

India calls for community-led rangeland restoration at UNCCD COP17



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India has called for community-led, science-based restoration of rangelands, urging governments to recognize pastoralists as key custodians of these ecosystems. Speaking Wednesday at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of the Parties in Ulaanbaatar, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted India's experience combining traditional knowledge with scientific planning.

He pointed to satellite-based land degradation mapping, community forest and grazing rights, and traditional conservation systems such as Rajasthan's Orans. Yadav said India's rangelands support livestock, biodiversity, water security and carbon storage, and stressed that restoration must also protect pastoral livelihoods. He called for greater access to financing, technology and knowledge for developing countries and said India was ready to share its experience through South-South cooperation. UNCCD COP17 is being held in Ulaanbaatar from Monday through Friday.

Meta reaches landmark \$18 billion settlement with states over teen social media addiction



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta agreed Wednesday to pay up to \$18 billion and introduce stronger child-safety measures on Facebook and Instagram under a landmark settlement with 48 states, Washington, D.C., and several U.S. territories. The agreement ends a federal trial in Oakland, California, that accused Meta of deliberately designing features that encouraged addictive use among young people and contributed to mental health problems. The settlement, which still requires court approval, will provide funding for children's mental health programs and digital literacy initiatives.

Meta will introduce default daily time limits, stronger age verification, improved parental controls, restrictions on harmful content and fewer notifications during school hours. An independent auditor will review the company's compliance. California is expected to receive at least \$1.5 billion over 10 years. New Mexico and Florida were excluded from the agreement.

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India rejects United Nations racial discrimination panel's concerns as 'politically motivated' and 'highly malicious'

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India on Wednesday rejected concerns raised by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, describing references in its observations as "politically motivated" and "highly malicious." The remarks followed the committee's review of India's implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva on Monday and Tuesday. The committee raised concerns over reported violations by law enforcement involving ethnic and ethno-religious groups, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Scheduled Castes, including Dalits, Scheduled Tribes and noncitizens.

India's Ministry of External Affairs said the review was a routine treaty-body process conducted in a spirit of constructive engagement. Its delegation, led by Solicitor



General Tushar Mehta, highlighted constitutional safeguards, legal protections, affirmative action, judicial remedies and policies aimed at disadvantaged communities. The ministry said India had already rejected what it called sweeping

generalizations and unsubstantiated allegations during the review and would respond through established procedures. It also reaffirmed India's commitment to combating discrimination and protecting equality and dignity for all citizens.

Carney faces ticking clock to maintain Canadian support for tough tactics with Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Mark Carney continues to enjoy strong public support for his decision to take a tougher stance against U.S. President Donald Trump, but analysts warn that his political advantage could fade if the trade conflict begins to hurt Canadian households and businesses. An Angus Reid poll released Sunday found that 76% of Canadians approved of Carney's decision to suspend trade talks with Washington, although 40% said they were concerned about their jobs. On Tuesday, Canada announced dollar-for-dollar counter-tariffs on \$20 billion of U.S. goods and a C\$7.5 billion support package. Canada remains highly dependent on the U.S. market, with about 70% of its exports going to American buyers. Economists estimate the latest U.S. tariffs could eventually cost Canada up to 90,000 jobs.

The economic pressure could make Carney's strategy harder to sustain in the coming



months. Canada's unemployment rate fell to 6.4% in July, but analysts warn that prolonged tariffs could lead to factory closures, higher prices and declining incomes. A U.S. withdrawal from the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement could push Canada into recession, according to the country's central bank. Carney has also been seeking to reduce Canada's dependence on the United States by expanding trade and security relationships with other countries. However, analysts say those efforts will take time, while the effects of the trade dispute could be felt much sooner.

Trump says Iran war may end 'fairly soon,' believes Mojtaba Khamenei is alive but seriously wounded

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the war with Iran could end "fairly soon," while claiming Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei is alive but "very seriously wounded." Trump offered no evidence for the assessment, saying Khamenei had suffered severe injuries to the left side of his body. His comments came as the conflict remained focused on weakening Iran's military capabilities and preventing Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Trump also claimed U.S. forces destroyed

22 boats overnight as part of operations linked to the blockade and said the Strait of Hormuz was functioning after mines were cleared. However, shipping data indicates traffic through the strategic waterway remains significantly below normal levels.

Trump said Iran's navy and air force had been severely weakened and predicted a major U.S. victory. He also said oil prices were falling and maintained that the conflict would soon ease. His claims about oil flows through Hormuz have not been independently verified, with commercial tracking data showing much lower traffic than the volumes cited by the administration.

United States says China-linked hackers targeted DoJ, NASA and Senate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department said Wednesday that it had disrupted a China-linked hacking operation accused of targeting sensitive government and critical infrastructure networks. The department and Federal Bureau of Investigation seized domains connected to two hacking platforms, QScan and QTRouter, which officials said were operated by a China-based company for a state-sponsored group known as QTFY.

Court documents identified the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Federal Reserve, Justice Department, Energy Department, Health and Human Services Department, National Institutes of Health and United States Senate among victims or targets. Investigators said the campaign had been active since at least 2018, with some attempted intrusions unsuccessful. China's embassy in Washington rejected the accusations, saying Beijing opposes cyberattacks and accusing the United States of using cybersecurity claims to discredit China.



More than 50 kidnapped after violent gang attack in Haiti leaves 47 dead

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 47 people, including five children, were killed and more than 50 others kidnapped after armed gangs attacked Kenscoff, a hillside community near Port-au-Prince, on Sunday, the United Nations said. The assault is believed to be one of Haiti’s largest mass kidnappings in recent years. Gang leader Izo 2 threatened to kill the hostages if security forces killed any gang members. The attack also reportedly saw 25 homes set on fire, while 22 people were injured. The violence has renewed concerns over Haiti’s worsening security crisis ahead of planned elections. Gang violence has displaced about 1.5 million people nationwide.

U.S. military says it killed four in strike on alleged drug-smuggling boat in the Caribbean



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. military said Tuesday it killed four people in a strike on a boat suspected of carrying drugs in the Caribbean Sea, continuing the Trump administration’s campaign against alleged drug traffickers. U.S. Southern Command said the vessel was traveling along a known smuggling route, but provided no evidence that it was carrying narcotics. The latest strike brings the reported death toll from U.S. military attacks on suspected drug-smuggling boats to at least 227 people across 68 strikes. The campaign has also expanded cooperation with some Latin American governments. President Donald Trump has described the operations as part of an armed conflict with criminal cartels.

Chinese humanoid robot that beat Usain Bolt’s 100-meter sprint record does it again, even faster

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Chinese humanoid robot broke its own 100-meter record Wednesday, completing the race in 8.64 seconds at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing. Tiangong Ultra, developed by the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center, finished nearly a second faster than Usain Bolt’s human world record of 9.58 seconds. The robot had already recorded times of 9.39 seconds and 8.86 seconds earlier in the five-day competition. Several robots crashed into a padded barrier after crossing the finish line, with sparks flying from some machines. More than 2,000 robots competed in events ranging from running and soccer to household tasks and emergency response.

Iran vows retaliation after United States widens sanctions, raising fears of wider war

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran has vowed to retaliate after the United States expanded sanctions against Tehran, raising fears that economic pressure could further inflame the conflict. Iranian Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh warned Monday that Iran’s response would not be limited to defensive measures, saying Washington should expect an attack from Tehran. He did not specify what form retaliation could take. The warning followed new measures announced by United States Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who said the campaign would target foreign entities dealing with Iran and expand the potential use of secondary sanctions. The Treasury identified digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and



shipping as sectors subject to increased scrutiny and sanctioned nearly 60 entities, people and vessels.

China said Tuesday it opposed unilateral sanctions. Iranian officials have also warned that Tehran could increase pressure on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global energy route.

Qatar seeks to reopen diplomatic channel between Washington and Tehran

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani will travel to Tehran on Thursday to push for renewed diplomacy between Iran and the United States, as direct fighting remains largely paused but tensions persist. Qatar has served as a key back-channel between Washington and Tehran and helped secure a June ceasefire that briefly halted hostilities.

Sheikh Mohammed is expected to discuss de-escalation, conditions for renewed dialogue and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. The strategic waterway has become a



major obstacle, with oil shipments falling to about 5 million barrels per day from roughly 20 million before the conflict. Iran and Oman are still negotiating arrangements for control and revenue sharing, despite conflicting Iranian claims that an agreement has been reached.

Hundreds missing after flood hits Nepal-Tibet border, 157 bodies recovered

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rescue teams searched on Thursday for hundreds of people missing after a devastating flash flood struck Nepal’s mountainous border with China’s Tibet region. At least 157 bodies had been recovered in Nepal, while more than 400 people, including about 340 foreign tourists, were reported missing. A massive collapse of ice and rock into the Lhende River is believed to have triggered the disaster, sending torrents of mud and water through valleys and settlements. Homes, roads, bridges and power infrastructure were destroyed, while damaged communications and difficult terrain complicated rescue



operations. China reported three deaths and 265 people missing after a mudslide hit the Gyirong border area. Foreign nationals from the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada, South Korea, Malaysia and Japan are among those missing.

Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces group says it has dissolved after merging with Syrian army

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces announced Tuesday that it had dissolved and completed its integration into Syria’s national army, ending years of separate military control in the country’s northeast. SDF commander Mazloum Abdi said the group’s independent mission had

ended and described the move as part of a new phase focused on peace and rebuilding Syria. The SDF once controlled roughly a quarter of the country and was a key United States partner in the fight against Islamic State. The integration is a major step for interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa’s efforts to consolidate central authority, although questions remain over Kurdish representation and the structure of the new military.

Ukraine awards Elon Musk high state honor as it seeks to expand Starlink access

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine has awarded Elon Musk one of its highest state honors while seeking expanded access to his Starlink satellite network for military operations. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented Musk with the Order of Freedom on Wednesday, citing his contributions to protecting human life and strengthening relations between Ukraine and the United States. Starlink has provided critical battlefield communications for Ukrainian forces since Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022 and has also supported drone operations. Kyiv is now seeking permission to use Starlink over Russian territory to help target ballistic missile launchers. Zelenskyy said Musk initially viewed the proposal as a major escalation but that Ukraine had since received more encouraging signals.

Strikes in Gaza kill four, including two children, a week after U.S. asked Israel to curb attacks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli strikes and tank fire killed at least four people in Gaza on Monday, including two children, hospital officials said, despite recent U.S. pressure on Israel to reduce military operations. A four-year-old boy was killed in a strike on a building in the Bureij refugee camp, while a 10-year-old girl was killed by tank fire near Khan Younis. Israel said it targeted Hamas weapons storage facilities and a militant, but did not immediately comment on the child’s death. The strikes came about a week after U.S. negotiator Jared Kushner urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to scale back attacks and advance ceasefire efforts.

US sanctions three ‘far-left’ networks over alleged support for militant groups

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Wednesday imposed counterterrorism sanctions on three organizations based in Italy, Britain and other countries, accusing them of supporting violent far-left groups and Palestinian militants. The Treasury Department designated Italy-based Autistici Inventati, Britain-based Palestine Action and the transnational group Masar Badil, along with two Masar Badil officials, Zaid Abdunnasser and Rawa Alsagheer. The measures freeze any U.S.-linked property or financial interests and generally bar Americans from transactions with the designated parties.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the United States would target the financial networks of groups it considers politically violent. Britain proscribed Palestine Action under its terrorism law last year. The Treasury also linked Masar Badil to Samidoun and said Autistici Inventati provided digital services to groups including the Kurdistan Workers’ Party.

WHO declares Uganda's Ebola outbreak over as Congo battles escalating spread

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The World Health Organization said Wednesday that Uganda's outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola has ended after health authorities found no remaining chains of transmission. Uganda recorded 20 cases and two deaths before declaring the outbreak over in late July. However, the situation in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo remains critical, with transmission still accelerating despite improvements in contact tracing and testing. Congolese authorities have reported more than 5,600 cases and 2,700 deaths, making the outbreak the second-deadliest in history. WHO official Marie Roseline Belizaire said the virus has shown no signs of mutation but warned of a \$30 million funding gap for medical and protective supplies needed in the hardest-hit areas.

Icelanders narrowly favor reopening European Union membership talks ahead of Saturday vote

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A narrow majority of Icelanders support reopening negotiations on European Union membership, according to a poll released Wednesday ahead of Saturday's nationwide referendum. The Maskina survey of 1,019 people found 51.3 percent in favor of restarting talks, while 48.7 percent opposed the move. Support has slipped slightly from an earlier poll.

The referendum will decide whether negotiations resume, not whether Iceland ultimately joins the bloc. A separate vote would be required to approve any eventual membership deal. Iceland abandoned accession talks in 2013, but renewed interest has been driven by economic pressures, the war in Ukraine and security concerns in the Arctic. Iceland already participates in the European single market and Schengen area.

Zelenskiy turns to battle-tested commanders to reinforce Ukraine's eastern defenses

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Wednesday appointed prominent commanders Andrii Biletskiy and Denys Prokopenko to lead new military groupings defending key positions in the eastern Donetsk region. The move comes as Russian forces intensify their push toward Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, which form part of Ukraine's main defensive belt. Moscow has demanded that Kyiv withdraw from Donetsk as part of any settlement. Biletskiy, who leads the Third Army Corps, and Prokopenko, commander of the First Corps Azov, are experienced battlefield leaders whose units are known for modern tactics and technology. Ukrainian forces have reclaimed more than 700 square kilometers this year but face renewed Russian pressure along the front.

Pentagon official to brief NATO allies amid questions over Europe troop review

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior European diplomats are expected to use Thursday's meeting with Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby to reassure Washington that NATO allies are increasing their defense efforts, amid uncertainty over the future of United States forces in Europe. Colby is scheduled to brief NATO ambassadors in Brussels as part of a six-month review launched in June that could lead to further changes in the roughly 80,000 United States troops stationed across Europe.

Documents circulated to allies ask about defense spending, military strategy, procurement, access, basing and overflight rights, as well as support for United States foreign policy priorities. Some



European officials worry the review could become a negotiating tool rather than a straightforward consultation. They also fear further troop reductions could weaken the alliance's deterrence against Russia and increase competition among European countries for American military commitments.

Violence and impunity leave Pakistan's minority communities at grave risk

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's religious minorities continue to face serious risks from violence, alleged forced conversions and weak accountability, according to minority rights activist Joseph Janssen, founder of Voice for Justice. Speaking around the United Nations' International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief on Saturday, Janssen urged authorities to strengthen protections for minority

communities, enforce child-protection and child-marriage laws, and ensure equal treatment under the law. He highlighted reported cases involving minor girls allegedly abducted, forcibly converted and married, including cases from Faisalabad, Chichawatni and Vehari. Janssen also renewed calls for justice for Christian families affected by the Jaranwala violence in August 2023, when mobs attacked churches and homes. The United Nations established the observance in 2019.

Blumenthal pushes for tougher Russia sanctions bill to clear House in September

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal said Wednesday he hopes the House of Representatives will approve a sweeping Russia sanctions bill when lawmakers return next month, calling the measure a "sledgehammer" against Moscow's war financing.

The Connecticut Democrat, speaking in Kyiv after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said the legislation has strong Republican support after advancing in the Senate.

The bill would sanction senior Russian officials and authorize President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 percent on major buyers of Russian oil and gas, including China and India.



Some Democrats have raised concerns about giving Trump broad tariff powers, although exemptions would protect European allies. Blumenthal also asked Zelenskiy to lobby House lawmakers for passage.

India and China agree to pursue political settlement of boundary dispute amid improving ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China have agreed to continue efforts toward a political settlement of their long-running boundary dispute, while emphasizing the need to preserve peace along their shared border. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 25th round of Special Representatives talks in Beijing on Tuesday, with both sides describing discussions as candid and comprehensive.

India highlighted the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas for the broader relationship.

The two sides also noted progress on agreements reached by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan in 2024 and Tianjin in 2025. They welcomed the resumption of people-to-people exchanges, including the Kailash Manasarovar pilgrimage and border trade through three designated passes.

ICC chief urges Japan to resist US pressure on court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

International Criminal Court President Tomoko Akane urged Japan on Wednesday to counter intensified United States pressure on countries to withdraw from the court, saying Tokyo's support is crucial to its survival. The Trump administration recently sanctioned Akane and a senior ICC trial lawyer, escalating its campaign against the Hague-based tribunal. Akane urged Japan, the court's largest financial backer, to use its close ties with Washington to discourage further action and support neighboring member states. Japan's government has called the sanctions very unfortunate but has faced criticism for not defending the court more forcefully.

Swiss voters face referendum on stricter neutrality and NATO ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Swiss voters will decide on September 27 whether to adopt constitutional changes that would impose stricter neutrality rules, including limits on military cooperation with NATO and economic sanctions not approved by the United Nations. The proposal, backed by the right-wing Swiss People's Party, argues Switzerland's neutrality has been weakened by sanctions against Russia and closer cooperation with NATO.

The government and most political parties oppose the initiative, warning it could harm national security and relations with neighboring countries. Recent opinion polls indicate voters are more likely to reject the proposal, although supporters have mounted a well-funded campaign.

US panel and New York mayor oppose RSS chief's planned New York event

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has urged Washington to impose targeted sanctions on members of India's Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and revoke chief Mohan Bhagwat's visa ahead of his planned New York appearance Saturday. The bipartisan commission has accused RSS-linked groups of contributing to violence and discrimination against religious minorities in India. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has also said he opposes the Manhattan event, which organizers describe as a celebration of Hindu American heritage and interfaith unity. Mamdani questioned the RSS's vision of India, saying it should remain pluralistic. The RSS rejects allegations of intolerance, while India has previously dismissed USCIRF assessments as biased.



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U.S.-Canada tariff War: Another trade battle—and a warning for India



Dr. Avi Verma

Just when the global economy appeared to be adjusting to a new era of American tariffs, another major trade confrontation has erupted—this time between the United States and Canada, two of the world's closest allies and most deeply integrated trading partners. For the Indian-American community, this development deserves particular attention. India is already navigating a complicated trade relationship with Washington. The question is no longer simply what happens between America and Canada. It is whether a growing network of tariff disputes could reshape global trade—and where India should position itself in that changing landscape.

What triggered the new conflict?

The latest escalation followed the collapse of U.S.-Canada trade negotiations. Washington has imposed 50% tariffs on a range of Canadian goods, while Canada has announced retaliatory tariffs ranging from 15% to 50% on more than 700 U.S. products, covering approximately \$20 billion in imports. Canadian measures are scheduled to take effect September 8. The dispute involves longstanding disagreements over market access, including Canadian treatment of American products in sectors such as dairy and automobiles, as well as steel and aluminum and broader questions about trade barriers. President Donald Trump views tariffs as leverage. His argument is that the United States has tolerated unfair trade arrangements for too long and that tariffs can protect American workers and industries while forcing trading partners to offer greater access to their markets. From Washington's perspective, tariffs are therefore not necessarily the destination—they are a negotiating weapon.

Canada says enough is enough

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has taken a fundamentally different view. Ottawa argues that Canada has already made significant concessions and that Washington's demands and tariff measures threaten Canada's economic sovereignty. Canada has chosen retaliation rather than capitulation, while simultaneously introducing support measures for affected businesses and workers. The dispute has consequently become more than a technical disagreement over tariffs. For many Canadians, it has become a question of national sovereignty and economic independence. Carney has also suggested that the era of ever-deeper dependence on the U.S. market may be changing. That should concern Washington as much as Ottawa.

Who wins—and who loses?

The uncomfortable reality is that a prolonged trade war has very few genuine winners. Some American industries may benefit from protection against Canadian competition. The U.S. government also collects tariff revenue. Canadian producers competing against American imports could similarly gain temporary protection. But the broader economic consequences are more complicated. American manufacturers that depend on Canadian steel, aluminum, energy,



lumber and other inputs could face higher costs. Canadian companies face the loss of access to their largest export market. Consumers on both sides of the border could ultimately pay more. The two countries have approximately \$880 billion in annual trade, with highly integrated supply chains, particularly in automobiles, manufacturing, agriculture and energy. An automobile component can cross the border several times before a vehicle reaches a showroom. A tariff imposed at one stage can therefore increase costs throughout the production chain. The real losers could be workers, businesses and consumers.

And where does India stand?

This is where the story becomes particularly important for our IndoUS Tribune readership. India is already dealing with its own complicated tariff negotiations with the United States. Washington and New Delhi have been working toward a trade framework, while disagreements over tariffs and market access remain important issues. The U.S.-Canada confrontation offers India both a warning and an opportunity. The warning is obvious: today's international trade environment is increasingly unpredictable. Agreements that once appeared stable can quickly become bargaining chips.

The opportunity is equally significant.

Canada is already looking to diversify its trading relationships, and Indian markets are attracting greater Canadian attention. India, meanwhile, has an opportunity to strengthen its position as an alternative manufacturing and supply-chain destination. For New Delhi, the lesson should be clear: trade policy must increasingly be viewed as an extension of economic and strategic policy. India should negotiate firmly with Washington, but simultaneously deepen trade relationships with Europe, Canada, the Gulf, Southeast Asia and other major markets.

Could this create another global economic shock?

One U.S.-Canada tariff confrontation is unlikely by itself to throw the world economy into turmoil. The greater danger is cumulative escalation. The United States is simultaneously managing tariff disputes and negotiations with multiple trading partners. When one country imposes tariffs and another retaliates, supply chains become less predictable, investment decisions are delayed and businesses pass higher costs to consumers. Economists are already warning that the U.S.-Canada escalation could increase inflationary pressure and disrupt North American manufacturing. If similar disputes multiply across the global economy, the consequences could include: higher consumer prices, disrupted supply chains, weaker investment and slower economic growth. The greatest danger is therefore not one tariff. It is the normalization of retaliation.

Trump is betting on leverage. Canada is betting on resistance.

There is a legitimate argument behind Trump's position. The United States has genuine concerns about market access and protecting

domestic industries. No major economy should be expected to accept permanently unequal trade arrangements. Canada's concerns are equally legitimate. A country whose economy is deeply integrated with its largest neighbor cannot easily absorb sudden tariff shocks without consequences for workers and businesses. Both sides therefore have a point. But neither side can escape economic reality. The United States needs Canadian energy, materials, components and markets. Canada needs access to the enormous American consumer market. Their economic interdependence is not a weakness—it can be the foundation for a better agreement.

The larger lesson for India and the world

India should watch this confrontation carefully. For decades, globalization was built around the assumption that trade would increasingly transcend politics. Today, the opposite appears to be happening: geopolitics is increasingly shaping trade. India must therefore diversify its markets, strengthen domestic manufacturing, improve competitiveness and use its enormous consumer market as negotiating strength. At the same time, India should resist being drawn into a world where every disagreement becomes a tariff confrontation.

Trade wars have no real victory parade

The United States wants better trade terms. Canada wants economic sovereignty. India wants fair access to global markets. All three objectives are legitimate. But the answer cannot permanently be:

Tariff ▶ retaliation ▶ counter-retaliation ▶ higher prices ▶ economic uncertainty.

The United States and Canada are neighbors, allies and economic partners. They have too much at stake to allow political rhetoric to permanently damage an economic relationship worth hundreds of billions of dollars. For India, the message is equally important. India should welcome opportunities created by global supply-chain diversification—but not celebrate the economic troubles of others.

A fragmented global economy ultimately hurts everyone. The world needs fair trade—but it also needs predictable trade. And as America, Canada and India negotiate their respective economic futures, perhaps the most important question is not:

“Who wins the tariff war?” It is:

“Can the world's major economies learn to compete without turning every disagreement into an economic war?”

For the United States, Canada, India and the global economy, the negotiating table remains far cheaper than the battlefield of tariffs.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune

AfD candidate seeks breakthrough in eastern German state election

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ulrich Siegmund, the Alternative for Germany's leading candidate in Saxony-Anhalt, is seeking to make history by becoming the first AfD politician to lead a German state government. The 35-year-old has presented a polished, upbeat image as the party polls around 41% ahead of the September 6 election.

Siegmund campaigns on nationalist policies, criticizing asylum rules, green energy initiatives and Germany's support for Ukraine. Other major parties have ruled out cooperation with the AfD, maintaining Germany's political firewall. Critics accuse the party of promoting radical nationalist policies, while Siegmund says his approach reflects mainstream voter concerns.

Inquest opens into sudden death of former Cambridge professor Jason Arday

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An inquest opened Wednesday into the death of Jason Arday, the former Cambridge University sociology professor who resigned amid plagiarism allegations. Arday, 41, was found dead at a south London address on Aug. 13, days after leaving his post following intense scrutiny of his academic credentials and other claims about his achievements. Senior coroner Julian Morris said reports gave him reason to suspect an unnatural death, prompting a formal investigation. Police have said the death was unexpected but not suspicious. Arday denied plagiarism but acknowledged mistakes in his doctoral work. He became Cambridge's youngest Black professor in 2023. His death has sparked debate over academic standards, racism and media scrutiny. A memorial fundraiser has raised nearly \$305,000 for his family and funeral expenses.

Brazil fines TikTok owner nearly \$30 million over handling of minors' data



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's data protection regulator on Tuesday fined TikTok parent ByteDance more than 153 million reais, nearly \$30 million, over alleged violations involving children's and teenagers' personal data. The regulator said TikTok collected and processed young users' information through registered accounts and guest browsing without adequate legal grounds or safeguards. ByteDance was ordered to delete data gathered unlawfully and submit a plan to strengthen protections for minors. The company has 10 days to appeal. The action comes amid broader efforts by Brazilian authorities to tighten oversight of social media platforms and strengthen online protections for children.

Mélenchon's French debt cancellation proposal triggers political and economic backlash

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French far-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon's proposal to cancel government debt held by the Bank of France has triggered sharp opposition from political and economic leaders. Mélenchon argues that writing off debt held by the central bank, estimated at about 18 percent of France's public debt, would reduce the country's debt burden and create room for additional public spending. Critics say the move could violate European Union rules against central bank financing of governments and undermine investor confidence. Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu called the proposal "fraud" and warned it could drive up borrowing costs as France prepares to raise about \$361 billion this year. Former



International Monetary Fund economist Olivier Blanchard also criticized the idea as offering false fiscal relief.

Kremlin confirms CIA chief held talks with Russian intelligence officials in Moscow

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

CIA Director John Ratcliffe met with Russian intelligence officials during a visit to Moscow on Tuesday, but did not meet President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin said Wednesday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin was briefed on the outcome of the discussions but declined to disclose what was discussed. The visit comes amid strained United States-Russia relations and continuing efforts to end the war in Ukraine. President Donald Trump described Ratcliffe's trip as "semi-routine" and suggested it could produce useful developments, saying Washington was working to end the conflict. Peskov said intelligence contacts between the two



countries remain valuable even during periods of severe tension, although he cautioned that it was too early to assess whether the visit could improve broader bilateral relations.

UNRWA begins Jerusalem compound evacuation after Israel orders agency to leave

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees began evacuating its compound in Kafr Aqab, Jerusalem, on Tuesday following an Israeli law targeting its operations, according to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would prevent the United Nations Relief and Works Agency from operating in the country, alleging involvement by some of its employees in

terrorism and the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack. UNRWA has rejected allegations of institutional involvement in Hamas activity while investigating individual staff members accused of misconduct. The move comes amid continuing tensions over Gaza. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz have also warned Hamas of expanded Israeli strikes if drones, balloons and kites launched from Gaza continue. Israel and the Board of Peace are separately preparing plans for Gaza's disarmament and demilitarization.

Pakistan SC returns contempt plea over Imran Khan hospitalization order

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's Supreme Court registrar's office has returned a contempt petition filed by Uzma Khan, sister of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, alleging violation of the court's August 18 order concerning his medical treatment and family meetings. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Gohar Ali Khan said the registrar's office raised objections to the petition and returned the file. The party will address the objections and refile the plea, The Express Tribune reported. The PTI had filed the petition on August 22, alleging authorities failed to comply with



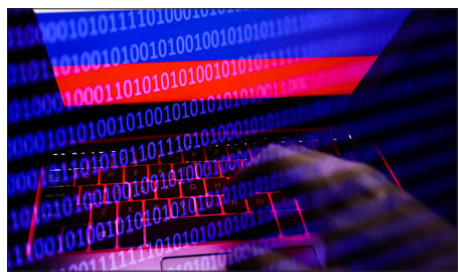
the order directing Imran Khan's transfer to Shifa International Hospital and weekly meetings with his family. The government has separately sought a review of the order, calling it discriminatory.

United States suspends consular operations in Mexicali after warning of potential security threat

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States temporarily suspended consular activities in the Mexican border city of Mexicali and warned Americans to exercise caution following information about a potential security threat. The alert, issued Monday night, did not provide details about the nature or target of the threat. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that authorities had received information concerning the possible involvement of a criminal group. Mexico's security cabinet said no evidence of a specific or imminent danger to the public had been identified, but authorities increased patrols as a precaution. Mexican forces later carried out an operation targeting the criminal group Los Rusos, using information provided by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Pro-Russian hackers claim major cyberattack targeting Norway's government services



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A pro-Russian hacking group claimed responsibility Wednesday for a major cyberattack targeting Norwegian government digital services since Monday. Norway's Digitalization Agency described the denial-of-service campaign as the largest attack its systems have faced, although officials said services remained operational for most of the period. The group Server Killers said it launched the attack after Norway renewed security cooperation with Ukraine. The claim followed Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre's announcement Sunday that Norway would provide about \$9.2 billion to Ukraine from next year's budget and deepen cooperation on drones and modern warfare. Norwegian officials had not confirmed the group's responsibility.

Landfill landslide kills 30 in Guinea's capital after heavy rains

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A landslide at Conakry's largest landfill killed 30 people early Sunday after heavy rains triggered the collapse of a massive pile of refuse, Guinea's government said. The disaster at the Dar Es Salam landfill buried shacks near the open-air dump, destroying several homes and seriously injuring six people. Rescue teams were searching through the debris for survivors. The landfill had been scheduled to close Sunday, while residents living nearby had received eviction notices as authorities prepared to relocate them. However, many people remained in the area when the landslide occurred. Territorial Administration Minister Dienabou Touré said authorities would ensure that remaining families were moved to safer locations. The disaster highlights the risks facing communities living near poorly managed waste sites in a country where widespread poverty leaves many residents vulnerable to unsafe living conditions.

India sends emergency relief to flood-hit Nepal as rescue operations continue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Wednesday dispatched 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies and essential medicines to Nepal following devastating flash floods in the Bhote Koshi River region. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the assistance included emergency supplies such as temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines. The aid followed a conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra Shah, during which Modi expressed condolences for the loss of lives and offered India's assistance. Search and rescue operations were continuing in Nepal, where the floods left scores dead and hundreds missing. India said its teams were coordinating with Nepalese authorities as the neighboring country faced a major humanitarian emergency.

India and Japan outline deeper startup and technology partnerships

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan agreed Wednesday to deepen cooperation in startups, deep technology, innovation and small businesses at a startup roundtable in Tokyo. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted India's rise as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with nearly 250,000 startups established over the past decade. He proposed a framework centered on a Japan-India deep technology capital corridor, stronger links between research institutions, manufacturing partnerships and joint startup pitching platforms. Goyal also invited Japanese investors to participate in India's proposed \$1 billion second Fund of Funds for deep technology companies. The India-Japan Pitching Series has connected 65 Indian startups with about 100 Japanese corporations, leading to more than 30 business partnerships. Around 40 Japanese companies participated in the discussions.

India and Thailand expand air force cooperation through reciprocal visits

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Thailand strengthened defense ties through reciprocal visits by their air force teams, with a Royal Thai Air Force delegation visiting India from August 16 to 23 and an Indian Air Force team traveling to Thailand.

The Indian Air Force said the exchanges enhanced professional camaraderie, mutual understanding and cooperation between the two forces. The engagement comes alongside the ongoing India-Thailand joint military exercise 'MAITREE-XV' in Thailand, running through August 31. The exercise brings together 85 soldiers from each country and focuses on joint training for counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations in jungle and semi-urban environments. The two sides are also sharing operational experience, training methods and military capabilities.

India and United States advance plans for deeper cooperation across the Indian Ocean

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States are moving to deepen strategic and economic cooperation across the Indian Ocean, with senior officials discussing practical areas of collaboration during a call on Tuesday. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and United States Under Secretary of State Allison M. Hooker reviewed the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture, a bilateral framework launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump in February 2025. The Ministry of External Affairs said the officials explored opportunities

to improve cooperation and complement each other's efforts in the region, with a focus on maritime security, strategic infrastructure and connectivity. The discussions also emphasized aligning joint efforts with the priorities of partner countries across the Indian Ocean.

The initiative was established as a whole-of-government forum to promote coordinated investment in economic connectivity and commerce. The latest talks underscore the importance both countries attach to the Indian Ocean and come as New Delhi and Washington seek to expand their broader strategic partnership.

Sitharaman calls India and Canada natural partners as economic ties reset

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday described India and Canada as "natural partners," saying their relationship has undergone a significant transformation and is moving toward deeper economic cooperation. Speaking to Indian diaspora business leaders in Toronto, Sitharaman highlighted shared democratic values, strong people-to-people ties and expanding trade and investment. She pointed to the recent reset in bilateral relations, including negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and a Canadian uranium agreement with Cameco. She said the two countries have set an ambition to more than double bilateral trade to



70 billion Canadian dollars by 2030. Sitharaman also highlighted opportunities for Canadian investors in India's capital markets, financial technology sector and GIFT City, while calling for greater cooperation on digital financial infrastructure and payments.

India and Russia reinforce strategic ties as Jaishankar meets Putin in Moscow

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Monday and delivered a personal message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, underscoring continued high-level engagement between India and Russia. Jaishankar briefed Putin on the 27th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission, which reviewed cooperation in trade, economic relations, nuclear energy,

fertilizers, technology and other sectors. Putin highlighted the long-standing strength of bilateral ties and said trade between the two countries has grown this year. He also conveyed his greetings to Modi and expressed hope of meeting him soon at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. Jaishankar said Modi was looking forward to the meeting and also hoped to welcome Putin at the BRICS summit in India. The discussions reflected the breadth of India-Russia cooperation across strategic and economic areas.

India and Morocco seek broader trade, investment ties through new economic push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Morocco have agreed to expand market access, diversify their trade basket and encourage greater investment following the seventh session of their Joint Commission Meeting, held Monday and Tuesday in Morocco. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada co-chaired the meeting with Morocco's Minister of State for Foreign Trade Omar Hejira. The discussions reviewed existing economic cooperation and explored opportunities in fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, mining, agriculture, digital transformation, logistics and healthcare. Both sides also discussed industrial cooperation, customs, food safety, tourism, education and skills. Prasada said the



meeting produced actionable outcomes aimed at strengthening bilateral economic ties. India and Morocco have longstanding relations, with bilateral merchandise trade reaching about \$4 billion in 2025.

India and Costa Rica explore cooperation on green growth and sustainability

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Costa Rica discussed expanding bilateral cooperation in environmental sustainability and green growth during meetings in San Jose on Wednesday. India's Charge d'Affaires Aakash Sharma met Gabriela Mora Arce of Costa Rica's Ministry of Environment and Energy to explore areas for closer collaboration. Sharma also met officials at Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry to review bilateral cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest. Discussions included India's scholarship and capacity-building programs, with both sides considering ways to increase awareness among Costa Rican professionals. The engagement reflects broader efforts to strengthen India-Costa Rica ties across environmental, economic, scientific and educational areas. Bilateral relations have gained momentum in recent years, expanding beyond traditional diplomatic engagement into trade, development cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

India reaffirms commitment to closer ties with Uruguay at national day celebrations

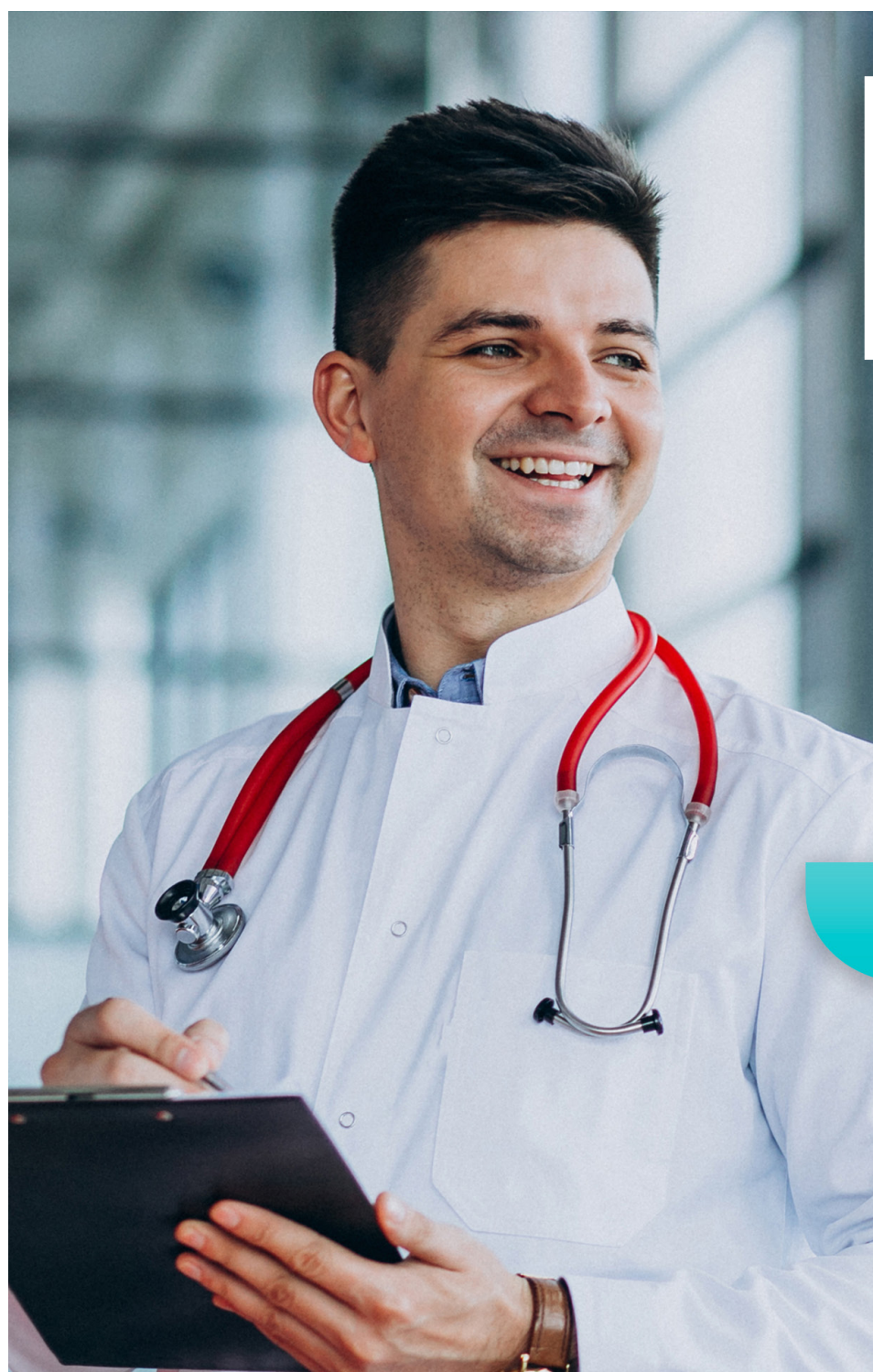
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening relations with Uruguay when External Affairs Ministry Secretary (West) Sibi George attended Uruguay's National Day celebrations on Tuesday. George represented India at the event and conveyed greetings to Uruguay's government and people, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Uruguay's Ambassador to India, Alberto Antonio Guani Amarilla, also attended the celebrations. The two countries maintain cordial relations and have sought to expand cooperation across economic, diplomatic and multilateral areas. The Uruguayan ambassador has previously praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', or the world as one family, and India's efforts to strengthen ties with South America. India and Uruguay have also worked to deepen engagement through high-level visits and cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

India and Seychelles deepen agricultural research and capacity-building cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Seychelles are moving to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, with Seychelles' Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy Wallace Cosgrow meeting Indian Council of Agricultural Research Director General M. L. Jat in New Delhi. The discussions focused on implementing a memorandum of understanding signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles in June. The agreement covers capacity building and research in agriculture, meat, poultry and pork production. India also recently provided Seychelles with repaired electronic units and calibrated aircraft tools for its Dornier fleet, along with safety and maritime equipment.

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Friday, 28 August 2026

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Judge rejects Ghislaine Maxwell's latest bid to overturn Epstein conviction

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday rejected Ghislaine Maxwell's attempt to overturn her conviction and 20-year prison sentence for helping Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse underage girls. U.S. District Judge Paul Engelmayer said Maxwell's claims were largely based on arguments she had previously lost or failed to raise. He also ruled that newly released material from the Epstein files did not undermine her conviction and, where relevant, supported it. Maxwell had represented herself in seeking habeas corpus relief, alleging prosecutorial misconduct and evidentiary problems. Jurors convicted her in 2021 on five charges involving the recruitment and grooming of underage girls between 1994 and 2004. She remains imprisoned in Texas and is eligible for release in 2037.

Texas congressman presses university over continued employment of H-1B worker



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Rep. Chip Roy is demanding answers from Texas State University over its continued employment of an H-1B visa holder as a public relations specialist. In a letter sent Monday, Roy questioned whether the university made a good-faith effort to recruit qualified U.S. citizens before renewing the worker's contract. The university said the filing involved an existing employee and graduate rather than a new petition. Roy also asked how the university is complying with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's directive to freeze new H-1B petitions at state agencies and universities. He requested information on H-1B employees, salaries, qualifications and recruitment practices. The inquiry comes amid broader efforts in Texas to limit H-1B employment at public institutions.

Justice Department sues Ohio court over restrictions on immigration arrests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration's Justice Department sued an Ohio municipal court on Tuesday over a rule restricting federal immigration arrests at or near the courthouse. The lawsuit targets Franklin County Municipal Court in Columbus, its presiding and administrative judge, and its security director. The Justice Department argues that Rule 2.10 unlawfully interferes with federal immigration enforcement and attempts to regulate when and where federal officers can make arrests. The rule also allows penalties for violations, according to federal officials. The department said courthouse arrests can be conducted safely because visitors undergo security screening and are less likely to flee. The lawsuit is part of a broader administration effort to challenge state and local policies it says obstruct federal immigration enforcement.

Judge removes hurdle for Trump mail voting order as states file new challenge ahead of midterms

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Boston on Wednesday lifted a major obstacle to President Donald Trump's executive order restricting mail voting, while Democratic-led states filed a new legal challenge ahead of the November midterm elections. Judge Indira Talwani lifted an order blocking the U.S. Postal Service from implementing Trump's directive after the Supreme Court ruled earlier this week that a similar injunction had been issued prematurely.

Talwani nevertheless warned that the order could create "chaos" and described it as "likely unconstitutional." The administration can now move forward with Postal Service rules requiring states to use standardized envelopes for mail ballots and provide lists of eligible voters.



Meanwhile, 25 Democratic attorneys general challenged the new rules, arguing they could disrupt election preparations. Election officials have warned the changes may be difficult to implement before the first wave of mail ballots is sent next week.

Pentagon review weighs possible U.S. troop reductions in Europe ahead of November options deadline

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pentagon is preparing at least four options for adjusting U.S. military deployments in Europe, with recommendations expected to reach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth by November 6, according to a document reviewed by Reuters. The six-month review, launched in June, will assess troop numbers, locations, costs and the pace of potential changes involving roughly 80,000 U.S. personnel stationed across Europe.

The review comes amid growing

concern among NATO allies that the Trump administration could significantly reduce the U.S. military presence and demand greater European responsibility for regional security. The Pentagon will also assess allies' defense spending commitments, contributions to NATO's crisis forces and their willingness to provide U.S. access, basing and overflight rights. A senior Pentagon official said the review is intended to present a range of options rather than a predetermined outcome. The process is expected to influence future U.S. strategy toward NATO.

HHS ethics office warns officials against seeking awards from government-funded groups

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The top lawyer at the Department of Health and Human Services has advised that officials who solicit awards or honors from outside organizations receiving government support should face ethics reviews. Acting General Counsel Robert Fox Foster said such requests could violate federal ethics rules when the organizations are funded, regulated

or otherwise overseen by the official's agency. The advisory cited former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, who sought nominations from scientists whose work received agency funding. One scientist who received more than \$1 million in funding nominated Fauci for the Dan David Prize, which he won along with a \$900,000 award. Foster said the agency would have considered reviewing Fauci's conduct had the facts been known at the time.

30 U.S. senators press Rubio to ease visa delays threatening universities

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thirty U.S. senators are pressing Secretary of State Marco Rubio to resolve visa processing delays that could leave American universities without international students at the start of the academic year. Led by Sen. Angus King of Maine, the lawmakers said students and scholars are struggling to secure appointments for F, M and J visas at some U.S. embassies and consulates. In a letter to Rubio, they urged the State Department to prioritize student applications, expand interview waivers for vetted returning students, increase staffing and provide universities and applicants with clearer information about processing times. The senators warned that prolonged delays could disrupt campuses and weaken the United States' ability to attract international talent.



They cited estimates that international students contributed nearly \$43 billion to local communities and supported more than 355,000 U.S. jobs during the 2024-2025 academic year. They asked Rubio to provide details on backlogs and processing resources within 30 days.

DHS asks Supreme Court to revive Trump's border asylum limits

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Monday asked the Supreme Court to restore a border policy that suspended entry for people crossing the southern border illegally and sharply restricted access to asylum. The Department of Homeland Security is challenging a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that found parts of President Donald Trump's Proclamation 10888 unlawful. The administration argues that federal immigration law gives the president broad authority to suspend entry and that lower courts improperly limited that power. Solicitor General D. John Sauer said the ruling threatens to undermine the proclamation, which the administration credits with a sharp decline in border encounters. The Supreme Court has asked the lead respondent, the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, to respond by Sept. 23.

Louisiana National Guard ends eight-month security mission in New Orleans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Louisiana National Guard is ending an eight-month deployment in New Orleans, with the remaining 120 troops scheduled to leave by Monday. The mission began in December with 350 troops deployed to boost security in the French Quarter following the deadly Bourbon Street attack during the previous New Year's celebrations. The deployment, requested by Republican Gov. Jeff Landry and authorized by President Donald Trump, was extended beyond Mardi Gras. Guard officials said troops conducted more than 4,000 patrols and assisted with 171 arrests. Mayor Helena Moreno, who initially opposed the deployment, thanked the troops for their service.

Federal judge blocks Ohio proof-of-citizenship rule for voter registration

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday temporarily blocked Ohio from enforcing a new requirement that voters provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering at a motor vehicle bureau. U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. ruled the provision likely conflicts with the federal National Voter Registration Act, which seeks to minimize barriers to voter registration. The injunction takes effect ahead of the October 5 registration deadline for the midterm elections. Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose said he would immediately appeal. Ohio is among several states adopting new citizenship-document requirements this year, amid a broader national push to tighten voter registration rules.

Data center boom sparks bipartisan backlash across the United States

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence data centers is fueling an unusual bipartisan backlash across the United States, with farmers, environmentalists and local officials raising concerns about water supplies, farmland, electricity costs and pollution. In Nebraska, officials in Cass County approved a 12-month moratorium on new data center development. In drought-stricken New Mexico, opposition is growing to Oracle’s proposed \$165 billion Project Jupiter, while a court has temporarily halted authorization for a new water well. Supporters, including President Donald Trump and labor leaders, argue the projects will create jobs and strengthen U.S. competitiveness with China.

U.S. Army selects five bases for nuclear microreactor program



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Army on Wednesday selected five military installations to host nuclear microreactors under its Janus Program, part of a broader push to strengthen energy security. Five companies could receive up to \$2.2 billion over five years to own, build and operate the reactors. The selected sites are Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Benning in Georgia and Fort Drum in New York. The Army expects more than 20 microreactors could eventually operate across military installations, providing reliable power if commercial grids fail.

FDA approves new targeted drug for advanced pancreatic cancer



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved Rasonque, a new targeted treatment for adults with metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma, offering a major new option for patients with advanced disease. Made by Revolution Medicines, the once-daily pill targets RAS proteins that drive tumor growth. In a 500-patient trial, those receiving Rasonque had median survival of 13.2 months, compared with 6.7 months for standard chemotherapy. The FDA approved the drug about 6.5 months ahead of its target review deadline. Common side effects include rash, diarrhea, mouth inflammation, nausea and fatigue.

Judge rejects Minnesota request to force Texas to extradite ICE officer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Texas on Wednesday rejected Minnesota’s request to force the state to extradite an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer accused of shooting a man and falsely reporting the incident. U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. ruled that Minnesota’s case was not yet ripe because Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had not formally denied the extradition request. Christian Castro is charged in Minnesota with assault and falsely reporting a crime stemming from a January shooting in Minneapolis. Prosecutors allege he shot Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis in the leg through a home’s front door and then falsely



claimed that Sosa-Celis and another man had attacked him. Castro has been held in Texas since his arrest in May and is required to be released Thursday after 90 days unless extradited.

Firefighters gain ground against Nevada wildfire that destroyed more than 30 homes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Firefighters made progress Monday against the Hawk Fire near Reno, Nevada, after the fast-moving blaze destroyed at least 32 homes and damaged six others. The fire reached 27 percent containment and had remained at about 23 square miles, while evacuation orders and warnings were reduced to roughly 63,000 people from more than 90,000 over the weekend. Officials said winds had eased, but hot temperatures, low humidity and dry vegetation continued to threaten neighborhoods. Schools across Washoe County were closed Monday to support evacuation efforts and keep roads clear for emergency crews. Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo declared a state of emergency and mobilized the National Guard. The fire



began Saturday and has been classified as human-caused, although officials have not determined whether it was accidental or intentionally started.

Secret Service aware of Iranian state media video threatening Barron Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Secret Service said Tuesday it was aware of an Iranian state television video that appeared to threaten President Donald Trump’s youngest son, Barron Trump, and claimed a \$10 million bounty had been placed on him. The three-minute broadcast, reportedly produced by media outlets affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, showed locations associated with the 20-year-old and discussed his movements and security arrangements. The Secret Service said it investigates anything that could be perceived as a threat to people under its protection but declined to discuss protective intelligence.



The claims made in the video could not be independently verified. The broadcast was the second Iranian media threat involving the Trump family in recent months, following a similar video targeting first lady Melania Trump in July.

Lawyer says Trump has no legal grounds to remove Fed Governor Lisa Cook

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook’s lawyer said Wednesday that President Donald Trump has no legal grounds to remove her over allegations of mortgage fraud. In a letter to the White House, attorney Abbe David Lowell rejected claims that Cook intentionally made false statements on mortgage documents, saying any discrepancies were inadvertent and partly resulted from lender paperwork. Trump has

sought Cook’s removal for more than a year, after allegations that she improperly listed multiple properties as primary residences. The Supreme Court blocked her immediate removal in June but left open whether proven misconduct could provide legal cause for dismissal. Lowell said the allegations involved Cook’s private conduct before she joined the Federal Reserve and did not amount to fraud or criminal wrongdoing. He also argued that similar mortgage paperwork issues involving Trump administration officials weakened the case against Cook.

Federal appeals court overturns damages against James O’Keefe in undercover reporting case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A divided federal appeals court on Thursday ruled in favor of James O’Keefe and a Project Veritas reporter, overturning \$130,000 in damages tied to a 2016 undercover operation targeting Democratic strategists. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that protected news coverage, rather than unlawful conduct, was the main cause of lost business contracts cited by plaintiff Robert Creamer. The court also rejected wiretapping claims against reporter Allison Maass, saying evidence did not establish that she had breached a fiduciary duty to Democracy Partners. The ruling set aside all damages, with one judge partially dissenting.

ICE arrests reach nearly 50,000 in July, highest monthly total of Trump’s second term



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 49,571 people in July, the highest monthly total since President Donald Trump returned to office, according to government data obtained by the Deportation Data Project and analyzed by The Associated Press. The figure was 15 percent higher than June and 70 percent above February. The increase reflects a shift from highly visible immigration operations in major cities toward traffic stops and greater cooperation with state and local police. About 6,500 July arrests involved local and state agencies operating under federal immigration agreements. Texas and Florida accounted for nearly 20,000 arrests combined. More than half of those arrested had no criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, while about half were arrested in the community rather than transferred from jails or prisons.

Arbitrator orders Washington Post to reinstate opinion writer fired over Charlie Kirk posts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An independent arbitrator has ordered The Washington Post to reinstate opinion writer Karen Attiah after ruling that the newspaper lacked sufficient cause to fire her over social media posts following the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Attiah was dismissed last year after posting comments criticizing public mourning for Kirk and discussing violence by white men. The arbitrator found that the newspaper violated the collective bargaining agreement covering union-protected employees and ordered her reinstated with full back pay and lost benefits. Attiah, who had worked at the Post for more than a decade and focused on race, gender and human rights, welcomed the ruling. The newspaper said it respects the arbitration process but did not indicate whether it would challenge the decision.

Indian-origin Queens resident shot dead in Brooklyn after street altercation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gurdeep Singh, a 27-year-old Indian national and Queens resident, was fatally shot in Brooklyn on Friday night following an apparent street altercation, according to police and local reports. Officers responding to a shooting near Crescent Street and Stanley Avenue in East New York shortly after 10 p.m. found Singh with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Surveillance footage obtained by CBS New York appeared to show two people fighting before gunshots were fired. The other person then fled in a car. No arrest has been made. Singh's death has prompted concern among members of the Punjabi community, with the North American Punjabi Association urging investigators to establish the motive.

Chinese twins bring Bharatanatyam tradition to Beijing in cultural bridge



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese twin sisters Jin Yanshu and Jin Yanai showcased their dedication to Indian classical dance with a Bharatanatyam Arangetram in Beijing on Friday, drawing a strong audience response. The traditional graduation recital marked a major milestone in their training and was presided over by Indian Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami and his wife, Sangeetha. The 16-year-old sisters began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of three under Chinese dancer and teacher Jin Shan Shan, who trained at Chennai's Kalakshetra. Shan's Beijing school has taught the Indian dance form to hundreds of Chinese students since 2006. The twins have also performed at events connected with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting Bharatanatyam's growing role in India-China cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Indian diaspora turns Times Square into a vibrant showcase of India's saree heritage

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

New York's iconic Times Square became a vibrant celebration of Indian heritage Sunday as women and girls from the diaspora gathered to showcase the country's rich saree traditions. The third edition of 'Saree Goes Global', organized by New York-based philanthropic organization Uma Global, featured sarees representing diverse regional traditions, including Assamese weaves, Lucknow Chikankari, Banarasi silk and Kanjeevaram. The event brought together generations of Indian Americans, turning a global landmark into a colorful expression of cultural pride. Participants waved Indian and American flags, shared stories about their sarees and joined a lively ramp walk and the signature Saree Walkathon.

Music, dance and a flash performance led by choreographer Jayshree Srikanth and Dance X Studio dancers added to the festivities, with members of the public also joining in. The celebration also recognized women for their professional achievements, including New York interior designer Shaila Rizvi for her creative work and Mysha Rizvi for her contribution to



the hospitality industry.

Messages from New York Governor Kathy Hochul and officials from India's Consulate General in New York highlighted the saree's role in preserving Indian craftsmanship and cultural traditions. For the diaspora, the event offered more than a fashion showcase. It became a celebration of heritage, confidence and belonging, showing how a centuries-old Indian garment continues to connect younger generations with their roots while finding a place on the global stage.

Fresh security warning puts Sikh activist Pannun under renewed scrutiny in North America

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a prominent Sikh separatist activist and dual United States and Canadian citizen, says law enforcement agencies in both countries have warned him of a fresh, credible threat to his life. Pannun, general counsel for Sikhs For Justice, said Federal Bureau of Investigation agents visited him last week and advised him not to travel until the threat is resolved. He said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police also contacted him by telephone on Tuesday with a similar warning. Neither agency has publicly disclosed details about the alleged threat or identified a suspect.

The warning comes amid heightened security concerns surrounding Sikh separatist activists in the North American diaspora and as an earlier alleged plot against Pannun moves toward sentencing.



Indian national Nikhil Gupta, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in February, is scheduled to be sentenced in a Manhattan federal court on November 20 over an alleged 2023 murder-for-hire conspiracy targeting Pannun. US prosecutors have alleged that Gupta was directed by an Indian government employee, a claim New Delhi has rejected.

Surrey sees sharp drop in extortion threats after months of fear for South Asian businesses

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Surrey's South Asian business community is getting some relief after months of extortion threats and violence, with police reporting a significant decline in incidents in July. Surrey Police Service recorded eight extortion threats during the month, the lowest monthly total in seven months and a steep drop from 44 threats recorded in January. The city also reported one extortion-related shooting in July, compared with 10 in January.

The decline follows intensified police efforts to disrupt criminal networks that have targeted businesses across Surrey, including members of the South Asian community. Interim Chief Constable Todd Matsumoto said the latest figures

were encouraging but stressed that police would continue investigative, enforcement and prevention efforts. Extortion has emerged as a major concern for South Asian communities across Canada, with businesses receiving demands through phone calls, messages and social media, sometimes accompanied by threats against owners, employees, homes or property. Authorities have warned that loosely organized criminal networks, including individuals falsely claiming connections to overseas gangs, may be exploiting the names and reputations of groups such as the Bishnoi gang.

For Surrey's business owners, the July figures offer a measure of relief, but police continue to urge anyone receiving an extortion threat to report it and avoid giving in to demands.

Edmonton gurdwara attack leaves two Sikh worshippers injured



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Sikh worshippers were injured after a 27-year-old man allegedly attacked them with a screwdriver inside the Nanaksar Sikh Temple in Edmonton early Friday, prompting concerns about safety at places of worship. Police said officers responded to reports of a stabbing around 5 a.m. and arrested the suspect at the scene after witnesses intervened and restrained him. The victims, aged 75 and 51, suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to a hospital. The suspect had reportedly been released from a federal institution the previous day. Edmonton Police Service investigators, including the Hate Crimes Unit, are examining whether the attack was motivated by hate. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney condemned the incident as "appalling," while Sikh organizations called for vigilance and further investigation.

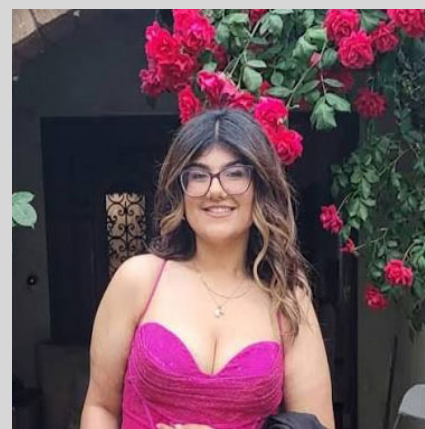
France steps up India outreach as it targets 30,000 Indian students by 2030



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France is expanding its education outreach in India as it works toward a target of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030. The French Embassy and Campus France will bring more than 50 French universities and institutions to Mumbai, Pune, New Delhi and Bengaluru during the October Choose France Tour. The initiative comes amid growing Indian interest in French higher education and closer cooperation between the two countries in education, innovation and artificial intelligence. Campus France said the number of Indian students in French higher education reached 9,100 in the 2024-25 academic year, making India the 11th-largest source of international students. The tour will offer students and families guidance on courses, scholarships, visas, accommodation and opportunities in France.

Indian-origin UC Santa Cruz student dies after car plunges into Pacific Ocean



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 19-year-old Indian-origin student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, died after the car she was traveling in plunged off West Cliff Drive into the Pacific Ocean on August 13. Ali Renee Singh, who was preparing to begin her third year at the university, became trapped inside the submerged vehicle. The male friend driving the car escaped and suffered minor injuries. Rescue swimmers located Singh inside the vehicle after emergency crews, including Santa Cruz Fire Department and local police units, responded to the scene. Singh's death has left her family and the university community mourning. Her aunt, Monica Singh-Strohmeier, confirmed the tragedy in a social media post. University officials said they were providing support resources to students affected by her death.

Indian-American engineer takes AI startup Avoca to \$1 billion valuation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American engineer Apurva Shrivastava has emerged as a prominent Indian diaspora success story in Silicon Valley after co-founding artificial intelligence startup Avoca, which has reached a \$1 billion valuation. Shrivastava, who grew up in Michigan helping with his family's business and later studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, co-founded Avoca with Tyson Chen. The company builds artificial intelligence agents for home-service businesses, including heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, plumbing, roofing and electrical companies. Avoca has raised more than \$125 million across funding rounds, with its latest Series B led by Meritech and General Catalyst. The company says it now serves more than 800 customers, using artificial intelligence to answer calls, schedule jobs and follow up with potential customers.

New York Hindu priest charged in Ontario over alleged assault during exorcism ritual

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A Hindu priest from New York has been charged with sexual assault in Ontario after police alleged he used an exorcism ritual to gain access to a woman. Durham Regional Police said officers responded Tuesday to a sexual assault report near Harmony Road North and Conlin Road East. Investigators said the woman's family had invited Rajendranauth Doodnauth Maraj, 50, of Richmond Hill, New York, to conduct a religious ceremony. Police allege Maraj told the woman she was possessed by evil spirits and needed a special ritual to be cured. He then allegedly took her to a private location and sexually assaulted her under the guise of performing the ceremony. Maraj was arrested shortly afterward and charged with sexual assault.



He was held for a bail hearing. Police said they are concerned there may be additional victims and urged anyone with information to come forward. The allegations have not been proven in court.

New Zealand opens new skilled residence pathway for trades and technician workers

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

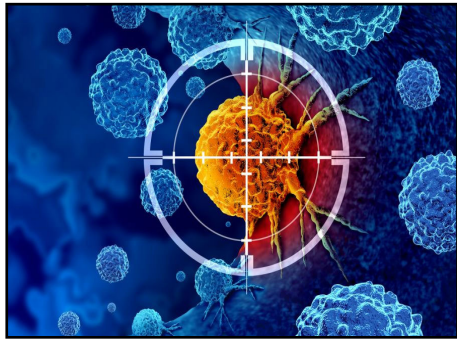
New Zealand has introduced new skilled migration pathways that could benefit Punjabi workers employed in eligible trades and technical occupations, particularly those in construction, manufacturing and related fields. The changes took effect Monday under the Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa. A new Trades and Technician pathway allows eligible workers to seek residence if they hold a relevant Level 4 or higher

qualification, have at least 2.5 years of relevant post-qualification experience and complete an additional 1.5 years of skilled work in New Zealand while meeting the required wage threshold. New Zealand has also simplified wage rules, generally allowing applicants to use the threshold that applied when they began their qualifying skilled work experience. For overseas trade qualifications, the previous 120-credit requirement has been removed. However, applicants must still meet occupation, qualification, experience, wage and other eligibility requirements.

Indian-origin Oxford professor uses mathematics to explore new paths in cancer treatment

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

An Indian-origin mathematician at the University of Oxford is using mathematical models to explore how cancer treatment could become more precise and effective. Professor Philip Maini, who was born in Northern Ireland to Punjabi immigrant parents, has spent years working with clinicians, biologists and fellow mathematicians on models of tumor growth, blood-vessel formation and oxygen delivery. His research is also examining adaptive therapy, an approach based on the idea that aggressively eliminating cancer cells can sometimes allow drug-resistant cells to take over. Mathematical models can help researchers test different treatment strategies before



they are evaluated clinically, Maini said. He hopes the work could eventually help predict chemotherapy and radiation treatment combinations that deliver better outcomes for patients. Alongside his research, Maini remains committed to teaching and leads Oxford's Wolfson Centre for Mathematical Biology.

Indian director declared bankrupt in Singapore after hundreds of workers claim unpaid wages

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin company director in Singapore has been declared bankrupt after hundreds of migrant workers sought payment of allegedly unpaid wages from businesses he helped run. Ramu Palani Velu, a Singapore permanent resident and director of seven companies, was the subject of a bankruptcy order on August 13, according to The Straits Times. A total of 407 workers, including Indian nationals, have filed wage claims involving companies providing air-conditioning,

plumbing and building services. The dispute escalated in June, when more than 100 workers went to Singapore's Ministry of Manpower seeking help after some employees reportedly went without salaries for more than two months.

Velu had been outside Singapore but returned on June 26 and has been assisting authorities with their investigation. Records show he applied for bankruptcy on July 9. The case highlights the vulnerability of migrant workers, including many Indians employed in Singapore's construction and services sectors.

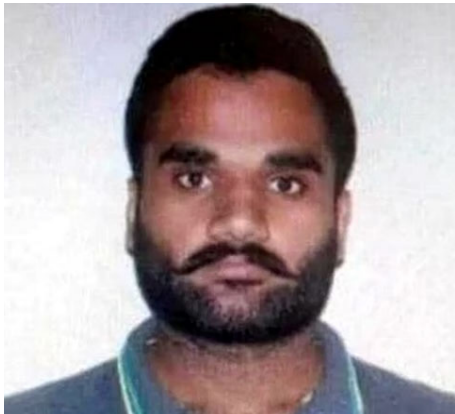
Malaysia deports three Bambiha gang suspects wanted in Punjab cases



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Indian nationals allegedly linked to the Bambiha gang have been deported from Malaysia and taken into custody by Punjab Police, highlighting India's growing efforts to disrupt criminal networks operating overseas. The suspects, Jaspreet Singh alias Jas Behbal, Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh, were apprehended in Malaysia before being brought to India. Punjab Police took them into custody at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and subsequently transported them to Punjab for investigation. Authorities say the three are wanted in cases involving extortion, cross-border arms and drug trafficking, explosives and an alleged plan for a grenade attack in Ludhiana. Jaspreet Singh, from Faridkot, had moved to Malaysia in 2019 and allegedly became associated with the Bambiha network there.

Arsh Dalla and Goldy Brar feud exposes tensions within Canada's underworld



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A bitter feud between Canada-based gangsters Arshdeep Singh Gill, known as Arsh Dalla, and Satinderjeet Singh, known as Goldy Brar, has drawn renewed attention to criminal networks spanning Canada and India. Dalla, a native of Moga in Punjab, was designated an individual terrorist by the Indian government in January 2023. Indian authorities have accused him of involvement in extortion, targeted killings, terror financing and weapons smuggling, and have linked him to the Khalistan Tiger Force. His name has also featured prominently in investigations and allegations surrounding Canada-based criminal networks. Dalla and Brar were previously reported to have worked together, but their relationship later turned hostile. Their feud has included competing claims over the killing of Khalistan Tiger Force leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey in 2023. Allegations made in purported audio recordings and public exchanges between the two have not been independently verified.



Friday, 28 August 2026

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Trump says Xi Jinping will visit the United States within two weeks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Monday that Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit the United States within two weeks, potentially setting the stage for another high-level meeting between the leaders of the world's two largest economies. Trump made the announcement during a back-to-school event at the White House but did not provide a specific date, itinerary or details of the planned talks. He also highlighted construction of a new White House ballroom and military complex, saying the project would rival major government facilities overseas. The expected visit comes as Washington and Beijing continue managing tensions over trade, technology, Taiwan and strategic competition. Trump and Xi have maintained high-level contacts as both governments seek to prevent disputes from escalating.

Cambodia urges ASEAN to invest more in climate-resilient farming

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cambodia has called on ASEAN countries to increase investment in climate-resilient agriculture as extreme weather threatens food production and rural livelihoods across Southeast Asia. Cheam Yeap, first vice-president of Cambodia's National Assembly, said Tuesday that droughts, floods and environmental degradation are increasingly disrupting regional food systems. Speaking at a parliamentary dialogue in Phnom Penh, he urged governments to prioritize climate adaptation, water management, resilient farming practices and early-warning systems. Yeap also pointed to ASEAN's 2018 guidelines on responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry as an important framework for addressing food security and climate risks. He said stronger laws, policies and oversight are needed to ensure investments translate into greater resilience for farmers and communities across the region.

Bangladesh measles outbreak pushes combined death toll to 943

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's worsening measles outbreak has claimed five more suspected victims, taking the combined number of confirmed and suspected deaths this year to 943, health authorities reported Tuesday. The Directorate General of Health Services said the latest fatalities were among suspected cases, bringing suspected deaths to 844, while confirmed deaths remained at 99. Authorities also recorded 986 new suspected infections and 91 confirmed cases in the previous 24 hours. The cumulative figures reached 151,638 suspected cases and 18,578 confirmed cases. The outbreak has raised concern over declining childhood vaccination coverage and gaps in immunization programs. Health advocates have described the surge as a major preventable public health crisis, underscoring the importance of restoring routine vaccination and strengthening disease surveillance.

U.S.-backed Gaza ceasefire plan faces new strain over Israeli strikes and Hamas disarmament

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The U.S.-backed effort to consolidate the Gaza ceasefire faced fresh challenges Wednesday, as Nikolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's high representative for Gaza, criticized Israel's continuing strikes and warned that a return to full-scale war could become a "point of no return." Addressing the United Nations Security Council, Mladenov said President Donald Trump's peace plan remains active and has moved from negotiations toward implementation. He said Hamas has agreed to disarm and transfer governing authority to a civilian administration, a major step toward the proposed postwar transition.

The process, however, remains blocked by major differences. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will not withdraw its forces from Gaza until



Hamas fully surrenders its weapons. Israel's deputy United Nations ambassador reaffirmed support for Trump's plan but insisted that Hamas must disarm. Mladenov also criticized Israel's continued military operations, saying they could delay demilitarization and the transfer to civilian rule. He warned that a collapse of the ceasefire would leave little basis for rebuilding Gaza or restarting the peace process

Global aid reaches flood-hit Nepal as hundreds of foreign tourists remain missing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

International aid began reaching Nepal on Thursday as rescue teams searched for hundreds of people still missing after catastrophic flash floods along the Nepal-China border killed more than 160 people. Nepalese tourism officials said 579 tourists remained unaccounted for, including more than 400 foreigners. At least 130 Indians, 47 Americans, 34 Australians, 33 Britons and 24 Canadians were among those reported missing, while Malaysia, South Korea and Japan also reported missing nationals. India has sent 10 metric tons of emergency supplies, including temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines. The United States is providing \$500,000 and sending a disaster response adviser, while China has coordinated emergency supplies and financial assistance. The International Federation of



Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is releasing \$1.24 million for Nepal's flood response, and the World Health Organization has dispatched medicines and multipurpose tents. The European Union has also pledged further assistance.

Afghanistan's trade shift puts pressure on Pakistan's border economy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghanistan's growing reliance on Iran and Central Asia for trade is sharply reducing business through Pakistan, raising concerns for industries and businesses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Customs figures cited by Dawn show Afghan transit traffic through Pakistan fell from 102,886 containers worth \$6.7 billion in fiscal 2023 to just 11,592 containers valued at \$367

million in fiscal 2026. The decline began before Pakistan tightened border restrictions in October 2025 but accelerated afterward. The World Bank has identified Iran as an increasingly important trade route, accounting for 31.3 percent of Afghanistan's imports in fiscal 2025. The shift threatens Pakistan's transport, warehousing, manufacturing and wholesale sectors, while weaker Afghan demand could further strain businesses already facing high energy and operating costs.

Kashmiri diaspora stages New York protest over reported violence in Pakistan-administered Kashmir

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Members of the Kashmiri diaspora gathered in New York on Monday to protest what they described as violence and a crackdown on civilians in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Demonstrators in Times Square carried placards demanding justice, an end to violence and greater protection for civilians. The protest came amid wider demonstrations by Kashmiri diaspora

groups in several countries over reported deaths, injuries, arrests and communication restrictions in the region. More than 70 British lawmakers have separately urged United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to support efforts to protect civilians, restore communications and ensure access to food, medicine and other essentials. The casualty figures and some allegations cited by protesters have not been independently verified, but the demonstrations reflect growing international concern over the situation.

Brazil election may bring political change but little relief on mounting debt

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's presidential election offers voters a sharp choice between leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and right-wing candidate Flavio Bolsonaro, but investors see limited prospects for a rapid improvement in public finances under either leader. Analysts estimate that stabilizing government debt by 2031 would require fiscal tightening of at least 2.5 percentage points of economic output. Yet about 92 percent of primary government spending is mandatory, limiting room for cuts. Government debt reached 81.9 percent of gross domestic product in the first half of the year. Analysts expect debt to keep rising under both candidates without major spending reforms.

Indian applications to US colleges drop sharply after years of rapid growth

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Applications from students in India to United States colleges through the Common Application fell 15 percent during the 2025 to 2026 admissions cycle, reversing years of strong growth. The platform recorded 14,424 first-year applicants from India, down from about 16,900 the previous cycle. China remained the largest source of international applicants, with 18,435 despite a two percent decline. International applicants overall fell 10 percent, while applications from Asia declined 11 percent. Common App did not identify a reason for India's drop. By contrast, United States-based applicants identifying as Indian increased six percent to 40,949.

King Charles and Queen Camilla to strengthen Caribbean ties on three-nation tour



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

King Charles and Queen Camilla will undertake a week-long Caribbean tour later this year, visiting the Bahamas, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda. The royal couple will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, which will run from Saturday through Wednesday. Charles will visit the Bahamas, where he is head of state, before traveling with Camilla to Guyana for a state visit. The tour comes as Britain and Caribbean nations continue discussions over their historical ties and the future of the Commonwealth. Charles is head of the Commonwealth, an association of more than 50 countries.

Friday, 28 August 2026

Colombia battles dozens of wildfires as heat and dry conditions intensify

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Colombia was battling 12 active wildfires Monday across the departments of Tolima, Caldas and Huila, as high temperatures and strong winds hampered firefighting efforts. The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management said 84 fires had been extinguished during the previous seven days. Tolima accounted for 10 of the active blazes. In Coello, Mayor Santiago Herrera appealed for helicopter support, saying local crews were overwhelmed by multiple hotspots. More than 2,000 hectares have been affected in the municipality, impacting about 7,000 people. Authorities have linked the worsening fire risk to El Niño conditions expected to persist in Colombia into next year.

Thailand election faces legal uncertainty over ballot tracking codes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thailand's Constitutional Court will rule September 28 on whether barcodes and QR codes printed on ballots used in February's general election violated constitutional protections for voting secrecy. The case follows 22 complaints referred by the Ombudsman, who argued the codes could potentially allow individual voters and their choices to be traced. The court heard five witnesses Wednesday and closed its fact-finding process, with written closing statements due by September 11. Judges and officials will also inspect ballot storage facilities and election materials. A ruling against the ballot design could have major implications for the validity of the February election.

Warren presses Nvidia for answers over reported use of its technology in Russian drones



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren has called for congressional scrutiny after reports that Nvidia artificial intelligence technology was used in Russian drones operating in Ukraine. Warren urged Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang to testify about how the company tracks the destination and use of its advanced products. A Senate committee statement said drones reportedly equipped with Nvidia technology killed three civilians in Ukraine in July, but did not identify the systems or explain how they reached Russia. Warren said the allegations highlight potential gaps in export controls and called for stronger safeguards to prevent sensitive American technology from reaching foreign adversaries.

US pauses immigrant visa appointments worldwide as Trump administration expands screening

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The Trump administration has temporarily paused immigrant visa appointments at United States embassies and consulates worldwide, adding uncertainty for people seeking permanent entry to the country.

The State Department said Tuesday that appointments were being adjusted to accommodate a global training program for consular officers. The training is intended to help officers screen applicants who may become dependent on United

States public benefits and ensure visa cases are assessed comprehensively and consistently. The administration has pursued a broad immigration crackdown during President Donald Trump's second term, including tighter visa screening and efforts to revoke visas and green cards.

The latest move comes days after a federal judge struck down a separate policy that suspended immigrant visa processing for applicants from 75 countries, ruling that the secretary of state had exceeded his legal authority. The State Department has not said when appointments will resume normally.

Trump links Saudi nuclear deal to Israel normalization as pact enters Congress review

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has sent a proposed civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia to Congress, but the pact remains tied to Riyadh establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. A United States administration official said Tuesday that Trump's position has not changed: the agreement will move forward only if Saudi Arabia joins the Abraham Accords. The 30-year agreement, finalized in July, would allow United States companies to provide civilian nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia, including Westinghouse AP1000 reactors. Congress now has 90 session days to review the pact. If lawmakers do not block it during that period, the agreement will take effect, although Trump could veto a congressional rejection. Saudi Arabia has said it wants an



irreversible path toward Palestinian statehood before recognizing Israel. Critics have also raised concerns about the agreement's nuclear safeguards and Saudi Arabia's potential ability to enrich uranium.

UN and Red Cross warn AI weapons are nearing a dangerous moral boundary

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross on Tuesday called for urgent international rules governing autonomous weapons that could select and attack human targets without meaningful human involvement. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Red Cross President Mirjana Spoljaric warned that the world is approaching a "moral red line" as weapons technology advances faster than international regulation. Countries will meet in Geneva next week to discuss potential rules, with a major review conference scheduled for November. Negotiations on autonomous weapons have been underway since 2014, but governments have yet to establish specific, legally binding restrictions.



Fully autonomous systems, including some ship-based missile defense weapons, are already deployed, although they are not known to have been used against human targets. The United Nations and Red Cross warned that unpredictable systems could increase civilian casualties, produce fatal errors and make accountability for violations of international humanitarian law more difficult.

40 children missing from UK asylum hotels remain unaccounted for

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Forty children who went missing from hotels housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the United Kingdom remain missing, a parliamentary committee said Thursday. Department for Education official Helen Waite told lawmakers in June that 472 children had disappeared from the hotels, with 432 later located. Two of those still missing are believed to be under 18. The

Joint Committee on Human Rights said it remained "extremely concerned" about the children who have not been found. It urged the Home Office to detail efforts to locate them, investigate why they went missing and prevent similar cases. Officials have previously said some recovered children were found in situations involving trafficking or exploitation. The Home Office said police are responsible for investigating missing-child cases and that it continues to work with local authorities and safeguarding partners.

Bangladesh journalists face crimes against humanity case linked to 2024 protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal ordered three journalists to remain in custody Monday in a crimes against humanity case linked to the July 2024 protests. The accused are former Bhorer Kagoj editor Shyamal Dutta, Ekattor Television editor-in-chief Mozammel Babu and former chief correspondent Farzana Rupa. Prosecutors allege statements made by the journalists at a July 14 press conference contributed to unrest that followed then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks about protesters. All three were already in custody in other cases. Press freedom groups have condemned the proceedings, warning that journalistic work and editorial decisions should not be criminalized as crimes against humanity.

Islamabad hospital fire kills 14 newborns, exposes serious safety concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 14 newborns were killed Wednesday when a fire swept through a nursery at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, one of Islamabad's main public hospitals. Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said the blaze followed a blast in an air-conditioning unit and spread rapidly because of high oxygen levels. Local broadcaster Geo Television reported that 16 infants were in the ward and only one was rescued. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered an investigation and suspended the health secretary. Relatives alleged the ward lacked adequate fire safety measures and had limited exits. The tragedy is among the deadliest recent hospital fires in Pakistan.

Ratko Mladic, convicted of genocide, dies while serving life sentence in The Hague



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bosnian Serb wartime general Ratko Mladic, convicted of genocide and war crimes during the 1992-1995 Bosnian War, died Thursday while serving a life sentence at a United Nations detention facility in The Hague, according to a United Nations official and Serbian media. He was 84. Mladic was convicted in 2017 by the United Nations tribunal for his role in atrocities including the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed. His conviction and life sentence were upheld on appeal in 2021. Mladic was arrested in Serbia in 2011 after 16 years on the run. He had suffered serious health problems in recent years, including multiple strokes.

President Murmu to honor 21 higher education teachers on Teachers' Day

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Awards to Teachers on 21 faculty members from higher education institutions and polytechnics at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday, September 5, the Ministry of Education said Monday. The 2026 awardees include 12 teachers from central higher education institutions, five from state universities and colleges, and four from polytechnics. Among those from state institutions, three are from government colleges and two from private colleges, while the polytechnic awardees are equally divided between government and private institutions. Nominations were invited online through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal between May 26 and July 20. The awards recognize teaching effectiveness, outreach, research, innovation and faculty development.

India to bring BRICS leaders together in New Delhi for September summit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, bringing together leaders of member and partner countries along with outreach invitees. India assumed the BRICS chairship in January and has organized more than 350 meetings and high-level engagements across more than 25 cities during the year. The 2026 chairship is centered on resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Humanity First" approach. Leaders are expected to discuss strengthening cooperation within the grouping and global and regional issues, including trade, climate change, energy and food security, terrorism and international financial reform. The summit will mark 20 years since BRICS was established and India's fourth year leading the grouping.

Amit Shah to review Ahmedabad preparations for major global sporting events



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will review preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's proposed bid for the 2036 Olympic Games during his Gujarat visit on Thursday. The meeting in Ahmedabad will focus on sports infrastructure and related projects as the city prepares to host the Commonwealth Games. The Narendra Modi Stadium is already a major venue, while construction of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is underway. Ahmedabad is central to India's Olympic proposal, although the 2036 Games have not yet been awarded to the city. Shah's schedule also includes the inauguration of a lake in Amreli, Gujarat Vidyapith's 72nd convocation, the RV Patel Pharminnova Awards and a public interaction in the Bopal area of Ahmedabad.

Priyank Kharge challenges Centre over subsidized rice use in ethanol production

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday questioned the economic rationale behind the Centre's policy of supplying rice procured through public funds to ethanol producers at prices below the government's acquisition cost. Kharge argued that taxpayers bear the expenses of procuring paddy from farmers, along with storage and transportation costs, while the Food Corporation of India then supplies the rice to ethanol producers at a reported discount.

He questioned whether diverting foodgrains from food security was justified, particularly when ethanol producers subsequently sell the fuel to the government at higher prices for blending with petrol. Kharge also asked whether ethanol blending has lowered fuel costs for consumers or affected vehicle mileage and maintenance expenses.



He called on the Centre to publicly explain the policy's economic and social implications and identify who ultimately benefits from the arrangement.

Punjab government services hit as employees launch statewide 'Maha Hartal' over unpaid dues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Government services across Punjab were disrupted on Thursday as more than three lakh employees of state departments, boards and corporations went on mass casual leave over unpaid dearness allowance arrears and other long-pending demands. Thousands of employees and pensioners also held protests at district, tehsil and block offices, affecting government schools, hospitals,

revenue offices and other public services. Private businesses, markets and emergency services remained open, while roads were not blocked. Employees currently receive dearness allowance at 42 percent of basic pay and are demanding payment of pending dues, along with other benefits including restoration of the old pension scheme. The Punjab and Haryana High Court had earlier directed the state to release pending dearness allowance and restrained it from large-scale advertising until the dues were cleared.

Naidu calls for \$10 trillion southern economy by 2047, proposes regional bullet train

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called for greater cooperation among southern states, saying the region could build a \$10 trillion economy by 2047. Speaking at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Naidu proposed a bullet train corridor linking Amaravati, Bengaluru and Chennai through Kuppam. He also sought coordinated action on logistics, dry ports, energy, skills and disaster response. Naidu urged the Centre to resolve long-pending issues related to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, including



asset sharing and institutional division. He also pushed for faster progress on infrastructure projects and reiterated his proposal to transfer surplus Godavari floodwaters toward the Cauvery basin.

Mumbai Police seek Interpol route for trial of six Pakistan-based 26/11 accused

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mumbai Police have approached the Union Home Ministry to facilitate serving court proclamation orders through Interpol on six Pakistani nationals wanted in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks case. The move could pave the way for their trial in absentia under provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The six include Lashkar-e-Taiba founders Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, along with Sajid Mir, Abu Alqama, Asim alias Abu Qahafa and Major Abdur Rehman Pasha. Special public



prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam told the special court on Friday that police had submitted an interim report on the proclamation orders issued in July. The six accused are believed to be in Pakistan and remain beyond the reach of Indian authorities.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway adds six special joyrides for festival season

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway will introduce six special joyride services from Thursday, October 1, to give tourists more opportunities to experience the UNESCO World Heritage railway during the Durga Puja season. Four single-trip diesel services will operate between Darjeeling and Ghum, with departures from Darjeeling at 9:20 a.m. and 11:25 a.m., and from Ghum at 10:25 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Two round trips will run between Kurseong and Mahanadi. The steam-hauled 'Red Panda' will depart Kurseong at 9 a.m., while the diesel-hauled 'Mukta Dhara' will leave at 3:15 p.m. Proposed fares range from Rs 800 to Rs 1,530.

Rajasthan opposition leader seeks more time for Aravalli conservation report

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rajasthan Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Jolly has urged the Supreme Court-appointed High-Powered Committee on Aravalli conservation to extend the deadline for submitting its report, currently set for Monday. In a letter to the panel, Jolly questioned the limited field visits and called for consultations with communities across all 64 Aravalli districts in Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, besides the Braj region. He said several Rajasthan districts were allegedly left out of the committee's earlier assessment. Jolly also criticized the public hearing process, saying participation was limited and speakers were given only two minutes. He urged the panel to visit mining-affected villages before finalizing its recommendations.

NDA leaders accuse Rahul Gandhi of targeting Sanatan Dharma over Manusmriti remarks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NDA leaders on Tuesday criticized Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the Manusmriti during the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' program in Pune, accusing him of insulting Sanatan Dharma. Gandhi, while interacting with female students on Saturday, criticized the ancient text's prescription that women should remain under the authority of their fathers, husbands and sons at different stages of life. He called the idea that women should not be independent unacceptable and said a woman should have an identity of her own. BJP leader Rohan Gupta questioned why Gandhi invoked the Manusmriti while discussing women's rights and accused Congress of double standards over its position on Muslim women and the triple talaq law. Shiv Sena spokesperson Shaina NC similarly accused Gandhi of focusing on controversial statements rather than women's education, safety and self-reliance. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also criticized Gandhi, alleging that he selectively invoked women's rights to target Hinduism and challenging him to support the Uniform Civil Code. BJP leaders Ashok Bajpai and Praveen Khandelwal echoed Sarma's criticism.

Telangana turns to South Korea to strengthen Olympic athlete pipeline

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Telangana's Young India Physical Education and Sports University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Korea National Sport University to strengthen athlete training, sports science and high-performance education, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said Wednesday. The agreement was signed Monday in Seoul by KNSU President Moon Won-Jae and YIPESU Vice Chancellor Kishore Gopinathan. The three-year partnership covers academic programs, student and faculty exchanges, joint research and elite athlete development. Reddy said KNSU-trained athletes contributed 16 of South Korea's 32 medals at the Paris Olympics. He said Telangana wants to adopt that culture of excellence as India looks toward the 2036 Olympics. The state plans to develop its sports university and a high-performance sports academy across 82 acres.

Misa Bharti attacks Bihar government over student protests and law and order

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Misa Bharti Wednesday criticized the Bihar government over police action against students protesting in Patna on Tuesday, calling the Samrat Choudhary-led administration a "lathi-charge government." She alleged that students were protesting peacefully and said their demands were legitimate, while accusing the ruling alliance of dismissing opposition-backed protests as politically sponsored. Bharti also questioned the state's law-and-order situation and commented on the removal of the Siwan district magistrate and superintendent of police following an AK-47 firing incident. She alleged that the government was delaying their next postings while seeking suitable assignments. Bharti also criticized ministers over rising sugar prices and questioned former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's silence, while saying she did not want to speculate about his health.

Kerala warns of high waves and coastal flooding from Kallakkadal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala authorities have warned fishermen and coastal residents of rough seas, high waves and possible coastal flooding Thursday as the Kallakkadal phenomenon affects the southern coastline. The National Centre for Ocean Information Services forecast waves of 0.9 to 1.2 meters along parts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha through Thursday night. The Kanyakumari coast could see waves of 1.1 to 1.5 meters. Kallakkadal refers to sudden coastal flooding caused by long-period ocean swells generated by distant weather systems, even without a local storm. Residents in vulnerable areas have been advised to move to safer locations when directed. Fishermen have been urged to keep vessels securely berthed and avoid launching boats during intense waves. The public has also been advised to stay away from beaches.

Musk renews Starlink push for rural India amid wait for commercial launch

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk has renewed his pitch for Starlink to help expand internet access in underserved parts of India, particularly rural areas. Musk said on Friday that the satellite internet service could benefit communities with limited connectivity. The company is awaiting final regulatory clearance before beginning commercial operations in India. The push comes as rural connectivity growth remains slower than in urban areas. Telecom data cited by Hindustan Times showed rural India added about 620,000 subscribers in June, compared with 4.36 million in urban areas. Starlink says satellite connectivity could help reach remote communities, schools and



areas where laying fiber is difficult. India has expanded its fiber network through BharatNet, but thousands of villages still lack 4G coverage.

Assam and Meghalaya step up coordination after Shillong violence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Assam and Meghalaya governments held a high-level meeting on Saturday to address tensions following violence in Shillong and concerns over inter-state movement. The meeting, led by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar and Assam minister Atul Bora, followed a violent protest in Shillong on Wednesday that involved damage to vehicles, including those registered in Assam. Both governments agreed to strengthen coordination along the border and address security and transportation concerns. Joint district-level committees involving administrative



and police officials will monitor issues along the inter-state boundary. The states also agreed to create a joint transport committee to regulate tourist movement and protect tourism interests. The measures followed protests and disruptions along the Assam-Meghalaya border after the Shillong violence.

BJP seeks police action over alleged misinformation targeting Nitin Nabin

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday sought Delhi Police action over social media posts alleging that party president Nitin Nabin ate non-vegetarian food during his Andhra Pradesh visit in the Hindu holy month of Sawan. The BJP said the claim was false and politically motivated, arguing that the food shown in the footage included jackfruit, a vegetarian dish. Delhi BJP General Secretary Vishnu Mittal said the party had identified about 25 social media accounts that allegedly circulated the claim and submitted their details to police. BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused opposition leaders of using social media to spread misinformation about BJP leaders. The party has sought an FIR and a probe into those behind the posts, including their



funding, while police have assured action under the law.

Madhya Pradesh plans Ekatma Yatra ahead of Simhashta 2028

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday announced an 'Ekatma Yatra' ahead of Simhashta 2028 to showcase India's spiritual traditions and philosophy of oneness. Yadav made the announcement while laying the foundation stone for a Panchayatana temple at Ekatma Dham in Omkareshwar. He said

the yatra would culminate during Simhashta and take India's spiritual heritage to a global audience. The temple will feature Lord Shiva as the central deity, with shrines for Lord Vishnu, Lord Surya, Lord Ganesha and Goddess Shakti. Being built in the traditional Nagara style, the complex will include 100 carved pillars, eight smaller spires and 121 kalash. Yadav said Ekatma Dham would develop into a major center for spiritual and cultural awareness.

Rajasthan sees sharp rise in H1N1 cases as minister tests positive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena tested positive for H1N1 influenza and was admitted to Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur late Tuesday, as health authorities monitor a rise in cases. Meena was admitted to the medical intensive care unit after his condition deteriorated, and a special medical team was formed to monitor him. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma spoke with Meena and directed hospital officials to provide appropriate treatment. Rajasthan recorded 129 H1N1 cases during the first half of August, compared with 16 during the same period last year, according to health department data. No deaths from H1N1 have been reported in the state this year. Health authorities have intensified surveillance and asked hospitals to keep isolation beds and other arrangements ready.

Maharashtra panel to probe Amravati hospital fire that killed three newborns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Maharashtra government has formed a seven-member committee to investigate Monday's fire at the District Women's Hospital, also known as Dufferin Hospital, in Amravati that killed three newborns. District Magistrate Ashish Yerekar said Tuesday that the committee will be headed by Public Health Commissioner Sanjay Katkar and include a doctor from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Nagpur, a chief engineer and four other medical experts. The panel will examine the cause, record statements and assess damaged equipment. A preliminary assessment indicated that a spark may have originated in a ventilator in the neonatal intensive care unit. The manufacturer's technical team has been called to assist. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has promised compensation of 500,000 rupees to each bereaved family.

Uttarakhand Cabinet orders statewide road repairs after monsoon



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttarakhand Cabinet on Tuesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for repairing roads across the state immediately after the monsoon season ends. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, reviewed road conditions in urban and rural areas and called for coordinated work by the Public Works Department, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and local bodies. Dhami ordered departments to complete preparations and tendering on time so repairs can begin promptly after the rains. The state will also provide funds to local bodies for road improvements, including older roads that no longer receive regular maintenance. Dhami said he will travel through different parts of Uttarakhand by road starting in October to review repair work.



United Airlines plans 10 new international destinations for 2027

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Airlines will launch service to 10 new international destinations beginning as early as March 2027, in what the carrier calls its largest international expansion. New routes include San Francisco to Okinawa, Japan; Washington Dulles to Toulouse, France; and Newark to Luxembourg City, Marseille, Terceira, Ljubljana, Ibiza, Valencia, Olbia and Catania. United will also add flights from Denver to Paris, Washington to Milan and Los Angeles to Osaka, while planning to resume San Francisco to Tel Aviv service. Several routes will use the Airbus A321XLR. United says the expansion will strengthen its international network, which now reaches more than 160 destinations.

Uber faces nearly \$1 billion European fine over automated driver deactivations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uber has been fined nearly 825 million euros, about \$962 million, by the Netherlands' data protection authority over automated decisions that deactivated drivers' accounts. The regulator said Uber's software analyzed driving behavior and customer reviews between 2018 and 2022 and could temporarily or permanently deactivate accounts without human review. The authority said the practice violated European Union data protection rules governing automated decision-making and that drivers were not adequately informed about the process. The investigation followed complaints from 171 French drivers. Uber disputed the ruling, saying the policies were discontinued years ago and that it now uses human reviews and allows drivers to appeal. The company has appealed the fine.

India sees Panama as gateway for Latin American expansion



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian companies should view Panama not only as an export market but also as a regional base for reaching Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama's ambassador to India Alonso Correa Miguel said Thursday. Speaking at an interaction hosted by the World Trade Center Mumbai, Miguel highlighted the Panama Canal, maritime infrastructure, special economic zones and Colón Free Trade Zone as advantages for Indian businesses. He identified pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automobiles, engineering, consumer products and technology as sectors with potential for regional distribution, warehousing and manufacturing. Indian and Panamanian business leaders said stronger commercial engagement could help expand bilateral merchandise trade, currently estimated at about \$600 million.

U.S. expands Iran sanctions campaign, puts China and global businesses on notice

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Monday launched a major expansion of its economic pressure campaign against Iran, targeting more than 60 companies, individuals and vessels tied to the regime's oil revenue, nuclear and missile procurement, and cyber operations. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the new measures, part of Operation Economic Outcast, also broaden the risk of secondary sanctions for foreign entities involved in Iran's digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping sectors.

Bessent warned countries, including China, that continued support for Tehran could expose businesses to the reach of U.S. sanctions. Treasury said the action targets networks operating across China, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and other jurisdictions that help transport Iranian



oil, evade sanctions and channel revenue to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The department also suspended several licenses covering certain remittances and cultural and academic exchanges. Bessent described the campaign as an "economic D-Day" and said Washington would continue tightening pressure until Iran faces a choice between isolation and reintegration into the global economy.

Oil prices extend losses as Middle East talks raise hopes for Hormuz reopening

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices fell more than \$1 on Thursday, extending a four-day losing streak for Brent, as investors weighed diplomatic efforts that could ease supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude fell \$1.07, or 1.2 percent, to \$86.77 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate dropped \$1.13, or 1.4 percent, to \$81.10. Iran and Oman were working to finalize an agreement

on managing the strategic waterway, while Qatar's prime minister was due in Tehran to pursue talks aimed at ending the nearly six-month-old conflict. The strait previously carried oil and liquefied natural gas equivalent to about one-fifth of global consumption, but flows have fallen to roughly one-quarter of prewar levels. Analysts cautioned that supply risks remain. Iran's nuclear program, uncertainty over the waterway and disruptions to global diesel supplies continue to support a risk premium in oil prices.

SpaceX plans \$100 billion Louisiana spaceport with more than 11,100 jobs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

SpaceX plans to invest \$100 billion in a new Starbase Louisiana spaceport in Vermilion Parish, with the project expected to create more than 11,100 direct and indirect jobs over the next decade. Louisiana Economic Development said the facility will create about 3,000 direct jobs, with average annual pay of \$92,600, alongside roughly 8,100

indirect jobs. Construction is expected to begin in 2027, with the first launch targeted for 2029. SpaceX said the site will support high-frequency Starship launches and eventually feature more than a dozen launch towers. Chief Executive Elon Musk said the facility could enable more than 30 Starship flights a day. The project is planned across about 125,000 acres in Vermilion Parish and is expected to become SpaceX's largest launch complex.

Sitharaman urges Canadian investors to deepen their India engagement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday invited Canadian investors to expand their participation in India's growth, highlighting opportunities in banking, insurance, financial technology, semiconductors, magnets and rare earths. Speaking at a business reception in Toronto, she said India's banking and broader financial sector was attracting growing international interest. She also promoted GIFT City, India's international financial services center, as a gateway for global capital and cross-border financial activity. Sitharaman noted that India now permits 100 percent foreign direct investment in insurance and has built a large financial technology ecosystem. She said India's scale, purchasing power,



consumption and demand offered significant opportunities for Canadian businesses. She also highlighted potential for India to provide trusted and cost-effective supply-chain alternatives, particularly in emerging sectors.

OpenAI brings ChatGPT advertising to India for Free and Go users

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI has expanded ChatGPT advertising to India, allowing eligible adult users on its Free and Go plans to see clearly labeled sponsored content below responses. The company says advertisements are visually separated from ChatGPT answers and do not influence responses. Users on Plus, Pro, Business, Enterprise and Education plans will remain ad-free, while accounts identified as belonging to people under 18 will not receive ads. OpenAI also says advertisers cannot access users' conversations, chat history, memories or personal information. India becomes part of the company's broader advertising rollout, which began in the United States earlier this year and has since expanded internationally.

Hyundai plans 1.27 million more vehicles in global capacity by 2030



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hyundai Motor plans to add 1.27 million vehicles to its global manufacturing capacity by 2030 while launching or refreshing more than 100 models worldwide, the automaker said Wednesday. The expansion includes 500,000 units of additional capacity in North America, 320,000 in India and 200,000 in South Korea. Hyundai is maintaining its target of selling 5.55 million vehicles globally by 2030 and aims to raise its operating margin above 9 percent. The company also plans to expand its hybrid lineup, particularly in North America, where it expects hybrids to account for half of sales by 2030. Hyundai will introduce new electric, hybrid and extended-range models as it seeks to counter Chinese competition and tariff pressures.

Government says India has enough sugar despite recent price surge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has sufficient sugar stocks to meet domestic demand until the new crushing season begins in October, the government said Wednesday, rejecting concerns about a shortage. Retail sugar prices have nevertheless risen sharply, reaching 55.70 rupees per kilogram on August 20 from 48.18 rupees a month earlier. The government attributed the recent increase to lower-than-expected production, festive-season demand, weather-related crop damage, tighter global supplies and speculation or hoarding. It also rejected claims that ethanol production was driving prices higher, noting that the share of sugar diverted for ethanol has declined in recent years. Sugar production this season is estimated at about 30.6 million tonnes, below the initial projection of 34.3 million tonnes.

Friday, 28 August 2026

Air India and Drukair expand single-ticket India-Bhutan travel

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

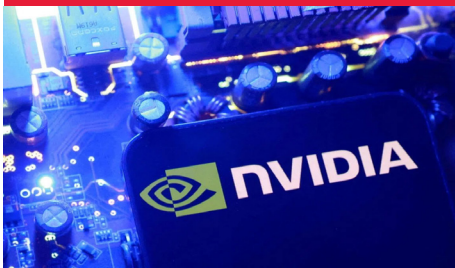
Air India and Bhutan's national carrier Drukair announced an interline partnership Wednesday to improve connections between India, Bhutan and international destinations. The agreement will allow passengers to book combined itineraries on both airlines under a single ticket, with coordinated baggage transfers through New Delhi. Air India passengers will gain easier access to Bhutan through Drukair services to Paro and onward connections to destinations including Bumthang, Gelephu and Yonphula. Drukair passengers will be able to connect through Air India's Indian network to cities including Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kochi, as well as international destinations such as London, Paris, Toronto and Vancouver. The airlines said the partnership will broaden travel options and strengthen regional connectivity.

India's liquefied natural gas import bill jumps 24 percent amid West Asia crisis

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's liquefied natural gas import bill rose 24 percent to \$5.6 billion during April through July, from \$4.5 billion a year earlier, as higher prices and shipping costs added to energy expenses. Government data showed July imports rose 9.1 percent in value to \$1.2 billion, while volumes increased 1.5 percent. The West Asia crisis and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz have prompted India to diversify supplies, including increased purchases from the United States. The country has expanded its liquefied natural gas sourcing network from six countries to 15. Longer shipping routes and higher freight costs have added to import expenses as India seeks to reduce exposure to disruptions from traditional Gulf suppliers.

Nvidia signals years of strong artificial intelligence demand with 70 percent growth outlook



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nvidia forecast roughly 70 percent revenue growth for its fiscal 2028, offering investors fresh evidence that spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure could remain strong for years. The chipmaker's outlook, issued Wednesday, is significantly above the 44 percent growth analysts had expected. Nvidia also forecast third-quarter revenue of about \$108 billion, exceeding Wall Street estimates. The company said demand is broadening beyond major technology companies to artificial intelligence laboratories, enterprises, cloud providers and industrial customers. Its next-generation Vera Rubin platform is already shipping and is expected to contribute about one-fifth of data center revenue this quarter. Nvidia shares rose sharply in after-hours trading following the results.

Adani Energy Solutions wins \$493 million Maharashtra transmission project

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Adani Energy Solutions said Wednesday it has won a transmission project worth about \$493 million to evacuate up to 4,500 megawatts of renewable and storage power from Karnataka to major load centers in Maharashtra. The project, awarded through tariff-based competitive bidding after the company emerged as the lowest bidder, will also support pumped-storage

development around Satara, Pune and the Mumbai metropolitan region. The company expects to complete the project within 36 months. It will add 562 circuit kilometers of transmission lines and 9,000 megavolt-amperes of transformation capacity. Key infrastructure includes a new 765/400 kilovolt substation at Satara, a double-circuit transmission line linking Kolhapur and Satara, and upgrades to the Kolhapur pooling station. The project is designed to strengthen renewable power flows between southern and western India.

Deloitte agrees to \$21.5 million settlement over alleged workplace discrimination

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Deloitte has agreed to pay the U.S. government \$21.5 million to resolve allegations that it considered race and sex in hiring, promotion and staffing decisions while falsely certifying compliance with federal equal-employment requirements. The Justice Department said Wednesday that the alleged practices occurred from 2017 onward and included demographic workforce targets that were tracked across business units. The government also alleged

that compensation for about 150 senior partners, principals and managing directors was partly tied to progress toward those goals for two years. Officials further alleged that access to certain training, mentoring and leadership programs was restricted based on race or sex. The settlement resolves allegations under the False Claims Act and involved several Deloitte entities. The case stemmed from a whistleblower lawsuit filed by the American Alliance for Equal Rights, which will receive \$4.3 million from the government's recovery.

UPI grows from India's digital payment experiment into a global platform

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Unified Payments Interface has evolved from a domestic digital payment system launched in 2016 into the world's largest retail fast-payment system by transaction volume, according to the International Monetary Fund. The platform processed more than 18 billion transactions a month by mid-2025 and accounted for about 85 percent of India's digital payments, according to Indian government data. UPI allows users to

make instant payments across participating banks and applications, with interoperability helping drive adoption. It has also expanded internationally, allowing payments in several countries and supporting Indian travelers and businesses. The system was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India and has become a key part of India's financial infrastructure. The IMF said UPI's interoperability has supported its rapid growth by allowing users to choose among different payment providers while maintaining seamless transactions.

U.S. inflation stays stubborn while stronger spending points to firmer growth

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. inflation remained elevated in July, keeping pressure on the Federal Reserve even as revised economic data pointed to stronger consumer demand and business activity. The Personal Consumption Expenditures price index rose 3.7 percent from a year earlier, unchanged from June and above economists' 3.6 percent forecast. Prices increased 0.2 percent from the previous month after declining 0.1 percent in June. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, also rose 3.3 percent annually

and 0.2 percent monthly. The data strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates at its September meeting, with futures markets putting the probability at about 40 percent. Meanwhile, second-quarter economic growth was left unchanged at an annualized 1.5 percent, but consumer spending was revised upward to 3.4 percent from 3.2 percent. Business investment, particularly in artificial intelligence, remained strong, while corporate profits surged by \$400.9 billion. Economists said the combination suggests third-quarter growth could accelerate significantly.

U.S. lawmaker urges Wall Street banks to withdraw from Shein IPO

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Representative John Moolenaar, chairman of the House Select Committee on China, on Wednesday urged JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley to withdraw their support for fast-fashion retailer Shein's planned Hong Kong initial public offering. Moolenaar accused the Chinese-founded company of links to forced labor in its supply chain

and questioned the banks' support for the offering on human rights and national security grounds. The committee did not detail the specific roles the three banks would play or disclose the amount Shein planned to raise at the time of the statement. Shein has faced scrutiny over its supply chain and previous attempts to list in New York and London. China has denied allegations of widespread forced labor in Xinjiang. Shein and the three banks did not respond in the committee statement.

KKR agrees to record \$250 million settlement in US antitrust case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Private equity giant KKR has agreed to pay \$250 million to settle a United States antitrust case accusing it of repeatedly violating federal merger-reporting requirements, the Justice Department said Wednesday. The civil penalty is the largest ever imposed under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, which requires companies to notify regulators about certain mergers and acquisitions before completing them. The Justice Department alleged that KKR failed to make required filings in at least 16 transactions. KKR agreed to the settlement but disputed the government's characterization of its conduct, saying it acted in good faith and followed industry practices. The firm said outside law firms would reimburse the penalty, leaving no financial impact on investors or funds.

Asian stocks extend gains as Nvidia fuels technology rally

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Asian stocks rose for a third straight session Thursday after Nvidia reported stronger-than-expected results and offered an upbeat outlook for artificial intelligence demand. The broader Asia-Pacific index excluding Japan gained 0.2 percent, while South Korea's benchmark rose 1 percent after the Bank of Korea raised its policy rate by 25 basis points to 3 percent. Taiwan's market also advanced, while Japan's Nikkei slipped 0.3 percent. Nvidia shares jumped 4.7 percent in after-hours trading, lifting United States stock futures. Investors also weighed firmer-than-expected underlying United States inflation data ahead of Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh's speech Friday. Brent crude fell for a fourth straight session amid diplomatic efforts involving the United States and Iran.

Novo Nordisk clears first hurdle for oral Wegovy in China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Novo Nordisk said Thursday that China's drug regulator has accepted its application to market the oral version of its weight-loss drug Wegovy, opening another potential market for the Danish pharmaceutical company. The move comes as Novo competes with Eli Lilly and other drugmakers for a share of China's rapidly expanding weight-management market. Novo has already received early approval for the Wegovy pill in the United States and Britain, while Eli Lilly has launched its competing oral treatment in the United States. China is expected to become an increasingly important market for weight-loss medicines, with industry sales projected to rise substantially over the next several years as obesity rates increase.

Tauson rallies past top seed Alexandrova in Monterrey

Denmark's Clara Tauson defeated top-seeded Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Monterrey tournament in Mexico. Alexandrova had two set points in a tense opening set, but Tauson prevailed in the tiebreaker. Tauson then secured the only service break of the match in the third set, converting one of nine opportunities to move ahead 4-2 before closing out the victory. Alycia Parks, Darja Vidmanova and second-seeded Elise Mertens also advanced, while Ann Li progressed after Maria Timofeeva withdrew.

Big Ten keeps commissioner Tony Petitti through 2033

The Big Ten Conference has extended commissioner Tony Petitti's contract through June 2033, with the council of presidents and chancellors unanimously approving the five-year extension on Wednesday. Financial terms were not disclosed. Petitti became the conference's seventh commissioner in 2023 after serving as a deputy commissioner and chief executive of Major League Baseball and holding a senior role at MLB Network. Under his leadership, the Big Ten expanded to 18 members with the additions of Oregon, Washington, Southern California and UCLA. The conference has also enjoyed recent success across football and basketball.

Tottenham thrash Charlton before drawing Liverpool in League Cup



Tottenham Hotspur will travel to Liverpool in the third round of the League Cup after crushing Charlton Athletic 5-1 on Wednesday. The draw produced several potential all-Premier League encounters, including Manchester United against Brighton, Manchester City against Norwich City and Ipswich Town against Arsenal. Newcastle United, the 2025 winners, will visit Millwall, while holders Manchester City face second-tier Norwich. Fleetwood Town, the only fourth-tier team remaining, will host Sheffield United. Third-round matches are scheduled for the weeks beginning September 7 and September 14.

NFL owners approve record \$9.6 billion sale of Seahawks to Khosla family

NFL owners unanimously approved the sale of the Seattle Seahawks to a group led by venture capitalist Vinod Khosla for a record \$9.612 billion at a special meeting in Atlanta on Wednesday. The transaction is the most expensive franchise sale in National Football League history and the second-highest valuation in North American sports, behind the \$10 billion sale of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Khosla family reached an agreement with the estate of late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in July, after Allen's estate began the sales process earlier this year. Neeru Khosla will serve as the controlling owner, while their son, Neal Khosla, is expected to have a significant role in the organization.

Paul Allen bought the Seahawks for \$194



million in 1997 and helped keep the team in Seattle. The Seahawks, who defeated the New England Patriots 29-13 to win the Super Bowl in February, are set to begin their title defense next month. Vinod Khosla said the new ownership group would take a long-term approach focused on sustaining the team's success.

Starc's breakthrough No. 1 ranking ends Bumrah's long reign at the top

Australia's Mitchell Starc has reached the summit of the International Cricket Council Test bowling rankings for the first time, ending Jasprit Bumrah's latest reign at the top after a match-winning display against Bangladesh. The 36-year-old left-arm fast bowler climbed two places following a 10-wicket haul in Australia's second Test victory in Mackay, where he returned figures of six for 12 and four for 39. Starc now leads Bumrah by 10 rating points, with New Zealand's Matt Henry third. Bumrah, who first became the top-ranked Test bowler in February 2024 and has spent a combined 697 days at No. 1, slipped to second after missing India's ongoing World Test Championship series against Sri Lanka.

The rankings also brought encouraging news for India, with Rishabh Pant climbing



six places to joint seventh among Test bowlers after scores of 39 and 66 in Galle. England's Harry Brook retained No. 1, ahead of Joe Root, while Pat Cummins rose to fourth among bowlers and Nathan Lyon entered the top 10. England's Ollie Robinson and Josh Tongue also made significant gains after their match-winning performances against Pakistan in Leeds.

Mbappe hat-trick lifts Real Madrid to emphatic win over Real Sociedad

Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick as Real Madrid overcame Real Sociedad 4-1 on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu, giving Jose Mourinho a winning return to the stadium more than 13 years after his previous home match in charge. Madrid took the lead in the 40th minute when Federico Valverde sent Mbappe through, but Luka Sucic equalized four minutes later. Mbappe restored Madrid's advantage in the 60th minute after combining with Jude Bellingham, before Vinicius Jr. added a third eight minutes later. Mbappe completed his treble in the 80th minute with a composed chip over goalkeeper Alex Remiro. Real had



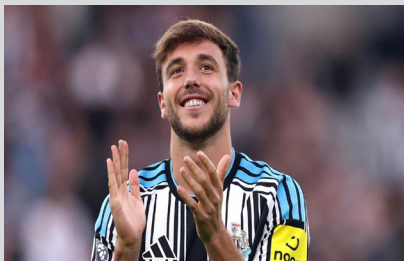
struggled in the first half and was jeered by supporters, but Mourinho's halftime changes helped transform the team. The victory gave Madrid two wins from two league matches.

UAE batter Asif Khan handed 15-month ban for anti-doping violation



United Arab Emirates batter Asif Khan has been banned from cricket for 15 months after testing positive for a prohibited substance, the International Cricket Council announced Thursday. The 36-year-old admitted breaching Article 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code after an out-of-competition test detected a metabolite of mesterolone, a banned anabolic steroid. Under a case resolution agreement with the International Cricket Council and World Anti-Doping Agency, his individual results from the testing period until his provisional suspension have been disqualified, along with associated medals, points and prize money. Asif can resume training at official UAE facilities in October but will remain barred from competitive cricket until December. He has represented the UAE in 38 one-day internationals and 56 Twenty20 internationals.

Newcastle bolster midfield with long-term signing of Nico Gonzalez



Newcastle United have signed Spanish midfielder Nico Gonzalez from Manchester City on a long-term contract, strengthening a midfield undergoing significant changes. The 24-year-old was unveiled to supporters before Newcastle's League Cup victory over West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday and will wear the number six shirt. Gonzalez becomes Newcastle's seventh senior signing of the summer. He joined City from Porto in 2025 and made 59 appearances, scoring four goals. His move to Newcastle is reportedly worth up to \$71 million, including potential add-ons. A product of Barcelona's La Masia academy, Gonzalez has also played for Valencia and Porto. Newcastle manager Matthias Jaissle praised his ball-carrying ability, defensive discipline and Premier League experience.



BBL drops overseas draft and gives clubs more spending freedom

Cricket Australia has scrapped the Big Bash League's overseas player draft, giving clubs greater freedom to structure their squads and spend more on top players. The changes take effect Thursday, ahead of the new season. Teams will no longer be required to sign overseas players, while only three marquee players must earn more than AU\$212,242 from the AU\$3.18 million salary cap. The same model applies to the Women's Big Bash League. The changes could benefit stars including Ben Stokes, Finn Allen and Adam Zampa.



LeBron James brings youth-focused golf event to Akron with PGA Tour partnership



LeBron James is partnering with the PGA Tour to bring a two-day youth-focused golf event to his hometown of Akron, Ohio, next summer. The LeBron James Family Foundation Invitational will be played Monday and Tuesday, July 6 and 7, 2027, at Firestone Country Club's South Course. The event will connect students from James' 'I Promise' program with aspiring professional golfers, including players advancing through the PGA Tour's Pathway to Progression program and the Advocates Professional Golf Association. The initiative aims to introduce more Akron-area youth to golf while creating mentorship and career opportunities, particularly for minority players. James, who has recently embraced golf and launched a YouTube golf channel, said the sport can build relationships and open doors for young people. The partnership also preserves a PGA Tour presence in Akron after Firestone's long run of professional events ended.

Geelong fined over unauthorized concussion waiver with player



Geelong Cats have been fined A\$140,000, about \$100,500, by the Australian Football League for failing to report a contract variation that waived player Jake Kolodjashnij's legal rights over concussion. The former championship winner, who had suffered multiple concussions, signed an informed consent letter acknowledging the risks of playing. An independent review found Geelong breached league rules by not lodging the document with the league and players' association. The league said future concussion waivers would not be approved. Kolodjashnij said he was healthy but disappointed that his private medical information became public.

NFL introduces one-game suspension for repeat dangerous plays

The NFL and NFL Players Association announced Wednesday that players will receive a one-game suspension after committing three specified player-safety violations in a season under a revised accountability system. The policy places greater emphasis on dangerous techniques including hip-drop tackles, horse-collar tackles, launching, hits on defenseless players and blindside blocks. The violations will carry over into subsequent seasons, meaning players will not necessarily escape the suspension threshold if offences occur across different campaigns. Players committing a single violation in designated categories can have part of their fine returned at the end of the season, while certain other eligible offences can result in the entire fine being refunded. Coaches will have to meet



with league officials when their players approach the suspension threshold, while clubs with excessive health and safety violations could face higher financial penalties. Players begin the 2026 season with a clean slate.

UEFA prepares to end FIFA boycott threat amid Infantino backlash

UEFA is expected to lift its threat to boycott FIFA competitions after receiving assurances that a controversial plan to sell stakes in the World Cup and other major tournaments will not be revived. UEFA's executive committee and most member association presidents are expected to be told on Thursday in Monaco that the conditions for ending the boycott have been met. FIFA withdrew the investment proposal in July after all 55 UEFA member associations opposed it. The dispute has also intensified pressure on FIFA President Gianni Infantino, with the Italian Football Federation withdrawing its support for his expected reelection campaign. European Leagues President Claudius Schaefer has also called for leadership change and governance reform. FIFA said all qualified teams will



participate in next month's Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland. UEFA says its push for reform will continue even after the boycott threat is lifted.

Muchova and Mensik claim U.S. Open mixed doubles crown

Czech players Karolina Muchova and Jakub Mensik won the U.S. Open mixed doubles title on Wednesday, defeating Switzerland's Belinda Bencic and Italy's Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 1-6, 10-6 at Arthur Ashe Stadium. The victory gave Muchova and Mensik their first Grand Slam title as a team after a dramatic run through the revamped 16-team competition. Mensik's powerful serving and sharp net play helped the Czechs seize control of the deciding 10-point tiebreaker, where they opened an 8-4 lead before closing out the match. Mensik sealed the championship with an ace. The pair had earlier saved two match points against Russia's Mirra Andreeva and Andrey



Rublev in the semifinals. The revamped mixed doubles event is being staged ahead of the singles competition to attract greater attention and larger crowds.

Sooriyabandara and Mendis lead Sri Lanka fightback against India

Sri Lanka mounted a determined fightback against India on Wednesday after being forced to follow on in the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo. The hosts reached 199 for three by tea on Day 4, cutting India's advantage to 16 runs. Pasindu Sooriyabandara remained unbeaten on 90, while Kamindu Mendis made 55 from 92 balls before being dismissed after a 126-run partnership with Sooriyabandara. Mendis struck two fours and three sixes and registered his first half-century against India. Sooriyabandara also completed his second fifty of the match. India had declared at 503 for nine before bowling Sri Lanka out for 290 in the first innings.

Federer leaves door open for another US Open return

Roger Federer has hinted that his emotional return to Arthur Ashe Stadium on Wednesday may not be his final appearance at the US Open. The 20-time Grand Slam champion returned to the New York venue for a Legends exhibition, playing a singles set against former rival Andy Roddick before partnering John McEnroe against Andre Agassi and Roddick in doubles.

Federer, who retired in 2022, received a standing ovation from the crowd and said he hoped to return again. The Swiss star won five consecutive US Open titles from 2004 through 2008 and last competed at the tournament in 2019. His return came during a special week that also included his induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Arteta reaches 150 wins as Chelsea and Hull set opening-week records

The 2026/27 Premier League season began with a weekend packed with milestones and surprises. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta recorded his 150th league win in 249 matches as the defending champions beat promoted Coventry City 3-0 on Friday. Hull City produced the biggest shock on Saturday, defeating Manchester United 2-0 despite United having 71.6 percent possession. Liverpool extended their unbeaten opening-day run to 14 seasons after drawing 2-2 with Newcastle on Sunday, with Dominik Szoboszlai scoring a stoppage-time penalty. Ipswich also secured a landmark 2-1 victory over Sunderland. Chelsea closed the opening round with a 3-1 win at Fulham on Monday, with Joao Pedro scoring after only 31 seconds, the earliest goal by a team in its opening Premier League match.

Pakistan fast bowler Aimen Anwar retires from international cricket

Pakistan fast bowler Aimen Anwar has retired from international cricket with immediate effect after a career spanning nearly seven years. The right-arm medium-fast bowler represented Pakistan in eight one-day internationals and 37 Twenty20 internationals between 2016 and 2023, taking 33 wickets. She featured at three Women's Twenty20 World Cups and the 2022 Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand. Aimen has remained involved in cricket after stepping away from international play and recently began a new role as a match referee. She made her refereeing debut Monday at the National Women's Under-19 Tournament.



Palmer leads Chelsea to winning start under Alonso against Fulham

Cole Palmer scored and assisted as Chelsea began Xabi Alonso's tenure with a 3-2 victory over Fulham in a Premier League derby at Craven Cottage on Sunday. Joao Pedro gave Chelsea an early lead after just 31 seconds before Fulham's Josh King equalized in the 23rd minute. Morgan Rogers restored Chelsea's advantage before Palmer added a third shortly after halftime. Gonzalo Garcia pulled one back for Fulham on his Premier League debut, but Chelsea held on for the win. The result gave Alonso a winning start in his first league match as Chelsea manager.

Tim Curry, 'Rocky Horror' icon and master of eccentric villains, dies at 80

Tim Curry, the British character actor celebrated for flamboyant villains and unforgettable stage performances, died Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at 80. His longtime manager and friend Marcia Hurwitz confirmed his death, with no cause disclosed. Curry became a cultural icon as Dr. Frank-N-Furter in 'The Rocky Horror Show,' which debuted onstage in London in 1973, and later in the 1975 film 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show.' He also portrayed Pennywise in the 1990 television adaptation of Stephen King's 'It,' and appeared in 'Clue' and 'Home Alone 2: Lost in New York.' Curry earned three Tony nominations and a Primetime Emmy nomination. After suffering a stroke in 2012, he continued working in voice acting and appeared in the 2024 film 'Stream.'

Venice Film Festival adds 'NAZA' documentary examining civilian toll of Gaza war



The Venice Film Festival has added 'NAZA,' a documentary examining the civilian toll of the Israel-Hamas war, to its main competition. Festival organizers announced Monday that the film, directed by Israeli filmmakers Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, will compete for the Golden Lion. The filmmakers were also among the directors of 'No Other Land,' which won the Academy Award for best documentary feature in 2025. 'NAZA' draws on reporting published between 2023 and 2025 by The Guardian, +972 Magazine and Local Call, focusing on the killing of Palestinian civilians. The film is the only documentary in this year's main competition. The Venice festival begins Wednesday, September 2, with winners due to be announced Saturday, September 12. The Gaza conflict has featured prominently at recent editions of the festival.

Yayoi Kusama, visionary Japanese artist who turned polka dots into a global language, dies at 97

Yayoi Kusama, the pioneering Japanese artist whose hypnotic polka dots and immersive installations transformed contemporary art, has died at 97. Her studio said Thursday that Kusama died Aug. 14 at a Tokyo hospital, without disclosing the cause. Known for repetitive patterns, mirrored spaces and vivid sculptures, she exhibited at major institutions including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Kusama moved to New York in 1957 and endured years of poverty and obscurity before gaining international recognition. Her art later expanded into fashion, films, literature and widely licensed products. She received Japan's Order of Culture in 2016, one of the country's highest honors for artists. Kusama continued painting until her final days, remaining devoted to her distinctive artistic vision.

Dolly Parton, country music legend and beloved entertainer, dies at 80

Dolly Parton, the country music legend whose distinctive voice, heartfelt songwriting, humor and unmistakable glamour made her one of the most enduring figures in American entertainment, has died at 80. Parton died peacefully Tuesday in Nashville following a brief battle with cancer, her publicist said.

Born into a large, impoverished family in Tennessee, Parton rose from humble beginnings to become a celebrated singer, songwriter, actor, author, businesswoman and philanthropist. Her career produced enduring songs including 'Jolene,' 'Coat of Many Colors' and 'I Will Always Love You,' which became a global phenomenon after Whitney Houston recorded it for 'The Bodyguard.'

Parton also became a Hollywood star with '9 to 5,' alongside Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, and later appeared in films including 'Steel Magnolias.' Her influence extended well



beyond entertainment through Dollywood and her Imagination Library, which has distributed hundreds of millions of free books to children worldwide. With 55 Grammy nominations and 10 wins, Parton leaves behind a legacy that crossed generations, genres and cultural divides. Her family has asked admirers to honor her memory by supporting the causes she championed.

Judge awards Blake Lively about \$407,000 in legal fees from 'It Ends With Us' dispute

A federal judge on Wednesday awarded Blake Lively \$407,451 in legal fees and costs from her legal battle with actor and director Justin Baldoni over the 2024 film 'It Ends With Us.' The amount is about 5 percent of the \$8 million Lively had sought. Judge Lewis J. Liman ruled that a California law intended to protect survivors of sexual harassment and discrimination from retaliatory lawsuits allowed Lively to recover costs tied to defending against defamation claims, but not the broader litigation. The award includes \$363,245 in attorneys' fees and \$44,206 in costs. Both sides claimed the ruling as a victory. Lively's lawyers called it a historic decision, while Baldoni's attorney described it as a significant win for his client. Lively accused Baldoni of sexual harassment and



retaliation during production, allegations he denied. The pair settled their legal dispute in May, shortly before a scheduled trial.

Ian McKellen recalls breaking his Golden Globe and pretending he lost it

Sir Ian McKellen has revealed that curiosity led him to accidentally break his Golden Globe award and then pretend he could not find it. Speaking on the upcoming program 'Tea with Judi Dench Featuring Sir Ian McKellen,' the 87-year-old actor recalled examining the statuette and discovering a screw on its base. He unscrewed it, causing the award to come apart, but could not put it back together. When organizers later asked him to return the trophy so his name could be engraved, McKellen said he told them he could not find it. The actor won the Golden Globe for supporting actor in a television film for 'Rasputin: Dark Servant of Destiny.' It remains his only Golden Globe win. McKellen is also



celebrated for his work in 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' films, alongside his distinguished theater career.

Katrina Kaif faces online trolling after rare public appearance following motherhood

Katrina Kaif faced a wave of social media criticism after making a rare public appearance Tuesday alongside husband Vicky Kaushal at filmmaker Kuku Kohli's funeral in Mumbai. The couple attended to pay their respects to Kohli, who died Monday at 77 following a cardiac arrest. Images and videos from the crematorium prompted some users to make unkind comments about

Kaif's appearance after motherhood. Kaif and Kaushal welcomed their first child, son Vihaan, in November 2025 and have largely kept their family life private. Kaif has maintained a limited public presence since becoming a mother, while occasionally sharing glimpses of her life online. The latest outing has renewed discussion around the scrutiny faced by female celebrities over their appearance and bodies after childbirth.

Drew Barrymore reveals '50 First Dates' was once envisioned as a darker drama

Drew Barrymore has revealed that the romantic comedy '50 First Dates' originally had a much darker ending. Speaking with Brett Goldstein on 'The Drew Barrymore Show,' Barrymore said the original script, titled 'Fifty First Kisses,' was written as a "hardcore drama." Instead of the film's happy conclusion, her character Lucy and Henry, played by Adam Sandler, would have separated before reconnecting years later. Henry would eventually walk into a diner and introduce himself, only for Lucy to respond in kind. Barrymore said she still mourns that ending because it offered hope without a conventional resolution. The 2004 film ultimately became a beloved romantic comedy centered on Henry's efforts to win over Lucy, who has short-term memory loss.

Nagarjuna unveils 'Ramba Oorvasi Menaka' trailer ahead of September theatrical release



Actor Nagarjuna has unveiled the trailer for the upcoming Telugu fantasy comedy 'Ramba Oorvasi Menaka,' starring Allari Naresh. Directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, the film follows Suri, played by Naresh, whose prayers bring three celestial apsaras, Ramba, Oorvasi and Menaka, to Earth. However, they arrive without their divine powers, creating a series of comic complications. The trailer also features Vennela Kishore as Indra, along with Surabhi, Rashi Singh, Vishnupriya and Prisha Singh. Produced by Razesh Danda and Nimmakayala Prasad, the film combines mythology, rural humor and slapstick comedy. Nagarjuna expressed his happiness at collaborating with Naresh again and described the film as a "complete laughter riot." 'Ramba Oorvasi Menaka' is scheduled to reach theaters on September 4.

Madonna celebrates twins Stella and Estere with heartfelt birthday tribute

Madonna celebrated the 14th birthday of her twin daughters, Stella and Estere, with a series of childhood photographs and videos shared Monday. Calling them her "Virgo Twins" and "Malawian Queens," the singer reflected on watching them grow into young women. Madonna said she felt a deep connection with the girls when she first met them at the Home of Hope in Malawi. Stella and Estere were born in Malawi in 2012 and were adopted by Madonna in 2017. They are two of the singer's six children. The twins have also developed an interest in music and performance. Estere notably joined Madonna onstage during the 'Celebration Tour' in 2023, performing a voguing routine. Fans responded to Madonna's birthday tribute with messages celebrating the sisters and wishing them well.

Will Smith marks ‘Supermax’ shoot with gift from son Jaden

Will Smith marked the first day of filming for his upcoming action thriller ‘Supermax’ with a gift from his son Jaden Smith. In a video shared on Instagram, Smith showed off a new pair of red-soled luxury sneakers that Jaden had given him, joking that his son had made sure he was “right for day one.” Smith captioned the post, “First day back at the office,” referring to the project. ‘Supermax’ is directed by David Gordon Green and written by David Weil and David J. Rosen. The film stars Smith alongside AnnaSophia Robb, Jaafar Jackson and Jason Clarke. Smith, who won an Academy Award for ‘King Richard’, has also built a successful career as a recording artist and actor, with credits including ‘Men in Black’, ‘Ali’ and ‘The Pursuit of Happyness’.

Deepika Padukone’s spokesperson denies reports of ‘Brahmastra 2’ casting

Deepika Padukone is not part of the upcoming fantasy action film ‘Brahmastra 2’, her spokesperson said Monday, rejecting recent reports linking the actor to the project. “All recent reports” claiming Padukone is part of the film or associated with it “in any capacity are untrue,” the spokesperson said. Padukone made a brief but significant appearance as Amrita, the mother of Ranbir Kapoor’s character Shiva, in the 2022 film ‘Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva’. Her character is connected to the Jal Astra and Shiva’s backstory. Recent speculation had suggested she could reprise the role in the sequel. The clarification comes amid renewed attention on Padukone’s departure from the upcoming film ‘Spirit’. She is next expected to appear in Shah Rukh Khan’s ‘King’, scheduled for release in December.

Abhishek Banerjee steps away from casting to concentrate on acting career



Actor Abhishek Banerjee has stepped away from Casting Bay, the casting company he co-founded with Anmol Ahuja in 2017, to focus on his acting career. Banerjee announced the decision Monday through an Instagram post, saying that moving forward does not necessarily mean leaving something behind. A statement explained that the two founders’ professional paths had evolved in different directions, with Ahuja continuing to lead the company. Banerjee has built a prominent acting career through projects including ‘Stree’ and ‘Paatal Lok’. He is now preparing for several upcoming roles, including appearances in ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ and ‘Lust Stories 3’. He is also set to make his Tamil film debut opposite R. Madhavan and has reportedly been cast as an antagonist opposite Tiger Shroff in an upcoming project.

Jane Fonda defends Mark Ruffalo against accusations of antisemitism

Jane Fonda has publicly defended actor Mark Ruffalo after he faced accusations of antisemitism over his criticism of Israel-linked business interests and the planned merger involving Paramount and Warner Bros. In a statement shared Wednesday, Fonda said she found it troubling to see accusations of antisemitism used to silence political criticism. She stressed that antisemitism is real and dangerous but argued that criticism of governments, corporations or political decisions should not automatically be characterized as hostility toward Jewish people. Ruffalo previously rejected the accusation, saying his comments were directed at Israeli government actions, military technology contracts and corporate executives rather than



Jewish people. The dispute follows Ruffalo’s criticism of Larry Ellison’s ties to Israel and his son David Ellison’s planned Warner Bros. merger. Fonda and Ruffalo are members of the Committee for the First Amendment.

Kriti Sanon’s Raksha Bandhan advertisement withdrawn after online backlash

Raksha Bandhan advertisement featuring Kriti Sanon has been withdrawn after criticism over her outfit sparked a heated online debate. The jewelry brand announced Wednesday that it had removed the campaign, saying it respects Indian culture, traditions and festivals and did not intend to hurt anyone’s sentiments. The decision came a day after Sanon defended the advertisement and challenged criticism of her off-white ensemble, which featured a bralette-style blouse, cape and draped skirt. Sanon argued that the meaning of festivals lies in their emotions and traditions rather than a woman’s clothing, adding that cultural respect should not be judged by a neckline. She also said Raksha Bandhan represented a bond of protection between



siblings and extended that sentiment to family pets. Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut had separately criticized the campaign and questioned whether the outfit suited the festival.

Filmmaker Kuku Kohli dies at 77, Bollywood remembers his contribution

Bollywood filmmaker Kuku Kohli, known for directing ‘Phool Aur Kaante’ and other mainstream Hindi films, died Tuesday at 77 in Mumbai. Indian Motion Picture Producers’ Association President Abhay Sinha confirmed his death and said Kohli had been admitted to Kokilaben Hospital after suffering a heart attack. Producer-director Ashoke Pandit was among those who paid tribute, sharing a photograph with Kohli and writing that he would be missed. Kohli made his directorial debut with ‘Phool Aur Kaante’ in 1991, which launched Ajay Devgn as a leading actor. The film became particularly memorable for its opening sequence featuring Devgn balancing between two moving motorcycles. Kohli later directed films including ‘Baadshah’ and



‘Hulchul’, working across romance, family drama and action. He is survived by his wife, actor Aruna Irani, and two children from his first marriage.

Taapsee Pannu asks media to let feud with Kangana Ranaut end

Taapsee Pannu has urged the media to stop revisiting her long-running public feud with actress and politician Kangana Ranaut. Speaking Tuesday at the trailer launch of her upcoming film ‘Gandhari’ in Mumbai, Pannu said the dispute would have ended naturally if journalists stopped asking both actresses about it. Her comments follow a recent exchange in which Pannu discussed her views on Ranaut’s upbringing and approach to public issues. Ranaut subsequently responded on Instagram with a lengthy personal attack, accusing Pannu of insulting her parents and referring to her as a “cheap copy.” Ranaut later deleted the post. The two actresses have been publicly at odds



since 2019, when Ranaut’s sister, Rangoli Chandel, described Pannu as a “sasti copy” of Ranaut. Pannu has now suggested that continued media questions are helping keep the old dispute alive.

Poonam Dhillon says CINTAA dispute has caused ‘extreme hurt’ amid internal tensions

Veteran actor and Cine and Television Artists Association President Poonam Dhillon has expressed deep hurt over allegations made against her by former general secretary Upasana Singh. Speaking at a CINTAA press conference, Dhillon said recent claims had damaged the association’s reputation and stressed the need for members of the public to hear what she described as the “right version” of events. The dispute intensified after 11 members of CINTAA’s 21-member executive committee resigned, citing a loss of confidence and calling for fresh elections. Singh and others alleged unfair decision-making and misuse of authority by Dhillon and senior vice president Padmini Kolhapure. Dhillon has rejected the accusations, including claims of authoritarian functioning. Singh has alleged that members who disagreed with the leadership were issued show-cause notices. The association dispute remains unresolved.

Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs reunite on ‘Shifting Gears’ for ‘2 Broke Girls’ fans



Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs have reunited on screen, bringing a touch of ‘2 Broke Girls’ nostalgia to Dennings’ current series, ‘Shifting Gears’. In a playful Instagram video, the former co-stars appeared together while holding scripts for the upcoming season. Behrs is set to guest-star as an emergency room doctor who treats Dennings’ character, Riley. The reunion marks a return to their popular comic partnership after ‘2 Broke Girls’, which ran for six seasons and ended in 2017. ‘Shifting Gears’ stars Dennings alongside Tim Allen, who plays widower Matt Parker, the owner of an auto restoration shop. The series follows Matt as he reconnects with his estranged daughter and her two children. The upcoming season is set to feature Behrs in her guest role.

Diljit Dosanjh brings bhangra to Prague during European tour break

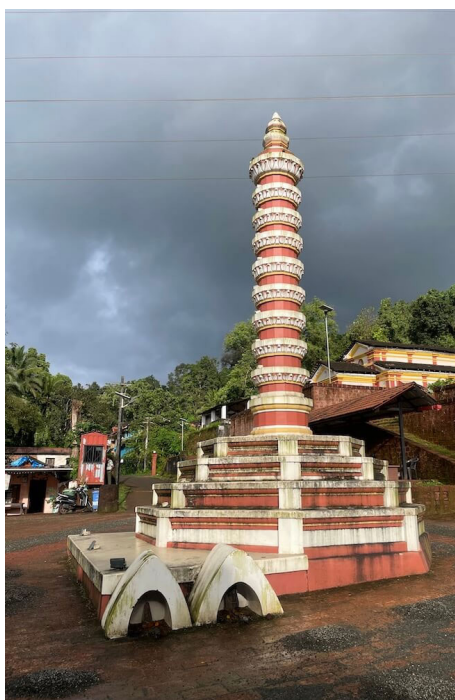
Diljit Dosanjh is enjoying Prague between concerts on his ongoing Aura World Tour, sharing glimpses of the Czech capital with fans on social media. In a video posted Sunday, the singer and actor danced bhangra aboard a boat and encouraged members of the crew to copy his moves. He also shared scenic views of the city and wrote that he was “in love” with Prague, describing it in another post as “HEAVEN.” Dosanjh also sampled local treats, including tonic coffee and the popular chimney cake known as trdelník, often served with ice cream or whipped cream. The European trip comes as he continues his international tour. On the film front, Dosanjh was most recently seen in Imtiaz Ali’s ‘Main Vaapas Aaunga’, alongside Sharvari, Vedang Raina and Naseeruddin Shah.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा — गोवा अध्याय (पाँचवाँ और अंतिम पड़ाव)

श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर, नारवे भगवान शिव का प्राचीन और गौरवशाली धाम



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” के गोवा अध्याय में हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब अपने पाँचवें और अंतिम 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 श्री शांतादुर्गा मंदिर, कवलेम ने हमें शक्ति, शांति और समन्वय की परंपरा से परिचित कराया। तीसरे पड़ाव में श्री महालसा नारायणी मंदिर, मर्दोल ने विष्णु के मोहिनी स्वरूप और वैष्णव-शैव समन्वय की अद्भुत विरासत दिखाई, जबकि चौथे पड़ाव में श्री नागेशी मंदिर, बांदोड़ा ने स्वयंभू नागनाथ के रूप में भगवान शिव की प्राचीन आस्था से परिचित कराया।



अब इस यात्रा का अंतिम पड़ाव हमें नारवे स्थित श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर तक ले जाता है—गोवा के उन प्राचीन शिवधामों में से एक, जिसका इतिहास कदंब राजवंश, विजयनगर साम्राज्य, पुर्तगाली शासन और मराठा पुनरुत्थान की अनेक महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं से जुड़ा हुआ है।

सप्तकोटेश्वर नाम की मान्यता

सप्तकोटेश्वर भगवान शिव का एक प्राचीन स्वरूप हैं और कदंब राजवंश के कुलदेवता माने जाते थे। स्कंद पुराण के सप्तद्वि खंड से जुड़ी मान्यता के अनुसार सात ऋषियों—सप्तर्षियों—ने यहां भगवान शिव की कठोर तपस्या की थी। उनकी दीर्घ साधना से प्रसन्न होकर भगवान शिव प्रकट हुए और इस स्थान पर सप्तकोटेश्वर नाम से विराजमान होने का वर दिया।

“सप्तकोटेश्वर” नाम का संबंध सात ऋषियों और उनकी दीर्घकालीन तपस्या से जोड़ा जाता है। यह स्थान कोंकण क्षेत्र के प्रमुख शिव तीर्थों में भी गिना जाता है।

कदंब राजवंश से गहरा संबंध

सप्तकोटेश्वर कदंब राजाओं के आराध्य देव थे। कदंब शासकों ने अपने सिक्कों पर भी भगवान सप्तकोटेश्वर की कृपा का उल्लेख कराया। उनके स्वर्ण सिक्कों पर अंकित “सप्तकोटिश्वरलब्ध वरप्रसाद” का अर्थ भगवान सप्तकोटेश्वर की कृपा से प्राप्त वरदान से जुड़ा है।

मूल मंदिर दिवर द्वीप के नारोआ में स्थित था। 14वीं शताब्दी में बहमनी सत्ता के आक्रमण के दौरान मंदिर को क्षति पहुँची और शिवलिंग को भी नुकसान पहुँचाने का प्रयास किया गया। बाद में विजयनगर साम्राज्य के काल में मंदिर का पुनर्निर्माण कराया गया।

पुर्तगाली काल और शिवलिंग की रक्षा

गोवा के इतिहास का सबसे पीड़ादायक अध्याय मंदिर के

पुर्तगाली काल से जुड़ा है। 16वीं शताब्दी में दिवर द्वीप स्थित मूल मंदिर को नष्ट कर दिया गया। परंतु श्रद्धालुओं ने भगवान के पवित्र शिवलिंग को सुरक्षित रखने का प्रयास किया।

लोकपरंपरा के अनुसार, शिवलिंग को गुप्त रूप से निकालकर वर्तमान नारवे क्षेत्र में लाया गया। यह केवल एक धार्मिक प्रतीक की रक्षा नहीं थी, बल्कि उस समय अपनी आस्था, पहचान और सांस्कृतिक विरासत को बचाने का संघर्ष भी था।

छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज और पुनर्निर्माण

सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर के इतिहास में छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज का योगदान विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय है। वर्ष 1668 में उन्होंने वर्तमान मंदिर के पुनर्निर्माण और विस्तार का आदेश दिया। परंपरा के अनुसार शिवाजी महाराज स्वयं इस मंदिर में आए थे और इसकी जर्जर स्थिति देखकर इसके पुनरुद्धार का निर्णय लिया।

इस पुनर्निर्माण ने मंदिर को केवल नया स्वरूप ही नहीं दिया, बल्कि गोवा में हिंदू धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के पुनर्जागरण का भी प्रतीक बनाया।

स्थापत्य की विशिष्टता

श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर का स्थापत्य गोवा की विशिष्ट मंदिर परंपरा और विभिन्न ऐतिहासिक प्रभावों का सुंदर मिश्रण है। मंदिर में यूरोपीय शैली का मंडप, ढलानदार टाइलों वाली छत, अष्टकोणीय आधार पर बना गुंबद और ऊंचा दीपस्तंभ विशेष आकर्षण हैं।

मंदिर परिसर में भगवान शिव के साथ अन्य देवी-देवताओं के छोटे मंदिर भी हैं। आसपास के क्षेत्र में प्राचीन पत्थर और लेटराइट संरचनाओं के अवशेष इस क्षेत्र की पुरातात्विक महत्ता को भी दर्शाते हैं।

मंदिर के निकट स्थित पंचगंगा तीर्थ भी श्रद्धालुओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। प्राकृतिक जलस्रोत से जुड़े इस पवित्र जलाशय का धार्मिक और स्थानीय सांस्कृतिक जीवन में विशेष स्थान है।

आस्था और सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता

सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिर का इतिहास हमें बताता है कि मंदिर केवल पूजा के स्थान नहीं होते। वे किसी समाज की स्मृति, पहचान, संघर्ष और सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता के केंद्र भी होते हैं।

कदंबों के कुलदेवता से लेकर पुर्तगाली काल में संरक्षण के संघर्ष और शिवाजी महाराज द्वारा पुनर्निर्माण तक, सप्तकोटेश्वर की यात्रा गोवा की सनातन परंपरा की दृढ़ता और जीवंतता की कहानी कहती है।

गोवा अध्याय का समापन — अब गुजरात की ओर

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” का गोवा अध्याय श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर के पावन धाम के साथ अपने पाँचवें और अंतिम पड़ाव पर पूर्ण होता है। श्री मंगेशी, शांतादुर्गा, महालसा नारायणी, नागेशी और सप्तकोटेश्वर—इन मंदिरों के माध्यम से हमने जाना कि गोवा की पहचान केवल समुद्र तटों और पर्यटन तक सीमित नहीं है। इसकी धरती पर सदियों पुरानी सनातन आस्था, मंदिर परंपरा और सांस्कृतिक विरासत आज भी जीवंत है।

लेकिन “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” अभी समाप्त नहीं हुई है। अगले सप्ताह **IndoUS Tribune** इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा को एक नए राज्य गुजरात की ओर ले जाएगा। गुजरात के प्राचीन और प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों के माध्यम से हम वहां की आस्था, इतिहास, स्थापत्य, लोककथाओं और सनातन परंपराओं को अपने पाठकों तक पहुँचाएंगे।

अगले सप्ताह—भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा का नया अध्याय: गुजरात।

बाल्मीकि रामायण में छिपे कुछ विरले प्रसंग वानरों के प्राण बचाने वाली तपस्विनी

सीता जी के अपहरण के बाद राम और लखन जी सीता को खोजते खोजते किष्किन्धा नाम के राज्य आ पहुँचे। वहीं ऋष्यमूक पर्वत पर, सुग्रीव अपने भाई बाली के भय से छिप कर रहता था। एक दिन जब सुग्रीव ने इन दोनों राजकुमारों को देखा, तो उसे संदेह हुआ, कि कहीं यह बाली के भेजे कोई योद्धा तो नहीं? ऐसे में सुग्रीव ने हनुमान जी को वेश बदल कर इन राजकुमारों का असली परिचय पाने के लिए भेजा। यहीं पहली बार रामायण में हनुमान जी और रामजी का मिलन होता है। जब बातचीत में यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि, यह बाली द्वारा भेजे गए राजकुमार नहीं हैं, तो हनुमान जी के विश्वास के कारण, सुग्रीव रामजी से मैत्री संधि कर लेता है। रामजी अपनी कठिनाई सुग्रीव को सुनाते हैं, और सुग्रीव उनकी हर प्रकार से सहायता करने के लिए तत्पर हो जाता है। इसी प्रकार रामजी भी सुग्रीव को बाली के भय से मुक्त कराने के लिए तैयार हो जाते हैं। हनुमान जी सुग्रीव को परामर्श देते हैं:

**तेहि सन् नाथ मयत्री कीजे,
दीन जानि तेहि अभय करीजे**

और हनुमान जी अग्नि प्रज्ज्वलित करके, और उसी अग्नि की साक्षी में दोनों की मित्रता को दृढ़ता से पक्का कर देते हैं।

**तब हनुमंत उभय दिसी की सब कथा सुनाइ
पावक साखी देइ करि, जोरी प्रीति बढ़ाई**

रामचरितमानस में यह कथा बहुत लम्बी नहीं है। इसके बाद बाली वध करके रामजी सुग्रीव को किष्किन्धा का निष्फंक्त राज्य प्रदान कर देते हैं। अब सुग्रीव की बारी थी, सहायता करने की। तब तक वर्षा ऋतु आरंभ हो जाती है। ऐसे समय सबका बाहर जंगलों में निकलना दूभर हो जाता है।

बाल्मीकि रामायण में सीता खोज की कथा बड़े विस्तार से है। उसी के अनुसार, वर्षा ऋतु बीतने के बाद, एक दिन सुग्रीव ने अपनी वानर सेना को बुलाया और बड़े कड़े निर्देश दिए। तुम सब चार टुकड़ियाँ बना कर चारों दिशाओं में फैल जाओ, और सीता जी की खोज आरम्भ कर दो। तुम्हारे प्रयास में कोई ढील नहीं होनी चाहिए। आप सबके पास एक महीने का समय है। अगर महीना बीतने पर भी, तुम सीता जी को नहीं खोज पाए, तो मुझे मुँह मत दिखाना। अगर असफल होने के बाद कोई मेरे समक्ष आया तो, मैं उसका वध कर दूँगा। यह बहुत ही कड़ा आदेश था। सभी वानर अपने अपने मुख्य वानर नेता के साथ चारों दिशाओं में निकल पड़े। बहुत दिन बीत गए। पर सीता का कुछ भी पता नहीं चला। सभी वानर घूमते घूमते पुनः एक जगह इकट्ठे हो गए। हताश निराश और भूख प्यास से व्याकुल। महीना भी समाप्त होने को था। सबको लगने लगा कि, उनका अंत निकट आ गया है। यहाँ प्राणों पर बनी हुई थी, लौटते हैं, तो सुग्रीव का क्रोध दिखाई पड़ता था। कुछ समझ नहीं आ रहा था। आगे कुर्आ था तो पीछे खाई। ऐसे में अंगद सोचने लगे:

**कह अंगद लोचन भरि बारी,
दुहूँ प्रकार भइ मृत्यु हमारी
इहाँ न सुधि सीता के पाई,
उहाँ गएँ मारिहि कपिराई**

चारों ओर घोर निराशा का माहौल था। आस पास खाने को भी कुछ नहीं था। भूख प्यास से प्राण व्याकुल थे। ऐसे में सभी ने वापस लौटने की बजाय, आत्महत्या का विचार करना आरंभ कर दिया। यह बड़ा ही दुष्कर कार्य था।

ऐसे में चमत्कार हुआ। हनुमान जी को आसपास खोजने पर एक गुफा दिखाई पड़ी, जहाँ से चहचहाते पक्षियों का कलरव सुनाई पड़ा। थोड़ा और आगे बढ़ने पर स्वच्छ पानी का एक जलाशय दिखाई दिया। उस जलाशय के चारों ओर फलों के वृक्ष भी थे, जो फलों से लदे पड़े थे। अंधा क्या चाहे, दो आँखें? यह सब देख वानरों के मुँह में पानी भर आया। लेकिन बिना किसी की आज्ञा के वह फलों के निकट नहीं जाना चाह रहे थे। ऐसे में उन्हें पास में एक तपस्विनी दिखाई पड़ी। हनुमान जी ने हिम्मत कर, तपस्विनी का परिचय पूछा। साथ ही यह भी बताया कि, उनके साथी सभी



भूख प्यास से व्याकुल हैं। अगर आप हमारी कुछ सहायता कर पाएँ, तो बड़ी कृपा होगी।

तपस्विनी ने पूछा, तुम सब कौन हो, और यहाँ क्या कर रहे हो? हनुमान जी ने बताया कि, हम सुग्रीव की सेना के वानर हैं, और सीता खोज की लिए निकले हुए हैं। रास्ता भटक चुके हैं, कई दिन से कुछ खाया नहीं है, कुछ फल मिल जायें तो शरीर में कुछ ताकत आ जाएगी और हम अपने उद्देश्य में आगे बढ़ पायेंगे।

वानरों की करुण कथा सुनकर तपस्विनी बोली, हे वानरों मेरा नाम स्वयंप्रभा है। मैं ही इस तपोवन की रक्षिका हूँ। यहाँ मयासुर नाम का राक्षस रहता था। मयासुर ने बहुत वर्ष तपस्या कर ब्रह्मा जी से यह तपोवन एवं भवन प्राप्त किया था। फिर उसने हेमा नाम की अप्सरा से विवाह कर लिया। यह वैभव देख इंद्र देव बहुत इर्ष्या में आ गए। उनसे मयासुर का यह वैभव देखा नहीं गया। उन्होंने युद्ध कर, मयासुर को मार गिराया। इसके बाद ब्रह्मा जी ने यह सब वैभव हेमा को सौंप दिया। मैं उसी हेमा की सखी एवं इस उपवन की रक्षिका स्वयंप्रभा हूँ।

**उवास सुखितः कालं कञ्चिदस्मिन्महावने । तमप्सरसि
हेमायां शक्तं दानवपुङ्गवम् ॥14॥ विक्रम्येवाशानि गघ
जधानेशः पुरन्दरः । इदं च ब्रह्मणा दत्तं हेमाये वनमुत्तमम्
॥ 15॥**

मैं तुम्हारी करुण कथा सुनकर बड़ी प्रभावित हुई हूँ। मैं तुम सब को इन फलों को खाने की आज्ञा देती हूँ। आप सब आराम से इन फलों का आनन्द लो, थोड़ा विश्राम करो। उसके बाद मैं तुम्हारी समस्या का कोई न कोई हल खोजती हूँ।

**इमान्यभयवहायोणि मूलानि च फलानि च ।
भुक्त्वा पीत्वा च पानीयं सर्व मे वकुमहेथ ॥ 19 ॥**

इस प्रकार कन्द मूल फल प्रस्तुत कर, स्वयंप्रभा नामक इस दयालु तपस्विनी ने, सभी वानरों के प्राणों की रक्षा की।

बाल्मीकि जी ने इस प्रसंग को विस्तार से उल्लिखित किया है। जब वानरों की थकावट दूर हुई, तो हनुमान जी ने इस तपस्विनी को अपनी सीता खोज की कहानी विस्तार से सुनाई। साथ ही कोई उपाय सुझाने का भी आग्रह किया।

**अगस्त्यचरितामाशौ दक्षिणां यमरक्षिताम् ।
सहैभिवानरैघोरेरङ्गदपरुखैवयम् ॥ 7 ॥
रावणं सहिताः सर्वे राक्षसं कामरुपिणम् ।
सीतया सह वैदेह्या मागध्वमिति चोदिताः ॥ 8 ॥**

वानर स्वयंप्रभा की सहायता से काफ़ी सुख हुए, बोले हे देवी, आपका हृदय से आभार, अब आप हमें बताइए की हम आपके इस उपकार का बदला किस प्रकार चुका सकते हैं?

**अस्माभिरुपयुक्तानि बुभुक्षापरिपीडितैः ।
यत्तया रक्षिताः सर्वे क्रियमाणा बुभुक्षया ॥ 17॥**

स्वयंप्रभा एक सर्वज्ञ ज्ञानी थी। उसे कई प्रकार की सिद्धियाँ प्राप्त थी। उसे पता चल गया कि इनकी सहायता कैसे की जा सकती है? तपस्विनी ने सबसे आँखें बन्द कर, प्रार्थना करने को कहा। और उसी क्षण अपने योग बल से पूरे वानर समूह को वहाँ से उठा कर सागर के किनारे पहुँचा दिया।

**इहैव पायमासिष्ये पुण्ये सागररोधसि ।
एतच्छ्रुत्वा कुमारेण युवराजेन भाषितम् ॥ 33 ॥
सर्वे ते वानरश्रेष्ठाः करुणं वाक्यमब्रुवन् ।
तीक्ष्णः प्रकृत्या सुग्रीवः प्रियासक्तश्च राघवः ॥ 34 ॥**

इसी सागर तट पर जब वानर विचार विमर्श कर रहे थे, तो उन्हें जटायु का ध्यान हो आया। जिसने सीता की सहायता में, अपने प्राण तक न्योछावर कर दिए। पास ही जटायु का भाई सैपाती वानरों की यह बात सुन रहा था। उसे भाई की मृत्यु का समाचार सुन कर दुःख हुआ। उसने वानरों की सहायता का बीड़ा उठाया। अपनी पैनी गीध दृष्टि से, इधर उधर खोजने लगा। सहसा उसे दूर लंका नगरी में एक वाटिका में, अशोक वृक्ष के नीचे एक उदास स्त्री दिखाई पड़ी। सैपाती ने जब वानरों को यह बताया, तो सभी बड़े

उत्साहित हो गए। लेकिन प्रश्न यह था कि, इतना बड़ा समुद्र लाँचे कौन?

तभी वानरों के साथ चल रहे बुजुर्ग जाम्बवान जी ने हनुमान जी को ललकारा। जाम्बवान जी हनुमान में छिपी कई शक्तियों के बारे में जानते थे, जिन्हें हनुमान जी भूल चुके थे। जाम्बवान जी बोले:

**कहइ रीछपति सुनु हनुमाना, का चुप साधि रहेहु बलवाना
पवन तनय बल पवन समाना, बुधि बिबेक बिग्यान
निधाना
कवन सो काज कठिन जगमाहि, जो नहीं होइ तात तुम्ह
पाहीं
राम काज लगि तव अवतारा, सुनतहि भयउ पर्वताकारा**

बस फिर क्या था। एक राम भक्त उठ खड़ा हुआ। जिसमें अतुलित बल और बुद्धि थी। अब तो रामकाज सफल होना ही था। समुद्र लाँचा गया। रावण को परास्त होना पड़ा। सभी वानरों के प्राण, पहले उस तपस्विनी स्वयंप्रभा की सहायता से, और फिर हनुमान जी के अदम्य साहस की वजह से बच गए। ऐसे महावीर बजरंग बलि के चरणों में कोटि कोटि नमन।

“जय श्री राम”



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

Moksh Dham Bhagavat Mahakatha concludes with strong community participation and support

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The seven-day Moksh Dham Bhagavat Mahakatha concluded Saturday at Manav Seva Mandir in Bensenville, bringing together hundreds of devotees each day for spiritual reflection, religious learning, community service and support for the Moksh Dham project.

Held from August 16 through August 22, the Bhagavat Mahakatha was presented by Pujya Shri Devkinandan Thakur Ji and drew more than 500 attendees daily throughout the week. The gathering combined traditional religious observances with a strong community response to the vision of Moksh Dham.

The program opened with a traditional Pothi Puja and Pothi Yatra, in which more than 50 devotees participated. More than 18 devotees also took part in the Kalash Yatra. The processions around the Manav Seva Mandir premises set a devotional tone for the weeklong program.

The Katha was conducted each afternoon from approximately 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by Maha-Prasad served to devotees and community members.

Community Temples Join Hands for Maha-Prasad

Several temples and community organizations contributed to the daily Maha-Prasad, helping accommodate the large number of attendees. Support came from Swaminarayan Temple in Wheeling, Bapa Mandir, BAPS Temple, Swaminarayan Temple in Itasca and Hanuman Mandir.

Core Roofing also sponsored Maha-Prasad for two days.

Organizers said the contributions reflected the broad community participation surrounding the Bhagavat Mahakatha and the Moksh Dham initiative.

Strong Support from Yajmans and Donors



The religious gathering was supported by a group of Yajmans, with Dhaval Patel serving as the Mukhya Yajman. Daily Yajmans included Mafat Patel, Ashok Pandya, Dr. Dave and Pritesh Patel.

Numerous individuals, families, businesses and community members also contributed financially and through volunteer service.

According to organizers, the response exceeded the fundraising expectations established before the event, with community members contributing more generously than anticipated.

Moksh Dham: A Sacred Hindu Tradition and a Community Mission

The term Moksh Dham traditionally refers to Hindu cremation grounds, or shamshan ghats, where the final rites of the deceased are performed. In Hindu tradition, the Antim Agni Sanskar, or final cremation rite, is regarded as a deeply spiritual ceremony associated with the soul's onward journey toward

reincarnation and, ultimately, liberation or moksha.

Traditional Hindu cremation facilities generally provide space for the cremation ceremony, family members and religious rituals, with a Hindu priest or pandit guiding the rites. Depending on the location, modern cremation facilities may offer both traditional wood pyres and electric or other environmentally conscious cremation options, along with arrangements associated with asthi visarjan, the ceremonial immersion of ashes.

For the Indian diaspora, the concept has taken on an additional community dimension. Organizations such as MOKSHDHAM Cremation Inc. in the Chicago metropolitan area are working toward establishing dedicated, purpose-built facilities where Hindu families can observe traditional funeral and cremation rites in a culturally appropriate setting.

The Moksh Dham project therefore represents not only a religious initiative but also an effort to address a practical need within the growing Hindu community. Supporters envision a dedicated sanctuary where families can perform sacred last rites with dignity and without restrictions that may arise when traditional Hindu cremation practices must be accommodated within facilities not specifically designed for them.

Moksh Dham Organization Expands

Beyond fundraising, organizers said the Mahakatha helped strengthen the organizational base of the Moksh Dham initiative.

During the week, seven additional Super Trustees/Trustees and 17 voting members joined the organization, expanding community participation in its mission.

The event was organized and administered by the Moksh Dham Sevak Group, whose volunteers coordinated

the religious programs, daily operations, Maha-Prasad, donors, attendees and other logistical requirements throughout the week.

Concluding Ceremony

The Bhagavat Mahakatha concluded August 22 with Aarti, Puja and Guru Seva. Devotees gathered to express their gratitude to Pujya Shri Devkinandan Thakur Ji and to the temples, Yajmans, donors, volunteers and organizers who contributed to the event.

Moksh Dham expressed its appreciation to Manav Seva Mandir, participating temples, Yajmans, donors, Super Trustees, Trustees, voting members, volunteers, Sevak Group members and the thousands of devotees and community members who participated in or supported the program.

Organizers said the response to the Mahakatha demonstrated continued community support for the vision of Moksh Dham — a dignified, compassionate and culturally appropriate cremation facility for the community.

The weeklong gathering thus served not only as a major spiritual event but also as an opportunity to bring community members together around a shared religious, cultural and civic initiative. For supporters, the strong participation and financial response represent an important step toward creating a permanent facility where Hindu families in the Chicago area can observe their sacred final rites with dignity, tradition and peace.



RAKHI

TRAVELS FARTHER AS FAMILIES SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE

For South Asian families separated by migration, Raksha Bandhan is increasingly being celebrated across borders, with technology, courier services and changing traditions helping siblings stay connected.

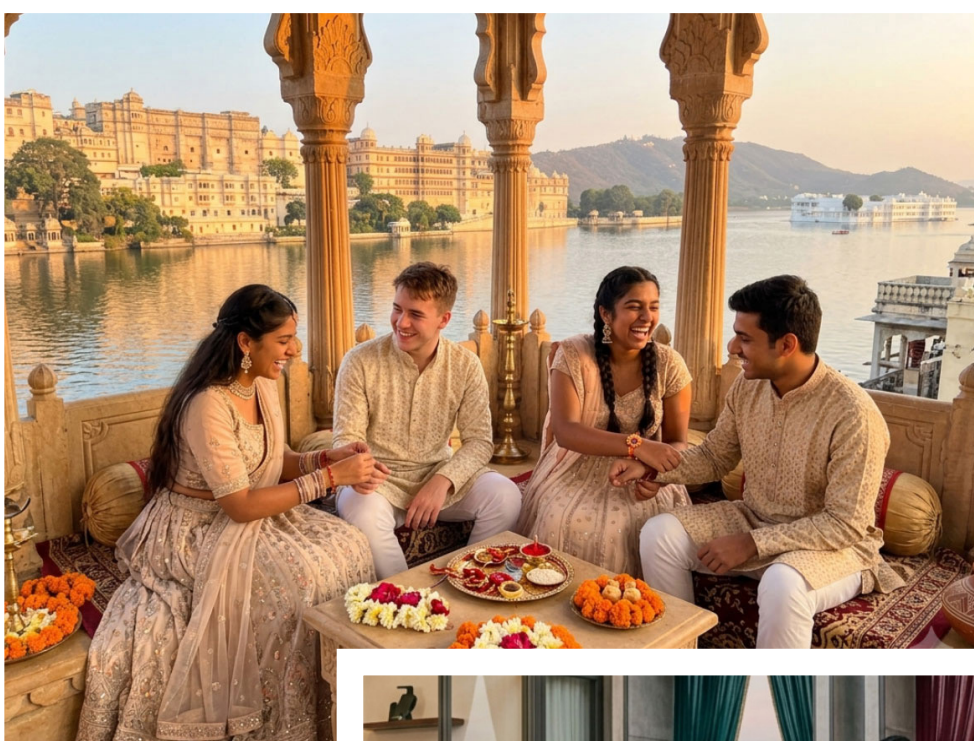
For generations, Raksha Bandhan has been marked by a familiar ritual: a rakhi tied around a brother's wrist, sweets exchanged and promises of lifelong support. But for South Asian families now spread across countries and continents, the festival is increasingly being observed from a distance.

In Canada, the United States, Britain and elsewhere, siblings separated by migration are finding new ways to maintain the tradition. Rakhis are mailed across borders, gifts are ordered online and family celebrations are often brought together through video calls.

The change reflects a broader reality for diaspora families. Migration has created households in which siblings may grow up in different countries or live thousands of miles apart, making physical reunions difficult even on important occasions. Technology has therefore become an increasingly important part of festival celebrations. A video call can allow relatives to participate in the rakhi ceremony, while photographs and messages help families recreate some of the intimacy of being together.

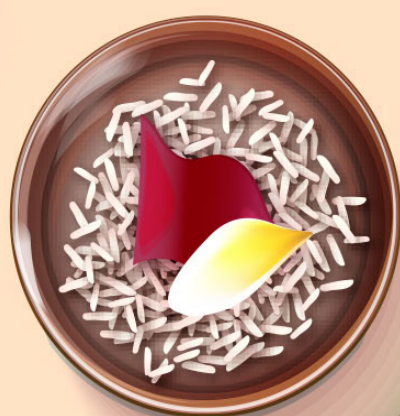
The meaning of Raksha Bandhan is also evolving. Traditionally associated with a sister seeking protection from her brother, the festival is increasingly viewed by younger generations as a celebration of mutual care, emotional support and sibling solidarity. Sisters and brothers alike describe themselves as sources of support for one another.

For diaspora communities, the festival also carries a cultural dimension. Celebrating Raksha Bandhan can help younger family members maintain a connection with traditions that might otherwise become less familiar as they grow up outside South Asia. The rituals may look different from those observed by previous generations, but the central relationship remains unchanged.



Whether a rakhi is tied in person, arrives in an envelope from thousands of miles away or appears on a video call, the festival continues to serve the same purpose: reminding siblings that distance does not necessarily mean disconnection.

For families scattered across the world, Raksha Bandhan is no longer confined to one day, one home or even one country. The rakhi travels wherever the family does.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to meet Indian Diaspora in Chicago

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Indian-American community in Chicago is preparing to welcome Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, who is scheduled to visit the city and interact with members of the Indian diaspora. The Consulate General of India in Chicago has announced that Sitharaman will address a gathering of community members on Saturday, August 29, 2026, during her visit to Chicago.

The interaction is expected to provide members of the Indian diaspora an opportunity to hear directly from the Finance Minister on issues concerning India's economy, economic reforms, India's growing global role and the country's expanding engagement with the Indian diaspora.

Sitharaman has been a central figure in India's economic policymaking and has overseen several major initiatives involving taxation, financial-sector reforms, investment, infrastructure and India's efforts to strengthen its position as one of the world's major economies.

Her visit comes at a significant moment for India, as the country continues to expand its economic and strategic engagement with the United States. Chicago, with its large and diverse Indian-



American population and strong business and professional community, remains an important center of India-U.S. people-to-people and economic ties.

The Finance Minister's interaction is also

expected to attract interest from Indian-American business leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals and community organizations seeking greater insight into India's economic trajectory and opportunities for diaspora engagement.

The Consulate said it is "eagerly looking forward" to Sitharaman's visit and her interaction with the Indian community.

Attendance at the event will be by invitation only.

Sunil Gavaskar honors Bhavnagar's Siddharth Seth for winning National Flag Quiz in Seattle

Young Gujarati achiever brings pride to Bhavnagar and Gujarat

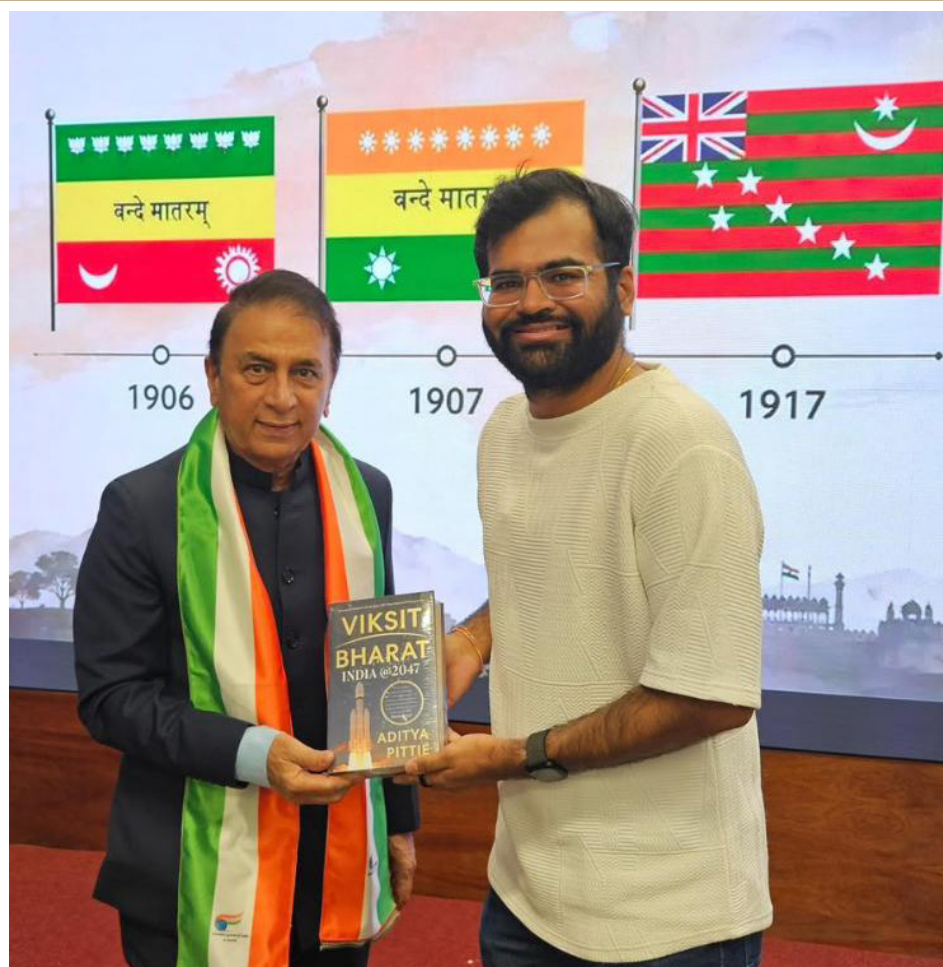
● By: Jayanti Oza

A young achiever from Bhavnagar, Gujarat, brought pride to his hometown and the Indian community in the United States by winning the "National Flag Quiz" organized in Seattle as part of celebrations marking India's Independence Day.

The special program, organized by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, brought together members of the Indian-American community and distinguished guests to celebrate India's rich heritage, national pride and the spirit of Independence.

Siddharth Ajaybhai Seth of Bhavnagar emerged as the winner of the National Flag Quiz, earning recognition for his knowledge of India's national flag and its significance. In a special moment of honor, Siddharth was felicitated by legendary Indian cricketer Padma Bhushan awardee Sunil Gavaskar, widely celebrated as one of India's greatest batsmen and affectionately known as the "Little Master."

The recognition by a sporting icon of Gavaskar's stature made the occasion particularly memorable for Siddharth and



his family. His achievement also brought considerable pride to Bhavnagar and Gujarat.

The Independence Day celebration was attended by Consul General of India in Seattle Prakash Gupta, along with local mayors, elected representatives, business leaders, industrialists, CEOs, community leaders and prominent members of the Indian diaspora.

The event showcased the strong connection of the Indian-American community with India and provided a vibrant display of patriotism, national pride and Indian cultural heritage.

For Bhavnagar, Siddharth Seth's achievement carries special significance. To be recognized on an international platform and felicitated by a cricket legend such as Sunil Gavaskar is an honor that reflects not only his individual accomplishment but also the growing achievements of young Indians and Indian Americans on the global stage.

Siddharth Seth was warmly congratulated on his accomplishment, with community members expressing their best wishes for his continued success and future achievements.

Indian Seniors of Chicago celebrate Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan

● By: Jayanti Oza

Indian Seniors of Chicago (ISC) celebrated India's Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan with patriotic spirit and cultural enthusiasm on August 15, 2026, at Lakshmi Hall of Manav Seva Mandir. Nearly 360 members attended the gathering.

The program began with members celebrating birthdays through Ganesh Stuti, Hanuman Chalisa and the popular birthday song "Baar Baar Ye Din Aaye." Birthday celebrants were presented with bouquets, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

The organization's July financial report was presented, including details of income and expenditure. Members who had provided financial assistance to ISC were also acknowledged.

Representatives of Manav Seva Mandir appealed to members to support a fundraising dinner scheduled for October 10, 2026, benefiting the temple and community center. Information was also shared about the Hindu Moksha Dham project being developed in the Chicago area.

The gathering observed two minutes of silence in memory of recently deceased members and relatives, offering prayers and condolences to their families.

Raksha Bandhan celebrated

The spirit of Raksha Bandhan was highlighted through a special ceremony in which 10 brothers and 10 sisters participated. Rakhis were tied as a symbol of affection, family bonds and mutual protection, followed by the distribution of sweets. The celebration included the traditional song "Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko."

Patriotic Independence Day celebration

The Independence Day segment was



organized as a tribute to India's journey and achievements. Members also reflected on the significance of India's Independence celebrations and America's 250th anniversary, highlighting the deep connections between the two countries and their people.

A group of approximately 30 members

participated in a symbolic patriotic parade carrying the Indian Tricolour. The participants raised slogans including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Shaheedon Amar Raho" and "Vande Mataram," creating an atmosphere of national pride.

The chief guest was formally welcomed before the Tricolour was unfurled. Members

joined in singing Vande Mataram and India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, followed by patriotic songs performed by several members.

The celebration reflected the strong emotional connection of Chicago's Indian senior community with India's Independence Day and its enduring cultural traditions.

Community updates and fellowship

The leadership provided information about the organization's upcoming activities, including the annual program scheduled for October 3, and encouraged members to complete their RSVPs.

The program concluded with a collective prayer, followed by lunch and fellowship among the attendees.

The celebration brought together the community in a spirit of patriotism, cultural heritage, friendship and togetherness, combining the significance of India's Independence Day with the family-centered traditions of Raksha Bandhan.



Krishnamoorthi to introduce 'LESSONS from Ukraine Act' to apply battlefield lessons to U.S. military

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08) plans to introduce the Learning Effective Strategies and Systems Optimization for National Security, or 'LESSONS from Ukraine Act', following an official visit to Ukraine.

The legislation would direct the Pentagon to study and incorporate battlefield lessons from the war, particularly in drone warfare, electronic warfare and defense production.

Krishnamoorthi, a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said Ukraine's experience shows how quickly modern warfare is changing.

The proposed study would examine the use of drones for combat, intelligence and logistics, defenses against drone swarms, operations when GPS and satellite communications are disrupted, and the survivability of armored vehicles.

It would also assess Ukraine's efforts



to make its defense industry more distributed and resilient under attack, along with lessons in battlefield medicine.

The legislation would require the Pentagon to develop a plan and timetable for incorporating relevant findings into U.S. military doctrine and training.

Krishnamoorthi said these lessons could strengthen U.S. preparedness, protect service members and improve the country's ability to deter aggression in the Indo-Pacific.





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Healthy Heart, Healthy Life

Navigating valvular and congenital heart disease

Understanding structural heart problems, warning signs and modern treatments

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), followed by Part 3 on high blood pressure—the “Silent Killer.” Part 4 explored heart rhythm disorders, including atrial fibrillation and modern treatment options. Part 5 focused on congestive heart failure, while Part 6 examined how cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, fatty liver disease and metabolic syndrome can silently increase cardiovascular risk. In this seventh installment, we turn from the heart's electrical and metabolic systems to its physical structure—the valves, chambers and blood vessels. We will examine valvular and congenital heart disease, their warning signs, prevention and the remarkable advances that now allow doctors to repair or replace damaged heart valves with increasingly less-invasive procedures.

The heart's valves: Small structures with a vital job

Think of the heart as a sophisticated pump with four doors. These four valves—the aortic, mitral, tricuspid and pulmonary valves—open and close with every heartbeat, ensuring that blood flows in the correct direction.

When a valve becomes narrowed, stiff, or unable to close properly, the heart may have to work harder. Over time, this additional strain can lead to enlargement of the heart, heart failure or other complications.

Common valvular heart conditions

- ▶ **Aortic stenosis:** The aortic valve becomes narrowed, restricting blood flow from the heart to the body. It is particularly common with aging and may progressively worsen.
- ▶ **Mitral regurgitation:** The mitral valve does not close completely, allowing blood to leak backward into the upper chamber of the heart.
- ▶ **Mitral valve prolapse:** One or both mitral valve leaflets bulge backward during the heartbeat. Many people have few or no symptoms, although some develop significant leakage.
- ▶ **Rheumatic heart disease:** Rheumatic fever, which can follow an untreated or inadequately treated group A streptococcal infection, can permanently damage heart valves. It remains an important cause of valve disease in many parts of the world.

Congenital heart disease: When the problem begins at birth

Congenital heart disease refers to structural abnormalities of the heart that develop before birth. These may involve the heart chambers, valves or major blood vessels. Some defects are minor and require only periodic monitoring, while others can significantly affect circulation and require medication, catheter-based procedures or surgery.

Importantly, congenital heart disease is not limited to childhood. Many children with congenital defects now survive into adulthood, creating a growing population of adults who require lifelong cardiac follow-up.

What about a heart murmur?

A heart murmur is an unusual sound heard through a stethoscope, caused by turbulent



blood flow. A murmur does not automatically mean that heart disease is present. Some are harmless, while others may indicate a valve problem or congenital defect.

When a murmur is accompanied by symptoms, physicians may recommend an echocardiogram, an ultrasound examination that provides detailed information about the heart's structure and function.

Warning signs: When should you seek medical attention?

Structural heart disease can remain silent for years. As the condition progresses, however, certain symptoms deserve attention:

- ▶ **Shortness of breath,** particularly during activity or when lying down.
- ▶ **Chest pain or pressure,** especially with exertion.
- ▶ **Unusual fatigue** or reduced ability to perform routine activities.
- ▶ **Dizziness or fainting,** particularly during physical activity.
- ▶ **Swelling of the ankles, legs or abdomen,** which may indicate fluid accumulation.
- ▶ **Palpitations** or an awareness of an irregular heartbeat.

Sudden severe chest pain, difficulty breathing, fainting or other acute symptoms require immediate medical evaluation.

Can structural heart disease be prevented?

Not every valve or congenital problem can be prevented. Congenital heart defects, by definition, originate before birth. However, several measures can reduce the risk of complications and help identify disease early.

Treat significant infections appropriately:

Group A streptococcal infections should be evaluated and treated according to medical guidance to reduce the risk of rheumatic fever.

Control blood pressure and other

cardiovascular risks: Managing hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol and weight can reduce the overall burden placed on the cardiovascular system.

Maintain good dental health: Good oral hygiene is important for overall health. People with certain high-risk heart conditions may require antibiotics before specific dental procedures to prevent infective endocarditis; this should be determined by their physician.

Do not ignore symptoms: Routine physical examinations can sometimes detect an abnormal murmur or other warning signs before symptoms become severe.

Modern treatments: Repairing the heart without always opening the chest

Treatment depends on the type and severity of the condition.

Valve repair: Whenever appropriate, surgeons may repair a damaged valve rather than replace it, preserving the patient's own tissue.

Valve replacement: Severely damaged valves can be replaced with mechanical or biological tissue valves. The choice depends on factors such as age, medical condition and individual circumstances.

TAVR: Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement

has transformed treatment for many patients with severe aortic stenosis. A replacement valve can be delivered through a catheter—often through an artery in the leg—without conventional open-heart surgery. TAVR is not appropriate for everyone, and the best approach is determined by a specialized heart team.

Other catheter-based procedures are also increasingly available for selected structural heart conditions.

Conclusion: Protecting the heart's architecture

The heart is more than a powerful muscle—it is a remarkably coordinated structure in which every chamber, valve and blood vessel has a purpose. Valvular and congenital heart diseases can disrupt this delicate system, but early diagnosis can make a profound difference.

Pay attention to unexplained breathlessness, fatigue, dizziness, swelling or chest discomfort. Regular medical examinations, appropriate testing and timely specialist care can identify structural problems before they become life-threatening.

Modern cardiology has transformed the outlook for many patients. From sophisticated valve repair to minimally invasive procedures such as TAVR, today's treatments can restore circulation, improve symptoms and, in many cases, significantly enhance quality of life.

Understanding your heart's structure is another important step toward protecting your heart—and living a healthier life.

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 their medical care.

Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: CENTRAL BANK RESERVES

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -4.4% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 55 (neutral)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 50-dMA 55.34% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 58.00% (positive)

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 3.88%, 1-yr 4.03%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.24%, 5-yr 4.43%, 10-yr 4.74%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.27% (normal yield-curve);
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.09%, 10-yr 2.40%, 30-yr 3.00%
FRNs Index 3.750%

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 43.98 (fear)
Weekly ETFs: INDIA -0.28%, INDY



-0.16%, EPI -0.05%, INDH -0.51%
| SPY -1.37%

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

ECONOMY

RBI is ending lucrative FCNR deposits deal early on 8/31/26 (vs 9/30/26) having netted \$57 billion.

Government of India (GoI) is selling stakes in several public sector companies in FY 2027 (4/1/26 - 3/31/27). The stake sales from almost a dozen companies may raise \$8 billion in FY 2027. These companies include Cochin Shipyard, Indian Railways Finance Corp, NHPC (hydropower), Coal India & LIC (life insurance). The recent LIC stake sale reduced GoI stake to 90%. SEBI (securities regulator) rules now require 10% market floats, but GoI had until 05/2027 to achieve that, so this move about 9 months early drew attention. It seems that US-Iran war & foreign fund outflows have put

strains on GoI resources & RBI foreign exchange reserves. GoI also has incentive programs for foreign investments & NRI deposits.

INDUSTRIALS

World's largest HVAC company Japanese Daikin Industries is establishing a R&D center in India to develop HVAC products for the Indian market. These products will include large-scale HVAC systems for commercial buildings, datacenters & industrial facilities that are compatible with local laws. Daikin-India has operations in India since 2000. Daikin-US offers products under brands AAF, Amana*, Daikin, Goodman*, motili, Quietflex, etc. *Doesn't include kitchen appliances.

INFRASTRUCTURE

US DPR Construction got a big infrastructure contract from the Indian Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Several mega projects will use virtual design & construction (VDC), green-building standards, climate resilience & prefabrication & modular building systems. There will be related technology transfer & local training. These projects will be in New Delhi (central district), Mumbai (coastal residential), Bengaluru (tech sector housing), GIFT City (commercial & residential), Hyderabad (residential), Kolkata (waterfront urban renewal), Chennai (modular transit hubs), Pune (datacenters & housing), Ayodhya (fusion architecture), Guwahati (earthquake resistant modular housing).

SPECIAL TOPIC - CENTRAL BANK RESERVES

Reserve assets as % of GDP vary widely by country. The reserve assets include foreign currencies, gold, IMF SDRs & IMF reserve positions (available in emergencies only). The

data reported may be with & without gold. Controversially, some central bank reserves include stocks, corporate bonds & ETFs - BOJ, SNB, several European & EM central banks; even the US Fed held some corporate bond ETFs during Covid pandemic. But most central bank reserve assets are high-quality liquid assets.

These reserve % for developed countries are lower than those for emerging-market (EM) countries. One explanation is that developed economies are more mature, stable, & less susceptible to sudden currency swings. Another is that many developed countries carry gold at historic book values, while most EMs value gold at current prices. But even the non-gold reserves for developed countries are much lower than those for EMs.

Reserve assets for US (without gold) are low because dollar is a global reserve currency & its demand is high. But central banks are diversifying reserve assets into nondollar assets due to concerns about US debt, dollar diplomacy & sanctions - the money in Western banks can suddenly be frozen & become inaccessible.

Due to these reasons, the % reported vary widely by sources. Indian reserves are 15-18% of GDP (with gold), enough to support 11 months of its imports. In 1970s, due to OPEC oil embargo, Bangladesh liberation war & crop failures, Indian reserves were very low. Then, in 1991, due to Gulf War & the collapse of Soviet Union (& that of lot of bilateral trade in rupees or rubles), India literally ran out of reserves & had to secure foreign loans by airlifting plane loads of domestic gold. The current cautions reserve policy of India is intended to avoid repetitions of those situations.

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



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

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

4. Teaching methods:

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

5. Clinical rotations:

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



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

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

Key Features:

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

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

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

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

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

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The sneaker trends set to define fall 2026



Sneakers are no longer simply the casual corner of the wardrobe. For fall 2026, they are emerging as one of fashion's most versatile statement pieces, moving comfortably between polished tailoring, feminine dresses, relaxed denim and everyday separates. This season's runway trends point in two distinct directions: sleek minimalism on one side and unapologetic personality on the other.

Black gets a sophisticated makeover. After several seasons dominated by white sneakers, streamlined black pairs are making a strong return. Simple silhouettes, subtle detailing and suede

finishes give them a refined edge that works particularly well with trousers, coats and monochrome outfits.

Retro white remains a classic. The plimsoll and vintage-inspired trainer are back in focus, with slightly worn-in finishes adding character. Their understated shape makes them an easy transitional choice for fall and a natural companion to everything from tailored pants to midi skirts.

Yellow brings the energy. Bright, sporty yellow has emerged as one of the season's standout sneaker colors. Retro runners and color-blocked designs offer an effortless way to

introduce a bold accent without reworking an entire outfit.

Silver steps into the spotlight. Metallic footwear continues to gain momentum, with silver sneakers bringing a futuristic flash to otherwise simple looks. They can instantly lift neutral fall layers and work particularly well with denim, gray and black.

Embellishment takes sneakers beyond casual. Beading, sequins, embroidery and delicate decorative details are giving sneakers a distinctly fashion-forward personality. These styles are ideal for anyone who wants comfortable footwear without

sacrificing visual drama.

Skater-inspired shapes continue their comeback. Chunkier soles, relaxed proportions and slip-on silhouettes are drawing inspiration from skate culture while receiving more polished fashion interpretations. They pair naturally with wide-leg jeans, oversized jackets and relaxed tailoring.

The bigger takeaway? Fall 2026 is about choosing sneakers according to mood rather than rules. Whether your style leans minimalist, sporty, retro or maximalist, the season offers plenty of room to make sneakers a defining part of the outfit rather than an afterthought.

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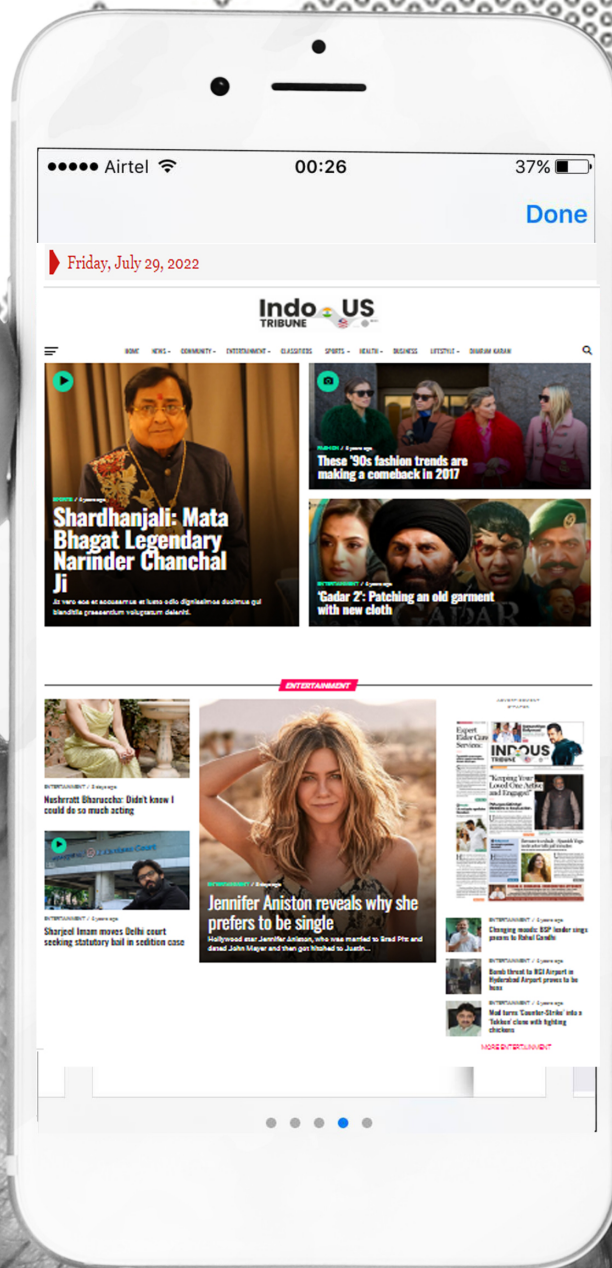



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