IndoUS TRIBUNE
A VENTURE OF ANSAL MEDIA GROUP OF USA, LLC
VOL:03 • ISSUE:51 | 23 OCTOBER 2026 | MIDWEST EDITION | www.indoustribune.com | We serve community first

# Alberta voters reject independence referendum proposal, delivering major setback to Canadian separatists



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Voters in Alberta have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to begin a process toward independence from Canada, according to unofficial results reported on Tuesday. With nearly 1.9 million ballots counted, about 76 percent supported remaining in Canada, while 24 percent backed pursuing separation. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed the outcome, saying Albertans had chosen national unity. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith also said the result supported a stronger province within a united Canada. Separatist leaders argued that the vote nevertheless reflected dissatisfaction with the federal government. The referendum was one of 10 questions put to voters, covering issues including immigration, health care and provincial powers. Although the result is a setback for the independence movement, its leaders have vowed to continue campaigning for greater autonomy.

# Krishnamoorthi warns anti-Indian rhetoric is fueling violence after alleged Chicago temple attack plot

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United States Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has warned that growing anti-Indian rhetoric is contributing to real-world violence, following an alleged plot to attack a Hindu temple near Chicago. In an interview, the Illinois Democrat said a potentially devastating attack at the Balaji temple during Navaratri was narrowly avoided when the suspect's firearm reportedly malfunctioned after one shot was fired.

He said families, including his own, were inside the temple and questioned why federal authorities had not detected the alleged plot earlier. Krishnamoorthi said he had requested a federal hate crime investigation and an examination of the suspect's online influences. He also criticized political figures for rhetoric targeting Indian-origin communities and urged leaders to condemn hatred against all religious groups. The congressman expressed concern that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had not responded to his request, arguing that authorities must devote greater resources to preventing domestic extremism.

# Putin and Trump's envoy discuss Ukraine ceasefire efforts, Middle East tensions and renewed United States-Russia ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin met United States special envoy Steve Witkoff in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday for approximately three hours, according to Russian media reports. Their discussions reportedly covered efforts to end the war in Ukraine, tensions in the Persian Gulf, energy cooperation and the possible release of American citizen Stephen Hubbard. Putin also asked Witkoff to convey his appreciation to First Lady Melania Trump for her humanitarian efforts. The Russian president expressed interest in restoring bilateral relations, including economic cooperation, and offered to help address the crisis in the Middle East.

The meeting followed Witkoff's discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Oslo on Tuesday, where they addressed ceasefire proposals and security guarantees. The separate meetings came amid continuing diplomatic efforts to end the war in Ukraine and broader international tensions. However, the reported discussions in Saint Petersburg did not establish that an agreement had been reached on a ceasefire or the restoration of relations between Washington and Moscow.

# US Postal Service prints 20 million Diwali stamps after strong advocacy from Indian American community

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk




The United States Postal Service has printed 20 million Diwali Forever stamps, citing strong advocacy from the Indian American community, an official said at the unveiling on Wednesday at the Indian Embassy in Washington. The stamp features a colorful rangoli design against a purple background and is only the second postal issue dedicated to Diwali, following the first in 2016. Postal Service Vice President Sahibani Gambhir said demand for the earlier stamp helped prompt the larger print run. Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra described the issue as a celebration of Indian American cultural heritage and a bridge between the two countries. Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada created the rangoli artwork. The stamps are sold in panes of 20 and remain valid for the current first-class, one-ounce mailing rate.

# India says outdated Security Council structure is eroding United Nations' legitimacy, calls for urgent reforms

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk




India warned on Thursday that the United Nations risks losing legitimacy by allowing the outcome of the Second World War to continue shaping its Security Council, which New Delhi says remains unrepresentative of today's world. Speaking at the General Assembly, India's Permanent Representative P. Harish argued that the authority gained by the victorious powers eight decades ago cannot justify their continued monopoly over permanent membership. Harish highlighted India's contribution to the war, saying around 2.5 million Indians served and approximately 90,000 died in military service. He also cited millions of deaths during the Bengal famine, which he attributed to colonial wartime policies. He urged countries to advance Security Council reform negotiations, criticizing the Uniting for Consensus group, which includes Pakistan and is led by Italy, for blocking agreement on a negotiating text. Harish argued that a text must precede negotiations, not emerge as their conclusion, and said procedural objections should not indefinitely delay reform.

# British lawmaker urges Five Eyes intelligence alliance to include India, citing terrorism threats and Khalistani extremism



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British Conservative lawmaker Bob Blackman has renewed his call for India to join the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance, warning that terrorism linked to Pakistan and Khalistani extremism pose security threats to both India and the United Kingdom. In an interview, Blackman said closer intelligence cooperation could help prevent terrorist attacks. The alliance currently includes the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Blackman praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, citing economic development, village electrification and efforts to improve opportunities for poorer communities. He also backed India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, describing its regional position as important amid China's growing influence. The lawmaker praised the Indian diaspora's contributions to Britain's economy and public services, while encouraging greater political participation.

## Powerful earthquake kills at least 16 in Tibet, hundreds of homes collapse

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A magnitude 7 earthquake struck China's Tibet region on Thursday evening, killing at least 16 people and injuring 54, according to official reports. The quake collapsed at least 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds in and around Nagqu, prompting extensive rescue operations. More than 1,600 personnel were deployed, while emergency supplies, including tents, prefabricated shelters, beds and winter clothing, arrived in the region. Authorities reported communication disruptions, railway suspensions and rockfalls that closed part of National Highway 317. Further snowfall was forecast over the next three days, complicating rescue efforts.

## Iran reports seven vessels damaged or set ablaze near Strait of Hormuz



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran said on Thursday that seven vessels, including oil tankers, were struck and caught fire in the northern Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials claimed four ships used unauthorized routes, while three others struck mines west of the strait on Wednesday night. Separately, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations reported that a tanker near Oman was hit by an unidentified projectile, causing a fire that was extinguished without injuries or environmental damage. The incidents come as Tehran and Washington continue indirect negotiations aimed at ending their conflict, with control of the strategic waterway remaining a major point of contention.

## Macron vows to ban unauthorized protests after violent unrest in France

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that unauthorized demonstrations would be banned in the coming days, blaming far-left groups and vandals for last weekend's riots and looting. Authorities prohibited planned protests in Paris, Lyon, Lille and Grenoble amid concerns about renewed violence. Nighttime curfews have also been imposed in some areas. However, demonstrations organized by trade unions may proceed under restrictions, including alternative routes. Student groups have vowed to continue protesting over underfunded schools, staff shortages and university admissions. Officials are preparing a major security operation for Saturday, when activists from the Yellow Vest movement are expected to join demonstrations.

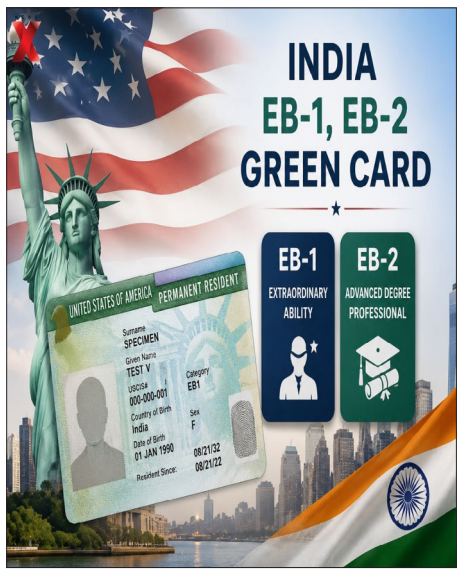
## Indian professionals face another month of stalled EB-2 green card progress as US reviews premium processing changes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian professionals seeking United States green cards through the employment-based second preference category faced another month without progress in the November Visa Bulletin released on Thursday. The final action date for Indian applicants remained November 1, 2013, while the date for most other countries advanced by three months to April 1, 2025.

The filing date for Indian EB-2 applicants remained January 15, 2015, allowing eligible applicants in the United States to submit adjustment-of-status applications. Separately, a proposed Department of Homeland Security rule to amend premium processing deadlines entered White House review on October 13, although its provisions remain unpublished.

The review does not establish whether processing times will increase or decrease.




The employment-based third preference date for India advanced three weeks to January 22, 2014, while the first preference date remained February 1, 2023. The developments come amid renewed calls to reform employment-based green card country caps.

## Iran threatens Gulf oil infrastructure and AI facilities if United States and Israel launch fresh attacks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian security officials have threatened to target oil facilities, undersea cables, data centers and artificial intelligence infrastructure across the Gulf if the United States and Israel resume military attacks. Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Tehran was preparing a broader response, while adviser Mehdi Mohammadi warned that any renewed conflict could spread geographically and last longer than anticipated. The threats come amid stalled diplomatic efforts and reports of preparations for possible joint American-Israeli strikes after the United States midterm elections. Iran's Revolutionary Guard also claimed on Wednesday that seven commercial vessels



had been struck near the Strait of Hormuz, although the full extent of the reported incidents had not been independently verified. The strategic waterway is critical to global energy supplies. Regional mediators are continuing discussions on a possible ceasefire, with Iran linking reopening the strait to sanctions relief and negotiations over its nuclear program.

## Piyush Goyal woos German investors in Berlin, highlighting India's manufacturing, healthcare and infrastructure opportunities

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted investment and manufacturing opportunities for German companies during meetings with business leaders in Berlin on Friday. He discussed expansion and collaboration with executives from Bayer, Fresenius Group and Knauf Group, covering healthcare, pharmaceuticals, sustainable construction materials and infrastructure. Goyal also attended the inauguration of the India Center at the German Council on Foreign Relations alongside German Economy Minister Katherina Reiche. He said stronger India-Germany cooperation and a proposed India-European Union free trade agreement could boost investment, innovation and resilient supply chains while supporting mutual economic growth.

## US senators demand answers from Meta over Instagram shutdown of No Kings protest account during early-voting drive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Five Democratic senators on Thursday demanded answers from Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg after the No Kings Coalition's Instagram account was temporarily suspended during nationwide demonstrations on Saturday. The lawmakers asked whether the Trump administration had communicated with Meta about the protests and sought details of the suspension, restoration delays and safeguards ahead of the midterm elections. Meta attributed the incident to an automated error after activity resembling




bot traffic triggered its security systems. The coalition regained access later that day. The senators requested a response by October 29, while emphasizing that political interference had not been established.

## New York City Council approves horse-drawn carriage ban, honoring Indian teenager killed in Central Park accident

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

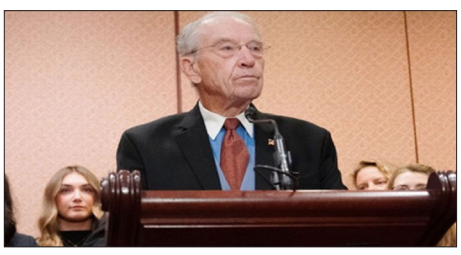
New York City Council voted on Thursday to ban horse-drawn carriages, naming the legislation Romanch's Law in memory of Indian teenager Romanch Mahajan. He died in June after a horse bolted in Central Park, throwing his mother from a carriage as he tried to save her. His uncle, Gaurav Mahajan, joined animal welfare advocates at a rally supporting the ban. Council Speaker Julie Menin said the measure advances animal welfare, public safety and worker protection. Mayor Zohran Mamdani must sign the bill, although the council's vote is reportedly sufficient to override a veto.

## Trump faces December deadline to testify in $10 billion BBC lawsuit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Thursday ordered President Donald Trump to testify under oath by December 11 in his $10 billion defamation lawsuit against the British Broadcasting Corporation. Trump alleges that a documentary misleadingly edited his January 6, 2021, speech to suggest he encouraged the attack on the United States Capitol. The BBC acknowledged that the editing was misleading and apologized but denies defamation. Trump's lawyers have cited presidential responsibilities and security requirements in opposing a fixed deposition date. The broadcaster has also sought financial records from Trump's businesses to challenge his damages claims. The case stems from a documentary aired before the 2024 presidential election.

## Bipartisan US senators press Trump administration to release Baltic security funds



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A bipartisan group of 10 United States senators urged the Trump administration on Thursday to accelerate security funding for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania amid growing concerns over Russian threats. Led by Democratic Senator Dick Durbin and Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, the lawmakers asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to ensure the funds are released by year-end and provide an update by November 19. The funding supports the Baltic Security Initiative, including integrated defense and maritime security. The senators said earlier planning steps were encouraging but insufficient given the region's security challenges.

## US announces more than $44 million in Pacific security programs to combat transnational crime

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States announced more than $44 million in security programs for Pacific island nations following a regional police ministers' conference in Los Angeles on Wednesday and Thursday. The initiatives include a $7 million maritime law enforcement training center in Palau, improved border surveillance and expanded investigations into drug trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime. Additional funding will support maritime awareness, fisheries patrols, police training and financial intelligence. The programs aim to strengthen regional cooperation against transnational criminal networks. The State Department said the commitments would benefit Pacific partners, including Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

## South Korea to urge United Nations action after mine blast injures three soldiers in demilitarized zone

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South Korea said on Thursday it would ask the United Nations Security Council to hold North Korea accountable for a landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers in the demilitarized zone on September 21. Seoul's military concluded that mines planted by North Korean troops south of the military demarcation line caused the blast, with two soldiers seriously injured. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Park Doo-soon said the letter would demand an apology, responsible action and dialogue to prevent further escalation. North Korea has denied responsibility and warned of retaliation if Seoul responds. South Korea said it would coordinate with Greece, which holds the council's rotating presidency, to circulate the letter. Officials have not ruled out additional measures, including unilateral sanctions, depending on Pyongyang's response.

## United States approves new hepatitis B treatment that may help some patients stop antiviral therapy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Food and Drug Administration approved Hibsago, an injectable treatment developed by GSK, on Tuesday for certain adults with chronic hepatitis B who do not have cirrhosis. The medicine uses antisense technology to interfere with the virus's genetic instructions. In clinical trials, 24% of treated participants met criteria to stop their existing antiviral medication, compared with none receiving a placebo. However, only 19% maintained viral control 24 weeks after ending all treatment. The drug carries serious safety warnings, including potential liver reactions and reduced platelet counts, and requires medical monitoring. The approval applies to a specific group of patients who meet clinical and laboratory criteria.

## African Union and Africa CDC call for coordinated action as Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak spreads across Africa

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



The African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention called on Thursday for urgent continental cooperation to contain the expanding Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak. African Union Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya stressed transparency, solidarity and rapid mobilization of resources.

Nigeria became the fifth country to report a confirmed case on Tuesday, with infections reported across Central, East and West Africa. The outbreak has affected the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya, alongside Nigeria and another previously affected country.

Africa CDC plans to convene an emergency ministerial meeting on Wednesday, bringing together health, finance and transport ministers to coordinate the response. The agency declared the outbreak a public health emergency of continental security in May, while the World Health Organization separately declared an international public health emergency.

## United Nations climate fund approves $20 million to help Nepal rebuild after deadly floods and landslides

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



The United Nations Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage approved $20 million on Thursday to support Nepal's recovery from devastating floods and landslides in August. Nepal's government said the assistance, worth approximately 3 billion Nepalese rupees, would help affected communities with rehabilitation and reconstruction. The disaster struck the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli region, with preliminary estimates indicating more than 60,000 people across 15,000 households were directly affected. Authorities estimated economic losses at $2.69 billion and reconstruction needs at $4.71 billion. The government had requested expedited assistance through letters from its agriculture and finance ministers. Details of the funding's disbursement schedule and allocation have not yet been announced.

## UAE nominates Lana Nusseibeh for United Nations secretary-general amid Security Council deadlock

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



The United Arab Emirates nominated Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lana Nusseibeh on Wednesday to become the next United Nations secretary-general, adding an eighth candidate to a contest clouded by divisions among major powers. Nusseibeh, a former United Arab Emirates ambassador to the United Nations, said the organization should engage wherever it can contribute meaningfully to resolving conflicts. Her candidacy comes as the Security Council remains deadlocked, with all seven previously nominated candidates receiving opposition from at least two permanent members in an informal poll. The next secretary-general will succeed António Guterres, whose term ends on December 31. Candidates must present their priorities and answer questions from member states and civil society. Calls are growing for the first woman to lead the United Nations and for a candidate from Latin America, which has not held the position since 1991.

## Baloch American activist urges international intervention over planned displacement of thousands of families in Pakistan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Baloch American Congress President Tara Chand Baloch on Thursday urged international organizations to investigate reports of forced displacement in Pakistan's Balochistan province. He alleged that Pakistani security forces and provincial authorities were pressuring families in the Kalat district's Shoor Paarod region to leave their ancestral homes. The appeal followed reports that provincial authorities had ordered around 5,000 families, potentially affecting 30,000 people, to vacate the area by October 30. Officials said relocation was necessary because of armed fighters and that designated camps had been prepared. Additional Chief Secretary for Home Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat warned on Tuesday that security forces would remove residents who refused to leave. Tara Chand called on the United Nations and human rights organizations to investigate the allegations and oppose unlawful displacement, collective punishment and destruction of civilian property.

## Usha Vance visits Arkansas school to promote childhood literacy and recognize educators

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Second Lady Usha Vance visited Glenview Elementary School in North Little Rock on Tuesday with Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders to promote childhood literacy. Vance toured classrooms, read to students and joined discussions with education leaders about improving reading outcomes. The pair later honored 50 educators who received bonuses through Arkansas' Merit Teacher Incentive Fund. The governor's office reported that third-grade reading proficiency in the state rose from 35% in 2024 to 43% in 2026. The state's incentive program has awarded more than $50 million to over 12,000 educators in three years. Vance has made literacy a central focus of her public agenda, including a summer reading challenge for students.

## India calls for binding international treaty to prevent weapons deployment in outer space

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India urged the international community on Tuesday to negotiate a comprehensive, legally binding treaty prohibiting weapons in outer space, warning that military competition could increase the risk of miscalculation. Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty, speaking at the United Nations, said any agreement should be universally acceptable, verifiable and negotiated multilaterally. She identified the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament as the appropriate forum and argued that voluntary rules should complement, not replace, a binding treaty. Murty also cited concerns about dual-use space technology and differing national approaches to preventing an arms race. A draft treaty proposed by Russia and China in 2008 has faced opposition from the United States, which has questioned its scope and verification provisions.

## Aung San Suu Kyi's son speaks to detained Myanmar leader for first time in more than five years



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kim Aris said Thursday that he had spoken with his mother, former Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, for the first time in more than five years. In a social media post, he described hearing her voice again as deeply moving and thanked supporters who had advocated for her. The 81-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate remains detained following the military coup in February 2021. Authorities say she was moved from prison to house arrest in Naypyidaw in April. Recent official photographs have shown her meeting visitors, including a Red Cross representative. However, Aris stressed that one conversation does not constitute regular family access, and concerns remain about her isolation and well-being.

INDOUS TRIBUNE

Published Weekly by:
Ansal Media Group
of USA, LLC

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

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

Editor
Nikita Sharma
editor@indoustribune.com

Graphics & Web Development
Sunil Panchal
graphics@indoustribune.com

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

Legal Advisors
Seth Kebron
Ankush Ansal

Special Contributor
Rajesh Ansal

Special Correspondent
Sunita Verma

Social Media
Pooja Singh

Chicago Office:
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Surrey Canada Office
surrey@indoustribune.com

San Jose Office
sanjose@indoustribune.com

Delhi Office:
delhi@indoustribune.com

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marketing@indoustribune.com

# Midterms 2026: Beyond party politics — what is at stake for America and Indian Americans?



**Dr. Avi Verma**

On November 3, 2026, Americans will vote in midterm elections that could reshape the balance of power in Washington. Although President Donald Trump is not on the ballot, his policies, leadership and political future will be central to the outcome. For Indian Americans, these elections are more than a contest between Republicans and Democrats. They are an opportunity to assess which candidates and policies best serve our families, businesses, communities and the broader interests of the United States. In the first two parts of this series, we examined the political landscape and the stakes for Congress. In this concluding note, I want to look beyond party slogans and consider what the results could mean for the country—and for our community.

### Who has the advantage?

The battle for the House of Representatives appears more favorable to Democrats, who need a net gain of only a few seats to take control. Midterm elections often work against the party occupying the White House, particularly when voters are dissatisfied with the economy, the president's performance or the direction of national policy.

The Senate presents a more difficult challenge for Democrats. Its electoral map, the states where seats are contested and the political composition of those states make a Democratic takeover less certain. Republicans therefore have a more realistic path to retaining the Senate than the House, although individual races could change the picture. These are assessments, not predictions. Campaigns, turnout, candidate quality and events in the final weeks can alter the outcome. The most important question is whether voters choose divided government, continued Republican control or a Democratic Congress prepared to challenge the administration.

### What If Democrats win both chambers?

If Democrats gain control of both the House and Senate, President Trump would face a significantly more difficult final two years of his term. Congressional investigations would likely intensify, and the administration would face greater scrutiny over its policies, spending decisions and executive actions.

Democrats could block or reshape legislation, influence federal spending and use congressional hearings to hold the administration accountable. Major Republican legislative initiatives would encounter stronger resistance. However, a Democratic majority would not automatically reverse every Trump policy. Presidential authority, existing laws, court decisions and the need for sufficient votes would continue to matter.

A divided government can create checks and balances, but it can also produce gridlock. The responsibility would rest with both parties to determine whether oversight serves the public interest or becomes a substitute for governing. I believe accountability is essential in a democracy. No president, regardless of party, should be beyond scrutiny. Equally, congressional opposition should offer solutions, not simply seek political advantage.

### Why Indian Americans should pay attention

For Indian Americans, the consequences are practical and personal.

**Immigration and skilled professionals:** Visa policies, employment-based immigration, family reunification and the treatment of international students affect thousands of Indian-American families and professionals. Changes in immigration enforcement and legal pathways deserve careful attention. Our community should support a system that respects the law while recognizing the contributions of skilled workers, entrepreneurs and families who help build this country.

**Small businesses and the economy:** Indian Americans own and operate businesses across healthcare, technology, hospitality, retail, transportation and professional services. Tax policy, inflation, interest rates, labor costs and access to capital influence whether these businesses can grow and create jobs. Candidates should be judged by the likely effects of their economic proposals, not merely by campaign promises.

**Education and healthcare:** Many families are concerned about education costs, school quality, university opportunities and access to affordable healthcare. These are not abstract political debates. They affect household budgets, the future of our children and the well-being of older family members.




**Equal opportunity and public safety:** Indian Americans should expect fair treatment, protection against discrimination and safe communities. We should also reject prejudice against any group. A strong America is one in which people can contribute, worship, work and raise their families without fear or unequal treatment.

### The U.S.-India relationship

The relationship between the United States and India is another important consideration. Cooperation in trade, technology, defense, education and regional security benefits both countries. At the same time, differences over tariffs, immigration and trade policy can create friction. A change in congressional control could influence the tone and direction of U.S. policy, but it would not automatically transform the bilateral relationship. Congress, the administration, business interests and strategic realities all play a role. Indian Americans can contribute by encouraging informed dialogue and supporting a relationship grounded in mutual respect and shared interests. Our responsibility is not to endorse every policy of either government, but to advocate for constructive engagement between the world's two major democracies.

### Our community must think independently

As publisher of IndoUS Tribune, I believe our community deserves political analysis that goes beyond party loyalty. Indian Americans are not a single voting bloc. Our views differ by generation, profession, personal experience and political philosophy. That diversity is a strength. Republicans should be held accountable when their policies harm our interests, just as Democrats should be challenged when their promises fall short. We should examine candidates' records, verify their claims and ask how their decisions will affect our families and the nation. The November election is not a referendum on one individual alone. It is a test of public confidence in the direction of the country and of Congress's ability to represent its citizens.

### The final word

Whether Republicans retain control or Democrats take one or both chambers, the result should remind elected officials that public office is a responsibility, not a personal entitlement. For President Trump, a Democratic victory in both chambers would mean stronger congressional resistance and more intensive oversight. For Democrats, winning control would bring its own test: whether they can translate opposition into credible policies and responsible governance.

For Indian Americans, the task is to remain engaged, informed and independent. We should vote on issues, character, performance and principles—not on pressure to follow a party. Our community should not be anyone's guaranteed vote, and our democracy should not be anyone's permanent possession. The real winner of the 2026 midterms should be the American people.

***Best regards,***
***Dr. Avi Verma***
***Publisher,***
***IndoUS Tribune***

## Indian intelligence officials allege Pakistan's new spy chief is planning smaller, coordinated border action teams

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence officials allege that Pakistan's new Inter-Services Intelligence chief, Major General Muhammad Shamraiz Khan, is planning to expand Border Action Teams to support infiltration attempts into Jammu and Kashmir. According to officials cited by IANS, the proposed teams would combine Pakistani army commandos with members of militant groups and conduct coordinated attacks on Indian border posts. The officials said the strategy could involve smaller teams of four or five members operating at multiple locations simultaneously to stretch Indian security forces. They also claimed more than 500 militants were waiting at launchpads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Khan previously commanded an infantry division and headed the Sindh Rangers. The allegations have not been independently verified, and the account reflects assessments attributed to Indian intelligence sources.

## White House press association accuses Trump administration of retaliation after reporter loses travel assignment

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House Correspondents' Association accused the Trump administration of retaliating against a journalist after The Independent's White House correspondent Andrew Feinberg was reportedly removed from a presidential travel press pool. The dispute followed a confrontation on Tuesday, when President Donald Trump repeatedly rebuked Feinberg during an Oval Office event and told him to be quiet while he asked questions. Feinberg had been scheduled to cover Trump's Thursday trip to Sioux City, Iowa, but was reportedly removed without explanation. Association President Jacqui Heinrich said restricting journalists because of their questions undermines press freedom and the public's right to independent reporting.

## US Justice Department alleges Ohio State medical school admissions favored Black applicants over Asian and white candidates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department accused Ohio State University's medical school on Wednesday of using admissions practices that discriminated against Asian and white applicants while favoring some Black candidates. The department said its investigation examined incoming classes for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and found that Black applicants who completed screening and interviews were about 2.8 times as likely to be admitted as equally credentialed Asian applicants. Investigators also alleged that some candidates entered through a separate pathway that bypassed screening scores or interviews. The department said the practices violated federal civil rights law and the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling against race-based admissions. The findings are not a court judgment. Officials said they would seek a settlement to change the practices and could file a lawsuit if negotiations fail.

## Oil prices surge to $112 a barrel as Gulf attacks raise fears of renewed supply disruptions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Attacks on Saudi Arabia and strikes involving vessels near the Strait of Hormuz pushed international oil prices to a five-month high on Thursday, intensifying concerns about global energy supplies and inflation.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 3% to $112 a barrel, its highest level since May. Yemen's Houthi movement, aligned with Iran, attacked targets in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, killing two people and injuring eight at a civilian airport in Dammam. A separate drone attack on a Saudi oilfield killed two people.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said four vessels involved in what it described as illegal oil transfers caught fire after being struck in the northern Gulf. It also reported that three other vessels hit mines west of the Strait of Hormuz and warned of a possible wider response to United States actions.



Washington ordered some diplomats and family members to leave missions in Saudi Arabia, while Saudi Aramco reportedly directed staff to evacuate its Dhahran headquarters and work remotely. European and Asian stocks fell on Thursday amid inflation concerns. American Airlines shares also dropped nearly 4% before the market opened after the company warned that elevated fuel costs could push it into a loss this year.

## UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham reaffirms 2050 net-zero commitment after Jackdaw gasfield approval

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 despite approving the Jackdaw gasfield in the North Sea. In an article published Thursday, Burnham said his determination to tackle climate change remained unwavering and pledged to block new oil and gas licenses.

He defended the Jackdaw decision as a way to strengthen domestic energy security during global instability while protecting jobs for oil and gas workers. Burnham said the transition to cleaner energy must provide viable employment for communities dependent on fossil fuel industries.

Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh, meanwhile, said she would independently decide whether to approve the controversial Rosebank oilfield, warning that political interference could expose the government to legal challenges over its climate obligations.

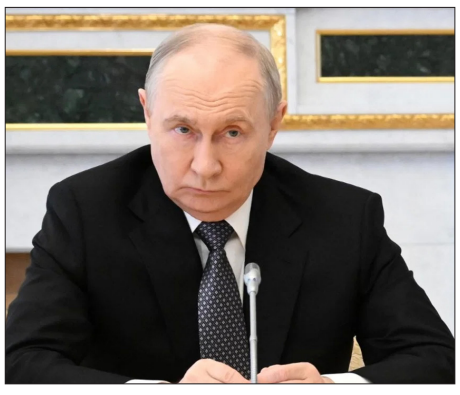
Burnham also announced that military aircraft and helicopters would help fight wildfires across the country for the first time, supporting emergency crews in remote and difficult terrain.

## Putin says first Russian diesel shipment of 40,000 tons will depart within days for global markets

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that a tanker carrying 40,000 tons of Russian diesel fuel would depart within two to three days, with shipments intended for international markets, including the United States.

Putin made the announcement during a meeting in Saint Petersburg with United States special envoy Steve Witkoff, as the two sides discussed energy supplies and diplomatic efforts to resolve the war in Ukraine. Russia said it was preparing additional tanker shipments. Witkoff had met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Oslo on Tuesday to discuss ceasefire proposals, security guarantees and reconstruction. The meetings come amid continuing pressure on global energy markets.



## Tens of thousands rally in Belgrade as student-backed opposition challenges Serbia's ruling party

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An estimated 150,000 people gathered in Belgrade on Thursday for a rally organized by Serbia's student-led opposition movement ahead of Sunday's parliamentary election. The movement, known as the Student List, is seeking to end more than 14 years of rule by President Aleksandar Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party. The protests began after a railway station canopy collapse in Novi Sad in 2024 killed 16 people, sparking widespread anger over alleged corruption. Student-backed candidates have made anti-corruption their central campaign pledge. Civil society groups have raised concerns about intimaidation, arrests and misuse of public resources. Vucic has accused the movement of attempting a foreign-backed coup, while the students have urged supporters to vote peacefully.

## Controversial hepatitis B vaccine trial in Guinea-Bissau halted after government withholds approval

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A controversial United States-backed study examining hepatitis B vaccination in newborns in Guinea-Bissau will not proceed, its lead researcher said on Wednesday, citing the absence of necessary government approval. The proposed trial was expected to receive $1.6 million from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, matched by private foundations for total funding of $3.2 million. Researchers planned to investigate whether giving the hepatitis B vaccine alongside other newborn vaccinations affected overall mortality. Critics argued that withholding the birth dose from some infants would be unethical, particularly in a country with high hepatitis B prevalence. The World Health Organization recommends vaccination as soon as possible after birth, preferably within 24 hours. The decision follows public controversy and a police search of the researchers' offices earlier this week.

## Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms targets record Indian stock market listing despite market slowdown

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jio Platforms, the telecommunications company backed by Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani, began its initial public offering process on Wednesday, targeting a valuation of 10.3 trillion rupees and seeking to raise up to 302 billion rupees.

The listing could become India's largest-ever public share offering. The company, led by Ambani's son Akash, offers low-cost broadband and mobile internet services to millions of customers. Major global investors participated in its anchor investor allocation on Monday. Shares are being offered at 1,065 to 1,119 rupees each, with the public offering scheduled to close Friday. The planned valuation is below earlier expectations, as India's stock market faces a downturn. Jio also plans to expand into artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital infrastructure.

## Flávio Bolsonaro's 'corrupt' debate stunt backfires as Brazilians turn his campaign message into a viral meme

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian presidential candidate Flávio Bolsonaro faced online ridicule after writing the word 'corrupt' on his palm during a televised debate with incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday. The far-right senator appeared to be accusing Lula of wrongdoing, but social media users turned the gesture into a viral meme, posting photographs of their own professions written on their hands. Politicians, entertainers and workers joined the trend, turning the stunt into a widespread joke at Bolsonaro's expense. The episode comes as Brazil approaches its presidential runoff, with polls suggesting a close contest. Bolsonaro, son of former president Jair Bolsonaro, denies corruption allegations and has not been convicted. Lula challenged his rival during the debate to make financial and phone records available to electoral authorities to demonstrate their integrity.

## India and Nauru explore stronger parliamentary exchanges and capacity-building cooperation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Nauru are exploring stronger parliamentary exchanges and capacity-building cooperation following a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Parliament Speaker Marcus Stephen on Thursday. Meeting at the historic Parliament House in Yaren, Margherita discussed shared democratic values and opportunities to deepen institutional ties. He also welcomed photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla displayed in Stephen's office. Margherita separately met members of the Indian community and alumni of India's technical and cultural exchange programs, praising their contributions to bilateral relations. He arrived in Nauru after engagements in Samoa and is scheduled to visit the Cook Islands as part of his Pacific tour.

## India reaffirms plans to expand trade, technology and education ties with Hungary



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its partnership with Hungary across trade, investment, technology, innovation, education and people-to-people exchanges. Sibi George, secretary in India's Ministry of External Affairs, represented India as chief guest at Hungary's National Day celebrations on Thursday, highlighting the countries' longstanding friendship.

Recent diplomatic engagements have focused on expanding economic and institutional cooperation. In July, India's ambassador to Hungary, Anshuman Gaur, met Hungarian Parliamentary State Secretary Gyorgy Laszlo Velkey to review initiatives and identify opportunities for businesses and institutions. Earlier, the Indian ambassador met Hungary's National Assembly Speaker, Agnes Forsthoffer, to discuss parliamentary exchanges and closer bilateral engagement. The countries have also explored establishing an India-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group.

## India and Poland plan defense industry dialogue to advance joint production, technology partnerships and security cooperation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Poland have agreed to establish a Defense Industry Dialogue to expand defense manufacturing cooperation, including technology partnerships, joint development and co-production. The proposal was outlined in a joint statement following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Thursday. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to stronger defense and security ties and welcomed the outcomes of their eighth Joint Working Group on Defense meeting, held in Warsaw in September. Both countries emphasized cooperation in cybersecurity, defense innovation and emerging technologies. They also expressed hope that an agreement on the mutual protection and exchange of classified information would be signed soon. The statement highlighted historical links, including India's role in providing refuge to thousands of Polish women and children during World War II. It also recognized Poland's assistance to more than 2,000



Indian students stranded in Ukraine during Operation Ganga. The leaders welcomed youth exchanges honoring the Maharaja of Nawanagar, known in Poland as the Good Maharaja. They also noted progress toward agreements on culture, science, higher education and cooperation between the countries' national archives.

## Rubio's India visit boosts trade, energy and defense cooperation, says US ambassador

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit strengthened the bilateral partnership and renewed momentum for cooperation across key sectors. Rubio concluded his India visit on Thursday, saying discussions had advanced shared economic and strategic priorities, including energy security. He met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mumbai on Tuesday to discuss trade, energy, technology, defense and people-to-people ties, as well as regional developments.

Jaishankar and Rubio also discussed energy security and defense cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to the strategic partnership. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and other officials attended the meeting. Rubio and Jaishankar subsequently joined United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan for trilateral talks on regional energy security, connectivity and shared economic priorities.

## Jaishankar meets Azerbaijan president in Baku to strengthen bilateral relations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on Friday to discuss strengthening relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries. Jaishankar conveyed greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing appreciation for Aliyev's positive approach toward closer bilateral engagement. During his visit, Jaishankar is also scheduled to hold talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart to review existing ties and explore further cooperation. The meeting follows recent diplomatic exchanges. India's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Abhay Kumar, presented his credentials to Aliyev last week and reaffirmed India's commitment to expanding bilateral relations. Modi and Aliyev also met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek in September, reflecting continued efforts to strengthen political and economic engagement.

## India and Italy seek regular naval exercises and closer cooperation on maritime security

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Italy are working to deepen naval cooperation through regular bilateral engagements, joint exercises, operational coordination and professional exchanges, following talks between their naval chiefs in New Delhi on Friday. Indian Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan received Italian Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, who was accorded a ceremonial guard of honor. Discussions focused on improving interoperability, sharing training practices and expanding cooperation on common maritime security priorities. The meeting followed the arrival of Italian Navy combat ship Giovanni delle Bande Nere in Mumbai on Tuesday during an Indo-Pacific deployment. The talks build on broader security cooperation. Earlier this month, officials from both countries discussed counterterrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorist financing, emphasizing information sharing and coordinated action.

## UAE senior official visits New Delhi as India and Emirates sustain high-level diplomatic engagement



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United Arab Emirates are continuing high-level diplomatic exchanges to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership, with Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arriving in New Delhi on Thursday. Sheikh Theyab serves as deputy chairman of the UAE Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs. India's Ministry of External Affairs welcomed his arrival, saying the visit added momentum to regular engagement between the two countries. His visit followed a two-day trip to India by UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During talks in Mumbai on Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reviewed bilateral relations and discussed cooperation in trade, investment, energy, technology, logistics, defense, education and people-to-people ties.

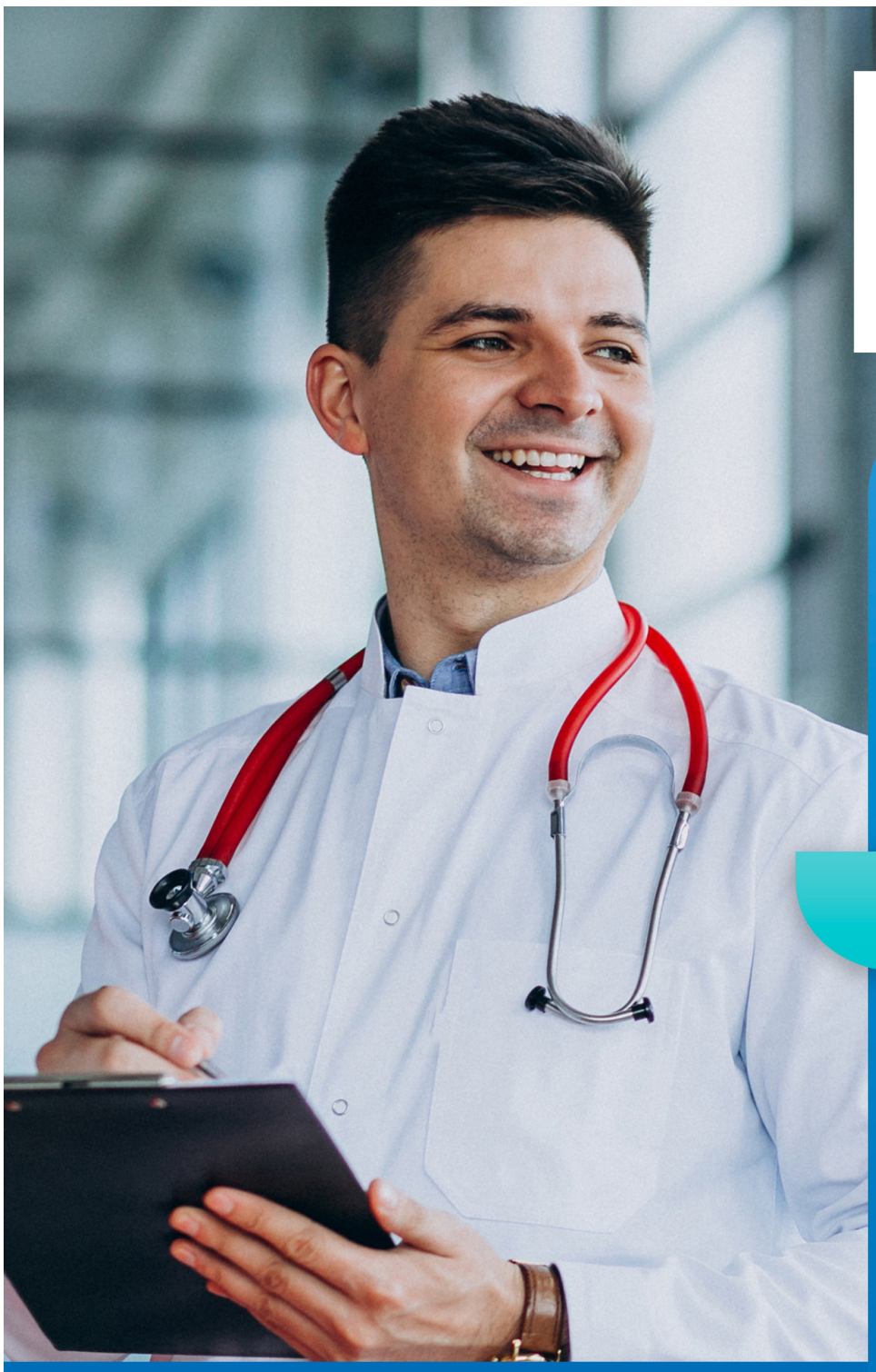
## India and Germany seek deeper industrial cooperation as proposed European Union trade pact gains momentum



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Germany are seeking stronger industrial and technological cooperation, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal discussing investment opportunities with German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Katharina Reiche on Thursday. Their talks covered artificial intelligence, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, green hydrogen, renewable energy, energy storage and resilient supply chains. Goyal also highlighted the potential of the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement to help businesses in both countries expand their opportunities.

Goyal is visiting Germany and the Netherlands with representatives from around 100 businesses and startups to strengthen trade and investment ties. In Germany, he is participating in the Berlin Global Dialogue and engaging with policymakers and business leaders. His Netherlands itinerary includes discussions on expanding trade channels, investment and green-transition initiatives.



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## Trump says Google chief Sundar Pichai talked him out of renaming the Atlantic Ocean

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he abandoned an idea to rename the Atlantic Ocean after Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai warned that the move could upset countries around the world. Speaking at a rally in South Carolina, Trump recalled discussing the proposal with Pichai, whom he praised as a brilliant leader. Trump said he had considered the idea after claiming success in changing the name of Lake Ontario to "Lake America" and the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America." He also joked about renaming major rivers, including the Hudson and Mississippi, but said he would not pursue those changes. Google has not publicly confirmed Trump's account of the conversation. His remarks followed a social media post suggesting that New Mexico should also be renamed because it is part of the United States.

## Yellowstone secures record $105 million gift for conservation and access



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yellowstone National Park announced Monday a $105 million gift from Tallgrass, a Colorado-based infrastructure company, to support conservation, research, visitor facilities and educational access. The donation, made through the park's nonprofit partner Yellowstone Forever, is described as the largest single private gift in National Park Service history. Plans include a $35 million visitor center at Norris Geyser Basin and programs helping Wyoming students and families experience the park. The initiative aims to provide long-term funding for stewardship and infrastructure at the 2.2 million-acre reserve. The gift comes as Yellowstone faces an estimated $1.2 billion in deferred maintenance and repair needs.

## Ohio chemical leak triggers evacuations and health concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A chemical tank rupture in Toledo, Ohio, forced hundreds of residents to evacuate Wednesday as authorities warned of toxic exposure and a possible explosion. Officials allowed the chemical, glycidyl methacrylate, to vent rather than attempt a dangerous intervention. The release began Tuesday night at an industrial facility, prompting an evacuation order and a shelter-in-place warning affecting about 50,000 people. Authorities lifted the shelter order Wednesday evening and reduced the evacuation zone as conditions improved. By Thursday, 57 people had received hospital treatment, with seven remaining hospitalized and none reported in serious condition. The chemical is used in certain plastics, paints and coatings.

## Indian-American voters stir Texas and New York races as early voting heats up

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American voters are drawing attention in key United States races as early voting intensifies ahead of the November 3 midterm elections, with debates over identity and immigration shaping political engagement.

An Indian-American voter's post on X supporting Democratic Senate nominee James Talarico in Texas attracted approximately 857,000 views within seven hours on Monday. The user cited concerns about xenophobia, racial resentment and attacks on his identity. The post also drew criticism from conservative accounts.

Meanwhile, in New York, more than 500 Indian Americans gathered in Uniondale to rally behind Democratic Representative Tom Suozzi's reelection campaign. Community leader Varinder Bhalla compared Suozzi with former Representative Stephen Solarz, a



longtime advocate of stronger United States-India relations.

A 2026 AAPI voter survey found Indian-American voters favored Democratic Senate candidates by 66 percent to 18 percent, although the subgroup sample was small. Both parties are targeting Asian-American voters in competitive districts.

## Federal judge orders Trump administration to suspend noncitizen voting investigations in nine states

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in California ordered the Trump administration Wednesday to suspend investigations into alleged noncitizen voter registration across nine states, citing unreliable data and concerns about voter intimidation.

Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín said investigators' lists contained significant errors and that rushed reviews increased the risk of wrongly targeting eligible voters. The order covers California, Connecticut, Georgia, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin, and was scheduled to take effect after a temporary pause allowing



the administration to appeal.

The lawsuit was brought by labor and voter advocacy groups, which said investigations had discouraged some citizens from participating in election activities. The administration maintains it is targeting unlawful voting.

## Justice Kagan criticizes Supreme Court majority over impact of election rulings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan criticized the court's conservative majority Tuesday, saying its election-related rulings failed to consider their consequences for American democracy.

Speaking to students at Catholic University's law school, Kagan questioned decisions restricting the use of race in electoral district boundaries and allowing political parties greater freedom to coordinate spending with candidates. She argued that partisan redistricting was undermining voting equality and pushing candidates toward more extreme positions to win primary elections.



Kagan warned that efforts to make states overwhelmingly Republican or Democratic could deepen political polarization and weaken democratic representation.

## New York attorney general defends role in Cornell sexual assault investigation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York Attorney General Letitia James filed a court response Thursday opposing an effort to remove her as special prosecutor investigating alleged sexual assault at Cornell University. An attorney for Gillio Lopes, one of seven men named in a lawsuit alleging a woman was assaulted at a fraternity house in 2024, argued that James had demonstrated political bias. James countered that the petition was not legally valid and that the governor had authority to appoint her.

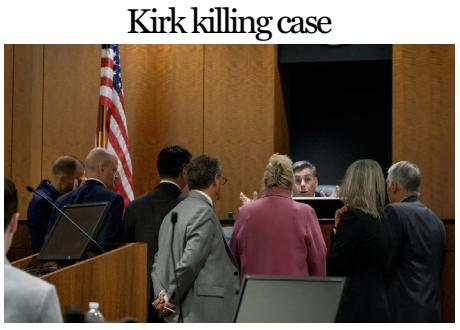
Governor Kathy Hochul appointed James on October 1 after concerns about how university police and local prosecutors handled the allegations. No criminal charges have been filed, and the men named in the lawsuit deny the accusations.

## Early flu surge across the western United States prompts health experts to urge vaccination against evolving H1N1 strain

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Flu activity is rising earlier than usual across parts of the western United States, prompting health experts to urge vaccination. California's influenza test positivity rate reached 9.65 percent by October 10, compared with about 1 percent during the same period in the previous two seasons. Utah and parts of Oregon also reported increases. Federal surveillance data showed that 242 of 300 influenza viruses reported by public health laboratories were H1N1. This season's vaccines target H1N1, H3N2 and influenza B. Experts say vaccination can reduce severe illness and hospitalization, although H1N1 mutations could affect immune responses in younger people.

## Defense seeks 2029 trial in Charlie Kirk killing case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Defense attorneys for Tyler Robinson, accused of killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk, proposed a 2029 trial, arguing the complex death penalty case requires years of preparation. Robinson pleaded not guilty to aggravated murder after Kirk was fatally shot while speaking at Utah Valley University in September 2025. Prosecutors estimate the trial will last 17 weeks and say they could be ready by October 2027, although they proposed starting in January 2028 to avoid the holiday season. An attorney for Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, called the defense timeline unreasonable and urged an October 2027 start. Robinson's lawyers cited tens of thousands of files and extensive investigation requirements.

## CNN threatens further legal action over continued Air Force One access restrictions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

CNN has threatened further legal action against the White House, saying its journalists continue to be excluded from Air Force One coverage despite a federal court order blocking a broader media ban. In a letter sent Monday, the network's attorney, Theodore Boutrous Jr., said CNN had been denied access to presidential travel at least four times while scheduled for the television press pool. A federal judge last week issued a preliminary injunction against restrictions affecting CNN, MS NOW and Politico. CNN argues the continued exclusions unlawfully discriminate against its reporting. The network gave the Justice Department two days to respond and warned it would return to court if restrictions continue.

## Possible tornadoes and golf ball-sized hail batter central Arizona, damaging homes and toppling trees across the region

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe storms struck central Arizona late Wednesday, bringing golf ball-sized hail, damaging winds and possible tornadoes. National Weather Service meteorologists suspected at least three tornadoes touched down. One person suffered a non-life-threatening injury, while homes sustained roof damage and trees fell in communities including Flagstaff and Mesa. Dozens of large ponderosa pines were toppled in the Coconino National Forest. Additional storms brought heavy rain and hail Thursday, while parts of New Mexico, Utah and Colorado faced flood watches or warnings. Forecasters said warm, moist air moving north from the California coast helped fuel the severe weather.

## Justice Department opens criminal probe into former Trump adviser Corey Lewandowski



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into former Trump adviser Corey Lewandowski over allegations that he improperly benefited from his government role. The probe followed a referral from the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, who examined his involvement in government contracts. Some contracts and grants, including those involving the Federal Emergency Management Agency, were reportedly placed on hold at his direction. Lewandowski previously served as a senior aide to former Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and managed Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. His lawyer has denied wrongdoing. Trump said Thursday that misconduct should be addressed if established.

## Plaintiffs ask court to block Trump's 250-foot triumphal arch project

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three veterans and a retired architectural historian asked a federal judge Thursday to block President Donald Trump's proposed 250-foot triumphal arch in Washington, arguing that congressional authorization is required. The plaintiffs urged Judge Tanya Chutkan to halt construction at Memorial Circle. The National Park Service said work could begin as early as November 5, following consideration of final plans by the National Capital Planning Commission and subject to other required approvals. The arch is among Trump's major Washington projects. Arlington County, Virginia, has also filed a separate legal challenge, adding to opposition over the proposed monument and the approval process.

## Trump announces $1.5 billion Pentagon investment in North Carolina semiconductor manufacturing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

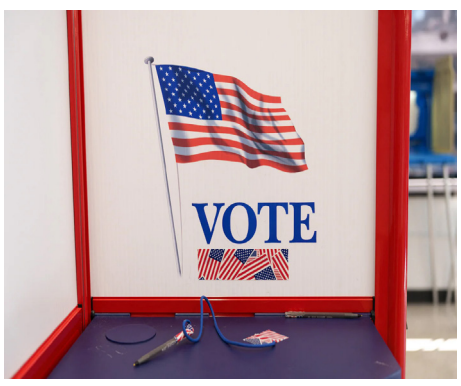


United States President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that the Pentagon would invest $1.5 billion in semiconductor production in North Carolina to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick also announced plans for Sibelco to establish a quartz manufacturing facility in the state, with an investment worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Trump highlighted pharmaceutical manufacturing commitments exceeding $10 billion and a proposed $4.7 billion JetZero aircraft facility, which he said would create more than 15,000 jobs. He credited tariffs for attracting investment and claimed total investment commitments had reached $22.2 trillion, a figure not independently verified in the supplied report. He made the announcements while campaigning for Republicans ahead of the congressional elections.

## Democrats sue Trump administration over alleged attempts to control state election procedures

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk




Democratic leaders filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday seeking to stop President Donald Trump's administration from interfering with states' authority to run elections ahead of the November 3 midterms. The lawsuit asks a court to prohibit the administration from removing legally registered voters from statewide registration lists, denying eligible voters their ballots or threatening election officials with prosecution over disputed demands. Plaintiffs include Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Democratic Governors Association. The case cites the Justice Department's efforts in California to prevent officials from counting mail-in ballots cast by people the federal government identifies as potential noncitizens until their citizenship status is verified. The administration says election integrity is a priority and its actions are grounded in law. The lawsuit argues that Trump has repeatedly used unsubstantiated voter fraud claims to justify efforts to gain control over election administration. The case was assigned to Chief Judge James Boasberg in Washington.

## Supreme Court blocks Trump policy restricting gender-affirming care for transgender inmates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the Trump administration cannot enforce a policy restricting gender-affirming treatment for transgender people in federal prisons while legal challenges continue. The justices rejected the administration's emergency request to overturn a lower court injunction. Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito indicated they would have allowed the policy to proceed. The policy would bar gender transition surgery, hormone treatments and social accommodations such as wigs and makeup. A lower court found that the Bureau of Prisons had failed to adequately explain its reversal of earlier policies. The administration said it would continue defending the restrictions, while advocates called the ruling an important protection for incarcerated transgender people.

## US attorney general leaves open possibility of post-election intervention in vote certification

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Attorney General Todd Blanche said Thursday he could not rule out Justice Department intervention in a "doomsday" scenario involving vote certification after the November midterm elections. Blanche insisted the department did not intend to interfere improperly with elections, but his remarks came amid federal investigations into suspected noncitizen voter registration. Voting experts say noncitizen voting is rare. The Justice Department has pursued legal action seeking voter records from states, while critics warn that the investigations risk intimidating eligible voters. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats were prepared to challenge any administration efforts to interfere with the election process.

## Rising health insurance premiums put pressure on American workers



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

American workers are paying more for employer-sponsored health insurance, with employees at small businesses facing particularly steep increases, a survey by health research nonprofit KFF found Thursday. Workers contributed an average of $7,471 annually toward family coverage in 2026, up 9%, or $621, from the previous year. At businesses with 10 to 99 employees, the average contribution reached $9,687, compared with $6,840 at companies employing at least 200 people. Workers at smaller firms also paid a greater share of premiums. The findings come as healthcare affordability becomes a major election concern, with about seven in 10 registered voters identifying it as a top issue.

## Tennessee execution attempt raises concerns over repeated failures to place intravenous lines



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tennessee execution staff struggled for nearly an hour to establish intravenous lines before the failed execution of Christa Pike, according to a court filing submitted Thursday by her attorney.

The team reportedly used about 10 needles and warned that veins in Pike's arms might have ruptured before administering pentobarbital on September 30. Pike, 50, survived two doses and was hospitalized, later returning to prison after recovering.

Her attorney said Pike complained of severe burning pain in her arm before appearing to struggle to breathe. The incident has intensified scrutiny of Tennessee's lethal injection procedures as other death row inmates challenge the state's execution protocols.

## Haryana man killed in wrong-way crash on British Columbia highway, three passengers seriously injured




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-year-old man from Haryana was killed in a head-on collision on British Columbia's Coquihalla Highway on Saturday, while three other passengers suffered serious injuries. Jaskeerat Singh Naukhria, originally from Rattak village in Karnal district, had moved to Canada in 2024. According to British Columbia Highway Patrol, officers received reports of a black Toyota Tacoma traveling in the wrong direction on Highway 5 before it collided with the white Toyota RAV4. Naukhria was driving the RAV4, according to reports from India, although police identified him as a passenger. The pickup's 22-year-old driver sustained minor injuries and was detained on suspicion of impaired driving. Police are seeking witnesses and dashcam footage. An online fundraiser has been launched to help cover funeral expenses and support Naukhria's family.

## Indian pilot recounts desperate fight to survive alleged cockpit attack on Dubai to Tel Aviv flight



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian airline captain Smit Machchhar has described how he fought to survive an alleged attack by his co-pilot aboard a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv on Wednesday, September 30. In an interview with Sky News Arabia, Machchhar said he repeatedly lost consciousness after being struck on the head and told himself he could not die that way. He praised another pilot who took control during the emergency. According to investigators, the Omani co-pilot allegedly attacked Machchhar with an emergency crash axe and intended to crash the aircraft into Ben Gurion Airport. Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, allowing crew members and passengers to intervene. Other pilots diverted the aircraft to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely. Machchhar is recovering in Abu Dhabi, and the investigation continues.

## Indian diaspora rallies across 10 countries over India's electoral rolls, rival protests draw crowds in London

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune



Indian diaspora communities and their supporters staged demonstrations across several countries on Friday and Saturday, expressing solidarity with protesters in India and demanding accountability from Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over concerns about electoral integrity. Under the slogan 'Jantar Mantar is Everywhere', rallies took place in cities including London, Berlin, Göttingen, Dublin, The Hague, Gothenburg, Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Austin, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago and Prague. Further demonstrations were planned in Australia and New York City over the weekend. Hundreds gathered at London's Parliament Square on Saturday for a protest against Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Organized by the Indian Overseas Congress Youth wing, with support from student and diaspora groups, the demonstration featured activist and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee as a keynote speaker. Protesters called for Kumar's removal and raised concerns about voter rights. A smaller group supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a counter-demonstration nearby. Metropolitan Police officers kept the rival groups apart as their chants grew heated. The Election Commission maintains that the voter-roll revision aims to identify deceased, duplicate, relocated and otherwise ineligible entries.

Elsewhere, demonstrators gathered outside the Indian consulate in Toronto, while more than 150 people reportedly assembled near the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Dublin protesters used music, poetry and art to voice their concerns. The international demonstrations highlighted diaspora demands for transparent electoral processes and the protection of peaceful dissent.

## British Indian landlord loses royal honor after housing violations

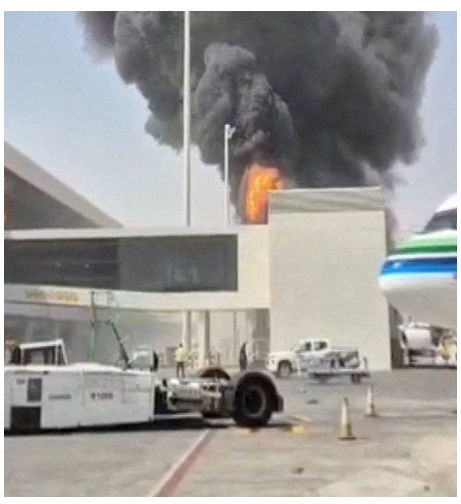
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



British Indian landlord Nirpal Singh Riat has been stripped of his Order of the British Empire honor after the United Kingdom's honors authorities ruled that his conduct had brought the honors system into disrepute. Riat received the honor from Queen Elizabeth II in 2010 for services to charity and the Punjabi community. His name appeared on an updated Cabinet Office list of revoked honors following concerns about his property business in London. Local media reported that Riat was fined £300,000 for illegally converting houses into flats and renting outbuildings to vulnerable tenants living in poor conditions. He has denied some of the allegations, describing them as fabricated. The revocation followed a complaint raised by a Hounslow councillor and reviewed by the government's Honours Forfeiture Committee. The decision is a rare instance of a British Indian recipient losing a royal honor over conduct related to housing.

## Indian expatriate killed in Saudi airport attack, three others injured

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



An Indian national was killed and three others were injured in separate attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's civilian and energy infrastructure, prompting India to condemn the strikes and express concern for its expatriate community. The Ministry of External Affairs said the Indian national died in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam on Wednesday. Two other Indians were injured in the incident, which killed two people and injured eight, according to Saudi authorities.

In a separate incident, an Indian and a Pakistani national were injured after debris from an intercepted drone caused a fire in a contractor's vehicle near the Shaybah oil field. Two workers from the Philippines and Nepal were killed. Saudi authorities said the oil field's operations were unaffected. India's embassy in Riyadh is coordinating with Saudi officials to provide assistance to affected citizens.

## Punjab launches ready-to-use chickpeas and kidney beans for international markets at Paris food exhibition



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched two new ready-to-use products under the state cooperative marketing federation's SOHNA brand at the SIAL Paris food exhibition on Sunday. The products, chickpeas in brine, known as chitte chhole, and red kidney beans in brine, known as rajmah, are intended to expand Punjab's presence in international food markets. Mann also inaugurated the federation's stall at the India Pavilion, showcasing the state's agricultural produce, traditional cuisine and food-processing capabilities. He said the initiative could create new opportunities for farmers, cooperatives, food processors and exporters by introducing Punjabi flavors to more consumers worldwide. The new products join SOHNA's existing range of prepared Punjabi foods, including sarson ka saag, dal makhani, kadhi pakora and Amritsari chana.

## More than 400 Indian-origin scholars in 27 countries sign statement urging constitutional debate over political disputes



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 400 Indian-origin students, researchers, academics and alumni from 27 countries have signed a statement titled 'Spare India from Anarchy', expressing concern about what they describe as attempts to undermine confidence in India's constitutional institutions and democratic processes. The signatories include people affiliated with prominent universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The statement argues that disputes over election results, judicial decisions and the role of the armed forces should be addressed through established constitutional processes. Citing constitutional architect B. R. Ambedkar, the signatories warn against what he called the "grammar of anarchy." They acknowledge that dissent is essential to democracy but urge political and social groups to resolve disagreements through debate, discussion and dialogue. The statement comes amid opposition protests over electoral processes and the voter-roll revision exercise.

## Indian-origin couple jailed in Britain for fraud involving pandemic protective equipment



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin couple have been sentenced in Britain for defrauding businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic by falsely claiming they could supply personal protective equipment and then laundering the proceeds. Jogesh Bhandari, 59, received an eight-year prison sentence after failing to appear for an earlier hearing, while his wife, Meenakashi Bhandari, 58, received a suspended two-year sentence and 250 hours of unpaid community service. Their associate Craig Morris was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. The National Crime Agency found that money intended for protective equipment was spent on luxury cars, watches, jewelry, home renovations and travel. Investigators said one deal involved more than $3.18 million for gloves intended for American hospitals that were never delivered. The agency said the fraud caused substantial losses to legitimate businesses during the pandemic.

## Indian-origin author Shrabani Basu and broadcaster Reeta Chakrabarti join United Kingdom nonfiction prize jury



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin author and historian Shrabani Basu and broadcaster Reeta Chakrabarti have been named judges for the 2027 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, organizers announced Wednesday. The annual award celebrates outstanding narrative nonfiction written by women, with the winner receiving £30,000 and a specially commissioned artwork known as the 'Charlotte'. Basu is known for books including 'Spy Princess' and 'Victoria and Abdul'. Chakrabarti is a prominent journalist, broadcaster and novelist. The five-member judging panel will be chaired by lexicographer Susie Dent, alongside writer and disability advocate Sophie Morgan and psychotherapist Emma Reed Turrell. The nonfiction longlist is scheduled for announcement on February 10, followed by the shortlist on April 7. The winner will be announced at a London event on June 17, 2027.

## Mamdani joins Indian diaspora for Navratri, calls for unity against hate

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune



New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani joined Hindu New Yorkers in Queens to celebrate Navratri, Durga Puja, Dashain and Vijayadashami, urging communities to stand against hatred and support one another amid concerns over anti-Hindu hostility in the United States.

In a social media post on Wednesday, Mamdani said he was blessed to take part in the festivities. He participated in garba with members of the Indian diaspora and joined prayers and rituals at temples.

His message followed the arrest of 19-year-old Alexandros Paporakis of Palatine, Illinois, who faces charges of making a terrorist threat and unlawfully possessing a weapon in connection with an alleged mass-shooting plot targeting a Hindu temple in Aurora. Police said the investigation began after a person reported concerning communications. Investigators also found a rifle, ammunition and tactical equipment at the suspect's home. The allegations remain before the courts

## Indian-American technology executive Uday Ruddarraju takes charge of OpenAI's computing and infrastructure operations

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune




OpenAI has appointed Indian-American technology executive Uday Ruddarraju to lead its infrastructure and computing businesses as the artificial intelligence company expands its data center capacity.

Ruddarraju, a former executive at Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI, joined OpenAI in 2025 and became its chief technology officer for computing in July. His latest promotion broadens his responsibilities to include infrastructure operations and data center expansion.

He succeeds Sachin Katti in overseeing the business, with Katti expected to transition out of the role and remain as an adviser. Ruddarraju told Bloomberg he expected the leadership change to proceed smoothly, citing his experience working with OpenAI's engineering, construction and technical infrastructure teams.

The appointment comes as OpenAI increases investment in the computing resources and physical infrastructure needed to develop and deploy advanced artificial intelligence models.

## Five-year-old Indian-origin prodigy turns curiosity into a world of discovery

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

At just five, Arjun Prajapati has explored more than 3,000 books and developed a fascination with black holes, infinity, genetics and the human immune system. The Indian-origin child qualified for membership in Mensa and Intertel at four, following a Stanford-Binet assessment that recorded an intelligence quotient of 141, placing him in the 99.7th percentile. His father, Dr. Vishal V. Prajapati, a physician and clinical researcher, and his mother, Mahitha, a lawyer, say their priority is to nurture his curiosity without placing pressure on him to excel. Arjun has received congratulatory letters from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford. He has also explored enrichment courses in human physiology and cell biology. Despite his advanced interests, his parents emphasize that he is still a young child who enjoys music, painting and playing with friends. They want him to choose his future path freely, guided by curiosity, compassion and his own aspirations.

## Indian American lawyer Marissa Roy makes a progressive push for Los Angeles city attorney

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian American lawyer Marissa Roy, 34, is seeking to become Los Angeles city attorney, promising to turn the office into the city's largest public interest law firm. A deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice, Roy helped develop the state's legal strategy against Meta over allegations that its platforms harmed children. The case resulted in a reported $17 billion settlement. Roy faces John McKinney, a 58-year-old Los Angeles County prosecutor whose campaign emphasizes courtroom experience and public safety. McKinney's supporters question Roy's trial experience, while her backers highlight her civil litigation record, collaborative leadership and efforts to pursue wage theft and housing violations. Known for her progressive politics and lively social media presence, Roy has received support from California's leading elected lawyers and progressive groups. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3.

## Indian-origin father launches fundraiser after daughter's death in New York



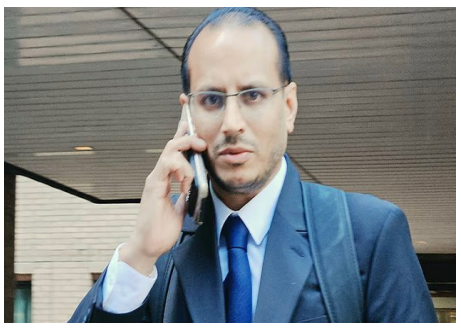
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin father in New York has launched a fundraiser to cover funeral expenses for his five-year-old daughter, Fabiana Cabello, who was found unresponsive at her home in South Richmond Hill, Queens, on Tuesday.

Kuldeep Singh said he was struggling to manage the costs while grieving and continuing to work as an Uber driver. The child's mother, 32-year-old Francis Cabello, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with second-degree murder. According to media reports, she allegedly told a 911 dispatcher, "I killed my daughter."

Fabiana was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead. An autopsy reportedly found injuries that could be consistent with asphyxia. The medical examiner is determining the cause of death. The allegations against Cabello have not been proven in court.

## Indian-origin pharmacist jailed for US$1.74 million, prescription fraud in Britain



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin pharmacist and his employee have each been sentenced to six years in prison for a prescription fraud scheme that cost Britain's National Health Service more than £1.3 million.

Jignesh Patel, 46, owner of Wise Pharmacy in north London and pharmaceutical wholesaler Actipharm Limited, and Rahil Patel, 42, were convicted following a three-week trial at Southwark Crown Court. The two men are not related.

Investigators identified 1,639 false prescriptions covering 440 patients and 6,983 dispensed items between January 2015 and November 2017. The drugs were obtained using false prescriptions and allegedly sold to European pharmaceutical wholesalers. The National Health Service said it would pursue recovery of the lost funds, stressing that the fraud diverted money from essential patient services.

## China condemns United States sanctions on five companies linked to former Google engineer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China on Tuesday condemned United States sanctions against five Chinese companies linked to Linwei Ding, a former Google engineer convicted of stealing artificial intelligence trade secrets. Beijing's Commerce Ministry called the measures harmful to Chinese businesses and threatened unspecified countermeasures. The State Department said Ding's company, Shanghai Zhisuan Technology, had benefited from trade-secret theft and claimed it could replicate Google's advanced artificial intelligence infrastructure. Startup incubator MiraclePlus and three related entities were also sanctioned. Ding was sentenced to 12 months in prison after a federal jury convicted him of trade-secret theft. The Justice Department is appealing the dismissal of related economic espionage charges.

## Pope Leo XIV cancels Assisi visit on doctors' advice while recovering from surgery



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pope Leo XIV will skip a planned visit to Assisi next week on doctors' advice as he recovers from thoracic surgery, the Vatican announced Friday. The pope had been scheduled to attend a gathering marking the 40th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's interfaith World Day of Prayer for Peace. Instead, Leo will send a message to religious leaders and participants, reaffirming the importance of dialogue and peace during conflicts. The 71-year-old pope underwent surgery last week, which confirmed a localized lung cancer diagnosis. The Vatican said his schedule would continue to follow medical advice. His planned November trip to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru remains subject to his recovery.

## Ghana seeks BRICS partner status to expand economic and diplomatic ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ghana plans to seek partner status in the BRICS grouping to strengthen economic cooperation and expand ties with emerging economies, according to a report published Friday. Ghanaian Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the move during diplomatic consultations earlier this month. The proposed partnership would complement Ghana's existing relationships with international financial institutions and other partners. BRICS has expanded beyond its founding members, with Indonesia becoming a full member in January 2025. Partner countries can participate in summits but do not have full membership rights. Ghana's move would make it another West African country in the partner category after Nigeria, strengthening its engagement with the Global South.

## Israel orders West Bank closure after killing two men accused of attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Israeli forces killed two men accused of planning an attack near Hebron in the occupied West Bank, prompting authorities to order a closure in the area, according to Israeli officials. The incident comes amid continuing violence and restrictions affecting Palestinians across the territory. In a separate development, Arab political parties petitioned Israel's Supreme Court to block armed partisan election observers, raising concerns about security and political participation ahead of elections. Violence also continued in Gaza, where an Israeli strike killed at least one person, according to reports. Residents faced worsening shortages of bread and other essentials as humanitarian conditions remained fragile. The United Nations Children's Fund said more than 350 children had been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire began last October, underscoring the continuing toll on civilians despite the truce. The developments highlight the challenges facing efforts to reduce violence and improve humanitarian access across the region.

## Hungary arrests former central bank chief in suspected financial fraud case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungarian police arrested former Central Bank Governor György Matolcsy on Wednesday over suspected financial crimes linked to the institution's investments during former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government.

Prosecutors said Matolcsy had been detained and questioned alongside alleged accomplices, but they refused to testify. Matolcsy, who led the central bank from 2013 to 2025, has denied wrongdoing and was previously one of Orbán's closest economic allies.

The investigation focuses on a central bank foundation established in 2014 that received 288 billion forints, equivalent to about $818 million, in public assets. Prosecutors allege that a securities loan agreement arranged shortly before Matolcsy left office helped transfer control of the foundation's assets to people he could influence, potentially allowing him and his son to direct investments for personal gain.

The bank's current leadership filed a criminal complaint last month alleging embezzlement, fraud, negligence and abuse of office after audits identified property investments purchased at inflated prices. Prosecutors also issued an arrest warrant for Matolcsy's son, Ádám, on suspicion of fraud. The arrests mark a significant step in Prime Minister Péter Magyar's campaign to investigate alleged corruption under the previous government.

## Zelensky urges United States to restore critical missile warnings and satellite communications

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday he held a substantive conversation with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio about missile interceptors, advance warnings of Russian attacks and satellite communications for Ukrainian forces. Zelensky said Ukraine urgently needed ballistic missile interceptors to protect civilians and reliable warnings of incoming strikes. He also raised concerns about Starlink and Starshield communications services and said the two agreed to speak again soon. In a separate interview with NBC, Zelensky said United States intelligence sharing had been suspended for three days, leaving Ukrainian forces without critical warnings of Russian ballistic missile attacks. Although European partners continued providing intelligence, he said they could not fully replace Washington's capabilities. Zelensky indicated that intelligence sharing had resumed, while satellite communication concerns remained.

## Nepal seeks major Indian aid package during PM Balen Shah's planned visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal is seeking a major assistance package from India during Prime Minister Balendra Shah's planned visit to New Delhi in late November, officials said Friday. The discussions are expected to cover reconstruction following devastating August floods, border disputes, energy cooperation, trade and air connectivity. Nepal also wants an early review of its trade treaty with India and action on certification requirements affecting Nepali exports. Officials said Kathmandu hopes for financial assistance with fewer conditions to accelerate development. The visit could also include inaugurations of Indian-assisted infrastructure projects and discussions on hydropower. Neither government has officially confirmed the visit dates.

## Macron vows accountability after France protests leave 1,800 arrested

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday that those responsible for looting and violence during nationwide protests would face consequences after authorities reported at least 1,800 arrests. Demonstrations over living costs and school conditions drew 550,000 people, according to authorities, while organizers estimated 800,000 participants. Fires and attacks damaged public buildings and businesses. A blaze severely damaged the historic city hall in Limoges, while looting was reported in Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux. Macron blamed radical far-left groups and criminals. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said the right to protest did not justify violence. Investigations followed reports of young protesters losing an eye and a hand.

## Ukrainian drone assault sets Saint Petersburg oil facilities ablaze

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian strikes set an oil export terminal and a depot ablaze in Saint Petersburg on Sunday, as Kyiv launched more than 1,000 drones at Russia, officials said. One person was killed and five wounded, regional Governor Alexander Beglov said. The fires hit the Petersburg Oil Terminal and Ruchi oil depot. A logistics center belonging to retailer Ozon and a data center operated by technology company VK were also targeted, the companies said. Russia's Defense Ministry claimed its forces destroyed 1,015 Ukrainian drones across several regions, Crimea and the Black Sea.

## Trump endorses Netanyahu ahead of Israel's parliamentary election



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States President Donald Trump endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday ahead of Israel's parliamentary election on Tuesday. Trump praised Netanyahu's leadership and their cooperation in military strikes against Iran. However, polls show no clear path for Netanyahu to form a government. Israel's prime minister must secure parliamentary support through coalition-building. The election is the country's first since the Hamas-led attack in 2023 and follows wars involving Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. Netanyahu thanked Trump publicly, saying they would complete their mission together.

## United Nations food agency cuts Gaza assistance for 500,000 people



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations World Food Program said Sunday that funding shortages were forcing cuts to food assistance in Gaza, leaving about 500,000 people without monthly support. The agency reduced recipients from 1.6 million to 1.1 million, halved food rations and cut cash assistance for 75,000 families. Daily hot meals fell from 250,000 to 150,000. About 1.4 million people face crisis-level food insecurity or worse, including roughly 200,000 in emergency conditions. The agency said it urgently needs $450 million over six months to sustain critical operations.

## Houthi missile strike kills 53 Yemeni soldiers and wounds 200 recruits



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a government military camp in Shabwa province with ballistic missiles on Monday, killing at least 53 soldiers and wounding about 200 recruits, officials said. The Houthis acknowledged targeting the camp. The attack was among the deadliest since fighting intensified, further threatening a ceasefire that had largely halted Yemen's civil war. Rashad al-Alimi, head of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, promised a response. The renewed fighting is unfolding amid wider regional tensions involving Iran and its allies, while Saudi Arabia supports Yemen's internationally recognized government.

## Japan launches spacecraft to collect samples from Mars' moon Phobos

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan launched a spacecraft Tuesday on a mission to explore Mars' moons and return samples to Earth. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency confirmed the spacecraft separated successfully from its rocket after launching from Tanegashima Island. The mission aims to deploy a rover on Phobos, the larger of Mars' two moons, before collecting surface material. The French-German rover will survey the terrain to help identify a safe landing site. The spacecraft is expected to reach Mars next year, collect samples in 2028 or 2029, and return them to Earth in 2031.

## Indian intelligence suspects Pakistan's agency is paying foreign influencers to spread anti-India content

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence officials suspect Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency is recruiting foreign influencers to spread anti-India content following a crackdown on domestic networks promoting pro-Pakistan narratives after Operation Sindoor. According to officials cited in Indian media reports, individuals in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia are allegedly being offered money and sponsored trips to publish scripted material about Jammu and Kashmir, the Khalistan movement and human rights allegations.

Officials said content promoting the banned pro-Khalistan group Sikhs for Justice had increased in recent months. They believe foreign influencers can



attract international attention and make the messaging harder to dismiss as propaganda. The alleged operation also involves removing videos after 15 days to a month to complicate investigations. The claims have not been independently verified in the supplied report.

## United Nations report calls for steep emission cuts to return global warming below 1.5 degrees

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations Environment Programme warned Wednesday that countries must sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming and potentially return temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels by 2100.

Its Emissions Gap Report 2026 says emissions must fall 18 percent by 2030 and 45 percent by 2035, compared with 2025 levels, to follow the most ambitious pathway examined.

Under current policies, global warming could reach 2.8 degrees Celsius this century. Full implementation of national climate commitments would lower that projection to 2.6 degrees, while the most optimistic scenario would limit warming to about 2.1 degrees.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said exceeding 1.5 degrees would not eliminate the possibility of returning below that threshold. However, achieving it would require deep emission cuts and removing approximately 320 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for permanent storage.

## South Korean intelligence agency rejects social media rumors that Kim Jong Un has died

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's National Intelligence Service dismissed social media rumors claiming North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had died after suffering a severe brain hemorrhage, according to lawmakers briefed by the agency on Friday.

The unverified claims spread widely online and were picked up by some foreign media outlets. North Korean state media had recently reported that Kim visited a garment and footwear exhibition in Pyongyang on Monday, publishing photographs of him attending with his daughter, Ju-ae. South Korean intelligence officials previously assessed that Kim faced an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease because of severe obesity but reported no notable signs of health problems.

The parliamentary briefing also addressed North Korea's border fortification efforts. Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, recently inspected a construction site along the southern border with senior officials. She also warned that propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts targeting South Korea could resume amid continuing tensions between the two countries.

## Uyghur group urges Rubio to address China's alleged repression during Uzbekistan visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The World Uyghur Congress has urged United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio to raise concerns about China's alleged transnational repression of Uyghurs during his planned visit to Uzbekistan next week. The organization said Uyghurs across Central Asia face surveillance, intimidation, arbitrary detention and possible forced returns to China. It urged Washington to press regional governments against deporting Uyghurs or restricting their peaceful political, cultural and religious activities at Beijing's request.



The group cited former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's earlier appeals to Central Asian leaders not to return Uyghurs to China, describing Rubio's visit as an opportunity to reinforce United States support for their rights.

## Drone strike kills at least 153 people at market in disputed Abyei region of Sudan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A drone strike hit a market in the disputed Abyei region on Monday, killing at least 153 people, local official Yohana Akol Ngor said. He blamed Sudan's military but provided no evidence. Sources told Reuters the strike hit a fuel depot reportedly used by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. Fires hampered recovery efforts, and about 8,000 people were displaced, Ngor said. South Sudan summoned Sudan's ambassador to protest the attack, which occurred amid Sudan's war between the military and the Rapid Support Forces, a conflict that began in 2023.

## Meghan says she is distressed by allegations involving estranged father



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, said Friday she was deeply distressed by reports alleging her estranged father, Thomas Markle, possessed child sexual abuse images. She said police informed her of disturbing allegations in 2018. The Sun reported that Markle's son had alerted authorities after finding images. Thomas Markle denied the allegations, calling them "sick lies." Meghan said she had kept her children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, away from her father to protect them. The allegations have not been independently verified, and police have not publicly confirmed details of the reported investigation.

## Australian Nationals leader considers lower-house run as One Nation gains ground in polls

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's Nationals leader Matt Canavan is considering contesting a lower-house seat after fellow party member Michelle Landry announced Friday that she would retire from her Queensland seat of Capricornia at the next election. Canavan has previously said he would do whatever was necessary to help retain a seat for the party.

Pollster Kos Samaras warned that rising support for Pauline Hanson's One Nation could threaten Canavan's Senate position in 2028. A Guardian Essential poll showed One Nation at 25% nationally, ahead of the Coalition at 22%.

Landry criticized One Nation's conduct and questioned the prospects of an outsider contesting Capricornia. Canavan has not confirmed a decision, and analysts caution that polling remains volatile.

## Kullu Dussehra begins with Rath Yatra as more than 347 deities join week-long festival



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the week-long International Kullu Dussehra Festival on Wednesday at Dhalpur Ground in Kullu. The celebrations began with the traditional Rath Yatra of Lord Raghunath, joined by more than 347 deities from across the region. Gupta, accompanied by his wife, Bindu, said the festival showcased Himachal Pradesh's cultural heritage, religious traditions and spirit of social harmony. He urged people to uphold the ideals of Lord Ram, fight drug abuse and corruption, and protect the environment. He also highlighted the festival's potential to promote tourism, local handicrafts, employment and entrepreneurship. The governor later visited exhibitions and offered prayers.

## Cockroach effigies burn alongside Ravana in Assam as satirical symbol gains attention

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A cockroach effigy was burned alongside Ravana during a Dussehra event in Rupahihat, in Assam's Nagaon district, on Wednesday. The organizers and their reasons for the act were not immediately clear. The incident drew attention because the cockroach has become a symbol of the satirical Cockroach Janata Party, a youth-led movement founded by Abhijeet Dipke after a controversial remark by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during proceedings involving unemployed youth. Separately, a Ramlila committee in Delhi's Pitampura burned a giant cockroach effigy, saying it represented dirt and poor sanitation. The incidents highlight how the insect has taken on symbolic significance beyond its usual association with uncleanliness.

## Uttar Pradesh orders state-wide voter roll audit after identity card searches reveal mismatched details

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uttar Pradesh election officials have ordered a statewide audit of voter rolls after online searches for certain Elector Photo Identity Card numbers in Pilibhit returned details belonging to different voters. The state's Chief Electoral Officer directed that the constituency's Electoral Registration Officer and voter registration center operator be removed from electoral roll duties. Officials were also instructed to initiate legal proceedings under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Pilibhit authorities must examine voter lists across the district, while election officials throughout the state have been directed to check for similar discrepancies. Reports on the findings must be submitted within two days.

# Haryana power strike disrupts homes, water supply and industries as Congress demands cancellation of private distribution tender

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Friday criticized Haryana's government as a three-day electricity employees' strike disrupted daily life across the state. The walkout began Wednesday after the electricity regulator granted Eleven Power Private Limited a parallel distribution license for Gurugram and Nuh for 25 years. Unions representing about 40,000 employees oppose the move, citing concerns over public utilities, jobs and consumer interests. Reports said more than 3,000 outage complaints were registered within 12 hours, while power cuts disrupted water supplies and industrial production. Around 1,800 manufacturing units in Gurugram's Sector 37 and Kadipur areas reportedly faced interruptions. Surjewala demanded cancellation of the tender and



accused Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's government of failing to protect consumers. The state government has said it will challenge the regulator's decision before the electricity appellate tribunal.

## Left parties and student groups demand election chief's resignation over voter roll revision

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Left-wing organizations, student groups and civil society members marched towards the Election Commission of India headquarters in New Delhi on Friday, demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The protesters gathered near Bangla Sahib Gurdwara in Connaught Place, with Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat, Communist Party of India leader P. Sandosh Kumar and activist Yogendra Yadav among those participating. Police detained several demonstrators amid heavy security. Yadav vowed to sustain the movement, saying restrictions on one protest site would not silence public dissent. Sandosh Kumar warned that



demonstrations would intensify until Kumar resigned. The agitation gained momentum following a media report alleging differences within the election panel over procedures for revising voter lists. Delhi Traffic Police had also announced diversions around central Delhi ahead of the march.

## NDA leaders accuse Uddhav Thackeray of political posturing over Hindutva and regime change

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

National Democratic Alliance leaders on Wednesday criticized Shiv Sena (United) chief Uddhav Thackeray over his call for regime change and assertion that saffron remained his party's identity. Speaking at his party's annual Dussehra rally in Mumbai, Thackeray said governments that failed to serve the public should be replaced and called for the saffron flag to fly over the Maharashtra legislature and the national capital. Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Ram Kadam accused him of trying to reclaim his Hindutva credentials, while Shiv Sena spokesperson Shaina N.C. questioned his political consistency. Lawmaker Milind Deora defended the right to oppose the government but said political change should come through elections, not rhetoric he described as promoting disorder.

## Rahul Gandhi questions BJP over reported Epstein photograph involving Hardeep Puri

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday questioned the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh over a purported photograph of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. In a social media post, Gandhi linked the photograph's circulation to United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Mumbai and asked whom the ruling establishment feared being blackmailed by. The post did not establish any connection between the photograph and India-United States trade negotiations. Congress leader Srinivas B.V. separately suggested a possible link, while the claims remained unsubstantiated. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sambit Patra accused Gandhi of seeking to destabilize India following his reported private visit to Vietnam.

## Kharge questions China policy as Congress raises fresh concerns over border security and trade



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain India's China policy, raising concerns over border security, trade dependence and the results of high-level diplomacy. Kharge cited reports of continuing military face-offs in Arunachal Pradesh and questioned whether Indian forces had lost access to established patrolling areas. He also said Chinese imports had increased since the 2020 Galwan clash, while India's trade deficit with China had widened to $112.16 billion. Questioning reported moves to ease restrictions on Chinese investment, he asked what repeated meetings between the two countries' leaders had achieved. Kharge urged Modi to brief Parliament and the public, arguing that national security requires transparency and accountability alongside confidence in the armed forces.

## Owaisi seeks special flights for 4,000 Indian Umrah pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has urged the central government to arrange special flights for about 4,000 Indian Umrah pilgrims stranded in Makkah and Madinah following flight cancellations by IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India. He called on the aviation regulator to permit larger aircraft or arrange additional services to bring the pilgrims home. Owaisi also alleged that travel agents had abandoned those affected and urged authorities to provide immediate assistance. The disruption comes amid attacks on Saudi airports attributed to Yemen's Houthi rebels. A previous missile attack at Riyadh airport reportedly killed 13 people and injured more than 300, including 11 Indians. A subsequent attack at Dammam airport killed two people, including an Indian national, and injured eight.

## Kerala plans year-round household outreach to prevent seasonal disease outbreaks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala has introduced a month-by-month disease prevention calendar and plans wider household visits by health workers to improve public awareness before outbreaks occur. Health Minister K. Muraleedharan released the initiative on Friday, describing it as the first such calendar prepared by the state Health Department. The document identifies diseases relevant to different months, outlining their symptoms, transmission and preventive measures. The government also plans to make it available online and across the state. Officials said the initiative would strengthen coordination between health workers, other departments and residents. Committee chairman S. S. Lal said the calendar would be updated as scientific evidence develops.

## Manipur opposition seeks all-party meeting after three civilians are killed




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met opposition INDIA bloc leaders on Tuesday after suspected militants killed three civilians in Kangpokpi district, prompting renewed calls for stronger security measures. The delegation urged the government to convene an all-party meeting and take decisive action to protect residents and restore peace in the violence-affected state. Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh questioned the government's moral authority to remain in office, alleging repeated killings reflected a breakdown in law and order. Opposition representatives also raised concerns about the role of the Assam Rifles. The victims were reportedly collecting firewood when they were attacked on Monday, and several others were injured.

## Punjab Assembly passes resolution against voter roll revision as Mann warns of 'vote theft'

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday called for the scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise could undermine citizens' voting rights. Addressing the state Assembly, he accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of manipulating voter lists by adding supporters and deleting opposition voters, without presenting evidence in the reported remarks. The Assembly passed a resolution opposing the revision by voice vote. Mann demanded an impartial investigation into alleged irregularities, insisting that every eligible citizen must be able to vote without fear of arbitrary exclusion. He said transparent and accountable electoral processes were essential to protecting democracy.

## India links border tensions with China to changes in established patrolling patterns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



India on Friday said deviations from established patrolling patterns by Chinese forces periodically disturb stability along the disputed border, underscoring the continuing challenge of managing relations between the two countries. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both sides remained engaged through diplomatic and military channels to resolve outstanding issues and prevent misunderstandings along the Line of Actual Control.

He added that the countries had agreed to discuss improving their understanding of the boundary in certain areas. The remarks came amid controversy over reported military face-offs in Arunachal Pradesh and a separate dispute over India's official naming of 28 locations in Ladakh, which Beijing has opposed.

## More than 8,000 NCC cadets honored for crowd management during Bengal's Durga Puja

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



More than 8,000 National Cadet Corps cadets received recognition Friday for helping police and civil authorities manage crowds during Durga Puja celebrations across Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal. Major General A. P. S. Chahal, head of the West Bengal and Sikkim directorate, praised their discipline, courage and commitment at a ceremony in Kolkata. The cadets helped regulate visitor movement around festival pandals, supported event operations and assisted older people. Officials said they continued their duties despite a fatal incident at the Chor Bagan Durga Puja pandal, demonstrating their commitment to public service and safety during a difficult period.

## Tharoor invokes Emergency-era opposition unity to reject claims of regime change

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



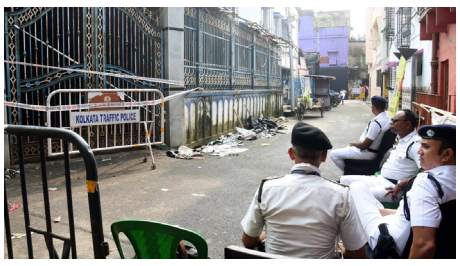
Congress lawmaker Shashi Tharoor on Friday rejected Bharatiya Janata Party allegations that protests against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls were aimed at forcing regime change. Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, he recalled how opposition parties united to defeat Indira Gandhi's government after the Emergency, arguing that political change through elections is a normal democratic outcome. Tharoor distinguished peaceful demonstrations, which he described as a constitutional right, from violence, which he said was unacceptable. He called on the government and Election Commission to address allegations of irregularities in voter-list revision, saying transparent procedures were essential to ensuring free and fair elections.

## Gujarat air ambulance completes 98 missions, including 50 flights carrying donor organs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat's government-operated air ambulance service has completed 98 missions since 2022, including 48 patient transfers and 50 flights transporting organs for transplantation. Run by the state's Civil Aviation Department and Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited, the round-the-clock service operates a Beechcraft King Air B200 aircraft. The service offers subsidized rates of 50,000 rupees for patients from Gujarat and 65,000 rupees for patients from outside the state. Hospital bookings cost 55,000 rupees. Officials said the operation involves coordination among emergency services, medical teams, pilots, airports, ground transport providers and receiving hospitals. The service supports urgent patient transfers and the time-sensitive transportation of organs for transplantation.

## Kolkata stampede probe focuses on warning announcement as Durga Puja committee treasurer is detained




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kolkata Police have detained Sanib Raha, also known as Sentu, treasurer of the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja committee, in connection with a microphone announcement that reportedly triggered panic before a stampede killed 19 people on Saturday. Raha was arrested in Nadia district on Thursday and brought in for questioning. Investigators are examining why he announced that the pandal might collapse and whether anyone had instructed him to issue the warning. The announcement reportedly prompted people to rush amid rain and confusion. A police special investigation team is investigating the incident, while a separate judicial panel headed by retired Justice Anindita Roy Saraswati is examining the circumstances surrounding the tragedy.

## BJP rejects claims of political victory after Supreme Court pauses probe in Kerala mineral payments case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bharatiya Janata Party national secretary K. Surendran said the Supreme Court's order in the CMRL-Exalogic case gave neither the Communist Party of India (Marxist) nor Congress grounds to celebrate. The court stayed the vigilance investigation for seven days, allowing former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter Veena T. and son-in-law P. A. Mohammed Riyas to approach a Kerala High Court division bench. Surendran stressed that the order did not cancel the first information report. Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, however, said the state government's position had been vindicated.

## Aricell chief's four-year sentence upheld over fatal factory fire



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a four-year prison sentence for Aricell chief executive Park Soon-kwan over a lithium battery factory fire that killed 23 workers and injured nine in 2024. Park was initially sentenced to 15 years for failing to meet workplace safety obligations under the Serious Accidents Punishment Act. An appeals court reduced the term, citing settlements with victims' families and overturning a key charge involving an emergency exit. The Supreme Court also upheld a seven-year sentence for Park's son, a company executive, who had likewise received 15 years at trial. The rulings conclude the criminal proceedings against both executives.

## Magic Moments returns as Bollywood Music Project marks 10 years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Magic Moments, Radico Khaitan's vodka brand, will return as the presenting partner of Bollywood Music Project for its 10th anniversary on Saturday at Mumbai's Jio World Garden. The festival will feature more than 20 performers spanning Bollywood, independent, folk and Sufi music. Artists include Himesh Reshammiya, Shilpa Rao, Hariharan, Anu Malik and Palash Sen. Launched in 2016, the festival has brought established performers and emerging artists together across musical styles. Its previous edition attracted more than 20,000 attendees. Radico Khaitan said the partnership supports its engagement with consumers through music, while organizers plan a larger production for the milestone event.

## State Bank of India reassures customers after data exposure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

State Bank of India said Friday that customer balances and funds remain safe after a cyber incident exposed 3,897 customer records on the dark web. The lender said it had contacted affected customers individually by email or WhatsApp and urged everyone to protect passwords, personal identification numbers and one-time passwords. Its preliminary review of about 375,000 records found names, phone numbers, birth dates, email and residential addresses, branch details and information linked to loan records. The bank has activated its incident response procedures and appointed an independent cybersecurity agency to investigate the exposure, determine its source and assess the risks

## Canada and Turkey deepen trade and defense ties through new partnership

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a strategic partnership on Thursday, signing agreements covering defense, energy and air transport while launching negotiations for a free trade agreement. The first bilateral visit to Turkey by a Canadian prime minister comes as Ottawa seeks to diversify trade ties amid tensions with the United States.

The leaders want to increase annual bilateral trade from about $3 billion to $5 billion initially, with a longer-term target of $10 billion. Canada has also expressed interest in Turkey's planned second nuclear power plant. Amnesty International urged



Carney to raise concerns about arrests of journalists, activists and opposition figures, but he did not publicly address the issue.

## US airlines raise fares instead of filling seats as fuel costs climb

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Major United States airlines are raising fares rather than discounting tickets to fill every seat as soaring jet fuel costs squeeze profits. Passenger revenue at Delta, United, American, Southwest and Alaska rose nearly $8.8 billion, or 18 percent, in the third quarter from a year earlier, while traffic grew less than 1 percent.

Average airfares increased nearly 23 percent in the seven months through September, far exceeding overall inflation. Fuel prices have climbed about 90 percent since the war involving the United States and Israel against Iran began in February.



Delta and Southwest cut earnings forecasts, while American expects a full-year loss. Airlines face a tougher test in 2027 as capacity expands and higher prices risk weakening demand.

## Ford Foundation shifts funding toward strengthening democracy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ford Foundation will redirect more of its $18 billion endowment toward strengthening democracy and addressing inequality, President Heather Gerken announced Thursday. The New York-based grantmaker plans seven program areas, including democratic governance, inclusive economies, trustworthy information, public safety, gender equality, global cooperation and racial justice. The foundation will also expand flexible, multiyear operating grants to help nonprofit

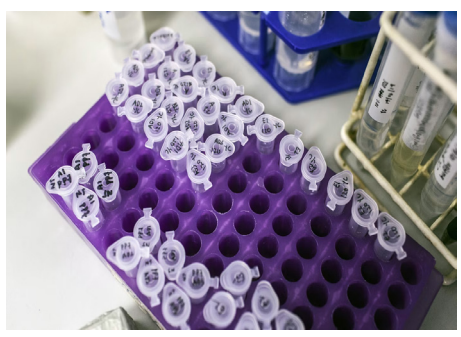


groups withstand political and funding uncertainty. It expects to distribute at least $700 million in grants during 2027 while transitioning to the new strategy.

## US proposes tighter restrictions on investments in sensitive foreign technologies

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Treasury Department proposed new rules on Thursday to restrict certain American investments in sensitive technologies in China, Russia, North Korea and other countries of concern. The proposal covers artificial intelligence, supercomputing, hypersonic systems and biotechnology, expanding an existing national security program. The rules would implement a law passed by Congress in 2025 and target investments that could strengthen foreign military or surveillance capabilities. Transactions above $50,000 may be covered, while many financial investments, including



ordinary stock purchases, would be excluded. Treasury will accept public comments before issuing a final rule. China criticized the proposal, saying Washington should not interfere in normal business and investment cooperation.

## South Korean stocks slide as chipmakers face selling pressure




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korean stocks fell sharply Friday as investors sold semiconductor shares following overnight losses in United States technology stocks. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index dropped 2.44% to 5,398.48 by 11:20 a.m. local time. The Nasdaq Composite fell 2.6% overnight, while the S&P 500 lost 1.21%. In Seoul, Samsung Electronics shares declined 3.03%, and SK hynix slipped 0.25%. SK hynix recovered some earlier losses after announcing it would suspend plans for a United States listing of its subsidiary Solidigm, citing market conditions. The decision followed concerns that a separate listing could disadvantage existing shareholders.

## Indian Railways sets October record for coal transportation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Railways recorded its highest-ever coal loading for October through Saturday, October 18, with volumes rising 22.5% from the same period last year, the government said Thursday. The railway network dispatched an additional 87 coal rakes daily compared with October 2025. During the first half of the 2026-27 financial year, it averaged 430 coal rakes daily to thermal power plants, up 7.1% year over year. September deliveries reached 443 rakes daily, compared with 397 a year earlier. Officials attributed the push to rising energy demand and said coordination with the coal and power ministries was helping maintain supplies to power plants.

## India and United States nearing trade deal, Jaishankar says

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States are in the final stretch of trade negotiations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said Thursday, while cautioning that an agreement is not final until formally concluded. Speaking at the NDTV World Summit in New Delhi, Jaishankar said negotiating teams were working through remaining challenges. He noted that United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio and India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had also indicated progress. Jaishankar declined to disclose unresolved issues, saying they were for negotiators to settle. His remarks followed a meeting with Rubio, during which the two officials discussed bilateral cooperation, including trade, energy, defense and emerging technologies.

## SEBI eases margin requirements for eligible early-pay-in trades

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's market regulator on Thursday eased margin requirements for investors who complete an accepted early-pay-in process for securities sold in the cash market. Under the revised framework, clearing corporations will not collect margins on eligible subsequent buy or sell positions up to the value covered by the accepted request. The benefit is limited to the lower of the value of securities paid in early and the value sold. If investors close the original sale position after using the benefit, the relief will be withdrawn, and any resulting margin shortfall will be blocked from the trading or clearing member's collateral. The rules exclude trade-for-trade securities.

## Coupang faces proposed $1.5 million fine over workplace violations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's labor ministry said Thursday it plans to fine e-commerce company Coupang and its subsidiaries a combined 1.96 billion won, or about $1.5 million, following inspections that identified 206 workplace and labor violations. The findings involved Coupang, its fulfillment and logistics units, and their facilities. Authorities plan legal action over 61 violations, including inadequate conveyor-belt safety measures, while other cases involve delayed accident reports and shortcomings in health checks for night-shift workers and employee rest facilities. The inspection followed allegations surrounding a worker's death after an overnight shift in 2020. The ministry also reviewed possible failures to report industrial accidents.

## Maharashtra ethanol producers warn of crisis after procurement restrictions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ethanol producers in Maharashtra are warning of financial pressure after new central government procurement guidelines excluded ethanol made directly from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses. The policy for the supply year beginning November 1 prioritizes ethanol produced from C-heavy molasses, which industry representatives say is less financially viable at current prices. Sugar industry groups warn that investments worth billions of dollars could be threatened after mills expanded capacity to support India's 20% ethanol-blending target. Maharashtra's sugar factories have installed capacity of about 3.75 billion liters but supplied 1.25 billion liters during the 2025-26 season. Producers are seeking support to convert plants to multiple feedstocks.

## Crypto exchanges can continue offering stablecoin rewards under federal rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Federal banking regulators said Wednesday that cryptocurrency exchanges may continue offering interest-like rewards on customers' stablecoin holdings, rejecting banks' calls for a broader ban. Under the rules implementing the GENIUS Act, stablecoin issuers cannot pay interest directly, but exchanges may pass along earnings from reserves on a case-by-case basis. Stablecoins are designed to maintain a steady value, usually around $1, and are backed by assets such as bank deposits and United States Treasury securities. Banks warn that higher crypto rewards could pull deposits away from traditional accounts and reduce funds available for lending. Consumer advocates also caution that stablecoins lack protections comparable to federal deposit insurance.

## Electronic Arts shuts down BioWare studio and cancels next Mass Effect game

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Electronic Arts is shutting down BioWare, the Canadian studio behind influential role-playing games, and canceling the next 'Mass Effect' installment. BioWare announced the closure on Wednesday, amid broader layoffs at the publisher reportedly affecting 400 employees, including about 50 at the studio.

Founded in 1995 and acquired by Electronic Arts in 2007, BioWare built a following with 'Baldur's Gate,' 'Dragon Age,' 'Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic' and 'Mass Effect.' Its multiplayer shooter 'Anthem' failed to attract a lasting audience, while later entries in its major franchises received mixed reactions. Electronic Arts completed a $55 billion sale to a Saudi-led investor group in August.

## US mortgage rates dip to 7.32% in first decline since August

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk




The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage in the United States fell to 7.32% this week, its first decline since late August, Freddie Mac reported Thursday. The rate eased from 7.40% the previous week but remained above the 6.19% average a year earlier.

The average rate on a 15-year fixed mortgage also slipped, from 6.71% to 6.68%. Mortgage costs are influenced by inflation, Federal Reserve policy and Treasury yields. Higher borrowing costs have weighed on home sales by reducing buyers' purchasing power. For a $400,000 loan, the increase from the late-February low has added about $355 to monthly payments, according to the report.

## Waze disputes Malaysia's privacy claims after government restricts official use

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Waze rejected Malaysia's allegations that its navigation app risks exposing sensitive government information, after authorities barred civil servants from using it for official duties. The company responded Thursday, calling claims that it compromises personal data "completely false" and saying it follows global privacy standards. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's office said the restriction reflected Waze Mobile Limited's incorporation in Israel and operation under Israeli law. Malaysia, a strong supporter of Palestinians, has no diplomatic or direct economic ties with Israel. Waze was developed in Israel before Google acquired it in 2013.
Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo told Parliament the ban applies only to public servants performing official duties, not the public.

## Food regulator seeks evidence for Nestlé infant formula claim

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's food safety regulator issued a notice to Nestlé India on Wednesday, seeking scientific evidence for a claim that whey protein in its Lactogen Pro 1 infant formula is easy to digest. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India said the statement appeared on product packaging or advertising and asked the company to provide supporting documents within the prescribed period. The action is part of a wider review of potentially misleading claims and promotional practices involving food and nutrition products. The regulator said companies must substantiate claims made on labels and advertisements. It also identified other products, including Nan Excella Pro Stage 1, in its broader enforcement effort.

## Realme sets out India growth priorities for 2027




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Smartphone maker Realme has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to India, outlining plans for 2027 focused on product development, marketing and retail partnerships. At a meeting with its India "Super Agents," Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Chase Xu said the company would strengthen its smartphone portfolio and coordinate more closely with distributors and retailers. The Number Series will be a key priority, with improvements planned in performance, gaming, imaging, artificial intelligence and the overall user experience. The C Series will continue targeting consumers seeking reliability and battery life. Realme also plans sustained marketing through gaming communities, campus programs, creator content and hands-on retail experiences.

## Anthropic reportedly records $80.7 billion first-half net loss

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic reportedly recorded a net loss of $80.7 billion in the first half of 2026, despite generating $16.3 billion in revenue, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing a draft initial public offering prospectus. The report said most of the loss stemmed from accounting charges linked to changes in the value of convertible notes and other fundraising instruments. Two customers accounted for about one-fifth of revenue, according to the newspaper. Anthropic did not immediately comment. The company is reportedly considering a November public offering and has faced challenges securing cloud computing capacity, prompting it to lease data centers and work with outside operators.

## Indian batter Sabbineni Meghana retires from cricket and plans to mentor future players



Indian batter Sabbineni Meghana has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket, bringing her playing career to a close. Meghana made her international debut against New Zealand in 2022 and represented India in three one-day internationals and 17 Twenty20 internationals. She was also part of India's silver medal-winning campaign at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. In domestic franchise cricket, Meghana played for Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League before joining Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning squad in 2024. Following her retirement announcement on Friday, Meghana indicated that she hopes to contribute to the sport by mentoring the next generation of players and sharing her experience with emerging cricketers.

## Hofmann's double keeps Leverkusen unbeaten in Europa League campaign



Jonas Hofmann scored twice in three minutes as Bayer Leverkusen defeated OFI Crete 2-0 on Thursday, extending their winning run in the Europa League. The German side recorded a third consecutive victory without conceding, strengthening its position in the league phase with nine points. Elsewhere, Benfica beat Omonia 4-1, while Bournemouth claimed a 3-0 victory over AC Milan. Ferencvaros won 4-1 against Torreense, and Olympiacos edged Sparta 1-0. Juventus were held to a 2-2 draw by Rennes, dropping points in a competitive round of fixtures. Leverkusen's defensive solidity and Hofmann's quick double underlined their strong start as the league phase continued.

## Asian football backs Infantino for another term despite earlier criticism

The Asian Football Confederation has endorsed Gianni Infantino for another term as FIFA president, reversing its criticism of his leadership two months ago. AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa announced the decision at the confederation's congress in Tokyo on Friday, embracing Infantino and pledging support for his re-election. The confederation represents 47 member associations, whose votes could prove crucial in the FIFA election scheduled for March. Candidates must file by November 18, and no opponent had formally entered the race when the endorsement was announced.

In August, the AFC joined European and North and Central American football authorities in accusing Infantino of a "fundamental breach of trust" over a



proposed $4.2 billion World Cup investment plan that was later abandoned. Infantino subsequently apologized to FIFA's ruling council for mistakes in developing the proposal. The endorsement follows FIFA's approval of a funding model increasing contributions to member associations from $10 million to $25 million. Sheikh Salman acknowledged past disagreements but emphasized unity and moving forward.

## Security concerns cast doubt on Saudi Arabia's Asian Cup hosting plans

Japan Football Association President Tsuneyasu Miyamoto has questioned whether Saudi Arabia can safely host next year's Asian Cup as scheduled, citing the country's security situation. Speaking at the Asian Football Confederation's extraordinary congress in Tokyo on Friday, Miyamoto said recent developments made it difficult to proceed with the tournament as planned.

Several major sporting events in Saudi Arabia have been canceled or postponed amid escalating attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis. The Asian Cup is scheduled to run from January 7 to February 5.

Miyamoto said Saudi officials had identified the safety of players, fans and




attendees as their top priority and would consult the Asian Football Confederation before deciding whether the tournament could proceed. A postponement until 2028 remains a possibility, although Saudi organizers have said preparations remain on schedule.

## Trump accuses LeBron James of disrespecting national anthem

United States President Donald Trump criticized basketball star LeBron James on Thursday, accusing him of disrespecting the national anthem during a recent Philadelphia 76ers game. In a post on Truth Social, Trump shared a video showing James moving his arms and making basketball shooting motions while standing with teammates during the anthem.

Trump called on James to apologize to American service members and others who died defending the country. A 76ers representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump has repeatedly criticized athletes



over their conduct during anthem ceremonies, including former National Football League quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who knelt to protest racial injustice.

## China retains men's team title as Japan wins women's crown at Asian table tennis championships



China secured a fourth consecutive men's team title at the Asian Table Tennis Championships, defeating South Korea 3-0 in the final. The Chinese lineup delivered a dominant performance, with Zhou Qihao, Lin Shidong and Xiang Peng contributing victories. Japan claimed the women's team championship after edging China 3-2 in a dramatic final. Japan recovered from a 2-1 deficit, with Miwa Harimoto helping level the tie before Honoka Hashimoto won the decisive fifth match. The result ended China's run of dominance in the women's team event and highlighted Japan's resilience under pressure. Chinese players also advanced in the doubles competitions as the championships continued.

## Blanchet's two eagles propel him to early lead in Bermuda



Chandler Blanchet shot a season-best nine-under-par 62 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. He made two eagles, holing a putt from just outside 50 feet on the 17th and hitting his approach to within five feet on the par-five seventh. He added six birdies and one bogey, on the fourth. Ben Kohles, Corey Conners, Danny Walker and Canadian Ben Silverman were tied for second. Wind conditions varied during the round. Ranked 114th in the FedEx Cup Fall standings, Blanchet is seeking valuable points with five tournaments remaining. The top 100 retain full status for 2027.



## World Rowing chief confident beach sprints will thrive at Olympics

World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland believes beach sprint rowing is gaining momentum ahead of its Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028. Speaking during the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in Qingdao, China, on Wednesday, he praised the format's fast-paced races, beach setting and unpredictable sea conditions. Unlike traditional rowing, athletes sprint across sand, launch their boats, navigate buoys and race back to shore. Rolland called the event an important milestone, with a global beach sprint series planned to begin in 2027.



## Marshall Faulk reveals Parkinson's diagnosis while continuing coaching career

Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Marshall Faulk has revealed he has Parkinson's disease, saying he hopes to help others. The 53-year-old Southern University head coach disclosed his diagnosis on the podcast 'The Caring Neurologist' on Wednesday. Faulk said he had been living with the disease for about 18 months. His symptoms include hand rigidity and occasional tremors, which medication has helped manage. Faulk is in his first season coaching Southern after serving as running backs coach at Colorado. During his 12-season professional career, he played for the Indianapolis Colts and St. Louis Rams. He entered the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2011.

## Fiji appeals to Mark Nawaqanitawase's heritage in World Cup recruitment bid

Fiji is appealing to Mark Nawaqanitawase's ancestral ties as it seeks to persuade the dual international to represent the Flying Fijians at next year's Rugby World Cup. Fiji Rugby Union chairman John Sanday acknowledged the country cannot match Australia's financial opportunities but said representing his heritage offers a deeper motivation.

Nawaqanitawase recently finished his season with the Sydney Roosters, helping them win the National Rugby League title. He is returning to rugby union on a two-year contract with Japan's Wild Knights. Australia coach Les Kiss also hopes to secure his services, but the 26-year-old has deferred his international



decision until next year. Nawaqanitawase has spoken fondly of his Fijian upbringing and family connections.

## Verstappen calls Austin circuit's bumps unacceptable ahead of United States Grand Prix

Max Verstappen has criticized the bumps at Circuit of the Americas, calling them "unacceptable" and warning they are out of control ahead of Sunday's United States Grand Prix. Although he enjoys racing at the Austin venue, the four-time world champion said the surface needs serious attention.Verstappen previously reported vertical impacts exceeding nine times the force of gravity on his spine. He believes the problem has become more concerning as this season's cars run at lower ride heights, increasing their sensitivity to uneven surfaces. Soil movement has contributed to the circuit's problems, and repairs may be necessary. Verstappen's comments renew pressure on organizers to improve conditions and protect driver safety.

## Indian national car racing championship opens season in Coimbatore

The 2026 FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship begins at Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore on Saturday, with racing continuing Sunday. The event enters its 29th season, featuring 17 races across several categories. Drivers to watch include Dhruv Goshwani, Monith Srinivasan, Sandeep Kumar and Saran Vikram. Categories include Formula 4, Continental GT Cup, Novice F1300, Super Saloon, Indian Touring Car, Indian Super Touring Car and the Levitas Cup. The Continental GT Cup will place amateur and professional competitors on separate grids. The weekend will test drivers' speed, consistency and racecraft, with international entries from Malaysia and Sri Lanka and women racers from across India also expected.

## Guehi backs Manchester City to reclaim Premier League crown

Marc Guehi says Manchester City remain determined to reclaim the Premier League title after losing out to Arsenal last season. City made an unbeaten start to the current campaign, winning their opening seven league matches and building momentum ahead of their meeting with Aston Villa.

Guehi believes the squad has the quality and determination to return to the summit, while recognizing that consistency will be crucial over a demanding season. He also praised Enzo Maresca, drawing comparisons between the manager and Pep Guardiola. Guehi described similarities in their




demanding approach, passion and clarity of instruction. City's challenge now is to sustain their strong start and convert early-season form into silverware.

## Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi win men's recurve gold at para archery event

India's Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi won gold in the men's recurve doubles competition at the para archery event in Okazaki, defeating China 5-1. The victory added a major success to India's campaign, while the women's pair of Pooja and Bhawana secured silver after losing 6-0 to China in their final. Harvinder and Bhawana later missed out on a mixed doubles bronze medal against Iran. The contest was tied 18-18, but Iran prevailed in the shoot-off because its arrows landed closer to the center. India also earned bronze in men's doubles MD4 para table tennis through Jehan Madan and Shubham Wadhwa.

## Brewers and Rays prepare for historic World Series led by Misiorowski's fastball

The Milwaukee Brewers and Tampa Bay Rays begin the World Series on Friday, with both franchises seeking their first championship. Brewers right-hander Jacob Misiorowski is scheduled to start the opener, bringing a fastball that reached 105.5 miles per hour this season. Misiorowski threw 1,115 pitches at 100 miles per hour or faster, surpassing the previous tracked-season record of 673. This is the first World Series since 1980 between teams seeking their first title. It is also expected to be the first played entirely indoors and the first to feature the automated ball-strike challenge system. Milwaukee swept the Los Angeles Dodgers, while Tampa Bay swept the New York Yankees.

## Australia names two uncapped players for November rugby tests

Australia coach Les Kiss has selected uncapped scrumhalf Teddy Wilson and prop Tom Lambert for a 33-player squad for November's Nations Championship tests against England, Scotland and Wales. Wilson, son of former World Cup-winning Wallaby David Wilson, joins Ryan Lonergan and Tate McDermott at scrumhalf. Lambert impressed for the New South Wales Waratahs. Flyhalf Carter Gordon returns while recovering from a broken leg. Overseas-based forwards Taniela Tupou and Tom Hooper have also been recalled. Several players were omitted after Australia's consecutive losses to New Zealand. Injuries rule out Will Skelton, Charlie Cale and Jake Gordon. Australia faces England at

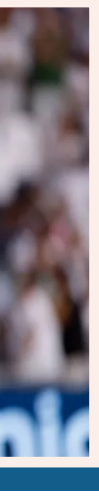


Twickenham on Sunday, November 8, before playing Scotland and Wales.

## New Zealand A names 11 international players for India A series



New Zealand A has named an extended 19-player squad featuring 11 international players for three four-day matches against India A, with the opening game scheduled to begin Saturday. Rhys Mariu will captain the side in the first two matches, while the captain for the third fixture will be decided later. Nick Kelly is expected to join the squad for the final match. Selection has been shaped by overlapping commitments, including New Zealand's white-ball series and the domestic Ford Trophy competition.



## Real Madrid and Betis maintain perfect Champions League records

Real Madrid defeated RB Leipzig 4-1 on Wednesday to maintain their perfect start in the Champions League. Bernardo Silva opened the scoring, Arda Güler added a second, and Kylian Mbappé extended the advantage before Yan Diomande completed the win. Tidiam Gomis scored Leipzig's consolation goal. Real Madrid next prepare for Sunday's important meeting with Barcelona. Elsewhere, Real Betis beat Feyenoord 1-0 at home, with captain Isco converting a penalty in the 59th minute to secure a third consecutive victory.



## Hamilton says planned African Grand Prix could extend his Formula One career

Lewis Hamilton says Formula One's planned return to Africa could motivate him to continue racing beyond his current contract with Ferrari, which runs through 2027. Speaking ahead of the United States Grand Prix on Thursday, the seven-time world champion welcomed the planned Rwandan race in the early 2030s. Hamilton has long advocated an African Grand Prix, with the continent last hosting a race in South Africa in 1993. He said the event could increase awareness of Africa while encouraging discussion about its history and present-day challenges.

## Emmy-winning actor Tom Skerritt, known for 'Alien' and 'Top Gun,' dies at 93

Tom Skerritt, the veteran actor known for his roles in 'Alien,' 'Top Gun' and television drama 'Picket Fences,' died Wednesday at 93. His family said he died of natural causes. Skerritt won an Emmy Award in 1993 for playing Sheriff Jimmy Brock in 'Picket Fences,' which ran from 1992 to 1996. He also appeared in 'Steel Magnolias,' 'The Turning Point' and 'A River Runs Through It.' His film career began with the 1962 war movie 'War Hunt.' Skerritt served four years in the Air Force and later appeared on Broadway. He is survived by his wife, Julie Tokashiki, and five children.

## Anupam Kher moved by Stevie Wonder's music and kindness after Stockholm meeting



Actor Anupam Kher called meeting music legend Stevie Wonder backstage in Stockholm on Thursday a 'surreal' experience, saying the singer's warmth left a lasting impression. Kher attended 'Wonders of Wonders: An Evening with Stevie Wonder' and later shared his admiration on social media, describing a performance that filled the arena with magic. The 'Special 26' actor said Wonder's kindness and generosity impressed him as much as his musical brilliance. He was particularly touched by the singer's heartfelt appreciation of his acting. Kher thanked his friend Brian Laroda, Wonder's manager, for arranging concert seats and making the meeting possible, calling the evening unforgettable.

## Hilary Duff brings festive nostalgia back with 'Holiday Things' EP

Hilary Duff is embracing Christmas with a new EP, 'Holiday Things', while keeping her complicated relationship with the season firmly in view. The actress and singer shared cover-shoot photographs on Instagram, celebrating everything from holiday music and decorations to cozy sweaters, shopping and gingerbread houses. But Duff has one festive rule: the celebrations must be packed away by January 1. She encouraged fans to enjoy the collection now and return to it next year. Duff launched her music career with the Christmas album 'Santa Claus Lane' in 2002 before achieving wider success with 'Metamorphosis', which topped the Billboard 200 and earned four-times platinum certification.

## Bishnoi gang claims responsibility for Tiger Shroff shooting, threatens Salman Khan

The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has reportedly claimed responsibility for a shooting targeting actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu neighborhood on Sunday and threatened violence against people associated with actor Salman Khan. In a social media post, individuals identifying themselves as Anil Pandit and Harman Sandhu alleged they had warned Shroff before the attack. An audio message circulated by Mumbai crime branch officials reportedly features Pandit demanding that Khan apologize to Lawrence Bishnoi and the Bishnoi community, threatening the actor and his family if he refuses. Three motorcycle-borne men allegedly opened fire at Shroff's car. The actor escaped unharmed, while his driver was reportedly injured. A Mumbai court on Thursday remanded four suspects, identified as Kunal, Sumit, Radha and Babita, to police custody until Monday. Arrested by Delhi Police, they were handed



over to Mumbai investigators. Police allege the suspects helped supply or transport weapons connected to the shooting. Investigators are also examining reports that a weapon was test-fired in a hotel room in Mumbai's Andheri area, where a bullet allegedly struck a bed. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis directed police to investigate the incident and take strict action against those responsible. The case follows a shooting outside Khan's Bandra residence in April 2024.

## Sidhu Moosewala's father postpones remaining North American hologram shows amid Punjab protests

Balkaur Singh, father of slain Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, has postponed the remaining performances of his son's 'Signed to God' hologram tour in Canada and the United States amid protests in Punjab over the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota. In a social media post, Balkaur said the decision reflected the situation in Punjab, emphasizing that the state and his home constituency of Mansa came first. He apologized to fans in Calgary and the United States, promising to return with an improved presentation of the singer's music. Shows in Toronto and Vancouver had already taken place and sold out. The protests followed



Jhota's fatal shooting at a medical store in Mansa. Punjabi actress Neeru Bajwa also announced that her film 'Thaapi' would be withdrawn from theaters amid public anger over the killing.

## John Legend reinvents his sound with Pharrell Williams on 'Muse'

John Legend is stepping beyond his signature piano ballads with 'Muse', a 16-track album shaped by longtime friend and producer Pharrell Williams. Released Friday, the project finds Legend experimenting with a more conversational vocal style after Williams encouraged him to blend speaking and singing. The collaboration took shape following Legend's appearance on Clipse's 'The Birds Don't Sing'. In an interview, Legend said his success has given him the confidence to take creative risks rather than repeat familiar formulas such as 'All of Me'. He is also entering musical theater, composing his first original stage score for



'Imitation of Life', scheduled to open at The Shed in New York in December.

## Rebel Wilson celebrates second legal victory in 'The Deb' dispute

Actor and filmmaker Rebel Wilson has announced another legal victory in the dispute surrounding her film 'The Deb'. On Friday, the Supreme Court of New South Wales ruled in her favor in proceedings brought by A.I. Film. Wilson said on social media that defending herself over concerns she raised about the production had taken a heavy emotional and financial toll, but she was proud to have stood her ground. The decision follows an earlier Federal Court victory involving actor Charlotte MacInnes. Wilson thanked the judge and her legal team, describing the dispute as an unequal battle against parties with greater resources.



## Country music loses hitmaker John Anderson, the voice behind 'Swingin'

Country music star John Anderson, whose distinctive vocals powered hits including 'Swingin', 'Wild and Blue' and 'Seminole Wind', died Wednesday at 71. His family announced his death on social media but did not disclose the cause. Anderson had attended the Country Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Nashville just days earlier, prompting an emotional tribute from fellow singer Tim McGraw, who recalled laughing and singing with him at the event. Born in Apopka, Florida, Anderson moved to Nashville after high school and released more than 20 albums. A leading figure in the New Traditionalist movement, he joined the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2024.

## Paweł Pawlikowski returns with 'Fatherland', a lean drama about a divided Germany

Award-winning Polish filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski returns with 'Fatherland', an 82-minute black-and-white drama examining postwar Germany through novelist Thomas Mann and his daughter, Erika. Their journey across a divided country explores the struggle to confront the Nazi past amid competing political forces. Pawlikowski, acclaimed for 'Ida' and 'Cold War', continues his trademark approach of stripping away unnecessary scenes to sharpen storytelling and rhythm. 'Ida' won an Academy Award, while 'Fatherland' earned Pawlikowski the best director prize at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The film opens in select theaters Friday, bringing its themes of political division, historical memory and national identity to audiences.

## Beatles' hometown plans landmark attraction as Fab Four fever builds



Liverpool is preparing a major new Beatles attraction for 2028, with backers aiming to create a destination to rival Graceland and Dollywood. Announced Tuesday, the project will relocate and expand The Beatles Story museum at the former St. John's Market near Lime Street train station. Visitors can expect original artifacts, immersive technology and recreated landmarks, including the Cavern Club and Abbey Road studios. A nearby former radio tower will also be transformed into a 'Yellow Submarine'-inspired attraction. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr welcomed the plans, celebrating Liverpool's role in the band's rise. The opening is timed to coincide with renewed global interest from director Sam Mendes' four Beatles films, scheduled for release in April 2028.

## Tom Cruise's four-decade film career earns American Film Institute's top honor




Tom Cruise will receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award at a Los Angeles gala on April 24, 2027, recognizing more than four decades of work as an actor and producer. Announced Wednesday, the honor celebrates Cruise's impact on cinema through films including 'Risky Business', 'Jerry Maguire', 'A Few Good Men', 'Minority Report' and the 'Mission: Impossible' franchise. He has earned three Academy Award acting nominations and a best picture nomination as a producer for 'Top Gun: Maverick'. Cruise also received an honorary Academy Award last year. Established in 1973, the institute's award recognizes film artists whose work has made a lasting contribution to cinema.

## Karan Johar opens up about finding love and building a family



Filmmaker Karan Johar has revealed that he hopes to find a life partner, although he believes marriage may not be possible for him. During Wednesday's episode of 'Koffee With Karan 9', actor Vijay Deverakonda asked Johar what he wished to manifest in his life. Johar said he wanted someone to share everyday moments, celebrate achievements and help raise his 10-year-old twins, Yash and Roohi. Vijay had earlier spoken about his relationship with actress Rashmika Mandanna, saying she was safe with him. Touched by Vijay's heartfelt response, Johar said the actor's prayer for him to find love felt genuine.

## Sudesh Lehri defends Daler Mehndi, says artists deserve respect on stage

Comedian and actor Sudesh Lehri has defended singer Daler Mehndi following his public confrontation with Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal at the Kunjapuri Fair on Sunday. In an Instagram video, Lehri said his 30-year association with Mehndi had taught him valuable lessons about stagecraft and professionalism. He criticized the decision to reprimand the singer in front of an audience, arguing that concerns could have been addressed backstage. Lehri also said he had never seen Mehndi consume alcohol, though the allegation surrounding the performance remains unverified. He wished the singer good health, joining other entertainers who have expressed support.

## Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrate Dussehra with daughter Malti Marie

Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas celebrated Dussehra with a traditional Kanya Pujan ceremony at home, sharing glimpses of the festivities with their daughter, Malti Marie.

In photographs posted on social media Wednesday, the couple was seen washing Malti's feet as part of the ritual, which honors young girls as manifestations of Goddess Durga. Malti wore an ivory outfit, bangles and a red scarf bearing the words 'Jai Mata Di.' The family also posed before a flower-decorated home shrine. Priyanka wished followers strength and blessings from Goddess Durga. The actress has frequently shared her efforts to introduce Malti to Indian traditions, including teaching her Sanskrit prayers earlier this year.



## Delhi Police blocks Diljit Dosanjh's Aura Tour concert over security concerns

Delhi Police has denied permission for Diljit Dosanjh's Aura India Tour concert, which was scheduled for Friday at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Authorities cited specific threat-related information, security requirements and law-and-order commitments during the festive season. The decision was communicated to ticketing platform BookMyShow Live, which is co-producing and promoting the tour. The Delhi show was intended to launch the India leg of Dosanjh's tour, with performances planned in cities including Indore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Chandigarh. Known for hits such as 'Do You Know' and 'Lover', Dosanjh has built an international following through music and film. Further arrangements for ticket holders have not been detailed.



## Govinda seeks blessings for his children during Dussehra temple visit

Bollywood actor Govinda visited the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri during Dussehra celebrations, offering prayers for his children and expressing gratitude for the opportunity to worship at the revered shrine. Speaking to reporters Thursday, the actor thanked local residents, the temple community and fellow artists while seeking divine blessings for younger generations. The visit comes amid continued public attention surrounding his marriage to Sunita Ahuja. Reports of marital difficulties and allegations involving Govinda and actress Komal Rani Swarnkar have generated controversy, with both Govinda and Sunita addressing aspects of the dispute publicly. Reports also suggested Sunita had filed for divorce in 2024, although Govinda's manager subsequently said the petition had been withdrawn.



## Aruna Irani thanks fans for support as she returns to work after husband's death

Veteran actor Aruna Irani has thanked fans for standing by her following the death of her husband, filmmaker Kuku Kohli, saying their support has helped her find the strength to return to work. In a video message shared recently, Irani expressed gratitude for the affection she received during the difficult period. "After the death of Kukuji, the love you all gave me, the support you gave me, I am very, very grateful for that," she said, adding that she had not expected such overwhelming encouragement. Kohli, known for directing 'Phool Aur Kaante,' died in August at 77. Irani and Kohli married in 1990 and largely kept their relationship private. The actor said she hopes her fans will continue supporting her throughout her life.



## Anna Ben's romantic comedy 'Coimbatore Mappillaii' set for worldwide release

The makers of 'Coimbatore Mappillaii', starring Anna Ben and Kishore Rajkumar, have announced that the romantic comedy will open worldwide on Thursday. Noise and Grains is making its debut as a film producer with the project, while AGS Cinemas will distribute it in Tamil Nadu. The ensemble cast includes K. S. Ravikumar, Ponvannan, Viji Chandrasekhar and Vinodhini Vaidhyanathan. Director and lead actor Kishore Rajkumar said filming was completed in 29 days. He described the movie as a family entertainer centered on romance, humor and relationship compatibility, with a protagonist whose heavier build challenges a familiar comic stereotype.

## 'The Simpsons' brings Apu back with Indian American voice actors




'The Simpsons' has brought Apu back to a speaking role for the first time in nearly a decade, introducing Indian American performers Sunil Malhotra and Janina Gavankar as the voices of Apu and his wife, Manjula. The characters returned during Sunday's Halloween special. Apu's portrayal had sparked debate after comedian Hari Kondabolu's 2017 documentary, 'The Problem With Apu', examined how the character reinforced stereotypes about South Asian Americans. Original voice actor Hank Azaria later stepped away from the role. Executive producer Matt Selman said the creative team wanted to bring Apu back in a way that allowed the character to evolve. Kondabolu welcomed the change.

## Sacha Baron Cohen laughs off Wimbledon ejection over Ali G's outrageous antics



Sacha Baron Cohen revisited an embarrassing Wimbledon encounter during an appearance on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,' recalling how security escorted him out while he was dressed as his comedy character Ali G. Fallon played footage showing security personnel confronting Cohen over allegations that his character had offered cigarettes and drugs to children. Cohen initially defended Ali G, joking that the character would never engage in illegal activities. However, Fallon produced a photograph showing him wearing a jacket labeled 'Official Ganja Dealer,' prompting Cohen to concede the joke. The comedian became internationally famous for characters including Ali G and Borat, whose provocative humor frequently placed him in confrontational situations.

IndoUS Tribune की भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा — हरियाणा का दूसरा पड़ाव

# ब्रह्म सरोवर, कुरुक्षेत्र

## माता मनसा देवी मंदिर, पंचकूला से धर्मक्षेत्र कुरुक्षेत्र तक—आस्था, महाभारत और प्राचीन धार्मिक परंपराओं की यात्रा

आंध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, गोवा और गुजरात के प्रमुख मंदिरों की यात्रा के बाद IndoUS Tribune की "भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा" अब हरियाणा में आगे बढ़ रही है। हरियाणा के पहले पड़ाव में हमने पंचकूला स्थित माता मनसा देवी मंदिर की शक्ति उपासना की परंपरा को जाना। अब हमारा दूसरा पड़ाव है कुरुक्षेत्र का प्रसिद्ध ब्रह्म सरोवर। भगवान ब्रह्मा, महाभारत और प्राचीन तीर्थ परंपराओं से जुड़ा यह पवित्र जलाशय हरियाणा की धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक विरासत का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।



### ब्रह्म सरोवर, कुरुक्षेत्र — इतिहास, पौराणिक मान्यताएं और धार्मिक महत्व

#### सृष्टि से जुड़ी मान्यता

हरियाणा के कुरुक्षेत्र जिले के थानेसर क्षेत्र में स्थित ब्रह्म सरोवर भारत के प्रसिद्ध तीर्थस्थलों में गिना जाता है। हिंदू धार्मिक मान्यता के अनुसार, भगवान ब्रह्मा ने इस क्षेत्र में एक विशाल यज्ञ किया था और सृष्टि की रचना का संबंध इसी पवित्र भूमि से जुड़ा है। इस कारण ब्रह्म सरोवर को सृष्टि की उत्पत्ति का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

कुरुक्षेत्र को प्राचीन काल से धर्म और आध्यात्मिक चिंतन की भूमि के रूप में देखा जाता है। ब्रह्म सरोवर इसी परंपरा का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है, जहां श्रद्धालु पूजा-अर्चना और धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों के लिए आते हैं।

#### महाभारत से संबंध

कुरुक्षेत्र का नाम महाभारत के महान युद्ध से जुड़ा है। एक प्रसिद्ध कथा के अनुसार, युद्ध के अंतिम चरण में दुर्योधन ने भीम से बचने के लिए जल में छिपने का प्रयास किया था। यह प्रसंग महाभारत के अंतिम संघर्ष और उसके परिणामों की याद दिलाता है।

भगवान श्रीकृष्ण द्वारा अर्जुन को दिया गया भगवद्गीता का उपदेश भी कुरुक्षेत्र की आध्यात्मिक पहचान का प्रमुख आधार है। ब्रह्म सरोवर के मध्य स्थित विशाल कांस्य रथ में भगवान श्रीकृष्ण को सारथी और अर्जुन को योद्धा के रूप में दिखाया गया है। यह दृश्य धर्म, कर्तव्य और सही निर्णय लेने की प्रेरणा देता है।

#### इतिहास में ब्रह्म सरोवर

ब्रह्म सरोवर और कुरुक्षेत्र की धार्मिक पहचान का उल्लेख प्राचीन ऐतिहासिक लेखों में भी मिलता है। ग्यारहवीं शताब्दी के विद्वान अल-बिरूनी ने अपनी प्रसिद्ध पुस्तक किताब-उल-हिंद में कुरुक्षेत्र के धार्मिक महत्व का वर्णन किया था। मुगलकालीन इतिहासकार अबुल फ़ज़ल ने भी इस विशाल जलाशय का उल्लेख किया।
ये ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ बताते हैं कि कुरुक्षेत्र लंबे समय से धार्मिक यात्राओं और भारतीय सांस्कृतिक जीवन का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र रहा है।

#### पवित्र स्नान और धार्मिक आयोजन

हिंदू परंपरा में पवित्र जल में स्नान को शारीरिक स्वच्छता और आध्यात्मिक शुद्धि से जोड़ा जाता है। ब्रह्म सरोवर में स्नान का विशेष महत्व माना जाता है, खासकर सूर्यग्रहण के अवसर पर। धार्मिक मान्यता के अनुसार, इस समय यहां स्नान करने से विशेष पुण्य प्राप्त होता है।

हर वर्ष गीता जयंती के अवसर पर कुरुक्षेत्र में धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाते हैं। ब्रह्म सरोवर पर दीपदान और आरती विशेष आकर्षण होते हैं। जल पर तैरते दीप और मंत्रोच्चार इस पवित्र स्थल के आध्यात्मिक वातावरण को और सुंदर बनाते हैं।

#### स्थापत्य और आसपास के दर्शनीय स्थल

ब्रह्म सरोवर अपने विशाल आकार, सीढ़ीनुमा घाटों और धार्मिक स्थलों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। इसके मध्य स्थित शिव मंदिर तक एक छोटे पुल से पहुंचा जा सकता है। सरोवर के आसपास बिरला गीता मंदिर सहित कई अन्य धार्मिक स्थल भी हैं।

यहां आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को पूजा-अर्चना के साथ महाभारत, भगवद्गीता और भारतीय संस्कृति से जुड़े प्रसंगों को जानने का अवसर मिलता है। इस प्रकार ब्रह्म सरोवर धार्मिक आस्था और सांस्कृतिक विरासत का संगम है।



#### हरियाणा की धार्मिक विरासत का दूसरा पड़ाव

ब्रह्म सरोवर केवल एक विशाल जलाशय नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय धार्मिक परंपरा, पौराणिक कथाओं और इतिहास से जुड़ा महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ है। भगवान ब्रह्मा से संबंधित मान्यताएं, महाभारत की कथाएं और गीता जयंती के आयोजन इसे विशेष पहचान देते हैं।

**IndoUS Tribune** की "भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा" हमें याद दिलाती है कि भारत के तीर्थस्थल केवल पूजा के स्थान नहीं, बल्कि हमारी सभ्यता, दर्शन और सांस्कृतिक जीवन के जीवंत केंद्र भी हैं।

#### अगला पड़ाव — शीतला माता मंदिर, गुरुग्राम

हरियाणा में हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का अगला पड़ाव होगा गुरुग्राम स्थित प्रसिद्ध शीतला माता मंदिर। माता शीतला को समर्पित यह प्रमुख देवी तीर्थ बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालुओं को आकर्षित करता है। अगले लेख में हम मंदिर के इतिहास, माता शीतला से जुड़ी धार्मिक मान्यताओं और इसकी क्षेत्रीय परंपराओं को जानेंगे।

**IndoUS Tribune की "भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा" में अगले सप्ताह मिलते हैं—हरियाणा के एक और महत्वपूर्ण देवी तीर्थ पर।**

# भगवान शिव के प्रति गाए जाने वाले,

# मृत्युंजय मन्त्र की महिमा

हमारे सनातन धर्म में दो मंत्रों का बड़ा ही महत्व है. एक है गायत्री मन्त्र और दूसरा है मृत्युंजय मन्त्र. गायत्री मन्त्र जिसकी उत्पत्ति ऋग्वेद से हुई, विश्व भर में मन की शांति के लिए गाया जाता है.

**ॐ भूर्भुव: स्व: तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं**
**भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि। धियो यो न: प्रचोदयात्।।**

यह मन्त्र हर श्रद्धावान को जीवन में सुबुद्धि से चलने की प्रेरणा देता है. यह इतना प्रभाव शाली है कि, स्वयं भगवान कृष्ण ने भगवद् गीता में, इसे मन्त्रों का राजा कहा है. भगवान कृष्ण ने गीता के दसवें अध्याय में स्पष्ट कहा है कि, अगर किसी को मंत्रों में मेरी छवि देखनी हो तो, गायत्री मंत्र मैं हूँ.

**बृहत्साम तथा साम्नां गायत्री छन्दसामहम् ।**
**मासानां मार्गशीर्षोऽहमृतूनां कुसुमाकर: ॥35॥**

इस प्रकार गायत्री मंत्र की महिमा विश्व के सनातन समाज में बहुत ही पूजनीय है. मन की शांति के लिए, एवं जीवन को उचित तरीके से जीने के लिए, इस मन्त्र का जाप निरन्तर किया जाता है. विश्व में बहुत से गायत्री परिवार/ संस्थाएँ हैं, जो इस महामन्त्र का प्रचार एवं प्रसार निरन्तर करते रहते हैं.

दूसरा मन्त्र जिसकी चर्चा एवं जाप निरन्तर होता है, वह है भोलेनाथ को रिझाने वाला मृत्युंजय मन्त्र:-

**ॐ त्र्यम्बकं यजामहे सुगन्धिं पुष्टिवर्धनम् |**
**उर्वारुकमिव बन्धनान्मृत्युर्मुक्षीय माऽमृतात् ||**

इस मन्त्र का सीधा सरल शब्दों में अर्थ है कि, एक मन्त्र जो मृत्यु पर विजय प्राप्त कर सकता है. प्रश्न उठता है कि, आख़िर इस मन्त्र का आविर्भाव कब और कैसे हुआ? पुरातन काल में एक ऋषि हुए थे, मृकांदु. उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी मनस्विनी के साथ मिल कर, भगवान शिव की बड़ी आराधना की. भगवान शिव ने उन्हें एक पुत्र का आशीर्वाद दिया. साथ ही एक प्रश्न पूछा कि, तुम्हें लम्बी आयु वाला बीमार पुत्र चाहिए अथवा छोटी आयु वाला एक स्वस्थ पुत्र. ऋषि दम्पति ने स्वस्थ पुत्र को चुना. नियति ने उसकी आयु 16 वर्ष नियुक्त की. इस पुत्र का नाम रखा गया, मार्कण्डे. ऋषि मृकांदु ने मार्कण्डे को बचपन से ही शिवभक्ति का पाठ पढ़ाना शुरू कर दिया. कुछ ही वर्षों में, यह बालक एक तेजस्वी युवक बन गया.

जब मार्कण्डे 16 वर्ष का हुआ, तो एक दिन यमराज स्वयं, उसके प्राणों को साथ ले जाने के लिए, उसके द्वार पर आ धमके. युवा मार्कण्डे घबरा गया. मृत्यु को सामने देख अच्छे अच्छे घबरा जाते हैं. मार्कण्डे को कुछ और नहीं सूझा, वह सामने पड़े शिवलिंग को लिपट कर रोने लगे. शिव से बारम्बार प्रार्थना करने लगे कि, मेरी रक्षा कीजिए.

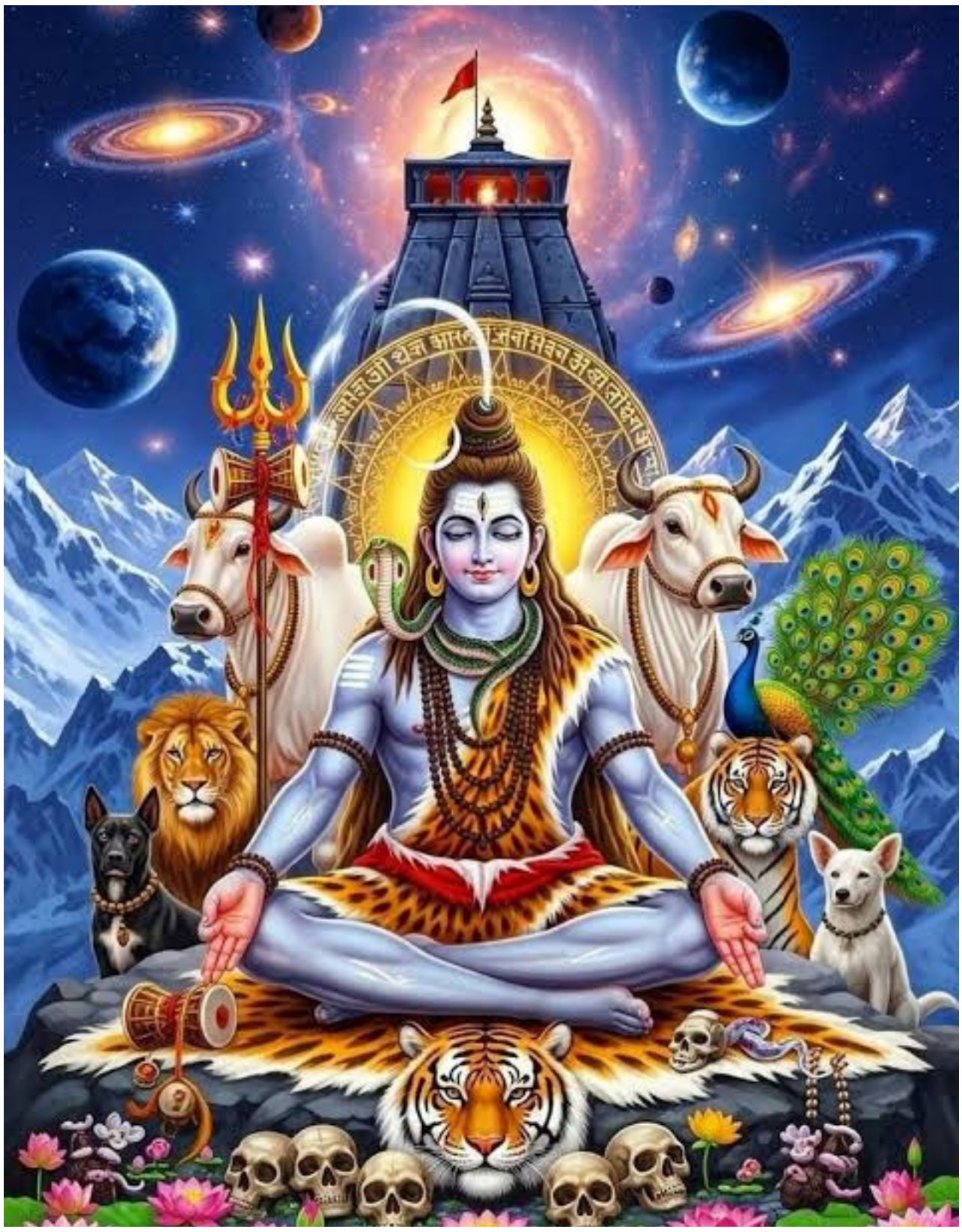
मार्कण्डे की असीम भक्ति देख, शिव वहाँ प्रगट हुए और मार्कण्डे को यमराज से बचा लिया. यमराज को शिव बोले, यह मेरा भक्त है. मैं इसको लम्बी आयु का वरदान देता हूँ. अब यह मेरी शरण में है. साथ ही भगवान शिव ने उसके कान में यह मृत्युंजय मन्त्र फूँका और कहा, इसका जप नित्य प्रति करते रहो, यह तुम्हारी एवं इसको जपने वाले किसी भी भक्त को निरोगता एवं लंबी आयु प्रदान करेगा. इसके बाद यह मन्त्र मार्कण्डे मंत्र का नाम से प्रसिद्ध हो गया.

इस मृत्युंजय की महिमा को बहुत सारे भक्तों ने अपने संकट काल में परखा. यह अपनी अचूक शक्ति के लिए हज़ारों वर्षों से शिव भक्तों का प्रिय मन्त्र बना हुआ है. इस मन्त्र के आरम्भ के भाग में त्र्यंबकेश्वर शिव की आराधना की गई है, जिनकी कृपा से शरीर का पुष्टिवर्धक एवम सुगंधित हो जाता है. त्रिनेत्रधारी प्रभु शिव, इस मन्त्र से प्रसन्न होकर, अपने भक्तों की हर बीमारी से रक्षा करते हैं, और कभी कभी तो उसकी मृत्यु को भी टाल देते हैं.

इस मन्त्र के दूसरे भाग में मृत्यु को एक सहज प्रक्रिया के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है. जैसे जीवन सत्य है, ठीक वैसे ही मृत्यु भी एक सहज सत्य है. इसको टाला तो जा सकता है, लेकिन इससे बचा नहीं जा सकता. भगवद् गीता में प्रभु कृष्ण ने भी मृत्यु को बड़े सरल शब्दों में समझाया है.

**वासांसि जीर्णानि यथा विहाय**
**नवानि गृह्णाति नरोऽपराणि ।**
**तथा शरीराणि विहाय जीर्णा-न्यन्यानि**
**संयाति नवानि देही ॥2.22॥**

भगवान कृष्ण ने अर्जुन को समझाते हुए बताया कि, मृत्यु निश्चित है, लेकिन यह ऐसे ही है, जैसे कोई प्राणी पुराने कपड़े छोड़ नये कपड़े बदल रहा हो. यह आत्मा भी शरीर के बूढ़े हो जाने पर, मृत्यु के समय, पुराने शरीर को छोड़ नये एवं स्वस्थ शरीर में प्रवेश कर जाती है. मृत्युंजय मंत्र में, इसे दूसरी तरह से समझाया गया है. यहाँ कहा गया है, जैसे



बेल पर लगी ककड़ी, जब पूर्णतया पक जाती है, तो वह बिना प्रयास किए, बेल से अलग हो जाती है. ठीक इसी प्रकार, भक्त जब पूर्णता को प्राप्त कर लेता है तो, उसकी आत्मा बिना किसी कष्ट के यह शरीर छोड़ कर नये शरीर में प्रवेश कर जाती है. यह एक बहुत ही सहज एवं सरल प्रक्रिया है. ऐसे में मृत्यु के समय किसी को भी दु:खी होने की आवश्यकता नहीं है.

### मृत्युंजय तथा महा मृत्युंजय

जैसे जैसे समय निकलता गया, कुछ विद्वानों ने इस मन्त्र की महिमा को और भी गौरवान्वित करने के लिए, इसमें कुछ और बीज शब्द जोड़ कर इसे और भी शक्तिशाली बनाने का प्रयास किया. मूल मन्त्र के आगे - ऊँ जूँ स: ऊँ भूर्भुव: स्व: और मन्त्र के अंत में - ऊँ क्लीम

स: ह: जैसे बीज शब्द जोड़ कर इस मन्त्र को महा मन्त्र के उच्चतम पद पर बैठा दिया.

शिव भक्ति में डूबे भक्त गण, जिनकी भोलेनाथ पर अपार श्रद्धा होती है, वह इस मन्त्र का जाप कर, अपने आप को अति भाग्यशाली मानते हैं. भोले बाबा की कृपा की अनुभूति करते हैं. और अगर कोई शारीरिक कष्ट आ जाए, तो आशुतोष की कृपा से ठीक भी हो जाते हैं.

इस प्रकार मृत्युंजय मन्त्र का प्रभाव एवं महिमा विश्वव्यापी है. जहाँ जहाँ भगवान शिव की उपासना करने वाले निवास करते रहेंगे, वहाँ वहाँ इस इस मन्त्र का उद्घोष युगों युगों तक होता रहेगा. शिव की नगरी वाराणसी में तो यह सुमधुर मंत्रोच्चार दिन रात सुनाई पड़ता है. भोले बाबा के दयालु चरणों में हमारा कोटि कोटि नमन



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

# Manav Seva Mandir rallies community support for temple renovation and renewal

By: Jayanti Oza



*During the ceremonial Deep Pragatya. From left: Manjula Prajapati, Bensenville Mayor Frank De Simone along with his wife, and General Secretary Dahyabhai Prajapati.*

More than 400 devotees and community members attended a fundraising dinner hosted by Manav Seva Mandir (MSM) on October 10 to support the renovation of its existing temple building. The event highlighted the organization's history, community service initiatives and plans to modernize its facilities for future generations.

The program began at 5:30 p.m. with a meet-and-greet session and dinner, followed by the ceremonial Deep Pragatya, or lighting of the traditional lamp. Chief guest Dr. Yogesh Oza and Bensenville Mayor Frank De Simone, who attended with his wife, were welcomed and honored with bouquets. Mayor De Simone praised MSM's community service, particularly its assistance in providing COVID-19 vaccination services to Village of Bensenville employees, and encouraged attendees to support the renovation project.

Dr. Oza, a retired physician who practiced for 35 years in Mount Vernon, Illinois, traveled from Austin, Texas, to attend the event. In his address, he emphasized the importance of maintaining Sanatan Dharma temples as centers for preserving religious traditions, cultural values and spiritual heritage.

MSM President Hitesh Desai and Chairman Jayram Patel outlined the organization's vision, describing the temple as a place that brings families together through religious observances, cultural education, festivals and community activities.



*From left: Manav Seva Mandir President Hitesh Desai, Chairman Jayram Patel, Dr. Iswar Patel, Bensenville Mayor Frank De Simone and General Secretary Dahyabhai Prajapati.*

## Preserving a legacy of service

A historical slideshow traced the organization's development. Manav Seva Mandir's not-for-profit corporation was registered in 1983, inspired by Pandit Devendra Vijayji. Further inspiration came in 1984 from Rev. Pujya Shri Krishna Shankar Shastriji.

In December 1987, the organization purchased a former Korean church building at 101 South Church Road in Bensenville. The property has since served as a gathering place for worship and community activities.

## Renovation plans outlined

The construction committee chairperson presented plans to modernize the existing building without adding new space. Proposed improvements include upgraded audiovisual equipment, modern lighting and other facility enhancements to support religious, cultural and community programs.

Dr. Bharat Barai and Dr. Shirish Shah discussed MSM's charitable activities in the United States and India. They also presented financial information about the renovation initiative and encouraged devotees to contribute.

The Sweta Entertainment Group provided musical entertainment during the evening. The program concluded with a vote of thanks from Dahyabhai Prajapati, the board of trustees' general secretary, who acknowledged those who contributed to the event.

The fundraising dinner brought community members together to support the renovation and help sustain the temple's religious, cultural and charitable activities.

# First India Culture Week in Nebraska showcases Indian heritage at Creighton University

***Omaha celebrations bring Indian literature, cinema, cuisine, photography and dance to American students, strengthening cultural and educational ties between India and the United States.***

By: Vandana Jhingan










An 'Incredible India' moving photo exhibit at the Mike and Josie Harper Center offered visitors a visual journey through India's people, places and everyday life, from the streets of New Delhi to the temples of Bhubaneswar. The photographs were taken by an acclaimed Seattle-based photographer during a United States Pacific Northwest delegation visit to India in March 2026. The delegation, organized by the consulate, included Creighton University Vice Provost Dr. Kari Costello and other representatives from Nebraska.




The celebrations also featured performances by the Gurukulam Center for Indian Arts, showcasing classical dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniyattam, alongside Punjabi folk and contemporary dances. The performances highlighted India's regional diversity and centuries-old artistic traditions.

Students and faculty sampled Indian cuisine at the India Food Festival, which introduced them to the country's distinctive spices, flavors and regional specialties. The inaugural day concluded with a screening of the acclaimed 2016 film 'Dangal' at the Hixson-Lied Auditorium as part of the Indian Film Festival.

The initiative builds on a cultural exchange model launched at Seattle University in November 2024. Since then, Indian film festivals have reached educational institutions and cultural venues across the United States Pacific Northwest, including the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle, Shoreline College, the University of Montana, North Dakota State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Through India Culture Week, the Consulate General of India in Seattle aims to bring contemporary India and its heritage closer to young Americans, encourage interest in Indian studies, strengthen educational and people-to-people ties, and promote travel from the region to India.

# 50 couples begin new chapter at mass wedding ceremony in Udaipur

By: Satyaprakash Dwivedi

Fifty couples began a new chapter in their lives as Narayan Seva Sansthan inaugurated its 47th mass wedding ceremony at the Seva Mahateerth campus in Lions Ka Guda, Udaipur, on Saturday.

The two-day free program supports people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged individuals. The opening ceremony featured traditional worship of Lord Ganesha, followed by haldi and mehendi rituals, wedding songs, music and dance performances.

Sansthan founder and chairman Padma Shri Kailash "Manav," co-founder Kamla Devi, president Prashant Agrawal and director Vandana Agrawal joined special guests to inaugurate the celebrations. Service contributors, including former Indian Army commander B. L. Bandhan of Agra and Rajesh Kanjani of Argentina, were honored for their contributions.

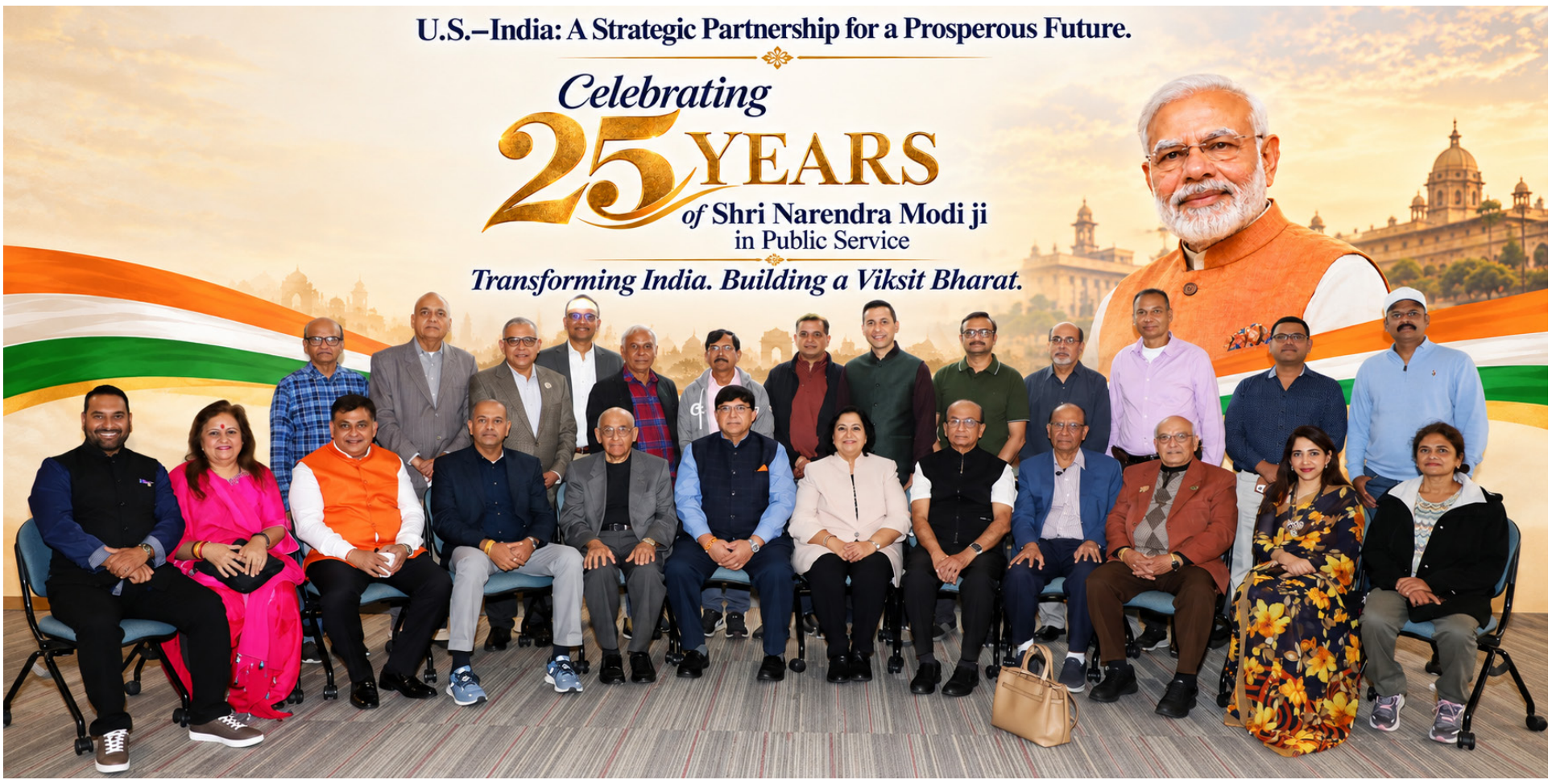
An evening cultural program showcased performances depicting Hindu deities and themes of devotion, courage and righteousness.

The main wedding ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, when the couples will marry according to Vedic rituals and take seven vows around a sacred fire. The organization will provide each couple with essential household items to help them establish their homes.

Guests also toured the newly built World of Humanity facility and learned about the organization's rehabilitation and support services for people with disabilities and others in need.



# Indian American community marks 25 years of Narendra Modi's public service at Schaumburg event




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American community leaders, professionals and representatives of civic organizations gathered on October 17 at the Schaumburg Township District Library to commemorate Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public office and discuss India's development priorities and the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

The event was organized by Overseas Friends of BJP USA in collaboration with several Indian American organizations. Discussions focused on leadership, governance, economic development, infrastructure, technology and India's role in international affairs.

Speakers reviewed Modi's political journey, from becoming Gujarat's chief minister in 2001 to serving as India's prime minister since 2014. They highlighted developments in digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, public welfare and modernization, while emphasizing transparency, integrity and accountability in public service.

The program opened with remarks by Amar Upadhyay, followed by a rendition of Vande Mataram by Ramyaa Iyer. Keynote speakers included Dr. Bharat Barai and Santosh Kumar. Rakesh Malhotra presented an overview of Modi's 25-year political journey and the goals associated with India's 2047 development vision.

A panel discussion moderated by Avatans Kumar brought together community leaders to discuss India's economic progress, governance reforms, infrastructure development and social welfare. Abhinav Raina spoke about developments in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and delivered the vote of thanks.

Participants also discussed the Indian American diaspora's role in strengthening U.S.-India relations and encouraging greater community engagement.

The event was coordinated by Rakesh Malhotra and Amar Upadhyay, with support from organizations including the Federation of Indian Associations, Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, U.S.-India Community Friendship, Hindu Business Network, American Multi Ethnic Commission, International University of Vedic Wellness and Midwest Punjabi Association.

The event drew members of the local Indian American community and representatives of ethnic media. The program concluded with an emphasis on public service, accountable governance, civic participation and continued engagement by Indian Americans in matters affecting India and the United States.



# Indian Americans: From 'model minority' to a community under scrutiny

By: Suresh Bodiwala




For decades, Indian Americans have been recognized for their achievements in technology, medicine, education, entrepreneurship and public service. Their success has often been cited as an example of the American dream. Today, however, the community faces growing scrutiny amid contentious debates over immigration, high-skilled foreign workers and cultural integration.

The controversy intensified following remarks attributed to Vice President J.D. Vance describing certain H-1B visa holders as 'foreign indentured servants.' Critics argued that the phrase carried troubling historical connotations and diminished the contributions of skilled immigrants. Meanwhile, increased scrutiny of employment-based immigration programs has raised concerns about the future of international talent in America's workforce.

## A record of achievement

Changes to U.S. immigration law in 1965 opened greater opportunities for skilled immigrants from India. Over subsequent decades, Indian Americans became prominent in technology, healthcare, higher education, business and government.

Today, the community numbers approximately five million and is among the most highly educated and economically successful ethnic groups in the country. Indian-origin professionals have helped advance artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing and other technologies. Indian-born entrepreneurs have founded companies, created jobs and attracted investment, while executives of Indian origin lead major American corporations.

Indian physicians and healthcare professionals also play an important role in hospitals, clinics and research institutions nationwide. Their contributions were particularly visible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Indian students and researchers, meanwhile, contribute to American universities, scientific discovery and technological innovation.

Entrepreneurship has expanded beyond technology and medicine. Indian Americans have built successful businesses in hospitality, retail, transportation, finance and healthcare services. In the hotel industry, generations of Indian-origin owners have transformed family-operated businesses into significant commercial enterprises.




Their growing participation in Congress, government agencies, diplomacy and other public institutions further demonstrates the community's expanding role in American civic life.

## The immigration debate

Despite these achievements, high-skilled immigration has become a contentious political issue. Critics of the H-1B program argue that some employers may use foreign workers to reduce labor costs or disadvantage American employees. Supporters counter that international talent helps fill specialized positions, supports innovation and enables U.S. companies to compete globally.

Both worker protections and access to qualified talent matter. The challenge is to examine employer practices and labor-market evidence without treating foreign workers as a threat simply because of their national origin.

The U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum has argued that employment-based immigration contributes to American innovation, tax revenues and economic growth. The organization has urged policymakers to recognize these benefits while maintaining a strong domestic workforce.



Indian Americans are not a uniform group. They include recent immigrants, U.S.-born citizens, students, entrepreneurs, professionals and workers with widely different experiences. Some enjoy substantial success, while others face immigration backlogs, discrimination and economic challenges.

## Beyond the 'model minority' label

The 'model minority' stereotype highlights achievement but can conceal the community's diversity and challenges. It may also create unrealistic expectations that all Indian Americans share the same advantages or experiences.

Questions about cultural integration have also emerged. Some community members believe newer immigrants should make greater efforts to engage with mainstream American society, respect shared public spaces and participate in local civic life. Such concerns should be discussed constructively without generalizing about an entire ethnic group. Cultural identity and integration are not mutually exclusive.

Ankur Vaidya, chairman of the Federation of Indian Americans in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, has cautioned that communities celebrated for their success can become vulnerable when they are increasingly viewed as outsiders. He cited Uganda's expulsion of its Asian population, primarily of Indian descent, in 1972, as a historical warning about the consequences of targeting people because of their origins.

## The road ahead

The challenge for policymakers is to balance legitimate concerns about hiring practices and worker protection with recognition of the economic and social contributions of skilled immigrants. For Indian Americans, continued civic participation, community engagement and constructive dialogue can help strengthen public understanding and mutual trust.

As the United States competes in artificial intelligence, healthcare, scientific research and other critical fields, its ability to attract and retain talent remains an important consideration.

Indian Americans should be judged as individuals, not through stereotypes based on ethnicity or national origin. Their experience demonstrates how immigration, education, entrepreneurship and opportunity can contribute to national prosperity.

The debate is ultimately about more than one community. It concerns how America can protect its workers, enforce fair immigration rules and preserve the openness and innovation that have helped drive its success.

# When stardom becomes an excuse

## Why the Uttarakhand minister was right to call out Daler Mehndi

By: Dr. Avi Verma



An artist's reputation cannot outweigh public accountability. Religious celebrations deserve respect—not excuses for an apparently unfit performance.

Daler Mehndi's appearance at a Navratri celebration in Uttarakhand forces a blunt question: does celebrity status now function as a shield against basic professional standards? The Uttarakhand minister's public rebuke was not only justified; it was necessary. At a religious event, audiences are entitled to professionalism, dignity and respect. Fame does not cancel that entitlement.

### What the video makes hard to ignore

In the circulating footage, background music plays while Mehndi appears to sing little, relying instead on gestures and movements. His speech and conduct have left many viewers questioning whether he was in any condition to perform. The video does not deliver courtroom-level proof of intoxication, yet it raises unavoidable questions that defenders have largely sidestepped: Was he unwell or disoriented? Who decided he was fit to take the stage? Why did organizers allow the performance to continue once its quality became obvious?

Those are not nitpicking complaints. They are the minimum inquiries any paying audience—and any self-respecting organiser—should demand.

### The surgery defence does not close the case

Reports that Mehndi had recently undergone surgery deserve compassion. No performer should be pressured to risk their health. But if recovery was incomplete, the responsible course was straightforward: postpone or cancel, inform the audience, and arrange refunds or rescheduling. Proceeding anyway, then leaning on medical difficulties only after public criticism, looks less like transparency and more like damage control.

If reports of a Rs.30–35 lakh fee are accurate, the audience's expectations were reasonable. People paid for a performance, not a celebrity walk-on. Health comes first. Professional honesty about one's fitness to deliver still matters.

### Celebrity defences that prefer loyalty over standards

Prominent figures including Anupam Kher, Gurdas Maan, Mika Singh and Kapil Sharma have rushed to Mehndi's defence or stressed his stature. Their admiration may be sincere. It is also beside the point. Treating an inadequate public performance as an attack on the entire industry, or as something that must be waved away because the artist is "a legend," replaces accountability with reflexive solidarity.

Ordinary professionals are not excused for delivering a deficient service simply because influential friends speak up for them. Why should a high-profile singer be held to a lower standard? Fame should increase responsibility, not confer immunity. Mehndi's contribution to Punjabi music can be acknowledged without pretending that contribution magically renders one evening's visible shortcomings irrelevant.

His past legal controversy, including the kabootarbazi human-trafficking case, belongs to his public record. It does not prove anything about this incident and should not be used as a substitute for examining the performance itself. The present episode must be judged on the evidence of what audiences saw.

### Why the setting raises the stakes

Navratri is a sacred period of devotion, prayer and community celebration. A performer invited to such an event is not merely fulfilling a commercial booking. An inadequate performance can reasonably be experienced as disrespectful to the devotees who gathered. If an artist is genuinely unwell, withdrawing is the more respectful choice. Continuing with a visibly compromised show risks turning a religious occasion into an awkward spectacle.

### Why the minister's stand deserves support

Critics may prefer the matter had been handled privately. Yet the conduct occurred in public, in front of people who had paid and come to celebrate. A public response underscored a principle that the entertainment industry too often soft-pedals: celebrity status does not place anyone beyond criticism.

Public figures who accept substantial fees to perform at meaningful events must meet reasonable professional standards and answer for their conduct. This is not about humiliation or political point-scoring. It is about refusing to let stardom rewrite the rules of basic accountability.

The entertainment industry's reflex of closing ranks serves neither artists nor audiences. Supporting a colleague through illness means encouraging responsible decisions and acknowledging shortcomings when they occur—not dismissing legitimate concerns as attacks. Mehndi's achievements deserve recognition. They do not entitle him, or his defenders, to silence questions about one performance.

When fame and accountability collide, accountability must prevail. No celebrity is bigger than the occasion, the audience, or the responsibility they accepted.





# Kadva Patidar Samaj of Chicago celebrates Navratri with Garba and Raas

By: Jayanti Oza

Approximately 1,000 members of the Kadva Patidar Samaj of Chicago, along with friends and families, gathered at the Jain Temple in Bartlett on Saturday, Oct. 10, for the organization's annual Navratri Garba and Raas celebration. The festivities featured a Shree Umiya Mataji Rath in the temple parking lot, followed by Aartis dedicated to Shree Ambe Maa and Umiyamiya Mataji. Participants took part in traditional Tali Garba and Raas Garba, with the evening concluding on an energetic note with Sanedo.

A live musical ensemble provided accompaniment throughout the program. Lead vocalist Bhargav Upadhyay was joined by Sania Aarzu, who traveled from India for the performance.

The program began at 7 p.m. and paused at 9:15 p.m. for the Aartis. Maha Prasad was served to devotees afterward. Garba resumed at 10 p.m. with Dandiya Raas and continued until 11:30 p.m.

A decorated stage contributed to the festive setting, while Tasty Bites USA offered food for purchase. Organizers expressed appreciation to the sponsors, trustees and volunteers whose contributions helped make the celebration possible. Special thanks were extended to grand sponsors Mithabhai and Jayantibhai's family of Orland Park, along with the young volunteers who assisted with the event.



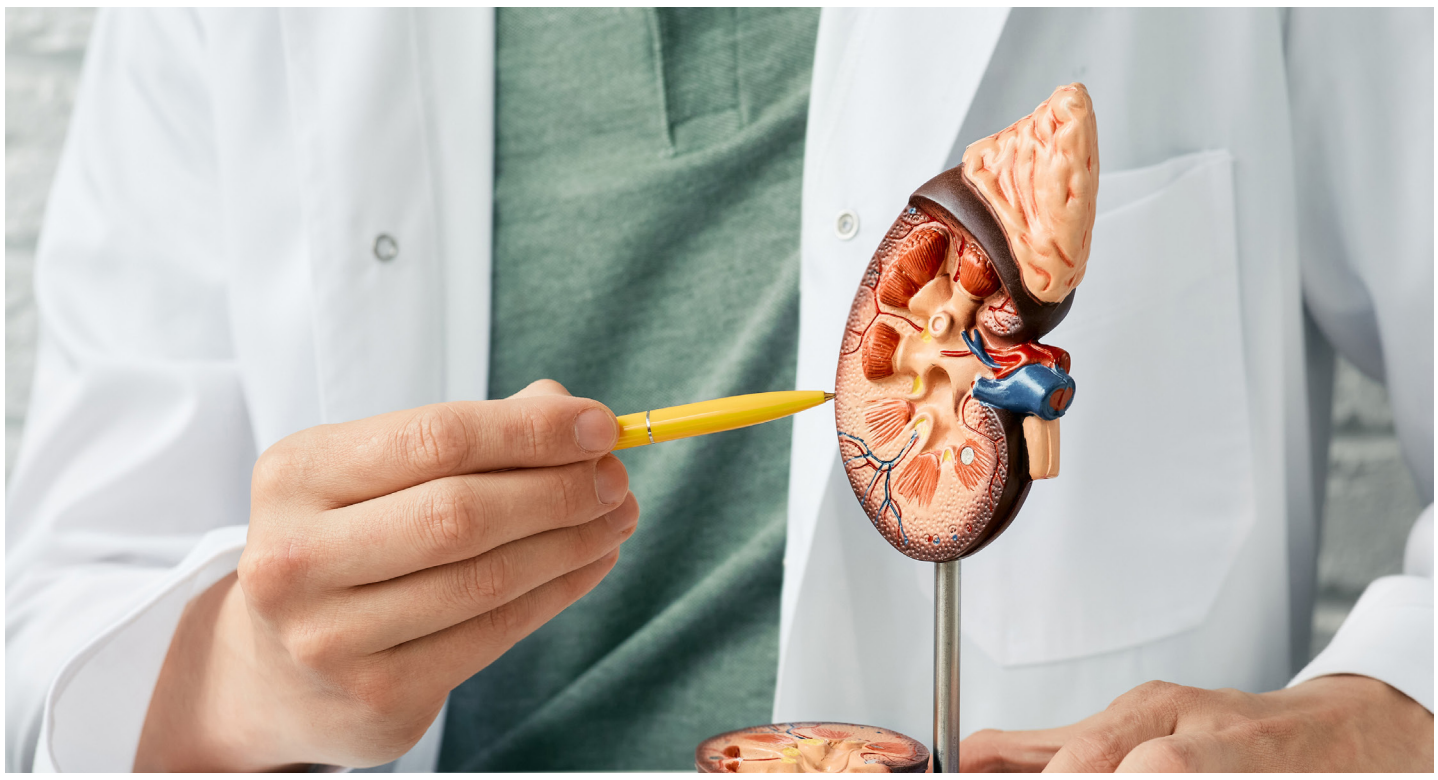


# Healthy Aging, Healthy Living Series

## Kidney health: The silent organ we often forget (Part 5)

## Understanding kidney function, recognizing risk factors and protecting your kidneys as you age

By: Dr. Avi Verma



What if your kidneys were losing their ability to function properly without producing noticeable symptoms? Millions of adults live with chronic kidney disease (CKD), often without knowing it until significant damage has occurred. The kidneys filter waste, regulate blood pressure, balance minerals and support red blood cell production. Yet their importance is frequently overlooked. In our previous installments of Healthy Aging, Healthy Living, we explored brain health, strong bones and fall prevention, and diabetes and prediabetes. This week, we examine kidney health, the risks of kidney disease and practical steps to protect these vital organs as we age.

### Understanding kidney function

The kidneys are two bean-shaped organs located below the rib cage on either side of the spine. They filter waste and excess fluid from the blood, regulate blood pressure, maintain electrolyte balance and help keep bones healthy. They also produce hormones that support red blood cell production.

When kidney function declines, waste and excess fluid can accumulate, potentially leading to anemia, weakened bones, cardiovascular complications and, in advanced cases, kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplantation.

### Who is at risk?

Anyone can develop kidney disease, but certain factors increase the risk:

- **Diabetes:** High blood sugar damages the kidneys' filtering blood vessels.
- **High blood pressure:** Excess pressure damages kidney blood vessels.
- **Heart disease:** Cardiovascular and kidney problems often occur together.
- **Family history:** Inherited factors can increase susceptibility.
- **Older age and obesity:** Both are associated with increased kidney disease risk.
- **Certain medications:** Frequent or prolonged use of pain relievers such as ibuprofen and naproxen can harm kidney function, especially in older adults, people who are dehydrated and those with existing kidney disease.

A history of kidney stones, recurrent urinary problems or certain inherited conditions may also increase risk.

### The Connection Between Diabetes, Blood Pressure and Kidney Disease

Diabetes and high blood pressure are two leading causes of chronic kidney disease. Persistently elevated blood sugar damages the tiny blood vessels that filter waste. As a result, albumin, a protein normally retained in the blood, may leak into the urine.

High blood pressure also damages kidney blood vessels, reducing their ability to filter blood. Damaged kidneys may retain salt and fluid, further increasing blood pressure and creating a harmful cycle.

Controlling blood sugar and blood pressure protects both your kidneys and your heart.

### The five stages of kidney disease

Healthcare professionals assess kidney function using the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), calculated from a blood test, along with urine tests and other clinical findings.

- **Stage 1:** eGFR of 90 or higher, with evidence of kidney damage.
- **Stage 2:** eGFR of 60–89, with evidence of kidney damage.
- **Stage 3:** eGFR of 30–59, indicating moderately reduced function.
- **Stage 4:** eGFR of 15–29, indicating severely reduced function.
- **Stage 5:** eGFR below 15, indicating kidney failure.

An eGFR of 60 or higher alone does not establish kidney disease. For stages 1 and 2, evidence of kidney damage is necessary. Abnormalities generally must persist for at least three months to qualify as chronic kidney disease.

### Warning signs: Often absent in early stages

Kidney disease frequently develops without obvious symptoms. As it progresses, possible warning signs include:

- Persistent fatigue or weakness.
- Swelling in the feet, ankles or around the eyes.
- Foamy urine or blood in the urine.
- Changes in urination, particularly increased nighttime urination.
- Nausea, reduced appetite or difficulty concentrating.
- Muscle cramps, itching or shortness of breath in advanced disease.

These symptoms can have other causes, and their absence does not rule out kidney disease. Persistent blood in the urine or unexplained swelling warrants medical evaluation.

### Screening and early detection

Two tests are particularly important for detecting kidney disease:

**1. Blood test (eGFR):** Estimates how effectively the kidneys filter waste using the blood creatinine level and other factors.

**2. Urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (uACR):** Detects albumin leaking into the urine, which may signal early kidney damage even when eGFR is normal.

Screening is especially important for people with diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease or a family history of kidney disease. Ask your healthcare provider how frequently you need testing. Abnormal results may require repeat testing and further evaluation.

### Practical steps to protect kidney health

**1. Control blood pressure and blood sugar.** Follow your treatment plan and monitor your numbers as recommended.
**2. Eat a balanced diet.** Choose vegetables, fruits, whole grains and minimally processed foods. Limit excessive sodium. People with kidney disease may need individualized guidance about potassium, phosphorus and protein.
**3. Stay appropriately hydrated.** Fluid needs vary. People with advanced kidney disease or heart failure may require fluid restrictions.
**4. Use medications carefully.** Avoid frequent or prolonged NSAID use without medical guidance. Discuss prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and supplements with your healthcare provider.
**5. Exercise and maintain a healthy weight.** Regular physical activity supports metabolic health and blood pressure control.
**6. Avoid smoking and limit alcohol.** These measures support cardiovascular and overall health.
**7. Seek care for urinary problems.** Persistent symptoms, recurrent infections and suspected kidney stones require appropriate evaluation.

If you have kidney disease, consult your healthcare provider before making major dietary changes or altering prescribed medications.

### Key takeaway

Kidney disease can progress silently, but early detection and appropriate treatment may slow its progression and help preserve kidney function. Controlling diabetes and blood pressure, maintaining healthy habits, using medications responsibly and obtaining recommended blood and urine tests are important steps toward healthier aging.

Do not wait for symptoms to take your kidney health seriously.

**Next week: Part 6 – Your liver and your health: Fatty liver, alcohol and metabolic health**

Next week, Healthy Aging, Healthy Living will explore fatty liver disease, its connection to obesity and diabetes, the effects of alcohol and medications, and when liver blood tests or further evaluation may be necessary. We will also discuss practical ways to protect liver health as we age.

***Disclaimer***

*This article is for general educational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Screening, dietary changes, hydration and medication decisions should be tailored to individual needs. Consult a qualified healthcare professional about your risk factors, symptoms or test results. Do not start, stop or change medication without medical guidance. Seek prompt medical attention for concerning symptoms and emergency care for a medical emergency.*

# Personal finance insights: News & Features

## Mini Feature: ONLINE FRAUDS & SCAMS

Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance




### CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -2.9% (below average)

CNN Fear & Greed Index 18 (extreme fear)

NYSE %Above 50-dMA 30.47% (negative)

SP500 %Above 50-dMA 45.40% (negative)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 8/30/26

OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 63.33%, Hybrids 3.85%, Bonds 16.83%, M-Mkt 15.99%

### INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch

Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%

Current 3.75-4.00%

FOMC 10/28/26+ hold

FOMC 12/9/26+ hike

### Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.26%, 1-yr 4.46%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.74%, 5-yr 4.89%, 10-yr 5.09%; T-Bonds 30-yr 5.43% (normal yield-curve);

TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.52%, 10-yr 2.74%, 30-yr 3.16%

FRNs Index 4.128%

### Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 10/1/26

TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates

Restricted RC 5.75%, RA 5.50%

Flexible RCP 5.00%, SRA 4.75%, IRA-101110+ 4.65%

TIAA MYGA 5.30% (3-yr), 5.40% (5-yr), 5.50% (7-yr)

TSP G Fund 5.375% (previous 4.875%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 43.70 (fear)

Weekly ETFs: INDA +3.54%, EPI +3.56%, INDH +1.94%, SMIN +3.03% | SPY -1.97%

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



### INDUSTRIALS

Mukesh AMBANI's Reliance Industries & Rolls Royce are partnering on fighter jet engine manufacturing in India. A dedicated Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex will focus on power & propulsion technology from design & development to manufacturing, testing, production & maintenance of combat engines. Supplies of foreign engines has been a bottleneck for many Indian aerospace programs. This collaboration may extend to other areas.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Indian Messabi Metalics/ Essar Group has announced steel production in Iowa, US that will be operational by 2030 using iron ore from its mines in Minnesota (the name Messabi comes from Mesabi Iron Range in MN). The project will get some financing from the US federal agency Export-Import Bank. Iowa has a central location for transportation/ shipment of steel to industries using it & has cheaper power for electric arc furnaces used in modern steelmaking. Mississippi River is nearby. Essar Group is an Indian multinational controlled by Ruia family.

### IT/TECH

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) won a 5-yr contract for GCC in Bengaluru for the US appliance & electronics retailer Best Buy's/BBY over Accenture-India/ACN, Wipro/WIT, etc. The construction for BBY GCC started in 2024 & TCS will become owner-operator of the GCC. it will provide AI/tech & e-commerce services to Best Buy in US & Canada. Best Buy doesn't have stores in India; a new CEO will start on 10/31/26. This is another example of foreign companies setting up GCC in India that are operated by local IT companies (Indian or foreign subsidiaries). There are 2,117 GCC in India.

### SPECIAL TOPIC - ONLINE FRAUDS & SCAMS

AI is helping fraudsters & scammers to operate more smoothly. Criminals use past data leaks & dark web to gather information on victims. Poor grammar or unusual accents no longer alert people to possible frauds. With AI, polished texts, synthesized voices or fake visuals (from brief unrelated recording) can be created. Fraudsters may operate through social-media, job sites, dating apps, social mixers, etc.

Entire websites can be spoofed. Be aware of typical URL endings .com, .org, .net, .io, .ai, .edu, .gov, .us; for India .bank.in (new), .in . Beware of wrong domains, slight misspellings, extra dashes or underscores.

AI can be used for impersonations – callers claiming to be from law enforcement who demand immediate actions with complete confidentiality. Fraudsters can isolate victims & create digital-prisons. They may communicate via encrypted apps (WhatsApp, etc), may suggest the use of gift cards, cryptos, money drops or pickups, all difficult to trace. It may be hard to recover money if several days have already passed.

Fraudsters may start slow, but after a confidence building period, requests for money may start, initially small, but then in growing amounts with urgency. The ruse may be hot investments, medical or family emergencies. This process may take weeks or months & is also known as pig butchering.

Create active pauses or halts for independent verifications if you suspect an ongoing scam.

Victims often avoid informing their family members or reporting to authorities (police or FBI) until it's too late. Other family members should offer support but avoid blaming the victims – things always look different on hindsight.

AI has weakened the boundary between real & fake.

Unfortunately, government deregulations & defunding of consumer protections have left people to fend for themselves. Never click on links within unfamiliar emails or texts - those may be for malicious websites. Families should use safe secret words for unusual situations.

Use credit freezes/ locks & account transfer locks when available. Avoid putting too much personal information on social-media; use restricted privacy settings for family groups/ chats.

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

# Everything you need to know about

# IUHS School of Medicine

By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

**2. Program Structure & Exams:**

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

**3. Assessments:**

- End-of-block graded exams
- DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments
- Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify knowledge gaps.
- Lecturio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

**4. Teaching methods:**

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

**5. Clinical rotations:**

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

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

**Key Features:**

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

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

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

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

**Key Features:**

- Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.
- High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

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

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

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

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

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

***For more information and to apply, visit www.iuhs.edu***



# Decoding Diwali dressing for men and women

***From heritage sarees and statement jewelry to tailored kurtas and contemporary fusion wear, this festive season is about making tradition feel personal.***

Diwali dressing has always been about more than looking good. It is a celebration of color, craftsmanship, family traditions and the excitement of dressing up for the most luminous time of the year. But festive fashion is evolving. For 2026, the emphasis is on expressive silhouettes, rich textures, thoughtful embellishment and outfits that balance occasion-worthy glamour with comfort. The secret is not to wear more, but to wear what feels right for you.





## For women, tradition meets a contemporary mood

The saree remains a festive favorite, but its appeal lies in the many ways it can be reinvented. Banarasi silk and brocade bring heritage richness to family celebrations, while organza sarees offer a lighter, more contemporary look. Pre-draped sarees are practical alternatives for women who want elegance without the fuss of arranging pleats.



Lehengas and Anarkalis remain strong choices for evening parties, while sharara sets, tailored ethnic co-ords and cape-style ensembles offer movement and a modern edge. Current festive fashion coverage also points to statement layers, fusion silhouettes and bold accessories as ways to make an impact without relying on a heavily embellished lehenga.

When it comes to color, jewel tones such as emerald, ruby, wine and royal blue create a dramatic evening look. Ivory, blush pink, muted gold and earthy rust offer understated sophistication. Choose one standout element, whether it is an embroidered blouse, sculptural earrings, a metallic clutch or a beautifully detailed dupatta, and let the rest of the outfit complement it.

## For men, the details make the difference

Festive menswear has moved well beyond the predictable kurta-and-pajama combination. A well-fitted kurta with straight trousers creates a clean, versatile look, while a textured Nehru jacket adds structure and personality. For formal dinners, a tailored bandhgala offers a polished alternative. Those who prefer contemporary styling can experiment with asymmetric kurtas, coordinated sets and Indo-Western separates.

Ivory, deep green, burgundy, navy and warm neutrals work particularly well for festive occasions. Brocade, silk blends and subtle embroidery add richness, but restraint is key. Pair a statement jacket with a simple kurta, or let an elegant fabric take center stage without competing accessories.

Finish with traditional footwear such as mojaris or kolhapuris, a classic watch or a pocket square. The right fit and well-chosen details will always look more sophisticated than excessive embellishment.

## Dress for the celebration, not just the photograph

A morning puja calls for breathable fabrics and comfortable silhouettes. An evening card party allows room for richer textures, bolder jewelry and more dramatic styling. Choose clothes that let you sit, move, greet guests and enjoy the festivities without constant adjustments. Above all, festive dressing need not mean buying an entirely new wardrobe. Restyle a favorite saree with a contemporary blouse, pair an existing kurta with a different jacket, or refresh a familiar outfit with new accessories. This Diwali, the best-dressed person may not be wearing the most expensive ensemble. It may simply be the person who understands their style, honors the occasion and wears every detail with confidence.



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