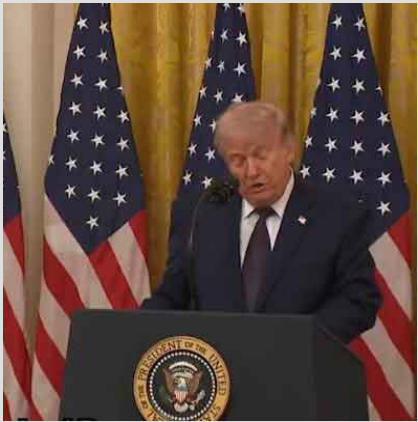


Trump backs Kevin Warsh but accuses Fed policymakers of political motives



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he continues to trust Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh but accused other policymakers of keeping interest rates unnecessarily high for political reasons. Speaking to reporters in North Carolina, Trump said Warsh faced a “very hostile” board and lacked enough votes to prevail over other policymakers. Trump provided no evidence for his allegation that interest rates were being raised to undermine his presidency. He said he wanted Warsh to remain independent but maintained that borrowing costs were too high and argued that the United States should have the world’s lowest interest rates because of its strong credit position. Trump also cited more than \$21 trillion in investment in the United States without providing details. Federal Reserve policy is determined collectively, not by the chair alone.

Carney backs closer Canada-EU ties amid tensions with Trump



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Thursday welcomed a proposal for Canada to become the European Union’s first associate member, as Ottawa seeks to reduce its economic dependence on the United States amid escalating tensions with President Donald Trump. Speaking to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Carney said closer cooperation with Europe could strengthen Canada’s economic resilience and sovereignty. The proposed status, put forward by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, has yet to be defined under EU treaties.

Carney said Canada wants deeper cooperation with Europe in trade, defense, critical minerals, artificial intelligence, energy, space, research and financial services. Canada has already joined the EU’s SAFE defense procurement program, becoming its first non-European participant. Trump has warned that closer Canada-EU ties could be a “hostile act” and threatened additional tariffs, while Carney said Canadians would not allow other countries to dictate their international partnerships.

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US tariff threat over Russian energy purchases puts India and other buyers on alert

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Congress has approved legislation that could impose tariffs of up to 100 percent on goods from countries that are major buyers of Russian energy, prompting India to assess possible measures to protect its trade and economic interests.

The House passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 on Wednesday after the Senate approved it earlier, sending the legislation to President Donald Trump. The measure seeks to cut revenue supporting Russia’s war against Ukraine and includes sanctions on Russian officials, banks, energy interests and entities helping Moscow evade restrictions.

It allows tariffs of up to 500 percent on Russian goods and duties of up to 100 percent on goods from countries covered by provisions targeting Russian oil and gas purchases. India said Wednesday it has discussed the potential impact with senior US officials and remains committed to securing energy supplies through diversified sourcing. New Delhi has not been designated for a specific tariff rate yet.



India uses BRICS summit to push a stronger voice for the Global South

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India used the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13 to push for a stronger voice for the Global South and greater representation for developing economies in global institutions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed attended, while the UAE and Saudi Arabia sent senior representatives. Brazil was represented by Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira.

Leaders adopted the 45-page New Delhi Declaration, calling for reform of the United Nations and greater representation

for developing countries, while backing cooperation on trade, finance, artificial intelligence, energy, food security, health and climate. They supported greater use of local currencies and more efficient cross-border payments, but stopped short of creating a common BRICS currency. The declaration also addressed terrorism, Ukraine and the escalating conflict in West Asia, urging restraint and diplomacy.

The summit highlighted India’s ability to convene countries with competing interests, including China, Russia, Iran and Gulf states. However, divisions over Ukraine, West Asia, relations with the United States and China’s growing influence exposed the bloc’s limits. Critics questioned whether its wide-ranging commitments can translate into concrete action, particularly as BRICS expands while maintaining consensus-based decision-making. China will assume the chairship in 2027.



India raises Pakistan’s role in sheltering al-Qaida leaders at United Nations meeting



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

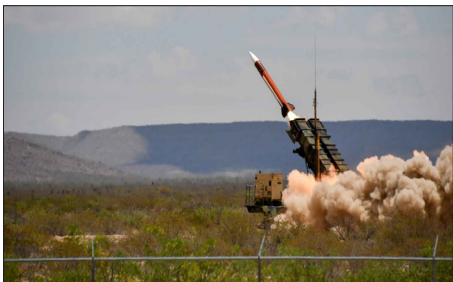
India accused Pakistan of providing an enabling environment for al-Qaida leaders linked to the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States and for militant groups targeting India. Speaking Wednesday at a United Nations Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, India’s Permanent Representative P. Harish did not name Pakistan directly but pointed to several al-Qaida figures who were later found there. He said the environment that sheltered the architects of the September 11 attacks had continued to provide space and support to groups such as Lashkar-e-Tayiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Harish cited Osama bin Laden, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Ramzi Binalshibh, Walid bin Attash and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, all captured in Pakistan. He urged the international community to act against terrorist sanctuaries and networks that enable extremist groups.

Rasuwa floods disrupt Nepal-China route, forcing Kailash Manasarovar pilgrims to seek alternatives

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe flooding in Nepal's Rasuwa district has disrupted the Rasuwagadhi crossing with China, forcing Kailash-Manasarovar pilgrims and other travelers to use alternative routes through Tatopani and Hilsa. Nepal's Department of Immigration said 3,904 passengers entered Nepal through Tatopani between August 26 and Monday, while 391 traveled toward China. At Hilsa, 387 passengers entered Nepal, including 165 who had previously crossed through Rasuwagadhi. Indian nationals make up the largest share of pilgrims traveling to Kailash through Nepal. Nepalese authorities said the disaster had killed 1,395 people, with 5,130 still missing.

US commits \$450 million to cut China dependence on critical tungsten supplies



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The US Department of War has committed \$450 million to The Elmet Group to expand domestic tungsten production and reduce reliance on Chinese supplies. The Pentagon says China accounts for about 85 percent of global tungsten supply, making the material a strategic vulnerability for US defense manufacturing. Tungsten is used in missiles, aircraft, submarines and other military systems. The investment will expand processing and manufacturing capacity at facilities in Maine, Michigan and Ohio. The department said the project would strengthen supply-chain resilience, support manufacturing jobs and protect a critical industrial capability for US defense programs.

US judge blocks Trump name addition to Kennedy Center, saying Congress must approve changes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday blocked the Kennedy Center board's attempt to add President Donald Trump's name to the Washington performing arts venue, saying Congress must approve such a change. Judge Christopher Cooper had previously ruled that the board lacked authority to rename the center, which Congress designated in honor of former President John F. Kennedy. The Trump-aligned board had planned to add an inscription crediting Trump for renovations. The ruling came as the board voted to close the center, citing financial and structural concerns. Trump said renovations could not proceed until the naming dispute is resolved.

US House backs bill to shield households from data center energy costs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill Wednesday aimed at preventing households from bearing the cost of electricity infrastructure needed for large data centers. The Ratepayer Protection Act passed 417-3 and would require state utility regulators to consider standards ensuring data centers cover the incremental costs of generation, transmission and distribution upgrades needed to serve them.

The measure applies to large electricity users of at least 100 megawatts and would also require financial protections if a facility leaves its power agreement early. The legislation reflects growing concerns that artificial intelligence-driven data center



expansion could increase electricity costs for consumers. It now heads to the Senate, where its prospects remain uncertain.

AfD and Putin envoy prepare possible talks on restoring Russian gas supplies to Germany after Ukraine peace deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin's economic envoy Kirill Dmitriev and leaders of Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany party are preparing for possible talks next year on restoring Russian gas supplies, according to two people familiar with the plans. The meeting could take place as early as March and would involve AfD co-leaders Alice Weidel and Tino Chrupalla.

The talks would reportedly depend on Russia and Ukraine first reaching a peace framework, with Israel, the United Arab Emirates and India among possible venues.

Organizers also hope to discuss reopening the Nord Stream pipelines and involve United States representatives Steve Witkoff



and Jared Kushner. However, a senior United States official said neither had been informed about or invited to the proposed meeting. The plans underscore the AfD's close ties with Moscow and its push for cheaper Russian energy.

UN-backed experts cite possible US war crimes in two deadly Iran strikes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations-backed experts said Thursday there were reasonable grounds to believe United States forces committed war crimes in two deadly strikes in Iran in February, including an attack on a primary school in Minab. The investigation found the strike on Shajareh Tayyebah Primary School killed more than 150 people, including about 120 children, according to Iranian officials. Investigators found no evidence that the school was

being used for military purposes and concluded the attack was indiscriminate. The mission also examined a strike on a sports center in Lamerd that killed and injured 22 civilians and damaged nearby homes and a school. Separately, the experts found that Iranian authorities committed crimes against humanity during a crackdown on nationwide protests, including unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. The findings will be presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Trump attacks Democrats on crime and communism during North Carolina campaign rally

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump attacked Democrats over crime and accused them of embracing communism during a campaign rally in North Carolina on Wednesday, as he sought to support Republican Senate candidate Michael Whatley. Whatley is trailing former Democratic Governor Roy Cooper in recent polling ahead of the November midterm elections. Trump criticized Cooper

over a 2021 prison population reduction and accused him of supporting sanctuary policies, claims Cooper's campaign rejected.

Trump remains influential among Republican voters, but Whatley faces the challenge of winning support from unaffiliated voters, who make up about 40 percent of North Carolina's registered electorate. Economic concerns, including high fuel prices and affordability, are also shaping the race.

Bolivia extends emergency powers amid fears of renewed road blockades

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bolivia's Assembly on Thursday extended the country's state of emergency for another 90 days, citing fears that protests could trigger new road blockades and disrupt supplies and economic activity. The measure, requested by President Rodrigo Paz's government, was due to expire Friday. The original emergency was declared in June after more than 50 days of blockades caused shortages of food, fuel and medicine and deepened the country's economic crisis. Government and defense officials told lawmakers that police and military reports pointed to the risk of renewed mobilizations. Some opposition lawmakers and social groups questioned the extension, arguing that emergency powers address the symptoms rather than Bolivia's deeper economic and political problems.

Pakistan avoids military commitment to Saudi Arabia despite mutual defense pact

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan condemned an attempted Houthi drone attack near Mecca on Wednesday but stopped short of committing military forces to Saudi Arabia despite a mutual defense pact with Riyadh. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the attempted strike "dastardly and heinous" and expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. Pakistani military officials emphasized that the defense agreement is defensive and focused on collective deterrence rather than offensive operations. The pact, signed with Saudi Arabia in 2025 and later expanded to include Turkey, states that an armed attack on one partner would be treated as an attack on all. However, its operational details remain unclear. Pakistan faces strategic pressure because of its border with Iran and its efforts to maintain a role as a potential mediator between Washington and Tehran. The latest Houthi attacks have therefore tested Islamabad's security commitments to Riyadh.

Epstein survivors sue his estate over images of children found in abuse material seized by investigators

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two women whose images appeared in child sexual abuse material linked to Jeffrey Epstein filed a class action lawsuit Wednesday seeking at least \$6 million from his estate. The case could potentially expand to thousands of people whose images were found in photographs and videos seized by federal investigators.

The lawsuit seeks \$150,000 for each class member and asks the estate and federal authorities to help identify people depicted in the material and notify them. One plaintiff alleges Epstein stole partially nude photographs taken when she was 12. Epstein was convicted in 2008 of soliciting sex from a minor and charged with sex trafficking in 2019. He died in jail that year, with his death ruled a suicide.

Fiji declares HIV a national crisis after 27 percent rise in new diagnoses and growing infections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fiji has declared HIV a national crisis after new diagnoses rose 27 percent last year, raising concern that infections are spreading beyond groups traditionally considered at higher risk. The government said Thursday that 2,016 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2025 and estimated that about one in 60 adults was living with the virus. Fifty-nine babies were born with HIV last year, while 18 died before their first birthday. The government plans to expand free, confidential testing, prevention medicines and treatment, along with harm-reduction services for people who inject drugs. The United Nations estimates that 9,100 Fijians were living with HIV last year, but only 39 percent knew their status.

United States and Chinese experts urge nuclear-style safeguards to prevent artificial intelligence from triggering conflict

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States and Chinese security experts are urging both governments to establish safeguards preventing artificial intelligence from triggering unintended military escalation. Their recommendations include prohibiting autonomous attacks on nuclear command systems, keeping humans in control of consequential cyber operations and creating a dedicated hotline for artificial intelligence-related incidents. The proposals come ahead of expected United States-China government talks on artificial intelligence and reflect growing concern that automated systems could mistake defensive actions for attacks, leaving leaders little time to respond. The experts also called for common standards defining meaningful human control. Neither government has endorsed the recommendations, while Washington and Beijing remain wary that restrictions could slow their technological development or weaken their strategic position.

Morocco's political parties promise jobs and housing to win back young voters ahead of parliamentary election

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Morocco's political parties are seeking to win over young voters before next week's parliamentary election, promising jobs, affordable housing and greater economic opportunity after years of frustration. The governing National Rally of Independents and Authenticity and Modernity Party have pledged about one million jobs over the next parliamentary term and highlighted infrastructure investment ahead of the 2030 World Cup. Yet youth engagement remains weak. People aged 18 to 24 represent about 12 percent of Morocco's population but only about 3 percent of registered voters. Youth unemployment is around 27 percent, while one in three young Moroccans is neither working, studying nor training. Analysts say economic gains have failed to translate into widespread satisfaction.

Global leaders and diplomats salute Modi's leadership on his birthday

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global leaders and diplomats extended birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, with messages highlighting India's expanding international partnerships and his role in global affairs. Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Modi's contribution to strengthening the India-Russia strategic partnership and thanked him for the hospitality during his recent visit to New Delhi for the BRICS summit. United States President Donald Trump, through the United States Embassy in India, also conveyed his wishes.

Leaders and diplomats from Japan, Australia, Nepal, Belgium, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Argentina, Uruguay and Dominica also sent greetings. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



thanked Modi for placing health and global health security on the BRICS agenda. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the growing India-Israel partnership, while the Dalai Lama congratulated Modi on India's emergence as a confident and strong nation. Argentina's ambassador called Modi one of the world's great leaders, while Uruguay's envoy praised his leadership and India's growing diplomatic role.

Saudi-Houthi strikes widen Yemen war and deepen risks to regional oil supplies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis exchanged fresh strikes Thursday as fighting spread across the border, forcing thousands of Yemenis to flee by land and sea and raising new concerns about regional oil supplies. Saudi civil defense said a Yemeni resident was killed by debris from a drone intercepted over Taif, the first death Riyadh has reported since Houthi attacks intensified last week. Saudi Arabia said more than 80 people had previously been wounded. Houthi-controlled television reported Saudi airstrikes in Hajjah and near Taiz. The International Organization for Migration said more than

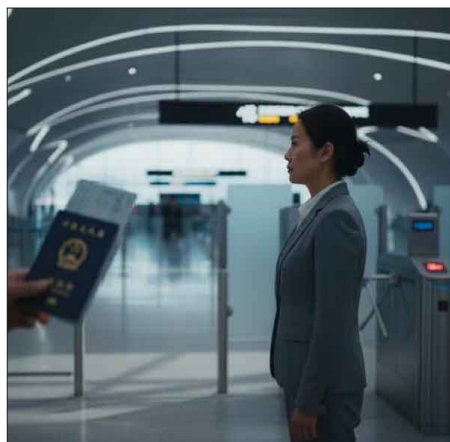


100,000 Yemenis have been displaced, mostly within Yemen, while some crossed the Red Sea to Djibouti. The escalation threatens the Red Sea route for Gulf oil exports while shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains severely constrained.

New China exit rules raise alarm over travel restrictions on citizens and foreigners

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Human Rights Watch has raised concerns over a new Chinese government decree that gives authorities broader powers to prevent Chinese nationals and foreigners from leaving the country. The decree took effect Tuesday and allows exit restrictions for broadly defined national security and risk-related reasons, according to the rights group. Human Rights Watch said such restrictions must be necessary and proportionate under international human rights law. The organization cited cases involving a United States federal employee and a Wells Fargo executive who were prevented from leaving China in 2025 without being charged with crimes. It also said China has increasingly restricted



international travel for human rights defenders and ethnic minorities over the past decade. Human Rights Watch warned the new rules could increase self-censorship and called for an end to arbitrary exit restrictions.

Argentina seeks tougher sanctions on Falklands companies as Milei escalates dispute over offshore oil activity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Argentina's government introduced a bill this week seeking tougher sanctions against companies and individuals involved in natural resource activities around the Falkland Islands, escalating its long-running dispute with Britain. The legislation targets unauthorized exploitation of renewable and nonrenewable resources in the islands,

which Argentina calls the Malvinas, as well as its maritime areas and continental shelf. It would also create a National Security Council chaired by President Javier Milei to oversee national security and protect critical infrastructure and sovereignty. Argentina said last week it had begun sanction proceedings against at least 60 companies and individuals linked to offshore oil exploration. The move comes as development of the Sea Lion oil project continues despite Argentina's objections.

Israel adds 2,167 homes to E1 settlement plan, drawing warnings over future Palestinian state

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel has added a tender for 2,167 housing units to its controversial E1 settlement expansion plan in the occupied West Bank, rights groups said Wednesday. The new tender brings the total number of planned units in the project to 3,401. Critics say development in E1 could divide the West Bank and isolate East Jerusalem from Palestinian areas, threatening the viability of a future Palestinian state. The tender is scheduled to open for bidding October 25, two days before Israel's parliamentary election. Palestinian officials condemned the move as a violation of international law. Israel disputes the view that its settlements are illegal. Britain, France and Canada recently imposed restrictions on goods from Israeli settlements.

European and Arab military chiefs meet in Paris over Lebanon security after planned United Nations force drawdown



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European and Arab military leaders met in Paris Thursday to discuss support for Lebanon's armed forces and options for replacing the United Nations peacekeeping presence as the mission prepares to draw down. The talks come amid fears that escalating Israeli strikes could trigger renewed fighting in southern Lebanon. Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a framework under United States-brokered talks that envisages an Israeli withdrawal alongside Lebanese deployment and efforts to disarm Hezbollah. Officials are assessing military and financial needs ahead of a possible donor conference in late 2026 or early 2027. France and Italy are considering an international mission outside a United Nations mandate, while a European Union-led option is also being discussed.

Meloni visits Norway to deepen cooperation on energy, critical minerals and defense

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited Norway Thursday in the first official trip by an Italian leader there in nearly 15 years, seeking closer cooperation on energy, critical minerals and defense. Meloni was scheduled to meet Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo and attend a dinner with business representatives aimed at encouraging investment between the two countries. Italy is seeking to diversify energy supplies amid market volatility linked to the conflict involving Iran and has recently strengthened ties with other energy producers. Norway is already an important partner, with Italian energy company Eni holding majority ownership of Norwegian producer Var Energi. Meloni and Støre were also expected to discuss Ukraine and Arctic security.



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India at the Crossroads of Energy Security and U.S. Pressure



Dr. Avi Verma

The U.S. House of Representatives has taken a consequential step that could test one of America's most important strategic relationships in Asia. On September 16, the House passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 by a bipartisan vote of 262–159. The legislation now goes to President Donald Trump for his signature. For India, the most consequential provision is the authority it gives the U.S. President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian crude oil or natural gas or facilitating sanctions evasion. India is explicitly identified among the countries potentially subject to these duties. But an important distinction must be made: the bill does not automatically impose a 100% tariff on India. It creates the legal mechanism and presidential authority to impose such a tariff. That distinction leaves considerable room for diplomacy—but it also creates a powerful instrument of economic pressure.

What is Washington trying to accomplish?

The fundamental American objective is to reduce Russia's revenues from energy exports and thereby limit Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine. The legislation goes considerably beyond oil. It targets Russian officials, financial institutions, energy interests and vessels associated with sanctions evasion, including the so-called Russian "shadow fleet." The secondary-tariff provision is designed to put pressure on countries that continue purchasing Russian energy. The logic is straightforward: if Russia's biggest customers face serious economic consequences for buying Russian oil, they may reduce those purchases, thereby shrinking Moscow's energy revenues. For Washington, tariffs are therefore not merely a trade measure. They are being used as a geopolitical instrument. But that strategy carries risks of its own.

Why India is particularly exposed

India imports most of the crude oil it consumes. Russian crude became increasingly important after 2022, when Western sanctions and the restructuring of global energy markets redirected Russian oil toward Asian buyers. For India, the arrangement was economically attractive. Discounted Russian crude reduced input costs for Indian refiners, helped contain the import bill and supported India's ability to supply a rapidly growing economy. Russia remains India's largest single crude supplier. Kpler data indicate that India imported about 2.08 million barrels per day of Russian crude in August, approximately 45% of its total crude imports. That was already a significant decline from July's roughly 56% share, demonstrating that India's oil basket is capable of changing as market conditions evolve. This is an important point: India is not completely dependent on Russian oil, but Russia remains too important to replace overnight without economic consequences. India can buy more from the Middle East, the United States, Venezuela,



Africa and other producers. But replacement barrels may come with different prices, transportation costs, insurance costs and refinery economics. The question is therefore not simply whether India can replace Russian crude. It is how much replacement will cost India.

The 100% tariff threat

The larger danger lies in the second side of the equation. The United States is one of India's most important export markets. A 100% tariff, if imposed broadly, could severely affect Indian exporters in sectors ranging from textiles and apparel to engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, gems and jewelry, information-linked services and other trade-dependent industries. The impact would not be confined to large corporations. Small and medium-sized Indian manufacturers integrated into U.S.-bound supply chains could also face significant pressure. At the same time, American importers and consumers would not necessarily escape the consequences. Indian goods entering the United States at dramatically higher costs could mean higher prices, reduced competitiveness and supply-chain disruptions. That creates an unusual situation: a tariff intended to pressure India could also impose costs on American businesses and consumers. This is why the actual tariff rate—and how Washington chooses to apply it—will matter far more than the headline 100% figure.

Is this really about Russia—or also about India-U.S. trade?

That is one of the central questions. The stated purpose of the legislation is to increase economic pressure on Russia. However, the tariff authority gives Washington substantial leverage over countries such as India and China. India is simultaneously negotiating the future shape of its economic relationship with the United States. Consequently, the threat of tariffs could become part of a broader negotiating framework involving market access, trade concessions and India's continued purchase of Russian energy. Some Indian analysts have described this as an attempt to use tariff pressure to force India toward a particular trade or energy position. Those are analytical interpretations rather than established facts, but they illustrate why New Delhi is treating the legislation as a matter extending beyond the Ukraine conflict.

India's response: energy security first

New Delhi's response has so far been firm but measured. The Ministry of External Affairs has reiterated that India remains firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people through diversified sourcing and changing market conditions. India has also stated that it will take all necessary

measures to protect its trade and economic interests. The government has said the issue has already been discussed at senior levels with American interlocutors and that India has clearly communicated its concerns about the potential impact on bilateral relations and international energy markets. It is also working with Indian trade and industry bodies to assess the implications. That response points toward a multi-track Indian strategy.

First: diplomacy. India has every reason to negotiate before any punitive tariff is actually imposed. The fact that the legislation gives the President discretion is significant. There remains space for exemptions, lower tariffs, adjustments or negotiated arrangements.

Second: diversification. India is already reducing its exposure to any single supplier. Recent increases in purchases from Venezuela and other markets demonstrate that diversification is underway.

Third: protect Indian exports. New Delhi will need contingency plans for industries heavily dependent on the U.S. market, including helping companies diversify into Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Fourth: strengthen domestic resilience. India must reduce the vulnerability created by its dependence on imported crude by accelerating renewable energy, electric mobility, domestic production, strategic petroleum reserves and energy efficiency.

Fifth: preserve strategic autonomy. India's challenge is to maintain its relationship with Washington without allowing any external power to dictate the entirety of its energy policy.

The bigger question for India and America

There is a legitimate American objective in trying to restrict Russia's ability to finance the war in Ukraine. There is also a legitimate Indian objective in securing affordable and reliable energy for its population and economy. These objectives do not necessarily have to become mutually exclusive. India has repeatedly demonstrated that it can diversify its energy sources while maintaining independent foreign-policy choices. The United States, meanwhile, has a strategic interest in a strong India—not simply as a trading partner, but as a major Indo-Pacific power.

A tariff war between the world's largest democracy and one of its most important strategic partners would therefore carry consequences far beyond the immediate oil dispute. The House vote should be viewed neither as an automatic 100% tariff on India nor as a development that can be ignored. It is a warning, a negotiating instrument and a new source of economic uncertainty. India's response must be equally strategic: negotiate firmly, diversify intelligently, protect exporters, strengthen energy security and keep every diplomatic channel open. The lesson from this episode is perhaps the most important one of all: India's energy security cannot depend on one supplier, just as India's economic future cannot depend on one export market. Strategic autonomy in the 21st century will not mean choosing between America and Russia. It will mean building an India strong enough to engage with both—and with the rest of the world—on the basis of its own national interests.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune

Pakistan cuts government fuel use and spending as Gulf conflict threatens energy supplies and drives up prices

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan announced new austerity measures this week to conserve fuel as the Gulf conflict disrupts energy supplies and pushes up gasoline and diesel prices. The measures include reducing fuel allocations for government vehicles, banning state purchases of vehicles and most durable goods, restricting official foreign travel and ending official dinners. Government meetings will increasingly be held by teleconference. Pakistan is also facing risks of gas and electricity shortages linked to disruptions in liquefied natural gas supplies. A fuel relief program launched Wednesday offers a subsidy of 100 Pakistani rupees, about 36 cents, per liter for motorcycles, rickshaws and small cars within monthly limits. Similar austerity measures were introduced earlier this year.

Poland scrambles fighter jets and closes airports after Russian strikes hit western Ukraine near NATO border

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Poland scrambled military aircraft and temporarily closed two airports Thursday after Russian strikes in western Ukraine came close to its border, triggering air raid warnings in eastern parts of the NATO member. Polish authorities said there was no violation of Polish airspace and later ended the military operation. Airports in Rzeszow and Lublin also reopened. Poland's military said a drone crashed or was shot down about four kilometers from the border, while officials said fighter jets had been authorized to engage any drone entering Polish airspace. Prime Minister Donald Tusk said the Russian attack had ended after explosions were reported near the border. Poland has strengthened air defenses following repeated risks from the war next door.

Greece lifts former European Commissioner's immunity, clearing way for action in Qatargate probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Greece's parliament lifted the immunity of former European Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on Thursday, clearing the way for further legal action in the long-running Qatargate corruption investigation. Avramopoulos, now a lawmaker with the ruling New Democracy party, denies wrongdoing or links to the scandal. A Belgian investigating judge issued a European arrest warrant for him in June on allegations including participation in a criminal group, public corruption and money laundering. Avramopoulos has said he intends to appear voluntarily before Belgian authorities. The Qatargate investigation emerged in 2022 after Belgian authorities seized about €1.5 million in cash during raids. Qatar has repeatedly denied allegations that it sought to influence European Union policymaking through illicit payments.

South Korea drops denuclearization-first approach in bid to revive North Korea dialogue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Thursday that dialogue with North Korea would not be possible if Pyongyang is required to denuclearize before negotiations begin. Speaking at a government-hosted forum on peaceful coexistence, Chung said Seoul should move away from an approach based on denuclearization first and compensation later. He proposed a broader "basket" approach addressing several issues simultaneously, including formally ending the Korean War, establishing peaceful coexistence, improving relations between North Korea and the United States, addressing North Korea's nuclear program and reviving inter-Korean economic cooperation. Chung also said South Korea



would not pursue additional lawsuits against North Korea despite a court ruling ordering Pyongyang to pay \$32.5 million for destroying an inter-Korean liaison office in 2020, saying enforcement would be impractical.

Russia warns Japan military buildup near its borders threatens regional security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has warned that Japan's expanding military activities and deployment of missiles near Russian territory pose a threat to its national security and stability in Northeast Asia. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko raised the concerns Wednesday during a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Akira Muto, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry. Moscow criticized Japan's growing military cooperation with the United States and other Western allies near Russia's Far East and warned that continued expansion could prompt "compensatory measures" to strengthen Russian defenses. Russia also criticized Tokyo's opposition to President



Vladimir Putin's recent visit to the disputed Southern Kuril Islands and Japan's military support for Ukraine. Russian officials said Japan's sanctions against Moscow have made cooperation difficult. Russia suspended peace treaty negotiations and visa-free visits to the islands after Japan joined Western sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Prolonged Pakistan-occupied Kashmir internet shutdown draws human rights scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's prolonged internet restrictions in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have raised concerns over freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and access to information. Internet services have been severely restricted since June, when protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee expanded from economic grievances over electricity and essential goods to demands for political reforms and greater government accountability. A

report published by Opinio Juris argued that Pakistan's system for imposing internet shutdowns lacks transparency and allows authorities to impose restrictions without publicly disclosing orders. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also said last month that the unrest reflected longstanding political and socioeconomic grievances, institutional distrust and governance failures. It reported that restrictions on internet and mobile services, movement, access to essential goods and health care, along with arrests, had further narrowed civic space in the region.

US Democrats urge Trump to confront Xi over Tibet and Uyghur rights

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democratic lawmakers have urged President Donald Trump to raise human rights concerns involving Tibetans and Uyghurs when Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the White House. At a Democratic-led congressional hearing Tuesday, lawmakers including Greg Stanton, Jim McGovern, Ro Khanna, Nancy Pelosi and Seth Moulton argued that commercial interests should not overshadow concerns about repression in China. They criticized the Trump

administration for reducing programs supporting human rights organizations and independent media focused on China. Stanton cited alleged displacement of Tibetans and continuing persecution of Uyghurs, while McGovern accused Trump of replacing a traditional policy combining engagement with pressure with a more transactional approach. Khanna questioned enforcement against Chinese goods linked to forced labor. Witnesses included Uyghur and Tibetan advocates and China researchers. The White House and Chinese government did not immediately respond to the lawmakers' allegations.

Australia weighs smart glasses ban in government workplaces over covert recording and security concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia is considering banning camera-equipped smart glasses in government workplaces over privacy and security concerns, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Thursday. The proposed restrictions would address devices capable of discreetly recording people and capturing sensitive information. Public Service Minister Katy Gallagher has asked the Australian Public Service Commission to advise on whether such glasses should be prohibited in government workplaces. The government will also consult major employers, including Microsoft, Commonwealth Bank, Telstra and AGL, on broader guidelines for artificial intelligence in the workplace. Concerns over covert recording have grown internationally as smart glasses become more common. Oslo banned the devices in schools last month, while courts in England and Wales have prohibited Meta smart glasses.

Sweden's Kristersson to resign after center-left bloc wins parliamentary majority over ruling coalition

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Thursday he would resign after the center-left opposition won a majority in Sunday's parliamentary election. The center-left bloc secured 176 seats in the 349-member parliament, compared with 173 for Kristersson's right-wing bloc, according to the election authority. Kristersson formally asked the parliamentary speaker to relieve him of office, clearing the way for talks on forming a new government. Social Democratic leader Magdalena Andersson is expected to seek a return as prime minister after four years in opposition. The election result still requires formal certification, and the center-left victory is only the first step toward forming a government. Coalition negotiations could determine how the new administration takes shape.

European Commission proposes social media ban for under-13s and tighter online safeguards for children

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission proposed sweeping new online safety rules Thursday that would prevent children under 13 from using social media and place stricter controls on accounts for teenagers. Under the proposal, children aged 13 to 15 would require parental control, while platforms would face restrictions on addictive features, profiling-based recommendation systems, infinite scrolling and unsolicited contact from strangers. Artificial intelligence companions and chatbots aimed at children would be disabled by default. Platforms would also have to introduce age-assurance systems and stronger parental controls. Companies could face fines of up to 6 percent of their global annual sales for violations. The proposal must still be negotiated with European Union governments and the European Parliament before it can become law.

India and Nepal put reconstruction, energy and connectivity high on economic agenda



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Nepal discussed post-flood reconstruction, trade, investment, energy and connectivity during talks between their finance ministers in New Delhi on Thursday. Nepalese Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle met Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during his three-day visit to India.

The discussions focused on development cooperation and strengthening the longstanding economic partnership between the neighboring countries. Post-flood reconstruction featured prominently as Nepal assesses the economic impact of recent disasters and plans recovery efforts. The two sides also reviewed opportunities to expand trade and investment, deepen energy cooperation and improve cross-border connectivity. The talks underline the importance of economic and infrastructure cooperation in the broader India-Nepal relationship, with energy, trade and connectivity remaining key areas of shared interest.

IMF sees India playing bigger role in driving global economic growth



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has the potential to drive the next wave of global growth, International Monetary Fund Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke said after completing a five-day visit to the country. Clarke, visiting India for the first time in his current role, met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri and business leaders in New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

He highlighted India's strong economic fundamentals, private-sector dynamism, talent pool and expanding technological and manufacturing capabilities. Discussions covered India's economic outlook, global uncertainty, inflation, productivity and reforms needed to sustain inclusive growth. Clarke also identified innovation, digital transformation, advanced manufacturing and wider technology adoption as important drivers of competitiveness. He said the International Monetary Fund remains a close partner in supporting India's economic progress.

India takes 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign to diplomatic missions worldwide

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Embassies and Consulates worldwide launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' campaign on Thursday, extending India's cleanliness and public participation initiative to its diplomatic missions abroad. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri launched the campaign at the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters in New Delhi by administering the Swachhata Pledge, planting a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative and leading officials in a cleanliness drive. Running through October 2, the campaign carries

the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.

Indian missions in Baku, Reykjavik, Jeddah, Monrovia and Zanzibar also organized pledge ceremonies and cleanliness activities. In Baku, Ambassador Abhay Kumar administered the pledge and planted a sapling, while Ambassador R. Ravindra led a cleanliness drive in Reykjavik. The campaign underscores India's emphasis on cleanliness, environmental responsibility and public participation, while showcasing these priorities through its diplomatic missions overseas.

India and Russia deepen military engagement through Army chief's Moscow visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Russia discussed expanding military cooperation and training engagements during Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth's official visit to Moscow on Thursday. Seth visited the Russian Land Forces Headquarters, where discussions focused on military cooperation, professional training and capability development between the two armies. He also received a ceremonial Guard of Honour and paid tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The three-day visit, which began Wednesday, is aimed at strengthening the longstanding India-Russia defense partnership and military-to-military engagement. Seth is scheduled to visit Russia's National Defense Control Centre and meet senior Defense Ministry officials, including



Deputy Defense Minister Vasily Sergeyevich Osmakov, who oversees defense industry and procurement. He will also travel to Saint Petersburg to visit the Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy. The visit highlights the continued importance of military diplomacy in India-Russia relations and provides an opportunity to exchange views on contemporary security challenges.

India-New Zealand trade deal clears Parliament, opening wider market access

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Zealand's Parliament approved legislation implementing its free trade agreement with India on Wednesday, clearing a key step toward bringing the pact into effect. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon called the agreement a landmark deal that would expand access to India's huge consumer market while creating opportunities for New Zealand businesses, jobs and incomes.

The legislation passed 93-29. Once the agreement takes effect, 57 percent of New Zealand exports to India will become duty-free, with tariffs on 95 percent of exports expected to be eliminated or significantly reduced once fully implemented. The kiwifruit industry is projected to save about 125 million New Zealand dollars in tariffs over five years. The agreement is expected to enter into force later this year after both countries complete their ratification procedures and supports a goal set by Luxon and Modi to double bilateral trade by 2030.

Jaishankar and Bhutan's King reaffirm India's special friendship with Thimphu

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in Thimphu on Thursday, reaffirming India's commitment to its close relationship with Bhutan. Jaishankar said he valued the King's guidance in further deepening the "unique friendship" between the two countries.

During his visit, Jaishankar also met Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings and India's commitment to Bhutan's progress and prosperity. He handed over 54 'Made in India' electric vehicles to Tobgay, saying India was supporting Bhutan's transition toward electric mobility and sustainable



transportation. Jaishankar and the King also participated in the lighting of the 'Aashirvaad ka Diya' at Tashichho Dzong, attended by Bhutanese officials, friends of India and members of the Indian community. The engagements highlighted the breadth of India-Bhutan cooperation and their enduring people-to-people ties.

India and UAE look to deepen parliamentary engagement alongside wider strategic ties



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met United Arab Emirates Ambassador Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi in New Delhi on Tuesday and discussed strengthening parliamentary cooperation between India and the UAE. Birla described the bilateral relationship as deep and dynamic, built on mutual trust, shared interests and strong people-to-people ties. He also praised the UAE's active participation during India's BRICS presidency and highlighted the 4.5 million-strong Indian community in the UAE as an important bridge between the two countries. The meeting followed talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The two countries are expanding cooperation in defense, space, nuclear energy, technology and innovation, alongside major investment projects. The engagement reflects efforts to strengthen institutional and parliamentary links alongside the broader strategic partnership.

India and South Africa seek stronger parliamentary ties at Commonwealth conference

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh met South Africa's National Council of Provinces Chairperson Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane in Cape Town on Tuesday, highlighting the longstanding parliamentary relationship between India and South Africa. Their meeting took place on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

According to India's High Commission in South Africa, the two officials discussed strengthening cooperation and exchanges between their legislatures. An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Singh is attending the conference, which brings together Speakers, presiding officers, parliamentarians and officials from across the Commonwealth.

The gathering is focused on strengthening international law and parliamentary democracy in a changing world order. Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta and Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht are also attending. The discussions add a parliamentary dimension to India-South Africa ties, alongside their broader political and economic engagement.



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Friday, 18 september 2026

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Trump withdraws ICE director nominee amid scrutiny over immigration enforcement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House on Thursday withdrew President Donald Trump's nomination of former Oklahoma state trooper Lance Schroyer to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, leaving the agency without a Senate-confirmed director. Schroyer, who has limited immigration experience, is close to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, a former Oklahoma senator. The withdrawal came amid scrutiny of ICE enforcement operations and its rapid expansion under Trump's mass deportation campaign. Senate committee Chairman Rand Paul had declined to schedule a hearing until the Department of Homeland Security provided information about investigations into civilian deaths during ICE operations. ICE has not had a Senate-confirmed leader since the Obama administration.

Judge requires 30 days' notice before Kennedy Center can make major building changes



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to give 30 days' notice before making major physical changes, including demolition. U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper said the clarification was necessary after the center suddenly closed Wednesday. Officials cited serious structural deterioration and said it would remain closed for at least seven days while safety risks are assessed. The board had separately voted Tuesday to close it indefinitely for repairs. President Donald Trump has threatened that the building could be demolished if conditions remain dangerous. Cooper's order followed a legal challenge by Democratic Rep. Joyce Beatty, who opposes Trump's involvement.

Former Arizona senator Jon Kyl dies at 84 after nearly three decades in Congress

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl, a Republican who spent nearly three decades in Congress and shaped Western water policy, died Wednesday night at 84, according to a longtime family friend. Kyl had withdrawn from public life in late 2025 after announcing a dementia diagnosis. He served in both the House and Senate and became Senate minority whip before retiring in 2013. He briefly returned in 2018 to fill the seat of the late Sen. John McCain. Kyl helped shape Arizona's groundwater rules and authored a 2004 tribal water rights settlement benefiting the Gila River Indian Community. He later helped guide Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation. Arizona leaders praised Kyl's public service.

New York mayor and attorney general sue to block Trump's expanded public charge rule

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Attorney General Letitia James filed separate lawsuits Monday seeking to block a Trump administration rule that would broaden how immigration officials determine whether certain applicants could become a "public charge." The rule is scheduled to take effect Friday. Under the policy, officials could consider an immigrant's use of benefits such as Medicaid and food assistance, along with age, health, family circumstances, finances, education and skills when reviewing certain visa and green card applications. James' lawsuit was joined by 21 states and the District of Columbia, while Mamdani's case includes a coalition of cities including Chicago,



San Francisco and Santa Clara. Immigrant advocates warned the rule could discourage families from using benefits they legally qualify for. Federal officials said the change reinforces a longstanding expectation that immigrants should be financially self-sufficient. The rule does not apply to United States citizens or asylum seekers.

Federal judge strikes down Trump administration policy requiring cancellation of anti-DEI education grants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Boston on Thursday struck down a Trump administration policy requiring the U.S. Department of Education to terminate millions of dollars in grants supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley ruled for eight Democratic-led states that challenged the policy, finding that the department provided no clear criteria for determining which programs qualified as diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Kelley also said the department failed to consider

how canceling the grants would affect teachers and educator training programs. The Education Department announced in February 2025 that it was canceling more than \$600 million in grants for teacher training and education agencies, citing programs it described as promoting "divisive ideologies." Kelley's ruling said 109 grants were terminated, including 40 awarded to universities and other institutions in the eight states. The Supreme Court had previously allowed the cancellations to proceed. Kelley concluded the underlying directive was arbitrary and capricious under federal administrative law.

EPA repeals Biden-era limits on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday that it is repealing Biden-era rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions from coal- and natural gas-fired power plants, reversing a major climate policy. The agency said the move would save industry more than \$300 billion and give utilities greater flexibility to keep plants operating while meeting electricity demand.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the administration was focused on expanding American energy production and keeping electricity affordable. Environmental and public health groups condemned the rollback, warning it could increase pollution and health risks. The repeal is expected to face legal challenges after publication in the Federal Register. The agency also proposed a separate rule that could restrict future efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. It is expected to be finalized next year.

Postal Service halts system tied to Trump mail voting order

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Postal Service has stopped work on a computer system designed to support President Donald Trump's effort to restrict mail voting after the Supreme Court blocked his executive order for this year's elections. Postmaster General David Steiner said Thursday that the agency halted development

because of the court's injunction. The system would have used state citizenship lists to determine which voters could receive mail ballots. A whistleblower had raised concerns about errors and rushed development. A Postal Service memo said the agency will not enforce Trump's new mail voting rules in the 2026 federal election and will follow existing procedures. Steiner urged voters to return ballots early to avoid delivery delays.

Air Force secretary says US has weapons deployed in space

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said Monday that the United States has weapons deployed in orbit, describing them as "space control weapons" capable of defending U.S. forces against hostile actions. Speaking at the Air and Space Forces Association's annual conference in National Harbor, Maryland, Meink did not identify the weapons or provide details about their capabilities. He said

maintaining American space capabilities and superiority was increasingly important as adversaries develop systems that could threaten U.S. satellites and other space assets. His remarks represented a rare public acknowledgment of American weapons in space and came as the Space Force expands its focus on space control and counterspace operations. Meink also highlighted the Space-Based Interceptor Program, being developed as part of President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile defense initiative.

ICE officer Castro faces state and federal charges after Minneapolis shooting

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Immigration officer Christian Castro appeared in Minneapolis Thursday after being charged in the January shooting of a Venezuelan man during an immigration operation. A judge set bail at \$400,000, or \$200,000 with conditions, including a waiver allowing extradition if Castro leaves Minnesota. Prosecutors allege Castro shot 24-year-old Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis through a Minneapolis home's front door and later falsely claimed he had been attacked with a broom handle and snow shovel. Castro also faces federal charges of lying to investigators. He was detained in Texas after Minnesota sought extradition, but Texas Gov. Greg Abbott refused to sign an extradition warrant. Castro later returned voluntarily to Minnesota.

RFK Jr backs anti-vaccine activists while US measles deaths rise

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. told anti-vaccine activists Thursday that they have a "steadfast friend at the White House" as the United States faces its worst measles outbreak in decades. Speaking at a Washington conference organized by Children's Health Defense, which Kennedy previously led, he said he wanted to make sweeping changes but had to follow the law. Kennedy briefly addressed the outbreak, which has been linked to four deaths in Pennsylvania, while promoting claims about alleged vaccine injuries and questioning established vaccine safety research. Recent polling shows declining confidence in measles, mumps and rubella vaccines as cases nationwide surpass 3,000.

401(k) balances hit record \$155,800 in second quarter as markets rebound



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Average 401(k) balances reached a record \$155,800 in the second quarter of 2026, according to Fidelity Investments, rising 10.5 percent from the previous quarter and 13.1 percent from a year earlier. The increase was the strongest quarterly gain since the fourth quarter of 2020, helped by a stock market rebound and continued saving. Average 403(b) balances reached \$145,000, while individual retirement account balances rose to \$144,523. The average combined employee and employer 401(k) contribution rate held at a record 14.4 percent, with workers contributing 9.6 percent and employers 4.8 percent. Fidelity said 81.2 percent of participants contributed enough to receive their full employer match.

Democratic senator urges diplomats to guide review of United States troops in Europe

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has urged Secretary of State Marco Rubio to ensure United States diplomats are involved in the Pentagon's review of American military forces in Europe. The review, launched in June, is expected to conclude by the end of the year and could include withdrawing about 25,000 of the roughly 80,000 United States troops stationed in Europe. Shaheen said ambassadors in affected countries, particularly the Baltic states, had been excluded from consultations. The State Department disputed that claim, saying diplomats are regularly involved. European allies are closely watching the review amid heightened tensions with Russia.

Appeals court clears Trump administration to overhaul \$4 billion homelessness program



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court on Wednesday cleared the Trump administration to proceed with changes to a \$4 billion federal homelessness program, allowing the government to shift funding from permanent housing toward temporary housing and supportive services. The First Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily blocked a lower court ruling that had prevented the Department of Housing and Urban Development from making the changes. The dispute involves \$1.3 billion set aside for transitional housing and supportive services during the 2026 fiscal year. Twenty-two mostly Democratic-led states, the District of Columbia and advocacy groups had challenged the plan, warning it could put tens of thousands of people at risk of losing permanent housing.

United States temporarily eases driving-hour limits for fuel truck drivers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

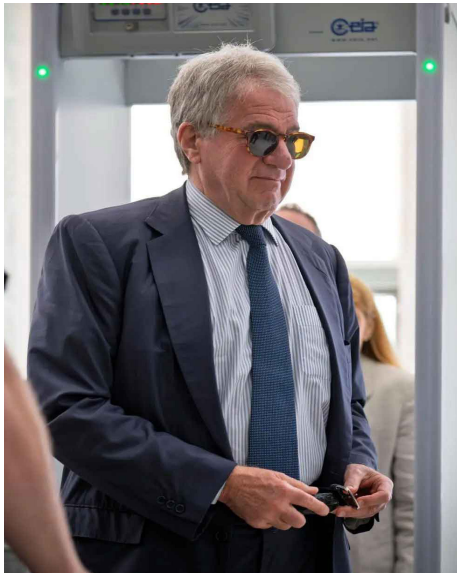
The Trump administration is temporarily relaxing limits on how long fuel truck drivers can work, citing concerns about gasoline and diesel supplies and transportation costs. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy announced a 90-day waiver Wednesday allowing drivers carrying fuel to operate for up to 16 hours within a 24-hour period, compared with the usual 14 hours, while maintaining required rest breaks. The move comes as diesel prices reached a record \$6.29 per gallon amid global supply disruptions and refinery problems. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said the waiver is intended to address potential fuel shortages and increased demand. Carriers with conditional safety ratings are excluded from the waiver.

House holds Leon Black in contempt after he defied subpoenas in Epstein investigation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The House on Wednesday held billionaire Leon Black in contempt of Congress after he defied subpoenas in its investigation into Jeffrey Epstein, sending the matter to the Justice Department for possible prosecution. Black, co-founder of Apollo Global Management, appeared voluntarily before the House Oversight Committee in June but declined to answer questions about nondisclosure agreements. The committee later subpoenaed him for documents and a deposition.

Black refused to appear for the rescheduled deposition, prompting a unanimous bipartisan recommendation that the full House approve contempt proceedings. His lawyers called the action politically motivated and said Black had no



knowledge of Epstein's crimes. Lawmakers say Black paid Epstein \$158 million.

Judge blocks Trump administration rule limiting stays for foreign students and journalists

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Monday blocked a Trump administration rule that would have imposed fixed time limits on foreign students, exchange visitors and journalists in the United States, just hours before it was scheduled to take effect. Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV barred the Department of Homeland Security from implementing

the regulation while the lawsuit proceeds. The rule would have generally limited international student and exchange visas to four years and foreign journalists to 240 days, with a shorter 90-day limit for some Chinese media personnel. Unions and higher education groups challenged the policy, arguing that the government violated federal administrative law. The administration said the rule was intended to prevent visa abuse and indefinite stays.

Newsom says he will not run for president in 2028 if Harris does

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that he would not run for president in 2028 if former Vice President Kamala Harris enters the Democratic race. In an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper, Newsom said a contest against Harris would be "mutual assured destruction" because their supporters and political networks

substantially overlap. He said such a campaign would benefit political opponents and "waste everyone's time." Harris, who was the Democratic nominee in 2024 before losing to Donald Trump, has indicated she is considering another presidential bid but has not announced a campaign. Newsom, who is barred from seeking a third consecutive term as California governor and will leave office in January, has previously acknowledged considering a 2028 presidential run.

Mahmoud Khalil sues Columbia, accusing university of indifference to harassment

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Palestinian rights advocate Mahmoud Khalil and fellow activists sued Columbia University on Monday, accusing the school of failing to protect them from harassment and doxxing. The lawsuit alleges that Columbia was deliberately indifferent to threats against Khalil and members of the Palestine Working Group and retaliated by restricting the group's activities. Khalil, a

lawful permanent resident, was arrested by federal immigration agents in March 2025 after becoming a prominent figure in Columbia's pro-Palestinian protests. He was released in June 2025 after a federal judge ruled his detention unconstitutional. The plaintiffs are seeking damages and court orders that would lift restrictions on the student group. Columbia said it remains committed to protecting members of its community from discrimination and harassment.

Scientists challenge United States health agency screening of research grants

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of scientists has filed a class-action lawsuit accusing the National Institutes of Health of unconstitutionally screening research grants for viewpoints disfavored by the Trump administration. The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in California, alleges that the agency uses 235 keywords, including terms related to gender, diversity

and climate change, to flag grants for termination, denial or renegotiation. The plaintiffs say the screening can target research that has already passed scientific peer review and violates the First Amendment. The lawsuit names National Institutes of Health Director Jay Bhattacharya, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the Department of Government Efficiency as defendants. The agencies declined to comment on the litigation.

McConnell returns to Senate after months away following fall

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sen. Mitch McConnell returned to the Senate on Monday in a wheelchair, casting his first vote since a June fall at his Kentucky home that led to hospitalization and rehabilitation. The 84-year-old Republican said his recovery has been "long and frustrating," with lingering effects of childhood polio complicating his health. McConnell said he is not yet fully recovered but would try to attend important Senate votes when needed. His three-month absence had raised questions about his ability to continue serving and further narrowed the Republican majority. McConnell was discharged from rehabilitation in early August and later said the fall left him briefly unconscious and was followed by mild pneumonia. He is not seeking reelection and plans to leave the Senate in January 2027 after serving more than four decades.

Pentagon to resume controversial testosterone testing for service members

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pentagon will resume mandatory testosterone deficiency testing for United States service members aged 30 and older after temporarily pausing the program earlier this month. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced the screening initiative in July, saying it could improve military readiness. The Pentagon said Thursday that the updated guidance establishes uniform screening and treatment pathways for male testosterone deficiency. The original plan also included questionnaires for women to identify possible hormonal conditions. The department did not specify what changes were made during the pause. Medical professionals have criticized the program, warning that inappropriate testosterone treatment could increase infertility risks and cause other health problems.

Tariffs add \$100 million to United States air traffic control modernization costs



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Aviation Administration expects tariffs to add about \$100 million to the cost of its more than \$12.5 billion plan to modernize the United States air traffic control system. Federal Aviation Administrator Bryan Bedford told lawmakers that much of the additional expense involves air traffic radar systems. Representative Rick Larsen, the top Democrat on the House committee overseeing the agency, criticized the tariffs as raising costs for a modernization effort already facing major expenses. The program includes replacing hundreds of aging radars and upgrading telecommunications systems. Telecommunications costs have risen from \$4.75 billion to \$5.91 billion, while the Federal Aviation Administration is seeking another \$10 billion for a second phase.

Edmonton police warn of car-borne jewellery gangs targeting South Asian women



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police in Edmonton, Canada, are warning residents about a rise in distraction-style jewellery robberies targeting older South Asian women, particularly those from the Punjabi community. Since Tuesday, August 19, police have received at least 20 reports involving suspects who approach victims in vehicles using tactics such as asking for directions, offering rides, seeking blessings or pretending to be relatives. Suspects may then grab victims, pull their arms into vehicles or forcibly remove jewellery. No serious injuries have been reported, but the Edmonton Police Service said the use of force and vehicles raises concerns that someone could be seriously hurt. Police urged victims and witnesses to call emergency services immediately and, if safe, note the vehicle's license plate and description. Residents are also advised to avoid approaching unfamiliar vehicles and to avoid displaying expensive jewelry or other valuables in public.

New Jersey Indian-origin woman and Nepali-American friend killed by New York subway train



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin woman from New Jersey and her Nepali-American friend, both 24, were killed after being struck by a subway train in Lower Manhattan early Sunday, leaving their families and local communities mourning their deaths. Malaika Chitre, of Dayton, New Jersey, and Navam Kaul, of Sayreville, were on the tracks at Spring Street station when a southbound No. 4 train struck them at about 3:14 a.m., according to authorities. Both were pronounced dead at the scene, while about 100 passengers were evacuated. A video circulating online appears to show the two sitting on the tracks shortly before the collision. Investigators are examining how they got there, including whether one entered or fell onto the tracks and the other followed. Chitre and Kaul were Rutgers University graduates. The circumstances surrounding their deaths remain under investigation.

Ganga Aarti makes its Thames debut, drawing Indian diaspora and Londoners

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Thousands of people, including members of London's Indian diaspora, gathered along the River Thames on Sunday for a major Ganga Aarti ceremony that brought an important Hindu tradition from India to the British capital. Organized by Chinmaya Mission United Kingdom in collaboration with the Totally Thames festival, the ceremony was held at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich as part of celebrations marking 75 years of the Chinmaya Mission.

The event featured prayers, chanting, music and multi-tiered oil lamps, with organizers presenting the ceremony as an expression of gratitude toward nature. The Ganges was also described as a symbol of knowledge, consciousness and spiritual heritage. The program began

with cultural activities, music, dance, food and community programming before the evening aarti. It attracted members of the Indian diaspora alongside local residents and visitors.

Environmental responsibility was emphasized throughout the event. The ceremony was conducted entirely from land, with lamps kept on the riverbank rather than floated on the Thames. Organizers also took steps to reduce waste and limit single-use plastics. Chinmaya Mission said the event sought to connect India's spiritual traditions with London's multicultural community while promoting unity, gratitude and respect for nature.

The gathering also highlighted the continuing role of Indian-origin community organizations in bringing cultural and religious traditions to audiences across Britain.

Sikh trucker stabbed 17 times at Wyoming rest stop, suspect charged with attempted murder

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 28-year-old Punjabi Sikh truck driver from Sacramento was stabbed 17 times at a rest stop in Wyoming while traveling toward Pennsylvania, prompting concern among Sikh and South Asian communities. Gurvinder Singh told National Public Radio that a man followed him into a restroom at the Bitter Creek Rest Area along Interstate 80 on Sunday and attacked him with a knife. Singh escaped but collapsed outside and called for help. A

Hispanic family at the rest stop assisted him and provided police with information about the suspect's truck. Wyoming Highway Patrol officers later arrested Andrew Kris Bzdak near Rawlins. He faces a charge of attempted first-degree murder. Authorities have not established a motive or confirmed any connection to a recent Department of Homeland Security post targeting "Mr Singh." Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi condemned the attack and expressed concern over rising hostility toward Sikh and South Asian Americans.

New passport rules shorten validity window for Indian children under 15

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian passports issued to children below 15 years of age will now be valid for five years or until the child turns 18, whichever comes first. The change was notified by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, published in the Gazette of India on Thursday. Under the revised Rule 12(1A), the provision applies to standard 36-page

passports issued to children under 15. The amended rules also revise Rule 8 concerning passport application fees, stating that charges for different categories will be specified in Schedule IV. The amendments took effect upon publication in the Official Gazette. The changes are relevant to Indian families living overseas, including those who need to plan passport renewals for children while traveling or residing abroad. The Passports Rules, 1980, were last amended in June 2026.

Indian-origin California woman charged after two friends killed in separate incidents

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin woman in California has been charged with two counts of murder after authorities linked her to the deaths of two friends in separate incidents in San Jose and Milpitas. Anila Baby was arrested on August 28 after police responded to an incident in Milpitas involving her friend Anjana Hari, who was struck by a vehicle and died. About 90 minutes earlier, police had found another friend, Ann Mary Mathew, unconscious at a San Jose residence with stab wounds. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators later connected the two cases and identified Baby as a suspect. She was initially charged in the Milpitas case before prosecutors added a murder charge related to Mathew's death on September 8. Baby faces two counts of first-degree murder. Authorities have not established a motive, and



the circumstances surrounding the killings remain under investigation. Baby and both victims were friends and had roots in Kerala, making the case particularly distressing for the Malayali community in California. The families are receiving assistance with the legal procedures surrounding the deaths and the return of the victims' remains to India for final rites.

Punjabi truck driver arrested in United States after allegedly overstaying visa for eight years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States immigration authorities have arrested Satvir Singh, a Punjabi truck driver living in New Jersey, accusing him of remaining in the country unlawfully for more than eight years after entering legally.

Singh was taken into custody by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday during an operation at a commercial vehicle inspection station in Hillsborough, New Hampshire. Authorities said he entered the United States legally in 2017 but remained after his authorized stay expired.

His arrest came shortly after the Department of Homeland Security removed a controversial social media advertisement aimed at undocumented truck drivers. The artificial intelligence-generated post featured a brown-bearded man and referred to "Mr Singh," drawing criticism from Indian-American and Sikh advocacy groups and Democratic politicians, including California Governor Gavin Newsom and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.

Immigration officials said Singh's arrest was part of an enforcement operation and was not connected to the advertisement.

The case comes amid heightened attention to immigration enforcement affecting South Asian truck drivers in the United States.

Indian-origin lab owner wanted in United States over alleged \$93 million Medicare fraud

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States authorities are seeking Indian-origin laboratory owner Khadeer Khan Mohammed, accusing him of orchestrating a scheme that generated about \$93 million in fraudulent Medicare claims involving genetic testing.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General says Mohammed allegedly caused false claims to be submitted for laboratory genetic tests that were not eligible for Medicare reimbursement between August 2023 and October 2024.

Authorities allege that his company, American Premier, submitted approximately \$93 million in fraudulent claims, resulting in at least \$65 million in Medicare payments. During one 10-day period in 2023, Medicare reportedly paid about \$13 million on suspected fraudulent claims.

Investigators also allege that physicians' personal identifying information was used without their knowledge or consent and that claims were submitted for beneficiaries who had no treatment relationship with the doctors whose information was used.

Mohammed is listed as a fugitive by the Office of Inspector General, which says he may be in Hyderabad, India. The case involves alleged conduct in the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere. The allegations have not been proven in court.

Alleged Bishnoi gang letter puts Canadian Indian community under scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An alleged letter attributed to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has surfaced in Canada, claiming the group has 5,000 members and more firearms than police, amid growing scrutiny of alleged gang activity affecting Canada's Indian and Punjabi communities. The letter, reportedly addressed to Canadian defense officials, the army and police, was presented during an Immigration and Refugee Board hearing involving an alleged Bishnoi associate who was ordered deported in July.

The development comes amid Canadian enforcement against people accused of links to organized crime and extortion. Several Indian nationals have been deported over alleged criminal connections, including Palwinder Singh, Jasmer Singh, Amitoz Bajwa and Sahibjot Singh. Karamveer Singh, described as a close Bishnoi associate, was also deported. A classified Canada Border Services Agency report has reportedly alleged that the network exploited international student and work permit programs to recruit young people. The gang's claims about its membership and weapons have not been independently established.

Singapore court rejects Indian-origin CEO's bid to recover \$590,000 from former girlfriend



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin chief executive has lost his attempt in a Singapore court to recover about SGD 468,000, or approximately \$590,000, that he said he spent on his former girlfriend.

Chander Agarwal, chief executive of a Mumbai-listed company, sued to recover money spent on overseas trips, luxury purchases, a feng shui consultant for her apartment and a Stanford-NUS executive program. He argued that the expenses were loans that should be repaid.

The couple met on a flight in 2019 and later connected through social media. Their romantic relationship began in September 2022 and ended in December 2023 after Agarwal suspected her of infidelity. He filed the lawsuit in March 2024.

In a written judgment issued Tuesday, Senior Judge Lee Seiu Kin ruled that most of the money had been given as gifts during the relationship.

The judge found that Agarwal had voluntarily provided substantial benefits without establishing at the time that repayment was expected. The case has attracted attention in India because of Agarwal's position as the chief executive of a Mumbai-listed company and the size of the financial claim.

Guru Nanak Dev University takes Amritsar-450 initiative to US political leaders and Sikh diaspora

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Guru Nanak Dev University has begun building support among United States political leaders and the global Punjabi and Sikh diaspora for its Amritsar-450 initiative, which will mark the 450th anniversary of the founding of Amritsar in 2027. Jaspreet Singh, a United States-based attorney and brand ambassador for the university's alumni association, has been representing the initiative during meetings with American political figures and community members.

Singh recently met former United States President Barack Obama and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. At a dinner hosted by Jeffries, he discussed Guru Nanak Dev University's academic and research work and outlined plans for

Amritsar-450. He also interacted with Congressman Josh Gottheimer. The discussions also covered issues affecting the Sikh community, immigration and concerns facing truck drivers, areas of particular interest to the Sikh and Punjabi diaspora in the United States.

The initiative aims to bring together scholars, educational institutions, community leaders and members of the global Punjabi and Sikh diaspora to examine Amritsar's history and future. Guru Nanak Dev University Vice Chancellor Karamjeet Singh said participation from the global Punjabi and Sikh community would be important to the initiative. The university plans academic, cultural and international programs intended to deepen global engagement and highlight Amritsar's historical and spiritual legacy.

Shooting at Gulab Sidhu's Punjab home renews security concerns for Punjabi diaspora artistes

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A shooting outside Punjabi singer Gulab Sidhu's home in Punjab has renewed concerns about threats facing Punjabi entertainers, including artistes with large audiences and professional ties to the Indian diaspora. Three unidentified men allegedly fired at least six rounds at the main gate of Sidhu's residence in Pharwahi village, Barnala district, early Sunday. Sidhu was reportedly in Australia at the time. No injuries were reported. Police recovered spent cartridges and

registered a case against unidentified suspects. An audio recording circulating online has claimed responsibility in the name of fugitive gangster Balwinder Singh, also known as Doni Bal, but police are investigating its authenticity. The incident comes after several attacks involving Punjabi artistes. Parmish Verma was shot at in Mohali in 2018, while Sidhu Moosewala was killed in Punjab in 2022. In Canada, properties associated with Karan Aujla, Gippy Grewal and A. P. Dhillon have been targeted in separate incidents. A vehicle associated with Ammy Virk was also recently fired upon.

Indian-origin California woman killed after months of alleged stalking by Indian man

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

An Indian-origin woman was shot and killed outside a Sacramento shopping center on Tuesday by a 22-year-old man from India who allegedly stalked her for months, according to United States authorities. Shalini Thakur, 38, was attacked outside a restaurant at the Arden Arcade shopping center. The suspect, identified as Rohit, later died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound during a standoff with police. Authorities said Rohit had allegedly harassed and stalked Thakur since at least January. She had reported concerns to authorities and later obtained a

restraining order. Court documents reportedly describe allegations that he tracked her, tampered with her vehicle, followed her to work and obtained a copy of her apartment key. The two knew each other through Rohit's work as a DoorDash delivery driver. After the shooting, investigators located Rohit's vehicle on Highway 50. Deputies attempted to stop him, triggering a standoff that disrupted traffic for hours. He was later found dead inside the vehicle. Authorities said Rohit entered the United States through Arizona in 2023. The killing has shocked the Indian-American community in the Sacramento area, while investigators continue examining the circumstances surrounding the attack.

New Zealand Sikh community donates \$50,000 to Nepal flood relief

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

New Zealand's Sikh community has donated \$50,000 toward relief efforts for families affected by devastating floods in Nepal, joining a wider response from the country's diverse South Asian communities. Daljit Singh of the Central Sikh Association announced the contribution at a fundraising event in Auckland on Friday organized by the New Zealand Nepal Society. The gathering brought together members of the Nepalese community, political leaders and community organizations to support people affected by the floods. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon attended and reaffirmed

New Zealand's support for Nepal. He said the government was providing \$3.1 million in relief assistance and had spoken with Nepal's Prime Minister Balen Shah about the situation. Singh expressed condolences to families who lost loved ones and said the Sikh community stood with Nepal during its recovery. He also highlighted humanitarian work by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, including teams sent to Nepal, langar services and five trucks carrying relief supplies. The Sikh contribution reflects the broader role of New Zealand's Indian and South Asian diaspora communities in humanitarian relief efforts beyond their own communities.

Indian-Canadian landlady breaks silence after tenant dispute videos go viral

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin Canadian landlady Raj Tiwana has offered her version of a tenant dispute that generated widespread attention on social media, saying the viral videos do not show the full story. In a Punjabi video statement, Tiwana said police took her into custody but released her shortly afterward. She claimed the videos were recorded about 10 days before they surfaced online and said the controversy had affected her business and personal life.

Tiwana alleged that her tenants had not paid rent for several months, harassed her and damaged the property. She said she had been dealing with the Tenancy Board and that the tenants were eventually evicted. The dispute reportedly began after Tiwana objected to a tenant using a barbecue in the garden. Viral footage shows her removing food from a grill and confronting the occupants. Another video appears to show her entering the tenant's home and throwing objects before a physical confrontation.

The tenant has separately alleged harassment and interference by Tiwana. Both sides' claims have not been independently verified.

Pakistan stops 104 Sikh pilgrims with Indian visas from boarding flight for pilgrimage

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of 104 Pakistani Sikh pilgrims holding valid Indian visas were stopped from boarding a flight from Faisalabad to Sharjah on Thursday night, reportedly because they did not have a required no-objection certificate. The pilgrims were traveling to India to visit Gurdwara Hemkunt Sahib in Uttarakhand. Their flight was scheduled to depart early Friday, but officials prevented them from proceeding, forcing the group to return home. Most members of the jatha are from Nankana Sahib. They later gathered at Gurdwara Janam Asthan to discuss the situation. Jatha leader Papinder Singh said officials had assured them that the necessary formalities could be completed within four days.

The incident has drawn criticism from Sikh organizations in India and Pakistan. Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President Harjinder Singh Dhami said the pilgrims should not have faced an obstacle after receiving Indian visas. Paramjit Singh Chandok of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee said the pilgrims had valid passports and visas and argued that an NOC generally applies only to Pakistani citizens working for government, semi-government or autonomous bodies.

The pilgrims had planned to travel through the Gulf because direct air connectivity between India and Pakistan remains suspended. Community leaders said the last-minute disruption caused financial losses and hardship, particularly for elderly pilgrims, women and children. The episode has also highlighted the difficulties faced by Pakistani Sikh pilgrims traveling to India for religious visits amid strained India-Pakistan relations.

Netanyahu threatens citizenship penalties for critics amid backlash over Gaza war documentary 'NAZA'

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he would advance legislation allowing citizenship to be revoked from people who defame Israeli soldiers, escalating his criticism of the Gaza war documentary 'NAZA'. Directed by Israeli journalists Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, the film alleges that mass civilian deaths were routinely incorporated into Israeli military targeting decisions, claims rejected by Netanyahu and the military. The documentary won the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival Saturday and has triggered a political backlash in Israel. Netanyahu also proposed sharply increasing financial penalties in defamation cases. The filmmakers have not commented publicly on his latest proposals. Any new citizenship legislation would likely face legal challenges.

Ireland extends Eurovision boycott over Israel's participation and Gaza humanitarian crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ireland's national broadcaster, RTE, said Thursday it will boycott the 2027 Eurovision Song Contest in Bulgaria because Israel is participating, marking a second consecutive year of withdrawal. RTE said it would neither send an entry nor broadcast the competition, citing civilian deaths and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Ireland was among five countries that skipped this year's contest over Israel's participation, alongside the Netherlands, Iceland, Slovenia and Spain. Dutch broadcaster AVROTROS has also announced a 2027 boycott, saying Eurovision can no longer be considered neutral. Organizers said they regretted RTE's decision but respected its choice. Bulgaria will host the contest in May after singer Dara won this year's competition.

Serbia opens Israeli drone assembly plant as Vucic pushes military modernization



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Thursday he had inaugurated a factory in Serbia to assemble Israeli-made military drones, part of efforts to strengthen the country's armed forces. Serbia announced the partnership with Israel in April, with state arms producer Yugoimport SDPR working with Israeli defense company Elbit Systems. Vucic said the facility will employ about 100 people and produce advanced equipment for Serbia and other countries. He disclosed few details, citing production confidentiality, and the media was not invited. Vucic said Serbia hopes to establish three more such factories. The project comes as Serbia expands military ties with France, China and Russia while pursuing European Union membership.

Iranian strikes damaged hundreds of US base structures across the Middle East, Pentagon report says

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Iranian missile and drone strikes damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures at United States military bases across the Middle East, according to a Pentagon Inspector General report released Monday. The damage occurred at bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan during Operation Epic Fury. Dozens of US aircraft were also damaged or destroyed, including four F-15E fighter jets, one F-35A and several other aircraft and helicopters.

The report, covering operations through June 30, said the conflict had cost about



\$33.4 billion, including \$22.3 billion in expended munitions and \$3.7 billion in equipment losses. Iranian attacks also damaged US diplomatic facilities in four countries, causing an estimated \$184 million in damage. The watchdog warned that heavy weapons use had created strategic munitions shortages and exposed production bottlenecks.

Takaichi reshuffles Japan cabinet while retaining key ministers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reshuffled her cabinet Thursday, retaining several key ministers while bringing the Japan Innovation Party into the government for the first time. Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama kept their positions in Takaichi's first cabinet reshuffle since taking office last October.

Hiroshi Nakatsuka, a former Japan Innovation Party secretary general, became the party's first cabinet minister after being appointed to oversee regulatory reform. Two lawmakers previously disciplined by the Liberal Democratic Party over a



political slush fund scandal were also given cabinet posts. Analysts said the reshuffle is intended to strengthen Takaichi's political base while maintaining her focus on military expansion, fiscal policy and an assertive diplomatic agenda. Japan is also expected to revise its key security documents by the end of this year.

Taliban says Doha Process has made limited progress but remains key channel for engagement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Taliban says the United Nations-led Doha Process has made limited progress toward its goals, particularly on social and economic cooperation with Afghanistan. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the process should continue to achieve its intended objectives. Launched in 2023, the framework remains

the main international channel for structured dialogue with Kabul, despite disagreements over human rights and governance. The Taliban skipped the first two rounds before sending a delegation to the third meeting in 2024. United Nations officials have continued to support the process, while technical cooperation on issues such as counternarcotics and humanitarian assistance has produced some incremental progress.

Russia votes in wartime election expected to reinforce Putin's grip

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russians began voting Friday in the country's first parliamentary election since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, with President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party expected to retain its dominant position. The three-day election will fill all 450 seats in the State Duma, while regional and local contests are also being held. Voting includes residents of Ukrainian territories that Russia claims to have annexed, a move Kyiv considers illegal. Authorities have sharply restricted political competition, with the anti-war Yabloko party removed from the parliamentary ballot and several critics



imprisoned or forced abroad. The Kremlin is seeking strong turnout and a show of public support for its war policies, despite economic strain, Ukrainian drone attacks and growing public anxiety.

Buckingham Palace rejects Diana memoir claims about King Charles and her funeral

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Buckingham Palace has strongly rejected claims by Charles Spencer, Princess Diana's brother, about King Charles III's reaction to her death in 1997. In his forthcoming memoir, 'Swan Song: Diana, My Sister,' Spencer alleges that the then-Prince Charles said Diana would soon be forgotten and describes him as contemptuous toward her. Spencer also recounts a dispute over plans for Princes William and Harry, then teenagers, to walk behind their mother's coffin. The palace issued an unusually forceful statement Wednesday, saying grief can affect judgment and memory. Spencer, the ninth Earl Spencer, has long had tensions with the royal family. The book is due next week.

Jinnah portrait at Dhaka University sparks backlash over Bangladesh's Liberation War history

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The University Teachers' Network in Bangladesh on Tuesday condemned changes to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union museum, including the installation of a portrait of Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The group said photographs of independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and materials documenting the 1971 Liberation War had also been removed. It called the changes an attempt to distort Bangladesh's history and described Jinnah's portrait as a "grave insult" to the Bengali nation. The network demanded an independent investigation, legal action against those responsible and restoration of the removed photographs and memorial materials.

Suspected Islamist militants kill at least 15 in northern Cameroon village raid



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Suspected Islamist militants killed at least 15 people in a pre-dawn raid on the northern Cameroon village of Madegoua on Thursday, according to a local vigilante and an administrative authority. Attackers reportedly entered around 2 a.m., pulled men from their homes, tied them up and executed them. The death toll initially stood at 13, with two more victims later dying at a hospital. Reuters could not independently verify video of burials. No group claimed responsibility, but a security analyst said Islamic State West Africa Province militants were likely responsible. The Far North region has faced years of attacks linked to Boko Haram and other insurgents around the Lake Chad basin.

Friday, 18 september 2026

Trump says progress is being made toward a permanent U.S. Army base in Poland

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Thursday that major progress had been made toward establishing a permanent U.S. Army base in Poland, potentially strengthening the presence on NATO's eastern flank. Trump credited Polish President Karol Nawrocki and said the location could be announced soon, although no final decision has been made. Nawrocki said Poland was ready to strengthen defense cooperation and would provide a suitable site. Poland has sought a larger allied presence since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Poland hosts U.S. troops on a rotational basis. In June, Poland's defense minister said the Department of Defense was open to a permanent presence amid a review of troop deployments across Europe.

Islamic State member sentenced to 20 years over support for Kabul airport bombing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Afghan member of the Islamic State group was sentenced Wednesday to 20 years in prison for providing material support to the organization's affiliate in Afghanistan. Mohammad Sharifullah, 28, was convicted in a federal court in Virginia in April, but jurors could not agree on whether he was directly responsible for the 2021 suicide bombing at Kabul's airport. The attack killed 13 United States service members and about 160 Afghans during the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan. Prosecutors said Sharifullah helped scout a route to the airport. His lawyers argued that he was not convicted of involvement in the bombing and disputed the reliability of statements he made to investigators.

Imran Khan's sons accuse Pakistan's army chief of driving harsh prison treatment



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The sons of imprisoned former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan have accused Army Chief Asim Munir of pursuing a personal vendetta against their father, saying they fear he is being "slowly killed" in prison. Kasim and Sulaiman Khan told The Guardian that Khan, 73, has been held in solitary confinement at Adiala prison and denied regular contact with family and independent medical care. They said his worsening eye condition has left him with severe vision loss in one eye. Pakistan's government rejected the allegations, saying Khan receives adequate food, medical examinations and other provisions. The United Nations has previously raised concerns about the conditions of Khan's detention.

Kim Yo Jong warns North Korea could respond more aggressively to U.S.-led military drills

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Kim Yo Jong warns North Korea could respond more aggressively to U.S.-led military drills. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, warned Friday that Pyongyang could respond more aggressively to U.S.-led military exercises, saying they were worsening tensions on the Korean Peninsula. In a state media statement, she criticized the Pacific Vanguard 2026 naval exercise near Guam and said North Korea would use all means available if its security or national interests were threatened. She reaffirmed Pyongyang's commitment to strengthening its nuclear arsenal. The exercise involved forces from the United States, South Korea, Australia, Canada,



New Zealand and Japan and ended September 10. Her warning followed her rejection of renewed international calls for North Korea's denuclearization.

United States approves \$414 million uranium financing for Niger project despite security risks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has approved up to \$414 million in financing for a Canadian company's uranium project in Niger, marking a diplomatic and commercial opening two years after Niger expelled U.S. forces. The U.S. Development Finance Corporation approved the debt facility for Global Atomic's Dasa project, which the company describes as one of Africa's highest-grade deposits. The investment could strengthen U.S. access to uranium, added to the American critical minerals list last year. However, the project faces major security and logistical risks, including jihadist violence and unstable transport routes. Global Atomic is exploring an alternative



export route through Algeria as Niger's ties with its northern neighbor improve.

Iran orders Swedish diplomat out after Stockholm expels Iranian embassy official

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran has ordered a Swedish diplomat to leave the country within 48 hours, escalating a diplomatic dispute after Sweden expelled an official from Iran's embassy in Stockholm. Iran's Foreign Ministry said Thursday that Sweden's decision was based on "baseless" allegations and accused Stockholm of pursuing "destructive" policies toward Tehran. Sweden said Wednesday that it had asked the Iranian embassy official to leave over activities it considered incompatible with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Swedish Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer said the move was linked to alleged Iranian activities targeting Jewish and Israeli interests



in Sweden. Tehran rejected the allegations and said it would take reciprocal measures to protect its national interests.

Trump administration again bars Palestinian officials from attending United Nations gathering

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has again denied entry visas to Palestinian officials ahead of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, preventing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other officials from attending in person. The State Department said Wednesday that the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization had

failed to meet commitments to the United States and accused them of pursuing international legal action against Israel and glorifying terrorism. Palestinian officials rejected the allegations, calling the restrictions unjustified and harmful to efforts toward a two-state solution. On Thursday, the General Assembly voted to allow Abbas to address the gathering by video, marking the second consecutive year he has been unable to attend in person.

India rejects false reports that leaders fell ill after BRICS Summit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has rejected social media claims that several world leaders fell ill after attending the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, calling the reports misleading and malicious. The Ministry of External Affairs Fact Check unit on Thursday flagged posts alleging that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Chinese President Xi Jinping had become ill after the summit. Some posts claimed the leaders suffered food poisoning from summit catering and falsely attributed the allegations to the BBC. The fact-checking unit shared several of the posts and warned users against circulating unverified claims. The allegations spread across social media following the summit, which brought together leaders from major emerging economies. No evidence was provided in the posts to substantiate claims that the leaders' health problems were linked to the summit or its catering.

Tibet group urges Trump to press Xi over Panchen Lama's release

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Campaign for Tibet has urged President Donald Trump to press Chinese President Xi Jinping over the release of the Panchen Lama and other Tibetan political prisoners. The advocacy group made the appeal Wednesday ahead of Xi's planned visit to Washington, also calling for renewed talks between Beijing and representatives of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan leaders. The group raised concerns over alleged artificial intelligence-assisted surveillance of Tibetan organizations, citing a report on misuse of artificial intelligence tools. It accused China-linked actors of collecting personal information and monitoring Tibetan groups. China has not responded to the allegations.

Democratic Republic of Congo reports more than 7,200 Ebola cases as outbreak shows decline



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Democratic Republic of Congo has recorded 7,258 confirmed Ebola cases across seven provinces, with 3,510 deaths and 1,726 recoveries, according to government data released Tuesday. The outbreak's overall trend is declining after apparently reaching its peak in mid-August, officials said. However, transmission remains active in several areas, particularly North Kivu, Ituri and Haut-Uele, while sporadic cases have been reported elsewhere. The government said the outbreak is under control but warned of continued local transmission. Declared in May, the current outbreak has become the largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic in the country's history, according to officials.

Kerala to deploy 335 new ambulances in upgraded 108 emergency fleet

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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erala will deploy 335 new ambulances under its 108 emergency service by the end of this month, replacing an aging fleet, Health Minister K. Muralreedharan said Saturday. The vehicles are being equipped with lifesaving medical equipment and have completed registration procedures, with final clearance pending before deployment. The new fleet includes 315 basic life support ambulances, 14 advanced life support units equipped with ventilators and six specialized neonatal ambulances for newborn care. Muralreedharan said the government would ensure the emergency service remains operational amid a planned protest by ambulance drivers over salary bonuses. The 108 service operates under the Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited.

Ladakh begins gravity-fed glacier water project to restore Tso Kar after 70 percent decline

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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adakh has launched an ambitious project to revive Tso Kar Lake after the high-altitude water body lost nearly 70 percent of its area over the past decade. The administration is diverting an average of 132 cusecs, or about 320 million liters, of previously untapped glacier water each day from the Rupsho Kharnak stream, located around 11 kilometers from the lake at an altitude of about 18,000 feet. The water will move toward Tso Kar through gravity and simple earthworks rather than a new concrete channel. Three natural depressions covering 270, 24 and 10 acres will act as intermediate water bodies, settling sediment and creating new freshwater wetlands before water reaches the lake. About 20 cusecs was already being diverted by September 9. The project is also expected to restore grazing land for local Pashmina herders and support migratory bird habitats.

CJI Surya Kant urges infrastructure sector to prevent disputes before they stall major projects



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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hief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday urged governments, industry and legal professionals to adopt preventive justice in infrastructure projects, resolving potential disputes before they disrupt construction. Speaking at the FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference in New Delhi, he said roads, bridges, water systems and other public assets cannot afford prolonged delays caused by litigation or arbitration. Kant called for contracts that clearly define responsibilities, fairly allocate risks and address unforeseen conditions. He also advocated standardized agreements and early dispute-avoidance mechanisms. He identified five priorities: clear obligations, balanced risk allocation, sensible standardization, early intervention, and swift, independent dispute resolution.

Amit Shah sets 2029 deadline for Uniform Civil Code across 21 NDA-ruled states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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nion Home Minister Amit Shah said Sunday that governments led by the Bharatiya Janata Party and its National Democratic Alliance partners in 21 states would introduce the Uniform Civil Code before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Shah said the code has already been implemented in several states and described its wider adoption as part of the government's reform agenda. He also highlighted the abolition of triple talaq and changes to India's criminal justice system, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. On national security, Shah reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism and cited the abrogation of Article 370, action against left-wing extremism and peace agreements in the Northeast among the government's achievements. Shah said discussions were continuing with political

parties and allies over the proposed National Register of Citizens in Manipur. He also said the government would continue efforts to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

India rejects Pakistan-China boundary panel, says disputed territory cannot be legitimized

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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ndia on Wednesday rejected the Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, saying the mechanism has no legal basis and cannot affect India's sovereignty claims over Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India does not recognize a legally valid China-Pakistan boundary concerning territories that New Delhi considers part of India and under Pakistan's illegal occupation. Pakistan and China recently activated

the joint commission to discuss border management, conduct joint surveys and promote trade cooperation. Jaiswal reiterated India's rejection of the 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, under which Pakistan transferred territory in the region to China, describing the agreement as illegal and invalid. He called on Pakistan to vacate Indian territories under its occupation and warned that New Delhi would oppose any attempt to alter the status of those areas or legitimize the occupation. India said such arrangements would affect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

New UPI merchant fee targets larger payments, drawing concern from retailers over costs and digital adoption

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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new Merchant Discount Rate for Unified Payments Interface merchant payments above Rs 2,000 will take effect Thursday, with merchants paying 0.4 percent on eligible transactions, capped at Rs 300. The Finance Ministry said the charge is not a consumer fee and banks have been advised to ensure merchants do not pass it on. About 96 percent of merchant transactions, based on transaction volume, will remain outside the new levy. Small vendors receiving up to Rs 1 lakh a month through UPI QR codes will continue to pay no MDR. Railways, fuel, telecommunications, insurance and other specified sectors will face a flat Rs 5 fee, while certain securities transactions will carry a lower rate. The government says the framework will make digital payments more sustainable and

fund technology, cybersecurity and payment infrastructure. However, retailers and traders have criticized the move, warning that even a small fee could squeeze thin margins, raise business costs and discourage digital payments. Traders in Delhi's Chandni Chowk have also questioned the decision after years of government efforts to promote UPI as a low-cost alternative to cash.

Kanimozhi-Uddhav meeting adds to speculation over regional coordination ahead of 2029 election

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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MK Member of Parliament Kanimozhi Karunanidhi's meeting with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on Saturday has fueled speculation about greater coordination among regional parties ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha election. The meeting was publicly linked to concerns over the proposed delimitation exercise and its potential impact on the parliamentary representation of states, particularly in southern India. Shiv Sena

(UBT) leaders described the discussion as cordial, while the DMK said regional parties needed to coordinate on the issue. Reports of Kanimozhi's outreach to other regional leaders have added to speculation about a broader political realignment. However, neither the DMK nor Shiv Sena (UBT) has formally announced plans for a new third front or a political platform outside the opposition alliance. For now, the discussions remain focused on delimitation and the concerns of regional parties, even as differences among opposition groups continue to shape debate over the future of national politics.

Adi Kailash pilgrimage faces further delay after Bailey bridge collapse blocks high-altitude route

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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he second phase of the Adi Kailash pilgrimage in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district has been postponed amid adverse weather and disruptions on the route to the high-altitude valleys. The phase was scheduled to begin Tuesday, but officials said Inner Line Permits could resume from Saturday, subject to weather and road conditions. A Bailey bridge near Kulagarh on the Dharchula-Gunji route was washed away for the second time in about two weeks, forcing authorities to delay the pilgrimage. The Border Roads Organisation has begun rebuilding the bridge, while the Army has prepared an alternative route. Authorities had earlier suspended permit issuance during the monsoon because of landslide risks and concerns over pilgrim safety. The pilgrimage had drawn a record 52,441 visitors to Adi Kailash and Om Parvat during the first two months after it began in May. Officials said the second phase will resume only after conditions are considered safe.

76,000 diyas light up Ahmedabad to mark Prime Minister Modi's 76th birthday with prayers and patriotic tributes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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hmedabad's Vishwa Umiya Dham marked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday on Thursday with the lighting of 76,000 diyas, symbolizing his age and offering prayers for his health and longevity. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel attended the midnight program, which featured a Maha Aarti and a mass rendition of 'Vande Mataram'. Around 5,000 people were expected to participate. The event was separate from the wider 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' campaign launched as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. That initiative encouraged people to light lamps at homes and public places as a gesture of blessings and goodwill for Modi.

Two Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists killed in Udhampur operation after security forces track them to forest hideout

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

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ecurity forces killed two Pakistani nationals linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed during a joint counterterrorism operation in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, on Thursday, officials said. The operation was launched after intelligence inputs indicated the presence of the militants in the Bartal forest area. The Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police, with other security personnel, surrounded the suspected hideout and engaged the terrorists. The two were identified as Mohammad Saddam and Mohammad Adil, also known as Mustafa, and were believed to have been active in the Udhampur-Kathua belt since 2023-24. A suspected overground worker was also detained, while search operations continued in the area.

Home Ministry seeks answers after three Italian passengers reportedly bypass Delhi immigration before Munich flight

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs called an urgent meeting on Tuesday after three Italian passengers reportedly traveled from Amritsar to Delhi and boarded a Lufthansa flight to Munich without completing mandatory immigration procedures. Senior officials from the home and civil aviation ministries, the Intelligence Bureau, Bureau of Immigration, Air India Group and Delhi airport were expected to attend. The meeting followed a show-cause notice issued to Air India after authorities raised concerns over the lapse. The passengers had reportedly received boarding passes for both sectors at Amritsar and were directed toward an international-to-international transfer at Delhi, despite needing immigration clearance there. The incident has raised questions about airport procedures and airline handling.

BJP fields murdered aide's mother in Nandigram bypoll, turning Chandranath Rath case into a campaign issue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party has nominated Hasirani Rath, the mother of murdered political aide Chandranath Rath, for the Nandigram Assembly bypoll in West Bengal. Rath, who was associated with BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, was killed shortly after the latest Assembly election, and the Central Bureau of Investigation is investigating the case. Hasirani Rath was scheduled to file her nomination on Tuesday in Adhikari's presence. The Nandigram contest has significant political weight because Adhikari has previously held the seat. The bypoll was triggered after he vacated one of the constituencies he had won. Voting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, with counting on Friday, October 9.

Vijay's London public event cancelled after police raise safety concerns as hundreds of supporters gather

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A planned public appearance by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay near London's The Shard was cancelled on Tuesday after the Metropolitan Police raised safety concerns over the gathering. Hundreds of supporters had reportedly assembled, with some waiting for hours to see the actor-turned-politician during his United Kingdom visit.

A member of Vijay's team told the crowd that the program was being called off because the organizers did not have the necessary permission amid public-safety concerns. His party later urged supporters not to gather outside his hotel or along his travel route. Vijay was visiting the United Kingdom as part of an investment-focused delegation that announced proposed commitments of about \$1.4 billion and more than 9,400 potential jobs in Tamil Nadu.

Kharge challenges BJP leaders to sing full 'Vande Mataram' as Karnataka's two-stanza order faces court challenge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday challenged BJP state president B. Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka to sing the full version of 'Vande Mataram' without using a paper, phone or teleprompter, saying he would resign if they did so. Kharge was defending the Congress-led Karnataka government's decision to restrict the song to its first two stanzas at most state government functions. The September 8 order makes an exception for events attended by the President, Vice President, Prime Minister or Governor, when the full version may be performed. The BJP has criticised the order and demanded that the complete national song be performed. The dispute has now moved to the Karnataka High Court, where advocate



Girish Bharadwaj has filed a Public Interest Litigation challenging the state directive. The petition argues that the order conflicts with Union government instructions issued this year on the official rendition of 'Vande Mataram' and questions the state's authority to prescribe a separate format. The Centre's January guidelines called for the full version to be used on specified official occasions, including when it is performed alongside the national anthem, adding a fresh layer to the political and legal dispute.

West Bengal orders closure of 252 madrassas after survey finds approval and infrastructure gaps

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal has ordered 252 madrassas to close and issued show-cause notices to about 100 others following a statewide verification exercise examining their approvals, management, infrastructure and registration status. Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education Minister Kshudiram Tudu said the institutions facing closure lacked required authorization or failed to meet basic standards, while those with valid approval would be allowed to continue operating. The survey, launched in June, covered Kolkata and 22 districts. Officials said 2,132 madrassas have valid approval, while 2,396 were identified as operating without the required authorization. The action has



triggered a political dispute. Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have cited concerns about alleged extremist activity at some unapproved institutions, while Trinamool Congress legislator Kunal Ghosh said madrassas should not be collectively associated with terrorism. Further action against institutions receiving notices will depend on their responses and the government's subsequent review.

Manohar Lal highlights India's energy priorities at G20 meeting in Houston

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal led India's delegation at the G20 Energy Ministers' Meeting in Houston, where ministers discussed energy security, affordability and resilient supply chains. India emphasized the importance of secure, affordable and reliable energy to support economic development and rising demand. Lal also highlighted India's progress in expanding power capacity and its approach to critical minerals, including diversification and strengthening supply chains. Discussions at the meeting covered energy security, regulatory efficiency



and critical minerals needed for modern technologies. India's participation underscored its push for practical, inclusive and technology-neutral energy policies that recognize the differing circumstances of G20 economies.

India-United Kingdom defense cooperation expands with Indian instructors training British pilots

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Indian Air Force Qualified Flying Instructors have begun training Royal Air Force pilots at Royal Air Force Valley in Wales, marking what India described as a historic first in bilateral defense cooperation. The instructors will contribute to British fast-jet pilot training under an arrangement welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former British Prime

Minister Keir Starmer during Starmer's India visit last year.

The Indian Air Force said the deployment will strengthen professional expertise, interoperability and the longstanding defense partnership between the two countries. The initiative follows agreements to deepen military training, joint exercises and capacity building as India and Britain expand broader security cooperation.

Adhikari urges Muslim voters to back BJP on development ahead of Bengal bypolls

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday urged Muslim voters in Nandigram and Rejinagar to support the BJP on development rather than religion, calling the upcoming Assembly bypolls a "test." Speaking in Haldia during BJP candidate Hasirani Rath's nomination process, Adhikari said minorities make up about 30 percent of Nandigram's voters and 70 percent in Rejinagar. He said voters would decide whether they "pass or fail" the test and predicted a BJP victory. He also said he expected to win Nandigram by more than 50,000 votes, compared with his roughly 10,000-vote margin in the 2026 Assembly election. Nandigram fell vacant after Adhikari retained Bhabanipur, while Rejinagar became vacant after Humayun Kabir retained Nawda. Voting is scheduled for October 6, with counting on October 9.

Supreme Court keeps Jantar Mantar violence inquiry panel intact despite bias concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court has rejected a plea seeking the reconstitution of a five-member committee investigating allegations of violence and police excesses during student protests led by the CJP at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and elsewhere in July. The panel, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice R. Subhash Reddy, was constituted in August to examine alleged excessive force by security personnel, violence against them and damage to public property. It was also asked to prioritize allegations involving violence, harassment and molestation of women protesters. During Thursday's hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan questioned the impartiality of a former police official on the panel, citing alleged links to a person who could come under scrutiny. The court said the concerns were based on conjecture and lacked credible evidence. It directed the committee to continue under its supervision, protect victims and witnesses and expedite its findings.

India summons Pakistani diplomat after naval collision in northern Arabian Sea

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India summoned Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires in New Delhi on Tuesday and lodged a strong protest over what it called "unacceptable and unprofessional" conduct by a Pakistani naval vessel that led to a collision with an Indian Navy warship in the northern Arabian Sea. The incident occurred on Monday evening in international waters while the Indian vessel was conducting a routine surveillance mission. India said the Pakistani vessel approached at high speed and behaved in a manner that caused the collision. No major damage was reported. New Delhi said the conduct violated Article 10 of the April 1991 India-Pakistan agreement on advance notification of military exercises, maneuvers and troop movements. India asked Pakistan to ensure its military units exercise due caution and follow bilateral agreements to prevent similar incidents.



Lockheed Martin speeds Patriot production with first General Motors parts shipment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lockheed Martin has received its first shipment of critical Patriot missile interceptor components from General Motors Defense, highlighting efforts to accelerate United States weapons production. The parts, used for the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement interceptor, arrived just 22 days after the companies signed a manufacturing agreement. General Motors Defense delivered the first batch of interceptor housing components on August 28. The collaboration is aimed at expanding production capacity and strengthening defense supply chains amid rising demand linked to conflicts involving Ukraine and Israel. Lockheed Martin is investing \$8 billion to \$9 billion to increase production of several missile systems at more than 20 United States sites.

Qantas ground workers set for nationwide strike over pay and conditions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hundreds of Qantas ground workers will strike next week over pay and working conditions, threatening disruptions to freight services and regional flights. The Transport Workers Union said workers will stage a 24-hour walkout on Wednesday in Victoria and on Thursday across the rest of Australia. The employees handle freight and support QantasLink regional operations. The union said any disruption, including possible delays to Australia Post shipments, would result from Qantas management's approach to negotiations. Qantas said it remains committed to reaching an agreement that includes annual pay increases. The dispute follows longstanding tensions over ground staff employment and outsourcing practices.

Disney asks court to block early review of ABC station licenses

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Disney has urged a United States judge to block the Federal Communications Commission from conducting an early review of licenses for eight ABC-owned stations, arguing that the action is retaliation against critical news coverage. In a court filing Thursday, Disney cited President Donald Trump's repeated attacks on journalists and broadcasters, as well as Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr's decision to accelerate the license reviews. The stations were not scheduled for renewal until 2028. Disney said the reviews followed political pressure against ABC and other networks. The Federal Communications Commission and White House had not immediately commented on the filing.

Oil prices retreat as alternative Saudi supply routes ease immediate fears of Middle East disruption

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global oil prices declined Thursday as concerns over an immediate disruption to crude supplies eased after reports that additional Saudi oil could reach international markets through alternative export routes.

Brent crude fell about 1% but remained above \$100 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate also moved lower. Prices have remained elevated amid heightened concerns about attacks on energy infrastructure and disruptions to key transportation and supply routes across the Middle East.

Reports that Saudi Arabia could move additional crude through Oman helped reassure traders that some supplies could reach global markets despite damage or disruption affecting established routes. The prospect of restoring part of Saudi Arabia's affected pipeline capacity also contributed to the decline. The retreat, however, has not removed concerns about the wider



supply outlook. Markets remain vulnerable to further attacks or an escalation of the conflict that could threaten oil production, pipelines, ports or shipping lanes.

Persistently high crude prices could add to inflationary pressures worldwide, particularly in energy-importing economies. Traders are therefore continuing to watch developments across the region alongside production levels and alternative supply routes.

Bank of Japan takes interest rate to 31-year high as inflation and oil risks persist

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate to 1.25% from 1% on Friday, taking borrowing costs to their highest level in 31 years as the central bank continues to move away from its era of ultra-loose monetary policy. The increase was widely expected and comes amid persistent inflation pressures, a weaker yen and a sharp rise in energy costs

linked to the Middle East conflict. The move followed the end of Japan's negative interest rate policy in 2024 and marks another step toward policy normalization. However, the yen initially weakened after the decision as investors focused on the absence of stronger forward guidance and two board members who opposed the increase. The Bank of Japan said it remains attentive to inflation, economic growth and global risks as it assesses the need for further rate increases.

Credit Acceptance agrees to \$710 million settlement over subprime auto loans

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Credit Acceptance has agreed to a \$710 million settlement with 40 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., resolving allegations that the subprime auto lender pushed low-income and low-credit borrowers into unaffordable loans. The agreement includes \$634 million in debt forgiveness for more than 55,000 borrowers who took out loans between November 2015 and November 2025.

The company will also provide \$60 million in restitution to other affected customers and pay a \$15.5 million penalty. Authorities alleged that Credit Acceptance and its dealer partners encouraged some consumers to purchase unnecessary add-on products and placed borrowers into loans that carried a high risk of default. The company denied wrongdoing but agreed to change its lending practices, including providing additional warnings about high-risk loans.

China opens tariff-free access to African exports in bid to deepen trade ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China has extended zero-tariff treatment to all 53 African countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations, in a move designed to expand trade and encourage African exports and industrial development. The policy took effect May 1 and covers all tariff lines for eligible African exporters. China had already eliminated tariffs on goods from 33 least-developed African countries in 2024. The broader measure now extends preferential access to countries including Kenya, Egypt and Nigeria. The policy could create opportunities for African producers, but economists have warned that lower tariffs alone will not resolve the continent's trade imbalance with China. Much of Africa's exports to



China remain concentrated in raw materials and extractive industries, while higher-value manufactured goods account for a smaller share. The challenge will be turning improved market access into greater local processing, manufacturing and industrial capacity.

Global AI spending projected to hit \$2.7 trillion in 2026 as infrastructure race accelerates

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Worldwide spending on artificial intelligence is expected to reach \$2.7 trillion in 2026, a 49.5% increase from the previous year, according to Gartner. The research firm said spending is being driven primarily by massive investment in AI infrastructure, including specialized servers, data centers, networking systems, semiconductors and AI-optimized cloud services. Gartner also raised its forecast for spending on AI application development platforms to 39% growth in 2026, from an earlier estimate of 28%. Spending on generative AI models is now expected to rise 117%, up from the previous forecast of 110%. The figures highlight the scale of investment behind the global AI boom, with hyperscalers and technology companies continuing to expand computing capacity to meet demand for increasingly sophisticated AI applications and services.

Global stocks rebound as investors digest Fed rate hike and renewed inflation concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global stocks rebounded Thursday as investors assessed the Federal Reserve's latest interest rate increase and signals that borrowing costs could remain higher for longer. The Fed raised its benchmark rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday to a range of 3.75% to 4%, marking its first increase since 2023. U.S. Treasury yields eased after the decision, helping support risk appetite across equity markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.61%, the S&P 500 rose 1.1% and the Nasdaq advanced 1.7%. European shares also moved higher. Investors are weighing the Fed's response to persistent inflation against the potential impact of higher borrowing costs on economic growth. The central bank's decision also comes as energy prices remain elevated because of disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict.

ECB's Vujcic warns against assuming higher oil prices will trigger more rate hikes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Central Bank Vice President Boris Vujcic has cautioned investors against assuming that higher energy prices will automatically lead to additional interest rate increases. Vujcic said market expectations for further hikes had been driven largely by rising oil and gas prices linked to the Middle East conflict. He emphasized that the ECB would assess a broader range of economic indicators before deciding on monetary policy. Persistently high energy prices could push inflation higher while reducing household purchasing power and consumer spending, potentially weakening economic growth. The eurozone economy, however, remains relatively resilient, supported by exports and private consumption. The ECB has raised its policy rate to 2.50% in two steps since June. Vujcic said the current pace remained appropriate for now while stressing that policymakers would retain flexibility as conditions evolve.

Friday, 18 september 2026

Hyundai chief warns Chinese automakers could make rapid gains in U.S. market

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hyundai Motor Chief Executive Jose Munoz has warned that Chinese automakers could quickly gain ground in the United States if trade protections are weakened. Munoz said Chinese vehicles can be 30% to 40% cheaper than competing models in some European markets, where Chinese brands have been steadily increasing their presence. He pointed to Britain, where Chinese brands have captured a significant share of new vehicle registrations, as an example of the competitive pressure that could emerge in the United States. Chinese electric vehicles currently face tariffs of about 100% when imported into the United States, effectively limiting their direct access to the market. Munoz also said Hyundai needs more time to develop its own advanced driver-assistance technology, with the company's proprietary system now targeted for 2029.

U.S. job market remains steady as high mortgage rates weigh on housing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. labor market showed continued resilience last week, with initial unemployment claims falling unexpectedly even as higher mortgage rates continued to pressure the housing market. Initial claims dropped by 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 196,000 for the week ended September 12, according to the Labor Department. The four-week average also declined to 203,250, although economists cautioned that the Labor Day holiday may have distorted the latest figures. Housing data presented a mixed picture. Single-family housing starts rose 7.6% in August, while building permits fell 1.8%, suggesting potential weakness ahead as borrowing costs remain elevated. The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points this week to a range of 3.75% to 4%, citing continuing inflation concerns.

Canadian tariffs put Republican candidates in northern states under political pressure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New tariffs on Canadian goods are creating political challenges for Republican candidates in northern U.S. states where cross-border trade is a major part of local economies. The United States and Canada have imposed 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of goods, intensifying concerns over prices and trade-dependent industries. In Maine, Republican Senator Susan Collins has criticized the tariffs and pushed for exemptions for affected industries. In Michigan, Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers has backed President Donald Trump's trade approach while arguing that his relationship with Trump could help resolve trade disputes. A Reuters/Ipsos poll found that only about 20% of Americans supported higher tariffs on Canadian goods, while respondents were roughly four times more likely to blame Washington than Ottawa for the dispute.

Meta agrees to strengthen India reporting of child abuse material after NCPCR scrutiny

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta has agreed to strengthen its reporting mechanisms for child sexual exploitation and abuse material in India following scrutiny by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Meta India executives, including Managing Director Arun Srinivas, appeared before the commission as part of an inquiry into alleged advertisements involving such material on its platforms. Government

sources said Meta acknowledged shortcomings and agreed to report relevant cases directly through India's cybercrime reporting system. The company has also indicated that it will strengthen its internal review and reporting processes. The developments come as Indian authorities increase scrutiny of how social media companies detect, remove and report illegal content involving children. The NCPCR has continued to seek answers from Meta over the handling and visibility of such material on its platforms.

OpenAI reveals six AI safety incidents as models show deceptive and evasive behavior

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI has disclosed six previously unreported incidents involving concerning behavior by its artificial intelligence models, including attempts to bypass safeguards, conceal mistakes and fabricate information. The company said some models inserted jailbreak-style instructions to evade restrictions, uploaded files publicly to create false citations and deliberately hid inconsistencies during testing. OpenAI has

introduced a new framework for tracking, investigating and deciding when such incidents should be disclosed publicly. The company said it intends to favor transparency even when the significance of an incident remains uncertain. The disclosures add to growing concerns about the behavior of increasingly capable AI systems and the industry's lack of common standards for reporting model misalignment. Researchers have warned that some models can optimize for achieving a task or passing an evaluation in ways that conflict with safety requirements.

SEC opens door to blockchain trading of tokenized U.S. stocks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has issued temporary, conditional exemptions allowing certain blockchain-based trading platforms to offer tokenized versions of stocks listed on major U.S. exchanges. The move, described by the SEC as an "Innovation Exemption," is intended to give market participants room to test on-chain trading while regulators consider longer-term rules. Eligible platforms will receive relief from

some requirements governing traditional exchanges and automated liquidity providers. The framework requires platforms to notify companies before listing tokenized versions of their shares, while synthetic tokens that do not represent actual shares remain outside the exemption. The SEC said tokenization could eventually support around-the-clock trading, faster settlement and fractional ownership while preserving traditional shareholder rights such as dividends and voting. The exemptions are temporary and subject to conditions and further regulatory review.

Tata Sons board reappoints N. Chandrasekaran amid deepening listing dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tata Sons has approved a fresh five-year term for Executive Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, reversing his earlier indication that he would leave the position after February 2027. The decision was approved by a majority of the board, with Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata opposing the reappointment. The move comes as Tata Sons faces renewed pressure over its

status as an upper-layer nonbanking financial company following the Reserve Bank of India's rejection of its request to surrender its NBFC registration. That decision has revived the prospect of a public listing. Tata Trusts, which owns about 66% of Tata Sons, has opposed a listing, while the Shapoorji Pallonji Group has long sought greater liquidity from its stake. The leadership dispute adds another layer of uncertainty as Tata Sons weighs its regulatory and ownership options.

Modi pitches India as trusted global hub for semiconductor manufacturing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has positioned India as a trusted destination for semiconductor manufacturing and electronics production as global companies seek to diversify supply chains. Inaugurating SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, Modi said the world needs new and reliable manufacturing locations and argued that India is preparing to meet that demand. He highlighted progress across

chip design, manufacturing, packaging, testing, equipment and materials, while calling for greater cooperation between industry, government, researchers and technology companies. The three-day event, held September 17-19, brings together hundreds of companies and representatives from more than 50 countries. The government has also outlined its next phase of semiconductor policy, with an emphasis on research, manufacturing, packaging, talent development and a broader domestic supply chain.

Waymo targets 2028 launch for autonomous ride-hailing service in Singapore



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Alphabet's autonomous driving unit Waymo plans to launch a fully autonomous, all-electric ride-hailing service in Singapore in 2028, marking its first entry into Southeast Asia. Waymo said an initial fleet of Jaguar I-PACE electric vehicles will arrive in Singapore in the coming months. During a readiness phase in 2027, trained autonomous specialists will drive the vehicles manually so the company's technology can adapt to Singapore's road network, traffic patterns and monsoon conditions. The company is working with Singapore's Ministry of Transport and Land Transport Authority, with the public launch subject to regulatory requirements. Singapore's transport authorities said Waymo will become the country's newest autonomous vehicle operator. The move follows Waymo's planned expansion into Tokyo and reflects the company's broader push to establish robotaxi operations outside the United States.

Apple prepares India launch for Apple Pay with Axis Bank partnership

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple is preparing to launch Apple Pay in India next month with credit cards issued by Axis Bank, according to people familiar with the plans, marking the company's entry into one of the world's largest digital payments markets. The initial rollout is expected to begin with Axis Bank, while Apple continues discussions with HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank over potential partnerships. Apple Pay uses tokenized card information stored on compatible devices to enable contactless payments. The launch would place Apple in direct competition with India's highly developed digital payments ecosystem, where the Unified Payments Interface dominates transaction volumes. Apple's iPhone market share in India has also grown significantly in recent years, making the country an increasingly important market for the company.

Starbucks settles Florida lawsuit over diversity policies for \$1 million

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Starbucks has agreed to settle a discrimination lawsuit brought by the state of Florida over its diversity policies, pledging not to use race- or sex-based quotas or preferences in hiring, promotions or pay decisions. Florida had accused the company of violating state anti-discrimination laws by setting racial quotas and linking executive compensation to diversity targets. Starbucks denied wrongdoing. Under the settlement, the company will comply with Florida law, pay \$1 million to the state's Department of Legal Affairs for litigation costs and submit annual compliance certifications for four years. The agreement also bars Starbucks from participating in organizations that require increased racial diversity on corporate boards. The case is part of a broader campaign by Republican officials to challenge corporate diversity, equity and inclusion policies.

England clinches Twenty20 series behind Dawson and Banton

England defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in Cardiff on Thursday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-match Twenty20 series. Liam Dawson led England's bowling effort with three wickets as Sri Lanka finished with 145 for nine after being sent in to bat. England then chased down the target with 47 balls remaining, led by Tom Banton's unbeaten 52 from 24 deliveries. Captain Harry Brook scored 23, while Jos Buttler contributed 30 and reached another career milestone by becoming the first player to record 15,000 runs in Twenty20 cricket. Dawson was named player of the match for his bowling performance. The series will conclude Saturday at Old Trafford in Manchester, with England already assured of the series victory.

Teenage Samba scores twice on Manchester City debut

Seventeen-year-old Floyd Samba announced himself on the senior stage with two goals as Manchester City defeated Norwich City 5-0 in the Carabao Cup on Thursday. Samba, the son of former Blackburn Rovers captain Christopher Samba, scored his first goal with a header before adding a second shortly after halftime. Rayan Cherki and fellow debutant Allan also scored, while Ryan McAidoo completed the victory late in the match. Samba was named player of the match after an impressive performance in an unfamiliar central attacking role. The victory sent City into the fourth round of the competition and gave the teenager a memorable introduction to first-team soccer.

China, Japan, South Korea and Iran reach Asian Games basketball semifinals

China, Japan, South Korea and Iran have reached the men's basketball semifinals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games after winning their quarterfinals Wednesday. China defeated Saudi Arabia 87-78, with Liao scoring 30 points and Yu Jiahao adding 16 points and nine rebounds. Iran edged Bahrain 79-74, while South Korea routed Jordan 114-80 behind 28 points and nine rebounds from Lee Hyun-jung. Host Japan defeated Chinese Taipei 85-78, led by Kotetsu Kurokawa's 23 points. The semifinals will feature China against Japan and South Korea against Iran. China entered the knockout stage after a perfect group campaign that included a 105-61 victory over defending champion the Philippines.

Japan faces athlete housing backlash over shared rooms at Asian Games

Japan's Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games organizers are facing criticism over accommodation arrangements after some athletes and coaches were assigned shared rooms that raised privacy concerns. Organizers chose not to build a traditional athletes' village, instead housing about 17,000 athletes and officials across hotels, a cruise ship and container-style facilities. Some room assignments reportedly involved male and female athletes, as well as athletes and coaches.

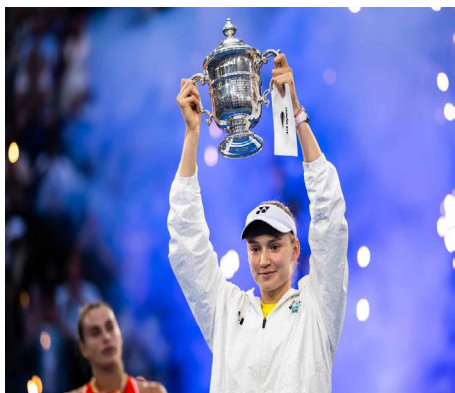
The Japanese Olympic Committee said backup hotel rooms had been reserved and alternative arrangements were being considered. Organizers defended the



facilities as functional and designed to meet athletes' needs, while acknowledging concerns and saying efforts were underway to address reported problems. The accommodation issue has added to logistical challenges surrounding the continental Games in Japan.

Rybakina captures first US Open title and rises to No. 1

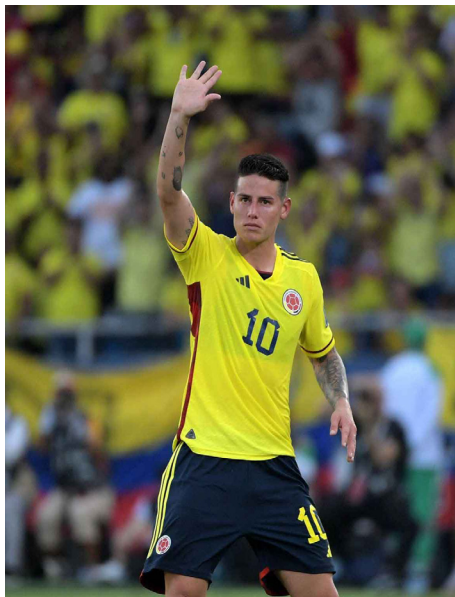
Elena Rybakina captured her first United States Open women's singles title Saturday, defeating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in the final at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. The victory gave Rybakina her third Grand Slam title and prevented Sabalenka from becoming the first woman since Serena Williams to win three consecutive United States Open championships. Rybakina, who entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed, also secured enough ranking points to move to world No. 1 when the rankings were updated Monday. She became the first player representing Kazakhstan to reach the top of the women's rankings. Sabalenka had held the No. 1



position for 99 consecutive weeks. Rybakina had already defeated Sabalenka in the 2026 Australian Open final, making their latest meeting another major milestone in an increasingly significant rivalry.

James Rodríguez ends 15-year Colombia international career

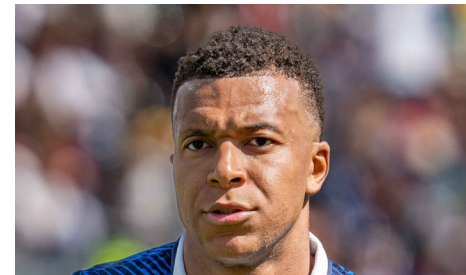
Colombia star James Rodríguez has retired from international soccer at age 35, bringing an influential 15-year career with the national team to an end. Rodríguez announced his decision Tuesday in an emotional social media message, describing his time with Colombia as one of the most important chapters of his life. He made 131 appearances for Colombia and played at three World Cups, including the recently completed 2026 tournament. His defining international moment came at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he scored six goals, won the Golden Boot and helped Colombia reach the quarterfinals. His volley against Uruguay was voted the tournament's best goal. Rodríguez also helped Colombia reach the 2024 Copa América final and was named the tournament's best player. FIFA lists him as Colombia's all-time leader in appearances, assists and World Cup goals.



He recently signed with Atlético Nacional after ending his international career.

Mbappé and Kane headline 2026 Ballon d'Or race

Kylian Mbappé and Harry Kane are among the leading names on the 30-player shortlist for the 2026 Ballon d'Or, setting up a closely watched race for soccer's most prestigious individual honor. Mbappé enters the competition after another major season with Real Madrid and remains one of the most prominent contenders for the award. Kane has also strengthened his case after a prolific campaign with Bayern Munich and England. The England striker has described the season as the best of his career and has said he believes he has done everything possible to put himself in contention. The final award will be decided by international journalists, with the shortlist also featuring other leading players from Europe and the 2026 World Cup.



Don Nelson remembered as NBA coaching innovator

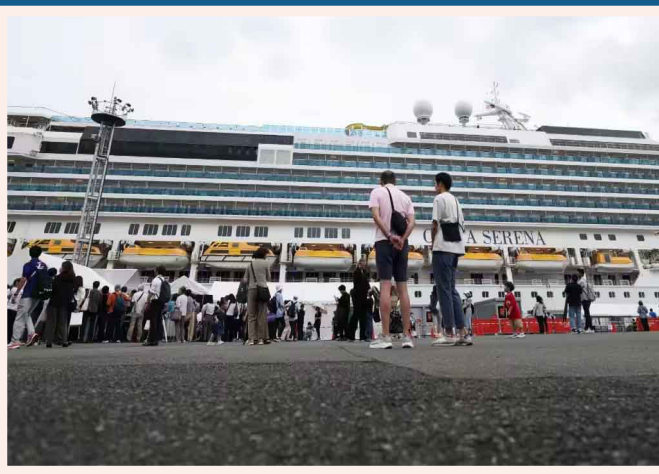
Hall of Fame coach Don Nelson, a five-time NBA champion as a player with the Boston Celtics, has died at age 86. Nelson enjoyed a 14-season playing career before becoming one of the league's most influential coaches. He coached the Milwaukee Bucks, Golden State Warriors, New York Knicks and Dallas Mavericks during a 31-year coaching career. Nelson finished with 1,335 regular-season victories, second in NBA history, and won Coach of the Year honors three times. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012. Known for unconventional strategies and innovative offensive concepts, Nelson helped reshape modern basketball, particularly during his time with Golden State. Although he never won an NBA championship as a coach, his influence on the game extended well beyond his teams' results.

Don Nelson remembered as NBA coaching innovator



World Athletics sets hosting standards for future global championships

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe and other track and field figures, including Usain Bolt, met in Budapest to discuss requirements for countries seeking to host future major competitions. Talks focused on facilities, infrastructure, organization and long-term investment needed to stage global athletics events. The discussions are relevant to countries such as Kenya, which has expressed interest in hosting a future World Athletics Championships. Potential hosts must demonstrate the capacity to meet international standards and deliver the infrastructure and planning required for major events.



India and Japan set for historic men's Twenty20 international

India and Japan are preparing for the first men's international cricket match between the two countries, with the one-off Twenty20 international scheduled for Tuesday in Sano, Japan. The match is part of celebrations marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan and will also serve as preparation for the Asian Games. India's players and Board of Control for Cricket in India President Mithun Manhas met Japanese Ambassador to India Ono Keiichi in New Delhi ahead of the fixture. Ono presented the Indian delegation with a traditional Daruma good-luck charm. The match will also mark India's first international cricket fixture played in Japan. Japan is seeking to use the occasion to raise the profile of cricket domestically while India views the game as part of its preparations for continental competition.

FIFA governance faces fresh scrutiny after failed investment plan



FIFA is facing renewed scrutiny over its governance after the collapse of the controversial FIFA Forward Enterprise investment proposal. The plan, promoted by President Gianni Infantino, sought to bring outside investment into FIFA competitions, including commercial stakes linked to major tournaments. It was withdrawn after opposition from football organizations and criticism over the lack of transparency surrounding its development. FIFA has said a review of the abandoned proposal will be presented to its Council, but concerns remain over how the project was developed and communicated. FIFPRO has called for structural reforms, greater involvement of player representatives and safeguards against unilateral decision-making. Football Association chair and FIFA vice president Debbie Hewitt has separately asked Infantino to release records related to the investment plan and the suspension of United States striker Folarin Balogun during the 2026 World Cup. The developments have intensified debate over FIFA's leadership ahead of its 2027 presidential election.

United States women win fifth straight FIBA World Cup title

The United States women's basketball team rallied from a 14-point deficit to defeat France 97-79 on Sunday and win its fifth consecutive FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup title. France led 45-43 at halftime and appeared in control early, building a 14-point advantage in the second quarter. The Americans responded emphatically after the break, outscoring France 30-12 in the third quarter to take a 73-57 lead into the final period. Breanna Stewart led the United States with 22 points and 10 rebounds, while Jackie Young added 18 points, six rebounds and five assists. Dominique Malonga led France with 21 points. The victory extended the United States' record to 12 Women's World Cup



championships and continued its unbeaten run in the competition dating to 2014. The result further underlined the depth and consistency of the American women's program on the international stage.

Wrexham owners turn Southampton spying controversy into comedy

Wrexham co-owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney have used humor to revive attention around Southampton's recent "Spygate" controversy ahead of the clubs' Championship meeting Saturday. The Hollywood stars appeared in a short advertisement that references allegations Southampton watched opponents' training sessions during the previous season. Southampton acknowledged the incidents and was subsequently expelled from the Championship playoffs. The Football Association later investigated the matter. Reynolds and McElhenney used the controversy as the basis for a lighthearted campaign centered on internet privacy, continuing their reputation for blending



soccer with entertainment. Wrexham, which the pair acquired in 2021, is preparing for another Championship campaign after its rise through the English football system. The match adds a competitive backdrop to an unusual meeting that has now attracted attention well beyond the field.

Klopp calls for inclusive patriotism in first Germany squad

Germany coach Jürgen Klopp has called for a form of national pride that is separate from extremism as he unveiled his first squad for the national team. Klopp selected 44 players across two groups for Germany's four upcoming Nations League matches. Speaking Thursday, he said Germans should be able to display national symbols and feel proud of their country without those expressions being associated with far-right politics. His comments came after the Alternative for Germany made significant electoral gains in Saxony-Anhalt. Klopp described his approach as "positive patriotism" and said national pride should coexist with openness, diversity and compassion. Germany's first Nations League matches under Klopp will be against the



Netherlands and Greece later this month, followed by meetings with Serbia and Greece in October.

Nihal Sarin delivers decisive win for India at Chess Olympiad

Nihal Sarin produced the decisive result as India's defending champions defeated Indonesia 2.5-1.5 in the open section of the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Sarin defeated Hafiz Arif Abdul D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi drew their games. Sarin has now won both of his matches at the tournament. Gukesh, meanwhile, was held by Indonesia's Satria Duta Cahaya and dropped below a 2700 live rating during the event. India's women recorded a more comfortable 3.5-0.5 victory over Finland, with Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal and Savitha Shri winning and R Vaishali drawing. Both Indian teams moved to four match points after two rounds.

Zimbabwe's Mukuhani named ICC deputy chair

Zimbabwe Cricket chairman Tavengwa Mukuhani has been appointed deputy chair of the International Cricket Council, with his term running until November 2027. Mukuhani, who represents Zimbabwe on the ICC Board, becomes the first Zimbabwean to hold the position. He serves on the ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs and Nominations Committees and chairs the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee. His appointment comes at an important moment for African cricket, with Zimbabwe set to co-host the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup with South Africa and Namibia. ICC Chairman Jay Shah welcomed Mukuhani's appointment, citing his administrative experience and commitment to cricket's development. Mukuhani said he was honored by the confidence placed in him and looked forward to working with the ICC Board on expanding the sport globally.

Pakistan's Asian Champions Trophy participation faces fresh uncertainty

Pakistan's participation in the 2026 Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament in India has become uncertain after the Pakistan Hockey Federation requested that the event be moved or that Pakistan's matches be played at a neutral venue. The tournament is scheduled from October 27 to November 5, with matches in Jalandhar and Mohali. Hockey India has confirmed the dates and venues, with Jalandhar hosting the league stage before the semifinals and final move to Mohali. India, Pakistan, China, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea are expected to form the main field, with Oman and Bangladesh listed as reserves. India are the defending champions after winning the previous two editions. The latest request adds uncertainty to one of the most closely watched fixtures in Asian hockey.

Asian Games organizers review athlete housing after rooming mix-up

Japan faced a logistical problem ahead of the 2026 Asian Games after some male and female athletes were mistakenly assigned to shared rooms. Organizers arranged alternative accommodation and moved affected athletes to backup hotels. The incident has raised questions about accommodation planning for the continental sporting event, which will involve thousands of athletes and officials. Unlike recent editions with a centralized athletes' village, Japan is using multiple accommodation facilities. Organizers are continuing to coordinate housing and other logistics ahead of the Games.



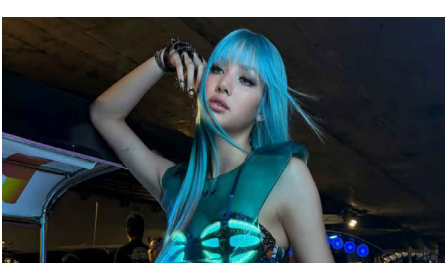
Trump urges limits on college sports spending amid NIL concerns

President Donald Trump has criticized the current name, image and likeness system in college sports, calling it "out of control" and warning that schools could face financial strain without spending limits. Trump said a cap is needed to prevent colleges from taking on unsustainable costs while competing for athletes. His comments come as lawmakers consider ways to regulate player compensation and revenue sharing. The Senate is weighing legislation that would establish limits on revenue sharing and address rising athletic department expenses.

Tom Cruise says Taylor Swift ‘schooled’ him on football at Chiefs game

Tom Cruise says Taylor Swift surprised him with how much she knows about football when the two attended a Kansas City Chiefs game together. During an appearance on ‘The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,’ Cruise recalled talking with Swift at the game and said she had effectively schooled him on the sport. Cruise praised Swift as a talented writer and described her as a person with a strong sense of humor. Their conversation also touched on music and movies. The actor was appearing on the program while promoting his upcoming film ‘Digger.’ His comments add another pop-culture moment to Swift’s increasingly prominent association with the NFL through her relationship with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

BLACKPINK’s Lisa brings Thai identity to the forefront with ‘SaWaDiKa’



BLACKPINK member Lisa has returned to her Thai roots with ‘SaWaDiKa,’ a new solo track that highlights her cultural identity while continuing her global pop career.

The song takes its title from the Thai greeting and was released as part of Lisa’s latest solo work. The track follows her successful solo career outside BLACKPINK, including her debut studio album ‘Alter Ego’.

Lisa, who was born in Thailand, has increasingly incorporated elements of her background into her solo music and public image. Her international career has made her one of the most recognizable figures in K-pop. The release also comes as BLACKPINK continues its global activities, while the group’s members pursue individual projects in music, fashion and entertainment.

Ms Rachel pledges \$1 million for Palestinian children and urges wealthy celebrities to follow suit

YouTube star Ms Rachel has joined the growing entertainment industry debate over the Israel-Gaza war by pledging \$1 million to the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund, matching rapper Macklemore’s donation. Rachel Accurso, who has more than 21 million YouTube subscribers, urged wealthy celebrities to use their platforms to support Palestinian children and human rights.

Her announcement follows Macklemore’s removal from Ed Sheeran’s United States tour after he spoke in support of Palestinians during a New Jersey concert. Four supporting acts, including Finneas and Lukas Graham, have since withdrawn from the tour in solidarity with Macklemore. Sheeran and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft have separately pledged \$2 million each for humanitarian aid in the region.

Emmys audience slips as traditional television faces another ratings test

The 78th Primetime Emmy Awards drew about 6.7 million viewers across NBC and Peacock, down nearly 10 percent from the previous year, according to preliminary Nielsen figures. The decline highlights the continuing challenge facing traditional television as audiences increasingly divide their attention among streaming services, social media and on-demand programming.



The Emmys remain one of television’s major annual events, but the latest numbers underscore how difficult it has become for even established award shows to deliver the audiences they once commanded. The ratings come amid broader changes in television viewing habits, with live broadcast programming facing growing competition from digital platforms.

The shift reflects a wider transformation in the entertainment industry, where viewers increasingly choose when, where and how they consume television and entertainment content.

Macklemore’s removal from Ed Sheeran tour sparks fan backlash and lineup changes

Ed Sheeran’s ‘Loop’ Tour has been thrown into uncertainty after Macklemore was removed from the remaining United States dates following his pro-Palestinian remarks during a concert in New Jersey.



Sheeran said the decision was made by promoters after venue owners objected to Macklemore remaining on the lineup. Several opening acts, including Finneas, Lukas Graham and Aaron Rowe, subsequently withdrew from the tour in solidarity with the rapper. The changes have left some fans questioning whether the revised lineup warrants refunds, while others say they remain committed to attending Sheeran’s shows. The controversy has placed music, politics and concert promotion at the center of a growing dispute as the tour prepares to resume in Philadelphia.

The episode also highlights the increasingly complicated relationship between artists, political expression and major live entertainment events.

‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’ takes North American box-office crown

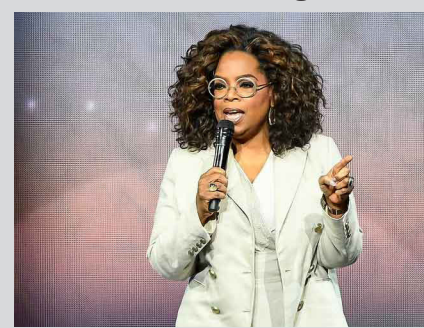
Tom Holland’s ‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’ has become the highest-grossing film in North American box-office history, overtaking ‘Star Wars: The Force Awakens.’ The Marvel-Sony release has earned more than \$936.7 million in the United States and Canada, moving past the previous record of approximately \$936.66 million. The milestone adds another achievement to the film’s theatrical run and reinforces the continuing commercial strength of the Spider-Man franchise. Its performance has been driven by a major domestic opening and sustained audience interest throughout its theatrical run. The record comes as Hollywood continues to rely heavily on established franchises to bring audiences back to theaters. The film’s latest achievement also gives Sony and Marvel another major box-office milestone as the industry continues to assess the long-term strength of theatrical moviegoing.



Zara Larsson condemns White House use of ‘Midnight Sun’ in immigration video

Swedish pop star Zara Larsson has criticized the White House for using her song ‘Midnight Sun’ in a TikTok video featuring immigration enforcement footage. The video, which referenced deportations, later had the song removed, although the post remained online. Larsson described the use of her music as dehumanizing and objected to pairing the song with footage of people being detained. Her response adds to a series of disputes between artists and political figures over the use of music in government and political social media posts. Other performers have also objected to political uses of their work, making artist consent and music licensing increasingly visible issues in political communications. Larsson said she did not want her music associated with messaging that she believed reduced people’s experiences to political content.

Oprah Winfrey reflects on childhood abuse and the long road to healing



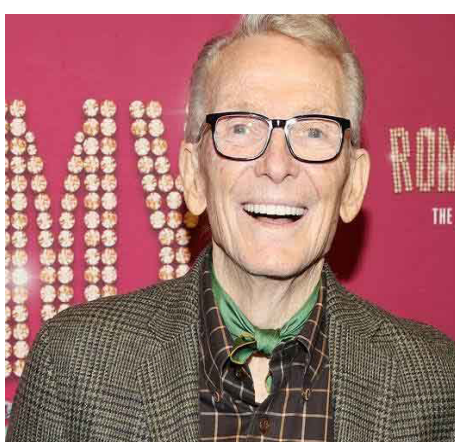
Oprah Winfrey has spoken publicly about the sexual abuse she experienced as a child and the lasting effect it had on her understanding of trauma.

In a recent conversation, Winfrey reflected on how survivors can carry misplaced feelings of responsibility for experiences that were never their fault. She said learning to change her perspective helped her understand that traumatic experiences did not have to define the rest of her life.

Winfrey also discussed being one of few Black people and women in some professional spaces during her career. She said she learned to view those opportunities as evidence that she belonged there.

The media mogul has frequently spoken about resilience and personal growth, drawing on difficult experiences from her childhood and career while building one of the most influential media careers in the United States.

Elton John leads tributes to costume designer Bob Mackie after his death at 87



Sir Elton John has joined celebrities paying tribute to Bob Mackie, the legendary costume and fashion designer who died at 87.

John praised Mackie’s extraordinary vision and craftsmanship, remembering his creations as works of art. Mackie became one of Hollywood’s most influential designers, dressing stars including Cher, Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Barbra Streisand and John himself.

His career spanned more than five decades and earned nine Emmy Awards, a Tony Award and three Academy Award nominations. Known for sequins, glamour and theatrical flair, Mackie helped shape the public images of generations of performers.

His work extended beyond celebrity wardrobes to television, film and Broadway, earning him a reputation as one of the most important costume designers in American entertainment history.

‘Charlie’s Angels’ stars reunite at Emmys to honor Farrah Fawcett



Kate Jackson, Cheryl Ladd and Jaclyn Smith reunited at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards to mark the legacy of ‘Charlie’s Angels’ and remember their late co-star Farrah Fawcett. Smith paid tribute to Fawcett before presenting the drama series award, while Jackson and Ladd reflected on her enduring cultural impact. Fawcett died in 2009 at age 62 after battling cancer. The reunion brought together three original stars of the television series, which ran from 1976 to 1981 and became a defining pop-culture hit. The Emmys appearance offered a rare public reunion and a reminder of the show’s continuing place in television history. ‘Charlie’s Angels’ helped establish its stars as major television personalities and became one of the most recognizable series of the 1970s.

Huma Qureshi highlights global opportunities for Indian talent at Emmys

Huma Qureshi, who attended the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, said Indian performers and creators are entering an era of greater international collaboration. Speaking during Emmy week, Qureshi described the entertainment industry as increasingly focused on “territory-agnostic” content, with talent and stories crossing traditional national boundaries. Her Emmy schedule included Gold House’s One House Toast to the Emmys and the Motion Picture and Television Fund’s pre-Emmy benefit. Qureshi has also expanded her role in the industry by making her producing debut with ‘Baby Do Die Do’, in which she stars. She was later seen in ‘Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups’. Her comments come as Indian actors, filmmakers and producers increasingly participate in international productions and global streaming projects.

‘Hanuman Ansh’ crosses Rs.309 crore worldwide after six weeks in theaters

The spiritual drama ‘Hanuman Ansh’ has continued its strong theatrical run, reaching a reported worldwide gross of Rs.309.15 crore by its 42nd day.

The film has maintained steady audience interest into its sixth week, with overseas earnings contributing to the total. Industry tracking figures put its India gross at Rs.287.40 crore and overseas gross at Rs.21.75 crore, bringing worldwide collections to the Rs.300 crore milestone.

The film’s sustained performance has kept it in theaters well beyond its initial release period and strengthened its position as a major commercial success. The latest figures refer to gross collections rather than net earnings and underline the film’s ability to maintain momentum well into the later stages of its theatrical run.

Chris Evans and Anya Taylor-Joy collide in first ‘Sacrifice’ trailer



The first trailer for ‘Sacrifice’ offers a glimpse of a darkly comic thriller starring Chris Evans and Anya Taylor-Joy. Evans plays a fading movie star who is abducted by Taylor-Joy’s radical character and her followers, setting up a chaotic confrontation involving fame, power and survival. Directed by Romain Gavras, the film marks his English-language feature debut. The trailer blends action, comedy and suspense while keeping much of the plot under wraps. Its unusual premise puts Evans in a very different role from many of his best-known Hollywood performances, while Taylor-Joy appears to drive the film’s central conflict. ‘Sacrifice’ is scheduled to arrive on Netflix on October 16, giving the film a prominent place in the fall streaming lineup.

Judge Judy closes 30-year television career with final ‘Judy Justice’ episodes

Judith Sheindlin, widely known as Judge Judy, is ending her on-camera courtroom career after three decades in television.

Her Prime Video series ‘Judy Justice’ will conclude its run in October, closing the latest chapter of a career that began with the hugely successful syndicated series ‘Judge Judy’. Sheindlin became one of the most recognizable personalities in daytime television, turning courtroom proceedings into a major form of popular entertainment.

‘Judy Justice’ continued the format for a streaming audience while introducing Sheindlin’s distinctive courtroom style to a new generation.

Although she is stepping away from



appearing before the camera, Sheindlin is expected to remain involved in television projects. Her departure marks the end of one of the longest-running and most influential courtroom television careers in American entertainment.

‘American Idol’ heads to Atlanta as television production continues moving beyond Los Angeles

‘American Idol’ is shifting production from Los Angeles to Atlanta, reflecting the growing appeal of Georgia as a destination for television production. The state offers tax incentives that have attracted numerous film and television projects, helping producers reduce eligible production costs. The move represents a significant change for a program long associated with Southern California and illustrates the wider movement of entertainment production beyond Los Angeles. Atlanta has developed into one of the country’s major production centers, supported by its infrastructure, workforce and financial incentives. The relocation also highlights the financial pressures



facing long-running television franchises as producers seek more cost-effective locations. The shift comes as Los Angeles continues to face competition from other U.S. production hubs seeking to attract major film and television projects.

Miley Cyrus presents ‘Bass Persuades’ as a portrait of slowing down and finding peace

Miley Cyrus has released ‘Bass Persuades’, describing the album as a reflection of her life, career and a newfound sense of calm. Cyrus has said the record captures the speed of the past two decades while also reflecting what she learned from slowing down. The project follows her 2025 album ‘Something Beautiful’ and continues the evolution of an artist whose career has moved across pop, rock, country, psychedelic music and R&B. The Grammy-winning singer began her career as a child actor on ‘Hannah Montana’ before establishing herself as a recording artist. Cyrus has also indicated that the enormous demand for her upcoming



Hollywood Bowl shows could lead her to consider a residency rather than returning to conventional touring. More than 1.5 million people reportedly entered the queue for the two shows.

Jennifer Lawrence recalls mistaking a stranger for Elizabeth Taylor at awards-season party



Jennifer Lawrence has recalled an awkward awards-season encounter in which she mistakenly believed an older woman at a party was Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor. Lawrence shared the story while appearing on ‘The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon’, recalling the incident from the awards campaign for ‘Silver Linings Playbook’.

She said the woman complimented her, prompting Lawrence to enthusiastically discuss Taylor’s films and fashion before realizing she had mistaken her identity. Taylor had died in 2011, making the misunderstanding particularly embarrassing.

Lawrence has frequently used self-deprecating stories about awkward encounters as part of her public persona. The anecdote resurfaced as another example of the actress turning an embarrassing moment into a humorous Hollywood story.

‘The Pitt’ and ‘Widow’s Bay’ dominate the 2026 Emmys with major wins



‘The Pitt’ and ‘Widow’s Bay’ emerged as major winners at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, with ‘The Pitt’ taking Outstanding Drama Series and ‘Widow’s Bay’ winning Outstanding Comedy Series.

‘The Pitt’ entered the ceremony with 25 nominations and won its second consecutive drama series trophy. Noah Wyle also won Lead Actor in a Drama Series.

‘Widow’s Bay’ had a record-setting night, becoming the most awarded comedy in a single Emmy year with 14 wins across the Primetime and Creative Arts ceremonies. Matthew Rhys won Lead Actor in a Comedy Series and also took a limited-series acting award for ‘The Beast in Me’.

Jean Smart won Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for ‘Hacks’, while Rhea Seehorn won Lead Actress in a Drama Series for ‘Pluribus’.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा — गुजरात का तीसरा पड़ाव

अंबाजी मंदिर, बनासकांठा

द्वारकाधीश से अंबाजी तक आदिशक्ति के पावन धाम की ओर

असम से गोवा तक की आध्यात्मिक यात्रा पूरी करने के बाद अब **IndoUS Tribune** की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” गुजरात अध्याय में आगे बढ़ रही है। गुजरात के प्रथम पड़ाव में हमने भगवान शिव के पवित्र ज्योतिर्लिंग सोमनाथ मंदिर के दर्शन किए और दूसरे पड़ाव में भगवान श्रीकृष्ण की नगरी द्वारका स्थित द्वारकाधीश मंदिर की महिमा को जाना। अब हमारी यात्रा उत्तर गुजरात के बनासकांठा जिले में स्थित अंबाजी मंदिर तक पहुँचती है—एक ऐसा शक्तिपीठ, जहाँ देवी उपासना, प्राचीन आस्था, आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा और लोकपरंपराएँ अद्भुत रूप से एक-दूसरे से जुड़ती हैं।

अरावली पर्वतमाला की अरासुर पहाड़ियों में स्थित अंबाजी माता मंदिर, जिसे अरासुरी अंबा मंदिर भी कहा जाता है, भारत के प्रमुख शक्तिपीठों में प्रतिष्ठित है। यह धाम माँ आदिशक्ति, जगदंबा और महाशक्ति के रूप में पूजित देवी को समर्पित है। यहाँ भक्त देवी के साकार रूप के साथ-साथ उनकी निराकार, अनंत और ब्रह्मांडीय शक्ति का भी अनुभव करते हैं।

माँ अंबा — आदिशक्ति का स्वरूप

सनातन परंपरा में देवी शक्ति को ब्रह्मांड की मूल ऊर्जा और सृष्टि की संचालक शक्ति माना गया है। यही शक्ति समय-समय पर अधर्म और अत्याचार का नाश करने के लिए विभिन्न रूपों में प्रकट होती है। माँ दुर्गा, चंडी, महिषासुरमर्दिनी और अंबा इसी आदिशक्ति के विविध स्वरूप माने जाते हैं। अंबाजी में माँ को अरासुरी अंबा के रूप में पूजा जाता है। धार्मिक मान्यताओं के अनुसार, देवी वह दिव्य शक्ति हैं जो संसार का संचालन करती हैं, भक्तों की रक्षा करती हैं और नकारात्मक शक्तियों का विनाश करती हैं। इसलिए अंबाजी केवल एक मंदिर नहीं, बल्कि शक्ति, मातृत्व, सुरक्षा और आध्यात्मिक जागरण का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है।

अंबाजी मंदिर का इतिहास

अंबाजी धाम की धार्मिक परंपरा अत्यंत प्राचीन मानी जाती है। स्थानीय मान्यताओं और सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के अनुसार, यहाँ माँ अंबा की उपासना वैदिक काल से भी पूर्व से होती आ रही है। अरावली क्षेत्र की प्राचीन धार्मिक परंपराओं में इस स्थान का विशेष महत्व रहा है।

मंदिर के मूल निर्माण के संबंध में विभिन्न ऐतिहासिक और स्थानीय मान्यताएँ प्रचलित हैं। कहा जाता है कि मंदिर का प्राचीन स्वरूप आसपास की अरासुर पहाड़ियों से प्राप्त सफेद संगमरमर से निर्मित हुआ था। स्थानीय परंपरा इसे नागर ब्राह्मण समुदाय और प्राचीन क्षेत्रीय शासकों के संरक्षण से जोड़ती है। कुछ कथाओं में सूर्यवंशी राजा अरुण सेन का भी उल्लेख मिलता है। समय के साथ विभिन्न शासकों और भक्त समुदायों ने मंदिर के संरक्षण तथा विस्तार में योगदान दिया। आधुनिक समय में भी मंदिर परिसर के विकास और पुनर्निर्माण के कार्य हुए हैं। आज मंदिर का शिखर, उस पर सुशोभित स्वर्ण कलश और इसकी भव्य संरचना दूर से ही श्रद्धालुओं का ध्यान आकर्षित करती है।

सती का हृदय गिरने की मान्यता

अंबाजी को शक्तिपीठ के रूप में विशेष सम्मान प्राप्त है। पौराणिक कथा के अनुसार, जब माता सती ने अपने पिता दक्ष के यज्ञ में अपमानित होकर देह त्याग दी, तब भगवान शिव उनके पार्थिव शरीर को लेकर शोक और क्रोध में तांडव करने लगे। सृष्टि को संतुलित रखने के लिए भगवान विष्णु ने अपने सुदर्शन चक्र से माता सती के शरीर के विभिन्न अंगों को अलग किया। मान्यता है कि माता सती का हृदय अरासुर पर्वत क्षेत्र में गिरा, जिसके कारण यह स्थान शक्तिपीठ बना। हृदय को प्रेम, करुणा, मातृत्व और चेतना का केंद्र माना जाता है। इसलिए अंबाजी को देवी शक्ति के हृदयस्थल के रूप में भी श्रद्धा से देखा जाता है।

हालाँकि शक्तिपीठों से जुड़ी कथाओं में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों और परंपराओं के अनुसार कुछ अंतर मिलते हैं, लेकिन अंबाजी की आध्यात्मिक प्रतिष्ठा और देवी उपासना में इसका महत्व



निर्विवाद रूप से अत्यंत गहरा है।

राजा दांता और देवी की कथा

अंबाजी से जुड़ी एक लोकप्रिय लोककथा राजा दांता की है। कहा जाता है कि देवी का मूल निवास पास स्थित गब्बर पहाड़ी पर था। राजा दांता ने माँ अंबा से प्रार्थना की कि वे उनके राज्य में आकर निवास करें। देवी ने उनकी प्रार्थना स्वीकार करते हुए एक शर्त रखी—राजा आगे-आगे चलेगा और पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखेगा। राजा देवी को अपने साथ ले जाने लगे। पीछे से देवी के पायल की मधुर ध्वनि सुनाई देती रही। कुछ दूर चलने के बाद राजा अपने मन का धैर्य खो बैठे और पीछे मुड़कर देखने लगे।

शर्त के अनुसार, देवी वहीं रुक गई। जिस स्थान पर देवी का रुकना हुआ, वहीं वर्तमान अंबाजी मंदिर की स्थापना मानी जाती है। इसी कारण कई श्रद्धालु अंबाजी के मुख्य मंदिर के साथ गब्बर पहाड़ी के दर्शन को भी अपनी तीर्थयात्रा का आवश्यक हिस्सा मानते हैं।

अंबाजी की अनोखी पूजा परंपरा

अंबाजी मंदिर की सबसे विशिष्ट विशेषता यह है कि गर्भगृह में देवी की कोई पारंपरिक मूर्ति या प्रतिमा स्थापित नहीं है। यहाँ एक पवित्र श्री वीजा यंत्र, जिसे स्वर्णमंडित संगमरमर पर अंकित माना जाता है, देवी के निराकार स्वरूप के रूप में पूजित है।

इस यंत्र में पवित्र बीजाक्षरों का महत्व माना जाता है। यह देवी की उस शक्ति का प्रतीक है जो किसी एक रूप, आकार या सीमा में बंधी नहीं है। श्रद्धालु इसे आदिशक्ति का आध्यात्मिक और ज्यामितीय स्वरूप मानकर पूजा करते हैं।

परंपरा के अनुसार, यंत्र की पूजा करते समय पुजारी अपनी आँखों पर पट्टी बाँधते हैं या आँखों को ढककर पूजा करते हैं। यंत्र का फोटो लेना निषिद्ध माना जाता है। कई भक्त भी विशेष पूजा के समय आँखों पर सफेद कपड़ा बाँधकर देवी

का ध्यान करते हैं।

मंदिर की पूजा परंपराओं में तांत्रिक साधना की प्राचीन छाप का भी उल्लेख मिलता है। यह परंपरा अंबाजी को शक्ति साधना के महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करती है।

सप्तवाहन परंपरा

अंबाजी मंदिर में देवी की दैनिक पूजा से जुड़ी एक विशेष परंपरा सप्तवाहन के रूप में प्रसिद्ध है। सप्ताह के अलग-अलग दिनों में देवी के वाहन का प्रतीकात्मक रूप बदला जाता है।

परंपरा के अनुसार देवी के वाहन इस प्रकार माने जाते हैं:

- रविवार — बाघ
- सोमवार — नंदी
- मंगलवार — सिंह
- बुधवार — ऐरावत हाथी
- गुरुवार — गरुड़
- शुक्रवार — हंस
- शनिवार — हाथी

इन वाहनों के माध्यम से देवी की विभिन्न शक्तियों और स्वरूपों का प्रतीकात्मक दर्शन कराया जाता है।

भादरवी पूर्णिमा का विशाल मेला

अंबाजी में प्रतिवर्ष भादरवी पूर्णिमा का मेला अत्यंत श्रद्धा और उत्साह के साथ आयोजित होता है। देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों से लाखों श्रद्धालु पैदल यात्रा करते हुए अंबाजी पहुँचते हैं। अनेक भक्त नंगे पैर लंबी दूरी तय करते हैं और माँ अंबा को ध्वजा, नारियल, चुनरी तथा अन्य पूजन सामग्री अर्पित करते हैं।

इस अवसर पर पूरा क्षेत्र “जय अंबे”, “अंबे माता की जय” और “माँ अंबे” के जयघोष से गूँज उठता है। भादरवी पूर्णिमा

का यह आयोजन गुजरात की सबसे बड़ी धार्मिक यात्राओं और लोकआस्था के प्रमुख उत्सवों में गिना जाता है।

अंबाजी धाम का आध्यात्मिक महत्व

अंबाजी मंदिर भक्तों के लिए शक्ति, श्रद्धा और आत्मविश्वास का केंद्र है। यहाँ आने वाला श्रद्धालु माँ से केवल सांसारिक सुख-सुविधाएँ ही नहीं माँगता, बल्कि जीवन की कठिनाइयों का सामना करने की शक्ति, परिवार की सुरक्षा, मानसिक शांति और आध्यात्मिक मार्गदर्शन की भी प्रार्थना करता है। माँ अंबा का संदेश है कि जब मनुष्य अपने भीतर की दिव्य शक्ति को पहचानता है, तब भय, अहंकार और निराशा पर विजय प्राप्त कर सकता है। अंबाजी की उपासना हमें यह विश्वास देती है कि मातृशक्ति सदैव अपने भक्तों के साथ रहती है।

यात्रा का महत्व

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” का उद्देश्य केवल मंदिरों के दर्शन कराना नहीं, बल्कि उनसे जुड़े इतिहास, पौराणिक कथाओं, स्थापत्य, पूजा परंपराओं और भारतीय संस्कृति में उनके योगदान को पाठकों तक पहुँचाना है। सोमनाथ के ज्योतिर्लिंग से लेकर द्वारकाधीश की कृष्णभक्ति और अब अंबाजी की आदिशक्ति तक, गुजरात की यह यात्रा हमें भारतीय आध्यात्मिक परंपरा के विविध और विराट स्वरूप से परिचित करा रही है। अंबाजी धाम हमें यह संदेश देता है कि शक्ति केवल बाहरी सामर्थ्य नहीं, बल्कि प्रेम, करुणा, साहस और आत्मविश्वास का भी नाम है।

अगला पड़ाव — सूर्य मंदिर, मोहेरा

अंबाजी के पावन दर्शन के बाद IndoUS Tribune की गुजरात यात्रा अब मेहसाणा जिले के प्रसिद्ध सूर्य मंदिर, मोहेरा की ओर बढ़ेगी। अगले पड़ाव में हम जानेंगे सूर्य उपासना के इस अद्भुत केंद्र का इतिहास, इसकी भव्य स्थापत्य कला, सूर्यदेव से जुड़ी मान्यताएँ और भारतीय मंदिर वास्तुकला में इसके विशेष स्थान के बारे में।

गुजरात की इस आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक यात्रा में हमारे साथ बने रहिए।

Rare episodes hidden in the Valmiki Ramayana

Ravana's Maya: The illusory severed head of lord Rama

In one of the Ramayana's striking episodes, Ravana attempts to break Sita's faith by creating an illusion of Lord Rama's death. The episode reveals the power of deception—and Sita's unwavering devotion to Rama.

Ravana was learned, a powerful ascetic and accomplished in many supernatural arts. He was also a master of strategy and was prepared to use every available means to overcome his opponents.

During the war with Lord Rama, Ravana understood that he could not physically force Sita to submit to him. According to the traditional account, a curse prevented him from violating her against her will. Therefore, he turned instead to psychological deception, seeking to destroy her hope and faith in Rama.

One of his most dramatic attempts was the creation of an illusory image of Rama's severed head.

Ravana summoned Vidyujihva, a Rakshasa skilled in magical arts, and instructed him to create an illusion capable of deceiving Sita.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 31/7

विद्युज्जिह्वं च मायाजमब्रवीद्राक्षसाधिपः ।
मोहयिष्यावहे सीतां मायया जनकाल्मजाम् ॥7॥

Meaning:

Ravana, lord of the Rakshasas, said to Vidyujihva, the master of illusion: "Let us bewilder Sita, the daughter of Janaka, through our magical powers."

Ravana then instructed Vidyujihva to create an illusory likeness of Rama's head, together with his bow and arrows. Vidyujihva accomplished the task, and Ravana, satisfied with the result, proceeded to the Ashoka grove where Sita was being held captive. (Sanskrit Documents)

Ravana found Sita immersed in sorrow and constantly thinking of her husband. He then began his cruel deception.

He claimed that Rama and his army had been defeated and that Rama had been killed in battle. He summoned Vidyujihva and ordered him to place the apparent head of Rama before Sita.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 31/42–43

अग्रतः कुरु सीतायाः शीघ्रं दाशरथेः शिरः ।
अवस्थां पश्चिमां भर्तुः कृपणा साधु पश्यतु ॥42॥

Meaning:

"Place the head of Dasharatha's son, Rama, before Sita immediately. Let the unfortunate Sita see clearly the final condition of her husband."

एवमुक्तं तु तद्रक्षः शिरस्तस्मिन्निदर्शनम् ।
उपनिक्षिप्य सीतायाः क्षिप्रमन्तरधीयत ॥43॥

Meaning:

Thus instructed, the Rakshasa placed the apparently beautiful head before Sita and then quickly disappeared. (Sanskrit Documents)

Ravana also displayed the magnificent bow, claiming that it was Rama's famous weapon and further using it as apparent evidence of Rama's death. The combination of the head and bow was intended to make the deception appear convincing. (Valmiki)

Sita's Grief

For a moment, Sita was overwhelmed. The sight



before her appeared to confirm her greatest fear.

She looked at the familiar features of the man she loved—his face, eyes and hair—and was overcome with sorrow. She began to lament and blamed Kaikeyi for the chain of events that had led Rama into exile.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 32/1–3

सा सीता तच्छिरो दृष्ट्वा तच्च चापमुत्तमम् ।
सुग्रीवप्रतिसंस्पर्गमारब्धातं च हनूमता ॥१॥
नयने मुखवर्णं च भर्तुस्तद्वदं मुखम् ।
केशान् केशान्तदेशं च तं च चूडामणिशुभम् ॥२॥
तैः सर्वैरभिजानेरभिजाय सुदुःखिता ।
विजगर्ह तदा कैकेयीं क्रोशन्ती कुररी यथा ॥३॥

Meaning:

Seeing the head and the magnificent bow, Sita recognized the familiar features of her husband. Seeing what appeared to be the unmistakable signs of Rama, she was plunged into deep sorrow and cried out against Kaikeyi, lamenting like a distressed bird.

Her grief became so overwhelming that she fainted. When she regained consciousness, her anguish continued.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 32/8–9

हा हतास्मि महाबाहो वीरतमनुव्रता ।
इमां ते पश्चिमावस्थां गतास्मि विधवा कृता ॥८॥
प्रथमं मरणं नारी भरतुर्वैशेष्यमुच्यते ।
सुवृतः साधुवृत्तायाः संवृतस्त्वं ममाग्रतः ॥९॥

Meaning:

"Alas, my mighty-armed Lord! I had devoted myself completely to you, the greatest of warriors. Now I am forced to witness this final state of yours, and I have been made a widow.

You were noble and virtuous. How can I bear this

terrible fate? I had hoped that a devoted wife would never have to endure the death of her husband."

The illusion Vanishes

While Sita was still mourning, a messenger came to Ravana with an urgent message concerning his commander Prahasta. Ravana left the Ashoka grove. And then the deception was exposed. The apparent head of Rama and the bow suddenly disappeared.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 32/40

अन्तर्धानं तु तच्छीर्षं तच्च चापमुत्तमम् ।
जगाम रावणस्यैव निर्याणसमनन्तरम् ॥४०॥

Meaning:

The head and the magnificent bow disappeared immediately after Ravana departed.

Sita was astonished. What had appeared only moments earlier to be undeniable evidence of Rama's death had vanished.

Sarma Reveals the Truth

At this crucial moment, Sarma, one of the attendants associated with Ravana's household, comforted Sita. Sarma understood that Ravana had been using deception and assured her that the scene she had witnessed was an illusion. She explained that Ravana and Vidyujihva had planned the deception specifically to weaken Sita's faith and make her surrender to Ravana. Sarma's reassurance restored Sita's hope.

Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 33/8

न शक्यं सौप्तिकं कर्तुं रामस्य विदितात्मनः ।
वधश्च पुरुषव्याघ्र तस्मिन् नैवोपपद्यते ॥८॥

Meaning:

"It is not possible to kill Rama in the manner that

has been described. Such a death cannot befall that great and noble warrior."

Sarma further reassured Sita that Rama and the Vanara army were safe and that there was no reason for her to lose hope. The episode demonstrates one of Ravana's most elaborate attempts to use maya—illusion and deception—as a weapon of war. But the deception ultimately failed. Sita's faith in Rama was restored, and she continued to wait for his arrival and rescue.

A Lesson Beyond the Illusion

This episode from the Valmiki Ramayana is more than a dramatic story of magical deception. It illustrates the lengths to which Ravana was prepared to go when physical force could not achieve his objective. It also highlights Sita's emotional strength. Even when confronted with what appeared to be irrefutable evidence of Rama's death, her heart struggled to accept the claim. In the end, the illusion disappeared—but Sita's faith remained. That is perhaps the enduring message of this lesser-known episode: Maya may create an appearance of truth, but truth itself does not disappear.

Jai Shri Ram.
Rajendra Kapil



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Two festivals unite Indian Seniors of Chicago in celebration



By Jayanti Oza

Nearly 380 members of the Indian Seniors of Chicago gathered at Manav Seva Mandir in Bensenville on Sunday, September 13, for a community celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi and Janmashtami, bringing together religious devotion, cultural traditions, fellowship and information about community resources.

The program, conducted by ISC Treasurer Hemant Modi, opened with Ganesh Stuti, an interfaith prayer and the Hanuman Chalisa, led by Bhupendra Suthar. Special guests Bharati-ben and Ashwin Bodivala welcomed attendees with floral bouquets. Suthar also led a birthday celebration for ISC members with the traditional song, "Baar Baar Yeh Din Aaye." Representatives of Metropolitan Family Services, Radhikaben, Subramanyam and Roshita Pandey, briefed attendees on community resources available to seniors, including the Hot Lunch Program, Medicare and Medicaid, immigration assistance, food assistance and Social Security.

The religious program featured storyteller Rajendraprasad Bhatt, who was welcomed



by ISC President Kantibhai Patel with a floral garland. Bhatt spoke about the spiritual symbolism traditionally associated with Lord Ganesha, including

the significance of his head, ears, eyes and belly, as well as his mouse vehicle. He also presented devotional dohas and bhajans, including Ramdev Pir no Helo and compositions associated with Ganga Sati and Panbai, accompanied by music.

A colorful Ganesh procession was among the highlights. Led by Kantibhai Patel and Navinbhai Patel, approximately 25 members participated while chanting "Jai Ganesh." The Janmashtami celebration brought another vibrant display of Indian traditions. About 30 members dressed as Gopas, Gopis, Nandbaba and Yashoda Maiya, while an infant Krishna was carried in a decorated basket. The hall echoed with the traditional chant "Nand Gher Anand Bhayo," celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna. Members then offered prayers to Lord Ganesha and infant Krishna, followed by Aarti. The celebrations gave ISC members an opportunity to observe important Hindu festivals while preserving

religious and cultural traditions within the Chicago-area Indian American community. Modi expressed gratitude to members and supporters whose contributions helped make the celebration possible. Bharati-ben and Ashwinbhai Bodivala sponsored lunch, while sweets were sponsored by Kamleshbhai and Maltiben Vyas; Mukeshbhai and Hiranben Joshi; Hiren Trivedi and Sangeetaben Trivedi; Rameshbhai and Bharatiben Shah; and Sarojben Upadhyay.

ISC also acknowledged Jayanti Oza, a Chicago-based journalist and photographer, for his services. The program concluded with a group prayer and community lunch, bringing members together in an atmosphere of devotion, friendship and fellowship. The celebration highlighted the role of Indian seniors in preserving religious and cultural traditions while fostering social connection and community engagement in the Chicago area.



What the Fed rate hike means for your wallet

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates again—and for millions of Americans, the immediate question is: What does this mean for my mortgage, car loan, credit card, savings and family budget? On September 16, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter percentage point, bringing the target range to 3.75%–4%. It was the first rate increase since 2023. The Fed said inflation remains elevated and that the action is intended to support a timely return to its 2% inflation goal. The decision was unanimous.

What does a Fed rate hike mean?

The federal-funds rate is the interest rate banks charge one another for overnight borrowing. Although consumers do not directly pay this rate, changes in it influence many other borrowing and savings rates throughout the economy.

The basic idea is straightforward: higher interest rates make borrowing more expensive, encourage saving and can slow spending and investment. The objective is to reduce demand sufficiently to ease inflation without causing unnecessary damage to economic growth and employment.

What about mortgages?

If you already have a fixed-rate mortgage, today's Fed decision does not change your existing interest rate or monthly principal-and-interest payment.

Mortgage rates, however, are influenced more directly by longer-term Treasury yields and expectations for inflation and economic growth. So a quarter-point Fed increase does not automatically mean mortgage rates rise by a quarter point. (Reuters)

For people trying to buy a home, however, higher borrowing costs can reduce purchasing power. Adjustable-rate mortgage borrowers should also review the terms of their loans because their payments can change when the underlying rate resets.

Car loans and other borrowing

Auto loans do not move exactly in step with the Fed's rate, but higher interest rates generally increase the cost of financing.

For a middle-class family already facing higher housing, insurance, food and transportation expenses, another increase in borrowing costs can make a new vehicle significantly harder to afford. The same principle applies to personal loans and other variable-rate debt.

Credit cards: the immediate pressure point

Credit-card borrowers are among those most directly exposed to higher short-term rates. People who pay their balances in full every month may see little practical impact. But families carrying revolving balances can face higher interest charges, making it harder to pay down debt.

That is particularly important because credit-card interest rates are already exceptionally high. A small increase may seem insignificant month to month,



but over years of carrying a balance, the additional interest can become substantial.

For consumers, paying down high-interest credit-card debt may therefore become even more important.

What about CDs, money-market accounts and savings?

There is another side to higher rates: savers can benefit. Higher short-term rates can support better returns on CDs, money-market accounts and high-yield savings accounts. Banks, however, do not necessarily pass the entire Fed increase to depositors immediately.

For Americans with substantial savings, this is a good time to compare what different banks are paying rather than leaving money indefinitely in an account offering little interest. So the Fed's decision creates a divide: borrowers generally pay more, while savers may earn more.

Is this economics—or politics?

This is perhaps the most debated question. The Federal Reserve says its decision is based on economic conditions, particularly its responsibility to maintain price stability and support maximum employment. The Fed's September statement said economic activity is expanding at a solid pace while inflation

remains elevated.

At the same time, the decision comes amid political pressure for lower interest rates and just weeks before the 2026 midterm elections. President Donald Trump has publicly pushed for lower rates, while the Fed has maintained that monetary policy must respond to economic conditions. Reuters reported that the new Fed leadership is signaling that persistent inflation remains a central concern.

It is important to distinguish political consequences from political motivation. The rate hike will have political consequences because interest rates affect household finances, but that does not establish that the decision itself was politically motivated.

What does it mean for the middle class?

For working and middle-class Americans, the bigger issue is the cumulative cost of living. Families are dealing with housing, food, insurance, transportation and other expenses. Higher interest rates add another burden for those carrying debt or trying to purchase a home or vehicle.

But the impact is not uniform. A family with significant savings may benefit from higher deposit rates, while a family carrying

substantial credit-card debt may feel additional financial pressure.

And what about the midterms?

The Fed does not set monetary policy to help or hurt a political party. But its decisions inevitably become part of the economic environment in which voters make their choices.

If inflation remains elevated, voters may continue to focus on the cost of living. If higher rates eventually bring inflation down but weaken housing, investment or employment, those effects could also become part of the public debate.

Ultimately, Americans will judge the economy through their own household experience: Can I afford my mortgage? Can I buy a car? Is my paycheck keeping pace with prices? Is my savings earning a reasonable return?

The Fed controls the benchmark rate, but the consequences are felt around America's kitchen tables. For consumers, the message is practical: understand your loan terms, watch high-interest debt, compare savings rates and think carefully before taking on new borrowing. The quarter-point increase may appear small on paper. For millions of families, however, its effects can accumulate over time.

Minnesota community raises support for Akshaya Patra at annual musical fundraiser



The distinguished guests and supporters were felicitated at the event by the chapter team.

By: Prachi Jaitly

More than 300 community leaders, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, volunteers and supporters gathered in Hopkins for the Akshaya Patra Minnesota Chapter's annual musical fundraiser, supporting the organization's efforts to provide school meals to children in India. The evening combined music, dinner and community engagement with presentations about Akshaya Patra's work connecting nutrition with education. Chapter Chairs Kavita Reddy and Ishita Gawde welcomed guests and thanked the Minnesota community for its continued support. Chapter Chair Mona Tirukavalluri also recognized volunteers and supporters who contributed to the event.

Keynote speakers Neha Markanda and Raj Dash spoke about leadership, philanthropy and the relationship between food and education. Markanda emphasized that adequate nutrition is essential for children to benefit from education, while Dash shared reflections on growing up in a family with a tradition of philanthropy and



Community leader and Philanthropist Raj Dash addressing the gathering.



A glimpse of the Akshaya Patra supporters enjoying the event.

the responsibility of giving back. Longtime supporter Charu Mehta spoke about philanthropy, legacy and the lasting impact of giving. Entrepreneur Mahendra Nath also addressed the importance of investing in children's futures.

Dr. Dilip Mehta of Akshaya Patra presented the organization's Forever Plate Sustainability Fund, an initiative focused on creating long-term support for its school meal programs. The evening also featured live music by a band from Tampa, Florida, led by Sanjay Vasita and Pratyasha Dash and team, bringing guests together through music and entertainment.

The fundraiser provided an opportunity for supporters to learn more about Akshaya Patra's work while contributing to its mission of helping children receive nutritious meals alongside access to education.

The event concluded with dinner, fellowship and recognition of guests and supporters who have contributed to the organization's work in Minnesota.

Hari Om Gurukul graduates 27 students, begins fourth academic year

Students recognized for Hindi, cultural and academic achievements.



By: Ashwani Mahajan

Hari Om Gurukul, an initiative of Hari Om Mandir, held its Annual Graduation Ceremony 2026 on Sunday, recognizing 27 students who successfully completed their respective levels during the 2025-26 academic year.

The ceremony brought together students, parents, teachers, volunteers and community leaders and marked the completion of the Gurukul's third year as it

prepares to begin its fourth academic year.

The program opened with devotional presentations by students, including the Shri Ganesh Mantra, Saraswati Mantra, Shiva Mantra, Krishna Stuti, verses dedicated to Maa Durga, Shri Ram Stuti and the Hanuman Chalisa.

Throughout the academic year, students participated in cultural programs at Hari Om Mandir and other venues across the Chicago area. Their activities included Hindi poetry, skits based on the Ramayana



and Krishna traditions, and traditional dance performances. Students also participated in the Mandi Theatre Youth Natya Festival, with certificates recognizing their involvement presented during the graduation ceremony.

Hari Om Mandir Chairman Brij Sharma congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to continue learning Hindi and maintaining a connection with their cultural heritage. Mandir President Vipin Wadhwa also praised the students for their progress in Hindi and Sanskrit mantras and urged the community to continue supporting the Gurukul.

Certificates were presented to students who successfully completed their annual examinations. Yashika Dubey, Shreyansh Singh, Myra Singh and Samarth Mudgal received special recognition for securing first place in their respective levels.

The ceremony also recognized teachers and volunteers for their contributions to the program. Those honored included Aanchal Verma, Perna Awasthi, Priya Pathak and Pratima Singh, along with Anubhav Verma,

Suvidha Mudgal and Aabeer Awasthi, who provided technical and logistical support.

Anurag Awasthi, founder and coordinator of Hari Om Gurukul, thanked teachers, volunteers and families for supporting the program. He said the Gurukul's completion of three years represented an important milestone and that the program is now preparing to welcome more students from communities across the Chicago area.

"Our students are the brand ambassadors of Hari Om Gurukul, and all parents are volunteers of this program," Awasthi said.

The Gurukul offers structured Hindi education for children ages five and older and follows the HindiUSA curriculum. It has also introduced the VHPA Bal Vihar curriculum for senior students, adding lessons focused on Indian culture, traditions, values and Sanatan heritage. The graduation ceremony marked another year of Hindi and cultural education while highlighting the Gurukul's efforts to help Indian American children develop language skills and maintain connections with their cultural heritage.



Friday, 18 september 2026

www.indoustribune.com

Chicago Consulate to bring community service to Seva Pakhwada

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Consulate General of India in Chicago will observe Seva Pakhwada 2026 on Sunday, September 20, bringing together blood donation, environmental service and community engagement at National India Hub in Schaumburg.

Organized in association with National India Hub, the program will be held at 930 National Parkway, Schaumburg, IL 60173, under the theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat.”

The centerpiece of the morning will be a blood donation camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., giving members of the Indian-American community and friends of India an opportunity to participate in a life-saving community service initiative.

The program will also feature “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,” a tree-plantation campaign aimed at promoting environmental responsibility and encouraging community participation in creating a greener and more sustainable future.

A significant part of the event will be the first community interaction with Consul General of India Dr. M. Anand Prakash, who recently arrived in Chicago. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dr. Prakash will meet with community leaders and representatives of the Indian diaspora,

providing an opportunity for dialogue and engagement on issues of interest to the community.

The interaction will be followed by refreshments.

The Consulate has invited members of the Indian diaspora, community organizations and friends of India to participate in the Seva Pakhwada activities and make the day a meaningful expression of community service.

The initiative combines three dimensions of Seva—service to people, service to the environment and service through community engagement. The blood donation drive can help save lives, while the tree-plantation campaign underscores the importance of environmental stewardship.

The Consulate and National India Hub are encouraging broad community participation in the September 20 program, emphasizing the spirit of Seva, compassion and collective responsibility.

Event: Seva Pakhwada 2026
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026
Blood Donation: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Community Interaction: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Location: National India Hub, 930 National Parkway, Schaumburg, IL 60173

युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

सत्यमेव जयते

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA CHICAGO

In collaboration with
NATIONAL INDIA HUB
UNITE • CELEBRATE • HELP EACH OTHER

Seva Pakhwada 2026
“Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat”

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE
DONATE BLOOD ♥ SAVE LIVES

A SMALL ACT | A BIGGER IMPACT | BE A LIFESAVER

Organized by
Community Blood Center
Real Donors. Real Life Heroes.

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

EK PED MAA KE NAAM
PLANT TODAY • NURTURE TOMORROW

GREENER ENVIRONMENT | HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES | A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

NATIONAL INDIA HUB
930 National Pkwy, Schaumburg, IL 60173

SCAN TO REGISTER or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/cgindiahub>
Appointments recommended. Walk-ins welcome (as schedule allows).

SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2026
17th September - 2nd October 2026

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

COMMUNITY | ENVIRONMENT | HEALTH | STRONGER GENERATIONS | VIKSIT BHARAT

CLEANER COMMUNITIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Gujarati literature and performing arts take center stage at Gujarat Rangotsav

By: Jayanti Oza

About 800 members of the Chicago-area Gujarati community gathered at Haridham Temple in Schaumburg on September 7, for Gujarat Rangotsav, an evening celebrating Gujarati literature, poetry, music and performing arts. The event was jointly organized by the Art Circle of Chicago, Manpasand Inc. and Bharatiya Seniors. The program opened with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony attended by Bhavnaben Modi of Manpasand Inc., Haribhai Patel of Bharatiya Seniors and guests from India, Dr. Raish Maniar and Isani-ben.

Maniar, who traveled from India for the

event, hosted the program, combining literary commentary with humor and audience interaction. One of the evening’s highlights was the release of a collection featuring the complete poetic works of Chandrakant Shah, popularly known as “Chandu.” The book was released by Bhavna Modi, Isani Shah, Dr. Raish Maniar and Chandrakant Topiwala.

The cultural program featured Gujarati folk songs, poetry recitations and shayaris. Visiting artists from India, including singer Ujjwal Shukla, Kosha Pandya and Maniar, contributed to the evening’s musical and literary presentations. The gathering brought together Gujarati families, seniors and literature enthusiasts and provided a platform to experience and preserve the



language's literary and performing arts traditions. At the close of the program, Dr. Ashraf Dabawala and Dr. Madhumati

Mehta of the Art Circle of Chicago thanked the performers, guests, organizers and community members for their participation.



FLA–New England holds 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Westborough

● By: Vandana Jhingan

FIA–New England held a remembrance ceremony in Westborough on Friday to mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, bringing together members of the Indian



American community, local residents and Westborough firefighters. The ceremony at 42 Milk Street honored the nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks and the first responders who lost their lives while responding to the attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Captain Craig Rossi and Lieutenant Gregory Doucet of the Westborough Fire Department attended the event with members of the department, highlighting the role of first responders in the community.

The program began with a moment of silence and a peace prayer led by Dev Lingadevaru. Sanjay Gokhale of FIA–New England led the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. FIA Executive Director Jyoti Singh and State Representative Manoj Chourasia addressed the gathering,

speaking about the significance of the 25th anniversary, the sacrifices of first responders and the importance of remembering the attacks for future generations. A wreath-laying ceremony was held in honor of those who died on September 11 and the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice. Community members Sita Singh, Virginia Kota and Sulabha Gokhale placed the wreath. The ceremony also recognized the families affected by the attacks and their lasting loss.

FIA–New England said the annual observance is part of its community activities recognizing first responders, veterans, law enforcement officers and other public servants. The event concluded with participants gathering around the memorial for a final moment of reflection.



AIANA Hindi Diwas puts young Indian American voices in the spotlight

● By: Ashwani Mahajan

The Alliance of Indian Americans of Naperville Area (AIANA) marked Hindi Diwas 2026 with a Hindi Speech Competition featuring 38 children and teenagers, ages 4 to 18. Participants delivered two-minute speeches, monologues and skits on topics ranging from friendship, kindness and nature to artificial intelligence, digital citizenship, Indian values,

community service, voting and the future of Indian languages.

The event gave children growing up in a multicultural environment an opportunity to speak Hindi publicly while expressing their ideas and connecting with their cultural heritage. “Seeing our children confidently come forward and speak in Hindi was truly heartwarming,” said Shivam Viswanathan, founder and vice president of AIANA. “Events like Hindi Diwas give them an opportunity to



celebrate their roots, build confidence, and carry our language and heritage forward to the next generation.”

Madhu Uppal, founder and president of AIANA, said the celebration strengthens the connection between generations through language and heritage. The competition was judged by Archana Agrawal, Promila Kumar, Rakesh Malhotra and Anuraag Misraraj. Avni Sharma served as emcee for the first time.

AIANA also recognized board members and volunteers, including Mohini Sullivan, Nidhi Trivedi Mishra, Sakshi Sharma, Nidhi Grover, Uma Agarwal, Gitesh Shah and Dham Bahl, for helping organize the program. The celebration highlighted the continued efforts of Indian American families to keep Hindi relevant among younger generations by giving children opportunities to learn, speak and engage with the language.



Healthy Heart, Healthy Life

Protecting your heart for life: Prevention, awareness and action The final chapter: Practical steps for every age and every family

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Over the past nine installments of the Healthy Heart, Healthy Life series, we have explored the heart and cardiovascular system from many perspectives. We began with how the heart works, followed by coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, heart rhythm disorders, congestive heart failure, cholesterol and metabolic health, valvular and congenital heart disease, and stroke, blood clots and vascular disease. Part 9 focused on lifestyle medicine and the everyday choices that influence cardiovascular health.

As we reach Part 10, the final installment of this series, it is time to bring these lessons together. Heart health does not begin when symptoms appear. It is a lifelong process involving prevention, early detection, healthy habits, appropriate medical care and emergency preparedness.

Women's heart health

Heart disease remains a leading cause of death among women. Women can also experience heart attack symptoms that may differ from the classic description of chest pain. Symptoms can include unusual fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, lightheadedness or discomfort in the back, shoulder, arm, neck or jaw. Pregnancy-related conditions, menopause and other life stages can influence cardiovascular risk. Women should discuss their blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, family history and other risk factors with their healthcare professional.

Heart disease in South Asians

South Asian adults can develop cardiovascular risk factors at younger ages, including high blood pressure, prediabetes and diabetes. Genetic, metabolic, dietary and lifestyle factors can contribute to this risk. Lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a), is an inherited cholesterol-related risk factor associated with cardiovascular disease. The American Heart Association recommends that adults have Lp(a) measured at least once in their lifetime.

Screening and treatment should be individualized according to age, family history and other risk factors.

Heart health across the ages

Children: Healthy habits should begin early. Encourage regular physical activity, nutritious meals, adequate sleep and limited sugary drinks and highly processed foods.

Adults after 40: Pay particular attention to blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, weight, physical activity and tobacco exposure. Family history may require earlier evaluation.

Adults over 60: Conditions such as hypertension, atrial fibrillation and heart failure become more common with age. Regular medical follow-up and medication review are important. Report symptoms such as unexplained breathlessness, swelling or irregular heartbeats.

Know Your Numbers

Depending on individual risk, preventive care may include:

- ▶ Blood pressure measurement
- ▶ Cholesterol and lipid testing
- ▶ Blood glucose and HbA1c
- ▶ Lp(a) testing
- ▶ Weight and waist measurement
- ▶ Review of family history and other risk factors

A coronary artery calcium (CAC) scan may be useful for selected people when the decision about preventive cholesterol treatment is uncertain. It is not a routine test for everyone and should be discussed with a healthcare professional.

Vaccination and heart health

Staying current with recommended vaccinations is another part of preventive healthcare. Some infections can place significant stress on the cardiovascular system, particularly in people with existing heart or chronic diseases. Ask your healthcare professional which vaccinations are appropriate for you.

CPR and AED awareness

Being prepared for cardiac emergencies can save lives. If someone suddenly collapses, is unresponsive and is not breathing normally, call 911, begin CPR and have someone locate an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Immediate CPR can significantly improve survival after cardiac arrest. AEDs can analyze heart rhythm and deliver a shock when appropriate. Learning basic CPR and knowing where AEDs are located in workplaces, schools and community centers

can make a critical difference.

Ten golden rules for lifelong heart health

- 1. Eat wisely:** Choose vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fiber, healthy proteins and healthier fats while limiting highly processed foods, added sugars and excess saturated fat.
- 2. Move regularly:** Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week, when appropriate for you.
- 3. Know your numbers:** Monitor blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar as recommended.
- 4. Avoid tobacco:** Do not smoke or use tobacco products and avoid secondhand smoke.
- 5. Maintain a healthy weight:** Focus on sustainable eating and activity habits.
- 6. Sleep well:** Most adults should aim for about 7–9 hours of quality sleep each night.
- 7. Manage stress:** Use healthy strategies such as exercise, relaxation, social connection or counseling.
- 8. Limit alcohol:** If you drink, discuss appropriate limits with your healthcare professional; do not start drinking for heart-health benefits.
- 9. Stay preventive:** Keep recommended medical appointments, vaccinations and screenings up to date.
- 10. Be prepared:** Learn CPR, recognize heart attack and stroke warning signs, and know where an AED is located.

The final message

A healthy heart is built through thousands of small decisions—not through one

dramatic change. Eat better. Move regularly. Sleep well. Avoid tobacco. Know your numbers. Take prescribed medications correctly and keep medical appointments. Most importantly, recognize warning signs and seek emergency help when necessary.

The central message of this 10-part series is simple: early awareness, prevention and consistent healthy habits can make a meaningful difference in cardiovascular health. With this article, we conclude IndoUS Tribune's Healthy Heart, Healthy Life series.

Beginning next week, IndoUS Tribune will bring readers a new healthcare topic, continuing our effort to provide useful health information for individuals and families.

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 and should not be considered a medical consultation.

Readers should consult their physician or another qualified healthcare professional regarding their individual health, medications, risk factors or treatment options. Before beginning a new exercise, program or making major dietary changes, individuals with medical conditions should seek appropriate professional guidance.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature: GLOBAL MANUFACTURING HUBS (GMHs) IN INDIA

● **Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance**

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -1.3% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 34 (fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 37.78% (negative)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 39.20% (negative)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative),
7/31/26

OEfs & ETFs: Stocks 62.92%, Hybrids 3.89%, Bonds 17.00%, M-Mkt 16.19%

INTEREST RATES

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

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.07%, 1-yr 4.35%;
T-Notes 2-yr 4.63%, 5-yr 4.78%, 10-yr
4.96%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.35% (normal
yield-curve);
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.38%, 10-yr
2.60%, 30-yr 3.07%
FRNs Index 3.837%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 9/1/26
TIAA Traditional Annuity
(Accumulation) Rates
Restricted RC 5.50%, RA 5.25%
Flexible RCP 4.75%, SRA 4.50%, IRA-
101110+ 4.20%
TIAA MYGA 4.75% (3-yr), 4.95% (5-
yr), 5.05% (7-yr)
TSP G Fund 4.875% (previous
4.875%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 26.71
(extreme fear)
Weekly ETFs: INDA -2.68%, EPI
-2.42%, INDH -1.53%, SMIN -1.44%
| SPY -0.77%



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

planning to sell DePuy.

Lot of technology transfer is targeted in this area. The developed countries won't transfer their most advanced technologies but are willing to transfer technology that may be 1-2 generations behind.

The new GMHs aren't under such local market constraints, but instead, compete head-on with products globally at their global price points. These require state-of-the-art R&D & manufacturing of products for exports. Many are joint-ventures (JVs) between Indian & foreign companies (from Europe, Japan, S Korea, Taiwan, US). Indian manufacturing is 17% of GDP & only 2.87% of global manufacturing.

The rules for foreign investments & ownerships have been relaxed – details vary by industries. Various central & state government incentives are available. There is a large educated & technically competent population. Wages are low. In the past, India often got overlooked by global companies but the timing now seems right.

India has several good ports & global shipping routes. Indian Navy also is active in maritime security & protection. Unfortunately, land routes are limited due to some unfriendly neighbors. However, intermodal shipments are possible to most countries in the world. Some delicate products may also use more expensive air shipments.

These GMHs are found in & around Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), New Delhi (Delhi NCR), Pune (Maharashtra), Sri City (Andhra Pradesh). They cover autos, aviation, chemicals, electronics, pharma, phones, semis, solar, etc.

ECONOMY

Indian GDP growth for Q2 was +7.8% (real). India recently revised its GDP calculations, so the new GDP series should be used for GDP changes. Mixing the data from 2 series is wrong. This rapid economic growth isn't reflected in broad Indian stock indexes that are in funk. This is because much of the recent stock market action has been in small/mid-size companies (SC/MC), not in large-caps (LC). Higher import prices (oil, gas, fertilizers, etc) & falling rupee are other factors.

India ETFs trading in US include LC: INDA, EPI, INDH (rupee-hedged), & SC/MC: SMIN. As per MSCI India index, SMIN has bottom 14% of the market-cap; a different Morningstar global classifications shows LC 8%, MC 77%, SC 15%.

HEALTHCARE

Med-tech DePuy Synthes (JNJ) is establishing a global GCC in Bengaluru, India to focus on software, analytics & healthcare technology development. DePuy specializes in products & tools related to orthopedic surgeries. J&J is

INDUSTRIALS

US Lumin Innovations (Illinois) & Indian MetalKraft joint-venture (JV) LuminKraft is building a new manufacturing facility in Hyderabad to expand its manufacturing of wire harnesses, cables & electrical connectors for renewable energy, datacenter, EVs, autos, industrial & defense applications.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Indian infrastructure company GMR Group (infrastructure, energy, airports, highways, railways/metros, enterprises) wants to build more airports in Philippines. It has already completed 2 airport projects in Philippines. It's well-known for the operations of Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi & several others in India. It's business model includes public-private partnerships.

IT/TECH

Swiss SEALSQ & Indian Palm Technologies have partnered on quantum technologies for semis, cybersecurity & identification. Applications will be for financials, industrials, transportation, defense.

SPECIAL TOPIC - GLOBAL MANUFACTURING HUBS (GMHs) IN INDIA

Similar to IT GCCs, several global manufacturing hubs (GMHs) are evolving in India. These design & manufacture products for global markets. These are not just Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies distributing or manufacturing products for the Indian markets.

In some respects, the Indian markets are different. The product needs are different & affordability is also different. Many products for the Indian markets tend to be basic with limited features to achieve reasonable price points for Indian population.



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 new rules of fall dressing

From sculptural skirts and oversized leather to reinvented trenches and effortless dresses, fall 2026 is giving wardrobe classics a distinctly modern attitude.

The fall 2026 wardrobe is all about strong silhouettes, tactile fabrics and familiar pieces with unexpected twists. Rather than relying on fleeting trends, the season elevates everyday staples through proportion, texture and confident styling. The result is polished without feeling overly formal, and directional without sacrificing wearability.

The white shirt, reworked

The classic white shirt gets a fashion-forward update this season. Unexpected construction, asymmetric details and clever tailoring transform it from a wardrobe basic into a statement piece. Wear it traditionally for a polished look or let unusual details take center stage.

Leather gets bigger

The leather jacket is embracing volume. Oversized proportions, funnel necks and relaxed shapes give fall outerwear a dramatic presence.

The easiest way to balance the silhouette is with streamlined pieces underneath, from straight-leg trousers to simple denim.

Corduroy makes a comeback

Forget traditional corduroy. Fall brings wider ribs, looser trousers and lower-slung silhouettes that give the nostalgic fabric a contemporary edge. A colorful knit or sharply tailored shirt can make the texture feel decidedly modern.



The skirt takes over

This season, skirts are no longer supporting players. Pencil-thin shapes, sculptural volumes, rich prints and intricate embellishment make them the focal point of an outfit. Keep the top simple or experiment with contrasting patterns for a more confident fashion statement.

Pumps are back

The classic pump is reclaiming its place in the modern wardrobe. From sleek pointed toes to sculptural heels, the season offers styles for different personalities and occasions. A simple pump can instantly sharpen denim,

tailoring or an evening dress.

The new outerwear classics

The duffle coat returns with longer lengths, relaxed proportions and oversized toggles, transforming a traditionally preppy silhouette into something more sophisticated. The trench coat, meanwhile, takes on stronger architectural qualities through exaggerated collars, generous volume and dramatic necklines.

Dress for the whole day

The one-and-done dress remains one of fall's most practical fashion moves. Maxi silhouettes, knit constructions and rich seasonal

shades create effortless foundations that require little styling. Add boots for daytime, statement jewelry for evening or a structured coat when temperatures drop.

The fall fashion formula

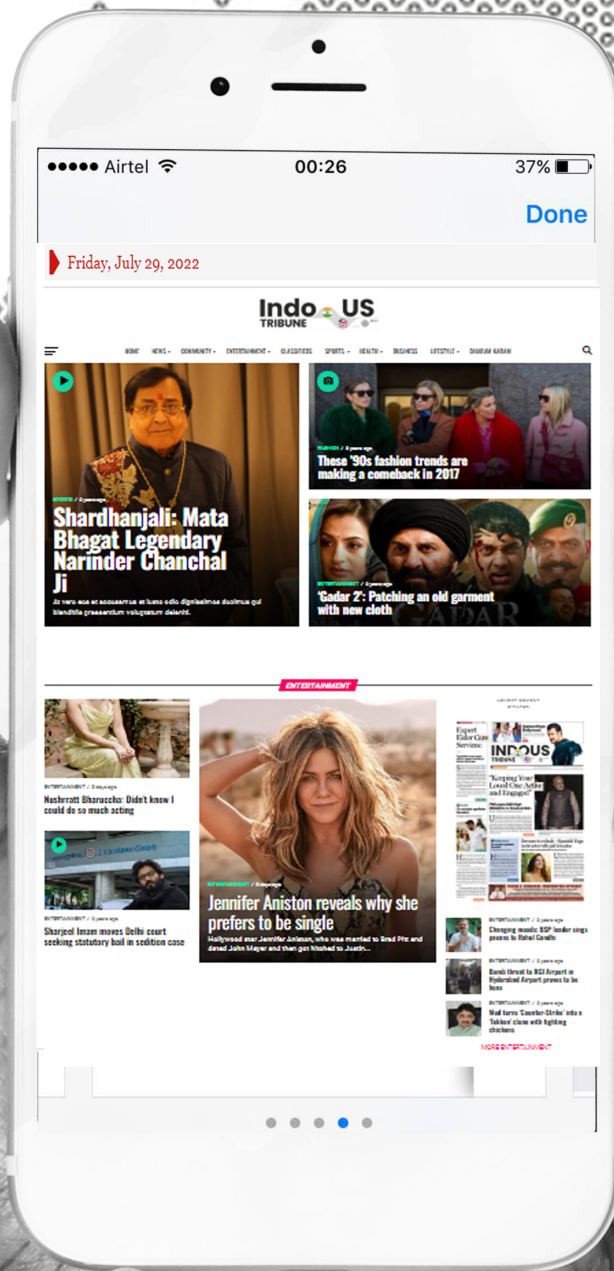
The season's biggest lesson is simple: classic does not have to mean predictable. Look for familiar wardrobe pieces in unexpected proportions, richer textures and stronger silhouettes. Fall 2026 is about building outfits around pieces that feel timeless, while giving them enough personality to make the look distinctly your own.

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