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PM Modi highlights Indian diaspora's pivotal role in shaping a 'Viksit Bharat' at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, has brought together more than 3,000 delegates from 70 countries to celebrate India's global community and the invaluable contributions of the Indian diaspora.

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

This year's theme, "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), emphasized the key role the diaspora plays in driving India's growth, as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a prosperous India by 2047. In his keynote address at the event, PM Modi hailed the diaspora as a "living bridge" between India and their countries of residence, stating, "You are not just ambassadors of India, but you also carry the values of democracy and diversity that are deeply ingrained in our nation." He celebrated their role in shaping India's global influence and shared his optimism for the nation's future, underpinned by the contributions of the diaspora.

The event also marked the birth centenary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose vision laid the foundation for India's international presence. Reflecting on India's remarkable progress, PM Modi noted that in the last decade, India had lifted 250 million people out of poverty and advanced from being the 10th largest economy to the 5th. He further emphasized that India is on track to become the third-largest economy globally.

The Prime Minister shared other



national achievements, including India's successful space missions, strides in the digital economy, renewable energy, electric mobility, and infrastructure. He also highlighted India's growing leadership in global forums like the G20, where the nation advocates for the Global South, showcasing its evolving role on the world stage.

In addition to celebrating India's achievements, PM Modi expressed gratitude for the diaspora's contributions to India's development. "Thanks to you, India is a proud leader in remittances and investments. You are also helping to increase India's global influence through your skills and contributions," he said. He

also underlined the importance of India's youthful and skilled population, poised to meet the world's growing demand for talent.

PM Modi concluded his address by urging the youth of the diaspora to connect more deeply with India's culture and history. He also encouraged the diaspora to engage in heritage tourism, inviting their friends and families to visit India and experience its rich culture and heritage.

A highlight of this year's PBD was the launch of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a special tourist train aimed at offering diaspora members a chance to explore India's religious and cultural landmarks. Modi urged delegates to also promote lesser-known regions of India, helping to spread awareness of the country's diverse heritage and emerging opportunities.

The event's plenary sessions addressed global challenges and areas of cooperation, including economic collaboration, technology, and cultural preservation. The three-day convention saw around 5,000 delegates from across the world engage in discussions that underscored the deep ties

between India and its diaspora.

In the valedictory session, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman on 27 distinguished individuals for their outstanding contributions across various fields. This award ceremony celebrated the achievements of diaspora members in their adopted countries as well as their impact on India.

The convention also highlighted the evolution of the Indian diaspora, with a special exhibition showcasing migration stories, such as those of families from Mandvi, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman. These personal narratives offer a deeper understanding of the roots of India's global presence and the migration journeys that have shaped the modern diaspora.

With India's rapid progress and the continuous engagement of its global community, PM Modi affirmed that India's future is bright, and the diaspora's support and involvement are indispensable in realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.'



India retains title of world's fastest-growing large economy

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India remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world, with a projected growth rate of 6.6 percent in 2025, according to the United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 report. The country's economic growth is bolstered by strong export growth, particularly in services, pharmaceuticals, and electronics, along with robust private consumption and investment. The report notes that India's manufacturing and services sectors will continue to drive growth. Additionally, favorable monsoon rains in 2024 have improved agricultural output expectations for 2025. The growth projection for 2024 slightly dips from 6.8 percent in 2023, but India remains the global leader in terms of large economies.

While global growth is forecast at just 2.8 percent, India's economy is expected to be a bright spot, particularly in comparison to other major economies. China's growth is projected to slow, and the U.S. economy is also set for slower growth, with projections of just 1.9 percent in 2025. India's consumer price inflation is expected to drop slightly from 4.8 percent in 2024 to 4.3 percent in 2025. This is largely attributed to the easing of the higher food prices that affected the country last year.

Employment indicators in India have remained strong, with record-high labor force participation. However, there are still significant gender gaps in labor market participation, which the country continues to address.

Southern California wildfires rage through Los Angeles area, forcing mass evacuations and causing widespread destruction

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Wildfires in Southern California have left destruction in their wake, with the Palisades Fire growing into the most destructive blaze in Los Angeles history. As of January 10, 2025, the fire has burned nearly 27 square miles, destroying at least 1,000 structures, and is only 6% contained. At least six people have been confirmed dead, while authorities warn the death toll could rise as the situation develops. The fierce flames, fueled by dry conditions and powerful Santa Ana winds, have forced almost 180,000 people to evacuate. The Palisades Fire, which began on January 8, spread rapidly from the hills near Santa Monica to Malibu, devastating upscale neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades, an area home to many high-profile residents.

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Jake Sullivan wraps up final visit to India, emphasizes progress in US-India ties

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US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan wrapped up his two-day farewell visit to India, marking a significant moment in the strengthening of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. The visit, which took place ahead of the swearing-in of President Donald Trump, focused on advancing key areas of bilateral cooperation, including technology, defence, nuclear energy, and regional security.

During his meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NSA Ajit Doval, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Sullivan highlighted the growing strategic partnership between the two nations. The talks centered on critical areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), space cooperation, and the expansion of India-US defence and technological ties under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). Launched in May 2022 by Modi and President Biden, iCET has played a crucial role in deepening collaboration in sectors like AI, semiconductors, and quantum computing.

The US NSA also met with Prime Minister



Modi, where they discussed the deepening of the India-US partnership, including advancements in biotechnology, space, and AI. Modi expressed his satisfaction with the progress made during the last four years and emphasized his commitment to further strengthening ties between the two democracies. "I look forward to building upon this momentum for the benefit of our people and the global good," Modi said.

In a lighter moment, Sullivan handed Modi a letter from President Biden, underscoring the

ongoing commitment to deepening US-India relations. Sullivan also praised India's progress in areas such as the semiconductor industry and innovation, noting the collaborative efforts in fostering technology ecosystems and creating solutions to global challenges.

As the Biden administration nears its end, the US and India remain focused on deepening their strategic and technological partnership, with both sides expressing optimism for continued collaboration in the years ahead.

US leaders gather at Capitol to honor Jimmy Carter, a president known for his humanitarian work

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The funeral of former President Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, took place at the Washington National Cathedral on January 9, 2025, followed by a second service and burial in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. Carter passed away at the age of 100 on December 29, 2024.

President Joe Biden, who had endorsed Carter's 1976 presidential campaign, delivered the eulogy. The ceremony was attended by all of Carter's living successors, including President-elect Donald Trump, who paid his respects at the Capitol Rotunda ahead of the funeral service. The former presidents were accompanied by their spouses, with the exception of Michelle Obama, who did not attend.

A rare moment of unity among the nation's leaders occurred when they gathered privately before the service. The last time such a meeting happened was in 2018, during the memorial service for former President George H.W. Bush.

The service marked the conclusion of Carter's lying in state at the U.S. Capitol, where Vice President Kamala Harris had led tributes the day before. In her eulogy, Harris highlighted Carter's extraordinary humanitarian work and diplomatic achievements, noting that his contributions to public service extended well beyond his one term in office.

Carter, who was known for his decency, work ethic, and dedication to public service, was celebrated during the ceremony. His funeral began with a military procession that carried his casket from the Capitol to the National Cathedral, followed by a 21-gun salute. The



Armed Forces Chorus performed before the casket was brought inside for the service.

Speakers included Stu Eizenstat, a former top White House staffer, and Andrew Young, a former mayor of Atlanta and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. These speakers spoke warmly of Carter's legacy, particularly his contributions to peace, human rights, and global health.

Carter's final journey will conclude in Plains, Georgia, where he will be buried next to his wife, Rosalynn, on family land. His casket will be placed beneath a wooden cross he had crafted himself. Carter's post-presidency work through The Carter Center focused on global health, conflict resolution, and advocacy for equity, building on his legacy of service.

Though Carter's presidency faced significant challenges, such as inflation and the Iran hostage crisis, he is remembered for his dedication to good government and his ability to broker the historic peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Trudeau resigns as Liberal leader, party to select new leader by March 9



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as leader of the Liberal Party on January 6, 2025, triggering a leadership race that will conclude on March 9. Trudeau will remain prime minister until a new leader is chosen, setting the stage for a likely spring election. In a statement outside his Rideau Cottage residence, Trudeau explained that while he still had the drive to lead, internal conflicts within the party made it clear he could no longer carry the Liberal banner. He requested that Governor-General Mary Simon prorogue Parliament until March 24, halting legislative activities and preventing the minority government from being defeated in the meantime.

Trudeau's resignation follows growing dissatisfaction within his party, including the resignation of key figures like Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland. The Liberals are trailing the Conservatives in recent polls, and opposition leaders have called for an immediate election rather than a leadership race. The race to replace Trudeau is now underway, with front-runners including former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney and ex-Finance Minister Freeland. Candidates must declare by January 23, with a \$350,000 fee to enter the race. The leadership vote will take place on March 9. As Canada faces economic challenges and political instability, the selection of a new Liberal leader will have significant implications for the upcoming election.

New Orleans rebounds after truck attack, embracing resilience

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New Orleans has shown remarkable resilience after a truck attack on New Year's Day left 15 dead, including the attacker. In the days following the tragedy, the city quickly returned to its usual lively atmosphere. Music filled local clubs, and restaurants in the French Quarter were once again filled with tourists. Mayor LaToya Cantrell led a traditional brass-band parade on Bourbon Street, symbolizing the city's determination to recover.

Despite the attack, New Orleans residents and businesses are committed to moving forward. Iconic spots like Galatoire's restaurant resumed service, and locals embraced the upcoming Mardi Gras celebrations as a vital morale booster. Security in the city has been increased, but the spirit of community and resilience remains strong.

Though some individuals expressed unease, most locals remain determined not to let fear overshadow the city's spirit. The attack may have shaken the community, but New Orleans continues to stand tall and proud, looking ahead to major events like the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras.

Blinken rejects Trump's Greenland takeover plan as unrealistic and unfeasible

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently dismissed President-elect Donald Trump's interest in acquiring Greenland, calling it "obviously not a good idea". Blinken emphasized that such a proposal would not be pursued. Trump, who had first suggested purchasing Greenland in 2019, reiterated his interest again in early January, citing the island's strategic significance for U.S. national security. Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, is located in the Arctic and has long been seen as valuable for U.S. military defense systems. The island plays a key role in the U.S. missile defense network and offers a crucial geostrategic position. Despite this, Blinken, speaking alongside French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in Paris, stated that U.S. foreign policy is most effective when working in cooperation with allies, suggesting that proposals like Trump's could alienate countries such as Denmark.

Denmark's foreign minister responded to Trump's remarks by stating that while Greenland could pursue independence if its residents wished, the island was unlikely to ever become a U.S. state. Greenland's Prime Minister, Mute Egede, has firmly reiterated that the island is not for sale and has recently called for Greenland's independence from Denmark.

Trump avoids jail time and fines, sentenced to unconditional discharge in historic New York case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has been spared jail time and a fine over his criminal conviction related to hush money payments to a porn star, a judge ruled on January 10. However, the judge's decision will place a guilty judgment on his permanent record. Justice Juan Merchan sentenced Trump, 78, to an unconditional discharge, effectively closing a case that had cast a shadow over his bid to retake the White House just days before his inauguration on January 20. While no further legal penalties such as jail time, fines, or probation were imposed, the guilty verdict will remain on Trump's record.

Trump, who pled not guilty and intends to appeal the verdict, appeared via video with his lawyer in the courtroom and repeated his claim of innocence. "It's been a political witch hunt," Trump said before the sentencing. "It was done

to damage my reputation so I would lose the election, and obviously that didn't work."

Despite his protests, the sentencing marks the conclusion of the first-ever criminal case against a U.S. president, past or present. Trump will become the first president to take office with a criminal conviction. He now has the option to pursue his appeal, a process that could span years while he serves a four-year term.

The case centered around Trump's role in arranging a \$130,000 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels through his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, to prevent her from discussing an alleged affair before the 2016 election. Although Trump denied the claims, the Manhattan jury found him guilty of falsifying business records, with prosecutors arguing that the case was an effort to corrupt the election process.

In the courtroom, Trump continued to cast the case as an attack on his campaign, stating that it was part of a broader effort by political opponents to weaponize the justice system against him. However, the legal and political fallout continues as the hush money case and other criminal and civil lawsuits continue to impact his standing. Despite the legal challenges, Trump's campaign saw a surge in donations after his indictment in March 2023, and polling showed divided views among voters on the charges.

The sentencing, initially set for July 2023 but postponed several times, marks a major milestone as Trump continues to face numerous legal battles leading up to his second presidential term. While the hush money case was deemed less serious than other charges Trump faces, such as those related to the 2020 election and classified documents, it remains the only case to have reached trial.

Major US winter storm disrupts Mid-Atlantic states

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The first significant winter storm of 2025 struck the U.S. mid-Atlantic on Monday, causing widespread disruptions. Federal offices and schools in Washington, D.C., were closed, while up to a foot of snow blanketed parts of the Ohio Valley and Central Plains. By midday, the snow in D.C. had accumulated to more than five inches, with some areas of Maryland and Virginia receiving up to 12 inches. The snow continued through the evening before pushing out to sea.

Governors in several states, including Kansas, Kentucky, and Maryland, declared states of emergency, and officials warned against traveling due to hazardous conditions. In Kansas, wind chills reached nearly 25 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. The storm also led to over 1,000 stranded motorists and



hundreds of crashes, including one fatality.

The cold front that followed brought freezing rain and icy conditions from Illinois to the Atlantic coast. Airports and Amtrak services faced major delays, and more than 330,000 homes and businesses lost power. However, Washington's three main airports remained operational, albeit with significant cancellations and delays.

WHO reassures the public that bird flu risk remains low despite first US death

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The World Health Organization (WHO) reassured the public in early January that the risk of H5N1 bird flu to the general population remains low, following the first reported death in the U.S. linked to the virus. The victim, an elderly individual with underlying health conditions, had been exposed to both wild birds and backyard chickens in Louisiana. The case was reported by state health officials in December 2024.

WHO spokesperson Margaret Harris explained that while the death is concerning, the overall risk of bird flu spreading to the general public remains low. Since April 2024, nearly 70 people in the U.S. have contracted bird flu, most of them farmworkers who had direct contact with infected poultry. U.S. health authorities, including the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have maintained that the risk to the broader population remains minimal.

The WHO has also praised the U.S. for its extensive surveillance efforts, which have helped detect and monitor bird flu cases. Although the virus continues to circulate among poultry and wild birds, the likelihood of widespread human transmission is still considered low. Health officials continue to monitor the situation closely to prevent any potential public health risks.



US opens investigation into Tesla's remote driving feature after crashes



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) launched an investigation this week into 2.6 million Tesla vehicles after reports surfaced of crashes involving the company's "Actually Smart Summon" feature. This feature allows users to remotely control their vehicles via a smartphone app, moving them to different locations. NHTSA's investigation was triggered by several incidents in which Tesla cars failed to detect obstacles such as parked vehicles or posts, resulting in crashes.

The NHTSA probe will assess the maximum speed, functionality, and safety of the Smart Summon feature, particularly its use on public roads. The agency is also looking into issues like connectivity delays and the impact of line-of-sight requirements, which may affect the vehicle's ability to avoid obstacles. The vehicles under investigation include 2016-2025 Model S and X cars, as well as 2017-2025 Model 3 and 2020-2025 Model Y vehicles equipped with Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) system. This investigation comes amid heightened scrutiny of Tesla's advanced driver-assistance systems. In December 2023, Tesla recalled over two million vehicles due to concerns with its Autopilot system, which had been linked to several crashes. Tesla CEO Elon Musk has been pushing for greater autonomous driving capabilities, and the scrutiny surrounding Smart Summon could have significant implications for the company's self-driving technology plans.



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Honoring the legacy of President Jimmy Carter



Dr. (H) Avi Verma

IndoUS Tribune joins the world in bidding a heartfelt farewell to President Jimmy Carter, a leader whose life exemplified the principles of justice, equality, and compassion. As we reflect on his remarkable 100-year journey, we honor his transformative impact as a Civil Rights champion, a global advocate for human rights, and a statesman who redefined public service with humility and integrity.

Born and raised in the rural town of Plains, Georgia, Carter's early experiences on his family farm profoundly shaped his views on race and equality. Growing up alongside Black tenant farmers, young Jimmy Carter witnessed the stark realities of segregation and injustice. These formative years planted the seeds of empathy and a sense of responsibility that would later define his public life.

As a governor, Carter shocked the political establishment with his inaugural address declaring, "The time for racial discrimination is over." This bold proclamation marked the beginning of a progressive approach to governance. He broke barriers by appointing Black Georgians and women to significant state roles and opening government contracts to minority businesses. His friendship with the family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. underscored his commitment to Civil Rights, even as he navigated the complex



racial politics of the South.

Carter's presidency was a continuation of his efforts to advance equality and justice. He appointed more women and people of color to federal judgeships than all his predecessors combined, established a nominating commission to ensure a diverse slate of candidates, and championed legislation promoting fair housing and equitable access to financial services. His appointment of Barbara Jordan as the first Black woman to deliver a keynote address at a major party convention remains a milestone in American political history.

Beyond the White House, Carter's humanitarian legacy extended across the globe through the Carter Center. His work in eradicating diseases like Guinea worm, fostering democratic elections in emerging nations, and advocating for public health in underserved regions left an indelible mark on humanity. His dedication to human rights, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, became the cornerstone of his global advocacy.

In his later years, Carter continued to

inspire, demonstrating resilience and an unwavering commitment to democratic values. Even while in hospice care, he expressed his determination to cast his vote in the 2024 election, a symbolic gesture reflecting his belief in the power of democracy and representation.

President Carter's life teaches us that leadership is not about power but service. It is about bridging divides, amplifying the voices of the marginalized, and standing firm in the face of adversity. His ability to balance his Southern roots with a forward-looking vision of equality and progress is a testament to his character and leadership.

As we bid farewell to this extraordinary man, let us carry forward his legacy of compassion, courage, and an unyielding commitment to the greater good. Thank you, President Carter, for illuminating the path toward a more just and inclusive world.

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

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CFTC chair Rostin Behnam to step down as Trump administration prepares to take office

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rostin Behnam, the chair of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), announced in early January that he would step down from his position on January 20, when President-elect Donald Trump officially takes office.

Behnam, who was appointed by President Joe Biden in 2021, had served at the CFTC since 2017, first as a commissioner and then as chair. Under his leadership, the CFTC became more involved in regulating the rapidly expanding cryptocurrency industry, bringing lawsuits against major players like FTX and Binance for violations related to market manipulation and fraud.

Behnam's departure marks a significant shift in the CFTC's approach, as Trump is expected to appoint one of the agency's Republican commissioners to take over the role.

Potential candidates for the acting chair position include Summer Mersinger and



Caroline Pham, both current Republican commissioners. Trump's transition team is also considering external candidates such as former CFTC commissioner Brian Quintenz and industry attorneys Josh Sterling and Neal Kumar.

Behnam has been a strong advocate for regulating the digital asset space, but has also acknowledged that the sector

remains insufficiently regulated.

Under his leadership, the CFTC had pushed to impose stricter regulations on cryptocurrencies, a stance in contrast to the Trump administration's more crypto-friendly approach. Trump's expected appointment of a pro-crypto official signals that the CFTC's stance on digital assets could shift in the coming months.

US Congressman Gooden warns DoJ probe of Adani officials could harm US-India ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Congressman Lance Gooden from Texas has criticized the Biden Administration's investigation into Adani Group officials, arguing that it could damage US-India relations and economic growth. In a letter to US Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Gooden stated that the Department of Justice (DoJ) should focus on domestic issues rather than pursuing selective prosecutions of foreign entities, which could hurt US alliances and discourage international investment.

Gooden expressed concerns that the probe, which coincides with President-elect Donald Trump's upcoming inauguration, could be politically motivated. He questioned why the DoJ was targeting foreign businesses when domestic issues like violent crime were unresolved.

The investigation, which involves charges of securities fraud and wire fraud against Adani officials, has faced criticism from several diplomats. The Adani Group has denied the allegations, calling them malicious and based on selective information.

India introduces new visas for international students

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has launched two new special category visas for international students wishing to pursue higher education in the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced the 'e-student visa' and 'e-student-x visa', both accessible through the government's 'Study in India' (SII) portal. The e-student visa is for eligible foreign students who have secured admission in an Indian educational institution recognized by statutory and regulatory bodies. The e-student-x visa is designed for the dependents of students holding e-student visas. The SII portal simplifies the process for students, helping them apply to over 600 partner institutions

offering more than 8,000 courses across various fields, including engineering, management, agriculture, law, and humanities. To apply for these visas, students must first receive an offer letter from an SII partner institution and register on the SII portal. Once the registration is complete, students can submit their visa application online. The e-student visa is valid for up to five years, depending on the length of the academic program, and can be extended within India. The introduction of these visas is expected to boost the number of international students coming to India for higher education. The SII initiative facilitates easy access to academic programs at top Indian universities and colleges, catering to both long-term and short-term courses.

Emirati billionaire Hussain Sajwani pledges \$20 billion to U.S. data center industry

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In early January, Emirati billionaire Hussain Sajwani, the chairman of Dubai-based real estate developer DAMAC Properties, made a significant announcement regarding his plans to invest \$20 billion in the U.S. data center industry. Sajwani shared the news during a meeting with President-elect Donald Trump at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

The investment comes amid growing demand for data centers, particularly in light of advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and the increasing need for infrastructure to support these technologies. Sajwani noted that the total investment could exceed \$20 billion, depending on market conditions. DAMAC, which has already partnered

with Trump's organization in the past, operates the Middle East's only Trump-branded golf course in Dubai. Sajwani's pledge underscores a broader trend of foreign investments into U.S. tech infrastructure.

This announcement follows a previous commitment from Japanese tech investor SoftBank Group, which pledged to invest \$100 billion in the U.S. over the next four years, focusing on AI.

The U.S. data center industry is undergoing significant growth as companies like Microsoft ramp up their investments to support emerging technologies. Trump's administration has been pushing for increased domestic investments in key industries, including AI, as part of a broader effort to strengthen the U.S. economy.

Southern California wildfires rage through Los Angeles area, forcing mass evacuations and causing widespread destruction

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Drone footage has shown entire streets of homes reduced to rubble, with smoldering ruins marking the destruction. A new fire, the Kenneth Fire, erupted on January 9 in the Woodland Hills area, prompting more evacuations before it was eventually contained. Firefighters were able to stop the forward progress of this blaze, but the situation remains dire with other fires still burning in the region.

Compounding the firefighting challenges, authorities reported a major mistake when an evacuation alert was mistakenly sent to almost 10 million residents in the Los Angeles area, causing widespread panic and confusion. The dry conditions and high winds continue to present a grave risk, with "red flag" warnings in effect through January 12, 2025.

As firefighting resources are stretched thin, additional fire crews from neighboring states



have been deployed, and water supplies are running low in some areas, such as Pacific Palisades. More than 300,000 homes are currently without power, and schools in Los Angeles have been canceled until further notice. In response, President Joe Biden has declared the fires a major disaster, and both state and federal authorities are working together to provide relief and coordinate efforts to contain the ongoing blazes. Despite the devastation, local leaders remain determined to rebuild, calling for support from both the community and the government.



Ex-FBI informant sentenced to six years for fabricating claims about Bidens



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Alexander Smirnov, a former FBI informant, was sentenced to six years in prison for fabricating claims about President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden's involvement with a Ukrainian energy company. Smirnov had falsely informed the FBI that he had knowledge of bribes paid by Burisma Holdings to both Bidens.

The false claims, which Smirnov made in 2020, had the potential to influence the U.S. presidential election. Smirnov also pleaded guilty to tax evasion. Prosecutors requested the six-year sentence, noting that Smirnov abused his position of trust with the FBI to provide false information aimed at harming a presidential candidate.

Smirnov had fabricated details of alleged bribes from Burisma, which briefly became part of an impeachment effort against President Biden. In addition, Smirnov's actions led to an investigation into Hunter Biden, who later faced charges on tax and gun-related issues.

Trump's Republicans reelect Mike Johnson as US House speaker despite dissent



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On Friday, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson was reelected to his position by a narrow margin, reflecting divisions among President-elect Donald Trump's Republican Party on Capitol Hill. Johnson initially struggled to secure the majority needed to retain his role, but after extensive negotiations, he received enough support to win with 218 votes, the minimum number required. His victory came despite pushback from a handful of Republicans, including those from the party's right wing.

Johnson's reelection vote showcased the ongoing internal struggles within the Republican Party, particularly as it attempts to advance Trump's legislative priorities, such as extending tax cuts and rolling back government regulations. The

vote was also a test of Trump's influence, with some members defying his direction. Johnson, who was selected as Speaker during the Republican turmoil of October 2023, now faces the challenge of unifying his party as it tackles pressing issues, including the nation's \$36 trillion debt and potential legislation to address the debt ceiling.

While Johnson managed to hold onto his position, some conservatives were dissatisfied with his reliance on Democratic votes for passing crucial legislation. Despite the challenges, Trump expressed his support for Johnson, calling him a "Great Speaker" on social media. With a narrow Republican majority in the House and upcoming vacancies due to special elections, Johnson's position remains precarious as he seeks to balance party divisions and implement Trump's sweeping agenda.

US settles with Johns Hopkins over discrimination against Arabs and Jews



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Education Department reached a settlement with Johns Hopkins University to address allegations of discrimination against people of Arab and Jewish ancestry. The settlement, which was announced on Wednesday, requires the university to review its anti-harassment policies and provide staff and student training on discrimination based on ancestry and ethnicity. The settlement followed reports of numerous complaints, including allegations that university professors directed slurs at Arab and Palestinian individuals, while Jewish students faced anti-Semitic stereotypes. The Education Department's investigation revealed 99 complaints between October 2023 and May 2024. These included incidents such as a professor reportedly stating, "Those brutal Arabs will, God willing, pay a price like never before," and a campus protest where a sign depicting a swastika was used in support of Hamas.

Johns Hopkins confirmed the settlement and reaffirmed its commitment to a policy of non-discrimination, emphasizing that bias of any kind, including anti-Semitism and anti-Arab prejudice, goes against its core values. This settlement adds to similar agreements reached by other U.S. universities, such as the University of California and Rutgers University, addressing discrimination and harassment based on ancestry and ethnicity.

US to replenish bird flu vaccine stockpile for poultry



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced plans to rebuild a stockpile of bird flu vaccines for poultry, in response to a persistent outbreak that has devastated commercial and wild bird populations. The outbreak, which began in early 2022, has resulted in the death of over 130 million birds nationwide, causing significant economic losses, including a surge in egg prices.

The new stockpile will aim to match the current strain of bird flu circulating among poultry and wildlife. While past vaccines were never used during the 2014-2015 outbreak, USDA believes it is prudent to prepare for future outbreaks. However, deploying the vaccines in the short term is complicated due to trade risks, as many countries ban the import of vaccinated poultry.

Despite these challenges, agriculture groups are urging the government to consider vaccine deployment, citing the toll on farmers forced to cull infected flocks. Additionally, the USDA is monitoring dairy cattle herds for signs of bird flu, with no new infections reported in previously virus-free states.

Over 15,000 doctors urge Senate to reject RFK Jr. as health secretary

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 15,000 doctors have signed a letter urging the Senate to reject Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services, calling him unqualified and a danger to public health. Kennedy, known for his anti-vaccine views and conspiracy theories, is accused of spreading false information, including claims about school shootings and Covid-19 treatments.

The letter, organized by the Committee to Protect Health Care, stresses the importance of science and evidence-based medicine in the role. Kennedy has been meeting with senators

ahead of his confirmation hearing, but his critics warn his appointment could harm public health efforts. Some have also pointed to his past involvement in spreading vaccine misinformation, especially regarding the 2019 measles outbreak in Samoa that resulted in dozens of deaths.

Kennedy's spokesperson dismissed the opposition, calling it part of a fundraising "grift." Public health groups, including Protect Our Care, have also voiced concerns, highlighting Kennedy's past statements and actions that they believe undermine public trust in vaccines and science. Supporters of Kennedy argue that the backlash is driven by pharmaceutical interests and dismiss his critics as attempting to silence his public health reform efforts.



TikTok's future in the US faces legal battle as Trump and Republicans clash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amajor legal case involving TikTok is unfolding at the U.S. Supreme Court, with former President Donald Trump urging the court to block a potential U.S. ban on the app. The case pits concerns about national security against free speech protections under the U.S. Constitution, as TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, faces a January 19 deadline to sell or face a ban. Trump has expressed opposition to banning TikTok, calling it important for his campaign's reach, while some of his Republican allies, including 22 state attorneys general, support the Biden administration's stance, citing national security risks. These officials argue that TikTok's ties to the Chinese Communist Party could endanger American data. The case has raised significant questions about the intersection of free speech, digital platforms, and national security, with experts warning that its outcome could have far-reaching implications for internet freedom globally. The court is expected to issue a decision soon that will determine whether the app will be banned or allowed to continue operating in the U.S.

Sam Altman denies allegations of sexual abuse by his sister



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, has denied allegations made by his sister, Ann Altman, who filed a lawsuit accusing him of sexually abusing her between 1997 and 2006. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in St. Louis on Monday, claims the abuse occurred at the family home in Clayton, Missouri, starting when Ann was three years old and Sam was 12.

Ann Altman, now 30, alleges the abuse included multiple acts of rape, sexual assault, and molestation, seeking at least \$75,000 in damages for emotional distress and mental anguish. Sam Altman, 39, has firmly rejected these claims, stating they are "utterly untrue." In a statement shared on social media, he expressed concern for his sister, mentioning her refusal to accept conventional mental health treatment and noting that the family continues to provide financial support.

OpenAI's Sam Altman, who co-founded the company with Elon Musk and others, became a prominent figure in the tech world following the release of ChatGPT. He is reportedly worth approximately \$1.1 billion, according to Forbes.

Janet Yellen acknowledges COVID stimulus spending's role in inflation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In an interview on Wednesday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen acknowledged that stimulus spending during the COVID-19 pandemic may have contributed "a little bit" to the inflation that followed. However, she emphasized that supply chain issues and shortages were the main drivers of price increases during the pandemic.

Yellen's remarks are a rare admission by the Biden administration regarding the potential effects of its pandemic-era spending. While the administration's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan and earlier COVID relief packages helped keep the economy afloat, Yellen maintains that these measures were necessary to prevent economic scarring.

Yellen expressed confidence that inflation is on a downward trajectory, despite recent data showing higher-than-expected interest rates. She also highlighted the ongoing challenges of managing the national debt, urging a sustainable fiscal policy to avoid further deficits.

Probe into New York Mayor Eric Adams uncovers more criminal conduct, prosecutors say

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal prosecutors revealed on Tuesday that their investigation into New York City Mayor Eric Adams has uncovered additional criminal conduct as they prepare for his April trial. The 64-year-old mayor faces charges of bribery, fraud, and soliciting campaign contributions from foreign nationals. In September, Adams was accused of accepting travel perks from Turkish officials and political donations in exchange for actions that would benefit Turkey. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.



In a court filing, prosecutors in Manhattan stated that new evidence had surfaced and warned that revealing too much information at this stage could lead to attempts to tamper with witnesses. They also revealed that more individuals had been identified as potentially involved in the alleged criminal activity. The

specifics of the new allegations were not disclosed.

Adams' lawyer, Alex Spiro, dismissed the claims as "amateur hour," accusing prosecutors of seeking headlines rather than pursuing justice. Prosecutors had earlier

suggested that additional charges could be forthcoming. The indictment stems from allegations that Adams accepted discounted luxury hotel stays and flight upgrades from Turkish officials in exchange for influencing city officials to allow Turkey to open a new consulate despite safety concerns.

Biden designates two new national monuments in California, strengthening conservation efforts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Joe Biden announced the creation of two new national monuments in California on Tuesday, solidifying his reputation as the U.S. president who has conserved more lands and waters than any of his predecessors. The Chuckwalla National Monument in Southern California's desert and the Sattitla Highlands National Monument near the state's northern border are part of Biden's broader initiative to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

The Chuckwalla monument, spanning over 624,000 acres, is home to diverse wildlife including desert tortoises, bighorn sheep, and the Chuckwalla lizard. It is culturally significant to various Native American tribes, including the Cahuilla and Mojave. While focused on conservation, the monument will also allow for clean energy projects like electric transmission lines to support renewable energy infrastructure.

The Sattitla Highlands monument protects 224,000 acres of forested land, including the Medicine Lake volcano, and holds sacred importance for the Pit

River and Modoc tribes. The designation will safeguard vital water resources and limit exploitative energy development. Both monuments will be managed by federal agencies, with the Chuckwalla being overseen by the Bureau of Land Management and the Sattitla Highlands managed by the U.S. Forest Service.



Las Vegas Cybertruck explosion suspect used ChatGPT in planning, police say

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The driver of a Tesla Cybertruck that exploded outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day reportedly used the chatbot ChatGPT to help plan the blast, according to police. Authorities identified the suspect as Matthew Livelsberger, a 37-year-old active-duty Army soldier from Colorado Springs, who died in the explosion.

This marks the first known incident in the U.S. where ChatGPT was allegedly used to assist in the creation of an explosive device. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department confirmed the use of the AI tool in the planning stages of the attack, raising concerns about the potential misuse of artificial intelligence for harmful purposes.

ChatGPT's developer, OpenAI, reiterated that its AI models are designed to refuse harmful instructions and emphasized that the tool provided only publicly available information and warnings against illegal activities. The FBI is investigating a possible link between Livelsberger's actions and a truck attack in New Orleans, though no definitive connection has been made.

Alaska files lawsuit against Biden administration over Arctic refuge oil leases

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The state of Alaska has filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration over its decision to impose restrictions on oil and gas drilling leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The lawsuit, filed in Alaska's federal district court, challenges the Interior Department's plan to auction drilling rights on the coastal plain with limitations that Alaska claims make it impractical to develop the area.



Alaska's Republican Governor Mike Dunleavy criticized the restrictions,

arguing that the Biden administration's stance on energy development hinders the country's energy independence. The state is seeking to overturn the decision and prevent the auction of leases in the area.

This lawsuit is part of a broader legal effort by Alaska to push for drilling in the ANWR, a region long off-limits to exploration. While drilling was authorized under the Trump administration, the Biden administration has sought to protect the area for wildlife, including polar bears and caribou.

Five Indian-origin men charged with murder in the US

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Five Indian-origin men have been charged with the murder of a 35-year-old man from India, Kuldeep Kumar, in Manchester Township, New Jersey. Sandeep Kumar, 34, from South Ozone Park, New York, has been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the crime.

According to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, the investigation revealed that Sandeep Kumar worked with four other men—Sourav Kumar, 23, Gaurav Singh, 27, Nirmal Singh, 30, and Gurdeep Singh, 22, all from Greenwood, Indiana—to carry out the murder. The body of Kuldeep Kumar was found in the Greenwood Wildlife Management Area on December 14, 2024, and an autopsy determined that he had died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Kuldeep Kumar had been reported missing by his family on October 26, 2024. The men involved in his death are now facing serious charges, including murder and conspiracy. They are currently being held in Johnson County Jail, Indiana, pending extradition to New Jersey. Sandeep Kumar was taken into custody on January 3, 2025, and is currently held at the Ocean County Jail. This tragic case highlights the growing concerns over violent crime involving individuals from different parts of the Indian-American community.

Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya announces candidacy for Canada's next prime minister

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chandra Arya, an Indian-origin Member of Parliament in Canada, has announced his bid for Prime Minister following Justin Trudeau's resignation. Arya, a long-time supporter of Trudeau, aims to lead a smaller, more efficient government focused on rebuilding Canada's economy and securing prosperity for future generations.

In his announcement, Arya emphasized the need for bold decisions to address the country's structural issues, including affordability challenges facing younger generations and working families. He vowed to prioritize economic growth, cut

wasteful government spending, and make tough choices to ensure Canada's long-term success.

Originally from Karnataka, Arya immigrated to Canada in 2006, where he later entered politics. He has represented Nepean as an MP since 2015 and is known for his advocacy on issues such as the vandalism of Hindu temples in Toronto and the need to limit immigration to meet Canada's economic needs.

Arya is the first member of the Liberal Party to announce a leadership run, with other potential candidates including former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney and Liberal MPs Steve MacKinnon and Mélanie Joly.



Seattle police officer who killed Indian student fired

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Seattle police officer, Kevin Dave, has been fired after he struck and killed Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula in January 2023. The incident occurred when Dave was driving 74 mph in a police vehicle en route to a drug overdose call. Kandula, 23, was thrown 100 feet when hit by the speeding patrol car while crossing a street.

Following an investigation by the Seattle Office of Police Accountability, it was determined that Dave violated four department policies. While Interim Seattle Police Chief Sue Rahr acknowledged that Dave likely did not intend to harm anyone, she emphasized that the tragic consequences of his reckless driving were unacceptable.

The firing of Dave came months after officer Daniel Auderer was also dismissed for making insensitive comments regarding the incident.

The Seattle Police Department, under public pressure, is working to ensure accountability in the case. The Consulate General of India in Seattle has been in regular contact with Kandula's family, offering support and pushing for justice.

Two Indian Americans elected to Virginia state legislature

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a special election held on January 9, 2025, two Indian Americans were elected to Virginia's state legislature, helping the Democratic Party retain its slim majority. Kannan Srinivasan was elected to the State Senate, while J.J. Singh won a seat in the State House of Delegates.

Singh, who will likely be the first legislator in the U.S. to wear a turban, replaces Srinivasan in the House, while Srinivasan succeeds Suhas Subramanyam in the Senate. Subramanyam resigned from his Senate seat after being elected to Congress in November.

Srinivasan, who emigrated from Tamil Nadu, India, has had a successful career

in business and finance. Singh, born in Virginia, has previously worked in the White House Office of Management and Budget under President Barack Obama and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia.

These elections were critical for the Democratic Party, which holds a precarious one-seat majority in both chambers of Virginia's legislature. The party worked hard to ensure victories in the face of a national political climate that saw President-elect Donald Trump win the state.

Singh and Srinivasan's victories also bring the number of Indian Americans in the Virginia legislature to four, including Ghazala Hashmi, who is already serving in the State Senate.



Om Birla meets former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, discusses strengthening India-UK ties



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is currently visiting the UK, where he met with former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday. The two leaders exchanged views on various topics, including their historical ties, shared democratic values, and strengthening people-to-people connections between India and the UK.

They also discussed emerging challenges in the digital age, such as the impact of Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, social media, and fake news. Birla highlighted the need for appropriate laws to address these issues.

Birla took to social media to share details of the meeting, noting discussions

about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priorities, including initiatives in IT, agriculture, rural development, women empowerment, skilled labor, and India's Nari Shakti Vandan Act. He also spoke about India's growing role in sectors like pharmaceuticals and manufacturing, which he believes will further bolster India-UK cooperation.

As part of his tour, Birla paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue in London, reflecting on Gandhi's enduring legacy of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance. Birla emphasized that these Gandhian ideals continue to inspire international relations, particularly in a world facing conflicts and climate change, and called for compassion and moral integrity in addressing global challenges.

Indian-origin entrepreneur reflects on success after selling Loom for \$975 million



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vinay Hiremath, the 33-year-old co-founder of Loom, a popular video-sharing platform, sold his company to Atlassian for a staggering \$975 million in 2023. Since the acquisition, Hiremath has been grappling with a sense of uncertainty and a desire for purpose. In a heartfelt blog post titled "I Am Rich and Have No Idea What to Do With My Life," he shared how the sale left him at a crossroads. Despite turning down a \$60 million job offer and facing personal challenges, including a failed relationship and unfruitful ventures in robotics and government reform, Hiremath remains determined to find his next chapter.

Loom, a tool designed to help users create and share videos, was co-founded by Hiremath, Shahed Khan, and Joe Thomas in 2015. Based in San Francisco, Loom now boasts over 30 million users worldwide and serves more than 200,000 businesses. Under Hiremath's leadership, the company raised \$200 million in funding, grew its team to 250 employees, and became a major player in the video communication space. The company's success led to its acquisition by Atlassian, but now, Hiremath is taking a step back to reassess his future.

Currently in Hawaii studying physics, Hiremath has plans to build a new venture—one that aligns more closely with his personal values. While he doesn't expect his next project to match Loom's scale, he hopes it will offer him the fulfillment he's seeking.

Indian-origin tech firms receive one-fifth of H1B visas issued by the US

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin technology companies are major recipients of H1B visas, with Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services leading the pack, according to data from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. In the first half of the 2024 fiscal year (April-September), these companies accounted for around 24,766 out of the 130,000 H1B visas issued. Infosys led the way with 8,140 visas, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) at 5,274 and HCL America with 2,953. Infosys ranked second overall, behind Amazon, which topped the list with 9,265 visas.

Cognizant, originally founded in Chennai but now headquartered in New Jersey, came in third with 6,321 visas. Other prominent Indian firms like Wipro and Tech Mahindra also received significant numbers of visas, with Wipro securing 1,634 and Tech Mahindra 1,199.



The H1B visa program, which allows US companies to hire foreign workers in specialized occupations, continues to be a crucial channel for tech companies seeking skilled labor. This trend raises questions about future changes to immigration policies, particularly as public sentiment and regulatory frameworks evolve.

Elon Musk, a former H-1B visa holder and CEO of Tesla, has been vocal about the importance of foreign workers in the tech industry. Musk, who uses the H1B program at Tesla, expressed support for the program in a December 2024 post, advocating for a welcoming environment for immigrants contributing to the US economy.

Two men sentenced for smuggling Indian migrants into the UK

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two British men, Shafaz Khan and Choudhry Rashied, have been sentenced to over 10 years in prison for attempting to smuggle four Indian migrants into the UK. The two men, who operated under the alias 'Manzar Mian Attique,' used a hidden compartment in a van, disguised by a stack of dirty tires, to transport the migrants illegally.

At Isleworth Crown Court in London, the pair was each sentenced to five years and three months for facilitating a breach of UK immigration law. The Home Office revealed that Khan and Rashied had hired the van specifically for people smuggling, even building the "hide" in the vehicle to conceal the migrants. The illegal operation was halted when UK Border Force officers stopped the van at Newhaven Ferry Port on the south



coast of England. Officers discovered the migrants, who were hidden in dangerous and unsanitary conditions behind the tires, with no access to fresh air or proper ventilation.

The case highlights the lengths to which people smugglers will go to exploit vulnerable individuals for financial gain. The UK Home Office has vowed to increase efforts to dismantle criminal smuggling networks, sending a clear message that such crimes will be met with severe penalties.

Indian-origin woman arrested for scamming couples with fake wedding venues



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 53-year-old Indian-origin South African woman, Prelyn Mohanlall, has been arrested for scamming 17 couples across the country by taking large sums of money for non-existent wedding venues. The disbarred attorney lured couples with promises of beautiful venues but when they arrived, the locations were abandoned, leaving them devastated on their special day.

Mohanlall, who had been previously barred from practicing law after embezzling client funds, used her experience to convince couples to pay upfront for wedding venues she had no connection to. When the couples showed up, they found the venues unprepared, with no utilities and no staff.

The scam came to light after one of the victims hired a private security company, Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA), which discovered that Mohanlall had defrauded couples across several provinces. RUSA tracked down Mohanlall, who had a history of fraud and had previously been convicted for theft.

Despite her arrest, Mohanlall has expressed that her business went through financial struggles and promised to repay the couples she scammed. She faces serious charges, and authorities are continuing their investigation into her operations.

Six Indian Americans sworn into US House of Representatives

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Six Indian Americans took office in the US House of Representatives last week, marking a historic moment for the community. Congressman Ami Bera, the most senior member of this group, celebrated the milestone on X, noting the growth of the Indian American presence in Congress.

Bera, who has been elected for a seventh consecutive term, was joined by fellow representatives Ro Khanna (California), Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois), Pramila Jayapal (Washington), Suhash Subramanian (Virginia), and Shri Thanedar (Michigan). Subramanian is the newest addition to the group, while Khanna, Krishnamoorthi, and Jayapal are each beginning their fifth terms.

Jayapal made history as the first Indian American woman elected to the House of Representatives. The group, all Democrats,



has become a powerful force in the legislature, with Krishnamoorthi holding key positions on the China Committee and House Intelligence Committee, Jayapal leading progressive lawmakers, and Khanna being considered a potential presidential candidate.

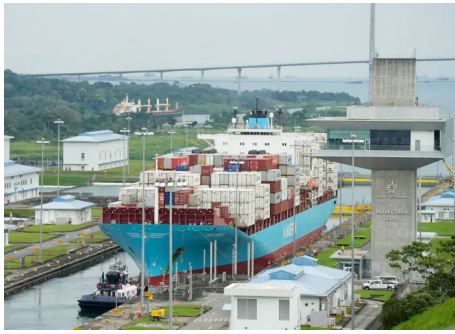
The Indian American representation is often referred to as the "Samosa Caucus," a term coined by Krishnamoorthi. This marks a significant step toward Bera's vision of having ten Indian Americans in the House, a goal he first shared in 2012.



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Panama Canal administrator warns preferential rates for US ships could cause chaos



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Panama Canal Administrator Ricaurte Vasquez Morales responded to US President-elect Donald Trump's suggestion to offer preferential rates to US ships, calling it a violation of international law and the neutrality treaty. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, he emphasized that tolls, which average around \$750,000 per crossing, apply equally to ships from all nations without exception.

Morales firmly rejected accusations that the Canal charges US vessels higher rates and denied any involvement of China in canal operations, addressing claims made by Trump regarding Chinese influence. The administrator has led the canal authority since 2019 and reaffirmed that the Canal is open to all ships worldwide on equal terms. Trump had previously raised the idea of gaining US control of the Panama Canal as part of his broader approach to national security.

Putin open to discussions with Trump after inauguration



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kremlin has expressed that Russian President Vladimir Putin would be open to meeting with US President-elect Donald Trump after he takes office on January 20. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov noted that there had been no requests from the US for contact at this time but suggested it would be appropriate to wait until Trump's inauguration.

In a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate, Trump acknowledged that Putin had shown interest in meeting but stated it would only occur post-inauguration. Trump also discussed the long-standing issue of Ukraine's potential NATO membership, which he believes played a significant role in escalating tensions between Russia and the West. He reiterated his view that mistakes were made in the handling of NATO negotiations and suggested that he could help resolve the conflict more swiftly than the current administration has been able to.

258 Pakistanis deported from seven countries, including UAE and Saudi Arabia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A total of 258 Pakistanis, including beggars and criminals, were deported from seven countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and China, according to local media. The deportees arrived at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, with 244 of them holding emergency travel documents and 14 possessing valid Pakistani passports.

Among those deported, Saudi Arabia sent back 232 individuals, including beggars, people caught performing Hajj without permits, and those who overstayed their visas or worked illegally. Some were deported after completing sentences for violating laws. The UAE also deported 21 Pakistanis, four of whom were involved in drug trafficking.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)



reported that 35 passengers were offloaded at Karachi airport for lack of proper documentation or sufficient funds for travel. Deportations also took place from China, Qatar, Indonesia, Cyprus, and Nigeria.

Indonesia to enforce stricter earthquake-resistant housing standards

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indonesia's government plans to implement stricter housing construction standards to reduce the impact of potential megathrust earthquakes, a senior official announced. Fahri Hamzah, Deputy Minister of the Public Housing and Settlements Ministry, explained that future housing projects will need to adhere to government-led research to ensure they are earthquake-resistant.

This decision follows Indonesia's vulnerability to natural disasters, as

the country lies at the intersection of several tectonic plates. In September, the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency identified two high-risk zones for megathrust earthquakes: the Sunda Strait and the Mentawai-Siberut islands.

Indonesia, home to 127 active volcanoes, has experienced devastating earthquakes in recent decades, including the catastrophic 2004 tsunami that claimed over 200,000 lives. As the country continues to face seismic risks, authorities are updating building standards to better protect communities from future disasters.



87,000 people evacuated due to volcanic eruption in the Philippines



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Philippine government has begun evacuating around 87,000 people after the Kanlaon Volcano erupted, spewing a plume of ash 3,000 meters high. The eruption, which occurred in the central Philippines, led the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to raise the alert level to three, indicating a magmatic eruption that may escalate into more explosive activity.

Residents within a 6-km radius of the volcano were advised to evacuate, and authorities are prepared to expand evacuations if necessary. The eruption has blanketed nearby villages in black ash, and authorities are monitoring the situation closely. The Kanlaon Volcano, located on the island of Negros, is one of the most active in the country, with the most recent eruption taking place in June.

Netherlands introduces six-month border control to tackle migration issues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Netherlands has implemented enhanced border controls for six months to combat irregular migration and human trafficking. Asylum and Migration Minister Marjolein Faber stated that the measure aims to curb illegal immigration into the country and may serve as a deterrent. These additional checks, which started on December 9, are expected to have minimal impact on economic and commuter traffic in border regions. At airports, specific flights considered high-risk will be subject to extra scrutiny. The move follows Germany's reinstatement of passport checks at all land borders in September to address similar concerns.



The Netherlands shares borders with Germany and Belgium, both of

which are key entry points for irregular migrants.

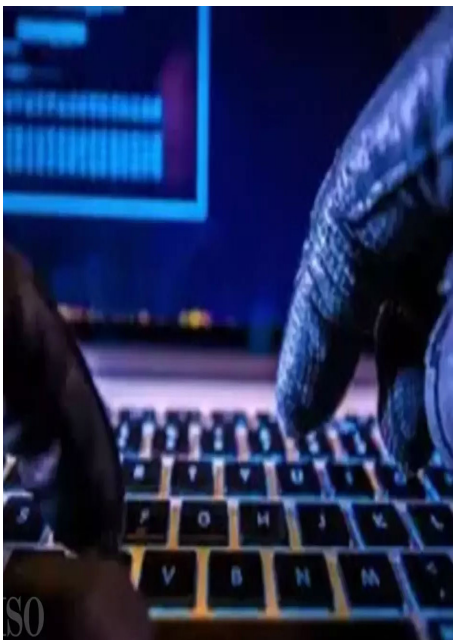
India and EU commit to advancing human rights



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the European Union (EU) emphasized their shared commitment to democracy, freedom, and the protection of all human rights during the 11th India-EU Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi. The dialogue, co-chaired by India's Piyush Srivastava and EU Ambassador Herve Delphin, focused on a range of topics including civil rights, women's empowerment, and freedom of expression. The two sides discussed various human rights issues, including the rights of migrants, the elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of technology in human rights. Both parties also highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation, particularly at the UN, to strengthen global human rights mechanisms.

Turkey establishes cybersecurity directorate to combat rising threats



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Turkey has established a new Cybersecurity Directorate aimed at enhancing the country's defense against cyber threats. The directorate will work under the Cybersecurity Board, chaired by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to develop policies and strategies for securing Turkey's digital infrastructure. The initiative comes as part of Turkey's broader cybersecurity roadmap introduced in 2024. The country has faced rising concerns about cyber-espionage, with recent arrests tied to international hacking rings selling stolen personal data. The new directorate will also promote cooperation between the public, private sectors, and academic institutions to bolster national cybersecurity.

US-British coalition launches additional airstrikes on Yemen

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The US-British coalition has conducted a new round of airstrikes on northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, according to the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV. The coalition's strikes targeted several areas in Sanaa, the Harf Sufyan district in Amran, and Al-Luhayyah district near Hodeidah. This follows a series of airstrikes on Wednesday that struck similar locations.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed the strikes, targeting Iranian-backed Houthi military sites, including underground storage facilities used for launching attacks on US Navy ships and merchant vessels in the



Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, have been launching rocket and drone attacks on Israeli-linked shipping and US warships, prompting retaliatory air raids by the US-led coalition. The escalating conflict has heightened tensions in the region. Earlier in January, the coalition also struck Houthi positions in Yemen's northern Saada province, in an ongoing effort to neutralize the group's military capabilities.

Australia's PM urges social media to take responsibility after Meta ends fact-checking



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called on social media platforms to fulfill their social responsibility after Meta announced the end of its third-party fact-checking program. Albanese emphasized the role of social media in addressing mental health issues, particularly among young people. In response to Meta's decision, he reiterated Australia's stance on banning social media use for children under 16 by the end of next year. Albanese stated that companies that fail to comply could face significant fines. The move follows the passage of legislation in Australia that restricts social media access for minors and introduces penalties for companies that do not take steps to enforce the ban.

Egypt announces major archaeological finds near Luxor

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Archaeologists in Egypt have unveiled significant new discoveries near Luxor, including portions of a temple associated with Queen Hatshepsut, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities reported.

Led by renowned archaeologist Zahi Hawass, the team uncovered a well-preserved section of the Valley Temple's foundations, which acted as the main entrance to Hatshepsut's funerary temple from the 18th Dynasty (around 1539-1292 BC). The excavation also yielded over 1,000 decorated blocks and fragments, featuring

detailed carvings and inscriptions from both Hatshepsut's reign and that of her successor, Thutmose III.

These inscriptions are considered the most complete discovered from the temple, which had been deliberately destroyed during the Ramesside Period (around 1292-1077 BC). Additionally, more than 100 limestone and quartzite tablets bearing Hatshepsut's royal cartouches were found, confirming her ownership of the temple.

Abdel-Ghaffar Wagdy, Director General of Luxor Antiquities, noted that these findings would likely attract more tourists to the region.

Over 1,200 aftershocks recorded following 7.1 magnitude earthquake near Nepal-Tibet border

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A total of 1,211 aftershocks have been recorded following the powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck the Nepal-Tibet border region earlier this week.

The largest aftershock, measuring 4.4, occurred around 18 kilometers from the quake's epicenter, with 33 of the aftershocks registering a magnitude above 3. The earthquake on Tuesday claimed 126 lives and left 188 others injured, with 407 people rescued from debris.

In response, the Red Cross Society of China has dispatched emergency supplies and rescue workers to the affected areas, while authorities continue to provide aid to survivors.



The earthquake, which occurred at 6:35 a.m. on Tuesday, had its epicenter near the Tibet Autonomous Region, close to Nepal's border. The tremors also affected northern India, including Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, and Delhi, although no casualties were reported there.

With Nepal and northern India sitting on highly active tectonic plates, such seismic events remain a constant concern, prompting authorities to remain vigilant.

Bangladesh to halt gas supplies for three days starting January 10

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's state-owned Petrobangla has announced a nationwide disruption of natural gas supplies for three days, starting January 10, due to maintenance on one of the country's two liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification units. Petrobangla confirmed that LNG supply would be suspended for 72 hours from noon on Friday until noon on Monday, affecting gas availability across the country. During this period, another LNG unit will continue to supply around 550-560 million cubic feet of gas per day, but overall gas pressure will drop,



leading to lower supply across Bangladesh.

This disruption follows a similar maintenance period earlier in the month, which contributed to a severe gas crisis nationwide. The authorities are urging citizens to manage their energy consumption during the maintenance period.

Iran and Iraq discuss shared concerns over Syria's stability



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani expressed shared concerns over Syria's ongoing conflict, focusing on maintaining stability, territorial integrity, and countering terrorism. In their joint statements, the leaders discussed the importance of safeguarding religious sites, especially Shiite Muslim shrines in Syria, and strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism. They also emphasized the need for a comprehensive political solution to restore Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, urging all parties involved to contribute to the peace process.

13 killed in Russian airstrike on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Russian airstrike on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia city killed at least 13 people and injured 63 others. The strike, which hit residential and industrial areas, included two guided bombs that caused significant damage. Four of the injured are in critical condition. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attack, calling it a deliberate strike on civilians. The attack occurred amid ongoing hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, with both sides continuing military actions. Zelensky expressed the need for stronger international support for Ukraine and security guarantees to safeguard its future defense against Russian aggression.



SC says consolidation of Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah suits should benefit both sides



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court remarked on Friday that consolidating all suits related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute would be beneficial for both parties involved, as it would help avoid multiple proceedings. A bench led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna emphasized that the move was in the interest of justice, and would streamline the legal process. The decision came after the Allahabad High Court ordered the consolidation of 15 suits filed by the Hindu side in January last year.

During the hearing, the management committee of the Shahi Masjid Eidgah raised concerns that the consolidation included suits of different natures, which could complicate the trial. However, the bench expressed its disapproval of these arguments, pointing out that the action would not cause any harm. The case centers around the dispute over the Eidgah complex, which is claimed to have been built on land considered the birthplace of Lord Krishna, where a temple is believed to have once stood. The Supreme Court adjourned the matter to April 2025 for further hearings.

Verdict in R.G. Kar Medical College rape and murder case set for January 18



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The special court in Kolkata is set to deliver its verdict on January 18 in the tragic case of a junior doctor's rape and murder at R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in August 2024. The case, which has been under trial since November 2024, involves the murder of a young woman whose body was found in the seminar hall of the hospital.

The investigation, initially conducted by the Kolkata Police, was later handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which named Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, as the prime suspect. Roy was arrested for the crime, which involved both rape and murder.

During the investigation, the CBI also arrested two other individuals—former R.G. Kar principal Sandip Ghosh and former Tala Police Station SHO Abhijit Mondal—for allegedly tampering with evidence. However, both were granted bail due to procedural lapses in the case. The parents of the victim have appealed for a fresh investigation into the case, seeking clarity on any broader conspiracy involved.

BSF recovers pistol and drugs dropped by Pakistani drones in Amritsar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday announced that they had successfully thwarted cross-border smuggling attempts, recovering a pistol and a large quantity of drugs dropped by Pakistani drones along the Punjab border. These operations, carried out in two separate incidents, underline the heightened vigilance of the BSF in securing the nation's borders.

In the first operation, a packet of 520 grams of heroin was seized from Khanwal village, Amritsar. In the second operation, a PX5 Storm pistol, along with an empty magazine, was recovered from a farming

field near Rajatal village in Amritsar district. These successful interceptions are part of the BSF's ongoing efforts to combat smuggling through drones, which have become an increasingly common threat.

The BSF Punjab Frontier has made substantial progress in countering these threats, with 294 drones intercepted in 2024, a sharp increase from 107 drones in the previous year.

The BSF also seized around 283 kg of heroin and apprehended several individuals, including Pakistani nationals, involved in smuggling activities. These operations come as part of a broader strategy to secure the international border and prevent the flow of illicit drugs into India.



Dense fog disrupts Delhi-NCR with 150 flights and 26 trains delayed

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dense fog covered parts of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Friday, severely disrupting air and rail traffic. Visibility was reduced to near zero, causing delays for over 150 flights, with an average delay of 41 minutes, and around 26 trains were affected. The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) reported that departures were impacted but reassured passengers that flights compliant with Category III (CAT III) systems could still operate.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning for moderate to very dense fog across many regions in North India, including Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. The thick fog also caused slow-moving traffic, with drivers using



hazard lights for visibility, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) reached hazardous levels. Delhi's AQI was recorded at 408, falling into the 'severe' category, while neighboring areas like Noida and Ghaziabad reported 'very poor' air quality. These weather conditions have affected travel and posed health risks, particularly for individuals with respiratory issues. The IMD also forecasted that the dense fog would continue affecting the region for the coming days.

Sambhal mosque row: SC stays implementation of notice regarding well

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court has intervened in a dispute concerning a well located near the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.

The court issued an interim order, instructing the Municipal Council to hold off on any action related to the well. The well has been a subject of controversy, with the mosque committee arguing that it has been used by the mosque administration for water since time immemorial.

The court's order follows a plea by the

mosque committee, which claimed the well was being misrepresented in a notice as part of a larger dispute over the site. The Supreme Court has ordered the authorities to file a status report within two weeks, and the matter will be heard again on February 21.

This case is part of a broader legal struggle over the disputed site, which includes claims of historical religious significance and ongoing tensions.

The Supreme Court has emphasized the need for peace and harmony in dealing with such disputes.

Class 12 student detained for sending bomb threats to Delhi schools

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Class 12 student has been detained by Delhi police for sending bomb threat emails to 23 schools across the city. The boy, who is reportedly trying to avoid his upcoming examinations, sent these hoax threats to several schools, creating widespread panic.

The threats triggered emergency responses from police and bomb disposal units. In addition to the school threats, several airlines also received bomb hoaxes, causing disruptions in flight schedules. Investigations revealed that the student targeted schools other than his own.

This spate of threats led to increased security protocols in Delhi schools, including emergency drills for teachers. The Delhi High Court has since ordered the Delhi government and police to create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to manage such threats efficiently in the future.

AAP and BJP clash over Purvanchali voters ahead of Delhi elections



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As the Delhi Assembly elections approach, the AAP and BJP have escalated their efforts to win over the Purvanchali vote bank, a crucial segment of the electorate in the capital. On Friday, the BJP women's wing held a protest outside AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's residence, accusing him of making "anti-Purvanchali" remarks.

In response, Kejriwal defended his government's record, highlighting the improvements made in the civic infrastructure and health services in unauthorized colonies, where many Purvanchali migrants live.

Kejriwal argued that the BJP had failed to address the issues faced by these communities, particularly the lack of development in these areas.

The BJP, led by Delhi President Virendra Sachdeva, condemned Kejriwal's comments, accusing him of insulting Purvanchali voters, a group that plays a decisive role in the capital's politics. Purvanchalis, who hail mainly from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh, make up nearly 42 percent of Delhi's 1.55 crore voters.

This demographic is particularly influential in about half of the city's 70 Assembly constituencies. The BJP has been actively engaging with this community through its Purvanchal Morcha, with leaders like North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari, a prominent figure from Purvanchal, rallying support. With both parties vying for their votes, the Purvanchali community is set to play a crucial role in the upcoming elections.

Bengal fake passport racket: Police investigate role of verification officers



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Authorities in West Bengal are investigating the involvement of several passport verification officers in a fake passport racket that facilitated the issuance of fraudulent Indian passports to illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The investigation, which began in December, has led to the arrest of nine individuals, including Abdul Hai, a retired Kolkata police sub-inspector who was involved in passport verification. Hai allegedly played a key role in facilitating the issuance of fake passports by bypassing standard verification processes.

The investigation has uncovered a pattern in the fake passport operation, which involves providing infiltrators with false identity documents before securing fake passports. Authorities are now probing the extent of the officers' involvement in the racket and the number of fraudulent passports issued.

Pappu Yadav and wife acquitted in 15-year-old model code of conduct case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Independent MP Pappu Yadav and his wife, Congress MP Ranjit Ranjan, were acquitted in a case from 2009, where they were accused of violating the Model Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha elections. The case stemmed from the display of banners and the organization of a large procession to welcome Yadav in Purnea. The court ruled that the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence, leading to the dismissal of the case after 15 years. This acquittal allows the couple to focus on their ongoing political careers.

Sikkim issues advisory amid HMPV concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
In response to a recent surge in Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases in China, the Sikkim government has issued a health advisory. The virus, which causes mild respiratory illnesses, has raised concerns due to its proximity to the Chinese border. The state's Health Department has reassured the public, stating there is no alarming outbreak in India but emphasized the importance of preventive measures like handwashing and avoiding close contact with symptomatic individuals. Awareness campaigns will be conducted to ensure the public remains vigilant.

Prashant Kishor allegedly sent to jail without proper warrant, claims lawyer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
The detention of Jan Suraj Party President Prashant Kishor has sparked a significant controversy after his lawyer, Amit Kumar, accused the Patna police of attempting to transfer Kishor to Beur Jail without proper documentation. On January 6, Kishor was reportedly taken from the court premises to Beur Jail during ongoing proceedings, but authorities had no custody papers to justify the move. Kumar criticized the charges against Kishor, calling them politically motivated and arguing that the protest Kishor was involved in was peaceful, not violent as suggested by the police. He particularly targeted Section 191(3), which

refers to rioting or weapon possession, asserting that the protest had no such elements. Kumar questioned why Kishor was taken directly to Beur Jail despite the FIR being lodged at the Gandhi Maidan police station, and emphasized that the Bihar Police's handling of the situation violated proper procedures.

Kishor, who has been on a hunger strike since January 2, was later admitted to the ICU at Medanta Hospital after his health deteriorated. The incident has raised questions about the transparency of the Bihar Police and sparked strong criticism from political leaders and human rights advocates, who call for adherence to legal norms and respect for individual rights.



Political shift looming in Kerala as CM battles anti-incumbency

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Kerala, set to face local body elections in 2025 and Assembly elections in 2026, is witnessing signs of a potential shift in political loyalties as the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Front battles rising anti-incumbency. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's diminishing popularity has led the Congress-led UDF, which is currently in opposition, to hope for a shift in power during the 2026 Assembly elections.

Tensions have begun to mount within the Left Front, with some parties, including Kerala Congress (M) and Kerala Congress (B), expressing dissatisfaction with the current government's performance. Political analysts suggest that defections may occur in the coming months as the UDF actively reaches out to these parties. The Kerala Congress (M), which had briefly aligned with the Left Front before the 2021 elections, could



once again shift allegiance.

The UDF, meanwhile, has shown openness to such a shift, with influential leaders from the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) signaling support. The BJP-led NDA has also been consolidating its position, adding further pressure on the UDF to mount a strong challenge in 2026. As the state approaches key elections, the shifting political dynamics may result in surprising changes, with several leaders, including those from the Left, likely to join the UDF.

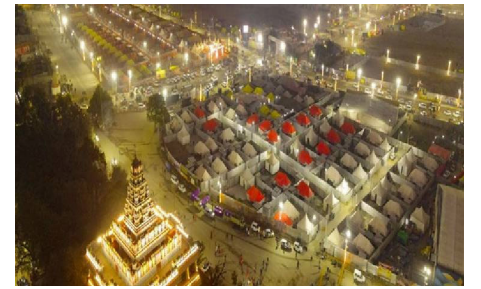
Army chief urges NCC cadets to lead with purpose in building a stronger India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of Army Staff, visited the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Parade Camp at Delhi Cantonment and addressed the cadets, encouraging them to pursue leadership roles in all fields. He reminded them that serving the nation is not limited to the Armed Forces and emphasized that the foundation laid by the NCC helps prepare them for leadership positions in various sectors. General Dwivedi



commended the cadets for their active participation in community service, including

AI-powered security measures deployed at Mahakumbh



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
For the 2025 Mahakumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government has implemented advanced security measures, including over 2,700 AI-powered CCTV cameras and 123 strategically placed watchtowers. The security forces comprise 37,000 police personnel and various specialized units, such as the NSG and ATS. The deployment of AI and surveillance technology aims to ensure the safety of the estimated 45 crore attendees. Watchtowers, manned by snipers and security personnel, are positioned across critical areas to monitor the crowd effectively. The event organizers have ensured comprehensive measures to handle any potential security threats.

Tirupati stampede: CM Naidu announces actions and compensation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu visited the site of the tragic stampede in Tirupati, which claimed six lives as devotees scrambled for darshan tickets for the Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam. After reviewing the incident and meeting with the injured, Naidu ordered the suspension of two officials and the transfer of three others for their negligence. A judicial inquiry will be conducted into the incident, which occurred at two locations as hundreds gathered for tickets to the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. The families of the deceased will receive Rs. 25 lakh each, along with a contract job, while critically injured individuals will be compensated Rs. 5 lakh each. Naidu stressed that the sanctity of Tirumala must be protected and urged for an apolitical response to the situation.

blood donation campaigns, environmental conservation efforts, and social awareness initiatives.

Reflecting on his own experiences as an NCC cadet, he highlighted the significant role the current generation of cadets will play in shaping a prosperous India. He concluded his speech by quoting the late General Bipin Rawat, the first Chief of Defence Staff: "Silently carve out your identity, for the winds will sing your praise."

Meta to end fact-checking programme before Trump's inauguration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta has announced it will discontinue its fact-checking programme ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20. The company will replace fact-checkers with a system of community notes, similar to the approach used by Elon Musk's platform X (formerly Twitter).

Meta's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, explained that the move is part of an effort to "restore free expression" and reduce what the company sees as political bias in third-party fact-checking.

This shift will impact billions of users on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads. Zuckerberg also stated that the company's content moderation policies regarding political topics will be revised.

Meta's decision to abandon fact-checking has drawn praise from Trump's supporters, who had criticized the platform's handling of conservative viewpoints during the elections.

US regulator sues Berkshire-owned lender for making risky home loans

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has filed a lawsuit against Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, a lender owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. The CFPB accuses the company of pushing borrowers into unaffordable mortgages linked to homes purchased from Clayton Homes, a Berkshire-owned business specializing in manufactured housing.

Vanderbilt allegedly ignored "clear and obvious red flags" regarding borrowers' ability to repay their loans, violating post-2008 global financial crisis rules requiring lenders to verify borrowers' income and assess their capacity to manage other debts.

The CFPB claims many Vanderbilt borrowers faced late fees, home repossessions, or bankruptcy after defaulting on their loans. In one case, a couple with three children was left with only \$57.78 per month for discretionary



spending after taking out a loan.

Vanderbilt denied the allegations, stating that its underwriting process exceeds legal requirements and arguing that the lawsuit could prevent creditworthy borrowers

from obtaining home loans. The CFPB is seeking civil fines and restitution for affected borrowers, accusing Vanderbilt of violating the Truth in Lending Act. The case has been filed in the Eastern District of Tennessee.

US port strike averted as union and employers reach agreement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A strike by 45,000 dock workers on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts was averted after the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) reached a tentative six-year contract deal. The agreement, which includes provisions on automation, is seen as a "win-win" for both sides. It aims to modernize ports while preserving jobs and strengthening supply chains. Terms remain undisclosed, but the deal will prevent disruptions to the U.S. economy. The agreement follows a three-day strike in October that raised shipping prices and caused cargo backlogs.

The deal also ensures that automation will not displace workers, but instead, create new jobs as the ports evolve. This



move is expected to improve the efficiency and safety of U.S. ports, addressing long-standing concerns about outdated infrastructure. The National Retail Federation welcomed the deal, noting its potential to reduce disruptions and

ensure smoother operations in U.S. ports, crucial for the nation's supply chain. The ILA and USMX also confirmed that they will continue operating under the current contract until the new agreement is ratified, helping avoid immediate disruptions.

Southwest Airlines secures \$871 million in sale-leaseback deal for 36 jets

Southwest Airlines has entered into a sale and leaseback deal for 36 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, generating \$871 million in proceeds. The deal, completed in late December, is part of Southwest's strategy to strengthen its balance sheet and raise funds for fleet modernization. The airline will continue to lease the planes under terms ranging from 26 to 37 months. These types of transactions have grown in popularity after the pandemic, allowing airlines to quickly raise capital as demand for jets rises.

The deal provides Southwest with much-needed liquidity to navigate the post-pandemic recovery phase and maintain its competitive edge. It also gives the airline the flexibility to modernize its fleet without bearing the full financial burden of outright purchasing new planes. The funds will also help offset other capital expenditures as Southwest invests in improving its infrastructure and customer service. The deal signals the airline's continued focus on financial stability and operational efficiency in a rapidly changing aviation industry. As demand for air travel continues to rise, this deal positions Southwest well for future growth while reducing financial strain.



Ford battery plant workers in Kentucky petition for union election

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Workers at the BlueOval SK battery plant in Kentucky, a joint venture between Ford and South Korea's SK On, are petitioning the National Labor Relations Board to hold a union election. The United Auto Workers (UAW) seeks to organize workers at the plant, which has 750 employees with plans to hire 5,000. The company argues that the union's petition is premature since most workers haven't yet been hired. The UAW is expanding its efforts to organize battery plants amid the industry's shift to electric vehicles, and has won victories at other battery plants in recent months.

Ford has previously faced union challenges at its plants, and this new effort reflects the union's desire to secure benefits for workers at emerging EV facilities. UAW President Shawn Fain sees this as a critical step in securing jobs and ensuring fair treatment for



workers in a rapidly evolving industry. If the union succeeds in the election, it could set a precedent for organizing more battery plants across the U.S. as automakers transition to electric vehicle production. UAW's recent organizing wins and efforts to expand into

non-union plants, including those of major companies like Tesla, have drawn national attention. The outcome of the Kentucky vote could have far-reaching effects on unionizing efforts at other high-profile battery production sites.

Friday, 10 January 2025

MoviePass parent company's former CEO pleads guilty to securities fraud



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The former CEO of MoviePass' parent company, Helios & Matheson Analytics, pleaded guilty to charges of securities fraud and conspiracy. Theodore Farnsworth was accused of defrauding investors by misleading them about the company's financials. The charges relate to his involvement in fraudulent schemes with MoviePass and another publicly traded company, Vinco Ventures. Farnsworth faces potential prison time after admitting his role in the deception. MoviePass, once a popular subscription service for movie tickets, faced significant financial issues, leading to its eventual collapse. Farnsworth's guilty plea is part of an ongoing crackdown on corporate fraud in the U.S. The Justice Department's actions send a strong message about the importance of transparency and honesty in corporate financial dealings. Legal experts suggest Farnsworth's plea deal could provide valuable insight into other similar corporate fraud cases in the future. The MoviePass scandal shed light on how some companies may manipulate financial records to mislead investors, and this case could encourage further scrutiny of publicly traded firms in the entertainment sector.

Boeing and Google donate \$1 million each for Trump's inauguration



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Boeing and Google have each donated \$1 million to the inauguration fund for U.S. President Donald Trump's second term. The two companies join a growing list of major corporations contributing to the fund, including tech giants Meta, Amazon, and Uber, as well as oil producer Chevron. Boeing, which is recovering from a safety crisis and labor strikes, said it was continuing its bipartisan tradition of supporting U.S. presidential inaugurations. The company has made similar contributions in previous years. Google, in addition to its financial contribution, will stream the inauguration event on YouTube and feature a direct link on its homepage. Both companies are also supporting Trump's new term through various other initiatives, with Boeing continuing its work on building the next Air Force One aircraft, which is expected to enter service next year. Google's donation marks a further expansion of its involvement in the event, following the lead of other tech companies like Amazon and Meta, who have also pledged their support to the inauguration.

Two Indian companies indicted for fentanyl precursor smuggling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian companies, Athos Chemicals and Raxuter Chemicals, have been indicted for allegedly importing ingredients used to produce fentanyl into the U.S. and Mexico. The U.S. Department of Justice charged the companies with conspiracy to distribute these chemicals. Raxuter's senior executive, Bhavesh Lathiya, was arrested and faces up to 53 years in prison. The indictment accuses the companies of mislabeling shipments and falsifying documents to disguise their involvement in fentanyl trafficking.



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that has

contributed to a major public health crisis in the U.S., with overdoses soaring in recent years. Authorities say the companies knowingly supplied precursor chemicals to manufacturers of the illicit drug, fueling the opioid epidemic.

The U.S. government has intensified efforts to crack down on fentanyl production and trafficking, especially targeting international supply chains.

The case highlights the growing role of foreign companies in the global fentanyl trade, which poses a significant challenge to law enforcement agencies. The indictment also underscores the importance of addressing cross-border issues in tackling the opioid crisis.

Outgoing transport secretary says Boeing has more work to do after safety incident

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Outgoing U.S. transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg stated that Boeing must continue improving its culture after a 737 MAX 9 door panel fell off mid-flight in January 2024. The incident, which exposed safety flaws, led to a temporary grounding of 170 planes and a cap on production. Buttigieg emphasized the need for Boeing to show consistent improvements in safety and quality. The Federal Aviation Administration has implemented tougher oversight of the company and may take five years to fully address these issues.



Boeing has already started implementing safety improvements, including random quality audits and enhanced inspections of its suppliers. The company released a statement saying it is committed to addressing the root causes of safety lapses and making necessary changes. The FAA has pledged to closely monitor Boeing's progress, ensuring that

the company remains on track to rebuild its reputation and safety standards. The incident also led to greater scrutiny of the aviation industry's approach to safety and quality control. Buttigieg's remarks signal the continued need for Boeing to prove its commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards in the wake of the incident.

Mumbai sees historic highs in office leasing and residential sales in 2024

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mumbai achieved historic highs in both office leasing and residential sales in 2024, driven by strong demand for premium housing and infrastructure developments. Office leasing reached 10.4 million square feet, marking a 40% increase from 2023. The city also saw 5.8 million square feet of new office space added, a 89% rise from the previous year. In the residential sector, Mumbai saw the sale of 96,187 primary residential units, the highest in 13 years, with an 11% year-on-year growth. Key infrastructure projects, such as the BKC metro line, the Mumbai Coastal Road, and Metro Line 3, have boosted connectivity and made the city more attractive to both commercial and residential buyers.

Knight Frank India's Viral Desai noted that the city's office leasing market will continue to grow in 2025, fueled by infrastructure developments and strong demand. Additionally, residential prices rose by 5% in 2024, supported by the steady demand for premium housing.

US dominance in global capital flows boosted by strong economy and demand for safe assets

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House reported that the US economy's post-COVID recovery and increased demand for safe-haven investments strengthened the country's position in global financial flows. The US attracted 41% of global gross capital inflows in 2022-23, nearly double its pre-pandemic share. Key drivers included manufacturing incentives, infrastructure investments, and clean energy initiatives, especially from allies like Canada, Japan, and the UK. The report also highlighted a surge in foreign direct investment, with South Korea being the largest contributor. Despite de-dollarization concerns, the US dollar maintained its status as the dominant global reserve currency. The report emphasized that high levels of business investment, particularly in factory construction, and rising productivity were key factors in the US maintaining its financial influence. Foreign direct investment into the US more than doubled over the past 16 years, reaching \$5.4 trillion in 2023. While global capital flows have slowed, US markets continue to attract substantial international investment, positioning the country as a global financial leader.

Microsoft collaborates with India's AI mission to skill 5 lakh people by 2026

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Microsoft has announced a new partnership with India's government-backed 'India AI Mission' to skill 500,000 people in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2026. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to foster AI innovation and inclusive growth across India, with the goal of equipping students, educators, developers, government officials, and women entrepreneurs with essential AI skills. The collaboration will also establish an AI Center of Excellence, called 'AI Catalysts,' which will promote rural AI innovation and support 100,000 AI developers and innovators.

As part of the partnership, Microsoft and India AI will set up AI Productivity Labs at 20 National Skill Training Institutes across 10 states to train 20,000 educators. These labs will offer foundational courses in AI, focusing on sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and accessibility. Microsoft also plans to invest



\$3 billion in AI and cloud infrastructure in India over the next two years, including new data centers. This initiative is part of a broader effort by Microsoft to skill 10 million people in AI by 2030, with 2.4 million people already trained. The company's collaboration with the Indian government underscores its commitment to helping the country harness the power of AI for sustainable development.

Bengals WR Jermaine Burton accused of assault, no charges filed



Cincinnati Bengals rookie wide receiver Jermaine Burton was accused of assaulting his 19-year-old girlfriend, though no charges have been filed. According to a report, the woman called 911 on December 30, alleging that Burton assaulted her, including choking her, damaging her phone, and threatening to kill himself. She declined to press charges.

The Bengals have acknowledged awareness of the incident and stated they will continue to evaluate the situation as more details emerge. Burton, who did not travel with the team for the Bengals' season finale, is also facing eviction proceedings from his apartment. Despite concerns about his off-field behavior, including a previous incident at Alabama, Burton had a solid season, recording 107 yards on four receptions.

The team has stated that they will address the matter internally, but as of now, no further action has been taken. This incident could have significant implications for Burton's future with the Bengals.

Real Madrid beats Mallorca to reach 'Clasico' Supercup final

Real Madrid secured a 3-0 victory over Mallorca in the Spanish Supercup semifinal in Jeddah, setting up a highly anticipated final against FC Barcelona. Jude Bellingham broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute, followed by an own goal from Mallorca's Martin Valjent and a birthday goal from Rodrygo in injury time. Madrid dominated the match, with Mallorca failing to mount a serious challenge after Bellingham's opener. The game also saw tensions flare between Mallorca's Pablo Maffeo and Madrid's players, with Maffeo reacting to a light slap from Bellingham. Barcelona had earlier defeated Athletic Bilbao to advance to the final.

With both teams showcasing strong form, the upcoming "Clasico" promises to be a thrilling showdown, with fans eagerly anticipating one of the most significant fixtures in Spanish football.

Djokovic claims he was 'poisoned' during detention in Australia

Novak Djokovic, the Serbian tennis star, has claimed that he was poisoned during his detention in Australia ahead of the 2022 Australian Open. Djokovic, who was detained in Melbourne after his visa was canceled due to his unvaccinated status, says he was fed food that caused him to have high levels of heavy metals in his system, including lead and mercury.

In an interview with GQ, Djokovic revealed that he discovered the poisoning when he returned to Serbia and underwent tests. Despite the controversy surrounding his deportation, Djokovic expressed no ill will toward the Australian people, although he did note that many had apologized to him for the treatment he received. He also praised the government for reinstating his visa, allowing him to return and win the Australian Open the following year.

When asked about the individuals responsible for his deportation, Djokovic



said he had no desire to meet them but would be open to moving forward if the opportunity arose.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley declined to comment on Djokovic's allegations, stating the focus was on delivering a successful event.

Kang Sings claim massive 9-0 victory to reach Ice Hockey League semifinals

Defending champions Kang Sings triumphed with a stunning 9-0 victory over United Nubra to secure a place in the semifinals of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League. Captain Mushtaq Ahmed scored four goals in the dominant win, with Deldan Namgyal and Stanzin Largail also contributing.

In the women's category, Maryul Spamo continued their strong performance, defeating Sham Eagles 2-0 to also advance to the semifinals. The men's group stage is nearing its conclusion, with several teams still in contention. The Ice Hockey League, in partnership with the UT Administration of Ladakh, is seeing intense competition, and the finals are scheduled for January 13.

With the semifinals now set, anticipation is building for the remaining games, and fans are eager to see if the defending champions can continue their dominant run through the tournament.

NFL still plans to hold Vikings-Rams playoff game in LA despite wildfires



The NFL announced it is continuing with preparations to hold the Vikings-Rams playoff game in Los Angeles on Monday, despite ongoing wildfires in the region. However, the league stated it may move the game to Glendale, Arizona if necessary. Wildfires have ravaged the area, killing at least six people and forcing over 180,000 evacuations, stretching firefighting resources thin.

The NFL emphasized that the safety of the Los Angeles community remains the top priority and that they will continue to monitor the situation closely, staying in contact with local officials. The Rams had a scheduled off day Wednesday ahead of their game at SoFi Stadium, while other teams, like the Los Angeles Chargers, have taken precautions by adjusting outdoor practice routines to limit smoke exposure. The NHL also postponed a game in LA due to the fires, while Los Angeles Lakers' coach JJ Redick expressed his support for those affected.

In the wake of the ongoing crisis, the NFL may decide to adjust their plans based on further developments, with the well-being of players and fans as their primary concern.

West Ham fires head coach Lopetegui, in talks with Potter for new role

West Ham United has parted ways with Spanish head coach Julen Lopetegui following heavy defeats to Manchester City and Liverpool in the Premier League, in which the team conceded nine goals and scored just one. The club announced Lopetegui's departure on social media, and a planned news conference with the coach was also canceled as speculation about his future grew.

The club is now in discussions with Graham Potter, the former Brighton and Chelsea manager, to take over on a temporary basis. West Ham currently sits 14th in the Premier League table

with six wins, five draws, and nine losses from 20 games. Former West Ham coach Harry Redknapp criticized the way the club handled Lopetegui's exit, calling it disrespectful. Reports also suggest that West Ham is considering other potential replacements, including former AC Milan manager Paulo Fonseca and Christophe Galtier, who now coaches in Saudi Arabia.

Lopetegui joined West Ham in May, bringing with him a wealth of experience, having previously managed Spain, Porto, Real Madrid, Sevilla, and Wolverhampton Wanderers, with notable successes in the UEFA Europa League.



Kyrgios returns to Australia's Davis Cup team after five years

Nick Kyrgios has been named in Australia's Davis Cup team for the qualifying tie against Sweden in Stockholm, marking his return to the competition for the first time since 2019. Kyrgios will join World No. 8 Alex de Minaur, Jordan Thompson, and Thanasi Kokkinakis in the team, led by captain Lleyton Hewitt. Australia aims to build on strong performances in recent years, including runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023, as they compete for a spot in the second round.



Neeraj Chopra backs inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in Delhi



Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has thrown his support behind the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, which will take place from January 13 to 19 at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi. Chopra's endorsement aims to raise global awareness for the traditional Indian sport and calls for unity among fans worldwide to support this new international tournament.

The World Cup will feature 39 teams from across the globe, competing in both men's and women's categories. The event will open with a grand ceremony on January 13, followed by a match between hosts India and Nepal. Chopra's backing highlights the increasing international appeal of Kho Kho and could inspire new talent to emerge in the sport.

The tournament will be broadcast live on Star Sports 1 HD and Star Sports First, with regional coverage by Doordarshan. Fans can also stream matches on Disney+ Hotstar, ensuring widespread access to the action.

Bournemouth hit with injury crisis as Enes Unal suffers ACL tear

AFC Bournemouth has confirmed that forward Enes Unal has torn his right anterior cruciate ligament during a training session this week. The Turkish striker, who has played in every match since September, was a key contributor to the team's record-breaking eight-game unbeaten streak in the Premier League. The injury occurred during a routine drill on Tuesday. The club expressed support for Unal, stating that he will undergo surgery and that the medical staff will provide him with full support during his rehabilitation. This injury adds to the team's woes, as just days earlier, they confirmed that forward Evanilson had successfully undergone surgery for a fractured metatarsal sustained during a win over Everton. With two key attacking players sidelined, Bournemouth is expected to target replacements in the January transfer window. The club also announced the signing of 19-year-old Argentina full-back Julio Soler. Despite these setbacks, Bournemouth sits in seventh place in the Premier League and is aiming for a European spot by the end of the season.

PCB relocates ODI tri-series to Lahore and Karachi ahead of Champions Trophy

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has moved the upcoming men's ODI tri-series to Lahore and Karachi as part of preparations for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy. The tri-series, which will feature Pakistan, New Zealand, and South Africa, was initially planned for Multan. However, due to significant upgrades nearing completion at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and National Bank Stadium in Karachi, the PCB has opted to host the series at these two venues instead.

The PCB assured fans and media that the upgrades at both stadiums will be finished on schedule. At Gaddafi Stadium, the seating capacity has been increased to 35,000,

and new LED lights have been installed to improve broadcast quality. Additionally, two giant digital replay screens will be added to enhance the fan experience. At National Bank Stadium in Karachi, significant improvements include new LED lights and additional seating for spectators.

The PCB emphasized that all upgrades are progressing smoothly, with more than 250 workers laboring to meet the January 25 deadline. The board also stated that Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium is receiving minor upgrades. The planned improvements are expected to further enhance Pakistan's standing as a premier destination for international cricket.



Formula 1 extends partnership with Belgian Grand Prix for multiple years

Formula 1 has secured a multi-year extension with the Belgian Grand Prix, ensuring the race will take place at the iconic Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in four of the next six years. The extension covers the 2026, 2027, 2029, and 2031 seasons. This agreement follows significant investments in the circuit, including the addition of new grandstands to increase capacity by 10,000 and improvements to the fan experience and off-track entertainment.

Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO of Formula 1, emphasized the historical significance of Spa-Francorchamps, a venue that has been a part of the sport since the inaugural 1950 championship. The track, known for its challenging corners like Eau Rouge and Raidillon, remains a favorite among both drivers and fans. The Belgian Grand Prix continues to draw massive crowds, with 380,000 spectators attending this year's race, where Lewis Hamilton claimed his second victory of the season.



Spa-Francorchamps, built in 1921, remains the longest circuit on the Formula 1 calendar, at 7.004 km, and has seen legends like Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher, and current stars like Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen take victories on its famous track.

Dr. Mandaviya leads meeting to plan India's strategy for 2028 Olympics



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the 152nd meeting of the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) on January 7 at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium. The meeting focused on introducing new members to the MOC and strategizing for India's preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, aiming to improve India's medal tally.

Dr. Mandaviya emphasized the importance of a comprehensive, long-term approach to Olympic success, calling for collaboration between National Sports Federations (NSFs), state governments, corporate entities, and other stakeholders. The meeting discussed key topics, including talent identification for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and monitoring the progress of athletes included in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Prominent sports figures, including Olympic medallist Gagan Narang and badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, attended the meeting, underscoring the collective effort required to elevate India's sports ecosystem and achieve success on the global stage.

World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana returns to Norway Chess 2025

Fabiano Caruana, currently ranked World No. 2 in chess, will return to the prestigious Norway Chess tournament in 2025, marking his eighth participation. Caruana, with a FIDE rating of 2803, is known for his precision and strong opening preparation, making him a formidable competitor in the event.

A four-time U.S. Chess Champion, Caruana has had an illustrious career, including winning the 2018 Candidates Tournament and challenging for the World Chess Championship. His past tournament victories include the 2020 Tata Steel Masters and the 2023 Sinquefeld Cup, among others.

Kjell Madland, the tournament director, expressed excitement about Caruana's return, praising his consistency and the value he brings to the event. As a former Norway Chess champion, Caruana will be a top contender in the 2025 edition, which will feature some of the best chess players in the world.

Bahadur Singh Sagoo elected AFI president, Sandeep Mehta named secretary

Bahadur Singh Sagoo, a 2002 Asian Games shot put champion, was elected unopposed as president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), with Sandeep Mehta named secretary. Sagoo succeeds Adille Sumariwalla and plans to continue the progress made under his predecessor. The AFI is focusing on strengthening Indian athletics and aims for success at the 2028 Olympics, promoting growth across all levels.



ECB rejects boycott call for Afghanistan Champions Trophy game

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has rejected calls to boycott England's Champions Trophy match against Afghanistan due to women's rights concerns under Taliban rule. Despite over 160 politicians petitioning for a boycott, ECB chief Richard Gould stressed the need for a coordinated ICC-wide approach to address women's rights in Afghanistan while avoiding unilateral actions from individual nations.

Johnny Depp warns fans about online scammers impersonating him



Johnny Depp has issued a warning to his fans on Instagram about scammers who are impersonating him online. He cautioned that deceptive accounts, both on social media and via email, are being used to target his followers.

Depp emphasized that neither he nor his team would ever ask for money or personal information. He also listed his official social media handles, urging fans to be cautious of accounts claiming to be him, especially those offering paid meetings or fan memberships. The actor reminded followers that he does not interact directly with fans on social media platforms like X/Twitter, Snapchat, or Discord.

Legendary singer P. Jayachandran passes away at the age of 80



Indian music legend P. Jayachandran, known for his exceptional singing career spanning over six decades, passed away at the age of 80 in Thrissur, Kerala. The iconic singer had been battling a terminal illness and passed away at a local hospital after being rushed in an unconscious state.

With over 16,000 songs to his name, Jayachandran's contributions to Indian cinema and music were immense. He won several prestigious awards, including the National Award for Best Singer, and was honored with the J.C. Daniel Prize in 2020 for his exceptional work in the Malayalam film industry.

Born into the Cochin Royal family in 1944, Jayachandran's passion for music led him to leave his brief career in zoology and pursue singing professionally. Over his career, he worked with some of the industry's most renowned composers, including M. Keeravani and A.R. Rahman. Jayachandran's legacy in both the Malayalam and Tamil film industries remains unparalleled, and his contributions to the art form will continue to inspire generations.

Keinemusik's &ME to perform in India for the first time

The iconic Berlin-based electronic music collective "Keinemusik" is set to make its India debut with DJ &ME headlining a two-city tour. The performances will take place at Mumbai's Mahalaxmi Race Course on March 22nd, followed by a show in Bengaluru on March 23rd at Nice Grounds.

Known for its unique blend of tribal influences and melodic creativity, Keinemusik has captivated music fans globally with chart-topping hits and impressive DJ sets. The collective, which includes Adam Port, Rampa, &ME, and Reznik, is especially celebrated for tracks like "Move."

&ME, a key figure in the collective, has garnered attention for his successful solo career with hits like "The Rapture Pt.II" and "Fairchild." This India tour promises



to be a significant event for electronic music fans, bringing the magic of Keinemusik's distinctive sound to Indian audiences.

Spacebound CEO Karan Singh and

Team Innovation Co-Founder Mohit Bijlani expressed their excitement at bringing this highly anticipated show to India, marking a milestone in the growing popularity of electronic music in the country.

'Harlem' to return for its final season on January 23

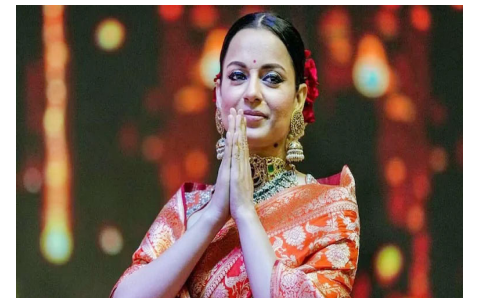
Amazon Prime Video's hit series Harlem will return for its third and final season on January 23. Created by Tracy Oliver, known for Girls Trip, the new season will explore the evolving lives of the four central women, as they confront major life changes related to career, relationships, and self-discovery.

Oliver expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to tell these powerful stories about Black women in Harlem, noting that the series' cultural impact has been profound. Head of Television at Amazon MGM Studios, Vernon Sanders, also shared his excitement, emphasizing that the final season will leave a lasting impression for years to come.

The series, which debuted in December 2021, has garnered praise for its strong performances and relevant storytelling. The show follows four friends navigating their thirties in Harlem, balancing ambition, relationships, and personal growth.

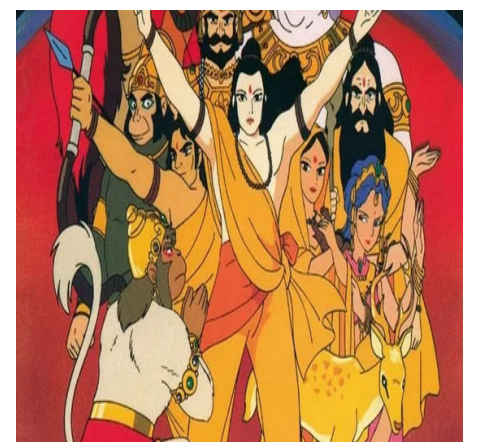


Kangana invites Priyanka Gandhi to watch 'Emergency'



Actress Kangana Ranaut, who portrays Indira Gandhi in Emergency, revealed that she invited Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to watch the film. The movie, which covers the 1975-77 Emergency period in India, highlights Gandhi's leadership with sensitivity. Kangana emphasized that the film portrays Indira Gandhi with dignity, focusing on her leadership rather than sensationalizing her personal life. Kangana also mentioned that Indira Gandhi, despite controversies, was deeply loved and celebrated as a three-time Prime Minister.

Release date set for 'Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama' anime film



Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama anime film will be released in India on January 24, 2025, in Hindi, English, Tamil, and Telugu. The movie will be available in 4K with enhanced audio. The trailer will be released on January 10.

Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad, known for Baahubali and RRR, oversaw the creative adaptation, ensuring the story resonates with modern audiences. Geek Pictures India co-founder Arjun Aggarwal highlighted the film's cultural significance, aiming to introduce the Ramayana to both old and new fans through Japanese animation.

Abhishek Bachchan becomes co-owner of the European T20 Premier League

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan has taken on a new venture as a co-owner of the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), a cricket tournament involving Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands. The league, which will take place from July 15 to August 3, aims to bring together top cricket talent from these countries and around the world.

Abhishek expressed his excitement about the project, noting that cricket's global appeal continues to grow, especially with its inclusion in the 2028 Olympics. He emphasized that the ETPL offers a unique opportunity to elevate European cricket, inspiring young talent and expanding the sport's reach.

The ETPL, which will feature six teams from major European cities, is poised to become a significant platform for international cricket, with extensive media coverage ensuring global visibility. The league's development has received the backing of cricket boards from the

participating nations, along with strategic partners Rules Sport Tech.





Friday, 10 January 2025

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' to release reloaded version with added footage



The makers of Pushpa 2: The Rule have announced the release of a reloaded version of the film, adding 20 minutes of new footage. The re-edited version of the film will be available in cinemas starting January 11.

Pushpa 2: The Rule has already been a massive success, grossing over Rs.1831 crore globally within just 32 days. The film, which features Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, tells the story of Pushpa Raj's rise to power within a red sandalwood syndicate. Directed by Sukumar, Pushpa 2 is part of a trilogy and has been hailed as one of India's biggest box office successes.

SS Rajamouli launches India's first Dolby-certified postproduction facility at Annapurna Studios

South actor Nagarjuna's iconic Annapurna Studios has unveiled India's first Dolby-certified postproduction facility for both cinema and home viewing. The facility, aimed at revolutionizing the Indian film industry, was inaugurated by filmmaker SS Rajamouli, the visionary behind the "Baahubali" franchise. Nagarjuna, who is the Vice Chairman of the studio, also attended the event.

Rajamouli expressed his excitement at the opening, reminiscing about the struggles he faced during the making of "RRR." He recalled traveling to Germany for Dolby Vision grading, unable to experience it in India. He now looks forward to future projects, especially with Dolby Vision grading available locally. "Watching a film in Dolby Vision offers unparalleled clarity and storytelling depth. I'm excited for audiences to experience it," he shared.

Nagarjuna emphasized that the launch of this state-of-the-art facility aligns with Annapurna Studios' ongoing mission to innovate in the Indian film industry. He pointed out the studio's legacy, which has already set a benchmark with virtual production, and praised the collaboration



with Dolby as an important step in celebrating their 50th year.

Supriya Yarlagadda, Executive Director of Annapurna Studios, highlighted the transformative impact the Dolby-certified

facility will have on film production in India. The event featured an exclusive screening of scenes from Rajamouli's "RRR" in Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos, marking another milestone for Indian cinema.

First look of India's first sea horror-adventure 'Kingston' revealed



Actor Sivakarthikeyan has unveiled the first look of Kingston, a film that marks the debut of actor and National award-winning music director G V Prakash as a producer.

Kingston has generated significant buzz in the film industry, especially due to its distinction as India's first sea horror adventure. Produced by G V Prakash and Zee Studios, the film also stars Prakash in the lead role. Zee Studios Chief Business Officer Umesh Kr Bansal emphasized that the film's unique sea fantasy adventure backdrop would captivate audiences.

Directed by debutant Kamal Prakash, Kingston also stars Divya Bharathi alongside a talented ensemble cast, including Antony, Chethan, Kumaravel, and Sabu Mohan. The film features Gokul Benoy as the cinematographer and music composed by G V Prakash Kumar.

The movie is a significant milestone for Prakash, marking his 25th film as an actor while also serving as his first major production venture. The teaser for Kingston is scheduled to launch on January 9, promising fans an exciting glimpse into this ambitious project.

Alec Baldwin files lawsuit against prosecutors involved in Rust manslaughter case



Alec Baldwin has filed a civil lawsuit against prosecutors and investigators involved in his earlier criminal manslaughter trial in connection with the tragic shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of Rust. Baldwin alleges malicious prosecution and defamation by the special prosecutor Kari Morrissey and Santa Fe District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies,

claiming they mishandled evidence and intentionally sought to convict him.

In his complaint, Baldwin accuses the prosecution team of pursuing the case without regard for the facts. He alleges that Morrissey, in particular, sought to target Baldwin personally, driven by a desire to "teach him a lesson" and advance her own political career. The lawsuit also highlights claims of evidence concealment and perjury.

The actor is seeking punitive damages, stating that the defendants acted with "reckless indifference" to his rights. His legal team, including attorneys Luke Nikas and Alex Spiro, have emphasized that the lawsuit aims to hold the defendants accountable for their actions and prevent future miscarriages of justice.

The fatal incident occurred on October 21, 2021, when Baldwin accidentally discharged a firearm that killed Hutchins. Initially charged with involuntary manslaughter, Baldwin faced legal setbacks before the case was ultimately dismissed in July 2024 due to mishandled evidence.

Blessy celebrates as 'The Goat Life' reaches final Oscar shortlist

Director Blessy is thrilled that his film The Goat Life, the largest-ever desert film in India, has made it to the final shortlist for nominations at the 97th Academy Awards.

The film is competing in the Best Film category and is aiming for a spot in the top 10 to move forward in the nomination process.

Blessy shared his excitement, noting that the positive feedback during

screenings in the US and Europe has been overwhelming.

The film, which has grossed Rs 100 crore within just nine days of its release, explores the journey of an Indian man forced into labor as a goat herder in the Saudi Arabian desert.

The film stars Prithviraj, Hollywood actor Jimmy Jean-Louis, Amala Paul, and others. A.R. Rahman and Resul Pookutty contributed to the music and sound design, enhancing the film's global appeal.

Salman Khan upgrades security after threats from gangster Lawrence Bishnoi



After receiving threats from gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has taken further steps to secure his home. The actor's residence, Galaxy Apartments, has seen an upgrade in security, with new bullet-proof glass installed in the balcony where he often greets fans.

In addition to the enhanced glass, the apartment now features CCTV cameras and an advanced security system to ensure the actor's safety. Salman lives in a 1 BHK flat on the ground floor, while his parents reside on the first floor. The upgrades follow an incident last year where two men fired shots at his residence, believed to be orchestrated by Bishnoi's gang.

Salman Khan has been keeping a lower profile, limiting his public appearances after the October killing of his close friend Baba Siddique, who was reportedly targeted by the same gang.

On the work front, Salman will soon appear in the film Sikandar, directed by A. R. Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.

Sanatan ecosystem launches in Chicago, uniting community businesses for growth and collaboration

The ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation marked a significant milestone with the successful hosting of its inaugural business networking event, aimed at fostering collaboration and support among Sanatan Dharma communities. The event welcomed a diverse gathering of influential business owners, company representatives, community leaders, and entrepreneurs who proudly presented their Sanatan business certificates, logos, and ID cards.

The highlight of the evening was a live demonstration of the Sanatan/Hindu Search Engine, a revolutionary tool designed to connect businesses owned by members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Jain communities. The platform allows users to locate Sanatan-owned businesses within Chicago, India, and around the world, with the goal of keeping hard-earned money within the community while promoting ethical and contamination-free food standards.

Attendees were impressed by the seamless QR code scanning feature integrated with the business certificates



and logos, making it easier to verify and support community-owned businesses.

Empowering the Sanatan community Hemant Patel, one of the initiative's key advocates, spoke passionately about the Sanatan Ecosystem project. He emphasized its wide-ranging benefits, from supporting Hindu girls in finding trustworthy life partners and protecting them from fake profiles, to providing a platform for business owners to grow and consumers to access ethically

verified products. Patel also highlighted the opportunity for individuals and organizations to earn side income by participating in this initiative.

A collective vision for growth Several prominent business owners and community leaders shared their insights and endorsements of the project, underscoring its potential to transform the economic and social fabric of the Sanatan Dharma communities. Their remarks will be shared in detail in the



coming days.

The ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their enthusiastic support, which contributed to the event's overwhelming success. As the event concluded, the Foundation extended an open invitation to those who have yet to join the Sanatan family. To become a part of this groundbreaking initiative, visit: <https://www.shreesanatan.com>.

Stay tuned for updates and the latest developments in the Sanatan Ecosystem initiative, as the community takes a bold step toward unity, empowerment, and growth.

Guru Asha Adiga's rejuvenated productions: A landmark year for Indian classical arts



Guru Asha Adiga, a celebrated figure in Indian classical dance and music, has had a transformative year, bringing Indian art forms to the global stage through her innovative productions in 2024. Supported by Acharya Performing Arts Academy and Nupura Geetha, her efforts have elevated Indian classical arts, blending tradition with modern storytelling.

Preserving tradition through productions

The year began with Tridevi, a grand tribute to Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati, launched in Mysore,



India. Praised for its artistry, the production featured live orchestras and collaboration with Aditi Acharya. Esteemed guests, including Sangeet Natak Academy Awardee Vasundhara Doreswami, lauded its cultural significance.

In April, Guru Asha debuted Samkshiptha Ramayana at the American Natya Festival in St. Louis, retelling the Ramayana in a condensed format. The Sanskrit dance drama captivated audiences, earning accolades

for its creativity.

Shiva-Shakti and milestone celebrations

August marked the premiere of Shiva-Shakti in Oswego, Illinois, exploring the cosmic union of Shiva and Shakti. The production celebrated Acharya Performing Arts Academy's 15th anniversary, featuring over 80 students in diverse performances.

Later, the Acharya Festival in Schaumburg showcased a unique

collaboration between Indian classical and Western music, demonstrating the versatility of Indian arts.

Sacred storytelling

The year concluded with Sri Satyanarayana Katha, performed during the Maha Kumbhabhishekam at Aurora Balaji Temple. This sacred production combined devotion and classical dance, portraying the revered Satyanarayana Puja stories.

A global impact

Guru Asha Adiga's productions have inspired audiences worldwide, preserving Indian classical traditions while fostering innovation. With over 25 Arangetrams in 2024, her contributions continue to enrich the global cultural landscape, solidifying her legacy as a cultural ambassador.



FIA delivers warmth and compassion through third annual coat drive in Chicago

By: Dr Avi Verma

On a snowy winter day, the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Chicago, delivered warmth and compassion to hundreds in need through its third annual Coat Drive. More than 400 coats and blankets were distributed to Hesed House Shelter in Aurora, IL, and the Humanitarian Service Project Shelter in Carol Stream, IL, bringing comfort and dignity to individuals and families battling the harsh Midwest winter. The event took place on January 2, 2025, marking another year of FIA's commitment to community care.

Under the visionary leadership of Founder Chairman Sunil Shah, President Pratibha Jairath, and President-Elect Anu Malhotra, FIA's efforts highlighted the spirit of community care and social responsibility. This initiative was made possible through the dedication of Executive Vice President Chandini Duvvuri, whose tireless coordination ensured the success of the mission.



FIA Team and Team from Hesed House Shelter, Aurora, IL

Delivering warmth and comfort

The day began at Hesed House in Aurora, IL, a nationally recognized model for addressing homelessness. Volunteers braved the snow to unload

boxes of coats and blankets, ensuring residents would face the cold with renewed hope.

Hesed House's Director of Family Shelter, Karen Swandby, expressed gratitude for FIA's contribution, emphasizing its alignment with the shelter's mission of restoring dignity to those in need.

kindness," said President-Elect Anu Malhotra. Founder Chairman Sunil Shah added, "This initiative is about showing our community members that they are seen, valued, and not forgotten." FIA President Pratibha Jairath expressed pride in the team's commitment, noting, "We ensured many would be shielded from the biting cold."

Acknowledging contributions

This achievement was made possible by the unwavering commitment of FIA's volunteers and the generous support of donors who contributed funds to procure coats and blankets. Their dedication and collective effort were instrumental in making the Coat Drive a resounding success.

About the FIA

The Federation of Indian Associations is a leading nonprofit organization committed to cultural integration and humanitarian efforts. Through initiatives like the Coat Drive, FIA fosters unity and builds a compassionate community. For more information, visit www.fia-il.us.

Later, the FIA team extended their outreach to the Humanitarian Service Project Shelter in Carol Stream, IL, which serves families and senior citizens across DuPage and Kane counties. With the support of HSP's Executive Director, Kristine Senne, and Co-Founder, Floyd Kettering, the donations provided essential relief to the shelter's constituents.

A community united

The Coat Drive was more than a distribution effort—it was a message of care and inclusion. "Together, we're not just donating coats; we're sharing



FIA Team and Team from Hesed House Shelter, Aurora, IL



FIA Team and Team from Humanitarian Services Project after unloading at the Warehouse



FIA Team and Team from Humanitarian Services Project Carol Stream

Sanatan Hindu Ecosystem: Practical solutions to safeguard culture and values

By: Hemant Patel

The Hindu community today faces growing threats, including social, economic, and cultural pressures that risk eroding its traditions and values. These challenges demand cohesive and practical solutions to protect the rights, businesses, and beliefs of Hindus. The Sanatan Hindu Ecosystem, led by the ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation, offers such a framework, designed to safeguard the community and promote its self-reliance. This initiative addresses critical issues facing Hindus while promoting economic growth, security, and cultural preservation.

One major concern is the rising threat of fake profiles on matrimonial platforms, which have led to serious issues, including cases of Love Jihad. To combat this, the ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation has launched Vivaah, a secure matrimonial platform where every profile undergoes thorough verification, ensuring the safety of Hindu girls. Another challenge Hindus face is the lack of a cohesive business network. Without a strong support system, many Hindus turn to non-community businesses, undermining their economic independence. The Sanatan Ecosystem provides a global search engine for Hindu-owned businesses, fostering a self-

sustaining marketplace that strengthens community ties and supports mutual growth.

Hindus are also facing active boycotts of their businesses, which isolates them from the broader economic progress. The Sanatan Ecosystem promotes and supports Hindu-owned enterprises, ensuring their survival by encouraging community members to consciously support these businesses. Additionally, rising concerns over food safety and contamination, such as spitting on food and unhygienic practices, put the health and dignity of Hindus at risk. To address this, the Sanatan Ecosystem includes a food safety certification process that ensures food businesses meet strict hygiene standards, aligning with Hindu dietary laws and values.

Dietary restrictions, such as avoiding cow meat, are central to Hindu beliefs, but many businesses do not cater to these needs. The Sanatan Ecosystem certifies businesses that offer cow-meat-free products, ensuring that Hindu consumers can trust what they are purchasing. In line with Hinduism's spiritual values, the Ecosystem also promotes businesses that encourage spiritual harmony, with members required to chant specific mantras that foster positivity, purity,

and prosperity in all interactions.

Another pressing issue is religious exploitation in commerce, where religious certifications are misused to fund activities that counter Hindu values. The Sanatan Ecosystem ensures that funds spent within its framework are directed towards supporting Dharma and avoiding adversarial causes. Additionally, the absence of a Hindu-specific certification system has created confusion and risks for Hindu consumers. Through its certification process, the Sanatan Ecosystem helps identify products and services that align with Hindu beliefs, making it easier for consumers to make informed choices.

Employment discrimination against Hindus, especially due to religious certifications that favor other communities, has also hindered their economic progress. The Sanatan Ecosystem promotes Hindu businesses and services, helping create a more equitable and inclusive economic environment. Another growing concern is the diversion of profits by businesses to fund harmful activities, which threatens Hindu interests and values. The Ecosystem ensures that financial resources stay within the community, supporting initiatives that protect and advance Hindu values.

For Hindus who adhere to strict dietary laws, the widespread availability of Halal meat in markets and restaurants presents an additional challenge. The Sanatan Ecosystem addresses this issue by promoting businesses that offer non-Halal alternatives, ensuring Hindus have access to food that respects their dietary restrictions. Ultimately, the Sanatan Ecosystem provides a comprehensive solution to the growing existential crisis faced by Hindus, offering a global platform that connects and supports Hindu individuals, businesses, and organizations while preserving cultural and religious values.

To help protect, empower, and preserve Hindu heritage, individuals and businesses can join the Sanatan Ecosystem by registering at ShreeSanatan.com. The initiative encourages everyone, whether they own a business or not, to contribute to this global movement. By supporting this platform, Hindus can collectively address these existential challenges, strengthen their community, and safeguard their values for future generations.

For more information, visit ShreeSanatan.com.

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यदि आप अपने व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं, या दुनिया भर में हिंदू व्यवसाय, उत्पाद, रेस्टोरेंट, सेवाएं, या जीवनसाथी की तलाश कर रहे हैं, तो अभी जुड़ें। कुछ ही मिनटों में हिंदू प्रमाणपत्र, लोगो, या ID डाउनलोड करें!


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Friday, 10 January 2025

Siddha Peeth Mahabali Sankat Mochan Mandir hosts grand religious gathering on January 8



On January 8, a grand weekly Havan Yagna and Sandhya Chowki, the 1236th in the series, were held at the Siddha Peeth Mahabali Sankat Mochan Shri Hanuman Mandir in Shankaracharya Nagar, Haibowal Kalan. The Sandhya Chowki was conducted with great reverence, drawing a large crowd of devotees.

The day began with a continuous Havan Yagna, during which families gathered to offer prayers for the welfare of the world.

The main yajmans for the occasion included Sunita Bhandari, Nitin Bhandari, Manya Bhandari, Aarav Bhandari, Neeraj Sharma, Rajiv Gupta, Pranidhi Sharma, Sahil Gupta, and their families. The Havan Yagna was performed in accordance with all traditional rituals by a team of temple priests.

As it was the first Tuesday of the new year, January 8, the evening featured a soulful bhajan performance by a group of 51 singers, captivating the devotees with their devotional songs. The bhajan session began with blessings from Lord Ganesha.

During the event, representatives of the temple committee spoke about



the deep faith in Siddha Peeth, highlighting that devotees who come with sincere devotion often leave with their wishes fulfilled.

They also remembered the late Ashok Jain for his unwavering dedication to Lord Balaji and his significant role in the temple's development. The committee pledged to continue serving the temple with the same level of devotion.

The chief guest, Shri Abhinav Goswami Ji, the revered Goswami of Shri Banke Bihari Mandir in Vrindavan, graced the gathering along with Radhika Goswami, Ishaan, Dr. Vaani, and their family.

Other dignitaries, including Advocate Gaurav Khurana Bagga, were honored with temple mementos by Aman Jain and Anuj Madaan on behalf of the temple committee. Bhog was offered in all the courts, and holy water was sprinkled on the devotees. The Sandhya Chowki concluded with the recital of the Hanuman Chalisa.

The event saw a large turnout, including temple committee members, local residents, and representatives from various social and religious organizations, underscoring the deep-rooted faith and devotion of the community.

VHPA's landmark 2024: Celebrating cultural milestones and advocacy, with IndoUS Tribune's continued support

● By: Dr Avi Verma

The year 2024 proved to be a landmark period for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), marked by significant milestones and achievements under the leadership of outgoing President Ajay Shah. As the presidency transitioned to Tejalben Shah on January 1, 2025, VHPA reflects on 2024, a year filled with impactful advocacy, community engagement, and cultural preservation.

One of the most defining moments for VHPA in 2024 was its active participation in commemorating the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, which marked the culmination of a 496-year-long struggle. In celebration of this historic event, VHPA organized an array of remarkable programs. Car rallies and Tesla light shows took place in over 10 metropolitan areas, billboards were displayed at more than 40 locations, and LED vans showcased the "Ramayana Around the World" exhibit in cities like New York and San Francisco. A replica of the Ram Lalla murti also traveled across 49 states, visiting 800 mandirs and covering more than 27,000 miles, demonstrating the growing vibrancy of Hindu Dharma within the diaspora.

The year also witnessed the 17th Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference (HMEC) and the 11th Hindu Mandir Priests' Conference (HMPC), which brought together nearly 200 delegates from 65 temples across the US and Canada in Raleigh, North Carolina. The theme of the conferences, "Hindu Diaspora: Deepening Their Sanatan Dharma Roots," focused on encouraging mandirs to become community hubs that offer both spiritual and practical support. Several priests were recognized with prestigious awards, including the Archaka Bhushan and Archaka Shree honors.

VHPA's flagship initiative, the Support-A-Child program, experienced a record-breaking year, with \$357,365 raised to support 2,676 children. The Soul of Kashi music group played a significant role in expanding the program's reach by



performing at 18 fundraising events nationwide. The organization set a goal to support 4,500 children in 2025, further solidifying the success of its charitable efforts.

The focus on youth and family engagement continued to thrive, with VHPA's Bal Vihars operating in multiple cities, serving over 400 students and 60 volunteers. Two summer camps provided immersive cultural experiences for families, helping strengthen the bond between the younger generation and their heritage.

VHPA also made significant strides in promoting inclusivity and celebrating Hindu contributions to society. The realization of a long-held dream, Hindu Heritage Month, was celebrated alongside other diversity events, such as Ambedkar Jayanti, Black History Month, and Pride Month, under the HinduPACT initiative.

The organization expanded its reach by establishing new chapters in Dallas and Virginia, while revitalizing the chapter in Houston. These efforts were complemented by community events like Hindu Heritage Day and a cricket tournament in Boston, and a fundraising success in Houston, where \$125,000 was raised for the Support-A-Child program.

VHPA's advocacy efforts took a significant leap forward with its

support for HinduPACT's initiatives, including CHINGARI, HinduVote, and HAHRI. These grassroots movements, aimed at empowering the Hindu community and engaging with important political and social issues, were further bolstered by the announcement that HinduPACT would now operate as a separate nonprofit organization.

As Ajay Shah concluded his tenure as President, he left behind a legacy of innovative projects and a steadfast commitment to service. His leadership has set the stage for a promising future as Tejalben Shah takes the helm in 2025, poised to continue the important work that VHPA has carried out in the past year.

The IndoUS Tribune, alongside its parent company, Ansal Media Group of USA (AMGU), has been a strong supporter of VHPA's mission. The partnership underscores the shared commitment between both organizations to advance cultural pride, unity, and advocacy for the Hindu community. IndoUS Tribune's focus on raising awareness of cultural, political, and social issues has found a natural alignment with VHPA's initiatives, especially in addressing the challenges faced by Hindu communities both in the US and globally.

Dr. Avi Verma, CEO and Publisher of IndoUS Tribune and President

of Jagran TV Chicago, highlighted the importance of this partnership: "Our platform stands as a testament to the values of unity, justice, and cultural enrichment. Through our ongoing partnership with organizations like VHPA, we have the opportunity to elevate crucial causes and give voice to the achievements and challenges of the global Hindu community."

IndoUS Tribune and AMGU have long been advocates for human rights, social justice, and cultural preservation, and their support of VHPA's initiatives reflects a shared goal to foster understanding and solidarity within the Hindu diaspora. This collaboration is especially significant in light of growing concerns such as the recent violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, with both organizations working to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and push for greater advocacy on behalf of Hindu communities worldwide.

As both VHPA and IndoUS Tribune look toward the future, their ongoing commitment to cultural celebration, advocacy, and justice remains steadfast. With shared objectives and mutual respect, both organizations continue to create lasting partnerships that work toward ensuring the prosperity, security, and continued growth of the Hindu community for generations to come.



भगवद्गीता: ईश्वर का साक्षात् स्वरूप, केवल एक ग्रंथ नहीं

पद्मपुराण के उत्तरखंड में वर्णित भगवान विष्णु और माता लक्ष्मी के वातालाप में भगवान विष्णु के ध्यान का रहस्य उजागर होता है। इस वातालाप में माता लक्ष्मी भगवान महाविष्णु से प्रश्न करती हैं कि वे क्षीरसागर में शयन करते हुए अपने ऐश्वर्य और शक्ति से उदासीन क्यों प्रतीत होते हैं। इस पर भगवान महाविष्णु उत्तर देते हैं कि वे वास्तव में सो नहीं रहे हैं, बल्कि अपने अंतर में स्थित महेश्वर स्वरूप का ध्यान कर रहे हैं।

भगवान विष्णु का उत्तर

भगवान विष्णु बताते हैं कि उनका यह शरीर मायामय है और तात्विक नहीं है। वे कहते हैं:

सुमुखा! मैं अपने भीतर स्थित उस अद्वितीय ज्योति का साक्षात्कार करता हूँ, जिसे योगी अपने हृदय में देखते हैं। यह स्वरूप शुद्ध ज्ञान, अखंड आनंद और अद्वैतमय है। यह आदि और अंत से रहित, शोक और रोग से मुक्त, और परम सुन्दर है। भगवान महाविष्णु स्पष्ट करते हैं कि यह महेश्वर ज्योति ही वेदों का सार है और यही ज्ञानमय स्वरूप संपूर्ण सृष्टि का आधार है।

भगवद्गीता के 18 अध्यायों को भगवान विष्णु के दिव्य शरीर के प्रतीक रूप में वर्णित करते हुए, हर अध्याय को निम्नलिखित रूप से विभाजित किया गया है:

भगवान विष्णु के पाँच मुख

भगवान के पाँच मुख ज्ञान और उपदेश के प्रतीक हैं। गीता के इन अध्यायों में योग, कर्म, और ज्ञान के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डाला गया है:

- ▶ अर्जुन विषाद योग (अध्याय 1)
- ▶ सांख्य योग (अध्याय 2)
- ▶ कर्म योग (अध्याय 3)
- ▶ ज्ञान-कर्म-संन्यास योग (अध्याय 4)
- ▶ कर्म-संन्यास योग (अध्याय 5)

भगवान की दस भुजाएँ

दस अध्याय भगवान की शक्ति और संरक्षण क्षमता का प्रतीक हैं। गीता के ये अध्याय जीवन के विविध आयामों

और मार्गदर्शन को दर्शाते हैं:

- ▶ ध्यान योग (अध्याय 6)
- ▶ ज्ञान-विज्ञान योग (अध्याय 7)
- ▶ अक्षर-ब्रह्म योग (अध्याय 8)
- ▶ राज-विद्या-राज-गुह्य योग (अध्याय 9)
- ▶ विभूति योग (अध्याय 10)
- ▶ विश्वरूप दर्शन योग (अध्याय 11)
- ▶ भक्ति योग (अध्याय 12)
- ▶ क्षेत्र-क्षेत्रज्ञ विभाग योग (अध्याय 13)
- ▶ गुणत्रय विभाग योग (अध्याय 14)
- ▶ पुरुषोत्तम योग (अध्याय 15)

भगवान का उदर

भगवान का उदर समस्त सृष्टि और पालन का केंद्र है। गीता का यह अध्याय सब कुछ समेटे हुए है:

- ▶ दैवासुर सम्पद विभाग योग (अध्याय 16)

भगवान के दो चरणकमल

भगवान के चरणकमल शरणागति और मोक्ष का प्रतीक हैं। अंतिम दो अध्याय इस शाश्वत सत्य का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं:

- ▶ श्रद्धा त्रय विभाग योग (अध्याय 17)
- ▶ मोक्ष संन्यास योग (अध्याय 18)

भगवद्गीता के अध्याय न केवल भगवान विष्णु के दिव्य शरीर का प्रतीक हैं, बल्कि मानव जीवन के हर पहलू को दिशा और प्रेरणा प्रदान करते हैं। गीता का पाठ हमारे भीतर भगवान की अनुभूति कराकर हमें मोक्ष की ओर अग्रसर करता है।

महाविष्णु का महेश्वर स्वरूप

भगवान विष्णु ने कहा, हे प्रिये! मेरा बाह्य स्वरूप महाविष्णु है, लेकिन मेरा आंतरिक स्वरूप साक्षात् महेश्वर है। महाभारत के भगवद्गीता में जिस परमात्मा की व्याख्या की गई है, वह महेश्वर ही हैं।

संदेश

इस वातालाप से स्पष्ट होता है कि भगवान विष्णु अपने



अंतर में महेश्वर का ध्यान करते हैं, जो अद्वैत और अद्वितीय सत्य का प्रतीक है। भगवद्गीता, जो इस ज्ञान को प्रस्तुत करती है, केवल एक ग्रंथ नहीं, बल्कि स्वयं ईश्वर का वाङ्मयी स्वरूप है। गीता का प्रतिदिन अभ्यास करने से महान पापों का नाश होता है और आत्मा

परमानंद को प्राप्त करती है।

यह वातालाप हमें सिखाता है कि समस्त सृष्टि एक ही दिव्य शक्ति से प्रेरित है, और ज्ञान एवं ध्यान के माध्यम से इस सत्य को अनुभव किया जा सकता है।

Health Savings Account - HSA

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSAs, 12/2003-) are interesting alternatives to conventional employer group insurance. They have triple+ benefits: (1) Contributions are pre-tax or tax-deductible (itemized Schedule A not necessary); (2) account assets grow tax-free; (3) qualified withdrawals under age 65 are tax-free & without penalty; (3+) after the age 65, withdrawals for any purpose are without penalty but are taxable (& unlike the IRAs, there are no RMDs).

So, the HSAs can serve the dual purposes of qualified healthcare expenses & retirement savings. Some go as far as to suggest the use of taxable funds for qualified expenses, if possible, & let the HSAs build up for retirement. If needed, the past qualified expenses with receipts can be self-reimbursed anytime. The HSAs are most beneficial for younger people with lower medical expenses & higher incomes. State tax benefits for HSAs vary by states.

The HSAs are used in conjunction with high-deductible health insurance plans (HDHPs). The HSAs are owned by persons/ employees & are portable. Any unspent amounts automatically rollover to the next year. Besides the HDHP, the HSA owners cannot have other health insurance & cannot be dependents; the HSAs become passive (i.e. no more contributions) once the MEDICARE starts. The HSAs can have beneficiaries, but only spouses can have Inherited HSAs; non-spouses can inherit them only as taxable accounts (net of qualified expenses for the deceased).

The HSA sponsors may have account & transaction fees. The HSAs can be invested according to your personal investment style (but beware of market risks); it is a good idea to keep deductible amounts available as cash in the spending account. It seems that Fidelity HSA allows reinvestments into the same investments, or reinvestments can be directed to core/cash account. There isn't much clear information available on this, but several HSAs don't allow directing reinvestments into core/cash (BNY-Mellon, HealthEquity, WageWorks, etc). Morningstar has rated the Fidelity HSA is the best for years.

The annual limits are mentioned as \$x/\$y, with \$x for individuals, \$y for families; in most cases, $y = 2x$, or close.



The HSAs have annual contribution limits (\$4,300/\$8,550 for 2025). These can be from individuals themselves, employers, even relatives/friends; all contributions vest immediately. Additional catch-up contributions are allowed for 55+ (\$1,000 for 2025). The deadline for contributions for any year is April 15th of the following year. Excess contributions are taxed at 6%. HSA contributions are not allowed if on Medicare; but the HSA funds can still be used when on Medicare. The HSA funds also remain available after discontinuing the HSA coverage. As their name suggests, the HDHPs have high-deductibles (\$1,650/\$3,300 for 2025) but also lower premiums. Plans' maximum out-of-pocket expenses are capped (\$8,300/\$16,600 for 2025).

Retirement Savers Credit doesn't apply to HSA because HSA isn't really a retirement vehicle although it may do double duty for it.

The HSAs cover qualified healthcare expenses beyond

deductibles that are not covered by the HDHPs; the amounts beyond deductibles may be split-covered. These qualified expenses include medical, dental, vision, prescriptions, some nonprescription/ OTC drugs & products, long term care insurance (LTCI; premiums & expenses), COBRA premiums, Medicare premiums for 65+ (but NOT regular health insurance premiums, nor Medigap/ Medicare Supplemental premiums). Penalty for nonqualified expenses before 65 is 20% plus income tax. Qualified expenses may be past, current or future (backed by records). The HSA sponsors may issue HSA debit cards or checkbooks for simplified processing.

Keep good records for HSA contributions, withdrawals & qualified expenses (past & current, claimed & unclaimed); note that there are no deadlines for self-reimbursements that are supported by receipts/ records. While prior approvals are not required for withdrawals, there are severe

penalties for undocumented/ unsupported qualified expenses.

There are some advantages of EMPLOYER-sponsored HSAs over PERSONAL HSAs. While income tax benefits apply to both, the employer HSAs may offer employer contributions & convenience of payroll deductions (but Social Security & Medicare taxes are avoided on HSA contributions).

Watch the proposed bipartisan changes to the HSA for seniors, called HSSA (Health Savings for Seniors Act), that will allow contributions to the HSA when on Medicare, but disallow (1) Using the HSA for Medicare premiums, (2) Eliminate penalty-free withdrawals after 65 for nonmedical use (the abovementioned (3+) benefit of HSA). It revives a similar 2019 proposal that didn't go anywhere.

For more information, see ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/



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सप्तश्लोकी दुर्गा, हमारे आदरणीय ग्रंथ दुर्गा सप्तशती का एक संक्षिप्त रूप है, जिसमें माता दुर्गा की स्तुति के सात सौ श्लोक हैं। यह सात श्लोक दुर्गा सप्तशती का निचोड़ है।



Rajendra Kapil
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यह सात श्लोक भक्तों को आध्यात्मिक शक्ति प्रदान करने के लिए और संकटों से रक्षा के लिए संकलित किए गये हैं। यह देवी महात्म्य का एक छोटा संस्करण है, जो मार्कण्डेय पुराण में पाया जाता है। इसे पढ़ने या जप करने से भक्तों को दुर्गा माँ की कृपा प्राप्त होती है और उनके सभी दुख और संकट दूर होते हैं। इन श्लोकों का सरल भावार्थ करने का एक विनम्र प्रयास यहाँ नीचे प्रस्तुत है।

भगवान शिव माँ दुर्गा से कहते हैं, हे देवी! तुम भक्तों के लिए सुलभ हो, और सभी कार्यों को सिद्ध करने वाली हो। कलियुग में सभी कार्यों की सिद्धि के लिए कृपया कोई उपाय बताओ। भगवान शिव के अनुरोध के उत्तर में, माँ दुर्गा कहती हैं, कि वे उन्हें और सभी भक्तों को कलियुग में सभी इच्छाओं की पूर्ति का उपाय बताएंगी। इसी संदर्भ में, दुर्गा सप्तशती के आरंभ में, सप्तश्लोकी दुर्गा का विवरण, शिव पार्वती के संवाद के रूप में, आता है। आइए इसे थोड़ा गहराई से समझने का प्रयास करें।

पहला श्लोक :

ॐ ज्ञानिनामपि चेतासि देवी भगवती हि सा ।
बलादाकृष्य मोहाय महामाया प्रयच्छति ॥१॥

- ▶ **ॐ:** प्रारंभिक ध्वनि जो सृष्टि के आदि से जुड़ी है और एक पवित्र प्रतीक है।
- ▶ **ज्ञानिनामपि चेतासि:** यहाँ बताया गया है कि देवी महामाया की शक्ति इतनी अद्भुत है कि वे ज्ञानी लोगों के मन को भी आकर्षित कर लेती हैं।
- ▶ **देवी भगवती हि सा:** देवी भगवती, जो हिंसा (शक्ति) का स्वरूप हैं। यहाँ हिंसा शब्द का अर्थ शक्ति से है, जो दुर्गा की विशेषता है।
- ▶ **बलादाकृष्य मोहाय:** वे अपनी शक्ति से सभी को आकर्षित और मोहित कर देती हैं।
- ▶ **महामाया प्रयच्छति:** महामाया अपनी माया के माध्यम से सभी को वश में कर लेती हैं।

इस श्लोक में, माँ दुर्गा को महामाया के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिनकी शक्ति इतनी विशाल है कि वे ज्ञानी लोगों के मन को भी अपने मोह में बाँध सकती हैं। यह उनकी अद्भुत शक्ति और प्रभाव को दर्शाता है।

दूसरा श्लोक:

दुर्गे स्मृता हरसि भीतिमशेषजन्तोः
स्वस्थैः स्मृता मतिमतीव शुभां ददासि ।
दारिद्र्यदुःखभयहारिणि का त्वदन्या
सर्वोपकारकरणाथ सदाद्रि चिन्ता ॥२॥

- ▶ **दुर्गे स्मृता हरसि भीतिमशेषजन्तोः:** हे दुर्गे! जब तुम्हें स्मरण किया जाता है, तो तुम सभी प्राणियों के असीमित भय को हर लेती हो। यहाँ पर दुर्गे देवी दुर्गा को संबोधित किया गया है, जो भक्तों के डर और चिन्ताओं को दूर करती हैं।
- ▶ **स्वस्थैः स्मृता मतिमतीव शुभां ददासि:** जब भक्त स्वस्थ मन से तुम्हारा स्मरण करते हैं, तब तुम उन्हें अत्यंत शुभ और सकारात्मक बुद्धि प्रदान करती हो। यह भाव दर्शाता है कि, देवी दुर्गा की भक्ति और स्मरण से भक्तों की बुद्धि शुद्ध और सकारात्मक हो जाती है।
- ▶ **दारिद्र्यदुःखभयहारिणि त्वदन्या:** तुम दारिद्र्य, दुःख और भय को दूर करने वाली हो, तुम्हारे समान अन्य कोई नहीं है। यहाँ देवी दुर्गा को ऐसी शक्ति के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है जो दुःख, दरिद्रता, और भय को हरने की

सप्तश्लोकी दुर्गा

एक सरल प्रस्तुति



क्षमता रखती हैं।

- ▶ **सर्वोपकारकरणाथ सदाद्रि चिन्ता:** तुम हमेशा सभी का उपकार करने के लिए तैयार रहती हो, तुम्हारा हृदय सदैव करुणा से भरा रहता है। इस भाव में देवी की करुणामयी प्रकृति का वर्णन किया गया है जो हमेशा भक्तों के हित में काम करती हैं।

तीसरा श्लोक:

सर्वमंगलमंगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थसाधिके ।
शरण्ये त्र्यम्बके गौरि नारायणि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥३॥

- ▶ **सर्वमंगलमंगल्ये:** जो सभी मंगलों में सबसे अधिक मंगलकारी हैं, यानी कि जो सभी प्रकार के शुभ और कल्याणकारी कार्यों का स्रोत हैं।
- ▶ **शिवे:** शिव की सगिनी, शांति और कल्याण की प्रतीक। यहाँ शिव का अर्थ सिर्फ भगवान शिव नहीं है, बल्कि शुभ और कल्याणकारी शक्ति का प्रतीक है।
- ▶ **सर्वार्थसाधिके:** जो सभी प्रकार के अर्थों या लक्ष्यों को साधने में सक्षम हैं। यानी कि जो हर एक की इच्छाओं और आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने की शक्ति रखती हैं।
- ▶ **शरण्ये:** जो शरण देने वाली हैं, जिसके पास संकट के समय में शरण ली जा सकती है।
- ▶ **त्र्यम्बके गौरि:** त्र्यम्बक (भगवान शिव) की पत्नी गौरि, जो शुभ्रता और पवित्रता का प्रतीक हैं।
- ▶ **नारायणि:** नारायण (विष्णु) की शक्ति, जो सृष्टि के पालनहार हैं। यहाँ देवी को विष्णु की पार्वशक्ति के रूप में संबोधित किया गया है।
- ▶ **नमोऽस्तुते:** तुम्हारे प्रति नमन है, तुम्हारी स्तुति है।

इस श्लोक के माध्यम से, भक्त माँ दुर्गा के उन सभी रूपों की स्तुति करते हैं जो सर्वोच्च मंगलकारी, शांतिदायक, सभी इच्छाओं की पूर्ति करने वाली, शरण देने वाली, और पवित्रता का प्रतीक हैं। यह श्लोक देवी की विविधता और उनके दिव्य गुणों को सामने लाता है।

चौथा श्लोक:

शरणागतदीनार्तपरित्राणपरायणे ।
सर्वस्वार्तिहरे देवि नारायणि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥४॥

- ▶ **शरणागतदीनार्तपरित्राणपरायणे:** जो शरण में आए हुए दुःखी और पीड़ितों की रक्षा के लिए समर्पित हैं।
- ▶ **सर्वस्वार्तिहरे:** जो सभी के दुःख और पीड़ा को हरने वाली हैं।
- ▶ **देवि नारायणि नमोऽस्तुते:** हे देवी नारायणि, आपको नमन है।

इस श्लोक में माँ दुर्गा की उस दिव्य गुण की स्तुति की गई है जो शरण में आये भक्तों का संरक्षण करती हैं और उनके दुःख-दर्द को दूर करती हैं।

पांचवा श्लोक:

सर्वस्वरूपे सवेशे सर्वशक्तिसमन्विते ।
भयेभ्यस्त्राहि नो देवि दुर्गे देवि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥५॥

- ▶ **सर्वस्वरूपे:** जो सभी स्वरूपों में विद्यमान हैं, अर्थात् माँ दुर्गा हर एक चीज में मौजूद हैं।
- ▶ **सवेशे:** सभी की ईश्वरी शक्ति और सभी की अधिपति है।
- ▶ **सर्वशक्तिसमन्विते:** सभी शक्तियों से युक्त, यानी कि माँ दुर्गा के पास सभी शक्तियाँ हैं।
- ▶ **भयेभ्यस्त्राहि नो देवि:** हे देवी, हमें सभी प्रकार के भय से रक्षा करें।
- ▶ **दुर्गे देवि नमोऽस्तुते:** हे दुर्गा देवी, आपको नमन है।

इस श्लोक के माध्यम से, भक्त माँ दुर्गा की सर्वशक्तिमत्ता और सर्वोच्चता को स्वीकार करते हैं और उनसे जीवन के सभी भयों और चिन्ताओं से मुक्ति की कामना करते हैं। यह श्लोक भक्तों को यह विश्वास दिलाता है कि माँ दुर्गा की शरण में आकर वे सभी प्रकार के भय और संकटों से मुक्त हो सकते हैं।

छठा श्लोक:

रोगानशेषानपहंसि तुष्टा रुष्टा तु
कामान सकलानभीष्टान ।
त्वामाश्रितानां न विपन्नराणां त्वामाश्रिता
ह्याश्रयतां प्रयान्ति ॥६॥

- ▶ **रोगानशेषानपहंसि तुष्टा रुष्टा तु:** जब आप प्रसन्न होती हैं, तो आप रोगों और दुःखों को दूर कर देती हैं। यहाँ देवी दुर्गा की उस शक्ति का वर्णन किया गया है जिससे वे अपने भक्तों के रोग और दुःख को नष्ट कर देती हैं।
- ▶ **रुष्टा तु कामान सकलानभीष्टान:** जब आप रुष्ट होती हैं, तो सभी अनिष्ट (अनचाहे) कामनाएँ नष्ट हो जाती हैं। इस श्लोक में यह दर्शाता गया है कि देवी के असंतुष्ट होने पर भी उनकी शक्ति से अनचाहे और हानिकारक परिणाम दूर हो जाते हैं।
- ▶ **त्वामाश्रितानां न विपन्नराणां:** जो आपकी शरण में आते हैं, उनका कभी भी विनाश नहीं होता। इस लाइन से पता चलता है कि जो लोग देवी दुर्गा की शरण में आते हैं, उनकी रक्षा हमेशा की जाती है।

▶ **त्वामाश्रिता ह्याश्रयतां प्रयान्ति:** जो आपकी शरण लेते हैं, वे अन्य लोगों के लिए आश्रय बन जाते हैं। इस भाग में बताया गया है कि देवी दुर्गा की शरण में आये लोग खुद भी दूसरों के लिए सहारा और संरक्षण का स्रोत बन जाते हैं।

इस श्लोक के माध्यम से, माँ दुर्गा की वह दिव्य शक्ति और करुणा की स्तुति की गई है, जो भक्तों के रोगों और दुखों को दूर करती है, उनकी अनचाही कामनाओं को नष्ट करती है, और उन्हें एक सुरक्षित और सहायक आश्रय प्रदान करती है।

सातवाँ और अंतिम श्लोक:

सवाबाधाप्रशमनं त्रैलोक्यस्याखिलेश्वरि ।
एवमेव त्वया कार्यमस्मद्देरि विनाशनम् ॥७॥

- ▶ **सवाबाधाप्रशमनं:** जो सभी प्रकार की बाधाओं का शमन करती हैं। यहाँ माँ दुर्गा की उस शक्ति का वर्णन किया गया है जो भक्तों के जीवन से सभी बाधाओं और विघ्नों को दूर करती है।
- ▶ **त्रैलोक्यस्याखिलेश्वरि:** तीनों लोकों की सर्वेश्वरी, अर्थात् स्वर्ग, पृथ्वी और पाताल की सम्पूर्ण अधिपति है। यह देवी दुर्गा के सर्वोच्च स्वामिनी होने की बात को दर्शाता है।
- ▶ **एवमेव त्वया कार्यमस्मद्देरि विनाशनम्:** इसी तरह, आपको शत्रुओं का विनाश करने का कार्य करना चाहिए। यह भाग देवी से प्रार्थना करता है कि वे भक्तों के शत्रुओं का नाश करें और उन्हें सुरक्षित रखें।

इस अंतिम श्लोक के माध्यम से, भक्त माँ दुर्गा से जीवन की सभी बाधाओं और शत्रुओं से रक्षा की प्रार्थना करते हैं। यह श्लोक माँ दुर्गा की अपार शक्ति और करुणा को स्वीकार करता है, और उनसे संरक्षण और मार्गदर्शन की कामना करता है। सप्तश्लोकी दुर्गा का यह पाठ भक्तों को आत्मिक शक्ति, सुरक्षा, और सफलता प्रदान करने का एक साधन है।

सप्तश्लोकी दुर्गा पाठ करने से विभिन्न आध्यात्मिक, मानसिक, और भौतिक लाभ होते हैं। यह पाठ माँ दुर्गा की असीम शक्तियों की स्तुति करता है और भक्तों को उनकी कृपा प्राप्त करने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है। और उनके जीवन को सकारात्मक दिशा में मार्गदर्शन करते हैं। ऐसी करुणामयी माँ को हम सादर नमन करते हैं!!!

The top men's fashion trends to watch for in 2025

As we step into 2025, it's time to update your wardrobe and embrace the exciting new trends shaping men's fashion. We have sifted through runway shows, street style, and their own style boards to predict the looks that will dominate the year ahead. From edgy twists on classic pieces to bold new takes on denim and accessories, here's a look at what will define men's fashion in 2025.

1. Twisted trousers

Forget worrying about just fit—2025 is all about construction, particularly with trousers. Look for pants featuring twisted seams that curl around the legs, giving them a playful and nostalgic touch. This Y2K-inspired detail adds a bit of flair to any outfit while maintaining an effortlessly cool vibe.

2. Clasps on jackets

Classic outerwear, like peacoats and truckers, gets a bold update with fireman-inspired clasps. This small yet impactful design shift adds a utilitarian edge to more formal pieces, allowing you to stay stylish and practical at the same time.

3. Bulky boat shoes

Boat shoes are back, but with a twist. Expect bulkier, more structured designs that offer a sturdier, utilitarian vibe compared to their flat-soled predecessors. Whether paired with casual or more refined outfits, these chunky shoes are here to stay as a wardrobe staple in 2025.

4. Clean, crisp raw denim

Raw denim is making a comeback in 2025, offering a simpler and more refined aesthetic. Think deep,



inky indigo jeans with minimal embellishments—perfect for grounding any outfit with a classic, timeless vibe.

5. Bold pinstripes

Pinstripes are back, but this time with a stronger, more confident presence. Think sharply tailored suits with brash lapels and strong shoulders. This year, the goal is to own the pinstripe look with swagger, making it more daring than ever.

6. Rough-edged rings

Jewelry continues to evolve with rougher, scuffed-up silver rings making waves. These pieces bring an edgy contrast to traditional shiny metals, offering a rugged look that's becoming increasingly popular in men's fashion.

7. Retro practice jerseys

Nostalgic for the 70s, 80s, and

90s? Retro practice jerseys and pinnies are making a huge return in 2025. These mesh shirts, often with funky collars or knit trims, strike the perfect balance between casual and cool, bringing back the spirit of vintage athletic wear.

8. Slouchier sweats

Out with tight joggers, in with looser, baggier sweatpants. Slouchy sweats, inspired by the laid-back Y2K aesthetic, are dominating this year. These pants offer comfort while exuding a sense of effortless style, making them versatile enough for casual and semi-casual looks alike.

9. Statement belts

In 2025, belts are no longer just functional—they're fashion statements. Look for belts adorned with studs, vibrant colors, and sculptural designs that rival necklaces or shoes in terms of adding flair to

an outfit.

10. Crewneck cardigans

A simple yet sophisticated trend, the crewneck cardigan is taking over in 2025. Whether left open for a laid-back look or buttoned up for a more polished appearance, this versatile piece is perfect for layering and elevating your sweater game.

11. Gentlemanly gorp

The second wave of Gorpcore is all about mixing rugged, technical fabrics with vintage-inspired designs. Think materials like corduroy, boiled wool, and fleece—perfect for the modern man who wants to look as stylish outdoors as he does in the city.

12. Tiny watches

Tiny, bracelet-style watches are gaining popularity this year, offering a dainty yet stylish option for those seeking a more refined look. Smaller timepieces, once seen as feminine, are now making waves in men's fashion, offering an elegant touch to any ensemble.

13. Zippy sweaters

Zip-up sweaters are replacing the classic button-up cardigans this year. With bulkier or sleek zippers, these sweaters offer a fresh twist on a cozy staple. Whether opting for bold or subtle designs, zip cardigans will be a key layering piece in your wardrobe for 2025.

As 2025 unfolds, these trends will help keep your wardrobe fresh, versatile, and ahead of the curve. Ready to upgrade your style? The year ahead promises bold statements and modern twists on timeless pieces.

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Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi reflects on milestones, honors veterans, and looks ahead to the 119th Congress

● By: Dr Avi Verma

As the new year begins, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, representing Illinois' 8th Congressional District, has shared his thoughts and reflections on the significant milestones achieved over the past year, while also outlining his priorities and goals for the 119th Congress. In a recent statement, Krishnamoorthi highlighted the ongoing efforts to address key issues affecting his constituents, emphasizing his dedication to public service, bipartisanship, and promoting meaningful initiatives in the year ahead.

One of the key initiatives Congressman Krishnamoorthi is proud to support is the Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program (G&G CAP), which is designed to help veterans, Gold Star families, and spouses of active-duty military personnel secure employment and meaningful opportunities.

The program allows these individuals to serve as liaisons to local Veterans Service Organizations and assist constituents with casework. Krishnamoorthi announced that the G&G CAP will be offering a hiring initiative at his Schaumburg District Office, providing these service members with a chance to contribute to their community while honoring their dedication.

"Veterans and their families embody dedication and service," Krishnamoorthi said, noting that this program is an opportunity to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for the nation. Interested individuals can find more details on his official website.

The commencement of the 119th

Congress marked a significant milestone for Krishnamoorthi as he was sworn in to serve his fifth term in office. Reflecting on his journey, he expressed deep gratitude for the trust placed in him by his constituents.

"The American people elected this Congress to get things done," Krishnamoorthi emphasized, reaffirming his commitment to working across the aisle on critical issues such as lowering prescription drug costs, enhancing career and technical education, and protecting access to reproductive health care.

Krishnamoorthi also participated in a bipartisan interfaith prayer service at Saint Peter's Church on Capitol Hill, where leaders from both parties, including House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), gathered to honor the nation's diverse faith traditions.

Another key moment for Congressman Krishnamoorthi came earlier this week, when he joined his colleagues in certifying the 2024 Electoral College results. This formal certification reaffirmed the peaceful transfer of power from President Joe Biden to President-elect Donald Trump.

Krishnamoorthi took this opportunity to reflect on the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack, which attempted to disrupt the constitutional process of certifying the Electoral College results.

"This week's certification was a reminder of the resilience of our democracy," he said. "While January 6 remains a dark chapter in our history, it is heartening to see the return of a peaceful transition of power." In addition to his work in Congress, Congressman



Congressman Krishnamoorthi and his family join House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries after the Congressman took the oath of office to serve in the 119th Congress.

Krishnamoorthi also paid tribute to the late President Jimmy Carter, attending a ceremony at the Capitol where Carter lay in state.

Krishnamoorthi spoke highly of Carter's legacy as a public servant, humanitarian, and advocate for global health, noting that his post-presidency work, particularly with Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Center, set an example of how to continue serving others. "President Carter's legacy will endure for generations," he stated.

As Krishnamoorthi looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the new year, he encourages his constituents to stay engaged with his office for updates

or assistance on any issues.

His team remains accessible via phone, email, or through his official website, and Krishnamoorthi invited residents to follow him on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Threads for real-time updates. "This new year brings new challenges and opportunities," he remarked. "Together, we will continue to work for the betterment of our community and nation."

For more information on Congressman Krishnamoorthi's initiatives or to apply for the Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program, visit his official website: krishnamoorthi.house.gov.



Congressman Krishnamoorthi and members of his family in front of Saint Peter's Church on Capitol Hill before the bipartisan interfaith prayer service.



President Carter lay in state this week as our country mourned the loss of a life-long public servant and reflected on his legacy.



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Lakhbir Singh Lakha

Understanding Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV): A growing public health concern

By: Dr Avi Verma

At the International University of Health Sciences (IUHS), we are committed to educating future healthcare professionals on emerging public health issues and equipping them with the knowledge and tools to address global health challenges. One such issue is Human

Metapneumovirus (HMPV)—a respiratory virus that, while less known than influenza or COVID-19, plays a significant role in respiratory health. HMPV thrives in the winter, contributing to what we often refer to as the “cold and flu season.”

What is HMPV?

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus that can cause mild

to severe illness. Common symptoms include congestion, coughing, and shortness of breath. Most individuals recover without complications, but young children, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals may experience more severe conditions such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

How does HMPV spread?

HMPV spreads through respiratory



droplets from coughing, sneezing, or contact with contaminated surfaces. To prevent its spread, it is crucial to follow basic hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing and staying home when sick.

What can you do?

Although there is currently no specific treatment or vaccine for HMPV, supportive care, such as rest, hydration, and over-the-counter medications, can help alleviate symptoms. In severe cases, medical intervention may be required, including oxygen therapy or hospitalization.

At IUHS, we believe that awareness is the first step toward prevention. Understanding viruses like HMPV helps future healthcare professionals diagnose, treat, and educate their communities about such health concerns.

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Disclaimer: This article is for educational purposes and should not replace professional medical advice. Consult a healthcare provider for any health concerns.

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Ovarian Cancer: Understanding treatment options, risk factors, and early detection

● By: Dr Avi Verma

Ovarian cancer is one of the most lethal cancers affecting women's reproductive systems. However, it is important to note that early detection significantly improves survival rates. When ovarian cancer is diagnosed early, the five-year survival rate is an impressive 92%. Unfortunately, when the cancer is detected after it has spread, the survival rate dramatically drops to 30%. This stark contrast highlights the importance of early detection and timely treatment. By understanding the symptoms, risk factors, and treatment options available, women can take proactive steps toward protecting their health.

Who's at Risk for Ovarian Cancer?

While there is no surefire way to predict who will develop ovarian cancer, there are several risk factors that have been identified by researchers. Understanding these risk factors can help women assess their own personal risk and seek appropriate medical advice.

- ▶ **Age:** The risk of ovarian cancer increases with age. About half of all ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in women aged 63 and older. As women age, their chances of developing ovarian cancer rise significantly.
- ▶ **Obesity:** Women with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or higher are considered obese. Studies have shown that obesity may increase the risk of ovarian cancer compared to women with a lower BMI.
- ▶ **Family History:** A family history of ovarian cancer can elevate a woman's risk. If a first-degree relative (mother, sister, or daughter) has had ovarian cancer, the risk increases. Women with multiple relatives who have had ovarian cancer, particularly on the father's side, are at a higher risk. A family history of breast or colorectal cancer can also increase the likelihood of ovarian cancer, particularly if these relatives carry mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, which are strongly linked to both breast and ovarian cancers.
- ▶ **Personal History of Other Cancers:** Women who have had colorectal, uterine, or breast cancer may have an elevated risk of developing ovarian cancer. Having a history of one of these cancers can make a woman more susceptible to ovarian cancer.
- ▶ **Pregnancy:** Women who delay having their first full-term pregnancy until after the age of 35, or those who have never had children, face a higher risk. Interestingly, the more children a woman has, the lower her risk for ovarian cancer. Breastfeeding is also believed to lower the risk of ovarian cancer.
- ▶ **Medications:** Estrogen-only hormone



therapy after menopause has been linked to an increased risk of ovarian cancer. Women who are considering hormone replacement therapy should discuss the potential risks with their healthcare providers.

While these factors may increase a woman's risk, it is crucial to remember that ovarian cancer can affect anyone. Therefore, it is important for all women, regardless of risk factors, to be aware of the warning signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Know the Warning Signs of Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is often called a "silent killer" because its symptoms can be vague and easily overlooked. Many women may experience symptoms that seem unrelated to cancer, which is why early detection is challenging. However, recognizing the following signs and symptoms can help women seek medical advice before the disease advances:

- ▶ **Abnormal vaginal bleeding:** Any unexpected or unexplained vaginal bleeding should be investigated by a doctor.
- ▶ **Back pain:** Persistent back pain, especially when accompanied by other symptoms, may indicate ovarian cancer.
- ▶ **Belly swelling and weight loss:** Unexplained weight loss coupled with bloating or abdominal swelling is a red flag.
- ▶ **Changes in bowel or urinary habits:** These might include diarrhea, constipation, or frequent urination.
- ▶ **Fatigue:** A feeling of extreme tiredness that does not go away even with rest could be a sign.
- ▶ **Early satiety:** Feeling full quickly when eating, even after eating small amounts, may be indicative of ovarian cancer.
- ▶ **Pain during intercourse:** This may be a sign that cancer has affected the pelvic region.
- ▶ **Stomach discomfort:** This can include pain, bloating, or pressure in the stomach area.

If any of these symptoms persist for more than two weeks or are unusual for you, it's crucial to seek medical advice. Early diagnosis is the key to improving outcomes, as the treatment is more effective when cancer is caught at an early stage.

Ovarian Cancer Treatment Options

Treatment for ovarian cancer typically involves a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. However, other treatment options, such as targeted therapies, may also be part of the treatment plan, depending on the stage of cancer and individual patient needs.

- ▶ **Surgery:** Surgery is often the first step in treating ovarian cancer. During the procedure, the surgeon will remove the cancerous tissue, which may involve removing one or both ovaries, the fallopian tubes, and other surrounding tissues. The extent of surgery will depend on the stage of cancer and the woman's overall health.
- ▶ **Chemotherapy:** Chemotherapy is the most common treatment for ovarian cancer and is often used in conjunction with surgery. Chemotherapy drugs work by killing fast-growing cancer cells. These medications can be administered in various ways, including through pills or intravenously. Chemotherapy can also help shrink the tumor before surgery or kill any remaining cancer cells afterward.
- ▶ **Targeted Therapies:** Targeted therapies are designed to specifically target cancer cells without harming surrounding healthy tissue. These treatments can slow or stop the growth of cancer cells and are often used in conjunction with chemotherapy. Targeted therapy may be recommended based on the genetic profile of the cancer. Genetic testing can help doctors determine which targeted therapy will be most effective.
- ▶ **Immunotherapy:** Immunotherapy is a promising treatment for ovarian cancer that works by stimulating the immune system to fight cancer cells. Although this treatment is still being researched, it has shown promise in some patients.

▶ **Hormonal Therapy:** Hormonal therapy may be used in certain cases, particularly if the cancer is hormone-sensitive. This type of therapy works by blocking or altering hormones that may contribute to the growth of ovarian cancer.

The Role of the Medical Team

The treatment of ovarian cancer involves a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals. Different specialists will provide care, depending on the stage of cancer and the treatment required. The following specialists are typically involved in the treatment of ovarian cancer:

- ▶ **Gynecologic Oncologists:** These specialists are doctors who are trained to treat cancers of the female reproductive system. They perform surgeries and administer chemotherapy.
- ▶ **Surgeons:** Surgeons specialize in performing the necessary surgeries to remove cancerous tissue and may be involved in other procedures as well.
- ▶ **Medical Oncologists:** Medical oncologists specialize in treating cancer with medications such as chemotherapy and targeted therapies. They work with other specialists to create a comprehensive treatment plan for the patient.

Conclusion

Ovarian cancer is a serious and potentially life-threatening disease, but when caught early, it is treatable. Understanding the risk factors and being aware of the warning signs can help women take proactive steps in managing their health. If you experience any unusual symptoms or have concerns about ovarian cancer, don't hesitate to consult with your healthcare provider. With a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, and targeted therapies, many women are successfully treated for ovarian cancer and can go on to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

For more information and tips on managing your health, consult your healthcare provider and stay tuned to Health Corner, IndoUs Tribune.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and does not offer medical advice.

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