

Trump's election commission firings leave federal voting agency leaderless before midterms



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's removal of the two Democratic members of the Election Assistance Commission has left the federal election-support agency without sitting commissioners months before the November midterms. Thomas Hicks and Benjamin Hovland were dismissed by White House email on Thursday, while Republican commissioner Christy McCormick resigned and another Republican seat had already been vacant. The four-member bipartisan commission, created after the disputed 2000 election, helps state and local officials administer elections without federalizing them. Its work includes testing and certifying voting systems, accrediting laboratories, maintaining the national mail voter registration form and distributing federal election funds. A White House official said Trump can remove officials not aligned with securing elections, citing a recent Supreme Court ruling expanding presidential authority over independent agencies. Critics warned the move could weaken support for local election officials ahead of the midterms.

Indian agencies warn of Inter-Services Intelligence-backed Khalistan threat



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies have warned of an alleged campaign by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and Khalistan-linked extremists to target members of the Indian diaspora in Canada and the United Kingdom. Officials cited in the report said individuals perceived as pro-India or supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could be singled out through coordinated attacks, rather than isolated incidents. Agencies believe Europe-based modules, social media messaging and gangster networks may be used to activate violence abroad and in India. Officials said Indian investigative agencies handling Khalistan-related cases could also be targeted. The warning comes amid concerns over hate crimes, intimidation and violence linked to extremist elements overseas. Indian agencies are coordinating with Western counterparts to strengthen monitoring and security. Officials said the alleged plan reflects frustration over declining support for the Khalistan movement and India's improving ties with Canada and the United Kingdom.

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‘Operation Hard Ball’ puts Bishnoi network, Goldy Brar at center of Nijjar killing probe

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The United States indictment of Lawrence Bishnoi, Satinderjeet Singh, also known as Goldy Brar, and other alleged crime figures has placed the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar within a wider transnational organized crime probe, while Canadian police said the case does not link Indian government officials to the charges announced this week.

United States prosecutors charged 37 defendants across three indictments under ‘Operation Hard Ball,’ a multinational investigation into India-based syndicates accused of murder, extortion, kidnapping, firearms offenses, narcotics trafficking and cross-border violence. Authorities said 24 people were arrested in the United States, Canada and Europe, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation separately offered up to \$50,000 for information leading to Goldy Brar's arrest.

The indictment alleges that Bishnoi directed Nijjar's killing from prison in India using smuggled cellphones, while Brar oversaw the network's North American operations. Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and Khalistan separatist whom India had designated a terrorist, was shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia,



in 2023. Reuters reported that the United States indictment did not implicate the Indian government.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Deputy Commissioner Lisa Moreland also said the organized-crime investigation had produced no evidence linking Indian officials to the charges, while noting that Canada's separate criminal case remains ongoing. She added that Indian authorities cooperated with investigators. The clarification is significant because Nijjar's killing triggered a major diplomatic crisis after former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged

possible Indian government involvement, a charge New Delhi rejected as “absurd.”

United States officials described the Bishnoi network as a global criminal enterprise that used violence to create fear, particularly in diaspora communities. Prosecutors said the crackdown targeted groups operating across North America, Europe and Asia, underscoring growing cooperation among law enforcement agencies against organized crime, narcotics trafficking and extremist-linked violence. All charges remain allegations unless proven in court.

United States and Iran trade strikes, pushing ceasefire toward collapse

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and Iran exchanged their heaviest attacks in days on Thursday, placing an interim ceasefire and planned negotiations under renewed strain. United States Central Command said it struck about 90 targets across Iran after earlier attacks on three commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran retaliated by firing missiles and drones toward Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan, where American forces are stationed. Kuwait

said falling debris wounded one person, while regional governments reported intercepting incoming fire. Iran said two days of American strikes killed at least 14 people and wounded 78. President Donald Trump declared the ceasefire effectively over and warned of harsher action if shipping is attacked again. Washington also revoked permission allowing Iran to sell oil openly. The escalation unfolded during Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral, which concluded Friday in Mashhad, and threatened talks on reopening the strait and limiting Iran's nuclear program.

Australia clears uranium exports to India for peaceful nuclear energy use

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia will begin selling uranium to India for peaceful civil nuclear use after Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese and Narendra Modi signed an administrative arrangement in Melbourne on Thursday, ending years of delay over safeguards. The deal implements a 2014 export agreement that stalled because India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Australia has the world's largest known uranium resources and exports all its uranium, while India aims to build 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047. The leaders gave no shipment



timeline or volume. Their joint statement also pledged deeper defense, security and Indo-Pacific cooperation, reflecting the expanding strategic partnership between the two countries.

International Monetary Fund sees resilience in global economy, India gains from supply chain shifts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The global economy has remained resilient despite the Middle East war, helped by artificial intelligence-led investment and productivity gains, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday. Spokesperson Julie Kozack said higher energy, food and fertilizer prices have created a negative supply shock, but technology investment has helped offset the pressure. The fund projects global growth of 3 percent in 2026 and 3.4 percent in 2027, while warning that commodity-importing countries with limited fiscal space remain most exposed. Its forecast assumes shipping through the Strait of Hormuz begins normalizing in mid-July and oil averages about \$89 a barrel this year.

Kozack also said India is benefiting from supply chain diversification, especially in electronics, where exports rose 24 percent in fiscal year 2025-2026. The fund expects India to grow 6.4 percent in fiscal year 2026-2027 and urged continued reforms in skills, labor flexibility, business rules and trade integration.

Khamenei buried in Mashhad while successor remains hidden from public view



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran’s slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was buried early Friday at the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad after a week of state-backed funeral processions across Iran and Iraq. Huge crowds gathered Thursday in his hometown, waving Iranian flags, holding images of the late leader and chanting against the United States and President Donald Trump. Khamenei was killed in February in the first strikes of the war launched by the United States and Israel. His son and successor, Mojtaba Khamenei, has not appeared publicly since the war began, though he has issued written statements. Reuters reported he suffered severe injuries in the same strike and is being kept out of view for health and security reasons. The burial closes Khamenei’s disputed 37-year rule at a critical moment for Iran.

Replica of mosque set alight on Northern Ireland bonfire

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A replica of a mosque was set alight on a loyalist bonfire in Moygashel, Northern Ireland, on Thursday night before police could remove what they described as a hate display. The structure included an effigy holding an object resembling a knife and banners calling for tighter borders and an end to radical Islam. A 56-year-old man was charged with incitement to hatred, denied the charge in court Friday and was refused bail. The bonfire was lit early while police were preparing to secure the site and seize the material as evidence. Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn condemned the display as a sickening act of intimidation. The incident came before annual Protestant loyalist commemorations of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne and followed recent anti-migrant violence in Belfast.

Sudan’s fragile peace push stalls over demand for Rapid Support Forces exit from cities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sudan’s army-led government has told Washington that any broad acceptance of a United States peace proposal must require the Rapid Support Forces to withdraw from all cities it has occupied since May 2023, documents reviewed by Reuters show. The American proposal, presented last month, called for an immediate 90-day humanitarian truce, talks on a permanent ceasefire and a civilian-led transition toward elections. It also proposed a United Nations-led mechanism for limited Rapid Support Forces withdrawals, with priority for North Darfur and North Kordofan. Sudan’s army accepted much of the plan but objected to a narrow pullback. The war began in April 2023 after the army and Rapid Support Forces split over troop integration and civilian rule.

India and Russia widen counterterror agenda to include radicalization, financing and emerging technology

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Russia agreed to deepen counterterrorism cooperation during the 14th meeting of their Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi on Wednesday. The talks were co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary West in India’s Ministry of External Affairs, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Dmitry Lyubinsky, with officials from relevant agencies on both sides attending. The two countries condemned terrorism in all forms, including cross-border terrorism, and denounced last year’s Pahalgam attack and the Red Fort terror incident in November 2025. They called for coordinated action against terrorist groups listed by



the United Nations Security Council’s 1267 Sanctions Committee, along with their proxies and affiliates. Both sides also discussed violent extremism, radicalization, terror financing, and the use of emerging technologies and digital financial systems for terrorist purposes. The next meeting will be held in Russia.

Carney defends Saudi outreach in push to diversify Canada’s trade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney defended direct engagement with Saudi Arabia on Thursday, arguing that criticizing governments from a distance rarely produces results. During the first visit by a Canadian leader to the kingdom in 26 years, Carney met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah and said diplomacy did not require agreement with every Saudi policy. His trip reflects Ottawa’s effort to reduce its heavy economic dependence on

the United States amid President Donald Trump’s tariffs and threats to the North American trade agreement. Carney and Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said they raised human rights and consular cases with Saudi officials. The visit marks a shift from the public criticism that triggered a five-year diplomatic rupture under former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Canadian and Saudi organizations also signed 13 agreements and memorandums valued at more than 1 billion Canadian dollars, or about \$710 million, covering engineering, investment and institutional cooperation.

Nirav Shah joins crowded Democratic fight for Maine Senate seat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American physician Nirav Shah entered Maine’s United States Senate race on Thursday, joining a rapidly expanding Democratic field seeking to challenge Republican Senator Susan Collins. Shah, who became widely known while leading Maine’s public health response during the coronavirus pandemic, announced a statewide town hall tour and appealed to supporters of Graham Platner, whose campaign ended earlier in the week. Shah presented himself as a progressive opponent of President Donald Trump and Collins, backing universal government health coverage, higher taxes on billionaires and large corporations, limits on immigration enforcement and an end to overseas wars. He also criticized Collins’ support for Supreme Court Justice Brett



Kavanaugh and accused her of repeatedly enabling Trump’s agenda. Shah previously served at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before returning to Maine politics. The closely watched contest is considered important to Democratic hopes of gaining control of the Senate in November’s midterm elections.

Epstein ranch probe faces federal file dispute between New Mexico and Justice Department

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Mexico Attorney General Raul Torrez accused the United States Department of Justice on Thursday of hindering the state’s investigation into Jeffrey Epstein’s former Zorro Ranch by withholding unredacted files. The state reopened its probe in February into allegations that Epstein abused women and girls at the ranch south of Santa Fe over nearly three decades. Torrez said the federal department had not provided names of survivors, witnesses, co-conspirators and others considered essential to the inquiry, calling the 130-day delay unreasonable. The Justice



Department said it responded in June and remained ready to assist with any federal crimes uncovered. Torrez previously said investigators face obstacles including the passage of time, missing evidence and jurisdictional issues after the ranch was sold in 2023.

Costa Rica’s anti-crime crackdown sparks showdown between president and judiciary

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Costa Rica’s new president, Laura Fernandez, is locked in a growing confrontation with the judiciary over her hardline response to drug-related violence. The dispute, two months into her term, centers on planned court budget cuts and a proposal to let Congress, rather than the Supreme Court, appoint the attorney general. Fernandez has accused the judiciary of being infiltrated by organized crime and of blocking security policies inspired by El Salvador’s mass-incarceration model. Judicial leaders deny the allegations and say the government is weakening democratic checks and balances. Costa Rica, once seen as one of Central America’s calmer nations, now records about two murders a day. Officials and experts blame trafficking groups exploiting the country’s position on cocaine routes to northern markets.

Trump offers Ukraine Patriot missile production license amid growing Russian air attacks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the United States would grant Ukraine a license to manufacture Patriot missile interceptors, giving Kyiv a potential long-term boost against Russian ballistic missile attacks. Speaking alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at a North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Ankara, Trump called Patriots defensive weapons and said some interceptors could be sent immediately, though he offered few details. Sources familiar with the talks said production could take place in Germany or another European country to reduce the risk of Russian strikes on Ukrainian factories. Ukrainian officials welcomed the shift, but analysts warned it would not solve Kyiv’s immediate shortage. Russia again struck Kyiv overnight with ballistic missiles that Ukraine said it could not intercept.

Spain seeks to ease Trump tensions after defense spending dispute at NATO summit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spain said Thursday that President Donald Trump softened his criticism of Madrid after being briefed on Spain’s increased contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. At the alliance summit in Ankara on Wednesday, Trump had called Spain a poor partner and threatened to halt trade after disputes over defense spending and the Iran war.

Later, aboard Air Force One, he said Spain had been “very generous” and honored payment requests. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Madrid would meet the alliance’s previous 2 percent of gross domestic product target this year after more than doubling nominal defense spending since 2017. However, Trump remains critical of Spain’s refusal to commit to a new 5 percent target by 2035, and possible trade measures remain unclear.

Turkey’s revolver diplomacy leaves NATO leaders managing live ammunition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan gave North Atlantic Treaty Organization leaders an unusual parting gift after Wednesday’s summit in Ankara: engraved vintage revolvers with live ammunition. The gift appeared intended to showcase Turkey’s growing defense industry, a major export sector and foreign policy tool. Images from Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda’s office showed what appeared to be a Gumusay .357 Magnum, a rare Turkish-made six-shooter from the 1990s, displayed in a wooden box with Turkey’s flag and the alliance logo. Several governments quickly moved to secure or disable the weapons. Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever handed his to airport police, while Dutch and Swedish officials sent theirs to embassies in Ankara. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s gift reportedly included a cleaning kit and 500 bullets.

Southern China floods kill 39 after Tropical Storm Maysak breaches reservoirs



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Flooding triggered by Tropical Storm Maysak has killed 39 people in southern China, authorities said Thursday, while rescue teams continued evacuations across Guangxi. Most deaths occurred in Hengzhou, where a partial reservoir dam collapse sent torrents of water into the city and killed 26 people. Nine people remain missing across the region. The storm brought record rainfall beginning Saturday, breaching reservoirs, stranding residents and forcing about 130,000 evacuations. Military teams also rescued more than 10,000 trapped students and teachers in Guigang. Officials said floodwaters were receding but more rain was expected. Meanwhile, Typhoon Bavi moved toward Taiwan and China’s east coast, prompting port and school closures.

Georgian opposition politician sentenced to 13 years on terrorism charge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Georgian court sentenced opposition politician Aleko Elisashvili to 13 years in prison Friday after convicting him of attempted terrorism for trying to set fire to a court building in Tbilisi last year. Prosecutors said the Citizens party founder smashed a window at the court’s chancellery building with a hammer, poured gasoline inside and attempted to ignite it. Elisashvili pleaded not guilty, saying he acted in protest against the government’s crackdown on the opposition. Several Georgian opposition politicians are already imprisoned, while the ruling Georgian Dream party is seeking to ban a broader political grouping that includes Elisashvili’s party. Critics say Georgia has become increasingly authoritarian since the war in Ukraine began, straining its relations with the European Union. It remained unclear whether Elisashvili would appeal.

United States lawmakers seek China link in Tiananmen museum attack in California

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two senior Republican lawmakers urged federal authorities on Thursday to investigate whether China was connected to the vandalism of a Tiananmen Square memorial museum in California. Representatives Chris Smith of New Jersey and John Moolenaar of Michigan asked the Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation to examine the break-in at the June Fourth Massacre Memorial Museum in El Monte. Intruders reportedly spray-painted exhibits, damaged property and disrupted the surveillance system shortly before the 37th anniversary of the 1989 crackdown. The lawmakers said investigators should determine whether the incident was ordinary vandalism or part of a broader campaign of transnational repression targeting Chinese dissidents in the United States. They cited previous attacks, surveillance and intimidation involving anti-Communist Party activists in California. Smith and Moolenaar also requested a briefing on law enforcement training, reporting systems and resources available to museums, civil society groups and diaspora communities that suspect foreign-government harassment.

Netanyahu expands defense spending and hardens positions on Iran, Lebanon

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel would prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, regardless of whether Tehran reaches an international agreement. Speaking at an air force graduation ceremony, Netanyahu defended the recent United States and Israeli strikes on Iran and announced plans to add 350 billion shekels, about \$116 billion, to Israel’s defense budget over the next decade. He said substantial funding would support the air force and a larger domestic munitions industry, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers. Military chief Eyal Zamir said Israel was closely monitoring Iran and Lebanon and was ready for immediate action. Defense Minister Israel Katz separately said Israeli forces would remain in southern Lebanon until Hezbollah is fully disarmed. Katz claimed Israel had established a security zone extending from the Mediterranean coast toward Beaufort Castle and the approaches to Mount Hermon. His comments signaled that Israel’s regional military posture could remain expansive despite diplomatic efforts to contain the conflict.

Mexico escalates legal pressure over migrant deaths in United States custody and raids

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Thursday that her government will file criminal complaints in the United States over Mexican citizens who died in immigration custody or during enforcement operations. Mexico says 14 nationals have died while held by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and three more during arrest operations. The move follows Tuesday’s fatal shooting of 52-year-old Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by an immigration agent in Houston, which sparked protests. Foreign Minister Roberto Velasco said Mexico would move beyond diplomatic channels and approach American prosecutors directly. The government also plans civil lawsuits against private companies operating immigration detention centers. The United States Department of Homeland Security said detainee death rates had not increased under the Trump administration and that detainees receive due process and care.

Rights group alleges widening police abuses amid Kashmir unrest

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Joint Awami Action Committee accused Pakistani security forces on Thursday of widespread brutality, arbitrary arrests, intimidation and unlawful raids during escalating unrest in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

The allegations followed deadly protests and the arrest of senior committee figures, including Shaukat Nawaz Mir, who has been charged with sedition. In a video released by the group, physician Masood Khalid said masked officers stormed his home early Tuesday, assaulted him, damaged furniture and a solar power system, threatened his wife and children and took him away in a pickup truck. His claims have not been independently verified.

The committee called for international monitoring and an impartial investigation into alleged human rights violations. Pakistani authorities have accused the organization of inciting violence during demonstrations over legislative seats reserved for refugees from Indian-controlled Kashmir. At least seven people, including security officers and civilians, were reported killed in the unrest, according to officials cited by the Associated Press.

Trump says he will not sign ‘big yawn’ bipartisan housing bill

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Friday that he would not sign a bipartisan housing affordability bill he previously dismissed as a “big yawn,” although the measure can become law without his signature. The legislation would speed up or waive some environmental reviews for housing projects and cap the number of existing single-family homes that large Wall Street investors may own. Trump said he was withholding his signature because the Senate had not passed the Save America Act, which would require proof of citizenship for voter registration and create a national voter database using state records. The White House has not indicated that Trump will veto the housing measure, allowing it to become law Saturday. Democrats accused Republicans of placing voting restrictions ahead of efforts to reduce housing costs before the November midterm elections.

Britain loses case over asylum rejections linked to migrant deal with France

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain’s High Court ruled Friday that the government acted unlawfully by preventing asylum seekers from challenging decisions that rejected their claims of being trafficking victims. The Home Office changed its guidance last September after legal challenges delayed removals under Britain’s “one in, one out” migration agreement with France. Five asylum seekers who had been returned or faced removal brought the case. Judge Clive Sheldon said the policy risked denying people who crossed the English Channel by small boat a meaningful chance to present important evidence. He noted that 79 percent of people initially found not to be trafficking victims received positive decisions after reconsideration in 2025. The Home Office said it would appeal, arguing that late modern slavery claims should not be used to block removals.

China courts Nepal with trade pact push while Kathmandu balances Beijing and New Delhi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China is renewing its outreach to Nepal with proposals for deeper trade, investment safeguards and faster infrastructure delivery, even as Kathmandu tries to balance ties with Beijing and New Delhi. Chinese Vice Minister for Commerce Yan Dong visited Kathmandu this week and proposed a Free Trade Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Agreement, while urging Nepal to create a one-stop service for Chinese investors. Beijing also offered support to speed up delayed trade infrastructure at the Tatopani and Rasuwagadhi border crossings. The visit followed Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal’s trip to Beijing last month, which came after his India visit. Nepal remains closely linked to India through geography, trade, labor and culture, but Chinese investment under the Belt and Road Initiative continues to shape regional competition. Analysts say Kathmandu is seeking benefits from both neighbors while preserving strategic autonomy.



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Satluj controversy: Should freedom of speech supersede national security?



Dr. Avi Verma

The controversy surrounding Satluj (formerly Panjab 95) has reignited one of the most important constitutional debates of our time: Should freedom of speech supersede national security?

This is the burning question being asked by IndoUS Tribune.

Every democracy proudly upholds freedom of expression. It is one of the cornerstones of a free society. Yet no democracy — not India, not the United States, not the United Kingdom, nor any other constitutional nation — treats this freedom as absolute. Every constitutional right carries corresponding responsibilities, and every democracy recognizes that certain reasonable restrictions become necessary when public safety, national security, or communal harmony are at stake.

A simple analogy explains this principle better than pages of constitutional law: You have every right to walk down the road swinging your walking stick. But your freedom ends where another person's nose begins.

The same principle applies to freedom of speech.

People have every right to question governments, expose injustice, criticize institutions, and debate history. But that freedom cannot extend to actions that may inflame communal tensions, revive separatist sentiments, encourage violence, or threaten the unity and security of the nation. Rights and responsibilities must always walk together.

The film Satluj, inspired by the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira, revisits one of the darkest periods in modern Indian history — the Punjab militancy of the 1980s and early 1990s. Khaira's investigations into alleged illegal disappearances and cremations remain an important part of India's human rights discourse, and no mature democracy should object to examining uncomfortable chapters of its past. History should be studied honestly, not erased. However, history also demands completeness.

Many within the Hindu community have questioned why discussions surrounding the Punjab militancy era frequently highlight allegations against the State while giving comparatively little attention to the thousands of innocent civilians, police personnel, security forces, public officials, and Hindu victims who were killed during years of brutal terrorist violence.

While estimates of casualties vary among different sources, there is no dispute that Punjab witnessed immense suffering across multiple communities. If history is to be retold, should it not reflect the pain of all



those who suffered?

Can any historical narrative claim moral authority if it tells only one side of a tragedy? These are legitimate questions — not only for governments but also for filmmakers.

Reports indicate that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) sought extensive modifications before clearing the film for theatrical release. Rather than accepting those recommendations, the filmmakers chose to bypass theatrical certification altogether and release the unedited version through an OTT platform. Legally, they may have acted within the framework governing digital streaming platforms. But legality alone does not answer the larger ethical question.

Should filmmakers be permitted to bypass one regulatory framework simply by changing the method of distribution? More importantly, should celebrity filmmakers — with enormous influence and worldwide audiences — be allowed to shape highly sensitive historical narratives that may influence public opinion while remaining insulated from the social consequences their work may produce?

Cinema is not merely entertainment. It shapes public memory. It influences generations. It can heal societies — or reopen old wounds.

With such extraordinary influence comes an equally extraordinary responsibility. This responsibility becomes even greater when influential personalities who enjoy global platforms, and in many cases spend much of their professional lives outside India, produce films dealing with unresolved national conflicts. They certainly possess the right to tell stories. But should that right include the freedom to present selective narratives on deeply sensitive issues that continue to affect India's social fabric, while simultaneously generating commercial success from controversy?

Freedom of expression should never become a commercial shield behind which one-sided historical narratives are packaged for profit. If a filmmaker chooses to revisit one of India's most painful chapters, the audience deserves the complete picture — not a version that selectively amplifies one set of victims while overlooking others whose suffering is equally real. That does not strengthen democracy. It weakens public trust.

At the same time, governments must exercise restraint. National security cannot become an excuse to suppress every uncomfortable opinion or inconvenient historical debate. Democracies grow stronger by confronting difficult truths openly, fairly, and transparently. Any restriction imposed by the State must satisfy constitutional

standards, remain proportionate, and be subject to judicial oversight. The answer, therefore, is neither unrestricted freedom nor unchecked censorship. The answer is responsible freedom. Creative liberty is one of democracy's greatest strengths. But liberty without responsibility can become recklessness. History without context can become propaganda. Art without balance can deepen division instead of encouraging understanding.

The Satluj controversy offers India an opportunity to establish an important principle for the digital age. OTT platforms have transformed entertainment by allowing creators to reach millions instantly across the world. But technological innovation should not become a means of bypassing legitimate safeguards when issues involving national security, communal harmony, or separatist movements are involved.

The debate before us is not whether films should criticize governments. They should. It is not whether history should be questioned. It must. Nor is it whether artists should enjoy freedom of expression. They unquestionably should. The real question is whether freedom of speech should supersede national security.

IndoUS Tribune believes the answer is no. A democratic nation has not only the right but the constitutional duty to protect its citizens, preserve communal harmony, and safeguard its sovereignty. Freedom of expression remains meaningful only when the nation itself remains secure, peaceful, and united.

The wisdom of democracy lies not in choosing one constitutional value over another, but in balancing both. Just as one's freedom to swing a walking stick ends where another person's nose begins, artistic freedom must also recognize constitutional boundaries where there exists a credible risk of violence, separatist propaganda, or threats to national security.

That is not an attack on free speech. It is the very principle that allows free speech to survive within a stable democracy. India's future will not be strengthened by silencing debate, nor by allowing every form of expression to proceed without responsibility. It will be strengthened by encouraging honest scholarship, balanced storytelling, respect for every victim, and constitutional restraint from both the State and its citizens.

That is the balance worthy of the world's largest democracy.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune

Kim Jong Un records busiest first half for public appearances in 12 years

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made 92 official appearances in the first half of this year, his highest first-half total since 2014, according to state media reports analyzed by Yonhap News Agency and the Korea Institute for National Unification. Military-related events led the list, with 30 appearances, the highest first-half military tally since Kim assumed power in 2011. South Korea’s Unification Ministry separately placed his military-related appearances at 40. The increase was also linked to major political and party events, including a key party congress. Kim’s daughter, Ju Ae, appeared with him 19 times, including 11 military events, already surpassing her full-year total from last year. Analysts cautioned that her visibility alone does not confirm succession status, saying her title, positioning and appearances with Kim’s wife, Ri Sol Ju, and sister, Kim Yo Jong, remain important indicators.

European Union rejects Trump credit for India trade deal, cites strategic interests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Union has rejected suggestions that President Donald Trump’s trade policies pushed it to conclude a landmark free trade agreement with India, saying the pact was driven by long-term strategic and economic interests. Christophe Kiener, the European Union’s chief negotiator, said Wednesday that the agreement was not concluded “because of a tweet,” but because both sides saw genuine value in deeper ties. India’s chief negotiator, Darpan Jain, also said the commitment to finish negotiations came before recent United States trade policy shifts began. The agreement, revived after talks restarted in 2022, covers trade, investment, services, technology, mobility, security and supply-chain resilience. Negotiators said the deal strengthens rules-based trade between two major democracies amid rising protectionism and global uncertainty. It still requires legal review and ratification before taking effect, with officials hoping for signing later this year.

Trump says Iran threats will not change his stance after Ankara summit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump claimed Wednesday that he remains Iran’s top assassination target, but said the threat would not affect his decisions on Tehran or United States security. Speaking after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Ankara, Trump rejected suggestions that security concerns had influenced his travel plans and said he was focused on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. He also referred to alleged Iranian threats during a meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Mark Rutte, saying he was on Iranian target lists. The remarks came after renewed United States strikes on Iranian targets and fresh tension over attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Trump said negotiations could technically continue, but he described the interim agreement with Iran as effectively over and again defended his administration’s push for Iran’s denuclearization.

European Parliament backs Ukraine but faults Zelenskyy over military unit name tied to Polish wartime trauma

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Parliament approved an amendment on Wednesday criticizing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s decision to rename an elite military unit after the World War II-era Ukrainian Insurgent Army, reopening a sensitive historical dispute with Poland. The amendment, included in a report on Ukraine’s path toward European Union membership, expressed regret over what it called an unnecessary escalation and said the move disregarded Polish grief linked to the Volyn massacre. Ukraine remembers the Ukrainian Insurgent Army for its fight for independence, while Poland associates it with the killing of tens of thousands of Poles between 1943 and 1945 and considers the



massacre genocide. Polish President Karol Nawrocki earlier revoked Zelenskyy’s Order of the White Eagle. Despite the criticism, the European Parliament reaffirmed support for Ukraine’s defense against Russia and its European Union accession ambitions.

Syria says Islamic State-linked cell arrested after Damascus blasts during Macron visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syrrian authorities said Thursday they had arrested several suspects linked to a string of Damascus explosions, including the bombings during French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit earlier in the week. The Interior Ministry said raids in the capital and nearby areas dismantled the cell responsible. Brig. Gen. Ahmad al-Dalati said security-camera footage helped identify one suspect and trace others, and officials linked the group to the Islamic State, which has not claimed responsibility. On Tuesday, explosive devices were planted in a garbage bin and a parked car while Macron was at the presidential palace meeting Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa. Macron was not



injured, but the blasts killed one person and wounded 36. The attacks challenge al-Sharaa’s effort to stabilize Syria, rebuild foreign ties and attract investment after years of civil war and Assad-family rule.

United Nations experts condemn Mahrang Baloch sentence as misuse of terror laws

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations rights experts on Wednesday condemned the life sentence handed to Baloch human rights defender Mahrang Baloch, calling it unjustified and a “travesty of justice.” Baloch, a leader of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, was sentenced by an anti-terrorism court in Quetta in a case linked to the killing of a Frontier Corps official during a protest.

The experts said the trial raised serious due process concerns, including prison-based proceedings, remote participation and restrictions on her choice of legal counsel. They warned that nearly 50 police complaints had reportedly been filed against her, raising the risk of further convictions. Rights groups say Baloch has



campaigned peacefully against enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan. The experts urged Pakistan to respect fair-trial guarantees and stop using counterterrorism measures to silence activists.

Trump renews Greenland push while tying Arctic island to United States security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump renewed his call Wednesday for the United States to control Greenland, arguing at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Ankara that the Arctic island is vital to global security and has limited strategic value for Denmark. Speaking beside alliance chief Mark Rutte, Trump said Greenland was important for “protection of the world,” linking it to missile defense, Arctic

surveillance and broader United States military planning. He repeated his long-running claim that Washington should not have returned control after helping protect the territory during the Second World War. Trump also compared Greenland to the Panama Canal, saying both were central to American strategic interests. Reuters reported that Trump repeated demands for United States control of Greenland during the summit, though diplomats said he did not press the issue in a later closed session.

Pakistan finds wreckage of missing K2 Airways Boeing 737 cargo plane in Arabian Sea



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan’s aviation authorities said Wednesday that wreckage from a K2 Airways Boeing 737 cargo plane had been located in the Arabian Sea after the aircraft went missing while approaching Karachi from Sharjah. The plane, carrying five crew members, reported a navigational system issue on Tuesday evening before radar showed a rapid descent and sudden change in direction. Communication was lost about 155 nautical miles west of Karachi, according to the Pakistan Airports Authority. After a 12-hour search, the navy and maritime rescue teams found debris off Ormara, on Pakistan’s southern coast. Preliminary flight data showed the aircraft lost altitude, climbed briefly and then suffered a second sharp loss of altitude. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief over the crash, while rescuers continued searching for the crew and key flight equipment.

Orbán allies protest in Budapest against plan to remove President Tamás Sulyok

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Several thousand supporters of former Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s Fidesz party protested in Budapest on Thursday against the new government’s plan to remove President Tamás Sulyok. Demonstrators gathered outside the Sándor Palace after Orbán urged supporters to oppose what he called an assault on democratic norms. Prime Minister Péter Magyar, who defeated Orbán in April, wants a constitutional amendment ending Sulyok’s term, setting term limits for lawmakers, reforming the judiciary and creating an authority to investigate alleged financial abuses under Orbán. Magyar says Sulyok, an Orbán-era appointee, failed to block antidemocratic measures. Fidesz argues the move threatens the rule of law.

Andy Burnham nears United Kingdom premiership after Labour lawmakers back leadership bid

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andy Burnham moved closer to becoming Britain’s next prime minister on Thursday after securing overwhelming support from Labour lawmakers in the race to replace Keir Starmer. Burnham won nominations from 322 of Labour’s 403 members of Parliament, far above the 81 needed to run and enough to make a challenge unlikely. Nominations remain open until next week, but other potential rivals have stepped aside. Burnham, who recently returned to Parliament after serving as Greater Manchester mayor, promised a new economic approach focused on transport, housing and infrastructure investment. He also pledged continuity on North Atlantic Treaty Organization commitments, Britain’s nuclear deterrent, support for Ukraine and ties with the United States.

Indian Navy takes anti-submarine leadership role at Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Navy has assumed a key operational role at the Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii, serving for the first time as Deputy Commander Task Force for theater-level anti-submarine warfare. The Navy's P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, along with Indian personnel, is taking part in mission planning, technical preparations, operational briefings and professional exchanges with partner navies. The 30th edition of the exercise, hosted by the United States Pacific Fleet, brings together 30 nations, more than 30 surface ships, five submarines, more than 200 aircraft and about 30,000 personnel. India's role reflects its growing operational profile in the Indo-Pacific and its commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based maritime order. The exercise is also expected to improve interoperability, maritime domain awareness and coordination with partner navies.

India and Germany review strategic partnership momentum ahead of intergovernmental consultations



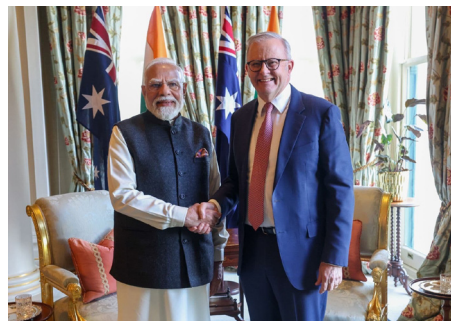
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Germany reviewed the strong momentum in their strategic partnership during Ambassador Ajit Gupte's meeting with Philipp Birkenmaier, Chief of Staff to Chancellor Friedrich Merz, at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin on Wednesday. The talks covered ways to advance cooperation across a broad range of sectors. The meeting follows recent engagement between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Merz on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit, where both leaders reviewed progress in trade, investment, defense, security, green development, technology, innovation, education and mobility. India and Germany are marking 75 years of diplomatic relations this year. Both sides have also welcomed the Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and Germany's decision to waive transit visa requirements for Indian nationals transiting through German airports. Chancellor Merz has invited Modi to Germany for the next India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations later this year.

Modi and Albanese push India-Australia ties beyond diaspora warmth into strategic partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Australia visit gave fresh momentum to the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, combining diaspora outreach with a broader push on defense, trade, education, sports and Indo-Pacific cooperation. At the packed 'Melbourne Meets Modi' event at Marvel Stadium on Thursday, more than 30,000 members of the Indian community gathered as Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called Modi a "true friend of Australia" and described the Indian diaspora as a living bridge between the two democracies. The public show of warmth came alongside a wider diplomatic agenda. Modi held talks with Albanese, met Governor-General Sam Mostyn, Victoria Governor Margaret Gardner, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and business leaders, underscoring bipartisan support for stronger



ties with India. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Australia had assured India that stricter student visa assessment processes would not reduce opportunities for genuine Indian students. Both sides are also expanding cooperation in defense, critical minerals, education, energy and economic engagement. Modi and Albanese are set to visit the Melbourne Cricket Ground to unveil a sports collaboration roadmap, with India hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and Australia preparing for the Olympic Games in 2032.

India and Indonesia deepen strategic partnership with BrahMos deal, maritime cooperation and digital links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Indonesia significantly expanded their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jakarta, with defense, maritime security, digital payments, counterterrorism, health, culture and trade forming the core of the engagement. Modi and President Prabowo Subianto finalized cooperation on the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system and Astra air-to-air missiles, strengthening India's defense export profile and Indonesia's maritime capabilities. The two countries also renewed maritime safety and security cooperation and agreed to

work on maritime domain awareness, coastal surveillance, humanitarian assistance, search and rescue and pollution control. Both leaders called for stronger action against terrorism, terror financing, online radicalization and the misuse of emerging technologies. On the economic front, they backed critical minerals cooperation, steel supply-chain collaboration, local currency transactions, cross-border quick response payments and Indonesia's open digital network based on India's Open Network for Digital Commerce model. Modi also received Indonesia's highest honor, the 'Bintang Adipurna,' and highlighted civilizational ties rooted in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Garuda, Borobudur and Prambanan.

Jaishankar's Gulf outreach focuses on diaspora welfare, energy, security and regional stability

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar used his visits to Bahrain and Kuwait this week to deepen India's Gulf partnerships, with discussions centered on diaspora welfare, regional developments, energy, trade, defense and security. In Bahrain, Jaishankar met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. He thanked Bahrain's leadership

for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian community and described the diaspora as a living bridge between the two countries. In Kuwait, he called on Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The Kuwait talks reviewed cooperation in energy, trade, investment, defense, technology, food security and health, while his meeting with the defense minister focused on maritime security and defense industry cooperation.

India and Tajikistan seek stronger trade, pharmaceutical and energy cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Tajikistan reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic cooperation during the 12th meeting of the India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The meeting reviewed opportunities in energy, hydropower, renewable energy, mining, critical minerals, textiles, digital economy, transport, logistics and finance. India highlighted its economic growth and rising exports to Tajikistan, which reached about \$58.12 million in fiscal year 2025-2026, up more than 27 percent from the previous year. Key Indian exports include pharmaceuticals, pulses, dairy machinery, medical instruments, tea, herbal products and



refrigeration equipment. Pharmaceuticals and health care emerged as major areas of focus, with both sides discussing faster product registration and stronger regulatory dialogue. Agriculture, food security, digital services, education, tourism, startups and skill development were also identified as promising areas for cooperation.

New Zealand says India trade deal will make over half its exports tariff-free from day one

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Thursday that 57 percent of his country's exports to India will become tariff-free from the first day under the India-New Zealand free trade agreement, calling it a major opportunity for New Zealand businesses. His remarks came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to New Zealand, the first state visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in nearly 40 years. Modi said the visit would build on the momentum created by Luxon's India visit in March and would focus on expanding economic, trade and commercial engagement. The agreement, finalized earlier this year, is expected to strengthen bilateral trade as India's consumer economy expands. Modi is also scheduled to address the Indian community, whose contributions have become an important pillar of India-New Zealand ties.

India and China discuss expanding trade and people-to-people ties amid gradual normalization

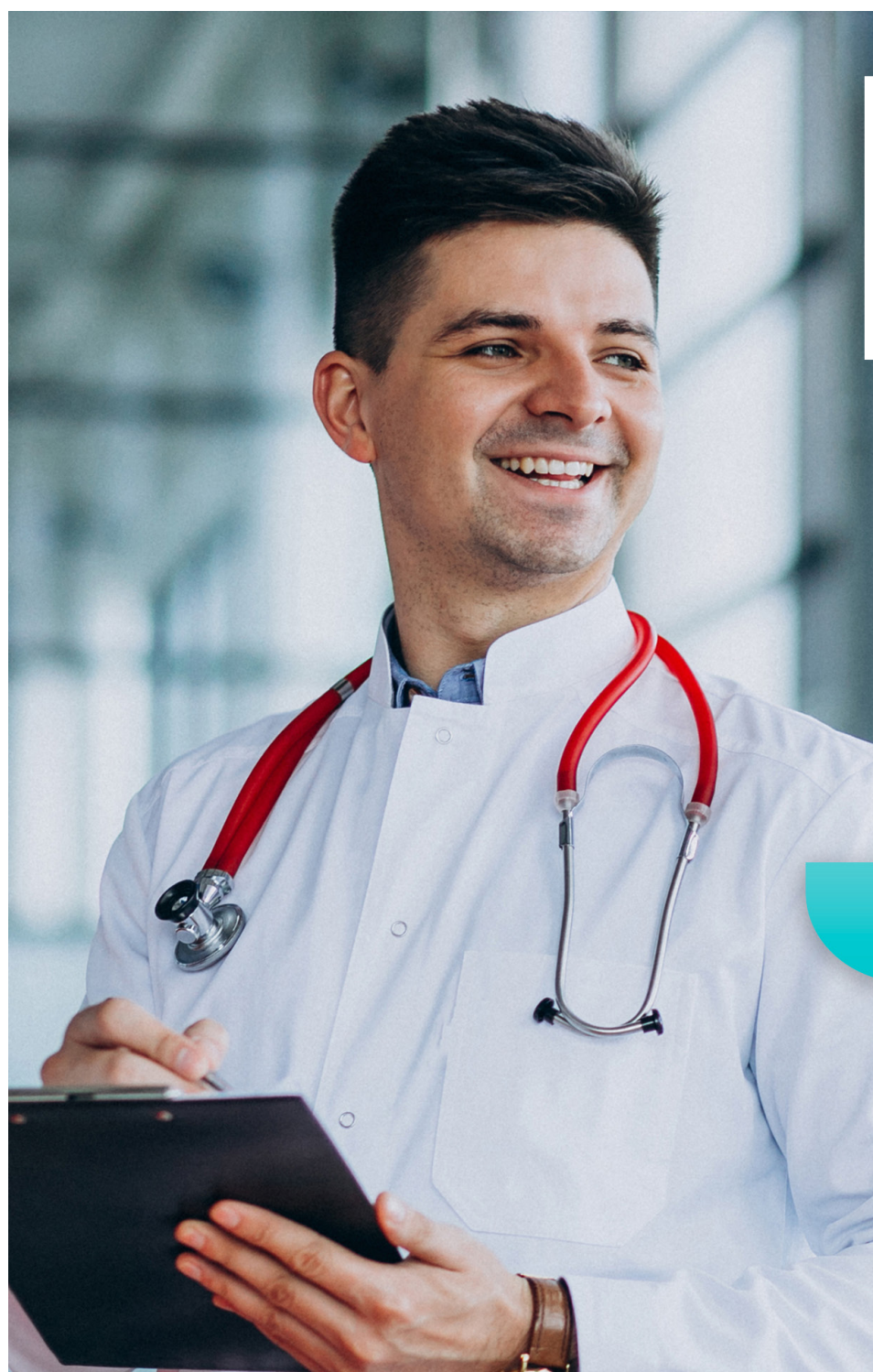
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China discussed expanding cooperation in trade, economy and people-to-people exchanges during Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami's introductory meeting with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying in Beijing on Monday. Both sides agreed to work toward implementing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping for stable, mutually beneficial relations that deliver tangible gains to people in both countries. China also assured support for India's presidency of the BRICS grouping. The meeting followed Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi last month, where he met Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

India and European Union plan joint push for World Trade Organization reforms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the European Union are preparing to deepen cooperation on World Trade Organization reforms after concluding negotiations on their landmark free trade agreement. Senior negotiators said the issue will be taken up at the next India-European Union Trade and Technology Council meeting in Brussels next week. Darpan Jain, India's chief negotiator for the trade agreement, said both sides believe the World Trade Organization must be strengthened but also reformed, especially amid uncertainty in global commerce. Christophe Kiener, the European Union's chief negotiator, said Brussels is preparing written proposals for ongoing reform discussions in Geneva. Both sides see the new trade agreement as a platform for wider cooperation beyond commerce, covering technology, innovation, supply-chain resilience, digital trade and clean energy. The push reflects a shared interest in preserving predictable, rules-based trade at a time of rising protectionism.

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Friday, 10 July 2026

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Severe storms leave more than 373,000 customers across U.S. without power after holiday heat wave

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 373,000 homes and businesses across the United States were without power on Monday after severe storms followed a dangerous heat wave across the central and eastern parts of the country. Pennsylvania was among the hardest-hit states, followed by Michigan, Louisiana and New Jersey, according to outage data. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro said storms affected 64 of the state's 67 counties, causing flooding, wind damage and widespread service disruptions. Utilities including PPL Electric, DTE Energy, FirstEnergy and Con Edison deployed crews to restore power in several states. The storms followed record heat that disrupted holiday events and strained power grids, while New Jersey officials investigated suspected heat-related deaths.

Carroll cleared to collect \$5.8 million after Trump loses escrow fight in civil abuse case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that writer E. Jean Carroll can collect \$5.8 million held in escrow after a civil jury found President Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming her. Trump deposited the money after the 2023 verdict, and the original \$5 million award has grown with interest. The jury found that Trump sexually abused Carroll in a Manhattan department store dressing room in 1996 and later defamed her after she described the encounter publicly in 2019. The United States Supreme Court recently let the verdict stand, clearing the way for Judge Lewis Kaplan to order the funds released. Trump's lawyers appealed immediately, but an emergency request to stop the payment was rejected. Trump is separately appealing an \$83 million defamation award to Carroll.

Houston immigration shooting renews scrutiny of deaths during Trump enforcement sweeps

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The fatal shooting of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by a federal immigration officer in Houston on Tuesday has intensified scrutiny of President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement campaign. The Associated Press reported that the death marked at least the eighth fatality linked to enforcement sweeps under the administration. The Department of Homeland Security said Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national, ignored commands during an operation and tried to ram his vehicle into an agent, who fired in self-defense. His family said he was heading to a construction job when he was shot and later died on the way to a hospital. Immigrant rights groups and Democratic lawmakers called for an independent investigation and preservation of evidence. Federal agents at the scene did not have body cameras, according to the department.

Trump uses anniversary speeches to warn against communist ideas in American politics

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump used three recent speeches to deliver one of his strongest warnings against what he described as a resurgence of communist ideas in the United States. Speaking at a Faith and Freedom Coalition conference and later during Friday and Saturday events marking the country's 250th anniversary, Trump said communism was not a routine policy dispute over taxes or regulation, but a direct threat to American liberty, religion, tradition and constitutional rights.

He accused some newcomers and political movements of embracing ideas opposed to the American way of life, and criticized those who teach that the United States was built on stolen land or that its national heroes were oppressors. Trump also linked his remarks to recent



election victories by self-described democratic socialist candidates in New York City, whom he labeled communists. Addressing Independence Day crowds, he said American soldiers had not fought communism in Korea, Vietnam and elsewhere only to see the ideology gain ground at home. Trump called communism a failed system rooted in control, theft, lies and violence, saying Americans must reject it quickly and decisively.

Eight indicted over alleged drone and sniper plot targeting White House UFC event

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal grand jury indicted eight men on Thursday over an alleged plot to attack a UFC event held on the White House lawn in June, the Justice Department said. The defendants, aged 19 to 32, were charged in Columbus, Ohio, with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and conspiracy to commit murder on federal government property and kill a federal official. Prosecutors allege the group discussed the plan on encrypted and social media platforms, including Signal, SimpleX, Discord, TikTok and Instagram.

The FBI said the alleged plot involved using explosive-laden drones to strike the north



side of the White House, forcing attendees toward an exit where snipers would open fire. Authorities said the alleged targets included President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, senior United States officials, Elon Musk and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who did not attend. The event went ahead without incident.

Multistate parasite outbreak grows as health officials investigate possible produce link

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health officials are investigating a fast-growing cyclosporiasis outbreak that has sickened hundreds of people across multiple states, with Michigan reporting the sharpest increase. State figures showed Michigan cases rising from 170 on Monday to 572 by Saturday, while additional infections were reported in states including New York and Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration are investigating several clusters, but no common source has been confirmed. Cyclosporiasis is caused by the Cyclospora parasite, which can contaminate food or water and cause watery diarrhea, dehydration, nausea, fever



and abdominal cramps. Past outbreaks have been linked to raw produce, including leafy greens, herbs, salad mixes and berries. Health officials urged consumers and businesses to wash produce thoroughly, discard damaged fruits and vegetables, wash hands before handling food and seek medical advice if symptoms develop.

Operation Patriot Shield arrests 224 fugitives and rescues three missing children in Missouri and Illinois

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Justice Department said Thursday that 224 fugitives were arrested and three missing children were rescued during 'Operation Patriot Shield,' a monthlong federal sweep across eastern Missouri and southern Illinois. The United States Marshals Service and partner agencies also cleared 290 felony warrants. Officials said

about 31 percent of the warrants involved narcotics charges, 28 percent involved weapons offenses and at least 20 percent involved violent crimes, including homicide. Federal prosecutors in Missouri charged 35 people, while prosecutors in southern Illinois charged 11 others in cases involving drugs, firearms, assault and child sexual exploitation. Officials said the operation was designed to reduce the usual summer rise in violent crime around St. Louis.

US House to vote on making daylight saving time permanent

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States House of Representatives is expected to vote next week on legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent and end seasonal clock changes across most of the country. The House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced the Sunshine Protection Act in May by a 48-1 vote. The proposal would permit states to opt out and retain year-round standard time.

Supporters argue that eliminating the twice-yearly time change could reduce sleep disruption, workplace injuries and road accidents while encouraging economic activity during brighter winter evenings. Critics warn that permanent daylight saving time would produce later winter sunrises, requiring many children to travel to school in darkness. President Donald Trump has endorsed ending clock changes, describing the practice as costly and unnecessary.

A similar measure passed the Senate unanimously in 2022 but was not considered by the House. If approved this time, the proposal would return to the Senate for consideration.

Grassley alleges classified-material lapses by Jack Smith team during Trump documents case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senator Chuck Grassley said Wednesday that newly released Justice Department messages suggest members of former special counsel Jack Smith's team mishandled classified materials while prosecuting President Donald Trump over classified documents. Grassley said the messages showed a secure review facility may have been left open overnight in 2024 and that classified material may have been shared without confirmed need-to-know authorization. He called the alleged lapses hypocritical and asked the acting attorney general for more records. The Justice Department said it takes classified-information safeguards seriously and reviews potential security lapses through internal procedures. Smith has previously defended his investigation, while the cases against Trump were dropped after Trump won the 2024 election.

FBI director says 113 foreign spies arrested amid counterintelligence crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

FBI Director Kash Patel said Wednesday that the agency has arrested 113 active foreign spies, describing the cases as part of a broader counterintelligence push to protect United States technology and defense secrets. Patel also said 62 Chinese spies had been removed in 2026 and that counterintelligence arrests had risen sharply. The announcement followed years of warnings from federal officials and lawmakers about Chinese espionage, intellectual property theft, cyber operations and attempts to target dissidents inside the United States. Patel also highlighted related cyber and cartel enforcement work, saying the bureau had arrested thousands of cartel-linked suspects. The figures were presented by Patel, and further case-by-case details were not immediately available.

Justice Department warns election officials over noncitizen voting enforcement



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Justice Department has warned election officials nationwide that they could face criminal liability if they knowingly allow noncitizens to remain on voter rolls, receive ballots or cast votes in federal elections. Letters sent Monday by Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon also reminded officials that eligible voters must not be improperly blocked from voting.

The department said the letters went to all 50 states and the District of Columbia and requested voluntary compliance with federal election laws. The move follows earlier Justice Department efforts to obtain voter-roll data from states, some of which have faced court setbacks. Several state officials criticized the letters as political pressure, while the department said it was focused on election integrity.

Barrett and Kagan to testify on Supreme Court budget amid security concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Supreme Court Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Elena Kagan are scheduled to testify before congressional appropriations panels on Tuesday about the court's budget request, marking the first appearance by sitting justices before Congress since 2019. The court is seeking \$228.4 million for the next fiscal year, including new funding for courthouse and home security. Judicial security has become a major concern following rising threats against judges and the 2022 assassination attempt against Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Although the hearings are expected to focus on spending, lawmakers may also question the justices about ethics, emergency orders and recent high-profile rulings. Chief Justice John Roberts has repeatedly declined invitations to testify on ethics issues.

White House opening bell marks launch of Trump Accounts with Wall Street and corporate backing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq jointly rang the opening bell from the White House on Monday for the first time, marking the launch of President Donald Trump's 'Trump Accounts' investment program for children.

The event brought together leaders from both rival exchanges, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent calling it the first joint opening bell held in the Oval Office. Trump described the ceremony as a symbol of collaboration and said the program would help children learn about finance while watching their accounts grow.

The initiative provides eligible children with investment accounts seeded by federal money and supported by family, employers and philanthropists. Major corporate and philanthropic pledges include \$6.25 billion from Michael and Susan Dell and \$250

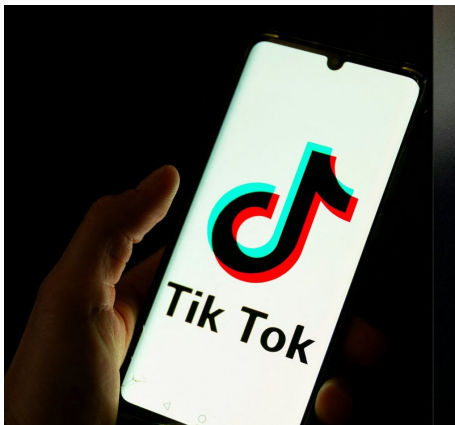


million from Micron. Executives from Wall Street and major companies said the plan could broaden stock-market participation among American families.

Trump says TikTok helped his election win while backing United States ownership push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Monday that TikTok played an important role in his election victory, even as national security concerns continue in Washington over the Chinese-owned platform. Speaking at the White House after the launch of 'Trump Accounts,' Trump claimed he was "number one on TikTok" and said the platform helped him win. He also said he had discussed TikTok with Chinese President Xi Jinping and supported efforts for American companies to own the platform's United States operations. Trump questioned claims that TikTok's Chinese ownership automatically made it a threat, pointing to his own popularity on the app. However, independent reporting has



questioned his claim of being TikTok's top figure, noting that available data may reflect views of Trump-related content rather than his personal follower ranking.

Former Wisconsin judge fined for obstructing immigration arrest, avoids prison sentence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Milwaukee County Judge Hannah Dugan avoided prison on Wednesday after being convicted of felony obstruction for helping a Mexican defendant leave her courtroom while federal immigration agents waited to arrest him. United States District Judge Lynn Adelman fined Dugan \$5,000, saying an otherwise good person had made a bad decision while upset by immigration policies. Dugan, 67, said she acted to preserve courtroom safety and decorum, not out of malice. She resigned in January after Republican lawmakers threatened



impeachment. Prosecutors said she abused her judicial position and created unnecessary risks for law enforcement and the public. Her lawyers said they will appeal the conviction.

Los Angeles sex-trafficking sweep identifies 51 victims and leads to 10 arrests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal authorities arrested 10 people in Los Angeles as part of Operation Broken Blade, a crackdown on alleged gang-run sex trafficking along the Figueroa Corridor. The Department of Homeland Security said Monday that agents executed more than 20 federal warrants during the week and identified 51 victims,

some as young as 14. Prosecutors said several suspects had links to the Hoover Criminals Gang and used social media, drugs, threats and violence to exploit girls and young women, including runaways and children from foster care. The defendants face federal charges tied to racketeering, sex trafficking, money laundering, firearms offenses and narcotics crimes. Authorities said the operation followed an earlier trafficking sweep last year.

Supreme Court term gives Trump broader firing power but limits tariff authority

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court closed its latest term with rulings that reshaped President Donald Trump's executive authority while also limiting parts of his agenda. In one major decision, the court allowed Trump to remove Federal Trade Commission officials without the statutory protections that had long insulated some independent agencies from presidential control. The court also allowed the administration to end temporary protected status for some Haitian and Syrian migrants, limiting judicial review of such decisions. However, Trump lost key cases on tariffs and birthright citizenship, with the court rejecting broad claims of unilateral power in those areas. The decisions left the president stronger over agency leadership and immigration enforcement, but not unchecked on economic and constitutional questions.

Forever stamp rises to 82 cents as Postal Service faces deepening losses



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Postal Service will raise the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp from 78 cents to 82 cents on Sunday, continuing a series of postal rate increases aimed at offsetting financial pressure. Metered one-ounce letters will rise from 74 cents to 78 cents, while domestic postcards will increase to 65 cents. The price for each additional ounce on single-piece letters will remain 29 cents. The Postal Service says it receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and depends on postage, products and services for revenue. The agency reported multibillion-dollar losses in recent years, prompting warnings about liquidity, service performance and the long-term viability of its reform plan.

Prosecutors show surveillance footage placing Tyler Robinson at Charlie Kirk shooting scene

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prosecutors in Utah on Tuesday presented new surveillance footage that they said placed Tyler Robinson at Utah Valley University on the day conservative activist Charlie Kirk was fatally shot. The video, shown during the second day of a preliminary hearing, allegedly showed Robinson arriving on campus, interacting with Turning Point USA representatives and eating at a Chick-fil-A before later appearing in different clothing. An investigator testified that footage also showed a man moving toward the Losee Center rooftop and fleeing after the shot was fired. Robinson, 23, is charged with aggravated murder and has not entered a plea. A judge will decide whether prosecutors have shown probable cause for trial.

Tarn Taran painter dies in Dubai workplace fire, body brought home with charitable trust’s help



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ranjit Singh, a 31-year-old resident of Kakka Kandiala village in Tarn Taran district, died in a workplace fire in Dubai, where he had been employed as a painter for about three and a half years. According to the report, Ranjit, son of Harwinder Singh, was working on the fifth floor of a company building when a pipe suddenly burst and triggered a fire. He died in the incident. His body was brought back to Punjab through the efforts of Dr. S. P. S. Oberoi, patron of the Sarbat Da Bhala Charitable Trust. Trust members received the body at Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Amritsar and transported it to Tarn Taran. Dilbagh Singh Yodha, district president of the Trust, and other members accompanied the body to the family’s residence and attended the last rites, which were held in the presence of many local residents.

Brampton man sentenced to 20 years in United States prison for cross-border drug trafficking



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Guramrit Sidhu, a 63-year-old Canadian national of Punjabi origin from Brampton, Ontario, has been sentenced to 20 years in United States federal prison for leading a drug trafficking organization that moved cocaine and methamphetamine from the United States into Canada. United States prosecutors said Sidhu pleaded guilty in March to engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise and had been in federal custody since his extradition from Canada in October 2024. From September 2020 to February 2023, he led a network that bought bulk narcotics in the United States and transported them into Canada through long-haul semi-trucks. Between September and October 2022, authorities seized eight drug loads totaling about 523 kilograms of methamphetamine and 347 kilograms of cocaine, valued at \$15 million to \$17 million. Several other defendants in the case have already received federal prison sentences.

United States visa fraud probe puts Indian professionals and technology employers under sharper scrutiny

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A sweeping United States investigation into alleged H-1B visa and employment-based green card fraud could place Indian professionals, recruiters and technology firms under far greater scrutiny. The Department of Labor’s Office of Inspector General said Wednesday that it is examining suspected schemes involving fraudulent H-1B and PERM applications, wage kickbacks, forced labor, human trafficking and the underpayment of foreign workers.

The probe is especially significant for the Indian diaspora because Indian nationals make up the largest share of H-1B workers in the United States. Thousands of Indian engineers, software professionals, researchers, health care workers and students-turned-employees rely on the visa route to build careers, support families and move toward permanent residency.

Labor Inspector General Anthony D’Esposito said investigators had already



issued dozens of subpoenas and would pursue tips from displaced American workers as well as foreign workers who faced benching, coercion or fraudulent recruitment. He also said whistleblower complaints had mentioned major companies, including Cognizant, but did not accuse the firm of wrongdoing.

The investigation does not immediately change visa rules, but employers may face stricter compliance checks. For genuine Indian workers, the biggest impact could be longer processing times, more documentation demands and closer review of job offers.

Indian American children bring Kathak, Bharatanatyam and folk traditions to Carnegie Hall during all-India dance showcase

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 300 Indian-origin artists transformed Carnegie Hall in New York City into a celebration of India’s living dance traditions on Sunday, presenting classical and folk forms before a global audience. The Consulate General of India in New York partnered with Philadelphia-based nonprofit ‘Three Aksha,’ founded by Bharatanatyam artist and educator Viji Rao, to host the ‘All-Indian Dance Festival 2026’ in Manhattan.

The two-hour festival featured about 387 performers from 10 dance schools across New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Delaware. Many of the dancers were young Indian American children born and raised in the United States, making the event not just a cultural performance but also a powerful statement about heritage being carried forward by the next generation. The program



included Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, Odissi and Bhangra, opening with ‘Vande Mataram.’ Performances included ‘Sarvam Shiva Mayam,’ ‘Odissi Parikrama,’ ‘Nandakadhara: Betrayal Undone’ and Kathak’s ‘Teentaal.’ Consul General Binaya Pradhan praised the artists for presenting the depth and continuity of Indian civilization on a world stage, especially as the United States marked its 250th anniversary and celebrated its immigrant story.

Indian Mission evacuated in New York after nearby high-rise faces collapse risk

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The building housing India’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations was evacuated in Midtown Manhattan on Tuesday after structural damage left a nearby under-construction high-rise unstable and at risk of partial collapse. The Indian Mission, located just over a block from United Nations headquarters, houses offices as well as residences for Indian diplomats and officers. Sources said all Indian officials and their families were safe and following precautionary instructions. New York officials said two load-bearing columns buckled inside the former Pfizer headquarters, where a commercial building is being converted into apartments. Cracks, sagging floors and continued movement prompted evacuations, street closures and emergency engineering work.



Mayor Zohran Mamdani called the situation “extremely serious,” while fire officials said all workers had been accounted for and no injuries had been reported. Drones and structural engineers were deployed to assess the damage.

Two Punjabi youths drown in Montreal canal after failed rescue attempt

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Punjabi youths died after drowning in Montreal’s Lachine Canal over the weekend, in a tragedy that has left families in Punjab seeking help to bring their bodies home. The victims were identified as Lovepreet Singh, 26, from Tapa Mandi in Barnala district, and Yograj Singh, from Butala village in Amritsar district. According to preliminary information, one of the men slipped and fell into the canal near its junction with the Saint Lawrence River, while the other entered the water in an attempt to rescue him. Emergency services received the call late Saturday night and launched an extensive search involving the Montreal Fire Department, two fire boats, the Canadian Coast Guard and sonar equipment. Both men were pulled from the water and taken to hospital in critical condition, but the Quebec Coroner’s Office later confirmed their deaths.

Calgary Canada Day littering video sparks debate on diaspora civic responsibility

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canada Day celebration in Calgary has triggered a wider debate on civic responsibility within the Indo-Canadian community after a video showing litter at Prairie Winds Park went viral. The event, hosted by Guru Nanak Free Kitchen and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, drew thousands of people for free ice cream distribution. The controversy began after Veronica Lace, a local woman, recorded herself confronting attendees and volunteers over discarded paper plates and ice cream boxes scattered across the park. Organizers said volunteers had planned a full cleanup after the event, and the area was later cleared. Lace argued that leaving trash on the ground even temporarily was unacceptable because wind or rain could spread it further. Online reaction was divided, with some criticizing her tone and others saying the incident reflected poorly on Indians abroad and reinforced concerns about civic behavior.

Andhra student killed in New York crash while heading to temple, family seeks help to bring her home

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Parasanna Atluri, a 25-year-old Indian student from Andhra Pradesh, died in a road accident in upstate New York on Sunday while traveling to a temple with friends. Atluri, a recent graduate of Pace University’s Lubin School of Business, was in a car that was reportedly waiting at a traffic signal when another speeding vehicle struck it from behind, according to her family. Another woman traveling with her was also killed, while a third passenger sustained serious injuries and remains under treatment. Atluri was from Moolapadu village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal of NTR district. Her family said she came from a modest farming household and had recently completed her studies in the United States while looking for work opportunities. Her cousin Ravi Kumar Atluri has launched a fundraiser to help repatriate her remains to India, support funeral arrangements, cover family travel and address pending student loans. The campaign has crossed \$40,000 toward a \$75,000 goal.

Jalandhar entrepreneur turns Punjabi curry pizza into Utah small-town success



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bhinda Singh, a Sikh entrepreneur from Hardo Pharala village near Jalandhar, has turned Punjabi flavors into a food attraction in the small desert town of Bicknell, Utah. The town, located near Capitol Reef National Park, has fewer than 500 residents, yet Singh's Curry Pizza has become a local favorite and a stop for travelers. His family moved to the United States in 2000, and he started the restaurant in 2017 with support from his father, Amrik Singh. Singh is not a trained chef, but says he learned cooking from his mother and maternal uncle. His menu blends pizza with Punjabi staples such as butter chicken, tikka masala, paneer, cauliflower, mushrooms and curry sauce. The best-selling Bhinda Singh Special reflects his belief that Indian spices can elevate global food when treated with respect and affection.

Goldy Dhillon detained in Spain in Chandigarh murder and extortion cases



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gurpreet Singh, also known as Goldy Dhillon or Goldi Rajpura, has been detained in Spain after being tracked by Punjab Police, central intelligence agencies and Chandigarh Police, according to officials. Dhillon is wanted in several cases, including the daylight murder of pharmacy cashier Janki Das in Chandigarh's Sector 11 and alleged threats to Aam Aadmi Party legislator Neena Mittal and her son. Police sources said Dhillon is a close associate of Canada-based gangster Satinderjit Singh, also known as Goldy Brar, though officials clarified that the two are different individuals. Dhillon has also been named with Brar in a National Investigation Agency chargesheet linked to an extortion-and-firing case in Chandigarh. Investigators allege he ran modules involved in shootings, extortion, arms and narcotics networks across Punjab while using encrypted messaging platforms from abroad.

Indiaspora marks United States' 250th anniversary by tracing Indian spiritual and faith traditions in American life

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

As the United States marked its 250th anniversary, Indiaspora highlighted how Indian spiritual leaders, thinkers and faith institutions have helped shape the country's religious and cultural landscape for more than a century. The nonprofit's '250 at 250: Moments of the Indian American Story' documents the influence of figures including Swami Vivekananda, Paramahansa Yogananda, B. K. S. Iyengar, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, B. R. Ambedkar and contemporary voices such as Deepak Chopra. The compilation recalls Vivekananda's historic 1893 address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, where he introduced many Americans to Hindu philosophy, religious tolerance and universal acceptance. It also highlights the Vedanta Society of New York, founded in 1894, and Yogananda's Self-Realization Fellowship, which helped popularize meditation and Eastern



spirituality in the United States.

The project also notes the growth of Sikh, Jain, Hindu, Christian, Zoroastrian, Muslim and Buddhist institutions founded by South Asian immigrants. Indiaspora says Indian Americans now number about 5.1 million, with the community contributing more than \$1.5 billion in philanthropy. The compilation frames spirituality as one of the earliest and most enduring bridges between India and America.

Indian engineer in Washington charged with wife's murder after nine-month investigation

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian software engineer Avinash Narne has been charged with first-degree murder in Washington state, nearly nine months after his wife, Rajitha Sabbineni, was found dead in their Bellevue apartment. Police said Narne called emergency responders in October, claiming his wife had locked herself in the bathroom and was not responding. Officers forced open the door and found Sabbineni on the floor. The King County Medical Examiner

later ruled her death a homicide caused by strangulation. Investigators allege Narne staged the scene and that surveillance and other evidence did not support his claim that someone else could have entered the apartment while he was away. Police also said the probe revealed Narne had allegedly remained in contact with a woman in India after his arranged marriage. Investigators allege he called the woman multiple times on the day of Sabbineni's death and may have sent her a photo of the body. He remains in custody on \$5 million bail.

FBI names Punjab police officer in alleged \$400,000 extortion plot linked to Operation Hard Ball

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has named Punjab Police officer Gurinderjit Singh Nagra in an alleged \$400,000 extortion plot involving a United States-based Indian-origin family, as part of the wider 'Operation Hard Ball' crackdown on transnational organized crime. United States prosecutors allege Nagra, then Station House Officer at Tanda police station in Hoshiarpur, threatened to implicate the family in a false murder case in Punjab unless they paid the money.

The indictment links the alleged plot to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria criminal syndicate, which United States authorities accuse of murder-for-hire, drug trafficking, kidnapping, firearms offenses and extortion across several countries.

Prosecutors alleged that a gang-linked figure in Stockton, California, shared the family's details with the officer, after which the murder case was allegedly used as leverage for extortion. Punjab Police have removed Nagra from his post and transferred the departmental inquiry to Jalandhar. The allegations remain unproven unless established in court.

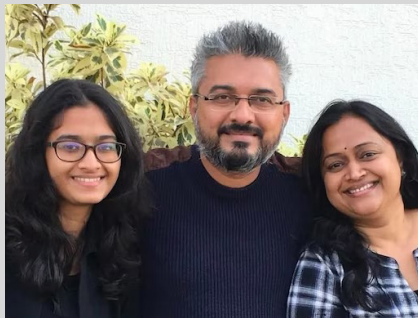
Ferozepur family seeks help as son's body remains in London weeks after death

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of Sahjeet Singh, a 26-year-old from Suba Qadim village in Ferozepur district, is still waiting for his body to be brought back from London more than 22 days after his death. Sahjeet had moved to the United Kingdom on a study visa in June 2021 and later worked as a salesman at a shopping mall on a work permit. His family said he was preparing to return to Punjab later this month

after nearly five years abroad. His father, Veer Singh, said the family last spoke to him on a video call in June and found him happy and normal. When they later failed to contact him, a friend called his phone repeatedly and a police officer eventually answered. The family was told Sahjeet had been found unconscious in a park and declared dead at a hospital. His relatives have appealed to the Central and state governments to help complete formalities and bring his remains home for last rites.

Gujarat family killed after fire engulfs Ohio motel where they lived and worked



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three members of a Gujarat-origin family were killed when a fire tore through the Econo Lodge motel in Wooster Township, Ohio, where they had been living and working. The victims were identified as Hiteshbhai Suthar, his wife Hinaben and their 20-year-old daughter Ishani. The family, originally from Nadiad in Gujarat's Kheda district, had moved to the United States about two years ago in search of better opportunities. Hiteshbhai worked at the motel, Hinaben at a neighboring property and Ishani at a nearby McDonald's. The fire broke out early Wednesday, with witnesses reporting a loud explosion before flames and smoke spread rapidly. Motel staff said the trapped family called the front desk pleading for help, but firefighters could not reach them because of the intensity of the blaze. Nearly 70 firefighters responded, and the cause remains under investigation.

Kerala medical student's death in Uzbekistan leads to murder case against classmate



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala Police have registered a murder case after the death of a 22-year-old woman medical student in Uzbekistan, following a complaint from her family. The case was registered at Haripad police station on Wednesday, even though the incident took place abroad. Police said the accused is the victim's classmate from Malappuram, who allegedly hit her on the head during a heated argument, causing her death. Authorities in Uzbekistan are also investigating the case, and Kerala Police said they would seek updates through the Indian Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs. The family has alleged that the student had injuries across her body and may have been tortured before being killed. A relative who traveled to Uzbekistan to recover the body claimed investigators there had indicated a more brutal assault. The family has sought a detailed probe and possible action in India if prosecution does not proceed abroad.

Hamas signals readiness to hand Gaza administration to technocratic committee in Cairo ceasefire talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Hamas delegation held talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo on Thursday over the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire plan, according to an Egyptian security source cited by Xinhua. The discussions followed Hamas’ announcement on Monday that it had dissolved its emergency governing committee in Gaza and was ready to transfer civilian administration to a technocratic national committee. The next phase is expected to include a full Israeli military withdrawal, reconstruction steps, Hamas disarmament or weapons custody arrangements, and a transitional governing authority. Mediators have also received a United States-backed proposal for a pilot buffer zone in Rafah after security screening. The ceasefire has been in place since October.

Africa CDC warns Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak is outpacing response after deaths rise above 600

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Africa’s public health agency urged sustained international support on Thursday as the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak continued to expand in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported 1,779 confirmed cases and 602 deaths, with most infections in Congo and 20 confirmed cases in Uganda. Officials said Congo’s outbreak remains fast-moving, with gaps in funding, safe burials and health worker protection slowing the response. More than 100 health workers have been infected in Congo, and dozens have died. Uganda’s situation is far more stable, with its last confirmed case reported in June. Clinical trials for therapeutics are underway.

Sri Lanka investigates Negombo prison riot that killed 26 people and wounded more than 100



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sri Lanka has opened an investigation after clashes at Negombo Prison killed 26 people, including seven guards, and wounded more than 100 others in the country’s deadliest jail riot in years. Officials said the fighting began Sunday evening between prisoners linked to rival drug gangs and escalated on Monday, with victims suffering gunshot wounds, cuts and severe bruising. Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara expressed shock over the deaths and said authorities were working to separate rival groups inside the overcrowded facility. A three-member inquiry panel headed by a retired Supreme Court judge will examine the violence. Police said some inmates grabbed weapons from guards, while the air force deployed drones and a helicopter to monitor the prison. Sri Lanka’s jails hold more than four times their official capacity.

Venezuela quake survivors face growing health crisis as crowded shelters strain clean water and medical care

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A worsening health crisis is emerging in Venezuela’s quake-hit La Guaira state, where doctors are reporting rising cases of diarrhea, skin infections and untreated chronic illnesses after last month’s twin earthquakes displaced thousands of families.

The disaster killed 3,889 people, destroyed 190 buildings, damaged 856 others and left about 18,000 people without homes, according to Venezuelan officials. Many survivors are now living in schools, sports centers, parks and other public spaces, where overcrowding, poor sanitation and limited clean water are increasing the risk of disease.

Mobile clinics, field hospitals and community kitchens are operating across the worst-hit areas, but doctors say many patients now need treatment for diabetes, high blood pressure and other long-term conditions, not just quake injuries.

The Pan American Health Organization warned that shelters face heightened risks from respiratory, digestive and vaccine-



preventable diseases. United Nations relief chief Tom Fletcher said aid workers must support survivors’ longer-term health needs as well as emergency care.

The United Nations has appealed for about \$300 million to help 1.3 million people in urgent need, while local groups and international agencies are expanding relief operations.

Bangladesh measles surge highlights falling vaccination coverage, malnutrition and fragile child health systems

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh is facing a serious measles surge among young children, driven by weak immunization coverage, malnutrition and gaps in primary health care, according to reports citing The Daily Star. From March through Monday, suspected measles cases crossed 101,000, with reported associated deaths varying sharply across updates, so official confirmation remains important. The outbreak has hit children under five hardest, especially those who are undernourished or incompletely vaccinated. Full vaccination coverage among children aged 12 to 23 months fell from 83.9 percent in 2019 to 81.6



percent in 2023, with urban areas lagging. Low exclusive breastfeeding, anemia and shortages of vaccination records and supplies have deepened the crisis.

Japan’s southwestern islands on high alert as powerful Typhoon Bavi approaches

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan’s southwestern islands were placed on high alert Friday as powerful Typhoon Bavi approached with sustained winds of up to 162 kilometers per hour. Authorities warned of violent winds, torrential rain, landslides and flooding, while residents on Ishigaki secured buildings and stocked up on supplies. Japan Airlines canceled more than 100 flights for Friday and Saturday, while All Nippon Airways canceled more than 160 flights through Sunday, disrupting travel for about 40,000 passengers. Nearly 900 buildings in Okinawa Prefecture lost power. In the Philippines, monsoon rains strengthened by the typhoon triggered a landslide on Mindanao that killed 10



people. Taiwan evacuated more than 2,000 residents and placed nearly 29,000 military personnel on standby. Bavi was expected to reach China near Wenzhou late Saturday or early Sunday.

Western Europe’s hottest June on record raises alarm over deadly climate extremes



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Western Europe recorded its hottest June on record, the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service said Thursday, after a late-month heatwave broke temperature records, strained power systems and shut schools. The region’s average June temperature reached 20.74 degrees Celsius, more than 3 degrees above the 1991-2020 average. Globally, June was the second-warmest on record, while sea surface temperatures hit a June high. National authorities reported more than 4,700 excess deaths in France, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands during the heatwave, with the broader toll likely higher. Scientists said climate change is raising the baseline for extreme heat, making heatwaves more intense. The heat also fueled wildfires in Iberia and France and worsened drought conditions.

China orders accountability after Fujian shoe factory fire kills 28 workers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fire at a shoe factory in China’s southeastern Fujian province killed 28 people on Thursday, making it one of the country’s deadliest industrial blazes in recent years. The fire broke out at Huiteng Shoe Company in Jinjiang, a major footwear manufacturing hub. Authorities said 237 workers and two visitors were inside the building when the blaze began. Rescue teams brought out 213 people, while two later died in hospital and 26 others were confirmed dead after initially being reported missing. State media said the fire started on the first floor and spread quickly because shoe components and other flammable materials were stored inside. President Xi Jinping ordered a full investigation and strict accountability. The factory owner and other responsible personnel were taken into custody.

Lukashenko says Belarus will not send troops into Ukraine war



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said Monday that Belarus will not join Russia's war against Ukraine, while accusing Western governments of fueling military escalation. Speaking to military graduates in Minsk, Lukashenko said Belarusians reject war but would not "bow" before enemies. He said no Belarusian troops would be sent into what he called a "slaughter" and repeated that Minsk supports a peaceful resolution. Belarus has not deployed soldiers to Ukraine, but it allowed Russia to use its territory during the invasion and later agreed to host Russian tactical nuclear weapons. Lukashenko also accused the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization of militarization, while Ukraine has warned that Moscow wants Belarus more deeply involved.

Jaish-e-Mohammed turns to digital propaganda after Operation Sindoor losses, officials say



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jaish-e-Mohammed has launched a major online propaganda campaign after suffering heavy losses in India's Operation Sindoor, Indian intelligence officials said on Wednesday. Officials said the Pakistan-based terror group is trying to regain relevance, retain cadres and radicalize young people in India and Pakistan.

The campaign is expected to include extremist material and doctored videos aimed at accusing Indian forces of abuses in Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said the group remains weakened after strikes hit its Bahawalpur headquarters and killed several cadres and senior functionaries. Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar has reportedly stayed out of public view since the operation, while senior leaders have been moved closer to Pakistan army facilities for protection. Security agencies are monitoring the group's online activity.

Killing of Palestinian aid driver threatens Gaza convoy operations amid dispute over Israeli army account

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A Palestinian aid driver bringing World Central Kitchen food into Gaza was shot dead on Wednesday in an incident witnesses and Gaza's transport companies described as a "field execution," while the Israeli military said troops opened fire after perceiving a threat. Ahmad Esleem, a 30-year-old father of two from Deir al-Balah, was part of a coordinated four-truck convoy that had entered Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing and stopped on the Philadelphi corridor after one truck broke down. Drivers told the Guardian that Israeli soldiers ordered them out, forced some to strip and shot Esleem in the head while his hands were raised.

His employer and the Association of Transport Companies said he wore an orange safety vest and had approved permits and clearances. The Israeli military said three drivers had exited their vehicles contrary to procedures and another ran toward troops, prompting suspect-



apprehension fire. It said the incident is under review. The truckers' association plans an emergency meeting on Friday to consider suspending operations, warning that drivers moving food and essentials into Gaza face repeated abuse, threats and deadly risk, even as aid convoys remain vital for civilians under a partial ceasefire and humanitarian agencies struggle to maintain deliveries.

Karachi ranked fourth least liveable city amid crime, outages and weak public services

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karachi has been ranked the world's fourth least liveable city in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2026, placing 170th among 173 cities. Only Dhaka, Damascus and Tripoli ranked lower, while Copenhagen topped the list, followed by Vienna and Melbourne. Karachi received an overall score of 43 out of 100, with particularly weak marks in stability,

culture and environment, health care and infrastructure. The ranking comes amid persistent complaints over power cuts, gas shortages, water supply problems and worsening street crime in Pakistan's largest city. Residents recently reported major electricity and gas disruptions during Muharram observances, affecting meals and religious gatherings. Police-linked data also showed hundreds of cars, thousands of motorcycles and more than 5,000 mobile phones were stolen or snatched from January through April.

Reform UK's Farage says he'll quit as lawmaker and seek reelection amid donation allegations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Reform United Kingdom leader Nigel Farage resigned as a Member of Parliament on Tuesday, triggering a by-election in Clacton while he faces a parliamentary investigation over alleged failures to declare financial interests. Farage is under scrutiny after British media reported that he received £5 million, or about \$6.68 million, before the 2024

general election and did not register it. He denies wrongdoing, saying he followed parliamentary rules and that the money was an unconditional gift. Farage framed the by-election as "people versus the establishment," saying voters in Clacton should judge his conduct. Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the move a "desperate stunt." Labour and the Conservatives said they would not contest the seat, describing the exercise as a political spectacle rather than a genuine by-election.

South Korea's top court upholds Yoon's seven-year sentence in martial law obstruction case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Supreme Court on Thursday upheld former President Yoon Suk Yeol's seven-year prison sentence for obstructing investigators after his failed martial law declaration in December 2024. The court affirmed an April appeals ruling that found Yoon guilty of blocking law enforcement efforts to detain him, falsifying official documents and violating the legal process required before martial law could be imposed. The case is the first of several criminal proceedings against Yoon to reach the country's highest court. His lawyers said they would challenge the ruling before the



Constitutional Court, arguing the Supreme Court acted too quickly and failed to fully review the case. Yoon, who denies the charges, is also facing other trials linked to the short-lived martial law decree.

Marine Le Pen confirms presidential run after appeals court reduces election ban

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marine Le Pen said Tuesday that she will run for France's next presidential election despite her conviction in an embezzlement case involving European Parliament funds. A Paris appeals court upheld her conviction but reduced her penalty, leaving open the possibility of a campaign. Le Pen was sentenced to three years in prison, with one year under electronic monitoring, and 15 months of ineligibility. She said she would appeal to the Court of Cassation, arguing that the appeal would suspend the immediate effect of the sentence and allow her to campaign without an ankle monitor. Le Pen denies wrongdoing and says the case is politically motivated. Critics said the conviction should disqualify her from seeking office.

France evacuates 10,000 people as wildfire disrupts Tour de France route near Spanish border

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French authorities evacuated about 10,000 people as the Tréviach wildfire threatened towns and villages in the Pyrénées-Orientales region near the Spanish border. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez warned Monday that firefighters faced worsening conditions after hot, dry weather left vegetation highly vulnerable. Regional officials said thousands of acres had burned in the foothills of the Pyrenees, prompting evacuation orders and restrictions on nonessential travel.

The blaze also disrupted the third stage of the Tour de France from Granollers in Spain to Les Angles in France. Organizers allowed the race to continue, but spectators and the advertising caravan were banned from French sections of the route so emergency crews could remain fully mobilized. The fire also burned land across the border in Catalonia, while other wildfires in Spain, Portugal and Greece forced evacuations and stretched firefighting resources.

Israel says next Lebanon talks will move to Rome after Washington rounds

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel's foreign minister Gideon Sa'ar said Tuesday that the next round of Israel-Lebanon talks is expected to be held in Rome next week, following five ambassador-level meetings in Washington since April. Israeli media quoted Israel's ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter, as saying the sixth round could begin next Tuesday. Sa'ar, speaking in Jerusalem with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, said Israel seeks peace with its neighbors but any agreement must be based on security. The previous round ended with a framework covering Israeli withdrawal from two areas in southern Lebanon. Italy's foreign minister Antonio Tajani welcomed Rome as a venue for United States-facilitated talks, though Lebanese reports said Beirut preferred keeping negotiations in Washington.

Election Commission's voter roll revision removes over 91 lakh names across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission of India has released draft electoral rolls for Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala after a Special Intensive Revision exercise that led to the deletion of more than 91 lakh names across the three states. Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deletions, with more than 42 lakh names removed, followed by over 27 lakh in Chhattisgarh and more than 22 lakh in Kerala. The poll body said the revision was aimed at cleaning voter lists by removing names of deceased voters, duplicate entries, shifted electors and those who could not be traced. Officials said eligible voters whose names have been removed will have an opportunity to file claims and objections before the final rolls are published. The exercise comes amid growing political attention on voter list accuracy ahead of future elections.

Sensex crashes over 1,600 points after Trump's Iran ceasefire remark fuels crude oil and inflation fears

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian stock markets suffered a steep sell-off on Wednesday after renewed tensions involving the United States and Iran rattled global investors and lifted crude oil prices. The BSE Sensex fell 1,677.12 points, or 2.15 percent, to close at 76,503.60, while the Nifty dropped 516.65 points, or 2.12 percent, to end at 23,882.05. The decline followed President Donald Trump's remark that the ceasefire with Iran was "over," raising fears of fresh disruption around the Strait of Hormuz. Investor anxiety deepened because India depends heavily on imported crude, making higher oil prices a risk for inflation, the rupee, corporate margins and consumption. Selling was broad-based, with 3,211 BSE stocks declining against 1,070 advances.

More than 85,000 pilgrims complete Amarnath Yatra in first four days despite rain and heavy rush

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 85,000 pilgrims completed the Amarnath Yatra in the first four days after the annual pilgrimage began on Friday, officials said. Over 28,000 devotees offered prayers at the holy cave on Monday alone, despite heavy rain along the route. Pilgrims continued to move through both the Pahalgam and Baltal tracks, while many returning from the shrine preferred the shorter Baltal route after darshan. Authorities said elaborate arrangements have been made at base camps, halting points and along the tracks, including tents, langars, weather advisories and medical support. A four-tier security system has been put in place, with the Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Reserve Police Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police deployed across the route.

Congress attacks VHP over police letter seeking proof from opposition leaders in Ram Mandir donation controversy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Congress on Monday accused the Vishva Hindu Parishad of trying to divert attention from the alleged Ram Mandir donation theft after the organization wrote to Ayodhya police seeking evidence from opposition leaders who had raised questions over the controversy.

Congress general secretary K. C. Venugopal called the move "the pot calling the kettle black," arguing that the Vishva Hindu Parishad had no moral authority to target opposition leaders when the temple trust and associated organizations were themselves facing scrutiny. He said leaders such as Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Akhilesh Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav had only questioned the alleged misuse of devotees' donations.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera also criticized the Vishva Hindu Parishad, saying the organization appeared more interested in intimidating critics than



identifying those responsible. The party reiterated its demand for an independent, Supreme Court-monitored investigation, claiming the current inquiry was inadequate to ensure accountability in a matter linked to public faith.

Supreme Court tells petitioner to follow legal process in plea over BJP leader's alleged remarks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a public interest petition seeking direct intervention over alleged derogatory remarks made by Bharatiya Janata Party minority morcha leader Nazia Elahi Khan. A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Sheel Nagu asked the petitioner to first approach local authorities and the jurisdictional court, stressing that sensitive matters should not be sensationalized. The bench said the allegations were serious, but the legal process must be followed before the matter reaches the apex court. Justice Amanullah observed that if an individual has violated the law, authorities must act firmly, but petitioners should not



bypass established forums. Police in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region had earlier registered two cases against Khan for allegedly making remarks about Prophet Muhammad that hurt religious sentiments and raised concerns over communal harmony.

National Conference seeks civil society backing before Delhi protest for Jammu and Kashmir statehood

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Conference stepped up its campaign for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir by holding consultations with civil society members in Srinagar on Tuesday. Party president Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met representatives from different sectors ahead of the party's planned protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on the

first day of Parliament's Monsoon Session. The meeting passed a unanimous resolution urging the Union government to restore full statehood without further delay. National Conference leaders cited the Supreme Court's December 2023 observation that statehood should be restored at the earliest and described the delay as inordinate. Representatives from tourism, travel and business sectors also raised concerns related to economic growth and policy support.

Tamil Nadu challenges High Court ruling on quota benefits for converts to Islam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court against a Madras High Court ruling that struck down its order allowing converts to Islam from reserved communities to claim Backward Class Muslim status. The 2024 government order had permitted people from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities

and Scheduled Castes who converted to Islam to obtain community certificates under notified Muslim categories for reservation benefits. The High Court ruled that conversion alone could not place a person in a birth-based backward community. It held that a convert may be treated as Muslim, but cannot automatically be classified under one of Tamil Nadu's seven notified Backward Class Muslim communities unless the legal criteria are met.

Indian Space Research Organisation clears key SOLVE motor test to support Gaganyaan crew module recovery trials

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted the first ground test of the solid motor for its new Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments at the Static Test Facility of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Friday. The vehicle is being developed as a dedicated test platform for integrated parachute trials linked to the Gaganyaan crew module. During these missions, the crew module will be carried to an altitude of 10 to 17 kilometers before separating from the vehicle. A sequence of 10 parachutes will then slow the module before splashdown in the sea. The solid stage has been adapted from the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle strap-on motor, with modifications including slow-burn propellant and secondary injection thrust vector control. Officials said performance parameters were as expected.

Central government rolls back emergency gas allocation curbs after Strait of Hormuz energy traffic resumes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The central government has withdrawn most emergency natural gas supply restrictions imposed during the West Asia conflict after liquefied natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz resumed. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued an amendment on Saturday, removing key provisions of the March emergency order that had allowed the government to prioritize and divert domestic gas and imported supplies to essential sectors. The curbs were introduced after disruptions in Gulf energy shipments prompted suppliers to invoke force majeure and divert cargoes. India imports most of its crude oil and nearly half of its natural gas requirements, with a major share of Gulf supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Officials said the ceasefire, ongoing negotiations and normalized maritime traffic made the crisis-era restrictions unnecessary.

Government summons Meta over allegations of child sexual abuse material appearing in paid Instagram ads

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued a notice to Meta over allegations that paid Instagram advertisements promoted or facilitated access to child sexual abuse material. The government has directed Instagram to immediately disable such advertisements and related content, while seeking a detailed explanation from Meta within seven days. The action followed a media investigation that alleged Instagram and Facebook carried advertisements using disturbing search terms and directing users to external channels where such material was reportedly being sold. Officials said Meta could not rely on intermediary protection if paid advertisements involving illegal material were found on its platforms. The government has maintained a zero-tolerance position on online child sexual abuse material and has warned technology companies to strengthen detection, takedown and reporting safeguards.

West Bengal lawmakers attend orientation on legislative conduct, executive accountability and digital assembly systems

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated a two-day orientation program for newly elected members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly at the New Town Convention Centre in Kolkata on Friday. The program, organized by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy in collaboration with the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, began with a ceremonial lamp lighting after Birla received a guard of honor. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh, Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose, Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee and other dignitaries attended the inaugural session. Adhikari urged treasury and opposition lawmakers to work together for the state's development. Technical sessions covered effective legislative work, assembly customs and etiquette, executive accountability through questions, and the National E-Vidhan Application.

Information and Broadcasting Ministry halts television ratings until Broadcast Audience Research Council licence renewal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed the Broadcast Audience Research Council to stop publishing television ratings across news and non-news genres until its licence is renewed under the Television Ratings Policy, 2026. The order effectively pauses the council's ratings operations until it completes the renewal process and is certified as compliant with the new regulatory framework. The council is India's main television audience measurement body, and its weekly ratings are widely used by broadcasters, advertisers and media planners to assess viewership and advertising value. The directive is expected to affect television industry benchmarking until the ministry completes the compliance review and licence renewal process.

Centre forms expert panel to address price crash hurting Andhra Pradesh Totapuri mango farmers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Agriculture Ministry has decided to set up a high-level expert committee under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to examine the problems faced by Totapuri mango growers in Andhra Pradesh. The decision came after Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan interacted with farmers during his recent visit to the state. Growers told him that a sustained fall in prices had sharply reduced incomes and created financial stress, especially because Totapuri mangoes are widely cultivated for the processing industry. The committee will study cultivation trends, production costs, market demand, processing capacity, exports and value-chain gaps before recommending long-term measures to strengthen the sector and protect farmers' livelihoods.

Delhi Police arrest Ashok Pradhan gang members after 800-kilometer chase across three states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Police's Dwarka District Anti-Auto Theft Squad has arrested four alleged members of the Ashok Pradhan gang after an 800-kilometer chase across Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Police said the operation helped prevent a possible escalation in rivalry between two splinter groups of the gang in Najafgarh. The accused include history-sheetser Mohit Bhardwaj, also known as Monu, along with three juveniles. Police said the team recovered a car allegedly used in an abduction case and solved three cases involving knife assault, abduction and attempt to murder. Bhardwaj, a resident of Najafgarh, is listed as a bad character at Najafgarh Police Station and has previous



cases involving armed robbery, arms violations, attempt to murder and murder, according to police.

Tamil Nadu's pending child sexual abuse cases highlight gaps in survivor support

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tamil Nadu is facing a heavy backlog of cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, with 18,733 cases pending across 38 districts as of June. The highest pendency was reported in Madurai, Tiruppur, Chennai and Tenkasi. Child rights advocates said the issue goes beyond court delays and reflects gaps in support systems for survivors. They pointed to delays in appointing support persons, limited awareness of special relief, poor access to medical reports and uneven implementation of child-friendly procedures. Activists also said eight



proposed special courts recommended in 2023 have not yet been set up. Officials said the state is working on standard operating procedures to streamline support for survivors and improve monitoring of cases.

National Investigation Agency names Hafiz Saeed in Pahalgam terror attack chargesheet

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Investigation Agency on Monday named Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed as an accused in its supplementary chargesheet in the Pahalgam terror attack case. The chargesheet, filed before the agency's special court in Jammu, names Saeed in his individual capacity and as chief of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front. He has been charged under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, including charges linked to waging war against India and cross-border conspiracy. The Pahalgam attack killed 25 tourists and one local civilian. The agency said the supplementary



chargesheet details Pakistan's alleged role, Saeed's involvement and evidence collected through investigation, while the broader probe continues.

Manipur couple arrested in NIA-led probe into abduction and killing of six Naga civilians

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A joint team of the National Investigation Agency, Central Reserve Police Force and Manipur Police arrested a couple from Kangpokpi district on Friday in connection with the abduction and killing of six Naga civilians. Police identified the accused as Pradip and his wife, Ayingbi, residents of Leilon Vaiphei village. The arrests followed an early-morning operation

based on intelligence inputs. The six victims were allegedly abducted on Wednesday, May 13, and their bodies were recovered from a forested area in Kangpokpi nearly a month later, intensifying tensions between Naga and Kuki-Zo communities. The killings had triggered protests, counter-blockades and demands for prosecution. The Kuki-Zo Council earlier apologized for the incident, but Naga groups rejected the apology and called for all those involved to be arrested and tried.

Jammu and Kashmir schools told to screen campus books after row over separatism-related content

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Jammu and Kashmir government has directed heads of government schools, recognized private schools and coaching centers in Kashmir to screen all books kept in libraries, classrooms, offices and staff rooms for inappropriate or objectionable content. The order asks institutions to certify to education officers that no material on campus violates religious sentiments, educational values, existing laws or national interest. The directive followed protests by the Bharatiya Janata Party over books allegedly glorifying separatist figures and comes nearly a year after authorities banned several Kashmir-related publications. Opposition leaders criticized the move, warning that it could restrict academic freedom and erase parts of Kashmir's history from educational spaces.

Kerala halts Wayanad tunnel work after landslide toll rises and twin probes are ordered

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala government has suspended work on the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin-tunnel road project in Wayanad after a landslide at the construction site killed six workers, with two others still missing, according to later reports. The state has ordered parallel inquiries into the tragedy, including a technical assessment of the site and a review of whether the contractor followed environmental clearance conditions. Rescue teams continued search operations in difficult weather, with heavy rain slowing efforts. Officials have also examined allegations that unscientific dumping of excavated mud may have contributed to the disaster. The construction company has said the project was being executed with required approvals and blamed intense monsoon rainfall.

Defense Acquisition Council clears Rs 52,000 crore proposals to boost land, air and naval readiness



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Defense Acquisition Council, chaired by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, has cleared acquisition proposals worth about Rs 52,000 crore for the armed forces. The approvals include the Akash Tarang anti-drone electronic warfare system, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, Jerba very short-range air defense systems, jet-based kamikaze drones, man-portable anti-tank guided missiles and active protection systems for tanks. The Navy is set to benefit from naval shipborne unmanned aerial systems, multi-influence ground mines and testing infrastructure for electric propulsion systems. The Air Force will receive fixed-wing high-altitude pseudo satellite capability for persistent surveillance, communications and remote sensing. The approvals mark the first stage in the procurement process.



Walmart cuts barbecue staples after Trump says retailer acted on administration request

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Walmart is reducing prices on ground beef and other barbecue staples after President Donald Trump said the retailer acted at his administration's request to mark the United States' 250th anniversary. Trump said Monday that Walmart would cut ground beef prices by nearly 15 percent and urged other retailers to follow. Walmart later said its ground beef rolls would drop 12 percent, from \$6.74 to \$5.94. The retailer also lowered prices on items including sweet corn, cherries, chips, soda, paper plates and ice cream. Trump framed the move as part of his broader push to lower consumer costs, including gasoline and groceries. The announcement came as Americans continue to face high food prices despite some easing in fuel costs.

Judge approves Musk's \$1.5 million securities settlement despite concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday approved Elon Musk's \$1.5 million settlement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission over delayed disclosure of his early Twitter share purchases, despite raising concerns about the deal. Judge Sparkle Sooknanan said courts are not a "rubber stamp," but have a limited role in reviewing consent judgments. The regulator had alleged Musk waited 11 days too long in 2022 to disclose his stake, allowing him to buy shares at lower prices and save about \$150 million. Musk has said the delay was inadvertent. The judge questioned why the regulator dropped its demand for disgorgement.

Citigroup expands instant cross-border dollar payments through Thai partner bank



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Citigroup said Wednesday it completed its first instant international dollar payment with a partner bank, Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank, expanding cross-border real-time payment capabilities beyond Citi accounts. Phillip Securities Thailand, a client of Siam Commercial Bank, sent dollars instantly from a Citigroup account in the United Kingdom to a Siam Commercial Bank account in Thailand during the United States holiday weekend. Siam Commercial Bank is among roughly 300 banks connected to Citi's international instant payments network. Citi said client demand is growing for instant transfers between accounts at different banks. Its global payments division processes about \$6 trillion daily across 180 countries.

Oil jumps and global stocks weaken after Trump casts doubt on Iran ceasefire

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices rose sharply and global stock markets turned volatile on Wednesday after President Donald Trump said the temporary ceasefire with Iran was effectively "over," raising fears of renewed conflict and supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude climbed 5.2 percent to \$78.02 a barrel and briefly moved above \$80, after recent gains had eased from earlier war-driven highs. On Wall Street, the Standard and Poor's 500

fell as much as 1.1 percent before trimming losses, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 576 points. The Nasdaq Composite finished slightly higher, helped by gains in major artificial intelligence-related stocks including Nvidia. Investors remain concerned that fresh fighting could disrupt Gulf energy shipments, revive inflation and keep pressure on central banks to maintain higher interest rates. Housing-linked stocks and fuel-sensitive companies such as airlines and cruise operators fell, while Treasury yields rose as markets priced in higher inflation risk.

India looks beyond European Union trade pact with wider free trade push across regions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is moving to expand its free trade agreement network across North America, Latin America, Africa, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific after concluding its landmark trade pact with the European Union. Speaking at a Peterson Institute for International Economics event, India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain said New Delhi's broad aim is to "cover the entire world" by diversifying trade partnerships and expanding market access. India is already negotiating with Canada, Chile, Peru, the Southern African Customs Union and Kenya, while discussions have begun with Mexico and the Mercosur bloc.

In West Asia, India has trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Oman



and is engaging Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Jain said India has reached agreements over the past five years with countries representing nearly half of global trade and output. The strategy reflects a wider shift toward greater export competitiveness, broader market access and deeper integration with global supply chains.

Volkswagen workers protest proposed job cuts and possible German plant closures

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Volkswagen workers protested across Germany on Thursday after the company's proposed restructuring plan, including possible factory closures and up to 100,000 job cuts, was put before its supervisory board. The IG Metall union organized demonstrations at 18 sites, including Volkswagen's Wolfsburg headquarters, warning management not to shift responsibility for past failures onto

workers. The plan reportedly includes possible closures at Hanover, Emden, Zwickau and Audi's Neckarsulm site, along with additional job reductions. Volkswagen says deep restructuring is needed for long-term survival as it faces Chinese competition, weak European demand and the costly shift to electric vehicles. Any closure decision would face intense resistance from unions and local politicians, with Germany's Volkswagen governance structure giving labor significant influence.

Quality Council and NSIC partner to help small businesses improve quality and market access

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Quality Council of India and the National Small Industries Corporation signed a five-year agreement on Thursday to improve quality, competitiveness and market access for micro, small and medium enterprises. The partnership will combine the Quality Council's certification and accreditation expertise with the corporation's nationwide enterprise support network. It will integrate the Zero Defect Zero Effect certification scheme, MSME Global Mart, the TEAM Initiative and the Single Point Registration Scheme. Certified enterprises are expected to receive stronger digital commerce opportunities, support for onboarding on the Open Network for Digital Commerce, artificial intelligence-enabled cataloguing and export promotion.



A joint coordination committee will meet every quarter to monitor progress, identify new areas of collaboration and guide implementation.

SpaceX and artificial intelligence wealth sparks private jet buying surge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fresh wealth from SpaceX and artificial intelligence startups is driving a surge in private jet buying, chartering and shared ownership. Aviation lawyer Amanda Applegate said aircraft-purchase work at Soar Aviation Law has risen 25 percent this year as technology investors, founders and early employees seek private travel. Reuters reported that SpaceX's record \$85.7 billion initial public offering and expectations of future listings by firms such as OpenAI and Anthropic are fueling demand. Jetnet data showed shared-ownership flights rose 11.8 percent globally in the first five months, while flights by private jet owners climbed 13.4 percent.

E& exits Vodafone with \$5.95 billion stake sale to Xavier Niel family company



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Arab Emirates telecom group E& said Friday it will sell its entire 16.21 percent stake in Vodafone to a company owned by the family group of French telecom billionaire Xavier Niel for \$5.95 billion. The deal values the stake at 112.5 pence per share, above Vodafone's previous closing price of 97.76 pence. E& said it would no longer exercise influence over Vodafone's board or management, and its board representative has stepped down as a non-executive director. The company expects the transaction to generate a net cash return of about \$1.3 billion, marking a major shift in Vodafone's shareholder base.

Europe drives global electric vehicle growth while China and North America slow



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global electric vehicle demand rose for a fourth straight month in June, with Europe offsetting weaker registrations in China and North America, according to Benchmark Mineral Intelligence data reported by Reuters. Battery-electric and plug-in hybrid registrations increased 7 percent year over year to 2 million vehicles, while first-half volumes rose 2 percent. Europe remained the main growth engine, with registrations jumping 31 percent to about 530,000 units, a June record. China registrations fell 11 percent to around 1 million vehicles, while North America declined 13 percent after United States electric vehicle tax credits ended. Chinese automakers continued expanding overseas.

Friday, 10 July 2026

Sensex rallies over 700 points with technology stocks leading gains



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian benchmark indices opened sharply higher on Friday, tracking strong global cues and gains in technology shares. The Sensex rose more than 700 points to trade near 77,443, while the Nifty crossed 24,160 in early trade. Information technology stocks led the rally, with Tech Mahindra, HCLTech and Tata Consultancy Services among the top gainers. The Nifty information technology index surged nearly 3 percent, while mid-cap and small-cap indices also advanced. Analysts said the 24,100 to 24,200 zone could act as immediate resistance for the Nifty, while 23,900 remains the first support. Defensive health care and pharmaceutical shares underperformed.

India's automobile industry has overtaken Japan to become third largest, says Gadkari

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said Thursday that India's automobile industry has become the world's third largest by value, after overtaking Japan. Speaking at the 'Prawas 5.0' multimodal transport exhibition in Gandhinagar, Gadkari said the industry has expanded from Rs 14 lakh crore to Rs 22 lakh crore since he took office, with the United States ranked first and China second. He said the sector contributes about Rs 4.5 lakh crore annually through Central and State Goods and Services Tax and supports nearly 4.5 crore jobs. Gadkari urged wider adoption of clean fuels, including ethanol, electricity, hydrogen and biofuels.

United States home prices hit record high while existing sales slow

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States existing-home sales slowed in June while the median sale price reached a record high, deepening affordability challenges for buyers. The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales of previously owned homes fell 2.4 percent from May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.09 million. The median price rose 1.8 percent from a year earlier to \$440,600, the highest level in data going back to 1999. Prices have increased annually for 36 straight months. Elevated mortgage rates, tight inventory and years of underbuilding continue to pressure buyers, with first-time purchasers accounting for 33 percent of sales.

Steadfast extends takeover exclusivity after Amwins-Dragoneer consortium reaffirms \$5.34 billion bid

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's Steadfast said Thursday that Amwins Group and Dragoneer Investment had reaffirmed their Australian \$7.7 billion, or \$5.34 billion, takeover offer, prompting a four-week extension of exclusivity. The consortium is offering Australian \$6 per share, a 52 percent premium to Steadfast's closing price before the original proposal. The latest bid is its third and highest approach, after earlier offers of Australian \$5.50 and Australian \$5.83 failed to secure agreement. Under the proposed structure, Amwins would acquire Steadfast's underwriting agency operations,



while United States-based Dragoneer would take control of the retail brokerage business. Steadfast shares edged higher as investors awaited further due diligence.

Honeywell Aerospace develops export-control-free defense products for Europe's military buildup

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Honeywell Aerospace is expanding work on defense products designed without restricted United States technologies as European governments increase military spending and seek equipment free from possible export-control complications.

Chief Executive Officer Jim Currier told Reuters that about 1,000 engineers in Poland and the Czech Republic have been assigned to develop technology outside

the United States International Traffic in Arms Regulations framework.

Demand for such systems has grown as European defense companies worry that Washington could block re-export of sensitive United States components used in foreign weapons.

Honeywell is expected to announce a new export-control-free product for the international defense market at the Farnborough Airshow. The company says its international defense exposure has grown steadily since 2020.

Apple deepens United States chip sourcing with \$30 billion Broadcom supply deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple said Wednesday it will spend more than \$30 billion under a multiyear chip supply agreement with Broadcom, strengthening its United States sourcing push. The deal, running through 2031, covers radio-frequency chips known as filters, which support wireless connectivity in Apple devices. Broadcom will invest \$1.5 billion to expand its Fort Collins, Colorado, factory, where Apple said at least 15 billion chips will be produced. The agreement aligns with President Donald Trump's effort to expand domestic semiconductor manufacturing. Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said the Colorado-made components are essential to product



performance and connectivity. Broadcom shares rose after the announcement.

Paramount delays Warner Bros. deal closing while Oregon seeks merger records

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Paramount has agreed not to close its \$110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. before a Wednesday deadline later this month, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield's office said Wednesday, extending the deal timeline by another week. The state is asking a court in Multnomah County to order Paramount to hand over records and delay the transaction by 60 days for review. Oregon says it needs more information related to the company's lobbying efforts and deal documents. Paramount had earlier told the state it would not close before an



earlier Thursday deadline, but revised that commitment during a preliminary hearing. The delay adds scrutiny to the planned media merger.

Groww says direct mutual funds remain free after Zerodha questions regular plan pivot



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Groww said direct mutual funds will remain free for do-it-yourself investors after Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath questioned rival platforms shifting toward regular mutual funds. Kamath wrote Thursday that many platforms that launched direct mutual fund offerings around Zerodha's Coin platform have disappeared or changed strategy, while Zerodha would continue offering direct plans for free.

His comments followed Groww's rollout of regular mutual funds through its subscription service, Groww Prime. Groww said the service is optional and meant for users seeking mutual fund recommendations based on risk profile, investment horizon and financial goals. The exchange revived debate over distributor commissions and low-cost investing.

Micron raises United States chip investment plan to more than \$250 billion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Micron Technology said Thursday it will invest more than \$250 billion in the United States through 2035, expanding an earlier \$200 billion plan as demand for memory chips surges in the artificial intelligence era. Shares rose about 8 percent in early trading after the announcement. The plan centers on a semiconductor campus in New York that Micron said is running more than a quarter ahead of schedule, along with expansions in Idaho and Virginia. The company said the projects could create more than 90,000 jobs. Micron will also invest \$3 billion in the domestic chip supply chain, including \$500 million for GlobalWafers in Texas.

Louis Vuitton win over Chinese tea chain triggers cultural trademark debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Chinese court ruling in favor of Louis Vuitton has sparked debate over whether global luxury brands can control designs that resemble traditional Chinese motifs. A court in Suzhou ordered Molly Tea to pay 10.3 million yuan, or about \$1.5 million, after finding that its four-petal flower logo infringed Louis Vuitton's monogram trademark. Chinese state media and online commentators questioned whether the disputed pattern has roots in ancient Chinese design and accused the French brand of monopolizing cultural heritage. Louis Vuitton says its 1896 monogram was inspired by neo-gothic ornamentation and Japonism. Molly Tea reportedly plans to appeal.

Olimpia unveils \$80 million Asuncion stadium plan for Paraguay's 2030 World Cup

Paraguayan football club Olimpia has unveiled plans for a new 46,000-seat stadium in Asuncion that is expected to host one of the commemorative matches of the 2030 FIFA World Cup. The venue, projected to cost \$80 million, is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2029 and will be named Osvaldo Dominguez Dibb Stadium in honor of the club's former president. Foundation work is expected to begin later this month. Olimpia said the project will involve engineers who worked on the redevelopment of Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium for the 2014 World Cup. The 2030 tournament will be mainly hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco, while Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay will each stage one centenary match to mark 100 years since the first World Cup was held in South America.

FIFA's Collina defends referees after Egypt questions Argentina's comeback win



FIFA refereeing chief Pierluigi Collina has defended the officiating in Argentina's 3-2 World Cup round of 16 victory over Egypt, rejecting allegations that match officials were influenced by pressure to keep the defending champions in the tournament. Egypt coach Hossam Hassan had questioned the fairness of key decisions after Argentina came from two goals down to win in stoppage time. Egypt was particularly angered by the disallowed goal from Mostafa Zico and by the decision not to award a penalty after contact involving Mohamed Salah before Argentina's winning move. Collina said video review correctly ruled out Zico's goal because Marwan Attia had fouled Lisandro Martinez in the buildup. He also said the Salah incident was reviewed and judged to be normal football contact. Collina warned that unfounded accusations can put referees and their families at risk.

Mbappé makes World Cup history as France beats Morocco to reach another semifinal

Kilian Mbappé added another defining chapter to his World Cup legacy on Thursday, becoming the youngest player to reach 20 tournament appearances and the fastest to score 20 World Cup goals as France defeated Morocco 2-0 in the quarterfinals at Boston Stadium in Foxborough.

The France captain endured an early setback when Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou saved his first-half penalty, but Mbappé responded in trademark fashion after the break. He curled home France's opener in the 60th minute, then helped create the space for Ousmane Dembélé to seal the win six minutes later. The goal took Mbappé's tally for the 2026 tournament to eight and lifted his overall World Cup count to 20, leaving him one behind Lionel Messi on the all-time scoring list. He also matched Hugo Lloris' French record of 20 World Cup appearances.



France, which has now kept clean sheets in all three knockout matches, advanced to its third straight World Cup semifinal and will face either Belgium or Spain next.

Argentina, Australia and England face early pressure in Nations Championship after opening losses

Argentina, Australia and England head into Saturday's Nations Championship fixtures under pressure after all three opened the new tournament with defeats. The competition awards points from each match and will culminate in a November final at Twickenham between the top northern and southern hemisphere sides, making every result important. Argentina, stunned by Scotland in Cordoba, will try to respond against Wales in San Juan after struggling for rhythm with a squad drawn from clubs across Europe. Australia host France in Brisbane after a narrow defeat to Ireland, but the Wallabies have again been hit by flyhalf injuries, with



Declan Meredith set to become their seventh starter in the role in 17 tests. England face Fiji in Liverpool while trying to halt a five-test losing streak under Steve Borthwick.

Belgium exposes United States defensive flaws in 4-1 World Cup knockout win

Belgium ended the United States' World Cup campaign on Monday with a commanding 4-1 round of 16 victory in Seattle, turning American defensive errors into a decisive quarterfinal berth. Charles De Ketelaere led Belgium's attack with two goals and an assist, while Hans Vanaken and substitute Romelu Lukaku also scored. The United States entered the match with forward Folarin Balogun available after his controversial red-card suspension was lifted by FIFA, following intervention praised by President Donald Trump and criticized by Belgium. Malik Tillman briefly raised American hopes by equalizing with a free kick in the first half, but Belgium responded almost immediately. Goalkeeper Matt Freese's second-half mistake



gifted Belgium its third goal, and Christian Pulisic later exited with an ankle injury. The defeat continued the United States' long struggle against elite European opponents and left Belgium to face Spain on Friday.

Santos await Neymar decision after Brazil farewell deepens retirement doubts



Santos are waiting for Neymar to decide his next step after Brazil's World Cup round-of-16 defeat to Norway left his future uncertain. Brazilian reports said the club has given the 34-year-old forward time away with his family before holding talks with him and his representatives. Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer, announced his international retirement after Sunday's 2-1 loss at New York New Jersey Stadium, the same venue where he made his Brazil debut in 2010. He has six months left on his Santos contract after rejoining his boyhood club in January 2025. Neymar made only two substitute appearances at the World Cup, scoring a late penalty against Norway, after Carlo Ancelotti picked him despite injury concerns and a long national-team absence.

Ganguly calls Hall of Fame recognition a major honor in storied cricket journey



Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has described his upcoming induction into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame as a major honor, saying he was grateful to be included among some of cricket's greatest names. Ganguly, who turned 54 this week, is set to become the 12th Indian overall and the 10th Indian men's cricketer to receive the recognition. One of India's finest one-day batters, he scored 11,363 runs in 311 one-day internationals and 7,212 runs in 113 Tests. As captain, Ganguly reshaped India's identity after taking charge in 2000, leading the team to the 2002 NatWest Trophy win, the 2003 World Cup final and a historic Test series victory in Pakistan in 2004.



Humpy, Divya and Vaishali headline elite Cairns Cup field

Indian chess will have a strong presence at the 2026 Cairns Cup, with Koneru Humpy, Divya Deshmukh and Vaishali Rameshbabu joining an elite 10-player field in Saint Louis in August. The women's super-tournament will offer a \$250,000 prize fund and follow a nine-round classical round-robin format. The lineup also includes defending champion Carissa Yip, Tan Zhongyi, Anna Muzychuk, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Bibisara Assaubayeva, Stavroula Tsolakidou and Alice Lee, making the sixth edition one of the season's strongest women's chess events worldwide.



Former Olympic canoeist denies Reflecting Pool damage charge in politically charged case



Former United States Olympic canoeist David Hearn pleaded not guilty on Thursday to a felony property destruction charge tied to damage at the renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington. Hearn, 67, who competed in three Summer Olympics, is accused of causing more than \$1,000 in damage by allegedly pulling up recently installed sealant. He has said he only touched a loose piece of peeled coating while examining the pool and let go when a park worker told him to stop. His lawyers called the case an overreach and said the government's evidence was weak. The pool renovation, launched before the United States' 250th anniversary celebrations, has faced problems including peeling coating and algae growth.

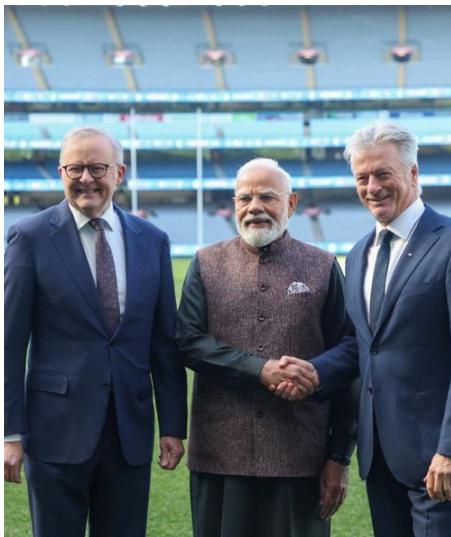
Olympic body opens door for Russia's fuller return before Los Angeles Games



The International Olympic Committee moved on Tuesday to ease Russia's path back toward full Olympic participation before the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The body provisionally lifted the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee and advised international sports federations to end the system that required Russian athletes to be vetted before competing as neutrals. The decision could eventually allow Russia to return in team sports, although approval for the use of its flag and anthem has not yet been granted. The guidance is not binding, and major federations may still resist. World Athletics has maintained its ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes, while football authorities have continued to exclude Russian teams. Ukraine criticized the timing, saying the war situation had worsened.

Modi and Albanese unveil Chennai opener for Big Bash League's first match outside Australia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Friday unveiled a historic Big Bash League fixture during a joint visit to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, confirming that Melbourne Renegades will face Perth Scorchers in Chennai to open the 2026-27 season. The match, scheduled for a Saturday in December at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium, will be the first Big Bash League game played outside Australia. The Renegades will be the home team. The fixture is supported by the Centre for Australia-India Relations and forms part of a broader sports diplomacy push between the two countries. Modi said any league match hosted in India would guarantee massive viewership and reach. Cricket Australia expects strong demand at the 38,000-seat venue, with JioStar broadcasting the match for Indian



audiences and Australian networks sending commentary teams to Chennai.

England hands India another Twenty20 setback with ruthless series-clinching chase

India's Twenty20 struggles deepened on Thursday after England sealed the five-match series with a commanding nine-wicket win in Bristol. India, batting first after winning the toss, posted 158 for seven, with captain Shreyas Iyer carrying the innings through an unbeaten 80 from 49 balls. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made 15, while Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue took two wickets each for England. The chase quickly turned one-sided after Jos Buttler fell early. Harry Brook smashed an unbeaten 79 from 35 balls and Phil Salt finished 59 not out as England reached 159 for one in 13.5 overs. The result gave England an unassailable 3-0 lead and its first bilateral Twenty20 series win over India.

Pogacar crushes Tourmalet rivals to seize commanding Tour de France lead

Tadej Pogacar delivered a devastating statement on Thursday, powering away on the Col du Tourmalet to win stage six of the Tour de France and take a commanding overall lead. The four-time champion attacked after his UAE Team Emirates XRG squad set a punishing pace on the Pyrenean climb, leaving most contenders unable to respond. Jonas Vingegaard was the only rider able to chase, but even he lost 2 minutes and 38 seconds by the finish in Gavarnie-Gèdre. Pogacar's solo raid, watched by French President Emmanuel Macron, gave him his 23rd Tour stage victory and strengthened his control of the race. Former race leader Torstein Traeen endured a disastrous day, later withdrawing after a crash left him with concussion and rib fractures.

Djokovic faces Sinner test with Wimbledon final place and fitness under scrutiny

Novak Djokovic faces Jannik Sinner in a high-stakes Wimbledon semifinal on Friday with his recovery under as much focus as his tennis. The 39-year-old reached the last four after a five-hour, 15-minute quarterfinal win over Felix Auger-Aliassime, raising questions about how much his body has left after another demanding Grand Slam run. Djokovic remains one of the game's sharpest returners and most resilient competitors, but Sinner brings power, improved serving and fresher legs. The world No. 1 has not faced a seeded player at this tournament, yet he has settled after an uneven opening match. Their clash could hinge on



whether Djokovic can reproduce the serving accuracy and clutch play that helped him beat Sinner in Australia earlier this year.

Noskova and Muchova set up rare all-Czech Wimbledon final after dramatic semifinal wins

Linda Noskova and Karolina Muchova will meet in an all-Czech Wimbledon final after contrasting semifinal victories on Thursday at Centre Court. Noskova, playing her first Wimbledon semifinal, defeated Marta Kostyuk 6-4, 6-4 to reach her maiden Grand Slam final. At 20, she becomes the youngest women's finalist at Wimbledon since 2014. Muchova advanced in far more dramatic fashion, saving a match point before beating Coco Gauff 6-2, 1-6, 7-6(10). The 29-year-old, who reached the 2023 French Open final, continued her strong grass-court season after winning the Bad Homburg title. She repeatedly targeted Gauff's forehand while mixing crisp groundstrokes, drop shots and sharp net play. Gauff fought back strongly in the second set and won 32 of 45 net points,



but Muchova held firm in the final tiebreak. Saturday's final will be Wimbledon's first women's major title clash between players from the same country since Serena and Venus Williams met in 2009.

Borthwick avoids future talk before England's must-win Fiji test

England head coach Steve Borthwick has sidestepped questions about his job security before Saturday's test against Fiji, insisting his focus remains only on ending his team's losing streak. England have not won since early February and face growing pressure after last weekend's 45-21 defeat to South Africa in Johannesburg. Borthwick said he and his players share the "hurt and pain" felt by supporters, but would not reveal details of private talks with the Rugby Football Union. He has avoided major changes to the starting lineup, recalling Henry Slade at outside center and moving Tommy Freeman back to the wing. Noah Caluori, Benhard Janse van Rensburg and George Kloska are set for possible debuts from the bench.

Newcastle land Ajax prodigy Sean Steur on long-term deal

Newcastle United completed the signing of 18-year-old Dutch midfielder Sean Steur from Ajax on Thursday, handing him a five-year contract and the number 14 shirt. The Netherlands Under-19 international becomes the club's third senior arrival of the summer after Ewen Jaouen and Bazoumana Toure. Steur, who joined Ajax at seven, broke into the senior side last season, made 24 appearances and became Ajax's youngest Champions League assist provider. Manager Eddie Howe called him a top young prospect with long-term potential.



Caballero returns to City in Maresca's new coaching setup

Manchester City confirmed Enzo Maresca's backroom team on Thursday, with former goalkeeper Willy Caballero returning to the club. Caballero, who made 48 City appearances and starred in a League Cup penalty shootout win, joins Roberto Vitiello, Danny Walker, Michele De Bernardin, Marcos Alvarez, Denis Silva and Javier Molina on Maresca's staff. Vitiello will serve as assistant manager, while James French and Richard Wright stay in their set-piece and goalkeeping roles. Maresca was appointed City manager last month on a three-year deal.

Diljit Dosanjh's 'Satluj' removed from ZEE5 India days after release



Diljit Dosanjh's 'Satluj,' previously titled 'Panjab 95,' was removed from ZEE5 in India within two days of its digital release, renewing debate over the film's long-running certification dispute and its portrayal of a sensitive period in Punjab's history. Directed by Honey Trehan, the film is based on human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who investigated alleged disappearances, extrajudicial killings and unidentified cremations during the years of militancy in

Punjab. Dosanjh plays Khalra in the film. ZEE5 said the title had become unavailable in India "in light of current developments" and added that it would examine appropriate legal options to restore access. Government sources reportedly said the removal was linked to security concerns and requirements under India's Information Technology Rules.

The film had faced repeated delays after being submitted for theatrical certification under the title 'Panjab 95.' Reports said

the Central Board of Film Certification recommended more than 120 changes, which the filmmakers did not accept. Following the removal, Sikh organizations, activists and residents organized community screenings in parts of Punjab using projectors and local venues. Supporters described the screenings as an effort to ensure that the film remained accessible, while critics have raised concerns about presenting a complex and painful historical period without sufficient context. The matter has also reached the Punjab and

Haryana High Court through a public interest petition seeking restoration of the film on the streaming platform. The petition argues that the takedown raises questions about freedom of expression and transparency in content regulation.

The controversy has placed 'Satluj' at the center of a wider discussion involving artistic freedom, public memory, historical representation and government oversight of digital releases.

David Beckham celebrates 'perfect daughter' Harper on her 15th birthday



David Beckham marked daughter Harper Beckham's 15th birthday on Friday with an affectionate social media tribute, calling her his "perfect daughter" and saying the family was fortunate to have her in their lives. Sharing photographs from different stages of her childhood, the former England football captain praised Harper as sweet, kind and beautiful, while joking that she had inherited his personality. Victoria Beckham posted her own collection of family memories and described Harper as her best friend, a gentle and funny young woman who inspires her every day. The fashion designer said watching her daughter grow had been one of the greatest joys of motherhood. Harper, born in 2011, is the youngest of David and Victoria's four children and their only daughter. Her older brothers are Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz. The couple married at Luttrellstown Castle in Ireland in 1999.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu reflects on nepotism and pressure in Telugu cinema

Samantha Ruth Prabhu once offered a measured view of nepotism in the Telugu film industry, arguing that actors from film families and outsiders face different kinds of pressure. During her appearance on 'Koffee With Karan,' host Karan Johar asked about the industry's tradition of launching relatives of established stars. Samantha said both "nepo kids" and newcomers enter the profession with personal challenges, although star children receive far greater public scrutiny when they fail. By contrast, she recalled that an early setback in her own career would initially have been known only to her immediate family. She added that family connections may provide an



opening, but they cannot guarantee success once an actor faces audiences. "The ball is always in the audience's court," she said. Samantha made her acting debut in the 2010 Telugu romance 'Ye Maaya Chesave' and most recently appeared in 'Maa Inti Bangaaram.'

Anand and Milind recall distributors rejecting 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak'

Composer duo Anand and Milind have recalled that distributors initially rejected 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak,' dismissing its gentle soundtrack as too weak for commercial success. Speaking on 'Indian Idol' after contestants Anshika Chonker and Tanishk Shukla performed a song from the film, Anand said producer

Nasir Hussain eventually released the romantic drama himself in Mumbai. The composer remembered visiting the Gaiety-Galaxy theater in Bandra and finding shows packed for weeks, with some college students arriving specifically for the songs. Anand credited his father, composer Chitragupt, and the melodic Hindi film music of the 1960s as major influences.

Amitabh Bachchan turns to ChatGPT to fact-check Morocco World Cup claim

Amitabh Bachchan turned to ChatGPT on Friday to verify a claim about Morocco's squad at the 2026 World Cup.

Writing on X, the veteran actor said he had been told that none of the Moroccan players were born in the country, but the artificial intelligence tool responded that the claim was "not entirely true."

The correction was accurate. Seven members of Morocco's 26-player squad were born in Morocco, while the remaining 19 were born abroad, largely in European countries with sizable Moroccan communities.

Bachchan's post drew attention from football fans after Morocco's strong tournament run ended with a quarterfinal defeat to France on Thursday.

The 83-year-old actor also briefly updated readers of his personal blog, saying he had spent the day shooting before completing office work. The exchange reflected Bachchan's continuing interest in the tournament and his willingness to verify information before accepting it as fact.

'The Pitt' dominates Emmy race while 'Hacks' sets comedy nominations record



'The Pitt' led the 2026 Emmy nominations with 25 nods, while 'Hacks' made history with 24 nominations, the most ever for a comedy series. The strong showing gave HBO Max a commanding year, with 122 nominations overall and major contenders in both drama and comedy categories. 'The Pitt' returned after its breakout first season with acting nominations for Noah Wyle, Katherine LaNasa and several supporting cast members. 'Hacks,' heading into its final season, continued its Emmy momentum, with Jean Smart and Hannah Einbinder again recognized. Apple TV also had a strong showing with 'Pluribus,' 'Widow's Bay' and 'Shrinking.' The Primetime Emmy Awards will be held Monday.

Bonnie Tyler, voice behind 'Total Eclipse of the Heart,' dies at 75

Bonnie Tyler, the Welsh singer whose raspy voice powered the 1983 global hit 'Total Eclipse of the Heart,' has died at 75. Her family said Thursday that she died unexpectedly in a hospital in Portugal, where she had been receiving treatment after emergency intestinal surgery. Born Gaynor Hopkins in Skewen, Wales, Tyler rose from modest beginnings to international fame with songs such as 'It's a Heartache,' 'Holding Out for a Hero' and 'Total Eclipse of the Heart.' The Jim Steinman-produced ballad topped charts and remained a pop culture favorite for decades, especially during eclipse events. Tyler, a three-time Grammy nominee, represented Britain at Eurovision in 2013 and was honored for services to music.

George Clooney to receive Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion honor

George Clooney will receive the Golden Lion for lifetime achievement at the 83rd Venice Film Festival, organizers announced Monday. The actor, director and producer has had a long association with Venice, including appearances with 'Out of Sight,' 'Good Night, and Good Luck' and last year's 'Jay Kelly,' in which he played a movie star facing an existential crisis before accepting a lifetime honor at an Italian festival. Clooney said Venice was his favorite festival and called the award a tremendous honor. Festival director Alberto Barbera praised him as a charismatic artist whose career has combined old-school star power, professionalism and modern sensitivity. The festival will run in September.

Taylor Swift enters newlywed era after star-studded Travis Kelce wedding

Taylor Swift has stepped into her newlywed era, and the celebration has already become a major pop culture moment. The global pop star married Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce on Friday at Madison Square Garden in New York, with her publicist confirming the ceremony.

The wedding blended music, sports and Hollywood spectacle. Reports said actor Adam Sandler officiated, Swift's brother Austin served as her man of honor, and Kelce's brother Jason stood as best man. The couple reportedly avoided a traditional bridal party and exchanged personal vows before family, friends and high-profile guests from entertainment and sports.

The city joined the celebration, with fans gathering outside the arena and the Empire State Building lit in blue as a nod to Swift's "something blue." The reception reportedly included performances by



Stevie Nicks and Paul McCartney, adding another layer of star power to the night.

The aftermath kept Swift in headlines. 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour: The Final Show' earned five Emmy nominations, while a Florida federal judge dismissed a copyright lawsuit against Swift and her label. For Swift and Kelce, the wedding marks a new chapter in one of entertainment's most-watched romances.

'Minions & Monsters' edges 'Toy Story 5' in tight holiday box office race

'Minions & Monsters' narrowly won the Fourth of July holiday box office, collecting \$36.4 million in North America and edging past 'Toy Story 5,' which earned an estimated \$31 million. The seventh film in the 'Despicable Me' franchise opened on Wednesday and reached \$61.4 million over five days, with its global debut climbing to \$160 million. Patriotic drama 'Young Washington,' centered on George Washington's service during the French and Indian War, opened in third place with nearly \$21 million. 'Supergirl' fell sharply to fourth with just under \$10 million, a 74 percent drop from its opening weekend. Overall weekend



ticket sales were down 24 percent from last year, though the summer box office remains nearly 12 percent ahead of 2025.

Kamal Haasan's Kannada remark case shifts to Bengaluru special court

A private complaint against actor-politician Kamal Haasan over his controversial Kannada language remark was transferred on Wednesday to the Special Court for lawmakers in Bengaluru. The complaint was earlier filed before a Kanakapura town court, but the matter moved after Haasan was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu. The special court has adjourned the case to Wednesday. The row began during a Chennai promotional event for 'Thug Life,' where Haasan said Kannada was born out of Tamil. The remark triggered protests in Karnataka, apology



demands and boycott calls. Haasan later said the comment was made with affection and that language history should be left to scholars.

Naseeruddin Shah joins Dhanush and Mammooty's ambitious action drama 'Om'

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has joined the cast of director Rajkumar Periasamy's upcoming film 'Om: Chapter 1,' headlined by Dhanush and Mammooty. Dhanush's production house Wunderbar Films announced the addition on Thursday, calling Shah a strong new presence in the film's world. The action drama is scheduled

for a worldwide theatrical release on Friday. The first teaser suggests a gritty story centered on red sanders woodcutters, with Dhanush appearing as a rescuer amid police action against illegal logging. The film also stars Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela, with music by Sai Abhyankkar. The makers have positioned it as one of the biggest projects in Dhanush's career.

ABC pushes back against FCC review of 'The View' and equal time rules

ABC is fighting a Federal Communications Commission review into whether 'The View' should remain exempt from equal time rules as a bona fide news program. In a filing made public Tuesday, the network argued that the issue had already been settled by a 2002 commission decision that recognized the daytime talk show as a news interview program. ABC accused regulators of trying to chill free speech and interfere with editorial judgment, saying the government should not decide which programs qualify as legitimate news. The dispute centers on rules requiring broadcasters to offer equal airtime to competing political candidates. The case could affect other programs that mix politics, interviews, commentary and entertainment.

Justin Bieber joins Madonna, Shakira and BTS for World Cup final halftime show



Justin Bieber has joined Madonna, Shakira and BTS as a co-headliner for the first FIFA World Cup final halftime show.

FIFA announced Wednesday that the 11-minute performance will take place Sunday during the final outside New York. The show, curated by Coldplay's Chris Martin, will also feature Burna Boy, conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the PS22 Chorus, joined by Coldplay. Organizers said the performance will support the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, which aims to raise \$100 million for children's access to education and soccer. Burna Boy's role is notable because he appears with Shakira on this year's official World Cup song, 'Dai Dai.'

Jon Bon Jovi returns to the stage with emotional Madison Square Garden comeback

Jon Bon Jovi returned to live performance on Tuesday after four years away from the stage following vocal cord surgery. The singer opened Bon Jovi's Forever Tour with the first of nine sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Backed by longtime bandmates Tico Torres and David Bryan, along with Hugh McDonald, John Shanks, Phil X and Everett Bradley, he performed a 21-song set lasting more than two hours. The show opened with The Beatles' 'With a Little Help from My Friends,' with Bon Jovi joking about singing out of tune. He later told the crowd he was grateful, humbled and moved to hear an arena roar again.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा—छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय: (तीसरा पड़ाव)

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर, डोंगरगढ़



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 यात्रा पूर्ण कर चुके हैं। इन यात्राओं ने हमें भारत की अद्भुत सांस्कृतिक विविधता, प्राचीन परंपराओं, लोक आस्थाओं और सनातन विरासत की गहराई को समझने का अवसर प्रदान किया है।

अब यह पावन यात्रा प्रवेश कर चुकी है छत्तीसगढ़ की आध्यात्मिक धरती पर—एक ऐसा प्रदेश जहाँ प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य, जनजातीय संस्कृति, प्राचीन सभ्यता और धार्मिक परंपराएँ एक साथ दिखाई देती हैं। छत्तीसगढ़ केवल अपने घने वनों और समृद्ध लोक संस्कृति के लिए ही प्रसिद्ध नहीं है, बल्कि यहाँ स्थित प्राचीन मंदिर भारत की आध्यात्मिक चेतना, स्थापत्य कला और देवी-देवताओं के प्रति अटूट श्रद्धा के प्रतीक हैं।

छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय की शुरुआत हुई माँ दंतेश्वरी मंदिर, दंतेवाड़ा से, जो शक्ति उपासना का एक अत्यंत पवित्र केंद्र माना जाता है। इसके बाद हमारी यात्रा पहुँची भोरमदेव मंदिर, कबीरधाम, जिसे अपनी अद्भुत स्थापत्य कला और शिल्प सौंदर्य के कारण 'छत्तीसगढ़ का खजुराहो' कहा जाता है।

अब IndoUS Tribune की यह आध्यात्मिक यात्रा आगे बढ़ रही है अपने तीसरे पड़ाव की ओर—माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर, डोंगरगढ़, जहाँ आस्था, शक्ति उपासना और प्रकृति का अद्भुत संगम देखने को मिलता है। लगभग 1,600 फीट ऊँची पहाड़ी पर स्थित यह प्रसिद्ध शक्तिपीठ सदियों से लाखों श्रद्धालुओं की आस्था का केंद्र बना हुआ है।

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर, डोंगरगढ़: छत्तीसगढ़ की आस्था का दिव्य शिखर

छत्तीसगढ़ के राजनांदगांव जिले में स्थित डोंगरगढ़ का माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर मध्य भारत के सबसे प्रसिद्ध शक्तिस्थलों में से एक है। पहाड़ी की ऊँचाई पर विराजमान माँ बम्लेश्वरी का यह मंदिर केवल एक धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं के लिए विश्वास, शक्ति और संरक्षण का प्रतीक है।

स्थानीय मान्यता के अनुसार माँ बम्लेश्वरी देवी को माँ

दुर्गा का एक शक्तिशाली स्वरूप माना जाता है। भक्त उन्हें अपनी कुलदेवी, संरक्षक और संकटों को दूर करने वाली माँ के रूप में पूजते हैं। सदियों से श्रद्धालु यहाँ आकर जीवन में सुख, शांति, साहस और समृद्धि की कामना करते हैं।

डोंगरगढ़ नाम भी अपने आप में इस स्थान की भौगोलिक विशेषता को दर्शाता है। स्थानीय भाषा में 'डोंगर' का अर्थ पहाड़ और 'गढ़' का अर्थ किला होता है। पहाड़ी पर स्थित यह मंदिर आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से भी विशेष महत्व रखता है, क्योंकि भारतीय परंपरा में पर्वतों को दिव्य ऊर्जा और साधना के केंद्र के रूप में देखा जाता है।

प्राचीन इतिहास और धार्मिक मान्यता

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर की उत्पत्ति को लेकर अनेक धार्मिक कथाएँ प्रचलित हैं। स्थानीय परंपराओं के अनुसार इस क्षेत्र का इतिहास लगभग 2,200 वर्ष पुराना माना जाता है और इसका संबंध प्राचीन राजा वीरसेन से जोड़ा जाता है।

मान्यता है कि राजा वीरसेन संतानहीन थे। उन्होंने भगवान शिव और माता पार्वती की आराधना की। उनकी भक्ति से प्रसन्न होकर उन्हें पुत्र रत्न की प्राप्ति हुई, जिसका नाम मदनसेन रखा गया। इस दिव्य कृपा के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करते हुए राजा वीरसेन ने देवी की स्थापना की और मंदिर का निर्माण कराया।

समय के साथ यह स्थान माँ बम्लेश्वरी की आराधना का प्रमुख केंद्र बन गया और दूर-दूर से श्रद्धालु यहाँ आने लगे। एक अन्य लोककथा का संबंध उज्जैन के प्रसिद्ध राजा विक्रमादित्य से भी जुड़ा है। मान्यता है कि किसी युद्ध के पश्चात अत्यंत दुखी होकर राजा विक्रमादित्य ने इसी स्थान पर अपने जीवन का अंत करने का निर्णय लिया। तभी माँ देवी ने प्रकट होकर उन्हें रोका और उन्हें जीवन में धर्म और कर्तव्य के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ने का आशीर्वाद दिया। इसके बाद राजा ने यहाँ कठोर तपस्या की और देवी से प्रार्थना की कि वे इसी स्थान पर निवास करें। भक्तों की आस्था के अनुसार तभी से माँ बम्लेश्वरी इस पहाड़ी पर विराजमान हैं।

पहाड़ी पर स्थित मंदिर और आध्यात्मिक महत्व

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर लगभग 1,600 फीट ऊँची पहाड़ी

पर स्थित है। मंदिर तक पहुँचने के लिए श्रद्धालु लगभग 1,000 से अधिक सीढ़ियाँ चढ़ते हैं। अनेक भक्त आज भी पैदल यात्रा को अपनी श्रद्धा और भक्ति का प्रतीक मानते हैं।

भारतीय आध्यात्मिक परंपरा में ऊँचाई पर स्थित मंदिरों का विशेष महत्व होता है। पहाड़ी पर चढ़ना केवल शारीरिक यात्रा नहीं, बल्कि आत्मिक यात्रा का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

प्रत्येक सीढ़ी भक्त के धैर्य, विश्वास और समर्पण को दर्शाती है। आधुनिक समय में श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधा के लिए यहाँ रोपवे सुविधा भी उपलब्ध है, जो पर्यटकों और बुजुर्ग भक्तों के लिए विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र है। यह छत्तीसगढ़ का पहला यात्री रोपवे भी माना जाता है।

नवरात्रि और माँ बम्लेश्वरी की विशेष आराधना

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर में नवरात्रि पर्व का विशेष महत्व है। वर्ष में दो बार—चैत्र नवरात्रि और क्वार (शारदीय) नवरात्रि—के अवसर पर यहाँ लाखों श्रद्धालु दर्शन के लिए पहुँचते हैं। नवरात्रि के दौरान मंदिर परिसर में हजारों ज्योति कलश प्रज्वलित किए जाते हैं। रात के समय पहाड़ी पर स्थित मंदिर दीपों की रोशनी से जगमगा उठता है, जो भक्तों के लिए अत्यंत दिव्य और भावपूर्ण दृश्य होता है।

भक्तों का विश्वास है कि नवरात्रि के समय माँ बम्लेश्वरी की आराधना विशेष फलदायी होती है। देश के विभिन्न भागों से लोग यहाँ आकर अपनी मनोकामनाएँ पूर्ण होने की प्रार्थना करते हैं। मुख्य पहाड़ी मंदिर को बड़ी बम्लेश्वरी कहा जाता है, जबकि नीचे स्थित मंदिर को छोटी बम्लेश्वरी के नाम से जाना जाता है। दोनों मंदिर श्रद्धालुओं के लिए समान रूप से पूजनीय हैं।

आस्था और लोक संस्कृति का केंद्र

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर केवल धार्मिक आस्था का केंद्र नहीं है, बल्कि छत्तीसगढ़ की सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक पहचान से भी गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है। स्थानीय लोग विवाह, नए व्यवसाय की शुरुआत, यात्रा या जीवन के महत्वपूर्ण अवसरों से पहले माँ का आशीर्वाद लेना शुभ मानते हैं। पीढ़ियों से चली आ रही यह परंपरा आज भी लोगों के जीवन का हिस्सा बनी हुई है।

यह मंदिर इस बात का उदाहरण है कि भारत में धार्मिक स्थल केवल पूजा के स्थान नहीं होते, बल्कि वे समाज, संस्कृति और परंपराओं को जोड़ने वाले केंद्र भी होते हैं।

आधुनिक समय में माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर

आज माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर छत्तीसगढ़ के प्रमुख धार्मिक पर्यटन स्थलों में शामिल है। बेहतर सड़क व्यवस्था, रेल संपर्क और रोपवे जैसी सुविधाओं ने श्रद्धालुओं के लिए यात्रा को और आसान बना दिया है।

डोंगरगढ़ रायपुर से लगभग 100 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है और सड़क तथा रेल मार्ग से अच्छी तरह जुड़ा हुआ है। देश के विभिन्न राज्यों से हजारों श्रद्धालु वर्षभर यहाँ दर्शन के लिए आते हैं।

हालाँकि आधुनिक सुविधाएँ बढ़ी हैं, लेकिन मंदिर की मूल आध्यात्मिक भावना और भक्तों की श्रद्धा आज भी पहले जैसी ही बनी हुई है।

IndoUS Tribune की 'भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा

— छत्तीसगढ़ अध्याय' का यह तीसरा पड़ाव हमें यह अनुभव कराता है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक विरासत केवल प्राचीन मंदिरों और धार्मिक परंपराओं तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह प्रकृति, लोक संस्कृति, इतिहास और जनमानस की आस्था का जीवंत संगम है।

माँ बम्लेश्वरी मंदिर, डोंगरगढ़ सदियों से शक्ति, साहस और संरक्षण का प्रतीक बना हुआ है। ऊँची पहाड़ी पर स्थित यह पवित्र धाम भक्तों को केवल दर्शन ही नहीं देता, बल्कि जीवन में विश्वास, धैर्य और सकारात्मक ऊर्जा का संदेश भी देता है।

छत्तीसगढ़ की इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा में हमने दंतेवाड़ा की शक्ति उपासना, भोरमदेव की स्थापत्य विरासत और अब डोंगरगढ़ की माँ शक्ति के दिव्य स्वरूप का अनुभव किया।

अब IndoUS Tribune की यह पावन यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी अगले पड़ाव की ओर—राजीवलोचन मंदिर, राजिम, जहाँ प्राचीन वैष्णव परंपरा, अद्भुत स्थापत्य कला और छत्तीसगढ़ की धार्मिक विरासत की एक नई झलक हमारा इंतजार कर रही है।

Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

Who gave Lord Rama the divine weapons and why?

There were many reasons for Lord Rama's incarnation on Earth. One of the most important purposes was the destruction of evil forces and the restoration of Dharma (righteousness).

Another significant reason, described in the Valmiki Ramayana, relates to the great penance performed by Sage Kashyapa and Mother Aditi. Pleased with their devotion, Lord Vishnu granted them a boon. The divine couple requested a son who would be like the Supreme Lord Himself.

The Lord lovingly replied:

"अब मैं अपने जैसा बेटा कहाँ से लाऊँ ?
मैं स्वयं आपका पुत्र बनकर आऊँगा ।
अगले जन्म में आप दशरथ और
कौशल्या के रूप में आएंगे,
और मैं आपका पुत्र राम बनकर जन्म लूँगा ।"

"Now where can I bring a son who is
exactly like Me?
I Myself will take birth as your son.
In your next birth, you will be born as
Dasharatha and Kaushalya,
and I will be born as your son, Rama."

The divine promise was fulfilled, and Lord Vishnu incarnated as Lord Rama, the son of King Dasharatha and Mother Kaushalya of Ayodhya.

"कश्यप अदिति महातप कीन्हा,
तिन्ह कहूँ मैं पूरब बर दीन्हा ।
ते दसरथ कौसल्या रूपा,
कोसलपुरी प्रगट नरभूषा ।"

"Kashyap and Aditi performed great
penance,
And I fulfilled the boon previously
granted to them.
They were born as Dasharatha and
Kaushalya,
And I appeared in the city of Kosala as
their son."

The second major reason for Lord Rama's birth was to free the world from the burden of evil and injustice. Whenever oppression increases and righteousness declines, the Divine takes birth to restore balance.

The situation on Earth at that time was similar.

"अतिसय देखी धरम की ग्लानि,
परम सभीत धरा अकुलानी ।
धेनु रूप धरि हृदय बिचारी,
गई तहाँ जहाँ सुर मुनि झारी ।"

"Seeing the great decline of Dharma,
The Earth became deeply distressed and
frightened.
Taking the form of a cow and reflecting
upon her sorrow,
She went to the place where the gods and
sages gathered."

The same eternal principle is explained by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita:

"यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदाऽऽत्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥"

"Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati
Bharata,
Abhyutthanam adharmaasya tadatmanam
srijamyaham."

"Whenever there is a decline
in righteousness and a rise in



unrighteousness, O Bharata,
I manifest Myself."

Lord Rama also required special divine weapons to defeat powerful demons and protect Dharma. The question then arose: Who would provide him with these extraordinary weapons and teach him their use? For this sacred responsibility, the great sage Vishwamitra appeared. Sage Vishwamitra and the Training of Lord Rama

The Valmiki Ramayana, in the Bala Kanda, describes that when Lord Rama and his brothers reached youth, Sage Vishwamitra arrived at King Dasharatha's court. The sage requested that Rama and Lakshmana accompany him to protect his sacred rituals from demons who were disturbing his spiritual practices.

King Dasharatha was initially hesitant. He offered his army instead, but Sage Vishwamitra remained firm. He wanted only Rama and Lakshmana. The sage knew the true purpose behind Rama's birth. He understood that Rama would require divine knowledge and celestial weapons for the great mission ahead. After consulting Sage Vashistha, King Dasharatha finally allowed Rama and Lakshmana to accompany Sage Vishwamitra.

The Slaying of Tataka and the Gift of Divine Weapons While staying at Sage Vishwamitra's hermitage, Rama and Lakshmana learned various skills and disciplines. One day, a terrifying demoness named Tataka arrived near the ashram.

Seeing her frightening appearance, Lord Rama said to Lakshmana:

"तां दृष्ट्वा राघवः क्रूरां विकृतां विकृताननाम् ।
लक्ष्मणं सोऽभ्यभाषत ॥"

"Tam drishtva Raghavah kruram
vikritam vikritananam,
Lakshmanam so'bhayabhashata."

"Seeing this cruel and terrifying being
with a distorted appearance,
Rama spoke to Lakshmana."

Lord Rama observed that Tataka was a woman and wondered whether killing her would be appropriate. However, Sage Vishwamitra knew that she was a cruel and destructive force who had caused immense suffering. Following his guru's command, Rama confronted Tataka and defeated her.

"श्रेणोरसि विव्याध सा पपात ममार च ।
तां हतां भीमसंकाशां दृष्ट्वा सुरपतिस्तदा ॥"

"Sharenorasi vivyadha sa
papata mamara cha,
Tam hatam bhimasankasham drishtva
surapatistada."

"Pierced by Rama's arrow in her chest,
The terrifying Tataka fell and
met her end."

After Tataka's destruction, Sage Vishwamitra realized that the time had arrived to grant Rama the divine weapons required for his future mission. Sage Vishwamitra Gives Divine Weapons to Lord Rama

One morning, the great sage called Rama and spoke with affection:

"परितुष्टोऽस्मि भद्र ते राजपुत्र महायशः ।
प्रीत्या परमया युक्तो ददाम्यस्त्राणि सर्वशः ॥"

"Paritushto'smi bhadra te rajaputra
mahayashah,
Pritya paramaya yukto dadamyasthani
sarvashah."

"O noble prince, I am extremely pleased
with your valor.
With great affection, I grant you these
divine weapons."

Sage Vishwamitra presented Lord Rama with several celestial weapons and explained the methods to invoke and control them.

Among them were the divine sword Nandana, the Vayavya Astra, Hayashira Astra, Krauncha Astra, powerful Shakti weapons, and weapons known as Kankala, Musala, Kapala, and Kinkini.

"वायव्यं प्रथमं नाम ददामि च तवानघ ।
अस्त्रं हयशिरो नाम क्रौञ्चमस्त्रं तथैव च ॥"

"Vayavyam prathamam nama dadami
cha tavanagha,
Astram Hayashiro nama
Kraunchamastram tathaiva cha."
"I grant you the Vayavya weapon, O
sinless one,
Along with the Hayashira and Krauncha
celestial weapons."

He further bestowed powerful weapons including Tamas, Sauman, Samvarta, Durjaya, Musala, and Satya, along with divine weapons connected with the powers of the Sun, Moon, and Vishwakarma.

The great Guru-Shishya tradition

The following day, Sage Vishwamitra carefully explained the use, control, and significance of every weapon. He patiently answered all questions of Rama and Lakshmana and removed every doubt from their minds.

After receiving this divine knowledge, the two brothers expressed their gratitude:

"गृहीतास्त्रोऽस्मि भगवन् दुर्धर्षः सुरासुरैः ।
अस्त्राणां त्वहमिच्छामि संहारं मुनिपुङ्गव ॥"

"Grihitastrasmi Bhagavan durdharshah
surasuraih,
Astranam tvaham icchami samharam
munipungava."

"O revered sage, by your grace we have
received these powerful weapons.
We seek your guidance on their proper
use and withdrawal."

With humility, Rama and Lakshmana bowed before their guru and promised that these divine powers would always be used for the protection of Dharma and the welfare of humanity. This episode is not merely a story about receiving celestial weapons. It represents the eternal values of the Guru-Shishya tradition, discipline, humility, and responsibility.

Sage Vishwamitra did not only give weapons to Lord Rama; he prepared him for the divine mission for which he had descended upon Earth—the victory of Dharma over Adharma. Our respectful salutations to the great Guru Sage Vishwamitra and Maryada Purushottam Lord Rama.

Jai Shri Ram.



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India's Next Knowledge Bridge

By: Ambassador Vinay kwatra

For decades, the Indian diaspora has been one of our country's greatest strengths, serving as a living bridge between India and the world, contributing to innovation ecosystems, shaping global discourse, and strengthening economic and cultural ties.

Today, as India positions itself at the forefront of frontier technologies, knowledge production, and is on an upward ambitious path, a new opportunity presents itself to deepen this partnership: the Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme.

This initiative seeks to attract eminent scholars, scientists and innovators of Indian origin who have established distinguished careers in leading universities, research institutions, and industry across the world to India. The scheme provides a structured mechanism for these experts to contribute their knowledge and experience to India's development by creating prestigious research chairs in India's premier institutions.

Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme is an important pillar in the larger national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Achieving this vision demands breakthroughs in science and technology, frontier research, innovation-led industries, and the ability to create intellectual property that powers economic prosperity.

The Government of India has consistently emphasized that a developed India must also be a knowledge leader, capable of generating solutions not only for its own citizens but for the world. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme directly contributes to this ambition. By encouraging interdisciplinary research and close collaboration between academia, government, and industry, it seeks to ensure that scientific discovery translates into innovation, commercialization, and public policy.

From artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and semiconductors



to biotechnology, climate resilience, advanced manufacturing and healthcare, the research undertaken through these Chairs has the potential to accelerate technological self-reliance, foster innovation, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and create high-quality employment in India. The scheme is therefore an investment in India's future

economic and strategic capabilities.

For our Indian diaspora, participation in this unique initiative offers a never seen before opportunity to contribute to one of the most consequential nation-building projects of our time. Indian-origin scholars have helped shape some of the defining innovations of the modern age across laboratories, universities, research institutes, and technology companies around the world. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme creates an institutional bridge to connect this global expertise with India's rapidly expanding research ecosystem.

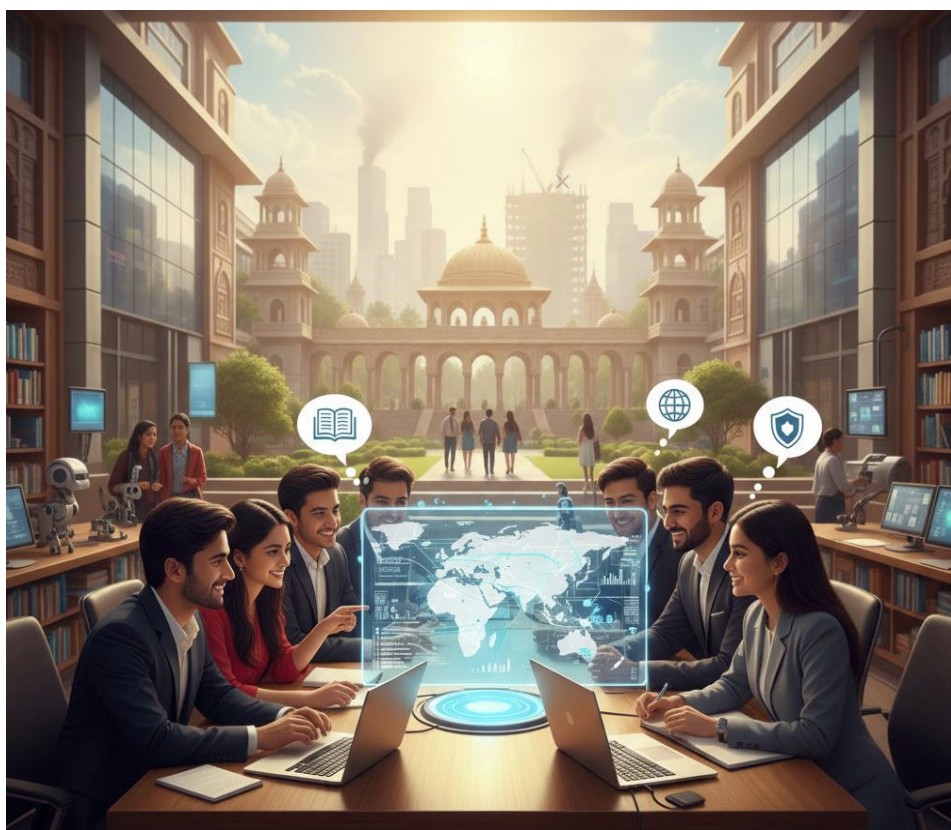
It enables the diaspora to become active partners in building the scientific, technological, and intellectual foundations of a developed India. A distinguishing feature of the initiative is also its flexibility. It enables internationally accomplished researchers to engage with Indian institutions through sustained collaborations, mentoring programmes, joint research projects, faculty exchanges, doctoral supervision, and the establishment of long-term international research partnerships. For the Indian diaspora, these features make the scheme uniquely attractive. Researchers can maintain their global academic engagements while helping build India's capacity for the next generation.

There is also a deeper enduring dimension to this effort to capitalize on our shared dreams. The relationship between India and its diaspora has evolved to a consequential partnership being defined by shared ambition. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme builds on this evolution, offering a platform where intellectual capital becomes the new currency of engagement between India and the world. The diaspora has always been an integral part of India's economic progress. This is a moment to step forward once again as co-authors of India's intellectual future.

Through this medium, I would like to invite all our diaspora members to utilize this opportunity to co-create knowledge ecosystems that connect the best of Indian and global talent. The diaspora's role in this effort is indispensable, and we look forward to embarking on this journey together as we realize the vision of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to chart the path of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Disclaimer: This article is an opinion piece and reflects the author's personal views and interpretation of publicly available information. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of IndoUS Tribune, its editors, publisher, staff or affiliates.

Courtesy: Vandana Jhingan



Faith under siege

Theft, corruption and digital fraud polluting India’s sacred temples

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः
Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah

“Dharma protects those who protect Dharma.”

This timeless Sanskrit principle reminds us that when sacred institutions fail to uphold righteousness, society itself begins to weaken. India’s temples are sacred centers of faith, devotion and civilizational heritage. For millions of devotees, offerings symbolize gratitude, sacrifice and surrender to the divine. People donate not because they are wealthy, but because they believe their contribution is sacred. Yet a troubling pattern is spreading across the country. Internal theft, weak controls and cyber fraud are turning temples into targets for corruption and criminal exploitation. What was once rare is now recurring: the abuse of faith itself. This is no longer an isolated concern. It demands urgent attention.

Ayodhya Ram Mandir scam: A national wake-up call

The recent case involving the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya exposed serious lapses in cash handling, surveillance and staff oversight. An SIT probe into alleged donation theft reportedly led to arrests and cash recovery, raising difficult questions about internal controls and accountability.

Investigators reportedly found irregularities in donation counting, surveillance coverage, staff verification and cash movement. The most troubling aspect is that the alleged theft occurred inside the very system meant to protect devotees’ offerings. The scandal has shaken public confidence and raised a broader question: if such vulnerabilities exist in one of India’s most protected temples, what is happening elsewhere?

The exploitation pipeline

Temple fraud now operates through two main channels: internal corruption and external digital fraud. On one side are insiders, including staff, accountants, contractors or officials, who exploit weak controls to siphon money, manipulate records and steal offerings. On the other are cybercriminals who target devotees through fake websites, fraudulent QR codes and deceptive booking portals. Together, they form a dangerous ecosystem of exploitation.

Similar incidents across India

The Ayodhya case is not an exception. Several major temples across India have faced similar incidents.

At the Baba Balak Nath Temple in Himachal Pradesh, accounting staff were accused of manipulating cash sorting by replacing higher-value notes with lower denominations and pocketing the difference. This was not random theft, but a deliberate abuse of trust.

In Odisha, the Jagannath Temple administration in Puri had to issue repeated warnings after fraudsters launched fake websites selling “VIP darshan” passes. The irony is stark: darshan at Jagannath Temple is free, yet scammers monetized devotion by misleading pilgrims into paying for fake access.

In Karnataka, devotees visiting Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Temple reportedly fell prey to fake accommodation booking portals, with families paying advance amounts to fraudulent websites only to discover they had been scammed upon arrival.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages one of the world’s richest temples, has also faced recurring allegations involving ticket black marketing, VIP darshan manipulation and laddu distribution irregularities. While TTD has relatively advanced systems, loopholes continue to surface.

Similarly, the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in Maharashtra has witnessed donation-related controversies and theft allegations over the years involving staff and vendors. These cases show a troubling reality: no temple, large or small, public or private, is fully immune.

Vaishno Devi Shrine Board: Questions over use of offerings

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is sustained by offerings from Hindu devotees who believe they are serving the goddess. Yet public criticism has grown over the use of shrine funds to establish and run a medical college. Reports and public debate have also alleged that a large share of the seats, with figures cited as high as 85 percent in some discussions, are effectively reserved or made available to non-Hindus. For many devotees, this is not a minor administrative issue. It raises concerns about whether the use of shrine funds reflects the intent of the donors.

Past coverage by IndoUS Tribune on the Vaishno Devi issue and the Baba Balak Nath matter shows that concerns over the treatment of Hindu religious institutions have surfaced repeatedly and cannot be dismissed as a one-time controversy.

What must change

GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED vs. TRUST-CONTROLLED TEMPLES

A common debate is whether government-controlled temples are safer than privately managed trusts. The evidence suggests that corruption can exist under both systems.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMPARISON

GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TEMPLES	PRIVATE TRUST-CONTROLLED TEMPLES
State audits	Faster decisions
RTI access	Greater flexibility
Bureaucratic delays	Limited public scrutiny
Political influence	Opaque financial systems

Government-managed temples may have audit mechanisms and RTI access, but they often suffer from bureaucratic delays, weak enforcement and political interference.

Private trusts can move faster and adopt better technology, but many operate with limited transparency and weak public oversight.

THE TRUTH IS SIMPLE:
CORRUPTION THRIVES WHEREVER ACCOUNTABILITY IS WEAK.

India’s temple ecosystem urgently needs structural reform. First, donation counting rooms and vaults must be secured with AI-enabled surveillance capable of detecting unusual movement, camera tampering and suspicious behavior in real time. Second, all temples above a defined donation threshold should undergo mandatory third-party audits with quarterly public disclosures.

Third, India needs a centralized verified digital ecosystem for darshan booking, accommodation, prasad delivery and donations to eliminate fake portals and online fraud. Temple security cannot continue to rely on outdated systems in a digital age.

भगवद्गीता 16.21
त्रिविधं नरकस्येदं द्वारं नाशनमात्मनः ।
कामः क्रोधस्तथा लोभस्तस्मादेतत्त्रयं त्यजेत ॥

Trividham narakasyedam dvaram
nashanam atmanah
Kamah krodhas tatha lobhas tasmad
etat trayam tyajet

Meaning:
“There are three gates leading to self-destruction: lust, anger and greed. Therefore, one must abandon all three.”

Among these, greed, or lobha, lies at the heart of many temple corruption scandals today.

Faith is being looted, and the system is failing

This is not ordinary theft. It is a breach of trust. When a poor laborer places 101 in a temple hundi, he is not merely donating money. He is offering faith, sacrifice and

hope. That offering carries emotion, devotion and trust. When that money is stolen by insiders or looted by scammers, the harm is financial and spiritual. The pattern is hard to ignore: weak oversight, delayed action and damage control only after public exposure. Most major temples in India are directly or indirectly under government oversight, regulation or political influence, so governments cannot evade responsibility when scams emerge.

Temple audits should be public. Security systems should be modern. Repeated lapses should not be tolerated. Officials who abuse their positions should not be shielded by politics. Temples are sacred spaces, not financial playgrounds for thieves or corrupt insiders. Devotees deserve transparency, accountability and protection.

If airports, banks and stock exchanges can be secured with advanced technology, temples should not remain vulnerable to theft, corruption and digital fraud. Faith should uplift society. It should never become a business model for criminals. India must act now, firmly and transparently. When temples are compromised, the loss is not only money. It is trust.

भगवद्गीता 4.7-8
यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् ।
धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ॥

Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati
Bharata
Abhyutthanam adharmasya
tadatmanam srijamyaham

Paritranaya sadhunam vinashaya cha
dushkritam
Dharma-samsthapanarthaya
sambhavami yuge yuge

Meaning:
“Whenever righteousness declines and unrighteousness rises, I manifest myself. To protect the good, destroy evil and re-establish Dharma, I appear age after age.”

This is both a warning to those who exploit faith and a reminder that Dharma ultimately prevails.

TEMPLE FRAUD ECOSYSTEM	
INTERNAL CORRUPTION	DIGITAL FRAUD
Donation theft	Fake websites
Currency switching	Paid darshan scams
Gold siphoning	Fake prasad delivery
CCTV manipulation	Fake room booking portals
Insider collusion	QR code fraud

HOW TEMPLE FRAUD OPERATES	
INTERNAL THEFT	DIGITAL SCAM
Donation skimming	Fake websites
Gold diversion	Fake booking portals
CCTV tampering	Fake darshan passes
Insider collusion	QR code fraud
The methods differ, but the causes are the same: weak oversight, outdated systems and poor accountability.	



Aamir Khan's wedding revives debate over Bollywood, faith and public scrutiny

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Aamir Khan's reported registered marriage to Gauri Spratt has once again pushed Bollywood's personal lives into the center of a familiar public debate. The actor's third marriage, held privately at his Mumbai home, has drawn attention not only because of his stature in Indian cinema but also because celebrity relationships in India are often viewed through the lenses of faith, culture, identity and public influence.

That scrutiny is not new. Bollywood has a long history of interfaith marriages that became talking points beyond the film industry. Sharmila Tagore married Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi in 1968 and reportedly converted to Islam, taking the name Begum Ayesha Sultana.

Reena Roy married Pakistani cricketer Mohsin Khan in 1983, moved away from her film career for a period and later went through a divorce and custody battle. Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan, Aamir Khan and his former spouses, and more recently Zaheer Iqbal and Sonakshi Sinha have all been discussed in public as examples of relationships across religious or cultural lines.

However, it would be inaccurate to present these marriages as proof of a single, one-way cultural pattern. Bollywood history also includes prominent examples in the opposite direction, including Sunil Dutt and Nargis, one of Hindi cinema's most celebrated interfaith couples. Other public families in cinema have also blended rituals, identities and customs in ways that do not fit a simple communal narrative.

This is where opinion must be separated from fact. India remains a society where interfaith marriages are rare. Pew Research has reported that nearly all married Indians say their spouse shares their religion, and less than 1 percent of marriages involve spouses who were raised in different religions.

That makes celebrity interfaith unions more visible and more debated. But visibility does not automatically prove conspiracy, cultural surrender or demographic intent.

The latest attention around Aamir Khan also needs careful handling. Reliable reports describe Gauri Spratt as a Bengaluru-born entrepreneur with a multicultural family background. Publicly available reporting does not establish a verified religious conversion after the marriage, nor does it support turning the wedding into evidence of religious transfer. In the absence of verified information, speculation about her faith or personal religious choices should be avoided.

There is still room for legitimate public debate. Bollywood stars are not private citizens in the ordinary sense. Their films, public statements and brand images are built through mass audiences, and those audiences are entitled to critique their work, politics, public messaging and cultural



choices. Aamir Khan has previously faced criticism over his 2014 film 'PK', which some groups viewed as disrespectful to Hindu beliefs. He has defended the film, saying it was not meant to offend any religion and was intended to criticize exploitation in the name of faith. His 2015 comments on intolerance also triggered a national controversy and remain part of how some viewers judge his public persona.

But criticism must be fair, specific and fact-based. It is reasonable to ask whether Bollywood treats all faiths with equal sensitivity. It is reasonable to question whether elite cultural spaces sometimes appear disconnected from the sentiments of their largest audiences. It is also reasonable to expect public figures to show empathy toward national tragedies, soldiers, victims

of terrorism and communities that feel misrepresented.

What is not responsible is turning individual marriages into sweeping claims about an entire religious community. Personal relationships cannot be reduced to demographic arithmetic. Adult citizens have the legal and moral right to choose their partners, and public disagreement should not become suspicion directed at a faith group.

The real issue is not who marries whom. The larger question is whether Bollywood can engage with India's religious and cultural diversity with honesty, balance and respect. If the industry expects trust from audiences across the country, it must avoid selective courage, lazy stereotypes and

uneven sensitivities. That applies to how it portrays Hindu traditions, Muslim lives, Sikh history, Christian communities and every other faith that forms part of India's public life.

Aamir Khan's marriage may have reignited the debate, but the debate should move beyond rumor and resentment. The more useful conversation is about cultural responsibility, artistic fairness and the need for public figures to understand the emotional weight their choices and statements carry.

India's cinema has always reflected its tensions, aspirations and contradictions. It should not be asked to abandon love stories across faiths. It should be asked to tell them with respect, equality and truth.

IACA and Ray Graham Association celebrate freedom, friendship and a decade of inclusion

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Indian American Cultural Association of Chicago and the Ray Graham Association came together in Burr Ridge, Illinois, for a warm and meaningful celebration of freedom, friendship and inclusion on July 1. The event marked three important milestones: the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States, India's 80th Independence Day and 10 years of partnership between IACA and the Ray Graham Association. The celebration brought together community members, volunteers, youth participants, civic leaders and individuals served by the Ray Graham Association for a morning filled with cultural pride, shared values and community spirit.

The program opened with the national anthems of the United States and India, symbolizing the enduring bond between the world's two largest democracies. The ceremony continued with vibrant cultural performances by IACA youth members, whose energetic dance presentations showcased the richness of Indian heritage while adding color and enthusiasm to the occasion. One of the most meaningful highlights of the celebration was the Joint Independence Day Parade, where IACA youth and Ray Graham Association participants marched together while proudly waving the American and Indian flags. The parade served as a powerful expression of unity, inclusion and mutual respect.

IACA President Vinita Gulabani shared that the event was attended by several distinguished community leaders and public officials, including Mayor Larry Herman, Sunil Shah, Meghna Bansal, Madhu Uppal, Sohan Joshi, Praful Rami and Prem Sharma. Their presence reflected the strong relationship between the Indian American community and the



broader civic community in Illinois.

Following the formal program, attendees gathered for refreshments and fellowship during a festive reception. Guests also received commemorative IACA gifts, adding a thoughtful touch to the celebration.

Reflecting on the occasion, IACA leadership described the event as "a beautiful celebration of freedom, friendship and inclusion." The organization emphasized that its long-standing partnership with the Ray Graham Association continues to create meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange, volunteerism and community service.

Gulabani also acknowledged the dedication of the many volunteers who helped make the event possible. She expressed appreciation to the IACA leadership team, including Shanu Sinha, Richa Pal, Kamlesh Kapoor, Radhika Garimella and IACA Vice President Raj Narayan, along with volunteers from both organizations. Special recognition was given to Neal Patel for his outstanding coordination and support in organizing the celebration.

The Indian American Cultural Association is dedicated to preserving and promoting Indian culture while building meaningful relationships through youth engagement, volunteerism

and community outreach. The Ray Graham Association has served the greater Chicago area for decades by providing housing, employment, educational and community support services that empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling and independent lives.

As the United States and India prepare to celebrate historic national milestones, the event served as a reminder that freedom, friendship and inclusion are values best honored when communities come together.

Photographs by Ramesh Punatar.



Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA commemorates America's 250th Independence Anniversary in Chicago

By: IndoUS Tribune News Desk

The Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA celebrated America's 250th Independence Anniversary on July 4 at Hoover Forest Preserve, bringing together nearly 100 participants, including HSS volunteers, families, and community members, for a program that blended patriotism with reflections on shared civic and cultural values. The celebration began with the hoisting of the United States flag, followed by the singing of the U.S. National Anthem, as attendees gathered to honor the nation's historic milestone and express gratitude for the freedoms and opportunities America has provided to generations of immigrants.



Speakers described the nation's 250th anniversary as a once-in-a-generation occasion that offers an opportunity to reflect on the country's remarkable journey since 1776 while reaffirming the responsibilities of citizenship. They also acknowledged the contributions

of Hindu Americans in strengthening American society through volunteerism, education, entrepreneurship, public service, and community engagement.

A significant portion of the program was dedicated to remembering Swami Vivekananda, whose life shares a unique historical connection with America's Independence Day. Speakers noted that Swami Vivekananda passed away on July 4, 1902, and reflected on his lasting influence following his historic address at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893, where he introduced Hindu philosophy to a global audience and promoted interfaith understanding.

The program also highlighted Swami Vivekananda's poem dedicated to the

Fourth of July, in which he celebrated the ideals of freedom and liberty. Speakers observed that these principles resonate deeply with Hindu philosophy, particularly the concept of Dharma, which emphasizes righteous living, responsibility, and service to society. They noted that the American pursuit of liberty and opportunity complements the Hindu belief in living a life guided by ethical values and selfless action.

Throughout the event, speakers emphasized that the celebration was not only a commemoration of America's independence but also an opportunity for Hindu Americans to reflect on their dual heritage—honoring the nation they proudly call home while remaining rooted in timeless cultural and spiritual traditions.

The gathering concluded with fellowship among attendees, reinforcing HSS USA's mission of promoting character building, community service, cultural awareness, and social harmony. As the United States marked 250 years of independence, the HSS USA celebration served as a reminder of the shared values of freedom, civic responsibility, and service that continue to unite diverse communities across the country.



Heavy rain causes extensive flooding in Hanover Park as America marks 250th Independence Anniversary

By: Jayanti Oza

While communities across the United States were preparing to celebrate the nation's 250th Independence Anniversary with fireworks and festivities on July 4, 2026, severe thunderstorms and torrential rainfall disrupted celebrations in parts of the Chicago metropolitan area, causing extensive flooding and property damage. According to reports from the affected area, Hanover Park experienced intense rainfall between approximately 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., with nearly 2.7 inches of rain falling within a short period, accompanied by powerful lightning

and strong winds. The heavy downpour overwhelmed local drainage systems, resulting in significant flash flooding along Windmill Drive near County Farm Road and Schick Road. Approximately 25 to 30 homes were affected, with floodwaters reportedly reaching nearly five feet in some basements.

Residents suffered extensive damage to furniture, appliances, personal belongings, and other valuables stored in lower levels of their homes. The sudden rise in water levels left many families with little time to protect their possessions or assist neighbors, resulting in substantial financial losses estimated in the millions of dollars. The severe weather also disrupted Independence Day celebrations



across the western suburbs of Chicago. Several fireworks displays scheduled for the evening were canceled or postponed due to heavy rain, lightning, and unsafe conditions. Among those impacted was Jayanti Oza, a Chicago-based journalist and photographer, whose own residence sustained extensive damage, including flooding in the basement and damage to windows caused by the severe weather conditions.

Despite the challenges, residents began cleanup efforts as soon as conditions improved, demonstrating the resilience and community spirit that often emerges during times of crisis. The storm served as a reminder that even during moments of national

celebration, communities remain vulnerable to the unpredictable forces of nature.



Chicago Hindu Women’s Network hosts ‘Women, Wellness & Community’ program



● **By: IndoUS Tribune News Desk and Jayanti Oza**

Bringing together women from three generations of the Indian American community, the Chicago Hindu Women's Network hosted an engaging program titled 'Women, Wellness & Community' on Sunday, June 28, at the National India Hub in Schaumburg.

The event drew approximately 130 attendees, including students, young professionals, healthcare experts, entrepreneurs and community leaders, for an afternoon focused on health, personal well-being, leadership and community engagement.

Traditional opening and welcome address

The program began with a traditional Deep Prajwalan, the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a welcome address from Yashaswini Desai, Chair of the Chicago Hindu Women's Network. Desai highlighted the organization's mission of empowering women while fostering leadership, education and community service.

Ayurveda and preventive wellness

The keynote presentation was delivered by Vaidya Deepti Suri, a seventh-generation Ayurvedic physician and NAMA-certified practitioner. She shared practical guidance on holistic wellness, emphasizing the importance of daily routines, known as Dinacharya,

seasonal lifestyle practices, known as Ritucharya, balanced nutrition and the role of Panchakarma in preventive healthcare.

Oral health and overall well-being

Adding a modern healthcare perspective, Dr. Mohini Verma spoke about the close connection between oral health and overall well-being. She encouraged regular dental checkups and consistent oral hygiene, describing them as essential components of preventive healthcare.

Seva and community support

Community volunteer Archana Agrawal spoke about the importance of seva, or selfless service. She shared how her charitable initiatives support couples in

need by helping organize traditional Hindu weddings, demonstrating how community service can positively impact lives.

Women in civic leadership

The program also featured an inspiring presentation by Bhavini Patel, Village Trustee of Bolingbrook. Patel encouraged women, particularly younger generations, to become active in civic life and community leadership while preserving Indian cultural values.

Youth performances celebrate culture

The cultural segment showcased performances by two talented high school students. Kashvi Pandit presented a graceful classical dance, while Ana Rathi delighted the audience with an energetic Punjabi folk performance. The performances highlighted the artistic talent and cultural pride of the younger generation.

Networking and community connection

The event concluded with a networking reception and healthy refreshments, giving attendees an opportunity to interact with speakers and fellow participants in an informal setting. Participants praised the program for successfully blending health education, cultural heritage, leadership and community service into a meaningful experience.

One attendee described the event as both informative and inspiring, noting that the presentations on Ayurveda, oral health and community initiatives, combined with the cultural performances, made for a well-rounded and engaging program. The Chicago Hindu Women's Network continues to organize programs that encourage women's empowerment, promote healthy living, preserve cultural traditions and strengthen community connections across generations.



Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha Women's Wing demands immediate death penalty for child rapists, seeks legal reforms

By: Vandana Jhingan

The Women's Wing of the Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha has demanded that those convicted of raping minors be awarded the death penalty under Section 65(ii) without delay, following the reported gang rape of a 13-year-old girl by 32 accused.

The demand was made during an online meeting held at the organization's national headquarters in Ghaziabad. The discussion centered on the punishment that should be awarded in the case and the steps needed to prevent such crimes from recurring.

The meeting was attended by women's wing office-bearers and representatives from across India and abroad, including the National Headquarters, the America Chapter as the organization's international chapter, and leaders from Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Mumbai, Ghaziabad, Green Park, and Transhondon. National President Colonel Tejendra Pal Tyagi, National Secretary Rajendra Bagasi, and other senior members also participated.

During the meeting, participants



expressed deep concern over crimes against minors and put forward several recommendations aimed at strengthening deterrence and ensuring faster justice.

Among the key recommendations were:

- Denial of bail to those accused of rape in such cases.
- Speedy trials with judgments delivered within three months, avoiding

prolonged proceedings similar to the Nirbhaya case.

- Constitutional amendments to provide harsher punishment, including public execution for convicted rapists.
- Appeals to the President of India and the Union Home Minister seeking an appointment to discuss legal reforms.
- Submission of memoranda to governors by the organization's state units.
- A ban on television serials that, according to the organization,

promote conspiracy, violence, erosion of social values, family discord, and double-meaning dialogue.

- Withdrawal of legal recognition for live-in relationships.
- Greater awareness in schools about the 11 Fundamental Duties of citizens under Article 51A of the Constitution of India.

Some participants also suggested a social boycott of the families of convicted offenders and argued that lawyers should refrain from representing individuals accused of such crimes.

Addressing the meeting, Colonel Tejendra Pal Tyagi said that when similar crimes occur repeatedly within a short period, the most effective deterrent is to ensure that offenders in one case are apprehended quickly, tried in record time, and awarded exemplary punishment.

"The punishment should be swift and severe enough to serve as a precedent for others," he said. The organization stated that it would forward its recommendations to constitutional authorities and continue its campaign for stricter laws and faster justice in cases involving sexual crimes against children.



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Friday, 10 July 2026

जय माता दी

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FOR MATA KA

JAGRAN

OR CHOWKI

Contact us at
Jagrantv@gmail.com

Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma





Healthy heart, healthy life: Protecting your heart at every stage of life

A new 10-part educational series by Dr. (H) Avi Verma

By: Dr. Avi Verma

After the overwhelming response to our five-part "Protect Your Vision, Protect Your Life" series, IndoUS Tribune is pleased to introduce the next installment of our Health Corner—a comprehensive ten-part series titled "Healthy Heart, Healthy Life: Protecting Your Heart at Every Stage of Life."

Vision allows us to experience the beauty of the world around us, but it is the heart that sustains every moment of life. From the first heartbeat before birth to the final beat at the end of life, the heart works continuously, pumping nearly 2,000 gallons of blood every day and supplying oxygen and nutrients to every organ in the body. Yet despite its remarkable resilience, cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide, claiming millions of lives each year. The encouraging reality is that many of these deaths are preventable through awareness, timely diagnosis, healthy lifestyle choices, and regular medical care.

Heart disease is often misunderstood as a condition that affects only older adults. Cardiovascular disease can begin silently decades before symptoms appear. High blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, smoking, chronic stress, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity gradually damage the heart and blood vessels long before an individual experiences chest pain or a heart attack. Many people appear perfectly healthy while underlying disease quietly progresses.

Modern medicine has made extraordinary advances in the prevention and treatment of heart disease. Procedures that were once considered revolutionary—such as angioplasty, coronary artery bypass surgery, minimally invasive valve replacement, catheter ablation, and advanced heart failure therapies—have transformed millions of lives. At the same time, medical research continues to demonstrate that prevention remains the most powerful treatment. Simple lifestyle measures such as regular exercise, maintaining a healthy diet, controlling blood pressure and diabetes, avoiding tobacco, getting adequate sleep, and managing stress can dramatically reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

This educational series has been developed to help readers understand not only how the heart functions but also how to recognize the warning signs of disease, appreciate available treatment options, and adopt habits that promote lifelong cardiovascular health. Rather than focusing solely on medical terminology, each article will present practical, evidence-based information in language that readers can easily understand and apply in their daily lives.

Throughout the series, we will explore the full spectrum of cardiovascular health. We will begin by understanding how the heart works and why maintaining its health is essential throughout life. Subsequent articles will examine coronary artery disease, heart attacks, high blood pressure, irregular



heart rhythms, heart failure, cholesterol disorders, diabetes-related heart disease, valve disorders, congenital heart conditions, stroke prevention, and the latest advances in cardiovascular diagnosis and treatment.

The series will also discuss modern diagnostic tools such as electrocardiograms (ECG), echocardiography, stress testing, coronary calcium scoring, CT angiography, cardiac catheterization, and other technologies that help physicians detect heart disease at its earliest stages. Readers will gain insight into today's treatment options, including medications, angioplasty and stenting, coronary artery bypass surgery, pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, catheter-based valve replacement procedures, and advanced therapies for heart failure.

Equally important, this series will emphasize prevention. Heart health is influenced not only by genetics but also by the choices we make every day. Healthy eating, maintaining an ideal body weight, regular physical activity, adequate sleep, emotional well-being, and routine health screenings all play critical roles in reducing cardiovascular risk. We will also discuss the unique aspects of heart disease affecting women, South Asians, older adults, and younger individuals, recognizing that risk factors and symptoms often differ among various populations.

For the Indian American community, this topic carries particular importance. Numerous studies have shown that people of South Asian origin have a significantly higher risk of developing

coronary artery disease, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome at younger ages than many other populations. Often, these conditions develop even in individuals who appear physically fit or have a normal body weight. Understanding these unique risk factors can help individuals and families make informed decisions long before disease develops.

Every article in this series will include practical recommendations, common symptoms to watch for, risk factors, preventive strategies, and the latest evidence-based treatment approaches. Our objective is not simply to describe diseases, but to empower readers with knowledge that can help protect themselves and their loved ones.

The goal of "Healthy Heart, Healthy Life" is simple: to encourage prevention before illness occurs, promote early diagnosis when disease develops, and inspire healthier lifestyles that lead to longer, more active, and more fulfilling lives. Whether you are a young adult beginning your journey to wellness, a parent concerned about your family's health, or a senior seeking to maintain an active lifestyle, this series is designed to provide valuable information for every stage of life.

Beginning next week, Health Corner will present Part 1: "Understanding Your Heart—The Foundation of a Healthy Life," where we will explore how the heart functions, why cardiovascular disease develops, and the essential steps everyone should take to keep this extraordinary organ healthy for years to come.

A healthy heart is more than the absence of

disease—it is the foundation of an energetic life, a productive future, and lasting well-being. Through this series, IndoUS Tribune remains committed to its mission of promoting public health, encouraging preventive care, and empowering our readers with trusted medical knowledge that can truly make a difference.

Disclaimer

This Health Corner series is intended solely for educational and public awareness purposes. The information presented is designed to help readers better understand cardiovascular health, recognize potential warning signs, and appreciate the importance of prevention and early diagnosis. It should not be considered a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

Heart disease can present differently in different individuals, and symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, palpitations, or sudden weakness should never be ignored. Anyone experiencing these or other concerning symptoms should seek immediate medical attention or consult a qualified physician or cardiologist without delay. Medical knowledge continues to evolve, and treatment recommendations may vary depending on an individual's age, medical history, and overall health.

Readers are encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns regarding their heart health with their healthcare provider. Early detection, regular health screenings, and timely medical care remain the most effective strategies for preventing cardiovascular disease and preserving long-term heart health.

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: PERSONAL FINANCE & AI

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -10.9% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 31 (fear)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 57.72% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 67.00% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 5/31/26
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 63.26%, Hybrids 3.89%, Bonds 16.80%, M-Mkt 16.05%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
Current 3.50-3.75%
FOMC 7/29/26+ hold
FOMC 9/16/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.82%, 1-yr 3.96%;
T-Notes 2-yr 4.14%, 5-yr 4.23%, 10-yr 4.49%;
T-Bonds 30-yr 4.98% (normal yield-curve);
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.99%, 10-yr 2.26%, 30-yr 2.79%
FRNs Index 3.776%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 7/1/26
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%
Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%, IRA-101110+ 4.10%
TIAA MYGA 4.55% (3-yr), 4.70% (5-yr), 4.75% (7-yr)
TSP G Fund 4.500% (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 64.44 (greed-high)
Weekly ETFs: INDIA 0%, INDY -0.11%, EPI -0.02%, INDH +0.38% | SPY +2.17%

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

HEALTHCARE

US private investment firm KKR may



buy Swedish Medcover's 66.9% stake in Medcover Hospitals India. KKR has several healthcare investments in India. In parallel, Medcover is also considering spinoff of Medcover Hospitals India through an IPO.

IT/TECH

Indian multinational Adani Enterprises & US electrical systems & components company Jabil/JBL are partnering on large AI datacenters. Jabil engineers, manufactures & distributes electronics systems & components. Jabil recently acquired Hanley Energy Group (US; data center power management) & Mikros Technologies (US; liquid cooling, thermal management) to expand its capabilities in infrastructure development.

Indian multinational Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) & US supply-chain software company Kaleris have extended partnership on AI-enabled automation at several port container terminals (beyond initial 6).

FINANCIAL

Fintech Revolut (UK) is launching its services in India. Phased rollout services include UPI payments, e-money wallets, domestic prepaid cards, multi-currency

cards, virtual cards, disposable cards, international money transfers; Lifestyle & RevPoints may be offered later as they will require banking licenses. It plans to base 40% of its global workforce at Indian GCCs.

GOLD MINING

Gold reserves have been found in several locations in Andhra Pradesh (AP), India. Gold-mining projects have been started in some of these areas. Huge capex & specialized equipment are required as gold recovery is only 1 gram/tonne of mined sand. When fully producing, these mines will make only tiny dents in huge Indian gold imports.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Indian startup Skyroot Aerospace is getting ready for the 1st private LEO satellite launch in India with its Vikram-1 rocket. Startup was founded by former ISRO engineers. Target launch date is July 12 - August 4. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) & Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) are also building rockets. India has opened up several critical sectors (space, nuclear, etc) to domestic & foreign companies. LEO = Low earth orbit.

SPECIAL TOPIC - PERSONAL FINANCE & AI

AI chatbots have become very common: OpenAI ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Anthropic Claude, Perplexity, xAI Grok, etc. Some are built into browsers, e.g. Gemini in Google Search, Grok in X/Twitter, while others may require free signup for basic access & paid subscriptions for comprehensive access. They are good at text questions, but can also answer simple business & math questions. You may have to refine queries to make answers more precise.

Here are several properly formulated personal finance questions in which

you can just adjust key details (prompt-engineering):

"What is the EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE (EAR) for nominal 6% compounded (c.) MONTHLY?" Answer 6.17%.

"What is the MONTHLY PAYMENT for 30-year \$100,000 loan at 6% nominal rate compounded MONTHLY?" Answer \$599.55.

"What is the MONTHLY PAYMENT for a 6-year \$50,000 car-loan at 3% nominal rate compounded MONTHLY?" Answer \$758.11; by calculator \$759.68.

"What is the FINAL VALUE of initial \$1,000 at 6% compounded in 10 years?" Answer \$1,790.85 (annual compounding), \$1,819.40 (monthly c.), \$1,822.03 (daily c.).

"What is the PRESENT VALUE of final value \$1,000 at 6% compounded over 10 years?" Answer \$558.39 (annual c.), \$549.63 (monthly c.), \$548.85 (daily c.).

"What is the PRESENT VALUE of a \$10,000 25-year bond with 3.5% coupon paid semiannually when interest rates are at 5%?" Answer \$7,872.83. Note that when issued, the bond was bought for close to \$10,000; it will pay \$175 semiannually & \$10,000 on maturity.

"What is the FINAL VALUE of a systematic investment plan (SIP) for \$100/month at 8% nominal compounded monthly over 30 years?" Answer \$150,029.52 (payments at month beginning); \$149,035.94 (payments at month end).

If there are differences from calculator values, those are noted.

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.

- ▶ Lectorio 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. Lectorio: 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.

Lectorio 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!.

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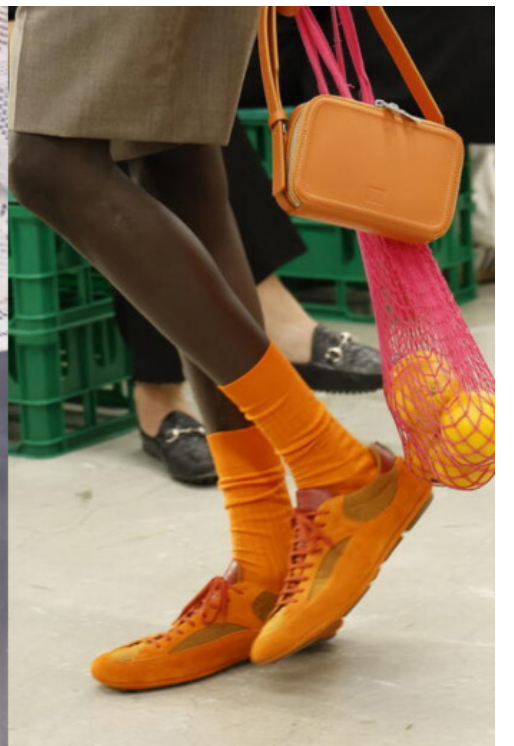
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Menswear steps into the era of statement shoes

Men's fashion is no longer playing it safe from the ankle down. At the Spring 2027 menswear shows in Paris and Milan, footwear became one of the boldest statements on the runway, signaling a clear shift from classic polish to experimental personality. For years, expressive shoes were largely treated as a womenswear playground. Sculptural heels, barely-there sandals, split-toe silhouettes, ballet-inspired flats and strange, conversation-starting shapes became familiar tools for turning a simple outfit into a fashion moment. Now, menswear is catching up with equal confidence. The new season made one thing clear: shoes are no longer accessories. They are the attitude.

Across the runways, designers explored softer, more delicate shapes for men,



including lace-up flats, ballet-inspired slippers, Mary Jane-style silhouettes and ankle-tied mules. These pieces challenged the old idea that men's footwear must be heavy, practical or predictable. Instead, they introduced a lighter and more expressive mood, one that played with grace, movement and gender-fluid styling. Sandals also moved into more daring territory. Some were stripped down to minimal straps, while others wrapped around the foot like jewelry. Open-toe designs felt less like casual summer staples and more like deliberate style statements. Even boots took a surprising turn for spring, appearing in transparent finishes, sharp pointed shapes and exaggerated proportions that added drama to otherwise fluid tailoring.

The larger message was impossible to

miss. Menswear is embracing footwear as a form of self-expression, not merely function. A sharp suit, relaxed short set or airy layered look can now be transformed by the right unexpected shoe. The result is playful, provocative and unmistakably modern. The rise of statement shoes in menswear also reflects a wider cultural shift. Men are becoming more comfortable with fashion that invites attention, bends old rules and treats personal style as performance. Whether through ballet flats, sculptural sandals, futuristic boots or hybrid sneaker shapes, Spring 2027 made the foot the new focal point.

The challenge now is not whether designers can make men's shoes more adventurous. They already have. The real question is whether men are ready to step into them.

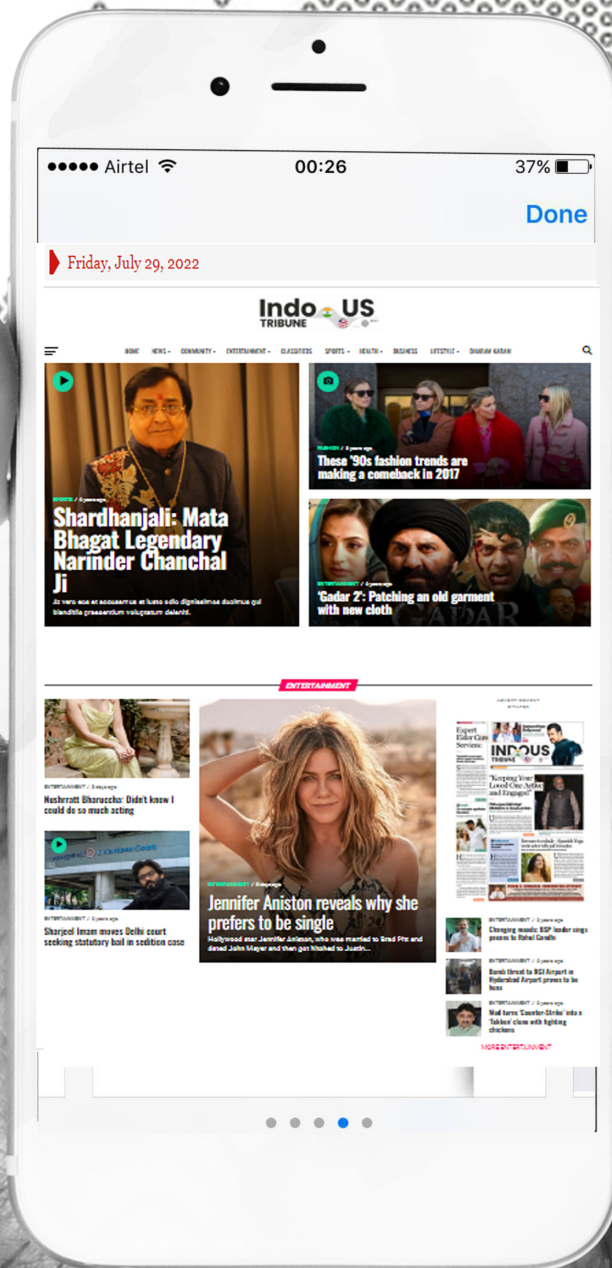


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