

Netanyahu prepares for another term as Israeli prime minister amid election deadlock



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Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing for another attempt to form a government following Israel's national elections, even as the final results confirm that his right-wing bloc has failed to secure the 61 seats required for a parliamentary majority. According to the final results published by Israel's Central Elections Committee, voter turnout reached 77.9 percent. Netanyahu's Likud party retained its position as the largest single party with 27 seats, keeping its count unchanged. However, the broader right-wing bloc secured only 53 seats, leaving it eight short of the 61-seat threshold in the 120-member Knesset.

The main opposition alliance, led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party, secured 21 seats and anchored a 48-seat anti-Netanyahu bloc. Arab-led parties collectively won 19 seats, representing a significant presence in the new parliament. The results leave Israel facing a complex coalition-building process. Although Likud remains the largest individual party, Netanyahu cannot form a government solely on the strength of his existing political partners. He will need to negotiate with additional parliamentary factions to assemble the required majority. President Isaac Herzog is scheduled to receive the official election results on November 4 and begin the constitutional process of assigning the task of forming a government. Coalition negotiations are expected to intensify ahead of the November 10 swearing-in of the new Knesset.

Netanyahu's immediate challenge will be to secure sufficient support from parties outside his current bloc while navigating the competing demands of potential coalition partners. The opposition, meanwhile, will also face the challenge of determining whether its parties can cooperate in a way that could influence the formation of the next government.

Trump suggests making Venezuela the 51st US state during Texas oil rally

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US President Donald Trump suggested that Venezuela could become America's 51st state, with an elected governor replacing its president, during a campaign rally in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Tuesday. Pointing to a tanker carrying one million barrels of Venezuelan crude, he called the shipment an "oil victory" and claimed it was being supplied at no cost to American taxpayers. His remarks went beyond earlier comments describing the cargo as a gift from Venezuela. Trump also defended the United States' war with Iran, acknowledged rising fuel prices and predicted the conflict would end soon. He was campaigning for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other Republicans ahead of the November 3 midterm elections.



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Obama and Trump clash over Iran war, tariffs and economy as midterm campaign enters final stretch

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Former United States President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump held rival campaign rallies in Georgia and Ohio on Wednesday, trading sharp attacks over the Iran war, trade policies and the economy five days before the November 3 midterm elections. Speaking in Morrow, near Atlanta, Obama campaigned for Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff and gubernatorial candidate Keisha Lance Bottoms, accusing Trump of starting an unnecessary war that had driven up oil, diesel and consumer prices.

He warned that the conflict remained unresolved and criticized the administration's tariffs, particularly its trade dispute with Canada. Obama also mocked Trump's White House renovations, accusing his administration of prioritizing a response to his jokes over inflation. In Chillicothe, Ohio, Trump campaigned for Republican



Senator Jon Husted and Indian-American gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy. He defended the renovations, attacked Obama's 2015 Iran nuclear agreement and backed Ramaswamy over a controversial advertisement featuring his Democratic rival Amy Acton's estranged mother. The rallies

came amid a challenging national outlook for Republicans. An NPR-PBS-Marist poll showed Democrats leading Republicans 52 to 44 percent among likely voters. Several Indian-American candidates, including Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal and Raja Krishnamoorthi, are also seeking re-election to Congress.

UAE honors Indian flydubai captain and crew for bravery during cockpit emergency

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The United Arab Emirates has honored Indian Captain Smit Machchhar and fellow flydubai crew members for their courage during a life-threatening cockpit emergency. UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on the crew. The medals were presented by Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed on Tuesday.

The recognition follows an incident on September 30 aboard flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The co-pilot allegedly attacked Machchhar with a crash axe, seriously injuring him. Crew members and passengers intervened, helping regain control of the



aircraft. The pilots diverted to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, where the plane landed safely. No fatalities were reported.

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum concludes with joint declaration as Om Birla calls for dialogue to address global challenges

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The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum concluded Tuesday in New Delhi with the adoption of a joint declaration reaffirming members' commitment to the United Nations Charter, national sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes. The declaration also backed reform of the United Nations Security Council to strengthen representation for the Global South and condemned cross-border terrorism, terror financing and safe havens for terrorist groups. It endorsed India's initiatives on digital public infrastructure, ethical artificial intelligence governance and climate action. Addressing delegates at the closing session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stressed that global challenges must be addressed through dialogue, peace and



cooperation rather than conflict. He also urged parliaments to promote transparency, accountability and public participation.

Seven Russian tankers carrying diesel head to United States under controversial Trump-Putin agreement



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Seven tankers carrying approximately 288,000 metric tons of Russian diesel are sailing toward the United States, marking the first shipments under an agreement reached by President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 9. Greenpeace identified the vessels on Thursday through its tracking operation, raising concerns about the purchase of Russian fuel while Moscow continues its war against Ukraine. The broader arrangement reportedly envisages an initial shipment of 300,000 metric tons, followed by additional supplies. However, it remains uncertain whether the cargo will be unloaded at American ports, as Democratic lawmakers have warned banks, buyers and port authorities about potential legal consequences. New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill is also seeking to prevent the shipments from entering the state. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has criticized the arrangement, arguing that Russian oil revenues could help finance further military operations.

Allegations of child sexual abuse at six Bangladesh madrasas in 16 days spark public outrage

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Allegations of rape and sexual abuse involving children at six madrasas in Bangladesh over 16 days have triggered public outrage and protests. The incidents, reported across Gazipur, Savar, Kushtia and Pabna, involved boys and girls as young as seven, according to The Daily Star. Several children were allegedly threatened to keep silent. Police arrested a teacher and a governing body member in one Gazipur case, while another accused remained at large. Bangladesh's religious affairs minister called the cases shameful and pledged preventive action. Human rights group Manusher Jonno Foundation urged impartial investigations, stronger child-protection systems and functional sexual-harassment prevention committees in all educational institutions.

Crypto companies freeze more than \$2.5 billion amid suspected Binance security breach



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Cryptocurrency companies have frozen more than \$2.5 billion in digital assets following a suspected security breach involving Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange. Binance confirmed on Thursday that it was investigating a potential security issue but maintained that customer funds were safe. Stablecoin issuers Tether and Circle reported freezing more than \$1.5 billion and \$800 million, respectively, in assets linked to the incident. Binance founder Changpeng Zhao described the incident as appearing to be a hack, although the exchange had not confirmed whether funds were stolen. Bitcoin also declined 3.2 percent, falling below \$79,000 amid growing market concerns.

North Korea fires nearly a dozen ballistic missiles following South Korea's offer for military talks

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North Korea fired approximately a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Thursday, prompting heightened military vigilance in South Korea. According to Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff, the missiles were launched from the Wonsan area on North Korea's eastern coast at around 12:30 p.m. and traveled approximately 250 kilometers. The launch came about a week after South Korea proposed military talks to ease border tensions following a September 21 land mine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers. Pyongyang has denied responsibility for the incident. South Korea, the United States and Japan are closely monitoring developments and sharing intelligence.

India and Russia join 128 nations in urging United States to lift decades-old embargo on Cuba

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India and Russia joined 128 other countries at the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday in calling for an end to the United States' decades-old economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba.

The annual resolution, presented for the 34th consecutive year, received 130 votes in favor, 17 against and 25 abstentions. India's representative, Soumya Nair, said New Delhi opposed laws with extraterritorial effects that undermine the sovereignty of other nations. She highlighted the embargo's impact on Cuba, citing shortages of more than 60 percent of essential medicines and a decline of over 50 percent in food production over five years.



Russia warned that mounting economic and fuel restrictions could deepen the island's crisis. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel welcomed the vote as a sign of international support. However, the resolution is nonbinding, and only the United States Congress can repeal the embargo.

Vance reaches out to Iranian official with proposal to restart nuclear and regional peace negotiations

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United States Vice President JD Vance has contacted senior Iranian security official Mohsen Rezaei with a proposal to restart comprehensive negotiations and prevent a renewed military confrontation between Washington and Tehran. According to officials familiar with the communication, Vance sent the letter last week through Qatari mediators, and it was delivered to Rezaei on Sunday. The proposal reportedly seeks early Iranian commitments on its nuclear activities and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, in exchange for sanctions relief from Washington. Tehran, however, remains reluctant to make irreversible commitments without guarantees that the United States will honor its side of any agreement. Iran has also demanded



the release of frozen assets and an end to regional hostilities, including in Lebanon. China has been discussed as a possible guarantor of an agreement.

Canada is not ready to finalize trade agreement with United States, says Carney

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Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Wednesday that Canada was not yet in a position to finalize a trade agreement with the United States, despite continuing negotiations over tariffs and cross-border economic relations. Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Carney said his government remained interested in reaching an agreement but would not accept terms that failed to protect Canadian economic interests. His comments come as businesses across Canada face

uncertainty over American trade restrictions, particularly in sectors dependent on integrated cross-border supply chains. Earlier, Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced an 8.7 billion Canadian dollar support package aimed at helping industries affected by tariffs. The measures focus on steel, automotive manufacturing and critical minerals, with assistance intended to protect jobs, strengthen domestic production and support investment. Carney's position indicates that Ottawa is prepared to continue negotiations rather than rush into an agreement it considers unfavourable.



Imran Khan's sister hospitalized after health deteriorates in Pakistani prison, says PTI

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Pakistan's opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, has expressed concern over the deteriorating health of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's sister, Noreen Niazi, who was transferred from prison to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Wednesday. The party said family members were not informed about her hospitalization and demanded immediate updates, proper medical treatment and access for relatives. Her lawyer said jail doctors recommended the transfer after her health worsened, while alleging that authorities had failed to provide necessary medicines. Noreen and two other sisters of Khan have been detained since September 21 under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, with their detention subsequently extended.

India prepares to host SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum as member nations discuss cultural cooperation

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Representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's member and partner countries discussed cultural cooperation and preparations for the upcoming Civilisational Dialogue Forum during a luncheon hosted by External Affairs Ministry Secretary (West) Sibi George in New Delhi on Thursday. The three-day forum is scheduled to take place in the capital from November 20 to 22, bringing together representatives from more than 25 countries. India has invited all 10 member states, including Pakistan, along with dialogue partners and one observer country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the gathering at the historic Purana Qila. Discussions will focus on cultural diplomacy, shared heritage, education and traditional knowledge systems.

Norway turns Trump's insult into a tourism campaign celebrating its spectacular public toilets

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norway's tourism board has responded to US President Donald Trump's description of the country as a 'shithouse country' with a humorous campaign showcasing its architecturally distinctive public toilets. Visit Norway highlighted several award-winning restrooms along the country's 18 scenic routes, including facilities overlooking fjords, waterfalls and mountains. The response followed Trump's remarks at a Michigan rally on Sunday, where he criticized Norway over his failure to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The campaign has attracted considerable attention online. Norwegian officials also reiterated that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by an independent committee, not the government.

Spain's high-speed train collision in Toledo kills at least 69, injures dozens

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Spain's high-speed train disaster in Toledo province claimed 69 lives by Thursday, as rescuers continued searching wreckage from the collision between a Renfe service and an Iryo train near Urda on Wednesday. Reuters reported that 57 injured passengers remained hospitalized. The crash disrupted rail traffic between Madrid and Andalusia, prompting operators to suspend services and arrange alternative transportation. Transport Minister Oscar Puente said an earlier signal failure had stopped several trains, but the Renfe train was authorized to continue at normal speed. The government called that decision inexplicable and opened an investigation. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced three days of national mourning.

Weak consumer spending exposes deeper problems in China's economic growth model



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Weak household spending is undermining China's economic growth, with consumption accounting for about 56 percent of gross domestic product, compared with at least 70 percent in many other economies, The Diplomat reported. The article said the property-sector downturn, job insecurity and financial pressures have discouraged consumers from spending, while growth has slowed from more than 10 percent in the early 2000s to below 5 percent. Low domestic demand has also contributed to a trade surplus approaching \$1 trillion, as imports remain subdued and manufacturers rely increasingly on exports. The International Monetary Fund has warned that China cannot depend on overseas demand alone to sustain growth, amid rising trade tensions.

Syria and Jordan agree to joint security probe after deadly airstrikes as border reopens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syria and Jordan agreed Wednesday to establish a joint security committee to investigate recent Jordanian airstrikes in southern Syria, which Syrian authorities say killed seven civilians, including women and children. The agreement followed a telephone conversation between Syrian Foreign Affairs Chief Asaad al-Shaibani and Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. Jordan said the strikes targeted Islamic State sites and imminent threats, while expressing regret over civilian casualties. Damascus said it had not been consulted beforehand. The two sides also pledged closer field and intelligence coordination to counter terrorism and cross-border smuggling. Meanwhile, passenger and commercial traffic resumed Wednesday at the Nasib border crossing after a one-day closure.

Trump administration expands restrictions on Chinese companies, travel and university-linked institutions

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The Trump administration has announced three measures targeting Chinese companies and institutions, citing concerns involving forced labor and national security. On Thursday, the United States added BGI Genomics, MGI Tech and Shenzhen Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List. The designation creates a presumption that goods produced by the companies are barred from entering the American market unless importers provide evidence that forced labor was not involved. Separately, Washington announced the suspension of a visa-free travel authorization program for Chinese visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands, effective Friday. The Pentagon has also designated Chinese-funded Confucius



Institutes at American universities as national security threats. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth alleged that China had established approximately 80 such entities across 30 universities to influence campuses. Beijing has rejected accusations of improper activity, while the latest measures add to growing tensions between the two countries over trade, technology and security.

Taliban official accuses Pakistan of being major source of narcotics smuggled into Afghanistan

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Afghanistan's Taliban-led Interior Ministry has accused Pakistan of being a major source of narcotics entering Afghanistan and urged Islamabad to take stronger action against cross-border trafficking. Ministry spokesperson Abdul Mateen Qani said most drugs being smuggled into Afghanistan originated in Pakistan, despite the Taliban government's ban on poppy cultivation. The allegation comes as Afghanistan has recorded a sharp decline in opium production since the restrictions were introduced in 2022. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, poppy cultivation fell from 232,000 hectares in 2022 to 10,200 hectares in 2025, while opium production declined from 6,200 metric tons to 296



metric tons. However, reports based on satellite imagery have indicated expanding cultivation in Pakistan's Balochistan province, where more than 9,000 hectares were reportedly under poppy cultivation. Parts of Iran have also reported cultivation, highlighting the continuing regional challenge of controlling narcotics production and trafficking.

London police refer handling of warning letter about Meghan's father to independent watchdog

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London's Metropolitan Police has referred itself to the Independent Office for Police Conduct over its handling of a 2019 letter containing allegations about Thomas Markle, father of the Duchess of Sussex. The letter, which raised concerns about alleged activities overseas, was passed to Prince Harry and Meghan's private office

but was not shared with international law enforcement agencies. The force has acknowledged that the decision requires scrutiny and is now preparing to share the information with authorities in the United States, the Philippines and Thailand. The development comes as Philippine police investigate allegations involving child sexual abuse images reportedly found at Markle's former residence. Markle denies possessing illegal material.

Hindu man stabbed to death in Bangladesh; three families' homes vandalized and looted

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fresh attacks on Bangladesh's Hindu minority have raised concerns over community safety after a 43-year-old Hindu salon owner was stabbed to death in Mymensingh district and three Hindu families' homes were vandalized and looted in a separate incident in Rangpur. Rabendra Rishi was allegedly killed in Bhaluka on Tuesday after refusing to give a customer a haircut on credit. According to local media reports, the accused, identified as 26-year-old Saddam, stabbed Rishi repeatedly before fleeing. Police arrested

the 26-year-old and sought a five-day remand for questioning. Rishi's wife alleged that the accused had repeatedly extorted money from her husband and threatened to kill him. In a separate attack on Monday night, homes belonging to three brothers in Chak Karimpur village were ransacked following a social media post that allegedly offended religious sentiments. The families reported damaged property, stolen valuables and threats of violence. Bangladesh's Awami League condemned the attacks, stating that allegations of religious insult could not justify mob violence or collective punishment.

Flávio Bolsonaro declares himself 'leader of Brazil' despite presidential election defeat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, who lost Sunday's presidential runoff to incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, declared himself "the leader of Brazil" in an open letter posted on X, vowing to lead the opposition from abroad. The son of former President Jair Bolsonaro alleged electoral fraud without providing evidence and accused Brazil's Supreme Federal Court of overstepping its authority by extending voting hours.

Lula defeated Bolsonaro by more than 4 million votes, securing 51.79 percent against his rival's 48.21 percent. Bolsonaro's reported departure for the United States via Argentina came despite a court order requiring him to surrender his passports and barring him from leaving Brazil amid a money-laundering investigation. He thanked United States President Donald Trump and Argentine President Javier Milei, while denying that he had fled the country.

Macron blames French far right for rising racism after deadly attack near Paris

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron accused far-right politicians, including members of Marine Le Pen's National Rally, of encouraging racism across the country in an interview released Wednesday. His remarks followed a shooting in Trappes last Friday that killed 26-year-old Pengo Bossio Wangi and wounded seven others. Anti-terrorism prosecutors said the 39-year-old suspect admitted targeting people he perceived as African or Muslim. Investigators also found a copy of Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and National Rally-related stickers among his belongings. The party rejected Macron's accusations, with lawmaker Jean-Philippe Tanguy blaming his administration for the spread of hatred. The killing has intensified debate over racism and immigration ahead of France's presidential election.

Merz says European Union will lead efforts to defend global free trade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday that the European Union would take the lead in developing stronger trade partnerships as the rules-based global economic order faces growing pressure. Speaking at the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business in Seoul, Merz said Germany was ready to work with like-minded partners in Europe and beyond to protect international trade. He stressed that many countries owed their prosperity to open markets and did not want to abandon them. During his Asian tour, Merz also met South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday. The two countries agreed to deepen cooperation, with companies signing nine memorandums covering energy, electricity and biohealth.



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Chicago Office:
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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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BOOK

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marketing@indoustribune.com

Israel’s election deadlock: Netanyahu, Iran and India’s strategic calculus



Dr. Avi Verma

Israel's October 27 election has produced a political deadlock with consequences extending far beyond Jerusalem. Preliminary projections place Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc at 53 seats, the opposition led by Gadi Eisenkot at 48, and Arab-led parties at a historic 19 seats in the 120-member Knesset. Neither principal bloc has the 61 seats required for a majority, and final results remain pending

The result raises a fundamental question: can Israel translate its military and strategic ambitions into lasting security, or will domestic polarization and regional conflict continue reinforcing one another?

Israel: Security, accountability and political survival

Netanyahu has built his political identity around national security, military strength and confronting Iran. Yet the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks exposed catastrophic security failures and intensified demands for accountability. His continuing corruption trial has added another source of political controversy.

The election does not establish that Israeli society uniformly supports permanent conflict. It reveals competing views about leadership, security and the country's future. The Arab-led parties' historic representation could influence coalition negotiations, but their participation in an alternative government remains politically contentious.

Whoever governs Israel will face a challenge that military power alone cannot resolve the issues, protecting citizens while defining a credible political future for the Palestinians and reducing the risk of recurring war.

Iran: Military gains versus lasting stability

Israel regards Iran's nuclear ambitions and

regional partnerships as serious security threats. Tehran, meanwhile, condemns Israeli and American military operations. Strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities have heightened the confrontation, while uncertainty over Iran's nuclear material and the limits of independent verification complicates assessments of the program.

Military operations can damage infrastructure and disrupt adversaries, but they cannot guarantee a stable regional order. Without diplomacy, credible monitoring and arrangements to prevent renewed escalation, tactical gains may simply precede another cycle of conflict.

The consequences reach across the region: energy prices, commercial shipping, investment and the security of millions of people are all exposed to prolonged instability.

The United States: An enduring but complex alliance

The U.S.–Israel relationship rests on extensive military assistance, intelligence cooperation and congressional support. A 2016 memorandum provides for \$38 billion in American military assistance over fiscal years 2019–2028, subject to congressional appropriations.

Nevertheless, a strong alliance does not eliminate debate over military strategy, civilian protection or diplomatic objectives. Washington must balance Israel's security with American interests and the danger of a wider regional war.

The central question is whether the United States can preserve its strategic partnership while encouraging a path toward greater regional stability.

India: Strategic autonomy, not strategic dependence

For New Delhi, Israel's political uncertainty is part of a wider calculation involving defence, technology, energy, trade and India's global standing.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 2026 visit, India and Israel elevated their relationship to a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity, covering defense, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, agriculture, water management, healthcare and scientific research.

India's interest goes beyond purchasing

advanced equipment. Technology transfer, joint research, domestic manufacturing and stronger Indian industrial capabilities are essential if the partnership is to reinforce India's long-term strategic independence.

But India's West Asia policy cannot be confined to Israel. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries are central to Indian energy supplies, investment, trade and diaspora welfare. In an October 2026 statement to the United Nations, India cited approximately \$180 billion in annual GCC trade, more than \$31 billion in cumulative investment, over \$52 billion in remittances and around 10 million Indians living in GCC countries.

These are core national interests. India must protect its citizens, maintain energy access, preserve commercial routes and sustain productive relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other regional partners.

The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) further illustrates the stakes. Regional conflict threatens the connectivity, investment and trade that such initiatives require.

India's position is therefore not indecision between competing sides. It is strategic autonomy: cooperating where Indian interests demand it, maintaining independent judgment and refusing to let any single partnership dictate its entire regional policy. India can deepen defense and technology ties with Israel while maintaining Gulf partnerships and supporting a negotiated two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians.

The world order: Power must not replace diplomacy

Israel's election reflects a broader international challenge: governments increasingly rely on military power and bilateral alliances, while confidence in consistent application of international law is under pressure.

Yet diplomacy and international law remain essential. A world in which force routinely displaces negotiation would threaten the security of smaller states, international commerce and countries such as India, whose prosperity depends on stable trade and energy networks.

The road head

Israel must now navigate coalition negotiations and determine whether its next government can move beyond political confrontation. The United States must reconcile its security commitments with the need to prevent wider war. India must convert its partnerships into tangible gains while protecting its diaspora, economic interests and freedom of action.

For New Delhi, the lesson is clear: strategic autonomy is not standing apart from the world; it is engaging confidently without surrendering independent judgment.

Ultimately, Israel's challenge is not merely to form a government, but to define what it will do with power. India's challenge is to turn its relationships across West Asia into greater security, technological strength and economic resilience — without compromising its national interests.

Best regards,
Dr. Avi Verma
Publisher,
IndoUS Tribune



Putin says Russia wants better ties with Europe but is prepared for conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Moscow supported efforts to restore full relations with European countries but did not want a war. Speaking after a summit with African leaders, Putin referred to his recent phone conversations with Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere, saying they were right to initiate contact despite criticism from other European capitals. He said Russia was prepared for a potential conflict but warned that any escalation would produce no winners. Putin also opposed restrictions on Baltic Sea navigation, cautioning that communication breakdowns could create a crisis similar to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Albanian opposition lawmakers set off flares in parliament amid anti-government protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Albanian opposition lawmakers disrupted parliament on Thursday by setting off flares and blocking the podium during a vote on Central Bank legislation. Members of the Democratic Party staged the protest after weeks of student-led demonstrations demanding Prime Minister Edi Rama's resignation. Opposition leader Sali Berisha accused ruling lawmakers of responsibility for police violence against demonstrators, while colleagues displayed photographs of protesters allegedly injured by rubber bullets. The demonstrations, driven by allegations of government corruption, unemployment and poor education standards, have spread beyond Tirana. Protesters have attacked government buildings and banks. Rama has offered dialogue and economic concessions as another demonstration is planned for Saturday.

Meloni announces personalized vehicle license plates in Italy to raise revenue



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced Wednesday that motorists will be allowed to personalize their vehicle license plates under a new revenue-raising measure included in the government's 2027 budget. The proposed plates will cost approximately 600 euros for cars and 360 euros for motorcycles, according to a government decree. Meloni encouraged Italians to use their creativity, although authorities have not clarified how far motorists can depart from the existing format of two letters, three numbers and two letters. The proposal has prompted jokes and concerns about offensive messages on plates. Taxi drivers welcomed the change, while opposition lawmakers criticized it as a distraction from more urgent economic concerns.

Trump administration revises lawsuit seeking to challenge Alaska Senate election outcome

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has revised a lawsuit seeking to prevent Alaska from certifying its Senate election results if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses, intensifying a dispute over allegations of deliberate voter deception. The Justice Department also issued more than 40 subpoenas and document requests as part of an investigation into claims that Democratic operatives recruited a candidate with the same name as Sullivan to divert votes from the incumbent. The controversy involves independent candidate Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. and Democratic candidate Mary Peltola, whose campaign has denied involvement in the alleged recruitment effort. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has also rejected the accusations. Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy has



ordered a separate state investigation into the matter. The legal action could affect a closely watched contest with implications for control of the United States Senate. However, the allegations remain unproven, and no one has been charged in connection with the alleged recruitment scheme.

Krishnamoorthi seeks federal hate-crime investigation into alleged attack plot at Hindu temple

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate an alleged attempted mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, as a federal hate crime. The incident occurred on Sunday, October 11, when a 19-year-old suspect allegedly approached the temple carrying an assault-style rifle and ammunition. Krishnamoorthi said his family, including his elderly parents, was worshipping inside the temple at the

time. According to prosecutors, the suspect attempted to fire at a passerby, but his rifle malfunctioned. He later allegedly told coworkers about the incident and expressed plans to return, prompting them to alert police. Investigators reportedly recovered material containing racist and extremist references targeting Indian, Jewish and Black communities. Krishnamoorthi said 105 lawmakers had requested an FBI investigation and sought a response by Thursday, October 29. The suspect faces state charges and was due in court on Friday.

Jayapal and Raskin demand records of immigration officers involved in fatal shootings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and Democratic Congressman Jamie Raskin have demanded detailed records of federal immigration officers involved in shootings, citing concerns about the use of lethal force and accountability. In a letter sent on Thursday to the Department of Homeland Security, the lawmakers requested information about the officers' service histories, previous complaints, training and disciplinary records. They asked the department to respond by November 10. According to figures cited by the lawmakers, immigration agents have shot at least 25 people since President Donald Trump returned to office in January 2025, killing six, including three American citizens. They also highlighted the case of Marimar Martinez, who was



shot five times by a Border Patrol agent. Federal prosecutors subsequently sought dismissal of the criminal charges against her. Jayapal and Raskin said Congress and the public needed greater transparency about officers involved in such incidents and the department's handling of them.

Vivek Ramaswamy ends controversial campaign advertisement targeting Democratic rival's family

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has confirmed that his campaign has stopped airing a controversial advertisement featuring the estranged mother of his Democratic opponent, Amy Acton. The advertisement showed Donna Arthur calling her daughter a liar, triggering widespread

criticism because of the family's history of alleged abuse. Arthur lost custody of her children in 1978 after her husband was charged with raping Acton, who was then between 10 and 12 years old. Speaking to reporters in Ohio on Thursday, Ramaswamy said the advertisement had completed its run and four other campaign advertisements had replaced it. President Donald Trump had publicly defended the controversial campaign.

Hungary moves to formalize nuclear cooperation agreement signed under Orban

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary's government has asked parliament to make legally binding a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement signed with the United States under former Prime Minister Viktor Orban in February. The move signals that Prime Minister Peter Magyar intends to retain the agreement despite Washington's earlier support for Orban, who lost power in April. The deal covers nuclear energy, including small modular reactors, and encourages Hungary to use American technology and companies for future projects. The announcement came as Foreign Minister Anita Orban met United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington on Thursday and signed agreements covering energy and law enforcement cooperation. Parliament is expected to approve the nuclear deal.

Hong Kong leader apologizes over Tai Po fire that killed 168, promises sweeping safety reforms



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee apologized Thursday for the November 2025 fire at the Wang Fuk Court residential complex in Tai Po, which killed 168 people and displaced thousands. An independent, more than 1,000-page report found that four government departments shared responsibility for oversight failures, despite residents raising fire safety concerns for over a year. The blaze spread through seven residential towers undergoing renovation, with investigators identifying widespread regulatory lapses and construction industry bid rigging. Lee announced Housing Secretary Winnie Ho's resignation and promised reforms, including criminalizing bid rigging, punishable by fines of up to 10 million Hong Kong dollars and 10 years in prison.

Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo surpasses 10,000 confirmed cases

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported 10,060 confirmed Ebola cases and 4,887 deaths through Sunday, as the outbreak continued spreading across Africa. The health ministry said the Bundibugyo virus outbreak, declared in May, had affected 66 health zones across eight provinces, with Ituri accounting for 71.7 percent of cases. The virus has also reached Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria, while France reported an imported case. Kenya said Monday that its first 20 monitored contacts had completed 21 days of quarantine without developing symptoms. No approved vaccine or specific treatment exists for this Ebola strain.

India and Mexico launch trade pact negotiations to expand exports and strengthen supply chains



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Mexico formally launched negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement on Wednesday with the signing of the Terms of Reference in Mexico City. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Mexico’s Undersecretary of Foreign Trade, Luis Rosendo Gutierrez Romano, initiated the process, which aims to expand trade, attract investment and strengthen supply chains. The proposed agreement could improve market access for Indian exports, including automobiles, textiles, footwear, plastics, steel, chemicals and toys, which face tariffs of up to 50 percent under Mexico’s new tariff regime. India’s merchandise exports to Mexico reached \$5.73 billion in 2025-26, with automobiles contributing \$1.92 billion. Both governments are seeking to turn untapped economic potential into stronger business partnerships.

India pledges stronger partnership with Israel as country votes in parliamentary elections



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Israel on Wednesday as the country voted to elect members of its 26th Knesset, or parliament. The election, held Tuesday, was the first since the October 2023 Hamas attack and took place amid significant shifts in Israel’s political landscape. Addressing a media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India shared good relations with Israel and intended to strengthen the partnership further. Partial results on Wednesday showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud-led bloc leading with a projected 54 seats, while the opposition bloc was projected to secure 49. Arab parties were projected to win 17 seats as counting continued.

Rajnath Singh and Hegseth reaffirm India-US defense partnership, call for united action against terrorism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India-US Major Defense Partnership and eliminating terrorism during talks in Cebu, the Philippines. Meeting on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus, the two leaders reviewed progress under the 10-year defense framework signed in October 2025 and discussed expanding operational coordination, information sharing, military technology cooperation and defense industrial integration. They also marked the framework’s first anniversary and highlighted progress demonstrated by the recent joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas.

Singh said India’s counterterrorism expertise had been shaped by decades of confronting cross-border security threats. Citing Operation Sindoor, during which Indian forces dismantled significant terrorist infrastructure, he called for a zero-tolerance approach toward countries



that support, train or finance terrorist organizations. Hegseth reaffirmed Washington’s full support for India’s fight against cross-border terrorism. Singh also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, including India’s work with Malaysia in co-chairing the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus Experts’ Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for 2024-2027. He reiterated India’s willingness to share its experience through joint exercises, intelligence sharing and capacity-building initiatives to promote security across the Indo-Pacific.

Modi welcomes Liechtenstein’s royal couple as both countries seek to build on trade agreement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Liechtenstein’s Hereditary Prince Alois and Princess Sophie in New Delhi on Tuesday to explore ways to expand cooperation in trade, investment, innovation, science and technology, skill development and people-to-people exchanges. The leaders welcomed the progress generated by the India-European Free Trade Association

Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into force a year ago, and agreed to build on its economic opportunities. They also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. Earlier, the visiting royal couple paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met Prince Alois to discuss bilateral ties and emerging opportunities in investment and technology.

India and Russia explore stronger parliamentary ties and expanded cooperation in trade and technology

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan met a Russian parliamentary delegation led by State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss strengthening bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation. The discussions, held alongside the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, covered trade, science and technology, and cultural exchanges. Both sides emphasized the importance of closer institutional engagement for mutual benefit. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had also met Volodin and his delegation on Monday, exploring opportunities



to deepen parliamentary links and advance bilateral cooperation. During his address to the BRICS forum, Volodin highlighted the grouping’s role in promoting a multipolar world and respecting every country’s sovereign development path.

India and Vietnam seek closer parliamentary partnership with focus on trade and artificial intelligence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Vietnamese parliamentarian Mai Dung Thai Quynh and members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group in New Delhi on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum. The discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary engagement, institutional collaboration and cooperation in trade,

industry, information technology and artificial intelligence. Birla highlighted the longstanding friendship between India and Vietnam, supported by shared cultural heritage and Buddhist traditions. He expressed confidence that closer parliamentary exchanges would create fresh momentum in bilateral relations. Both sides also emphasized the importance of ensuring that technological advancements remain guided by human values and contribute to public welfare.

Indian Coast Guard and Kenya strengthen maritime security cooperation through joint exercises in Mombasa



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Kenya strengthened their maritime partnership through joint training and professional exchanges between Indian Coast Guard Ship Varaha and Kenya Coast Guard Service personnel in Mombasa on Wednesday. The exercises covered maritime search and rescue, boarding and search operations, and nuclear, biological, chemical and damage-control procedures, with the aim of improving coordination, law enforcement and safety at sea. The engagements were undertaken in line with India’s MAHASAGAR vision of regional cooperation and security. During the ship’s port visit, Indian Coast Guard officials also met senior Kenyan maritime authorities to discuss joint exercises, port security, maritime connectivity and trade facilitation. The vessel also welcomed members of the Indian diaspora and local community.

India and Austria seek to deepen economic and strategic partnership during foreign ministers’ meeting



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Austrian Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger in New Delhi on Wednesday to review bilateral cooperation and identify new areas for collaboration. Discussions covered trade, investment, infrastructure, technology, education, culture, startups, space, skill development and mobility. The ministers also exchanged views on international developments and cooperation through multilateral institutions. Jaishankar highlighted the progress made since the Austrian chancellor’s visit to India in April and emphasized opportunities to expand economic and people-to-people ties. He also congratulated Austria on becoming a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Meinl-Reisinger is visiting India through Sunday, with further engagements scheduled in Jaipur.



Friday, 30 October 2026

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Friday, 30 October 2026

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New York State Police to investigate sexual assault complaints at Cornell University

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York State Police will be given the option to investigate sexual assault complaints at Cornell University under an agreement announced by Governor Kathy Hochul on Thursday. Survivors who wish to pursue criminal charges can choose whether state police or Cornell's campus police will lead the investigation. The decision follows widespread criticism of the university's handling of an alleged gang rape at a fraternity house in October 2024. A woman identified as Jane Doe has alleged that she was drugged and sexually assaulted by fraternity members. The accused former students' attorneys have denied the allegations. New York Attorney General Letitia James was previously appointed special prosecutor to reopen the case.

Trump restores Iowa and Kansas rallies as Republicans seek midterm turnout



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump will hold campaign rallies in Iowa and Kansas on Sunday, reversing his decision to cancel the appearances and replace them with telephone rallies. The Republican National Committee said the revised schedule would accommodate both formats and help reach more voters nationwide. The Iowa rally has been moved from Dubuque to Cedar Rapids, while the Kansas location remains unclear. The reversal comes as early voting outpaces the 2022 midterms, with nearly 10 million more ballots cast at the same point. Iowa and Kansas have recorded increases of about 30 percent. Trump is campaigning for Republican Senate candidates Ashley Hinson and Roger Marshall as his party fights to retain control of Congress.

Former FBI officials ask judge to dismiss charges over Hunter Biden testimony

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two former Federal Bureau of Investigation officials, Nikki Floris and Bradley Benavides, have urged a federal judge to dismiss charges accusing them of making false statements to Congress about their knowledge of Hunter Biden's laptop. Their lawyers argued on Thursday that the prosecution is politically motivated and that neither official intentionally misled lawmakers during 2023 testimony. Prosecutors allege the pair, who led a now-disbanded foreign influence task force, concealed discussions about the laptop during a congressional investigation. The hearing also included testimony that FBI Director Kash Patel closely followed the investigation. Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui did not immediately rule on the defense request.

Justice Department subpoenas California records in widening noncitizen voting investigation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department has issued federal grand jury subpoenas seeking records from Los Angeles County about how officials identify and prevent noncitizens from voting. The requests also cover the county's responses to federal warnings about possible unlawful voting. Meanwhile, Chief Judge James Boasberg on Thursday ordered the administration to identify every state whose election officials received Justice Department letters warning of potential criminal prosecution over voter registration practices. The order followed a lawsuit by Democratic leaders seeking to block federal interference in state election procedures. Boasberg directed the department to submit the list by Friday and indicated he expects to rule on the



Democrats' request by Monday. Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder Dean Logan criticized the federal government's confrontational approach, saying local officials are complying with state and federal law.

Former Biden officials who resigned over Gaza urge 2028 Democrats to reject architects of Israel policy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twelve former officials who resigned from President Joe Biden's administration over its support for Israel's military campaign in Gaza are urging Democratic candidates seeking the 2028 presidential nomination to distance themselves from the policy and its architects. In a joint statement released Wednesday, they called on candidates to pledge not to appoint anyone directly responsible for enabling Israel's military actions in Gaza.



diplomatic and military backing of Israel.

Their appeal comes amid widening divisions within the Democratic Party over Israel, with progressive figures including Representative Rashida Tlaib and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani opposing continued American support. The statement also featured a video showing former senior officials, including Antony Blinken and Jake Sullivan.

Twenty-one states sue Trump administration over rollback of corporate ownership disclosure rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have sued the Trump administration over its decision to exempt most American businesses and individuals from reporting their ownership details to the federal government. The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in federal court in Oregon, challenges an August rule that rolled back requirements established under the 2021 Corporate Transparency Act to help combat money laundering and other

financial crimes. The states argue the administration has effectively weakened the law by exempting more than 99.9 percent of businesses originally covered by its provisions. They contend the executive branch cannot overturn a law through regulatory changes. New York Attorney General Letitia James said the rollback allows owners of domestic and foreign shell companies to remain anonymous. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had defended the change, saying it removed burdensome requirements for millions of businesses without compromising national security.

CNN, MS NOW and Politico seek permanent court order restoring White House press access

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

CNN, MS NOW and Politico have asked a federal court to make permanent its orders requiring the White House to restore their reporters' access to the presidential press pool. In a revised legal filing on Wednesday, the news organizations accused President Donald Trump's administration of continuing to

exclude them from key settings, including the Oval Office and Air Force One, because of coverage he dislikes. They argued that the restrictions violate First Amendment protections against viewpoint discrimination and deprive the public of information. Judge Timothy Kelly had previously ruled that the outlets were likely to succeed in their case. The White House had not responded by Thursday morning.

IRS chief pledges \$250 for eligible children in his Brooklyn ZIP code

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Frank Bisignano, chief executive of the Internal Revenue Service and commissioner of the Social Security Administration, has pledged \$250 for every eligible child aged two to eight living in his Brooklyn hometown ZIP code. Announced on Thursday, the contribution from the Bisignano Family Fund will benefit children residing in ZIP code 11234. The donation will be added to the federal government's \$1,000 contribution for eligible children born between 2025 and 2028 under the Trump Accounts investment program. Bisignano, a former chief executive of financial technology company Fiserv, said the initiative would give Brooklyn children an early boost in building personal wealth.

Historic Mason-Dixon map sells for \$950,000 after competitive auction



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An original hand-drawn map documenting the Mason-Dixon Line sold for \$950,000 on Thursday at Brunk Auctions in Asheville, North Carolina. Forty-five bidders competed for the historic document, created by surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in 1768. The map was originally commissioned to settle a boundary dispute between the colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Its line later became associated with the division between free and slave states and the tensions that preceded the Civil War. The sale fell short of the auction house's \$1.2 million high estimate. The buyer requested anonymity. Publisher Malcolm Forbes previously owned the map, purchasing it in 1982.

175 House Democrats urge Trump administration to halt investigation into Ilhan Omar

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of 175 House Democrats has urged the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security to stop further action in the investigation involving Representative Ilhan Omar, arguing that it could influence her reelection campaign. In a letter dated Monday and led by Representative Pramila Jayapal, the lawmakers criticized the agencies over a search of Omar's Washington apartment on October 12. The probe reportedly concerns allegations involving her late father's immigration paperwork after the family fled Somalia. Omar has denied wrongdoing and called the investigation politically motivated. The lawmakers said election-related investigative steps should not be taken so close to voting unless necessary.

Trump orders negotiations over robotics imports, citing national security concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has declared that imports of robotics, industrial machinery and related components pose a potential threat to United States national security, directing officials to negotiate with foreign trading partners. The proclamation, signed on Wednesday under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, follows a review of the country's dependence on overseas equipment. Trump instructed the Commerce Department and the United States Trade Representative to pursue agreements addressing the concerns and report on progress within 180 days. The administration said imported machinery supports critical infrastructure and defense manufacturing, while reliance on foreign suppliers could create supply-chain and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Tariffs remain a possible future measure.

Health department allows temporary compounding of six unapproved peptides



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has introduced an interim policy allowing certain pharmacies to compound six peptides that have not received federal drug approval. The policy directs regulators not to pursue enforcement against qualifying pharmacies while the Food and Drug Administration continues reviewing the substances and considers longer-term rules. The six peptides include BPC-157, Epitalon, KPV, MOTS-c, Semax and TB-500. The department said the approach is intended to provide an alternative to potentially unsafe products sold through unregulated channels. Officials emphasized that the policy does not constitute approval or establish safety and effectiveness. Medical experts have raised concerns about limited evidence and potential risks.

Chicago-area police increase worship-site security after alleged plot against Hindu temple

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police in Naperville, Illinois, have increased patrols around religious sites and are offering free security assessments following an alleged mass shooting plot targeting a Hindu temple in nearby Aurora. At an interfaith meeting on Tuesday, Police Chief Jason Arres urged faith leaders to review cameras, lighting and other safety measures and attend free active-shooter response training. More than 50 people representing seven faith communities attended the gathering. Prosecutors allege 19-year-old Alexandros Paporakis planned to attack the Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple on October 11, but his rifle jammed. He faces state charges, with his next court appearance scheduled for Friday.

US Supreme Court refuses to restore immigration judges' power to pause deportation cases

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to restore immigration judges' authority to temporarily suspend certain deportation proceedings, leaving in place an agreement between President Donald Trump's administration and Texas that eliminated the practice. The decision rejected an emergency appeal by Baltimore,

New Haven and Columbus, along with immigrant legal services provider Centro Legal de la Raza, while their broader legal challenge continues. Known as administrative closure, the procedure allowed judges to temporarily remove cases from crowded dockets, particularly when separate proceedings, such as visa applications or criminal appeals, could affect a person's deportation.

The Biden administration formally protected the practice through a 2024 regulation, arguing it improved



efficiency and fairness. However, Trump's administration and Texas challenged the rule, claiming it allowed immigrants without legal status to remain in the country indefinitely.

A federal judge approved their agreement, blocking the rule nationwide. The cities argue the administration and Texas improperly coordinated to eliminate the regulation.

James O'Keefe and Cam Higby face felony charges over Minnesota election videos

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Journalists James O'Keefe and Cam Higby have been charged with felony unlawful voting and identity theft over videos they recorded at Minnesota polling places during the state's August primary. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office announced the charges on Wednesday, alleging that the men misrepresented themselves by giving election officials the names of registered voters without permission. Their videos examined Minnesota's same-day voter registration and vouching procedures. Neither man signed the required oath or cast a ballot, according to prosecutors.



County Attorney Mary Moriarty said election-related deception would be prosecuted. O'Keefe rejected the charges, describing the case as an attempt to target investigative journalism.

Data breach reportedly exposes information on more than 41,000 Homeland Security employees

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of activists has claimed responsibility for hacking an internal Department of Homeland Security database and publishing information on more than 41,000 employees and contractors. The searchable online database reportedly includes names, email addresses, phone numbers, workplace details and assignments involving agencies such as

Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection. The group, calling itself the Department of Peace, shared the data with Distributed Denial of Secrets and Swiss hacktivist maia arson crimew, who published it through a platform called Icepick. Homeland Security acknowledged a potential breach and said it was investigating. Officials warned that exposing personnel information could threaten employees, their families and sensitive operations.

CDC deputy director Jennifer Shuford to leave Trump administration after brief tenure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jennifer Shuford, deputy director and chief medical officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will leave the Trump administration following next week's midterm elections. Her departure, confirmed by the agency, comes just months after she joined the leadership team in April. Shuford, a former Texas health commissioner and infectious disease specialist, said she was

leaving to spend more time with her family. However, reports also cited disagreements over the administration's vaccine policies as a possible factor.

Her exit comes amid changes to federal childhood vaccination recommendations under President Donald Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Shuford's final day at the agency is expected to be November 12.

Indian American Nithya Raman faces political challenges in Los Angeles mayoral race



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American Los Angeles mayoral candidate Nithya Raman is facing mounting challenges ahead of her November 3 contest against incumbent Karen Bass. On Monday, billionaire developer Rick Caruso, who lost to Bass in 2022, announced he would vote for the mayor, citing concerns about Raman's competence. Raman's campaign also filed ethics complaints against the Bass-supporting group Thrive LA over an AI-generated voice impersonating her in a political satire phone line. Meanwhile, the national leadership of the Democratic Socialists of America is questioning its Los Angeles chapter's endorsement of Raman over her position on the Israel-related Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

Republican Senator crosses party lines to endorse Democrat in Alaska governor's race

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski has endorsed Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, backing him over three Republican contenders ahead of Alaska's November 3 election. Murkowski said Tuesday that the state needs a governor willing to listen to differing viewpoints and find common ground on economic growth, energy costs and its financial future. Kreiss-Tomkins, a former state lawmaker who served from 2013 to 2023, welcomed the endorsement and pledged bipartisan cooperation. The decision drew criticism from Republican rivals Treg Taylor and Bernadette Wilson, who accused Murkowski of abandoning party values. President Donald Trump has endorsed Wilson, while Kreiss-Tomkins has also received support from three former Alaska governors.

Justice Department pursues third criminal case against former FBI director James Comey

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department is pursuing a third criminal case against former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey, accusing him of sharing sensitive national defense information with a New York Times reporter in 2016. A court filing made public Monday alleges Comey authorized the disclosure of classified information concerning government surveillance of Yahoo email accounts. Prosecutors filed the document earlier this month to prevent the 10-year statute of limitations from expiring. However, a grand jury must still approve an indictment before Comey can face trial. Comey maintains his innocence, while his lawyers argue the filing is legally improper. Two earlier cases against him involved alleged false statements to Congress and threats against Trump.



Pakistani Sikh pilgrims visit Golden Temple and urge easier cross-border religious travel



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of 49 Pakistani Sikh pilgrims visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday, offering prayers for peace and the well-being of all. The group had traveled to India to visit historic Sikh shrines and was welcomed by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President Harjinder Singh Dhami, who honored the visitors on behalf of the Sikh religious body.

Dhami said Sikh pilgrims from India regularly travel to Pakistan through organized groups to visit historic gurdwaras, while Sikhs living in Pakistan also wish to pay their respects at important shrines in India. He described the visit as the first time Pakistani Sikhs had arrived in India together as a group. Calling for easier religious travel, he urged the governments of India and Pakistan to adopt a more flexible approach to issuing visas so devotees can visit sacred sites on both sides of the border.

Akal Takht Jathedar urges Sikh diaspora in Norway to teach children Punjabi and Sikh history



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Akal Takht Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaj urged Sikh families living abroad to teach their children Punjabi, Sikh history and religious traditions during a visit to Norway on Saturday. As part of his four-day visit, organized at the invitation of Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Oslo, he visited Mata Gujri Ji Punjabi School in Drammen and interacted with students in Classes I to IV.

Gargaj asked the children questions about Punjabi and Sikh history and praised their responses. He encouraged teachers to include basic Sikh history alongside language lessons, emphasizing that learning Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script would help children understand the teachings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. He also urged parents and gurdwara committees to preserve the community's cultural roots through regular congregations and religious education. During the visit, he also paid obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Niwas in Lier, Drammen, and met members of the local Sikh community.

Diwali lights up New York's Times Square as thousands celebrate Indian culture, music and cuisine

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

New York City's Times Square turned into a vibrant celebration of Indian culture on Sunday as thousands of people from the Indian and wider South Asian diaspora gathered for the 2026 edition of 'Diwali at Times Square'. The day-long event featured a Diwali Bazaar, a traditional diya-lighting ceremony, a virtual countdown at the One Times Square Ball Drop Tower and the 'Light Up Times Square Concert', featuring Indian-American rapper Raja Kumari, singer Kanika Kapoor and other performers.

Consul General of India in New York Binaya Pradhan joined community members and Americans at the festivities. Organizer Neeta Bhasin said the event aimed to promote peace, harmony and unity while showcasing India's cultural diversity. First held in 2013, the celebration has become a platform for sharing the festival's message with a wider audience.

Diwali celebrations also extended beyond



Times Square. The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, hosted an event attended by members of the Indian-American and international community, featuring a specially curated culinary showcase in collaboration with New York restaurants Chatti, Junoon and Musaafer. The menu highlighted regional flavors from across India. New York Governor Kathy Hochul's director of Asian American Affairs, Siby Nair, also attended, celebrating the community's food, music and cultural heritage.

Fifteen Punjabi-origin candidates win seats in British Columbia election as Conservatives sweep Surrey

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fifteen candidates of Punjabi origin were reported elected to British Columbia's 93-member Legislative Assembly following Saturday's provincial election, with 12 representing the Conservative Party and three the New Democratic Party, according to preliminary media reports. The results came amid a major Conservative victory, including a sweep of all 10 electoral districts in Surrey, home to one of Canada's largest Punjabi communities.

Among the prominent Conservative winners were Mandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who retained Surrey North, Garry Purewal, who defeated longtime New Democratic Party incumbent Jagrup Brar in Surrey-Fleetwood, and Garry Thind, who won Surrey-Guildford. Other reported Punjabi-origin Conservative winners included Harman Bhangu, Jody Toor, Steve Kooner, Monica Mohan



and Deep Sandhu. The three reported New Democratic Party winners were Raj Chouhan, Niki Sharma and Rohini Arora.

With more than 99 percent of polls counted, preliminary results showed the Conservatives leading in 64 seats, the New Democratic Party in 27 and the Greens in two. Final counting was still pending, so the figures could change.

Indian-origin surgeon performs landmark robotic prostate surgery from 56 kilometers away in Florida

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin surgeon has made medical history in the United States by remotely removing a cancer patient's prostate from a hospital 56 kilometers away. Dr. Vipul Patel performed the robotic prostatectomy on Sunday, October 25, operating from AdventHealth Celebration near Orlando while the 66-year-old patient was at AdventHealth Minneola. The procedure was reportedly the first robotic telesurgery conducted between two hospitals in the United States. A surgical team, including Dr. Marcio Moschovas, remained beside the patient in case intervention was needed. The operation used the investigational Toumai robotic system developed by MicroPort MedBot. Hospital



officials said the patient was recovering well. The procedure was part of a clinical study examining the safety and reliability of remote surgery. The technology is not yet approved for routine clinical use by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Faridkot woman returns home after alleged two-year confinement in Malaysia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 25-year-old woman from Sangrahur village in Punjab's Faridkot district has returned home after allegedly being held captive in Malaysia for nearly two years. Her rescue followed intervention by Faridkot Member of Parliament Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, who took up the matter with the Indian High Commissioner in Malaysia. Simarjit Kaur had reportedly traveled overseas in search of employment after paying an agent Rs. 1.5 lakh. According to her family, she was confined and prevented from speaking to relatives in Punjab. Her family approached Khalsa during a recent visit to the village and explained her situation. The lawmaker said he contacted the Indian High Commission, which raised the matter with Malaysian police authorities. Simarjit was subsequently rescued and sent back to Punjab, where she has reunited with her family, including her three-year-old child. Khalsa urged families to verify overseas employment agents carefully to avoid recruitment and travel fraud.

Indian-origin Apple engineer Rajesh Ambati promoted to vice-president of engineering



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin technology executive Rajesh Ambati has been promoted to vice-president of engineering at Apple, marking a significant milestone in his nearly 18-year career with the company. Ambati joined Apple in 2009 as a senior software engineering manager after spending almost seven years at Motorola. He became a director of software engineering in 2014 and a senior director in 2019. Before his latest promotion, he oversaw software engineering for connectivity, cellular and satellite technologies, areas critical to keeping Apple devices connected across networks.

His elevation is part of Apple's October leadership changes under Chief Executive John Ternus. Two other executives, Louie Sanguinetti and Derek Shaeffer, were also promoted to vice-president positions. Ambati's journey highlights the growing contribution of Indian-origin professionals to leadership in the global technology industry.

Odia diaspora celebrates Durga Puja in North Carolina, keeping traditions alive



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Around 300 members of the Odia community from across North Carolina gathered in Apex to celebrate Durga Puja, bringing the spirit and traditions of Odisha to the United States. Organized by the Carolinas chapter of the Odisha Society of the Americas, the celebration featured a large idol of Goddess Durga brought from Kolkata in 2025. Volunteers came together to decorate the pandal, conduct rituals and prepare traditional Odia food, including khechudi, baigini, ghanta and khiri.

Festivities included sindoor khela, dhunuchi nach and devotional performances. Children and adults presented bhajans, while senior community members helped younger participants learn traditional dances and customs. The gathering highlighted the diaspora's efforts to preserve its cultural heritage and pass Odisha's traditions on to the next generation.

Indian-born Republican challenging Pramila Jayapal supports Microsoft green card suspension but seeks relief for Indian tech workers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nirav Sheth, an Ahmedabad-born Republican challenging Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal in Washington state's 7th Congressional District, has backed the Trump administration's suspension of Microsoft's green card sponsorship, despite the impact on Indian-origin technology workers in his constituency. Sheth accused third-party recruitment agencies of exploiting immigration loopholes but called for reforms to address the lengthy green card backlog facing Indian professionals. He proposed lifting per-country limits and creating a separate green card quota for highly skilled workers directly employed by major technology companies. Sheth, who moved to the United States as a student in 2008 and later served in the Marine Corps, acknowledged that defeating Jayapal would be difficult. She won about 84 percent of the August primary vote, while Sheth received 10.6 percent. He said he intends to continue campaigning and run again in two years.

Indian American women in Atlanta keep Karwa Chauth traditions alive through community celebrations

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Away from their families in India, dozens of Indian American women gathered at Sadhana Temple in Atlanta to celebrate Karwa Chauth, keeping cherished traditions alive through shared prayers, rituals and friendships. Dressed in colorful traditional attire, with decorated prayer plates, bangles and henna, the women came together to observe the festival and find a sense of belonging far from home.

For some, the gathering continued a tradition they had followed in the United States for decades. Others were celebrating for the first or second time after marriage. Participants said friends and the local community helped ease the absence of family members, particularly mothers and mothers-in-law, who traditionally play an important role in the observance.

Women also spoke about fasting, prayers for their husbands' well-being and the



excitement of receiving gifts. For the Atlanta community, the celebration offered more than a religious observance. It was an opportunity to preserve cultural connections, strengthen friendships and pass familiar customs on to the next generation.

Punjabi-origin truck driver charged in Canada after alleged cross-border cocaine and heroin seizure

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A 47-year-old Punjabi-origin truck driver has been charged in Canada after authorities allegedly discovered 52 bricks of cocaine and heroin in his commercial vehicle at the Abbotsford-Huntingdon border crossing in British Columbia. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the Canada Border Services Agency stopped Khushwinder Gill's vehicle on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, and found suspected drugs inside two duffel bags. Gill was subsequently arrested by the police force's Federal Policing Pacific Region Drugs and Organized Crime Group 6. Charges of importing and possessing cocaine and heroin for the purpose of trafficking were approved in British Columbia Provincial Court on



Monday, October 19, 2026. Border officials and police credited their cooperation for the seizure, saying coordinated enforcement was essential to preventing illegal drugs from entering Canadian communities.

Canada detains Punjab gangster wanted in nearly 20 criminal cases as extradition efforts begin

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Canadian authorities have detained Amritpal Singh, also known as Harpreet Singh, a 33-year-old Category A gangster wanted by Punjab Police in nearly 20 criminal cases. Surendra Lamba, Senior Superintendent of Police in Tarn Taran, confirmed the detention and said authorities in Punjab had begun preparing the documents required to bring him back to India. According to Lamba, a Red

Corner Notice issued with the assistance of central agencies helped secure the detention. Canadian authorities have reportedly transferred Singh to their central agencies for further proceedings. The cases against him include allegations of murder, attempted murder and offenses under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act. He is also accused of masterminding the January 2024 murder of village sarpanch Avan Kumar, known as Sonu Cheema. Punjab Police are coordinating with central agencies to pursue his extradition.

Punjab grandmother seeks custody of infant grandson after daughter's murder in California

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A woman from Moga, Punjab, has appealed to the Indian and United States governments to help secure custody and repatriation of her eight-month-old grandson after her daughter was murdered in California. Sukhwinder Kaur has submitted a formal representation through the Indian High Commission, seeking to bring the child to Punjab to live with his maternal family. Her daughter, Jasmine Aujla Gill,

30, a registered nurse, went missing from her Sacramento home on September 30. Her husband, Gurinder Singh Gill, allegedly claimed that immigration officers had detained her. However, human remains discovered in neighboring El Dorado County were later identified as Jasmine's. Gurinder was arrested on October 14 and charged with murder. Kaur says she fears for the infant's safety and future upbringing amid the trauma surrounding the case. No public response to her petition has been reported from either government.

Car of Surrey-based Khalistan activist set on fire as police investigate suspected arson



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A car belonging to Narinder Singh Randhawa, a Surrey-based Khalistan referendum activist and associate of slain separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was set on fire outside his home late Wednesday night in British Columbia. A bus associated with 'Team Shaheed Nijjar' was also defaced with spray paint in the incident.

Surrey Police Service officers responding to a call at about 11:45 p.m. found the vehicle engulfed in flames. Investigators believe the suspect fled on foot. Major crime investigators are handling the case, and police have appealed for surveillance footage recorded between 11 p.m. and midnight. The arson occurred hours after a pro-Khalistan rally, but police said no motive had been established and have not linked the incident to the gathering or any group. Randhawa had reportedly received a police 'Duty to Warn' notice in April over a potential threat to his life.

Democratic super PAC pours more than \$18 million into campaigns of Indian American candidates



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

House Majority PAC, the leading Democratic super PAC focused on House elections, has reported more than \$18.4 million in spending across the campaigns of Indian American candidates Amish Shah in Arizona and Pia Dandiya in Florida. Federal Election Commission filings show cumulative spending of \$12.1 million in Florida and \$6.38 million in Arizona, including about \$6.09 million added in one day, largely for advertising against their Republican opponents. Republican-backed No Going Back PAC has also spent more than \$9.4 million opposing Dandiya. The two candidates are contesting closely watched House races ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections. The reported figures are provisional and could be amended.

Houthis claim six missile and drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities, airports and military site

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yemen's Houthi group claimed Thursday that it had carried out six missile and drone attacks on oil facilities, airports and a military site in Saudi Arabia. Spokesman Yahya Sarea said ballistic missiles targeted the Ras Tanura and Rabigh refineries and Saudi Aramco facilities in Abqaiq. Other strikes allegedly targeted King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and a military command center in Najran. The Houthis said the attacks were retaliation for recent Saudi strikes in Yemen. Saudi authorities said air defenses intercepted two missiles aimed at Riyadh. The Houthi claims of damage and casualties were not independently verified.

Rights groups seek investigations after two Baloch men are found dead in Pakistan's Balochistan



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Baloch civilians were found dead in separate incidents in Pakistan's Balochistan province, prompting human rights groups to call for independent investigations. Baloch Voice for Justice said Adeel Baloch's body was recovered in Kech district on Friday, three days after security forces allegedly detained him and three other young men in Kohar Bazaar. The group sought information about the three men still missing. Separately, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee said the mutilated body of 24-year-old driver Baba Baloch was found in Panjgur district on Wednesday, after he had allegedly been forcibly disappeared for 17 days. The allegations have not been independently verified.

Ro Khanna and Ritesh Tandon clash over immigration and billionaire tax in congressional debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna and Republican challenger Ritesh Tandon clashed over immigration and taxation during an online debate Wednesday for California's 17th Congressional District. Khanna called for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement and creating a more humane agency, while Tandon urged the government to end per-country limits on green cards, citing a backlog exceeding 1.2 million applicants. Khanna defended a proposed 5 percent tax on billionaires, arguing the economy favored the wealthy. Tandon opposed the measure, saying it taxed wealth on paper rather than income. The candidates also debated immigration enforcement, economic policy and California's business climate ahead of the November 3 election.

Canada and European Union push closer alliance as Carney seeks unprecedented associate status

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday backed a deeper Canada-European Union partnership, including a proposal to make Canada the bloc's first associate member. Speaking at a summit in Montreal, von der Leyen said the proposed "Alliance for the Future" would strengthen cooperation on critical minerals, defense, technology, trade and research, while remaining open to other like-minded countries. Carney said closer ties would help both sides withstand economic pressure and protect their sovereignty amid United States President Donald Trump's trade policies. Von der Leyen acknowledged that some European governments oppose the associate-member designation, while Carney



said the label mattered less than practical cooperation. Canada also announced a potential 1.6-billion-dollar investment in artificial intelligence company Cohere, which plans major computing infrastructure investments at home.

Pentagon watchdog declines bipartisan Senate request to investigate Starlink disruptions affecting Ukraine

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Pentagon's inspector general has declined a bipartisan request from nine United States senators to investigate reported slowdowns affecting SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service and its military version, Starshield, in Ukraine. The decision, communicated on Tuesday and reported Thursday, directs lawmakers to the Air Force, which the watchdog says is better placed to address the matter. Ukrainian officials said the restrictions impaired their ability to intercept fast-moving Russian attack drones. The senators, comprising four Republicans and five Democrats, wanted to establish whether United States officials had authorized or known about changes to satellite services,



intelligence sharing or warning systems. Senator Jeanne Shaheen criticized the decision, citing conflicting explanations from the Trump administration and SpaceX. Elon Musk acknowledged that SpaceX had throttled Starlink, alleging Ukrainian violations of its terms of service, which Kyiv denied. The watchdog said it could reconsider if new information emerges.

Iraqi court sentences two Sunni politicians and former oil official in multimillion-dollar corruption case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Iraqi court on Thursday sentenced two prominent politicians and a former senior oil official to prison in separate but related corruption cases involving state-owned petroleum companies. Muthanna al-Samarrai, head of the Sunni Azm Alliance, received a six-year sentence, while lawmaker Ziad al-Janabi of the Tashree party was sentenced to five years, according to the state-run Iraqi News Agency. The court found that the politicians benefited from contracts involving the North Refineries Company and South Refineries Company, allegedly receiving commissions to help secure deals for companies linked to them. Al-Samarrai was ordered to repay 30 billion Iraqi dinars,



while al-Janabi must repay 4 billion dinars. Former Oil Products Distribution Company director Hussein Talib received an eight-year sentence for intervening in contract awards for personal gain and was ordered to repay 55 billion dinars. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi has pledged to tackle corruption.

India strengthens financial cybersecurity with new data center and indigenous technology initiatives

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is strengthening defenses against cyberattacks on its financial system through new infrastructure, domestic technology and specialized personnel, according to a report by India Narrative. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's new data center and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar on Sunday to improve digital

resilience and train specialists. The report also highlighted an agreement between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and Bank of India to develop homegrown, quantum-safe banking technology. Separately, the Financial Stability and Development Council reviewed a proposed financial-sector cybersecurity strategy and urged regional rural banks to improve preparedness, recognizing that weaknesses at smaller institutions could expose the wider network.

Bangladesh tribunal sentences Awami League leader to death, gives three others life terms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Thursday sentenced Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif to death in a crimes-against-humanity case linked to the killing of six people during the July 2024 uprising in Kushtia. The tribunal also sentenced three other party leaders, Sadar Uddin Khan, Azgar Ali and Ataur Rahman Ata, to imprisonment for the remainder of their lives. The three-member bench, led by Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, delivered the verdict in the defendants' absence; all four remain at large. The Awami League rejected the ruling as biased and politically motivated, alleging that the proceedings failed to meet international legal standards.

France to deploy 70,000 security personnel as authorities warn of Halloween protest violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France will deploy 70,000 police officers and other security personnel nationwide on Saturday as authorities prepare for potentially violent demonstrations coinciding with Halloween. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez warned on Thursday that the day posed a very high risk to public order, citing social media calls by radical groups for violent gatherings. He said security forces would respond firmly, particularly to rallies planned for Saturday evening after mainstream demonstrations conclude. Calls for protests have come from labor groups, the radical left and some Yellow Vest networks. Authorities said 410,000 people participated in demonstrations last Saturday, when the same number of security personnel were deployed. Labor leaders and students have also called for a nationwide strike next Thursday over wages, living costs and public services.

Brazil orders investigation into possible foreign interference in presidential election



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Supreme Federal Court ordered a police investigation Tuesday into possible foreign interference in the country's presidential election, including alleged overseas funding and digital manipulation that may have favored defeated candidate Flávio Bolsonaro. Justice Flávio Dino directed investigators to examine suspected links between the United States-based conservative group Rockbridge Network and Brazilian businessmen, as well as foreign-funded political advertising and possible manipulation by digital platforms Meta and X. The inquiry will also examine whether political support was connected to foreign commercial interests in Brazil's rare earths and critical minerals. The allegations remain unproven. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva defeated Bolsonaro in Sunday's runoff.

Glacial lake outburst floods Bhutan hot-springs site, no casualties reported



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A glacial lake outburst from Shintaphu triggered a flash flood late Thursday at Gasa Tshachu, a popular natural hot-springs destination in northern Bhutan, damaging local infrastructure, Reuters reported Friday. No deaths or injuries were reported, and authorities said the area had been evacuated before floodwaters arrived. State broadcaster BBS said the extent of the damage remained unclear because of darkness and the strong current; two Bailey bridges may have been swept away. Bhutan's newspaper Kuensel reported that part of the road to nearby Laya village had been washed out, leaving it impassable. Traffic on the route has been suspended indefinitely.

West Asia conflict claims 22 Indian lives, including 14 seafarers, says government

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India said Wednesday that 22 of its nationals, including 14 seafarers, have died in the ongoing West Asia conflict, as the government continued monitoring the safety of citizens across the region. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said three Indians had been killed in Saudi Arabia. He said Indian officials remained in close contact with the community and were providing assistance where needed. The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia has also been visiting injured nationals in hospitals and supporting their families. India has condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure in the kingdom and urged its nationals to follow safety advisories amid continuing hostilities.

Guterres urges greater role for women in peace negotiations and stronger protection against violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on governments to strengthen women's participation in peace negotiations, increase funding for women-led organizations and ensure accountability for violence against women and girls during a Security Council debate on Tuesday. He said women accounted for just 5 percent of negotiators across 57 peace processes in 2025, while fewer than one-fifth of peace agreements included references to women, girls or gender-based violence. Marking 26 years since the adoption of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, Guterres described the implementation gap as unacceptable. He urged countries to include women in every stage of peace processes, restore financial support for organizations in conflict zones and protect female humanitarian workers and peacebuilders.

Serbia's victorious student movement demands resignations of senior police, intelligence and judicial officials

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Serbia's student-led Students' List movement on Thursday demanded the resignation of senior police, intelligence and judicial officials after defeating former President Aleksandar Vučić's Serbian Progressive Party in Sunday's parliamentary election. The students also urged election authorities to certify the results promptly after a rerun at about 50 polling stations next Sunday, allowing a new Parliament and government to take office. They accused security officials of serving the outgoing government and using excessive force, surveillance and unlawful detention against protesters. The movement called for investigations into alleged corruption and promised to review public contracts and spending. It also urged public servants to preserve



documents and evidence of possible wrongdoing. Student representative Filip Ubović said the movement sought accountability, not revenge. Vučić accused the winners of "revolutionary terror" after protesters stormed a pro-government television station. The transition is expected to take several weeks.

Christine Lagarde to leave European Central Bank early, opening succession race before French election

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde announced Thursday that she will step down on February 7, 2027, nine months before her eight-year term was due to end. Her early departure gives European Union leaders an opportunity to appoint her successor before France's presidential election next year, when far-right candidate Marine Le Pen could challenge the current political leadership. Lagarde, a former head of the International Monetary Fund, said she wanted greater freedom to speak on issues beyond monetary policy, explaining that she could not comfortably maintain the political neutrality required of the central bank's president. Her



successor will lead the institution responsible for setting interest rates across the 21 countries using the euro. The selection process is expected to involve negotiations over other senior vacancies at the bank, including the posts of chief economist Philip Lane and executive board member Isabel Schnabel.

Putin holds rare phone talks with Finnish and Norwegian leaders on Ukraine peace efforts

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed efforts to end the war in Ukraine with Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre during a telephone call on Tuesday, the Kremlin said. Initiated by the two Nordic leaders in consultation with Ukraine, the discussion focused on future negotiations and

European security ahead of planned talks in Abu Dhabi. Putin said lasting peace must consider Russia's security interests, while Stubb and Støre stressed the need to resume negotiations and de-escalate the conflict. The leaders also discussed stability in the Baltic Sea region. Separately, a localized ceasefire took effect around Russian-occupied Oleshky in Ukraine's Kherson region on Tuesday, allowing preparations for humanitarian aid deliveries and civilian evacuations.

Panama urges United States to back Latin American candidate for next United Nations chief

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino urged the United States to support a Latin American or Caribbean candidate for the next United Nations secretary-general during a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday. Mulino argued that the organization should follow its longstanding, informal practice of rotating the leadership among geographical regions. Both leaders agreed on the need for broad international consensus, although Washington did not announce support for the proposal or endorse any candidate. The discussion comes as António Guterres



prepares to complete his second term at the end of the year. They also discussed Panama's recovery from the October 9 earthquake, with Mulino thanking Washington for providing humanitarian, logistical and technical assistance to affected communities.

El Salvador releases former President Tony Saca after completing corruption sentence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Salvadoran President Elias Antonio "Tony" Saca was released from prison on Thursday after completing a reduced 10-year sentence for corruption, his lawyer Mario Machado said. Saca, 61, pleaded guilty to diverting and laundering more than \$300 million in public funds during his 2004-2009 presidency.

Although sentenced in 2018, his prison term was counted from 2016, when he was arrested during his son's wedding. A plea agreement reduced his potential 30-year sentence. Machado said Saca had served the full term without receiving early-release benefits. Prosecutors alleged that the misappropriated money was used for personal purposes and to benefit political allies, including through payments to his party. Separate civil proceedings ordered him to repay millions of dollars to the state.

Lockheed Martin plans missile maintenance facility in Poland to strengthen NATO air defenses

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US defense contractor Lockheed Martin announced plans on Tuesday to establish a dedicated maintenance facility in Poland for the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile system. Developed in coordination with the US government, the proposed center will provide repairs, refurbishment, testing and recertification for interceptors operated by NATO members. The facility is expected to reduce maintenance turnaround times and improve the availability of missiles across Europe. Lockheed Martin said the project would build on cooperation involving the United States, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, while creating opportunities for Polish suppliers and skilled workers. The company did not disclose the investment cost or construction schedule. The initiative comes amid growing demand for advanced air and missile defense capabilities among NATO allies.

Four killed and 11 injured as Italian military helicopter crashes in Bosnia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four people were killed and 11 injured when an Italian military helicopter serving with the European Union peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina crashed on Thursday near the village of Gorice in the Brčko district. Italy's Defense Ministry said two of those killed belonged to the Italian Army and two to the Italian Red Cross Volunteer Military Corps. All 11 injured were receiving medical treatment, with none reported to be in life-threatening condition. A total of 15 people were aboard the aircraft. The helicopter was deployed as part of Operation Althea, which supports implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed condolences. Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the crash.



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Centre extends Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's tenure by one year



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The central government has approved a one-year extension for Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, allowing him to remain in the post until October 31, 2027, or until further orders. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared the extension ahead of his scheduled retirement on Saturday. Singh, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service officer from the Kerala cadre, took charge as Defence Secretary in November 2024. The order said the extension was granted by relaxing applicable service and retirement rules. Singh previously served as secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and held several senior positions in the central and Kerala state governments.

Jio Platforms IPO sets global record with more than 10 million applications

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jio Platforms' initial public offering has set a reported global record after attracting more than 10 million applications, surpassing the previous benchmark of about 9.7 million set by Waaree Energies. The issue closed on Friday with demand far exceeding the shares on offer. Exchange data showed the offering was subscribed 22.19 times, with investors bidding for 19.75 crore shares offered and demand led by institutional buyers. The public issue raised Rs 30,213 crore, making it one of India's largest stock offerings. The record application count highlights strong investor interest in the telecommunications and technology company, although final application figures may vary as exchange data is consolidated.

Sirpur's ancient heritage earns place on UNESCO's World Heritage tentative list

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sirpur, the historic archaeological site in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district, has been added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, marking an initial step toward international recognition. India submitted the nomination for the Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape under criteria covering architectural exchanges, town planning and significant historic ensembles. Along the Mahanadi River, Sirpur flourished as the capital of South Kosala between the fifth and 12th centuries. Its monuments reflect the coexistence of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions. The proposed site includes nine locations, including the seventh-century brick Lakshmana Temple and Buddhist monasteries. A full nomination dossier must still be prepared before UNESCO can consider formal World Heritage status.

Cyclone Arnab leaves thousands stranded as floods devastate southern Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Thousands of people remain affected by severe flooding in southern Odisha and parts of Andhra Pradesh after Cyclone Arnab battered India's eastern coast, triggering torrential rain, flash floods and widespread infrastructure damage. The very severe cyclonic storm made landfall between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, bringing winds of 125-135 kilometers per hour, with gusts reaching 150 kilometers per hour. Its remnants continued to cause heavy rainfall and flooding across the region.

In Odisha, Ganjam and Gajapati are among the worst-hit districts. Ganjam reported more than 42,000 affected residents, with thousands evacuated to relief centers. Roads and bridges were washed away, leaving villages cut off. The Indian Coast Guard, Navy, Fire Services and disaster response teams have deployed



helicopters and rescue personnel to evacuate stranded residents and deliver food supplies. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi conducted an aerial assessment on Friday.

In Andhra Pradesh, authorities are restoring electricity, roads and mobile networks, while assessing damage to homes and agricultural land.

Ashoke Sen becomes first Indian physicist to receive Oskar Klein Medal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen has become the first Indian to receive the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, recognizing his contributions to string theory and black-hole research. Sen is an ICTS-Infosys Madhava Chair professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bengaluru. His research includes S-duality, string field theory and the precise counting of black-hole entropy, advancing efforts to understand gravity through quantum physics. Sen delivered the Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture, titled 'Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity,' on



Thursday at Stockholm's AlbaNova University Centre. His honors include the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics and the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

Operation Trident dismantles alleged international drug cartel in Northeast, 18 arrested

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian agencies arrested 18 people and dismantled an alleged international drug cartel through coordinated raids across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur under Operation Trident. The crackdown took place on Friday, with 38 teams searching 38 locations. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the operation exposed hawala

transactions worth Rs 100 crore and led authorities to freeze 1,424 bank accounts. Officials also attached properties valued at Rs 17.82 crore and seized 500 detonators and Rs 12 lakh in cash. The network allegedly trafficked narcotics across India's borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh through the so-called Death Triangle Corridor. Shah praised the agencies and reiterated the government's goal of eliminating drug networks by 2029.

Modi marks 12 years of 'Mann Ki Baat', praises citizens' contributions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked 12 years of his monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, describing it as a journey of inspiration and an opportunity to recognize citizens' contributions to society. Addressing the program's 139th episode, he thanked listeners for their continued affection and said the broadcast

had brought forward stories of people whose work often goes unnoticed.

Modi compared the experience to a pilgrimage, saying it allowed him to understand and honor individuals working for their communities and the country. The first episode aired on a Friday, coinciding with Vijayadashami. The program is broadcast through All India Radio and Doordarshan networks.

IndiaAI opens fellowship applications with financial support for students pursuing AI research



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

IndiaAI, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has opened applications for its 2026-27 fellowship supporting students pursuing artificial intelligence research. Eligible undergraduate and Integrated Dual Degree students can receive up to Rs 1 lakh, while postgraduate students may qualify for up to Rs 2 lakh. PhD scholars can receive monthly support ranging from Rs 70,000 in the first two years to Rs 80,000 in the fourth and fifth years, plus an annual research grant of Rs 2 lakh. Students whose research is accepted at qualifying international conferences may receive an additional grant of up to Rs 1 lakh for travel and accommodation. Applications close Monday through the official fellowship portal.

Supreme Court seeks responses in plea over legislators resigning to avoid disqualification



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission of India on a petition questioning whether legislators can resign to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law and then contest by-elections for another party. The petition concerns six Tamil Nadu legislators elected on All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam tickets who allegedly defied their party whip during a confidence motion before resigning and joining the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. The petitioner argues that such resignations undermine the purpose of the anti-defection law and force taxpayers to bear the cost of fresh elections. The plea also seeks a mechanism to recover by-election expenses from legislators who resign for political gain.

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Uttar Pradesh chief electoral officer apologizes over controversial voter-roll response



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa's office apologized on Tuesday for a sarcastic social media response to criticism over an erroneous entry in a voter slip. The controversy followed a complaint by Aam Aadmi Party member of Parliament Sanjay Singh, who questioned Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar after a name in an electoral record was rendered as a phrase meaning "Ram hit Yadav." The state election office responded that computers were not casteist and added a remark suggesting it was fortunate the error had not involved a member of a religious minority. The comment drew criticism. In its apology, the office said the language and tone were inappropriate for an official account and promised more polite and formal communication in the future.

Omar Abdullah inducts four National Conference leaders into Jammu and Kashmir cabinet



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expanded his council of ministers on Tuesday, with four National Conference legislators sworn in at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath to Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, Shameema Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Wani, also known as Kalloo. All four ministers represent constituencies in the Kashmir Valley. Sagar is a seven-time legislator and the party's general secretary, while Saifullah has represented constituencies in north Kashmir. Wani represents Pahalgam and Firdous becomes the second woman in Abdullah's cabinet after Sakina Itoo. Congress, an ally of the government, continues to stay out of the council until Jammu and Kashmir regains statehood.

Thousands rally in Agartala as INDIA bloc demands chief election commissioner's removal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands joined an INDIA bloc protest in Agartala on Friday, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and suspension of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Organized by eight opposition parties, the rally drew many women and featured national flags, patriotic songs and slogans alleging electoral malpractice. Senior leaders, including former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Opposition Leader Jitendra Chaudhury and state Congress president Asish Kumar Saha, led the march and addressed a public meeting. The bloc also called for a review of laws governing the



Election Commission and opposed legal protections for the chief election commissioner. Opposition leaders alleged the voter-list revision could exclude eligible voters.

Congress boycotts Punjab Assembly session after Khaira is denied entry

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress legislators boycotted the final sitting of the Punjab Assembly on Tuesday after party leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who had been suspended for the remainder of the session, was reportedly stopped from entering the premises. Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa challenged the move, questioning the validity of the notice and arguing that elected representatives could not be barred without a formal suspension. Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said only members facing suspension could be prevented from entering the House. The dispute also triggered an altercation between Aam Aadmi Party legislator Jasvir Singh Raja Gill and Congress leaders.



Earlier, Congress members wearing black and carrying placards burned brooms, the AAP's election symbol, and protested against the government.

Supreme Court postpones hearing on petitions challenging Election Commission and chief election commissioner

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Tuesday postponed hearings on petitions challenging the functioning of the Election Commission of India and decisions taken by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The bench granted petitioner Rakesh Kumar Singh 10 days to respond to the poll

body's affidavit, with the next hearing likely on November 17. During the proceedings, Trinamool Congress member of Parliament Dola Sen's counsel, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, raised concerns about alleged alterations to online Form 6, which is used to apply for voter registration. She questioned the Election Commission's explanation and a press statement about the changes. The court also sought the poll body's response to Sen's petition.

VHP criticizes Congress over November 1 rally, citing Ahoi Ashtami and traders' concerns

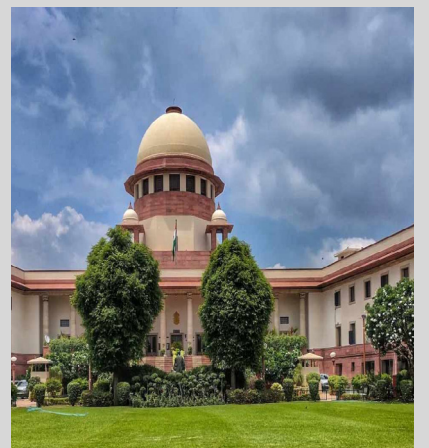
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Tuesday criticized the Congress over its planned November 1 rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, accusing the opposition of disregarding Hindu festivals and the concerns of traders. VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the party had rejected appeals to reschedule the event, which coincides with Ahoi Ashtami, when mothers traditionally fast for their children's well-being. The criticism followed a protest by Delhi traders on Monday seeking postponement of the rally until after Diwali. The Chamber of Trade and Industry said security arrangements,



road closures and traffic diversions could disrupt business in major markets during the festive shopping period. The rally is intended to challenge alleged irregularities in voter-roll revision.

Supreme Court seeks Centre's response on transfer plea in 'Vande Mataram' case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response to a petition seeking to transfer a public interest litigation on 'Vande Mataram' from the Delhi High Court to the top court. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana issued notice on the application filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and tagged it with similar pending petitions. The original litigation seeks recognition of 'Vande Mataram' at a status equal to the national anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana'. It also asks the Centre and Delhi government to ensure both are sung in schools and educational institutions on every working day. The petitioner argues that formal guidelines are needed to promote and honor the national song.

Punjab and Haryana High Court imposes Rs 1 lakh cost on chief secretary over DA arrears



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on Punjab Chief Secretary K. A. P. Sinha in proceedings over the state's failure to comply with directions concerning pending dearness allowance and relief arrears owed to government employees and pensioners.

The court expressed displeasure over the delay and the failure to submit a compliance report. It directed Sinha to appear personally on November 3 and explain the steps taken to implement its earlier order. He must also clarify when the outstanding payments will be made and how the court's directions will be carried out.



US moves to restrict Chinese telecom firms' access to American phone numbers



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Communications Commission plans to vote on a proposal to block China Mobile, China Telecom, China Unicom and other Chinese-linked internet-based phone providers from directly accessing US telephone numbers. The measure aims to curb scam-related automated calls and address national security concerns. The agency is also considering restrictions on providers using equipment from companies such as Huawei and ZTE, which Washington considers security risks. China opposed the proposal on Friday, accusing the United States of misusing national security concerns to suppress Chinese businesses and warning that it would protect its interests. Further restrictions could affect network connections and US data centers.

Chinese electric vehicle makers gain ground in South Korea but struggle in Japan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are gaining customers in South Korea but facing a tougher market in Japan, where consumers favor hybrids and foreign brands have limited sales. BYD sold more than 20,000 vehicles in South Korea during the first nine months of the year, surpassing Toyota and Lexus combined, according to market research firm Carisyou. Buyers are attracted by competitive prices and long waiting periods for some domestic models. South Korea's electric vehicle adoption is considerably higher than Japan's, helping Chinese brands find customers. BYD sold fewer than 4,000 vehicles in Japan during the same period, accounting for about 0.1 percent of the market.

South Africa seeks better air links and faster visas to boost tourism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Africa is seeking stronger international air connections and faster visa processing to boost tourism, Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille said Wednesday at an industry conference. She outlined the government's Tourism Growth Partnership Plan, which aims to expand direct flight routes, simplify visas, strengthen destination marketing and diversify tourism offerings. The country hopes to attract 15 million international visitors annually by 2030. De Lille said success should also be measured through job creation, support for small businesses and benefits reaching rural communities. Industry leaders called for better infrastructure, reliable utilities, improved transport links and investment-friendly policies to support growth.

US economy grows 3.4 percent as rising inflation deepens cost-of-living concerns before midterms

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States economy expanded at a strong annualized rate of 3.4 percent in the July-September quarter, accelerating from 2.2 percent in the previous quarter, but rising inflation and declining household savings raised concerns about the sustainability of growth ahead of the midterm elections. Data released by the Commerce Department on Thursday showed consumer spending increased 3.8 percent, while business investment surged 12.7 percent, driven partly by spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure. However, consumer prices rose 3.6 percent in September from a year earlier, up from 3.4 percent in August, as higher gasoline, shipping, hotel and utility costs added to



household expenses. The personal savings rate fell to 3.8 percent, its lowest level in four years. The Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, but persistent inflation and strong demand could increase the likelihood of another rate hike in December, potentially raising borrowing costs for households and businesses

Global markets trade unevenly as AI uncertainty rattles technology stocks and investor confidence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global stock markets moved in different directions on Friday as growing concerns about the artificial intelligence sector weighed on investor sentiment, following a decline in Alphabet shares that dragged down United States markets. Technology stocks have experienced increased volatility as investors reassess whether heavy investments in artificial intelligence can deliver expected returns amid supply constraints and uncertainty over future growth. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 2.1 percent, while South Korea's Kospi dropped 3.5 percent as major chipmakers Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix recorded losses.



Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1.5 percent, while Shanghai's Composite Index declined 1.4 percent. European markets were mixed, with Britain's FTSE 100 rising 0.4 percent. Japan's central bank kept interest rates unchanged at 1.25 percent. Meanwhile, oil prices climbed, with United States crude reaching \$103.56 a barrel and Brent crude rising to \$116.77.

India advances trade pact talks with Chile and Canada as it explores wider global market access

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India's negotiations for free trade agreements with Chile and Canada are progressing well, with talks with Chile nearing conclusion, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said during his visit to the Netherlands on Monday. He described the Chile negotiations as being at an advanced stage and said discussions with Canada were making good progress. Negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union have also begun, although they are expected to take more

time. Goyal said Mexico was keen to finalize an early-harvest trade arrangement with India. He also expressed hope that political continuity in Brazil following its elections would help accelerate discussions to expand India's preferential trade agreement with the Mercosur bloc. During his visit, Goyal met Dutch ministers, lawmakers and business leaders. He also co-chaired the India-Netherlands Business Forum, attended by around 200 participants, to explore opportunities in trade, investment and cooperation following the India-European Union trade agreement.

China and Switzerland sign trade agreement as global protectionism puts pressure on exporters

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China and Switzerland are moving to deepen economic ties through an upgraded free trade agreement signed by President Xi Jinping and Swiss President Guy Parmelin in Beijing on Friday. The agreement will allow 99.8 percent of Swiss exports to enter China duty-free, compared with just over half under the previous arrangement. The deal also expands provisions covering investment, digital trade, services, labor rights and environmental standards. It comes as the United States and European Union adopt increasingly restrictive trade measures. Swiss officials say the agreement corrects existing



trade imbalances without granting new tariff advantages to Chinese industrial goods. Swiss businesses have welcomed the improved market access, although concerns remain about geopolitical tensions between China, Washington and Europe.

General Motors agrees to \$220 million settlement over drivers' private data



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General Motors will pay \$220 million to settle allegations from 36 state and territorial attorneys general that it improperly shared drivers' behavior and location data with brokers, which passed the information to insurers. The claims centered on GM's Smart Driver program, which enrolled millions of motorists before ending in 2024. Investigators alleged that drivers were encouraged to join to improve their driving safety, without being adequately informed that their information could affect insurance rates. Under the settlement announced Thursday, GM must limit the driving data it collects and obtain customers' express consent before collecting or sharing it. The company said it takes privacy obligations seriously.

Perrigo to sell infant formula business to MeridianMade for up to \$175 million

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Perrigo has agreed to sell its infant formula business to privately held manufacturer MeridianMade for up to \$175 million as it shifts its focus toward over-the-counter medicines and consumer self-care products. The deal includes \$40 million in cash at closing, with up to another \$135 million tied to performance milestones through 2030. Perrigo expects the transaction to close in the first half of 2027, subject to customary conditions and regulatory approvals. The sale follows a strategic review launched last year and is expected to reduce future capital spending. MeridianMade specializes in infant nutrition and will take over the business after the transaction closes.

OpenAI revises AI guidelines to put human intent and oversight at the center

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OpenAI has revised its Model Spec, the public framework outlining how its artificial intelligence models should behave, organizing its guidance around five values: faithfulness to human intent, harm minimization, honesty and transparency, human agency, and care. The company said models should understand what users and developers intend rather than follow instructions mechanically, while remaining subject to human oversight. The update also emphasizes acknowledging uncertainty and helping people make their own decisions. OpenAI said current models do not yet fully reflect the revised principles and that it is exploring training methods to embed them more deeply. The changes come amid growing scrutiny of artificial intelligence safety.

Friday, 30 October 2026

Mastercard earnings beat forecasts as consumer spending remains resilient

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mastercard reported stronger-than-expected quarterly earnings on Thursday, rounding out a solid reporting period for major payment networks as consumer spending remained resilient despite inflation and economic uncertainty. The company posted adjusted earnings of \$5.31 per share, exceeding analysts' average estimate of \$5.16. Its cross-border payment volume increased 11 percent during the quarter, reflecting continued travel and international spending. Mastercard shares rose more than 4 percent in afternoon trading, while Visa and American Express gained about 2 percent each. Executives said spending remained steady across income groups, supported by employment and wage growth, although higher gasoline prices and living costs continue to pressure households.

Boeing narrows quarterly loss as defense and services lift revenue

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Boeing reported a third-quarter net loss of \$116 million on Tuesday, sharply lower than the \$5.34 billion loss a year earlier, while revenue rose 4 percent to \$24.2 billion. Its total order backlog reached a record \$745 billion. Defense and services drove growth, with revenue increasing 15 percent and 4 percent, respectively. Commercial aircraft revenue fell 3 percent to \$10.7 billion, and the division recorded a \$697 million operating loss amid higher production and supply-chain costs. Boeing delivered 161 commercial aircraft and booked 300 net orders during the quarter, while continuing certification work on several aircraft programs.

Nvidia chief defends business ties with Singapore firm amid US spying investigation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang described the company's dealings with Singapore-based Megaspeed International as normal, defending the relationship after reports that a former executive at the firm was under US investigation for allegedly spying for China. Huang told Bloomberg News that Nvidia had reviewed Megaspeed's use of its artificial intelligence processors and checked that the chips were not illegally diverted to China. He said his interactions with the former executive were routine and that the individual no longer worked for the company. The investigation comes amid broader US concerns about technology transfers and efforts to evade export restrictions on advanced chips destined for China.

DoorDash announces \$17 billion Instacart acquisition to strengthen grocery delivery business

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DoorDash has agreed to acquire grocery delivery company Instacart in a deal valued at approximately \$17 billion, marking a major consolidation in the online delivery industry. Announced Thursday, the transaction values Instacart at \$65 per share, representing a 26 percent premium over its October 22 closing price. The combined business aims to strengthen its competition with retail giants such as Walmart and Amazon by bringing together DoorDash's delivery network and Instacart's grocery technology and retailer relationships. Instacart will retain its brand and app, while customers could combine DashPass and Instacart+ memberships. However, the deal



faces regulatory scrutiny over competition, consumer prices and grocers' bargaining power. Completion is expected in late 2027 or early 2028, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

India shifts toward Middle Eastern crude as competitive pricing reduces Russian oil purchases, says Puri

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has faced no pressure from the United States to reduce its purchases of Russian crude oil, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday, emphasizing that the country's buying decisions are guided by commercial considerations. Speaking at an event, Puri said India evaluates oil purchases based on discounts and prices compared with supplies from other regions.

He noted that Russian crude accounted for just 0.2 percent of India's oil imports before the war in Ukraine, but purchases increased significantly afterward as discounted supplies became available. More recently, imports from the Middle East have risen, returning to pre-war levels in September, while refiners reduced Russian purchases amid stronger competition from China.



Puri said Gulf supplies had become more attractive because of competitive pricing. He added that India would continue making decisions based on its own interests and the need to secure affordable energy supplies.

Meta and Snap face landmark US trial over allegations of social media addiction among young users

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta and Snap are facing a major legal challenge in Los Angeles, where jury selection began Wednesday in a trial examining whether social media platforms were deliberately designed to encourage addictive behavior among young users. The case involves a 16-year-old from Illinois and an 18-year-old from Mississippi, who allege that features such as endless scrolling, autoplay and notifications contributed to depression, anxiety, eating disorders and self-harm. Both companies deny the allegations and maintain that they have introduced safeguards for younger users. Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg, Instagram head



Adam Mosseri and Snap Chief Executive Evan Spiegel are expected to testify. The proceedings are among thousands of similar lawsuits and could influence future claims against technology companies.

Silver tumbles to an 11-month low as stronger US growth fuels expectations of higher interest rates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Silver prices extended their decline on Friday, falling to an 11-month low of approximately \$50.69 per troy ounce during European trading as stronger United States economic data and persistent inflation increased expectations of higher interest rates. The country's Personal Consumption Expenditures price index rose 0.5 percent

in September, while annual inflation reached 3.6 percent. Meanwhile, the economy expanded at an annualized rate of 3.4 percent in the third quarter, exceeding forecasts. Although the Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, traders continued to anticipate a possible increase in December. Higher rates and a stronger dollar can reduce the appeal of non-yielding precious metals such as silver, adding pressure to prices.

US sues Google over alleged failure to reinstate employee after military service



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States sued Google on Thursday, alleging the company failed to restore former employee Mark Davisson to a comparable position after he returned from a year of military service as an Army reservist. The complaint says Davisson previously managed major customer accounts but was denied similar responsibilities after returning in May 2023, despite retaining his title and pay. He was later transferred to a cloud solutions role and dismissed in August 2024 during a broader workforce reduction. The lawsuit seeks lost wages, benefits and other damages, along with workplace changes and improved training. Google disputed the allegations and said it takes military employment protections seriously.

Noel Tata to leave six Tata Group company boards upon turning 70



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Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, is set to step down from the boards of six Tata Group companies on Thursday, when he turns 70. The move follows the group's retirement policy for non-executive directors. He is expected to leave positions at companies including Trent, Voltas, Tata Investment Corporation, Tata International, Tata Steel and Titan. However, he will continue as a Tata Trusts nominee director on the board of Tata Sons, the group's holding company, and remain associated with Trent Hypermarket, which operates Star Bazaar and Star Daily. Succession arrangements for several positions have not been announced.

Apple unveils M6-powered MacBook Pro with faster graphics and artificial intelligence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple introduced a new 14-inch MacBook Pro on Tuesday, powered by its M6 chip, promising up to 30 percent faster graphics and 25 percent faster on-device artificial intelligence performance than the M5 model. The processor features a 12-core central processing unit, a 12-core graphics processor and a dual 16-core Neural Engine. Apple says the laptop also supports Wi-Fi 7 and Bluetooth 6, with faster storage for demanding workloads. The device targets students, professionals and creators. Preorders began Wednesday, with availability starting Friday, November 6. It will come in space black and silver finishes.

Max O'Dowd penalized for questioning umpire's decision during Netherlands' win over Oman



Netherlands opener Max O'Dowd has received an official reprimand and one demerit point for showing dissent during his team's Cricket World Cup League 2 match against Oman in Dubai on Tuesday. The incident occurred in the 12th over of the Netherlands' innings, when O'Dowd was given out leg-before wicket. He indicated that he had edged the delivery by showing his bat to the umpire, an action deemed a breach of the International Cricket Council's Code of Conduct. O'Dowd admitted the Level 1 offence and accepted the proposed sanction, avoiding a formal hearing. The Netherlands won the match by 106 runs.

Pranavi Urs targets another strong finish after opening with two-under 70 in Taiwan



Indian golfer Pranavi Urs opened the Wistron Ladies Open with a two-under-par 70 on Thursday, placing her tied for 33rd at Sunrise Golf and Country Club in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei. The only Indian in the field, Urs carded three birdies and one bogey, continuing her encouraging form after finishing tied for fourth at the Hero Women's Indian Open in Gurugram last week. South Africa's Casandra Alexander took the first-round lead with an eight-under 64, including six birdies and an eagle without a bogey. Chinese Taipei's Cheng-Hsuan Shih was second at six-under. The tournament continues through Sunday, with the cut set for the top 60 professionals and ties.

Benson Kipruto leads Adidas charge as marathon shoe rivalry takes center stage in New York

Adidas will look to extend its impressive run in elite marathon racing when defending champion Benson Kipruto leads its challenge at the New York City Marathon on Sunday. The German sportswear brand has recorded eight victories at the World Marathon Majors in 2026, strengthening its position in an increasingly competitive field. Kipruto, who won the New York race last year, will be among the leading athletes seeking another major title for Adidas.

The battle extends beyond the finish line, with footwear technology playing an increasingly important role in elite distance running. Adidas has accelerated the development of its racing shoes as it seeks to challenge Nike, which helped usher in the super-shoe era in 2017. Brands including Asics, On and Under Armour are also



expanding their presence. With marathon participation growing worldwide, Sunday's race offers another high-profile test of both athletic performance and racing technology.

Atletico Madrid eye top spot as Barcelona seek response and Basque rivals prepare for derby

Atletico Madrid have an opportunity to move temporarily to the top of La Liga when they visit Levante on Saturday, while Barcelona will attempt to recover from their Clasico defeat against Alaves. Diego Simeone's side will look to build on the attacking threat of Julian Alvarez, although Levante have proved difficult to beat at home. Barcelona, meanwhile, face injury concerns, with Jules Kounde potentially returning as Hansi Flick seeks to revive his team's campaign. Sunday's major attraction is the Basque derby between Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad at San Mames. The 11th round also features Villarreal against Espanyol, Real Betis against Malaga and Getafe against Sevilla, with the fixtures



concluding Monday when Deportivo La Coruna host Osasuna.

Jorge Martin cleared to race in Malaysia after completing practice despite wrist fracture

Aprilia rider Jorge Martin has been declared fit to compete in the Malaysian Grand Prix after completing 12 laps during Friday's opening practice session at Sepang. The 2024 MotoGP world champion fractured his right wrist in a crash during the Australian Grand Prix sprint race last Saturday, initially casting doubt over his participation in Malaysia. Martin was first cleared to take part in Friday morning's session, subject to a further medical assessment. After completing the required laps, he received approval to continue for the weekend. The Spaniard is just 10 points behind championship leader Marc Marquez, with four rounds remaining. Martin



acknowledged that his injury continued to limit everyday activities but said he was determined to try to remain in contention.

Cristiano Ronaldo's first Ballon d'Or triumph voted the greatest in award's history



Cristiano Ronaldo's maiden Ballon d'Or victory in 2008 has been voted the greatest winning campaign in the award's history by football fans worldwide. The Portuguese star thanked supporters after the result of the Ballon d'Or of All Time poll was announced, saying the honor belonged to the fans as well. Ronaldo's selection recognized his outstanding 2007-08 season with Manchester United, when he scored 42 goals in 49 appearances across all competitions. His 31 Premier League goals helped United win the league title, while eight goals made him the Champions League's leading scorer as the club lifted the European trophy. Lionel Messi's 2012 Ballon d'Or victory finished second in the public vote.

Carrick reaffirms Fernandes' leadership as Manchester United prepare for Chelsea test



Michael Carrick has confirmed that Bruno Fernandes will remain Manchester United captain, dismissing questions about the midfielder's future after he was left on the bench for the club's 3-0 defeat to Bournemouth. Speaking ahead of Saturday's Premier League meeting with Chelsea, Carrick said Fernandes remained fully committed and continued to be an important figure in the squad. The Portuguese midfielder had been dropped following an emotional reaction to United's Champions League defeat against Como, which raised questions about his relationship with the coaching staff. Carrick also offered an encouraging update on Kobbie Mainoo, who has returned to training after missing four matches with an injury and could be considered for the Chelsea fixture.



Anahat Singh withdraws from Canadian Open quarterfinal after injury setback

Indian squash player Anahat Singh withdrew from the Canadian Women's Open quarterfinal because of an injury, ending her campaign in Toronto. The 18-year-old had reached the last eight after defeating England's Saran Nghiem in four games. She was scheduled to face Egyptian top seed Fayrouz Aboelkheir, who advanced to the semifinals by walkover. Anahat recently reached the Silicon Valley Open semifinals after defeating eight-time world champion Nour ElSherbini. She also made history by winning silver in women's singles at the 2026 Asian Games.



African football returns to biennial AFCON schedule after CAF reverses four-year plan

The Confederation of African Football has reversed its earlier decision to hold the Africa Cup of Nations every four years, confirming that the continent's premier national-team tournament will return to a biennial schedule. The executive committee unanimously approved the change on Thursday, following a review of the previous plan. CAF President Patrice Motsepe said the decision was intended to protect the interests of African football, its 54 member associations and players competing overseas. The next tournament will be held in 2027 across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, marking the competition's first three-country hosting arrangement. The event is scheduled to begin on June 19, with the final set for July 17.

Dakar Rally moves to Portugal and Morocco for 2027 edition amid Saudi security concerns

The 2027 Dakar Rally will move from Saudi Arabia to Portugal and Morocco, with organizers announcing an exceptional relocation amid security concerns. The 49th edition is scheduled to run from January 9 to 23, subject to approval by the World Motor Sport Council, and will open the 2027 World Rally-Raid Championship season. The route will cover 7,824 kilometers, including 4,341 kilometers of competitive stages. Portugal's Algarve region will host the prologue and opening stage, while Morocco will stage the remaining 11 stages and a rest day in Agadir. The rally will finish in Marrakech. Organizers have described the move as temporary, with the event expected to return to Saudi Arabia in 2028.

Delhi High Court gives wrestling federation two weeks to decide on Vinesh Phogat notices

The Delhi High Court has directed the Wrestling Federation of India to decide within two weeks on two show-cause notices issued to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, citing concerns that the uncertainty could affect her preparation for upcoming competitions. Justice Amit Mahajan said athletes needed to be in a fit and relaxed state of mind to perform at their best. Phogat has challenged notices issued in May and June, arguing that the pending proceedings could leave her vulnerable to disciplinary action shortly before a tournament. Her counsel told the court that she intended to compete in a national event scheduled for mid-December. The court also ruled that any decision taken after the two-week deadline would remain suspended until the next hearing.

Mumbai Indians rebuild IPL coaching staff under Kieron Pollard with four new appointments

Mumbai Indians have announced four coaching appointments ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season, with former India batter Robin Uthappa named batting coach and New Zealand's Mitchell McClenaghan taking charge of bowling. T. Dilip has been appointed fielding coach, while former India fast bowler Dhawal Kulkarni will serve as development bowling coach. The group will work under new head coach Kieron Pollard, whose appointment followed Mahela Jayawardene's departure from the role. Uthappa returns to the franchise after representing it in the inaugural 2008 season, while McClenaghan was part of four title-winning campaigns. Dilip



joins after working with India's national team, and Kulkarni returns to support the development of young bowlers.

Rybakina withdraws from Tokyo tournament with neck injury after securing year-end No. 1 ranking

Elena Rybakina's campaign at the Pan Pacific Open ended on Friday after the world No. 1 withdrew from her quarterfinal against Canada's Leylah Fernandez because of a neck injury. The Kazakh cited inflammation and pain that had affected her ability to compete at full strength, allowing Fernandez to advance to the semifinals without playing. The withdrawal came a day after Rybakina secured the year-end world No. 1 ranking for the first time with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over compatriot Yulia Putintseva. Her breakthrough season included victories at the Australian Open and United States Open. Fernandez



will face Russian lucky loser Kamilla Rakhimova for a place in the final.

Neeraj Chopra expects to restart training within weeks as ankle injury shows improvement

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has reported significant improvement in his recovery from an ankle injury and expects to resume training and rehabilitation within the next couple of weeks. The Indian javelin thrower sustained a ligament tear during training in August, forcing him to miss the remainder of the 2026 season.

He also missed the Asian Games, the Diamond League Final and the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championships. Chopra said he initially experienced difficulties but had made progress by following medical advice to rest.

After consulting sports medicine specialist Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, he was cleared to begin rehabilitation. He also welcomed



the government's approval of a scheme to strengthen domestic sports equipment manufacturing, saying it could improve athletes' access to essential equipment.

Pakistan crush India in Hong Kong Sixes as Afridi and Nafay complete rapid chase

Pakistan defeated India by four wickets in a high-scoring Group C encounter at the Hong Kong Sixes on Friday, chasing down a target of 89 in just 3.5 overs. India had posted 88 for five in their six overs, with Shashank Singh leading the scoring with 40 off 11 deliveries. Pakistan's reply was powered by captain Abbas Afridi, who smashed 35 off eight balls, and Khawaja Nafay, who remained unbeaten on 41 from 12 deliveries. Afridi struck five consecutive sixes in the opening over against Krunal Pandya, setting the tone for the chase. The victory strengthened Pakistan's position in the group, while India must beat the United Arab Emirates in their next match to improve their qualification prospects.

ICC launches annual criiio Day after grassroots program reaches one million participants

The International Cricket Council has launched criiio Day, an annual global celebration of grassroots cricket, after its introductory program reached one million participants worldwide since 2021. The first observance will take place on Sunday, November 1, with the initiative designed to encourage more people, particularly children, to discover the sport. Its free curriculum is available in 18 languages and has reached more than 65 associate member nations. Nigeria's 13-year-old Saidat Hamzat became the program's one millionth participant after attending a cricket festival at her school. The ICC said women and girls account for half of all participants, while Africa has recorded more than 400,000. The launch will be supported by a global social media campaign.

Manchester City survive Brighton scare in penalty shootout to reach Carabao Cup quarterfinals

Defending champions Manchester City advanced to the Carabao Cup quarterfinals after overcoming Brighton and Hove Albion 4-3 on penalties following a 2-2 draw on Wednesday. Brighton took the lead through Malick Yalcouye in the first half, but Mateo Kovacic equalized before the break. Georginio Rutter restored Brighton's advantage shortly after halftime before Vitor Reis brought City level again in the 72nd minute. Neither side found a winner in regulation time, sending the contest to a shootout. Goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli proved decisive, saving two Brighton penalties as City secured their place in the last eight. City have been drawn at home against Bradford City, with the quarterfinal scheduled for the week beginning December 14.

Kajal Dhochak and Neelam Sirohi make history with silver medals at wrestling worlds

Indian wrestlers Kajal Dhochak and Neelam Sirohi won silver medals at the World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday, marking the first time two Indian women reached finals at the same edition. Eighteen-year-old Kajal lost 8-6 to Ukraine's Anastasiya Alpyeyeva in the 76-kilogram final, while Neelam was pinned by Japan's four-time world champion Yui Susaki in the 50-kilogram bout. Kajal had reached the final after recovering from a 1-7 deficit to win her semifinal 10-7. Neelam secured her place with a 7-3 semifinal victory.



Travis Head and Alex Carey honored with Adelaide mural ahead of Christmas Test

Cricketers Travis Head and Alex Carey have been honored with a mural in Adelaide as the countdown to the Christmas Test against New Zealand reaches 50 days. Unveiled by Cricket Australia on Wednesday, the artwork shows the teammates raising their bats, with Adelaide Oval landmarks and St Peter's Cathedral in the background. Artist Calum Hotham created the mural with street art studio Blank Walls. Head's family, cricketer Callum Ferguson and cricket expert Mel Jones attended the unveiling. The Test will be played at Adelaide Oval.

Charli XCX wraps North American tour with Las Vegas finale, promises more shows next year

British singer-songwriter Charli XCX has concluded the North American leg of her 'Music, Fashion, Film' tour with a performance in Las Vegas on Friday. Celebrating the final show, she thanked the performers, crew members and audiences who helped make the concerts special. She also expressed gratitude to musical artist underscores for joining her on the tour, describing the production as a project she was particularly proud of. In an Instagram post, Charli said the experience had left her feeling inspired and energized. She also announced plans to perform in the United Kingdom, Paris, Amsterdam and South America next year. The tour reflects her expanding creative interests across music, fashion and filmmaking.

Patrick Stewart, celebrated 'Star Trek' and 'X-Men' actor, dies at 86 after battle with dementia

British actor Patrick Stewart, renowned for his commanding performances in Shakespearean theater and blockbuster film and television franchises, has died at 86. He passed away Wednesday at his home in Los Angeles following a battle with Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body dementia, according to a statement from his longtime spokesperson, Kelly Bush Novak.

Stewart achieved worldwide fame as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in 'Star Trek: The Next Generation', which ran for seven seasons. He reprised the role in four feature films and the television series 'Star Trek: Picard'. He also became widely recognized for portraying Professor Charles Xavier in seven 'X-Men' films, with another appearance planned in 'Avengers: Doomsday'. Born in Mirfield, England, in 1940, Stewart built an acclaimed theater career with the Royal



Shakespeare Company before becoming an international screen star. His performances earned two Laurence Olivier Awards, a Grammy nomination and several Emmy and Tony nominations. Tributes poured in from colleagues, including Ian McKellen, William Shatner and Hugh Jackman, who remembered him for his talent, warmth and humanity. Stewart is survived by his wife, jazz musician Sunny Ozell, and two children from his first marriage.

Jennifer Lawrence recalls dangerous 'Hunger Games' stunt involving real explosions and fireballs

Hollywood actress Jennifer Lawrence has recalled one of the most dangerous sequences she filmed for 'The Hunger Games', revealing that a mountain chase involving fireballs was performed without computer-generated imagery. Speaking on the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast on Wednesday, Lawrence said she ran down a mountain while real explosions and fires erupted behind her. She explained that performers had only a general idea of the safe route, making it especially risky to stray from the path. Lawrence also discussed returning to the franchise in 'The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping', describing her reunion with former co-stars Josh Hutcherson and Woody Harrelson, along with the original crew, as deeply emotional.

Ranbir Kapoor says playing Lord Rama has made him a better father to daughter Raha



Actor Ranbir Kapoor has described portraying Lord Rama in the upcoming epic 'Ramayana' as a responsibility that has influenced his personal life and helped him become a better father to his daughter, Raha. Speaking during a Diwali special episode of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', hosted by Amitabh Bachchan, Kapoor recalled initially feeling intimidated by the role because of the faith millions of people place in the Hindu deity. He said that fear gradually turned into gratitude, particularly as he became a father during the same period. Kapoor added that studying the epic gave him an opportunity to grow as a person and learn from Lord Rama's ideals.

Ektaa Kapoor celebrates 25 years of 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' and its unforgettable characters

Television producer Ektaa Kapoor has celebrated 25 years of 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay', the romantic drama that became one of Indian television's most memorable shows. The series premiered on Thursday and featured Shweta Tiwari as Prerna, Cezanne Khan as Anurag and Ronit Roy as Rishabh Bajaj. Marking the anniversary, Kapoor shared a video featuring memorable scenes, accompanied by the show's popular title track, 'Kyuki Chahat Ke Safar Mein'. She remembered the characters, including the much-discussed vamp Komolika, and described the series as a love story that audiences around the world connected with. Kapoor also asked followers whether the title track could inspire the name of one of her upcoming projects.

Naseeruddin Shah calls himself 'Dimagi Naxal' while backing Jamia students and criticizing government

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has intensified his criticism of the central government, declaring himself a 'proud Dimagi Naxal' while supporting protesting students at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. In a video shared on Facebook on Tuesday, Shah displayed a badge bearing the phrase, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had used in his Independence Day address to describe ideological critics. Challenging labels such as 'anti-national' and 'tukde-tukde gang', Shah accused the government of weakening young people, undermining educational institutions and putting democracy at risk. He referred to earlier student protests at Jawaharlal Nehru



University and Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute. Jamia students are demanding the restoration of their elected student union, whose elections have not been held since 2006. Shah had previously voiced support for the SRFTI protesters.

Manoj Bajpayee says streaming platforms are giving overlooked actors the recognition they deserve

Actor Manoj Bajpayee believes streaming platforms have transformed opportunities for performers who struggled to find meaningful roles in mainstream Bollywood. In an interview with IANS, he said male actors who were previously overlooked by theatrical cinema are now receiving substantial roles, professional recognition and greater financial stability through streaming projects. He noted that the work has allowed many performers to maintain their lifestyles and enjoy greater comfort. Bajpayee, known for unconventional characters in films such as 'Satya', 'Aligarh' and 'Bhonsle', also earned widespread recognition for playing Srikant Tiwari in 'The Family



Man'. He was recently seen in 'Gajab Raat', a suspense thriller directed by Ritesh Shah and produced by Neeraj Pandey, which premiered on Netflix on Friday.

Rashmika Mandanna pushes back against online criticism of her relationship with Vijay Deverakonda

Actor Rashmika Mandanna has responded strongly to online criticism of her relationship with Vijay Deverakonda, saying the couple made their decision to build a life together after careful consideration. The backlash followed their appearance on 'Koffee with Karan' Season 9, where comments about their relationship sparked debate. In an Instagram statement, Mandanna rejected claims that their relationship revolved around a prolonged marriage proposal, explaining that they simply wanted time to understand each other and be certain about their future. She also defended



Deverakonda's support during difficult moments and criticized attacks on her family. Calling such behavior bullying rather than feminism, she said feminism should protect an individual's freedom to make personal choices.

Vin Diesel reveals first acting paycheck fulfilled his mother's dream of visiting Europe

Hollywood star Vin Diesel has shared an emotional memory of how his first acting paycheck helped fulfill a special wish for his mother. In an Instagram post on Wednesday, Diesel recalled using the money he earned for his role as Private Adrian Caparzo in the 1998 war film 'Saving Private Ryan' to buy her a ticket to Europe for the first time. He said the character, who dies while trying to help a child in the film, reminded him of his mother's belief that helping others is the best way to help oneself. Diesel also reflected on his family's support during his early career and expressed gratitude for his mother's encouragement.

Chris Hemsworth unwinds in Thailand after hectic 'Extraction 3' filming schedule



Hollywood actor Chris Hemsworth has shared glimpses of his off-duty adventures in Thailand while wrapping up several weeks of filming for 'Extraction 3'. In an Instagram post on Wednesday, the actor posted photographs of himself enjoying the country's beaches, diving, fishing, boxing and visiting temples. Some images also featured his sons. Hemsworth said the filming schedule had been demanding but that he had managed to make the most of his weekends with activities away from the set. The third installment continues the action franchise in which he plays mercenary Tyler Rake. The first two films, 'Extraction' and 'Extraction 2', were released on Netflix in 2020 and 2023, respectively.

Bhumi Pednekar seeks Lord Shiva's blessings at Mahakaleshwar Temple ahead of Diwali



Actress Bhumi Pednekar visited the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, ahead of Diwali to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva. On Wednesday, she shared photographs and videos from her spiritual visit on Instagram, captioning them, 'Just surrender. Jai Shri Mahakaal. Happy Diwali.' The Mahakaleshwar shrine is among the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located near the Shipra River. On the professional front, Pednekar is preparing to appear in the upcoming historical film 'The Pride of Bharat: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj'. She will portray warrior queen Belawadi Mallamma in the two-part production, which also stars Rishab Shetty, Arjun Rampal and Vivek Oberoi.

Taylor Swift credits Nashville's songwriting community for shaping her musical journey

Pop superstar Taylor Swift has praised Nashville's songwriting community for shaping her career, describing the city's creative environment as unlike any other. Speaking at her induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame on Monday, Swift said repeatedly working alongside talented songwriters had helped her develop her craft. She credited the city with teaching her valuable professional and personal lessons, including patience, collaboration and understanding the experiences of fellow writers. Swift moved to Nashville as a teenager to pursue country music and signed her first publishing deal at 14. At 36, she became the youngest inductee in the Hall of Fame's history, recognizing her influence across country and pop music.

Jay-Z urges fans to question online narratives and stay alert to artificial intelligence

Rapper Jay-Z has urged fans to think critically about information circulating online, warning that artificial intelligence can increasingly manipulate content and imitate real people. Addressing audiences during his two-night concert run at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, the rapper questioned social media claims that his shows had poor attendance or sound quality. He told concertgoers to trust what they could see and hear rather than automatically believing online commentary. Jay-Z also compared modern artificial intelligence-driven manipulation to propaganda, saying technology had made it easier to mislead people and imitate their identities and personal styles. He repeated his message later in the performance, emphasizing that people should question what they encounter online.

Bollywood glamour meets tradition at Sunita Kapoor's annual Karwa Chauth celebration

From elegant sarees and richly embroidered lehengas to traditional puja thalis and festive rituals, Bollywood's leading women brought color and glamour to the annual Karwa Chauth gathering hosted by Sunita Kapoor at her Mumbai residence on Thursday. The much-awaited celebration brought together several familiar faces from the film industry, including Shilpa Shetty, Mira Rajput, Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Pandey, Neelam Kothari, Geeta Basra, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and Mini Mathur. Anshula Kapoor also joined the festivities, marking her first Karwa Chauth after marrying Rohan Thakkar earlier this year.

The evening was also a showcase of festive fashion. Shilpa Shetty chose a pink saree with golden motifs, a contrasting red border and an embroidered green blouse. Mira looked elegant in a champagne-gold saree with intricate detailing, while Riddhima Kapoor Sahni opted for a pink lehenga. Geeta Basra wore a pink sharara, Mini Mathur arrived in a red saree, and Maheep Kapoor stood out in a deep-red embroidered



ensemble. Bhavana Pandey chose mustard yellow, while Neelam Kothari wore emerald green with gold detailing.

Anshula's appearance was particularly special as she celebrated her first Karwa Chauth following her wedding earlier this year. The gathering also offered glimpses of beautifully arranged festive platters, traditional offerings and decorated puja thalis, reflecting the rituals at the heart of the occasion.

Kutle Khan denies responsibility for Shilpa Rao's interrupted performance at Mumbai music festival

Folk singer Kutle Khan has denied responsibility for the controversy surrounding playback singer Shilpa Rao's interrupted performance at the Bollywood Music Project in Mumbai on Saturday. Facing criticism after his set began while Rao was addressing the audience, Khan explained in an Instagram video on Tuesday that performers had been assigned fixed slots and he was following the organizers' instructions. He said Rao's microphone and stage lights were switched off without his knowledge and that he had initially been asked to perform for a shortened slot. Khan added that he paused his performance when Rao began thanking the audience, but resumed after



receiving instructions through his earpiece. He described Rao as a close friend and said the online trolling was unfair.

Hariharan presents 'Vande Mataram' vinyl to President Murmu in memorable four-generation family meeting

Singer Hariharan has described his meeting with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan as one of the most meaningful occasions for his family, which was represented across four generations. During the meeting on Monday, the singer presented the President with a special vinyl edition of 'The Anthem - Vande Mataram', accompanied by a bespoke turntable. Sharing photographs from the occasion on social media, Hariharan said the

President's warmth and grace made the experience even more memorable. He was particularly touched by her affectionate interaction with his mother, Alamelu Mani, describing it as a moment his family would cherish for a lifetime. Calling music his humble offering to the nation, he said receiving the President's blessings in the presence of his loved ones made his musical journey feel complete. Hariharan, a Padma Shri recipient, is known for songs such as 'Tu Hi Re', 'Roja Jaaneman' and 'Baahon Ke Darmiyaan'.

Mumbai Police invoke MCOCA in Tiger Shroff firing case, allege wider Lawrence Bishnoi gang conspiracy

The investigation into the firing incident involving actor Tiger Shroff has taken a significant turn, with Mumbai Police invoking the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act against all the accused arrested in the case. The attack took place in Juhu on October 18, when two assailants allegedly opened fire before fleeing with the help of a getaway motorcyclist. Police registered a case the following day under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Arms Act.

Investigators have since arrested 11 people, including the alleged shooters, weapons suppliers and individuals suspected of arranging logistical support and financing. Police have identified Anil Pandit, an alleged Lawrence Bishnoi gang operative who reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack on social media, as the prime accused. He remains at large. Investigators suspect the firing was intended to establish the gang's financial and territorial influence and spread fear. The probe is continuing, with further arrests possible.

Imran Khan gets Bombay High Court protection against 'Leave India' order after challenging government notice



Actor Imran Khan has received interim relief from the Bombay High Court in his legal battle against a government order directing him to leave India by Wednesday. On Tuesday, a division bench stayed the operation of the notice and directed that no coercive action be taken against him until the next hearing on Monday, November 2. The Foreigners Regional Registration Office had issued the notice on October 14, following an incident near Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan, where Khan was briefly detained amid a protest-related gathering demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Khan is a United States citizen and holds Overseas Citizen of India status. He has argued that the notice was arbitrary, did not clearly identify the alleged violation and was issued without a prior inquiry or an opportunity to respond. His petition also disputes the allegation that he actively participated in the demonstration. The court's order keeps the notice in abeyance while the challenge is considered.

Netaji's grandnephew demands withdrawal of 'Fauzi' teaser over portrayal of Hitler meeting



The teaser of Prabhas' upcoming period action film 'Fauzi' has triggered controversy over its portrayal of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose, with his grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose demanding that the makers withdraw the promotional video and issue a corrected version. Released on Friday to mark Prabhas' birthday, the teaser opens with a dramatized recreation of Netaji's 1942 meeting with Adolf Hitler in Berlin. The sequence uses their conversation to introduce Prabhas' fictional character, an Indian spy and rebel soldier known as 'Fauzi'. Chandra Kumar Bose argued that filmmakers can exercise creative freedom when depicting the independence movement, but should not mix fiction with historical events in ways that mislead audiences or diminish national icons. He said Netaji approached Hitler to secure support for India's independence while asserting his own position, and maintained that the freedom fighter opposed fascism and supported democracy. He has called on director Hanu Raghavapudi and the production team to remove the teaser, correct the portrayal and apologize to those who value India's freedom struggle.

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

शीतला माता मंदिर, गुरुग्राम

धर्मक्षेत्र कुरुक्षेत्र से गुरुग्राम तक—माता शीतला की महिमा, महाभारत से जुड़ी मान्यताएं और सदियों पुरानी लोक आस्था की परंपरा

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 अध्याय के पहले पड़ाव में हमने पंचकूला स्थित माता मनसा देवी मंदिर की शक्ति उपासना के दर्शन किए और दूसरे पड़ाव में कुरुक्षेत्र के पवित्र ब्रह्म सरोवर की धार्मिक एवं ऐतिहासिक महत्ता को जाना। अब इस यात्रा का तीसरा पड़ाव है गुरुग्राम का प्रसिद्ध शीतला माता मंदिर—एक ऐसा आस्था-केंद्र, जहां माता के प्रति श्रद्धा, रोगों से मुक्ति की कामना और बच्चों के कल्याण की परंपरा पीढ़ियों से चली आ रही है।

शीतला माता मंदिर, गुरुग्राम — आस्था, महाभारत की मान्यताएं और लोक परंपरा

हरियाणा के गुरुग्राम में स्थित शीतला माता मंदिर उत्तर भारत के प्रमुख देवी तीर्थस्थलों में गिना जाता है। माता शीतला को देवी दुर्गा का स्वरूप माना जाता है। ‘शीतला’ शब्द का अर्थ है—शीतलता प्रदान करने वाली। भक्त माता की पूजा रोगों से रक्षा, उत्तम स्वास्थ्य, बच्चों की सलामती और परिवार के कल्याण की कामना से करते हैं।

विशेष रूप से चैत्र और आश्विन नवरात्र के दौरान यहां श्रद्धालुओं की बड़ी संख्या पहुंचती है। इसके अतिरिक्त शीतला अष्टमी और अन्य धार्मिक अवसरों पर भी मंदिर में विशेष पूजा-अर्चना होती है। नवजात शिशुओं और छोटे बच्चों के मुंडन संस्कार के लिए भी परिवार यहां आते हैं और माता से उनके स्वस्थ एवं सुखी जीवन का आशीर्वाद मांगते हैं।

माता शीतला की महिमा: रोगों से रक्षा और बच्चों का कल्याण

लोकमान्यता में माता शीतला को चेचक, खसरा, छोटी माता और अन्य ज्वर संबंधी बीमारियों से रक्षा करने वाली देवी के रूप में पूजा जाता रहा है। पुराने समय में जब संक्रामक रोगों का उपचार सीमित था, तब लोग माता की शरण में जाकर स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा की प्रार्थना करते थे। इसी कारण माता शीतला की उपासना भारतीय लोकधर्म और पारिवारिक आस्था का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बन गई।

मंदिर में विराजमान माता की प्रतिमा के स्वरूप और उनसे जुड़ी प्रतीकात्मक मान्यताओं का विशेष महत्व है। परंपरागत चित्रण में माता के हाथों में झाड़ू, पंखा, जलपात्र और नीम के पत्ते दिखाए जाते हैं। इन्हें रोगों को दूर करने, शरीर को शीतलता देने, स्वच्छता और आरोग्य का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

यहां यह समझना भी आवश्यक है कि ये धार्मिक और पारंपरिक मान्यताएं हैं। चेचक जैसे संक्रामक रोगों से बचाव के



लिए आधुनिक चिकित्सा, टीकाकरण और स्वच्छता के उपायों का अपना वैज्ञानिक महत्व है।

महाभारत से जुड़ी मान्यता: गुरु द्रोणाचार्य की पत्नी कृपी

शीतला माता मंदिर की सबसे प्रचलित धार्मिक मान्यताओं में इसका संबंध महाभारत काल से जोड़ा जाता है। लोककथा के अनुसार माता शीतला का मूल स्वरूप कृपी था, जिन्हें कृपाई या ललिता के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। वे गुरु द्रोणाचार्य की पत्नी और कृपाचार्य की बहन थीं। गुरु द्रोणाचार्य महाभारत में पांडवों और कौरवों के गुरु के रूप में प्रसिद्ध हैं।

एक प्रचलित कथा के अनुसार, कृपी अत्यंत दयालु और सेवाभावी थीं। वे विशेष रूप से बीमार बच्चों की देखभाल करती थीं और रोग से पीड़ित लोगों की सेवा में लगी रहती थीं। उनकी करुणा और सेवा-भाव के कारण लोग उन्हें सन्मानपूर्वक ‘माता’ कहकर पुकारने लगे। समय के साथ उनकी स्मृति माता शीतला के रूप में लोकआस्था में प्रतिष्ठित हो गई।



एक अन्य लोककथा में गुरु द्रोणाचार्य की मृत्यु के बाद कृपी के सती होने और अपने त्याग के माध्यम से इस भूमि को आशीर्वाद देने का उल्लेख मिलता है। इन कथाओं के विभिन्न रूप प्रचलित हैं; इन्हें ऐतिहासिक रूप से प्रमाणित घटनाओं के बजाय धार्मिक एवं लोकपरंपराओं के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

गुरुग्राम का नाम भी स्थानीय परंपरा में गुरु द्रोणाचार्य से जोड़ा जाता है। मान्यता है कि यह क्षेत्र कभी ‘गुरु ग्राम’ कहलाता था और पांडवों ने इसे अपने गुरु द्रोणाचार्य को भेंट किया था। समय के साथ ‘गुरु ग्राम’ का नाम बदलकर गुडगांव और फिर आधिकारिक रूप से गुरुग्राम हो गया।

मंदिर का इतिहास और विकास

माता शीतला की उपासना की परंपरा प्राचीन मानी जाती है, लेकिन वर्तमान मंदिर के विकास का इतिहास मुख्यतः मध्यकालीन और आधुनिक काल की स्थानीय परंपराओं से जुड़ा है। एक प्रचलित मान्यता के अनुसार, 18वीं शताब्दी के प्रारंभ में निकटवर्ती गांव के श्रद्धालु चौधरी सिंह जाट ने माता के निर्देश पर मंदिर के निर्माण की पहल की थी। कहा जाता है कि उन्हें स्वप्न में देवी के दर्शन हुए और उन्होंने एक तालाब से माता की प्रतिमा प्राप्त कर मंदिर स्थापित कराया।

मंदिर को व्यापक पहचान मिलने का श्रेय भरतपुर के महाराजा जवाहर सिंह से भी जोड़ा जाता है। स्थानीय परंपरा के अनुसार, वर्ष 1764 के आसपास उन्होंने माता के प्रति अपनी श्रद्धा व्यक्त करते हुए मंदिर का विस्तार कराया। इस प्रकार यह स्थान आसपास के क्षेत्रों के साथ-साथ दूर-दराज के श्रद्धालुओं के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ बन गया। समय के साथ मंदिर का प्रबंधन और सुविधाएं विकसित हुईं। वर्ष 1991 में हरियाणा सरकार ने श्री शीतला माता देवी श्राइन बोर्ड के माध्यम से इसके प्रबंधन की जिम्मेदारी संभाली। आज यह बोर्ड मंदिर की व्यवस्था, श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधाओं और धार्मिक गतिविधियों के संचालन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

अनूठी पूजा परंपराएं और शीतला अष्टमी

माता शीतला की पूजा में कुछ ऐसी लोकपरंपराएं हैं जो इसे अन्य देवी मंदिरों से अलग पहचान देती हैं। इनमें सबसे उल्लेखनीय है शीतला अष्टमी पर बासी भोजन का भोग लगाने की परंपरा। इस दिन श्रद्धालु एक दिन पहले तैयार किया गया भोजन माता को अर्पित करते हैं। मान्यता है कि माता शीतलता और रोगों से राहत की प्रतीक हैं, इसलिए इस

दिन घरों में चूल्हा न जलाकर पहले से बने भोजन का सेवन किया जाता है।

नीम के पत्ते और जल भी माता की पूजा में विशेष स्थान रखते हैं। भारतीय पारंपरिक चिकित्सा और लोकजीवन में नीम को स्वच्छता एवं स्वास्थ्य से जोड़कर देखा जाता रहा है। इन प्रतीकों के माध्यम से प्रकृति, आरोग्य और धार्मिक आस्था का सुंदर संगम दिखाई देता है।

नवरात्र के दिनों में मंदिर का वातावरण विशेष भक्तिमय हो जाता है। दूर-दूर से आने वाले श्रद्धालु माता के दर्शन करते हैं, पूजा-अर्चना करते हैं और अपने परिवार की सुख-समृद्धि तथा बच्चों के स्वस्थ जीवन की कामना करते हैं।

हरियाणा की धार्मिक विरासत का तीसरा पड़ाव

गुरुग्राम का शीतला माता मंदिर केवल पूजा-अर्चना का स्थान नहीं, बल्कि हरियाणा की लोकआस्था, पारिवारिक परंपराओं और धार्मिक इतिहास का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है। माता शीतला से जुड़ी मान्यताएं हमें सेवा, करुणा, स्वास्थ्य और बच्चों के संरक्षण के महत्व की याद दिलाती हैं। महाभारत से जुड़ी लोककथाएं और सदियों से चली आ रही पूजा-पद्धतियां इस मंदिर को विशेष सांस्कृतिक पहचान प्रदान करती हैं।

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” का उद्देश्य देश के तीर्थस्थलों के माध्यम से भारत की आध्यात्मिक विरासत, पौराणिक परंपराओं और सांस्कृतिक विविधता को पाठकों तक पहुंचाना है। हरियाणा का यह पड़ाव भी उसी समृद्ध विरासत की एक महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है।

अगला पड़ाव — स्थानेश्वर महादेव मंदिर, थानेसर

हरियाणा में हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का अगला पड़ाव होगा थानेसर स्थित स्थानेश्वर महादेव मंदिर। भगवान शिव को समर्पित यह प्राचीन तीर्थ कुरुक्षेत्र की धार्मिक परंपरा और महाभारत से जुड़ी मान्यताओं के कारण विशेष महत्व रखता है। अगले लेख में हम इस मंदिर के इतिहास, पौराणिक संबंधों और शिवभक्ति की प्राचीन परंपरा को जानेंगे।

IndoUS Tribune की “भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा” में अगले सप्ताह मिलते हैं—हरियाणा के एक और प्राचीन शिवधाम, स्थानेश्वर महादेव मंदिर में।

The Glory of the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra Dedicated to Lord Shiva

In Sanatan Dharma, two mantras hold special significance: the Gayatri Mantra and the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra. The Gayatri Mantra, which originates from the Rig Veda, is chanted across the world for peace of mind, spiritual enlightenment and wisdom.

**ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि। धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्॥**
**Om Bhur Bhuvah Swah Tat Savitur Varenyam
Bhargo Devasya Dhimahi Dhiyo Yo Nah
Prachodayat.**

This mantra inspires every devotee to follow the path of wisdom and righteous living. Its significance is so profound that Lord Krishna himself describes it as his manifestation among the Vedic hymns in the Bhagavad Gita. In Chapter 10, Verse 35, He says:

**बृहत्साम तथा साम्नां गायत्री छन्दसामहम् ।
मासानां मार्गशीर्षाहमूनां कुसुमाकरः ॥35॥**

Among the hymns of the Sama Veda, I am the Brihat-Sama; among poetic metres, I am the Gayatri. Among months, I am Margashirsha, and among seasons, I am spring.

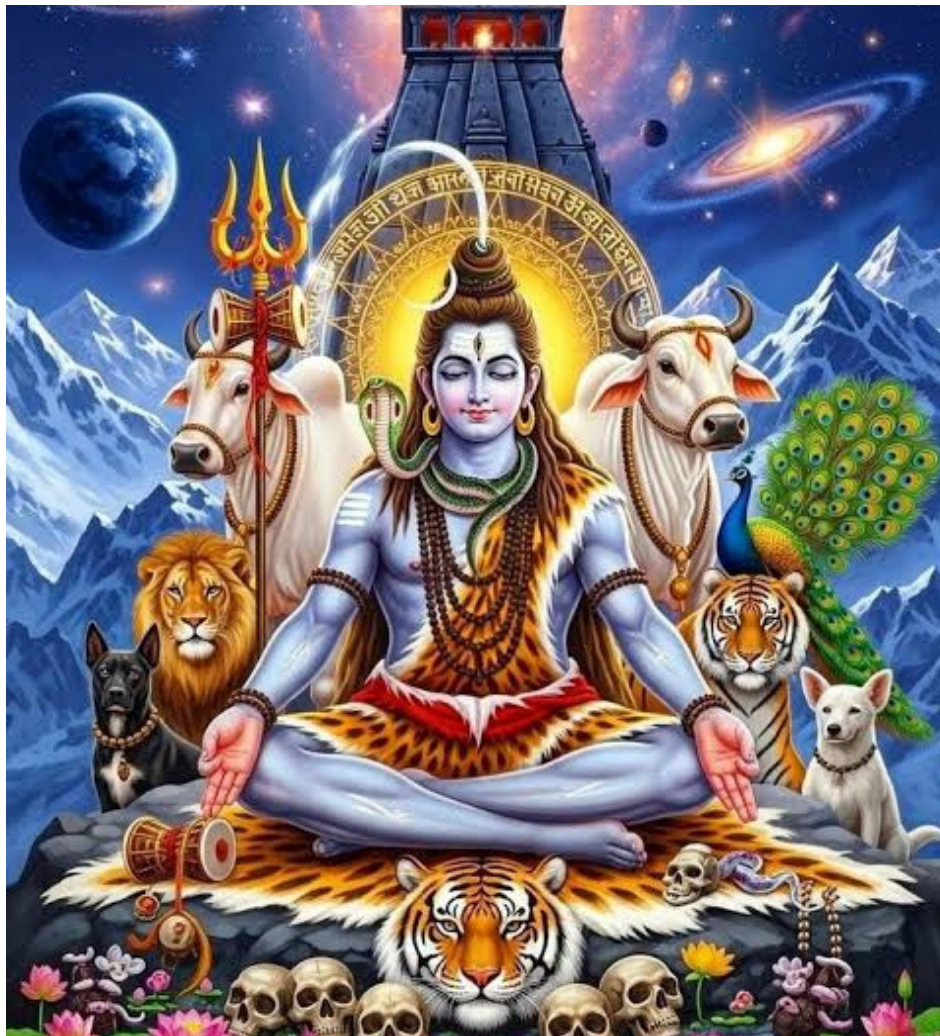
Thus, the Gayatri Mantra holds a revered place in Sanatan tradition. It is regularly chanted for peace of mind, spiritual growth and guidance in leading a righteous life. Numerous Gayatri families and organizations across the world continue to promote and spread its message.

The second mantra that is widely revered and chanted to please Lord Shiva, also known as Bholenath, is the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra:

**ॐ त्र्यम्बकं यजामहे सुगन्धिं पुष्टिवर्धनम् ।
उर्वारुकमिव बन्धनान्मृत्योर्मुक्षीय मामृतात् ॥**
**Om Tryambakam Yajamahe Sugandhim
Pushтивardhanam
Urvarukamiva Bandhanan Mrityor Mukshiya
Maamritat.**

In simple words, this is a prayer to Lord Shiva, seeking liberation from the bondage of death and protection from suffering, while praying that we may never be separated from immortality.

But when and how did this powerful mantra originate?



The Story of Markandeya

According to a popular Hindu legend, there once lived a sage named Mrikandu. He and his wife, Manaswini, performed intense worship of Lord Shiva, seeking the blessing of a child. Pleased with their devotion, Lord Shiva granted them a son but offered them a choice: would they prefer a son with a long life but poor health, or a healthy and virtuous son destined to live only sixteen years?

The sage and his wife chose a healthy son. Their child was named Markandeya, and his destined lifespan was fixed at sixteen years. Sage Mrikandu raised his son with deep devotion to Lord Shiva. From an early age, Markandeya became devoted to Shiva worship and soon grew into a bright and spiritually accomplished young man.

When Markandeya reached the age of sixteen, Yama, the god of death, arrived to take his life. Terrified by the sight of death approaching, the young devotee sought refuge in the only place he knew. He embraced a Shiva Lingam and prayed fervently for protection.

Moved by Markandeya's unwavering devotion, Lord Shiva appeared and saved him from Yama. He declared that Markandeya was his devotee and blessed him with a long life. Having accepted the young boy under his divine protection, Lord Shiva also imparted the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra to him and instructed him to chant it regularly.

According to this tradition, the mantra became associated with Markandeya and came to be known as the Markandeya Mantra.

The Spiritual Significance of the Mantra

For thousands of years, devotees have turned to the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra during times of difficulty, illness and uncertainty. It remains one of the most cherished prayers among followers of Lord Shiva.

The opening portion of the mantra invokes Tryambakeshwar, the three-eyed Lord Shiva, who is worshipped as the source of nourishment, strength and well-being. The words Sugandhim Pushтивardhanam describe the Lord as the one who nourishes and sustains life.

Devotees believe that sincere chanting of this mantra invokes Lord Shiva's blessings, providing spiritual strength, peace and protection from suffering. It is also traditionally chanted for health, healing and longevity.

The second part of the mantra offers a deeper understanding of death. It recognizes death as a

natural and inevitable part of existence. Just as life is a truth, death too is an unavoidable reality.

Lord Krishna explains this principle beautifully in the Bhagavad Gita:

**वासांसि जीर्णानि यथा विहाय
नवानि गृह्णाति नरोऽपराणि ।
तथा शरीराणि विहाय जीर्णान्यन्यानि संयाति
नवानि देही ॥2.22॥**

Just as a person discards old garments and puts on new ones, the soul leaves an old body and takes on a new one.

Explaining this to Arjuna, Lord Krishna teaches that death is not the end of the soul. When the body grows old and can no longer serve its purpose, the soul leaves it and continues its journey in another body.

The Mahamrityunjaya Mantra conveys a similar thought through the image of a ripe cucumber separating naturally from its vine. Just as a fully ripened cucumber detaches from the vine without force, the prayer seeks liberation from the bondage of death without suffering. It is a prayer for freedom from fear and attachment, and ultimately for spiritual liberation.

Mrityunjaya and Mahamrityunjaya

Over time, some traditions and scholars have developed an extended form of the mantra by adding certain sacred seed syllables, known as Beej Mantras, before and after the original verse.

In one commonly recited extended form, syllables such as Om Joom Sah and Om Bhur Bhuvah Swah are added at the beginning, while Om Kleem Sah Hah are included at the end. This expanded version is also referred to in certain traditions as the Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra.

Devotees deeply immersed in Shiva worship consider the regular chanting of this mantra a great blessing. They believe that sincere devotion brings them closer to Bholenath and helps them face physical and emotional difficulties with faith and courage.

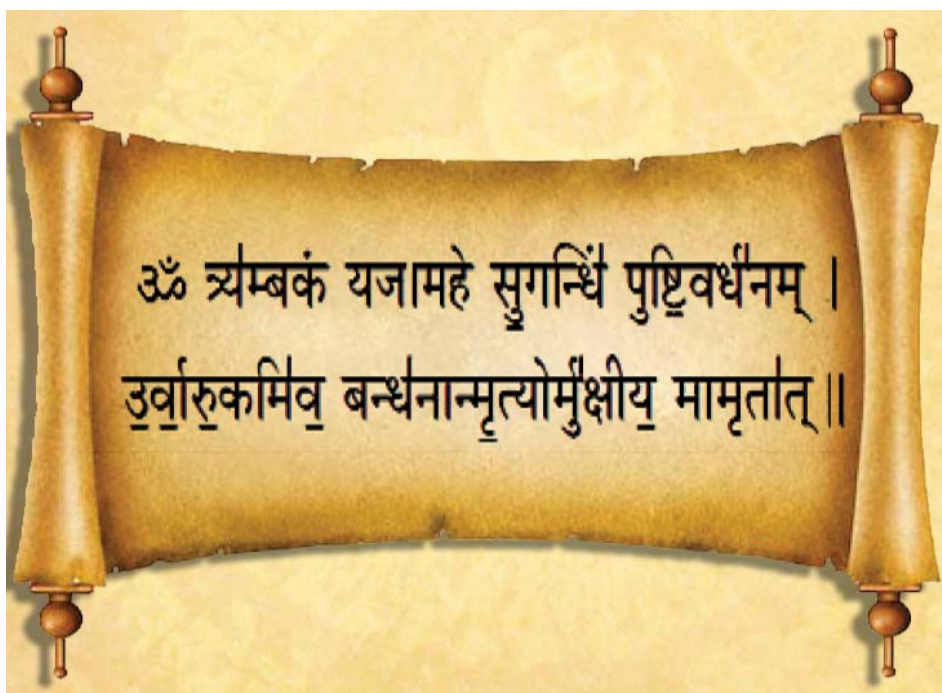
The influence and reverence of the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra extend across the world. Wherever devotees of Lord Shiva gather, its sacred chanting continues to echo through generations.

In Varanasi, the sacred city of Lord Shiva, the melodious recitation of this mantra can be heard throughout the day and night.

At the divine feet of Bholenath, our humble and countless salutations.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291



Illinois Midterms 2026: IndoUS Tribune's editorial endorsements and election analysis

Four key races and the issues that matter to Indian Americans.

● Election Special by Dr. Avi Verma

As Illinois approaches November 3, 2026, general election, voters face important decisions about the state's leadership and its representation in Washington. IndoUS Tribune's election coverage examines four closely watched contests: the governor's race, the U.S. Senate race, and the campaigns for Illinois' 9th and 8th Congressional Districts.

This election special accompanies the newspaper's editorial endorsement coverage and examines the candidates, available polling, and issues that deserve attention from Indian American voters and the wider Illinois electorate. The endorsements themselves should be presented in a separate, clearly identified editorial statement rather than confused with polling data or factual reporting.

1. Governor: J.B. Pritzker vs. Darren Bailey



Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker is seeking a third consecutive term, facing Republican Darren Bailey in a rematch of their 2022 contest. The race has drawn attention to Illinois' economic direction, taxes, public safety, education funding, energy costs and the future of major employers and institutions in the state. A Public Policy Polling survey conducted September 30–October 1 among 569 registered voters reported Pritzker at 54%, Bailey at 34%, independent candidate Corbett at 6%, and 6% undecided. The poll reported a margin of error of ± 4.1 percentage points. A separate ACTi Vote survey dated October 22 reported 59% for Pritzker and 41% for Bailey among 400 likely voters, with a stated margin of error of ± 4.9 points. These are snapshots of voter opinion, not election results.

For Indian American families and businesses, the governor's race has implications for state-level economic development, schools, healthcare access, public safety and the business climate. Voters should also distinguish state responsibilities from federal matters: immigration visas and U.S.–India relations, for example, are primarily shaped by the federal government, even though state policies can affect students, workers, families and employers living in Illinois.

2. U.S. Senate: Juliana Stratton vs. Don Tracy



The contest to succeed retiring Sen. Dick Durbin features Democratic Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and Republican Don Tracy. American Center Party candidate Whitfield Harrington Jr. is also listed in the general-election contest.

A Public Policy Polling survey conducted September 30–October 1 among 569 registered voters reported Stratton at 49%, Tracy at 36%, and 15% undecided, with a margin of error of ± 4.1 percentage points. ACTi Vote's October 22 survey reported a 59%–41% division among 400 likely voters, with a stated margin of error of ± 4.9 points. The surveys differ in their field dates and methods, so their results should be considered separately rather than treated as a guarantee of the outcome.

For Indian American voters, the Senate race raises questions about federal immigration policy, skilled-worker visas, international students, healthcare costs, small-business conditions, civil rights and the broader U.S.–India relationship. Because senators vote on federal legislation, appointments and foreign-policy matters, voters may wish to examine each candidate's public statements and proposals on these subjects.

3. Illinois' 9th Congressional District: Daniel Biss vs. John Elleson



Democrat Daniel Biss, Evanston's mayor, faces Republican John Elleson in the 9th Congressional District contest. The race concerns who will represent communities across Chicago's North Side and northern suburbs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Forecasting models have projected different Democratic margins in this district, but such estimates are not the same as direct polling. The available forecast summaries cited for this race did not identify a direct poll matching Biss

against Elleson. Model-based estimates therefore should not be presented as measured voter preferences. Constituents may assess the candidates' approaches to housing affordability, transportation, healthcare, education, public safety, federal spending and support for small businesses. For Indian American communities, other relevant questions include how each candidate would address anti-South Asian discrimination, immigration-related concerns affecting families and professionals, and the needs of seniors and first-generation immigrants.

4. Illinois' 8th Congressional District: Melissa Bean vs. Jennifer Davis



Democrat Melissa Bean faces Republican Jennifer Davis in the 8th Congressional District. The contest gives voters an opportunity to consider competing approaches to the economy, federal spending, healthcare, education, immigration and the role of government in supporting local communities.

Forecasting sites have published model-based estimates for the race, but the cited summaries did not identify direct candidate polling matching Bean and Davis. Those projections should be understood as estimates based on models and underlying assumptions—not as the results of a survey asking voters to choose between the two candidates.

For Indian American residents in the district, practical considerations may include the cost of healthcare and education, opportunities for entrepreneurs, employment and immigration policy, public safety, and protection against discrimination. Voters can compare the candidate's stated positions, legislative priorities and public records against the issues that matter most to their households and communities.

Issues Indian American Voters Should Examine

Indian Americans are not a politically uniform community. Their priorities differ by generation, profession, economic circumstances and personal experience. Still, several issues may be especially relevant to voters across Illinois:

► **Immigration and legal pathways:** The

treatment of international students, skilled professionals, family-based immigration and visa backlogs.

► **Economic opportunity:** Conditions for small businesses, entrepreneurs, technology professionals and other workers.

► **Education and healthcare:** School quality, college affordability, access to care and the cost of prescription medicines.

► **Civil rights and public safety:** Responses to anti-Asian and anti-South Asian discrimination, hate incidents and threats to community institutions.

► **U.S.–India relations:** Trade, technology, education, defense cooperation and diplomatic engagement.

► **Local accountability:** Whether elected officials communicate with constituents, respond to community concerns and explain their policy decisions.

These issues involve different levels of government. The president and Congress have central roles in federal immigration and foreign policy, while Illinois officials influence state budgets, education, healthcare programs and economic policy. Understanding that distinction helps voters evaluate candidates against the powers of the offices they seek.

Polls are snapshots, not outcomes

Polling provides useful information about voter opinion at a particular moment, but results depend on sample selection, question wording, field dates and turnout assumptions. Differences between polls do not necessarily indicate a sudden shift in public opinion. Forecasts add another layer of modeling and should not be confused with direct surveys.

The cited polls indicate the reported levels of support at the time they were conducted. They cannot establish how every community—including Indian American voters—will vote, nor can they determine the final result before ballots are counted.

An informed electorate is an engaged electorate

The November 3 election will shape representation at the state and federal levels. For Indian American voters, as for all Illinois residents, the most useful approach is to examine candidates' records, proposals and public commitments; verify claims against reliable sources; and distinguish campaign statements from policies an officeholder would actually have the authority to implement.

IndoUS Tribune's election coverage aims to place these contests in context and highlight the issues that affect the community. Editorial endorsements express an editorial judgment; polling and race analysis serve a different purpose. Keeping those roles clear helps readers understand the newspaper's position while making their own informed decisions at the ballot box.

North Dakota unveils its first Mahatma Gandhi statue at Bismarck's Peace Park

Monument celebrates Gandhi's enduring message of peace and non-violence and marks another milestone in India–North Dakota relations.

● By: Vandana Jhingan

In a historic milestone for India–U.S. cultural relations, North Dakota has unveiled its first life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Peace Park in downtown Bismarck, the state capital. The installation, facilitated by the Consulate General of India in Seattle with support from the Indian American community of North Dakota and the North Dakota Trade Office, celebrates Gandhi's enduring legacy of peace, non-violence and humanity. The unveiling ceremony was attended by North Dakota First Lady Kjersti Armstrong, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and the Consul General of India in Seattle, along with officials of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District and members of the Indian American community. The ceremony opened with the national anthems of the United States and India, followed by musical presentations of Gandhi's favorite hymns by local school students. Held during the year marking Mahatma Gandhi's 157th birth anniversary, the event added special significance to the worldwide observance of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, which is also recognized by the United Nations as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Addressing the gathering, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring highlighted the growing friendship between India and North Dakota. He observed that Gandhi's message transcended national boundaries and resonated with people across the world, including the people of North Dakota. He described the statue as a lasting symbol of peace and non-violence. First Lady Kjersti Armstrong expressed her admiration for Gandhi and said it was an honor to celebrate his legacy. She emphasized that his message was particularly relevant in today's world, perhaps more than ever.

Located at 400 East Front Avenue in downtown Bismarck, Peace Park was developed shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as a place dedicated to peace and reflection. The park already features a Peace Pole installed by the Gandhi Peace Network of North Dakota, along with other bronze sculptures. Gandhi's statue now joins these installations, strengthening the park's identity as a public space dedicated to peace, understanding and harmony.

The installation also reflects the expanding



relationship between India and North Dakota. Since the establishment of the Consulate General of India in Seattle, engagement with the state has steadily increased. Visits by the Consul General in 2024 and 2026 included meetings with the Governor, Bismarck's

Mayor and leaders from agriculture, business and education. The Consulate has also organized cultural and consular outreach in Fargo, including celebrations of the International Day of Yoga 2026 and a consular camp in February. North Dakota Trade Office



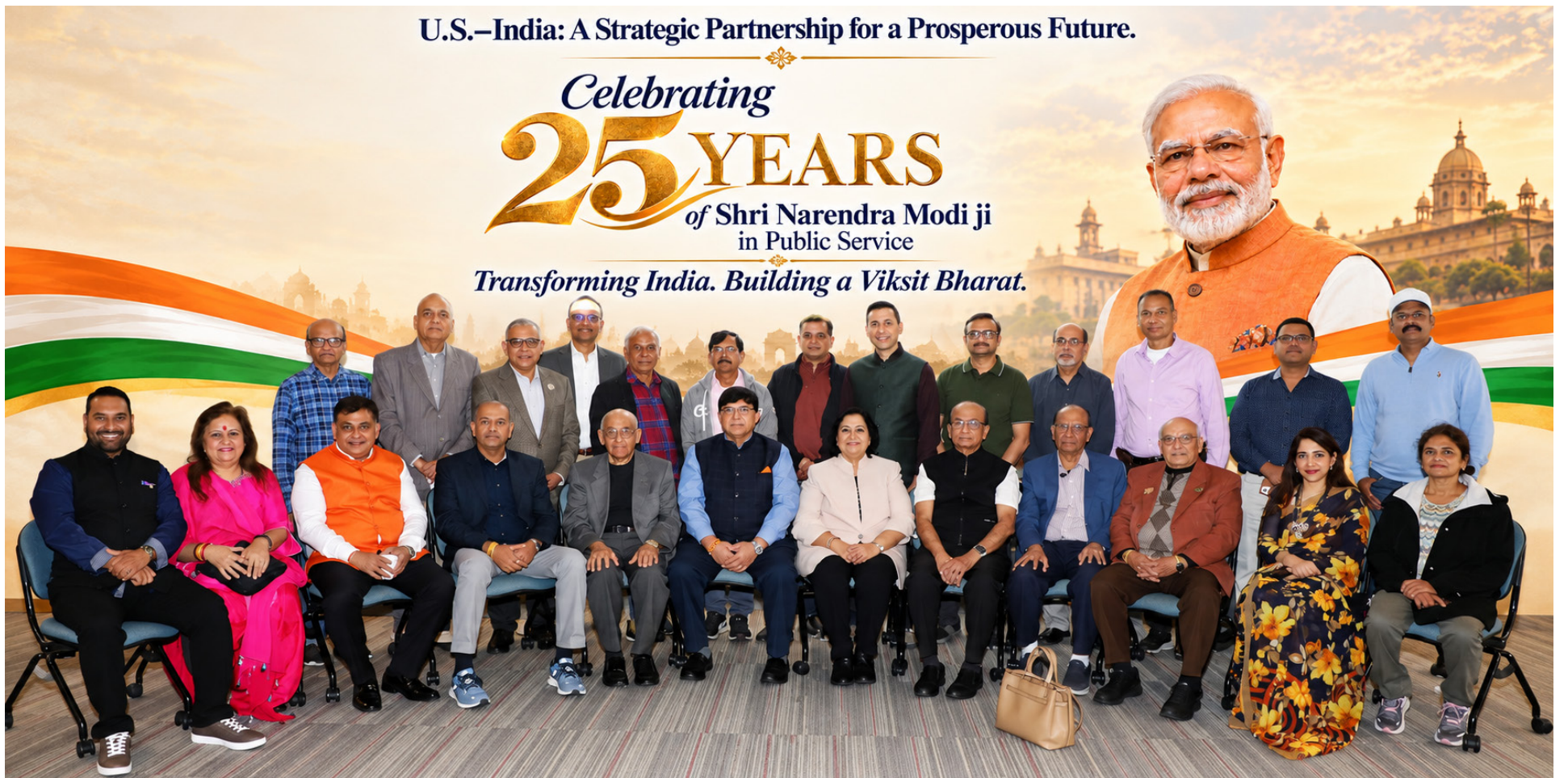
delegations have also visited India as part of continuing exchanges aimed at strengthening commercial and institutional partnerships.

The Bismarck monument is the latest addition to the Consulate's efforts to promote Gandhi's legacy across the Pacific Northwest and Midwest. Previous installations include statues at the base of Seattle's Space Needle in October 2024, the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln in December 2024, and the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana in Missoula in March 2026. Along with the earlier monument at Bellevue Public Library, installed in October 2009, the Bismarck statue is the fifth Gandhi monument within the Seattle Consulate's jurisdiction.

Beyond its significance as a cultural installation, the statue represents a shared commitment to the universal values Gandhi championed. His message that peace, non-violence and mutual respect can transcend political, cultural and national differences continues to inspire generations. For North Dakota's Indian American community, the monument is also a source of pride—a permanent recognition of India's heritage and its contribution to the global message of peace.



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.



Krishnamoorthi leads 256 cosponsors in resolution to designate July as Indian American Heritage Month

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) has introduced a bipartisan resolution, supported by 256 cosponsors, to designate July as Indian American Heritage Month, recognizing the contributions of generations of Indian Americans to the United States.

The resolution recognizes the estimated 5.2 million Indian Americans living in the country and highlights their contributions across science, medicine, technology, business, public service, the military, education, philanthropy, arts, culture and athletics.

The proposed designation of July commemorates the signing of the Luce-Celler Act by President Harry S. Truman on July 2, 1946. The legislation made



people of Indian descent eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens, marking an important milestone in the history of Indian immigration and citizenship.

“Indian Americans have helped shape

this country for generations, from breakthroughs that have saved lives and businesses that have created jobs to lifetimes of service in our military and public office,” Krishnamoorthi said.

He noted that the resolution seeks to recognize this legacy and the community’s continuing contributions to American society. Beyond professional and economic achievements, the resolution also acknowledges the religious and cultural diversity of Indian Americans and their role in shaping the nation’s civic and cultural life.

If adopted, the resolution would establish July as an annual occasion to recognize Indian American heritage and reflect on the community’s contributions to the United States.

The initiative also draws attention to the historical significance of the 1946 Luce-Celler Act, which helped open the path to citizenship for people of Indian origin decades before the major immigration reforms of 1965.

United Senior Pariwar celebrates Navratri with Garba, devotion and community fellowship

By: Jayanti Oza

United Senior Pariwar, Chicago (USPC), celebrated Navratri with an evening of devotional rituals, traditional Garba and Dandiya dancing, and community fellowship at the Swaminarayan Mandir in Wheeling on October 10. The gathering brought together senior community members and guests to celebrate Hindu traditions while promoting friendship, cultural preservation and active community engagement. The event was sponsored by Acharya Shri Rohitbhai Joshi and his wife, Pannaben Joshi, with co-sponsorship from Manjuben Chhitubhai Patel and family.

The program began with traditional refreshments, including fafda, jalebi, pasta and tea. Acharya Shri Rohitbhai Joshi recited Navratri mantras and offered blessings to the attendees, setting a devotional tone for the evening.

Lima Mathew, Consul, Head of



Chancery and Community Welfare at the Consulate General of India in Chicago, attended the celebration, thanked the organizers for the invitation and extended Navratri greetings to the community.

Garba and Dandiya were the highlights of the evening, as participants dressed in colorful traditional attire enthusiastically

joined the dances. The celebration provided seniors an opportunity to remain socially active while enjoying the music, customs and festive spirit associated with Navratri.

During a break, guests enjoyed Havmor ice cream sponsored by Bharatbhai Soni and his wife, Varshaben Soni. Music for

the event was provided by DJ Bharatbhai Desai. Shri Mafatbhai Patel, owner of Patel Brothers and Airtours, conveyed his blessings and best wishes for the event and contributed \$1,000 in support of the celebration.

USPC also marked the birthdays of members born in October, distributing sweets and extending wishes for their happiness and good health.

Rameshbhai Chokshi and Virendrabhai Patel informed members about the organization’s upcoming Diwali Annakut celebration scheduled for November 2026 and encouraged community participation.

Treasurer Kiritbhai Pandya thanked the sponsors, the Consulate General of India in Chicago, the Swaminarayan Mandir, volunteers and attendees for their contributions to the event’s success.

The evening concluded with a vegetarian dinner prepared by the Swaminarayan Mandir. The celebration underscored USPC’s continued efforts to bring seniors together through devotion, cultural traditions, social interaction and community service.



Hindu Community to hold National Heritage Flag-Hoisting Ceremony at Canada's Parliament Hill

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Hindu Canadians will gather at Parliament Hill on Sunday, November 1, for the National Hindu Heritage Month Flag-Hoisting Ceremony, continuing a tradition initiated in 2022 to recognize Hindu heritage and the community's contributions to Canada.

Organized by the Hindu Community in Ottawa Foundation (HCO), the ceremony will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. near the Centennial Flame. Organizers describe it as Canada's only national Hindu heritage flag-hoisting ceremony held at Parliament Hill. The annual gathering celebrates Hinduism's rich history, cultural traditions and contributions to Canada's social, economic, cultural and civic life. It also highlights shared Canadian values of diversity, inclusion, peace and mutual respect. The tradition began on November 1, 2022, when then-Member of Parliament Chandra Arya initiated the Hindu Heritage Month flag-hoisting ceremony at Parliament Hill. Following his departure from politics, the Hindu Community in Ottawa Foundation has continued organizing the annual event to maintain the tradition and bring the community together.

Canada's recognition of Hindu Heritage Month followed the House of Commons' adoption of Motion M-42 in May 2022, supporting the designation of November as Hindu Heritage Month. The first official observance took place in November 2022, providing an opportunity to recognize the history, traditions and contributions of Hindu Canadians. The November 1 ceremony will bring together community members

and families to celebrate their heritage while reaffirming their connection to Canada. Organizers are encouraging Hindu Canadians and their friends to attend and participate in the event.

The gathering's message, "Our Heritage. Our Pride. Our Canada!" reflects the

organizers' emphasis on preserving cultural identity while contributing to the country's multicultural fabric. The House of Commons approved Motion M-42 on September 28, 2022, rather than in May; the motion was introduced and debated in May. The first flag-hoisting ceremony at Parliament Hill took place

on November 1, 2022, initiated by Chandra Arya.

Event details: Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., near the Centennial Flame, Parliament Hill, Ottawa.



OFBJP-USA hosts Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran in Chicago

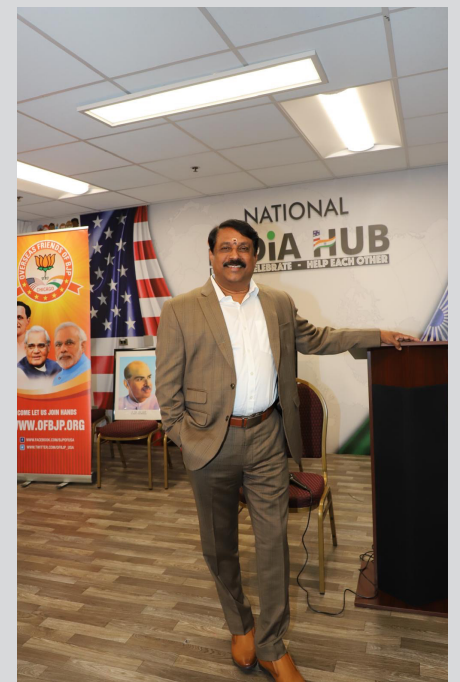
By: Dr. Avi Verma

Overseas Friends of BJP-USA (OFBJP-USA) hosted a meet-and-greet with Shri Nainar Nagendran, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tamil Nadu and a former Tamil Nadu Cabinet minister, on October 26 at the National India Hub in Schaumburg, bringing together Indian American community members and local leaders. The gathering provided an opportunity



for OFBJP-USA members, community leaders and supporters from the Chicago area to interact with Nagendran and discuss the importance of engagement between the Indian diaspora and political leaders from India.

The event highlighted the role of overseas Indian communities in maintaining connections with India and fostering cultural, social and people-to-people ties between India and the United States. OFBJP-USA acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Adapa Prasad, president of OFBJP-USA; Dr. Vasu Patel, general secretary; and Chicago coordinators Amar Upadhyay and Rakesh Malhotra in organizing the gathering. The organization thanked Nagendran for participating and expressed appreciation to the community members and supporters who attended the event.



Bharatiya Seniors of Chicago celebrate Diwali with music and Garba

By: Jayanti Oza

Approximately 525 members and guests of the Bharatiya Seniors of Chicago (BSC) gathered at Pearl Banquet Hall in Roselle on October 23 for a Diwali celebration featuring traditional cuisine, Bollywood music and Garba dancing. The program opened with a ceremonial lamp lighting (Deep Pragatya) followed by dinner. BSC President Haribhai Patel extended Diwali greetings to attendees and introduced the organization's committee members. Vice President Hirjibhai Ponkiya invited sponsors to the stage, where they were welcomed with floral bouquets by committee members. Attendees dressed in traditional Indian attire, reflecting the community's cultural heritage. Singers Sunny Jadhav and Dhanshree Bhavariya entertained the gathering with classic and contemporary Bollywood songs, including Garba numbers that drew guests onto the dance floor. The



celebration brought together Chicago-area seniors and guests to mark Diwali while strengthening community ties and preserving Indian and Gujarati cultural traditions. The annual event reflects BSC's continued efforts to foster fellowship among seniors and keep cultural heritage alive for future generations.





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Healthy Aging, Healthy Living Series

Your liver and your health: Understanding fatty liver disease (Part 6)

How obesity, diabetes, alcohol and medications affect liver health—and practical ways to protect this vital organ as you age

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Your liver works continuously to keep your body healthy. It processes nutrients, regulates metabolism, produces essential proteins, helps digest fats and breaks down medications and harmful substances. Yet liver disease often develops silently, without noticeable symptoms until significant damage has occurred. Fatty liver disease is increasingly common and closely associated with obesity, Type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance and alcohol consumption. In our previous installments of Healthy Aging, Healthy Living, we explored brain health, bone strength and fall prevention, diabetes and prediabetes, and kidney health. This week, we examine fatty liver disease, its risk factors and practical ways to protect liver health as we age.

Understanding fatty liver disease

Fatty liver disease develops when excess fat accumulates in liver cells. It is broadly classified into two categories:

- ▶ **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD):** Formerly known as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), it is associated with obesity, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol and insulin resistance.
- ▶ **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH):** A more serious form of MASLD involving liver-cell injury and inflammation. It can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis and, in some cases, liver cancer.
- ▶ **Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease (ALD):** Caused by excessive or prolonged alcohol consumption, it can progress from fat accumulation to inflammation, scarring and advanced liver disease.

Some individuals have both metabolic risk factors and significant alcohol exposure. This overlapping condition is known as Metabolic Dysfunction and Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease (MetALD).

The connection between obesity and diabetes

The liver plays a central role in the body's metabolic system. When metabolism becomes disrupted, excess fat can accumulate in the liver and trigger inflammation.

Insulin resistance: When the body's cells do not respond effectively to insulin, as commonly occurs in Type 2 diabetes, the liver may produce and accumulate more fat.

Abdominal obesity: Fat stored around the abdominal organs, known as visceral fat, releases fatty acids and inflammatory substances that contribute to liver fat accumulation and injury.

Diabetes and fatty liver: People with Type 2 diabetes and obesity face a higher risk of advanced fatty liver disease. The relationship works both ways: metabolic problems can worsen liver health, while fatty liver is also associated with increased cardiovascular and diabetes risk.

Alcohol and Medications: Important Risk



Factors

The liver processes alcohol and many medications, making it vulnerable to injury from excessive alcohol use and certain substances.

Alcohol: Breaking down alcohol produces substances that can damage liver cells, promote inflammation and interfere with normal fat metabolism. Continued heavy drinking increases the risk of fibrosis, cirrhosis and liver failure. Risks may be greater when alcohol use is combined with obesity or diabetes.

Medications: Certain prescription and over-the-counter medicines can cause liver injury. Acetaminophen (Tylenol), for example, can cause serious damage if taken in excessive amounts. Some prescription drugs, including methotrexate and amiodarone, may also affect liver function. Certain herbal and dietary supplements can cause liver injury as well.

Always follow recommended doses and consult your healthcare professional before starting supplements or changing medications.

When should you get your liver checked?

Fatty liver disease is often called a silent condition because early stages may produce no symptoms. Medical assessment is particularly important for people with:

1. Type 2 diabetes or metabolic syndrome: These conditions increase the risk of significant liver disease.

2. Obesity or abdominal weight gain: Excess body fat, especially around the waist, is an important risk factor.

3. Abnormal blood tests: Elevated ALT and AST liver enzymes may indicate liver-cell injury. However, normal enzyme levels do not always rule out fatty liver or advanced scarring.

4. A history of heavy alcohol use: Regular assessment may help identify early

liver injury.

Doctors may use the FIB-4 score, which considers age, liver enzymes and platelet count, to estimate the risk of liver scarring. Ultrasound and specialized imaging such as FibroScan (transient elastography) can help assess liver fat and stiffness. The appropriate tests depend on individual risk factors and medical history.

Practical steps to protect your liver

The liver has a remarkable capacity to recover, particularly when damage is identified early. Lifestyle changes can significantly improve metabolic health and reduce liver fat.

▶ **Maintain a healthy weight:** For people with excess weight, gradual weight loss can reduce liver fat. Losing approximately 5% of body weight may lower liver fat, while greater reductions of 7%–10% or more may improve inflammation and, in some cases, fibrosis.

▶ **Eat a balanced diet:** Choose vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, fish and healthy fats. Limit sugary drinks, added sugars, refined carbohydrates and highly processed foods. A Mediterranean-style diet is a practical option.

▶ **Exercise regularly:** Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity weekly, as tolerated. Exercise improves insulin sensitivity and can reduce liver fat, even without significant weight loss.

▶ **Limit or avoid alcohol:** Avoiding alcohol is particularly important for people with alcohol-related liver disease. Discuss alcohol consumption with your healthcare professional if you have fatty liver disease.

▶ **Use medications responsibly:** Follow prescribed doses, avoid excessive acetaminophen and consult a healthcare professional before taking herbal supplements.

▶ **Control related conditions:** Managing blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol helps protect liver and cardiovascular health.

Recognizing warning signs

Early fatty liver disease often causes no symptoms. Advanced liver injury, however, may produce persistent fatigue, abdominal discomfort, swelling in the legs or abdomen, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes), dark urine or unexplained weight loss. These symptoms require medical evaluation. Confusion, vomiting blood or severe abdominal swelling requires urgent medical attention.

The key message is simple: do not wait for symptoms to take liver health seriously. If you have diabetes, obesity or a history of heavy alcohol use, discuss appropriate liver assessment with your healthcare professional.

Next Week: Part 7 – Sleep is medicine:

Understanding Insomnia and Sleep Apnea Next week, Healthy Aging, Healthy Living will explore why quality sleep is essential to healthy aging. We will discuss insomnia, sleep apnea, their warning signs and effects on heart and brain health, along with treatment options and practical habits that promote restful sleep.

Disclaimer

This article is for general educational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Screening, dietary changes, exercise 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

MUTUAL FUND CLASSES

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -8.9% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 21 (extreme fear)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 39.06% (negative)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 58.80% (positive)

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 4.22%, 1-yr 4.44%;
T-Notes 2-yr 4.69%, 5-yr 4.82%, 10-yr 5.00%;
T-Bonds 30-yr 5.33% (normal yield-curve);
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.34%, 10-yr 2.66%, 30-yr 3.08%
FRNs Index 4.138%

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 30.62 (fear)
Weekly ETFs: INDA -2.52%, EPI -2.83%, INDH -1.88%, SMIN -5.59%
| SPY -0.43%

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



CONSUMERS

Haldiram's has opened its first US restaurants in 10/2026 in Frisco, TX that serves Indian meals in family-casual settings; it also has a retail snacks & sweets area. It closed few days after opening to increase its kitchen capacity & has reopened. Frisco is a rapidly developing suburb in Dallas-Fort-Worth (DFW) area. Haldiram's is in UK & 80 other countries; Singaporean Temasek owns 9%.

HEALTHCARE

A rush of foreign money (US KKR, General Atlantic, TPG, etc; Netherlands EQT, Singapore Temasak, etc) in Indian healthcare may have raised costs (including for hospitals) in specialty areas (surgeries, robotic surgeries, cardiology, oncology, nephrology, etc) beyond the reaches of insurers & wealthy patients. It will boost medical tourism but that's won't be sustaining without local utilization. Insurers may cover private hospital costs only partially, so patients may be caught in the middle. A parliamentary committee is looking into price caps or other limits.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Musk's India dreams may be fading

- poor Tesla EV sales, problems with Indian regulators over X/Twitter & stuck approvals for Starlink. Government is considering satellite-mobile (last-mile) proposals from Starlink (LEO); Eutelsat OneWeb (LEO)/ Bharti Airtel; SES (MEO, GEO)/ Jio Satellite Communications; a forthcoming proposal from Amazon Leo/Kuiper (still looking for a local partner).

Notably, India-EU FTA is done, while India-US FTA is stuck. There are continuing threats of US sanctions, restrictions on work-visas & unpredictable mood swings in DC. Indian Government sources also noted that India-US trade negotiations have reached a plateau. So, a European-based satellite-mobile services may launch before Starlink.

Before Elon came out swinging at everybody (Jio, Mukesh Ambani, PM Modi), Jio & Airtel were its local partners. Unclear where that stands now. Jio also has future plans for its own LEO satellites, while Bharti Enterprises already owns 18.7% of Eutelsat OneWeb.

SPECIAL TOPIC - MUTUAL FUND CLASSES

Mutual fund (OEF; open-end fund) assets are still the largest (60.9% ex-money-market) among the US funds although ETFs (exchange-traded funds) are catching up fast.

Common mutual fund classes are A (front-load), B (backend-load; discontinued), C (level-load; the worst type), I (institutional), R (retirement), F (fee arrangements), W (no-fee, but via advisors), & there can be several more. Some classes have subclasses, e.g. I-1, I-2, I-3; F-1, F-2, F-3; R1,...,R6, etc. American Funds family is easily the

champion in mutual fund classes with 18-20 classes.

Classes differ in loads, management fees, distribution fees (12b-1), administration fees & other fees that define their overall annual expense ratios (ERs), but the underlying portfolios are the same. If funds use leverage, then the costs of borrowing are also included in the ERs. However, funds' brokerage costs aren't included in the ERs; these can be found in funds' SAIs (Statements of Additional Information). All fund classes have similar CG (capital gain) distributions.

Morningstar now evaluates each fund class separately.

Recent developments are ETF classes of active or passive mutual funds, mutual fund conversions to ETFs & some shift from mutual funds to retirement plan CITs. Previously, only Vanguard offered patented ETF classes for its indexed mutual funds. Alts (lifetime income, real estate, private-equity/credit) are getting into retirement plans through CITs (collective investment trusts).

Fund firms & brokerages have not given up on lucrative fees for mutual funds. Brokerage NTF (no-transaction-fee) platforms charge 25-50 bps platform fees & may impose 60-90 days holding periods. Many large firms don't participate in other firms' NTF platforms, but smaller firms & fund boutiques without their own distributions like NTF platforms despite their fees.

High mutual fund fees are a drag on performance, so stick with low-cost indexed or active mutual funds.

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



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

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

4. Teaching methods:

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

5. Clinical rotations:

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



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

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

Key Features:

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

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

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

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

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

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Discover distinctive Indian designers for a dazzling Diwali look

Beyond the big names

Diwali dressing does not have to mean reaching for the same familiar designer labels every festive season. If you want an outfit that feels distinctive, beautifully crafted and full of personality, look beyond the mainstream names. A new generation of Indian labels and design houses is reimagining festive wear through regional craftsmanship, interesting silhouettes, rich textiles and unexpected color combinations.

Here are a few designers worth exploring when planning your Diwali wardrobe.

Torani: For color, nostalgia and romance



Designer Karan Torani's label is known for its nostalgic storytelling, vibrant colors and intricate detailing. Its Anarkalis, lehengas and flowing sets often draw inspiration from Indian textiles

and traditional aesthetics. Look for vivid pinks, greens and reds, beautifully embroidered bodices and statement dupattas for a festive look that feels both traditional and fresh.

Punit Balana: For Jaipur-inspired festive glamour



If you love rich colors and traditional Rajasthani craftsmanship, Punit Balana deserves a place on your list. The designer combines regional motifs, hand-block prints and detailed embroidery with contemporary cuts. His lehengas, ghararas and Anarkalis are ideal for those who want a celebratory outfit without going overboard on embellishment.

Raw Mango: For understated luxury



Sanjay Garg's Raw Mango offers a refreshing alternative to heavily embellished festive clothing. Its strength lies in textiles, striking color combinations and contemporary interpretations of traditional weaving. A brocade ensemble, statement silk saree or structured jacket can make a sophisticated impression at a Diwali dinner or family gathering.

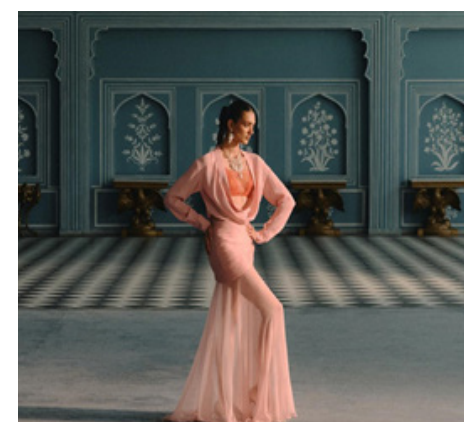
Injiri: For handcrafted elegance



For those who prefer subtle beauty over sparkle, Injiri by Chinara Farooqui is worth discovering. The label celebrates handwoven textiles, traditional techniques

and the beauty of Indian craftsmanship. Its relaxed silhouettes and rich fabric textures are perfect for a daytime Diwali celebration or an intimate family gathering.

Aroka: For contemporary festive statements



Aroka offers a more modern approach to occasion wear, with draped tops, statement gowns, corset-inspired designs and interesting textures. Its velvet and Ajrakh-inspired pieces are particularly worth exploring if you want something different from the conventional lehenga or saree.

Ultimately, a memorable Diwali outfit is about finding a designer whose aesthetic reflects your personality. Pair an embroidered ensemble with statement earrings, choose a striking saree with minimal jewelry or let an unusual silhouette do the talking. This festive season, step away from predictable choices and let craftsmanship, color and individuality take center stage.

Ashwani Chadha's

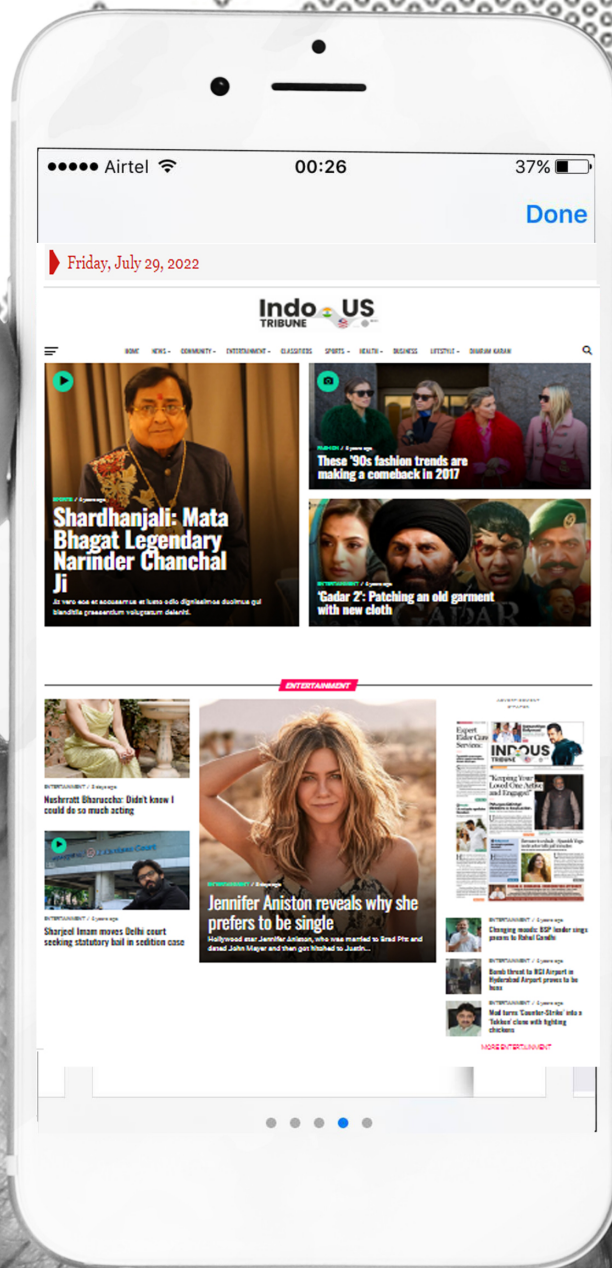
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