

United States senators question Pakistan, Qatar roles in Iran talks



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Two Republican senators have questioned the roles of Pakistan and Qatar as intermediaries in United States-Iran ceasefire negotiations, accusing both countries of having troubling records on terrorism. Senator Rick Scott of Florida said on Tuesday that the latest developments showed “who our friends really are,” alleging that Qatar and Pakistan had long histories of harboring terrorists and were more interested in supporting Iran than achieving a durable peace. Senator Tim Sheehy of Montana raised similar concerns during an interview on ‘Fox and Friends,’ citing Pakistan’s past links to Osama bin Laden and accusing Qatar of laundering money for terrorist groups. Sheehy said Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Israel should also be represented if Pakistan and Qatar are involved. The criticism came as Qatar and Pakistan mediated recent United States-Iran talks in Switzerland, where Iran said discussions focused on implementing a war-termination agreement and continuing technical-level negotiations.

India accuses Pakistan of politicizing United Nations forum



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India accused Pakistan on Tuesday of misusing an informal United Nations Security Council forum to raise Jammu and Kashmir, saying Islamabad had politicized a platform where co-chairs are expected to remain balanced. India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, P. Harish, said Jammu and Kashmir is strictly an internal matter of India and “will remain so.” The Arria Formula meeting, co-chaired by China and Pakistan, focused on implementing Security Council resolutions and maintaining international peace and security.

Harish said Security Council mandates and older mediation frameworks should be reviewed under the United Nations’ eightieth-anniversary reform process. He argued that such interventions must reflect changing realities and should not be treated as permanently valid. Pakistan’s envoy raised Kashmir during the meeting, continuing a long-standing diplomatic dispute between the two countries.

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United States lawmakers look to India’s UPI success in payments reform debate

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United States lawmakers and financial technology executives cited India’s Unified Payments Interface on Wednesday as Congress examined how to modernize America’s payments system. At a House Financial Services subcommittee hearing, witnesses urged lawmakers to consider whether qualified non-bank payment companies should receive direct access to Federal Reserve payment infrastructure instead of relying on traditional banks.

Eileen O’Mara, vice chair at Stripe, said countries that opened access to payment rails, including India and Brazil, had seen strong innovation. She said the United States has the FedNow instant payment system but lacks a product layer that payment companies could help build if they had direct access.

Representative Rashida Tlaib also pointed to India’s success, noting that the



Unified Payments Interface, operated by the National Payments Corporation of India, processes billions of transactions each month. Lawmakers weighed faster payments

and private-sector innovation against consumer safeguards, strong supervision, community investment obligations and risks to the traditional banking framework.

Amazon pledges \$48 billion India investment after Jassy-Modi meeting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon will invest \$48 billion in India between 2026 and 2030, chief executive officer Andy Jassy announced on Thursday after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The plan includes an additional \$13 billion for artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure, taking Amazon’s planned artificial intelligence and cloud investment in India to more than \$21 billion during the period. The company said the spending will expand Amazon Web Services data center capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad and give start-ups, enterprises and government organizations access to custom artificial intelligence chips, managed services, cloud tools and developer platforms. Amazon said its cumulative



investment in India from 2010 through 2030 will exceed \$88 billion. Since entering India, the company said it has digitized 12 million small businesses, enabled more than \$20 billion in e-commerce exports, supported 2.8 million jobs and trained more than 10 million Indians in cloud skills. It also pledged more jobs, exports and artificial intelligence education.

Aid teams race to Venezuela’s quake-hit coast as toll rises

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International rescue teams headed to Venezuela’s northern coast on Thursday after two powerful earthquakes struck near Caracas late Wednesday, killing at least 235 people and leaving many others feared trapped under collapsed buildings. Authorities said the hardest-hit areas included La Guaira, Catia La Mar and Caraballeda, where residential towers, hotels and seafont structures were reduced to rubble. The 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude quakes also damaged Simón Bolívar International Airport, Venezuela’s main international gateway, complicating relief operations. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez declared La Guaira a disaster zone



and said rescue workers were focused on finding survivors. United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington would help deploy search-and-rescue teams, adding that the first 72 hours were critical.

United States official says India partnership will shape global future



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A senior United States State Department official said on Tuesday that India is one of America’s most important strategic partners, describing the relationship as central to future cooperation in trade, technology, energy and defense. Speaking at a Capitol Hill advocacy event organized by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bethany Poulos Morrison said the “United States-India relationship is the future.” She said both countries are moving rapidly on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, defense cooperation and energy security.

Morrison said Washington and New Delhi are close to a major trade agreement and remain committed to expanding bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. She also praised the Indian-American community for strengthening education, business and people-to-people ties between the two democracies.

Record heat puts Europe on emergency footing

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The United Kingdom and Switzerland recorded their hottest June temperatures on Thursday as a severe heatwave strained hospitals, emergency responders and public services across Europe. Britain's provisional June record reached 36.4 degrees Celsius in Yeovilton, Somerset, while Switzerland recorded 38 degrees Celsius in Basel, breaking a national June record set in 1947. In France, where much of the country remained under extreme heat alerts, prosecutors linked the heat to the death of a three-year-old boy trapped in a family car. Officials said two other child deaths earlier in the week were also connected to the heat. Paris reported a sharp rise in cardiac arrests and heat-related emergencies, while Spain estimated more than 200 possible heat-linked deaths from Sunday to Wednesday.

Supreme Court allows Trump to end protections for Haitians and Syrians

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The United States Supreme Court on Thursday allowed President Donald Trump's administration to end Temporary Protected Status for more than 350,000 Haitians and 6,100 Syrians, putting many at risk of deportation. The 6-3 ruling overturned lower court orders that had blocked the administration from terminating the protections. Temporary Protected Status allows migrants from countries affected by war, disaster or severe instability to live and work legally in the United States while return is considered unsafe. Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the conservative majority, said the law bars courts from reviewing such administration decisions. The liberal justices dissented, saying courts should be able to examine whether officials followed required procedures. The decision could affect future challenges involving migrants from other protected countries.

Putin says Russia is upgrading nuclear forces as global tensions rise

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia is continuing to modernize its nuclear triad as global security risks increase. Speaking to graduates of higher military schools, Putin said the state armament program was strengthening Russia's nuclear forces and ground troops, while expanding the combat potential of the aerospace forces and navy.

He said conflict risks had grown across several regions, including the Middle East and Eurasia. Putin also said more than 1,000 models of weapons and military equipment were tested in combat conditions last year, including drones, loitering munitions and robotic systems. He accused Western countries of increasing military budgets and preparing for conflict with Russia, while saying Moscow would respond firmly to internal and external threats.

India rejects Pakistan's claims as Kashmir unrest draws wider scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Tuesday rejected Pakistan's allegations linking New Delhi to unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, calling them fabricated claims meant to divert attention from Islamabad's own failures in the region. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the protests were the result of what India described as decades of economic exploitation, denial of fundamental rights and administrative oppression in areas under Pakistan's control. He accused Pakistani authorities of using police brutality, internet blackouts, blocked supplies and lethal force against civilians, and called on the international community to hold Pakistan accountable. The unrest escalated after authorities banned the Joint Awami Action Committee ahead of its planned protest,



triggering clashes in Rawalakot and other areas. Reports said protesters have demanded the release of detainees, restoration of basic rights, better employment, health care and education facilities, and administrative reforms. India said Pakistan's attempt to blame New Delhi could not hide growing anger within the region.

Trump aide says United States has closed door to asylum seekers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller said the Trump administration had effectively closed the United States to asylum seekers and would continue expanding deportations. Speaking to reporters at the White House, Miller said the administration was reaching agreements with other countries to receive people seeking protection instead of allowing them to remain in the United States. He argued that illegal migration benefits transnational criminal groups and said many asylum claims at the southern border were without merit. His remarks came after the Supreme Court, in a separate immigration ruling on Thursday, backed the administration's authority to turn



away asylum seekers when border facilities are considered too overwhelmed to process more claims. Miller also said migrants who lose legal status should be deported.

Rubio tells Gulf allies Iran deal will not undercut security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio ended a three-day Gulf tour in Bahrain on Thursday by assuring regional allies that Washington would not accept any Iran deal that weakens their security. Rubio met foreign ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council after a preliminary United States-Iran framework agreement raised concerns across the region. In a joint statement, the United States and Gulf states said any lasting settlement must address Iran's ballistic missiles, drones and support for proxy groups. The ministers also rejected



any tolls, fees or attempts to control passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy route. Rubio said no country had the right to charge ships for using international waterways and said Gulf partners would remain closely informed.

India remains key growth driver despite energy shock, International Monetary Fund says

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India remains one of the main engines of global economic growth despite pressure from the Middle East conflict, higher energy costs and global uncertainty, the International Monetary Fund said on Thursday. Speaking at a regular press briefing in Washington, Julie Kozack, the fund's communications director, said India's economy had shown strong resilience because of robust domestic

demand. The fund maintained its forecast that India will grow 6.5 percent in fiscal year 2026 to 2027, an estimate it had upgraded in April. Kozack said momentum from last year, stronger-than-expected first-quarter growth of 7.8 percent and a reduction in United States tariff rates from 50 percent to 10 percent helped offset the energy shock. She cautioned that India, as a major energy importer, had still faced supply disruptions and higher prices. The fund will release its updated global outlook on Wednesday.

Bangladesh minority attacks raise concern despite inclusion pledge



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Reports of attacks on religious minorities in Bangladesh have raised fresh concern about the safety of Christians and Hindus, despite political promises of inclusion. A report in 'Premier Christianity' cited the case of Kashem, a Christian spiritual leader who was allegedly beaten by men on motorbikes and warned not to preach. It also described an attack on Atahar, a Christian convert from Islam, who was reportedly assaulted by a large crowd and forced out of his shop. Two other Christian businessmen were also reportedly expelled from their shops. Open Doors ranks Bangladesh 33rd on its 2026 World Watch List, which tracks countries where Christians face severe persecution. The report said Christians, especially converts, feel increasingly vulnerable amid political uncertainty.

Trump adviser-turned-critic John Bolton pleads guilty to mishandling classified documents

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Former Trump administration national security adviser John Bolton pleaded guilty on Friday to illegally retaining classified information, reaching a deal with federal prosecutors that could help him avoid prison.

Bolton admitted to one count in federal court in Greenbelt, Maryland, and is set to be sentenced later this year by United States District Judge Theodore Chuang.

The plea agreement recommends that any prison term be capped at five years, though the judge is not bound by that limit. Bolton was originally charged last year with 18 counts related to retaining or sharing classified material, including diary-like notes sent to relatives while he worked on his memoir.

Lithuania faces government transition after prime minister resigns

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Lithuanian Prime Minister Inga Ruginienė resigned on Tuesday after just over nine months in office, clearing the way for a new government under a revised coalition agreement. Her outgoing cabinet approved a resolution returning its powers to President Gitanas Nausėda and will remain in a caretaker role until a new administration is formed. Ruginienė said her government had much to be proud of despite political difficulties and rejected suggestions that she had been sacrificed by her party. Under the coalition agreement, Social Democratic leader Mindaugas Sinkevičius has been nominated for prime minister. The new ruling majority will include the Social Democrats, the Union of Democrats "For Lithuania" and the Lithuanian Farmers, Greens and Christian Families Union. Several ministerial portfolios are expected to change hands.

Canada's Khalistan crackdown pressures extremist networks, agencies say



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Indian officials said on Wednesday that Canada's tougher response to hate-motivated intimidation could place new pressure on pro-Khalistan groups accused of using Canadian soil for anti-India activity. The assessment follows renewed engagement between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, during which security concerns were discussed. Canada's stronger hate crime protections, announced last week, amend the Criminal Code to address intimidation and obstruction around religious, cultural and community spaces. Indian officials said the measures could help protect Hindu temples and community centers that have reported vandalism, intimidation and anti-India graffiti. The issue has also revived discussion of the 1985 Air India Kanishka Flight 182 bombing, long linked to Canada-based Sikh extremists. Indian security officials warned that pressure abroad could push some militant networks to attempt activity in Punjab.

Pakistan accused of targeting women and children in Kashmir crackdown



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Indian officials on Wednesday accused Pakistani security forces of intensifying their crackdown on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including by targeting women and children and restricting food movement into parts of the region. The allegations could not be independently verified from the report. Officials said protesters had continued demonstrations demanding basic rights, employment opportunities, better health care, education facilities and reforms in the judiciary and bureaucracy. They also sought the release of about 1,500 people allegedly arrested during the agitation. Indian officials claimed security personnel had used force against unarmed civilians and blocked routes used to bring food into the area. Protesters have appealed to human rights groups, the United Nations and international media to take note of the situation. The unrest reflects long-running anger over governance, resources and civil rights in the region.

IMF says Hormuz reopening eases global risks, but economic fallout remains

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The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday that the Middle East ceasefire and progress toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz had reduced immediate risks to the global economy, while warning that the full impact of the conflict was still unfolding. At a regular press briefing in Washington, Julie Kozack, the fund's communications director, said the war had again tested global economic resilience. She said the fund was assessing the fallout through commodity prices, inflation expectations and financial conditions. Oil prices have fallen from their wartime peaks but remain about 10 percent above pre-war levels, while prices for jet fuel, natural gas, base metals and some fertilizers have also eased. Kozack said supply chains would take time to



normalize because delayed ships still had to move through the strait and reach markets. She added that inflation expectations remained broadly anchored, but central banks should stay vigilant.

Russia declares Romanian consul general persona non grata in tit-for-tat move

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Russia on Thursday declared Romania's consul general in St. Petersburg persona non grata and said it would close Bucharest's consular office in the city, retaliating against Romania's decision to shut Russia's consulate in Constanta. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Romanian Ambassador Cristian Istrate was summoned and handed a formal note on the measures. Moscow described Bucharest's action as unfounded. Romania had moved against the Russian mission after a drone linked to Russia's attacks on Ukraine entered Romanian airspace and crashed into a residential building in Galati, causing damage and raising security concerns. Romanian officials said the Russian



consul general in Constanta had also been declared persona non grata. The exchange marks another escalation in diplomatic tensions between Russia and a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member on the alliance's eastern flank.

Trump-Xi meeting draws scrutiny over silence on Uyghur rights abuses

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The recent meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping has drawn criticism from Uyghur activists after official statements from Washington and Beijing made no mention of human rights concerns in Xinjiang. A report in 'The Diplomat' said activist Rushan Abbas had hoped Trump's Beijing visit would help press for the release of her sister, Gulshan Abbas, who has been imprisoned in China for nearly eight years. Lawmakers in both chambers of Congress had urged Trump before the visit to raise the cases of several detainees held by Chinese authorities. Uyghur activists said the silence deepened



doubts about Washington's commitment to confronting alleged abuses, including mass detention, forced labor, surveillance and religious restrictions. China has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in Xinjiang, saying its policies are aimed at combating extremism.

South Korea vows pragmatic approach to peninsula denuclearization

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South Korea will pursue a phased and practical approach to denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula while strengthening cooperation with key partners, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said on Thursday. Speaking at a dinner during the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity, Cho said Seoul would seek sustainable peace, coexistence and conflict prevention while maintaining the goal of denuclearization. He also reaffirmed

South Korea's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities through the South Korea-United States alliance. Cho said Seoul would expand cooperation with like-minded countries, including the Group of Seven, as well as emerging and developing nations in the Global South. The three-day forum, held under the theme "Reinventing Cooperation in a Fragmented World," brought together about 4,500 officials and experts for discussions on North Korea, diplomacy, maritime security and global challenges.

New evidence raises doubts over Kennedy's Senate testimony on Samoa trip



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Newly obtained records have raised questions about United States Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Senate testimony on his 2019 trip to Samoa before a deadly measles outbreak. Kennedy repeatedly told senators that the visit had "nothing to do with vaccines," but emails reported by 'The Guardian' show a colleague at Children's Health Defense described the visit as a vaccine-related "mission" to study medical records after a pause in vaccinations. Kennedy was then chair and chief legal counsel of the anti-vaccine group. Samoa later suffered a measles outbreak that sickened thousands and killed 83 people, mostly children under age five. Kennedy has said he traveled to discuss a medical informatics system and has denied influencing vaccine decisions in Samoa. The new records have prompted renewed criticism from Democratic lawmakers.

California billionaire tax to go before voters after deal deadline passes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California voters will decide in November whether the state should impose a one-time 5 percent tax on billionaires after supporters declined to withdraw the measure by Thursday's deadline. The California Billionaire Tax Act, backed by Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West, would apply to residents with net worths above \$1 billion and direct revenue toward health care, education and food assistance programs. Supporters say the measure would address widening wealth inequality and protect public services. Governor Gavin Newsom, business groups and several wealthy technology figures argue it could damage California's economy and drive high-net-worth residents out of the state. The proposal qualified for the ballot with more than 1.6 million signatures. It is expected to become one of the most expensive and closely watched state ballot fights of the year.

Yemen clashes flare in Al-Dhalea after Houthi mobilization call

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fierce clashes erupted in southern Yemen on Tuesday between Houthi fighters and troops linked to the pro-secession Southern Transitional Council in Al-Dhalea province. A military official said the fighting began after Houthi forces launched coordinated attacks on Southern Transitional Council positions in the Battar and Tabat Othman areas northwest of Al-Dhalea. The official said the attacks were repelled after hours of intense fighting, with casualties reported on both sides, though no figures were immediately available. The Houthis did not immediately comment. The escalation came a day after the group's newly formed General Mobilization Forces in Sanaa announced readiness to reinforce frontlines.



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America's immigration shift and its growing impact on India



Dr. Avi Verma

For decades, the United States represented the ultimate destination for India's brightest minds. Engineers, doctors, scientists, entrepreneurs, researchers, and students viewed America not merely as a land of opportunity, but as a partner in their aspirations. Indian talent helped build Silicon Valley, strengthened American healthcare, advanced scientific research, and contributed significantly to the growth of the U.S. economy. At the same time, these success stories strengthened India's global reputation and forged one of the most important people-to-people relationships in the world. Today, however, America's immigration system is undergoing a fundamental transformation, and India is among the countries most affected by these changes.

Over the past decade, U.S. immigration policy has shifted from an emphasis on expanding economic opportunity and humanitarian admissions toward a framework increasingly focused on national security, border control, economic self-sufficiency, and enforcement. Successive administrations have relied heavily on executive actions, regulatory changes, enhanced vetting procedures, and administrative reforms rather than comprehensive congressional legislation. For India, the most immediate impact has been felt in the area of skilled immigration.

Indian professionals account for the majority of H-1B visa holders in the United States. Thousands of Indian engineers, software developers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and technology specialists arrive in America each year to fill critical workforce needs. Increased scrutiny of employment-based visas, evolving eligibility requirements, longer processing times, and uncertainty

surrounding dependent work authorization have created challenges for both employers and employees.

The effects extend well beyond individual workers. India's technology industry has grown alongside America's innovation economy for more than three decades. Major Indian technology companies built business models around serving U.S. clients, while American companies increasingly relied on Indian talent to remain globally competitive. As immigration policies tightened, many organizations adjusted by increasing local hiring in the United States while simultaneously expanding operations in India. Ironically, some restrictions intended to reduce dependence on foreign labor have accelerated the growth of India's domestic technology ecosystem.

Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, and Gurugram have emerged as global innovation hubs. Today, many highly skilled Indian professionals who once viewed relocation as the only path to career growth can increasingly find world-class opportunities within India itself. The rise of artificial intelligence, remote work, cloud computing, and global digital collaboration has further reduced the necessity of physical migration for many knowledge workers.

Another area of concern is higher education. Indian students now represent one of the largest international student populations in the United States. They contribute billions of dollars annually to American universities and local economies while strengthening educational and research ties between the two democracies. Yet uncertainty surrounding post-graduation employment opportunities, work visas, and green card pathways has encouraged some students to consider alternative destinations such as Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Singapore.

Perhaps the greatest challenge remains the employment-based green card backlog. Tens of thousands of highly skilled Indian professionals who have followed every legal requirement continue to face years—sometimes decades—of waiting before obtaining permanent residency. For many families, this uncertainty affects career decisions, home ownership, education planning, and long-term financial security.

The issue has become one of the most significant unresolved challenges in the U.S. immigration system.

At the same time, India's growing economic strength is changing the conversation. The country is no longer simply a supplier of talent to developed economies. India is emerging as a major innovation center, startup powerhouse, manufacturing destination, and digital economy in its own right. Government initiatives promoting entrepreneurship, digital infrastructure, semiconductor manufacturing, and advanced technology are creating opportunities that did not exist a generation ago.

This does not diminish the importance of U.S.-India mobility. On the contrary, the strategic partnership between the world's oldest and largest democracies depends heavily on the free exchange of talent, ideas, research, and entrepreneurship. Immigration is no longer just a domestic American issue; it has become a vital component of the broader economic and strategic relationship between the two nations. The challenge for policymakers in Washington is to protect national interests while ensuring that America remains the world's premier destination for global talent. The challenge for India is equally significant: to create an environment where its best minds can thrive whether they choose to build their futures at home or abroad.

As America debates the future of immigration, India must recognize an emerging reality. The measure of national success is no longer how many talented citizens leave for opportunities overseas. Increasingly, it is how many choose to stay, return, invest, innovate, and build the future of India itself.

The story of immigration between India and the United States is no longer simply about movement across borders. It is about talent, innovation, economic competitiveness, and the evolving relationship between two nations whose futures are becoming increasingly interconnected.

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



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European Union faces criticism over plan to host Taliban in Brussels

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union faced strong criticism this week after officials hosted a Taliban delegation in Brussels for talks that included consular services and possible deportations of Afghan migrants. Belgium issued five single-day visas for the delegation, making it the first European Union-hosted meeting with the Taliban since the group returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Rights campaigners and members of the European Parliament said the meeting risked normalizing a regime that has barred girls from schooling beyond the sixth grade and severely restricted women's public lives. European officials said the talks did not amount to recognition of the Taliban and were focused on practical issues, including returns of Afghans considered security risks. Critics warned that deportations could expose returnees to persecution, detention, torture and severe deprivation.

Greek lawmaker questions China underwater heritage pact

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Greek lawmaker Spyros Tsironis has criticized a Greece-China agreement on underwater cultural heritage, saying its provisions appear vague, non-binding and lacking in reciprocity. Speaking during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday, the Niki party member said Greece should not present itself as a weak partner in dealings with Beijing. He questioned the possible establishment of a Chinese archaeological institute in Greece and asked why Athens should cover operational costs without a corresponding Greek institute in China. Tsironis also sought clarity on plans to reserve space for Chinese underwater antiquities in the new Museum of Underwater Antiquities in Piraeus, asking what Greece would receive in return. He linked the issue to concerns over the museum's rising budget, which has reportedly increased from 77 million euros to 105 million euros amid delays and risks to European funding. Greece and China renewed the cooperation agreement in 2023 to support underwater archaeological research.

Democratic Republic of the Congo reports record early Ebola case load

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported 1,094 confirmed Ebola cases and 277 deaths in the outbreak declared on Friday last month, with the World Health Organization recording the highest first-month caseload for an Ebola outbreak in Africa. Data released Tuesday showed 387 people were under quarantine or receiving treatment, while 115 had recovered. Authorities also reported 131 suspected cases, including 44 suspected deaths. Health officials said the weekly increase in confirmed infections pointed to continuing community transmission, while expanded surveillance and decentralized testing had helped detect more cases earlier. The World Health Organization said treatment capacity had risen to more than 500 beds across 19 health zones, while laboratory capacity had grown from about 30 tests a day in Kinshasa to more than 2,000 through eight laboratories. President Felix Tshisekedi said he would visit Ituri, the outbreak's epicenter. Uganda has reported 20 confirmed cases, including 15 imported infections.

Iran rejects United Nations-backed plan to free ships trapped in Hormuz

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran on Thursday rejected United Nations-backed temporary routes designed to help ships trapped near the Strait of Hormuz, raising fresh concern over freedom of navigation through the key energy corridor. The plan, coordinated with Oman and the International Maritime Organization, proposed evacuation lanes to help vessels avoid unsafe waters after mines and conflict-related risks disrupted normal traffic. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps called the alternative routes unacceptable and dangerous, saying vessels must coordinate with Iranian authorities and use only Tehran-approved passages.

The rejection complicates efforts to restore



maritime traffic after the United States and Iran reached a preliminary understanding aimed at easing tensions. Gulf states and Western governments have also opposed any tolls, fees or attempts to control transit through the strait, which remains vital to global oil and gas shipments.

India demands accountability as attacks on children and schools rise in conflict zones

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India called on Wednesday for stronger accountability against those who attack children and schools in conflict zones, telling the United Nations Security Council that protection without consequences remains incomplete. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, P. Harish, said rising violence against children was a "damning verdict" on the world's failure to turn commitments into action. Citing the United Nations secretary-general's report, he said attacks on schools rose 44 percent in 2025, while nearly 473 million children live in or are fleeing conflict zones and more than 85 million have no access to education. Harish said India's DIKSHA digital education platform could offer a model for displaced children and those affected by war by providing multilingual,



interactive learning tools. United Nations officials said 38,558 grave violations against children were verified in 2025, the highest level recorded under the mandate. UNICEF also warned that drones and artificial intelligence-supported targeting systems were increasing risks.

Lavrov says Washington has not responded to Ukraine peace proposal backed by Moscow

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday that the United States had still not responded to proposals it put forward during earlier talks on ending the war in Ukraine. Speaking at the Primakov Readings forum in Moscow, Lavrov said Russia had received "absolutely concrete" proposals before the Alaska summit between President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump and had accepted them. He said Moscow believed an agreement had been reached,

but Washington later consulted European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy without providing a response to the proposal Russia supported. Lavrov argued that the understandings reached in Alaska were already a compromise and said Moscow was being asked to make further concessions. Russia has continued to accuse the United States of failing to follow through on what Moscow calls the "spirit of Anchorage," while Ukraine has rejected any settlement requiring territorial concessions. The dispute underscores the widening gap between Moscow's demands and Kyiv's position.

Trump claims Iran is making major concessions as talks continue

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Iran was making major concessions in negotiations with the United States, while warning that Washington remained ready to act militarily if talks failed. Speaking to reporters before and after meetings with Republican lawmakers, Trump said Iran was "agreeing to everything" he wanted, but added that the United States would "go back" to other options if Tehran did not comply. He also

said any future arrangement allowing Iran to impose charges on international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would be unacceptable. The waterway carries a major share of globally traded crude oil and has become central to talks after recent fighting disrupted maritime traffic. During a White House meeting, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Mark Rutte backed Trump's Iran policy, saying the main objective remained preventing Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons. The Pentagon also said it was reviewing a strike on a school in Minab.

United Nations renews global pledge to end AIDS by 2030



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a new political declaration on HIV and AIDS, renewing the global commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The declaration, approved on Tuesday by 149 votes in favor, eight against and 14 abstentions, expressed concern that the world missed its 2025 HIV targets and remains off track for the 2030 goal. It calls for urgent action over the next five years through coordinated, evidence-based and people-centered responses. Winnie Byanyima, executive director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, said countries must sustain financing, protect the rights of people living with HIV and support community-led action. United Nations data show AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 56 percent since 2010, while treatment access has expanded significantly worldwide.

Cuba condemns new United States sanctions on state firms

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuba on Tuesday denounced new United States sanctions on five state-run entities and a member of former President Raul Castro's extended family, accusing Washington of trying to further damage the island's economy. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez said the Trump administration was tightening pressure on Cuba through what he called collective punishment. The United States said the sanctions target entities tied to key sectors of Cuba's economy, including companies linked to Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A., a military-run conglomerate Washington describes as central to the Cuban government's financial network. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the measures were aimed at organizations and individuals that fund or benefit from the Cuban government's activities. Havana rejected the sanctions as another act of economic aggression.

Doval and Wang discuss India-China trust-building at BRICS security meet

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reviewed India-China relations during a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting in New Delhi on Monday. India's Ministry of External Affairs said both sides noted progress toward gradual normalization of ties. Doval said stable, predictable and constructive relations would help build trust and deeper understanding between the two countries. He also stressed the importance of sensitivity to each other's core concerns, in line with India's approach of mutual sensitivity, mutual interests and mutual respect. The two-day BRICS meeting focused on global security challenges, including terrorism, cyber risks, energy security, supply chains, emerging technologies and climate-linked instability. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met the visiting security officials on Tuesday.

India and Hungary move to expand parliamentary ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Hungary discussed expanding bilateral cooperation and parliamentary exchanges during a meeting between India's ambassador and Hungarian National Assembly Speaker Ágnes Forsthofer on Tuesday. The Indian Embassy in Hungary said both sides discussed their shared commitment to democracy and parliamentary institutions, and announced that an India-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group would be set up soon. The embassy also highlighted Forsthofer's roots in Balatonfüred, where India is marking the "Year of Tagore" to commemorate the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's historic visit to the city. The engagement comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Péter Magyar and the Tisza Party on their election victory in April, describing India and Hungary as partners bound by deep friendship, shared values and mutual respect.

Jaishankar pushes closer India-South Korea cooperation at Seoul talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar used his South Korea visit this week to strengthen India's strategic and economic engagement with Seoul. On Wednesday, he met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and reviewed cooperation in politics, shipbuilding, trade, investment, defense, technology, clean energy, culture, startups, financial technology and people-to-people ties. He also held talks with National Security Director Wi Sung-lac on global developments and the Indo-Pacific. Speaking at the Jeju Forum on Thursday, Jaishankar called for stronger international cooperation in a divided world and invoked India's philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," or the world as one family. He said India and South Korea have strong complementarities in various sectors and closer cooperation is vital for stability, resilience and shared growth.

India and United States discuss trusted technology supply chains

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States discussed deeper technology cooperation in Washington this week, with a focus on semiconductors, artificial intelligence, trusted supply chains and critical minerals. S. Krishnan, Secretary in India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, met United States Under Secretary of State Jacob S. Helberg to explore new areas of collaboration in strategic technologies. The Indian Embassy in Washington said the talks covered diversified and trusted supply chains, semiconductor manufacturing, AI adoption and access to critical minerals. The meeting came as both countries are working to reduce dependencies in sensitive sectors and strengthen supply-chain resilience. The discussions also reflect India's effort to build a larger role in the global semiconductor ecosystem, where officials have said a major shortage of skilled professionals could create an opportunity for Indian talent.

India and China review ties as Wang meets Modi and Doval

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China reviewed recent progress toward gradual normalization of ties during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi this week. Wang met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting. India said Doval underlined that stable, predictable and constructive relations would help build trust and deeper understanding between the two countries. He also stressed sensitivity to each other's core concerns, in keeping with India's approach of mutual sensitivity, mutual interests and mutual



respect. Wang said China was ready to work with India to implement the understanding reached by the two leaders, handle sensitive issues properly and deepen cooperation. India also used the BRICS meeting to discuss non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, cyber risks and emerging technologies.

India and Morocco deepen counterterror cooperation in New Delhi talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Morocco held the second meeting of their Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi on Monday, with both sides condemning terrorism in all forms, including cross-border terrorism. The two countries strongly condemned the Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir and the terror incident near the Red Fort in New Delhi. Officials discussed global and regional terrorist threats, violent extremism,

radicalization, terror financing, the misuse of technology by terrorist groups, organized crime links and the movement of foreign terrorists. The meeting was co-chaired by Vinod Bahade of India's External Affairs Ministry and Hicham Baali of Morocco's Directorate General of National Security. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and best practices, and to continue coordination at the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

India steps up Latin America outreach through OAS and policy dialogue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's engagement with Latin America gained fresh attention this week through its participation at the Organization of American States General Assembly in Panama and a New Delhi roundtable on India-Latin America ties. Ambassador Sumit Seth represented India at the opening of the 56th General Assembly in Panama City, where India participated as a Permanent Observer. The assembly focused on multilateralism, democracy, hemispheric security and stability. Separately, the Chintan Research Foundation convened ambassadors from Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica to discuss how India and Latin America can move from untapped potential to a structured strategic partnership. Participants called for more



high-level visits, stronger institutional engagement, diversified trade, critical supply-chain cooperation, affordable technologies, pharmaceuticals and digital public infrastructure. They also said India should approach the region through its own strengths, not only through competition with China.

India and United Kingdom chart wider army and technology cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United Kingdom reviewed plans to deepen army-to-army cooperation during the 15th Executive Steering Group meeting held in London from Wednesday to Friday last week. The Indian Army said the engagement included visits to the United Kingdom Trials and Experimental Group, the Ministry of Defence in London and MBDA in Stevenage. Discussions focused on interoperability, joint exercises, training, exchanges in niche and emerging military technologies, new training avenues and stronger links between defense think tanks. The talks came as both countries are also expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, emerging technologies,



research and innovation. India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, P. Kumaran, recently discussed these areas with Emran Mian, permanent secretary to the United Kingdom's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. New Delhi has said the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will boost trade and investment.

India and Saudi Arabia review ties as envoy prepares transition

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's outgoing Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Ajaz Khan, met Riyadh Governor Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Thursday and reviewed the steadily growing relationship between the two countries. The Indian Embassy said Khan thanked the governor for his support during his tenure and for the attention given to the Indian community in Saudi Arabia. The meeting came as New Delhi prepares for a change in its mission leadership, with the External Affairs Ministry announcing that Vipul, a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will be India's next ambassador to the kingdom. Earlier, Khan also met senior Saudi defense officials to discuss ways to strengthen defense cooperation and explore new areas of collaboration. The engagements reflect India and Saudi Arabia's broader effort to expand strategic, defense, economic and community-focused ties.

India and Australia strengthen Indian Ocean rescue cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Australia strengthened maritime cooperation through a three-day search-and-rescue workshop and tabletop exercise held in Chennai last week for Indian Ocean Rim Association member states. The program brought together search-and-rescue professionals, including representatives from the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region, to improve coordination during maritime emergencies. Australia, as chair of the association's Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security, partnered with India to host the exercise. The workshop focused on regional capability, interoperability, information sharing and practical responses to real-world rescue scenarios. Indian officials said stronger inter-agency cooperation is essential to save lives at sea.

Modi and Queen Máxima discuss India's digital inclusion model

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Queen Máxima of the Netherlands on Thursday and discussed how India's digital public infrastructure has made financial services more accessible and affordable. Queen Máxima visited India in her role as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health and a global advocate for financial inclusion. Modi said India's digital transformation is improving ease of living and empowering people at scale, and reiterated that India is willing to share its experience with partner countries. During the visit, Queen Máxima heard directly from people using financial services, including beneficiaries of the Jan Dhan program, which expanded affordable access to banking and financial services. Her visit reflected shared interest in financial inclusion, digital innovation and the use of public digital platforms for inclusive and sustainable development.



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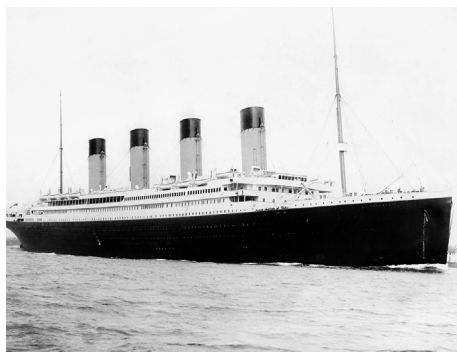
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Plan to sell Titanic artifacts faces United States government opposition



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States government is opposing a plan to auction more than 100 artifacts recovered from the Titanic wreck, according to newly unsealed court documents. RMS Titanic Inc., the company with exclusive salvage rights, has proposed selling items that include personal belongings, currency, kitchenware and decorative pieces, while also displaying them during a global tour. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration argues the sale would violate legal obligations requiring the artifacts to remain protected and publicly accessible as a collection. The company has said the auction would not breach existing court orders. The dispute is before a federal court in Virginia, where the salvage claim is overseen.

Trump administration sets 2028 target in global quantum technology race

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Monday announced a 2028 goal to deliver a scientifically relevant quantum computer, positioning the effort as part of a broader push to secure United States leadership in advanced technology. The initiative, outlined through executive orders, directs the Department of Energy to identify the technical standards needed for a quantum computer capable of meaningful scientific calculations. Officials said the system would likely be placed at a national laboratory or Energy Department facility and would serve as a stepping stone toward larger commercial quantum systems. The plan also calls for progress in quantum sensors, networking, supply chains, workforce training and cooperation with allies. A related order accelerates the federal shift to post-quantum encryption by 2031, amid concerns that future quantum computers could weaken current cybersecurity systems.

New York prosecutors to drop unresolved Harvey Weinstein rape charge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York prosecutors said Thursday they will drop an unresolved rape charge against Harvey Weinstein rather than try the former film producer for a fourth time in the same case. The charge involved Jessica Mann's allegation that Weinstein raped her in a Manhattan hotel in 2013. Weinstein, who denies all allegations, remains behind bars because of separate sex crime convictions in New York and California. His 2020 New York conviction involving Mann was overturned on appeal, and two later juries failed to reach a verdict on the rape count. Prosecutors said they would not pursue another trial after repeated deadlocks and the toll on the accuser. The dropped charge carried less potential prison time than Weinstein has already served.

Trump ties possible Iran sanctions relief to United States farm purchases

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Monday that any sanctions relief for Iran would be linked to purchases of American agricultural products, as Washington and Tehran continue negotiations on a broader agreement covering Iran's nuclear program, maritime security and regional tensions. Speaking at the White House after signing executive orders on quantum technology, Trump said any unfrozen Iranian funds would be used for humanitarian purposes and directed toward food purchases from United States farmers. He specifically

mentioned corn, soybeans and other commodities, saying the arrangement would benefit both hungry Iranians and American agriculture. Trump insisted that Iran would never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon and said talks being led by Vice President JD Vance in Switzerland were progressing well. He also claimed that shipping through the Strait of Hormuz had returned to normal after recent disruptions. The talks are focused on Iran's nuclear activity, freedom of navigation and regional deconfliction. Iranian officials, however, have disputed Washington's claim that released funds must be spent exclusively on American goods.

Senate Democrats allege UAE investments shaped Trump policy decisions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senate Democrats accused President Donald Trump on Tuesday of allowing foreign financial interests to overlap with United States national security policy, alleging that the United Arab Emirates benefited from favorable administration decisions after UAE-linked investors put large sums into the Trump family's cryptocurrency business. A report by Democratic staff of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, led by Senator Elizabeth Warren, said UAE-affiliated officials and entities invested about \$500 million in World Liberty Financial before the administration later took actions involving artificial intelligence chips, foreign investment approvals, arms sales and cryptocurrency regulation. The report



alleged that Trump family entities received at least \$187 million from the deal, while entities linked to Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff's family received at least \$31 million. Democrats also cited a \$2 billion transaction involving the World Liberty stablecoin and Binance. The report raised national security concerns over G42, an Abu Dhabi artificial intelligence company with past links to Chinese firms. The White House has denied any conflict of interest.

Medicaid and Affordable Care Act enrollment drops by more than 5 million

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Enrollment in Medicaid and Affordable Care Act health plans has fallen by more than 5 million people over the past year, according to a new report from the advocacy group Protect Our Care. The report said Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program lost about 3.8 million enrollees, while Affordable Care Act plans declined by about 1.2 million. The group linked the drop partly to President Donald Trump's Medicaid cuts and the expiration of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, which led to sharp premium increases for many consumers. Health policy experts warned that some



people may have shifted to job-based coverage, but said the size of the decline suggests many likely became uninsured. The report also raised concerns that upcoming Medicaid work requirements and stricter eligibility rules could deepen coverage losses in the months ahead.

Trump administration sued over Deferred Action renewal delays

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Immigrant advocacy and legal aid groups sued the Trump administration on Thursday, seeking answers about severe delays in renewals for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Northern California against Immigration and Customs Enforcement and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, says delays have caused thousands of recipients

to lose work permits, jobs and protection from deportation. The program allows qualified undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children to work and study if they renew every two years. Legal groups said some applicants who previously received renewals within weeks have waited five months or longer. The complaint cites medical professionals and teachers whose careers have been interrupted. Homeland Security said recipients are not automatically shielded from deportation.

Federal firefighters allowed to use N95 masks in wildfire policy shift

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Forest Service said Wednesday that federal wildland firefighters will be encouraged to use N95 respirators on fire lines, reversing decades of policy as concerns grow over smoke-related health risks. The agency said the change is an interim step while it develops a broader respiratory protection program. Firefighters who choose to use respirators will receive training, and the masks will not be required in all conditions because they can increase heat stress and breathing effort. The agency also announced a decontamination program to reduce exposure to soot and ash, including paid time for workers to wash clothing, clean vehicles and shower after fires. The change comes as Congress considers stronger health protections for federal firefighters, who face elevated risks of lung and heart disease.

Musk ordered to testify over election giveaway claims in swing states

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Texas has ordered Elon Musk to testify under oath in two proposed class-action lawsuits accusing him and his political action committee, America PAC, of misleading voters before the 2024 presidential election. The lawsuits claim voters in key swing states were encouraged to sign a petition supporting the United States Constitution after being told that \$1 million daily winners would be chosen at random. Plaintiffs Joy Harvick and Jacqueline McAferly, both from Arizona, argue that the winners had no real chance of being selected randomly and were instead chosen for their potential value as campaign spokespeople. On Thursday, United States Magistrate Judge Susan Hightower also recommended that one fraud claim against Musk and America PAC be allowed to proceed, while a related breach of contract claim should be dismissed.

Investigators say damage began weeks before Surfside condo collapse

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal investigators said Monday that structural failure at Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Florida, began weeks before the deadly collapse that killed 98 people in 2021. The National Institute of Standards and Technology said two connections between garage columns and the pool deck failed in early June, causing cracks to grow and loads to shift to parts of the building that were too weak to support them. Investigators said the building had narrow safety margins from the start because of original design and construction flaws. They ruled out nearby construction vibrations, foundation failure, sinkholes and storm surge effects as causes. The final collapse occurred in the early hours.

Federal judge blocks Trump's proof-of-citizenship voting rule

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Boston on Wednesday permanently blocked most of President Donald Trump's first elections executive order, including a requirement that people show documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote. United States District Judge Denise Casper ruled that the Constitution gives election authority to states and Congress, not the president. The decision makes permanent an earlier injunction against major parts of the order, which also sought to restrict counting of mail ballots that arrive after Election Day and penalize noncompliant states by withholding some federal funds. Democratic attorneys general who challenged the order called the ruling a defense of voting rights and separation of powers. Trump continues to push proof-of-citizenship legislation in Congress.

Tennessee court blocks sharing of undocumented children's health data

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Nashville judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked Tennessee health officials from sharing identifying information about undocumented children with serious illnesses or disabilities with the state's immigration enforcement office. The order came after three physicians and the Tennessee Justice Center sued to stop a new state law from taking effect next week. The law would require local health departments to report people not lawfully present in the United States, including children enrolled in Children's Special Services, a public program that helps low-income families pay for critical care. Families had received letters warning that staying in the program could lead to their



children's information being turned over. Advocates said the order prevents families from being forced to choose between medical care and immigration risk while the case continues.

Judge blocks subpoenas for transgender care records at New York hospitals

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Manhattan on Wednesday temporarily blocked prosecutors from obtaining medical records of transgender patients treated at New York hospitals, calling the subpoenas likely unconstitutional. Judge Katherine Polk Failla issued the order in a lawsuit filed by minors, parents and young adults who received gender-affirming care in New York City. The Justice Department had sought records through a grand jury subpoena from the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas as part of a criminal probe involving possible drug misbranding. Failla said the effort targeted sensitive information from a vulnerable group and violated constitutional protections. She also granted class-action status to the plaintiffs and scheduled another hearing for July. The Justice Department did not immediately comment.

Two more arrested in alleged plot to attack White House UFC event

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors said Monday that two more men have been arrested in an alleged plot to attack this month's Ultimate Fighting Championship event on the White House lawn, bringing the total number of defendants to seven. William Lee Spartacus Falkner was arrested Friday in Washington state, while Jordan W. Rincker was arrested Sunday in Missouri. Both were charged with conspiracy to commit murder. Authorities said the alleged plot involved discussions about using explosive-laden drones and shooting into a fleeing crowd. No attack occurred and no one was injured. Prosecutors said Falkner had drone training, while Rincker allegedly helped move money and weapons-related equipment.

Northern California records strongest local earthquake since 1940

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A rural area of Northern California was shaken Wednesday by its strongest earthquake since 1940, though officials initially reported no major damage or injuries. The United States Geological Survey said the preliminary 5.6-magnitude quake struck about seven miles northwest of Willits in Mendocino County and was centered about five miles deep. The shaking was felt across the region, including in Fort Bragg on the coast. Businesses near the epicenter reported bottles, frames and items falling from shelves, but local authorities described the shaking as mild. Seismologist Lucy Jones said the area does



experience earthquakes, though they are usually smaller. Several minor aftershocks followed within an hour. California officials said hundreds of thousands of early-warning alerts were sent through the MyShake app.

Former Adams chief of staff charged in migrant shelter bribery case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Frank Carone, a former chief of staff to ex-New York City Mayor Eric Adams, was arrested on Wednesday in a federal bribery case tied to a migrant shelter contract. Prosecutors allege Carone accepted about \$120,000 in bribes to help steer a \$6.8 million city contract to a Queens hotel that social services officials had previously deemed unsuitable. The indictment says payments were routed through the law firm of Carone's brother, Anthony Carone. Frank Carone, Anthony Carone, hotel owner Yan Po Zhu and hotel employee Crystal Chen pleaded not guilty. Adams was not accused of wrongdoing in the indictment, but the case adds to scrutiny surrounding his former inner circle. Carone's lawyer rejected the allegations, saying the case was based on assumptions rather than proof. Separately, federal agents searched homes of current and former New York Police Department officials in an unrelated bribery investigation.

Florida closes 'Alligator Alcatraz' immigration detention center



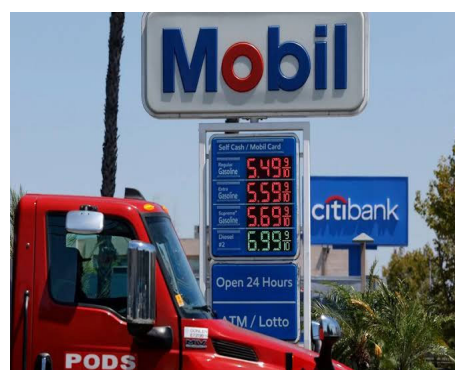
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said Thursday that the Everglades immigration detention center known as "Alligator Alcatraz" has closed after nearly a year of operation. The temporary facility, built with tents and trailers on a remote airstrip, opened in July last year to expand detention capacity during the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. DeSantis said it had served its purpose and that federal officials now have enough permanent capacity. Detainees had already been transferred to other facilities after officials cited hurricane season safety concerns. Civil rights groups criticized the center as inhumane, citing poor sanitation, insects, limited medical access and difficulty reaching lawyers. Environmental groups also sued over the site, saying officials failed to obtain proper permits or conduct impact reviews. DeSantis said the airstrip will continue to be used.

Trump targets oil giants over high gasoline prices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that his administration is investigating major oil companies over possible price gouging, arguing that lower crude oil prices have not been reflected at American gas stations. Speaking after a White House meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Mark Rutte, Trump said the Department of Justice was examining whether companies were passing savings on to consumers. He named ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell and BP among the firms under scrutiny. Trump said gasoline prices should be closer to \$2.25 a gallon and warned that companies found exploiting consumers would face



consequences. The president linked lower fuel prices to his broader affordability agenda, saying cheaper energy would ease pressure on households and the wider economy. Retail fuel prices often move more slowly than crude oil prices.

Missouri judge strikes down abortion restrictions approved before voter amendment

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Missouri judge on Thursday struck down several state abortion restrictions, finding that they violated a constitutional amendment voters approved in 2024. Jackson County Circuit Judge Jerri Zhang ruled against most of the challenged laws, including a 72-hour waiting period and a requirement that patients seeking medication abortion take the first dose in the presence of the prescribing doctor. Planned Parenthood affiliates said the ruling will allow them to begin prescribing abortion pills in Missouri for the first time since 2018. The judge left in place a requirement that patients see a doctor in person to confirm gestational age and rule out an ectopic pregnancy. Attorney General Catherine Hanaway said the state will appeal. Voters are expected to revisit the issue through another ballot measure in November.

California warns wildfire risk is becoming a year-round threat

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California fire officials warned on Monday that the state is facing a longer and more dangerous wildfire cycle, with more than 2,580 fires already reported this year. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the fires have burned nearly 79,700 acres and destroyed 25 structures, though no fatalities have been confirmed. Several blazes remained active

in Riverside, Kern and San Diego counties as officials warned that hotter, drier months could bring above-average fire activity. Fire authorities said prolonged drought, rising temperatures and vegetation growth from earlier wet periods have created dangerous fuel conditions. Officials are increasingly using the term "fire year" instead of "fire season," reflecting the growing threat outside traditional peak months. Residents have been urged to create defensible space, prepare emergency kits and sign up for alerts.

Friday, 26 June 2026

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Indian mango festival gives New Yorkers a taste of home

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian mangoes brought flavor, nostalgia and cultural connection to New York on Tuesday as the Consulate General of India hosted a day-long Indian Mango Festival at Time Out Market in Union Square. The event featured Gir Kesar and Varanasi Langra mangoes, giving New Yorkers and members of the Indian diaspora a chance to taste varieties beyond the better-known Alphonso. Despite intermittent rain, more than 1,000 people sampled the mangoes, with many asking where they could buy them locally. Deputy Consul General Vishal Harsh said Indian mangoes are gaining attention in the United States and that the consulate hopes to showcase more varieties in future events. For many Indian-origin attendees, the tasting revived memories of summer in India, family gatherings and childhood meals centered around the “king of fruits.”

Punjabi national charged after major Surrey drug seizure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-year-old Punjabi national has been charged after Surrey Police Service said it uncovered a major drug trafficking operation through a four-month investigation called Project Phantom. Gurjot Singh was charged on Thursday last week with one count of trafficking and five counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking. Police said officers searched a Surrey residence in May and seized nearly 16 kilograms of opium, more than 1.5 kilograms of cannabis, 559 grams of cocaine, 468 grams of fentanyl, 148 grams of methamphetamine and 35 grams of heroin. Investigators said the fentanyl amount could represent about 23,400 potentially lethal doses. Police also recovered packaging materials, weighing scales, processing equipment and cash. Two other men arrested during the raid were not charged and were later deported after being handed to Canadian border authorities.

Indian-origin space achievers highlight diaspora reach



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian-origin achievers are drawing attention to the diaspora's growing presence in space and exploration. Arvinder Singh Bahal, 81, the first known Sikh space tourist, recently visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar and said his next goal is to secure a permit to visit The Wave, the protected sandstone formation in Arizona. Bahal flew aboard Blue Origin's NS-34 mission on Sunday last year and has also visited every country recognized by the United Nations, along with the North and South Poles. In Australia, Flying Officer Nandini Rajpurohit graduated among the first 16 officers from the Australian Defence Force's inaugural Space Initial Employment Training program. With a background in computer science, mathematics and statistics, she has moved into an operational role at 1 Space Surveillance Unit, where she will support Australia's growing space defense capability.

Passport fee changes to affect Indian families at home and abroad

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian passport applicants, including overseas Indians and diaspora families managing documentation from abroad, will follow a revised fee structure from Wednesday next week after the Ministry of External Affairs amended the Passports Rules, 1980. The new schedule covers fresh passports, reissues, lost or damaged passports, travel documents and miscellaneous services, including police clearance and surrender certificates. For families abroad, the changes are especially relevant because overseas fees have also been notified in United States dollars.

Children up to eight years of age and senior citizens above 60 will receive a 10 percent concession on fresh applications made within India, though the benefit will not apply to reissues. A fresh or reissued 36-page passport for adults will cost rupees 2,500 under the normal category and \$125 abroad. A 60-page passport will cost rupees 3,500 in India

PASSPORT CATEGORY	CURRENT FEE (₹)	REVISED FEE (₹)
NORMAL (36 PAGES) - FRESH/RE-ISSUE	1,500	2,500
NORMAL (60 PAGES) - FRESH/RE-ISSUE	2,000	3,500
TATKAAL (36 PAGES) - FRESH/RE-ISSUE	3,500	5,000
TATKAAL (60 PAGES) - FRESH/RE-ISSUE	4,000	6,000
LOST/DAMAGED (36 PAGES)	3,000	3,000-3,500

Effective from 1 July 2026

The revised passport fees will apply to applications submitted on or after 1 July 2026.

and \$175 overseas. The revision also reiterates validity norms, with adult passports valid for 10 years and minor passports valid for five years or until the holder turns 18.

Indian-American lawmakers urge diaspora to claim larger public role

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American lawmakers urged the community on Tuesday to take a more active role in politics and public life, saying stronger representation is essential as the diaspora faces rising anti-India, anti-Hindu and anti-Desi sentiment in parts of the United States. Speaking at a Capitol Hill event organized by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said Indian Americans have made major contributions in education, business, technology, health care, research and public service, but must now turn influence into political participation.

He encouraged community members to run for office at every level, from city councils to state legislatures and Congress, regardless of party affiliation. Congressman Suhas Subramanyam said representation in decision-making bodies is one of the strongest ways to address



community concerns, while Congressman Shri Thanedar urged unity against hate targeting immigrants. Lawmakers also discussed temple vandalism, anti-Hindu graffiti, immigration backlogs, permanent residency delays and the importance of strengthening the United States-India partnership.

Canada reassures Indian students amid visa and deportation concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian High Commissioner to India Chris Cooter has said Canada is not shutting its doors to Indian students, seeking to counter concerns triggered by visa delays, student caps and recent immigration enforcement. Cooter acknowledged processing delays but said efforts are underway to make the system smoother after the Canadian prime minister's recent visit to India. He said Canada still has about 400,000 students and remains open to genuine applicants and their families. His comments come amid reports that thousands of Punjabi international students and asylum claimants are among migrants facing possible deportation notices under new immigration rules. Canada has also



deported several Indian-origin men linked to criminal networks. Cooter said earlier caps were introduced to address housing pressure and questionable colleges, but those issues are being corrected.

London court orders Nirav Modi to repay Bank of India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

London court has ordered fugitive businessman Nirav Modi to pay more than \$10.7 million to the Bank of India in a loan recovery case linked to Firestar Diamond FZE, a Dubai-based company connected to his business group. The London Circuit Commercial Court ruled on Tuesday that Modi was liable under a personal guarantee he had signed for a loan facility approved in 2012. The recoverable amount includes more than \$4.1 million in principal, along with applicable interest claimed by the bank. Modi, who is also a key accused in the Punjab National Bank fraud case, had challenged the enforceability of the guarantee and disputed whether repayment notices were properly served. The court rejected those arguments and ruled in favor of the bank.

Indian-origin author's sari at Royal Ascot becomes statement of identity



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin author Kamini Banga's decision to wear a sari at Royal Ascot has drawn attention as a graceful statement of cultural identity in one of Britain's most traditional social settings. In a LinkedIn post titled 'Wearing My Heart on My Sari at Royal Ascot,' Banga said she initially felt anxious about what to wear after receiving the invitation. Her idea of Ascot was shaped by elegant summer dresses and dramatic hats, and she even went shopping with English friends in London. But she realized the conventional look did not feel authentic. Encouraged by friends, she chose a chanderi sari with vintage jewelry. Banga wrote that although she has lived in the United Kingdom and been a British citizen for 20 years, some connections to her Indian roots remain unchanged.

Indian national charged in fatal Southall stabbing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national has been charged with murder after the fatal stabbing of 26-year-old Gurbhej Singh in Southall, west London. Metropolitan Police said Navjot Singh, 20, was charged with murder, grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of an offensive weapon. Gurbhej Singh was attacked in the early hours of Wednesday on North Road, near Dormers Wells Lane, along with another man in his 30s, who was treated at a hospital and later discharged. Police and paramedics reached the scene after an emergency call, but Gurbhej Singh, who had suffered a knife wound, was pronounced dead. Navjot Singh appeared before Westminster Magistrates' Court on Friday and was remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on Monday. Specialist officers continue to support the victim's family.



Sikh devotees gather for 24th Nagar Kirtan in Italy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 5,000 Sikh devotees took part in the 24th annual Nagar Kirtan in Subodia, Italy, on Sunday, as the local Sikh community came together for a day of faith, service and collective celebration. Organized by Gurdwara Singh Sabha with support from local religious and social groups, the procession drew men, women, children and elderly devotees from Subodia and nearby areas. The route echoed with Gurbani and devotional hymns as participants paid obeisance and joined the religious procession. Volunteers set up more than 50 langar and refreshment stalls, serving food, sweets, fruits and cold drinks to devotees and visitors throughout the day. Organizers said the event has grown over 24 years into one of the area's largest Sikh gatherings and reflects the values of humility, seva, brotherhood and discipline.

Indian-origin lawyer faces \$250,000 fine over alleged U.S. asylum fraud

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-origin immigration attorney Vinod Doddamani is facing serious allegations from U.S. authorities over alleged asylum fraud involving immigration filings. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), through Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), has moved to impose civil penalties exceeding \$250,000, alleging Doddamani submitted fraudulent asylum-related documents in immigration court proceedings. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), authorities issued five Notices of Intent to Fine against Doddamani. Officials allege he handled 32 immigration cases involving 64 fraudulent documents, including allegedly false asylum applications and supporting declarations. Federal authorities claim multiple asylum filings contained language that was "identical or

nearly identical," with repeated narratives and supporting claims, raising concerns about possible fraud. Doddamani, a California-based immigration attorney, reportedly represented numerous Indian nationals seeking asylum in the United States. The case is significant because it is being described as one of the first major enforcement actions in which DHS has sought direct financial penalties against an immigration attorney for allegedly filing fraudulent asylum claims. DHS officials argue that fraudulent asylum filings place additional strain on the already burdened U.S. immigration system and delay cases involving legitimate asylum seekers. At this stage, the matter remains a civil enforcement action and does not involve criminal charges. Doddamani will have the opportunity to respond to the allegations and contest the findings through legal channels. No final determination has been made, and the allegations remain unproven pending further legal proceedings.

Jainendra K Jain becomes first Indian-origin Wolf Prize physics laureate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin theoretical physicist Jainendra K Jain has become the first person of Indian origin to receive the Wolf Prize in Physics, one of the field's most prestigious international honors. The Pennsylvania State University professor was recognized for his discovery of composite fermions, a breakthrough that transformed understanding of the fractional quantum Hall effect and continues to influence quantum physics and quantum computing research. The award was presented by Israeli President Isaac Herzog at a state ceremony in Jerusalem on Thursday. Born in Rajasthan, Jain studied at Maharaja College, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Stony Brook University before building a distinguished academic career in the United States. His 1989 theory explained puzzling fractional conductivity patterns in two-dimensional electron systems. Jain's work remains central to condensed matter physics and has inspired new approaches to topological quantum computation.

Romanch Mahajan's death renews push to ban New York horse carriages

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A proposed New York City bill to ban horse-drawn carriages has been renamed in memory of Romanch Mahajan, an 18-year-old Indian national who died after a Central Park carriage accident. Mahajan reportedly jumped from the carriage while trying to help his mother after the horse bolted and the ride became uncontrollable. A vigil was held on Monday at Central Park, where City

Council member Christopher Marte announced that 'Ryder's Law' would be renamed 'Romanch's Law.'

The bill seeks to phase out horse-drawn carriages by stopping new licenses and ending operations from 2028, while offering job transition support for drivers. Mahajan's family called for an immediate halt to rides, saying the tragedy showed that public safety must take priority over tourism. India's consulate in New York has offered support to the family.

Texas family killings shock Punjab village and Indian diaspora



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 19-year-old Indian-origin student has been charged with capital murder after allegedly killing his parents and maternal grandmother at their home in Alton, Texas. The accused, Gaurav Chopra, is reportedly connected to Lakhpur village in Nawanshahr district and was a student at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Authorities said the victims were his father, Sweeta Ram, 56, his mother, Kamlesh Rani, 46, and his maternal grandmother, Minder Kaur, 73. His older brother survived and contacted emergency services. Police said Chopra fled the scene, but was arrested after a vehicle crash following a chase. The tragedy has shocked relatives in Punjab, where family members said the household had visited just months earlier and appeared happy. United States authorities have not released a motive.

Phillaur-born Nirmal Sehgal becomes mayor of Ponteland, UK

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Phillaur-born Nirmal Sehgal has been elected mayor of Ponteland Town Council in the United Kingdom, marking a proud milestone for the Punjabi diaspora. Sehgal, 77, grew up in Phillaur, studied at Government Girls' Higher Secondary School and later moved to Ludhiana and Jalandhar for higher education before relocating to Britain after her marriage in 1969. She began

her professional life as a librarian with Birmingham Public Library and later supported Punjabi immigrants in the Midlands by helping them navigate forms, interviews, translation needs and official appointments. After moving to Ponteland about three decades ago, she continued community service through local civic, health and charitable groups. Sehgal, who was earlier elected as a councillor and then re-elected unopposed, said she was humbled to become Ponteland's first Indian and Punjabi woman mayor.

Canadian lawmaker honors Hoshiarpur author Anju V Ratti

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hoshiarpur-based author, educator and social worker Anju V Ratti has been honored with a Certificate of Recognition by Canadian Member of Parliament Ruby Sahota in Brampton. The recognition acknowledged Ratti's contributions to education, literature and community service over nearly 25 years. She was praised as a dedicated teacher, accomplished author and community leader whose work has influenced readers, students and families through knowledge, creativity and social engagement. During the event, Ratti presented copies of her books to Sahota, who appreciated her work in children's literature, education and social development. Ratti said receiving the honor in Canada



was a proud and meaningful moment, and thanked her family, readers and well-wishers for their support. The recognition was welcomed by members of the Punjabi literary and education communities.

Indian Embassy begins repatriation after Qatar gas facility blast kills 12 Indians



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Embassy in Doha has begun repatriating the mortal remains of Indian nationals killed in the Ras Laffan gas facility explosion in Qatar, after authorities confirmed that 12 Indians were among 13 people who died in the incident. The blast and fire occurred on Sunday evening during start-up operations at the Barzan local gas supply facility in Ras Laffan Industrial City. Qatari authorities said 66 people were injured, all in stable condition, and that no leak was detected that would endanger people or the environment. On Thursday, the embassy said the remains of four Indian nationals were being sent to India and that efforts were underway to repatriate the others soon. The mission said it remains in contact with affected families, injured Indians, Qatari authorities and Indian community organizations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also thanked Qatar's Amir for his condolences.



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Ukraine says strikes hit Russian gas plant and satellite centers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine said on Wednesday that its forces struck a major Russian natural gas processing plant and two satellite communications centers in overnight attacks, expanding Kyiv's long-range campaign against Russian energy and military infrastructure. Ukraine's General Staff said the Orenburg Gas Processing Plant, more than 750 miles from the front line, was hit and set on fire. The site is part of a complex that includes Russia's only helium plant, which Ukraine said supports military and industrial production. Kyiv also said it struck the Dubna Space Communications Center near Moscow and another satellite facility in the Vladimir region. The claims could not be independently verified, and Russian officials did not immediately comment. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had shifted some air defenses toward Moscow and the Kerch Bridge, a key supply link to occupied Crimea.

Carney says Canada should consider reopening embassies in Iran and Venezuela

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Thursday that Canada should consider reopening its embassies in Iran and Venezuela, arguing that the lack of diplomatic presence limits Ottawa's ability to help Canadians abroad and respond to humanitarian crises. Carney said engagement does not mean endorsement of another government's policies, but embassies and consular services are essential for protecting citizens. He cited Venezuela, where a major earthquake has created urgent humanitarian needs, as an example of why Canada should be able to act more quickly on the ground. Canada closed its embassy in Iran in 2012 under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper and suspended operations in Venezuela in 2019 after a diplomatic visa dispute. Carney said no final decision had been made but said the current approach puts Canada at a disadvantage in fulfilling basic government responsibilities.

Pakistan court sentences Baloch leader Mahrang Baloch in disputed terror case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

APakistani anti-terrorism court on Monday sentenced Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch and three others to life imprisonment in a case linked to the death of a Frontier Corps official during a protest gathering in Gwadar. The case stemmed from the 'Raji Machi' gathering, where prosecutors alleged that the official died after being attacked by a crowd. The court also sentenced Baloch Students Organisation chairman Balach Qadir, Abu Bakr Kalanchi and Sibghatullah Shahji. Baloch groups and rights activists criticized the verdict, questioning the evidence and the fairness of proceedings held inside Quetta Jail. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee called the ruling political punishment against peaceful activists.

Netanyahu says Israeli troops will retain freedom to act in southern Lebanon

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israeli forces in southern Lebanon would retain full freedom of action to confront any direct or emerging threat to troops or residents of northern Israel. Netanyahu said the directives from him and Defense Minister Israel Katz had not changed, adding that Israeli forces would remain in the security zone for as long as needed.

His remarks came as United States Vice President JD Vance said negotiators had made progress on a deconfliction mechanism aimed at preventing clashes between Israel and Hezbollah from



widening into a broader regional conflict. Vance said Washington wanted both Israel's security and Lebanon's sovereignty protected. Netanyahu and Katz had ordered the military to cease fire in Lebanon on Saturday, but the Israeli leader made clear that the ceasefire would not limit operations against perceived threats.

Senate backs measure to limit Trump's Iran war powers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Senate voted on Tuesday to restrict President Donald Trump's ability to launch further military operations against Iran without congressional approval, signaling growing unease over the conflict that began in February. The Iran War Powers Resolution passed 50 to 48, with four Republicans joining most Democrats in support and one Democrat voting against it. The measure directs the president to remove United States forces from hostilities against Iran unless Congress declares war or authorizes military action. Supporters said the vote reaffirmed Congress' constitutional authority over war decisions and argued that the Iran conflict had become an unauthorized war. Some reports described the move as



largely symbolic because the administration says United States forces are not currently engaged in hostilities with Iran. Democrats said the vote remained necessary to prevent renewed military escalation without congressional involvement.

Hungary targets euro entry conditions by 2030 as budget reset looms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary could meet the conditions for adopting the euro by around 2030, Prime Minister Peter Magyar said on Friday, while acknowledging that reducing public debt would be the country's biggest challenge. Hungary currently does not meet any of the formal criteria for joining the eurozone, and its fiscal position has come under pressure after pre-election spending under former Prime Minister Viktor Orban

pushed the deficit above earlier targets. Magyar, who ended Orban's 16-year rule with a landslide win in April, made the remarks after talks in Budapest with Eurogroup President Kyriakos Pierrakakis.

The Eurogroup chief did not comment on a possible timeline but said the bloc would support Hungary's efforts. Finance Minister Andras Karman is expected to present a public finance review this weekend, forming the basis of a revised 2026 budget due by the end of August.

Rutte credits Trump as NATO allies lift defense spending

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Mark Rutte credited President Donald Trump on Wednesday with pushing European allies and Canada to sharply increase defense spending.

Standing with Trump in the Oval Office, Rutte said allies had committed an additional \$1.2 trillion in defense spending since Trump first took office in 2017. He said spending increases during

Trump's current term were already visible, with European allies and Canada adding nearly \$140 billion and expected to add another \$120 billion this year. Rutte said the spending surge reflected both the threat from Russia and Trump's pressure on allies to contribute more.

He also said European defense investments and purchases from United States manufacturers were supporting close to 200,000 American jobs. Trump welcomed the figures but questioned whether all allies were moving fast enough toward the alliance's 5 percent defense spending goal.

French woman and children rescued in Pakistan after alleged decade-long captivity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistani police rescued a French woman and her five children from a mud-brick home in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province earlier this week after she alleged that her husband had held her captive for more than a decade. District police chief Waqar Ahmad said 54-year-old Sylvie Yasmina was found in Bara, near the Afghan border, after one of her sons escaped and alerted police. Her husband has been arrested, and an investigation is underway. Police said Yasmina alleged years of physical and psychological abuse and had visible injuries when found. Authorities said her children had never been enrolled in school. Yasmina and the children were moved to a women's police station for protection, while officials coordinate with French authorities over her wish to return to France.

North Korea commissions destroyer as Kim pushes stronger navy



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea commissioned a new 5,000-ton destroyer on Tuesday as leader Kim Jong Un called for a major expansion of the country's naval power. State media said the Choe Hyon was commissioned at the western port of Nampho after weapons tests in recent months. Kim said the vessel would strengthen the navy's combat capabilities and support the country's nuclear deterrent. He also called for the construction of more large warships, including 10,000-ton-class vessels, under North Korea's defense development plans. Analysts said the deployment could increase pressure near South Korea's western waters and reflects Pyongyang's push to build more advanced sea-based military capabilities.

King Charles to keep Clarence House as Buckingham Palace role changes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

King Charles and Queen Camilla will not move into Buckingham Palace after its 369 million pound refurbishment is completed next year, choosing instead to remain at Clarence House, officials said Thursday. Buckingham Palace will continue as the monarchy's ceremonial and operational headquarters, with private rooms available for the king during working days and occasional overnight stays. Palace officials said the decision followed careful consideration and was linked to plans for expanded public access. The announcement came as royal finances showed Charles paid 12.9 million pounds in income and capital gains tax in the latest financial year, while Prince William paid 7.76 million pounds. The sovereign grant, public money used for official royal duties, is set to rise to 99.9 million pounds from 2027-28.

Papua New Guinea faces food shortages as El Niño damages crops

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Papua New Guinea faces growing food shortages after El Niño brought drought, falling water levels and damaging frost to farming communities across the Highlands. Oxfam said Thursday that Papua New Guinea is the worst-hit Pacific country from the current weather pattern, with up to 3 million people potentially affected nationwide, including about 1.9 million in the Highlands. Families that rely on food gardens for both meals and income have reported damaged sweet potato, potato and vegetable crops. Some communities say food supplies may last only two to three months. Oxfam warned that reduced meals and less diverse diets could increase malnutrition risks. Prime Minister James Marape has told provinces and districts to prepare for an extended dry season and protect vulnerable communities.

Australia allows last woman in Syrian camp to return under strict controls

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia will allow the last known Australian woman held in a Syrian camp for families of Islamic State fighters to return home with her nine-year-old daughter under strict conditions, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said Thursday. The 29-year-old former Sydney resident had been blocked from leaving Syria in February by a temporary exclusion order issued on national security grounds. Burke said the government could no longer legally prevent her return after lawyers applied for a permit. Authorities will require her to report where she lives, works, studies and travels. She must also give 24 hours' notice before using any form of telecommunications, including public phones and social media. The woman was 18 when she left Sydney for Syria in 2015.

Kenya arrests hundreds during protest anniversary march

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kenyan police detained hundreds of people and fired tear gas on Thursday as families and activists marked the second anniversary of deadly anti-government protests near Parliament in Nairobi. The 2024 demonstrations, triggered by tax increases and rising living costs, turned deadly when police opened fire outside Parliament, killing at least 60 people.

This year's march sought justice and transparency in a government compensation program for victims. Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said 355 people were arrested in Nairobi and other towns, describing them as criminals and saying the measures were needed to prevent chaos. Families of victims said compensation had been slow and uneven, while activists demanded prosecution of police officers involved in the killings. Three officers have been charged in protest-related deaths.

China defends Taiwan-area patrols after European alarm

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

China defended its recent patrols east of Taiwan on Thursday after Britain, France and Germany expressed concern over what they called new Chinese activity in the strategically important waters. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Chinese coast guard operations were lawful measures to protect maritime rights and maintain order. Beijing said the patrols responded to Japan and the Philippines discussing maritime boundaries in areas China claims. The three European countries warned that the activity threatened regional stability, freedom of



navigation and international shipping safety. Taiwan has accused Chinese coast guard ships of harassing commercial vessels near the island by asking them to report routes. The waters are a vital shipping lane for energy and goods moving from the Middle East and Europe to East Asia.

Zimbabwe Senate backs changes to delay presidential vote

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Zimbabwe's Senate approved constitutional amendments on Wednesday that would delay the next presidential election and change how the country chooses its leader, intensifying criticism from rights groups and opposition figures. The bill, which now awaits President Emmerson Mnangagwa's signature, would postpone elections due in 2028 to 2030 and extend presidential and

parliamentary terms from five years to seven. It would also replace direct presidential elections with selection by lawmakers. Seventy-five senators voted in favor, while four opposed the measure. Supporters say the changes can be enacted by Parliament because the two-term limit remains. Critics argue that extending presidential terms requires a referendum and say the changes would weaken democracy. Mnangagwa has led Zimbabwe since 2017 after Robert Mugabe's ouster from power.

Cambodia journalists lose appeal in treason case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cambodia's Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the treason convictions and 14-year prison sentences of two journalists, renewing concerns over press freedom under Prime Minister Hun Manet's government. Phorn Sopheap of Battambang Post TV Online and Pheap Pheara of TSP 68 TV Online were convicted over photographs posted on Facebook last year during border clashes

with Thailand. Authorities said the images were taken in a restricted military zone and involved information harmful to national defense. The journalists denied wrongdoing and said they had permission to report in the area. Human Rights Watch called the prosecution an attack on media freedom, while Cambodia's information minister said the ruling protected national security and did not undermine legitimate journalism. Cambodia ranks near the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index.

Mexico seeks long extension of North American trade pact

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexico will formally seek a 16-year extension of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement when the three countries begin a virtual review process on Wednesday, Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said. He said President Claudia Sheinbaum will sign Mexico's

letter supporting the extension. Ebrard stressed that the review marks the start of negotiations, not the end of the pact. He said that even if one country does not support the extension, the agreement would remain valid for another 10 years. Mexico is seeking stability as United States trade policy becomes more protectionist. Ebrard said most trade between Mexico and the United States remains tariff-free.

Girls' school destroyed in Pakistan amid rise in education attacks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A government girls' primary school was destroyed in an overnight blast in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said Wednesday.

The attack took place late Tuesday in the Sara Ghowara area of Birmal tehsil in Lower South Waziristan. Police said unidentified attackers used explosives to

destroy the building, and an investigation had been opened. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Local reports said attacks on schools have increased in Lower South Waziristan in recent months, with two schools targeted earlier this year. The violence has renewed concern over threats to girls' education in the region, where extremist groups have repeatedly attacked educational institutions.

United States targets ISIS money routes across Europe, Middle East and Africa

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Monday imposed fresh sanctions on three individuals and six entities accused of helping the Islamic State move funds across Europe, the Middle East and West Africa. Washington said the network stretched from France and Syria to Turkey and Nigeria, using money transfer firms, currency exchanges and cryptocurrency channels to support the group's operations. Those sanctioned include France-based Miloud Abderrahmane, Syria-based Abdelhakim Boukich and Nigerian national Mukhtar Adamu Muhammad. The Treasury Department also targeted firms in Turkey, Syria and Nigeria. The State Department said the action was aimed at cutting off financial lifelines used by the Islamic State and its regional affiliates.

South Korea's former first lady gets seven-year bribery sentence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's former first lady Kim Keon Hee was sentenced on Friday to seven years in prison after a Seoul court found her guilty of accepting bribes in exchange for political and business favors. Kim, the wife of ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, was accused of receiving luxury items before and during his presidency, including jewelry, a Dior handbag, a Vacheron Constantin watch, a gold turtle and a painting.

The Seoul Central District Court said she used her influence as first lady to help individuals seek government posts, parliamentary positions and business advantages. The judge said her actions seriously damaged public trust in the fairness of public appointments. The court also fined Kim 64.8 million won and ordered the confiscation of bribe-linked items where possible. Kim has denied all charges, and her lawyer said she will appeal the ruling. She is already in jail after being convicted earlier on separate stock manipulation and bribery charges.

United States boosts Sri Lanka's maritime watch with satellite system

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Monday delivered a \$4 million satellite communications system to the Sri Lanka Navy, strengthening Colombo's ability to monitor activity across the Indian Ocean. The Fleet Broadband system, made by Cobham and Inmarsat, will be installed on Sri Lanka's offshore patrol vessels. United States officials said the technology would provide secure ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communication, allowing vessels to remain connected while operating far from the coastline. Assistant Secretary of State Paul Kapur announced the delivery at the Port of Colombo during a visit aboard SLNS Gajabahu. Officials said the system would support maritime security, disaster response, anti-trafficking operations and protection of major shipping routes.

Yoga Day celebrations highlight India's wellness message to the world



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India marked International Day of Yoga on Sunday with nationwide participation, placing the country's ancient wellness tradition at the center of public health and lifestyle conversations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the main national event at Red Road in Kolkata, where the 2026 theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," emphasized fitness, balance, flexibility and preventive care. Schools, government institutions, community organizations and Indian missions abroad joined the celebrations, reflecting yoga's continued role as one of India's strongest cultural exports. The Prime Minister urged citizens to make yoga a daily habit rather than a symbolic annual event. This year's observance also underlined India's effort to position yoga as a practical solution for stress, ageing, sedentary lifestyles and mental well-being in a fast-changing society.

Prime Minister tells IAS trainees to put citizens first in governance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with 183 Indian Administrative Service officer trainees from the 2024 batch and urged them to follow the principle of "Nagrik Devo Bhava," placing citizens at the center of governance. The trainees are currently serving as assistant secretaries in different central ministries and departments, giving them early exposure to policymaking and administrative coordination. During the interaction, the Prime Minister emphasized empathy, innovation, transparency and the use of technology to improve public service delivery. He also called for a whole-of-government approach, saying national challenges require coordination across departments. His message to the young officers was that governance must not remain file-driven, but should be rooted in people's needs, trust and visible outcomes.

NTA rejects fake NEET video, warns students against misinformation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Testing Agency has dismissed a viral video claiming irregularities in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test undergraduate re-examination as fake and misleading. The agency said the video was circulated to create confusion among students and parents, and no leak-related complaint had been received in connection with the re-test. Authorities have begun efforts to identify those behind the video and take action against the misinformation campaign. The clarification comes at a sensitive time, with medical entrance examinations under intense public scrutiny. The agency urged candidates to depend only on official notifications and avoid sharing unverified material on social media. The incident highlights how fake digital content can quickly affect student confidence and public trust in India's competitive examination system.

Chhattisgarh sets up Justice Desai-led panel to draft Uniform Civil Code

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chhattisgarh has taken its first formal step toward implementing a Uniform Civil Code, with the state Cabinet approving a high-level committee to examine the issue and prepare a draft law. The panel will be chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former Supreme Court judge known for leading key legal and constitutional committees. The move fulfills a major electoral promise of the Bharatiya Janata Party government and places Chhattisgarh among states actively exploring state-specific civil code legislation. The committee will study personal laws related to marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, succession, adoption and guardianship across communities. It is also expected to review



court rulings, consult legal experts, engage social organizations and seek views from religious representatives. The government has presented the exercise as an effort to bring personal laws in line with constitutional principles of equality and justice, though the proposed draft is likely to generate wide legal, political and social debate.

Operation Sindoor martyrs to be honored at National War Memorial

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The names of six Indian armed forces personnel who died during Operation Sindoor will be inscribed at the National War Memorial in New Delhi, ensuring permanent national recognition for their sacrifice. Operation Sindoor was India's military response last year to the Pahalgam terror attack. The six personnel include five soldiers from the Indian Army and one sergeant from the Indian Air Force. They have been identified as Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar, Agniveer Murali Naik, Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh and Sergeant Surendra Kumar. Rifleman Sunil Kumar was posthumously



awarded the Vir Chakra, while Sergeant Surendra Kumar received the Vayu Sena Medal posthumously. Their names will be engraved on granite bricks in the Tyag Chakra, the memorial's Circle of Sacrifice, which honors personnel who laid down their lives for India after Independence.

Supreme Court petition seeks national fire safety code for public buildings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A public interest litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a uniform national framework for fire and life safety standards in high-risk public premises across India. The petition, filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami, calls for binding minimum safety norms for schools, hospitals, coaching centers, hotels, guest houses, entertainment venues and commercial buildings. It argues that fire safety rules are currently fragmented across states and union territories, leading to uneven enforcement and repeated tragedies. The plea cites major incidents including the Uphaar Cinema fire, AMRI Hospital fire, Surat coaching center blaze, Anaj Mandi



fire, Rajkot game zone fire, Delhi's Malviya Nagar guest house fire and the Aliganj coaching center fire in Lucknow. It seeks periodic inspections, evacuation planning, emergency preparedness and accountability for violations. The petition says recurring fires raise serious concerns under the constitutional right to equality and the right to life.

Ram Mandir trust officials quit amid donation fraud probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra have stepped down amid a widening probe into alleged misappropriation of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. According to government sources, both resigned on moral grounds after preliminary findings by a Special Investigation Team raised concerns over the handling of temple offerings. The controversy has triggered public and political

scrutiny because the trust is responsible for managing day-to-day temple operations and donations made by devotees. A First Information Report has been lodged against eight people, including temple attendants, counting staff and former bank officials, who are accused of colluding to siphon funds. The accused have been arrested. The state government had earlier formed a three-member Special Investigation Team after a request from the temple trust. The resignations are being viewed as an attempt to fix accountability at a higher level as the investigation continues.

India gets first vice presidency at global financial watchdog

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India will assume the vice presidency of the Financial Action Task Force for the first time, with senior bureaucrat Vivek Aggarwal appointed for the July 2026 to June 2027 term. The appointment gives India a stronger role in the global body that sets standards to combat money laundering, terror financing and financial crimes. The development is significant as New Delhi continues to push for stronger international action against terror funding, illicit financial flows and misuse of digital financial systems. India's elevation within the body also reflects its growing role in global financial governance. The vice presidency is expected to give the country greater influence in discussions on compliance, transparency, financial crime regulation and cross-border cooperation.

Bengal government moves toward Uniform Civil Code, anti-conversion laws



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said on Friday that his government will bring strict laws against forced religious conversion and what he described as "love jihad" and "land jihad." Speaking at an event marking the birth anniversary of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Adhikari said Bengal would move forward with a Uniform Civil Code and stronger measures against "anti-national" activities. He also said illegal infiltrators would be sent to holding centers before deportation, while refugees who came to India because of religious persecution would be eligible for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act. The state government is expected to place five Bills in the Assembly on Monday, including one on the Uniform Civil Code.

Centre identifies 315 districts vulnerable to rainfall deficit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre has identified 315 districts across India as vulnerable to low rainfall amid concerns over a weak monsoon and El Niño-linked weather uncertainty. Of these, 111 districts are considered highly vulnerable because of limited irrigation and heavy dependence on rain-fed farming. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are among the states with several exposed districts. The assessment is important because rainfall shortages can delay sowing, reduce crop yields and increase pressure on rural water supplies. States have been advised to prepare contingency plans, promote drought-resistant crops, improve water conservation and issue timely advisories to farmers. The move reflects a preventive approach to monsoon risk management as climate variability increasingly affects India's agricultural cycle.

Delhi activates flood control plan ahead of peak monsoon



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi has activated its Flood Control Order 2026 to strengthen preparedness ahead of peak monsoon conditions and avoid a repeat of the Yamuna flooding witnessed in 2023. The plan includes round-the-clock monitoring, district-level emergency committees, relief camps, vulnerable-area mapping and a three-tier warning system. Departments have been directed to coordinate drainage, health, power, transport and emergency response measures. Authorities are especially focused on low-lying areas near the Yamuna, where evacuation may be required if water levels rise sharply. The city administration has urged residents to follow official advisories and cooperate with emergency teams. The plan reflects growing concern over urban flooding in Indian cities, where intense rainfall, drainage pressure and encroachment often worsen monsoon risks.

Kolkata warehouse collapse raises questions on building safety

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The death toll in the Taratala warehouse collapse in south Kolkata rose to 15 by Friday, with rescue teams continuing search operations for trapped workers. The structure on Transport Depot Road collapsed earlier in the week, leaving several people buried under debris. Officials said bodies were recovered from the rubble, while some injured workers died during treatment. Police have started investigating possible negligence in construction, maintenance and supervision of the building. The tragedy has raised serious concerns over structural safety, workplace monitoring and accountability in urban construction zones. It has also drawn attention to the risks faced by laborers working in unsafe conditions. The incident is likely to renew demands for stricter inspections of old and vulnerable buildings in Indian cities.

Centre clarifies passport is not final proof of citizenship

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Centre has clarified that an Indian passport is a travel document and not conclusive proof of citizenship. Officials said the position reflects existing law under the Passports Act and past court rulings. The clarification came amid public debate over whether a passport, issued after verification, should be treated as final evidence of nationality. The government's position is that citizenship is a legal status determined under citizenship laws, while a passport is issued for international travel based on available documents and verification. The issue has triggered wider discussion on identity records, citizenship documentation and administrative clarity. For citizens, the clarification raises practical questions about which documents may be required in different legal, official and verification processes.

Ladakh shutdown sharpens call for statehood and constitutional safeguards

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The shutdown in Ladakh on Tuesday has brought the Union territory's long-running political demands back into national focus, with the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance accusing the Centre of failing to move sincerely on assurances discussed during earlier talks. Shops, business establishments and private institutions remained closed in several parts of Ladakh, including Leh and Kargil, while transport services were exempted because of the ongoing tourism season. Thousands of residents also joined a rally in Leh to demand what local groups called

a credible dialogue with the Centre. The two organizations have been jointly pressing for statehood, constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule and stronger protection for Ladakh's land, jobs, culture and local identity. They alleged that key understandings from the May talks in New Delhi were not properly reflected in the official minutes. Local leaders also criticized the Union territory administration for taking decisions on land, power, transport, tourism and liquor policy without wider public consultation. The protest reflects a deepening trust deficit between Ladakhi representatives and the administration, nearly seven years after Ladakh became a separate Union territory.

Health Ministry expands QR-code tracking to protect India's medicine supply chain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Health Ministry has expanded India's drug traceability framework by bringing vaccines, antimicrobials, anti-cancer medicines and narcotic and psychotropic drugs under mandatory barcode or Quick Response code authentication. The move, notified through amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, is aimed at strengthening the quality, safety and integrity of India's pharmaceutical supply chain while helping curb counterfeit and substandard medicines. Until now, Quick Response code-based identification applied mainly to the top 300 pharmaceutical brands in the country.



Under the amended framework, manufacturers will have to print or affix a barcode or Quick Response code on the primary packaging label. If there is not enough space, the code may be placed on secondary packaging. The code will carry key information, including product identification, generic and brand names, manufacturer details, batch

number, manufacturing date, expiry date, manufacturing license number and excipient details. The phased rollout gives industry time to comply. Vaccines, anti-cancer medicines and narcotic and psychotropic drugs will come under the rule from July 2027, while antimicrobials will follow from July 2028. The government says the measure will also support India's fight against antimicrobial resistance by improving monitoring of counterfeit antimicrobial products.

CUET results move India's university admissions into next phase

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Testing Agency declared the Common University Entrance Test undergraduate results on Tuesday, opening the next stage of admissions for central and participating universities across India. Around 11.6 lakh candidates appeared for the computer-based examination, making it one of the country's most important undergraduate entrance processes. Students can now

download their scorecards and apply to universities that will prepare merit lists and counseling schedules based on the results. The announcement is especially significant for students seeking admission to major public universities. However, concerns raised by some candidates over score normalization have again brought attention to transparency in large-scale national testing. The results now shift the focus to university-wise admission timelines, seat allocation and counseling procedures.

National Teachers' Awards nominations open for outstanding educators

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ministry of Education has invited online self-nominations for the National Teachers' Awards 2026, giving school teachers across India an opportunity to be recognized for their contribution to education. Eligible teachers can apply through the National Awards Portal until Friday, July 10. The awards honor educators who have shown innovation, dedication and

measurable impact in classrooms and school communities. Teachers from government, aided and private schools are eligible to participate. The selection process will include screening and jury evaluation before the final awards ceremony around Teachers' Day. The initiative aims to highlight teachers who go beyond regular instruction to improve learning, support students and strengthen school culture. It also brings attention to educators working in rural, urban and underserved regions.

NCERT adds Emergency chapter to Class 9 textbook

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Council of Educational Research and Training has introduced a section on the 1975-77 Emergency in the new Class 9 Social Science textbook, "Understanding Society: India and Beyond." The textbook presents the period as a major challenge to Indian democracy, highlighting the suspension of fundamental rights and the weakening of democratic institutions. The inclusion has triggered political debate, with the Congress criticizing the move and the Bharatiya Janata Party saying students should learn about this chapter of history. The Emergency, imposed under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, remains one of the most debated periods in post-Independence India. The textbook change has renewed discussion on how political history and democratic values should be taught in schools.

Maharashtra bans food wrapping in newspapers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration has banned the serving, wrapping and storing of food in newspapers and recycled printed paper across the state. The order, issued under the "Safe Food, Healthy Maharashtra" campaign, cites health risks from printing ink, chemicals and contamination, especially when hot or oily food comes into contact with printed material. Hotels, restaurants, street vendors, cloud kitchens and delivery platforms have been directed to use food-grade packaging and follow hygiene standards. The order also stresses valid food safety licensing, staff training and proper handling practices. Violators may face penalties, including license cancellation. The move targets a common street-food practice and aims to improve food safety standards across both organized and informal food businesses.

India launches Air Suvidha 2.0 to strengthen Ebola screening at airports



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has launched Air Suvidha 2.0, a fully contactless health self-declaration portal for international passengers arriving from Ebola-affected countries. The upgraded system was introduced on Thursday by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with Delhi International Airport Limited, amid the Ebola Bundibugyo virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Passengers must submit details of their 21-day travel history, possible exposure and symptoms before immigration clearance. The form can be completed up to 24 hours before arrival, preferably during web check-in. Officials said the portal will share real-time data with airport health officers, immigration authorities, disease surveillance teams and state officials. The move is aimed at early detection, faster monitoring and safer entry procedures without paper forms or physical contact.

Volkswagen weighs deep job cuts and German plant closures

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Volkswagen Chief Executive Officer Oliver Blume is reportedly preparing a sweeping restructuring plan that could cut up to 100,000 jobs worldwide over the next few years. According to Manager Magazin, the plan may also end production at four German facilities, including Volkswagen plants in Hanover, Zwickau and Emden and an Audi plant in Neckarsulm, once current models are phased out. The report said investment could be reduced by about 15 percent to just over 130 billion euros over five years. Volkswagen declined to comment on confidential documents but said the group must undergo far-reaching change. The automaker is under pressure from tariffs, Chinese competition and the costly shift to electric vehicles.

Russia looks to Indian gasoline as refinery strikes deepen fuel crunch

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia is preparing to support large-scale seaborne gasoline imports from India as Ukrainian drone strikes continue to disrupt its refinery network, according to reports. Draft changes to Russia's Tax Code would extend subsidies to companies importing gasoline from India, with support calculated on the basis of indicative Indian market prices and shipping costs from Indian ports to Russia. The move comes as attacks on Russian refinery infrastructure have cut crude processing and widened a domestic fuel gap. Reports said Russia's gasoline output has fallen well below summer demand, leaving a shortfall of about 25,000 tons a day and pushing wholesale prices higher. India has become a major buyer of Russian crude since the Ukraine war began, with some of that oil refined domestically and exported as petroleum products.

India ranks fourth globally with 61 unicorns in Hurun index



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India remained one of the world's leading startup hubs with 61 unicorns, ranking fourth in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026. Bengaluru retained its position as India's unicorn capital with 25 companies, followed by Mumbai with 13. The report said India's top unicorns span brokerage, quick commerce and fintech, while six Indian unicorns entered public markets during the year. Indian founders also continued to make a global impact, co-founding 217 unicorns worldwide, including 156 based outside India. Globally, artificial intelligence emerged as the biggest wealth creator, with 215 artificial intelligence unicorns accounting for 36 percent of total unicorn value. The United States led the list with 806 unicorns.

Gold heads for weekly loss, silver softens as dollar pressure weighs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gold prices remained under pressure on Friday as a stronger United States dollar and expectations of further Federal Reserve rate hikes weighed on investor appetite for non-yielding assets. Spot gold was steady at \$4,027.91 an ounce, while United States gold futures for August delivery slipped 0.1 percent to \$4,043.40. Bullion was on track for its fourth straight weekly decline, with prices down about 3.2 percent for the week.

Silver also weakened, with spot silver edging 0.1 percent lower to \$57.80 an ounce, while platinum slipped and palladium gained. In India, retail gold prices showed a marginal uptick on Friday, though



the India Bullion and Jewellers Association did not release fresh rates because markets were closed for Muharram. Its Thursday evening indicative rate listed 999-purity silver at Rs 2,16,541 per kilogram.

Oil slips as Hormuz traffic recovery eases supply fears

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices fell on Friday as more tankers resumed movement through the Strait of Hormuz, easing concerns over supply disruptions despite fresh security worries near Oman. Brent crude futures dropped nearly 2 percent to \$73.76 a barrel, while United States West Texas Intermediate fell about 2 percent to \$70.43 a barrel. Both benchmarks were headed for weekly losses of around 8 percent.

Shipping data showed crude movements through Hormuz rising to their highest level since the United States-Israel conflict with Iran began in February, though overall traffic



remained far below the pre-war average of about 125 ships a day. Saudi Aramco also resumed crude loading at its Ras Tanura terminal after a nearly four-month halt. Analysts said the rebound largely reflected stranded vessels leaving the Gulf, while inbound traffic remained modest.

Apple shares slide after iPad and MacBook price hikes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple shares fell more than 6 percent on Thursday after the company raised prices across several MacBook, iMac and iPad models, citing a sharp rise in memory and storage chip costs caused by artificial intelligence data center demand. The price increases, which took effect immediately, do not apply to the iPhone, Apple Watch or AirPods. Apple said it had absorbed higher component costs for as long as possible but could no longer shield customers from what it called an unprecedented surge. Analysts said the mid-cycle move was unusual because Apple typically raises prices with



new product launches. The memory crunch, dubbed "RAMageddon" online, is also affecting other technology firms, including Microsoft's Xbox division.

United States launches Pax Silica push for trusted AI supply chains

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States launched fresh initiatives under its Pax Silica partnership on Thursday, seeking closer cooperation with trusted partners on artificial intelligence, critical minerals and advanced manufacturing. At the second Pax Silica Summit in Washington, officials announced the Declaration on AI Opportunity, aimed at encouraging pro-growth artificial intelligence policies and resilient technology ecosystems. The United States also introduced Pax Pass, a platform initially operating through Panama to speed up trusted shipments of high-value artificial intelligence supply chain products, supported by \$50 million in



foreign assistance. New signatories included Argentina, Germany, the Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Kazakhstan, Panama and the European Union, expanding the initiative's global reach.

SoftBank shares tumble on possible OpenAI listing delay



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

SoftBank Group shares fell 13 percent in Tokyo after reports suggested OpenAI may delay its planned initial public offering, raising concerns over when the Japanese investment giant may realize returns from its large artificial intelligence bet. The drop marked SoftBank's steepest intraday fall in more than three months as investors reassessed expectations that an OpenAI listing would unlock major value. Reports said OpenAI advisers are concerned that volatile technology markets could weaken investor appetite and push the offering into next year. SoftBank is expected to hold a major stake in OpenAI, making the potential listing a key valuation event for its broader portfolio of privately held technology investments.

Sony Pictures invests \$100 million in immersive venue firm Cosm

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sony Pictures Entertainment has invested \$100 million in Cosm, taking a minority stake in the Los Angeles-based immersive technology company. Cosm operates dome-style venues that use its "Shared Reality" technology to project live sports, concerts, films and other events on large wraparound LED screens. Sony Pictures Chief Executive Officer Ravi Ahuja will join Cosm's board as part of the deal. The investment supports Sony's push into experiential entertainment, fandom and technology, allowing the studio to explore new ways to extend its film and television properties beyond traditional screens. Cosm currently operates venues in Los Angeles, Dallas and Atlanta, with additional locations planned in Detroit, Cleveland and other markets.

United States economy grows 2.1 percent as investment offsets weaker spending

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States economy expanded at a stronger-than-expected 2.1 percent annual pace from January through March, the Commerce Department said Thursday in its final first-quarter estimate. The figure was revised up from an earlier estimate of 1.6 percent and marked a rebound from 0.5 percent growth in the final quarter of last year. Business investment was a key driver, with spending on information-processing equipment surging as companies continued to invest heavily in artificial intelligence infrastructure. However, consumer spending, which accounts for most United States economic activity, weakened sharply, raising concerns that households are cutting back amid higher gasoline prices and cost pressures. Residential investment also fell for a fifth straight quarter, reflecting the drag from elevated interest rates.

United States oil storage hubs sink to stress levels as reserves tighten



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States crude stockpiles have fallen sharply as the administration draws on emergency reserves to cushion fuel prices while disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz continue to weigh on supply. Department of Energy data showed the Strategic Petroleum Reserve dropping to its lowest level since 1983, while inventories at Cushing, Oklahoma, the country's largest commercial oil storage hub, fell near operational stress levels. Commercial crude stocks dropped by millions of barrels in the second week of June, while additional barrels were released from the reserve. Refineries have been running at high capacity, but domestic processing has not fully offset reduced Persian Gulf supply. Analysts warned that shrinking inventories could become a major pressure point if Hormuz shipping does not normalize quickly and summer demand keeps rising.

United States blocks Polestar sales from 2027 model year under connected-car rules



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Polestar said Thursday that the United States will not allow it to sell vehicles in the country beginning with the 2027 model year, marking a fresh escalation in Washington's restrictions on China-linked electric vehicles. The Sweden-based company, majority-owned by China's Geely Holding, said the Commerce Department denied authorization under the Connected Vehicles Rule, which covers technologies such as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, cellular and satellite communications. United States officials have cited national security concerns tied to vehicle data and connected systems. Polestar said it will continue selling existing Polestar 3 and Polestar 4 inventory and support current customers through its service network. The company said it will now sharpen its focus on Europe, which accounted for most of its first-quarter sales, while its United States exposure remains limited.

Indian mangoes reach Singapore by sea, opening cheaper export route

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian mangoes have reached Singapore through sea shipment, marking a major step toward making fresh fruit exports more economical and scalable. The commercial consignment of premium Banganapalle mangoes from Andhra Pradesh was shipped earlier this month and arrived in Singapore this week, meeting quality and phytosanitary requirements. The effort was supported by APEDA and the ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, which developed protocols covering harvesting, grading, packing, hot water treatment and cold-chain handling. Officials said sea freight can sharply reduce logistics costs compared with



air shipment while maintaining shelf life and quality. The successful shipment is expected to boost Indian mango exports to Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and other markets.

BHP-backed I-Pulse secures \$250 million United States semiconductor award

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

BHP-backed I-Pulse said Thursday it has signed an agreement with the United States Department of Commerce for a \$250 million award to advance silicon-carbide semiconductor components and pulsed-power technology. The funding, issued through the department's semiconductor research and development office, is intended to support domestic manufacturing capacity, semiconductor research and stronger

supply-chain resilience. I-Pulse, co-founded by mining financier Robert Friedland and chief technology officer Laurent Frescaline, said the technology can be used in geothermal drilling, mining, rock crushing, manufacturing and defense. In geothermal drilling, pulsed-power systems can fracture rock more efficiently, potentially improving drilling speed, extending drill-bit life and lowering costs. The program will be led by the company's Albuquerque team, near Sandia National Laboratories and the United States Air Force Research Laboratory.

India holds out on United States trade deal until tariff edge is secured

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said Thursday that India will not sign a trade agreement with the United States unless it secures a clear competitive advantage over rival exporting economies. Speaking during his visit to London, Goyal said New Delhi wants Washington to create a legal and policy framework that gives Indian exporters preferential market access. His remarks followed trade talks in New Delhi with United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. Goyal said India had negotiated the proposed pact on the assumption that tariffs on Indian goods would fall from about 50 percent to 18 percent, giving India an edge



over competing economies. He said the deal remains close, but implementation depends on whether the United States can deliver that advantage through a durable framework.

Varanasi sends first biscuit shipment to Oman after new trade pact

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has facilitated the export of a 40-metric-ton biscuit consignment from Varanasi to Oman, marking the region's first such shipment after the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, supported the shipment by Varanasi-based Shree Tirupati Balajee Industries Private Limited. The consignment will move from Varanasi to the Inland Container Depot in Kanpur for customs clearance before being transported to Jawaharlal Nehru Port for onward shipment to Oman. Officials



said the export highlights the growing potential of processed food products from eastern Uttar Pradesh and reflects efforts to build emerging agri-export hubs. More shipments to Oman are expected in the coming months as exporters test demand and expand value-added food sales.

Adani launches national platform to spotlight grassroots entrepreneurs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gautam Adani on Thursday launched 'Vande Bharatam,' a nationwide initiative aimed at identifying and supporting innovators, entrepreneurs and problem-solvers across India. Announced on his 64th birthday, the program will reach all 36 states and union territories, more than 800 districts and multiple Indian languages.

It is open to applicants with an idea, prototype, early-stage venture or established business, without requiring a registered startup. The initiative will focus on sectors including technology, manufacturing, sustainability, agriculture, traditional crafts and community-led solutions.

Dedicated pathways will encourage participation from women, tribal communities, rural innovators, Divyang entrepreneurs and local problem-solvers. After state and regional evaluations, 75 finalists will be invited to Ahmedabad for mentorship, investor access and industry engagement before a grand finale around Independence Day.

Supreme Court ruling gives Bayer major relief in Roundup litigation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

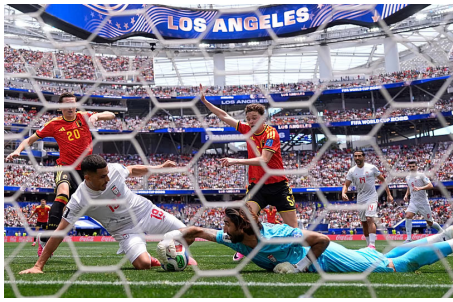
The United States Supreme Court on Thursday sided with Bayer in a major ruling expected to block thousands of lawsuits alleging that Roundup's maker failed to warn users about possible cancer risks. In a 7-2 decision, the court held that federal pesticide law prevents states from imposing warning-label requirements that differ from those approved by federal regulators. The ruling came after years of litigation against Bayer, which acquired Roundup's original maker, Monsanto, in 2018, and after several large jury verdicts. The case before the court involved Missouri resident John Durnell, who had won \$1.25 million after claiming long-term Roundup exposure caused non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Bayer welcomed the ruling as regulatory clarity, while environmental and public health groups criticized it as a setback for accountability.

Alan Greenspan, former Federal Reserve chairman, dies at 100

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Alan Greenspan, the influential economist who led the Federal Reserve through nearly two decades of economic expansion, market shocks and policy shifts, died Monday at age 100 from complications of Parkinson's disease, according to his wife, journalist Andrea Mitchell. Greenspan served as Federal Reserve chairman from 1987 to 2006 under Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He helped guide monetary policy through the 1987 market crash, the 1990s expansion, the dot-com boom and the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Once celebrated as a policy "maestro," Greenspan later faced criticism for supporting financial deregulation and missing risks that contributed to the 2007-2008 financial crisis. He remained one of the most consequential economic policymakers of modern United States history.

Homeland Security eases Iran travel rules before Seattle World Cup match



The United States Department of Homeland Security has eased travel restrictions for Iran's national soccer team ahead of its World Cup group match against Egypt in Seattle on Friday. A department spokesperson said Iran will now be allowed to arrive two days before the match, giving the team an extra day compared with the 24-hour window it received for its first two games in the United States. The team will still be required to leave after the match and return to its base in Tijuana, Mexico. Iran's soccer federation had said it planned to complain to FIFA over what it called unequal treatment, arguing that other teams were allowed more time for travel and recovery. Iran tied its first two matches in Los Angeles and can advance to the knockout stage with a win over Egypt.

Ecuador stuns Germany to reach World Cup knockout round



Ecuator produced one of the biggest shocks of the World Cup on Thursday, beating Germany 2-1 in East Rutherford to reach the knockout round. Germany struck first inside two minutes when Leroy Sané finished a sharp passing move, but Ecuador responded quickly through Nilson Angulo, whose long-range shot beat Manuel Neuer in the ninth minute. With Ecuador needing a win to stay alive, the tension grew through the second half before Gonzalo Plata delivered the decisive moment in the 77th minute, poking the ball into the net after a corner kick sequence. Ecuador's large support inside MetLife Stadium erupted as the team held on through the closing stages. Germany had already qualified, but Ecuador's victory carried far greater urgency. Coach Sebastián Beccacece called the result a historic moment for the country and its fans.

FIFA World Cup roundup: Records, shocks and knockout drama shape a wild week

From Saturday to Friday, the FIFA World Cup delivered one of its busiest stretches yet, with records falling and the knockout picture becoming clearer. Saturday brought two tournament milestones, as Cody Gakpo scored the 100th goal of this edition for the Netherlands against Sweden, while Tunisia and Japan contested the 1,000th match in World Cup history. Argentina then moved into the knockout round behind Lionel Messi, who scored against Austria on Monday to become the men's World Cup's all-time leading scorer. A day later, Cristiano Ronaldo added another historic chapter, scoring twice in Portugal's 5-0 win over Uzbekistan and becoming the first player to score in six World Cup editions.

The drama peaked Thursday when Ecuador stunned Germany 2-1 in East Rutherford. After falling behind early, Ecuador fought back through Nilson Angulo before Gonzalo Plata's late winner sent the team through as one of



the best third-placed sides. The win prompted celebrations across Ecuador. The expanded 48-team format also produced major tournament numbers. Attendance crossed 3.6 million, surpassing the 1994 record, while Austin Truzy's goal for the United States against

Turkey became the 173rd of the tournament, breaking the all-time scoring record. Off the pitch, FIFA confirmed rainbow flags would be allowed at the Iran-Egypt match in Seattle, while United States officials eased Iran's travel restrictions before the fixture.

Harmanpreet flags fielding as India prepare for Australia test

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur welcomed her team's five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Women's T20 World Cup on Thursday, but said fielding remains a concern before Sunday's high-stakes group match against Australia. India restricted Bangladesh to 136 for eight at Old Trafford, with Radha Yadav taking three wickets and the bowlers keeping the chase within reach despite several missed chances. Bangladesh batter Juairiya Ferdous benefited from India's lapses and made 33 after being dropped more than once. Shafali Verma then powered India's reply with a sharp 53 off 34 balls, helping the side reach 139 for five in 16.5 overs and improve its net run rate. Harmanpreet said India had planned to finish the chase early and was pleased with the result,



but admitted the catching and ground fielding needed urgent improvement. She backed her players to respond against Australia and said India's team combinations would remain flexible, based on matchups, conditions and opposition strengths.

Timberwolves land LaMelo Ball in major trade with Hornets

The Minnesota Timberwolves made a major post-draft move by acquiring LaMelo Ball and Josh Green from the Charlotte Hornets in exchange for Naz Reid and a package of draft assets. Charlotte received an unprotected first-round pick in 2033, first-round pick swaps in 2028, 2029 and 2030, and three second-round picks. For Minnesota, the deal gives Anthony Edwards another high-level creator who can stretch defenses, push pace and handle playmaking responsibilities. Ball averaged 20.1 points, 7.1 assists and 4.8 rebounds last season while shooting nearly 37 percent from three-point range. Green adds another perimeter shooter off the bench.



Charlotte, meanwhile, gains future flexibility and draft capital while adding Reid, the 2024 Sixth Man of the Year, to its frontcourt. The move signals a major reset for the Hornets and a win-now push for Minnesota.

Marina Mabrey matches WNBA scoring record with 53-point night



Marina Mabrey delivered one of the greatest scoring performances in WNBA history on Thursday night, matching the league record with 53 points as the Toronto Tempo routed the Los Angeles Sparks 125-97. Mabrey tied the mark previously set by Liz Cambage and matched by A'ja Wilson. She shot 17 of 28 from the field, made nine three-pointers and added 10 free throws in a dominant display for the expansion franchise. Fans briefly booed when she left the game with about a minute remaining, then rose to cheer her record-tying night. Mabrey also broke Toronto's single-game scoring record, which had stood at 38 points. Julie Allemand added 13 points and 14 assists for the Tempo, who improved to 9-9. Nneka Ogwumike and Dearica Hamby led Los Angeles with 21 points each.



World's oldest football travels from Scotland to Miami

The world's oldest known soccer ball has traveled from Scotland to Miami for its first public display in the United States during the World Cup. Believed to be about 500 years old, the leather ball was found in the 1970s behind paneling in a bedroom once used by Mary, Queen of Scots, at Stirling Castle. Made with stitched leather and a pig's bladder core, it will be displayed at the Coral Gables Museum and spotlighted Wednesday during the Brazil-Scotland match.



James Hopes leaves Sydney Sixers for Brisbane Heat and Queensland Bulls



Former Australia all-rounder James Hopes has stepped down as Sydney Sixers head coach less than two months after taking the job, choosing instead to return home on a three-year deal with Brisbane Heat and Queensland Bulls. The clubs confirmed the move Friday, with Hopes set to begin the new role next month after completing his current assignment with Washington Freedom in Major League Cricket. Hopes said the chance to lead Queensland's program and live in Brisbane again was too important to miss, while thanking Cricket New South Wales for allowing him to exit his contract. The 47-year-old played 84 one-day internationals for Australia and previously represented Queensland and Brisbane Heat before moving into coaching roles in Australia and the Indian Premier League.

Alyssa Thomas suspended for throat hit on Caitlin Clark



Phoenix Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas has been suspended one game after the Women's National Basketball Association reviewed her contact with Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark during Phoenix's 111-109 win on Wednesday. The league upgraded the second-quarter play to a Flagrant Foul 2, saying Thomas recklessly made contact with her fist to Clark's throat while both players fought for a loose ball. No foul was called during the game. Indiana coach Stephanie White criticized the officiating afterward, saying Clark was not being protected consistently. Clark later left the game with a back injury. Thomas will serve the suspension Saturday when Phoenix faces the Toronto Tempo, while Indiana next plays the Los Angeles Sparks.

Wyndham Clark survives final-round pressure to win second United States Open title

Wyndham Clark held off Sam Burns and a tense Shinnecock Hills crowd on Sunday to win his second United States Open title in four years, closing with a 3-over 73 for a 4-under 276 total in Southampton, New York. Clark, who also won the major in 2023, finished one shot ahead of Burns and became the first wire-to-wire United States Open winner since Martin Kaymer in 2014. The victory was far from comfortable. Clark began the final round with a six-shot lead, but Burns' closing 67 cut the margin to one as Clark battled nerves, tough conditions and a crowd largely backing Scottie Scheffler's push for a career Grand Slam. Clark's defining moment came at the par-5 16th, where he recovered from a poor drive and rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt to regain breathing room.

Burns missed birdie chances on the final two



holes, while Scheffler shot 71 and never got closer than three shots. Clark sealed the win with a two-putt par from outside 50 feet on the 18th.

Indian youth team gains global exposure at NBA Rising Stars Invitational

India's Velammal International School basketball team gained valuable international exposure at the NBA Rising Stars Invitational in Singapore on Thursday, despite a 95-61 defeat to Jubilee High School. The result underlined the gap between India's top youth talent and stronger international competition, but the Indian players treated the match as a learning opportunity. Team member Kushal Manjunatha Singh said Velammal is used to dominating its age group in India, but the Singapore event has helped the players understand where they must improve. The tournament, held at OCBC Arena from Tuesday to Sunday, features boys' and girls'



teams from across the Asia-Pacific region. The event also includes appearances by basketball figures including Jeremy Lin, Mitch Richmond, Rui Hachimura and Lauren Jackson.

Sindhushree breaks pole vault record as athletes chase Asian Games marks

Karnataka pole vaulter Sindhushree G. entered the national record books on Thursday at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, clearing 4.25 meters to win gold. Her jump bettered the previous national record of 4.23 meters set by Baranica Elangovan and also crossed the Asian Games qualification mark of 4.10 meters. Baranica took silver with 4.20 meters, while Nitika Akare of Madhya Pradesh cleared 4.10 meters for bronze. Several athletes also met qualification standards for next year's Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya. Odisha sprinter Animesh Kujur won the men's 200 meters in



20.74 seconds, beating the qualification time. The women's 200 meters, women's 800 meters and women's shot put also produced multiple qualification-standard performances.

Lions cornerback Terrion Arnold arrested in Florida robbery case

Detroit Lions cornerback Terrion Arnold is in a Florida jail after authorities accused him of helping direct a violent confrontation tied to stolen property. Tampa police said Arnold, 23, was the "primary conspirator" in an alleged attack in which three men were held at gunpoint, beaten, pistol-whipped and robbed at an apartment in February. Investigators said the victims were wrongly believed to have been connected to the theft of more than \$250,000 in property from Arnold and others. Arnold surrendered Wednesday and faces kidnapping and armed robbery allegations, though formal charges must still be filed by prosecutors. His representatives denied the claims, saying there is no credible evidence linking him to the incident. The Detroit Lions said they were aware of the arrest.

Drug charges against Olympic skier Bode Miller to be dismissed

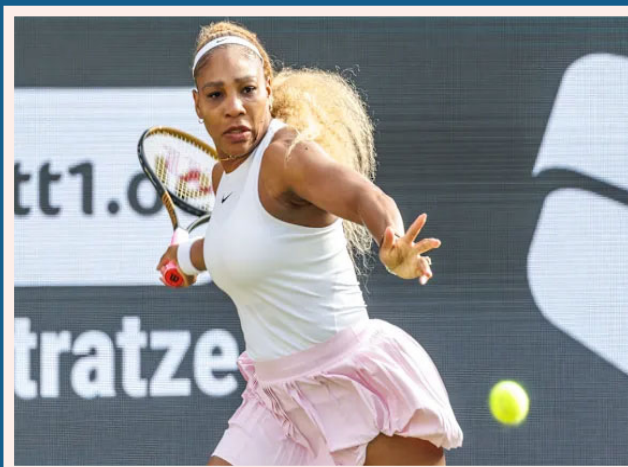
Misdemeanor drug charges against former United States Olympic skier Bode Miller are expected to be dismissed, his attorney said Wednesday. Miller, 48, had pleaded not guilty after being charged in Idaho with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. His lawyer, Jeremy Stafford, said he spoke with Fremont County prosecutor Lindsey Blake, who agreed to dismiss the charges, saying there was no evidence Miller possessed illegal drugs. The case stemmed from a highway traffic stop earlier this month. Miller said on Instagram that a friend traveling with him had a small amount of cannabis and a pipe, and that he was unaware of them. Miller won six Olympic medals, including gold in Vancouver, during one of the most decorated careers in United States alpine skiing.

New Zealand hit by Henry, Phillips injuries before England decider

New Zealand suffered a major setback before the series-deciding Test against England at Trent Bridge, with Matt Henry and Glenn Phillips ruled out through injuries. Henry, who recently moved to the top of the Test bowling rankings after taking 11 wickets in New Zealand's 253-run win at The Oval, was sidelined by a low-grade calf strain. Phillips, who felt side pain during the same match, was ruled out with a side strain. New Zealand also rested Kyle Jamieson for workload management, forcing changes to the playing eleven. Mitchell Santner, Blair Tickner and Ben Sears came into the side after captain Tom Latham chose to bat first on Thursday. England recalled Ben Stokes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Smith and Shoab Bashir for the decisive match.

ESPN analyst Matt Miller loses arm after serious car crash

ESPN National Football League draft analyst Matt Miller said Tuesday that his left arm was amputated after a serious car accident in Missouri. Miller, 42, said he suffered multiple fractures and broken ribs after the crash and was airlifted to Mercy Hospital. Local reports said his vehicle crossed the center line and collided with a semitruck in Jasper County. The truck driver was not injured. Miller thanked first responders and medical staff, saying he faces a long recovery but hopes to return to football coverage.



Serena Williams awaits Wimbledon draw in comeback at 44

Serena Williams will learn her first-round opponent Friday as she prepares for her first singles match in nearly four years at Wimbledon. The 44-year-old, a seven-time Wimbledon singles champion, accepted a wild-card entry and will also play doubles with sister Venus Williams. Since Serena has no ranking, she could draw a top player, including defending champion Iga Swiatek or world number one Aryna Sabalenka. Her last singles match came at the 2022 United States Open, after which she said she was "evolving" away from tennis.

Madonna says years of performing have taken a toll on her body



Madonna has opened up about the physical toll of her decades-long career, revealing that years of live performances, dancing in high heels and intense workouts have damaged her knee. Speaking to 'Interview Magazine,' the pop icon said she no longer works out every day because she has "no cartilage" left in one knee. Madonna said the injury is the result of years of dancing, running on pavement, practicing Ashtanga yoga and doing high-impact routines such as trampoline workouts and dance cardio. Until last year, she said, her fitness routine involved exercises that placed heavy pressure on her joints, but she can no longer continue at that level. The singer said she still stays active, but has adjusted her workouts to include Peloton cycling, the Versa Climber, high-intensity circuit training, outdoor biking and dance. Madonna has previously spoken about knee trouble, including in 2019, when she postponed a 'Madame X' show in Brooklyn to rest and recover.

Deepika Padukone backs maternity return rules for women cricketers



Deepika Padukone has praised the International Cricket Council's new post-pregnancy return-to-play guidelines for women cricketers, calling the move a landmark moment for women in sport. The actor shared her support on Tuesday, highlighting the importance of systems that allow athletes to return after motherhood with dignity and proper care. The new framework includes medical and psychological support, recovery plans, flexible training schedules and childcare provisions for players and their babies. Deepika, who has often spoken about mental health and work-life balance, said the policy marks meaningful progress. The actor and Ranveer Singh announced earlier this year that they are expecting their second child.

'Toy Story 5' powers Pixar to year's biggest box-office opening

Pixar's 'Toy Story 5' stormed into theaters with the biggest box-office debut of the year, proving the franchise still has major pull more than three decades after its first film. The sequel opened Sunday with an estimated \$160 million in domestic ticket sales, setting a new series record and easily beating the \$120 million launch of 'Toy Story 4' in 2019. Overseas, the film added \$152 million, taking its global opening to \$312 million. The new chapter brings back Tom Hanks as Woody, Tim Allen as Buzz Lightyear and Joan Cusack as Jessie, while director Andrew Stanton shifts the toys into a modern conflict as Bonnie's attention moves toward a new tablet. The film cost about \$250 million before marketing, but strong reviews and an "A" CinemaScore suggest a long theatrical run.

Elsewhere, Steven Spielberg's 'Disclosure Day' fell to second place with \$17 million, while horror hit 'Obsession' continued



its surprise run with \$14.2 million in its sixth weekend. The weekend helped lift summer ticket sales, giving Hollywood fresh momentum beyond superhero and franchise-heavy expectations.

Carlos Mencia faces felony tax case over \$8.7 million in earnings

Comedian Carlos Mencia is facing a serious legal battle after Los Angeles prosecutors charged him with failing to report or pay taxes on more than \$8.7 million in earnings. Mencia, best known for his Comedy Central series 'Mind of Mencia,' was arrested Thursday at his Los Angeles home and charged with 12 felony tax-related counts covering personal and corporate taxes from 2019 through 2024. He later pleaded not guilty on Monday. Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said Mencia owes more than \$300,000 in California state taxes and had received 78 notices from state authorities. The case is the first brought by the district attorney's new Business Tax Fraud Unit. Mencia, 58, could face more than 11 years in



prison if convicted on all counts, in addition to taxes, penalties and interest. Born Ned Arnel Holness in Honduras and raised in East Los Angeles, he continues to tour after a career marked by stand-up success, television fame and past plagiarism accusations he has denied. The charges concern state taxes, not any confirmed federal tax case.

David Clayton-Thomas, voice of Blood, Sweat & Tears, dies at 84

David Clayton-Thomas, the powerful lead singer who helped turn Blood, Sweat & Tears into one of the defining brass-rock bands of the late 1960s, has died at 84. His spokesperson said he died peacefully Wednesday at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, but did not give a specific cause.

Clayton-Thomas' urgent, blues-driven voice became central to hits such as 'Spinning Wheel,' 'And When I Die' and 'You've Made Me So Very Happy.' After joining Blood, Sweat & Tears following Al Kooper's departure, he helped lead the band

to massive commercial success. Its self-titled album became a landmark release and won the Grammy for Album of the Year.

Born in England and raised in Canada, Clayton-Thomas had a turbulent youth before finding direction in music. He became known for blending blues grit with jazz-rock arrangements and later continued as a solo performer. Though the band's popularity faded after a controversial State Department-backed Eastern Europe tour, his voice remained one of the era's most recognizable and influential sounds. His legacy also extended into Canadian music honors.

Anup Jalota says South Africa keeps Indian spiritual roots alive

Singer Anup Jalota has praised the Indian community in South Africa for preserving its cultural and spiritual identity across generations. Speaking about his visits to the country, Jalota said South Africa often feels like a "mini India" because of the devotion, traditions and emotional connection he sees among people there. The singer is set to appear as a special guest at the 'Man to

Hanuman' event in Durban, a major spiritual gathering organized by Chinmaya Mission South Africa. The event will bring thousands of devotees together to chant the Hanuman Chalisa. Jalota said the collective chanting would create a deeply spiritual atmosphere and called it a blessing to be part of the occasion. He also highlighted the work of Swami Abhedananda and the Chinmaya Mission's milestone year.

Millie Bobby Brown's daughter gives 'Enola Holmes' the toddler treatment



Millie Bobby Brown may be one of Netflix's biggest stars, but her daughter was not exactly starstruck. The 'Stranger Things' actor revealed during a conversation for the 'Happy Sad Confused' podcast that she recently showed her daughter the first 'Enola Holmes' film. According to Brown, the little girl watched only a few minutes before losing interest, though she briefly looked up when Brown pointed out that the voice on screen was hers. Brown and husband Jake Bongiovi welcomed their daughter through adoption in 2025 and have kept her name and face private. The actor said motherhood has been supported closely by Bongiovi's parents, Jon Bon Jovi and Dorothea. She also said 'Enola Holmes 3' will stream on Netflix from Wednesday.

Jacqueline Fernandez withdraws Supreme Court plea in money laundering case



Jacqueline Fernandez has withdrawn her Supreme Court plea in the Rs 200 crore money laundering case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. On Thursday, a bench of Justices B. V. Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi allowed the actor to withdraw her petition challenging a Delhi High Court order that had refused to quash the Enforcement Directorate's prosecution complaint and the trial court's decision to frame charges. Fernandez has pleaded not guilty before a Delhi court and has said she is willing to face trial. The Enforcement Directorate has alleged that she received luxury gifts worth about Rs 7 crore from Chandrashekhar using proceeds of crime. Fernandez has maintained that she had no knowledge of his alleged criminal activities or the source of the money. The next hearing is scheduled in July.

Amitabh Bachchan says work remains his best answer to worry



Amitabh Bachchan has once again turned to his personal blog to reflect on the discipline that continues to drive him. After finishing work for the day, the veteran actor wrote that work has a way of taking care of concerns, adding that when work stops, everything else seems to stop too. His message ended with a simple reminder to “keep at it.” The actor remains active on multiple fronts and is associated with the sequel to Nag Ashwin’s ‘Kalki 2898 AD,’ the mythological science fiction film starring Prabhas, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone and Disha Patani. Bachchan also recently wrote about watching a Second World War documentary narrated by Tom Hanks, reflecting on the human cost of conflict and the futility of war.

Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon stay close, but wedding plans are not on the cards



Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon may be growing stronger as a couple, but marriage is reportedly not part of the immediate plan. The actor, who has been linked to the jewelry designer since 2022, is said to have welcomed her deeply into his family circle. A source claimed de Ramon has built warm relationships with Pitt’s relatives and is now treated as a natural part of family gatherings. The report comes after Pitt finalized his long-running divorce from Angelina Jolie in December 2024. Pitt and Jolie share six children. While de Ramon is said to remain close to Pitt’s siblings, nieces and nephews, the source maintained that the actor has no plans to marry again at this stage. The couple has not publicly commented on the report.

Harry Styles pauses Wembley show over fan’s cheeky sign

Harry Styles gave fans another viral concert moment during his Wembley Stadium run in London after stopping mid-performance over an unexpected sign in the crowd. In clips circulating online, the singer appeared to pause the show, laugh and tell the audience he had been distracted. He then addressed a fan whose sign claimed she had sold feet pictures to afford her ticket. Styles asked the fan her name, joked with her and told her it was nice to meet her before continuing the performance. The moment quickly spread across social media, with fans praising the singer’s easy stage presence and willingness to interact with the crowd. The exchange came during the sixth night of his Wembley run, where fan interactions have become a major talking point.

Millie Bobby Brown says David Harbour reunion is coming sooner than expected

Millie Bobby Brown has teased that her next collaboration with David Harbour may arrive sooner than fans expect. Speaking on the ‘Happy Sad Confused’ podcast, Brown said the project is Harbour’s idea and described their creative plans as “concrete.” The two actors built a powerful on-screen bond as Eleven and Jim Hopper across five seasons of ‘Stranger Things.’ Brown hinted that the new project may again lean into the father-daughter emotional space that defined their Netflix pairing. Her comments follow earlier reports of tension between the co-stars during the final season, which Harbour has since described as a difficult but normal part of a long working relationship. Brown also



said she is developing several projects with Netflix, including the romantic comedy ‘Just Picture It.’

Madison Square Garden permit fuels Swift-Kelce wedding buzz

Speculation around Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce’s reported wedding plans intensified Wednesday after New York City officials confirmed that an event permit had been filed near Madison Square Garden. The filing, first reported as part of wider wedding buzz, requested street activity around the arena from Thursday through Saturday of the July Fourth weekend. City officials confirmed the permit’s existence but did not identify who filed it or release the document. A source at Madison Square Garden told NBC News the venue had blocked off the holiday weekend and was preparing for a large event, though it remains unclear whether the preparations are connected to Swift and Kelce. Representatives for Swift, Kelce and the venue did not immediately comment.



Mamdani also appeared to reference the rumored wedding while discussing major events in the city. For now, fans are left with clues, permits and plenty of theories.

The speculation follows reports that an event company requested space for a tent outside the arena and estimated hundreds of guests. New York City Mayor Zohran

Ajay Devgn channels action legacy with ‘Chauhaan’ announcement

Ajay Devgn is set to return to full-scale action with ‘Chauhaan,’ a new big-screen entertainer announced on Thursday to mark the birth anniversary of his father, legendary action director Veeru Devgan. The title announcement presented Devgn in a fierce new avatar and paid tribute to the action legacy that shaped his career. Set against the backdrop of unrest in Kashmir, the preview shows police confronting a volatile crowd before building to the dialogue, “Pathaanon se kehna, Chauhaan aa raha hai.” The announcement also used the iconic ‘Jumma Chumma De De’ track from ‘Hum.’ The film marks



Devgn’s first professional collaboration with filmmaker Aanand L Rai. Directed by Neeraj Yadav, ‘Chauhaan’ is scheduled to arrive in theaters on October 1, 2027.

Rajinikanth’s ‘Dharman’ first-look video sends fan buzz soaring

The makers of Rajinikanth’s upcoming film ‘Dharman’ have released a making video that shows how the superstar’s first look was created. The behind-the-scenes glimpse features accessories laid out for Rajinikanth, director Aswath Marimuthu explaining the pose he wanted and Kamal Haasan joining the star on set. Produced by Haasan’s Raaj Kamal Films International,

‘Dharman’ was officially announced with a striking poster showing Rajinikanth in what appears to be a doctor’s avatar inside an operation theater. The image has intensified speculation that he will play a powerful and intense medical figure with an action-heavy edge. The film, also known as Rajinikanth’s 173rd project, has music by Anirudh Ravichander, cinematography by Niketh Bommi and stunts by Anbariv.

Hollywood bets big on bite-sized drama for phone-first audiences



Hollywood is moving fast into microdramas, the short, vertical storytelling format that has already exploded in China and is now drawing major United States studios and stars. Issa Rae’s Hoorae Media entered the space with ‘Screen Time,’ a TikTok-backed thriller that drew nearly 75 million views in its first week. Rae said the lower cost and faster turnaround allow creators to take risks and respond quickly to audience tastes. The format usually features one-to-three-minute episodes designed for mobile viewing, often built around romance, betrayal, suspense and cliff-hangers. Peacock, Fox Entertainment and TelevisaUnivision have begun investing in vertical series, while names such as Kevin Hart, Kim Kardashian and Taye Diggs are also entering the space. For creators, microdramas offer a faster route to audiences and ownership.

Alka Yagnik says Padma Bhushan marks a hopeful return after health struggle

Alka Yagnik has shared an emotional update on her recovery after receiving the Padma Bhushan from President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday. The veteran playback singer said she had stayed away from public life for nearly two years while dealing with difficult health challenges, but the love and prayers of listeners helped her through the period. In her note, Yagnik said she was “slowly finding” her way back and accepted the honor with humility. The singer, known for classics such as ‘Ek Do Teen,’ ‘Taal Se Taal Mila’ and ‘Agar Tum Saath Ho,’ had revealed in 2024 that she was battling rare sensorineural hearing loss.

Drake’s Backstreet Boys confession turns into a full-circle stage moment



The Backstreet Boys have revealed that Drake once told them one of their songs soundtracked his first kiss. Kevin Richardson recalled in a Billboard interview that the group met Drake during a Toronto stop on their DNA Tour, when the rapper asked to greet them at a restaurant. The conversation later led to Drake joining the band on stage in 2022 for ‘I Want It That Way.’ Drake told the crowd the song played at his bar mitzvah when a girl he liked asked him to dance, making him feel seen for the first time. The group is set to begin its Las Vegas residency in July.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा—छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' के अंतर्गत हम आंध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम और बिहार के अनेक दिव्य, ऐतिहासिक एवं आध्यात्मिक मंदिरों की सफल यात्रा पूर्ण कर चुके हैं। इन यात्राओं ने हमें भारत की सांस्कृतिक विविधता, प्राचीन परंपराओं, लोक आस्थाओं और सनातन विरासत की अद्भुत झलक प्रदान की है।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा प्रवेश कर रही है भारत के हृदयस्थल में स्थित प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य, जनजातीय संस्कृति और आध्यात्मिक परंपराओं से समृद्ध राज्य छत्तीसगढ़ में। यह भूमि केवल अपने घने वनों और समृद्ध लोक संस्कृति के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि अपने प्राचीन मंदिरों, शक्ति उपासना और सदियों पुरानी धार्मिक परंपराओं के लिए भी विख्यात है।

इस विशेष श्रृंखला में IndoUS Tribune छत्तीसगढ़ के प्रमुख और पूजनीय मंदिरों की यात्रा करेगा। हमारी इस नई यात्रा का प्रथम पड़ाव है दन्तेवाड़ा स्थित माँ

दंतेश्वरी मंदिर, जो भारत के 52 शक्तिपीठों में से एक माना जाता है। इसके पश्चात हमारी यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी भोरमदेव मंदिर की ओर, जिसे अपनी अद्भुत स्थापत्य कला और ऐतिहासिक महत्व के कारण 'छत्तीसगढ़ का खजुराहो' भी कहा जाता है।

माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर, दन्तेवाड़ा (छत्तीसगढ़)

छत्तीसगढ़ के दन्तेवाड़ा जिले में स्थित माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर राज्य के सबसे प्राचीन, पूजनीय और आध्यात्मिक रूप से शक्तिशाली मंदिरों में से एक है। यह मंदिर माँ दंतेश्वरी को समर्पित है, जिन्हें बस्तर अंचल की अधिष्ठात्री देवी और रक्षक शक्ति के रूप में पूजा जाता है। दन्तेवाड़ा नगर का नाम भी देवी दंतेश्वरी के नाम पर ही पड़ा है।

यह मंदिर 14वीं शताब्दी में काकतीय वंश के शासकों द्वारा निर्मित एवं विकसित किया गया था। दंतेश्वरी देवी बस्तर राज्य के राजपरिवार की कुलदेवी भी मानी जाती रही हैं। सदियों से यह मंदिर राजपरंपरा, जनजातीय आस्था और सनातन श्रद्धा का प्रमुख केंद्र बना हुआ है।

शक्तिपीठ के रूप में महत्व

दंतेश्वरी मंदिर का सर्वाधिक धार्मिक महत्व इसे प्राप्त शक्तिपीठ की मान्यता से मिलता है। हिंदू मान्यता के अनुसार जब माता सती ने अपने पिता दक्ष के यज्ञ में आत्मदाह कर लिया, तब शोकाकुल भगवान शिव उनके शरीर को लेकर तांडव करने लगे। ब्रह्मांड की रक्षा हेतु भगवान विष्णु ने अपने सुदर्शन चक्र से सती के शरीर के विभिन्न अंगों को अलग किया, जो पृथ्वी पर अनेक स्थानों पर गिरे और वे स्थान शक्तिपीठ कहलाए।

मान्यता है कि दन्तेवाड़ा में माता सती का दांत (दन्त) गिरा था। इसी कारण इस स्थान का नाम दंतेश्वरी पड़ा और यह 52 प्रमुख शक्तिपीठों में सम्मिलित हुआ।

मंदिर का ऐतिहासिक विकास

यद्यपि इस क्षेत्र में 11वीं और 12वीं शताब्दी से स्थानीय देवी उपासना के प्रमाण मिलते हैं, किंतु वर्तमान मंदिर का विकास काकतीय वंश के राजा अन्नमदेव के संरक्षण में हुआ। उन्होंने इस स्थान को धार्मिक एवं राजकीय महत्व प्रदान किया। मंदिर के गर्भगृह में स्थापित माँ दंतेश्वरी की भव्य प्रतिमा काले पत्थर से निर्मित है। देवी को महिषासुरमर्दिनी स्वरूप में दर्शाया गया है। मंदिर चार मुख्य भागों—गर्भगृह, महामंडप, मुख्य मंडप और सभा मंडप—में विभाजित है। विशाल प्रांगण, ऊँची परकोटा दीवारें और कलात्मक शिखर इसकी स्थापत्य भव्यता को और बढ़ाते हैं।

जनजातीय और सनातन परंपराओं का अद्भुत संगम

माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर की सबसे अनूठी विशेषता यह है कि यह जनजातीय परंपराओं और मुख्यधारा की हिंदू आस्था के बीच एक सशक्त सेतु का कार्य करता है। बस्तर क्षेत्र की अनेक जनजातियाँ देवी को अपनी संरक्षक माता मानती हैं और जीवन के महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयों से पहले उनका आशीर्वाद प्राप्त करती हैं।

स्थानीय मान्यताओं के अनुसार माँ दंतेश्वरी अपने भक्तों की रक्षा करती हैं और उन्हें साहस, समृद्धि तथा आध्यात्मिक शक्ति प्रदान करती हैं। यही कारण है कि मंदिर केवल पूजा का स्थान नहीं, बल्कि बस्तर की सांस्कृतिक पहचान का केंद्र भी है।

बस्तर दशहरा और धार्मिक परंपराएँ

दंतेश्वरी मंदिर विश्व प्रसिद्ध बस्तर दशहरा का

आध्यात्मिक केंद्र है। भारत के अन्य क्षेत्रों में मनाए जाने वाले दशहरे से अलग, बस्तर दशहरा पूरी तरह माँ दंतेश्वरी की आराधना पर आधारित है। इस अवसर पर हजारों श्रद्धालु, जनजातीय समुदायों के प्रतिनिधि, साधक और ग्रामीण देवी के दर्शन हेतु एकत्रित होते हैं। नवरात्रि के दौरान यहाँ ज्योति कलश प्रज्वलित करने की भी प्राचीन परंपरा है। मंदिर परिसर भक्तों की आस्था, भक्ति और धार्मिक उत्साह से भर उठता है।

आज का महत्व

आधुनिक समय में भी दंतेश्वरी मंदिर लाखों श्रद्धालुओं, इतिहासकारों और आध्यात्मिक जिज्ञासुओं को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करता है। बदलते समय के बावजूद मंदिर ने अपनी धार्मिक गरिमा, परंपराओं और सांस्कृतिक पहचान को अक्षुण्ण बनाए रखा है।

यह मंदिर आज भी शक्ति उपासना, जनजातीय संस्कृति और भारतीय आध्यात्मिक विरासत का जीवंत प्रतीक बना हुआ है।

समापन

माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर की यह यात्रा हमें यह अनुभव कराती है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक शक्ति केवल भव्य मंदिरों में ही नहीं, बल्कि उन लोक परंपराओं और आस्थाओं में भी जीवित है जो सदियों से पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी प्रवाहित होती आ रही हैं। दन्तेवाड़ा की पावन भूमि आज भी माँ दंतेश्वरी की दिव्य उपस्थिति, शक्ति और संरक्षण की भावना से आलोकित है।

IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा' का छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय हमें यह समझने का अवसर देता है कि भारत की सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक विरासत कितनी व्यापक, जीवंत और विविधतापूर्ण है। यहाँ जनजातीय परंपराएँ, सनातन आस्था और इतिहास एक साथ मिलकर आध्यात्मिक चेतना की अद्भुत धारा का निर्माण करते हैं।

अब हमारी यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी भोरमदेव मंदिर की ओर, जहाँ प्राचीन स्थापत्य कला, शैव परंपरा और छत्तीसगढ़ की गौरवशाली सांस्कृतिक धरोहर हमारा प्रतीक्षा कर रही है।



Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

Viradha – A demon or a devoted Gandharva of Lord Rama?

The Valmiki Ramayana contains numerous fascinating episodes in which terrifying demons (Rakshasas) spread fear throughout the forests. But were all these beings truly demons by nature, or were many of them noble souls cursed to live in demonic forms?

A deeper reading of the Ramayana reveals that several Rakshasas were actually celestial beings or virtuous individuals who had fallen under the curse of sages. Lord Rama is revered not only because He destroyed evil but also because He liberated many such cursed souls through His divine grace.

One such fearsome demon was Viradha, whose story is narrated in great detail in the Aranya Kanda of the Valmiki Ramayana.

A similar episode appears in the Sundara Kanda of the Ramcharitmanas. Two demons, originally cursed by Sage Agastya, entered Lord Rama's camp as spies sent by Ravana. When they were captured and faced punishment, they surrendered at Lord Rama's feet and sought forgiveness. Out of compassion, Lord Rama pardoned them, and Tulsidas reveals that because they surrendered to the Lord, they were freed from Sage Agastya's curse and returned to their original divine forms.

ऋषि अगस्ति की साप भवानी,
राक्षस भयउ रहा मुनि गयानी
बंदी राम पद बारहि बारा,
मुनि निज आश्रम कहूँ पगु धारा

Transliteration:

Rishi Agasti ki saap Bhavani, raachhas bhayau raha muni gyaani
Bandi Ram pad baarahi baara, muni nij ashram kahun pagu dhaara

Viradha's Terrifying Appearance

Viradha was one such dreadful-looking demon.

गभीराक्षं महावक्त्रं विकटं विकटोदरम् ।
बीभत्सं विषमं दीर्घं विकृतं घोरदर्शनम् ॥ ५ ॥

Transliteration:

Gabheeraksham mahaavaktram vikatam vikatodaram
Bibhatsam vishamam deergham vikritam ghoradarshanam.

सानं चर्म वैयाघ्रं वसार रुधिरक्षितम् ।
त्रासनं सर्वभूतानां व्यादितास्यमिवान्तकम् ॥ ६ ॥

Transliteration:

Saanam charma vaiyaaghrum vasaara rudhirokshitam
Traasanam sarvabhootaanaam vyaaditaasyam ivaantakam.

Valmiki describes Viradha as a monstrous being with terrifying eyes, a gigantic mouth, enormous arms, and a frightening appearance. He wore a tiger skin soaked in blood and inspired terror among sages and forest dwellers alike. Whenever he roamed through the forests, panic spread among the ascetics living there.

Lord Rama's Promise

When Lord Rama entered the Dandaka forest with Sita and Lakshmana, the sages narrated their suffering and sought His

protection. Lord Rama assured them that He would destroy these wicked demons and restore peace.

A few days later, while Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana were walking through the forest, Viradha suddenly appeared.

स रामं लक्ष्मणं चैव सीतां दृष्ट्वा च मैथिलीम् ।
अभ्यधावत् सुसंकुद्धः प्रजाः काल इवान्तकः ॥ ८ ॥
स कृत्वा भैरवं नादं चालयन्निव मेदिनीम् ॥

Transliteration:

Sa Ramam Lakshmanam chaiva Seetaam drishtvaa cha Maithileem
Abhyadhaavat susankruddhah prajaah kaala ivaantakah.

Sa kritvaa bhairavam naadam chaalayann iva medineem.

Seeing the extraordinary beauty of Mother Sita, Viradha became infatuated. In his demonic arrogance, he roared loudly and attempted to frighten Rama and Lakshmana. Suddenly, he lifted Sita into his arms.

अङ्केनादाय वैदेहीमपक्रम्य तदाव्रवीत् ।
युवां जटाचौरधरो सभायौ क्षीणजीवितौ ॥ १० ॥

Transliteration:

Ankenaadaaya Vaideheem apakramya tadaabraveet
Yuvaam jataacheeradharau sabhaayau ksheenajeevitau.

Viradha mocked the two brothers, saying that ascetics had no need for such a beautiful woman. He declared that Sita would become his wife and warned Rama and Lakshmana to leave if they wished to live.

Lakshmana's Determination

Seeing Sita in danger, Lord Rama became deeply distressed.

पश्य सौम्य नरेन्द्रस्य जनकस्यात्मसम्भवाम् ।
मम भार्या शुभाचारां विराधाङ्गे प्रवेशिताम् ॥१७ ॥

Transliteration:

Pashya Saumya Narendraasya Janakaasyaatmasambhavaam
Mama bhaaryaam shubhaacharaam Viradhaanke praveshitaam.

Lakshmana immediately reassured his brother.

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

Transliteration:

Sharena nihatasadya mayaa kruddhena rakshasah
Viradhasya gataasor hi mahee paasyati shonitam.

He vowed that before long the earth would drink the blood of Viradha.

Viradha Reveals His Identity

After some time, Viradha's anger subsided, and he curiously asked Rama to introduce Himself.

अथोवाच पुनर्वाक्यं विराधः पूर्यन् वनम् ।
पृच्छतो मम हि ब्रूतं कौ युवां क्व गमिष्यथः ॥ १ ॥

Transliteration:

Athovaacha punarvaakyam Viradhah



poorayan vanam

Prichchhato mama hi brootam kau yuvaam kva gamishyathah.

Lord Rama calmly introduced Himself as the son of King Dasharatha of the Ikshvaku dynasty and asked Viradha to identify himself.

Viradha replied:

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

Transliteration:

Putrah kila Javasyaaham maataa mama Shatahridaa
Viradha iti maamaahuh Prithivyaam sarvaraakshasaah.

तपसा चाभिसम्प्राता ब्रह्मणो हि प्रसादजा ।
शस्त्रेणावध्यता लोकेऽच्छेद्याभेद्यत्वमेव च ॥६ ॥

Transliteration:

Tapasaa chaabhisampraptaa Brahmano hi prasaadajaa
Shastrenaavadhyataa loke achchedyaabhedyatvameva cha.

Viradha explained that through severe penance he had obtained a boon from Lord Brahma, making him invincible to all weapons.

The Final Battle

A fierce battle followed. Although Rama's arrows pierced Viradha's body, they could not kill him because of Brahma's boon. Viradha overpowered both Rama and Lakshmana, lifting them onto his shoulders.

तावारोप्य ततः स्कन्धं राघवौ रजनीचरः ।
विराधो विनदन् घोरं जगामाभिमुखो वनम् ॥ २५ ॥

Transliteration:

Taavaaropya tatah skandham Raaghavau Rajaneecharah
Viradho vinadan ghoram jagaamaabhimukho vanam.

Witnessing this, Sita cried out in fear.
हियमाणो तु काकुत्स्थो दृष्ट्वा सीता रघूत्तमौ ।
उच्चैः स्वरेण चुक्रोश प्रगृह्य सुमहाभुजौ ॥ १ ॥

Transliteration:

Hiyamaanau tu Kaakutsthau drishtvaa Seetaa Raghoottamau
Ucchaih svarena chukrosha pragrihya sumahaabhujau.

Lord Rama and Lakshmana broke

Viradha's arms and threw him to the ground. Since he could not be killed by weapons, Rama instructed Lakshmana to dig a large pit while He pinned Viradha to the earth. At that very moment, Viradha realized that the Supreme Lord Himself stood before him.

The Curse Revealed

With folded hands, Viradha spoke:

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

Transliteration:

Abhishaapaadaham ghoraam pravishito raakshaseem tanum
Tumburur naama Gandharvah shasto Vaishravanena hi.

He revealed that he was originally Tumburu, the celebrated Gandharva. After committing a grave offense involving the celestial nymph Rambha, he had been cursed by Kubera to live as a demon.

Kubera had also foretold that one day Lord Rama would liberate him.

Viradha continued:

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

Transliteration:

Tava prasaadaan mukto'ham abhishaapaat sudaarunaat
Bhuvanam svam gamishyaami svasti vo'stu parantapa.

He requested Lord Rama to bury his body in the pit, explaining that only then would he be freed from his curse and return to his celestial abode.

Lord Rama fulfilled his wish.

The Spiritual Message

Thus ended the remarkable story of Viradha. Though outwardly a terrifying demon, he was inwardly a cursed celestial being awaiting liberation through the grace of Lord Rama.

This episode beautifully illustrates one of the profound messages of the Valmiki Ramayana: Divine compassion extends even to those who have fallen into darkness. Through sincere surrender, even the most cursed soul can attain redemption.

Once again, a Gandharva who had strayed due to illusion found his way back through the grace of Lord Rama.

Millions of salutations to my beloved Lord Shri Rama.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291



HAQ KA PANI

RECLAIMING INDIA'S RIGHTFUL SHARE

● By: Mr. Atul Jain, Former Chairman, Central Water Commission.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's Independence Day assertion last year that- "Haq ka pani will serve Indian farmers"- marks a decisive shift in India's approach to the Indus Waters. Far from being a departure, it is a longoverdue correction of historical restraint that has disproportionately disadvantaged India while enabling persistent misuse downstream. It signals that India will no longer allow its rightful share of water to go underutilized and wasted while its own farmers face scarcity.

When the Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960, India, as the upper riparian, made a remarkable concession by agreeing to restrict itself to about 20% of the Indus system waters, allocating the

overwhelming 80% share to Pakistan. This decision reflected extraordinary goodwill. The expectation was that such generosity would be matched by responsible conduct and a cooperative spirit. Instead, over the decades, that spirit was never reciprocated.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's statement must also be seen against the backdrop of repeated acts of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan that have vitiated the trust. The long-standing reality, captured in the phrase, "blood and water cannot flow together", is no longer rhetorical. Incidents such as the Pulwama terror attack, along with other attacks in the Valley, including the Pahalgam region, have underscored how sustained hostility undermines the very foundation on which cooperative arrangements like the Treaty rest. No agreement, however well-crafted, can remain insulated from a

complete breakdown of trust.

At a structural level, the Treaty itself contained asymmetries that became increasingly untenable. It imposed considerable restrictions on India's use of its allocated waters, yet places no corresponding obligation on Pakistan to justify its requirements or ensure efficient utilization.

This is reflected in the widespread inefficiencies, losses in irrigation systems (estimated at about 47 MAF), inadequate storage, and poor water management on their side leading to large volumes of Indus waters (upto 35 MAF) flowing to the Arabian Sea unutilized.

Meanwhile, India has borne the cost of restraint. Region such as Rajasthan, Haryana have remained water-stressed, their agricultural potential constrained despite the availability of water that India is entitled to use. This imbalance is precisely what the statement seeks to correct.

"Haq ka pani" is, therefore, about rightful utilization—not denial. India is asserting that every drop of Indus system will now be used productively for irrigation, hydropower, and development.

Indian projects on the Western rivers, including Baglihar and Salal, highlight another dimension of the challenge. Over time, sedimentation has reduced their efficiency and storage capacity. Flushing operations, essential for maintaining dam safety and performance, were delayed for years due to unfounded objections and

procedural hurdles created by Pakistan. The eventual need to remove accumulated sediment only reinforced the cost of such delays. Going forward, India's approach will prioritize timely, state of art technical interventions, without being held hostage by malign and hyperbolic political theatrics disguised as technical differences.

The broader message is clear. First, India will fully utilize its rightful share of water in water-stressed regions. Second, it will no longer accept a framework where inefficiency and waste go unchecked on one side while artificial and unscientific constraints are sought to be imposed on the other. Third, it will assert its technical autonomy, ensuring that infrastructure creation and maintenance proceed apace, in line with current scientific thinking and international best practices.

This is not a repudiation of any customary principles; it is a response to the destruction of the foundational pillars of the Treaty. When the very promises that undergird a treaty are breached by hostility, terror, misinformation, and misuse, recalibration becomes inevitable.

For decades, India exercised patience, even at tangible cost to its own development. That era is giving way to one of clarity and balance. "Haq ka pani" is an overdue commitment that India's water will serve its people, its farmers, and its future. While some vested interests may try to mischaracterize it as a threat, it is nothing but a necessary course correction in a changing context.

Courtesy: Vandana Jhingan



The citizenship conundrum

Beyond the passport—strengthening the credibility of Indian citizenship

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Ministry of External Affairs' clarification did not emerge in a vacuum. It arrived at a time when India is simultaneously confronting concerns over illegal immigration, identity fraud, electoral integrity, border security, and the modernization of its citizenship records. National media has largely viewed the announcement through three distinct lenses.

The first has been public confusion. Newspapers and television networks such as The Times of India, NDTV, The Hindu, and India Today highlighted widespread questions from ordinary citizens. If a passport, issued after extensive police verification, is not conclusive proof of citizenship, many wondered what document actually is. The discussion exposed a broader administrative reality: India has no single universally accepted "master document" establishing citizenship for every legal purpose.

The second lens has been the political debate. Reports connected the clarification with the ongoing revision of electoral rolls in some states and broader discussions over citizenship documentation. Opposition parties questioned the timing, arguing that it could create uncertainty among genuine citizens. Government representatives responded that the clarification merely reiterates existing law under the Passports Act and long-standing judicial interpretations. In other words, according to the government, nothing substantive has changed; only the legal position has been restated.

The third—and perhaps most significant—lens is national security, an aspect that deserves greater attention than it has received.

The national security dimension

For decades, India has faced persistent challenges arising from illegal immigration, forged identity documents, human trafficking networks, and cross-border infiltration, particularly along sensitive international borders. Security agencies have repeatedly uncovered instances where individuals obtained Aadhaar cards, voter identification cards, ration cards, and even passports using forged or fraudulently obtained supporting documents.

If a passport were treated as absolute and irreversible proof of citizenship, correcting such fraud would become significantly more difficult. The government's clarification preserves the legal authority to investigate, revoke, or cancel a passport if subsequent evidence establishes that it was obtained through misrepresentation or false documentation.

From a national security perspective, this distinction strengthens—not weakens—the integrity of the passport system. It reinforces the principle that citizenship is a legal status established under the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, while the passport remains an administrative document issued on the



basis of available evidence.

As India expands the use of biometric databases, facial recognition, artificial intelligence, and integrated digital governance, maintaining this legal distinction provides authorities with flexibility to combat identity fraud without undermining constitutional due process.

Is this a step toward controlling illegal immigration?

While the MEA did not explicitly link its clarification to illegal immigration, the broader policy direction suggests a tightening of identity verification.

India has increasingly emphasized border management, digital identity verification, biometric databases, and improved documentation standards. Together, these initiatives seek to reduce opportunities for illegal entrants to regularize their status through fraudulent documentation.

The clarification effectively signals that possession of a passport cannot permanently shield an individual from later scrutiny if credible evidence raises questions about the legitimacy of the underlying citizenship claim. For enforcement agencies, this represents an important legal safeguard.

For genuine citizens, however, it also highlights the need for transparent

procedures and robust safeguards so that administrative reviews do not become arbitrary or burdensome.

Enhancing the credibility of Indian citizenship

Perhaps the most important long-term implication is the credibility of Indian citizenship itself.

Every sovereign nation has both the right and the responsibility to determine who its citizens are. As India emerges as a major global economic and geopolitical power, the value of its citizenship carries increasing international significance.

A citizenship system that can be manipulated through fraudulent documentation ultimately weakens national security, burdens public services, undermines electoral confidence, and diminishes the credibility of Indian travel documents abroad. Viewed from this perspective, stricter verification mechanisms should not be seen merely as enforcement tools but as measures that strengthen the integrity of citizenship itself.

However, stronger verification must be accompanied by stronger administrative capacity. India cannot expect citizens to navigate decades-old paper records, inconsistent birth registrations, and fragmented databases indefinitely. A

modern economy requires a modern citizenship infrastructure.

The way forward

The debate should therefore move beyond the narrow question of whether a passport proves citizenship. The larger challenge is whether India can build an integrated, transparent, and legally robust civil registration system that protects genuine citizens while preventing fraud. Such a system would enhance national security, improve governance, reduce litigation, strengthen international confidence in Indian documents, and make it easier for citizens to establish their legal status without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

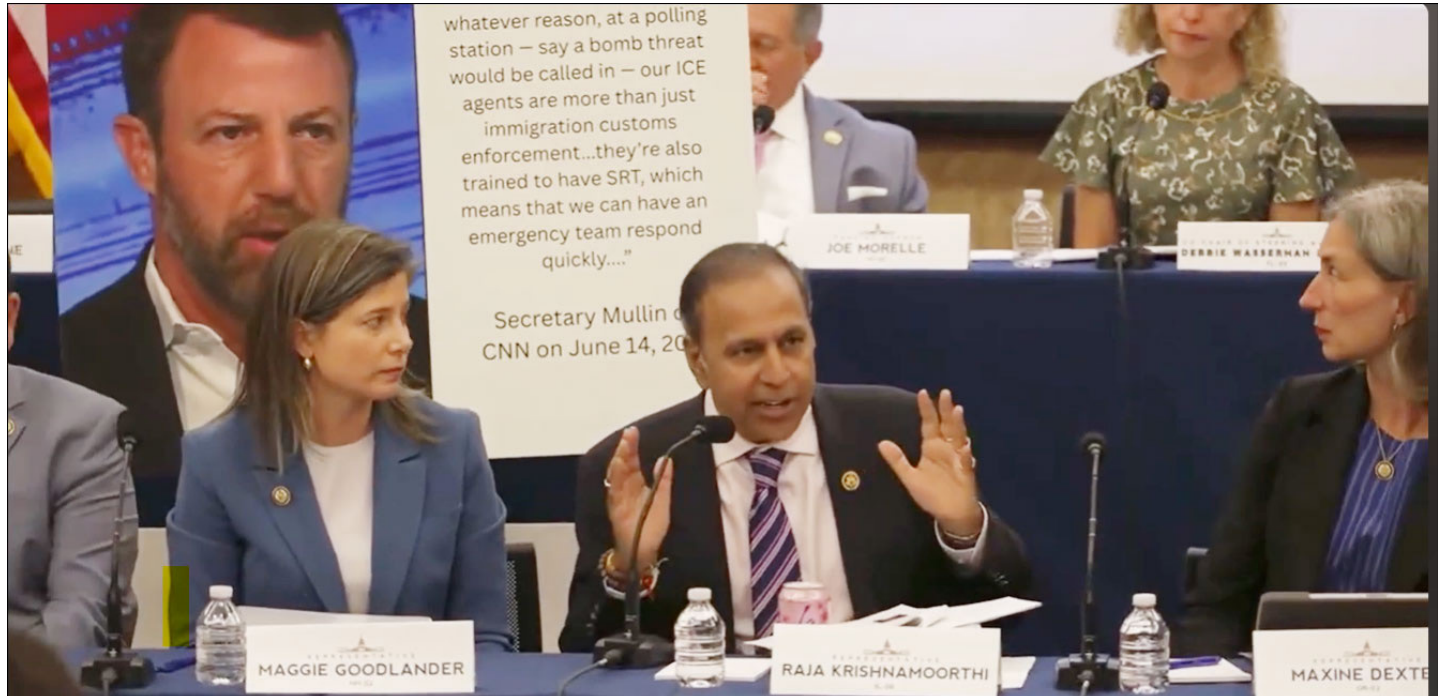
The MEA's clarification may appear technical, but it reflects a larger transition underway. India is gradually moving from a document-based administrative model toward a verification-based governance system. That transition will inevitably generate debate. The challenge for policymakers is to ensure that the pursuit of security strengthens, rather than complicates, the rights and confidence of India's law-abiding citizens.

Ultimately, the credibility of Indian citizenship depends not only on who receives a passport, but on the integrity, transparency, and fairness of the entire system that stands behind it.

Krishnamoorthi threatens subpoena of Postmaster General over Trump mail ballot plan

By: IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi warned Postmaster General David Steiner on Thursday that he would pursue a congressional subpoena and push for his removal if the United States Postal Service continues advancing a mail ballot proposal tied to President Donald Trump's March executive order. The proposal would limit ballot delivery to voters listed on a federally maintained voter database. Krishnamoorthi, a senior member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,



issued the warning after witnesses testified that the Postal Service had published a proposed rule linked to the order. Earlier Thursday, a federal district court blocked key provisions of the executive order,

including the creation of a federal voter list and changes to the Postal Service's role in handling mail ballots.

Krishnamoorthi said the plan could

disenfranchise military personnel and Americans overseas who depend on absentee ballots. He also warned against using security concerns to justify federal interference at polling places.

Grand yoga program held in Varanasi on the eve of International Yoga Day

By: Satyaprakash Dwivedi

A grand yoga program was organized at Castillo Hall in Ranipur-Manduadih, Varanasi, on June 20, 2026, to mark the eve of International Yoga Day. The event was jointly organized by Classical Yoga International, Korea Dhamma Yoga Association, and Kailashpuri Sevashram, bringing together yoga practitioners, trainers, and enthusiasts from across India and overseas. The program highlighted the growing relevance of yoga in today's world, emphasizing its role in promoting physical health, mental well-being, social harmony, and global peace. International Yoga Guru Rishikumar Santosh Ji Maharaj led yoga sessions and delivered insightful lectures on the universal significance of yoga and its ability to foster positive thinking and holistic development.

Participants from several Indian states, along with trainees from South Korea and other countries, attended the event. Various aspects of yoga were demonstrated through practical sessions, showcasing its scientific foundation, therapeutic value, and practical application in everyday life.

Representatives and members of the Bharatiya Janjagaran Samiti, Rashtra Jagaran Abhiyan, and the World Women's Upliftment Organization actively participated in the event. Speakers emphasized that yoga is far more than a physical exercise—it is a comprehensive way of life that nurtures individual well-being, social unity, and global welfare.

The organizers stressed that the far-reaching benefits of yoga can contribute significantly to world peace, harmony, and sustainable human development.



The successful event was coordinated by Manindra Kumar Srivastava, Harishankar Das, Shyama Ji Maharaj, Purnamasi Ji Maharaj, and Kumar Vikram, whose efforts ensured smooth execution of the program.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to embrace yoga as an integral part of daily life and to promote its practice across society for the betterment of humanity and lasting peace.



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Consulate General of India in Chicago celebrates 12th International Day of Yoga with great fervor



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Consulate General of India in Chicago commemorated the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 with a large community gathering at the National India Hub in Schaumburg on June 21. The event brought together hundreds of yoga practitioners, wellness enthusiasts, community leaders, and families from across the Midwest to celebrate the ancient Indian tradition of yoga and its enduring relevance in modern life.

Observed under the global theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” the program highlighted the role of yoga in promoting physical health, mental well-being, and emotional balance throughout all stages of life. Participants took part in a guided session based on the internationally recognized Common Yoga Protocol, performing a series of yoga postures, breathing exercises, and meditation practices designed to enhance overall wellness.

The event reflected the growing popularity of yoga as a holistic approach

to healthy living and demonstrated its ability to bring together people from diverse backgrounds in a spirit of harmony and mindfulness. Numerous cultural, spiritual, educational, and community organizations from across the region joined in support of the celebration, underscoring the widespread appeal of yoga and its message of unity.

In addition to the Chicago-area gathering, International Day of Yoga programs were organized across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota,

Missouri, and Wisconsin with the support of local organizations and community groups. Collectively, these events drew thousands of participants throughout the Midwest, making the 2026 observance one of the region’s largest celebrations of International Day of Yoga.

The annual observance, first established by the United Nations in 2014, continues to serve as a global platform for promoting health, wellness, mindfulness, and cross-cultural understanding through the practice of yoga.



India’s latest national health survey shows significant gains in maternal and child health

● By: Vandana Jhingan

India has recorded substantial progress in maternal healthcare, child nutrition, immunization, and health insurance coverage, according to the findings of the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6), the country’s most comprehensive assessment of health and demographic indicators. The survey highlights notable improvements in maternal and child health outcomes, reflecting the impact of sustained investments in healthcare infrastructure, public health programs, and community-based service delivery across the country. One of the most encouraging findings is the continued rise in institutional deliveries, which increased from 88.6 percent to 90.6 percent. Births

attended by skilled health personnel also rose to 91.3 percent, while nearly 96 percent of pregnant women received antenatal care. Early antenatal registration during the first trimester improved significantly, increasing from 70 percent to 76.2 percent. Postnatal care for newborns within the first two days after birth also showed marked improvement.

Maternal nutrition indicators revealed positive gains, with the proportion of women consuming iron and folic acid supplements for at least 100 days during pregnancy increasing from 44.1 percent to 54.9 percent. The survey also reports strong progress toward universal immunization. Full vaccination coverage among children aged 12 to 23 months increased from 83.8

percent to 87.1 percent. Rotavirus vaccine coverage more than doubled, rising from 36.4 percent to 85.4 percent, while coverage of the second dose of the measles vaccine increased from 58.6 percent to 71.8 percent. Public health facilities continue to play a critical role, providing most vaccinations to over 95 percent of children.

Child nutrition indicators showed significant improvement as well. Stunting among children under five years of age declined from 35.5 percent to 29.3 percent, while severe wasting fell from 7.7 percent to 5.2 percent. Health experts attribute these gains to the combined impact of nutrition, sanitation, maternal health, and child welfare initiatives implemented across the country.

Another major achievement highlighted by NFHS-6 is the expansion of health insurance coverage. The proportion of households covered under a health insurance or health financing scheme increased sharply from 41 percent to 60.2 percent, providing greater financial protection against medical expenses and improving access to healthcare services for millions of families.

The survey findings underscore India’s continuing efforts to strengthen its healthcare system and improve health outcomes for women and children. Public health experts view the results as an important milestone in the country’s journey toward achieving universal health coverage and ensuring healthier lives for future generations.

Chicagoland hosts major International Yoga Day celebration in Naperville

By: Ashwani Mahajan

Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts, community members, and wellness advocates gathered in Naperville to celebrate the 12th International Day of Yoga, joining millions around the world in promoting health, harmony, and holistic well-being through the practice of yoga.

The large community event brought together people of all ages and backgrounds for a morning dedicated to physical fitness, mental wellness, and spiritual balance. Participants took part in guided yoga sessions, breathing exercises, meditation, and wellness activities designed to encourage healthy living and mindfulness. A unique blend of yoga and live music created a peaceful and uplifting



atmosphere, enhancing the experience for attendees and highlighting yoga's ability to unite people across cultures and communities. The event emphasized the growing importance of yoga as a practical tool for managing stress, improving

physical health, and fostering emotional well-being in today's fast-paced world.

Community leaders and dignitaries attending the celebration praised yoga's role in promoting healthier lifestyles,

strengthening community bonds, and encouraging inner peace. Organizers noted that International Yoga Day has evolved into a global movement that transcends national and cultural boundaries while promoting the universal values of wellness, self-discipline, and harmony.



The program also recognized the efforts of volunteers, community organizations, and supporters whose contributions helped make the event a success. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come together in a spirit of unity and wellness while celebrating one of India's most valuable gifts to the world.

The celebration concluded with a message of gratitude and a renewed commitment to incorporating yoga and mindfulness into daily life, reinforcing the timeless message of health, peace, and balance for individuals and communities alike.

Embassy of India celebrates 12th International Day of Yoga in Washington, D.C.

By: Vandana Jhingan

The Embassy of India in the United States celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 with a vibrant gathering at the iconic Lincoln Memorial on June 19. Held under the global theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," the event brought together a large number of yoga practitioners, community members, and wellness enthusiasts for a morning dedicated

to health, harmony, and holistic well-being.

Addressing the gathering, India's Ambassador to the United States highlighted yoga's universal appeal and its role as a timeless gift from India to the world. He noted that yoga transcends geographical, cultural, and religious boundaries, promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and inner balance for people of all ages. He also recalled India's initiative at the United Nations that led to the establishment of

the International Day of Yoga, a resolution that received unprecedented global support. As part of the celebrations, an Ayurveda information corner was set up to introduce participants to India's traditional system of medicine and wellness practices. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about various Ayurvedic approaches to preventive healthcare and healthy living.

The celebration was the culmination of a series of outreach and awareness

programs organized by the Embassy at several locations across the Washington, D.C. region in the weeks leading up to International Day of Yoga. Observed annually around the world, the International Day of Yoga continues to serve as a global platform for promoting a healthy lifestyle, mindfulness, and the message of unity through wellness. The Washington event reflected the growing popularity of yoga and its enduring relevance in fostering healthier and more balanced communities.



Protect your vision, protect your life – Part 4

Children's eye health: Protecting vision during the most important years

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

A child's vision is one of the most important foundations for healthy growth and development. Nearly eighty percent of a child's learning occurs through the eyes, making good vision essential for academic success, social interaction, physical coordination, and overall confidence. Yet many childhood eye disorders develop silently. Unlike adults, children often do not realize that their vision is abnormal because they assume everyone sees the world the same way they do. Parents frequently attribute poor school performance, lack of concentration, or behavioral changes to learning difficulties when, in reality, an undiagnosed vision problem may be the underlying cause. The encouraging news is that most childhood eye conditions are highly treatable when diagnosed early. Timely intervention can prevent permanent vision loss and allow children to develop normal visual skills that will benefit them throughout life. In this fourth installment of our Protect Your Vision, Protect Your Life series, we examine the most common eye disorders affecting children, discuss warning signs parents should recognize, and explain why early eye examinations are among the most important investments in a child's future.

Amblyopia (Lazy Eye): A race against time
Amblyopia, commonly known as Lazy Eye, is one of the leading causes of preventable vision impairment in children. The condition develops when one eye fails to communicate effectively with the brain. As the brain increasingly relies on the stronger eye, vision in the weaker eye gradually deteriorates. Lazy eye may result from unequal refractive errors, crossed eyes (strabismus), congenital cataracts, or drooping eyelids that interfere with normal visual development. Since children rarely complain about poor vision in one eye, parents should watch for subtle signs such as frequent head tilting, poor depth perception, difficulty catching a ball, or consistently closing one eye while reading or watching television. The first few years of life represent a critical period for visual development. Treatment during this period is remarkably successful and may include prescription eyeglasses, eye patching, medicated eye drops, or surgery when necessary. Delayed treatment, however, may result in permanent vision loss that cannot be corrected later in life.

Strabismus (Crossed Eyes): More than a cosmetic concern
Strabismus is a condition in which the eyes fail to align properly and point in different directions. One eye may turn inward, outward, upward, or downward while the other focuses normally. Many parents mistakenly believe children will "grow out of" crossed eyes. Unfortunately, untreated strabismus can interfere with normal brain development, impair depth perception, and eventually lead to amblyopia. The condition may arise from abnormalities in the eye muscles, nerve control, neurological disorders, or significant uncorrected refractive errors. Modern ophthalmology offers several effective treatment options, including corrective glasses, vision therapy, prism lenses, eye muscle exercises, and surgical correction when indicated. Early diagnosis significantly improves the likelihood of restoring normal



eye alignment and binocular vision.

Refractive errors: The most common cause of blurred vision

Refractive errors are among the most common eye problems encountered during childhood. They occur when the eye cannot properly focus light onto the retina, resulting in blurred vision. The three principal refractive errors include myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), and astigmatism, each affecting vision differently.

Children with refractive errors may frequently squint, rub their eyes, complain of headaches after reading, sit unusually close to televisions or digital screens, or lose interest in classroom activities requiring clear distance vision. Fortunately, these conditions can usually be corrected easily with properly prescribed eyeglasses. In selected older children, contact lenses may also be appropriate under professional supervision.

The rising epidemic of childhood myopia

One of the fastest-growing public health concerns worldwide is the dramatic increase in childhood myopia. Eye specialists have observed a steady rise in nearsightedness over the past two decades, particularly among children who spend long hours indoors using computers, tablets, smartphones, and other digital devices. High myopia is far more than simply requiring stronger glasses. As the eyeball becomes progressively elongated, the lifetime risk of retinal detachment, glaucoma, cataracts, and myopic retinal degeneration increases substantially. Fortunately, modern medicine offers several strategies to slow the progression of myopia. Specialized contact lenses, orthokeratology, and low-dose atropine eye drops have shown encouraging results in carefully selected patients. Equally important are simple lifestyle modifications. Research consistently demonstrates that children who spend more time outdoors have a lower risk of developing progressive myopia. Parents should encourage outdoor play whenever possible and limit prolonged screen exposure during leisure hours.

Digital screens and children's eyes

Today's children belong to the first generation raised almost entirely in the digital age. Smartphones, tablets, computers, gaming

consoles, and virtual learning have become an integral part of childhood. Although digital screens do not permanently damage the eyes, prolonged use frequently causes Digital Eye Strain, leading to eye fatigue, dryness, blurred vision, headaches, neck pain, and reduced concentration.

Parents can greatly reduce these symptoms by encouraging healthy screen habits. The widely recommended 20-20-20 Rule remains one of the simplest preventive measures: every twenty minutes, children should look at an object at least twenty feet away for twenty seconds. Maintaining proper viewing distance, ensuring adequate lighting, and scheduling regular breaks can also reduce visual fatigue. Outdoor activities continue to provide one of the most effective natural protections for developing eyes.

The importance of early eye examinations

Many serious childhood eye disorders produce few or no obvious symptoms during their early stages. Consequently, routine comprehensive eye examinations remain the most effective way to detect vision problems before they interfere with learning or become permanent. Eye evaluations should begin during infancy, especially for children born prematurely or those with a family history of eye disease. Additional examinations during the preschool years and before entering school allow ophthalmologists to identify conditions while treatment remains highly effective.

Children diagnosed with refractive errors, strabismus, amblyopia, diabetes, or other medical conditions affecting vision may require more frequent examinations as advised by their eye care professional.

Warning signs parents should never ignore

Parents should seek prompt ophthalmic evaluation whenever a child demonstrates persistent eye rubbing, excessive tearing, crossed eyes, unusual sensitivity to light, drooping eyelids, frequent headaches, blurred or double vision, difficulty reading, sitting unusually close to books or television screens, or a white reflection appearing in photographs. These symptoms may indicate underlying eye disease requiring immediate medical attention. Early diagnosis often makes the difference between complete visual

recovery and lifelong visual impairment.

Protecting vision during childhood protects a lifetime

Childhood offers a unique window of opportunity during which vision develops rapidly and many eye disorders can be completely corrected. Delayed diagnosis, however, may result in permanent visual impairment that affects education, career opportunities, independence, and quality of life. Parents, teachers, pediatricians, and ophthalmologists all share responsibility for protecting children's eyesight. Regular comprehensive eye examinations, healthy visual habits, outdoor activities, balanced nutrition, and prompt treatment of eye disorders remain the cornerstones of lifelong eye health.

Protecting a child's vision is not simply about helping them see better today—it is about safeguarding their ability to learn, explore, achieve, and enjoy life for decades to come.

Coming next: Part 5 – The final article

In the concluding article of this Eye Care Series, we will examine several important topics that affect people of every age, including:

- ▶ Eye Injuries and Emergency Care
- ▶ LASIK and Vision Correction Surgery
- ▶ Eye Pressure and Optic Nerve Damage
- ▶ Nutrition for Healthy Eyes
- ▶ Contact Lens Safety
- ▶ Preventing Blindness
- ▶ Importance of Routine Comprehensive Eye Examinations

The final article will bring together practical guidance that every family can use to preserve healthy eyesight throughout life.

Disclaimer

This article is intended solely for educational and public awareness purposes and should not be considered medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Individuals experiencing eye symptoms or changes in vision should consult a qualified ophthalmologist or eye care professional promptly. Early diagnosis and timely treatment remain the best safeguards against avoidable vision loss.

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: CREDIT CARDS & SCORES

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -2.8% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 38 (fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 52.88% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 56.00% (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 7/29/26+ hold
 FOMC 9/16/26+ hike

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.83%, 1-yr 4.00%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 4.19%, 5-yr 4.23%, 10-yr 4.46%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.90%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.96%, 10-yr 2.21%, 30-yr 2.70%
 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 67.64 (greed-high)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA +2.59%, INDY



+2.11%, EPI +2.26%, INDH +1.36% | SPY +0.93%

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

GEOPOLITICS. US-Iran deal & opening of the Strait of Hormuz will benefit Indian economy, markets & rupee. Hopefully, it will last. India & most EMs were hurt badly by the Iran war. India ETFs in US include the largest, market-cap weighted INDA, earnings-weighted EPI & rupee-hedged tiny INDH.

CONSUMERS. Food ingredients, sweeteners & industrial starches supplier Ingredion/INGR (US) has announced a joint-venture (JV), 9% stake & partnership with Indian Sanstar.

IT/TECH

UK will block Sunil Bharti MITTAL's (Bharti Enterprises) bid to raise its BT

Group (telecom) stake from 24.95% to 29.9% citing telecom as critical infrastructure. In UK, 25%+ ownership triggers a government review & 30%+ ownership triggers a full takeover offer. Sunil Mittal also serves on BT board. A UK government source said that it's just being cautious despite prior indications that Bharti Enterprises wasn't interested in acquiring BT.

HUMANOID robots have been topics of science fiction, novels, movies & TV shows. Now, service humanoids have become reality as costs have come down - for restaurants, hospitals, trade shows & homes.

US DOD is also interested in military humanoids that Foundation Future Industries (04/2024; CEO Sankaet PATHAK) is developing for dual industrial & military use. Company has tested some military humanoids in Ukraine (model Phantom MK-1) & is developing an improved model Phantom 2. Eric TRUMP is an investor & strategic advisor. China is also developing military robots. In future, there may be autonomous AI/robotic wars. The CEO formerly ran fintech Synapse, a unicorn that collapsed into bankruptcy in 2024 (accounting/records irregularities, disputes with major banking partner).

SPECIAL TOPICS - CREDIT CARDS & SCORES

There have been several new developments for credit cards & scores since a previous article on 9/7/24.

CREDIT CARD issuers & retailers have finally settled on high interchange fees (merchant charges):

1. There will be 3 categories of cards - standard, premium (with rewards), business. The interchange charges will be capped for standard cards for 8 years at 1.25%.

2. Merchants won't be obligated to accept all types of cards from the same issuer. Retailers can choose to decline premium cards & others with fees above 1.25% from the same issuer. This lack of wide acceptance of major credit cards may create confusion for consumers. Merchants may also see decline in sales if lot of cards are rejected for fee-related reasons. Previously, the cards are declined only for credit or security reasons, often based on cardholders' use patterns.

3. Merchants can add variable card fees (surcharges) with disclosures. This is also not seen as a consumer-friendly move that may slow the adoption of electronic payments.

Card issuers will be less likely to promote reward cards (almost 80% now). Consumers like them more than merchants.

CREDIT SCORES are important for the issuance of credit including credit cards. There are older FICO scores & newer VantageScores. Recently, the GSEs Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac have started using both FICO scores & VantageScore for mortgage application reviews.

Rents & BNPL credit may also be reported & used for scores on a more consistent basis by the credit reporting agencies. Consumers are frustrated that some of their monthly payments aren't reflected in their credit histories & scores.

In an additional fee reducing move, FICO score & VantageScores will be available directly to businesses instead of only through credit bureaus. Many businesses want only the credit scores for initial screening & then look at the detailed credit reports if necessary.

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 barely there shoe trend taking over summer

This summer, fashion is making room for a shoe that feels light, modern and just a little daring. Mesh shoes are replacing basic flats as the season's most talked-about footwear choice, offering the ease of a closed shoe with the breezy attitude of a sandal. They

show just enough skin to feel playful without feeling overly exposed, making them a clever middle ground for anyone who wants comfort, polish and a subtle fashion statement.

The appeal begins with practicality. Mesh naturally allows the foot to



breathe, which makes it ideal for hot days, long walks, travel plans and city dressing. But the trend is not just about comfort. Visually, mesh adds texture and softness to an outfit. A simple white dress, denim skirt, linen trouser or tailored short suddenly feels more styled when paired with a sheer ballet flat or woven Mary Jane.

The most wearable version is the mesh flat. It works beautifully for daytime dressing and can move from brunch to errands to casual evenings with ease. Tight-weave styles feel more refined and office-friendly, while open-weave designs lean more relaxed and vacation-ready. Shades like black, nude, ivory and chocolate brown offer maximum versatility, while cherry red, silver or animal-inspired patterns can turn the shoe into the focal point of the look.

Mesh sneakers offer a sportier interpretation of the trend. They are ideal for those who want the breathability of mesh but prefer a more grounded, street-style finish. They pair well with relaxed denim, cargo pants, cotton dresses and matching sets.

For evenings, mesh heels bring the drama. Mules, wedges and slingback styles give the foot a delicate, elongated look without the heaviness of traditional pumps. They are an easy way to refresh a night-out outfit, especially when worn with slip dresses, wide-leg trousers or monochrome tailoring. The key to wearing mesh shoes well is balance. Since the material is sheer and delicate, keep the rest of the outfit clean, intentional and well-fitted. A little toe, it turns out, can say a lot.

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