. The academy is also adding best Latin song, best R&B collaboration or duo/group

performance and best traditional folk album, while renaming best folk album as best contemporary folk album.

The best new artist rules are also changing. Artists may now submit up to four times, instead of three, reflecting how long it can take new performers to break through. Artists with previous Grammy nominations remain ineligible for the category.

Tom Holland's wedding remark appears to confirm Zendaya marriage



Tom Holland appeared to confirm that he and Zendaya are married, ending months of speculation about the couple's relationship status. In an Esquire U.K. interview published Tuesday, Holland was asked whether he had to warn family members about artificial intelligence-generated images that appeared to show him and Zendaya at their wedding. He replied, "No, because they were all there," before adding that this was all he would say on the matter.

The comment followed earlier claims by Zendaya's stylist, Law Roach, that the couple had already married. Holland and Zendaya first met while starring in 2017's 'Spider-Man: Homecoming.' They are set to appear together in 'The Odyssey' and 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day.'

Sabrina Carpenter gets five-year protection order after repeated home intrusions



Los Angeles judge on Wednesday granted Sabrina Carpenter a five-year restraining order against William Applegate, a 31-year-old man accused of repeatedly trying to enter the pop star's home. Carpenter said in court filings that Applegate showed up more than a dozen times and, in one incident, reached her front door after entering through a neighboring property and hitting a security guard. A temporary restraining order had been issued in May.

Applegate told the court he believed he and Carpenter were part of a classified military program and needed to be together for global security. Carpenter called him a complete stranger. The order requires him to stay at least 100 yards from Carpenter, her sister and her sister's partner.

Friday, 19 June 2026

Nora Fatehi cheers for Morocco at first World Cup match



Nora Fatehi attended her first FIFA World Cup match as a spectator and proudly supported Morocco during its Group C match against Brazil. The actress and dancer shared photos and videos from the stadium, where she was seen carrying the Moroccan flag and singing the anthem before the match. The game ended in a 1-1 draw, with Ismael Saibari scoring for Morocco and Vinicius Junior equalizing for Brazil. Fatehi, who is of Moroccan descent, had earlier performed at the World Cup opening ceremony in Toronto and presented the official song 'Siir Siir.' Her presence at the match reflected both her global entertainment profile and her emotional connection to Morocco.

Dwayne Johnson celebrates Polynesian pride at 'Moana' tour launch



Dwayne Johnson launched the world tour for the live-action 'Moana' in Hawaii, celebrating the film's Polynesian roots and the personal legacy behind his role as Maui. Johnson was joined by original Moana voice actor Auli'i Cravalho and new live-action star Catherine Laga'aia. Sharing moments from the event on Instagram, Johnson said the tour began with aloha spirit and cultural pride. The actor said Maui was inspired by his late grandfather, High Chief Peter Maivia, whose charisma, strength, voice and presence shaped the character. Johnson called it an honor to embody his grandfather's spirit. The live-action 'Moana' is scheduled to release in theaters on July 10.

Katy Perry credits love with helping her move forward

Katy Perry has opened up about her relationship with former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, saying love has transformed her after a difficult personal year. Speaking on the 'Unfamous' podcast, the singer said she now has love in her life and described it as something that changed her emotionally. Perry began dating Trudeau after her split from Orlando Bloom, which she said was painful but also taught her important lessons about boundaries and self-respect. She said she chose not to fall into a victim mindset and instead allowed herself to feel the pain, anger and growth that came from the breakup. Perry said she is now focused on healing, self-worth and moving forward.

Ben Stiller turns Knicks fandom into HBO documentary

Ben Stiller has confirmed that he is working on a documentary about the New York Knicks, turning his longtime court-side fandom into a major screen project. The actor said he is making the film with HBO and A24, with cooperation from Madison Square Garden and the National Basketball Association. Speaking on Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart's 'The Roommates Show,' Stiller said the documentary will cover not only the team's recent championship success, but also different eras of Knicks history. Stiller said he began filming before the playoff run and plans to continue shooting next season. Calling it a dream project, he said he could not be more excited to tell the team's story.



Preity Zinta moves court against Artificial Intelligence misuse



Preity Zinta has moved the Bombay High Court over alleged misuse of her image, personality and copyrighted material through Artificial Intelligence-generated content on online platforms. The actress alleged that platforms including Meta and Google allowed the creation, upload and circulation of content that violated her personality rights, copyright and moral rights, while damaging her reputation.

Justice Abhay Ahuja allowed her plea seeking permission to file an injunction suit. The case comes as several Indian celebrities have sought legal protection against deepfakes, fake endorsements and unauthorized Artificial Intelligence content. Actors including Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor and Jackie Shroff have previously obtained court protection for personality and publicity rights. Zinta will next be seen in 'Batwara 1947,' directed by Rajkumar Santoshi.

Lil Nas X shares bipolar diagnosis after rehab stay

Lil Nas X has spoken publicly about his bipolar disorder diagnosis and said he spent several months in rehab after a difficult period in his life. The rapper, whose real name is Montero Hill, said on Instagram that he has been trying to ground himself with support from family, friends and treatment. He admitted he had suspected the diagnosis for years but was reluctant to accept it because of stigma and the fear of medication. Lil Nas X was arrested in Los Angeles in August 2025 and later entered a mental health diversion program. He said he is now doing better, creating freely and feeling less fear. The singer also confirmed he has been working on new music.



Akshay Kumar offers prayers at Vaishno Devi shrine

Akshay Kumar visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Thursday and offered prayers at the cave shrine. Officials said the actor undertook the pilgrimage amid tight security and spent time performing rituals and paying obeisance. His visit drew attention from devotees and tourists, many of whom gathered to see him during the spiritual journey. The shrine, located in the Trikuta Hills, remains one of India's most visited pilgrimage destinations and sees a steady flow of devotees throughout the year, especially during summer vacations, Navratri and the New Year period. Kumar completed his visit without major disruption to the ongoing pilgrimage.



Olivia Wilde recalls Tom Cruise reaction to CinemaCon papers



Olivia Wilde has opened up about being served custody papers on stage at CinemaCon in 2022, saying Tom Cruise later called the incident shocking. Wilde was promoting her film 'Don't Worry Darling' in Las Vegas when she was handed legal documents related to her custody case with former partner Jason Sudeikis over their children, Otis and Daisy. Speaking on the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast, Wilde said the moment was traumatic, though she pushed through and finished her speech. She later met Cruise, who told her the incident in Vegas was "messed up." Wilde said she now believes Sudeikis did not intend for the papers to be served publicly.

Guillermo del Toro warns Artificial Intelligence threatens cinema

Guillermo del Toro has warned that cinema is facing a creative crisis as Artificial Intelligence and industry consolidation reshape Hollywood. Speaking at a BFI America dinner in Hollywood on Monday, where he was honored with a BFI Fellowship, the Oscar-winning filmmaker said the world is on the verge of "image illiteracy" and "cinema illiteracy." He criticized the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in art and called it a form of "natural stupidity." Del Toro said images are not meant to simply exist, but to connect people and create beauty. The filmmaker, known for 'Pan's Labyrinth,' 'The Shape of Water' and 'Frankenstein,' said human creativity remains sacred.

Sofia Vergara joins Shakira's 100th-show celebration



Shakira celebrated her 100th concert in Los Angeles with a high-energy show that included a joyful moment featuring Sofia Vergara dancing to 'Hips Don't Lie.' The Colombian singer shared photos and videos from the milestone concert, thanking fans for joining her return to Los Angeles. She also posted a clip of Vergara enjoying the performance, adding to the celebratory mood of the night.

Shakira, widely regarded as one of Latin music's most influential global stars, has helped popularize Spanish-language music worldwide. Her career includes four Grammy Awards and 15 Latin Grammy Awards. Vergara, best known for 'Modern Family' and 'Griselda,' has also been one of the most visible Colombian stars in Hollywood.

बिहार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का पाँचवाँ एवं अंतिम पड़ाव बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम, देवघर



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत बिहार अध्याय की हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब अपने अंतिम और सर्वाधिक पवित्र पड़ाव पर पहुँच चुकी है। महाबोधि मंदिर (बोधगया), विष्णुपद मंदिर (गया), मुंडेश्वरी देवी मंदिर (कैमूर) तथा पातालेश्वर नाथ मंदिर (हाजीपुर) की दिव्य यात्रा के पश्चात अब हम पहुँचते हैं बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम, देवघर, जो सनातन धर्म के बारह ज्योतिर्लिंगों में से एक तथा इक्यावन शक्तिपीठों में भी विशेष स्थान रखता है।

यद्यपि आज देवघर झारखंड राज्य में स्थित है, किंतु ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक दृष्टि से बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम सदियों से बिहार, झारखंड और बंगाल की साझा आध्यात्मिक विरासत रहा है। श्रावण मास में बिहार के सुल्तानगंज से गंगाजल लेकर लाखों कांवरिये पैदल यात्रा करते हुए यहाँ पहुँचते हैं, जबकि झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल से भी असंख्य श्रद्धालु बाबा के दर्शन हेतु आते हैं। इस प्रकार बैद्यनाथ धाम केवल एक मंदिर नहीं, बल्कि पूर्वी भारत की सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक एकता का जीवंत प्रतीक है।

बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम की पौराणिक कथा
बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम की महिमा अनेक पौराणिक

कथाओं से जुड़ी हुई है। सबसे प्रसिद्ध कथा राक्षसराज रावण से संबंधित है।

कथा के अनुसार रावण ने भगवान शिव को प्रसन्न करने के लिए कठोर तपस्या की। उसने अपने नौ सिर भगवान शिव को अर्पित कर दिए और जब वह दसवाँ सिर अर्पित करने वाला था, तब भगवान शिव उसके समक्ष प्रकट हुए। रावण की भक्ति से प्रसन्न होकर शिवजी ने उसके सभी सिर पुनः जोड़ दिए और उसे स्वस्थ कर दिया। क्योंकि भगवान शिव ने वैद्य (चिकित्सक) की भाँति रावण का उपचार किया था, इसलिए वे यहाँ 'बैद्यनाथ' कहलाए।

रावण ने भगवान शिव से प्रार्थना की कि वे उसके साथ लंका चलें। शिवजी ने उसे एक दिव्य ज्योतिर्लिंग प्रदान किया और शर्त रखी कि मार्ग में उसे कहीं भूमि पर नहीं रखना होगा। देवताओं को भय था कि यदि यह ज्योतिर्लिंग लंका पहुँच गया तो रावण अजेय हो जाएगा। तब भगवान विष्णु ने लीला रची।

यात्रा के दौरान देवघर के निकट रावण को लघुशंका की आवश्यकता हुई। उसने एक ग्वाले (बैजू) को कुछ समय के लिए शिवलिंग सौंप दिया। अधिक समय प्रतीक्षा करने के बाद बैजू ने शिवलिंग भूमि पर

रख दिया। जब रावण वापस लौटा तो वह शिवलिंग को पुनः उठा नहीं सका। तभी से यह ज्योतिर्लिंग देवघर में स्थापित हो गया और भगवान शिव यहाँ बैद्यनाथ के रूप में विराजमान हो गए।

शक्तिपीठ के रूप में महत्व

बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम केवल ज्योतिर्लिंग ही नहीं, बल्कि एक प्रमुख शक्तिपीठ भी है। मान्यता है कि माता सती का हृदय (हृदय पीठ) इसी स्थान पर गिरा था। इस कारण यह धाम भगवान शिव और आदिशक्ति दोनों की संयुक्त उपासना का अद्वितीय केंद्र बन गया है।

भारत में ऐसे बहुत कम तीर्थ हैं जहाँ शिव और शक्ति दोनों की इतनी समान महत्ता के साथ पूजा होती हो। यही कारण है कि बैद्यनाथ धाम को विशेष आध्यात्मिक शक्ति का केंद्र माना जाता है।

ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

इतिहासकारों के अनुसार इस पवित्र स्थल का उल्लेख आठवीं शताब्दी से मिलता है। गुप्तकाल के पश्चात भी यह क्षेत्र धार्मिक गतिविधियों का प्रमुख केंद्र बना रहा। विभिन्न राजवंशों, स्थानीय शासकों और भक्तों ने समय-समय पर मंदिर परिसर के संरक्षण और विस्तार में योगदान दिया।

आज मंदिर परिसर में मुख्य ज्योतिर्लिंग मंदिर के अतिरिक्त 21 अन्य मंदिर भी स्थित हैं, जो इसे पूर्वी भारत के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थस्थलों में स्थान प्रदान करते हैं।

मंदिर की स्थापत्य विशेषताएँ

पूर्वाभिमुख मुख्य मंदिर लगभग 72 फीट ऊँचा है। इसका शिखर पिरामिडाकार शैली में निर्मित है, जिसके शीर्ष पर स्वर्ण कलश और त्रिशूल स्थापित हैं। गर्भगृह में स्थित ज्योतिर्लिंग आकार में अपेक्षाकृत छोटा है, किंतु उसकी आध्यात्मिक महिमा असीम मानी जाती है।

मंदिर परिसर का वातावरण निरंतर 'बोल बम' और 'हर हर महादेव' के जयघोष से गुंजाता रहता है, जिससे भक्तों को अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा का अनुभव होता है।

श्रावणी मेला और कांवर यात्रा

बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम का सबसे प्रसिद्ध उत्सव श्रावणी मेला है। प्रत्येक वर्ष श्रावण मास में लाखों श्रद्धालु बिहार के सुल्तानगंज से गंगाजल भरकर लगभग

105 किलोमीटर की पैदल यात्रा करते हैं और देवघर पहुँचकर भगवान शिव का जलाभिषेक करते हैं।

यह विश्व की सबसे बड़ी वार्षिक धार्मिक पदयात्राओं में से एक मानी जाती है। इस दौरान बिहार, झारखंड, पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, नेपाल तथा देश के अन्य भागों से करोड़ों श्रद्धालु यहाँ आते हैं।

दिव्य वैद्य के रूप में बाबा

रावण को स्वस्थ करने की कथा के कारण बाबा बैद्यनाथ को दिव्य चिकित्सक भी माना जाता है। भक्त विश्वास करते हैं कि यहाँ सच्चे मन से प्रार्थना करने पर शारीरिक, मानसिक और आध्यात्मिक कष्टों से मुक्ति मिलती है। इसी कारण वर्ष भर श्रद्धालुओं का यहाँ तांता लगा रहता है।

निष्कर्ष

बाबा बैद्यनाथ धाम केवल एक ज्योतिर्लिंग या शक्तिपीठ नहीं, बल्कि बिहार, झारखंड और बंगाल की साझा आस्था, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और सनातन परंपरा का जीवंत प्रतीक है। भगवान शिव और माँ शक्ति की संयुक्त उपस्थिति, रावण की तपस्या से जुड़ी पौराणिक कथाएँ, श्रावणी कांवर यात्रा की अद्भुत परंपरा तथा करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं की अटूट भक्ति इस धाम को भारत के महानतम तीर्थस्थलों में विशिष्ट स्थान प्रदान करती है।

इसके साथ ही IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' – बिहार अध्याय का सफल समापन होता है। इस यात्रा के माध्यम से हमने बिहार और उससे जुड़ी इस विस्तृत सांस्कृतिक-आध्यात्मिक भूमि की समृद्ध धार्मिक विरासत, प्राचीन मंदिरों, लोककथाओं और सनातन संस्कृति के अद्भुत स्वरूपों का दर्शन किया।

हम अपने पाठकों का हृदय से धन्यवाद करते हैं, जिन्होंने इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा में हमारे साथ कदम से कदम मिलाकर साथ दिया।

अब एक सप्ताह के विराम के पश्चात IndoUS Tribune अपनी अगली विशेष यात्रा श्रृंखला 'छत्तीसगढ़ के मंदिरों की यात्रा' लेकर आपके समक्ष उपस्थित होगा, जहाँ हम माँ दंतेश्वरी, भोरमदेव, राजीव लोचन, महामाया और अन्य प्राचीन मंदिरों की दिव्य गाथाओं से आपको परिचित कराएंगे।

हर हर महादेव!



बाल्मीकि रामायण में छुपे कुछ विरले प्रसंग

विराध – एक राक्षस या रामभक्त गन्धर्व



रामायण में ऐसी बहुत सी कथाएँ आती हैं, जहाँ राक्षसों का आतंक पूरे जोर शोर पर नजर आता है। क्या यह सभी राक्षस वाकई राक्षस थे, या किसी श्राप के कारण ऐसा जीवन जी रहे थे? इन कथाओं को गहराई से पढ़ने पर लगता है कि, यह किसी न किसी मुनि के श्राप से प्रस्त, राक्षस योनि जी रहे थे। रामजी को इसलिए भी पूजा जाता है कि, उन्होंने वनों में जाकर ऐसे बहुत सारे राक्षसों का वध किया। इनमें से एक, बहुत ही अत्याचारी और निर्दयी राक्षस था, जिसका नाम था, विराध। जिसने वन में बहुत ही आतंक मचाया हुआ था। जब रामजी उस अरण्य में पहुँचे, तो ऋषि मुनियों ने अपनी दुख भरी कहानी उन्हें सुनाई। वाल्मीकि जी ने इस राक्षस की कथा, अरण्य काण्ड में, बड़े विस्तार से कही है।

रामचरितमानस के सुंदरकांड में भी एक प्रसंग आता है, जहाँ अगस्त्य ऋषि के श्राप से पीड़ित, रावण के भेजे, दो राक्षस रामजी के खेमे में आते हैं, और पकड़े जाते हैं। जब उन्हें दण्ड मिलने लगता है तो वह रामजी कि शरण में समर्पण कर, क्षमा माँगने लगते हैं। दयालु रामजी उन्हें क्षमा कर देते हैं। ऐसे में तुलसी बाबा रहस्योद्घाटन करते हैं, कि, यह दोनों राक्षस अगस्त्य ऋषि के श्राप से, राक्षस योनि में थे, लेकिन रामजी की शरणगति के कारण, उन्हें मुक्ति मिली और यह दोनों अपने आश्रम लौट गए।

**ऋषि अगस्त्य की साप भवानी,
राक्षस भयउ रहा मुनि गयानी
बंदी राम पद बारहि बारा, मुनि निज आश्रम
कहाँ पगु धारा**

इसी प्रकार विराध भी एक भयंकर दिखने वाला राक्षस था।

**गभीराक्ष महावक्त्रं विकटं विकटोदरम् ।
बीभत्सं विषमं दीर्घं विकृतं घोरदर्शनम् ॥ ५ ॥
सानं चर्म वैघ्राणं वसार रुधिरक्षितम् ।
त्रासनं सर्वभूतानां व्यादितास्यभिवान्तकम्**

वाल्मीकि जी लिखते हैं, उसकी आँखें भयावह, आकार विकट, और विशाल बाहु थीं। वह बहुत ही भयंकर दिखने वाला राक्षस था। उसने खून से भीगा, व्याघ्र चर्म का वस्त्र पहना हुआ था। समस्त मुनियों को त्रास देने वाला, यह राक्षस, यमराज के समान, मुँह बाये खड़ा था। ऐसी भयंकर आकृति वाला राक्षस विराध, जब वनों में घूमता, तो ऋषि मुनियों में एक भय छा जाता। जब रामजी इस वन में लक्ष्मण और सीता जी के साथ रहने आये, तो उन्होंने ऋषियों को यह आश्वासन दिया कि, वह उनकी इन दुष्ट राक्षसों से रक्षा करेंगे। प्रभु तो हैं ही दुःख भंजनहार।

**स रामं लक्ष्मणं चैव सीतां दृष्ट्वा च मैथिलीम् ।
अभ्यधावत सुसंक्रुद्धः प्रजाः काल इवान्तकः ॥ ८ ॥
स कृत्वा भैरवं नादं चालयन्निव मेदिनीम् ॥**

कुछ दिन बाद जब परिवार सहित वन में घूम रहे थे तो, विराध वहाँ आ धमकता है। सीता जी के सौंदर्य को देख, विस्मित हो उठता है। लेकिन अपने राक्षस स्वभाव के कारण, गर्जना कर, रामजी और लक्ष्मण को डराने लगता है। सीता जी घबरा जाती हैं। बस फिर क्या था, विराध सीताजी को अपनी गोद में उठा लेता है।

**अङ्केनादाय वैदेहीमपक्रम्य तदाव्रवीत् ।
युवां जटावीरधरी सभायौ क्षीणजीवितौ ॥ १० ॥**

और दोनों भाइयों को उपदेश देने लगता है कि, हे, जटाधारियों तुमको एक स्त्री से क्या लेना देना? यह तो हम राक्षसों का काम है। यह तो बहुत सुन्दर है, इसे मैं अपनी भार्या (पत्नी) बनाऊँगा। इसे तुम मेरे लिए छोड़, लौट जाओ। नहीं तो बेवजह, तुम्हें अपने जीवन से हाथ धोना पड़ेगा। मेरा नाम विराध है, और मैं इस वन का स्वामी हूँ।

सीता जी को राक्षस के चंगुल में देख, रामजी सजग और क्रोधित हो उठते हैं। लक्ष्मण को संबोधित करते हुए कहते हैं कि, हे लक्ष्मण मेरी सीधी सादी एवं शुभ लक्षणा सीता संकट में है।

**'पश्य सौम्य नरेन्द्रस्य जनकस्यात्मसम्भवाम् ।
मम भार्यां शुभाचारां विराधाङ्के प्रवेशिताम् ॥**

रामजी का यह दुख देख, लक्ष्मण भी क्रोधित हो उठता है। अपने भाई को सात्वना देते हुए बोलते हैं, हे भैया, आपको मेरे रहने हुए किसी प्रकार की चिंता नहीं करनी चाहिए। मैं अभी इस दुष्ट राक्षस का, अपने वाणों से वध करता हूँ।

**शरेण निहतस्याद्य मया क्रुद्धेन रक्षसः ।
विराधस्य गतासोहिं मही पास्यति शोणितम् ॥ २४ ॥**

यह कह, वह मन ही मन प्रार्थना करने लगे, हे प्रभु, मुझे इतना बल दीजिए कि, मेरे बाण इस विराध राक्षस के शरीर को छलनी कर दें। इसका जीवन अभी अभी समाप्त हो जाए। ताकि यह ऋषियों को और अधिक संतप्त नहीं कर पाए। इतने में कुछ देर बाद, विराध का व्यवहार कुछ नरम पड़ जाता है, तो वह रामजी के निकट आ, उनसे उनका परिचय पूछने लगता है।

**अथोवाच पुनर्वाक्यं विराधः पूरन वनम् ।
पृच्छतो मम हि ब्रूतं कौ युवां क्व गमिष्यथः ॥ १ ॥
तब रामजी ने बड़े शान्त स्वर में विराध को अपना परिचय**

दिया कि, मैं इक्ष्वाकु कुल में जन्मा दशरथ पुत्र राम हूँ और मेरे साथ यह मेरा छोटा भाई लक्ष्मण है। हम अयोध्या नगरी से आए, क्षत्रिय कुल में जन्मे राज कुमार हैं। अब तुम बताओ कि, तुम्हारा क्या परिचय है?

**पुत्रः किल जवस्याहं माता मम शतहृदा । विराध इति मागाहुः
पृथिव्यां सर्वराक्षसाः ॥ ५ ॥**

**तपसा चाभिसम्प्राप्ता ब्रह्मणो हि प्रसादजा । शस्त्रेणावध्वता
लोकेश्छेद्याभेद्यत्वमेव च ॥६**

तब विराध ने भी अपना परिचय दिया कि, मैं 'जव' नामक राक्षस का बेटा हूँ। मेरी माता का नाम 'शतहृदा' है। मुझे लोग विराध नाम से जानते हैं। मैंने बचपन में बड़ी तपस्या की थी, तभी ब्रह्माजी ने मुझे वरदान दिया था कि, तुम्हारा किसी अस्त्र या शस्त्र से नाश नहीं हो पाएगा। उन्होंने मुझे सदा के लिए अछेद और अभेद्य बना दिया। तुम दोनों यहाँ से भाग जाओ और इस स्त्री को मेरे लिए छोड़ दो, नहीं तो मैं तुम दोनों के प्राण हर लूँगा।

यह सब सुन, रामजी बड़े क्रोधित हो उठे, और बोले, हे दुर्बुद्धि तेरा अभिप्राय बहुत ही खोटा है। लगता है, तेरा अंत निकट आ गया है। यह कह, रामजी ने उसे अपने बाणों से बीधना आरम्भ कर दिया। उधर विराध ने सीता को धरती पर बैठा कर, रामजी का सामना करना आरंभ कर दिया। लेकिन चूँकि उसे ब्रह्माजी से वरदान प्राप्त था, इसलिए उस पर रामजी के बाणों का ज्यादा असर नहीं हो रहा था। देखते ही देखते उसने दोनों भाइयों को अपने कंधों पर उठा, गर्जना करने लगा। सीताजी यह सब देख काफी डर गईं।

**तावारोप्य ततः स्कन्धं राधवी रजनीचरः ।
विराधो विनदन घोरं जगामाभिमुखो वनम् ॥ २५ ॥**

आखिर विराध वह कौन था, और उसका अन्त कैसे हुआ?

जब सीता ने राम और लखन को विराध के कन्धे पर देखा, तो डर से चिल्लाने लगी।

**हियमाणौ तु काकुत्स्थौ दृष्ट्वा सीता रघूत्तमौ ।
उच्चैः स्वरेण चुक्रोश प्रगृह्य सुमहाभुजौ ॥ १ ॥**

सीता को रोते देख, रामजी को लगा कि, जल्दी कुछ करना होगा। उन्होंने लक्ष्मण को इशारा किया कि, इसके कंधों पर वार कर इसे नीचे गिराया जाए। फिर दोनों भाइयों ने, विराध के दोनों कंधों पर इतना कड़ा वार किया किया कि, विराध के कन्धे टूट गये और वह घायल हो नीचे गिर पड़ा। तब रामजी ने लक्ष्मण से कहा, इसको मारने का

दूसरा उपाय सोचना होगा। उन्होंने लक्ष्मण से एक बड़ा खट्टा खोदने के लिए कहा। और स्वयं विराध की गर्दन पर पैर रख उसे दबोच लिया। यह सब होता देख, विराध को अपना अन्त साफ दिखाई पड़ने लगा। उसके अंतमन ने रामजी के ब्रह्म स्वरूप को पहचान लिया। तब वह बड़े विनम्र भाव से बोला, हे प्रभु।

**अभिशापादहं घोरं प्रविष्टो राक्षसीं तनुम् । तुम्बुरुनाम गन्धर्वः
शस्तो वैश्रवणेन हि ॥ १६ ॥**

मुझे श्रापवश इस राक्षस योनि में आना पड़ा, वरना मैं 'तुम्बुरू' नाम का एक गंधर्व हूँ। एक बार, मैं रम्भा नामक एक अप्सरा पर मोहित हो गया था और उसके साथ मैंने बलात् सम्बन्ध भी बनाये, इसीलिए कुबेर जी ने मुझे राक्षस होने का श्राप दे दिया था। जब मैंने उनसे दया की याचना की, तो उन्होंने कहा, यह राक्षस का शरीर तो तुमको भोगना पड़ेगा, लेकिन इसी शरीर में तुम्हारा साक्षात्कार प्रभु राम से होगा। उनके हाथों तुम्हारा वध होगा और तभी तुम श्राप मुक्त होगे। मुझे लगता है, वह क्षण अब मेरे सामने है। मैं अपने आप को आपकी शरण में समर्पित करता हूँ।

**तव प्रसादान्मुक्तोऽहमभिशापात् सुदारुणात् ॥ १९ ॥
भुवनं स्वं गमिष्यामि स्वस्ति वोऽस्तु परंतप ।**

हे प्रभु, आप मुझे इस खड्डे में गाड़ दो। यह मृत्यु मुझे स्वीकार्य है। इससे मैं श्राप मुक्त हो जाऊँगा। आप बाकी का समय, यहाँ बसे, ऋषियों के आश्रम में जाकर व्यतीत कीजिए। सभी ऋषियों को अभय दान दीजिए। अब उन्हें कोई अनावश्यक परेशान नहीं करेगा। मैं आपका हृदय से आभारी हूँ कि, आपने इस दुष्ट आत्मा को मुक्ति प्रदान की।

इस प्रकार, एक बार फिर एक गंधर्व, जो मायावश भटक गया था, प्रभु कृपा से, सुमार्ग पर लौट आया। ऐसी थी राक्षस विराध की कथा। दयालु रामजी ने, उसे भी क्षमाकर, अपने धाम में स्थान दिया। ऐसे, मेरे परम इष्ट रामजी को, मेरा कोटि कोटि प्रणाम।

जय श्री राम



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United Senior Pariwar of Chicago marks 18 years of service, culture and fellowship

By: Jayanti Oza

United Senior Pariwar of Chicago celebrated its 18th anniversary on June 13, 2026, at the National India Hub in Schaumburg, bringing together members, community leaders and distinguished guests for an afternoon filled with music, cultural pride and fellowship. The celebration reflected the organization's long-standing commitment to serving senior citizens and preserving Indian cultural values in the Chicago area. The program began with a traditional Deep Pragatya ceremony accompanied by Vedic chants, setting a spiritual and festive tone for the gathering.

Consul General of India in Chicago Somnath Ghosh attended as the chief guest and addressed the community. In his remarks, he praised the contributions of first-generation Indian immigrants and highlighted the important role Indian Americans continue to play in



strengthening relations between India and the United States. He also encouraged senior citizens to remain socially active, support one another and continue nurturing the spirit of community that

remains central to Indian culture. The anniversary program featured energetic performances by acclaimed Bollywood singers Sanjay Vasita and Shefali Goswami, accompanied by local musician Hitesh Master and his orchestra. Their songs captivated the audience and soon inspired members to join in dancing and Garba, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere.

and prayers offered for their health, happiness and prosperity. Guests enjoyed refreshments, including ice cream during the intermission, adding to the warmth of the celebration.

United Senior Pariwar of Chicago leaders thanked community organizations, businesses, individual sponsors, volunteers, the kitchen committee and media representatives for supporting the anniversary program.

During the event, United Senior Pariwar of Chicago honored its founders and early leaders for their vision, dedication and service in building the organization over the past 18 years. The group also expressed appreciation for volunteers, committee members, supporters and sponsors whose continued efforts have helped the organization grow.

The event concluded on a cheerful note as members looked ahead to upcoming activities, including the organization's summer picnic. The milestone celebration highlighted United Senior Pariwar of Chicago's enduring role in promoting friendship, cultural connection, community service and the well-being of seniors across the Chicago area.

Members celebrating June birthdays were also recognized, with sweets distributed



Indian community celebrates International Day of Yoga at Hanuman Temple in Glenview

By: Jayanti Oza

The 12th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with enthusiasm and strong community participation at the Hanuman Temple in Glenview, Illinois, bringing together members of the Indian-American community for a morning dedicated to health, wellness, and spiritual harmony.

The event was organized by the Indian Community Nurturing Trust (ICNT) with the support of several community organizations and the Consulate General of India in Chicago. Despite rainy weather, approximately 100 community members attended the celebration, reflecting the growing popularity and significance of Yoga across the region.

The program began with a welcome address by ICNT representatives, who greeted attendees and acknowledged the support of participating organizations and community leaders. The celebration featured an engaging Yoga session led by experienced instructors from community organizations, who guided participants through a series of Yoga postures and breathing exercises while highlighting



the importance of incorporating Yoga into daily life for physical and mental well-being.

Representatives from the Consulate General of India spoke about Yoga's universal appeal and its role in promoting holistic health, stress reduction, mindfulness, and inner balance. They noted that Yoga has evolved into a global movement that transcends cultural and national boundaries, benefiting millions of people worldwide.

Speakers at the event emphasized that Yoga is one of India's most enduring gifts to humanity. Rooted in ancient Indian wisdom, Yoga offers a comprehensive approach to health by fostering harmony between the body, mind, and spirit. Participants were encouraged to view Yoga not merely as a form of exercise but as a way of life that promotes overall well-being and personal growth.

Several speakers also reflected on the global recognition Yoga has received over

the past decade. They acknowledged the efforts that led to the establishment of the International Day of Yoga, which is now observed annually in countries around the world and has helped increase awareness of Yoga's many benefits.

Beyond the practice of Yoga itself, the event highlighted the spirit of cooperation within the Indian-American community. Multiple organizations worked together to make the celebration a success, demonstrating the value of collaboration in promoting cultural heritage, health awareness, and community engagement.

Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come together, practice Yoga, and celebrate a tradition that continues to inspire people across generations and cultures. Many noted that events such as these help strengthen community bonds while encouraging healthier lifestyles.

The celebration concluded on a positive and uplifting note, reinforcing the timeless relevance of Yoga and its continuing contribution to physical fitness, mental wellness, and spiritual development.

Indian Seniors of Chicago celebrate Father's Day with musical tribute to legend Asha Bhosle



By: Jayanti Oza

Indian Seniors of Chicago hosted a lively and meaningful gathering on June 13, 2026, at the Maha Lakshmi Hall of Manav Seva Mandir, bringing together nearly 385 members for a special Father's Day celebration and a musical tribute to legendary Bollywood singer Asha Bhosle.

The program opened with recognition of members celebrating June birthdays, followed by the recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa. The spiritual beginning set a warm and uplifting tone for an afternoon centered on fellowship, culture and community connection.

Members were also briefed on upcoming organizational activities, including International Yoga Day celebrations, future travel opportunities, the annual summer picnic and cultural programs planned for the coming months.

As part of the Father's Day observance, fathers in attendance were honored for their role in strengthening families, preserving values and guiding younger generations. The celebration offered members an opportunity to recognize the love, sacrifice and steady support fathers contribute to both family and community life.

A special highlight of the gathering was the presence of Swami Kevalanand Ji, who



addressed the attendees with an inspiring spiritual message. He encouraged members to use their time meaningfully, strengthen their faith and serve others with compassion and positivity.

The cultural segment featured a nostalgic musical tribute to Asha Bhosle, one of India's most beloved playback singers. Members and performers presented a selection of her memorable songs, taking the audience through decades of Hindi cinema music.

The performances were warmly received, with many attendees joining in the spirit of the tribute and recalling the golden era of Bollywood.

Organizers also shared details about future community meetings, annual celebrations and cultural initiatives, encouraging members to stay actively involved in Indian Seniors of Chicago programs.

The event concluded with a prayer for the health, happiness and well-being of all members, followed by lunch and social interaction. Volunteers, performers and community members were thanked for their efforts in making the program successful.

The afternoon brought together spirituality, music, Father's Day appreciation and community fellowship, reflecting the continued strength of Indian Seniors of Chicago as one of the region's most active senior organizations.



JUNETEENTH

Honoring freedom, reflecting on history and celebrating resilience

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

As the United States observes Juneteenth, Americans pause to commemorate one of the most significant milestones in the nation's history: the end of slavery in the United States.

Celebrated annually on June 19, Juneteenth is both a day of remembrance and a celebration of freedom, resilience and progress. Though Black Americans have honored Juneteenth for generations, it became a federal holiday only in 2021. Today, it stands as a powerful reminder that freedom, while promised, was not delivered equally or immediately to all.

The history behind Juneteenth

To understand Juneteenth, one must look back to the Civil War era.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all enslaved people in Confederate states "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." This marked a historic turning point in America's effort to abolish slavery.

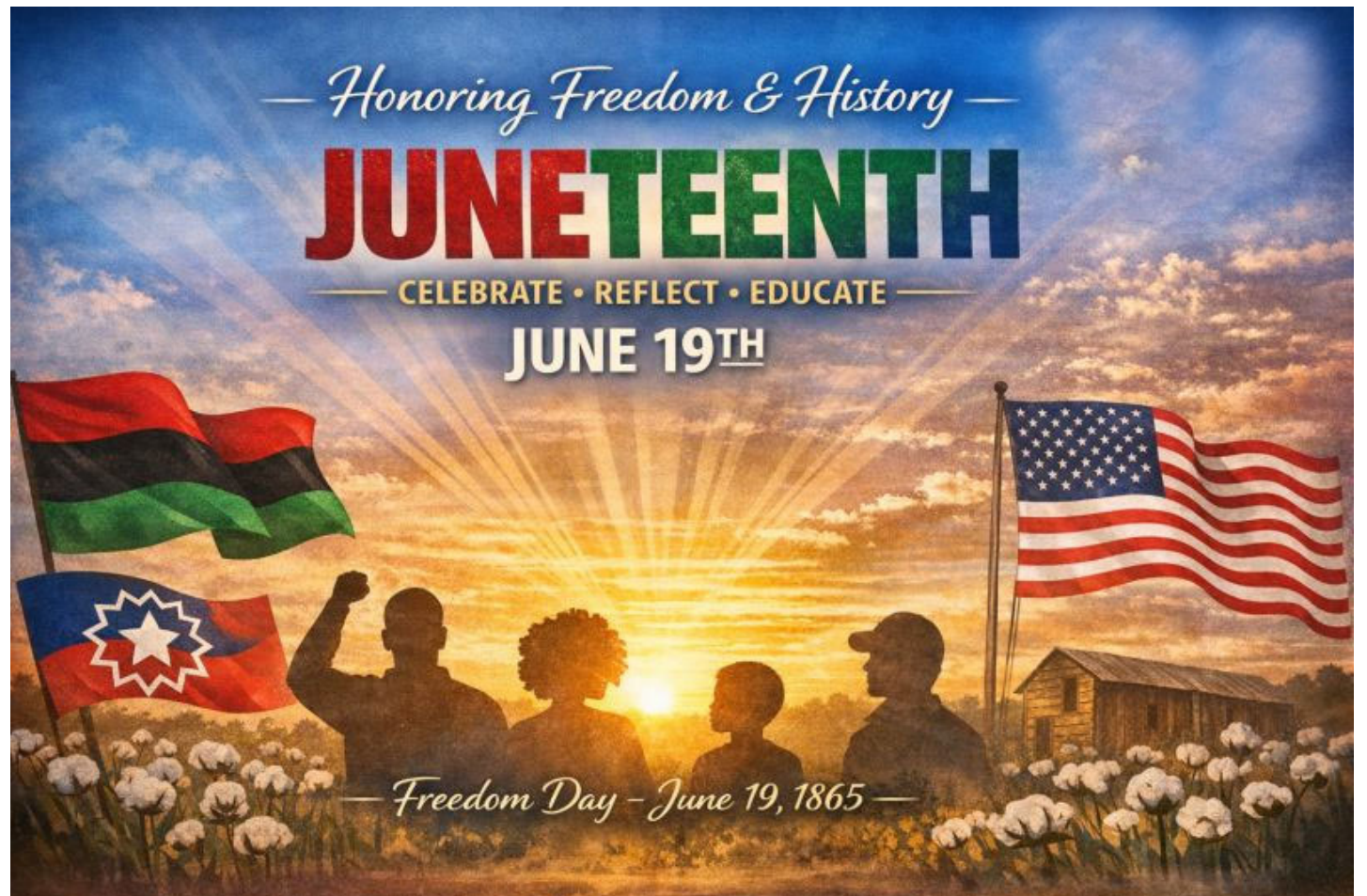
However, the proclamation did not instantly free all enslaved people.

Its enforcement depended on Union military presence in Confederate territories. In many parts of the South, slavery continued despite the declaration, especially in remote regions where Union control remained limited.

Texas became one of the last strongholds of slavery because of its geographic isolation and limited Union military presence. Many slaveholders moved there during the Civil War, believing they could continue the institution away from major battle zones.

That changed on June 19, 1865. On that day, Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, announcing that all enslaved people were free in accordance with federal law.

The announcement came more



than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. For approximately 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas, June 19 became the day freedom finally arrived.

The historic date would later become known as Juneteenth, a combination of "June" and "nineteenth."

Early celebrations rooted in community

The first Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas in 1866, just one year after emancipation reached the state.

Freed Black communities gathered for prayer services, music, storytelling and family reunions. These celebrations became annual traditions centered around education, remembrance and cultural pride.

Juneteenth also became a time to teach younger generations about history, perseverance and the continuing

pursuit of equality.

As African Americans migrated across the country over the decades, Juneteenth traditions spread far beyond Texas.

Why Juneteenth matters today

Juneteenth represents more than the end of slavery. It symbolizes delayed justice, resilience and the ongoing pursuit of equality.

The holiday highlights an important truth in American history: legal declarations alone do not always guarantee immediate justice. Freedom may be proclaimed, yet the struggle for full equality often continues for generations.

Juneteenth invites Americans to reflect on both the progress made and the challenges that remain in achieving racial equity and social justice.

It serves as a day to honor those who endured slavery and recognize the courage of generations who fought for civil rights, dignity and opportunity.

Becoming a federal holiday

For decades, activists worked to gain national recognition for Juneteenth.

One of the most prominent advocates was Opal Lee, widely known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." Through years of advocacy and public awareness efforts, she helped bring Juneteenth to national prominence.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth

National Independence Day a federal holiday.

It became the first new federal holiday established in the United States since Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

How Juneteenth is celebrated

Today, Juneteenth is celebrated across the country through parades, festivals, educational events, church services, music and family gatherings.

Food also plays an important role. Traditional meals often include red-colored foods and beverages, symbolizing resilience, sacrifice and strength.

Many communities also use the holiday as an opportunity for education, civic engagement and meaningful conversations about America's history.

A day of reflection and unity

Juneteenth is not only a celebration of Black freedom. It is an American story.

It reminds the nation of both its painful past and its capacity for progress. It calls on every generation to remember that freedom and equality require vigilance, courage and collective responsibility.

As America observes Juneteenth, the holiday offers an opportunity to honor history, celebrate resilience and renew the commitment to building a more just and inclusive future.

Juneteenth teaches us that freedom delayed is freedom denied, but it also reminds us that truth, justice and hope endure.



Jim Geldermann discusses civic duty, accountability in Illinois House campaign

In a conversation with Dr. Avi Verma of IndoUS Tribune, Republican Jim Geldermann outlines his campaign for Illinois House District 17 as he prepares to face Democratic incumbent Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz.

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

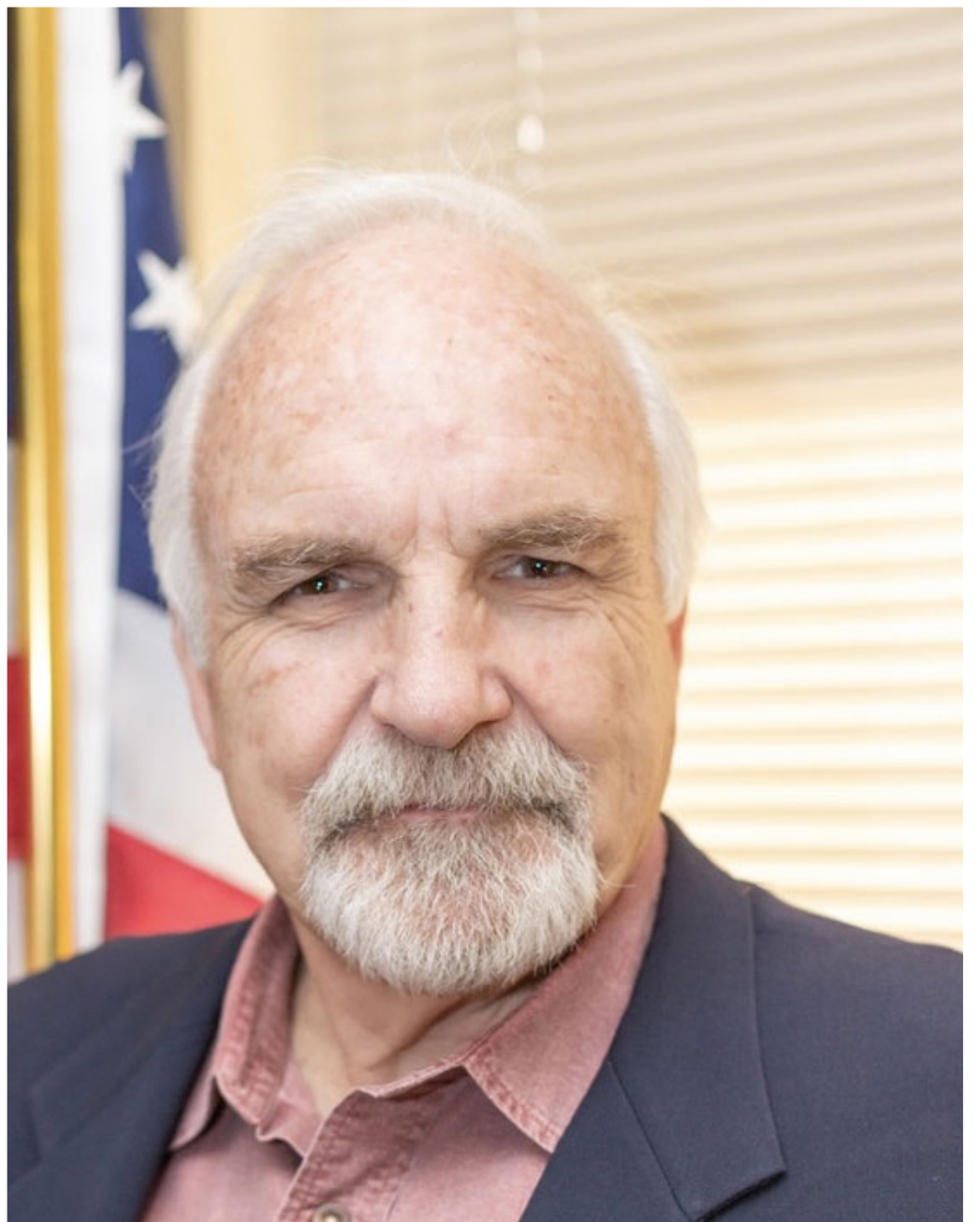
Jim Geldermann is putting civic responsibility and constitutional values at the center of his campaign for Illinois House District 17, framing his run as an appeal to voters who want stronger accountability and more active public participation in government.

Geldermann, a Republican candidate, spoke with Dr. Avi Verma, Publisher of IndoUS Tribune, about his campaign message, his professional background and the importance of residents staying engaged in the democratic process. He is running for the Illinois House seat currently held by Democratic Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, who has represented District 17 since 2019.

The race carries local significance for communities in Illinois House District 17, where state-level decisions shape everyday concerns such as education, public safety, taxes, small business growth, health care access and community services. Geldermann's campaign presents these issues through the lens of citizen involvement, arguing that representative government works best when voters remain informed and active beyond election day.

His campaign material prominently features the phrase "Join Our Team" and includes language from the Declaration of Independence, highlighting the ideals of equality, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The message reflects his broader focus on constitutional principles, personal responsibility and public service.

Geldermann also brings a long professional background in technology and business. His campaign biography lists him as president of Wireless.dev Corporation, a software and



development company focused on business-to-business solutions. It also highlights more than 40 years of experience in information technology and software design, work on more than 50 technology solutions and expertise in financial services.

His community work is also part of his public profile. Geldermann's campaign biography notes his board service with First Step House, a men's halfway house for recovering alcoholics, along with faith-based and community involvement.

Through his campaign, Geldermann is presenting himself as a candidate focused on practical experience, civic engagement and a closer connection between citizens and government. His message to voters centers on participation, accountability and the belief that public service begins with listening to the people a representative hopes to serve.

For more information, visit JIM4HD17.com or contact jim@jim4hd17.com.

Hindu heritage preserved in Skokie's 2025 Time Capsule

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Hindu heritage has become part of Skokie's historical record with the sealing of the 2025 Time Capsule at the Skokie Public Library on June 7, marking a proud moment for the Hindu and Indian American community.

The Time Capsule, created through a collaboration among the Skokie Heritage Museum, Skokie Historical Society and Skokie Public Library, will remain sealed for 25 years and will be opened in 2050. The project is designed to preserve a snapshot of Skokie's civic, cultural and community life in 2025 for future generations.



The capsule includes contributions from local organizations, schools, businesses and community leaders, reflecting the diversity of one of Illinois' most multicultural communities.

Among the selected contributions was a donation by Pramod Joshi, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Gandhi Memorial Foundation. According to Stephanie Guthrie, Joshi contributed a Diwali Awareness collage and a copy of his speech on Hindu heritage, which was delivered at Skokie Village Hall. The

items were displayed for public viewing during the Time Capsule Sealing event before being preserved.

For the Hindu community, the inclusion of Diwali Awareness and Hindu heritage carries deep significance. It ensures that future generations will see how Hindu traditions, values and spiritual teachings contributed to Skokie's multicultural fabric during the early decades of the 21st century.

The recognition also reflects years of



community efforts to promote cultural awareness, interfaith understanding and civic engagement. As Diwali and other Hindu traditions gain wider visibility in public institutions, their inclusion in the Time Capsule highlights the growing role of Indian American and Hindu communities in shaping local life.

When the capsule is opened in 2050, future residents will find evidence of a community that valued both heritage and diversity. The presence of Hindu heritage in the collection will stand as a reminder of how cultural identity, faith and shared civic life helped strengthen Skokie's community bonds.

The milestone represents more than preservation. It is a bridge between past, present and future, honoring Hindu heritage as part of Skokie's evolving story.

Shree Radhey Shyam Temple to host Navchandi Yagna and Mata Ki Chowki in Bloomingdale

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Hindu community of the greater Chicago area is preparing for a day and evening of devotion, spiritual reflection, and worship as Shree Radhey Shyam Temple in Bloomingdale, Illinois, hosts a special Chandi Mahayagna followed by a grand Mata Ki Chowki on Saturday, June 20, 2026. The religious celebrations will begin with the Chandi Mahayagna at 12:00 noon and continue until 5:00 p.m. Devotees will gather to participate in the sacred Vedic rituals and prayers dedicated to Maa Durga, seeking divine blessings for peace, prosperity, protection, and spiritual well-being.

Following the Mahayagna, the temple will host a devotional Mata Ki Chowki beginning at 7:00 p.m. The evening program will feature bhajans, devotional singing, and prayers in praise of the Divine Mother and is expected to continue until after midnight. Community members from across the Chicagoland area are expected to attend the spiritual gathering. Located at 245 S. Bloomingdale Road, Bloomingdale, Illinois, Shree Radhey Shyam Temple has become an important center for Hindu religious, cultural, and community activities. The temple serves devotees from diverse backgrounds and offers regular opportunities for worship, spiritual learning, and fellowship. In addition to special events and festivals throughout the year, the temple hosts a weekly Sunday congregation from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., featuring a variety of devotional and cultural programs. These include Bhajan Sandhya, Sunderkand Path, Amritvani, Baba Balak Nath Bhandara, and other spiritual gatherings that bring together devotees of all ages. The temple

is also known for its regular Mata Ki Chowki every Saturday, providing devotees an opportunity to participate in collective worship and devotional singing dedicated to Maa Durga. During Navratri, special celebrations and extended devotional programs attract large numbers of worshippers from across the region. Another unique aspect of the temple's outreach is its support of the Nepali Hindu community through a special Nepali program held on the first Saturday of each month, further strengthening cultural and spiritual ties within the broader Hindu community. Temple organizers have extended an open invitation to all devotees and families to participate in the June 20 celebrations and receive the blessings of the Divine Mother through the sacred Chandi Mahayagna and Mata Ki Chowki. The event reflects the temple's ongoing mission of preserving Hindu traditions, promoting spiritual growth, and fostering community unity through regular religious and cultural programs.

For many devotees, the upcoming gathering offers an opportunity not only for worship but also for strengthening community bonds and celebrating the rich spiritual heritage of Sanatan Dharma.

Event Details:

Chandi Mahayagna: June 20, 2026 | 12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM

Mata Ki Chowki: June 20, 2026 | 7:00 PM onwards

Venue: Shree Radhey Shyam Temple, 245 S. Bloomingdale Road, Bloomingdale, Illinois

Community members are encouraged to attend with family and friends and participate in this special day of devotion and celebration.



SHREE RADHEY SHYAM TEMPLE

245 S Bloomingdale Rd, Bloomingdale, IL 60108 Ph - 630-307-1200
radheyshyamtemple.com Non-Profit 501(c)(3) #03-0440152

NAVCHANDI YAGNA

on SATURDAY

JUNE 20, 2026

12 PM - 5 PM

With the blessings of Maa Durga, we are delighted to invite you and your family to a Navchandi Yagna followed by a Devi Chowki.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR DEVI CHOWKI, PLEASE CONTACT

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Purnima Nath qualifies for Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District ballot with strong grassroots support

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Republican congressional candidate Purnima Nath has officially secured a place on the ballot for Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District race after her nomination papers were certified by the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The Nath campaign submitted 2,368 valid nomination signatures, more than double the number required to qualify for the August primary election. Campaign officials described the achievement as a reflection of strong grassroots support from residents throughout Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.

Expressing gratitude to supporters, Nath said the successful certification represents an important milestone for the campaign and demonstrates the trust that voters have placed in her candidacy. "I am grateful to every resident who took the time to sign and support this campaign," Nath said. "This certification represents



public responsibility, civic trust, and accountability to the people."

Nath emphasized that her campaign is centered on independent judgment, practical solutions, and evidence-based policymaking rather than partisan considerations.

"This campaign is guided by

principle, not political convenience," she said. "I evaluate issues based on evidence, outcomes, and their impact on everyday people. My commitment is to accountability, transparency, and restoring trust in public institutions." As the race for Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District begins to intensify, Nath said voters are increasingly looking for leaders who prioritize public service and effective governance over political division.

"People are looking for steady, focused leadership grounded in service, not political theatre," she stated. "My focus is to strengthen institutions, ensure accountability, and serve the public with integrity and consistency."

The campaign's successful signature drive marks the first major organizational milestone in Nath's bid for Congress and positions her to compete in the upcoming Republican primary. Over the coming weeks, she plans to continue meeting directly with voters across the district

to discuss issues affecting local families, businesses, and communities.

Nath said her campaign will focus on practical governance, transparency, and rebuilding public confidence in government institutions.

"This is a campaign about service, responsibility, and ensuring government remains accountable to the people it serves," she said.

Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District, centered in Milwaukee, is one of the state's most closely watched congressional districts. Nath's qualification for the ballot ensures voters will have an opportunity to evaluate her vision and priorities as the campaign moves toward the August primary election.

Purnima Nath is a Republican candidate for the United States House of Representatives representing Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District.

Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra unveils Swami Vivekananda statue at Indian Consulate in Chicago

By: IndoUS Tribune News Desk

In a historic and deeply symbolic moment, India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, unveiled a life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda at the Consulate General of India in Chicago, honoring one of India's greatest spiritual leaders whose teachings continue to inspire generations across the world. The unveiling marked far more than the installation of a statue—it represented a tribute to the enduring legacy of a visionary monk whose message of universal brotherhood, tolerance, spiritual unity, and service remains profoundly relevant in today's world.

The occasion carried special emotional



and historical significance because of Chicago's unique connection to Swami Vivekananda. It was here, in 1893, that the young monk from India delivered one of the most transformative speeches in modern spiritual history at the World's Parliament of Religions. When Swami Vivekananda began his address with the now-iconic words, "Sisters and Brothers of America," he instantly won the hearts of thousands and received a standing ovation. More importantly, his speech introduced the spiritual wisdom of India and the philosophy of Vedanta to the Western world.

His address challenged sectarianism, religious intolerance, and division while promoting a timeless vision rooted in acceptance, compassion, and mutual respect. Swami Vivekananda spoke not only as a representative of Hinduism but as a messenger of humanity, advocating harmony among all religions and cultures. At the time of his arrival in Chicago in July 1893, India was under British colonial rule and facing deep social, economic, and psychological challenges. Swami Vivekananda's journey to America was not merely a spiritual mission; it was also a powerful statement of India's civilizational strength and intellectual heritage. Through his speeches and lectures across America, he presented

Sanatan Dharma as a philosophy founded on tolerance, universal acceptance, reason, and spiritual inquiry. He emphasized that Hindu civilization had long taught the world the values of coexistence, compassion, and respect for all paths to truth.

More than 130 years later, the unveiling of Swami Vivekananda's statue in Chicago serves as a symbolic homecoming. It reconnects the city with a defining moment in its own history—one that shaped global spiritual discourse and built a lasting intellectual bridge between East and West.

The statue now stands as a powerful reminder of Vivekananda's timeless teachings and his enduring message that humanity rises not through division, but through unity, understanding, and service.

The ceremony drew community leaders, elected officials, spiritual representatives, and members of the Indian-American community, all reflecting on Swami Vivekananda's lasting influence on interfaith dialogue, spiritual thought, and cultural exchange. As India and the United States continue to deepen their strategic and cultural ties, Swami Vivekananda's vision feels more relevant than ever. His teachings continue to inspire dialogue across civilizations and encourage societies to embrace peace, wisdom, and shared humanity. The installation of this statue in Chicago stands as a tribute not only to a great spiritual leader, but also to the universal values he championed—values that continue to unite people across cultures, faiths, and generations.

More than a monument in bronze, this statue is a living symbol of inspiration—reminding the world that Swami Vivekananda's message remains as powerful today as it was in 1893.





Indian missions across United States mark International Day of Yoga with nationwide celebrations

By: IndoUS Tribune News Desk

Indian diplomatic missions across the United States are celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga with a series of major events that bring together yoga practitioners, community leaders, wellness advocates and members of the Indian American community. Held under this year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," the celebrations highlight yoga's growing role as a global practice for physical wellness, mental balance and spiritual harmony. From national landmarks and waterfront venues to temples and community spaces, the events reflect India's continued effort to share yoga as a universal path to healthier living.

In Washington, D.C., the Embassy of India is hosting one of the largest Yoga Day gatherings at the iconic Lincoln Memorial. The event is expected to draw participants from across the capital region and will underline yoga's message of unity, mindfulness and holistic well-being. In New York, the Consulate General of India and the Indian American community are leading multiple celebrations across the region. A vibrant event was held at the Hindu Temple of Delaware, where Consul (Culture) Upendra Singh Negi joined yoga practitioners and community members in a shared celebration of health and harmony. New York will also see large-scale events at Times Square, one of the world's



most recognized public spaces, while the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations is organizing a special International Day of Yoga program at United Nations headquarters.

Across the Midwest, the Consulate General of India in Chicago is supporting Yoga Day events in Naperville and at Chicago's Navy Pier. The celebrations are expected to bring together participants from diverse backgrounds, reflecting yoga's appeal beyond borders and communities. On the West Coast, the Consulate General of India in San



Francisco is organizing a major celebration at Crissy Field East Beach, where participants will practice yoga against the scenic backdrop of the Golden Gate Bridge. The event is expected to attract members of the Bay Area's Indian American and wellness communities.

Additional outreach events are also planned in Irvine, California; Hillsboro, Oregon; and Honolulu, Hawaii, expanding the reach of Yoga Day across the western United States. Since the United Nations declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014 following a proposal by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, the observance has grown into a worldwide movement. This year's focus on healthy ageing emphasizes yoga's benefits for mobility, flexibility, mental clarity, emotional balance and overall well-being.

Across the United States, the celebrations reaffirm yoga's timeless message of connection, discipline and inner peace. As thousands gather to breathe, stretch and meditate together, the 12th International Day of Yoga once again showcases one of India's most meaningful gifts to the world.



IndoUS Tribune launches dedicated Temple Section

By: Dr. Avi Verma

IndoUS Tribune launches a dedicated Temple Section within its popular Dharam Karam section to highlight religious, spiritual and community activities across the region.

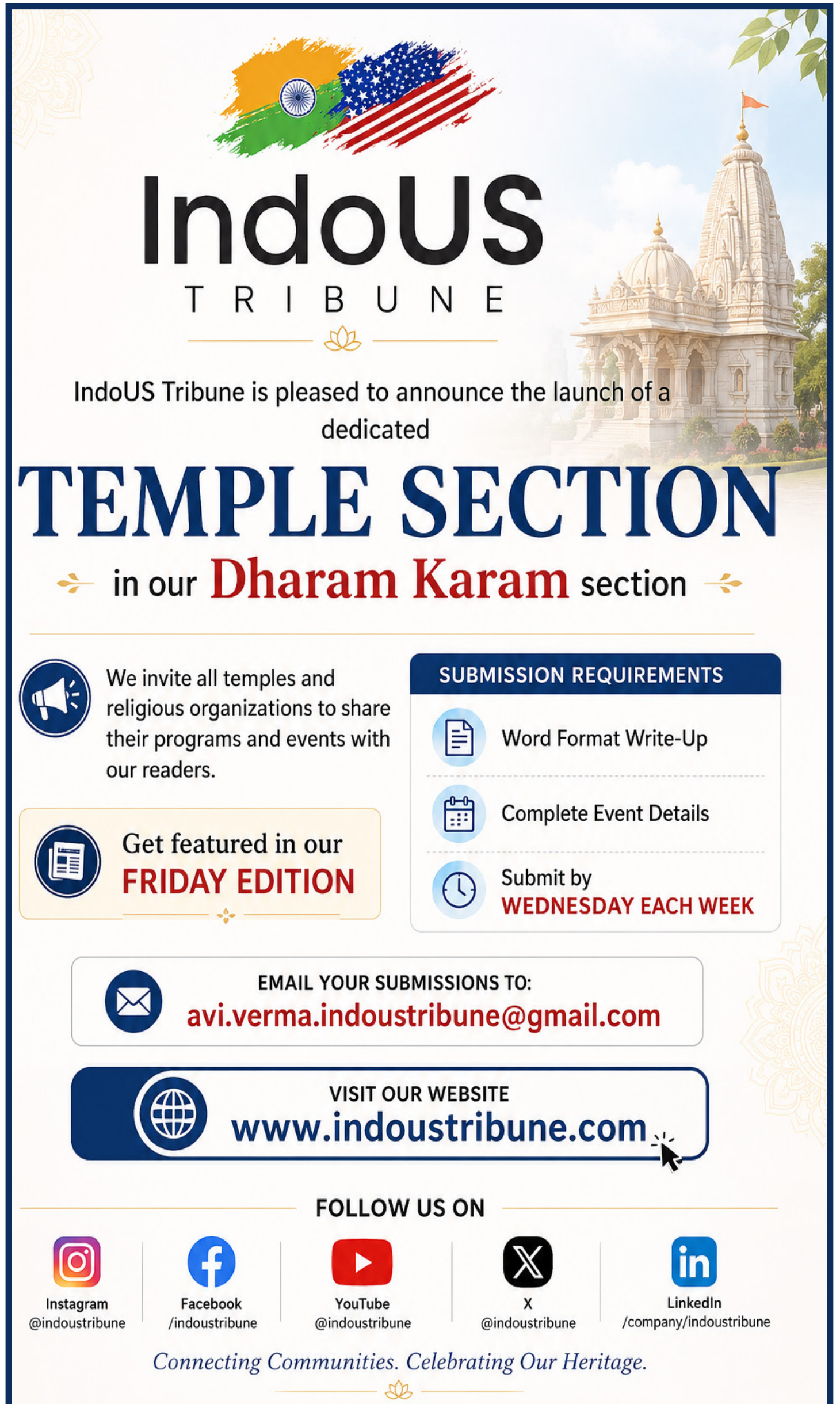
The newspaper invites temples, religious institutions and faith-based organizations to share their weekly program schedules, special events, spiritual gatherings, festival celebrations, discourses, seva initiatives and community outreach programs for publication in its Friday edition.


The new section gives temples and religious organizations a regular and meaningful platform to connect with devotees, strengthen community engagement and keep families informed about upcoming activities. It also serves as a helpful guide for readers who wish to participate in prayers, cultural programs, volunteer opportunities and spiritual events taking place in their local communities.

IndoUS Tribune believes temples play an important role in preserving traditions, nurturing faith and bringing people together through service, celebration and shared values. Through this initiative, the newspaper supports these institutions by helping them reach a wider audience and giving greater visibility to the work they do throughout the year.

Organizations are requested to submit details in Word document format, including the event date, time, venue, contact information and a brief description of the program. Submissions must be sent by every Wednesday to avi.verma.indoutribune@gmail.com for consideration in the Friday edition.

IndoUS Tribune looks forward to working closely with temples and religious organizations to promote spiritual, cultural and community activities across the region.






IndoUS
 TRIBUNE

IndoUS Tribune is pleased to announce the launch of a dedicated




TEMPLE SECTION

in our **Dharam Karam** section

 We invite all temples and religious organizations to share their programs and events with our readers.

 Get featured in our **FRIDAY EDITION**


SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS


-  Word Format Write-Up
-  Complete Event Details
-  Submit by **WEDNESDAY EACH WEEK**


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Protect your vision, protect your life: Part 3

Corneal diseases and surface disorders— The window to healthy vision

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The eyes are among the most precious organs of the human body, allowing us to experience the beauty of the world and maintain our independence throughout life. While many people are familiar with common eye conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma, fewer understand the critical role played by the cornea—the clear, dome-shaped front surface of the eye. The cornea acts as the eye’s primary window, focusing light and protecting the eye from dust, germs, and injury. Even minor damage to this delicate structure can significantly affect vision and quality of life.

In the first two articles of this Eye Care Series, we discussed cataracts, glaucoma, retinal disorders, and other major causes of vision loss. In this third installment, we focus on corneal and ocular surface diseases, which can cause pain, blurred vision, and even blindness if not diagnosed and treated promptly.

Cornea Care and Protection

A healthy cornea is essential for clear vision. Because it is exposed to the environment, it is vulnerable to injury, infection, ultraviolet radiation, and chronic irritation. Common causes of corneal damage include eye trauma, improper contact lens use, dry eye disease, infections, and excessive exposure to sunlight.

Symptoms of corneal problems often include redness, pain, tearing, blurred vision, sensitivity to light, and the sensation that something is stuck in the eye. Many of these symptoms should never be ignored. Protecting the cornea begins with simple habits such as wearing protective eyewear during sports or hazardous work, using UV-protective sunglasses, maintaining proper contact lens hygiene, and seeking immediate medical attention after an eye injury.

Keratoconus: When the cornea changes shape

Keratoconus is a progressive eye disease in which the cornea gradually becomes thinner and bulges outward into a cone-like shape. This abnormal shape prevents light from focusing properly on the retina, resulting in distorted vision.

The condition usually develops during the teenage years or early adulthood and may be associated with a family history of the disease, chronic eye rubbing, allergies, or certain connective tissue disorders. Patients often notice worsening vision, increasing astigmatism, frequent changes in eyeglass prescriptions, glare, halos around lights, and difficulty driving at night.

In its early stages, keratoconus can often be managed with eyeglasses or contact lenses. Modern treatments such as corneal cross-linking can strengthen the cornea and slow disease progression. In advanced cases where significant scarring develops, a corneal transplant may become necessary. Avoiding excessive eye rubbing and properly managing allergies may help reduce progression in susceptible individuals.

Corneal ulcers and infections: A medical emergency

Corneal ulcers are among the most serious



eye conditions and require immediate medical attention. A corneal ulcer is an open sore that develops on the cornea, usually as a result of bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic infections.

People who wear contact lenses are particularly vulnerable if lenses are not cleaned properly or are worn overnight. Eye injuries, severe dry eyes, and weakened immune systems can also increase risk. Symptoms typically include severe eye pain, redness, blurred vision, excessive tearing, discharge, light sensitivity, and sometimes a visible white spot on the cornea. Without prompt treatment, corneal ulcers can leave permanent scars and cause irreversible vision loss.

Treatment depends on the underlying cause and may include antibiotic, antiviral, or antifungal medications. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical for preserving vision and preventing complications.

Corneal transplantation: Restoring sight

When the cornea becomes severely scarred, damaged, or diseased, corneal transplantation may offer the opportunity to restore vision. A corneal transplant involves replacing damaged corneal tissue with healthy donor tissue.

Corneal transplantation is one of the most successful forms of tissue transplantation performed today. It is commonly recommended for advanced keratoconus, severe infections, corneal scarring, Fuchs’ dystrophy, and other conditions that significantly impair vision.

Recovery may take several months, and patients require regular follow-up examinations to monitor healing and detect any signs of rejection. Modern surgical techniques have greatly improved outcomes, allowing many patients to regain excellent vision and return to normal daily activities.

Corneal endothelial transplant: A modern surgical advance

Not all corneal diseases affect the entire cornea. In some conditions, only the

innermost layer, known as the endothelium, becomes damaged. Advances in eye surgery now allow surgeons to replace only this diseased layer rather than the entire cornea. Procedures such as Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) provide faster visual recovery, smaller incisions, reduced risk of rejection, and excellent long-term results. These procedures have revolutionized treatment for patients suffering from endothelial disorders and are increasingly becoming the preferred surgical option for suitable candidates.

Fuchs’ Dystrophy: A silent threat to vision

Fuchs’ Dystrophy is a slowly progressive inherited condition that affects the endothelial cells responsible for keeping the cornea clear. As these cells gradually die off, fluid accumulates within the cornea, causing swelling and blurred vision. The condition is more common in older adults and tends to affect women more frequently than men. Early symptoms often include blurry vision upon waking that gradually improves during the day. As the disease progresses, patients may experience persistent blurred vision, glare, halos around lights, and increasing sensitivity to light. In early stages, treatment may involve special eye drops and close monitoring. Advanced disease may require endothelial transplantation or full corneal transplantation to restore vision. Early diagnosis remains essential for preserving visual function.

Blepharitis: A common but chronic eyelid condition

Blepharitis is a chronic inflammation of the eyelids and one of the most common causes of eye irritation seen by eye care professionals. Although it rarely threatens vision directly, it can significantly affect comfort and quality of life.

The condition may result from bacterial overgrowth, dysfunction of the oil-producing glands in the eyelids, rosacea, dandruff-related skin conditions, or poor eyelid hygiene.

Common symptoms include burning, itching, redness, crusting around the eyelashes, watery eyes, and intermittent blurred vision. Successful treatment often requires long-term eyelid hygiene, warm compresses, artificial tears, and occasionally antibiotic medications. Consistent daily care is usually the key to controlling symptoms and preventing flare-ups.

Conclusion

As we conclude Part 3 of our Eye Care Series, one important message stands out: protecting the cornea means protecting the very window through which we see the world. Conditions such as keratoconus, corneal infections, Fuchs’ dystrophy, and blepharitis may begin gradually, but without proper treatment they can lead to serious visual impairment and even blindness.

Fortunately, modern medicine offers highly effective treatments ranging from medications and corneal cross-linking to advanced corneal and endothelial transplantation procedures. The best protection remains regular comprehensive eye examinations, prompt attention to symptoms, proper contact lens hygiene, and early medical intervention when problems arise.

In the fourth and final article of this Eye Care Series, we will discuss Dry Eye Disease, Computer Vision Syndrome (Digital Eye Strain), eye injuries and emergencies, pediatric eye care, diabetic eye prevention, vision rehabilitation, and practical daily habits that can help preserve healthy eyesight for a lifetime.

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: RULE OF 72

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AII Bull-Bear Spread -17.3% (very low)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 34 (fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 56.94% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 61.00% (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)

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.78%, 1-yr 3.86%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 4.09%, 5-yr 4.21%, 10-yr 4.48%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.97%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.82%, 10-yr 2.17%, 30-yr 2.73%
 FRNs Index 3.674%

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 45.14 (fear)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA +2.09%, INDY +2.42%, EPI +1.32%, INDH +1.13% | SPY +0.57%

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



CONSUMERS. UK Haleon (oral care; Sensodyne toothpastes for sensitive teeth) is investing in its largest manufacturing plant in Pithampur/Indore, MP, India. It's part of rationalizing its global supply-chain. It already has a large distribution network in India. Haleon is 2022 spinoff from UK GSK (old GlaxoSmithKline).

IT/TECH. META will lease AI datacenter that's to be built by Reliance Industries within 2 years in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India. The datacenter will be powered by renewable energy. The datacenter capacity will be scalable in future from the initial 168 MW. META has also been an investor in Jio Platforms since 2020. Earlier this year, Government announced 20-yr tax exemptions for datacenter investments in India.

RULES-of-THUMB are simple observations that work for specific geographies, situations & sectors. While some such as the Rule-of-72 are

universal because they come from the arithmetic of compounding, others such as Bengen's 4% SWR w/COLA (for withdrawals) work only in N America. There are several financial rules-of-thumbs that originate from tax codes that vary by countries. It's important to keep this in mind as global searches can easily find rules-of-thumb that can be misinterpreted or misapplied.

SPECIAL TOPIC - RULE OF 72

1. Doubling

A CD/fixd-deposit or investment will double approximately in $72/i$, where i is the % interest rate or total-return (TR). It follows from basic compound interest formula. There are refinements of this approximate Rule of Thumb.

If an investment offers potential 8% TR, the portfolio would double approximately in $72/8 = 9$ years. Then, 2nd doubling in $9 \times 2 = 18$ years (balance is $2^2 = 4x$ original), 3rd doubling in $9 \times 3 = 27$ years (balance is $2^3 = 8x$ original), 4th doubling in $9 \times 4 = 36$ years (balance is $2^4 = 16x$ original), & so on.

There are also other applications of this Rule of Thumb.

2. Loan/Mortgage - Equal-Point

For uniform payments consisting of principal (most in later years) & interest (most in early years), the equal-point is when the loan principal & interest payments are equal & it happens when the years remaining for loan = $72/i$.

Example 1: 30-yr mortgage at 6%, years remaining (formula) = $72/6 = 12$, the equal-point is in $30 - 12 = 18$ th yr.
Example 2: 15-yr mortgage at 6%, years remaining (formula) = $72/6 = 12$, equal-point is in $15 - 12 = 3$ rd yr.
Example 3: For shorter-term car loans (3-6 years), the answer is NEVER because years remaining (formula: $12 - 24$) would be higher than loan maturity

ANNIVERSARY NOTE

What began two years ago with the publisher's suggestion to create a regular personal finance feature has grown into a steady weekly series. After several thoughtful iterations, the column now brings together market data, global developments related to India, and timely mini features, all in a concise format of about 750 words.

The series continues to reach readers across social media platforms, including Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn, Threads, X, and the YBB Personal Finance website. As it marks this milestone, the journey remains strong and evolving.

Suggestions, feedback, and comments are always welcome at YogiBearBull@aol.com.

& that's an invalid answer. Because of short maturities, the principal portion of payment is much higher than interest portion from the start, so the equal-point isn't reached by maturity.

3. Accumulation - Equal-Point

In a uniform systematic investment plan (SIP) with \$A/yr contributions, as the balance rises, eventually the interest credit on balance becomes equal to the annual contributions. The equal-point in years = $72/i$

Example: 20-yr SIP at 6%, the equal-point is in the $72/6 = 12$ th year. Beyond this time, the interest credits on balance continue to get larger than the annual contributions.

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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The glow equation

Why collagen and hyaluronic acid work better together

In beauty, collagen and hyaluronic acid are often treated like rivals, but they are actually doing two very different jobs. One supports the skin's structure. The other delivers hydration. Together, they help create the kind of fresh, smooth and resilient skin most people associate with aging well.

Collagen is the skin's support system. It is the protein that helps maintain firmness, elasticity and bounce. As the

body's natural collagen production begins to slow from the mid-20s, skin can gradually lose its tightness and definition. Fine lines, deeper wrinkles, sagging and a softer facial outline may become more visible over time, especially during hormonal changes such as perimenopause.

Hyaluronic acid works on the surface glow. Naturally found in the skin, it acts like a moisture magnet, pulling in water and helping the skin look plumper,



smoother and more supple. When hyaluronic acid levels decline, skin can appear dry, dull, crepey or tired. That is why it is often loved for giving an almost instant refreshed look.

The difference is simple: collagen is about firmness, while hyaluronic acid is about hydration. A hyaluronic acid serum or moisturizer can make skin look fresher within minutes or hours, but the effect is temporary and depends on consistent use. Topical collagen can also soften and moisturize the skin, but collagen molecules are usually too large to penetrate deeply enough to rebuild the skin's internal structure.

For stronger collagen support, experts often point to retinoids, peptides and daily sunscreen. Retinoids help encourage collagen production and improve texture, while peptides can support firmer-looking skin over time. Sunscreen remains the most important anti-aging step because ultraviolet

exposure is one of the biggest causes of collagen breakdown, pigmentation and loss of elasticity.

Collagen supplements have also gained popularity, with some studies suggesting that consistent collagen peptide use may improve skin elasticity, hydration and the appearance of wrinkles. However, results take patience and may require eight to 12 weeks of regular use.

The best routine combines both instant hydration and long-term support. In the morning, focus on glow and protection with hyaluronic acid, moisturizer and broad-spectrum sunscreen. At night, use repair-focused ingredients such as retinoids or peptides with a nourishing moisturizer.

So, which is better? Hyaluronic acid wins for quick plumpness. Collagen-focused care wins for firmness over time. But the real beauty secret is using both wisely.



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