

## Harris and Obama rally for early voting in Georgia



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t a star-studded rally in Georgia, Vice President Kamala Harris was joined by rock legend Bruce Springsteen, filmmaker Tyler Perry, and former President Barack Obama to energize supporters for the upcoming election. The gathering drew around 20,000 attendees, marking it as Harris' largest rally yet.

Harris urged the crowd to embrace early voting, stressing the importance of moving away from the divisive politics associated with former President Donald Trump. Obama echoed her sentiments, criticizing Trump's self-centered approach and referencing Harris's past job at McDonald's to highlight her authenticity.

Film director Spike Lee also spoke, warning attendees against being misled into voting for Trump. Springsteen performed songs and warned that Trump does not understand America.

As Harris's campaign faces a tight race, she is set to appear with Beyoncé in Houston soon. Polls indicate Trump has a slight edge in Georgia, but Harris's team remains optimistic about securing the state, similar to Biden's surprising victory there in 2020.

## Trump vows to fire Jack Smith if reelected



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n a recent interview, Donald Trump stated he would fire special counsel Jack Smith immediately if he returns to the presidency. Responding to a question about whether he would prioritize firing Smith, who is overseeing investigations into Trump's actions related to the 2020 election and classified documents, Trump confidently declared, "It's so easy, I would fire him within two seconds."

Trump has consistently criticized these investigations as politically motivated. Although he was indicted on four counts last year regarding election-related matters, his trial is not expected to occur before the upcoming election. If he wins, the investigations led by Smith may be halted.

# IndoUS T R I B U N E

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## India-Russia ties are so strong that PM Modi would understand me without translation, says Putin

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t the recently concluded BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised the longstanding and robust relationship between India and Russia, humorously stating that PM Modi could understand him without translation due to their close ties. During their bilateral discussions, Putin expressed gratitude for Modi's attendance and reflected on the fruitful negotiations from Modi's recent visit to Moscow. He described the India-Russia partnership as a "Special Privileged Strategic Partnership," characterized by continuous collaboration in various sectors, including trade and defense. Putin highlighted the strengthening of legislative cooperation and mentioned an upcoming intergovernmental commission meeting in New Delhi. Acknowledging India's diplomatic presence in Russia, he welcomed the decision to open a Consulate General in Kazan. The conversation reinforced both leaders' commitment to enhancing multifaceted cooperation within BRICS and addressing global challenges.



## India sends humanitarian aid to Palestine

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has initiated a humanitarian effort by sending its first shipment of aid to Palestine through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), consisting of 30 tonnes of essential medicines and food supplies. This consignment includes a variety of surgical items, dental products, and high-energy biscuits, aimed at alleviating the humanitarian crisis exacerbated by ongoing conflicts.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs emphasized that this assistance

underscores India's longstanding support for the Palestinian cause, which has been a cornerstone of its foreign policy since the 1970s. India's historical recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as its acknowledgment of Palestinian statehood, reflects a consistent commitment to this cause.

Earlier this month, India also dispatched medical supplies to Lebanon as part of its broader humanitarian initiatives in the region, signaling its proactive stance in responding to the humanitarian needs arising from regional conflicts.



## Jaishankar views India-China LAC agreement as a significant step forward



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**xternal Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has hailed the recent agreement on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as a "positive development," attributing it to patient and persevering diplomatic efforts. The agreement follows extensive discussions over the past several weeks and is seen as a crucial step toward disengagement and resolving ongoing tensions that flared up after the violent clash in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

During an appearance at the NDTV World Summit, Jaishankar emphasized that the agreement establishes a framework for restoring peace and tranquility in border areas, a state that existed prior to the tensions of 2020. He underscored that this has been a major concern for India as it seeks to normalize relations with China. He noted the resilience shown by Indian negotiators throughout this process, despite periods of skepticism regarding the possibility of reaching an agreement.

Cont. on Pg.02

## US demands accountability in Khalistan investigation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has stated that it will not be fully satisfied with India's investigation into an alleged plot to assassinate a Khalistan activist unless there is "meaningful accountability" resulting from the inquiry. Vedant Patel, a spokesperson for the US State Department, emphasized the expectation for tangible outcomes following discussions between Indian officials and US counterparts last week.

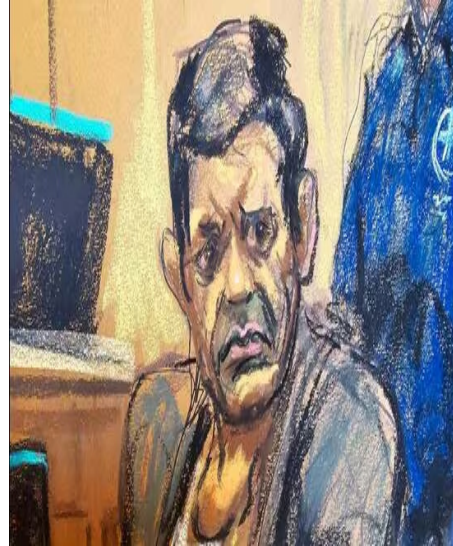
This statement follows the unsealing of an indictment in a New York court that named Vikash Yadav, a former officer of India's RAW intelligence agency, as the alleged mastermind behind the plot against Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. The indictment suggests that Yadav orchestrated the operation from India, while another individual, Nikhil Gupta, is currently detained in New York after pleading not guilty to related charges. Patel did not elaborate on what "meaningful accountability" entails, but the US's ongoing scrutiny indicates heightened diplomatic sensitivity surrounding the issue.

## Gupta pleads not guilty in alleged murder-for-hire plot against Pannun

Nikhil Gupta, accused of attempting to hire a hitman to target Khalistani leader Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, has entered a not-guilty plea in federal court. During the proceedings, Gupta expressed his need for a Hindi-speaking lawyer, citing his limited proficiency in English, which hindered his ability to fully understand the legal proceedings. He also requested the return of a prayer book that was confiscated during his arrest in the Czech Republic.

Judge Victor Marrero scheduled the next court date for January 17, allowing Gupta's attorney, Jeffrey Chabrowe, additional time to review the evidence presented by the prosecution. Gupta faces serious charges, including conspiracy to hire a hitman, the execution of a murder-for-hire plot, and money laundering.

The courtroom atmosphere was tense, with Gupta making multiple not-guilty pleas due to confusion regarding the judge's questions. His legal team also



emphasized the need for access to a law library at the Metropolitan Detention Center, where Gupta is being held, to adequately prepare for the trial. The next steps in the legal process will be crucial in determining Gupta's fate as he navigates the complexities of the charges against him.

## Jaishankar views India-China LAC agreement as a significant step forward



Contd. from Pg. 01

Jaishankar advised against rushing to conclusions about the immediate implications of the agreement, stressing that further discussions and planning will be necessary to fully implement the terms. He pointed out the complexities of managing a relationship between two rising powers with unresolved territorial disputes, emphasizing the need for skillful diplomacy to navigate these challenges.

## Modi urges BRICS leaders to unite against terrorism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During a closed session at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for unified action against terrorism, emphasizing the need for dialogue and diplomacy over military conflict.

He underscored that all BRICS members must adopt a consistent stance against terrorism and its financing, asserting that there is no room for "double standards" on such a critical global issue.

Modi highlighted the necessity for collaborative efforts to prevent youth radicalization and push for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations, a long-pending agenda.

He articulated that the BRICS bloc should focus on being people-centric and



serve humanity's interests, particularly as the world grapples with pressing challenges like economic instability and climate change.

Modi's remarks came during a session attended by leaders including Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, and other heads of state, reinforcing BRICS's role as a platform for diverse cooperation.

## Egyptian and Israeli delegations meet to revive Gaza ceasefire negotiations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

High-ranking Egyptian security and military officials convened with an Israeli delegation to discuss the resumption of ceasefire talks concerning the Gaza Strip, as reported by Egypt's Al-Qahera News. The meeting involved key figures, including the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency and representatives from Shin Bet. While the exact timing was not disclosed, sources indicated that discussions began on Thursday evening and continued into the early hours of Friday.

This meeting is part of Egypt's intensive efforts to reinvigorate negotiations aimed at achieving a ceasefire and restoring stability in the region. Egyptian officials expressed their rejection of the ongoing military operations in northern Gaza, emphasizing the need for humanitarian aid to reach the enclave without obstruction.

Earlier on Thursday, Egyptian security officials also met with Hamas leaders in Cairo to discuss recent developments in Gaza and to identify obstacles to achieving lasting peace. Despite multiple rounds of negotiations held in Doha and Cairo over the past months, no agreement has been reached to end the conflict, which has persisted for over a year. The ongoing dialogue underscores the complexities and urgent need for a resolution in the region.

## Psychiatrist behind 'Goldwater Rule' suggests dementia tests for Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A psychiatrist who contributed to the 1973 Goldwater Rule, which limits mental health professionals from diagnosing public figures without examination, now says it was never meant to silence opinions based on public behavior. Allen Dyer, a retired psychiatry professor, believes Donald Trump exhibits signs of cognitive impairment and would recommend a full evaluation for potential dementia.

Dyer notes troubling behaviors from Trump, including difficulty focusing and completing sentences, as well as confusion about people and events. Despite Trump's claims of having aced cognitive tests during his presidency, experts argue that such assessments are inadequate for evaluating his current mental fitness.



Over 440 health professionals have expressed concerns about Trump's cognitive health, stating he displays 'alarming characteristics' inconsistent with the fitness for office.

Dyer and others call for Trump to release his medical records, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive testing to determine the root of his troubling behaviors.

# Khalistani extremists target Indian students in Canada, warns former envoy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**anjay Kumar Verma, India's recently recalled High Commissioner to Canada, has issued a stark warning to Indian students in Canada about the growing influence of Khalistani terrorists and extremists aiming to radicalize them. In a recent interview, Verma urged students to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, as these groups are increasingly attempting to exploit the vulnerabilities of young individuals facing economic challenges.

Verma's concerns come in the wake of escalating diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, which were highlighted by India's decision to withdraw him and several other officials. This move followed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of Indian involvement in the murder investigation of Khalistani militant Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a claim New Delhi has vehemently denied, labeling it as "preposterous."

During the interview, Verma detailed how Khalistani extremists are targeting Indian students, particularly during difficult economic



times when job opportunities are scarce. He explained that these groups lure students with offers of money and food, seeking to draw

them into their radical agendas. Some students have reportedly been persuaded to participate in protests outside Indian diplomatic missions,

sharing images and videos online that disparage the Indian flag and promote anti-India sentiments.

Verma emphasized that students are often misled into believing they might face persecution if they return to India, which can lead to asylum requests in Canada. He urged parents to maintain regular communication with their children, advising them to help guide their decision-making and protect them from these dangerous influences.

As a seasoned diplomat with 36 years of experience, Verma also criticized the Canadian government for its lack of action regarding the evidence provided by India concerning the radical elements operating in the country. He expressed frustration that India had submitted multiple extradition requests for known extremists and gangsters, yet no concrete steps had been taken by Canadian authorities to address these issues. Verma concluded by condemning the double standards in the application of international law, urging for a more unified and fair approach.

## Meta faces new legal challenges in Japan over fraudulent ads



**M**eta Platforms Inc., the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, is set to face multiple lawsuits in Japan related to fraudulent advertisements that misused celebrity endorsements to solicit investment funds. Approximately 30 plaintiffs are pursuing at least 300 million yen (around \$2 million) in damages, claiming the company failed to take adequate measures to prevent these scams.

The lawsuits will be filed in several district courts across Japan, including those in Saitama, Chiba, and Osaka. Notably, the fake ads featured endorsements from high-profile individuals like entrepreneur Yusaku Maezawa. Plaintiffs argue that Meta should have scrutinized the advertisements to protect users from potential harm.

This development follows a similar lawsuit filed earlier this year in Kobe. Meta is currently seeking to dismiss that claim, which amounts to 23 million yen (approximately \$150,500).

## Chancellor Scholz emphasizes friendship with India after meeting PM Modi



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**erman Chancellor Olaf Scholz praised the strong bilateral relations with India, underscoring its importance as a strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific, following his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Scholz expressed a desire to build on this partnership, especially after the recent adoption of the 'Focus on India' policy document by his Cabinet.

"In this world, we need friends and allies – just like India and Germany," Scholz posted on X, in response to Modi's welcome. The leaders also inaugurated the 18th Asia Pacific Conference of German Business and held the 7th

Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC), focusing on themes of innovation, mobility, and sustainability.

As India and Germany approach the 25th anniversary of their strategic partnership next year, discussions included enhancing security and defense cooperation, highlighting India's role in global climate efforts and as a source of skilled specialists. Scholz will travel to Goa next, where German naval ships are scheduled to dock as part of Germany's Indo-Pacific deployment, reflecting the growing geopolitical importance of the region. The German Foreign Office noted that expanding partnerships in security and defense is crucial given the shifting dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

## US security adviser reports on election interference



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ational security adviser Jake Sullivan announced that the United States has made strides in identifying foreign interference in its elections, just weeks before the presidential vote on November 5. Speaking at an event focused on artificial intelligence, Sullivan acknowledged that while progress has been made, significant work remains to fully address the issue.

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# Project 2025 and Trump's campaign tactics – a dire threat to immigrants



**Dr. (H) Avi Verma**  
Publisher

**A**s the 2024 U.S. Presidential campaign intensifies, immigration has once again become a hot-button issue, particularly under the rhetoric of Donald Trump. His recent embrace of Project 2025, a radical conservative blueprint spearheaded by the Heritage Foundation, is a stark reminder of the lengths to which Trump and his allies are willing to go to reshape the future of U.S. immigration.

Project 2025, if implemented, poses an existential threat not just to undocumented immigrants but also to legal immigrants, especially within the Indian American community. The plan proposes an enforcement-first approach, promoting mass deportations, restricting visa programs, and expanding enforcement agencies like ICE to operate with fewer checks. Trump's aggressive language on the campaign trail further fuels the fear of those who "look or sound foreign."

For Indian American immigrants, this could mean the decimation of family reunification pathways and the end of critical visa programs like the H-1B, which have allowed many skilled workers to contribute to the U.S. economy. Project 2025's drastic overhaul of the immigration system threatens to dismantle the progress and success that Indian Americans have achieved over decades, throwing many families into uncertainty and fear.

This is more than just policy; Trump's rhetoric and tactics on the campaign trail are divisive, aimed at sowing fear and discord

among immigrant communities. His focus on radical enforcement and exclusion is a dangerous precedent for a nation built on diversity and opportunity. If successful, Project 2025 would institutionalize this exclusion, creating an America that is far more hostile to immigrants than ever before.

We, as a community, must remain vigilant. The 2024 election is pivotal. Trump's reemergence on the political stage is a call for action—our rights, our families, and our future are at stake. Voting, advocating, and making our voices heard have never been more important. Indian Americans, like all immigrant communities, deserve policies that uphold fairness, opportunity, and inclusivity—not fear mongering and exclusion.

The IndoUS Tribune remains committed to standing against these threats and supporting the immigrant community as we navigate the crucial months ahead.

Best Regards,  
Dr. (H) Avi Verma,  
Publisher, IndoUS Tribune

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# US and Qatar restart Gaza peace talks as Blinken seeks new ceasefire options

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a renewed push for peace, the United States and Qatar have announced the resumption of talks aimed at brokering a ceasefire in Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed that efforts are underway to explore new avenues for ending the long-standing conflict between Israel and Hamas, following months of stalled negotiations.

**Blinken's diplomatic efforts intensify**

With U.S. elections looming, Blinken has made his 11th visit to the region since Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel. The recent killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has intensified the need for renewed discussions. During his talks with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Blinken outlined plans to resume negotiations in the coming days, focusing on bringing the Gaza war to an end and securing the release of hostages.

"We are at a pivotal moment to push forward the peace process," Blinken said, emphasizing the importance of seizing this opportunity to halt the conflict, ensure Israel's security, and enable Gaza's reconstruction.

**Ceasefire talks and hostage negotiations**

Central to the discussions is the goal of



securing a ceasefire agreement while addressing the hostages taken during the October 7 attack. Blinken acknowledged the complexity of the situation but expressed optimism about progress. He refrained from providing detailed updates but confirmed that U.S. and Israeli officials would meet in Doha to advance talks.

U.S. President Joe Biden had previously laid out a ceasefire proposal that also sought to free hostages, but negotiations hit a wall, partly due to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demand for an Israeli military presence at the Gaza-Egypt border.

**The impact of Sinwar's death on negotiations**

The death of Yahya Sinwar, identified by U.S. officials as a major obstacle to

negotiations, has shifted the dynamics of the talks. Blinken sees an opportunity to advance the peace process in Sinwar's absence. Sheikh Mohammed confirmed that Qatari mediators had re-engaged with Hamas's political representatives, with Egypt also playing a role in facilitating discussions.

While there is uncertainty about Hamas's next steps, Sheikh Mohammed revealed that meetings with the group have resumed. However, he cautioned that there is still a lack of clarity regarding the future direction of the negotiations.

**Challenges ahead for peace**

Despite the death of Sinwar, obstacles remain, particularly in securing full Israeli support for a ceasefire deal. Critics have pointed out that U.S. diplomatic efforts have struggled to convince Israel to agree to the proposed ceasefire plan, even with the country receiving significant U.S. military aid throughout the conflict.

Hamas, which has yet to announce a successor to Sinwar, may be shifting towards a committee-led leadership structure in Doha. Blinken stressed that the U.S. is willing to consider new frameworks for resolving the conflict, though he acknowledged that much depends on whether Hamas is ready to engage meaningfully in the peace process.

**Building a post-war future for Gaza**

In addition to ceasefire negotiations, Blinken is pushing for a broader strategy that addresses the reconstruction of Gaza and the region's governance after the war. He announced a further \$135 million in U.S. aid for the Palestinian people, increasing the total U.S. assistance to approximately \$1.2 billion since the conflict's escalation.

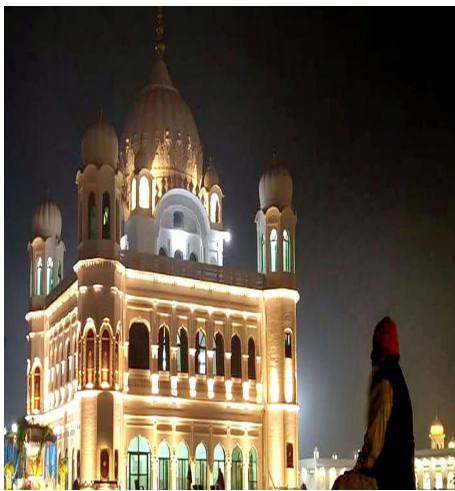
For over a decade, Hamas has controlled Gaza and maintained a political office in Qatar, allowing for indirect communication with Israel and other parties. Qatar has long played a key role in mediating between Hamas, Israel, and the U.S., while also supporting Gaza's governance.

**The path forward**

As talks between the U.S., Qatar, and Israel prepare to resume, the international community watches closely. Both Blinken and Sheikh Mohammed remain cautiously optimistic that these renewed negotiations can pave the way for a ceasefire, the return of hostages, and a more stable future for Gaza.

Israel, having vowed to dismantle Hamas following the October 7 attack, faces ongoing challenges in balancing military objectives with diplomatic efforts. While Hamas's leadership remains in flux, the road to peace in Gaza is still fraught with uncertainty.

## India and Pakistan renew Kartarpur Corridor agreement



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to extend the validity of the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor agreement for an additional five years, which allows Indian pilgrims to visit the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan without a visa. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted that this extension will ensure uninterrupted access for pilgrims, who have expressed concerns regarding the \$20 service charge imposed by Pakistan.

The corridor, inaugurated in November 2019, has facilitated nearly 250,000 pilgrimages, enhancing cultural and religious ties. The agreement permits daily access for Indian citizens and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders throughout the year. Infrastructure improvements, including a new highway and Integrated Check Post on the Indian side, have been implemented to streamline the pilgrimage process, demonstrating a commitment to fostering greater goodwill between the two nations.

## Terrorism hampers India-Pakistan relations, says former envoy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ajay Bisaria, former High Commissioner to Pakistan, remarked that the persistent threat of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir significantly obstructs any prospects for improved relations between India and Pakistan. His comments came in the wake of

a recent attack by the Pakistan-based terror group The Resistance Front (TRF), which resulted in the deaths of seven civilians in Ganderbal. Bisaria highlighted the cyclical nature of India-Pakistan relations, where moments of diplomatic progress are often followed by violent incidents.

He acknowledged the recent visit of India's

External Affairs Minister to Pakistan, which, although devoid of formal discussions, conveyed India's intent to stabilize relations. However, he stressed that ongoing terrorism poses a substantial challenge. Furthermore, he noted that Pakistan is grappling with severe internal crises, including security issues and economic instability, complicating the bilateral relationship even further.

## Rudy Giuliani ordered to surrender luxury items and Manhattan apartment to defamed Georgia election workers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge has ordered Rudy Giuliani to turn over his luxury possessions and his Manhattan penthouse apartment to Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss, the Georgia election workers he defamed, for which he now owes \$150 million. Judge Lewis Liman mandated that Giuliani transfer control of the assets to a receivership managed by Freeman and Moss within seven days, allowing them to sell the apartment, potentially for millions.

The ruling includes several valuable items, such as watches gifted by European leaders, a signed Joe DiMaggio jersey, and a 1980 Mercedes once owned by Lauren Bacall, along with furniture, jewelry, and a television. Giuliani must also surrender approximately \$2 million in legal fees that the Trump campaign still owes him.

Freeman and Moss, who suffered emotional and reputational harm due to Giuliani's false claims of ballot tampering during the 2020 election, expressed that the judge's ruling



is a vital step toward recovery. Giuliani's spokesman criticized the decision as politically motivated and claimed it restricts Giuliani's access to his finances. The judge will hold a hearing next week to decide on Giuliani's ownership of a Florida condominium and his four Yankees World Series rings, as he faces ongoing consequences for his actions related to the election.

## India's global influence cannot be overlooked, says Sitharaman

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that India's significant global presence, with one in every six people being Indian, means no country, including the US and China, can afford to ignore its growing economy. Speaking at a panel on the future of multilateral institutions during the World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C., she emphasized India's commitment to supporting these institutions. Sitharaman noted that while expectations from multilateral organizations are fading due to a lack of solutions, India aims to enhance its global influence without seeking dominance. She highlighted the country's skilled workforce and technological capabilities as key factors in its rising significance on the world stage.

She urged multilateral institutions to improve their effectiveness for the global good and suggested that they should lead in sharing information and best practices rather than merely reacting to crises. Additionally, she reaffirmed India's support for initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and called for financial assistance to smaller economies through digital public infrastructure.

**Early voting surges in the 2024 U.S. presidential election with over 28 million ballots cast**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**s of October 24, over 28.6 million voters have participated in early voting for the upcoming presidential election. Data shows that 43% of these voters are registered Democrats, while 39% are Republicans.

Battleground states like Georgia and North Carolina are seeing record turnout, with more than 25% of active voters in Georgia having cast their ballots and over 2 million votes reported in North Carolina. Early voting continues in Georgia until November 1 and in North Carolina until November 2. Nevada has also reported nearly 400,000 ballots cast, with registered Republicans accounting for 40% of those votes.

**Biden to apologize for the Indian boarding school system**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Joe Biden is set to deliver a formal apology for the U.S. government's historic Indian boarding school system, which forcibly separated Native American children from their families. "I'm heading to do something that should have been done a long time ago," Biden stated ahead of his remarks at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona.

Accompanied by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Deborah Parker, the apology aims to acknowledge the pain caused by a system that operated from 1819 to 1969, resulting in abuse and the deaths of many children. Haaland emphasized that the administration will ensure this chapter of history is not forgotten. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. called the apology "long-overdue" and urged for continued action to support Native languages and cultural preservation.

**Trump faces defamation lawsuit from Central Park Five ahead of election**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer President Donald Trump is now facing a defamation lawsuit from the Central Park Five, a group of men wrongfully convicted in a 1989 assault case, just days before the 2024 election. The lawsuit stems from remarks made by Trump during a September debate in Philadelphia, which the plaintiffs claim were "extreme" and intended to cause emotional distress.

The five men—Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond

Santana, and Korey Wise—were initially convicted as teenagers in the brutal attack on a jogger in New York's Central Park. Although DNA evidence and a confession by another man later exonerated them, the case drew national attention. They eventually received a \$41 million settlement from New York City in 2014 for wrongful imprisonment.

Trump's connection to the case goes back to 1989, when he published ads in four major New York newspapers, advocating for harsher penalties, including the death penalty. He continued to

assert the group's guilt even after their exoneration, including during his 2016 presidential campaign.

The recent lawsuit challenges Trump's debate remarks, where he falsely claimed the men had pleaded guilty and committed murder. The legal filing asserts that these statements are baseless and continue to harm the plaintiffs' reputations.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for the emotional and reputational harm caused, adding to the mounting legal challenges Trump faces leading up to the election.



**Chicago named 'rattiest city in America' for 10th straight year**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hicago has earned the title of "rattiest city" in the United States for the tenth consecutive year, according to a report from Orkin, a prominent pest control company. This ongoing issue is largely due to the city's extensive network of alleyways, which provide ideal conditions for rodents to thrive, as detailed in the report.

Following Chicago, Los Angeles ranks second, and New York City comes in third. Despite New York's recent initiative to appoint a "rat czar" to tackle its rodent issues, these three major cities have consistently dominated the top spots since 2017.

Orkin's rankings are based on the number of new residential rodent treatments conducted between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024.

In response to the escalating rat problem, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson has proposed a budget of \$14.85 million for the city's Bureau of Rodent Control in 2024, which is an increase of \$1.5 million from the previous year.

The funding aims to enhance efforts in inspections, baiting alleys and sewers, and removing dead rodents from public areas.



This budget increase comes after a joint investigation by Block Club Chicago and the Illinois Answers Project revealed that the city has struggled to manage the surge in rat infestations, a situation exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The investigation found that response times were particularly slow in some West and South Side neighborhoods, leading the city's Inspector General's Office to initiate an audit of the rodent control bureau.

With over 50,000 rat complaints filed in 2022 alone, Chicago residents continue to face significant challenges in addressing the growing rodent population.

**Indigenous Americans demand action against violence and trafficking**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t the third Annual National Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Parade in New York, Indigenous Americans raised awareness about ongoing violence and sex trafficking affecting Indigenous women. Junise Golden Feather Bliss highlighted that 40% of women in the U.S. who are trafficked are Native, with a staggering 96% of violence cases going unreported.

Participants displayed banners reading "No more stolen sisters" and called for increased resources and policy attention to address these issues. The parade, organized by the Lenape Nation, showcased Indigenous culture through music and storytelling, emphasizing that Native Americans are still present and thriving today.

# Musk pledges \$70 million for Trump re-election campaign, raising legal questions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**lon Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur and owner of X (formerly Twitter), has committed at least \$70 million to support Donald Trump's 2024 re-election campaign, sparking debate over the legality and implications of such massive contributions. The report, revealed by campaign finance journalist Theodore Schleifer of The New York Times, highlights the growing influence of ultra-wealthy donors in shaping U.S. elections.

Musk's financial backing, one of the largest individual contributions to the former president's campaign, raises concerns about the concentration of political power in the hands of a few wealthy individuals. The question of legality comes into play, as federal election laws regulate campaign contributions to avoid undue influence on candidates. While individuals can donate directly to campaigns up to a certain limit, the rules around supporting political action



The funds reportedly flow through committees (PACs) and other fundraising entities are more flexible.

The funds reportedly flow through

a network of PACs and super PACs, organizations that allow for larger contributions than what is permitted directly to candidates. These entities can spend unlimited amounts supporting a candidate, as long as they do not directly coordinate with the campaign—a legal distinction that is often blurred, according to critics.

Schleifer notes that Musk's involvement is part of a broader trend where billionaires like him use their wealth to steer political outcomes, fueling concerns about the fairness of U.S. elections. As Musk throws his weight behind Trump, the legality and ethical implications of such vast sums of money in politics are under intense scrutiny. Campaign finance watchdogs are expected to keep a close eye on whether this influx of cash crosses legal lines.

With the 2024 election on the horizon, the impact of Musk's backing could shape the trajectory of Trump's campaign, while raising broader questions about the role of wealth in American democracy.

## CDC lowers pneumonia vaccine age to boost protection for adults 50 and older

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he CDC has officially lowered the recommended age for routine pneumococcal vaccinations to 50, following a 14 to 1 vote from its advisory committee. Previously, the vaccine was recommended only for adults aged 65 and older and children under 5.

Experts, including Dr. William Schaffner from Vanderbilt University, believe this change will better protect at-risk populations, particularly communities of color, who face higher rates of serious infections at younger ages.

Most adults will require only one shot for lasting protection, although some may need two based on personal risk factors.

Pneumococcal vaccines prevent infections from the Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria, which can lead to severe illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis. The CDC estimates that pneumococcal pneumonia causes around 250,000 hospitalizations annually in the U.S.

## Candidates scramble for voter engagement in hurricane-hit North Carolina



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n hurricane-affected North Carolina, Republican leaders are strategizing to connect with displaced Trump voters, exploring unconventional methods like helicopter deliveries for absentee ballots. Meanwhile, the Harris campaign is more selective, deeming certain areas too damaged for outreach as they compete for votes in this crucial battleground state.

After Hurricane Helene caused significant destruction, both parties are adjusting their tactics. Early voting has surged, with a record 353,166 ballots cast, showing the state's importance in the upcoming election. Current polls indicate a close race, with Trump at 48.1% and Harris at 47.3%.

Republicans believe the federal government's response to the hurricane has fueled resentment, potentially boosting their support. However, misinformation regarding federal aid has created challenges for Democrats, particularly in Buncombe County, a previous Democratic stronghold. Local Democratic leaders are reevaluating their outreach strategies to avoid alienating voters during this sensitive time.

## Iranian hacker group targets U.S. election sites and media, warns Microsoft

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Iranian hacking group, known as Cotton Sandstorm and linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, is actively scouting U.S. election websites and media outlets as Election Day approaches, according to Microsoft. Researchers indicate this activity hints at potential influence operations.

The hackers have conducted reconnaissance on several election-related websites in swing states and previously probed a U.S. news outlet for vulnerabilities. Microsoft warns that Cotton Sandstorm is likely to increase its activity as the election nears, recalling their 2020 operations that included sending threatening emails to Florida voters and promoting violence against election officials.



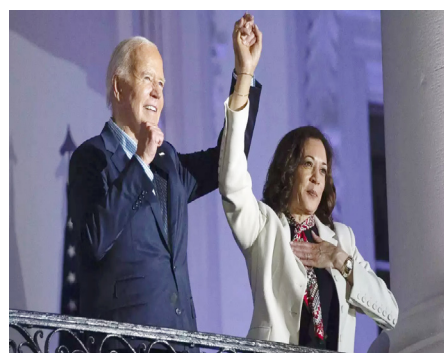
In response to the allegations, an Iranian spokesperson at the UN dismissed them as unfounded, stating that Iran has no motive to interfere in the U.S. election. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has not commented on the matter.

## Texas sues Biden administration over voter citizenship verification

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

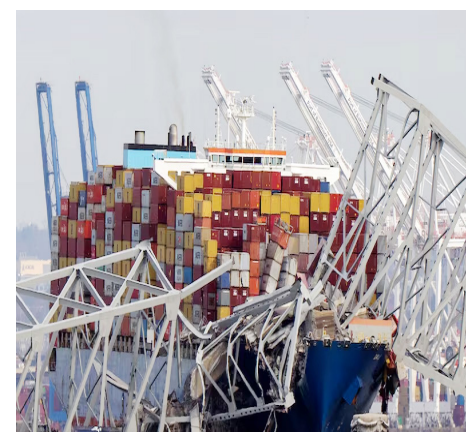
**T**exas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security, alleging it failed to comply with federal law regarding the citizenship status of nearly 450,000 registered voters. These individuals registered without Texas-issued identification, raising concerns about their eligibility.

Paxton's office claims that many of these voters are likely citizens and criticized the Biden administration for not responding to requests for verification. The lawsuit targets DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, asserting that the agency has ignored legal obligations.



DHS maintains that it provides a secure online service called SAVE for verifying citizenship, which Texas officials have used for voter registration checks. Despite claims from some Republicans about noncitizen voting affecting elections, evidence supporting these allegations remains scant.

## Cargo ship owner to pay \$102 million after Baltimore bridge collapse



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he owner and operator of the cargo ship that struck Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, killing six people, has agreed to pay \$102 million to the U.S. government, according to the Justice Department.

In September, the department filed a \$103 million civil claim against Singaporean companies Grace Ocean and Synergy Marine to recover costs from the disaster response and debris removal, which allowed the Port of Baltimore to reopen in June.

The ship, Dali, lost power before crashing into the bridge on March 26. The FBI has initiated a criminal investigation. The Justice Department's lawsuit aimed to counter the companies' effort to limit their liability to \$44 million, which officials called inadequate.

The recovery effort involved over 1,500 responders and is expected to cost Maryland between \$1.7 billion and \$1.9 billion to rebuild the bridge, with completion projected for fall 2028. Any recovered funds will help offset costs for the U.S. government.

**Sikh woman found dead in walk-in oven in Halifax**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 19-year-old Sikh woman was discovered deceased inside a walk-in oven in the bakery department of a Walmart store in Halifax, Canada. According to the Halifax Regional Police, they were called to the scene late Saturday night. The woman, who has not yet been identified, was an employee at the store.

The Maritime Sikh Society confirmed her community ties, expressing sorrow over her tragic death. Anmolpreet Singh of the society remarked, "It's very sad for us, for her family as well, because she came for a better future and she lost her life." Reports indicate that she had recently immigrated to Canada from India.

The Walmart has been closed while the investigation is ongoing. Police have acknowledged online speculation regarding the cause of death but stated that the investigation is complex and ongoing, urging patience as they seek clarity.

**Thirteen Punjabis win seats in British Columbia elections**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n the recent British Columbia provincial elections, thirteen candidates of Punjabi descent have secured victory, underscoring the growing influence of the Indo-Canadian community in Canadian politics. The New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Conservative Party claimed 46 and 45 seats, respectively, while the Green Party won two seats in the 93-member legislature.

Among the prominent winners is housing minister Ravi Kahlon, who retained his Delta North seat, and Raj Chauhan, who was re-elected as the speaker of the British Columbia assembly for a record sixth time. Minister of state for trade Jagrup Brar also won his seat for the seventh time, having previously represented India in basketball before moving to Canada.

Notably, Conservative candidate Mandeep Dhaliwal defeated Education Minister Rachna Singh, while other successful NDP candidates included Ravi Parmar, Sunita Dhir, and Reah Arora. Their victories highlight the significance of the Punjabi community in regions like Surrey and Abbotsford, where political mobilization has increased in recent years, emphasizing the need for representation.

**Diwali celebration at Times Square unites diverse communities ahead of US elections**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**iwali lit up Times Square in New York City as the Indian community and various attendees came together to celebrate the Hindu festival of lights. The event featured cultural performances and was attended by prominent figures including Mayor Eric Adams, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, who advocates for recognizing Diwali as a school holiday in the US.

Mayor Adams expressed his pride on social media, stating, "Proud to be with our Hindu brothers and sisters today for the annual Diwali at Times Square celebration as we push away the darkness and welcome in light all across our city."

The celebrations, which have taken place in Times Square since 2013, culminated in the ceremonial lighting of diyas, symbolizing hope and renewal. The festivities highlighted Diwali's core values and its unifying spirit.

In addition to the Times Square event, the Indian Consulate in Pennsylvania also organized celebrations, where Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph joined members of the Indian and Asian American communities.

While such events promote unity, a recent report from the Asian American



Pacific Islander (AAPI) community noted rising levels of hate faced by South Asians in the US, especially ahead of the 2024 elections. This makes the celebration of South Asian traditions all the more significant in fostering solidarity among diverse groups.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi previously emphasized the festival's role in promoting unity and goodwill, highlighting the Indian community in the US as a vital link between the two nations. Diwali will be observed on November 1st this year.

**Indian American group debuts Bollywood-themed video to boost Harris support**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Indian American Democratic Committee has unveiled a new digital campaign titled "I WILL VOTE FOR KAMALA HARRIS-TIM WALZ," aimed at mobilizing South Asian voters in crucial battleground states. This vibrant video features an instrumental rendition of "Dil Hai Chhota Sa" from AR Rahman's film Roja, seeking to engage communities in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Georgia, Nevada, Arizona, and North Carolina.

Ajay Bhutoria, a member of the National Finance Committee for Harris's campaign, stressed the importance of solidarity among South Asian voters. "Now is the time for us to come together and show our support for Kamala Harris," he asserted, highlighting the

clear distinction between Harris's vision and Trump's divisive rhetoric.

The video not only encourages voter turnout for Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz, but also reflects themes of hope and unity that align with the Vice President's message. Bhutoria pointed out, "Vice President Harris embodies joy and hope for our community," emphasizing her connection to over 5 million Indian Americans.

Produced by Ritesh Parikh of Awesome TV, the video features messages in several languages, including Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, and Urdu, enhancing its appeal. Parikh noted, "Bollywood has always brought people together through storytelling, and Kamala Harris exemplifies that spirit." The committee plans to roll out more Bollywood-themed videos to continue rallying support.



**Kanishka bombing suspect's killers plead guilty in Canada**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo men have pleaded guilty to the murder of Ripudaman Singh Malik, a prime suspect in the Air India Kanishka bombing, in a Canadian court. Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez admitted to killing Malik on July 14, 2022, in Surrey, British Columbia.

Malik was accused in the 1985 bombings that claimed 331 lives but was later acquitted. The court has scheduled their sentencing for October 31. Malik's family expressed gratitude that justice is being served but urged the killers to assist in identifying those who hired them.

"Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez were hired to commit this murder," the family's statement said. "Until the parties responsible for hiring them are brought to justice, the work remains incomplete."

The motive behind Malik's murder remains unclear, although it was reported that he had a conflict with Khalistani leader Hardeep Nijjar over issues related to the printing of religious texts in Canada. Nijjar was himself killed in Surrey a year later, with Canadian police linking the two cases but providing no concrete evidence.



Indian man sentenced in Singapore for not returning mistakenly transferred funds



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 47-year-old Indian national, Periyasamy Mathiyazhagan, has been sentenced to nine weeks in jail in Singapore after he failed to return SGD 25,000 (approximately \$18,000) that was mistakenly transferred to his account. Mathiyazhagan pleaded guilty to misappropriating the funds, explaining that he used the money to pay off debts and sent some to his family in India.

The incident occurred when a company administrator mistakenly transferred the money, believing it was meant for the firm. Upon realizing the error, she sought to recover the funds, but Mathiyazhagan had already transferred the money to another account. Despite requests to return the money, he claimed he could only repay it in installments. To date, he has made no restitution.

Indian-origin scientist uncovers protein function that may aid in treating age-related diseases



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A research team led by Indian-origin scientist Bhagwati Gupta at McMaster University in Canada has discovered a new function of the protein MANF, which may help treat age-related illnesses. Their findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, reveal that MANF plays a crucial role in protecting cells from stress caused by protein aggregation—a condition linked to diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

Using microscopic worms (*C. elegans*) in their study, the researchers found that increasing MANF levels helps break down accumulated proteins, promoting healthier cell function. The team aims to further investigate how MANF interacts with other cellular processes, potentially leading to therapies targeting diseases related to cellular health in both animals and humans.

Scottish Indian curator brings 18th-century dining experience to Dumfries House

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Satinder Kaur, the collections manager at Dumfries House, is thrilled to offer visitors an authentic 18th-century dining experience in the historic estate’s Pink Dining Room. This new addition features a “Butler Service” and uses rare ceramics and silverware from the Royal Collection, reflecting the opulence of the era.

Starting this month, Kaur, along with Manager Evan Samson and Executive Chef Tom Scoble, has incorporated this royal touch into regular estate tours. “As Collections Manager, I feel privileged to work with a diverse collection of artifacts dating from 1754 to 1759,” Kaur stated. A second-generation immigrant, she has pursued her passion for heritage at Dumfries House, where she finds new treasures to explore daily.

One of her favorite pieces is the Grand Orrery, a mechanical model of the solar system from around 1750, which intriguingly includes the Indian subcontinent—a personal connection for Kaur. The Pink Dining Room



is now available for guests to dine “family-style,” with a menu crafted by the chefs to reflect 18th-century culinary traditions, all while using produce harvested from the estate itself.

Dumfries House, an important site for

heritage and education under King Charles III’s vision, serves as a hub for training in traditional crafts and sustainability, attracting around 20,000 visitors annually. The estate is keen to broaden its appeal, hoping to attract global visitors, including filmmakers and Indian tourists.

Illinois declares November 3rd as International Ramayan Day, several states embrace Diwali celebrations

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Illinois has officially declared November 3rd as International Ramayan Day, honoring the epic’s cultural significance. Governor J.B. Pritzker expressed that this day is a celebration of the values embodied in the Ramayana, promoting unity and respect among diverse communities. In addition, several U.S. states have recognized the importance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, celebrating its cultural significance. Observed by Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs, Diwali symbolizes new beginnings, hope, and the triumph of good over evil. Traditional festivities include lighting oil lamps, sharing sweets, decorating with flower garlands, and launching lanterns, which bring families and communities together.

States such as Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Texas, New Jersey, Ohio, and Georgia have formally embraced Diwali in various ways, through resolutions, proclamations, and legislative actions. Each state’s approach reflects a commitment to honor the contributions and traditions of Hindu and South Asian communities. Some states have incorporated Diwali observances into their official holiday calendars, while others have passed



resolutions celebrating the day’s cultural and spiritual meaning. This growing recognition highlights a broader movement toward cultural inclusivity in the U.S., bringing attention to the values and heritage of diverse communities. Observing Diwali alongside other major holidays fosters an appreciation for multicultural traditions and values, creating an environment where messages of hope, unity, and light can thrive.

As more states honor Diwali, advocates hope these proclamations inspire wider awareness of the festival’s significance and promote understanding of diverse traditions.



UK health minister highlights Indian diaspora’s role in NHS collaboration



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) owes much to the Indian diaspora, according to Health Secretary Wes Streeting. Speaking at the India Global Forum’s Diwali celebration in London, he noted that the partnership with India is vital for modernizing UK healthcare. Streeting praised the contributions of the diaspora in shaping the NHS over the past 76 years and highlighted successful collaborations, such as the India-UK vaccine partnership during the COVID pandemic.

He also emphasized the need for the UK to learn from India’s advancements in primary healthcare. Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall reiterated the Labour government’s commitment to establishing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, underscoring the strategic importance of their relationship beyond trade. The event also featured discussions on technology, pharmaceuticals, and green energy, marking a renewed effort to strengthen ties between the two nations.



## Justice Sanjiv Khanna appointed as Chief Justice of India



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian government has officially appointed Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the next Chief Justice of India, effective November 11, 2024. He will succeed the current Chief Justice, D.Y. Chandrachud, who retires on November 10. Justice Khanna, the 51st CJI, previously served on the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court. He has a strong background in law, having worked in various capacities, including as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Service Committee and Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority.

## Punjab farmers block Chandigarh-Delhi highway



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Farmers from the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha plan to block the Chandigarh-Delhi National Highway on Friday from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. to protest the slow pace of paddy procurement in Punjab. The protest will occur in Lalru town, with some traffic rerouted. Farmers blame both the Punjab government and the central government for the delays. Another group, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, has also announced an indefinite blockade starting October 26. Despite concerns, officials report that substantial quantities of paddy have arrived in Punjab markets this season.

## Priyanka Gandhi condemns violence following J&K attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Priyanka Gandhi expressed her condolences on social media for the soldiers killed in a terrorist attack in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir. In her post, she called the incident “extremely sad,” noting the loss of two soldiers and two civilian porters, while wishing for the speedy recovery of the injured. She emphasized that “violence and terrorism are unacceptable in a civilized society,” stating that no amount of condemnation could be sufficient for such acts.

The attack occurred when terrorists opened fire on a vehicle of the Rashtriya Rifles (RR) near Nagin Chowk in the Botapathri area, a location popular among tourists. This incident resulted in the deaths of two soldiers and two civilian porters, with three soldiers sustaining injuries.

The area has since been cordoned off, and reinforcements have been deployed to conduct search operations for the attackers.



This assault is notable, as it took place in an area that has been relatively free from militancy. Local officials indicated that this attack follows a recent uptick in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly after the successful conduct of Assembly polls in the region.

In another incident just days prior, unidentified terrorists shot and injured a non-local laborer in Pulwama district.

These incidents have raised concerns about security in the region as it continues to recover from past violence.

## Cyclone Dana impacts Bihar, alerts issued for 34 districts



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cyclone Dana, which made landfall in Odisha, is affecting neighboring Bihar and Jharkhand, prompting the Indian Meteorological Department to issue alerts for heavy rain and strong winds. The storm is expected to bring significant rainfall and localized flooding across 34 districts in Bihar, starting Friday afternoon. Residents are advised to take precautions against possible thunderstorms and power outages, as the storm may weaken but will still cause disruption through the weekend.

## Supreme Court rules Aadhaar is not proof of date of birth

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court recently stated that an Aadhaar card is not, by itself, proof of a person's date of birth. This clarification came during a case regarding the compensation awarded to the family of a deceased road accident victim. The court was asked to determine which document—an Aadhaar card or a School Leaving Certificate—should be deemed authoritative in cases where the dates of

birth conflict.

The court highlighted that the School Leaving Certificate is recognized under the Juvenile Justice Act, and it ultimately ruled in favor of using the School Leaving Certificate to calculate the deceased's age for compensation purposes.

The court adjusted the total compensation to approximately Rs 15,00,000 with interest, ensuring just compensation for the claimants.



## Rise in demand for pottery this Diwali as Chinese goods decline



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As Diwali approaches, there has been a notable increase in demand for traditional pottery, particularly in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri region. Earthen lamps and pots are now preferred over Chinese-made goods, which have seen a decline in sales.

Local potters are working long hours to meet this surge in demand, and many artisans are calling for a ban on Chinese products, similar to the ban on firecrackers. They argue that promoting traditional items can contribute to environmental sustainability. Potters emphasize the importance of supporting local artisans to preserve their craft and enhance business opportunities.

## Central govt employees to receive additional compassionate pension after age 80

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Central government pensioners aged 80 and older will now qualify for an additional pension, known as a compassionate allowance, according to a notification from the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare. New guidelines have been issued to streamline access to these benefits.

Pensioners aged 80 to 85 will receive 20% of their basic pension, while those aged 85 to 90 will get 30%. For ages 90 to 95, the amount increases to 40%, and those aged 95 to 100 will receive 50%. Super seniors over 100 years will receive 100% of their basic pension.

The additional pension is intended to help pensioners cope with rising living



costs associated with aging. To facilitate the timely distribution of these benefits, the Department has directed all relevant

agencies to ensure eligible pensioners receive their rightful allowances promptly.



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### Hezbollah confirms the death of leader Hashem Safieddine



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ezbollah has officially announced the death of Hashem Safieddine, its Executive Council head, who was reportedly killed in an Israeli airstrike on Beirut three weeks ago. The Israeli military confirmed that the attack targeted a building believed to house Hezbollah's main intelligence operations.

Safieddine, a cousin of former leader Hassan Nasrallah, was seen as a potential successor after Nasrallah's assassination. He was a key member of Hezbollah's Shura Council, which is responsible for the group's policy and decision-making. Following his death, Israeli officials stated that they have significantly impacted Hezbollah's leadership structure, indicating a broader military campaign against the group in Lebanon.

### Israel and US implement \$5.2 billion air defense aid package



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**sraeli and US officials have begun executing a \$5.2 billion emergency aid package aimed at strengthening Israel's air defense systems. This package will enhance the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Iron Beam systems. The agreement follows an \$8.7 billion aid deal announced by Israel, with \$3.5 billion already allocated for urgent wartime needs. The US has provided extensive military support since the recent conflict with Hamas, although this has faced criticism amid rising Palestinian casualties in Gaza, which now exceed 42,600.

## Israeli PM suggests killing of Hamas leader could aid hostage situation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**sraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar could facilitate the release of Israeli hostages and advance Israel's war objectives. During a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Netanyahu emphasized that Sinwar's demise might influence both the return of hostages and post-war governance in Gaza.

The meeting lasted two and a half hours and focused on strategies to ensure lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. Israel has intensified its military offensive in Gaza in response to a Hamas attack on October 7, which resulted in significant casualties and hostages.

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli airstrikes has reached alarming levels, highlighting the conflict's devastating impact.



## North Korea sends troops to Russia amid escalating concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he White House has confirmed that North Korea has dispatched at least 3,000 troops to eastern Russia earlier this month, raising alarms about their potential involvement in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby stated that these soldiers were transported by ship and are currently undergoing training at various military sites.

While the U.S. has not confirmed whether these troops will engage in combat, Kirby expressed serious concerns about the implications of North Korean forces participating in the war alongside Russian troops.

The deployment marks an unprecedented level of military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, which could have significant security ramifications for Europe and beyond.

## Health services collapse in Sudan amid spreading epidemics

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**esidents in southern Khartoum are facing a health crisis as essential services deteriorate and epidemics spread due to ongoing civil conflict. Medical facilities have partially shut down due to violence,

leading to severe shortages of medicines. Doctors Without Borders has suspended operations after armed robberies threatened staff safety. The health crisis is exacerbated by outbreaks of cholera, malaria, and dengue fever, with over 25,000 cholera cases reported and more than 700 deaths linked to the outbreak.



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## Canada to pause immigration amid projected population decline

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Canadian government has unveiled a plan to reduce immigration levels, anticipating a population decline in 2025 and 2026 for the first time since 1867. The Immigration Levels Plan for 2025-2027 aims for a marginal decline of 0.2% in both years, followed by a growth of 0.8% in 2027.

This strategy includes lowered targets across various immigration streams, accounting for temporary resident outflows and natural population loss. For the first time, the plan also sets specific targets for international students and foreign workers. Canada's population, currently at 41 million, has seen significant growth due to immigration, which accounted for nearly 98% of the increase in 2023.



### Japanese PM denies LDP support for scandal-tainted candidates



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has refuted claims that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is covertly funding candidates involved in a slush fund scandal for the upcoming general election.

### Bangladesh government bans student group linked to violence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
The interim government of Bangladesh has banned the Bangladesh Chatra League, the student wing of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, following demands from a student-led movement.



### Russia denies plans to use North Korean troops in Ukraine



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Russia has affirmed its ongoing cooperation with North Korea but has refrained from commenting on claims regarding the deployment of North Korean soldiers in Ukraine.

### Israeli military chief hints at possible resolution with Hezbollah

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Israel's military chief, Herzi Halevi, indicated that a "sharp conclusion" to the conflict with Hezbollah could be forthcoming.

### Turkey strikes 47 terrorist targets in Iraq and Syria



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Turkey's military has targeted 47 "terrorist sites" in Iraq and northern Syria, neutralizing several militants in response to a recent attack in Ankara.

### Mongolia imposes quarantine due to resurgence of contagious goat disease

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
The Mongolian province of Dornogovi has been placed under quarantine due to an outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), a severe disease affecting goats.



### US urges Azerbaijan to finalize peace with Armenia by year-end

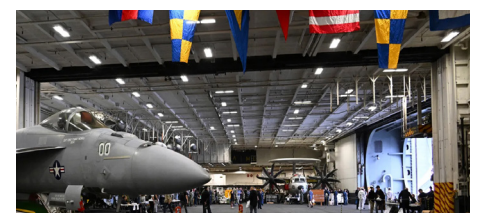
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
President Biden has called on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to finalize a peace agreement with Armenia by the end of 2024.

### China and Japan hold maritime consultations in Tokyo

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
China and Japan have conducted the 17th round of high-level maritime consultations in Tokyo, focusing on cooperation in the East China Sea.



### South Korea and US conduct joint air exercise amid North Korean tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
South Korea and the US have launched a large-scale air exercise named Freedom Flag to enhance military readiness against North Korean threats.

# India sees rapid decline in cash transactions as digital payments surge

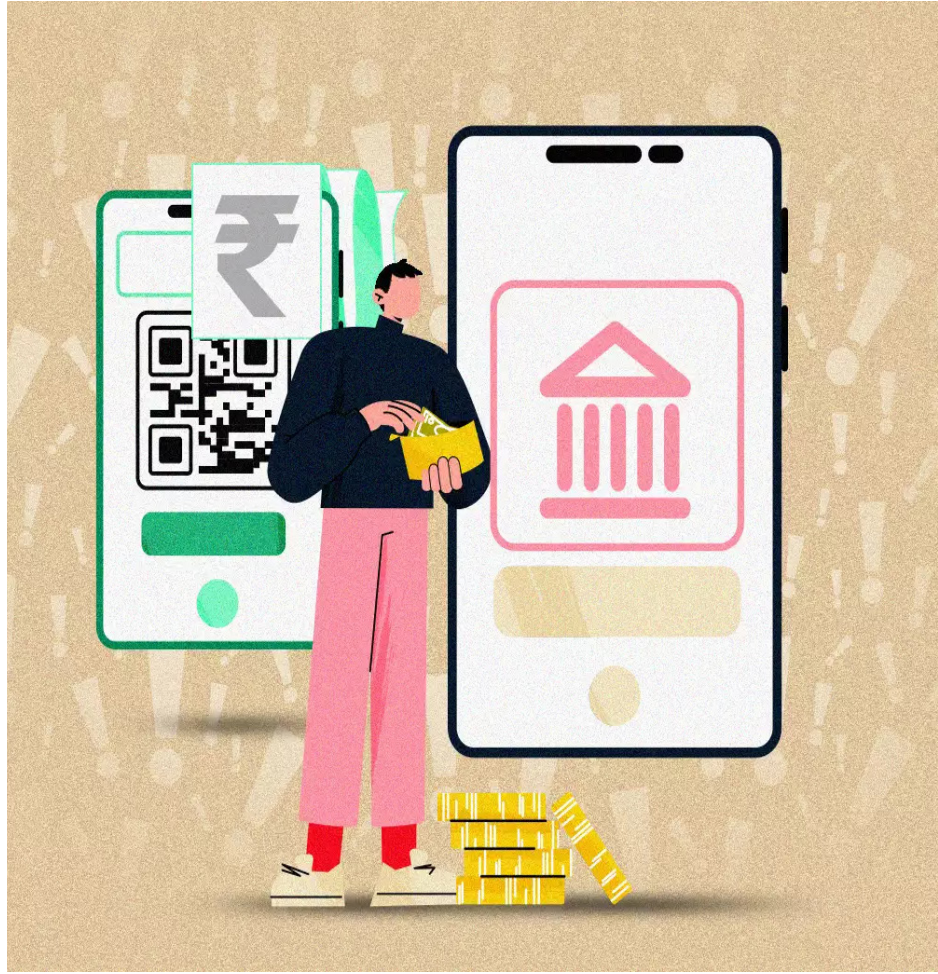
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**igital transactions in India have surged, leading to a significant decline in cash usage, which still accounts for 60% of consumer spending as of March 2024. According to a Reserve Bank of India report, the share of digital payments has risen from 14-19% in March 2021 to 40-48% in March 2024, largely due to the popularity of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

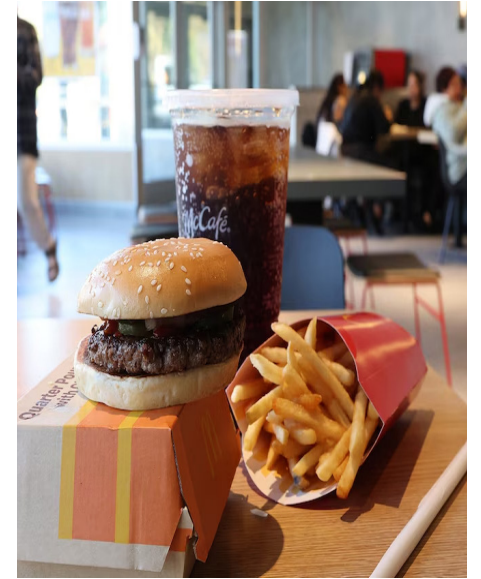
Retail digital payments have also grown significantly, with P2M (person to merchant) payments increasing substantially in both volume and value.

This trend highlights a shift towards digital payment methods post-COVID-19, driven by convenience and the increasing penetration of smartphones.

The report notes that UPI transactions alone surged by 52% in the first half of this year, reflecting changing consumer behavior. As cash transactions decline, financial experts suggest that this transition could enhance transparency and security in the financial system, ultimately benefiting the economy.



Fast-food chains remove onions after E. coli outbreak linked to McDonald's



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**ultiple U.S. fast-food chains, including Burger King and KFC, have pulled fresh onions from menus due to an E. coli outbreak tied to McDonald's Quarter Pounder sandwiches. The outbreak has sickened at least 49 people across 10 states, primarily in Colorado and Nebraska, resulting in one death.

McDonald's identified a California onion supplier as the source and has removed the Quarter Pounder from about 20% of its locations. Health officials linked the illnesses to E. coli O157, which poses significant risks, especially to vulnerable populations.

SpaceX awarded \$733 million contract by U.S. Space Force



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**paceX has secured a \$733 million contract from the U.S. Space Force for eight launches as part of the National Security Space Launch Phase 3 initiative. This contract includes seven launches for the Space Development Agency and one for the National Reconnaissance Office, scheduled to begin no earlier than 2026.

The Space Force aims to expedite launch services for risk-tolerant payloads, enhancing national security capabilities. The contract period extends from fiscal year 2025 to 2029, with potential for a five-year extension.

# Former Abercrombie & Fitch CEO indicted on sex trafficking charges



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**ike Jeffries, the former CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch, has been indicted on 16 federal charges of sex trafficking and international prostitution in New York. The indictment alleges that Jeffries, along with his partner Matthew Smith and associate James Jacobson, exploited a network of employees to recruit men for sexual acts from 2008 to 2015.

U.S. Attorney Breon Peace accused Jeffries of using his power to fulfill his

sexual desires, often enticing victims with modeling opportunities. The charges include drugging victims to facilitate sexual acts and manipulating them through intimidation.

The trio was arrested, with Jeffries released on a \$10 million bond. Abercrombie & Fitch has condemned the alleged behavior, emphasizing a commitment to zero tolerance for abuse.

Jeffries has faced scrutiny since a 2023 investigation revealed claims of exploitation during his tenure as the CEO.

UK watchdog investigates Alphabet's merger with Anthropic



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has launched an investigation into Alphabet Inc.'s merger with AI safety firm Anthropic, following earlier consultations about the deal. In 2023, Alphabet invested \$500 million in Anthropic and plans to commit an additional \$1.5 billion. The CMA aims to determine by December 19, 2024, whether a deeper investigation is necessary. Both companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A Google representative emphasized the company's commitment to an open AI ecosystem, while Anthropic expressed willingness to engage with the CMA regarding their partnership.

**Tesla shares surge on Musk's optimistic sales forecast**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**esla shares jumped nearly 22%, marking the biggest one-day gain in over a decade, following CEO Elon Musk's forecast of 20%-30% sales growth for next year. Musk announced plans for an affordable vehicle by mid-2025 and noted improved margins due to cost-cutting measures. This surge erased recent losses amid concerns over Musk's focus on projects like robotaxis. Investors were relieved by strong third-quarter margins and a decrease in production costs. Despite excitement over Tesla's future, some investors remain wary of Musk's shift towards AI and robotics over traditional automotive strategies.

**Morgan Stanley names Ted Pick as new chair**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**organ Stanley announced that CEO Ted Pick will succeed James Gorman as chair of the board after Gorman steps down at the end of the year to lead Disney's board. The move consolidates the roles of CEO and chair, a practice that has faced criticism for centralizing power but is defended for enabling swift decision-making. Pick has been CEO since the start of the year after winning the position previously held by Gorman.

**Missouri AG launches investigation into Google over alleged censorship**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**issouri's Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey announced an investigation into Google, alleging the tech giant is censoring conservative speech. This claim aligns with long-standing Republican assertions of bias against conservative voices on social media, which tech companies have consistently denied.

Google has not commented on the investigation. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, facing a tight race against Vice President Kamala Harris, indicated last month that he would pursue legal action against Google if elected, alleging that its search results unfairly featured negative stories about him.

Bailey stated, "I am launching an investigation into Google—the biggest search engine in America—for censoring conservative speech during the most consequential election in our nation's history." However, his social media post did not provide specific examples or evidence to support these claims.



**LinkedIn fined for privacy violations in ad tracking**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**inkedIn has been fined €310 million (approximately \$335 million) by the Irish Data Protection Commission for privacy violations related to its ad tracking business. The inquiry found that LinkedIn's processing of personal data for behavioral analysis and targeted advertising lacked lawful grounds under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



The commission determined that LinkedIn's claims of "consent" and

"legitimate interests" were invalid, emphasizing the importance of legal compliance in data protection. The decision also includes an order for LinkedIn to enhance its practices to align with GDPR requirements. LinkedIn stated it aims to adjust its operations to meet the commission's decision and protect user privacy moving forward. The ruling underscores ongoing scrutiny of tech companies regarding user data handling and privacy rights in the digital age.

**Sudan and South Sudan discuss oil transport resumption**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**udan and South Sudan are working to overcome challenges in resuming South Sudan's oil exports through Sudanese territory. Following a meeting between Sudan's military leader and South Sudan's National Security Advisor, both nations expressed readiness to enhance oil production and flow through the Bashayer port.

The discussions reflect a mutual

understanding of the importance of oil exports, which are crucial for South Sudan's economy. Previous disruptions were caused by issues in the transportation lines, which were affected by conflicts and infrastructure problems. Oil exports are vital for South Sudan's economy, accounting for the majority of its national revenue, and the discussions underscore their reliance on Sudan for access to international markets. The successful resumption of oil transport could significantly boost economic stability for both nations amid ongoing regional challenges.

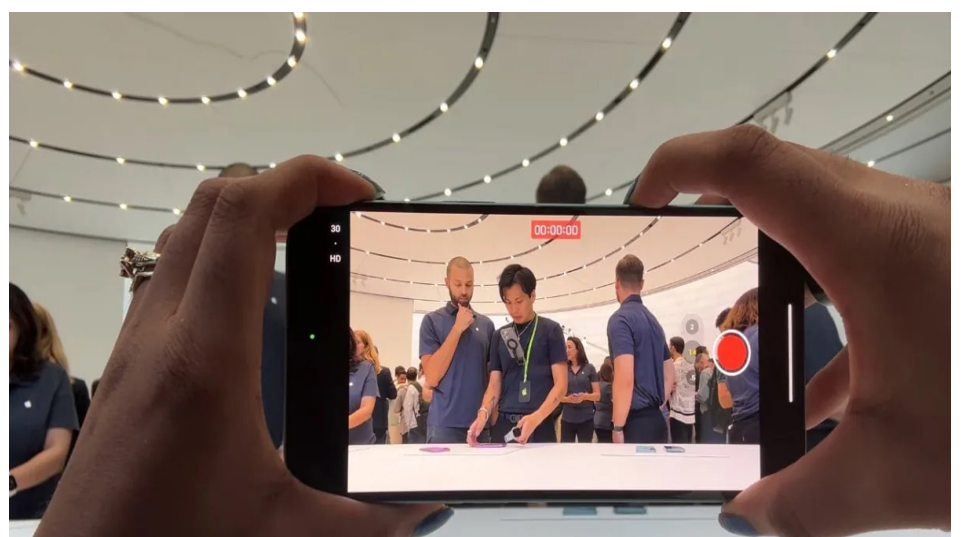


**Camera on iPhone 16 series lauded for low-light Diwali snaps**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**hotographers are highlighting the iPhone 16's 48MP Fusion camera for capturing vibrant Diwali celebrations. The new camera features ultra-wide and macro capabilities, making it ideal for dynamic festive scenes filled with lights and colors. Photographers suggest utilizing the camera's advanced settings for better group and close-up shots, especially in low-light conditions.

The iPhone 16 also offers 120fps recording in 4K for dramatic slow-motion effects, allowing users to capture the essence of Diwali celebrations in stunning detail. Experts encourage users to experiment with new styles to enhance their Diwali photos, emphasizing the camera's ability to capture intricate details and the warmth of the festival. As families come together to celebrate, the iPhone 16 is seen as an essential tool for preserving these cherished moments.



**ICC Board proposes new term limits for leadership roles**



**T**he International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has recommended changing the term limits for its Chair and Independent Director to two terms of three years each, replacing the current maximum of three terms of two years. This proposal will be presented to ICC members for approval.

If accepted, Jay Shah will start his three-year term as ICC Chair on December 1. The Board also appointed Dr. John Maclean to the Medical Advisory Committee and named New Zealand Cricket CEO Scott Weenink as the Full Member representative, with Scott Edwards of the Netherlands as the Associate Member representative.

In a significant move to enhance competitiveness, the ICC approved the establishment of women's Associate Member T20 competitions. These will include two annual T20I tournaments for 24 teams from 2025 to 2028, paving the way for the 16-team ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2030. Additional details on the women's FTP and ranking updates will be announced soon, including a new minimum match requirement of eight for rankings.

**Shane Warne honored with stand dedication at Melbourne's Junction Oval**

**A** stand has been dedicated to the legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne at Melbourne's Junction Oval, with his daughters and father present for the ceremony. The tribute occurred before a One-Day Cup match between Victoria and New South Wales. Keith Warne expressed pride in the honor, highlighting Shane's early cricketing years at the venue. The stand was previously named after Australian rules footballer Kevin Murray, who supported the change. Shane Warne, who passed away in March 2023, is also commemorated at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The ceremony was attended by prominent figures in Australian cricket, reflecting Warne's immense impact on the sport and the legacy he leaves behind for future generations of cricketers.

**New Zealand women's T20 team to receive equal prize money for World Cup victory**



**N**ew Zealand Cricket (NZC) has confirmed that the \$2.3 million prize for winning the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup in the UAE will be evenly divided among the 15 squad members. Each player will receive approximately NZD 256,000, significantly more than their national contracts. This decision follows NZC's earlier commitment to equal pay for male and female cricketers. NZC Head of Female

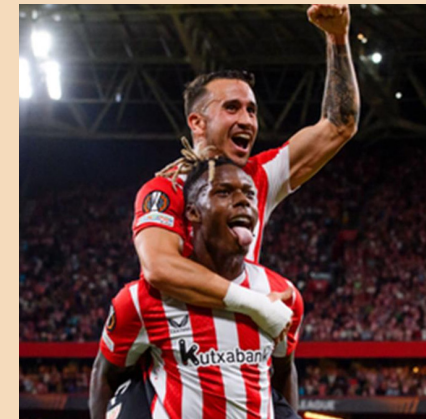
Engagement, Jess Davidson, emphasized the win's potential to inspire young girls to pursue cricket, noting an increase in registrations for women's competitions. The team, led by Sophie Devine, is currently in India for an ODI series and will return home on November 1. With a focus on nurturing female talent, NZC hopes this milestone will lead to a sustained growth in women's cricket participation across the country.

**India pulls out of World Wrestling Championship amid WFI and Ministry dispute**

**T**he Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has withdrawn the Indian team from the upcoming Senior World Wrestling Championship in Tirana, Albania, due to a conflict with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS). WFI accuses the ministry of infringing on its autonomy, citing a suspension imposed after new elections last year. This year's championship was deemed significant for Indian wrestlers, but ongoing legal disputes and challenges from prominent athletes have complicated the situation. WFI has urged international bodies to intervene and uphold its autonomy from governmental interference. The withdrawal has raised concerns about the future of wrestling in India, as athletes look for clarity and support amidst this administrative turmoil, which could impact their training and competition opportunities moving forward.



**Athletic Club edges Slavia Prague in tight Europa League matchup**

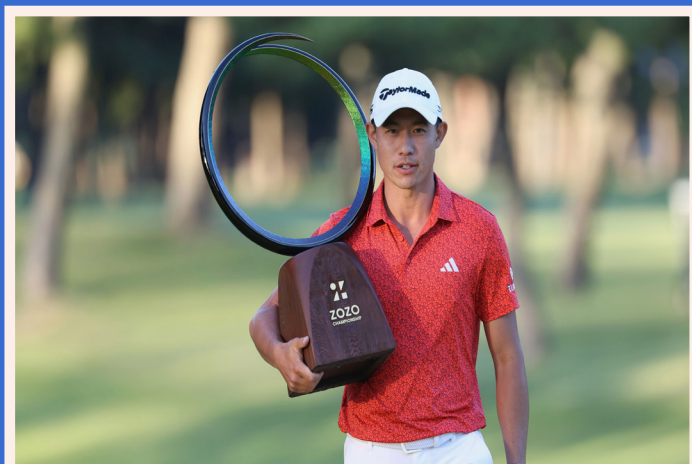


**A**thletic Club goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala made key saves to secure a 1-0 victory over Slavia Prague in the Europa League. Nico Williams scored the only goal with a deflected shot in the first half. Despite Slavia dominating possession and creating multiple chances, Athletic held firm, maintaining their strong start in the tournament with seven points from three games. Earlier, Real Sociedad celebrated their first win of the tournament with a 2-1 victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv. As Athletic Club continues to build momentum, the team's resilience and defensive prowess will be crucial in their upcoming fixtures as they aim for a deep run in the competition.

**El Clasico poised to be the highlight of La Liga weekend**



**T**he upcoming El Clasico between Real Madrid and FC Barcelona is set to be the centerpiece of this weekend's La Liga action, with Madrid aiming to protect their three-point lead at the top of the table. Both teams face injury challenges, with Madrid missing goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and forward Rodrygo, while Barcelona is without key defenders. The weekend also features matches for Sevilla, Alaves, and Valencia as teams vie for crucial points in the league. This storied rivalry not only captivates fans but also has significant implications for title contention, making every clash a thrilling spectacle filled with intensity and passion.



**Morikawa reflects on special significance of Zozo Championship**

American golfer Collin Morikawa, who has Japanese heritage, expressed how winning the Zozo Championship in Japan last year was a dream come true. As he prepares to defend his title from October 24-27, he emphasizes the unique connection he feels to Japan and the importance of competing internationally. Morikawa noted that every victory is meaningful, especially his six-stroke win at the Zozo, and he looks forward to continuing his success in the sport.





### NBA to feature record number of international players in new season



The upcoming NBA season will showcase a record-tying 125 international players across all teams, highlighting the league's global reach. This marks the fourth consecutive season with over 120 foreign players. The roster will include representatives from 43 countries, with significant numbers from Australia, Germany, and Cameroon. Canada remains the most-represented country outside the U.S. with 21 players. The season will also feature games in Mexico and Paris, with all teams now required to adhere to new social media restrictions to curb potential betting irregularities. This strategy aims to maintain the integrity of the game while celebrating its diverse talent pool.

## USA drops Aaron Jones from ODI squad after club commitment

The USA has removed Aaron Jones from their ODI squad for the World Cup League 2 tri-series due to his choice to play for the CPL franchise St. Lucia Kings, which caused him to miss a tour to Namibia in September. The selection committee decided to keep the squad unchanged from the previous tour. Jones' decision, made despite warnings from USA Cricket, reportedly strained relations within the organization. In

contrast, Andries Gous, who shortened his time with the Trinbago Knight Riders to join the Namibia tour, remains in the squad. While the team continued its unbeaten streak in Namibia, Jones's recent low scores in T20I matches have put his future selections at risk. Meanwhile, 21-year-old Sanjay Krishnamurthy shone with a 167\* against Scotland, boosting his chances for a national call-up. The USA is set to face Nepal in their first tri-series match.



### J.T. Poston secures Masters spot with Shriners victory



J.T. Poston clinched his third PGA Tour title at the Shriners Children's Open, finishing the final round with a 4-under 67. After a solid start, Poston built a comfortable lead but faced pressure from Doug Ghim, who finished strong with a 65. Despite missing a few key putts, Poston sealed the win with a crucial 45-foot birdie putt, ensuring his return to the Masters for the third consecutive year. Ghim's runner-up finish marked his best performance on the Tour, while Matti Schmid and Rico Hoey tied for third. The PGA Tour now heads to Japan for the Zozo Championship before returning to North America for the season's conclusion.

## Federer and Nadal pay tribute to Thiem's remarkable career

Tennis legends Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have congratulated Dominic Thiem on his retirement following his first-round defeat to Luciano Darderi at the Erste Bank Open.

Thiem, who won the 2020 US Open and reached the finals of three other Grand Slams, ends his career with 17 ATP titles and a peak ranking of No. 3. Federer praised Thiem's sportsmanship and competitive spirit, while Nadal expressed gratitude for their battles on the court. Thiem's career included impressive records against the "Big Three" of tennis—Federer, Nadal, and Djokovic.

In his farewell match, Thiem showcased his talent but ultimately lost in straight sets. He received a standing ovation, and his final racket will be displayed in a special exhibition. In an emotional speech, Thiem thanked fans for their support throughout his journey.



# BOOK

## CLASSIFIED ADS



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### Van Dijk confirms contract talks with Liverpool are underway

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk has confirmed that discussions for a new contract have begun as he enters the final year of his current deal. While he remains focused on the season ahead, he acknowledged the ongoing negotiations. Van Dijk, who has enjoyed a successful six years at Liverpool, expressed confidence in his physical and mental state as the team sits atop the Premier League.



### Aryna Sabalenka reclaims No. 1 spot in WTA rankings, surpassing Iga Swiatek

Aryna Sabalenka has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the WTA rankings, surpassing Iga Swiatek with a narrow lead of 41 points. Neither player competed last week, but adjustments in points saw Sabalenka rise to 9,706 points while Swiatek has 9,665. Sabalenka, who aims for a longer tenure at the top this time, celebrated her achievement on social media. Additionally, Daria Kasatkina returned to the Top 10 after winning in Ningbo, and Mirra Andreeva reached a career-high No. 17.

### Billie Eilish suffers injury after fall on stage



**B**illie Eilish recently experienced a significant fall while performing at Madison Square Garden, resulting in a large bruise on her leg. During the concert, she lost her footing but fortunately fell in low lighting, minimizing her embarrassment in front of the audience. After the sold-out show for her album *Hit Me Hard And Soft*, Eilish took to social media to share a photo of her injury, captioning it with "But literally." Fans quickly responded with messages of concern, wishing her a speedy recovery. Eilish is currently on a global tour that includes multiple performances in the UK in 2025.

### Karan Johar sells stake in Dharma Productions



**K**aran Johar has sold a 50% stake in his production company, Dharma Productions, to Adar Poonawalla's Serene Productions for INR 1,000 crore. This investment allows Serene Productions to hold a significant share while Karan retains control as Executive Chairman. In a joint statement, both leaders expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, highlighting their shared vision for innovative storytelling. Johar emphasized the importance of heartfelt narratives in Indian cinema, while Poonawalla noted the potential for growth and expansion in the entertainment sector. This move is seen as a strategic step to elevate Dharma's legacy in an evolving industry.

## Aamir Khan likely to join Rajinikanth's film

**B**ollywood superstar Aamir Khan is reportedly set to enter Lokesh Kanagaraj's cinematic universe and is likely to collaborate with Rajinikanth in an upcoming film.

This partnership would mark the second time the two actors have worked together, following their 1995 project *Aatank Hi Aatank*.

Known for his successful films like *Vikram* and *Master*, Kanagaraj is a prominent figure in the industry. Aamir's upcoming project, *Sitaare Zameen Par*, is a remake of the Spanish film *Champions* and will also feature Genelia Deshmukh and Darsheel Safary.

This collaboration adds to the excitement surrounding Khan's career.



## Hollywood producer Lynda Obst passes away at 74



**L**Lynda Obst, a trailblazing Hollywood producer, has passed away at the age of 74 due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Throughout her career, Obst produced iconic films such as *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Flashdance*, and *Adventures in Babysitting*. She was

instrumental in paving the way for female producers in a predominantly male-dominated industry, making significant contributions to the film landscape. Obst's legacy is marked by her ability to produce critically acclaimed and commercially successful films, leaving an indelible mark on Hollywood.

## Alia Bhatt defends against Botox and paralysis allegations

**B**ollywood star Alia Bhatt has responded forcefully to allegations claiming she has had "Botox gone wrong" and is "paralyzed on one side." In an Instagram story, she expressed that these serious claims lack any proof and criticized the unrealistic scrutiny women

face online. Alia emphasized that everyone should have the right to make personal choices regarding cosmetic procedures, but she condemned the unfounded rumors as damaging and exhausting. She urged people to celebrate individuality rather than tear it apart under a microscope.

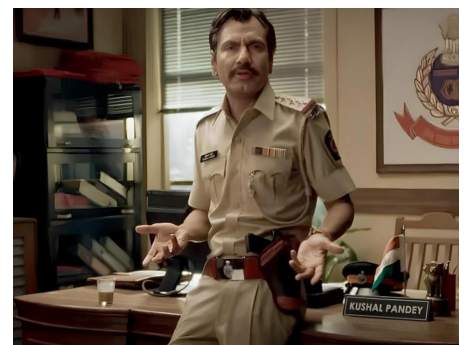


## Katrina Kaif shares heartfelt moments from Karwa Chauth



**K**atrina Kaif recently shared glimpses of her Karwa Chauth celebrations with her in-laws on Instagram. The photos capture warm interactions between Katrina and her mother-in-law, Veena Kaushal, including a touching moment where Veena blesses her. Dressed in a lovely pink saree, Katrina expressed her joy with the caption, "Happy Karwa Chauth." This year Katrina and Vicky, who married in December 2021, celebrated their third Karwa Chauth together. Despite persistent pregnancy rumors, Vicky Kaushal responded earlier this year that they would share good news when the time comes.

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui faces backlash over poker ad

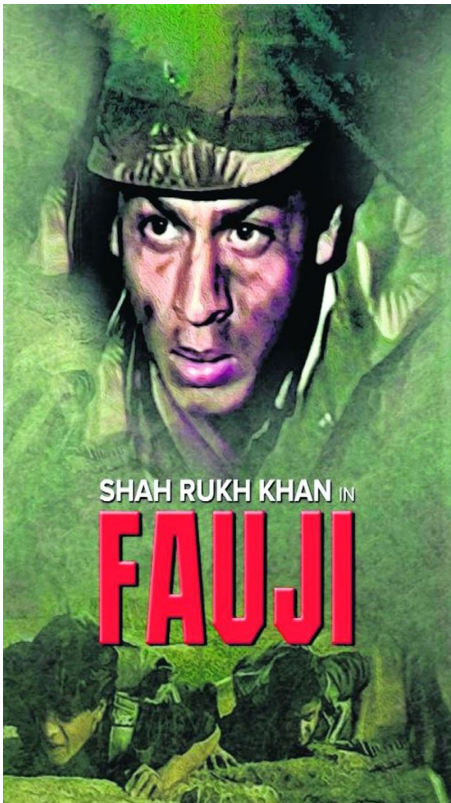


**A**ctor Nawazuddin Siddiqui is under scrutiny for a recent advertisement where he portrays a Maharashtra police officer promoting a poker app. The Hindu Janjagruti Samiti has criticized the ad for potentially tarnishing the reputation of the Maharashtra Police, urging authorities to take action against both Siddiqui and the ad's owner. They argue that the portrayal is disrespectful and misleading, as it suggests a link between law enforcement and gambling. Nawazuddin has yet to comment on the situation as the organization calls for accountability from local officials.



Friday, 25 October 2024

### Shah Rukh Khan's 'Fauji' to re-air on Doordarshan



Shah Rukh Khan's debut television series, Fauji, will be re-airing on Doordarshan, showcasing all 13 episodes starting October 24. The series, which originally aired in 1989, follows the training of an Indian Army commando regiment and features Khan in the role of Lt. Abhimanyu Rai. Doordarshan's Director General stated that this re-airing serves as a tribute to the show's legacy while fans await Fauji 2. The iconic series captures the challenges and camaraderie among recruits as they undergo rigorous training, marking a significant moment in Khan's early career.

### Rhea Chakraborty wins Supreme Court case against CBI



Rhea Chakraborty has received a significant legal victory as the Supreme Court dismissed a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) petition seeking to restore Look-out-Circulars (LOCs) against her and her family. This ruling follows the Bombay High Court's earlier decision to quash the LOCs issued in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. The LOCs, which were originally issued in August 2020, aimed to prevent Rhea, her brother Showik, and their father from leaving the country. The case gained widespread media attention after Rajput's family sought a CBI investigation into his death.

## Harvey Weinstein diagnosed with bone marrow cancer

Disgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein has been diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia, a type of bone marrow cancer, according to NBC News.

His legal healthcare representative expressed concern over the speculation regarding Weinstein's health, emphasizing that these private matters should not be public.

Recently, Weinstein appeared in court in a wheelchair, pleading not guilty to new charges following emergency heart surgery.

He has faced numerous health issues, including diabetes and Covid-related complications.

While his 2020 rape conviction was overturned, a retrial is now expected in early 2025. Weinstein continues to deny all allegations of assault or rape.



Taylor Swift's wardrobe malfunction resolved by dancers mid-performance



During a recent concert stop on her Eras Tour in Miami, Taylor Swift experienced a wardrobe malfunction when her custom Vivienne Westwood gown popped open at the back while performing "But Daddy I Love Him."

Quick-thinking dancers rushed to assist her, helping to zip up the gown so she could continue the show. The dress features a sleeveless ball gown silhouette with lyrics from her song "Fortnight" written in cursive.

Fans were also excited by her new Roberto Cavalli catsuit, which hinted at potential new music from her "Reputation" era, featuring intertwining gold snakes.

## SEVENTEEN wows fans in Chicago as they kick off US leg of their 'Right Here' world tour

South Korean boy band SEVENTEEN has officially launched the U.S. leg of their 'Right Here' world tour at the Allstate Arena in Chicago on October 22. This performance marks their first live concert in the U.S. in over two years.

The three-hour show featured 22 songs from their extensive discography, including tracks from their latest album, Spill the Feels, released earlier this month. Fans were particularly excited for the live debut of the DJ Khaled-assisted single "LOVE, MONEY, FAME." SEVENTEEN members expressed their gratitude to fans, with Joshua Hong thanking them for their support and S. Coups encouraging everyone to stay connected until the group reunites.



## Salman Khan to shoot cameo in 'Singham Again' under tight security

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is set to fulfill his commitment to appear as Chulbul Pandey in Rohit Shetty's "Singham Again," despite heightened security concerns following a recent shooting incident involving politician Baba Siddique.

Khan will film in a Mumbai suburban studio protected by 120 security personnel and 30 police officers.

Initially, there were doubts about his appearance due to safety risks, but he decided to proceed.

The film features an ensemble cast including Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, and Deepika Padukone, and is scheduled for a Diwali release on November 1.





# India Development Service celebrates 50th anniversary with memorable gala

By: Prachi Jaitly

India Development Service (IDS), a nonprofit organization based in Chicago that supports sustainable development initiatives in India, marked its 50th anniversary with a gala event on October 20, 2024, in Oakbrook, IL. The evening featured inspiring speeches, cultural performances, and reflections on five decades of impactful work.

The highlight of the event was a keynote address by Nobel Laureate Dr. Abhijit Banerjee, who shared his insights

on global poverty alleviation and the vital role of grassroots organizations like IDS in fostering sustainable change. Dr. Banerjee, who won the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, emphasized the importance of collaboration between IDS and local communities for creating long-term solutions.

S. R. Hiremath, one of IDS's founding members, also spoke, recounting the organization's journey since its inception in 1974. His heartfelt remarks reflected on the inspiration behind starting IDS and expressed gratitude to the team for sustaining its mission over the years.



Representatives from two partner NGOs, who traveled from India to attend the gala, shared stories about their collaborative efforts with IDS and the transformative impact on rural communities across India.

The event, attended by over 280 guests, included a lively Fun Fact Quiz on India, engaging the audience throughout the night. The gala also showcased a vibrant cultural program featuring dance performances and a live musical act by local artists Raju Bankpaur and Shree Mahonty, who entertained attendees with

a blend of Bollywood and Hollywood songs during dinner.

Emceed by former WBEZ Worldview host Jerome McDonnell, the gala celebrated the enduring legacy of IDS and its commitment to improving lives in India through sustainable development. IDS extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported the event, making it a night to remember.

*For more information about India Development Service and its ongoing projects, please visit [idsua.org](http://idsua.org).*

# Early voting begins in all Chicago wards ahead of November 5 presidential election

By: Vandana Jhingan

Early voting for the November 5 presidential election is now in full swing across all 50 wards of Chicago, having started on October 21 and continuing until November 4. Voting locations are open on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Election Day, November 5, these early voting sites will

serve as Vote Centers from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chicago residents can vote at any of the early voting sites, regardless of their home ward. All locations comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). So far, nearly 13,000 voters have taken advantage of the early voting opportunity.

Marisel Hernandez, Chairwoman of the Chicago Board of Election



Commissioners, stressed the benefits of voting early stating, "With the November 5 election just days away, we encourage Chicago voters to cast their ballots early for peace of mind."

Voters have until October 31 at 5:00 p.m. to apply for mail-in ballots, although early applications are recommended. Secure drop boxes for returning mail-in ballots are available at all early voting sites, the Supersite at 191 N. Clark, and the Board's office at 69 W. Washington. Until earlier this week, over

258,000 applications for mail-in voting have been received, with nearly 54,000 ballots already returned.

While online voter registration has closed, individuals can still register in person at any early voting site or their precinct polling place on Election Day. Voters must bring two forms of ID, with one showing their current address.

Additionally, 32 early voting locations are equipped with bilingual officials to assist voters in their preferred language. New signage at these sites indicates the availability of bilingual assistance, and all locations feature touchscreen voting machines and audio ballots in 12 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.

For more information, voters can visit the Your Voter Information webpage to check their registration status, view sample ballots, and find nearby early voting sites.



## Bharat Ko Janiye online quiz launches fifth edition for Indian diaspora and foreign nationals

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Consulate General of India in Chicago has announced the launch of the 5th edition of the Bharat Ko Janiye (Know India) Quiz for 2024-25. This engaging initiative, organized by the Government of India, will take place from November 11 to December 10, 2024, encouraging People of Indian Origin (PIO) and Indian communities abroad, as well as foreign nationals, to deepen their understanding of India.

Participants can access the official quiz portal at <https://bkjquiz.com>, which will go live on November 4, 2024. The site will provide detailed information on guidelines, rules, and registration, along with sample questions and FAQs to help contestants prepare. The quiz is open to two categories: PIOs/foreigners and NRIs (Indian passport holders). Eligible participants aged 14 to 50 can join, and there is no entry fee, although registration is required. Contestants can

participate from anywhere during the quiz period. The format includes 30 multiple-choice questions to be completed in 16-17 minutes, with no negative marking. Participants can make unlimited attempts, with only their highest score considered.

The top 15 winners in each category will be invited to join a two-week BKJ Yatra to India, including participation in the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) celebrations. Additionally, all participants will receive a digital certificate of participation.

The IndoUS Tribune encourages the Indian community and foreign nationals to register on the portal starting November 4 and take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with India. Best wishes for the upcoming festival season, and we look forward to enthusiastic participation from the global community!

For more information and registration, visit: <https://bkjquiz.com>.





# Minnesota State Capitol hosts historic Diwali celebration with Lieutenant Governor

By: Vandana Jhingan

On October 15, 2024, Indian Americans gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol in Saint Paul to celebrate Diwali, an event attended by Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. This marked the second consecutive year of Diwali celebrations at the Capitol, aiming to establish it as an annual tradition.

The festivities began with prayers led by Chief Priest Murali Bhattarji

of the Hindu Society of Minnesota, followed by a bhajan performed by Shruti Rajasekar. Siddhi Tantry, a junior at Wayzata High School, showcased her talent with a traditional Indian classical dance. Vallabha Tantry, the AIA coordinator, emphasized the importance of involving youth in community events, which featured leaders from various organizations, including the Hindu Society of Minnesota and the Jain Community Center.

Lieutenant Governor Flanagan praised



the contributions of over 40,000 Indian Americans in Minnesota, stressing the need for young people to embrace their heritage. She also highlighted the significance of diversity in enriching the state. Governor Tim Walz declared October as Hindu Heritage Month, acknowledging the vibrant contributions of the Indian community.

The event included a diya lighting ceremony led by Flanagan and community leaders. Gopal Khanna from AIA noted the organization's commitment to promoting cultural heritage and the values of Diwali—light

over darkness.

In closing, Aditi Jha, a sophomore at Edina High School, delivered a vote of thanks. AIA National President Gobind Munjal reaffirmed the organization's dedication to supporting cultural activities that foster unity and joy among all Americans.

**About AIA:**

Founded in 1967, the Association of Indians in America represents Indian Americans and promotes cultural heritage through its local chapters across the U.S. For more information, visit [www.aianational.org](http://www.aianational.org).





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# Mela Maiyya Da Jagran Chowkis

by **Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

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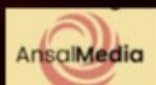
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**Aug, 2025**

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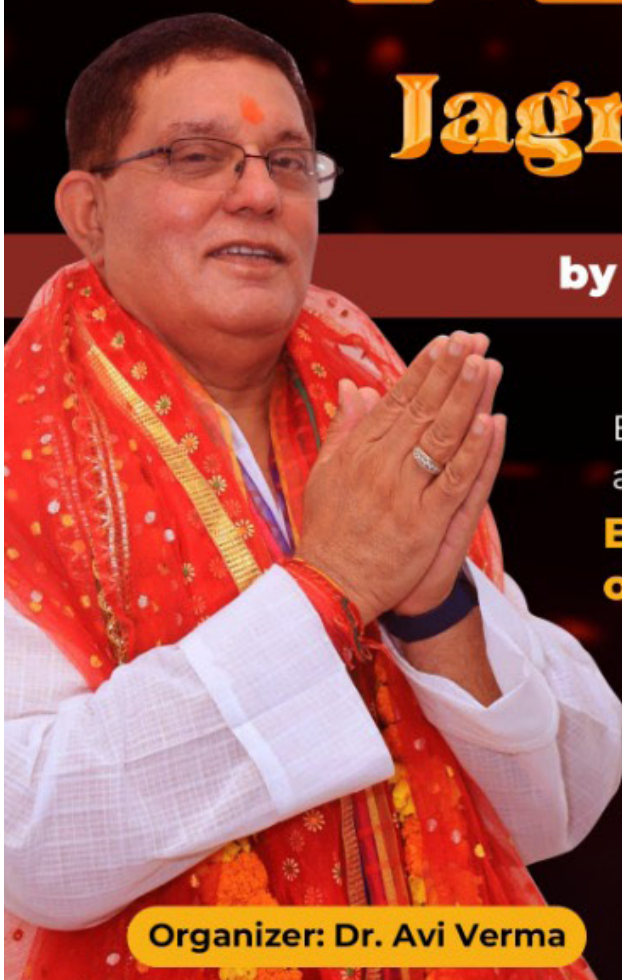
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Organizer: **Dr. Avi Verma**



**Lakhbir Singh Lakha**





# भगवान विष्णु और शिव तत्व का महात्म्य: पद्मपुराण की कथा



## भगवान विष्णु का ध्यान किस पर है ?

भगवान विष्णु, जिनका स्थान इस ब्रह्मांड के पालनहार के रूप में है, किसका ध्यान करते हैं ? यह रहस्य पद्मपुराण के उत्तरखंड में वर्णित है। इस कथा में लक्ष्मी और महाविष्णु के बीच संवाद को प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसमें माता लक्ष्मी भगवान विष्णु से उनके ध्यान और योग के बारे में प्रश्न करती हैं।

## मां लक्ष्मी का प्रश्न

एक दिन, जब भगवान विष्णु क्षीरसागर में विश्राम कर रहे थे, मां लक्ष्मी ने उनसे प्रश्न किया, हे भगवान आप पूरे जगत का पालन करते हुए भी ऐसा क्यों प्रतीत हो रहे हैं जैसे आप इस संसार से विरक्त हैं और गहरी नींद में सो रहे हैं ? लक्ष्मी जी का यह प्रश्न एक साधारण जिज्ञासा से भरा हुआ था, जिसके पीछे गहरे धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक रहस्य छिपे थे।

## भगवान विष्णु का उत्तर

भगवान विष्णु ने लक्ष्मी जी के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए कहा, हे सुमुखि! मैं सो नहीं रहा हूँ। मैं अपने अंतर में स्थित महेश्वर के स्वरूप का ध्यान कर रहा हूँ। यह वही स्वरूप है, जिसे योगी पुरुष अपनी गहरी ध्यान साधना के माध्यम से अपने हृदय में देखते हैं। यह स्वरूप अखंड, अद्वैत, और शुद्ध ज्योतिर्मय है, जो न दुख का स्पर्श करता है न आनंद का, बल्कि यह स्वयं परमानंद स्वरूप है। यही तत्व इस जगत का आधार है।

## गीता के अध्याय और शिव तत्व

भगवान विष्णु ने आगे बताया कि महर्षि वेदव्यास ने वेदों के गहरे मंथन से जिस गीता का सृजन किया है, वह भी उसी महेश्वर तत्व का स्वरूप है। गीता के १८ अध्याय भगवान के विभिन्न अंगों के प्रतीक हैं— पाँच अध्याय भगवान के पाँच मुखों के प्रतीक हैं,

दस अध्याय दस भुजाओं का, और शेष तीन अध्याय भगवान के उदर और चरणों के रूप में हैं। यह गीता स्वयं उस परमात्मा के दिव्य ज्ञान का सार है, जो सभी महापापों का नाश करने वाला है।

## लक्ष्मी जी की जिज्ञासा और महेश्वर स्वरूप

जब लक्ष्मी जी ने सुना कि भगवान विष्णु भी महेश्वर का ध्यान करते हैं, तो उन्हें बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ। उन्होंने पूछा, हे हृषीकेश! आप स्वयं इस ब्रह्मांड के रचयिता और पालनकर्ता हैं। फिर ऐसा कौन-सा तत्व है, जिसका आप ध्यान करते हैं ? भगवान विष्णु ने उत्तर दिया, हे प्रिये! मेरा यह शरीर मायामय है, परंतु मेरा असली स्वरूप उस परम महेश्वर तत्व का है, जो निर्गुण, निष्कल, और शाश्वत है। वही तत्व गीता में वर्णित है और उसी का मैं ध्यान करता हूँ।

## गीता और महेश्वर का संबंध

भगवान विष्णु ने गीता के महात्म्य का वर्णन करते हुए कहा, गीता का ज्ञान परमात्मा के स्वरूप को प्रकट करता है। जो व्यक्ति गीता के एक श्लोक का भी नित्य अभ्यास करता है, वह महान पापों से मुक्त हो जाता है। गीता केवल शब्द नहीं है, यह ईश्वर की वाणी है, जो सीधे उस महेश्वर तत्व की ओर संकेत करती है।

## निष्कर्ष

इस कथा के माध्यम से पद्मपुराण हमें यह सिखाता है कि भगवान विष्णु भी उस परम महेश्वर शिव का ध्यान करते हैं, जो इस जगत के सभी कर्तव्यों से परे, एकमात्र आनंदमय और अद्वैत स्वरूप है। गीता के माध्यम से हमें उसी शिव तत्व का बोध होता है, और यह ज्ञान हमारे जीवन को पवित्रता और मुक्तिदायक बना सकता है।

हर हर महादेव





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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



# The flowing tradition of Sages in Ramcharitmanas

**First step, creator of Ramayana - Sage Valmiki**

**Sage Valmiki is referred to as the “Adikavi” (the first poet) because the first verse ever composed came from his mouth, which laid the foundation of the great epic, Ramayana, in Sanskrit.**



**Rajendra Kapil**  
Phone: 847-962-1291



**I**t was in his hermitage that Mother Sita, during her pregnancy, sought refuge and gave birth to the two handsome princes, Luv and Kush. Valmiki was born in the lineage of Sage Bhrigu during the Treta Yuga, and his childhood name was Ratnakar. As he grew up, he married and had children, but during a severe famine, it became difficult for him to sustain his family. This hardship turned him into a notorious bandit who robbed travelers passing through the forest.

One day, he encountered Sage Narad, and when Ratnakar tried to rob him, Narad Muni attempted to explain that his actions were sinful. Ratnakar replied, “No, this is my livelihood, and I do it to support my family.” Then, Narad Muni posed a question, “Will your family share the burden of your sins?” Ratnakar responded, “Perhaps, yes.” Narad Muni suggested, “Go and ask them, and I will wait here for your return.” Being a saint, Narad stayed where he was. When Ratnakar returned after speaking with his family, he was deeply disappointed, for his family had refused to partake in his sinful actions.

This realization led Narad Muni to impart wisdom and devotion to Ratnakar, showing him the right path. Narad suggested that he chant the simple mantra, “Ram.” However, Ratnakar’s soul had become so tainted that he couldn’t even utter the name “Ram.” Instead, the only words that came out were “Mara Mara” (which, when repeated, still forms “Ram”). Through this inversion, Ratnakar’s spiritual transformation occurred, and he became the sage Valmiki. As Tulsidas writes:

**“The great mantra, which Mahesh chants for liberation in Kashi, Made the Adikavi pure through its inverted utterance.”**

Narad Muni reassured him, saying, “Do not worry. This is a great mantra, one that

even Lord Shiva chants constantly. You may chant it however you like—forward or backward—but with a sincere heart, and you will certainly be saved.” Over time, Ratnakar’s repeated chanting of “Mara Mara” transformed him into the enlightened sage Valmiki.

Until this time, Valmiki had no knowledge of Sanskrit. Yet, one day, a Sanskrit verse spontaneously flowed from his mouth. This occurred when Valmiki was sitting in a grove, observing a pair of Krauncha birds absorbed in love. Suddenly, a hunter came and shot one of the birds with his arrow, killing it. The sight of the other bird’s agony moved Valmiki, awakening the poet within him, and he cursed the hunter with the following verse:

**“O hunter! May you never find peace for all eternity, for you killed one of a pair of Krauncha birds absorbed in love.”**

This was Valmiki’s first verse, which laid the foundation of the Ramayana. Later, Goswami Tulsidas, after reading this Ramayana, composed the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi, making the story of Ram accessible to the common people. The Ramcharitmanas mentions Sage Valmiki and his hermitage during the Ayodhya Kand, when Ram, while wandering in exile, reached Valmiki’s hermitage:

**“Ram beheld the lovely hermitage with his lotus eyes, And hearing of Ram’s arrival, the sage came forward to greet him.”**

Valmiki was filled with joy upon seeing Ram. When the sage heard of Ram’s arrival, he personally came to the gate to welcome him. Ram greeted the sage with great respect, offering a prostration.

**“Ram bowed low to the sage, And the wise Brahmin blessed him. Beholding Ram’s divine beauty, The sage joyfully led him to the hermitage.”**

Valmiki’s disciples warmly welcomed Ram:

**“Dearly beloved guests of the sage, They offered them sweet fruits, roots, and flowers.”**

Valmiki himself was overwhelmed by emotion upon seeing his honored guests. After a day or two of rest, Ram asked the sage, “O great sage, where should I build my hut?” Knowing that the one asking was none other than the Supreme Being, Valmiki responded not with an answer but with a question:

**“You ask me where you should stay, But it is I who am hesitant to answer. Show me a place where you are not**

**present, And I will show you where to build your dwelling.”**

This was a deeply philosophical question. Ram, hearing the profound words of the sage, smiled:

**“Hearing the sage’s love-filled words, Ram smiled modestly.”**

Then, as a devotee, Valmiki spoke:

**“Listen, Ram, and I will tell you where to dwell with Sita and Lakshman.”**

Valmiki advised Ram to dwell in the hearts of devotees who have ears like the ocean, ever eager to receive the streams of Ram’s story, their hearts never content but always yearning for more.

After this heartfelt conversation, Valmiki suggested that Ram build his hut near the Chitrakoot mountain. Ram, with Lakshman’s help, built his hut at Chitrakoot and lived there for many years with the sage Valmiki and many other sages. Today, Chitrakoot has become one of the most important pilgrimage sites, with thousands of devotees visiting each year, completing the Chitrakoot Parikrama and feeling Ram’s divine presence.

I humbly bow to the great Sage Valmiki, the architect of this beautiful story.

# Holiday scams: Protect yourself this season



By: Dr. Avi Verma, IndoUS Tribune

**R**ecent trends in holiday scams have shown a worrying rise in tactics aimed at deceiving people into handing over money or personal information. Scammers use everything from fake online stores to impersonating government officials, and it's more important than ever to stay alert.

**Common scams targeting seniors and others during the holiday season:**

**Tech support scams:** Fraudsters pose as tech support from well-known companies, claiming that your computer or device is at risk. They request remote access or payments for unnecessary repairs.

**Impersonation scams:** Scammers pretend to be government officials, law enforcement, or even family members,

claiming there's an emergency—such as bail money or unpaid taxes—demanding immediate payments.

**Romance scams:** Fraudsters create fake profiles on dating websites, building a relationship with the victim, only to later request money for fabricated emergencies or travel expenses.

**Investment scams:** These often involve promises of high returns, particularly in cryptocurrency or real estate, luring victims with seemingly unbeatable opportunities that turn out to be fake.

**Online shopping scams:** Fake online stores pop up around the holidays, offering deals that are too good to be true. Victims lose their money or have their personal information stolen in the process.

**Tips to avoid falling victim to these**



**scams:**  
**Verify caller identity:** If someone calls claiming to be from a government agency

or a company, hang up and call back using official phone numbers to confirm their identity.

**Never send money or share personal info:**

Legitimate agencies will never ask for sensitive information or money through unconventional methods, like gift cards or wire transfers.

**Educate yourself:** Stay aware of common scams by reading about the latest tactics. If someone pressures you or offers quick solutions to complex problems, it's a red flag.

**Monitor your financial accounts:** Regularly check your bank and credit card accounts for suspicious transactions. If you see anything unusual, report it right away.

**Seek professional help:** If you've fallen victim to a scam or suspect fraud, reach out to a financial advisor or law enforcement for guidance.

The holidays are a time for joy, and scammers shouldn't dampen that spirit. By staying informed, sharing knowledge, and being cautious, we can protect ourselves and loved ones from financial fraud.

*Stay safe and enjoy the season!*



# Personal finance insights: Market sentiments, investment strategies & economic trends

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

**A** biweekly round up of personal finance news of interest to the Indo-US Community.

## SENTIMENTS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +20.1% (above average)

\$NYA50R, NYSE %Above 50-dMA 73.98% (overbought)

\$SPXA50R, SP500 %Above 50-dMA 77.20% (overbought)

Delta MSI 79.5% (overbought)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative)

OEFS & ETFs: Stocks 61.04%, Hybrids 4.45%, Bonds 17.89%, M-Mkt 16.63%

## INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch

Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%

Current 4.75-5.00

FOMC 11/7/24+ cut (the meeting after the US elections)

FOMC 12/18/24+ cut

## Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.73%, 1-yr 4.19%; T-Notes 2-yr 3.95%, 5-yr 3.88%, 10-yr 4.08%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.38%

TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.65%, 10-yr 1.77%, 30-yr 2.09%

FRNs Index 4.567%

US Savings I-Bonds, Rate from 5/1/24 – 10/31/24 is 4.28%; the fixed rate is 1.30%, the semiannual inflation is 1.48%.

For current banking rates, see [www.depositaccounts.com/](http://www.depositaccounts.com/)

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 10/1/24

TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates

Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%

Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 4.25%

TSP G Fund 3.875% (previous 4.000%).

Due to publication lag, the data above are as of the Sunday preceding.

## MARKETS

The US bull run from 12 Oct 2022 low has been very strong (SP500 +63.84%, Nasdaq

Comp +77.42%) & it hasn't been interrupted by Sept or Oct (so far). Almost everything is rallying – the Magnificent 7, big techs, large/mid/small-caps, cyclicals, gold (see 10/18/24 issue), dollar. The US election jitters haven't hit the market yet. But SP500 fwd P/E of 22 is high. Do rebalance to your appropriate allocation & raise some cash for any anticipated needs over 1-2 years.

Emerging markets (EMs) have benefited from the US Fed rate cut & China easing (baby steps so far). Many EMs are benefiting from US-China tensions – INDIA, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, BRICS. India is a fast-growing EM, but it's expensive at fwd P/E 24; its IPO market is red hot; a pullback/ correction may provide a good entry point.

Semis are strong in Taiwan & S Korea. Despite the tensions in the Middle East, the growing EMs there are Saudi Arabia & UAE (its city Dubai is better known). Notable EM OEFs are GQGPX (Rajiv Jain), PRIJX, WAESX (Ajay Krishnan); EM ETFs IMEG, DEM, FRDM. The EMs aren't

homogeneous & broad market-cap based indexes (VEMAX/ VWO) aren't the way to go as those will have high exposure to the large-caps in China & India.

INDIAN BONDS will be included in FTSE Russell Emerging Markets (EM) Government Bond Index (EMGBI) starting 09/2025 at 9.35% weight; previously, they were included in JPMorgan's Government Bond Index-EM index in 06/2024 & will be included in Bloomberg's EM Local Currency index in 01/2025.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT will now allocate the SATELLITE SPECTRUM. The local tycoons (AMBANI, MITTAL, etc) had asked for an auction just like for the other telecom spectrum. But the Government sided with MUSK who said to allocate this ITU-reserved scarce resource as per his prior talks with the Government.

OUTSOURCER Cognizant/ CTSH is getting into aerospace, defense, onshoring, AI, etc – not traditional areas for outsourcing.

It can help with both offshoring, onshoring & anywhere-shoring. The NJ based company has 75% of employees in India; CEO Ravi KUMAR.

## TAXES

TAX LOSS HARVESTING (TLH) is now in 2 parts – institutional TLH by Oct 31 (Thursday) when funds can close their books for the year to produce timely estimates for yearend CG distributions, & retail TLH by Dec 31 (Tuesday). So, the losing stocks have difficult time in Oct & Dec, but they tend to bounce in Jan (the January Effect).

As for your own TLH, there are 2 approaches: The older doubling-up by 11/29/24 (Friday; early market close) & selling the older lot by 12/31/24 (Tuesday); & with zero commissions now, selling a losing stock & immediately buying something similar but not identical (this can be done even on 12/31/24 because it's the trade date that matters).

For more information, see [ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/](http://ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/)



# The Electoral College: A controversial system in U.S. Presidential Elections



By: Dr. Avi Verma

The U.S. has a unique system for electing its president, known as the Electoral College. Unlike most democratic elections around the world, where the popular vote determines the winner, the Electoral College introduces a layer of complexity. This system allows a candidate to lose the popular vote but still become president by winning the majority of electoral votes. This raises a critical question: Is the Electoral College fair? Should it be changed?

## How the Electoral College works

At its core, the Electoral College is a process, not a physical institution. It involves the selection of electors, casting votes, and counting those votes in Congress to determine the president and vice president. Each state gets a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress—its senators and House representatives. There are 538 electors in total, and a candidate needs at least 270 electoral votes to win the presidency. In most states, the winner of the popular vote takes all the electoral votes, though Maine and Nebraska use a proportional system.

However, the outcome isn't decided by the direct popular vote of citizens but through these electors. This system was established in the U.S. Constitution as a compromise between a direct vote by the people and a vote by Congress.

## Pros of the Electoral College

**Representation of Smaller States:** The Electoral College system was designed to balance the interests of states with smaller populations against those with larger populations. Without the Electoral College,

candidates might focus exclusively on populous urban areas, neglecting smaller or rural states. The system ensures that candidates campaign in a variety of states, giving less populated regions a voice.

**Preserves Federalism:** The U.S. is a union of states with varying interests. The Electoral College reflects the country's federal structure, ensuring states play a central role in electing the president, thus preserving the autonomy of individual states.

## Prevents Regional Dominance:

The system prevents a candidate from winning by only appealing to a particular region or a single, concentrated demographic. To win, candidates must gather broad support across multiple states, making it more difficult for regional candidates to dominate.

## Cons of the Electoral College

**Undermining the Popular Vote:** One of the most significant criticisms is that the Electoral College can—and has—led to a candidate losing the popular vote but still winning the presidency. This happened in 2016, when Donald Trump won the presidency despite receiving fewer votes than Hillary Clinton. Similar outcomes occurred in 2000, with George W. Bush, and several times in the 19th century.

**Unequal Representation:** Critics argue that the system leads to unequal representation, as not all votes are counted equally. A voter in a smaller state like Wyoming has more influence than a voter in California because of the way electoral votes are distributed. In essence, smaller states wield more power

per voter compared to larger states, skewing the results.

**Swing State Focus:** Because most states reliably vote for one party, the focus of presidential campaigns narrows to a handful of battleground or “swing” states. These are states where the vote could go either way, such as Pennsylvania, Florida, or Ohio. Voters in reliably “red” or “blue” states may feel that their votes don't matter since their state is almost guaranteed to vote one way.

**Discouraging Voter Turnout:** In non-swing states, voter turnout can be lower because many feel their vote won't change the outcome. If the popular vote doesn't decide the president, many question the value of participating in the election, especially in states with a clear partisan majority.

## Should the Electoral College be changed?

This question has been at the heart of U.S. political debate for years. Reforming or abolishing the Electoral College would require a constitutional amendment, a challenging and lengthy process. While there is significant public support for changing the system, particularly after elections where the popular vote winner lost, the system's defenders argue that it prevents regionalism and maintains the balance between states.

## Is it fair?

The fairness of the Electoral College largely depends on one's perspective. Supporters argue that it maintains the balance between populous and less populous regions, while critics see it as an outdated system that distorts democratic

principles. The fact that the U.S. has twice in recent decades elected a president who lost the popular vote (in 2000 and 2016) raises concerns about the system's legitimacy in the eyes of many Americans.

## Does your vote count?

In theory, every vote counts toward a state's total, which in turn decides the allocation of electoral votes. However, in practice, the focus on swing states means that voters in non-competitive states may feel like their votes have less impact on the final outcome. If you live in a solidly blue or red state, the Electoral College may make you feel like your vote doesn't carry the same weight as someone living in a competitive state.

## Conclusion:

A system under scrutiny The Electoral College remains one of the most controversial aspects of American democracy. Its defenders argue it is a necessary feature that protects the interests of smaller states and prevents regional dominance, while critics believe it undermines the principle of one person, one vote.

As the U.S. continues to grapple with questions of electoral fairness and representation, the debate over the Electoral College is likely to persist. Should the U.S. move toward a system where the popular vote alone determines the president? Or does the Electoral College still serve an important purpose in protecting the federal balance? These are burning questions that deserve serious consideration as the country looks toward the future of its democratic processes.

# Medical Doctor program (MD) - 4 year hybrid study

By: Dr Avi Verma, MD(h)

The International University of the Health Sciences (IUHS) School of Medicine offers a flexible and accredited 4-year MD program, with a 5-year option available. This hybrid program combines online and in-person study, making it ideal for allied health practitioners and recent graduates who want to become medical doctors without quitting work or relocating.

**Program Highlights**

**Hybrid Learning:** The first two

years consist of pre-clinical studies conducted online, complemented by local physician mentorships. The final two years involve clinical rotations in hospitals.

**Innovative Technology:** The program employs award-winning tools like the DxR virtual patient simulator and the Distributed Online Campus System, allowing students to study from anywhere in the world.

**Global Reach:** Graduates are eligible to sit for licensing exams in numerous countries, including the USA, Canada,

Australia, Mexico, UAE, India, and South Africa.

**Affordable Tuition:** The program's tuition is competitively priced, averaging only 40% of the cost of most other private medical universities.

**Course Structure**

**Years 1 & 2 - Pre-Clinical Years**

The pre-clinical phase is a 92-week program divided into 11 blocks, focusing on the basic sciences and the development of clinical skills.

▶ **Block 0:** Introduction to Medicine



- (12 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 1:** Introduction to Basic Medical Science (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 2:** Microbiology & Immunology (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 3:** Respiratory & Cardiovascular Systems (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 4:** Endocrine & Reproductive Systems (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 5:** Gastrointestinal & Renal Systems (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 6:** Central & Peripheral Nervous Systems (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 7:** Hematology, Musculoskeletal, Pathology, Dermatology, Anatomy, Behavioral Science (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Block 8:** Epidemiology, ENT, Histology, Legal, Autoimmune & Tropical Diseases (8 weeks)
- ▶ **Blocks 9 & 10:** Exams & remediation, customized study plan for board exams (16 weeks)

Throughout the pre-clinical years, students participate in a mentorship program with local physicians to gain early exposure to patients and clinical environments.

**Years 3 & 4 - Clinical Years**

The clinical phase involves 80 weeks of rotations in hospitals, divided into core and elective rotations:

- Core Rotations (48 weeks):**
- ▶ Internal Medicine (12 weeks)
  - ▶ Surgery (12 weeks)
  - ▶ Obstetrics & Gynecology (6 weeks)
  - ▶ Pediatrics (6 weeks)
  - ▶ Psychiatry (6 weeks)
  - ▶ General Family Practice (6 weeks)
- ▶ **Elective Rotations (32 weeks):** Students can choose specialties based on their interests and career goals.

**Additional Information**

**Award-Winning Innovation:** IUHS was awarded the Zairi Award for Excellence in Digital Innovation in 2023 for its advanced use of technology in medical education.

**Year-Round Applications:** IUHS accepts applications year-round, with start dates in May and September.

**Supportive Learning Environment:** The university fosters a collaborative and supportive learning environment, integrating technology with best practices in medical education.



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# Timeless denim trends for every wardrobe

As we transition into the cooler months, many fashion enthusiasts are looking to update their wardrobes with pieces that are both stylish and practical. Denim remains a staple in many closets, and certain trends are proving to be long-lasting investments. Here's a closer look at six unstoppable denim trends that will elevate your style this season.

## 1. The Versatile Bermuda Short

Traditionally associated with warm weather, the Bermuda short is making a splash in fall fashion. This trend has been embraced by fashion-forward individuals who pair denim Bermudas with tall, over-the-knee boots. This combination creates a chic look that's perfect for transitional weather. Designers like Dries Van Noten have showcased this trend on runways, demonstrating its versatility as a stylish alternative to heavier fabrics.

## 2. Stovepipe Jeans for a Sleek Silhouette

Stovepipe jeans are another trend that offers a flattering fit while providing a sense of structure. With a straight fit from thigh to ankle, these jeans elongate the legs and create a polished appearance. Unlike traditional straight-leg jeans, stovepipe jeans hug the body more closely, making them a favorite among models and influencers alike. Pairing them with blazers and heels can effortlessly transition your look from casual to sophisticated.

## 3. The Cool Factor of Twisted Seams

Twisted seams are becoming a hallmark of modern denim designs. This trend adds an intriguing element to otherwise standard jeans, transforming them into eye-catching pieces. Designers such as Victoria Beckham and Versace are leading the charge with innovative silhouettes



that incorporate these unique seams. Whether it's a low-rise design or a straight-leg cut, twisted seam jeans are a must-have for anyone looking to stand out.

## 4. Functional Drawstring Styles

The rise of drawstring jeans has redefined casual wear, combining functionality with trendiness. Adjustable waistbands offer comfort while allowing for a customizable fit. This practical detail can transform a simple outfit into something effortlessly chic. Brands like Citizens of Humanity have popularized this trend, making drawstring jeans a go-to option for laid-back yet stylish looks.

## 5. Retro-Inspired Flared Jeans

The return of flared jeans signals a revival of bohemian aesthetics in modern fashion. These retro-inspired styles provide a fun, flirty silhouette that pairs beautifully with fitted tops. The key to rocking this trend is to balance volume with fitted pieces, creating a harmonious look. Designers are embracing flares in various fabrics, making them a versatile choice for any occasion.

## 6. Cocoon-Shaped Barrel Jeans

For those who prefer a more sculptural approach to denim, barrel jeans offer a unique twist on the baggy trend. With a cocoon shape that adds structure while remaining comfortable, these

jeans are perfect for those looking to make a statement. Pairing barrel jeans with fitted tops or structured outerwear can create a visually interesting ensemble that stands out from the crowd.

Denim trends continue to evolve, but certain styles have proven to be timeless and adaptable. From versatile Bermuda shorts to the chic lines of stovepipe jeans, these trends offer various options for elevating your wardrobe. As you embrace the cooler weather, consider incorporating these enduring denim styles into your outfits, ensuring you remain both fashionable and comfortable all season long.

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