

Crypto, artificial intelligence and betting firms drive record corporate spending in 2026 midterms



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence and online betting companies are driving a surge in corporate political spending ahead of the 2026 US midterm elections, according to campaign finance data and political strategists. US companies spent \$517 million on House and Senate races in the 15 months through the first quarter, surpassing the \$461 million spent during the entire 2024 election cycle, according to Public Citizen. Crypto, technology and online gaming companies accounted for at least \$294 million of the spending.

The industries are using super political action committees, affiliated political action committees and nonprofit groups to support candidates and influence policies affecting their businesses. Crypto companies and executives have been particularly active, while artificial intelligence companies and online betting firms have expanded their political operations. Fairshake, a major crypto super political action committee, began the year with \$193 million and had about \$130 million remaining, campaign filings show. Betting companies have contributed more than \$72 million. Overall political advertising is projected to reach a record \$11.6 billion during the 2026 election cycle.

Indian agencies flag expanding Pakistan intelligence recruitment drive on social media



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Indian intelligence agencies have warned that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency is increasingly using social media to recruit people, spread disinformation and allegedly collect sensitive information, according to an intelligence assessment cited by officials. Investigators say influencers seeking greater online reach or financial rewards are among the primary targets, while military and government personnel are also being approached through long-term honey-trap operations. Officials believe suspected recruitment networks are operating across several Indian states and that online conversations with potential targets can continue for months before attempts are made to obtain confidential information. The assessment highlights growing concern over the scale of digital recruitment and influence campaigns targeting India.

IndoUS T R I B U N E

A VENTURE OF ANSAL MEDIA GROUP OF USA, LLC

VOL:03 • ISSUE: 42 21AUGUST 2026 MIDWEST EDITION www.indoutribune.com We serve community first

Modi set to take India's message to United Nations General Assembly amid global tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address world leaders during the high-level general debate of the United Nations General Assembly in New York next month, according to a provisional schedule. Modi is currently listed to speak during the afternoon session on Friday, September 25, although the final speaking order and timing could change.

The 81st General Assembly session will open Tuesday, September 22, under the presidency of Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman. The session's theme is "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all." Modi has addressed the high-level United Nations gathering six times since becoming prime minister in 2014. The annual high-level week is



expected to bring together presidents, prime ministers and other senior officials for formal speeches and hundreds of bilateral meetings. Global conflicts,

including the war involving Iran and the crisis in Ukraine, as well as tensions between major powers, are expected to feature prominently in discussions.

US will impose 'toughest sanctions in history' on Iran, says Bessent

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Washington is preparing what Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent described Thursday as the "toughest sanctions in history" against Iran, intensifying economic pressure on Tehran amid the nearly six-month-old conflict. Bessent said details of the package would be announced Monday and suggested that maximum economic pressure could reduce the need for another major military operation.

President Donald Trump warned Wednesday that Iran could face "very Draconian sanctions" and said countries, businesses and financial institutions providing Tehran with any "lifeline" would face severe economic consequences. Trump also argued that the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz was declining because of increased United States energy production and alternative supply routes, including expanded pipeline capacity. He said the strait remained open, although traffic could



slow, and claimed the United States naval blockade had been effective in restricting shipments to Iran.

Bessent urged China to cooperate with Washington, noting that China buys more than 80 percent of Iran's shipped oil. Beijing rejected the approach, saying sanctions would not resolve the conflict and calling for diplomacy. Iran condemned the planned measures as "economic terrorism." Oil prices rose to more than a three-week high Thursday amid continuing concerns over disrupted Middle Eastern supplies.

Delhi steps up security and civic preparations for September BRICS summit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu reviewed preparations on Thursday for the upcoming BRICS Summit 2026, directing government departments to strengthen coordination on security, traffic management and civic infrastructure. He emphasized time-bound execution across key venues and movement corridors to ensure a smooth experience for visiting delegates. India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Friday and Saturday, with the country's 2026 chairmanship centered on the theme



"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Authorities are also focusing on emergency medical preparedness and public services as the capital readies to welcome leaders and officials from BRICS member nations.

FBI data show 189 anti-Sikh and 32 anti-Hindu hate crime offenses in 2025



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. law enforcement agencies reported 189 anti-Sikh and 32 anti-Hindu hate crime offenses in 2025, according to newly released FBI data. The figures represent about 7 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively, of 2,703 single-bias religious hate crime offenses reported nationwide.

Anti-Jewish bias accounted for the largest share at 62.3 percent, followed by anti-Muslim bias at 9.6 percent. The FBI recorded 193 victims of anti-Sikh hate crimes and 34 victims of anti-Hindu offenses. The data do not provide a separate count for Indian Americans, meaning their numbers cannot be determined from the national report.

Indian-origin victims may have been classified under religious, racial or ethnic categories, depending on the circumstances. Overall, authorities reported 10,881 hate crime incidents involving 13,026 offenses and 13,438 victims in 2025. Incidents fell 6.8 percent from 2024, while offenses declined by 4.8 percent. The FBI collected data from agencies covering 95.3 percent of the U.S. population.



Norway boosts defense footprint with expansion of Arctic brigade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norway expanded its recently established Finnmark Brigade on Thursday, strengthening its military presence in the Arctic and near its border with Russia. Created last year, the brigade is Norway's second and the first established since the end of the Cold War. The expansion adds an artillery battalion, an air defense battery and a communications company, giving the brigade greater firepower and the ability to coordinate operations with Norwegian and NATO forces. The brigade previously focused mainly on surveillance and patrols along Norway's 198-kilometer border with Russia. Norway has increased defense spending since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with spending expected to reach 3.17 percent of gross domestic product this year.

Spain to allow 500 migrant children in Ceuta to move to mainland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spain's government said Wednesday it would allow about 500 unaccompanied migrant children in Ceuta to relocate to mainland Spain, reversing an earlier position that migrants who entered illegally would be returned to Morocco. The children are part of a larger group that arrived during a mass crossing from Morocco in July. Most migrants have since returned, but Spanish law requires authorities to care for unaccompanied minors until they turn 18.

The government is working with youth services and nonprofit organizations to move the most vulnerable children. The decision has drawn opposition from the conservative People's Party, while the European Commission has said European Union rules require irregular migrants, including unaccompanied minors, to be returned to Morocco.

Brazil's Lula launches fourth-term bid as Bolsonaro's son enters race

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva launched his campaign for a fourth nonconsecutive term on Sunday, vowing to keep the far right from returning to power.

Speaking in São Bernardo do Campo, where his political career began, Lula pledged to focus on education, health care, public security and development of Brazil's rare-earth resources. Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, also launched his campaign Sunday at Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach, presenting himself as an opponent of the political establishment.

Jair Bolsonaro is serving a prison sentence after being convicted over a failed effort to overturn the 2022 election. Brazil will hold its first-round presidential vote in October, with a runoff expected.

Pannun's 'Khalistan Army' rhetoric raises security concerns in Canada

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's recent call for a so-called "Khalistan Army" and "Sikh Homeland Security" force has raised concerns about militant rhetoric and its potential impact on the Sikh diaspora. Pannun, the general counsel of Sikhs for Justice, made the remarks while promoting a nonbinding Khalistan referendum held in Indianapolis on Sunday. Reports have also circulated videos purportedly showing Sikh men receiving firearms training in Canada, although those claims have not been independently verified. A recent Khalsa Vox report warned that rhetoric glorifying armed resistance could push vulnerable young people toward extremist and criminal networks. Canada's intelligence service has separately identified Canada-based Khalistani



extremists as a national security concern, while distinguishing violent extremism from lawful political advocacy. The developments have renewed calls for authorities and community leaders to address extremist recruitment and violence.

White House flags India among major transshipment-risk hubs in China tariff report

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House has identified India among more than 40 jurisdictions it considers vulnerable to the rerouting of Chinese goods through third countries to circumvent higher US tariffs. In its report titled 'The Great Transshipment Scam: Rise, Scope, and Costs', the administration says Chinese exporters increasingly routed goods through third countries after the United States imposed tariffs on Chinese products in 2018. It says practices such as limited assembly, processing, repackaging, relabeling and changes to trade documentation can obscure a product's actual origin. India was placed in the report's highest-risk Tier 1 category alongside Canada, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, South Korea and other major trading economies. The classification does not establish that India or its exporters illegally evaded tariffs.



The report cites an estimate that about \$67 billion in US-bound goods passed through Mexico, India and Vietnam collectively in 2025, with an estimated \$28 billion in lost US tariff revenue. It specifically highlights the Pune-Gujarat-Chennai manufacturing belt for pumps and compressors. The White House has called for tougher enforcement and is developing an AI-enabled 'Detective Border' system to identify suspicious trade flows.

Israel's Ben-Gvir posts video of gallows site for hanging Palestinians

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said Thursday that construction had begun on a facility intended to execute Palestinians convicted of terrorism under Israel's new death penalty law. Ben-Gvir posted a video showing construction work and said the site would include viewing areas for families of victims. Israel's parliament passed the law earlier this year, requiring

military courts to impose the death penalty in certain terrorism cases, although judges can allow life imprisonment under special circumstances. Critics have accused the legislation of discriminating against Palestinians because its provisions do not apply in the same way to Jewish extremists. Human rights groups and several governments have condemned the law. Ben-Gvir has also faced international sanctions and criticism over his policies and statements concerning Palestinians.

Cheap armed drones are turning civilian spaces into new front lines, UN warns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher warned Wednesday that the spread of cheap armed drones is creating a new and increasingly dangerous form of warfare in which civilians and aid workers can be targeted remotely. Speaking from Ukraine on World Humanitarian Day, Fletcher said his visit to Kherson showed how drones have become embedded in everyday life, with residents learning to

recognize different weapons by sound. He said nearly 1,000 aid workers have been killed, injured or kidnapped, describing the violence as a growing culture of impunity. Fletcher said hospitals in Kherson were moving wards and operating rooms underground, while doctors told him that about 70 percent of their wounded patients had suffered drone-related blast injuries. He urged governments and weapons manufacturers to enforce international humanitarian law and ensure technology does not outpace accountability.

Mirza Fakhrul elected Bangladesh president in first contested vote since 1991

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected the country's 23rd president on Thursday, winning the first contested presidential election in more than three decades. Fakhrul secured 255 votes in Parliament, defeating Liberal Democratic Party candidate Oli Ahmad, who received 88 votes. He is scheduled to take the oath of office on Friday at Bangabhaban.

The election followed the resignation of former President Mohammed Shahabuddin in July, with Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed serving as acting president. Fakhrul, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's longtime secretary general, assumes office as political parties push for constitutional reforms aimed at strengthening the president's independent role in key national appointments.

Israel warns Turkey over military role in Syria after airbase strike

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel sharply warned Turkey on Thursday against expanding its military role in Syria, days after Israeli forces struck the Abu al-Duhur airbase in northwestern Syria. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Israel would not allow any foreign actor to threaten its security, claiming the airbase could be used for a Turkish military deployment.

Turkey rejected the allegation and accused Israel of violating Syrian sovereignty, while Syria denied that Turkish forces were being stationed at the base. Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir also visited southern Syria on Wednesday, saying the military was closely monitoring developments and remained prepared for any escalation along the Syrian border.

Colombia declares emergency across 15 departments after deadly earthquake

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Colombia has declared a 30-day state of economic, social and ecological emergency across 15 departments following the powerful earthquake that struck the country earlier this month. President Abelardo de la Espriella said the emergency measures would support the reconstruction of homes, businesses, schools and hospitals in the worst-hit regions. The 7.4 magnitude earthquake caused widespread devastation across western Colombia, leaving hundreds dead, thousands injured and many people displaced. Search and rescue teams, supported by international specialists, continue to search for missing people, while humanitarian aid has been delivered to affected communities. The government said emergency funding is being redirected to speed up recovery efforts.

Seoul backs renewed
US-North Korea talks as path
to nuclear restraint

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Thursday that direct talks between the United States and North Korea would be the first step toward halting Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Speaking in Seoul, Chung urged support for renewed diplomacy after President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he maintained a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and expected to meet him later this year. Chung said restarting dialogue could create momentum for broader regional peace efforts involving South Korea and China. His remarks came after Kim Yo-jong, the North Korean leader's sister, signaled that while Pyongyang remains critical of United States policy, Kim still holds favorable personal views of Trump, leaving the door open for future engagement.

Thousands rally in Tokyo
against Japan's military buildup
and wartime policies

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands of people gathered outside Japan's National Diet Building in Tokyo on Wednesday to protest Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's security policies and her government's approach to Japan's wartime history. Organizers said about 15,000 people attended in person, with another 25,000 joining the demonstration online. Protesters opposed increased defense spending, expanded military capabilities and any weakening of Japan's pacifist Constitution. Social Democratic Party leader Mizuho Fukushima criticized Takaichi for failing to acknowledge Japan's wartime aggression during recent national memorial events. Demonstrators also voiced concern over the government's stance on the country's Three Non-Nuclear Principles and broader military expansion plans.

Israel says Islamic
Jihad commander killed in
Gaza strike

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The Israeli military said Tuesday that it had killed a commander of Palestinian Islamic Jihad in an airstrike in southern Gaza. The military identified the target as Tareq Anwar Khamis Ra'i, a company commander in the group's supply unit, and said he was killed Sunday in the Khan Yunis area.

Israel said he was involved in advancing attacks against Israeli troops. Gaza health authorities said Israeli military operations since October 2023 have killed at least 73,399 people and wounded 174,310 others. Israel has also continued strikes against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said it killed commanders from Hezbollah's Badr regional division and its elite Radwan Force in separate strikes following attacks on Israeli troops. Lebanese media reported that several people were killed. The Israeli military said the strikes were carried out in response to attacks against its forces in southern Lebanon.

Republican lawmakers seek federal scrutiny of
California's climate partnerships with China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four Republican lawmakers are asking the Justice Department and State Department to investigate California's climate and clean-energy partnerships with Chinese institutions, arguing that the state may have exceeded its constitutional authority in conducting foreign relations. Senators Rick Scott, Mike Lee and Marsha Blackburn, along with Representative Young Kim, made the request Thursday in a letter to Attorney General Todd Blanche and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. They cited agreements involving California regulators, the University of California system and Chinese organizations covering emissions reduction, electric vehicles and clean-energy technology. The lawmakers called for reviews of possible foreign-agent activity, counterintelligence concerns and technology



transfers involving batteries, connected vehicles, hydrogen and grid-management systems. They also requested records from California agencies and university-linked organizations. The allegations have not been established as violations, and the letter did not include responses from California officials, the University of California or Chinese authorities.

Pezeshkian says Iran can negotiate with
Washington without giving up its sovereignty

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Wednesday that negotiations with the United States do not amount to surrender, signaling that Tehran remains willing to pursue diplomacy despite a deepening standoff. Speaking at a conference in Tehran, Pezeshkian said Iran was negotiating from a position of strength while defending its territorial integrity and national interests. He said Tehran's objectives included ending the war, lifting the United States

naval blockade, releasing frozen Iranian assets and eventually resuming nuclear talks. His remarks came after a 60-day period under a June memorandum between Tehran and Washington expired Monday without a broader agreement. Iran has also been considering a parliamentary plan to restrict access to the Strait of Hormuz for vessels it considers hostile or involved in espionage. The strategic waterway has become a central flashpoint in the confrontation between Iran and the United States.

Trump delays 50 percent Canada tariff as
Washington and Ottawa push to seal trade deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the United States had delayed a planned 50 percent tariff on Canadian goods for three days after Ottawa requested additional time to finalize a trade agreement. Speaking at the White House, Trump said he believed Washington and Ottawa were close to a deal that could also reduce tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum. The tariff, which was expected to affect about \$20 billion in Canadian exports, had been scheduled to take effect Wednesday. Trump said negotiators were working to finalize the details and suggested Canada could eventually face tariff rates closer to those imposed on other United States trading partners. He also



said the agreement could provide relief for American farmers, who he claimed had been hurt by Canadian trade practices. The two countries have deeply integrated automotive, energy and agricultural supply chains, making the negotiations economically significant for businesses on both sides of the border.

UAE suspends trade with Iran after renewed
missile fire amid rising regional tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Arab Emirates suspended all trade and financial transactions with Iran this week after accusing Tehran of launching renewed ballistic missile fire toward the country, further tightening pressure on an Iranian economy already affected by United States sanctions and a blockade. The UAE said two ballistic missiles were fired toward its territory late Tuesday, triggering nationwide warnings for residents to seek shelter. Both missiles landed in the Persian Gulf, while Emirati

authorities said their assessment indicated that maritime traffic was the intended target. Iran denied launching missiles toward the UAE. The suspension is significant because the UAE has long served as a major commercial and re-export hub for Iran, helping Tehran access goods and international commercial infrastructure despite sanctions. The UAE has also accused Iran of attacking commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route. Despite the escalation, Abu Dhabi said it remained committed to dialogue, cooperation and regional integration.

Protests spread across Pakistan-
occupied Kashmir as demands
for rights intensify

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Protests have expanded across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, with demonstrators demanding better economic conditions, constitutional rights and greater political accountability. The Joint Awami Action Committee said the movement has spread beyond Rawalakot into other parts of the region, including Sudhanoti, and announced plans for a long march to Muzaffarabad. The protests have continued for more than two months despite security crackdowns, posing a growing challenge for authorities in Islamabad. Analysts say the widening demonstrations reflect deep public frustration over governance and economic hardship. Indian officials have also pointed to the unrest as evidence of long-standing dissatisfaction with Pakistan's administration of the region.

African swine fever
spreads among Finnish
wild boars, putting pork
exports under pressure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finland is preparing to fence off parts of a restriction zone in the southeast after the number of African swine fever infections among wild boars rose to 19, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Sari Essayah said Wednesday. The Finnish Food Authority has established a restriction zone covering about 1,500 square kilometers near the Russian border, with controls on pig movements and restrictions on hunting and some forestry activities. No infections have been detected among domestic pigs. The outbreak was first identified in late July after three dead wild boar piglets tested positive for the virus in Virolahti. Finland subsequently lost its African swine fever-free status after reporting the infections to the World Organisation for Animal Health. Several countries have restricted or suspended Finnish pork imports, putting pressure on the country's meat industry. Finland exported pork worth about 74 million euros last year, and authorities estimate it could take at least a year to regain disease-free status.

Venezuela death toll from June
earthquakes rises to 6,438

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Venezuela's government has raised the official death toll from the twin earthquakes that struck the country in June to 6,438, an increase of 137 from the previous weekly update. Authorities said Monday that 59,109 buildings had been inspected for safety, with 34,680 deemed habitable, 13,733 placed under restricted access and 10,696 classified as high-risk.

The government uses a traffic-light system to assess buildings, with green indicating safe structures, yellow restricted access and red high-risk buildings. Authorities have delivered 335 homes to families affected by the earthquakes, while thousands of people remain in shelters in the hardest-hit areas. The magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 earthquakes struck on June 24, with epicenters in Yaracuy and La Guaira.

Acting President Delcy Rodriguez also thanked 28 countries for providing more than 2,000 tons of humanitarian aid to victims.



Published Weekly by:
Ansal Media Group
of USA, LLC

Chicago Office:
Lincolnwood, IL 60712
marketing@indoustribune.com

PUBLISHER
Dr. (H) Avi Verma
publisher@indoustribune.com
(773) 866-1222

Editor
Nikita Sharma
editor@indoustribune.com

Graphics & Web Development
Sunil Panchal
graphics@indoustribune.com

Board of Advisors
Rakesh Malhotra
Ramesh Soparwala
Madhu Patel
Vandana Jhingan
Neelam Verma

Legal Advisors
Seth Kebron
Ankush Ansal

Special Contributor
Rajesh Ansal

Special Correspondent
Sunita Verma

Social Media
Pooja Singh

Chicago Office:
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Surrey Canada Office
surrey@indoustribune.com

San Jose Office
sanjose@indoustribune.com

Delhi Office:
delhi@indoustribune.com

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marketing@indoustribune.com

India at 80: What comes next?



Dr. Avi Verma

As celebrations of India's journey toward 80 years of Independence continue across India and around the world, the Indian diaspora has a special reason to celebrate. From Chicago to London, Dubai to Sydney and Toronto to Singapore, the Tricolour is being raised with pride. India is no longer the economically fragile nation of 1947, struggling with poverty, limited infrastructure and an uncertain place in a world dominated by established powers.

India today is finding its voice—and the world is listening. This remarkable transformation deserves celebration. But it also demands reflection. After nearly eight decades of nation-building, India must ask an equally important question: What comes next?

India's new place in world politics
India's transformation is particularly visible in foreign policy. For decades, India emphasized strategic restraint, non-alignment and diplomacy. Those principles helped establish its independent identity during the Cold War. Today, India has adopted a more confident approach based on strategic autonomy. It maintains important relationships with the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, Australia, the Gulf nations and the Global South while pursuing its own national interests.

India increasingly wants to be a country that shapes global decisions rather than simply responds to them. Its growing diplomatic influence, leadership among developing nations and expanding strategic partnerships demonstrate a nation increasingly comfortable with its place on the world stage.

From absorbing terrorism to deterring terrorism
Perhaps the most dramatic change has been India's response to terrorism. For years, terrorist attacks were followed by condemnations, diplomatic protests and appeals to the international community. India today has demonstrated a considerably more assertive willingness to defend its national security, including action against terrorist infrastructure when deemed necessary.

The message is clear: India will defend itself, and terrorism against India will carry consequences.

This does not mean India seeks war. A confident nation should not desire conflict. But peace is strongest when supported by credible deterrence. India's growing defence capabilities, intelligence network, border infrastructure and indigenous defence production have strengthened that deterrence.

India's economic transformation
India's economic journey is equally remarkable. It has moved from a largely closed economy to one of the world's major economic powers. Highways, railways, telecommunications, digital payments, manufacturing, startups and space technology have transformed the country. India is now among the world's largest economies and continues to be one of the fastest-growing major



economies. But GDP alone cannot define India's success.

The real question is: How much of India's economic growth reaches the ordinary Indian?

The Gen Z challenge
India's young population is perhaps its greatest opportunity—and one of its greatest responsibilities. Young Indians want more than degrees. They want jobs, dignity, opportunity and fairness. Anxiety over competitive examinations, paper leaks, expensive coaching and uncertain employment reflects a larger national challenge. Education must increasingly prepare young people for the economy of tomorrow—artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, digital technology, entrepreneurship and skilled trades.

GDP growth must translate into employment growth. The aspirations of India's youth must become a central priority of the next phase of nation-building.

Growth must become inclusive
India's rise will remain incomplete if prosperity is concentrated in limited sections of society. The next chapter must focus on economic mobility. Farmers need better technology, markets and infrastructure. MSMEs need easier access to credit. Women need greater economic participation. Rural India needs better healthcare, education and connectivity. India must continue improving affordable healthcare, government schools, vocational training, housing, sanitation, clean water and social security.

The goal should not simply be to reduce poverty. The goal must be to create pathways out of poverty. A child born into a poor family should have a genuine opportunity to rise through education, talent and hard work.

Communal harmony: The foundation of strength
There is another challenge that cannot be measured in GDP or military strength: Can India become more powerful without becoming more divided? India's greatest civilizational strength has always been its diversity. Different religions, languages, cultures and traditions have contributed to the making of modern India.

A confident India should have no fear of diversity. Political disagreement is natural in a democracy, but communal polarization weakens national unity. Every Indian—regardless of religion, caste, language or region—must feel secure, respected and equally invested in the country's future.

A powerful India must also be a united India. Defence Is Only One Dimension of Power. India's growing defence capabilities are a source of national pride. Indigenous defence production, advanced technology and defence exports are strengthening India's strategic position.

But true national power extends beyond the military. It includes economic strength, technological innovation, education,

healthcare, diplomacy, institutional credibility and social stability. India must therefore build comprehensive national power—not merely military power.

The unfinished national agenda
As India celebrates its achievements, it must confront the challenges ahead: youth unemployment and skill gaps, rural-urban inequality, agricultural modernization, women's workforce participation, education and healthcare quality, pollution, water security, urban infrastructure, affordable housing, digital inequality, judicial delays, social polarization and the impact of artificial intelligence on employment. These are not signs of a weak India. They are the challenges of a rising India.

What kind of great power will India become?
The first decades after Independence were about survival and nation-building. The following decades brought economic liberalization and globalization. Today, India is seeking a larger role in shaping the world.

The next phase must be about human development and quality of life. India should become a nation where young graduates find meaningful employment, farmers prosper, women participate fully in the economy, innovation is rewarded, the poor can rise through education and institutions command public trust.

The celebration must become a commitment
The worldwide celebrations of India's journey should not end with flags, fireworks and speeches. They should inspire a commitment to India's next chapter. Let us celebrate the soldier who protects our borders, the scientist who reaches for the stars, the entrepreneur who creates jobs, the farmer who feeds the nation, the teacher who shapes the next generation and every citizen who contributes to India's progress. India has spent nearly eight decades proving that it can survive, adapt and rise.

It has found its voice on the world stage.

- Now the question is no longer simply:**
- Can India become a great power?
 - What kind of great power will India become?
 - A powerful India must also be a compassionate India.
 - A prosperous India must also be an inclusive India.
 - A militarily strong India must also be a peaceful India.
 - A globally influential India must also be united at home.
 - And an India aspiring to become Viksit Bharat must ensure that development reaches every Indian.

India has found its voice. Now it must ensure that every Indian has a voice in India's next great chapter.

Jai Hind.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune

Serbia to hold snap elections on October 18 or 25, President Vucic says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Serbia will hold snap parliamentary elections on October 18 or 25, President Aleksandar Vucic said Thursday, bringing forward a vote originally scheduled for December 2027. Vucic said the exact date would be announced in the coming days. The announcement follows 18 months of anti-government protests, largely driven by students and sparked by a railway station awning collapse in Novi Sad that killed 16 people in November 2024. Vucic has been in power as president or prime minister for 12 years and previously said he would resign and call early parliamentary and presidential elections. He did not specify when he would step down. Serbia remains an European Union candidate while maintaining close ties with Russia and China.

India, Israel expect clearer path on free trade deal after two more rounds of talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Israel are expected to hold two more rounds of negotiations on their proposed free trade agreement, with greater clarity on the pact by February 2027, Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar said Monday. The second round was held last month after the countries agreed on the talks' terms of reference late last year. Azar said another round is expected in October, followed by a final round around February. Negotiations have focused on market access, reciprocal purchases and broader economic cooperation. He said differences in tariff levels and the size of the two economies could make market access challenging. However, Azar identified high technology cooperation as a major opportunity, saying stronger innovation ties could encourage Israeli companies to expand in India. The negotiations come as the two countries seek to deepen their economic and technology partnership.

Russia tells Japan to address domestic issues after criticism of Putin's Kuril visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged Japan on Monday to focus on its own domestic issues rather than criticize Russia over President Vladimir Putin's visit to a disputed Kuril island. Putin visited Iturup, known as Etorofu in Japan, last Wednesday, marking his first visit to the island. Japan strongly protested the trip, considering the Southern Kuril Islands part of its Northern Territories.

Lavrov accused Japan of moving away from its constitutional restrictions on military activity and weakening its three non-nuclear principles. He said Tokyo was attempting to divert attention from what Moscow described as an increasingly militaristic policy by accusing Russia of violating international law.

Russia had summoned Japanese Ambassador Akira Muto over Tokyo's response, but he initially cited health reasons for not attending. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova later said Muto had recovered and would visit the ministry this week.

Zelenskyy dismisses senior aide as corruption probe adds to political pressure in Ukraine

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dismissed senior presidential aide Iryna Mudra on Wednesday as anti-corruption investigators expanded a money-laundering investigation involving several prominent officials. Mudra, a deputy head of the Office of the President, was removed from her position after investigators searched her office, although authorities have not identified her as a suspect. Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau said investigators were examining an alleged scheme involving about 150 million Ukrainian hryvnias, or roughly \$3.4 million, used to provide bail for a defendant in a major corruption case. The development came a day after former Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov called for national



elections despite the continuing war with Russia. Ukraine's Constitution prohibits elections while martial law remains in force. The latest controversy adds to political pressure on Zelenskyy following recent government reshuffles and public scrutiny over corruption and wartime governance. The European Union has also identified corruption as a major obstacle to Ukraine's membership ambitions.

Academic who accused Jason Arday of plagiarism suspended by university

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nathan Cofnas, the academic who raised plagiarism allegations against former Cambridge professor Jason Arday, has been suspended by Ghent University in Belgium pending a preliminary disciplinary investigation into his public statements about Arday. The university said Thursday that the suspension was a precautionary measure while it assesses whether further disciplinary action is warranted, stressing that academic freedom carries responsibilities and does not permit discrimination.

Arday, 41, resigned from Cambridge earlier this month after allegations concerning plagiarism and questions about aspects of his academic record and



achievements. He denied plagiarism but acknowledged some errors. He was found dead in south London days later. The case has intensified debate in Britain over academic standards, media scrutiny, race and academic freedom.

Harry and Meghan plan extended return to UK with children while remaining non-working royals

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, are planning an extended return to the United Kingdom with their two children beginning this fall, although they will not resume official duties as working members of the royal family, according to people familiar with their plans. Their children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, have enrolled at British schools and are expected to begin classes in September. The family plans to live

at a private residence outside London while retaining their home in Montecito, California, and a vacation property in Portugal. King Charles III was informed of the plans on Sunday, and the couple visited him during their recent trip to Britain. Harry has increasingly spoken about wanting to rebuild his relationship with his father, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. However, relations with his brother, Prince William, remain strained. Harry and Meghan stepped back from royal duties and moved to California more than six years ago.

Baloch group urges Trump to investigate reported Pakistani airstrikes in Balochistan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The president of the Baloch American Congress, Tara Chand, has urged President Donald Trump to investigate reports of Pakistani airstrikes in Balochistan's Surab district that activists say killed more than 30 civilians. In a letter to Trump, Chand called for an investigation into whether United States-origin aircraft, weapons, drones, technology or other military equipment were used in the reported operation. He also urged Washington to review

relevant defense transfers and support an independent investigation into possible violations of United States law, arms-transfer conditions or international humanitarian law. The reported incident occurred Wednesday in residential areas of the Gidar area of Surab. Baloch activists and rights groups have rejected Pakistan's account of the incident. Pakistani military officials have disputed reports that an airstrike killed civilians, attributing the deaths to the premature detonation of a vehicle-borne explosive device. The competing accounts have not been independently verified.

New framework gives scientists a clearer measure of Great Barrier Reef health



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australian researchers have developed a framework using more than 30 years of reef data to assess how climate-related disturbances affect the Great Barrier Reef. The study examined changes in coral cover and algae, using each reef's historical condition rather than a single benchmark to measure deterioration. The framework classifies reefs as healthy, coping or struggling. Researchers found reefs generally moved into the coping category when coral cover fell below about 65 percent of their historical maximum, while declines below 35 percent were associated with struggling reefs, increased algae and major coral losses. The study also found that complex coral formations were more vulnerable to disturbances than simpler, rounded corals. Their loss can leave reefs flatter, reducing shelter for fish and protection from storm waves. Researchers said the framework could help identify reefs at risk and guide timely conservation measures.

Australia to build 1-billion-liter strategic reserve of diesel and jet fuel



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia will establish a government-owned strategic reserve containing 1 billion liters of diesel and jet fuel to strengthen the country's protection against future supply disruptions. The government said Tuesday it will invest 3.2 billion Australian dollars in the Australian Fuel Security Reserve, which is intended to provide a buffer during international supply shocks and periods of fuel market volatility. The funding comes from a broader 14.8 billion Australian dollar package for fuel security and resilience measures announced in the 2026-27 federal budget. The government also opened consultations on expanding Australia's domestic low-carbon liquid fuels industry and supporting the country's two remaining oil refineries beyond 2030. Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen said Australia could not afford to remain vulnerable to disruptions overseas. Officials said stronger domestic production would also support jobs, regional economies and the transportation sector.



India and Malaysia expand governance cooperation with focus on digital government and artificial intelligence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Malaysia agreed Wednesday to deepen cooperation in public administration, governance reforms, civil service training and digital government during the second meeting of their Joint Working Group. The discussions reviewed progress since the group's first meeting in 2024, including training for Malaysian officials under India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program. Malaysia welcomed proposals for specialized programs for senior officials and shared its approach to public sector transformation centered on people, processes and technology. Discussions covered artificial intelligence, cloud services, cybersecurity, blockchain, shared digital infrastructure and data-driven governance. India presented its Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System and its artificial intelligence-enabled voice chatbot, Samadhan Didi. Malaysia also presented a 2027-2029 action plan for the governance partnership. Both sides agreed to strengthen institutional engagement, knowledge sharing and capacity building to improve public services and citizen experience.

India and Nepal reinforce military and veteran ties during Army chief's official visit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Army Chief Gen. Dhiraj Seth concluded a four-day official visit to Nepal Wednesday, holding high-level meetings aimed at strengthening longstanding military ties between the two countries. During the visit, President Ram Chandra Paudel conferred on Seth the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army, continuing a tradition dating to 1950 in which the two countries honor each other's Army chiefs. Seth also met Paudel, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Balendra Shah and Nepali Army Chief Gen. Ashok Raj Sigdel. Before leaving Nepal, Seth attended an ex-servicemen rally in Pokhara, where Indian veterans and war widows were honored and mobility equipment was provided. He also dedicated an Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme clinic in Kohalpur, western Nepal, which is expected to improve access to medical care for Indian veterans and their families.

Sea Guardian deal deepens India-US defense ties as cooperation expands into advanced technology

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States are expanding their defense partnership, with a new deal for maritime surveillance aircraft coinciding with discussions on broader cooperation in aerospace, advanced technology and energy. United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor met Vivek Lall of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems on Monday to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in aerospace, defense and energy, including advanced technologies and nuclear energy. The meeting came after India signed a Rs.1,943 crore contract with General

Atomics to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian high-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft systems for the Indian Navy for 30 months. Equipped with advanced sensors and sophisticated payloads, the aircraft will provide persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage across large areas of the maritime domain. Their deployment is expected to strengthen the Navy's maritime domain awareness and improve its ability to monitor and respond to developments across the Indian Ocean region. The deal adds momentum to growing India-US defense cooperation while highlighting the expanding focus on high-end technology and maritime security.

India and Arab League push new cooperation under 2026-28 action plan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the League of Arab States reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation during talks between Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Sripriya Ranganathan and League of Arab States Assistant Secretary-General Khalid Manzalawi in Cairo on Monday. The discussions focused on implementing the Executive Programme 2026-28, adopted at the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, with an emphasis on concrete initiatives in new and emerging areas of cooperation. Both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening the broader India-Arab partnership. The meeting took place during Ranganathan's official visit to Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon. On Sunday, she addressed the India-Egypt BRICS Partnership Conference in



Cairo, outlining India's priorities for its 2026 BRICS chairship and highlighting the India-Egypt strategic partnership as a foundation for closer cooperation within BRICS and advancing the priorities of the Global South. The visit is aimed at strengthening India's ties with the three countries and discussing regional developments and other issues of mutual interest.

India and Japan deepen defense partnership with maritime security pact and shipbuilding plans

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan agreed Thursday to deepen defense and maritime cooperation, including joint work in naval shipbuilding, ship design and repairs. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi signed a maritime security arrangement in New Delhi covering information sharing, maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The two sides also discussed using Japan's

technological expertise and India's production capacity for naval shipbuilding under the Make in India framework, along with reciprocal access to ship repair facilities. They agreed to strengthen naval coordination through ship visits, joint exercises, personnel exchanges and logistical support. Koizumi praised the Indian armed forces during a visit to Mumbai and thanked the Indian Navy for assisting a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel during a medical emergency. The ministers also welcomed progress on bilateral exercises, including preparations for Veer Guardian 26.

India backs disaster preparedness and early education projects in Myanmar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India launched two new community development projects in Myanmar Wednesday, expanding its support for disaster preparedness and education. An agreement was signed for an Indian-funded two-story warehouse in Yangon's Dagon Myothit district to store disaster relief and assistance materials. A separate groundbreaking ceremony was held in Naypyitaw for a two-story pre-primary education facility in Lewe Township. The education project agreement was signed in April during a visit by Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh. Both projects fall under India's Small Development Projects framework, which provides grant assistance for community-focused initiatives in Myanmar. Under the broader program, India has supported



projects including a hospital, computer and agricultural equipment, home science schools and maritime training facilities. The Indian Embassy said New Delhi remains committed to supporting high-impact community development and small development projects in Myanmar.

India and Palestine advance development partnership through hospital, health and education projects

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Palestine advanced their longstanding development partnership during an official visit by Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Sripriya Ranganathan, with new initiatives in healthcare, education, skills and community development. On Thursday, Ranganathan inaugurated an India-supported project at the Jericho Women's Charitable Society School that upgraded educational facilities and provided computers and essential equipment. The project marked India's eighth Quick Impact Project in Palestine. She also visited the Palestine-India Techno Park and reviewed ongoing Indian-funded initiatives. During talks with Palestinian Health Minister Majed Abu Ramadan, Ranganathan discussed healthcare cooperation, including training, and announced plans for a prosthetic limb camp. India also handed over a first tranche of life-saving medicines and announced a mobile BHISHM health center for use in Gaza. The visit followed Wednesday's groundbreaking for a 200-bed Indian-funded super-specialty hospital in Jenin.

India and Singapore broaden strategic partnership across technology, manufacturing and clean energy



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Singapore agreed Thursday to expand cooperation in advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, digital technology, connectivity, financial technology, skills, the green economy and clean energy during the fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State Jitin Prasada took part in the discussions in Singapore. The Indian delegation also met Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to review progress across the bilateral relationship and explore new areas of cooperation. Jaishankar held separate talks with Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan on Wednesday, focusing on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and global developments. The two ministers also laid the foundation stone for a new Indian High Commission chancery complex in Singapore. The roundtable brought together government and business representatives, reflecting efforts by both countries to build a more technology-driven and forward-looking economic partnership.



Friday, 21 August 2026

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Friday, 21 August 2026

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Trump rallies behind Darline Graham ahead of South Carolina Senate runoff

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump traveled to South Carolina on Friday to campaign for Senator Darline Graham ahead of Tuesday's Republican Senate runoff against Representative Ralph Norman. Graham, the sister of the late Senator Lindsey Graham, was appointed to fill his seat after his death and is seeking a full six-year term. Trump has strongly endorsed her candidacy, making the race a test of his influence in the heavily Republican state. Graham won the August 11 primary with 32.8 percent of the vote but fell short of the majority needed to avoid a runoff. Her campaign also faced scrutiny after she said during a debate that national security was not her area of expertise.

Dulles airport gets approval for nearly \$20 billion modernization plan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board approved Wednesday a \$15.5 billion addition to Washington Dulles International Airport's long-term modernization program, bringing the total planned investment to about \$19.9 billion. The overhaul includes a \$3.75 billion underground automated train system to replace the airport's aging passenger shuttles, a \$6.2 billion renovation of the main terminal and major changes to concourses. Construction is expected to begin in late 2027 and continue into the 2040s. The authority plans to finance much of the work through revenue bonds. Passenger-related charges are projected to rise significantly over the life of the project. Dulles handled about 29 million passengers last year.

Missouri judge clears Trump-backed congressional map for November elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Missouri judge on Wednesday rejected an effort to force a statewide referendum on a new congressional map backed by President Donald Trump, clearing the way for the districts to be used in November's midterm elections. Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green ruled that the state Constitution does not authorize voters to overturn congressional redistricting through a referendum. The new map, approved by the Republican-controlled legislature, could strengthen the party's position in the state's congressional delegation by putting Democratic Representative Emanuel Cleaver's Kansas City district at greater risk. Republicans currently hold six of Missouri's eight House seats and are seeking to gain another. Opponents have vowed to continue challenging the map in higher courts.

Trump urges Congress to pass crypto market rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday urged Congress to pass the Clarity Act, legislation aimed at establishing clearer rules for the cryptocurrency industry, during a White House event attended by leading industry executives and regulators. Trump called for a "fair version" of the bill, which has stalled in the Senate with limited time remaining on the congressional calendar.

Coinbase Chief Executive Brian Armstrong, Robinhood Chief Executive Vlad Tenev, Kraken co-Chief Executive Arjun Sethi and Intercontinental Exchange Chief Executive Jeffrey Sprecher joined Trump at the event. Senior officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission also attended.

The Clarity Act would clarify whether digital tokens are regulated as securities



or commodities and determine which federal agencies oversee the industry. The push follows new Securities and Exchange Commission rules proposed Tuesday that could ease regulations for some token offerings. Democrats and some Republicans want restrictions preventing political officials, including Trump, from profiting from their own crypto ventures.

Pennsylvania tightens rules for AI data centers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro signed an executive order Tuesday imposing new environmental, transparency and community-approval requirements on companies seeking to build artificial intelligence data centers in the state.

The order immediately removes data centers from Pennsylvania's Fast Track permitting program and prohibits state agencies under Shapiro's authority from signing non-disclosure agreements with developers. Shapiro said the measures would help prevent data center projects from

increasing utility bills while protecting clean air and water.

Pennsylvania has attracted major data center investment because of its natural gas resources, existing power infrastructure and proximity to major East Coast population centers. Amazon has announced plans to invest \$20 billion in the state to expand cloud infrastructure.

The move comes amid growing opposition to rapid data center expansion across the United States. New York imposed a one-year moratorium on large new data centers in July, while Texas recently paused approvals over concerns about electricity reliability.

Supreme Court rejects Trump bid to reopen Carroll case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected President Donald Trump's request to reconsider its earlier refusal to hear his appeal of a \$5 million civil verdict awarded to writer E. Jean Carroll. The decision leaves intact a 2023 jury finding that Trump sexually abused and defamed Carroll, although jurors did not find that he raped her.

The unsigned order provided no explanation. Trump's lawyers had argued that the trial was unfair. Carroll accused

Trump of raping her in the mid-1990s at a Manhattan department store. Trump has repeatedly denied the allegation and called her claims false.

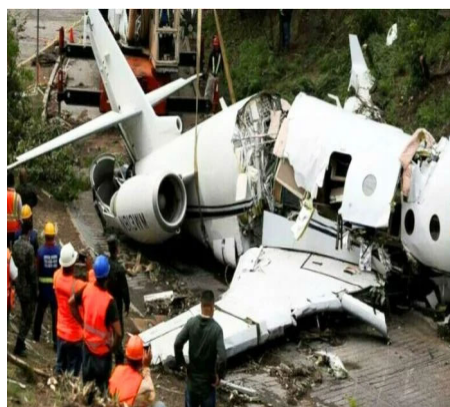
The Supreme Court is separately considering Trump's appeal of an \$83.3 million jury award stemming from his statements about Carroll in 2019. His lawyers argue presidential immunity should shield him from that case.

Carroll received nearly \$5.63 million from Trump in July, including the original award and interest, after the Supreme Court previously declined to hear his appeal.

Charter plane crash kills eight near remote Alaska radar site

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A civilian-contracted charter aircraft crashed Thursday near the Cape Newenham Long Range Radar Site Airport in western Alaska, killing all eight people aboard, the U.S. military said. The aircraft, which had departed Anchorage, was carrying two pilots and six passengers when it crashed while approaching the remote facility, about 450 miles west of Anchorage. The radar site is part of a network used to monitor aircraft operating in Alaska's airspace and along its borders. The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration are investigating the crash. Military officials



described those killed as professionals supporting a vital mission and said recovery teams were working at the site.

Judge removed from Karmelo Anthony case as defense seeks new trial

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Texas judge who presided over Karmelo Anthony's murder trial was removed from further proceedings Wednesday, clearing the way for another judge to consider his request for a new trial. Anthony was convicted in June of first-degree murder and sentenced to 35 years in prison for fatally stabbing 17-year-old Austin Metcalf during a high school track meet in Frisco in April 2025. Visiting Judge Sid Harle ordered Judge John Roach Jr. to recuse himself after defense attorneys argued that his conduct, including restrictions on media coverage and comments after the verdict, raised concerns about impartiality. A new judge was scheduled to hear arguments Thursday on whether Anthony should receive a new trial.

IRS moves to restrict refundable tax credits for ineligible immigrants

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration proposed regulations Wednesday aimed at preventing people who are not legally eligible from receiving the refundable portions of four federal tax credits. The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service said the proposal would classify the refundable portions of the child, adoption, earned income and American opportunity tax credits as federal public benefits subject to eligibility restrictions under the 1996 welfare law. U.S. citizens, nationals and qualified noncitizens, including lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, would remain eligible. People barred from receiving the refundable portion could still use applicable credits to reduce their federal tax liability. The agencies estimate 200,000 to 700,000 taxpayers could be affected, with potential savings of \$700 million to \$2.6 billion.

FBI searches Eric Swalwell's home in sexual misconduct investigation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Bureau of Investigation searched former Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell's Washington, D.C., home last weekend as part of an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him, according to a source familiar with the matter. Agents also seized electronic devices from Swalwell at San Francisco International Airport, the source said. Swalwell resigned from Congress and ended his campaign for California governor in April after four women accused him of misconduct ranging from sexual assault to sending unsolicited explicit images. Swalwell has apologized for what he described as mistakes in judgment but denies the allegations and says he will fight them. Authorities in New York and Los Angeles are also investigating allegations involving him, while the Department of Homeland Security has examined a separate allegation concerning a Brazilian nanny.

U.S. national debt tops \$40 trillion for first time

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. national debt surpassed \$40 trillion for the first time Wednesday, according to Treasury Department data, intensifying concerns about the country's long-term fiscal outlook. Total outstanding federal debt reached about \$40.05 trillion, including roughly \$32.27 trillion held by the public and \$7.78 trillion in intragovernmental holdings. The debt has more than doubled since Donald Trump first took office in 2017, with about one-third of the increase tied to borrowing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget watchdogs warn that rising interest costs, social safety-net spending and tax policies are widening fiscal pressures. Foreign demand for Treasury securities has also weakened, contributing to higher long-term yields. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced larger bond buybacks Wednesday, while Trump said Americans should not be concerned about bond-market volatility.

Trump and Michael Cohen reunite in unusually warm public interview

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump and his former attorney Michael Cohen staged an unexpectedly cordial reunion Thursday, years after their relationship collapsed and Cohen's testimony helped prosecutors secure Trump's 2024 conviction in the New York hush-money case. Cohen interviewed Trump on his New York radio program and referred to him as "boss," while discussing forgiveness and their former relationship. Cohen, who is seeking a presidential pardon, served more than a year of a three-year sentence imposed in 2018 for crimes including campaign-finance violations related to a \$130,000 payment to Stormy Daniels, tax offenses and lying to Congress. Trump said he respected Cohen for recanting previous statements. Cohen has previously been one of Trump's fiercest critics. More portions of the prerecorded interview are expected to air Sunday.

Trump faces fresh court challenge over planned Kennedy Center name

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's effort to add his name to the Kennedy Center's facade faces another legal challenge after Democratic Representative Joyce Beatty asked a federal court to block the move. The Kennedy Center board voted 20-3 last Thursday to change the signage to include Trump's name and designate the grounds as President Donald J. Trump Plaza. Beatty argues the board lacks authority to rename the institution, which Congress established as a memorial to President John F. Kennedy. U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper ruled in May that only Congress could change the center's name. Trump's name was removed from the facade in June, and an appeals court later rejected an administration request to keep it displayed during the appeal. Beatty said the latest board action defies the court's ruling.

Trump administration orders Maryland power plant to support Mid-Atlantic grid

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration invoked emergency federal authority Wednesday to help protect electricity supplies across the Mid-Atlantic, a region serving about 65 million people. Energy Secretary Chris Wright authorized Wagner Generating Station's Unit 4 in Maryland to continue operating beyond its existing limit through November 17. The order followed a request from PJM Interconnection, which coordinates the regional power grid and warned that the unit could be needed during periods of high demand. The administration said the action would reduce the risk of electricity shortages and strengthen grid reliability. Officials face growing pressure



from rising power demand, particularly from data centers, artificial intelligence infrastructure and manufacturing, alongside extreme weather and the retirement of older generating facilities.

Donalds and Jolly win Florida governor primaries, setting up November showdown

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds won the Republican nomination for Florida governor Tuesday, while former Rep. David Jolly secured the Democratic nomination, setting up a November contest to succeed term-limited Gov. Ron DeSantis. Donalds, 47, defeated former Lt. Gov. Jay Collins and other Republican candidates and would become Florida's first Black governor if elected. Backed by President Donald Trump, he has campaigned on tax cuts, insurance reforms and greater health care price transparency. Jolly, a former Republican who switched parties last year, defeated several Democratic contenders and has emphasized education, housing and a limited-government approach. The race will test Trump's influence in Florida and Democrats'



hopes of making the increasingly Republican state competitive again. Democrats have not won a Florida governor's race since 1994. Jolly is the second consecutive former Republican nominated by Democrats for governor.

Severe storms bring flooding, possible tornadoes to Northeast

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe storms brought heavy rain, strong winds and flooding to parts of the Northeast on Thursday, damaging beaches, disrupting travel and knocking out power. A possible tornado struck Atlantic Beach on Long Island, damaging a beach club and scattering debris along the shoreline. Officials said there were no reports of serious injuries or deaths, but a search was conducted to ensure no one remained trapped in damaged cabanas. In New Jersey, emergency crews rescued 69 people from vehicles stranded by flash flooding in Jersey City. Flooding also forced the closure of parts of the Long Island Expressway in Queens. In Delaware, officials reported a likely tornado in Dover



that caused significant property damage but no serious injuries. The National Weather Service had warned of severe weather and waterspouts in the region. Forecasters said the storms were moving offshore Thursday evening and were expected to weaken.

Appeals court strikes down South Carolina age-based absentee voting restrictions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that South Carolina's restrictions on absentee voting for people under 65 violate the 26th Amendment. The state allows voters 65 and older to obtain absentee ballots without providing a specific reason, while younger voters generally must meet certain conditions, such as being unavailable on Election

Day or caring for a sick person. A three-judge panel said the age-based distinction unlawfully makes voting more difficult for younger adults.

The court rejected the state's arguments that the restrictions served election administration and integrity goals, saying those objectives could be pursued through age-neutral rules. The case was returned to a lower court, leaving uncertainty over whether changes will take effect before the November midterm elections.

Harvard reaches \$53 million settlement with families over stolen donor remains

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harvard Medical School has agreed to pay \$53 million to settle lawsuits filed by families whose relatives donated their bodies for medical education and research, only for parts of their remains to be stolen and sold. A Massachusetts judge gave preliminary approval to the settlement on Tuesday. The case centers on former morgue manager Cedric Lodge, who prosecutors said removed brains, skin, bones and other remains from donated cadavers and sold them to buyers in several states. Lodge pleaded guilty in December 2025 to charges involving the interstate transportation of stolen goods and was sentenced to eight years in prison. His wife, Denise Lodge, also received a prison sentence. Harvard said Lodge's conduct was a profound violation of its medical values and expressed regret to affected families. The settlement also includes reforms to its anatomical donation program and an annual scholarship honoring donors.

Moderna and Merck report breakthrough phase 3 results for personalized cancer vaccine

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Moderna and Merck said Wednesday that their personalized messenger ribonucleic acid cancer vaccine met key goals in a late-stage trial involving patients with high-risk melanoma. The vaccine, intismeran autogene, was tested alongside Merck's Keytruda in patients whose melanoma had been surgically removed. The companies said the combination reduced the risk of the cancer returning or patients dying compared with Keytruda alone, while also reducing the risk of the disease spreading to distant parts of the body. The phase 3 trial enrolled 1,137 patients, with participants receiving the personalized vaccine every three weeks for up to nine doses in addition to Keytruda. The companies have not yet released detailed trial results and plan to present the findings at a future medical meeting. Moderna and Merck said they intend to discuss regulatory filings with health authorities.

Prosecutors defend death penalty charge in Charlie Kirk killing case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Utah prosecutors are urging a judge to allow the aggravated murder case against Tyler James Robinson to proceed, arguing that evidence supports the death penalty in the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. In a filing on Tuesday, prosecutors rejected defense arguments that the state had failed to establish probable cause or prove an aggravating circumstance required for capital punishment. Kirk was fatally shot while speaking to a crowd at Utah Valley University in Orem in September 2025. Prosecutors say the gunfire placed other people nearby at significant risk of death and point to evidence including surveillance footage, DNA, alleged admissions and the recovery of a rifle. Robinson also faces six other charges, including witness tampering and obstructing justice. Judge Tony Graf Jr. is scheduled to hear arguments on Tuesday, when he will consider whether the case should proceed to trial.



Indian-origin Singapore businessman declared bankrupt over unpaid wages

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national and Singapore permanent resident who was a director of seven companies has been declared bankrupt after hundreds of migrant workers filed claims for unpaid wages. A bankruptcy order was issued against Ramu Palani Velu on Thursday, according to The Straits Times. Velu was associated with companies providing air-conditioning, plumbing and building services. A total of 407 workers, including Indian nationals, have lodged claims for unpaid wages, with some reportedly going without salaries for more than two months. The wage dispute escalated in June when more than 100 workers sought help from Singapore's Ministry of Manpower. Authorities had already been investigating complaints involving several of Velu's companies. Velu returned to Singapore on June 26 after being abroad and has been assisting authorities with their investigation. He had applied for bankruptcy in July.

U.S. religious freedom commission chief calls for sanctions against RSS

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Head of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat's planned visit to New York, the chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has called for sanctions against RSS members accused of religious freedom violations. Asif Mahmood said the RSS is an umbrella organization whose affiliated groups have been accused of attacks against religious minorities. Commission Vice Chair Gene Mills said the United States government should not extend diplomatic courtesies or hold high-level meetings with RSS leaders and should consider sanctions against members found responsible for religious freedom violations. Bhagwat is scheduled to attend the Universal Oneness Celebrations in New York on August 29, organized by American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue. The commission's 2026 report recommended targeted sanctions against certain individuals and entities in India, including the RSS. India has rejected the commission's assessments, accusing it of presenting a selective and distorted picture of religious freedom in the country. Mahmood was elected USCIRF chair in July.

Punjab Police bring back three Bambiha gang suspects from Malaysia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Police secured the deportation of three wanted operatives allegedly linked to the Davinder Bambiha gang from Malaysia, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Wednesday. The suspects were identified as Jaspreet Singh, alias Jas Behbal, Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh. The Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell of the Counter Intelligence Wing coordinated the operation with central agencies. Police said the three are wanted in multiple cases involving murder, extortion and explosives, including an alleged plan to carry out a hand-grenade attack in Ludhiana. Authorities also cited suspected links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence. The three were arrested at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after their arrival and taken to Punjab for further investigation.

New Jersey celebration marks India@80 and America at 250 with Guinness record

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

India's 80th Independence Day celebrations in the New York tri-state area culminated Saturday in New Jersey with a Guinness World Record honoring the shared milestones of India and the United States. More than 1,300 American flags were arranged at Veterans Memorial Park in Parsippany to form the number "250," surrounded by Indian Tricolours. The display earned the Guinness title for the "Largest Flagpole Number."

The event was organized by the Consulate General of India in New York in partnership with the Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-NE, with support from technology company Zoho. New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Dale Caldwell, U.S. Congresswoman Analilia Mejia, Indian Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and Parsippany Mayor



Pulkit Desai addressed the gathering.

Organizers described the record as a celebration of India's 80th Independence Day and the United States' 250th anniversary, while highlighting the Indian-American community's role in strengthening economic, cultural and people-to-people ties between the two countries. The wider celebrations included flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs and landmark illuminations across the region.

Chandigarh-born officer becomes first Sikh RAF fighter pilot since World War II

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Flight Lieutenant Arshdeep Singh Dang, a 28-year-old officer born in Chandigarh, has become the first Sikh to earn fighter pilot wings in Britain's Royal Air Force since World War II. He received his wings during a fast-jet pilot graduation ceremony at RAF Valley in North Wales on Friday.

The RAF said Dang was also the first Sikh trainee to graduate on the Texan aircraft at its 4 Flying Training School under the United Kingdom Military Flying Training System. Born in 1998, Dang moved to Britain with his family when he was six and grew up in Southall. His father, Jagdeep Singh Dang, is from Ludhiana, while his mother, Gagandeep



Kaur, is from Amritsar. Dang studied mathematics and philosophy at the University of Bristol before completing officer training in 2022. After elementary flying training and service in Cyprus, he entered the fast-jet stream in 2024. He will undergo another year of intensive training before progressing to frontline fighter aircraft.

Indian-American lawmaker seeks federal probe into ICE encounter with US citizen

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American Congressman Suhas Subramanyam and five other Democratic lawmakers have called for an FBI investigation and a Justice Department civil rights review of an encounter in Northern Virginia in which an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent allegedly pointed a gun at US citizen Carolina Molina.

The incident occurred on Monday, August 10, in Falls Church, where masked

agents surrounded Molina's vehicle. Video she recorded shows an agent pointing a firearm at her and accusing her of trying to hit officers with her car. The lawmakers said the available footage does not support that allegation and requested body-camera and other records.

The Department of Homeland Security has described Molina as an "anti-ICE agitator" and accused her of using her vehicle against officers. The lawmakers have asked federal agencies to investigate and respond by Monday, August 31.

FBI adds Punjab-linked Major Singh to Most Wanted list over alleged gang ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has added Major Singh, a key operative of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria Organized Crime Group, to its Most Wanted list over alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organization. The FBI says the group originated in Punjab and operated in California and elsewhere in the United States. Singh

is wanted over alleged racketeering and firearms conspiracies, as well as drug trafficking offenses.

A federal arrest warrant was issued Thursday in the Central District of California. The FBI has asked the public for information that could help locate him. Singh is among several Punjab-linked figures sought in the United States in connection with alleged organized crime activities.

24-year-old Faridkot woman dies after cardiac arrest in Winnipeg

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-year-old woman from Faridkot district died in Winnipeg, Canada, after suffering a sudden cardiac arrest, according to family sources. Anmoldeep Kaur, a resident of Doad village, had moved to Canada about four years ago on a study visa after completing her Class 12 education in the medical stream. She had completed her studies and recently applied for permanent residency. Family members said Anmoldeep was living in a Winnipeg apartment with a roommate, who informed them after her health suddenly deteriorated. She died after suffering cardiac arrest. Local reports also identified her as the adopted daughter of Dr. Jarnail Singh, a village doctor and social worker who had raised her as his own. The family and villagers are coordinating efforts to bring her remains back to Punjab for the final rites.

Canadian investor alleges more than \$4 million fraud in salon expansion deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canadian citizen of Indian origin has approached the Punjab Police's NRI cell, alleging she was defrauded after investing in the proposed Canadian expansion of an Indian salon chain. The complainant, identified as Inderjit Boparai, alleged that salon founder and promoter Munish Bajaj and Canadian citizen Kamalpreet Khaira failed to honor an agreement linked to the expansion, causing losses of more than 40 million Indian rupees. She also alleged that several other Canadian investors put money into proposed franchise outlets that were never established. Punjab Police said the complaint had been received and a preliminary investigation was underway. Bajaj denied involvement in any fraud, saying he had granted a franchise to Khaira, who allegedly committed the wrongdoing independently. Another report also said several investors had raised similar complaints over proposed outlets in Canada.

Jind student dies in Moldova drowning, family spends Rs.10 lakh bringing body home



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 22-year-old student from Haryana's Jind district died in Moldova after drowning during a weekend trip with friends, according to his family. Nihal Singh, from Chandpur village, had been studying hotel management in Chisinau for about nine months and working part-time as a delivery worker. His cousin said Nihal drowned on July 31 after the boat carrying him and his friends reportedly began sinking in the Nistru River. His body was brought back to India 17 days later, with the family spending about Rs.10 lakh on the process. They had already borrowed around Rs.15 lakh to send him abroad. Nihal's father died seven years ago, and his mother had raised him.

UK lawmaker backs \$2.9 million development package for ancestral village in India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

British lawmaker Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesei has backed development projects worth about 250 million Indian rupees in his ancestral village of Raipur Farala in Punjab's Jalandhar district. Dhesei, a member of Parliament for Slough and chair of the United Kingdom's Defence Committee, visited Punjab recently and met Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to discuss issues affecting the overseas Indian community. He was honored by residents and village representatives at a gurdwara on Tuesday. Projects planned in the village include a mini primary health center costing about 55 lakh rupees, several roads using interlocking tiles, improvements to the school park, a community hall, pond development and a concrete platform at the grain market. Funding has also been allocated for gym equipment and school furniture. Dhesei's father, Jaspal Singh Dhesei, and other community members also contributed toward local projects, including a 3 lakh rupee donation for the village gurdwara.

Edmonton police arrest youth in fatal shooting of 16-year-old Jazmin Dhesei

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Edmonton police have arrested a youth in connection with the fatal shooting of 16-year-old Jazmin Dhesei, who died Sunday morning in the city's northeast. Officers responded to reports of a shooting near 139 Avenue and 32 Street shortly before 7 a.m. and found Dhesei seriously injured. She was pronounced dead at the scene despite first aid efforts. Her family identified her as Jazmin, who had been visiting a friend at a nearby condominium complex. Police have not released details about the accused because the person is a youth. The Edmonton Police Service homicide section continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Canadian police warn two Sikh activists of credible threats to their lives



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has issued "duty to warn" letters to two Canadian Sikh activists, saying there are credible, serious and imminent threats to their lives. Inderjeet Singh Gosal of Caledon, Ontario, and Manjinder Singh of Abbotsford, British Columbia, received the warnings over their involvement in efforts to create an independent Sikh state in India. The letters said there was no known threat against their families or friends, although they could be harmed during any attack. Gosal, the Canadian coordinator of non-binding Khalistan referendums, said he received the latest warning Friday after police contacted him by phone. Police did not disclose details about the alleged threats.

New U.S. public charge rules expand scrutiny for some green card applicants

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

New United States immigration rules taking effect Thursday, September 18, will broaden how officials assess whether certain green card applicants are likely to become a public charge. The Department of Homeland Security has rescinded the 2022 regulations, allowing immigration officers to consider a wider range of means-tested public benefits received on or after the effective date, including certain food and housing assistance. Officers must assess each case based on factors including age, health, family circumstances, financial resources, education and skills. Receiving a covered benefit will not automatically result in denial, as officials must consider the totality of the circumstances.

The rule applies to adjustment-of-status applications submitted on or after September



18. Refugees, asylees and several humanitarian categories remain exempt. The changes could be significant for Indian applicants seeking permanent residency through employment or family sponsorship.

Indian-American educator Pia Dandiya wins Florida Democratic primary, advances to House race

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-American educator Pia Dandiya has won the Democratic primary for Florida's 22nd Congressional District, setting up a November contest against Republican nominee Casey Askar. Florida election authorities list both candidates as nominees for the November general election. Dandiya, the daughter of Indian immigrants, defeated Kaysia Earley in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

She previously worked as a teacher and school principal and has also served as a White House Fellow. Askar, a former United States Marine and businessman, won the Republican primary in a seven-candidate field. If elected, Dandiya would become the first South Asian American to represent Florida in Congress. The November race is expected to draw national attention because the newly redrawn district is considered competitive and could factor into the battle for control of the House.

Italian Sikh group works to preserve the wartime legacy of Sikh soldiers

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

For nearly a decade, an Italy-based Sikh organization has worked to preserve the memory of Sikh soldiers who fought and died in Italy during the World Wars, seeking to connect official military records with community history.

The World Sikh Shaheed Military Memorial Committee, a voluntary organization led by members of the Sikh diaspora, began its current documentation and memorialization efforts in 2016. The group says it has identified and commemorated more than 2,000 Sikh soldiers with support from Italian authorities.

Earlier this month, the organization brought together officials from nearly 20 Italian municipalities for commemorative activities and installed a memorial wall



featuring the Khanda at Forlì. The group has also held memorial programs at sites including Cassino, Florence, Ravenna and the Sangro River.

Committee members say the memorials are intended not only to honor the fallen but also to preserve Sikh identity and community memory. Italian residents and local officials have increasingly participated in the commemorations, helping keep the soldiers' stories alive.

Three UAE-based Indians help set skydiving world record in Libya

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Indians based in the United Arab Emirates were among 65 skydivers who set a Guinness World Record in Libya by jumping from a single aircraft while carrying their national flags. Jamsheer Thanalot of Kannur, Kerala, Abhishek Rawat of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, and Isha Raj of Patna, Bihar,

were the only Indian participants in the record attempt Friday. The skydivers jumped from about 13,000 feet aboard a military Ilyushin Il-76TD aircraft and unfurled their flags during the descent. The record recognizes the most skydivers jumping together with national flags from a single aircraft. Guinness World Records confirmed the achievement the following week. The group included participants representing 38 nationalities.

Scottish lawmaker Martyn Day marries Kerala-born Nitin Chand at Guruvayur

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Scottish National Party lawmaker Martyn Day married Kerala-born Nitin Chand in a traditional ceremony Tuesday at the Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala, fulfilling Chand's long-held wish to marry at the shrine. Family sources said the couple later held a ceremony at an auditorium in the temple town, attended by close relatives and friends. Chand, from Piravom in Ernakulam district, moved to the United Kingdom in 2008 to study information technology management and met Day there. The couple had previously married in the United Kingdom, but plans for a Guruvayur ceremony were delayed by the Kerala floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. Day later shared photographs from the wedding on Facebook.

India brings fugitive drug trafficking suspect Virender Singh Basoya back from UAE



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Narcotics Control Bureau brought fugitive drug trafficking suspect Virender Singh Basoya back to India from the United Arab Emirates early Friday, after he was arrested there in June under an Interpol Red Notice. Authorities accuse Basoya of helping coordinate an international drug trafficking network and facilitating overseas distribution of mephedrone and other narcotics. The investigation began in Pune in February 2024 after police seized 500 grams of mephedrone and later expanded nationwide. Investigators reported total mephedrone seizures of 1,837 kilograms in Pune and Delhi. Basoya also faces allegations in a separate Delhi case involving international cocaine trafficking. His return followed coordination between Indian and UAE authorities under Operation Global Hunt.

Trump honors teen lifeguard who rescued Indian-American boy from California surf

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump hosted 16-year-old lifeguard Ryder Williams and 10-year-old Nathaniel Rai at the White House on Monday, recognizing Williams for rescuing the Indian-American boy from powerful surf in Santa Cruz, California. Williams pulled Rai from dangerous waves at Seabright Beach on July 25 after the child was swept into the water. The dramatic rescue was captured on video and went viral. During the Oval Office meeting, Trump praised Williams as a hero and congratulated Rai for surviving the ordeal. Williams said he relied on his lifeguard training during the rescue. Rai's father, Sumit Rai, expressed gratitude to Williams and the other lifeguards who assisted.



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Mine collapse in Central African Republic leaves more than 100 dead, rescue teams recover bodies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rescuers recovered more bodies Thursday from an artisanal gold mine in western Central African Republic, two days after a collapse killed more than 100 people. The mine caved in Tuesday in Zamboye, near the border with Cameroon, burying miners underground. A local Red Cross volunteer said more than 10 bodies were recovered Thursday morning, but authorities could not determine how many people remained trapped. Miners said rescue teams lacked the equipment and expertise needed for a disaster of this scale. An investigation has been opened into the collapse and possible criminal responsibility. Officials said the victims included miners from Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad. Artisanal mine collapses are common in the country, where thousands work in small-scale mining operations with limited safety measures.

China urges South Korea not to take sides, blames U.S. policy for Korea tensions

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged South Korea on Thursday to maintain strategic autonomy and avoid taking sides between Beijing and Washington, while blaming U.S. policy toward North Korea for tensions on the Korean Peninsula. During meetings in Seoul with National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac and President Lee Jae Myung, Wang called for renewed dialogue between the two Koreas and a restoration of trust.

He said China would welcome peaceful coexistence on the peninsula and urged Washington to abandon what Beijing described as its hostile policy toward Pyongyang. His remarks came after President Donald Trump said he planned to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un later this year and ordered Pentagon officials to shorten joint military exercises with South Korea.



Seoul condemned North Korea's launch of more than 10 short-range ballistic missiles on Thursday and ordered its military to remain fully prepared. Wang also said China-South Korea ties had fully recovered and called for progress on their free trade agreement.

Taiwan proposes record \$35 billion defense budget amid growing Chinese military pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan's government proposed a record defense budget of 1.12 trillion Taiwan dollars, about \$35 billion, for 2027 on Thursday, citing growing security threats from China. The proposed budget would increase defense spending by 18 percent from the 2026 proposal and push it above 3 percent of estimated gross domestic product. China regularly sends military aircraft and naval and coast guard vessels toward Taiwan and has conducted large-scale exercises around the island. President Lai Ching-te has pledged to raise defense spending to 5 percent of gross domestic product by 2030. The proposal must be reviewed by Taiwan's opposition-controlled legislature, where approval could face delays. Taiwan has also recently expanded military exercises and civil defense preparations to strengthen its ability to respond to a potential Chinese attack.

Tunisia opposition movement calls protest amid anger over heat, power and water shortages



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new Tunisian opposition movement planned a protest in the capital Thursday, seeking to channel growing public anger over electricity and water shortages, high living costs and unemployment. The Nafas movement, launched in May, brings together political parties and independent figures opposed to President Kais Saied. Tunisia has endured an extreme summer, with temperatures reaching about 50 degrees Celsius in some areas. Record electricity demand has prompted rationing, while power cuts have disrupted water pumping stations and worsened shortages. Nafas has also criticized shortages of essential medicines and what it describes as government failures. Recent demonstrations have featured increasingly direct calls for Saied to step down, along with demands for political change and the release of political prisoners.

Israel and Board of Peace form working groups on Gaza disarmament and public health

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Board of Peace have agreed to establish two working groups focused on Gaza's disarmament and reconstruction-related needs, according to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

One group will address the disarmament and demilitarization of Gaza, which Israel and the Board of Peace want completed before reconstruction begins. A second will focus on sanitation, clean water and other public health issues affecting Gaza and Israel.

The development follows Netanyahu's repeated insistence that Israeli forces will not withdraw from their current positions in Gaza until Hamas is fully disarmed. United



States President Donald Trump has also said the Board of Peace is pursuing the complete disarmament of Hamas and other armed groups. The proposed framework would give a transitional Palestinian administration responsibility for governing Gaza, while Hamas would relinquish its civilian and military governing roles.

Russian missile and drone barrage kills at least 16 in Kyiv region

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia launched a massive overnight missile and drone barrage against Kyiv and the surrounding region on Thursday, killing at least 16 people and injuring about 40, Ukrainian officials said. The attack lasted for hours and struck multiple locations across the capital, damaging about 30 apartment buildings, a school, a children's hospital and a kindergarten. More than 38,000 people, including over 2,000 children, took shelter

in Kyiv's subway stations as air raid warnings remained active into the morning. Ukraine's air force said the barrage included ballistic and cruise missiles as well as jet-powered drones, placing further pressure on the country's depleted air defenses. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy again appealed for additional Patriot interceptors, saying international supplies remain limited. Russia said it targeted an industrial site linked to missile production, along with drone facilities, an ammunition depot and a logistics center.

Mexican teen with reported IQ of 162 draws global attention for extraordinary academic journey

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexican academic prodigy Adhara Pérez Sánchez has drawn international attention for her exceptional academic achievements and reported IQ of 162. Born in 2011, Pérez Sánchez reportedly completed primary school at age five, middle school at six and high school at eight. She later pursued higher education in engineering and mathematics and has been reported to have earned a master's degree in engineering at age 11. Her reported IQ has led to comparisons with Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, although neither physicist had a verified standardized IQ score, making figures attributed to them only estimates.

Brazil emerges as key alternative to China in global race for rare earth minerals

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil is emerging as a major alternative to China in the global race for rare earth minerals, attracting growing investment from companies in the United States, Australia and Canada while raising concerns about environmental damage. An analysis of Brazilian mining records by The Associated Press and Reporter Brasil found that 42 percent of 2,727 rare earth exploration applications were submitted by foreign-backed companies. More than 86 percent of

the applications were filed during the past three years, reflecting surging demand for minerals used in electronics, electric vehicles, wind turbines, defense systems and other advanced technologies. At least 25 percent of the applications overlap with or lie within 10 kilometers of protected areas or Indigenous territories. Brazil has an estimated 21 million metric tons of rare earth reserves, second only to China's estimated 44 million metric tons. Washington is increasingly supporting Brazilian projects as Western countries seek alternatives to China's dominance of rare earth processing and refining.

Singapore tightens online platform rules in renewed fight against scams

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Singapore has introduced tougher safeguards requiring major online platforms to strengthen protections against scams and malicious cyber activity. The rules, issued Monday, apply to messaging and conferencing services, social media and e-commerce platforms. Messaging services will have to warn users about suspicious accounts and provide options to filter or block messages and calls from unknown contacts. Social media companies must remove suspected scam advertisements and verify advertisers, while financial advertisements aimed at Singapore users must come from licensed providers. Enhanced e-commerce requirements will strengthen account security and advertising controls. Platforms must comply by January 31, 2027. Proposed legislation could increase penalties for non-compliance to 10 million Singapore dollars. Singapore also plans to establish a quantum-safe cybersecurity center with IBM to help businesses prepare for future threats to existing encryption systems.

Pakistan government challenges Supreme Court order on Imran Khan's hospital transfer

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's government said Wednesday it will seek a review of a Supreme Court order concerning the medical treatment of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said authorities believe the order directing Khan to undergo examination at Shifa International Hospital goes beyond the legal framework governing medical care for convicted prisoners. The government plans to seek permission for Khan to be examined at a government hospital, while allowing specialists from other institutions to participate in a medical board if required. The Supreme Court had expressed concern about Khan's health and emphasized the state's responsibility to protect the life, health, dignity and security of people in custody. Khan, a former prime minister and leader of the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, has remained imprisoned since 2023.

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More than 2,300 Mexicans routed through Guatemala and Honduras under expanded U.S. deportations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has deported nearly 2,300 Mexicans to Guatemala this year and sent at least dozens more to Honduras, marking a sharp change in the Trump administration's handling of Mexican migrants. Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo said Wednesday that 2,284 Mexicans had arrived in Guatemala as a temporary transit stop before being returned to Mexico, usually within 24 hours. Mexico's National Migration Institute confirmed that the practice has occurred mainly since April, with deportees later transported by bus to southern Mexico. Honduran records show that 82 Mexicans arrived in San Pedro Sula on two flights this month, with another 35 expected. Mexican officials have protested the policy, while migrant advocates say third-country deportations could put vulnerable people at greater risk.

Taliban renews demand for Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghanistan's Taliban government has renewed its demand for representation at the United Nations, arguing that improved security and an end to opium cultivation strengthen its case. Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi said Afghanistan has an established government and rejected reports that women are broadly barred from employment, saying women continue to work in healthcare, education and some government institutions. The United Nations, however, continues to cite severe restrictions on women and girls, along with ongoing terrorism concerns. Russia remains the only country to have formally recognized the Taliban government since it seized power in 2021. United Nations officials have said recognition and Afghanistan's seat at the world body are matters for member states.

European Union leaders defend International Criminal Court after U.S. sanctions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union leaders expressed strong support for the International Criminal Court on Wednesday, a day after the United States imposed sanctions on its president, Tomoko Akane, and senior trial lawyer Abdoulaye Seye. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa said the court's officials must be able to perform their duties independently and without outside pressure. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused the two officials of pursuing cases involving nationals of countries that have not accepted the court's jurisdiction.

The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, which established the court, and has rejected its jurisdiction over American personnel and Israeli officials. Tensions intensified after the court issued arrest warrants in 2024 for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Indonesia seizes 2.6 tons of liquid methamphetamine in major maritime drug bust

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indonesian authorities seized about 2.6 tons of liquid methamphetamine from a ship off the country's western coast and detained 10 Myanmar nationals suspected of involvement in an international drug trafficking network, officials said Wednesday. The operation was carried out Monday by a joint task force involving Indonesia's National Narcotics Agency, customs officials and police after authorities received intelligence that a vessel was transporting narcotics from Malaysia toward Indonesian waters. Officials intercepted the Tanzania-flagged MV Ocean Porter near Tanjung Parit and towed it to a customs



facility on Batam island for inspection. Investigators said the vessel had previously operated under another name and that the drugs were hidden in eight drums and the ship's water tanks. Authorities described the seizure as one of Indonesia's largest drug busts this year. The operation came less than two weeks after another vessel was intercepted carrying 1.3 tons of ketamine.

Canada condemns Israel's Lebanon offensive and pledges more than \$50 million in aid

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada's secretary of state for international development, Randeep Sarai, on Tuesday condemned what he called Israel's "unlawful invasion" of Lebanon and stressed that the country must retain sovereignty over its territory. Sarai made the comments during a visit to Beirut, where he announced three new humanitarian programs supporting vulnerable families and women. The latest assistance brings Canada's total aid to Lebanon this year to more than 71 million Canadian dollars, or about \$50 million. The United Nations says roughly 360,000 people remain displaced by the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Sarai also met Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, who have



pledged reforms and greater state authority. He said Canada would continue supporting Lebanon and efforts to create conditions for Syrian refugees to safely return home.

Swiss tourist sentenced to a year in prison for mocking Bali's sacred Day of Silence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court in Bali sentenced Swiss tourist Luzian Andrin Zraggen to one year in prison Thursday for insulting the island's sacred Hindu observance known as Nyepi, or the Day of Silence. The 26-year-old was convicted under Indonesia's new criminal code after posting videos on Instagram showing himself walking to a beach during the observance and mocking the tradition. Nyepi, held annually in March, requires residents and visitors to remain indoors, while Bali's airport closes and internet access is shut down. Zraggen said during his trial that he had not understood



the restrictions and was frustrated because he could not obtain food. He apologized to Balinese people and said he regretted his actions. Authorities arrested him after his posts triggered public outrage.

Pirates hijack cargo ship carrying Turkish weapons off Somalia, official says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pirates hijacked a Cameroon-flagged cargo ship carrying Turkish weapons off Somalia's Puntland coast on Monday, a Somali official said Thursday. The M/V LUTUF was seized near Marraya and taken toward the Nugaal coast by eight pirates believed to be linked to an earlier ship hijacking. The vessel was carrying weapons bound for a Turkish military training facility in Mogadishu, along with communications and satellite equipment. Its 10-member crew included six Indians, one Turkish national, one Georgian and two Serbian security guards. Two Turkish-owned vessels and Turkish helicopters and drones



later monitored the ship. After a small boat delivered khat to the pirates Tuesday, an airstrike killed four men and wounded two others. The circumstances and responsibility for the strike remain unverified.

Serbia turns to Russia to help fight wildfires

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

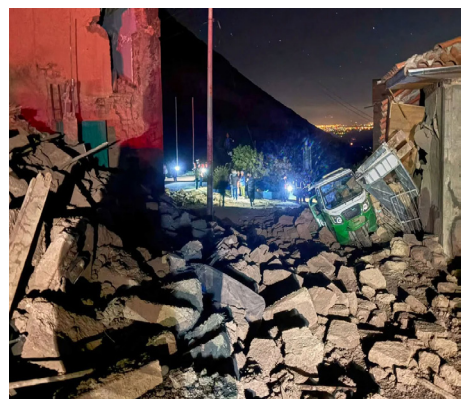
Serbia has turned to Russia for help fighting wildfires after a shortage of available firefighting aircraft in the European Union, Serbia's interior ministry said Thursday. A Russian Emergencies Ministry IL-76P firefighting aircraft arrived in the southern city of Nis on Wednesday evening and was deployed Thursday to a blaze in the Deliblatska Pescara nature reserve, where fires have burned for weeks. Serbia, which is not a European Union member, can request emergency assistance through the bloc's Civil Protection Mechanism. Belgrade previously sent a firefighting helicopter and emergency response team to Spain this summer through the mechanism, but widespread wildfires across Europe have strained available resources. Bulgaria allowed the Russian aircraft to cross European Union and NATO airspace under a humanitarian aid exemption.

Woman charged with planning ISIS-inspired attack on New York State Capitol

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. authorities arrested and charged Jessica Bowie, 35, of Albany, with planning an Islamic State-inspired attack on the New York State Capitol, the Justice Department said Thursday. Prosecutors allege Bowie planned to use an explosive device to kill public officials and destroy as much of the building as possible before fleeing to ISIS-controlled territory in Syria. She was arrested Wednesday after obtaining what she believed was an explosive device. Authorities said she had visited the Capitol grounds and photographed the building. Prosecutors also cited anti-American messages she posted online, including praise for the September 11 attacks. New York Governor Kathy Hochul said security had been strengthened, adding that there was no immediate threat.

Strong earthquake strikes central Peru, no damage reported



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck central Peru on Thursday, according to the United States Geological Survey, but authorities reported no immediate casualties or damage. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 99 kilometers, with its epicenter about 31 kilometers northwest of Aniso in the Andes Mountains. Hernando Tavera, head of Peru's Geophysical Institute, said the quake's depth helped prevent major damage. Residents briefly moved into the streets out of concern, but officials reported no significant impact. Peru's institute initially measured the earthquake at magnitude 7.2 before revising it. Peru lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire, one of the world's most seismically active regions.

India opens limited disclosure window for undeclared foreign assets

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian government opened a one-time disclosure scheme Sunday allowing eligible taxpayers to voluntarily declare certain previously undisclosed foreign assets and income. The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme will accept declarations until December 31, 2026. Under one category, undisclosed foreign assets or income with an aggregate value of up to \$104,800 can be declared, subject to tax and an additional amount. A separate category covers certain foreign assets worth up to about \$524,000 that were acquired while the taxpayer was a nonresident or from income already taxed in India. Valid declarations and payments can provide immunity from further tax, penalties and prosecution under the Black Money Act for the declared assets or income.

IIT Kharagpur celebrates 75 years with Platinum Jubilee events

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is marking its 75th anniversary with a week-long Platinum Jubilee celebration featuring academic discussions, debates, cultural programs and innovation-focused events. The program includes discussions on the role of the next generation of IIT graduates in building a developed India and how the institutions can evolve to meet future national and global challenges. Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan and other prominent guests are participating in the celebrations. The institute is also hosting technology demonstrations, a deep-tech showcase, a hackathon and an innovation challenge. The celebrations bring together students, faculty and alumni while highlighting the institute's contributions to education, research and national development.

New High Court bench in Leh to improve access to justice in Ladakh



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the establishment of a bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Leh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said. The new bench is expected to make judicial services more accessible to people across Ladakh, particularly those living in remote and difficult-to-reach areas. The High Court currently operates through benches in Jammu and Srinagar, with cases concerning Ladakh heard at either location. The new Leh bench will allow cases relating to the Union Territory to be heard closer to residents. Shah said the decision would reduce the time and travel required for people in Ladakh to access legal services.

India celebrates 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervor across the country

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India celebrated its 80th Independence Day on Saturday with flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, patriotic performances and community events across the country, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the national celebrations from the Red Fort in New Delhi. Modi unfurled the national flag at the historic monument and addressed the nation, paying tribute to freedom fighters and outlining his vision for a developed India by 2047. This year's celebrations highlighted the themes of '150 Years of Vande Mataram' and 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'. For the first time, 'Vande Mataram' was sung as part of the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort.

The celebrations extended far beyond the national capital. Across states and Union territories, people joined flag-hoisting ceremonies, Tiranga rallies,



cultural programs, patriotic competitions and community gatherings. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign also saw widespread participation, with citizens displaying the national flag and taking part in mass singing of 'Vande Mataram'. The celebrations brought together people from different regions and communities, reflecting the country's national pride while looking ahead to India's centenary of independence in 2047.

Fadnavis pitches Maharashtra as a launchpad for deeper India-US economic ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has called for India-US relations to move from strategic alignment toward greater economic cooperation, positioning Maharashtra as a hub for American investment and advanced technology. Speaking at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce National Convention on Tuesday, Fadnavis highlighted

opportunities in artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, data centers and global capability centers. He also highlighted Maharashtra's growing healthcare sector, including a planned 165-acre Medicity project with Cleveland Clinic as an anchor partner. Fadnavis later met United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor to discuss strengthening bilateral ties and attracting investment in semiconductors, data centers, higher education and advanced technology.

Supreme Court panel to investigate alleged police excesses at Jantar Mantar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Supreme Court Justice R. Subhash Reddy will lead a five-member panel investigating allegations of excessive force during students' march from Jantar Mantar toward Parliament on July 20. The panel also includes former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi High Court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former Central Bureau of Investigation Director Rishi Kumar Shukla and former Meghalaya Director General of Police L. R. Bishnoi. The inquiry will examine allegations involving pellet guns, electric batons, lathi charges and tear gas, along with claims of harassment of women protesters and inadequate medical assistance. It will also



review whether officers were identifiable and whether restrictions on protests were properly applied. The Supreme Court has directed authorities to provide CCTV, drone and body-camera footage and other records. The panel is expected to submit an interim report at the earliest.

Rahul Gandhi seeks police case over alleged pellet firing on student protesters

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi visited Delhi's Parliament Street Police Station on Friday with a student who alleges he was injured by pellet firing during protests at Jantar Mantar. Gandhi questioned police officials over the failure to register a case and sought details about who ordered the alleged use of pellet guns and lathi charges. The Congress has accused authorities of using excessive force against students protesting

over alleged examination paper leaks and says the injured student had repeatedly submitted complaints without receiving an acknowledgment. Gandhi first visited Mandir Marg Police Station before going to Parliament Street, which has jurisdiction over Jantar Mantar. The visit comes ahead of the next edition of his 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign in Pune on Saturday, where he is expected to raise concerns about the treatment of protesting students. Delhi Police has not publicly confirmed the allegations described by Congress.

Assam, Meghalaya governments move to restore calm after Shillong violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Assam and Meghalaya have agreed to coordinate efforts to restore peace following violence during a Khasi Students' Union rally in Shillong on Wednesday. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma discussed the fallout, including concerns over the safety of commuters and Assam-registered vehicles. Both governments said designated Cabinet ministers would work together to restore normalcy and maintain ties between the neighboring states. Meghalaya authorities have arrested three senior Khasi Students' Union leaders in connection with the violence, while permission for a planned protest was revoked. The unrest involved stone throwing, vandalism and arson in parts of Shillong, prompting calls from both chief ministers for restraint and mutual respect.

Railways repurposes coach scrap to build toilets at rural stations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Railways has used reusable components from retired passenger coaches to build modular bio-toilets at four small stations in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Coach Mid-Life Rehabilitation Workshop in Jhansi refurbished toilet modules, bio-tanks and water tanks recovered during coach overhauls before installing them at Matatila, Jiron and Jakhora stations in Uttar Pradesh and Basai in Madhya Pradesh. Railway officials said the work was completed by the workshop's in-house workforce, including repairs, fabrication, assembly and plumbing. The initiative is part of a reuse and refurbishment approach aimed at reducing the use of new materials while improving passenger amenities. The facilities are expected to benefit residents of surrounding rural areas, including women, children and senior citizens.

Bengal court issues arrest warrant against Mahua Moitra over alleged hate speech



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court in West Bengal's Nadia district issued an arrest warrant against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Wednesday after she failed to appear despite repeated summonses in an alleged hate speech case. The Krishnanagar court also directed authorities to submit a report on the warrant's execution by August 28. The complaint alleges that Moitra made objectionable remarks concerning women, religious practices, the Indian Army and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The case includes allegations involving insulting the modesty of women, promoting enmity between groups, hurting religious sentiments, criminal intimidation and hate speech. Moitra's lawyer reportedly told the court she was concerned about being heckled outside the premises. The court rejected her continued absence and ordered the warrant.

Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar dies while serving life sentence for 1984 riots

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Congress parliamentarian Sajjan Kumar, who was serving a life sentence in cases linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh violence, died at a Delhi hospital on Thursday. He was 80. Kumar, lodged in Tihar Jail, was taken to Safdarjung Hospital after his health deteriorated and was declared dead on arrival, officials said. He was convicted in 2018 by the Delhi High Court for his role in the killings of five Sikh men in Delhi’s Palam Colony and sentenced to life imprisonment. His challenge to that conviction remains pending before the Supreme Court. Kumar also received another life sentence in 2025 in the Saraswati Vihar case.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan attacks Congress over Vande Mataram resolution

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday criticized the Congress Working Committee’s decision to retain the practice of singing only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram at party events. Chouhan described the decision as an insult to the national song and Bharat Mata. He alleged that the Congress had adopted the practice in 1937 under pressure from the Muslim League, repeating a claim made earlier by BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad. The Congress resolution referred to the party’s longstanding practice. Chouhan also questioned whether the party was placing itself above Parliament and the Constitution, as the BJP escalated its criticism of the opposition party.

Amit Shah chairs southern council meeting on regional disputes and development



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Tamil Nadu, bringing together representatives from the southern states to discuss interstate disputes, security and development. Chief ministers and senior officials from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana attended the meeting. Key issues included the Cauvery and Krishna water disputes, the proposed Mekedatu dam, Mullaperiyar and interstate coordination. Delimitation and its potential impact on southern states were also expected to feature in discussions. The broader agenda covered economic growth, industrial investment, education, health care and internal security. The meeting aims to resolve regional issues through dialogue and strengthen cooperation between the states and the Union government.

BJP reshapes national team and state leadership ahead of upcoming political battles

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party has unveiled a broad organizational overhaul, followed by new state leadership appointments in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat, as the party seeks to strengthen its structure ahead of upcoming elections and the longer-term 2029 Lok Sabha contest. BJP national president Nitin Nabin announced the new national team on Monday, bringing several prominent leaders back into key roles while retaining experienced organizational figures. Former Union minister Smriti Irani returned as a national general secretary, while former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was appointed national vice-president. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was named national treasurer, and former BJP strategist Ram Madhav joined the national vice-presidential team. Former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb was



appointed national general secretary. On Tuesday, the party appointed Vinod Tawde as Uttar Pradesh in-charge, with Jagdish Ishwarbhai Patel as co-in-charge. Satish Poonia was named Punjab in-charge, while Tarun Chugh was assigned Gujarat. The appointments take effect immediately. The reshuffle combines senior leaders with newer faces and is aimed at improving coordination between the BJP’s central leadership and state organizations.

Income Tax Department probes suspicious overseas remittances by 394 entities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Income Tax Department has launched a nationwide verification exercise targeting suspicious foreign remittances after identifying entities that allegedly sent large sums overseas despite reporting little or no business activity. The exercise covers about 394 entities, including 117 in states along India’s land borders, as well as 36 professionals who issued tax certificates for foreign remittances. Officials said preliminary checks found some entities were non-filers or reported very small turnovers that did not correspond with the amounts remitted. Some also allegedly operated from addresses where they could not be found. The department is examining remittances described as payments for freight, software



and consulting services, along with the role of professionals who certified the transactions. The investigation followed a search involving fictitious charitable trusts allegedly linked to bogus donation arrangements. The department said further investigations are underway and stressed that professionals must conduct proper due diligence before certifying overseas transactions.

Omar Abdullah calls Kashmir remarks a matter between US and Pakistan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the dispute between Pakistan and the United States over remarks by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor was a matter for the two countries to resolve. Abdullah was responding to reports that Pakistan had summoned the US envoy in Islamabad to protest Gor’s comments that Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of India. “Whatever the US ambassador said, he

said. Now it is between the two countries,” Abdullah told reporters. Gor made the remarks during his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since taking office, saying the United States would reconsider its travel advisory for the region. Abdullah had earlier said he would discuss matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir with Gor but would not raise issues that fall under the central government’s authority. Pakistan’s Foreign Office summoned the US envoy hours after Gor’s comments and lodged a formal protest.

Jharkhand opposition seeks CBI probe into recruitment exam irregularities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jharkhand Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi has urged Chief Minister Hemant Soren to hand over investigations into alleged irregularities in the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level examination and the 11th to 13th Jharkhand Public Service Commission civil services examinations to the Central Bureau of Investigation. In a letter sent Wednesday, Marandi questioned the credibility of ongoing Crime Investigation Department probes and

alleged that candidates had lost faith in the state recruitment system.

He sought an independent investigation into alleged irregularities in examination and interview processes, including the selection of candidates and constitution of interview boards. Marandi also called for an inquiry into allegations of extortion involving candidates and demanded that relevant records and digital evidence be secured. The demands come amid wider concerns over irregularities in several state recruitment examinations.

India proposes 10 percent biofuel blend for coastal ships from 2029

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government has proposed mandatory use of marine fuel containing at least 10 percent biofuel by volume on vessels engaged in Indian coastal trade from 2029. Under a draft roadmap issued Wednesday, vessels would be encouraged to use blends containing up to 10 percent biofuel from 2028, subject to fuel availability, safety and engine compatibility. The proposal covers conventional marine fuels used for propulsion and auxiliary machinery. The government says the policy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand domestic production of sustainable marine biofuels and develop supply and bunkering infrastructure. Ship operators would also need to address fuel storage, compatibility, crew training and recordkeeping.

Sikkim defends proposed artificial intelligence-based tourism permit system

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Sikkim government has defended its proposed artificial intelligence-based online permit system for restricted and protected areas, saying regulatory authority and revenue collection will remain with the Tourism Department. Tourism Secretary Raj Yadav said a private agency could manage the technology and portal, but permits would continue to be controlled by the government. The system is intended to simplify approvals, reduce revenue leakage and give authorized local tour operators direct access to the platform. Yadav said the department had collected about \$410,000 in permit fees, based on the rupee figure provided, despite a significant gap between tourism and permit data. The proposal will undergo further stakeholder consultation before Cabinet consideration.

Punjab targets more than 1 million participants for state sports festival



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday announced the fourth edition of Khedan Wattan Punjab Diyan, with organizers targeting more than 1 million participants across nine age groups. The games will run from September 5 through November 29, beginning in Bathinda and concluding in Patiala. Competitions will cover 38 sports, along with four para-sports: athletics, powerlifting, badminton and wheelchair basketball. Events will be held at block, district and state levels across all 153 blocks and 23 districts. Registration is free, with the Sports Department introducing a QR code-based process for the first time. The government said the initiative aims to identify sporting talent and strengthen Punjab’s sports culture.



Zuckerberg buys 440-acre castle estate in Ireland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, have bought Strancally Castle, a Gothic Revival mansion and 440-acre estate in County Waterford, Ireland. The off-market purchase was completed several weeks ago, according to The Irish Times. The price has not been disclosed, but reports estimate the property’s value at between €20 million and €30 million. Built in 1830 for former lawmaker John Keily, the castle was designed by architects James and George Richard Pain. Zuckerberg and his family plan to use the estate as a base during visits to Ireland, where Meta has its international headquarters. The previous owners restored the property after acquiring it about 25 years ago.

Musk says Starlink could help close India’s rural connectivity gap

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk said Friday that Starlink’s satellite internet service could help India’s “least served” communities, particularly in rural areas, as the company awaits regulatory approval for commercial operations.

Musk made the comment on X in response to a post highlighting persistent connectivity gaps across India, including 11,256 villages reportedly without 4G coverage as of May. Rural internet subscription density was 48.31 per 100 people in March, compared with 126.80 in urban areas.

The post also cited BharatNet’s expansion to more than 850,000 route-kilometers of fiber and about 221,000 service-ready village councils. Satellite connectivity could help reach remote and difficult terrain where conventional infrastructure is costly or challenging to deploy.

Warner demands Meta explain how abusive ads reached users

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Senator Mark Warner has demanded answers from Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg over allegations that paid advertisements containing child sexual abuse material and non-consensual intimate images appeared on the company’s platforms.

In a letter sent Tuesday, the Virginia Democrat cited research that identified more than 50 such image and video advertisements in Meta’s public advertising library between November and early August. The advertisements reportedly reached users in the United States, Britain and several European countries, with some directing users to services that create non-consensual intimate images.

Warner asked Meta to explain how the ads passed its review systems, how much revenue they generated and when they were removed and reported to authorities. He requested a response by Wednesday.

Higher borrowing costs and oil prices put Asia’s markets under pressure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Asian stocks were headed for weekly losses Friday as rising United States Treasury yields and higher oil prices reinforced concerns about inflation, borrowing costs and corporate valuations. Japan’s Nikkei fell 0.8 percent, taking its weekly decline to about 4 percent, while Chinese blue-chip stocks slipped 0.1 percent. South Korean and Taiwanese markets gained modestly but remained lower for the week. United States 30-year Treasury yields climbed to 5.25 percent, while 10-year yields reached 4.71 percent, despite government efforts to support the bond market. Higher yields are increasing financing costs for companies, including technology firms investing heavily in artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Oil prices added to market concerns. Brent crude touched \$94.71 a barrel before



easing to \$93.12, leaving it more than 5 percent higher for the week amid tensions involving Iran and uncertainty over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Gold remained near \$4,513 an ounce, while the dollar was on track for a weekly decline. In Japan, stronger inflation and manufacturing orders strengthened expectations of a possible September interest rate increase.

India’s US export base holds firm as rising imports narrow trade surplus

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s exports to the United States have remained resilient despite tariff uncertainty under President Donald Trump, with the American market still accounting for about one-fifth of India’s merchandise exports, according to an analysis of Indian government trade data reported by Bloomberg. The share remained broadly unchanged in the 12 months through July, underscoring the continued importance of the United States to Indian exporters.

The more significant shift has been on

the import side. India’s purchases from the United States rose 17 percent in fiscal 2026, outpacing overall import growth, with higher energy purchases contributing to the increase. As a result, India’s trade surplus with the United States narrowed to \$33.8 billion from \$40.8 billion a year earlier.

New Delhi is pursuing greater export diversification through new trade agreements and expanded access to other markets. However, analysts and officials acknowledge that shifting significant volumes away from the United States will take time, given its scale as a destination for Indian goods.

CK Hutchison seeks more than \$1.5 billion from Panama over canal port takeover

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison said Thursday it has launched international arbitration against Panama, seeking more than \$1.5 billion in damages over the takeover of two ports serving the Panama Canal. The company alleges Panama violated an investment protection treaty through actions that ended its long-standing concession to operate the

Balboa and Cristobal terminals. Panama’s Supreme Court had ruled the concession unconstitutional, leading to the loss of the ports. The dispute has become entangled in broader tensions between the United States and China after President Donald Trump criticized Chinese influence around the canal. CK Hutchison’s subsidiary, Panama Ports Company, is separately seeking more than \$2 billion through another arbitration case. The company had operated the two terminals for nearly three decades.

Abbott agrees to \$670 million settlement in preterm infant formula litigation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Abbott Laboratories said Thursday it agreed to a \$670 million settlement covering claims by about 2,000 people who alleged that its specialty formulas for premature infants caused serious health problems. The agreement includes an Illinois mother who received a \$495 million jury award in 2024 after her daughter developed necrotizing enterocolitis, a potentially deadly bowel disease affecting premature infants. Abbott also agreed to drop its appeal of that verdict, which had been upheld by a Missouri appeals court. The company did not admit liability and maintained that its products are safe. Abbott said it still faces



claims from as many as 12,700 people, although that figure includes duplicate and unsupported filings. The settlement covers hospital-use products for premature infants, not ordinary infant formula sold in stores.

Former Meta engineer accuses Instagram of overlooking underage users

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Meta engineering director Arturo Béjar testified Wednesday that Instagram took a “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach toward users under 13, alleging that company priorities favored growth and engagement over child safety. Béjar told a federal jury in Oakland, California, that Meta had sophisticated systems for detecting fake accounts but lacked comparable goals for identifying children below the platform’s minimum age. He also criticized Instagram’s Take a Break feature, saying it relied too heavily on users to activate it and could be easily dismissed. The testimony came in a case brought by 29 states accusing Meta of designing products that harmed young users and collecting data from children without parental consent. Meta denies the allegations and says it has invested heavily in safety measures.

Google expands India push with Pixel 11 lineup and local manufacturing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Google has launched its Pixel 11 smartphone lineup in India, reinforcing the country’s growing role in its hardware strategy. The new range includes the Pixel 11, Pixel 11 Pro, Pixel 11 Pro XL and Pixel 11 Pro Fold, powered by the Tensor G6 processor and featuring expanded Gemini artificial intelligence capabilities. Google began manufacturing Pixel smartphones in India in 2024 and has since expanded local production with manufacturing partners. The new phones are priced at about \$1,050, \$1,400, \$1,570 and \$2,180, respectively. Google has also introduced the Pixel Watch 5, priced at about \$500 for the 41-millimeter model and \$535 for the 45-millimeter model. The company is also expanding financing and service options for Indian consumers.

KakaoBank union plans five-day strike over stalled wage talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Workers at South Korean internet bank KakaoBank are preparing for a five-day strike after negotiations with management over wages and benefits failed to produce an agreement.

The union said the full strike will run from Monday through Friday next week. Employees previously staged a full-day walkout in July as the dispute intensified. KakaoBank reported record quarterly results in the first quarter, with operating profit of about \$143 million and revenue of roughly \$1.31 billion, according to the report.

The planned action comes amid wider labor tensions in South Korea. Separately, workers at automaker Hyundai Motor are also escalating strike action over stalled wage negotiations, with industry sources estimating production losses of about 62,000 vehicles and lost sales of approximately \$1.85 billion through Tuesday.

Prime Video plans more than \$2 billion Latin America investment through 2030

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Video plans to invest more than \$2 billion in Latin America between 2027 and 2030, expanding original programming and sports offerings across Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Chile. The streaming service said Thursday it plans to more than double local original productions across the five markets from 2026 levels, with more than 25 new titles scheduled for 2027. Its lineup will include new seasons of ‘La Oficina,’ ‘Tremembé’ and ‘Menem,’ along with films, scripted series and reality shows. Prime Video also said it will offer more than 200 National Basketball Association games per season in Brazil and Mexico. Beginning next month, it will carry 38 Mexico national team home matches over four years.

Russia explores rail route to India to bypass key maritime chokepoints

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia is exploring a potential railway route to the Indian Ocean and India as an alternative to vulnerable maritime trade routes, Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said Thursday, according to Russian state news agency Tass.

He said risks involving the Bosphorus and Strait of Hormuz could require alternative routes through Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Khusnullin said any option providing access to India should be considered.

The proposal remains exploratory and faces significant geopolitical and infrastructure challenges, particularly along potential routes through Afghanistan and Pakistan. If developed, the corridor could provide Russia with an additional overland route to Indian and other Global South markets.

Australia approves levy to pressure Big Tech into paying news publishers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia passed legislation Thursday that will impose a levy of up to 2.5% on advertising revenue earned by major technology platforms unless they reach commercial agreements with local news publishers.

The measure applies to companies generating more than A\$250 million, or about \$178 million, in Australian advertising revenue and includes Meta, Google, TikTok and Microsoft’s LinkedIn. Platforms can avoid the levy by reaching agreements with at least eight publishers during their reporting period.

Deals with large publishers receive a 150% offset, while agreements with small and medium-sized outlets receive a 200% offset. The government said the policy is intended to strengthen local journalism.

Samsung board weighs potential \$72 billion shareholder return package

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Samsung Electronics is set to hold a board meeting Friday to discuss a new shareholder return package that could exceed \$70 billion, as the South Korean technology giant faces growing investor pressure to distribute more of its record AI-driven profits. South Korean media reported that the package could be worth more than \$72 billion and may include a special dividend, share buybacks and share cancellations. Samsung has not confirmed the reported value or details. The company has benefited from surging demand for memory chips used in artificial intelligence systems, while its shares have risen sharply over the past year. Rival SK Hynix recently announced a \$28.6 billion share buyback and cancellation plan and pledged to allocate more than half of its free cash flow from 2025 through 2027 to shareholder returns.

Brazil spreads \$444 million artificial intelligence investment across Chinese and US partnerships

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil announced about 2.3 billion reais, or roughly \$444 million, in artificial intelligence investments Thursday, dividing major projects between Chinese and American technology partners as it seeks greater technological independence. About 1.3 billion reais will fund a supercomputing project in Rio de Janeiro involving Huawei Technologies and iFlytek, focused on developing large language models for general and sector-specific applications. Another 1 billion reais will support a supercomputer in Rio Grande do Norte that Brazil expects to rank among the world’s 10 most powerful artificial intelligence machines. Government officials expect Nvidia to win the tender, although no award has been finalized. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s government said the strategy is designed to avoid dependence on any single company, technology or country.

Nvidia rejects report of China-specific artificial intelligence processor launch

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nvidia on Thursday denied a report that it plans to begin shipping a China-specific language processing unit by the end of the year, saying no such product is currently on its roadmap. The denial followed a report by The Information, which cited Nvidia employees and said the company planned small-batch shipments of a processor designed for Chinese customers, with some orders already placed. The reported chip was described as a version of Nvidia’s language processing unit, using technology licensed from Groq and designed to accelerate artificial intelligence chatbot responses alongside graphics processors. Nvidia’s China business has faced growing uncertainty amid United States export restrictions. Washington recently allowed limited sales of Nvidia’s H200 processors to selected Chinese companies, while Huawei has strengthened its position in China’s artificial intelligence market.

Delta and Aeromexico win court ruling preserving nearly decade-old joint venture

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delta Air Lines and Aeromexico won a major legal victory Thursday after a U.S. appeals court overturned a Trump administration order requiring them to unwind their nearly 10-year-old joint venture. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Department of Transportation acted arbitrarily and capriciously by applying different standards to the airlines than it had used in approving similar partnerships involving Japan. The joint venture allows Delta and Aeromexico to coordinate scheduling, pricing and capacity on flights between the United States and Mexico. The Transportation Department had argued that the partnership amounted to legalized collusion and raised competition concerns at Mexico City’s main international airport. The department said it would consider all available legal options following the ruling.



D.E. Shaw holds more than \$1 billion stake in Sysco amid artificial intelligence push

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

D.E. Shaw owns a stake worth more than \$1 billion in food distributor Sysco, according to two people familiar with the matter, highlighting the hedge fund’s growing involvement as the company accelerates its artificial intelligence strategy. The New York-based investment firm has held Sysco shares for about a decade, but the size of its current position had not previously been reported. Sysco said Thursday it will add two directors with experience in technology, electronic commerce and food service distribution next month. The company expects \$100 million in savings during fiscal 2027 from artificial intelligence, automation and process improvements. D.E. Shaw has helped accelerate Sysco’s use of artificial intelligence and is also expected to assist with financing for Sysco’s planned acquisition of Jetro Restaurant Depot.

Micron commits \$10 billion to new AI memory research lab in Idaho



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Micron Technology said Thursday it will invest \$10 billion over the next decade to establish a new research laboratory in Boise, Idaho, focused on memory technology, advanced computing systems and future chip manufacturing. The facility will bring together customers, universities, government agencies and semiconductor industry partners to develop new technologies. Micron said construction is expected to begin in 2027, with the laboratory designed to accommodate hundreds of researchers and host international conferences and workshops. The investment adds to more than \$250 billion the company has separately committed to manufacturing and research across the United States.

Shein pushes Hong Kong listing to September amid weaker investor appetite



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shein is targeting a Hong Kong stock market debut on September 1 after delaying its planned listing, according to people familiar with the matter. The Singapore-headquartered fast-fashion retailer is expected to launch its initial public offering on Monday, although the debut could slip by several days. Shein is seeking a valuation of about \$26 billion to \$27 billion, sharply below the \$100 billion valuation it reached in a 2022 private fundraising round. UBS Group’s asset management arm is among potential cornerstone investors. The delay comes amid slower growth and rising costs that have weakened investor appetite.

Fidelity International weighs exit from China retail fund business

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fidelity International is planning to withdraw from its wholly owned China fund management unit, potentially marking one of the largest retreats by a foreign asset manager from China, according to two people familiar with the matter. The company, which manages \$1.18 trillion globally, launched its onshore operation three years ago but has struggled with intense local competition, leadership turnover and limited scale. Its 14 China retail funds held about 4.5 billion yuan, or \$670 million, in assets at the end of June, far below the \$14 billion level it had estimated would be needed for profitability. Fidelity said China remains an important market.

Woody Johnson buys minority stake in Aston Martin Formula One team

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson has acquired a minority stake in the Aston Martin Formula One team, the British racing outfit announced Thursday. Financial terms were not disclosed. Johnson, a former United States ambassador to the United Kingdom, will join Aston Martin's board as vice chairman but will have no day-to-day management responsibilities. Executive Chairman Lawrence Stroll will retain control of the team. Johnson is expected to focus on commercial growth, particularly in the United States, where Formula One has expanded its audience rapidly. He also owns a stake in Premier League club Crystal Palace and said he wants to help broaden Formula One's American fan base.

More than 200 NFL players express interest in 2028 Olympic flag football

More than 200 NFL players from at least 25 countries have expressed interest in competing in flag football at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, an NFL executive said Thursday. Brian Flinn, the league's senior vice president of global flag football, said the league is assessing player interest ahead of the sport's Olympic debut. NFL owners approved player participation in 2025, with a framework allowing no more than one player from each team, along with designated international players. The selection process will be handled by national flag football federations, with more details expected after the 2026-27 season. Los Angeles will feature six men's and six women's teams.

Rybakina's Cincinnati title hopes end with ankle injury against Swiatek

Elena Rybakina's bid to challenge Aryna Sabalenka for the top spot in the women's tennis rankings ended Thursday when she retired from her Cincinnati Open quarterfinal against Iga Swiatek because of a left ankle injury. Swiatek was leading 4-1 in the first set when Rybakina struggled to push off on her serve and received medical attention before stopping the match. Rybakina said she had experienced discomfort previously and planned to undergo further evaluation. Her withdrawal means Sabalenka will retain the No. 1 ranking heading into the United States Open. Swiatek advanced to the semifinals, where she will face American Jessica Pegula.

UEFA, Asian football body and CONCACAF consider no-confidence vote against Infantino

European, Asian and North and Central American football authorities are considering a possible vote of no confidence against FIFA President Gianni Infantino, according to senior figures familiar with the discussions. UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation and CONCACAF are weighing the move following opposition to Infantino's proposal to sell private investors a stake in a new commercial entity controlling World Cup rights.

Under FIFA statutes, an Extraordinary Congress can be convened if at least one-fifth of FIFA's 211 member associations submit a written request. However, the statutes do not specifically provide for a no-confidence vote against the president. FIFA has said it will not support any process that violates its statutes or established governance procedures. Infantino intends to seek reelection at the FIFA Congress scheduled for March 2027 and continues to have support from several member associations,



including those in Africa.

The crisis intensified after FIFA abandoned its private investment proposal, while three major confederations criticized Infantino over transparency and governance. FIFA's former chief operating officer also left the organization, and Vice President Sandor Csanyi withdrew his support for Infantino. European clubs have separately warned they could reconsider participation in future Club World Cups if governance concerns remain unresolved.

IndyCar brings high-speed racing to Washington for landmark Freedom 250

IndyCar will make history this weekend by racing through the heart of Washington, D.C., in the inaugural Freedom 250 Grand Prix, part of celebrations marking the United States' 250th anniversary. The 147-lap, 250-mile race will take place on a temporary 1.7-mile, seven-turn street circuit around the National Mall, with drivers passing landmarks including the Washington Monument, National Archives and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The event is IndyCar's first race on Washington streets and was extended from an originally planned 125 laps to match the 250-mile theme. Mexican driver Pato O'Ward, fifth in the championship with 385 points, expects the unusual setting to attract new fans.



American driver Graham Rahal said racing along Pennsylvania Avenue near Capitol Hill carries special significance. Drivers anticipate fuel consumption, tire management, caution periods and pit strategy will be crucial on the unusually long street course.

Top seeds open with wins at Asian Junior Chess Championships in Mumbai

Top seeds largely delivered in the opening round Thursday at the Asian Junior Open and Girls Classical Chess Championships in Mumbai, although several leading players were held to draws. International Master Mayank Chakraborty, the top seed in the open section, began with a comfortable victory. International Master Vignesh Advait Vemula and FIDE Master Akhilbay Imangali were among the higher-rated players who dropped half-points. In the girls' section, Aadya Gowda defeated higher-rated Woman FIDE Master Mrityika



Mallick, while Liliya Belaya of Uzbekistan also recorded an upset. The nine-round championship is being held at the ITC Maratha and features players from multiple Asian federations.

ICC overturns Gaddafi Stadium pitch penalty after review



The International Cricket Council has rescinded the demerit point imposed on Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium after an appeals panel reviewed the venue's pitch rating from the Pakistan-Australia third one-day international in June. The surface had initially been rated unsatisfactory, but the panel concluded Thursday that it did not show excessive unevenness or spin and therefore did not meet the criteria for that rating. Gaddafi Stadium now has zero demerit points. The panel also withdrew a demerit point imposed on Canada's Maple Leaf Cricket Ground for an earlier match between the United States and the Netherlands. However, three demerit points from a separate Canada-Netherlands match, which was rated unfit, remain in place.

Seahawks sale to Vinod Khosla family clears key NFL committee votes



The proposed sale of the Seattle Seahawks to venture capitalist Vinod Khosla and his family moved closer to completion Wednesday after the NFL's finance and ownership policy committees unanimously recommended approval of the record \$9.612 billion deal. The transaction, which requires at least 24 votes from NFL team owners, is expected to receive final approval when owners meet next Wednesday in Atlanta. The sale was agreed last month by the estate of late Seahawks owner Paul Allen, whose will required the team to be sold and proceeds distributed to charities. The deal would set an NFL record and rank second among North American sports franchise sales. Seattle won its second Super Bowl in February.



Kyrgios provisionally suspended after positive cocaine test

Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine, during an event in Mallorca in June. The International Tennis Integrity Agency said cocaine is prohibited in competition under tennis anti-doping rules. The suspension began Tuesday, August 4, and prevents Kyrgios from competing in or attending sanctioned tennis events. The 31-year-old accepted responsibility, saying injuries and struggles late in his career had affected him physically and mentally. He will step away from social media and public life for 28 days.



Theegala faces uphill battle for Tour Championship berth as Bhatia sits safely



Shath Theegala faces a difficult challenge at the BMW Championship, which began Thursday at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, as he seeks to climb from No. 46 into the top 30 of the FedEx Cup standings. Only the top 30 after the tournament advance to the season-ending Tour Championship. Theegala, who is paired with Justin Thomas, is likely to need a top-three finish to have a realistic chance of qualifying. Akshay Bhatia, ranked No. 15, is in a much stronger position and is effectively assured of advancing. Aaron Rai, ranked No. 37, also needs a strong showing to reach the top 30. The tournament runs through Sunday.

Verstappen ends Red Bull uncertainty with contract extension through 2030



Max Verstappen committed his Formula One future to Red Bull Racing through the end of the 2030 season Thursday, ending months of speculation about a possible move to Mercedes or McLaren. The four-time world champion had been contracted through 2028, but performance-related clauses had fueled uncertainty over his future. Verstappen has yet to win a race this season and enters his home Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday ranked sixth in the championship, 110 points behind leader Kimi Antonelli. Red Bull sits fourth in the constructors' standings after 11 races. Verstappen, who joined Red Bull's junior program in 2014 and won all four titles with the team, said he was pleased to continue with a team he considers his second family.

Female athlete initiative expands to nine nations with focus on health and performance

The Global Alliance for Female Athletes has expanded from four founding nations to nine members, adding Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Switzerland, the Australian Sports Commission said Friday. Ireland and Belgium have also joined as supporting partners. Launched last year by organizations from Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, the initiative aims to improve health and performance outcomes for women in sports. The Australian Institute of Sport, which helped establish the alliance, said the expansion would strengthen international cooperation, address research gaps and improve support for female athletes, coaches and sports medicine



professionals. A major focus is ensuring female-specific research reaches practitioners worldwide, including research into anterior cruciate ligament injuries, which affect female athletes at higher rates.

India boost World Test Championship hopes with Galle win, climb to 53.33 percent

India strengthened their World Test Championship qualification hopes Wednesday with a 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening Test at Galle, lifting their points percentage from 48.15 to 53.33. However, Shubman Gill's side remained fifth in the standings because fourth-placed Bangladesh also strengthened its position with a victory over Australia last week. Australia lead the table with 77.78 percent, followed by South Africa on 75 and New Zealand on 72.22. Bangladesh are fourth, while Sri Lanka dropped to 33.33 percent after the defeat. England, Pakistan and the West Indies occupy the bottom three positions.

India's victory was powered by left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, who claimed 6-55 in the second innings to finish with a match haul of 10-101. Chasing 372, Sri Lanka



were bowled out for 206 on the fifth day. Devdutt Padikkal's 167 in the first innings and Rishabh Pant's 66 in the second also proved crucial. India face Sri Lanka in the second Test in Colombo on Sunday.

Cowboys and Saints fined \$500,000 each after heated joint practice

The Dallas Cowboys and New Orleans Saints were each fined \$500,000 by the NFL Thursday after multiple fights broke out during their joint practice Tuesday in Oxnard, California. The league said sportsmanship at joint practices has been a longstanding point of emphasis and reminded teams before training camp to prevent incidents that could cause injuries. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Dallas plans to appeal the fine, while both teams are expected to discipline players involved. Several altercations erupted during the session, including punches, a thrown helmet and one player being slammed to the ground. Cowboys linebacker Donovan



Ezeiruaku was ejected after throwing a punch, marking his second ejection during training camp. Coaches ultimately allowed practice to finish.

U.S. Open sets record \$108 million prize purse amid player pay debate

The U.S. Open will offer a record \$108 million prize purse this year, the largest in tennis history, with both singles champions receiving \$5.5 million. The winners' checks represent a 10% increase from last year, while first-round payouts will rise 27% to \$140,000. The increases come after leading players, including Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka, pushed Grand Slam tournaments to provide athletes with a larger share of revenues. Players had limited media appearances at the French Open and Wimbledon to 15 minutes during their protest. The United States Tennis Association also announced a \$2 million Player Support Program, split equally between men and women. Players welcomed the increases but said they still want a formal revenue-sharing agreement.

Messi scores and assists as Inter Miami settle for draw with Philadelphia

Lionel Messi scored and provided an assist Wednesday as Inter Miami drew 2-2 with the Philadelphia Union in Major League Soccer action at Subaru Park. Philadelphia took an early lead through Indiana Vassilev in the 11th minute, but Daniel Pinter equalized in the 21st minute after Messi and Luis Suárez combined in the buildup. Messi then put Miami ahead four minutes later with a curling finish, his 13th league goal of the season. Neil Pierre leveled the match for Philadelphia in the 58th minute. The draw gave Miami 39 points from 20 matches, with 11 wins, three losses and six draws. Miami will return home to face Toronto on Sunday.

USA Fencing targets 70,000 members before Los Angeles Olympics

USA Fencing is targeting 70,000 members ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics as it seeks to turn fencing into a more mainstream American sport. Membership has already reached a record 45,157, while the federation has 752 affiliated clubs nationwide, surpassing its original target of 700 by 2028. Chief executive Phil Andrews said USA Fencing is expanding marketing efforts and expects commercial revenue from marketing and communications to reach \$2.8 million in the coming season. Programs such as Fencing Across America and En Garde! Fencing give newcomers opportunities to try the sport through free events and school programs. The federation is also addressing affordability through grants, equipment, scholarships and coaching support for clubs and young athletes.

Nakashima saves three match points to stun Medvedev in Cincinnati

Brandon Nakashima saved three match points before defeating former champion Daniil Medvedev 6-7, 7-6, 6-1 on Tuesday to reach the Cincinnati Open fourth round. The 25-year-old American fought back from 0-40 while serving at 4-5 in the second set before dominating the decider. The victory gave Nakashima 20 hard-court wins this season, level with Medvedev and behind only Jakub Mensik. Nakashima will face Nuno Borges, who defeated Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-4. Felix Auger-Aliassime and Taylor Fritz also advanced.



Artistic swimming set for more rule changes ahead of Los Angeles Olympics

Artistic swimming is set for further rule changes ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, with adjustments to free routines and their length expected soon. Lisa Schott, chair of the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming Technical Committee, said the sport continues to evolve after the Junior World Championships in Budapest. Nearly 300 athletes from 35 federations competed, highlighting growing participation, including more male athletes. Schott also said the current scoring system has made results less predictable. The 2027 World Championships in Budapest will offer Olympic qualification opportunities, while technology use is expected to expand.

Diljit Dosanjh brings bhangra and Punjabi humor to Berlin ahead of European tour



Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh brought his trademark energy to Berlin as he prepared to kick off the European leg of his world tour. Sharing moments from the German capital on social media Wednesday, Diljit was seen dancing bhangra on the streets with a friend and visiting the city's iconic Victory Column. He also climbed the monument's narrow staircase and jokingly complained about paying to put himself through the tiring climb. At the top, he turned his camera toward the gilded statue of Victoria and humorously sang a line from his popular song 'Baby Doll'. Diljit has become one of the biggest international ambassadors for Punjabi music, with hits including 'Do You Know', 'Lover' and 'GOAT'. His acting credits include 'Uda Punjab', 'Good Newwz', 'Crew' and 'Amar Singh Chamkila', alongside several successful Punjabi films.

Dwayne Johnson reflects on 'Disney Legend' honor and the responsibility of influence



Dwayne Johnson has reflected on the significance of being named a 'Disney Legend' as part of the Class of 2026, saying people with influence should use it to create positive experiences for others. In a video shared on social media, Johnson recalled taking his daughter Simone to Disney when she was five and watching her make a wish during a character breakfast. He said the memory remains deeply emotional and helped shape his understanding of fatherhood. Johnson also thanked Disney and thousands of fans who joined him in singing 'Happy Birthday' to Simone during the celebration. Reflecting on his honor, Johnson praised fellow Disney Legend Anne Hathaway and said success comes through hard work. He urged people with influence, whether on a small or global scale, to use their position to make others feel good. Johnson called the recognition an unforgettable honor.

Madonna leads MTV Video Music Awards nominations as Taylor Swift chases history

Madonna leads the nominations for the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards with 11 nods, putting the pop icon within reach of another major record. She is nominated for video, artist and song of the year, along with best collaboration, dance, direction, art direction, cinematography, editing, choreography and visual effects. Madonna has 19 competitive MTV Video Music Awards wins and could tie Beyoncé and Taylor Swift for the most-awarded musician in VMA history if she sweeps.

Swift follows with nine nominations and would become the most-awarded artist in VMA history with just one win, surpassing the current record of 30 shared with Madonna and Beyoncé. Ariana Grande and Sabrina Carpenter have seven nominations each, while Bruno Mars,



PinkPantheress and Zara Larsson have five apiece. The ceremony will be held Sunday in Los Angeles and will air live on CBS, MTV and Paramount+. Fan voting is underway in 13 categories.

Shakira pledges school rebuilding support during visit to earthquake-hit Colombia

Colombian singer Shakira visited earthquake-damaged schools in Quibdó on Monday and announced a major education recovery effort in the hard-hit Chocó region. The singer said the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund will provide \$500,000 through her Pies Descalzos Foundation, with Live Nation matching the contribution, creating a \$1 million initial fund. CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean has also committed \$250,000.

Shakira said she would personally lead efforts to rebuild the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó, while the Howard G. Buffett Foundation will work with Pies Descalzos to build 10 new schools. The 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on August 10, killing at least 287 people and



damaging thousands of homes and educational facilities. Shakira said restoring schools is crucial to ensuring children can return to classrooms and continue their education.

Nick Jonas recalls 'Frozen' audition he says he 'bombed'

Nick Jonas has revealed that he once auditioned for the role of Kristoff in Disney's 'Frozen', but admitted he was unprepared and "bombed" the audition. Speaking on his Hey Jonas Podcast with 'Frozen' stars Kristen Bell, Josh Gad and Idina Menzel, Jonas recalled being asked what he had prepared to sing. He said he had no sheet music and was forced to choose a song on the spot. "I bombed the audition. It was terrible," Jonas said. Jonathan Groff ultimately voiced Kristoff in the 2013 animated film. Jonas joked that he still believed casting him would have been a better choice, while stressing that he genuinely enjoyed the movie. Directed by Chris Buck



and Jennifer Lee, 'Frozen' became a major Disney franchise, spawning a sequel and several related projects.

Matthew Perry's mother honors late actor's birthday with tribute to his fight against addiction

Matthew Perry's mother, Suzanne Morrison, has honored her late son on what would have been his 57th birthday, remembering his humor, determination and efforts to overcome addiction. The Matthew Perry House shared Morrison's message alongside a childhood photograph of the 'Friends' star. Morrison recalled how deeply Perry wanted to recover and remembered him saying he wanted to help others struggling with addiction. Perry died in 2023 at 54 from the acute effects of ketamine. His former assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, pleaded guilty to repeatedly administering the drug to the actor and was



sentenced Wednesday. Iwamasa apologized to Perry's family and friends in court, saying he would regret his actions for the rest of his life. Morrison said her son could no longer help others himself, but hoped his work and legacy could continue that mission.

Mocked Chinese animation 'Niu Lai' turns online ridicule into box-office success

Chinese animated film 'Niu Lai' has become an unlikely box-office hit after drawing widespread ridicule online for its crude visuals and unusual animation style. The film earned only about 10,000 yuan in its first 10 days after its release, but its earnings surged to 8.2 million yuan on Monday, with nearly 300,000 admissions, according to Maoyan. Its total box office reached 17.1 million yuan. The film follows a calf growing up with the help of its family and was reportedly made over five years by director Xin Yumeng and his mother, although that claim could not be independently verified. Viral memes and prank recommendations helped turn the mocked film into a youth-driven cultural phenomenon.

Sonia Gandhi memoir to revisit love, loss and decision to decline India's top job



Sonia Gandhi is set to publish her memoir, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', this fall, offering a personal account of her marriage to Rajiv Gandhi, family tragedies and political career. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced Tuesday that the book will be released in November. Born in Italy, Gandhi met Rajiv while studying in Cambridge, England, before moving to India and marrying into the Nehru-Gandhi family. The memoir recounts the assassinations of her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, and husband, Rajiv, and her eventual entry into politics. Gandhi also reflects on declining the Congress party's offer to become prime minister. She said the book examines six decades of personal and political change in India.

ZZ Top drummer Frank Beard dies at 77 after six decades with rock band

Frank Beard, the longtime drummer of Texas rock trio ZZ Top, died Tuesday at 77 while in hospice care at his ranch in Richmond, Texas, surrounded by family. Beard was a founding member who helped shape the band's signature sound across a career spanning six decades. He performed on hits including 'Sharp Dressed Man', 'Gimme All Your Lovin' and 'Legs'. Beard formed ZZ Top with Billy Gibbons and Dusty Hill in 1969, and the original trio remained together for more than five decades until Hill's death in 2021. The band sold more than 50 million records and entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004. Gibbons called Beard a great friend and collaborator.

Tupac murder trial hears Davis account naming nephew as shooter

Jurors Thursday heard a 2008 police interview in which Duane “Keffe D” Davis said his nephew, Orlando “Baby Lane” Anderson, fired the shots that killed rapper Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas in 1996. Davis, 63, is accused of orchestrating the killing and has pleaded not guilty. In the recording, Davis said he was riding in the white Cadillac from which the shots were fired and had passed a gun toward another passenger before Anderson took it. Prosecutors are relying on Davis’ statements to authorities, podcast interviews and his 2019 memoir, ‘Compton Street Legend’. Davis’ lawyer has argued that his client’s accounts were unreliable and that investigators failed to corroborate his claims.

Haryanvi duo Banjaare take regional sound to global charts with ‘Barsaat’

Haryanvi brother duo Banjaare are gaining wider recognition with their songs ‘Bairan’ and ‘Barsaat’, with the latter crossing 40 million streams across audio platforms and 35 million views on YouTube. ‘Barsaat’ has also appeared on major global music platforms and was featured in the Indian promotional campaign for ‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’. The brothers said the success of ‘Bairan’ gave them confidence that their sound could reach audiences beyond Haryana, while ‘Barsaat’ took that momentum further. They said the song reaching No. 1 on Spotify India and appearing on international charts marked a major milestone. Banjaare described its association with the ‘Spider-Man’ campaign as a proud moment for Haryanvi music.

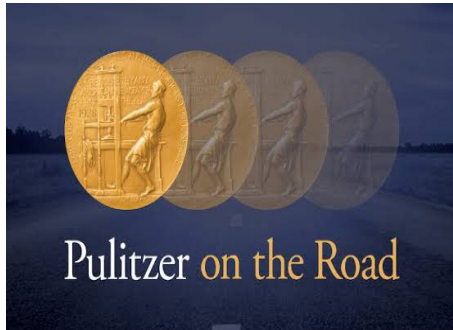
Divya Dutta and Jimmy Shergill explore family tensions in ‘Tum Rahe Na Tum’



Divya Dutta and Jimmy Shergill will headline the psychological relationship drama ‘Tum Rahe Na Tum’, directed by Prem Prakash Modi. The film adapts Swedish playwright August Strindberg’s ‘The Father’ and relocates its emotional core to an Indian family. It explores love, insecurity, parental expectations, control, ego and toxic masculinity as relationships become increasingly strained. Dutta said the film’s layered characters, where nobody is entirely innocent or guilty, attracted her to the project. Shergill described the story as deeply human and emotionally complex. Harsh Chhaya, Zarina Wahab and Rajesh Jais also star. The film is produced by Vinni Chawla and Sonu Katyal under Fanatically Filmi.

Pulitzer Prize and library group launch touring exhibition of award-winning works

The Pulitzer Prizes and the American Library Association are launching a 20-city touring exhibition celebrating more than a century of Pulitzer-winning journalism, literature, photography, music and drama. ‘Pulitzer on the Road: Prize-Winning Works That Inform, Empower & Inspire’ will begin in October at public libraries in Chicago and Dallas before traveling across the United States through 2028. The exhibition will feature landmark journalism, including coverage of the Pentagon Papers and Watergate, along with photography, poetry, plays and fiction. Participating writers and artists include Barbara Kingsolver, Percival



Everett and Daniel Kraus. Organizers said the exhibition aims to bring Pulitzer-winning work closer to communities and encourage curiosity, conversation and civic engagement.

‘The Cycle of Love’ brings Delhi-to-Sweden love story to New York audiences

Documentary ‘The Cycle of Love’ brings the extraordinary story of Indian artist P.K. Mahanandia and Swedish woman Lotta von Schedvin to audiences through their remarkable journey of love and perseverance. In 1977, Mahanandia, a 23-year-old street artist from Delhi, traveled about 6,000 miles by bicycle to Sweden after falling in love with Lotta. Directed by Orlando von Einsiedel, the documentary explores their relationship, cultural differences and the people encountered along the journey. Chirag Benedict Lobo and Mina Dale portray the couple, while real people also feature in the film. Priyanka Chopra



Jonas is among the executive producers. The documentary has screened at festivals including the Woods Hole Film Festival.

Vin Diesel celebrates 25 years of Fast franchise with original film re-release

Vin Diesel is celebrating 25 years of the Fast & Furious franchise as the original film returns to theaters. Reflecting on the milestone, Diesel said the series began as a small movie about street racing before becoming a global action phenomenon. The re-release is playing across 1,561 theaters and 1,836 screens in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, including 30 drive-in locations. Diesel thanked the cast, crew and fans who helped transform the series into a worldwide community. The original ‘The Fast and the Furious’ was released in 2001 and focused on street racing before later installments expanded into heists and



espionage. The franchise is expected to conclude with ‘Fast Forever’, scheduled for 2028.

Ian Somerhalder celebrates National Aviation Day with glimpse into flying journey

Ian Somerhalder marked National Aviation Day on Wednesday by sharing photographs from his aviation journey and expressing gratitude to the people who keep the industry running. The former actor posted images highlighting memorable encounters with pilots, engineers, flight attendants and aircraft, while praising the advances in aviation technology. Somerhalder urged travelers to thank aviation professionals they meet, including ground crews, gate agents, custodians and engineers, for helping passengers travel safely. Known for his roles as Boone Carlyle in ‘Lost’ and Damon Salvatore in ‘The Vampire Diaries’, Somerhalder stepped away from acting after relocating



to a farm outside Los Angeles. In a 2024 interview, he said he had retired from acting but planned to remain involved in producing and environmental activism. He continues to share updates about sustainability, farming and other personal interests with his followers.

Sonam Kapoor returns to public spotlight after postpartum break with glamorous Mumbai appearance



Sonam Kapoor made a stylish return to the public spotlight Wednesday, attending a luxury jewelry showcase in Mumbai and describing the appearance as her first step out of a “postpartum sabbatical.” The actor wore a black sari featuring metallic gold detailing, paired with a matching blouse, statement diamond and gemstone jewelry, and a sleek bun. Kapoor has largely kept a low profile since welcoming her second son, Rudralokh, with husband Anand Ahuja earlier this year. The couple also have a son, Vayu, born in 2022. Kapoor has long been recognized for her fashion influence, often collaborating with her sister Rhea Kapoor, who has styled her for major appearances and produced films including ‘Aisha’ and ‘Veere Di Wedding’. Kapoor’s acting credits include ‘Neerja’, ‘Raanjhanaa’, ‘Khoobsurat’ and ‘Sanju’.

Akshaye Khanna’s Shukracharya look in ‘Mahakali’ to be unveiled next week



Akshaye Khanna is set to take audiences deeper into the mythological world of ‘Mahakali’, with the film’s makers announcing that his first glimpse as Shukracharya will be unveiled on Monday, August 24. RKD Studios teased the reveal on Wednesday with the cryptic message, “24th August, The End Begins,” triggering excitement among fans. Khanna’s transformation had already generated attention when his first look was released last year, showing him with a flowing silver beard, ascetic robes and luminous eyes as Shukracharya, the revered guru of the Asuras. ‘Mahakali’ is the latest installment in filmmaker Prasanth Varma’s cinematic universe, which began with ‘Hanu-Man’. Puja Aparna Kolluru is directing the film, while Varma is its creator. Bhoomi Shetty and Rohit Saraf are also part of the cast. The project is presented by RK Duggal and produced by Riwarz Ramesh Duggal under RKD Studios.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा — गोवा अध्याय (चौथा पड़ाव)

श्री नागेशी मंदिर, बांदोड़ा स्वयंभू नागनाथ के रूप में विराजमान भगवान शिव



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” के गोवा अध्याय में हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब चौथे पड़ाव पर पहुँच गई है। पहले पड़ाव में हमने श्री मंगेशी मंदिर में भगवान शिव की प्राचीन आराधना और गोवा की धार्मिक परंपरा को जाना। दूसरे पड़ाव में कवलेम का श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर शक्ति, शांति और समन्वय की परंपरा से परिचित कराता है, जबकि तीसरे पड़ाव में मर्दोल का श्री महालसा नारायणी मंदिर हमें विष्णु के मोहिनी स्वरूप और वैष्णव-शैव समन्वय की अद्भुत विरासत तक ले गया। अब हमारी यात्रा पोंडा के बांदोड़ा क्षेत्र स्थित श्री नागेशी मंदिर तक पहुँची है—भगवान शिव के स्वयंभू स्वरूप को समर्पित यह प्राचीन मंदिर गोवा की सनातन धार्मिक विरासत, इतिहास और स्थापत्य का अनूठा संगम है।

प्राचीनता की जीवित गवाही

श्री नागेशी, जिन्हें प्राचीन अभिलेखों में “नागनाथ” कहा गया है, भगवान शिव के एक पूजनीय स्वरूप हैं। मंदिर की परंपरा अत्यंत प्राचीन मानी जाती है। परिसर में स्थित शिव-पार्वती और गणेश की प्राचीन प्रतिमाएँ सातवीं-आठवीं शताब्दी से संबंधित मानी जाती हैं। वहीं 1222 ईस्वी के एक ताम्रपत्र में बांदिवडे के श्री नगनाथ का उल्लेख मिलता है।

मंदिर का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण ऐतिहासिक प्रमाण 1413 ईस्वी का शिलालेख है। विजयनगर साम्राज्य के राजा वीर प्रताप देवराय के शासनकाल के इस अभिलेख में श्री नागेश और श्री महालक्ष्मी की पूजा के लिए भूमि दान का उल्लेख मिलता है। यह प्रमाण बताता है कि उस समय तक यह मंदिर क्षेत्र की धार्मिक और सामाजिक व्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता था।

एक मंदिर जिसने स्थान नहीं बदला

गोवा के मंदिरों का इतिहास कई बार विस्थापन और संरक्षण

की कहानी रहा है। पुर्तगाली शासन के दौरान अनेक हिंदू मंदिरों को नष्ट किया गया और कई देवप्रतिमाओं को सुरक्षित क्षेत्रों में स्थानांतरित करना पड़ा। श्री नागेशी मंदिर की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विशेषताओं में से एक यह है कि यह अपने मूल स्थान पर ही बना रहा।

इस कारण इसे गोवा के दुर्लभ “non-migrant temples” में गिना जाता है। हालांकि वर्तमान मंदिर भवन में समय-समय पर जीर्णोद्धार हुआ। 1780 के आसपास बड़े पैमाने पर पुनर्निर्माण हुआ और बाद के वर्षों में भी मंदिर परिसर को संरक्षित और विकसित किया गया। इस प्रकार यहां प्राचीन आस्था और अपेक्षाकृत आधुनिक स्थापत्य संरक्षण एक साथ दिखाई देते हैं।

स्वयंभू शिवलिंग की कथा

श्री नागेशी की महिमा से जुड़ी लोककथा भी उतनी ही रोचक है। स्थानीय मान्यता के अनुसार, एक गाय प्रतिदिन एक विशेष स्थान पर जाकर अपना दूध धरती पर अर्पित करती थी। जब इस रहस्य की खोज की गई और उस स्थान की खुदाई की गई, तो वहां शिवलिंग प्राप्त हुआ।

इसी कारण श्री नागेश को स्वयंभू अर्थात् स्वयं प्रकट हुए भगवान शिव के रूप में पूजा जाता है। “नागेश” नाम भगवान शिव के नागों से जुड़े स्वरूप की भी स्मृति कराता है। इस कथा में धार्मिक आस्था के साथ उस प्राचीन सांस्कृतिक परंपरा की झलक मिलती है जिसमें नाग और शिव-उपासना का गहरा संबंध रहा है।

तकी—जल में दिखाई देता है शिव का प्रतिबिंब

मंदिर की सबसे अनूठी स्थापत्य विशेषता इसका तकी, अर्थात् पवित्र जलकुंड है। अधिकांश मंदिरों में जलकुंड परिसर के किसी हिस्से में दिखाई देता है, लेकिन श्री नागेशी मंदिर में यह

मुख्य मंदिर के ठीक सामने स्थित है।

इस जलकुंड की रचना इतनी सुंदर और सटीक है कि एक विशेष स्थान से खड़े होकर देखने पर जल में गर्भगृह में विराजमान श्री नागेश के प्रतिबिंब और प्रज्वलित दीपों का दर्शन किया जा सकता है। प्रकृति, जल, प्रकाश और मंदिर स्थापत्य का यह संगम श्रद्धालु के लिए एक अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक अनुभव बन जाता है।

कला और स्थापत्य का संगम

श्री नागेशी मंदिर की वास्तुकला पारंपरिक गोवा शैली की विशेषताओं को दर्शाती है। सभा मंडप में लकड़ी की बारीक नक्काशी विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र है। इन नक्काशियों में रामायण और महाभारत के प्रसंगों तथा देवी-देवताओं को कलात्मक रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

मंदिर परिसर में स्थित दीपस्तंभ धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों के साथ-साथ मंदिर की दृश्य सुंदरता को भी बढ़ाता है। संध्या के समय दीपों से प्रकाशित मंदिर परिसर विशेष आध्यात्मिक वातावरण उत्पन्न करता है। मुख्य मंदिर के आसपास गणेश और लक्ष्मी-नारायण के उपमंदिर भी हैं, जो गोवा की समन्वयकारी मंदिर परंपरा को दर्शाते हैं।

उत्सव और जीवंत परंपरा

श्री नागेशी मंदिर में वर्षभर धार्मिक अनुष्ठान होते हैं, लेकिन महाशिवरात्रि का विशेष महत्व है। भगवान शिव की विशेष पूजा, अभिषेक और दीपों से सजा मंदिर परिसर इस पर्व को अत्यंत भव्य बना देता है।

कार्तिक पूर्णिमा भी ऐतिहासिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है। 1413 ईस्वी के शिलालेख में इस अवसर पर धार्मिक सेवाओं और दीप प्रज्वलन की परंपरा का उल्लेख मिलता है। इससे पता चलता

है कि मंदिर की अनेक धार्मिक परंपराएँ सदियों से निरंतर चली आ रही हैं।

आस्था से कहीं अधिक—एक सांस्कृतिक विरासत

श्री नागेशी मंदिर केवल भगवान शिव का एक प्राचीन तीर्थ नहीं, बल्कि गोवा के इतिहास, कला, लोकविश्वास और सनातन सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता का जीवंत प्रतीक है। स्वयंभू शिवलिंग की कथा, शताब्दियों पुराने अभिलेख, लकड़ी की नक्काशी, दीपस्तंभ और जल में दिखाई देने वाला शिव का प्रतिबिंब—ये सभी मिलकर इस मंदिर को विशिष्ट बनाते हैं।

यह मंदिर हमें याद दिलाता है कि भारत के मंदिर केवल पूजा के स्थान नहीं हैं। वे हमारी सभ्यता की स्मृति, कला की पाठशाला और पीढ़ियों को जोड़ने वाली सांस्कृतिक धरोहर भी हैं।

अगला पड़ाव — श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर, नारवे

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” का गोवा अध्याय हमें लगातार यह अनुभव करा रहा है कि गोवा केवल समुद्र तटों और प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य के लिए प्रसिद्ध नहीं, बल्कि सनातन भारत की गहरी और समृद्ध धार्मिक विरासत का भी महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है।

श्री नागेशी मंदिर ने हमें स्वयंभू शिव की आस्था, प्राचीन इतिहास और अद्भुत स्थापत्य से परिचित कराया। अब हमारी यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी नारवे स्थित श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर की ओर—गोवा के प्रमुख और ऐतिहासिक शिवधामों में से एक।

अगले पड़ाव में हम जानेंगे सप्तकोटेश्वर नाम के पीछे की मान्यता, मंदिर का प्राचीन इतिहास, उसके पुनर्स्थापन की गाथा और गोवा की सनातन विरासत में उसके विशेष स्थान के बारे में।

Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

Why did Sita advise Lord Rama to follow Ahimsa?

The epics are filled with accounts of the loving relationship between Lord Rama and Sita. In almost every sacred text, Sita is portrayed as Rama's devoted, virtuous and faithful wife. In the Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas ji has lavishly praised Sita's beauty, grace, character and gentle nature. When Rama first saw Sita in the garden of King Janaka, he was so captivated that he simply stood gazing at her. Not a word came from his lips. Tulsidas ji could only write:

**Kankan kinkini nupur dhuni suni,
Kahat Ram Lakhan san Ramu hridaya guni.
Manahu Madan dundubhi dinhi,
Manasa biswa vijaya kahu kini.**

Hearing the sweet sound of Sita's anklets, a wave of love stirred in Rama's heart. He began sharing his feelings with Lakshmana, but then examined his own thoughts. "I have never felt this way before. What is happening to me?" He remembered the dignity and discipline of the Raghu dynasty:

**Raghubansinh kar sahaja subhau,
Manu kupanth pag dharai na kau.**

A true descendant of Raghu never sets foot on the wrong path. And yet, he felt himself momentarily carried away. Sita was no less overwhelmed. Looking at Rama's beauty, she found herself unable to describe what she saw:

**Syam gaur kimi kahun bakhani,
Gira anayan nayan binu bani.**

Such was his enchanting beauty that the tongue had no eyes with which to describe it, and the eyes had no words with which to speak. What they witnessed was beyond description. Such was the first meeting of Rama and Sita—a meeting that, after the swayamvar, blossomed into the sacred bond of marriage.

After their marriage, Sita came to Ayodhya and lived in her husband's home with great restraint, dignity and grace. The responsibility and honor of being Rama's queen fell upon her, and she carried it with love and devotion. Then came the tragic moment when King Dasharatha was compelled to announce Rama's exile to the forest. All of Ayodhya was plunged into grief.

This episode is narrated in broadly similar form in both the Ramcharitmanas and the Valmiki Ramayana. But what follows takes a somewhat different form in Valmiki's account. As Rama, Lakshmana and Sita wandered through the forests, they encountered many Rakshasas. Some were truly wicked and cruel and had been tormenting the sages and ascetics. But Sita also witnessed that some others, who were not necessarily guilty of any personal wrongdoing, were being killed simply because they were associated with the Rakshasas.

One day, seeing the killing of those she considered innocent, Sita's heart became deeply troubled. She was overcome with compassion and decided to speak to Rama about it. Here we see a different aspect of Sita—one who is deeply moved by the suffering of others. Sage Valmiki portrays this side of her in the ninth Sarga of the Aranya Kanda. Here Sita does not appear merely as a wife; she emerges as a thoughtful counselor, offering Rama a profound discourse on Ahimsa—non-violence. This article is a small attempt to bring that lesser-known aspect of Sita to light.



**Adharmam tu susukshmena
vidhina prapyate mahan,
Nivrittina cha shakyo ayam
vyasanat kamajad iha.
Trini eva vyasanani atra kamajani
bhavanti uta,
Mithya vakyam tu paramam tasmad
gurutara ubhau.
Para dara abhigamanam vina vairam
cha raudrata,
Mithya vakyam na te bhutam na
bhavishyati Raghava.**

One day, while sitting beside Rama, Sita spoke to him with great humility:
"Dear Aryaputra, you are a great and noble man. You are free from the weaknesses and addictions born of worldly desire. Yet the work in which you are engaged—the killing of Rakshasas—is, indirectly, taking you toward a path that concerns me deeply.

She then explained more seriously that, according to her understanding, three serious vices arise from uncontrolled desire. The first is false speech, or lying. Ordinary people often resort to falsehood to serve their own interests. The second is desire for another man's wife. The third is cruelty toward another without any personal enmity or provocation.

"I know very well that you can never speak falsely. Nor could the desire for another woman ever arise in a disciplined man like you. Such a degrading desire, which destroys righteousness, neither exists in you nor ever will.

"There is no one in this world who embodies dignity and restraint as you do. You are a devoted husband, committed to righteousness and truth. That is why I hold you in such great respect."

**Tritiyam yad idam raudram para prana
abhihimsanam,
Nirvairam kriyate mohat tat cha te
samupasthitam.**

"But there is one matter that troubles me deeply—the taking of other lives without enmity. The work that now stands before you, which you are undertaking with your brother Lakshmana in Dandakaranya, causes me great anguish.

"I constantly think about this. And because I care about your welfare, I fear that your daily

involvement in violence may bring you toward a path that is contrary to your own nature."

**Snehat cha bahumanat cha smaraye
tvam na shikshaye,
Na kathanchana sa karya grihita
dhanusha tvaya.
Buddhir vairam vina hantum
Rakshasan Dandaka ashritan,
Aparadham vina hantum loko vira na kamay.**

"Because of the affection and respect I have for you, I request that you do not regard all Rakshasas as your enemies. Please do not kill those who have committed no offense.

"I am not saying this to teach you, but because I care deeply for you."

**Kva cha shastram kva cha vanam kva cha
kshatram tapah kva cha,
Vyavidhnam idam asmabhih desha
dharmah tu pujiyatam.**

"Where is the bearing of weapons, and where is the life of a forest ascetic? Where is the rigorous duty of a Kshatriya, and where is compassion toward living beings? These appear to be contradictory paths.

"Please consider what I have said and, as far as possible, reduce this violent course of action."

**Stri chapalat etad udahrtam me dharmam cha
vaktum tava kah samarthah,
Vicharya buddhya tu saha anujena, yat rochate
tat kuru ma achirena.**

"I have spoken these words perhaps because of the natural impulsiveness attributed to a woman. Please consider them carefully with your brother, and then do whatever you believe to be right." Rama listened to Sita's words with great seriousness. After reflecting upon them for some time, he replied.

**Hitam uktam tvaya Devi snigdhyaya sadrisham
vachah,
Kulam vyapadishantya cha dharmajne Janak
atmaj.**

Rama said:
"Devi, your great affection for me has prompted you to offer this advice regarding non-violence. You have spoken out of concern for my welfare, and I respect the feelings behind your words.

"But you know very well that the greatest duty of a Kshatriya is to protect those who are helpless and suffering. Whenever someone is in danger or surrounded by misery, it is the duty of the Kshatriya to protect them."

**Te cha arta Dandakaranye munayah
samshita vratah,
Mam Site svayam agamy sharanayah sharanam
gatah.**

"There are many sages and ascetics living peacefully in this forest. They do not trouble anyone. They simply wish to live in peace and pursue their spiritual practices.

"But these Rakshasas repeatedly disrupt their lives. At times they even kill the sages and make them their food.

"These sages have come to me seeking refuge and

asking for protection. Under such circumstances, it becomes my sacred duty to help them. It is my vow that I will never turn away one who seeks my protection."

**Sharanagat kahu je tajahin nij hit
anahit anumani,
Te nar pavar papamay, tinahi bilokat hani.**

"This remains my position even today. I have already promised these sages that I will protect them. I cannot now turn back from that promise.

"The Raghu dynasty has always been known for keeping its word:

**Raghukul reeti sada chali aayi,
Pran jahi par vachan na jayi.**

"If I become a participant in sin while carrying out this duty, I am prepared to accept that consequence. I am even prepared to suffer the punishment for that sin."

**Samskritya na cha shakshyami
jivamanah pratishravam,
Muninam anyatha kartum satyam ishtam
hi me sada.**

"I will not abandon my vow. I will fulfill my duty and stand against those who torment these sages. I cannot go back on my word, because upholding truth has always been dear to me.

"Yet, whatever you have said out of love and respect, I honor it. You are the daughter of Mithila, and such thoughtful counsel befits you.

"I am grateful that, by remaining beside me, you continually inspire me to walk the righteous path."

This was a deeply affectionate conversation between Rama and Sita, in which both expressed their positions with clarity and conviction. More importantly, both made an effort to understand the other's feelings.

Sita's message was one of compassion and non-violence, while Rama's response emphasized duty, protection of the innocent, the responsibility of a Kshatriya and the sanctity of a promise.

Neither dismissed the other. Their disagreement did not create discord; instead, it demonstrated mutual respect. This rare episode from the Valmiki Ramayana presents Sita not merely as a devoted wife, but as a woman of compassion, moral courage, wisdom and independent thought. It also offers a timeless lesson for married couples: a strong relationship does not require two people to agree on everything. It requires the freedom to express one's concerns, the patience to listen, the wisdom to understand, and the maturity to allow the final decision to emerge from dharma and reason.

**Jai Shri Ram.
Rajendra Kapil**



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

Pacific Northwest comes together to honor India@80

GOVERNORS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND LOCAL LEADERS RECOGNIZE INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIAN AMERICANS ACROSS THE REGION

By: Vandana Jhingan

India's 80th Independence Day brought an unusually broad display of recognition from political and civic leaders across the Pacific Northwest, with governors, members of Congress, mayors and county officials extending greetings to India and honoring the contributions of Indian Americans to American life.

Ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, governors from Washington, South Dakota, Montana and Alaska sent messages of congratulations to the Consulate General of India in Seattle. They were joined by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and Representatives Adam Smith, Kim Schrier, Suzan DelBene, Dusty Johnson, Marilyn Strickland and Michael Baumgartner, who recorded video messages marking the occasion.

The recognition went beyond ceremonial greetings. Washington and Nebraska officially proclaimed August 15 as 'India Day' across their respective states. At the local level, Seattle, Bellevue, Kent and SeaTac also issued proclamations, while the King County Council recognized India's 80th Independence Day across the county, which encompasses 39 cities. The Consulate's official proclamation archive lists all seven of these 2026 recognitions.

The proclamations and messages collectively highlighted the growing presence and influence of the Indian American community, recognizing its contributions to education, technology, health care, business, innovation, culture and civic life.

Governors highlight community contributions

Montana Governor Greg Gianforte praised Indian and Indian American residents for their contributions to the state's cultural, educational and economic life, particularly their commitment to innovation, learning and community. Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy similarly highlighted the community's role in the state's economy, schools, health care system, businesses and neighborhoods. He said Alaska was proud to be home to a vibrant Indian and Indian American community and extended congratulations to the Consulate and those celebrating India's national day.

South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden focused on the relationship between the two countries, expressing hope that the friendship between India and the United States would continue to grow stronger.

The messages reflected a broader recognition of Indian Americans not simply as a cultural community, but as an increasingly important part of the social and economic fabric of the region.

Members of Congress celebrate India and Indian Americans

From Capitol Hill, Senator Maria Cantwell praised the achievements of India and its people, while extending appreciation to the Consulate General of India, the Indian American community and everyone participating in the celebrations.

Representative Adam Smith placed the celebrations in the context of the broader U.S.-India relationship. He emphasized the



Bob Ferguson
Governor of Washington



Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska



Larry Rhoden
Governor of South Dakota



Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska



Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana



Dusty Johnson
US Rep. South Dakota



Maria Cantwell
US Senator, Washington



Michael Baumgartner
US Rep. Washington



Suzan DelBene
US Rep. Washington



Kim Schrier
US Rep. Washington



Adam Smith
US Rep. Washington



Marilyn Strickland
US Rep. Washington

importance of cooperation between the two countries and praised Indian Americans in the Puget Sound region for their contributions to education, government, business, innovation and technology.

Representative Kim Schrier encouraged Indian Americans to celebrate the milestone through food, music, art and family while reflecting on both India's achievements and the contributions Indian Americans have made in the United States. She described Washington's Indian American community as central to the region's educational, cultural and economic life.

Representative Marilyn Strickland also highlighted India's commitment to innovation, learning and community and congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected prime minister. Modi crossed that milestone in June after completing 4,399 continuous days in office, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's previous record of 4,398 days.

Representative Suzan DelBene emphasized the strength of the India-U.S. partnership, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, pointing to the Indian and Indian American community's contributions to the regional economy, innovation and cultural life.

South Dakota Representative Dusty Johnson described India as the world's largest democracy and said the United States is stronger because of both its relationship with India and the more than 5 million Indian Americans he cited in his message.

Representative Michael Baumgartner, recalling his first visit to India, said strong relations between the two countries were important to global peace and stability, particularly amid complex national security challenges.

Seven proclamations recognize India@80

The state and local proclamations represent one of the most visible aspects of the Pacific Northwest's India@80 celebrations.

Washington: The state issued a proclamation commemorating India's 80th Independence Day and recognizing the India-U.S.

relationship and the contributions of Indian Americans.

Nebraska: Nebraska also proclaimed August 15 as 'India Day' statewide, recognizing the occasion and the Indian American community's role in the state.

Seattle: The city issued an 'India Day' proclamation recognizing India's Independence Day and the contributions of Indian Americans to the city's cultural, economic and civic life.

Bellevue: Bellevue formally recognized India's 80th Independence Day and the contributions of its Indian American community.

Kent: Kent issued an 'India Day' proclamation honoring the occasion and Indian Americans who contribute to the community.

SeaTac: SeaTac similarly recognized August 15 as 'India Day' and celebrated the community's contributions.

King County: The King County Council issued a proclamation recognizing India's 80th Independence Day. The recognition has particular significance because the county encompasses 39 cities across the Greater Seattle region.

The Consulate's official website has published the seven proclamations as part of its 2026 collection of recognitions honoring India.

'Vande Mataram' connects generations
The Independence Day celebrations also carried a strong cultural dimension.

To mark India's 80th Independence Day, the Consulate released a specially produced rendition of 'Vande Mataram' featuring Grammy Award-winning violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan alongside students from the Swara Yoga Ensemble.

Filmed at the Consulate premises, the performance brought together an accomplished Indian classical musician and young performers from the Pacific Northwest. The Consulate described the production

as a reflection of the enduring appeal of 'Vande Mataram' and its ability to connect generations through music.

From the Space Needle to the Federal Reserve Building

Seattle's celebrations also continued a distinctive local tradition.

On Independence Day, the Indian tricolor was raised atop the Federal Reserve Building in Seattle, with U.S. leadership and Indian American community representatives expected to participate in the ceremony. The Consulate had earlier highlighted Seattle's distinction of raising the Indian flag atop the Space Needle for India's Independence Day in 2025.

The Consulate's broader India@80 program also included a 'Run for India' event in South Lake Union, reflecting the scale of the celebrations across the city.

A growing bridge between two countries

Taken together, the proclamations, congressional messages and gubernatorial greetings offer a snapshot of the increasingly prominent role of Indian Americans across the Pacific Northwest.

The messages repeatedly pointed to the community's contributions in technology, education, medicine, entrepreneurship, government, culture and innovation. They also emphasized the importance of the India-U.S. relationship at a time when economic, technological and strategic ties between the two countries continue to expand.

For the Consulate General of India in Seattle, which serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming, the response from political and civic leadership provided a significant backdrop to India's 80th Independence Day.

The seven proclamations recognizing India's national day, alongside messages from senior elected officials, transformed what could have been a conventional Independence Day observance into a broader regional acknowledgment of India's journey and the Indian American community's place within the Pacific Northwest.

89th Know India Programme invites young Indian diaspora to explore India's growth story

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, has invited applications from young members of the Indian diaspora for the 89th edition of the Know India Programme (KIP), a flagship initiative designed to connect overseas Indian youth with their ancestral roots while giving them an opportunity to experience contemporary India's transformation firsthand. The upcoming KIP, being organized for the "Scholars and Innovators" cohort, will be held in India from September 15 to 29, 2026. The program is open to youth of Indian origin between 18 and 23 years of age, including Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

KIP seeks to familiarize young members of the global Indian diaspora with India's rich cultural heritage, economic transformation, scientific and technological advancements, innovation and start-up ecosystem, and other important aspects of contemporary India as the country moves toward the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The program combines exposure to India's heritage and contemporary

development with opportunities for participants to interact with institutions, professionals and communities. It also aims to inspire young members of the diaspora to develop a deeper connection with India and participate in the country's developmental journey.

Since its inception, the Ministry of External Affairs has organized 87 editions of the Know India Programme, bringing together 3,153 young members of the Indian diaspora from around the world. The 88th edition is currently underway, with 25 participants representing 23 countries. The program has emerged as an important platform for strengthening people-to-people connections between India and its global diaspora, particularly among younger generations who may have limited opportunities to experience India beyond family and cultural traditions. For young Indian-origin scholars and innovators, the 89th edition is expected to provide an opportunity to gain firsthand insights into India's rapidly evolving economy, research and innovation landscape, entrepreneurship, technology and cultural diversity.

The Consulate General of India in Chicago has invited eligible applicants to participate in the program. Interested candidates should submit a scanned copy

of the duly completed application form along with the required documents by email to pic.chicago@mea.gov.in. The deadline for applications through the Consulate General of India, Chicago, is August 27, 2026. The initiative is

particularly significant as India seeks to engage its younger diaspora in the country's long-term development vision and build stronger connections between the next generation of global Indians and their ancestral homeland.

Chicago Indo-US Lions Club initiative reaches more than 1,000 Illinois families with health and back-to-school support

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Chicago Indo-US Lions Club, in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, healthcare professionals, the U.S. Army, Sewa USA, community organizations and volunteers, has reached more than 1,000 Illinois families through a statewide series of Mega Health, Wellness and Back-to-School Outreach Events held throughout July and August.

The initiative has brought free healthcare screenings, wellness services, educational assistance and essential resources directly to communities across Illinois, with additional outreach events planned in the coming weeks.

To date, the program has provided approximately 486 diabetes screenings and consultations, 367 medical checkups and 128 mental health consultations, along with

hundreds of vision and retinal screenings and free hearing tests. Families also received school supplies, gift cards, food assistance and educational resources to help children prepare for the new school year.

The statewide effort has been led by Shina Trivedi, President of the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club and a mental health specialist, in collaboration with Family Medicine Physician Dr. Herak, Dr. Jay, other healthcare professionals, college student volunteers and numerous community organizations.

"Our mission is to serve with compassion and collaboration. When healthcare providers, volunteers, and community partners come together, we can remove barriers to care, connect families with essential resources, and help communities thrive," Trivedi said.

The Chicago Indo-US Lions Club expressed appreciation to Blue Cross Blue Shield of



Illinois, the U.S. Army, Sewa USA, healthcare providers, volunteers, sponsors, community organizations and residents whose support and participation helped make the outreach possible.

Beyond providing immediate assistance, organizers said the initiative reflects the importance of bringing health and social services directly to communities where families may face barriers to accessing care.

By combining medical screenings with mental health support, vision and hearing services, educational resources and back-to-school assistance, the program is addressing

multiple needs under one community-focused initiative.

The Chicago Indo-US Lions Club and its partners plan to continue expanding the outreach, reaching additional families and strengthening access to healthcare and essential resources across Illinois.

The initiative underscores the impact of collaborative community service and demonstrates how civic organizations, healthcare professionals, businesses, military personnel and volunteers can work together to help build healthier, stronger and more connected Illinois communities.



Federation of Indian Associations Chicago celebrates India's 80th and America's 250th Independence anniversaries



● By: Ashwani Mahajan

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) Chicago celebrated India's 80th Independence Day and America's 250th Independence anniversary with a vibrant community gathering attended by community leaders, sponsors and hundreds of families. The celebration opened with the national anthems of India and the United States, followed by a welcome address from the FIA chairman. FIA President Richa Chand and Altaf Bhukhari highlighted the organization's activities and contributions to the community. A major attraction was a colorful fashion parade showcasing the traditional attire of different Indian states, presented by FIA members. The program also featured 'Ek Sham Bharat Ke Naam', with patriotic musical performances. Chief Guest Dr. Darshan S. Dhaliwal and the Consul General of India emphasized the importance of freedom and the enduring ties between India and

the United States. Several elected officials, including Mayor Frank, Mayor McLeod, Mayor Daley, State Senator Laura Murphy, Representative Mustman and future Congresswoman Melissa Bean, were honored. Keynote speaker Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi praised Indian Americans for their achievements in medicine, business and education, describing them as one of the fastest-growing and most successful communities in the United States. "India's greatest export is you," he said.

The evening also featured an awards ceremony honoring FIA Banquet Chairman Ajit Singh, Co-Chair Murugesh Kasalingam and community leaders including Brij and Vijaya Sharma, Manish Gandhi, Dr. Parag Doshi, Syed Hussain, Yogi Bhardwaj and Radio Zindagi. Cultural performances by Shirzar Dance Company, singer Shivani Kashyap and actor Kashish Rajput added to the festivities. The program was hosted by Jassi Parmar of Desi Junction and was warmly appreciated by the audience.



India's 80th Independence Day Celebrated at India House in Washington, D.C.

● By: Vandana Jhingan

The Embassy of India in Washington, D.C. marked India's 80th Independence Day with a flag-hoisting ceremony at India House on August 15, bringing together members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India.

Ambassador of India to the United States Shri Vinay Kwatra hoisted the National Flag during the ceremony. The program began with the rendition of the National Song and National Anthem, followed by the Ambassador's reading of the address to the nation delivered by President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu on the eve of



Independence Day.

The celebration also featured a cultural program involving children of the Indian diaspora. Dancers from Dhoom Studio presented a patriotic performance featuring

a medley of Indian songs, while students of Notes n' Beats Music School performed an orchestral rendition of Vande Mataram. The musical presentation also commemorated 150 years of Vande Mataram, one of India's most significant patriotic compositions.

The Embassy also recognized young participants who excelled in two of its community outreach initiatives. Winners of the Viksit Bharat Painting Competition and the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz were felicitated during the Independence Day celebrations.

The program reflected the Embassy's efforts to involve the younger generation of the Indian-American community in India's national celebrations and cultural traditions.

The participation of children and students also provided an opportunity to connect the diaspora's younger generation with India's history, heritage, and national identity.

The celebrations were held in observance of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and 'Surya Path Tiranga' campaigns of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The Independence Day program at India House brought together national commemoration, cultural performances, and community participation, marking India's 80 years of independence while highlighting the continuing connection between India and its diaspora in the United States.

Chicago Indian American community celebrates India@80 with Operation Sindoor book launch and Vande Mataram tribute



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Indian American community in Chicagoland marked India’s 80th Independence Day with an evening of patriotism, cultural pride and remembrance at the International University of Vedic Wellness last week. Organized by the Global Indian Diaspora

Foundation, the celebration also commemorated the 150th anniversary of ‘Vande Mataram’ and featured the United States launch of ‘Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India’s Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan’. The highlight of the event was the participation of retired Lieutenant General K.J.S. “Tiny” Dhillon, a highly decorated

Indian Army veteran and author of the book. Addressing the gathering, Dhillon spoke about the courage, leadership, sacrifice and national resolve associated with Operation Sindoor, while thanking the organizers for giving him an opportunity to share the story with the Indian American community.

The program began with the raising of

the Indian flag, followed by the national anthems of India and the United States. Veterans of the Indian Armed Forces were honored, with Dhillon presenting medals recognizing their service and sacrifice. GIDF President Rakesh Malhotra said Independence Day was an opportunity to reaffirm values of unity, service, democracy and cultural pride while strengthening ties between India and the United States.

Seniors from Universal Metro Aging Services presented a skit depicting Operation Sindoor, adding an intergenerational dimension to the celebration. The Chicago Nupur Dance Academy performed a classical rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’, highlighting the cultural significance of the patriotic composition.

Santosh Kumar, founder of the International University of Vedic Wellness, emphasized the importance of preserving India’s cultural and spiritual heritage and passing these values to younger generations.

The event was attended by Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India in Chicago, Deputy Consul General Kriti Thockchom, the Mayor of South Barrington and representatives of several Indian American organizations.

GIDF General Secretary Abhinav Raina said the celebration brought together history, culture, military service, national security and diaspora engagement under the theme “India@80.” Chetan Notaria, GIDF Director of Community Outreach, thanked the dignitaries, veterans, performers, volunteers and community members who contributed to the event.

The Global Indian Diaspora Foundation promotes cultural and civic engagement among Indians worldwide while encouraging collaboration in education, technology, trade and sustainability and strengthening India-United States relations.



FIA-Chicago organizes Tricolor Car Rally to mark India's Independence Day

By: Jayanti Oza

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA)-Chicago organized its second Tricolor Car Rally in Schaumburg as part of the Indian-American community's celebrations marking India's Independence Day.

Nearly 50 decorated vehicles participated in the rally, carrying the Indian and American flags. Families and community members joined the procession, which highlighted Indian heritage and the shared connection of the diaspora with both India and the United States.

The rally began with the National Anthem, followed by patriotic slogans including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Vande Mataram," "God Bless America," and "Long Live America." Participants traveled through the area in a display of the Tricolor and community spirit.

Representatives and members of several Chicago-area Indian-American organizations participated in the event. These included Shree Ram Group, Karni Sena, Shree Sanatan Sewa Foundation, Maharashtra Mandal, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), Vishva Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), Sewa International, Ekal



Vidyalaya, and senior-care organizations including MAFS, UMAS, Care for Soul, and Happy Hearts.

The event provided an opportunity for community organizations and families to come together outside their regular activities and participate in a shared Independence Day celebration. The presence of both Indian and American flags also reflected the dual cultural connection experienced

by many members of the Indian-American community. Following the car rally, FIA-Chicago members joined other community organizations and residents at the flag-hoisting ceremony and Independence Day Parade hosted by National India Hub.

FIA-Chicago held its Patriotic Gala on Sunday, August 16, at Haridham Mandir in Schaumburg. The celebrations will

continue with the organization's Grand India Independence Day Parade on Sunday, August 23, along Devon Avenue in Chicago.

The series of events forms part of the broader Independence Day celebrations taking place across the Chicago area, with community organizations using the occasion to promote cultural heritage, civic participation, and fellowship among Indian-Americans.

Gateway of Grace celebrates culture, service and community in St. Louis

By: Vandana Jhingan

The Gateway of Grace cultural celebration brought together community leaders, families, artists, young performers and interfaith representatives at Logan University in Chesterfield for an evening celebrating unity, service, cultural understanding and compassion.

Organized by the Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy Humanitarian Community Development Foundation of Americas, the event featured music, dance, theater and cultural performances. Civic leaders, including Cottleville Mayor Stephen Thompson and Chesterfield City Council members Gary Budoor and Patricia Tocco, joined representatives of local community and interfaith organizations.

The program opened with the national



anthems of the United States and India, followed by performances of songs composed by Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy. Young musicians also presented a Western classical orchestral performance.

The highlight of the evening was the Broadway-style musical Sai: As He Is, performed by local children and young people. Through music and storytelling, the production explored the life and teachings

of Shirdi Sai Baba and the humanitarian journey of Dr. Satpathy.

The cultural program also featured Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Andhra Natyam, Carnatic vocal music and Hindustani classical music, showcasing the artistic talent of the St. Louis community.

Dr. Satpathy was honored with a proclamation and resolution recognizing

his humanitarian service and contributions to community development and cultural enrichment. In his address, he emphasized compassion, inclusion, mutual respect and service to humanity. The evening concluded with a community gathering that encouraged cultural exchange and fellowship, reinforcing the event's central message of bringing people and communities together through culture, service and shared values.



Why Bribes.fyi went dark after going viral

By: Dr. Avi Verma

What began as a small civic-tech experiment by an engineering student quickly became a nationwide anti-corruption phenomenon—and then disappeared almost as quickly.

Bribes.fyi, a website that allowed citizens to anonymously report alleged demands for bribes by government officials, has announced an indefinite shutdown after receiving more than 5 million requests and nearly 200,000 new users in just 48 hours, according to media reports. The extraordinary surge overwhelmed the platform and exposed the challenges of operating a public reporting system dealing with sensitive allegations at national scale.

But the traffic explosion was only part of the story.

From student project to viral platform

Launched on July 2 by Aryan Nishad, a B.Tech student at Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology in Delhi, Bribes.fyi was designed as a simple crowdsourced database documenting citizens' experiences with alleged bribery.

Users could anonymously report the government department involved, city, amount allegedly demanded and whether they ultimately paid or refused. Before the shutdown, the platform had accumulated more than 600 reports, with police departments accounting for the largest category, followed by RTOs, revenue and land-record offices, passport offices and municipal corporations.

The platform made clear that the information was crowdsourced and should not be treated as verified government statistics.

Why did it shut down?

1. An overwhelming surge in traffic

The immediate problem was scale. More than five million requests and roughly 200,000 new users arrived within 48 hours.

For a project created by a student rather than a large technology organization, that represented an extraordinary increase



in both technical and administrative responsibility. A platform designed to handle hundreds of reports suddenly faced hundreds of thousands of users and millions of requests.

The founders acknowledged that they had not built the infrastructure needed to safely manage the platform at that scale.

2. Data security and privacy concerns

The platform dealt with potentially sensitive information concerning alleged corruption. Even when reports are anonymous, details such as location, department, timing and the amount allegedly demanded can potentially help identify individuals.

As the number of users grew dramatically, protecting that information became a much greater responsibility. The decision to go offline appears to have been a precaution to ensure that the data could be handled safely rather than evidence that the site had been hacked or officially ordered to close.

Reports have specifically cited concerns about safely managing the information and preventing misuse.

3. Legal and verification challenges

Perhaps the most complicated issue was

the nature of the allegations themselves.

A crowdsourced report is an allegation—not proof. If someone anonymously accuses a government employee of demanding a bribe, questions immediately arise about verification, moderation, defamation, removal of false claims and the legal responsibility of the platform publishing the information.

Investor Dr. Aniruddha Malpani, who supported Nishad's project, also highlighted the need to ensure compliance with India's Prevention of Corruption Act.

The founders subsequently sought assistance from lawyers and chartered accountants to establish a more robust legal and financial structure.

4. The possibility of misuse

The anonymity that made Bribes.fyi attractive to citizens could also make it vulnerable to abuse.

False or fabricated allegations, coordinated submissions or attempts to target individuals could potentially undermine the credibility of the database. The platform's shutdown has been described as a voluntary precautionary

step intended, among other things, to prevent misuse.

Importantly, available reports do not indicate that a government agency forced the platform to shut down or that an official order was responsible.

A lesson in digital accountability

The irony of Bribes.fyi is that its success created the very institutional challenges that ultimately forced it offline.

A small website collecting a few hundred anonymous reports is one thing. A national platform attracting hundreds of thousands of users becomes a much more complicated operation requiring cybersecurity, privacy safeguards, verification procedures, professional moderation, legal oversight and sustainable funding.

The founders appear to have recognized that the original informal structure was no longer sufficient. Rather than allowing the platform to continue operating without adequate safeguards, they chose to step back and reassess.

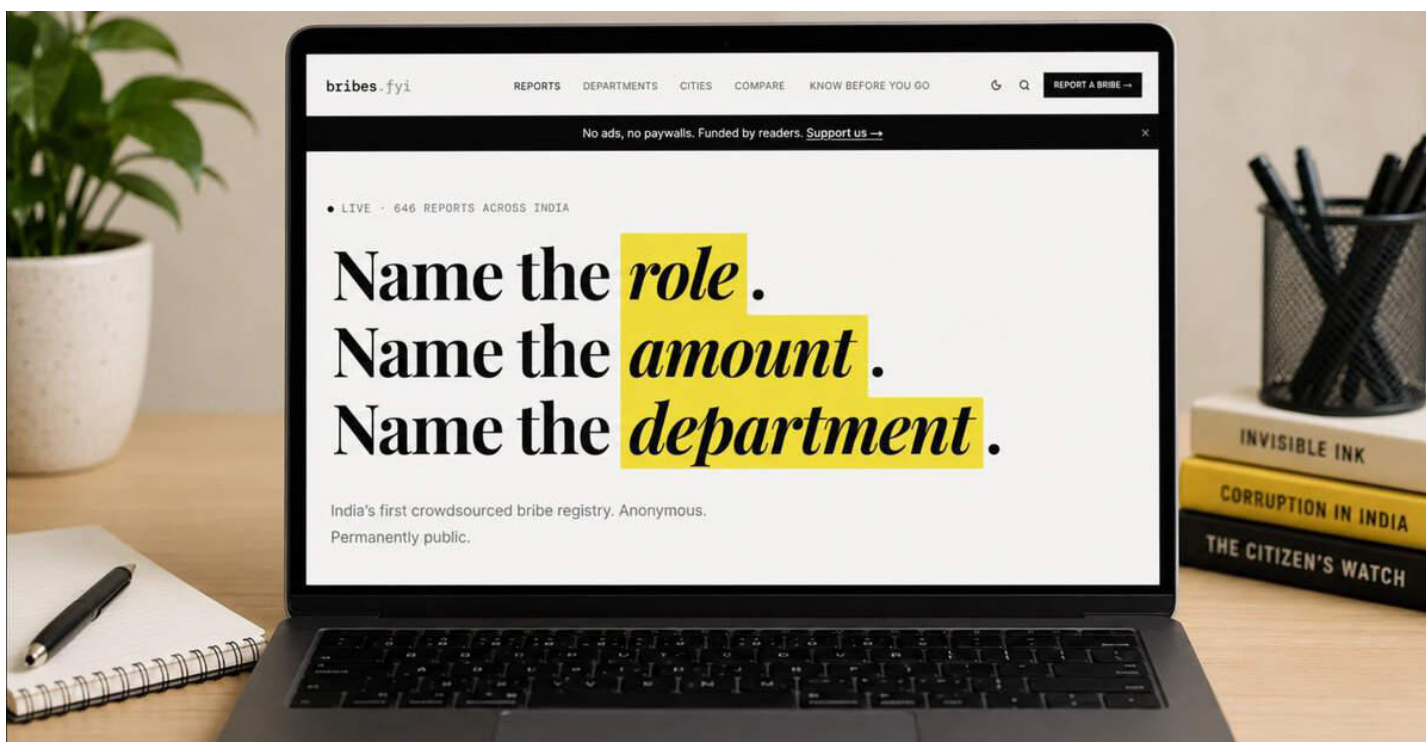
What its brief life revealed

For now, Bribes.fyi remains offline, with the founders working toward stronger legal and financial infrastructure before considering any future version. Yet its brief existence has already made an important point. The extraordinary public response suggests that many Indians are eager for simple, accessible mechanisms through which they can document experiences involving alleged corruption.

Bribes.fyi did not prove that every allegation submitted to it was genuine, nor was it an official corruption-monitoring agency. Its significance lies elsewhere: it demonstrated the enormous public appetite for citizen-driven digital accountability.

The next challenge is to build such platforms with the safeguards necessary to protect both the people making complaints and those being accused.

Bribes.fyi may have gone dark, but the conversation it started about technology, transparency and corruption is unlikely to disappear.





Healthy Heart, Healthy Life

Cholesterol, Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome

Understanding the hidden risk factors that can threaten your heart

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In the first article of this series, we explored how the heart functions as the body's life-sustaining pump. Part 2 examined coronary artery disease (CAD), while Part 3 focused on high blood pressure—the “Silent Killer.” Part 4 explored heart rhythm disorders, including atrial fibrillation and modern treatments. In Part 5, we examined another group of interconnected conditions—high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, fatty liver disease and metabolic syndrome—that can quietly increase cardiovascular risk. We discussed how these conditions can accelerate atherosclerosis and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke, as well as the importance of lifestyle changes, knowing your numbers and appropriate medical treatment. In this sixth installment, we take a closer look at how these metabolic risk factors affect the cardiovascular system and what can be done to protect the heart through prevention, early detection and comprehensive care.

Understanding Cholesterol: Good vs. Bad

Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance that the body needs to build cells and produce hormones. It travels through the bloodstream inside particles called lipoproteins. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is commonly called “bad cholesterol” because elevated LDL can contribute to plaque buildup inside artery walls. Over time, this process, called atherosclerosis, can narrow arteries and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) is often called “good cholesterol” because it helps transport cholesterol toward the liver for processing. However, cardiovascular risk cannot be determined by HDL alone; LDL and a person's overall risk profile remain central to treatment decisions.

Triglycerides: Another Important Number

Triglycerides are another type of fat found in the blood. The body uses them for energy, but elevated levels are often associated with obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, excessive alcohol consumption and diets high in added sugars and refined carbohydrates. Very high triglycerides can increase the risk of acute pancreatitis. When high triglycerides occur together with high LDL, low HDL, high blood pressure or abnormal blood sugar, cardiovascular risk may rise substantially.

Diabetes and Heart Disease

Diabetes is one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Persistently elevated blood glucose can damage blood vessels and promote inflammation and atherosclerosis. People with diabetes have increased risks of coronary artery disease, heart attack, stroke, peripheral artery disease and heart failure. Type 2 diabetes is strongly associated with obesity, physical inactivity and metabolic abnormalities. Good blood-sugar control, along with management of blood pressure and cholesterol, can significantly reduce cardiovascular risk. Some newer diabetes medications, including SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP-1 receptor agonists, also provide cardiovascular benefits for appropriate



patients.

Obesity and the Heart

Excess body weight can affect the cardiovascular system in several ways. Obesity can contribute to high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol, diabetes, sleep apnea, inflammation and fatty liver disease. It can also increase the workload on the heart and raise the risk of heart failure and atrial fibrillation. Even modest, sustained weight loss can improve blood pressure, blood sugar and metabolic health. The goal should be better overall health and reduced cardiovascular risk—not simply a number on the scale.

Fatty Liver and Cardiovascular Risk

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), formerly called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, occurs when excess fat accumulates in the liver in association with metabolic risk factors. It is commonly linked with obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and abnormal cholesterol. Although it primarily affects the liver, MASLD is also an important marker of metabolic and cardiovascular risk. Managing weight, blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol is therefore important for both liver and heart health.

Metabolic Syndrome: When Risk Factors Come Together

Metabolic syndrome is not a single disease but a combination of risk factors that tend to occur together. These include increased abdominal fat, elevated blood pressure, elevated blood sugar, high triglycerides and low HDL cholesterol. Having multiple components increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. The diagnosis should be viewed as a

warning—and an opportunity to intervene before serious disease develops.

Lifestyle Changes: The Foundation of Prevention

A sustainable heart-healthy lifestyle is one of the most powerful ways to address these interconnected risks. Emphasize vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds and minimally processed foods. Choose healthy protein sources and replace saturated fats with unsaturated fats when possible. Reduce added sugars, refined carbohydrates, highly processed foods and excessive sodium.

Regular physical activity is equally important. Most adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, together with muscle-strengthening activities on at least two days when appropriate. Avoid tobacco, limit alcohol, maintain healthy sleep habits and develop practical ways to manage chronic stress.

New Cholesterol-Lowering Therapies

For some patients, lifestyle changes alone are not sufficient to lower cholesterol to an appropriate level. Statins remain the foundation of treatment for many people at elevated cardiovascular risk. Depending on individual risk and response, physicians may also prescribe ezetimibe, PCSK9 inhibitors, bempedoic acid or other therapies.

Treatment should be individualized because the appropriate LDL goal depends on a person's cardiovascular history and overall risk. Patients should never stop or change cholesterol medication without consulting their healthcare professional.

Know Your Numbers—and Your Risk

Protecting your heart requires more than knowing one number. Know your blood pressure, cholesterol levels and, when appropriate, blood glucose or A1C, weight and waist circumference. If you have diabetes, obesity, fatty liver disease or several metabolic risk factors, discuss your overall cardiovascular risk with your physician. Early identification provides an opportunity to intervene before a heart attack or stroke becomes the first warning sign.

The Bottom Line

The metabolic conditions discussed in this series are closely connected and can create a pathway toward cardiovascular disease. But that pathway is not inevitable. Healthy food choices, regular exercise, weight management, appropriate medications and routine medical care can substantially reduce risk. A healthy heart is not protected by one dramatic change; it is protected by thousands of small, consistent choices made over a lifetime.

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Disclaimer

The information presented in this Healthy Heart, Healthy Life series is intended solely for educational and public awareness purposes. It is not intended to replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, nor should it be considered a medical consultation. Readers should consult their physician or another qualified healthcare professional regarding any questions or concerns about their heart health or before making decisions related to

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: SOFTWARE & SEMICONDUCTORS (Part 2)

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -3.2% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 65 (greed)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 62.70% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 70.40% (overbought, barely)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 6/30/26
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 63.07%, Hybrids 3.86%, Bonds 16.93%, M-Mkt 16.15%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
Current 3.50-3.75%
FOMC 9/16/26+ hold
FOMC 10/28/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.86%, 1-yr 3.98%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.17%, 5-yr 4.36%, 10-yr 4.68%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.25% (normal yield-curve);
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.12%, 10-yr 2.41%, 30-yr 3.00%
FRNs Index 3.771%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 8/1/26
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%
Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%, IRA-101110+ 4.15%
TIAA MYGA 4.60% (3-yr), 4.80% (5-yr), 4.85% (7-yr)
TSP G Fund 4.875% (previous 4.500%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 62.69



(greed)

Weekly ETFs: INDA -1.16%, INDY -1.47%, EPI -1.51%, INDH -0.95% | SPY +0.40%

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

MARKETS

Bloomberg deferred including India for its global aggregate bond index. It said that more time is needed to assess the recent tax & capital gain reforms that are favorable for foreign funds investing in Indian bonds. The disappointment may lead to some selling of Indian bonds & rupee.

FUNDS

Many Indians want to invest abroad to participate in global trends & protect from declining rupee. But there are industry-wide limits on how much Indian mutual funds can invest in

foreign securities (\$7 billion) & ETFs (\$1 billion). These aggregate limits have been reached & haven't been changed. There are additional limits for individuals (\$250K) working with specialized brokers & advisors, but that's a small market for wealthy Indians. So, the channels for Indians to invest globally are artificially closed. As a result of this, many global funds in India trade at high premiums, but those will disappear overnight if RBI raises these limits.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Sateliot-India (parent Spanish Sateliot) is providing affordable LEO narrow-band IoT (NB-IoT) satellite connectivity for smart devices or equipment for agriculture, logistics, utilities, mining, etc. These services are based on 3GPP NB-IoT standards for Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) spectrum bands. Company is also in talks with local mobile networks to add last-mile satellite-mobile services.

SPECIAL TOPIC - SOFTWARE & SEMICONDUCTORS (Part 2)

Indian AI ecosystem is growing rapidly. There are government organizations & resources - IAIRO (Indian AI Research Organization), IndiaAI, etc. AI platforms include BharatGen, Sarvan AI & from several companies & startups. Several IITs & IISc are involved in AI R&D. Global companies are investing in Indian AI infrastructure - R&D, datacenters. There are also several foreign-domestic joint-ventures (JVs) to navigate the complexities of datacenter projects - land, power, equipment, approvals & permits.

MeitY: India must build own AI & cybersecurity. Reliance on software with foreign licensing can create access issues when least expected. Moreover, localized software are necessary to meet local needs, regulatory

compliances & threats.

Indian multinational Persistent Systems subsidiary Galaxy German Holdings is buying German AI-IT-engineering firm Nagarro. It will enhance Persistent's global footprint; it's US subsidiary is Accelerite. German regulators are investigating potential leak(s) & trading in Nagarro stock ahead of the acquisition announcement.

Under Semicon 2.0, India will start taking equity in semiconductor (semi) startups. Government will match venture-capital (VC) investments through funding rounds A, B, C without seeking operational control. Government stake will be under 50% & founders can buyback when the company matures. If these startups are acquired, the government stake will be adjusted or paid back as any other stake. The support model for larger companies in semis will be royalty-type - the payback will be 1.5x government support when the supported projects generate revenues. India already has good capabilities in semi chip designs but is rushing to fill the semi manufacturing vacuum starting with low-end chips.

India is focusing now on low-end 28-110 nm semi chips manufacturing that are used in auto & other applications. Most advanced chips now are 2-3 nm. But those advanced chips have high demand & high margins, so low-end chips are being ignored & global shortages have developed. This approach is reasonable for semi chips production in India that started only in 2026.

For Part 1, see 10/17/25 issue.

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



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

1. Location: Our study center is based on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, but there is no requirement to travel there. The administrative office is in Winnipeg, Canada.

2. Program Structure & Exams:

- ▶ **Preclinical Phase (Years 1 & 2):** Fully online, divided into 11 study blocks. The first block is 12 weeks, the rest are 8 weeks each. After completion, students take the IUHS Exit Exam, and U.S. students also prepare for Step 1.
- ▶ **Clinical Phase (Years 3 & 4):** 80 weeks of rotations—48 weeks core, 32 weeks electives. Students then take the IUHS Exit Exam 2 and officially graduate. U.S. students also take Step 2 before graduation.

3. Assessments:

- ▶ End-of-block graded exams
- ▶ DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments
- ▶ Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ Lecturio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

4. Teaching methods:

- ▶ **Systems-based learning:** Integrates anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology within each body system.
- ▶ **Problem-based learning:** Encourages critical thinking and challenges students to draw on all the knowledge they have acquired as they would in a real-life scenario when treating a patient.
- ▶ **Spaced repetition:** Reinforces knowledge through periodic review, enhancing long-term retention.

5. Clinical rotations:

- ▶ U.S. students can complete all rotations at the main affiliated hospital in Chicago, Illinois with additional sites in Texas, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona (subject to availability). Clinical rotation preparation starts around Block 8.
- ▶ Australian students have a



dedicated clinical director assisting them with the arrangements for clinical placements.

6. DxR Clinician: is a medical education software designed to help students develop clinical reasoning and diagnostic skills. It provides virtual patient cases that simulate real-life medical scenarios, allowing students to practice taking patient histories, ordering diagnostic tests, making differential diagnoses, and developing treatment plans.

Key Features:

- ▶ Interactive case-based learning with simulated patient encounters
- ▶ Clinical reasoning training to improve diagnostic accuracy
- ▶ Access to medical history, physical exams, and lab results
- ▶ Immediate feedback on decision-making and reasoning DxR Clinician is integrated into IUHS's problem-based learning (PBL) and case-based learning (CBL) curricula to enhance students' ability to apply medical knowledge in real world scenarios.

7. Live lectures: Learn from top-tier professors who also teach at prestigious universities through live, interactive lectures. Sessions are scheduled on weekdays, and if you miss one, you can easily catch up with recorded lectures available in the virtual library at your convenience.

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

In addition to live lectures, students can participate in weekly live Q&C sessions with the academic advisor for their current block of study. These sessions provide valuable support for students studying from home, fostering engagement with both peers and faculty.

9. Lecturio: is a digital learning platform providing medical education resources. It offers a comprehensive, AI-driven learning system designed to support medical education through high-quality video lectures, question banks, and advanced learning tools.

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.

- ▶ High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- ▶ AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- ▶ Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- ▶ Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

Lecturio supplements the education delivered, improves student performance, and provide flexible, self-paced learning opportunities.

10. Mentorship: IUHS integrates the Integrated Clinical Medicine program into the preclinical years of the MD curriculum, allowing students to gain early exposure to clinical settings. This hands-on experience gives IUHS students a competitive edge over their peers from other universities.

IUHS students become comfortable and confident in a clinical environment before starting clinical rotations having developed the necessary clinical skills. Working alongside a local physician mentor, each student spends 20 hours per month shadowing and discussing cases with their mentor, a doctor from their own community. Under the guidance of IUHS's clinical director, students select a mentor who fits their needs and location. This early integration of clinical skills enhances learning, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and making the transition to full-time clinical training more seamless and rewarding.

11. Get in Touch: You can ask me anything about IUHS if you still have more questions!

Join IUHS to transform your dream of becoming a medical doctor into reality.

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Fall 2026 is all about dressing with more personality



After several seasons of quiet minimalism, fall 2026 is bringing a more expressive approach to getting dressed. The season's runways point toward a wardrobe built on contrast: streamlined pieces meet rich textures, familiar tailoring gets new proportions, and everyday staples gain impact through thoughtful styling. Rather than demanding a complete wardrobe overhaul, the season offers several ways to make existing pieces feel fresh.

The return of the polished suit

Power dressing is back, but it feels softer and more relaxed. Jackets are sculpted without looking overly

corporate, while skirts and trousers create fluid, elongated silhouettes. The result is a modern take on polished dressing that balances structure with ease.

Body-conscious dressing, reimagined

Figure-skimming silhouettes are another defining direction. Second-skin dresses, sheer layers, fitted knits and lingerie-inspired details put the body at the center of the look. The trend does not have to mean head-to-toe revealing clothing. Layering a fitted piece under a jacket or pairing sheer elements with more substantial separates makes the look easier to wear.

A touch of Art Deco glamour

The glamour of the 1920s is returning through velvet, fringe, geometric detailing, elegant evening separates and richly textured fabrics. The mood is celebratory rather than costume-like, making the influence particularly suited to evening dressing.

Florals get darker and richer

Fall florals are moving away from delicate spring patterns. Deeper tones, intricate brocades and elaborate botanical motifs give floral dressing a more dramatic, seasonal character. They work particularly well on skirts, blouses, dresses and outerwear.

Proportions become playful

Oversized coats, cropped jackets, cocoon shapes, billowing trousers and dramatic hemlines introduce an element of fun. The key is balance: pairing one exaggerated piece with something streamlined keeps the silhouette intentional.

Styling becomes the statement

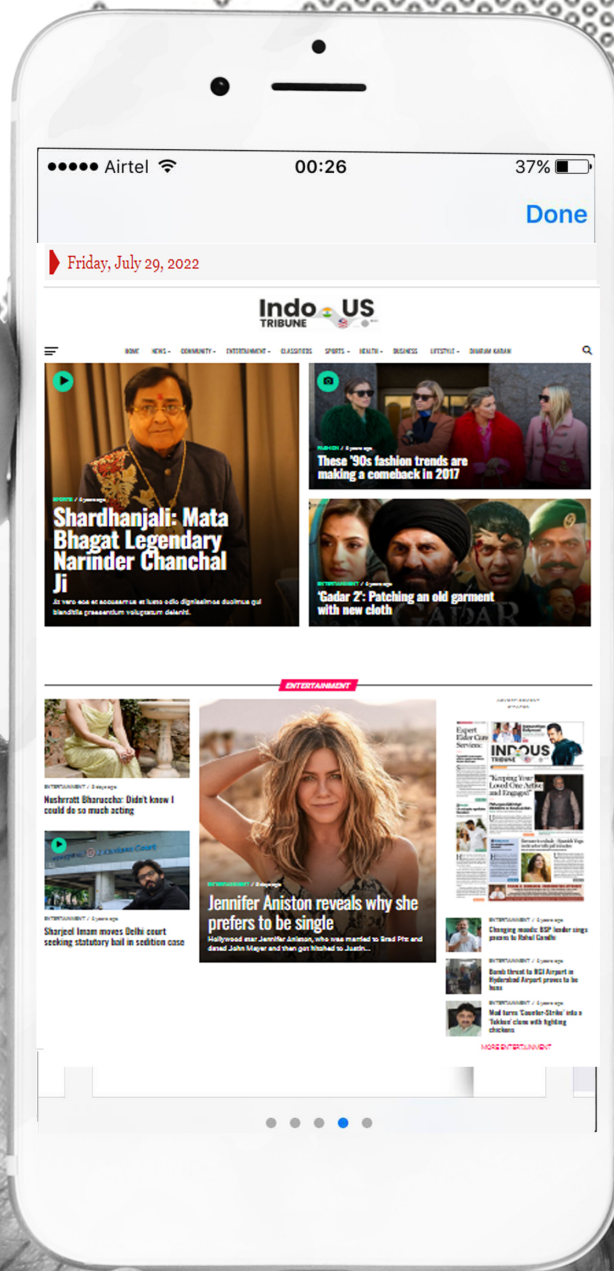
Perhaps the most accessible trend is simply better styling. Layering sweaters over dresses, combining workwear with feminine pieces or rethinking familiar separates can completely change an outfit. Fall 2026 ultimately makes a strong case for creativity over constant consumption.

Ashwani Chadha's
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